

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

24958

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| 1. State Virginia | 2. Theme(s). If archeological site, write "Arch" before theme No. Theme IX, Dev. of Eng. Col., 1700-1775; also Themes X, War | |
| 3. Name(s) of site Stratford Hall | for Indep. & XIV, Civil War, 1861-1865 | 4. Approx. acreage 1,164 acres |
| 5. Exact location (County, township, roads, etc. If difficult to find, sketch on Supplementary Sheet) Westmoreland Co., 3 miles north of Lerty on State Highway 214. | | |
| 6. Name and address of present owner (Also administrator if different from owner) Robert E. Lee Memorial Foundation, Inc., Stratford Hall | | |

7. Importance and description (Describe briefly what makes site important and what remains or extant)

Stratford Hall, probably best-known as the birthplace of General Robert E. Lee, is of major importance both historically and architecturally. The list of noted men who were born or lived at Stratford Hall reads like a miniature "Who's Who": four members of the Governor's council, 12 burgesses, four members of the Virginia Convention of 1776, two Signers of the Declaration of Independence, several Governors of Virginia, members of the Continental Congress, diplomats, and military leaders. Of those born at Stratford Hall besides the Confederate general, the list includes the Signers, Richard Henry and Francis Lightfoot Lee, and three other Revolutionary leaders, William, Arthur, and Thomas Ludwell Lee.

Architecturally, the mansion is a notable example of early Georgian architecture, yet with many features which make it unique. Its H-plan gives it a kinship with the Capitol building at Williamsburg and Tuckahoe in Goochland County, Virginia. It is a huge bulk with raised basement, unaccompanied by the usual pilasters and other academic forms. One of its chief distinguishing characteristics is the presence of twin sets of four chimney stacks on the wings, connected by arches and enclosing balustraded roof-decks. The monumental great hall is outstanding of its period, with a "complete academic formality" seldom found in early Georgian architecture. Four original service dependencies flank the mansion. The acreage owned by the Foundation is only a portion of the original 16,000-acre estate, on which Col. Thomas Lee built the house in the period, 1725-30.

The Stratford hall estate, maintained as a historic house museum and operating eighteenth century plantation, is in excellent condition. The formal gardens have been restored, as well as walks, walls, shrubbery and minor dependencies.

8. Bibliographical references (Give best sources; give location of manuscripts and rare works)

Hugh Morrison, Early American Architecture, From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period (New York, 1952); Thomas T. Waterman, The Dwellings of Colonial America (Chapel Hill, c. 1950); Edmund Jennings Lee, Lee of Virginia, 1642-1892 (Philadelphia, 1895); F. W. Alexander, Stratford Hall and the Lees Connected with Its History (Oak Grove, Va., 1912); E. M. Arnes, Stratford on the Potomac (1928).

9. Reports and studies (Mention best reports and studies, as, NPS study, HABS, etc.)

Charles W. Porter, Historic Sites Survey Card, September 12, 1936; Historic American Buildings Survey, 45 photos, 1932-40.

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| 10. Photographs * Attached: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. Condition Excellent | 12. Present use (Museum, farm, etc.) Museum & plantation | 13. Date of visit May 22, 1958 |
| 14. Name of recorder (Signature) | | 15. Title Historian | 16. Date June 17, 1958 |

* Dry mount on an 8 x 10 1/2 sheet of fairly heavy paper. Identify by view and name of the site, date of photograph and name of photographer. Give location of negative. If attached, enclose in proper negative envelopes.