

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form



1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Littlepage Stone Mansion
and/or common "The Old Stone Mansion"

2. Location

street & number 1809^{W.} Washington Street, West N/A not for publication
city, town Charleston N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional District~~
state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code 039

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Housing Authority of City of Charleston
street & number 1809 Washington Street, West
city, town Charleston N/A vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Kanawha County Courthouse
street & number Court and Virginia Streets
city, town Charleston state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title H.A.B.S. W.Va. No. 20-16 has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date June 25, 1936 federal state county local
depository for survey records Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division
city, town Washington state D.C. 20540

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Littlepage Stone Mansion is located on Washington Street, West, in Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia.

When originally constructed in 1845, the Stone Mansion stood on a four acre farm (originally owned by prominent West Virginian Spicer Patrick) facing what was then the old Kanawha River Turnpike near where the "Parkersburg Road" joined the turnpike. Within a decade of its construction, the farm had grown from four to a thousand acres due to the industry of its second owner, Adam B.D. Littlepage, and supported numerous barns and outbuildings.

The Stone Mansion of 1845 was a two-story Federal style residence. Constructed by builders Harrop L. Joy and J. Carson, the residence was (and is) rectangular in configuration, having five bays at front and rear elevations, built of massive sandstone masonry blocks. The foundation is sandstone, and the stones at the bottom course of the building are 18" high, weighing, in estimation, well over a ton. The stones graduate as they rise until they are 8" in the gables. The stone blocks themselves are smooth ashlar, and represent what is probably the most striking architectural aspect of the mansion; its superb masonry construction. All horizontal joints are level, and the building is covered by a gable shingle roof. The front entranceway is framed by a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights. Both the front and rear entrances have one story columned, gabled porticos, classical in design, that contain triangular stone pediments and are supported by plain shaft stone Doric columns. These porticos, as well as the porch on the east end of the residence (now enclosed), were added around 1915.

The interior of the Stone Mansion was originally a basic federal design; the first floor consisted of four large, high ceilinged rooms surrounding a central hallway and staircase.

The stairway is of particular note. It rises at the left center of the central hall and gracefully turns at the half story level and rises to the second floor. The open string stair is decorated with a moulded rail, plain square spindles, and a series of wave pattern brackets. The stairway is in near-original condition.

The second floor is of the same basic design as the first: four large rooms, all originally used as bedrooms, open onto a central hall. There is a full attic above the second floor.

Paired end chimneys at both ends of the mansion are another prominent feature, and were designed so that each of the mansion's eight rooms had its own fireplace.

Originally, the kitchen was separate though adjacent from the main residence and a water well stood outside the kitchen door. Both the well and kitchen were fully enclosed and added to the main residence as a "west wing" in 1936.

The classical style porch on the west end of the building, a 1915 addition,

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was enclosed for office space in the Spring of 1969. However, the enclosure was constructed of stone that matches the original stone to some extent and harmonizes with the main structure.

By 1932, the original one thousand acre farm of Adam B.D. Littlepage had been reduced, by various periodic sales, to eight and three-quarter acres that consisted of the main house, finely manicured lawn, formal classical gardens, stone milk house and a barn. This acreage was further reduced to a single city lot by the construction, adjacent to the mansion, of the Littlepage Terrace housing project, begun in 1939, during which time the gardens, milkhouse and barn were destroyed.

Today the Stone Mansion is fronted by Washington Street, West and bordered on the east by Rebecca Street (named for Rebecca Wood Littlepage). State Route 21 (the old Parkersburg Road) intersects with Washington Street nearby.

Though the environmental setting of the house has changed radically since the antebellum days of the 19th century, the Littlepage Stone Mansion retains its elegance of feeling and its sense of the history of the Great Kanawha Valley.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1845 **Builder/Architect** Harrop L. Joy and J. Carson, Builders

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Littlepage Stone Mansion, located on the bank of Kanawha Two Mile Creek near its confluence with the Great Kanawha River, at Charleston, Kanawha County, West Virginia, is significant as one of only a few remaining buildings in West Virginia's capital city that pre-dates the American Civil War;¹ as a focal point of activity during that war;² and as home for nearly a century to the Littlepage Family, one of West Virginia's most prominent families.³ The house is also significant for its stone masonry construction,⁴ and for its role as a focal point for one of West Virginia's first public housing projects.⁵

EXPLANATORY NOTES

1. The Littlepage Stone Mansion, constructed in 1845, is one of only six houses within the City of Charleston, West Virginia's capital and largest city, that date to before the American Civil War, that great cataclysm which gave birth to the state of West Virginia. The other five; (Holly Grove, 1815; Col. Henry H. Wood House, 1829-31; "Glenwood", 1852; The MacFarland House, 1836, and "Cedar Grove", 1834.) are all listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Built in 1845 the stone mansion was constructed by local builders Harrop L. Joy and J. Carson, whose names are carved on blocks at both gable ends of the house, for Major Robert Thornton. The house was sold in 1848 by Thornton to Adam Brown Dickinson Littlepage, in whose family it remained until 1932.

2. As civil conflict erupted in 1861, the government of Virginia adjudged it of primary importance that the Great Kanawha Valley be held for the Confederacy. Accordingly, Brigadier General Henry A. Wise (a former governor of Virginia) arrived at Charleston with his "Wise's Legion" on June 26, 1861, and immediately prepared to establish his headquarters and encampment at the Littlepage House and farm. The general was refused admittance to the house by Mrs. Littlepage, Mr. Littlepage (according to the more widely accepted of two versions of the story)¹ being already away, having enlisted in the Confederate army. General Wise threatened to have the house "blown down over your head." Mrs. Littlepage remained defiant and stood in the doorway of her house, surrounded by her six young children. Though ordered by General Wise to fire upon the house, his soldiers steadfastly refused.² Although thus stymied in his attempt to use the house as his headquarters, the General did set up camp on the Littlepage Farm, and established a fortified encampment on the hill overlooking the house, as this hill commanded the junction of the Parkersburg Road and Kanawha River Turnpike. General Wise maintained his camp here during the Battle of Scary Creek (July 17, 1861). Although that battle was a Confederate victory, Wise withdrew from the Littlepage property and from Charleston on July 24, 1861. Although the Confederate occupation had lasted only a month, the Littlepage property was devastated by the occupation.

1. Woods, Ruth Dayton, Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha, Charleston, 1947

2. Charleston Gazette, "Littlepage Mansion", March 13, 1932

9. Major Bibliographical References

Atkinson, George W., History of Kanawha County, from its Organization in 1789 to the Present, Office of the West Virginia Journal, Charleston, WV, 1876.
Charleston Daily Mail, April 25, 1928.
Charleston Gazette, March 10-14, 1932.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Pocatalico, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:25,000

UMT References

A 17 41491010 41241731110
 Zone Easting Northing

B
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification The Littlepage Stone Mansion sits in the center of city lot, at 1809 Washington St., West, identified as Lot #3 in Kanawha County deedbooks 480, p.376, that is bounded on the north by Washington St., West, on the east by Lots #1 and #2 (which are bordered on the east by Rebecca St.), on the south by an unnamed Alley,

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

organization WV Dept. of Culture & History date July 1, 1982

Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex telephone 304/348-0240

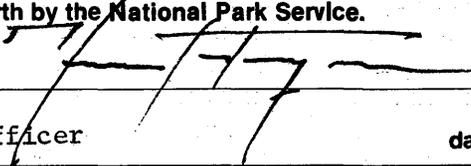
city or town Charleston state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date July 16, 1982

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 9/2/82

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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All of the fencing and outbuildings were dismantled and used by the troops for fire-wood, and all the farm's livestock was either consumed or confiscated by the soldiers.

To make matters worse, Lieutenant Adam Brown Dickinson Littlepage was killed in April of 1862 at Dublin, Virginia while in Confederate service. This left Rebecca Wood Littlepage a young widow with seven children (the last, Alberta, having been born in January, 1862.) Due to these circumstances, she was forced to sell large sections of the farm to pay taxes and support her family.

The Littlepage Mansion was also the victim of misdirected bombardment by Union forces in 1862. While the house sustained only minor damage, it was another traumatic event in a long series that the Littlepage family endured, all as a direct result of the American Civil War.

3. The Littlepage Family, who owned and lived in the Stone Mansion from 1848 until 1932, is a family whose members have played highly significant roles in the political, social, and economic life of both Kanawha County and West Virginia.

Adam Brown Dickinson Littlepage (1818-1862), the founder of the families "fortunes" and first Littlepage owner of the stone mansion, was heavily involved in the salt industry in pre-Civil War Kanawha County, then the area's most important business interest. He manufactured hogsheads (barrels) for the salt industry, as well as being involved in timbering and operating a general store. Having purchased the stone mansion in 1848, by 1861 he owned two thousand acres in the immediate area. Despite his age (43) he enlisted in the Confederate service at the outbreak of the Civil War and was killed in Dublin, Virginia in 1862 while serving as a Lieutenant.

Adam B. D. Littlepage's marriage in 1845 with Rebecca Tendael Wood produced seven children; John William, Mary Frances, Charles Frazier, Alexander Bonaparte, Samuel Dickinson, Adam Brown, and Alberta Rebecca; the last named was never seen by her father. Despite being deprived of their father early in life and the hardships occasioned by the Civil War, all of the children of Adam and Rebecca Littlepage made some mark upon the history of the Kanawha Valley.

John William Littlepage (1848-1900) became captain of the Mississippi River steamboat "Mary", a well known sternwheeler of its day (subject of the popular ballad "Proud Mary"). He also served for a time as street commissioner of Charleston.

Mary Frances Littlepage (1850-1892) became the wife of prominent Charlestonian George Bennett.

Charles Frazier Littlepage (1852-1933) had a solid career as an engineer, participating in the building of the Kanawha River Locks & Dams system in the 1880's and the Yorktown Monument at Yorktown, Virginia, before becoming a prominent Charleston attorney in the early 20th century.

Alexander Bonaparte Littlepage (1854-1928) became a very prominent Charleston physician and for many years had his medical office in part of the stone mansion.

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Samuel Dickinson Littlepage (1856-1917) was a very well known and influential attorney in Kanawha County. In 1912 Samuel Dickinson Littlepage was elected Circuit Judge in Kanawha County for the 1913-1921 term. Judge Littlepage died at the Stone Mansion (of which he was then owner) in 1917.

Adam Brown Littlepage (1859-1921) was probably the most well known of the Littlepage Family. A prominent Charleston attorney, failed of election as Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney in 1904 by a mere 47 votes.³ In 1906 he was elected to the West Virginia Senate, serving 1907-1911. In 1908 he was the Democratic nominee for Secretary of State of West Virginia. In 1910 Adam B. Littlepage was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, serving in the 62nd Congress in 1914 and re-elected to a third term in 1916. Defeated for a fourth congressional term in 1918 by Leonard S. Echols⁴, Adam Littlepage returned to Charleston at the close of his term in 1919 and, the same year, was the Democratic nominee for Mayor of Charleston, losing in a close race to Republican Grant P. Hall. Adam B. Littlepage died June 29, 1921.⁵

Alberta Rebecca Littlepage (1862-1955) married G. Mosley Putney, a prominent Kanawha Valley merchant. She lived a long and respected life as one of Charleston's "grand dames" and died at the age of 93, the last of the children of Adam B.D. Littlepage and Rebecca Wood Littlepage.

The Stone Mansion was inherited, in 1917-18, by Burrell Kemp Littlepage, the only son of Judge Samuel Littlepage. A one time prosecuting attorney of Kanawha County, B. Kemp Littlepage was a prominent attorney in Charleston until his untimely death at the mansion on April 24, 1928.

Four years later (1932), in the midst of the Great Depression, Mrs. Madge Littlepage and her three sons lost the property to the Charleston National Bank due to an \$8,500. lien. In such a manner did the Littlepage family, which contributed so much to the development of Charleston, lose their homeplace after nearly a century's residence.⁶

4. The Littlepage Stone Mansion is a highly significant stone building in the Kanawha Valley, one of a very few of its age that survive, and the only one with precisely its architectural type. While the details of the building's architecture are described in much greater detail in Part 7 of this document, suffice it to say that the mansion is exceptionally well proportioned, the original structure consisting of four large rooms on the 1st and 2nd floors, with double end chimneys at both ends, providing each room with a fireplace.

3. Laidley, W.S., History of Charleston and Kanawha County, Chicago, 1911.

4. Woods, Ruth Dayton, Ibid.

5. Snodgrass, Jean, The Old Stone Mansion, unpublished manuscript, Morris Harvey College, Charleston, 1971.

6. Snodgrass, Jean, Ibid.

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The house is constructed of cut sandstone blocks, quarried locally, that are of near-massive proportions, some weighing as much as 2½ tons. The names of the builders of the mansion, Harrop L. Joy and J. Carson appear, with the date (1845) on two identical blocks placed in each gable end above the attic windows.

5. After the Charleston National Bank acquired the Stone Mansion from the Littlepage Family in 1932, they used the building as rental property for a number of years. In 1939 the bank sold the building for \$75,000. to the Housing Authority of Charleston, who converted the Mansion for use as its headquarters for the new housing project begun near the property in 1937. This project, designed as one of West Virginia's first low income public housing projects, was named "Littlepage Terrace" in honor of the Littlepage Family. The Littlepage Terrace Housing Project became a glowing success and an example for other such projects to follow. The Littlepage Stone Mansion continues, as of this writing (1982), to serve as the managerial headquarters for Littlepage Terrace.

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- Historic American Building Survey, The Old Stone Mansion, HABS No. WV 21-10, Charleston, WV, June 25, 1936 (Library of Congress).
- Laidley, W.S., History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia, and Representative Citizens, Richmond Arnold Publishing Co., Chicago, 1911.
- "Oral Interview with Mrs. Rebecca Putney Morgan", by Michael Pauley, Charleston, WV, April 15, 1982.
- "Oral Interview with Mr. Douglas Simmons, Assistant Director of Littlepage Terrace Project", by Michael Pauley, Charleston, WV, February 23, 1982.
- Report of the Slum Clearance Low Cost Housing made in Charleston, West Virginia, WV Relief Administration, Charleston, WV, January 2, 1942.
- Snodgrass, Jean, The Old Stone Mansion, History Project, Morris Harvey College of the University of Charleston, Charleston, WV, 1971 (copy on file at WV Dept. of Culture and History).
- Stutler, Boyd B., West Virginia in the Civil War, 2nd ed., Education Foundation, Inc., Charleston, WV 1966.
- Woods, Ruth Dayton, Pioneers and their Homes on Upper Kanawha, West Virginia Publishing Company, Charleston, WV, 1947.

#10 Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

and on the west by Charleston City, Lot #4.