

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: North Carolina	
COUNTY: Craven	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
John Wright Stanly House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
307 George Street--Tryon Palace Complex

CITY OR TOWN:  
City of New Bern

STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 32      COUNTY: Craven      CODE: 25

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of North Carolina, Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 32

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Craven County Courthouse, Office of the Register of Deeds

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Corner of Broad and Craven Streets

CITY OR TOWN: New Bern      STATE: North Carolina      CODE: 32

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East Capital and Independence Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: District of Columbia      CODE: 51

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Exterior: The structure is a full two stories high, below a deck or hip roof, and is built entirely of wood. The facade is five bays wide with a center door which is framed with engaged columns with capitals and bases of the Roman Doric order supporting an open pediment. The arched transom is patterned by crossed loaded bars. The windows are all six over six, with blinds that are painted dark green. The lower window openings on the facade have fully moulded architrave frames on which rest pulvinated friezes and pediment caps; all are heavily ornamented. The sides of the structure were built of timbers hewn from logs of native long leaf pine and laid flush, creating a smooth surface, with the corners cut in semblance of stone quoins. The exterior surface of the house is painted oyster shell white and the cornices and simulated stone quoins are pure white. The roof deck has a balustrade, interrupted by the two interior chimneys. The balustrade is constructed in the sheaf of wheat pattern. The ends of the house are four bays wide.

Interior: The interior plan of the house has a central hall and four rooms on each floor. On the first floor, the center hall broadens at the rear, where a stair ascends framed by a transverse arch. The stair has three runs, almost equal, with square landings between. Noteworthy is the balustrade, which has a richly moulded railing terminated with a volute over the newel. The balusters are turned in walnut, and the baroque, Chippendale, brackets under the stair ends are carved in the same wood. The detail of the woodwork throughout the interior of the house is of the Georgian style. Two major rooms on the first floor are noteworthy. In the North Parlor, called the Drawing Room, the frontispiece mantel is of the Delaware River style, and is of the finest design and craftsmanship. The balancing room, called the South Parlor, is fully finished with full height wood paneling instead of plaster wall above a dado. The mantel and overmantel are period replacements of the original. The room to the rear of the Drawing Room is the Library and across the hall is the Dining Room. The four major rooms on the second floor are bedrooms. There is a full cellar under the structure with a kitchen, servants quarters, and area for food storage. The attic contains one large room with walls that are finished plaster.

Measurements: The length of the structure is 54 feet, the width is 38, the height of the first floor is 12 feet and 7 5/8 inches, the second is 10 feet 7 1/4 inches to the attic floor. The composite height of the house is 43 feet from ground level.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century  
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |                                      |   |  |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The architecture of the John Wright Stanly House is attributed to John Hawks (1731-1790), an architect and builder brought to New Bern from England by Governor William Tryon to design and supervise the construction of his palace. The Stanly House was originally purchased in an incompleated state by John Wright Stanly in 1779, and the architect was employed by him to finalize the design and to complete the construction of the structure, at a cost of over \$30,000. In ca. 1783 Stanly moved into the completed mansion at Middle and New streets. Stanly was not able to enjoy his new home long, for he died in 1789, and by his will left to his wife for her lifetime, and then to his children, the property. His widow lived only for a month after his death, and their children not then being of age lived with relatives. President George Washington stayed in the Stanly House two nights, April 20-21, 1791, during his southern tour. Of his stay, the President recorded in his diary that the house was "exceeding good lodgings." In June of 1795, John Wright Stanly's eldest son John, having attained legal age, moved into the structure with his wife Elizabeth. John Stanly was a lawyer by profession in New Bern, and took an active interest in politics. In 1798 and 1799 he was elected to serve in the State House of Commons. In 1801 Stanly was elected to Congress, was elected again to Congress 1809-1811, and served again in the State House of Commons in 1812-1815, 1818-1819, and 1823-1827. For two years, 1826-1827, Stanly served as Speaker of the House. On April 24, 1817, Stanly was one of nine men who organized at New Bern the first Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. He was also director and stockholder of the New Bern Library Company, one of North Carolina's earliest libraries. For his legislative accomplishments Stanly County in the southern Piedmont section of the state was named in his honor. During a grave illness John Stanly, retaining a life interest for himself and his wife, had given on June 24, 1828, to his son Alfred the four large lots on Middle, New, and Hancock streets with the dwelling, "the present residence and establishment of the said John Stanly." Following John Stanly's death, in a sale of execution of judgment against him, Sheriff Elijah Clark on May 19, 1834, transferred the lots and buildings to Alfred Stanly. On June 13, 1834, Alfred sold his interest in the lots and dwelling to a younger brother, Alexander Hamilton Stanly. On September 9, 1834, the property was subsequently purchased by George Pollock from the younger Stanly. Through estate partitions, marriage settlements, and mortgage sales before the Civil War and through mortgage and tax sales after the conflict the property changed hands many times. During the Civil War the John Wright Stanly House was General Burnside's first headquarters in New Bern. Toward the end of October, 1862, General John C. Foster authorized Catholic "Sisters" to move the Union hospital from Beaufort to New Bern and take possession of

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(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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8. the Stanly House. One of the parlors was converted into a chapel. By a Commissioners' deed, appointed to conduct a public auction under mortgage foreclosure proceedings, the property was conveyed on November 1, 1884, for \$7,100 to James A. Bryan, of New Bern. Bryan was a prominent businessman, banker, and landowner in New Bern and resided in the house until his death on January 30, 1923. Bryan bequeathed the property to his third wife for her lifetime and then to Colonel Charles S. Bryan, his son by his first wife. The United States Government in 1932 purchased the corner lot on Middle and New streets from Mrs. Alice Bryan and her stepson, Colonel Bryan, and the Stanly House was moved to an adjoining lot on New Street owned by Colonel Bryan. On April 5, 1935, Colonel Bryan and his wife sold the house and lot to the New Bern Library Association, Inc., for \$6,000. The Library Association converted the structure to a public library and for thirty years through 1965 used the building for that purpose. In January of 1966 the Library moved from the Stanly House. Previously the Association's Directors had offered the structure as a gift to the Tryon Palace Commission. On November 4, 1965, the Commission accepted the mansion and moved the house to its present location at 307 George Street, to begin an extended program of restoration and furnishing for public exhibition. The property was accepted for the State of North Carolina as a gift from the Tryon Palace Commission by the Governor and Council of State on December 22, 1967.

In style, according to Thomas T. Waterman, the John Wright Stanly House has no other counterpart in North Carolina. The interior woodwork is of the scholarly Georgian style familiar in the Delaware River Valley and the exterior of the structure takes its architectural character from the Hudson River Mansions, as Clermont, and the Ford Mansion in Morristown, New Jersey.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bockwith, Edmund Ruffin, Sr., "The Bockwith Collection," Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Christ Church Episcopal Parish Records, New Bern, North Carolina, from 1818.

Craven County Records, Craven County Courthouse, New Bern, North Carolina. Offices of the Register of Deeds and Clerk of Superior Court. (Sub-groups: Deeds, Estate Papers, Inventories of Estates, Marriage Bonds, Wills.)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35°	06'	26"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		77°	02'	42"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: One-half acre

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Raymond F. Pisney, Assistant Administrator, Historic Sites and Museums

ORGANIZATION: North Carolina State Department of Archives and History DATE: Jan. 21, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
109 East Jones Street

CITY OR TOWN: Raleigh STATE: North Carolina CODE: 32

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name: H. G. Jones

Title: Director, North Carolina State Department of Archives and History

Date: January 26, 1970

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Craven County Records, State Department of Archives and History,  
Raleigh, North Carolina. (Sub-groups: Deeds, Wills, Estate  
Papers.)

Henderson, Archibald, Washington's Southern Tour 1791.  
(Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1923.)

Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Early Architecture of North Carolina.  
(Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1941.)

