

Baltimore County Historic Properties Nomination Form

Inventory No. BA-3246

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Stoneleigh Community Building
 other Stoneleigh Shopping Center

2. Location

street and number 6901 York Road _ not for publication
 city, town Towson X vicinity
 county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Stoneleigh Partnership c/o Bruce Lenz
 street and number 34 Heron Road telephone Not Available
 city, town Lake Forest state IL zip code 60045-4403

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 5860 folio 947
 city, town Towson tax map 80 tax parcel 130 tax ID number 0919712280

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- Contributing Resource in National Register District
- Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
- Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
- Recorded by HABS/HAER
- Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
- Other: _____

6. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Current Function | Resource Count | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade | <input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture | <u>2</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> defense | <input type="checkbox"/> religion | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | | <input type="checkbox"/> domestic | <input type="checkbox"/> social | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> objects |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <u>2</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Total |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> unknown | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> health care | <input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> other: | | |
| | | | | Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory | |
| | | | | <u>2</u> | |

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-3246

Condition

excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Located in the ninth election district of Baltimore County, the Stoneleigh Community Building is situated at the southern end of the Stoneleigh National Register Historic District on lots 13-17 and part of lot 12 as surveyed for the community of Stoneleigh. The structure was constructed in 1924 to serve the commercial needs of the residents of Stoneleigh and other streetcar commuters. An addition was later added to the north elevation. In addition to the main building, a garage is located to the rear. The building is bordered by York Road to the west, Register Avenue to the south, 6900 Petworth Road to the east and First and Saint Stephen's Reformed Church to the north. A parking lot for the businesses wrap around the building and also provides a buffer to York Road.

The Stoneleigh Community Building was constructed in conjunction with the Stoneleigh development in the Tudor Revival style. This style was also repeated on numerous homes in the community. The northern and southern elevation features projecting gable ends. Stone veneer covers the first story while stucco and half timbering is incorporated into the gable ends (Figure 1). The steeply pitched hipped roof is clad with slate shingles. A centrally located gabled wall dormer also contains the half timbering with support provided by two brackets. There are two hipped roof dormers clad in stucco that feature six over six windows (Figure 2). They flank the central gable window that contains a single six over six window. Located directly below the gable is a round arched door opening with a segmental arch of brick, a stone keystone and brick quoining surrounding it. A display window is located on either side (Figure 3). A 1-1/2 story addition is located at the northern end of the building that also features a gabled roof and the half timbering in the gable (Figure 4).

Located directly behind the building is a three bay garage with elements that closely mirror the main building. The gable ends feature half timbering and the steeply pitched roof is clad with slate shingles. A pair of six over six windows are located at each gable end. Two windows located below have been covered up (Figure 5).

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-3246

| Period | Areas of Significance | Check and justify below | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine | <input type="checkbox"/> performing arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2000- | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | | <input type="checkbox"/> maritime history | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: _____ |

Specific dates 1924 **Architect/Builder** Oliver White

Construction dates ca. 1924

Evaluation for:

Baltimore County Landmarks List County Inventory not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Stoneleigh Community Building is located at the corner of York Road and Regester Avenue in the Ninth Election District of Baltimore County. Built in 1924, it is located at the southern end of the National Register Historic District of Stoneleigh and is a contributing property. The community of Stoneleigh was developed as an early streetcar suburb in Baltimore County. Its proximity to the streetcar lines on York Road and the easy commute to Baltimore City by automobile made it an ideal place to build a home. The latest amenities were available to its residents and the Stoneleigh commercial building anchored the community and provided needed services. A pool, church and school were also constructed in conjunction with the development. Architect Oliver White designed the building in the Tudor Revival style that was very compatible with the other various high quality Tudor Revival, Craftsman, Renaissance Revival and Colonial Revival homes found in the neighborhood. The community of Stoneleigh is an excellent example of community planning in addition to being an example of an early 20th century developments that was designed to attract the upper middle to middle class buyer. The Stoneleigh Community Building is also an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture designed by architect Oliver White.

The community of Stoneleigh was named after the country estate of the Brown family. The Brown family home once stood in the middle of the development on approximately 18 acres but was demolished in the 1953 to make way for additional building lots.¹ In 1922, 114 acres were purchased from Brown family heirs. This was not an uncommon practice, shortly before the Stoneleigh purchase, the Anneslie estate had sold approximately 100 acres also for development.² The Brown family was very notable in Baltimore and the estate was built to display their elevated status. York Road was a very busy road and became an important route to Baltimore City as streetcar and later automobile traffic was added. The community of Stoneleigh is an early example of the burgeoning suburbs being developed to take advantage of the proximity to Baltimore as well as the beautiful location for new homes.

Although Stoneleigh’s original covenants prohibited commercial development, the Stoneleigh Corporation sold five and a half lots to Joseph & Julia Fulker for the purpose of building a shopping

¹ Diden, Amanda, Trieschman, Laura V., Weidlich, Robin J. E.H.T. Tracerics Inc. *National Park Service - National Register of Historic Places Registration Form BA 2974 Stoneleigh Historic District*, October 2001, Section 7, p.1.

² *Real Estate and Building News*, “114 acres of Stoneleigh, York Road Estate Bought for Development”, Baltimore Sun, October 26, 1922.

Baltimore County Historic Properties Nomination Form

Inventory No. BA-3246

Name 6901 York Road, Towson
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 2

center. The directors decided to override their restrictions with the reasoning that a commercial building would be a positive addition to the community. The idea of a community shopping center was a new concept in Baltimore County although another early Baltimore City development in Roland Park had a shopping center building.³ The Stoneleigh building was constructed in a Tudor Revival style that mimicked the style of the Roland Park shopping center and many homes in Stoneleigh. The original tenant of the building was The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, later known as A&P and attracted streetcar riders as well as the local community.⁴

The Tudor Revival style was very popular in the late 19th to early 20th century in the United States. Approximately eighty-two houses were built in Stoneleigh using that type of architecture.⁵ The Tudor style was based on a variety of late Medieval English examples that ranged from modest thatched roof cottages to grand manor houses.⁶ Although the style had some added American elements, Tudor Revival buildings generally share the same steeply pitched, front facing gable roofs, small paned windows, and prominent chimneys.⁷ Many also feature an ornamental half timbering effect that is similar to examples found on Queen Anne and Stick style homes. Unlike the other wood framed styles, Tudor Revival buildings also generally have stucco or masonry walls. Masonry veneering techniques after World War I allowed even modest examples to mimic the stone and brick seen on the English prototypes.⁸ The design of the Stoneleigh Community Building incorporates the Tudor elements in such a way that the style is clearly evident without detracting from its usefulness as a commercial structure. An addition added to the north elevation of the building also incorporated Tudor Revival design details including a front gable roof and half timbering in the gable end. The same elements can be found on the garage located to the rear of the building.⁹

The National Register District of Stoneleigh is an excellent example of an early 20th century planned suburb that was designed to meet the needs of the middle to upper middle class families in Baltimore County. Its' convenient location to transportation and automobile friendly roads made it attractive to residents wishing to commute to Baltimore City. The Stoneleigh Community Building was a unique

³ Diehlman, Nicole, *Community Builders in Baltimore County? A Case Study of Stoneleigh and Anneslie*, April 15, 1994, p.27.

⁴ Didden et al., Section 8, p.101.

⁵ Diehlman, p.83.

⁶ McAlester, Lee, McAlester, Virginia, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knoff, Inc, New York, 1984, p.358.

⁷ Diehlman, p.83.

⁸ McAlester, p.358.

⁹ Didden et al., Section 7, p.9.

Baltimore County Historic Properties Nomination Form

Inventory No. BA-3246

Name 6901 York Road, Towson
Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 3

amenity for early planned suburbs and its effective use of many architectural elements found in the community's homes, achieves a seamless transition into the neighborhood. It is an excellent example of Tudor Revival architecture that integrated many style-defining characteristics into the structure.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-3246

Baltimore County Land and Will Records. Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Maryland
Diden, Amanda, Trieschman, Laura V., Weidlich, Robin J. E.H.T. Tracerics Inc. *National Park Service - National Register of Historic Places Registration Form BA 2974 Stoneleigh Historic District*, October 2001.
Diehlman, Nicole, *Community Builders in Baltimore County? A Case Study of Stoneleigh and Anneslie*, April 15, 1994
Enoch Pratt Free Library, Baltimore Sun Historical Archive, Baltimore, Maryland.
McAlester, Lee, McAlester, Virginia, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, Alfred A. Knoff, Inc, New York, 1984.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .42 Acre
Acreage of historical setting .42 Acres
Quadrangle name Towson

Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Stoneleigh Community Building is situated on lots 13-17 and part of lot 12 which is outlined on the Stoneleigh Communtiy Plat (7:87)

11. Form Prepared by

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| name/title | Teri Rising, Historic Planner | date | June 8, 2009 |
| organization | Baltimore County Office of Planning | telephone | 410.887.3495 |
| street & number | 105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 101 | state | MD |
| city or town | Towson | | |

The survey and register are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

Baltimore County Historic Property Nomination Form

Inventory No. BA-3246

Name 6901 York Road, Towson
Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

return to: **Baltimore County Office of Planning**, Landmarks Preservation Commission
105 West Chesapeake Avenue, Suite 101, Towson, MD 21204

410-887-3495 Contact: Vicky Nevy
(vnevy@baltimorecountymd.gov)
410-887-5862 (FAX)

Criteria:

(b) *Findings*. Before any structure may be placed on the preliminary landmarks list, the Commission must specifically find that the structure qualifies by contributing substantially to the architectural, or historical heritage of the county, state, or nation because of any one or more of the following:

- (1) It is associated with a personality, group, event, or series of events of historical importance;
- (2) It is a distinctive example of a particular architectural style or period;
- (3) It is a good example of the work of a noted architect or master builder;
- (4) It is a work of notable artistic merit or
- (5) It has yielded and will be likely to yield information or materials important in prehistory or history.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5