

# Historic Vienna, Inc.



131 Church Street NE ♦ P.O. Box 53 ♦ Vienna, VA 22183

March 3, 2020

Mercury Payton  
Town Manager  
Town of Vienna  
Vienna Town Hall  
127 Center Street South  
Vienna, Virginia 22180

## **Re: 131 Court House Road, SW, Vienna Virginia**

Dear Mr. Payton,

At its January board meeting, Historic Vienna, Incorporated voted to recommend that the application of the Stely House at 131 Court House Road, SW be approved for inclusion on the town's Historic Properties Register.

The Stely House was referred to in Fairfax County records of 1883. It is a balloon frame German sided wooden three-story house and features an English basement with original thick stone walls, windows and an above ground exit. An interior wooden cabinet swings out under the front porch. A full walkup attic with four windows features original pine flooring. Original random width pine flooring remains on the bedroom level, while windows and door trim feature wooden moldings and rosettes throughout the home. A substantial number of windows contain original glass. A stone-lined well remains and provides water for plants. Shutter dogs, horseshoes, railway ties, and numerous pieces of metal hardware and glass bottles are discovered when digging.

The firm of H.L. Stely and Son (Henry L. Stely and Frances, his wife, and L. Newton Stely and Florence, his wife), purchased the property and its approximately six acres in 1899 from Anna M. Money. They owned the house until 1921. The lot had been designated as Windover Heights No. 6, 131 Court House Road, Southwest, in 1894.

L. Newton Stely was active in the community. He:

- Served as a Town of Vienna Council Clerk (1920 on),
- Owned Centre Market, Purveyors of meats and vegetables, 120 Church Street (building burned in 1906 and the site later became Craig and Wright Grocery Store),
- Sold general merchandise,
- Owned a sawmill on Mr. Fox's tract, near Vale Church,
- Owned tracts of land around northern Virginia, adding up to 77 acres,
- Worked mainly in wood, but was a trained mason.

In recommending this application for inclusion on the Town's Register of Historic Structures, Sites and Places, Historic Vienna, Inc. believes that it has significance related to the development of the town and to persons of local prominence, and that it also is an excellent example of the type of homes being built

in Vienna at the time.

Section 25.8 of Vienna's code gives the following guidance for structures built before 1900:

*In considering applications for inclusion on the register, the Town Manager, the board of Historic Vienna, Inc., and the Town Council shall consider the following structures, sites and places as presumptively entitled to inclusion on the register:*

*(a) Buildings and other structures erected at their present location prior to 1900 and which retain all or a substantial portion of their original dimension and appearance.*

*(b) Businesses continuously conducted in the Town since prior to 1900 under the same name or in the same location.*

*(c) Sites and places in the Town that have been used continuously since prior to 1900 for the same purposes, or have remained essentially unchanged since the abandonment or discontinuation of such use.*

We are lucky that this house continues to survive to this day as a reminder of Vienna's past. We will be thrilled for it to be added to the town's Register.

Sincerely,



Anne G. Stuntz  
Historic Vienna, Inc.  
President