

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY ANNOUNCES DIGITAL COLLECTION OF ARCHITECT STANHOPE JOHNSON'S RECORDS

**LYNCHBURG, VA – MAY 30, 2025** - Jones Memorial Library (JML) is pleased to announce that a significant portion of Stanhope Spencer Johnson's architectural records for Red Hill are now online.

The digitized records from JML's manuscript collection #1236 (Stanhope S. Johnson Office Records), relate to Johnson's work on the historic restoration of Patrick Henry's Red Hill Plantation in the 1950s. Digitized materials are part of the Stanhope Johnson Red Hill item set on the library's digital portal at <https://digital.jmlibrary.org/s/collections/item-set/69767>

More than 2,500 pages of correspondence, plans, and other materials from the Stanhope Johnson Office Records manuscript collection were scanned during the 14-month project. Between March 2024 and May 2025, JML intern Lucy Jablonski and JML collections assistant Garrett Reynolds were responsible for scanning more than 2,500 individual pages from three boxes of records. The digitized images were then uploaded to the library's digital portal with Omeka-S, a web publishing platform for digital cultural heritage collections.

Stanhope Spencer Johnson (1881-1973) designed between 700-800 buildings throughout his career. After his death, his office records were donated to JML. The majority of this collection is held in physical format at the library. The library's project focused on scanning materials related to Red Hill. Digitization of these records will provide researchers and historians with unprecedented access to Johnson's work, offering insights into one of Central Virginia's most influential architects.

Red Hill Plantation in Charlotte County, Virginia, was the final home and burial place of Virginia's first governor, Patrick Henry. Henry moved to the property in 1794, referring to it as "one of the garden spots of the world," and lived there with his family and 67 enslaved persons until his death in 1799. Today, the property is managed by the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, which has preserved nearly 1,000 acres of the original plantation, including the reconstructed house, original law office, and family cemetery.

"We are pleased to make Stanhope Johnson's Red Hill records available this year," said Deborah Smith, Executive Director of Jones Memorial Library. "The launch of this digital collection complements the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Henry's famous "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death" speech and the start of the American Revolution." The digitization project also supports enhanced collaboration across the cultural heritage sector. Staff and researchers at Red Hill and across the country will now enjoy easy online access to these materials held at JML.

The digitized materials from Boxes 15-17 in JML manuscript collection 1236 include:

- Original architectural drawings and plans for the Red Hill restoration

- Project specifications and documentation
- Photographs of the plantation
- Correspondence related to the preservation project
- Notes and research materials on historical authenticity

The Stanhope S. Johnson Office Records are part of the Lynchburg Architectural Archives established in 1980 at JML. The complete collection includes over 5,000 sets of drawings and documents from more than 80 architects and firms who have practiced in the Lynchburg area.

This focused digitization project was made possible with support from the Lynchburg Committee of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in Virginia. The project aligns with JML's mission to preserve and provide access to materials documenting Central Virginia's rich history while making specialized collections more accessible to researchers with specific interests.

To explore the Stanhope Johnson Red Hill Plantation restoration digital collection, visit [digital.jmlibrary.org/s/collections/item-set/65104](https://digital.jmlibrary.org/s/collections/item-set/65104).

## **About Jones Memorial Library**

Jones Memorial Library specializes in genealogy and history. Located above the Lynchburg Public Library at 2311 Memorial Avenue in Lynchburg, the specialized library and archives serve researchers interested in family history, architecture, and Central Virginia history. Services are free and open to the public five days a week.

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