Stanley Potter Stewart was born in Hamilton, Ohio and was raised as a Baptist. Later in his childhood, the family moved to Columbus, Ohio.

He studied architecture at Carnegie Technical Institute in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and then began his own practice in Philadelphia. On April 30, 1924, he married Esther Lippincott, who was a birthright Friend. They had two children, Caroline and Stanley, Jr.

In the early 1930s Stanley took a job as an architect with the United States Government and the family moved to the Washington, D.C. area, living in rural Vienna, Virginia. He also continued working independently as an architect.

Stanley joined the Friends Meeting of Washington in 1941, soon after his wife had transferred her membership from Chester Monthly Meeting in Moorestown, New Jersey. He had already been attending Meeting for Worship regularly for some time. Together they were active in Friends’ projects, such as the International Student House and Davis House. He was a Trustee of the Meeting for many years, and served on committees. A painting of Meeting for Worship by his wife still hangs in the Meeting office.

During the late 1950s the Stewarts lived in Colorado Springs, Colorado for four years, while Stanley worked as an architect on the new Air Force Academy. They returned to their home in Vienna afterward.

The Stewarts began to live in Jekyll Island, Georgia for part of each year in 1962, and then moved there in 1967. They remained in Georgia until they died, Esther in 1982 and Stanley in 1984.