

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**  
**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic name: Woodbyrne

Other names/site number: None

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**

Street & number: 219 Ann Lewis Road

City or town: Charles Town State: West Virginia County: Jefferson

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   x   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  x   A     B   x   C     D

<b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>	
In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<b>Signature of commenting official:</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Title :</b>	<b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b>

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**5. Classification  
 Ownership of Property**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public - Federal

**Category of Property**

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	Description
2	2	building(s)
1		site(s)
1	2	structure(s)
		object(s)
4	4	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: NA

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural field

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/Agricultural field

DOMESTIC/Single dwelling

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EARLY REPUBLIC/Federal

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Foundation: Uncoursed limestone; walls: brick; roofing: standing seam metal

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Woodbyrne is located off Kabletown Road (West Virginia Route 25) at 219 Ann Lewis Road (West Virginia Route 25/7) in southwestern Jefferson County (Fig. 1). Ann Lewis Road bisects the property into two sections: a 113-acre equilateral trapezoid to the northeast, and a 15-acre inverted keystone across Ann Lewis Road to the southwest. Woodbyrne sits atop a small knoll in the trapezoid. Its view to the keystone in the southwest is of an open field (Fig. 2). Behind Woodbyrne is a forest that continues over the top of the hill and descends to Long Marsh Run, a year-round stream that cuts south through the entire property on its way to the Shenandoah River. Northeast of Long Marsh Run are cleared, fenced fields for grazing cattle. *Contributing elements* are the 128-acre site of farmland and agricultural fields; Woodbyrne, a two-and-a-half-story brick house built ca. 1810 and embellished in 1894; a bank barn and silo, ca. 1900; and a corn crib, ca. 1900. *Non-contributing elements* are the Sarah Hough house, ca. 2020, a metal storage building adjoin the corn crib, ca. 2020; and an extended garage, ca. 2020. Woodbyrne was altered in 1894 with a wrap-around verandah, second-story central oriel bay window, and decorative Victorian-era embellishments. It was altered again in 2015 with an ell to the rear containing modern amenities.

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## Narrative Description

### 1. Woodbyrne Farm, 128-acre site (contributing site).

Woodbyrne is located off Kabletown Road (West Virginia Route 25) at 219 Ann Lewis Road (West Virginia Route 25/7) in southwestern Jefferson County (Fig. 1). Ann Lewis Road bisects the property into two sections: a 114-acre equilateral trapezoid to the northeast, and a 15-acre inverted keystone across Ann Lewis Road to the southwest. Woodbyrne sits atop a small knoll in the trapezoid. Its view to the keystone in the southwest is of an open field beyond (Fig. 2 and Photo 10). Behind Woodbyrne is a forest that continues over the top of the hill and descends to Long Marsh Run, a year-round stream that cuts south through the entire property on its way to the Shenandoah River. Northeast of Long Marsh Run are cleared, fenced fields for grazing cattle. Woodbyrne and outlying buildings sit above Ann Lewis Road (Fig. 3). The boundary is cattle-fenced. Entry to the drive to the house is through a pair of iron gates. A large, low sign announces "Woodbyrne." The drive is circular, wrapping behind the house, in front, then connecting back at the entrance gate. Another short drive extends from the main drive to the garage and barn.

### 2. Woodbyrne House, (ca.1810; ca. 1850s), contributing building.

*Front (south) façade.* The house is a large brick residence incorporating elements of the Federal and Greek Revival style as well as Victorian additions, organized at the ground story around a five-bay façade with centered entry including sidelights flanking the main door. Brick are laid Flemish bond with flat arches above openings (Photo 1). On the first story a pair of 5-pane x 2, tall sash windows also flank each side of the entry door. A broad verandah and railing supported by plain wood posts extends across the facade and a portion of the west elevation. The building is gable-roofed with standing-seam metal and interior gable-end brick chimneys. Centered on the second story of the facade is an oriel with a gabled roof including a shingled pediment and a wheel-window. The oriel window holds three tall, narrow 2/2 wooden sash windows. Flanking the oriel window are a pair of 2/2 wooden sash windows. The building is L-shaped in plan with a double gallery porch in the angle of the ell on the rear.

*Side (east) façade.* A modern brick ell (ca. 2015) extends to the rear replacing an earlier ell from which brick have been recovered for the current ell (Photo 2). Brick are laid in common bond with flat arches above openings. At the left is the original 2-1/2 story house with no openings on the first two stories, but with two small casement windows in the gable of the attic, probably for ventilation. To the right is a modern, 1-1/2 story addition covered with a metal, standing-seam roof. On the first story, from left to right, are a pair of glass entry doors, two sets of wood, 2/2, double-sash windows with shutters, and four evenly-spaced wood, 2/2 sash windows with shutters. A porch roof covers the glass entry doors and two sets of wood, 2/2 double-sash windows. Although large in mass, the ell cannot be seen from the front of the house.

*Rear (north) façade.* The east façade of the ell is 1-1/2 stories, with roof gable end, of brick, laid common bond (Photo 3). On the first story, at either extremity, are single, wood, 2/2, sash windows with shutters.

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*Side (west) façade.* The north façade consists of the original 2-1/2-story house to the right and the modern ell to the left. The original house is gable-end with two wood, 2/2 sash windows on the first story and two wood, 2/2 sash windows with shutters on the second story. In the gable of the attic is a recessed circle with a prominent "H" at its center. To the left is a modern ell that replaced an earlier ell with brick recovered from the earlier ell. From left to right are a picture window, glazed door with flanking lights, and entry door with nine-paned window. This section is covered by the wrap-around verandah and railing from the front of the house. The grade slopes. The verandah floor is reached by ten stairs. To the left of the verandah on the same story are a pair of wood, 2/2 double sash windows with shutters. The lower story exposes a below-grade garage incorporated under the ell reached by two, single-car, carriage-style doors.

*Woodbyrne interior.*

For strength and security, the main entry door is diagonally reinforced (Fig. 17). The entrance hallway extends through the center of the house to an entry to the ell. Stairs extend up the right wall to a landing, then left, then up to the second floor from the landing (Fig. 18). From the hallway a door to the right leads to a parlor (Fig. 19). At the center of the end wall of the parlor are a fireplace and mantel. Opposite the parlor is a dining room (Figure 20). At the center of the end wall of the dining room are a fireplace and mantel. From the rear wall of the dining room is a door leading to a library in the ell (not illustrated).

**3. Woodbyrne Barn and Silo, ca. 1850, contributing structure.**

*Front (north) façade.* The bank (Switzer-style) barn is 1-1/2 stories with an exposed forebay and symmetrical, cross-gabled roof (Photo 7). Its front is vertically boarded with sliding barn doors and a single, wood door entry. Flanking the entry are two louvered ventilation openings. A silo with a round standing-seam gambrel roof sits in front of the barn. The gambrel has an open portal cut through to allow ventilation. The barn is covered with a metal, standing-seam roof.

*Side (west) façade.* The grade slopes to the west exposing an uncoursed limestone foundation. The façade is covered with vertical boarding (Photo 8). There are no openings on the first story. On the half story above are three louvered ventilation openings, arranged two below and one above. A small section is cantilevered over the forebay.

*Forebay (south) façade.* Above the forebay is the main story of vertical boarding. Four louvered ventilation openings are arranged two centered below and two at the extremities above (Photo 9). The cross-gabled roof is metal, standing seam. At the maw of the forebay is a poultry pen, constructed of, and covered with, wire to protect poultry from predators (namely foxes and hawks).

*Side (east) façade.* The grade slopes to the west exposing an uncoursed limestone foundation. The façade is covered with vertical boarding. There are no openings on the first story. On the half story above are three louvered ventilation openings, arranged two below and one above. A small section is cantilevered over the forebay.

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**4. Corn crib, ca. 1850, contributing structure.**

The corn crib is vertically boarded with a gable-end metal, standing-seam roof (Photo 8). Its north and west facades appear to be unaltered, however its east and south facades have been altered. Its south façade now adjoins a modern metal building. Its east façade has been largely removed exposing the structure's interior (Photo 9). Thus viewed to the east, the structure's form appears that of a corn crib, but viewed to the north, its function is more of that of a stable.

**5. Stable, ca. 2015, non-contributing structure.**

The stable is vertically boarded with a shed, corrugated metal roof. Its north, east, and west facades are boarded (Photo 11). Its west façade is open. Sarah Hough raises Texas longhorn cattle that use the stable for shelter.

**6. Metal Building, ca. 2015, non-contributing structure.**

A metal utility building with gable-end metal roof adjoins the west end of the corn crib (Photo 8).

**7. Garage, ca. 2019, non-contributing building.**

The Houghs built an all-purpose garage, equipment storage area, and farm office to serve farm operations (Photo 6). Its design fits its period and location.

**8. Sarah Hough House, ca. 2020, non-contributing building.**

The Sarah Hough House is two stories with a concrete foundation, vertical metal siding, and a side-gabled metal seamed roof (Photo 5). On the first story is an off-center-to-right 9-paned entry door, flanked by two, vinyl, 6/6 sash windows with shutters. This section is covered by a porch roof. To the left is a raised double, vinyl, 6/6 sash windows with shutters. On the second story are three evenly-spaced, vinyl, 6/6 sash windows with shutters. A two-truck partially enclosed carport adjoins the east end of the house.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

### Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/Black

AGRICULTURE

ARCHITECTURE

LAW



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**Period of Significance**

1803-1974  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1803: Bataille Muse, Sr., description of house to be built included in his will

1892: U.S. Supreme Court Decision

1894: Addition of verandah and oriel window to the Woodbyrne house

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

None  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

None  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

None  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Woodbyrne Farm is eligible for inclusion in the National Register, local significance, under *Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black*, for the contributions free and enslaved Blacks made to the construction of the house and to house and farm operations through the early 1900s; *Criterion A: Agriculture*, for the site's farming heritage from its founding to date; *Criterion A: Law*, for the U. S. Supreme Court decision needed to clarify proper ownership in 1892; and for *Criterion C: Architecture*, for the distinctive construction of the original house and adaptation of the house to new styles in 1894.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

**Historical Narrative:**

**Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black, Agriculture, and Law:**

This section will trace ownership to provide documentary justification for significance of Ethnic Heritage/Black, Agriculture, and Law. A section to justify significance of Architecture follows.

**Pre-Anglo-European**

In his *History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County* (1888), F. Vernon Aler states two principal Indian nations occupied land between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers: the Delaware and the Catawba.<sup>1</sup> The Tuscarora were locally present, and the Iroquois supplanted the Delaware and Catawba by the early 1700s. The Iroquois Confederacy fought European settlement throughout the northern Shenandoah Valley, and in turn European settlers fought the Iroquois.

With the Albany Treaty of 1722, the six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy (now including the Tuscarora) agreed in theory to allow European settlement of the Shenandoah Valley. Conflicts and tension followed for another six years until 1728 when the Iroquois formally abandoned their claims. Peace gave way to increased European settlement in the Shenandoah Valley, especially by English transplants from eastern Virginia.<sup>2</sup> Prospective landowners in the northern Shenandoah Valley could claim land from one of three sources: (1) a royal patent issued by the colonial governor; (2) powers delegated to Jost Hite (1685-1761), the royal governor's surrogate in the Valley; or (3) a land grant from Thomas, Sixth Lord Fairfax (1693-1781), whose family received more than 5.2 million acres from Charles II in 1649.<sup>3</sup> Lawsuits ensued between owners granted land by Lord Fairfax and those who traced their deeds to a royal patent. These lawsuits were not settled until 1802.<sup>4</sup> No matter the source of grant or patent, the applicant needed a land survey to help validate the property claimed. A proper survey accompanied each patent or grant.

Sensing relative peace among Indian nations in the early 1750s, Virginia Royal Governor William Gooch and Lord Fairfax pressed for settlements in the northern Shenandoah Valley. They felt settlers and settlements acted as a buffer to renewed encroachments by French and Indians, and would eventually provide stability to Anglo claims to land beyond the Blue Ridge. French and Indian encroachment, however, recurred, and came to a head with the French and Indian Wars beginning in 1756. Battles and skirmishes continued to the late 1750s.

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<sup>1</sup> F. Vernon Aler, *History of Martinsburg and Berkeley County, West Virginia* (Heritage Books, 2008), 25.

<sup>2</sup> John C. Allen, Jr., *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Morgantown, W. Va.: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 24.

<sup>3</sup> Warren R. Hofstra, "Land, Ethnicity, and Community at the Opequon Settlement, Virginia, 1730-1800." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 98, no. 3 (1990): 423-448.

<sup>4</sup> Duplicate claims for the same property form the heart of the well-documented Fairfax-Hite lawsuits and are beyond the scope of this study. For simplicity see: Rebecca Ebert, *Finding Your People in the Shenandoah Valley: A Genealogical Guide* (Ashland, WI: Heartland Press, 1988).

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### Thomas, Lord Fairfax

Charles II (1630-1685) was grateful for support from the Fairfax family during the English Civil War (1642-1651). In 1649, in gratitude, Charles granted the Fairfax family 5.2 million acres in what would be known as the Northern Neck of Virginia, land that included present-day Jefferson County. For nearly 90 years the Fairfax family remained indifferent to their regal grant. Only in 1750 did Lord Fairfax come to Virginia to stake his family's claim and sell or lease large tracts to potential settlers.

### Ralph Wormeley

By 1760 relative peace had returned to the Shenandoah Valley. Britain had subdued French advances in the Ohio Valley, and the Treaty of Paris in 1763 put a temporary end to British-French warfare in the British colonies. But for the northern Shenandoah Valley there was an upside to years of recent warfare: the area had become a commissary to British occupation. Local farmers and millers supplied British garrisons with ample wheat and flour, and others along the Opequon Creek provided beef, pork, butter, and cheese in quantities above those needed locally. Local sales to the British army generated cash, a much-needed medium of exchange, and stimulated agricultural production.

Tidewater plantation owners took notice. On April 2, 1768, Lord Fairfax, conveyed to Ralph Wormeley IV (1715-1790), of Middlesex County, Virginia, 11,716 acres in Frederick County, Virginia.<sup>5</sup> A subsequent conveyance would increase Wormeley's holdings to 12,076 acres, an area only slightly smaller than Manhattan (Fig. 4). Wormeley needed land to supplement his holdings in Middlesex County where decades of tobacco farming had exhausted the soil. By 1802, Wormeley owned more land than nearly anyone else in what had become Jefferson County.

Wormeley quickly developed his holdings. In 1774, only six years after he acquired his 12,076 acres, he tried to sell all or part. His advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* describes the extent to which he had settled his vast tract (Fig. 5).<sup>6</sup> By 1774 he had erected a "merchant mill, with a pair of best French burrs for [the] grinding of wheat," "a pair of common stones for grinding of Indian corn," "a dwelling house" and "tub mill," and "a valuable saw mill." The advertisement then boasts "five settled and improved plantations," "a good stone house; 2 stories high, with 2 rooms on a floor, a kitchen, dairy, and all other convenient outhouses;" and "on another plantation, where Michael Pike lived, there is a good stone house; and at the other houses there are overseers houses, negro quarters, barns, stables, tobacco houses, &c." Finally, in addition to advertising horses, cattle, and swine, Wormley states he needs to "dispose of 112 negroes." After Wormley failed to sell the tract or major parts of it, he conveyed remaining parts to his son, James.

<sup>5</sup> Virginia State Library, Northern Neck Grants, Volume O, 137.

<sup>6</sup> *Virginia Gazette*, Purdie and Dixon, June 16, 1774, page 2, column 3. See: <https://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/va-gazettes/VGSinglePage.cfm?issueIDNo=74.PD.28&page=2&res=LO>. Accessed June 1, 2019.

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### James Wormley

By his will, written in 1787, Ralph Wormeley stated he had earlier conveyed “by deed” a 2,359.5- acre tract in Berkeley County to his son, James Wormley (1746-1830).<sup>7</sup> Accustomed to a more urbane lifestyle at “Rosegill,” the Wormley plantation in Middlesex County, Virginia, James did not live long in Berkeley County. In 1790 he sold the tract to Battaile Muse, Sr.<sup>8</sup>

### Battaile Muse, Sr.

Battaile Muse, Sr., (1751-1803), was son of Col. George Muse (1720-1790) who served with George Washington at Fort Necessity.<sup>9</sup> Battaile became collector of rents on Washington’s lands in Berkeley County. “Battaile” was his mother’s born surname. From 1790 to his death in 1803, Muse did little to develop his property; instead he farmed and managed it with his three sons.

Muse died in 1803. He ordered his acreage divided as equally as possible among each of his three sons. To Battaile, Jr., he gave land that would eventually become Woodbyrne. Muse’s will was specific. Muse stated:

...it is my desire that a two story Brick house fifty feet long and twenty feet wide in the clear with a cellar the whole size of the house, the cellar to be eight feet and partitioned with a stone wall; the scantling plank shingles that is now on my estate shall be applied on this building – the building to be finished completely and painted – this building to be situated on the knoll near the log cabin George Tingle built in 1802. Also I desire that a white oak stable be built near the premises twenty feet square with a short shingle cover, one story and a half high. The aforesaid buildings [are] to be paid for out of my personal estate.<sup>10</sup>

### Battaile Muse, Jr.

Though age 16 when his father died, Battaile Muse, Jr. (1787-1823) reached his majority in 1808 and complied with his father’s wishes. Battaile, Jr. built the present Woodbyrne to his father’s specifications. He built well. The brick house stands, unlike the white oak stable his father specified, that disappeared long ago. Muse Jr. inherited 776 acres, a sizeable estate (Fig. 6). His property adjoined that of his brother, George (1786-1812), who inherited The Rocks.

<sup>7</sup> Will for Ralph Wormeley IV, Middlesex (VA) County Will Book D (1789-1798), signed May 25, 1789, 106. No deed from Ralph Wormeley to his son, James, has been located.

<sup>8</sup> Berkeley County Deed Book 9:235.

<sup>9</sup> “To George Washington from Battaile Muse, 1 November 1788,” *Founders Online*, National Archives, <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/05-01-02-0065>. [Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Presidential Series, vol. 1, 24 September 1788–31 March 1789, ed. Dorothy Twohig, Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1987, pp. 86–87.]. Accessed November 25, 2023.

<sup>10</sup> Jefferson County Will Book 1:49. George Tingle (1775-1830), a tenant, moved to Morgantown, West Virginia, then in 1806 to Cambridge, Ohio, where he was an honored town “Founder” who built the town’s first tavern.

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In 1809, at age 22, Battaile Muse, Jr., first appeared on Jefferson County Personal Property Tax List. He was appraised for 20 black males, 16 older than age 16, four younger.<sup>11</sup> What is unknown is the number of black females as they were not tallied. In 1810, a year later, the county taxed Muse Jr. with only eight blacks, seven of whom were older than age 16.<sup>12</sup> Where the others went is unknown. Possibly Muse Jr. needed the larger crew to build his brick house, and once built, he sold, rented out, or returned blacks he had rented to their owners.

Battaile Jr. and the crafters who built his house had resources of his older brother, George, who lived about a mile away at The Rocks. A Mutual Assurance Society policy for 1803 and a diagram from a chancery suit depict an office, two stables, two barns, sawmill, merchant (grist) mill, and a distillery (Figure 7). Like other plantations, The Rocks was largely self-sustaining in its capacity to sustain those who lived there. A sawmill was especially useful to cut dimensional timber for flooring and roofing that Muse, Sr. asked for in his will. A restored perspective view of Woodbyrne is seen in Figure 8.

The federal census for 1820 revealed that Muse Jr. had a household of “six free whites, 19 enslaved, and 1 free colored person.” Muse Jr.’s occupation was “farmer.”<sup>13</sup> When federal census takers add females, the federal tally of blacks is more accurate than counting just males as for county personal property taxes.

Battaile Muse, Jr., died in 1823 at age 36. His will conveyed “the residue of my property to the *children* of my three sisters, Mary Lewis, Margaret Muse Opie, and Lucinda Walton.”<sup>14</sup> The child who inherited Woodbyrne, was a niece [daughter of Margaret Muse Opie (1792-1830)], Juliet Opie.

### **Juliet Opie**

Juliet Opie (1818-1890) was the daughter of Hierome Lindsay Opie and Margaret Muse Opie, the latter a sister of Battaile Muse, Jr. On reaching her majority in 1839, Juliet conveyed her interest in Woodbyrne to her father.<sup>15</sup> He owned the property only one year before he died.

Juliet’s mother, Margaret Tate Muse Opie (1792-1830) died when Juliet was age 16. At the time, Juliet was away at school in Richmond, Virginia. Juliet returned to Woodbyrne to assist her father in running Woodbyrne Plantation. In 1837 she married Naval Captain Alexander George Gordon, who died in 1847 while on anti-slave duty at Port Grande, Cape Verdes. In 1854 Juliet remarried. She and her second husband, Arthur Hopkins, moved to Mobile, Alabama, where Hopkins was Chief Justice of the Alabama Supreme Court. She and her husband sold their properties to support the South financially; their contributions have been estimated at between

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<sup>11</sup> Patricia B. Duncan, *Jefferson County, Virginia, 1802-1813 Personal Property Tax Lists* (Bowie, Md: Heritage Books Inc., 2003), 108.

<sup>12</sup> Duncan, 124.

<sup>13</sup> Watts, Donald E., *Fourth Census of the United States of America, 1820: Occupations and Manufactures in Jefferson County, Virginia* (Charles Town, WV: Jefferson County Museum, 2012), 77.

<sup>14</sup> JCWB 3:474.

<sup>15</sup> JCDB 23:533.

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\$200,000 and \$500,000. Most went to the Confederate government directly, but the remainder helped build hospitals for Confederate soldiers to receive medical care. She further organized hospitals and nurses, and is considered the “Florence Nightingale of the South.” When she died in 1890, she was buried with full military honors in Arlington National Cemetery.<sup>16</sup>

### **Hierome Lindsay Opie, Sr.**

By about 1811, Hierome (pronounced “Hiram”) L. Opie (1777-1840) had come to Jefferson County from Northumberland County, Virginia. Like Ralph Wormeley before him, Opie was one of many Tidewater Virginians who left their tobacco-depleted soil for the rich, well-watered, limestone soil of the Northern Shenandoah Valley. He fit in quickly. In 1811 he married Margaret Muse, daughter of Battaile Sr. and sister of Battaile Jr. In 1814, at the height of the War of 1812, he was named aide-de-camp to James Singleton (1762-1815), commander of the Virginia 16th Brigade of Militia.<sup>17</sup>

In the federal census for 1820, the Opie household consisted of six white persons and 75 enslaved persons, of whom 24 were engaged in agriculture. Opie was listed as a “Farmer.”<sup>18</sup> In the federal census for 1830, the Opie household consisted of seven white persons and 82 enslaved persons.

H. L. was politically active. In 1823 he represented Jefferson County at a meeting at the federal Capitol in Washington to chart what became the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.<sup>19</sup> He represented his district at the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1829/1830. Though H. L. lived at Woodbyrne much of his adult life, he owned it little more than a year. He died in 1840 at age 62.

### **Hierome Lindsay Opie, Jr.**

In 1840, by his will, H. L. Opie, Sr. gave Woodbyrne to his son, H. L. Opie, Jr. (1814-1862).<sup>20</sup> It is this “Hierome L. Opie” whose name appears on the 1852 map of Jefferson County prepared by county surveyor, Samuel Howell Brown [(1831-1905) (Fig. 10)].

Like his father, 26-year-old H. L., Jr. was a farmer. In the federal census for 1840 his household consisted of four white persons and 24 enslaved persons, of whom seven were engaged in agriculture. Those not engaged in agriculture could have been house servants, blacksmiths, or employed at the Opie gristmill and sawmill on the property.

The federal census for 1850 reported that the Opie family consisted of 36-year-old H. L., Jr., as head, his wife, Ann, age 32, and their four children, ages six through thirteen. In the federal slave census for 1850, the number of enslaved persons living on the property remained at 24.

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<sup>16</sup> “Juliet Ann (Opie) Hopkins (1818 - 1890).” WikiTree, <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Opie-74>. Accessed November 27, 2023.

<sup>17</sup> *Farmers’ Repository*, August 4, 1814, 3.

<sup>18</sup> *Fourth Census of the United States of America, 1820: Occupations and Manufactures in Jefferson County, Virginia*, 78.

<sup>19</sup> Millard K. Bushong, *History of Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Southern Historical Press, 2019), 121.

<sup>20</sup> JCDB 25;

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The year 1850 was the first federal decennial agricultural census by individual farm. It and succeeding censuses for 1860, 1870, and 1880 help explain crops grown and livestock kept.

**Table 1. Federal Agricultural Census for Woodbyrne, 1850-1880.**

Year	Improved land, acs.	Unimproved land, ac	Cash value of land \$	Farm implement \$	Value wages paid \$	Horses	Milk cows	Other cattle	Swine	Livestock \$	Wheat bushels	Indian corn Bushels	Wool in pounds	Irish potatoes bshls.	Butter, pounds	Hay, tons	Clover seed, bshls.	Homemade manfs. \$	Animals slaughtrd. \$
1850*	440	80	27k	1k	n/a	15	6	14	60	2260	2800	2500	400	100	400	60	0	0	200
1860**	400	539	47k	1k	n/a	19	8	37	40	4000	2800	2000	280	50	400	80	0	0	650
1870**	393	45	40k	1.2k	2300	15	10	30	20	3700	5000	2500	0	60	1k	40	0	0	1.1k
1880**	410	90	25k	500	1000	n/a	10	50	80	2880	2400	2500	56	40	200	60	20	n/a	n/a

\*Owned by H. L. Opie, Jr., in 1850. \*\*Owned by Henry W. Castleman in 1860, 1870, and 1880.

The table is intended to summarize a range of crops and livestock at Woodbyrne for the period 1850 to 1880. It is by no means exhaustive. In 1850, headings for the agricultural census numbered 50; for 1880, they numbered 100. One category not cited here for lack of space was “sheep.” Farm owners often tended large flocks of sheep for wool and meat. In the 1880 agricultural census are headings for “orchards” and “bees,” two more components of Jefferson County farms not cited in Table 1.

**Henry W. Castleman**

In 1856 H. L. Opie, Jr. sold Woodbyrne to Henry W. Castleman (1821-1885).<sup>21</sup> Purchase price was \$41,733.66, a large sum for 1856, but the sale included more than 1,000 acres on both sides of the Shenandoah River. As was common for sales of such magnitude, Opie allowed Castleman to pay over time according to terms of a deeded agreement.<sup>22</sup> From Woodbyrne the Opies moved up the Shenandoah Valley to Staunton, Augusta County, Virginia. Henry Castleman is listed as property owner on the Samuel Howell Brown map for 1883 (Fig. 11).

The 1860 federal census reported nine persons living at Woodbyrne, headed by Henry W. Castleman, “Farmer,” age 39. The 1860 slave census for Woodbyrne listed 22 enslaved persons.

That the Castlemans farmed is documented in the federal agricultural censuses for 1860, 1870, and 1880. Livestock appeared a major source of income, though it diminished in time. After the Civil War, they continued farming assisted by white families and free black families. The federal census for 1870 lists Henry Castleman, age 49, “Farmer,” his wife Diana, age 37, “Keeping

<sup>21</sup> JCDB 35:222.

<sup>22</sup> JCDB 35:224.

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House,” and their children, John, Mary, Estell, and Henry. Also living in the household are James Sinclair, age 73, and Mary Sinclair, age 36. All eight were white. Also listed in the household are Sarah Murray, age 80, “Domestic Servant,” William Smith, age 30, “Farm Laborer,” David Jackson, age 21, “Farm Laborer,” Frances Murray, age 17, “Domestic Servant,” Eliza Jackson, age 17, “Domestic Servant,” and Frances Jackson, age 12, “Domestic Servant.” The latter six were black. Ages 12 through 80, each had a title that reflected work the Castlemans expected of them.

By 1880 the Castleman family living at Woodbyrne had extended to three generations. Henry W. Castleman, age 59, dropped the “Henry” and used his middle name, “William,” on the federal census. Diana, age 47, was still “Keeping House.” Emily (Littlepage), John, Estell, and Henry Castleman still lived at home. Joining the Castlemans were James St. Clair, age 83, William’s father-in-law, and Emily’s four children: Mary, Estell, Henry, and Catharine. All were white. Also listed in the household are Mahaley Smith, age 60, “Cook,” Henry Thomsen and Elias Watton, both age 13, “Farm Hands,” and Frederick Mash, age 15, and Richard Johnston, age 12, both “Servants.” The latter five were black. Young or old, each black continued to have a title that reflected the work the Castlemans expected of them.

**Criterion A: Law Opie vs. Castleman and the United States Supreme Court**

Only two property disputes from Jefferson County have ever required adjudication by the United States Supreme Court. The first in 1865 entailed the whole of Berkeley and Jefferson Counties. The Commonwealth of Virginia sued the State of West Virginia for Virginia to include Jefferson and Berkeley Counties. The case was complicated, but in 1871, the U. S. Supreme Court rejected Virginia’s claims by a vote of 6 to 3.<sup>23</sup> The newly-established State of West Virginia retained Berkeley and Jefferson Counties.

The second dispute requiring resolution by the Supreme Court involved a single property, Woodbyrne. As stated, in 1856 H. L. Opie, Jr. sold two parcels to Henry W. Castleman: Woodbyrne and its 409 acres on the north side of the Shenandoah River, and a mountain tract of 600-plus acres on the south side. The purchase price was \$41,733.66 – \$10,000 in cash and the rest in deferred installments. Deferred installments were \$5,000, each due the first day of 1857 and 1858, and six remaining yearly payments of \$3,622.28, each due the first day of 1859, 1860, 1861, 1862, 1863, and 1864.<sup>24</sup> Good to the agreement, Castleman made four payments on schedule from 1857 through 1860. Then came the Civil War.

In 1862 H. L. Opie, Jr., died in Staunton. Nannie Opie (1817-1882), his widow, and Thomas Opie (1840-1914), his son, qualified as sole personal representatives. Castleman was in arrears for payments for 1861 and 1862. With principal and interest he owed the Opies about \$8,000. He gathered that amount in Confederate currency and Virginia bank notes and rode from Woodbyrne to Staunton, a distance of about 115 miles. There he presented the greatly devalued

<sup>23</sup> Bastress, Robert M. "Virginia v. West Virginia." *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. 12 January 2023. Accessed December 27, 2023. A discussion of case merits is beyond the scope of this nomination.

<sup>24</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, October 4, 1887, 3.



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currency to Mrs. Opie to satisfy what he owed to date, and as partial payment on his larger outstanding debt. With hesitation over the validity of Confederate currency, she accepted. Emboldened, Castleman soon returned to Staunton from Woodbyrne to pay off the balance, again with more devalued Confederate currency and Virginia bank notes. And again, with continued hesitation over the validity of Confederate currency, she accepted. In 1871 the widow Opie and Thomas Opie formally approved release of the mortgage debt. Castleman now owned Woodbyrne free and clear. Or so everyone thought.

Then, in 1880, H. L. Opie III sued his mother, his brother, and Castleman. Opie III claimed that Castleman committed fraud by his payments in worthless tender, and that his mother and brother, who signed off on Castleman's debt, had no exclusive right to do so. His suit slowly worked its way through the courts. In 1887, writing for a court of chancery in Wheeling, federal Judge John Jay Jackson (1824-1907) agreed with the plaintiff, stating, "...Castleman's effort to pay off and discharge a debt under the circumstances was an illegal act upon his part, and consequently, void."<sup>25</sup> Judge Jackson issued a decree in favor of the plaintiff, Opie III, and ordered the Castlemans to pay up.

The Castlemans appealed. In 1892 the United States Supreme Court accepted their appeal. Writing the Court's decision was Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan (1833-1911), "the Great Dissenter" (Fig. 12). True to his reputation, the Great Dissenter dissented. He agreed with lower courts that payments from Castleman to the Opies in worthless Confederate currency and Virginia bonds were invalid and illegal. But – his dissent thundered – Opie III, a lawyer, had waited fifteen years to bring suit, while knowing details of the payments firsthand from when they occurred in the mid-1860s. For Justice Harlan – any statutes of limitations aside – too much time had passed. He issued a decision dismissing Opie III's suit.

Thus, ultimately, in a decision by the U. S. Supreme Court, the Castlemans defended the legal action brought against them.<sup>26</sup> Now they really owned Woodbyrne, free and clear. Sadly, Henry Castleman never learned of his victory in court. He had died in 1885. But perhaps happily, Nannie Opie never learned the mixed blessing of her victory in court over the lawsuit by her son. She had died in 1882.

Two legal precedents emanating from the Woodbyrne case were: (1) the Supreme Court reinforced earlier decisions that Confederate currencies were an illegal substitute for United States specie, and (2) a plaintiff must make a timely claim for injury.

### **Parthenia Singleton**

With their lawsuit in legal limbo, the Castlemans were unable to sell Woodbyrne after the death of Henry in 1885. Only in 1892 when the Supreme Court decision cleared title could Castleman descendants sell as a local court required. The purchaser was Parthenia Singleton (1823-1902),

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<sup>25</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, October 4, 1887, 3.

<sup>26</sup> *Washington v. Opie*, 145 U.S. 214 (1892). See: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/145/214/>. Accessed December 1, 2023.

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recently widowed from her 48-year marriage to James Washington Singleton (1811-1892).<sup>27</sup> James was twice elected to Congress from Illinois. Purchase price for the 409-acre tract was \$18,172.66.<sup>28</sup> In 1895, Singleton sold a 200-acre outparcel to William Wilt for \$5,250.<sup>29</sup> The sale from the southern portion of Singleton's land reduced the Woodbyrne tract to about 209 acres.

In 1899 and in her seventies, Singleton "intended to discontinue farming" and placed an ad for livestock and equipment for sale.<sup>30</sup> Her ad sought buyers for horses, sheep, cattle, pigs, boars, "fine vehicles and good harness," farming implements, and the catch-all phrase of all auctions, "things too numerous to mention" (Fig. 13).

Parthenia died in 1902. She left her property to her two children, James Singleton (1861-1930) and Lily Singleton Thomas (1857-1943). In 1902 James and his wife Rachel sold their interest in Woodbyrne to Lily for \$5,090.<sup>31</sup>

### **Lily Singleton Thomas**

In 1902 Lily, a widow and new owner, quickly sold 50 acres to Charles Boyd for \$3,250.<sup>32</sup> A year later she sold another four acres, "the Mill Lot," to Millie Green for \$400.<sup>33</sup> Finally, in 1906, after owning Woodbyrne outright for about four years, and after her recent marriage to neighbor James Osbourn, Lily sold Woodbyrne to Charles L. Crane for \$7,173.14.<sup>34</sup> The tract now contained about 155 acres.

### **Charles L. Crane**

In the federal census for 1910, Charles Crane (1880-1944), age 30, was a "Real Estate Agent." After owning Woodbyrne for less than three years he sold it to J. F. Ware for \$7,758.34.<sup>35</sup>

### **John F. Ware**

John Fisher Ware (1854-1933) was first of a succession of Woodbyrne owners of the Ware family. He was born in Kabletown to farmer parents. In the federal census for 1900 he is listed as a "Farmer," age 46, married to Margaret, age 48. They had three children, all "At School," Elizabeth, age 18; James, age 16; and Burwell, age 10. In the federal census for 1910, John Ware was still a "Farmer." He remained married to Margaret, age 59, and their three children continue to live at home. James is a "Farm laborer," and Burwell a "Teacher." John and Margaret owned Woodbyrne mortgage free. For the federal census in 1920, John, age 65, continued work as a farmer. Margaret had died, and widower John married Rosa, age 56, born in Ireland. James

<sup>27</sup> James Singleton (1861-1930) was grandson of James Singleton to whom Hierome L Opie, Sr., was aide-de-camp.

<sup>28</sup> JCDB 74:253.

<sup>29</sup> JCDB 80:310.

<sup>30</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, September 26, 1899, 3.

<sup>31</sup> JCDB 92:89.

<sup>32</sup> JCDB 92:92.

<sup>33</sup> JCDB 93:194.

<sup>34</sup> JCDB 97:474.

<sup>35</sup> JCDB 102:320.

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continued farm work assisting his father, and Burwell still taught public school. By the 1930 census, John, age 75, remained a farmer and head of his family.

In 1914 the following account appeared in the *Shepherdstown Register*. John killed a large black snake that had gotten into his Guinea hen rookery. Harry West, a farm employee, dissected the snake and recovered eight Guinea hen eggs, unbroken. "These he set under a hen." A few weeks later the eggs hatched, and eight healthy chicks began their lives "unaware of their experience."<sup>36</sup>

John F. Ware died in 1933 at age 78. His will left Woodbyrne to his son, James. In the event that James died, John directed that Woodbyrne convey to James's widow, Mazie. On Mazie's death, John directed that Woodbyrne be divided between his two grandchildren, Burwell and Louise.<sup>37</sup> Although this succession seems complex, it eventually played out as John foresaw.

### **James E. Ware**

In 1942, according to his son's draft card, James Edgar Ware (1873-1938) and family lived on South George Street in Charles Town, about eight miles from Woodbyrne. A longtime farmer at Woodbyrne with his father, James Edgar Ware owned Woodbyrne only five years before dying at age 55. By the will of James's father, heretofore described, Woodbyrne then conveyed to James's widow, Mazie, in 1938.

### **Mazie Ware**

According to the federal census for 1940, Edith "Mazie" Ware (1884-1974) taught public school. Mazie kept her teaching profession, despite having been a wife to farmer James Ware and daughter-in-law to the family scion, farmer John. Mazie continued to live on South George Street, Charles Town. Mazie's son, Burwell, who was born at Woodbyrne, inherited responsibility for farming it while sharing ownership with his brother, James, and sister, Louise.

The death of Mazie Ware in 1974 and transfer of Woodbyrne to her son, Burwell, marks an unintended but convenient bookend to the Period of Significance for *Criterion A: Agriculture*. Owners after that date and to date would continue to farm and run livestock at Woodbyrne but their continued hard work and dedication fall within the 50-year exclusion for National Register consideration.

### **Burwell Ware**

Burwell Sylvester Ware (1922-2011) farmed Woodbyrne 50 years. Late in retirement he moved to Canfield, Ohio, a suburb of Akron, to be cared for by his daughter, Rebecca Borman. He died in Ohio in 2011. Surviving owners James, Turner Alan Ramey (representing the interest of his deceased wife, Louise Ware Ramey), and Rebecca Ware Borman (representing the interest of her deceased father, Burwell), sold Woodbyrne and its 128 acres.<sup>38</sup> The Ware family had owned and farmed Woodbyrne for more than 100 years.

<sup>36</sup> *Shepherdstown Register*, July 9, 1914, 3.

<sup>37</sup> JCWB F:308.

<sup>38</sup> JCDB 1096:656. The acreage was reduced from 145 acres to 128 acres through three outsales in 2005..

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**Todd and Susan Hough**

In 2011, Todd and Susan Hough bought Woodbyrne. The Houghs and their daughter, Sarah, are longtime residents of Jefferson County and lifelong farmers. They continue to farm the 128-acre tract. Sarah farms to the latest generation by keeping a herd of Texas longhorns.

Todd states the number of farms in Jefferson County has diminished during his lifetime. He remembers 60 farms with dairy operations. In 2024 only three remain. Farming is dictated by markets that set prices. Farmers must pay increasing costs of seed, fertilizer, equipment and operations, but market prices determine a farm’s return on investment. A drought in 2023 meant local farms were lucky to break even, if not lose money.<sup>39</sup>

Farmers grow old. Seven-day, 70-hour weeks may not appeal to younger family members. Moreover, any potential young farmer without land cannot compete for farmland with housing developers and solar conglomerates. While farmers would rather see their farms kept for crops or livestock, selling their land to housing developers or solar conglomerates is often their only choice for a secure, hard-earned retirement. Thus, farms in Jefferson County will be saved only by strong-willed, stably-financed farmers and by farms put into Farmland Protection.

**Criterion A: Agriculture – Relevance**

The previous sections represent a deed chain to establish that those who owned Woodbyrne engaged in agriculture from before Battaile Muse, Jr., built the house ca. 1810, to the present. Woodbyrne further needs to be examined in a larger comparative context of agriculture in Jefferson County.

By numbers and area, in 1850, the agricultural census in Jefferson County recorded 431 farms comprising 89,708 acres of improved land and 30,399 acres of unimproved land.<sup>40</sup> The largest farm (improved acreage), owned by John Wiltshire, measured 2,520 acres; the smallest, owned by Michael Blue, measured 16 acres. At 440 acres Woodbyrne was among the largest in the county. The following table compares farm size in 1850 with 2017. Federal agricultural censuses provide data for both.

**Table 2. Comparison of farm size from federal agricultural censuses for 1850 and 2017**

Year	Number farms	Improved Acreage						Total acreage	Average size
		1-9	10-49	50-179	180-499	500-999	1000+		
1850	431	0	21	210	179	18	3	89,708	203
2017	607	112	276	131	58	19	11	66,113	109

<sup>39</sup> Discussion between John Demer and Todd Hough, January 12, 2024.

<sup>40</sup> Data tabulated from two sources: Linda B. Green, *Virginia 1850 Agricultural Census*, vol. 1 (Westminster, MD: Willowbend Books, 2006), 179-188. Also: “Census of Agriculture (2017), County Profile, Jefferson County, West Virginia.” U. S. Department of Agriculture: National Agriculture Statistics Service. [www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online\\_Resources/County\\_Profiles/West\\_Virginia/cp54037.pdf](http://www.nass.usda.gov/Publications/AgCensus/2017/Online_Resources/County_Profiles/West_Virginia/cp54037.pdf)

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In addition to “Farm Size,” another entry in the agricultural census for 1850 was “Farm Value.” In 1850 total cash value of farms was \$4,885,698. With a coefficient correlation of 0.62, farm value corresponds with farm size, or in other words, the larger the farm in acreage the greater its value, and vice versa. At the same time, statisticians consider “strong” an *r-value* greater than 0.7. Therefore the correlation between farm size and value is “moderate.”<sup>41</sup>

For 1850, another measurement is the relationship between farm size and value of implements and tools. With an *r-value* of 0.48, the relationship between farm size and value of implements and tools is “weak.” This weakness may be interpreted to reflect enslaved labor substituted for implements and tools. Enslavement is not recorded in agricultural censuses.

Finally, the relationship between values of farms and livestock can be measured with an *r-value* of 0.6. This moderate correlation may be interpreted to mean livestock bestowed greater wealth or value to a farmer in 1850 compared with farmers who had little livestock. Nonetheless, as future researchers compile datasets, more accurate comparative descriptions will emerge.

In the 1700s Woodbyrne was part of the largest parcel in the county – an 11,000-acre plantation owned by Ralph Wormeley. By 1850 that 11,000-acre was greatly diminished. Woodbyrne’s share was only 440 acres. By 2024, even after outsales and divisions from bequests, Woodbyrne remains a 128-acre farm.

Woodbyrne contributed to Jefferson County’s prosperity. Like other farms, Woodbyrne grew grasses and grains for sale beyond Jefferson County. Owners used a mill on the property to process these grasses and grains to flour to be barreled and transported to Baltimore and Alexandria by way of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, both reaching Harpers Ferry by the late 1820s. Before the railroad and canal arrived, merchants transported bulky cargo by way of freight wagons.<sup>42</sup>

To some extent, the term “owners” misleads. Owners were white. As the following section on Ethnic Heritage/Black will document, Blacks at Woodbyrne outnumbered whites by no less than margins of three to one to more than eleven to one (in 1830). Thus, it was enslaved Blacks who raised grasses and grains, milled the same to flour, barreled the flour, and transported it to rail and canal heads. Enslaved Blacks bred and tended cattle and swine, butchered, and preserved the meat for consumption local and distant.

In summary, Jefferson County awaits a well-documented, statistical history of agriculture to encompass crops, fruit, timber, and livestock. Without statistics, comparisons are anecdotal.

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<sup>41</sup> For historical accuracy, comparative farm valuations require use of such statistics as coefficients of correlation. Using data from Green and other sources to derive datasets is doable but beyond the scope of a National Register nomination of a property for local significance.

<sup>42</sup> Byron C. Smith, “Wagons of the Newtown School -- Extent Examples from the Celebrated Hands of the Lower Valley of Virginia,” *The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association* 64, no. 2 (June 2011): 45–61.

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**Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage/Black**

Enslaved Blacks outnumbered whites at Woodbyrne and were the core workforce there from its construction circa 1808 to Emancipation. The following table, gleaned from records of personal property taxes, decennial censuses, and for 1850 and 1860, federal slave censuses, summarizes their numbers compared to whites:

**Table 3. Enslaved/White population at Woodbyrne**

Property Owner/ Enslaver	Census year					
	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860
Battaile Muse, Jr.	20E/8W	19E/6W				
Hierome Opie, Sr.			82E/7W			
Hierome Opie, Jr.				24E/4W	24E/6W	
Henry W. Castleman						22E/9W

The census year “1830” appears an outlier. For that year the number of enslaved persons included household servants, farmers, and those who ran the Opie Mill at Long Marsh Run. According to the current owners, the mill “was taken down years ago.”

For Woodbyrne before Emancipation, with few exceptions, enslaved Blacks were numbers without recorded names. The federal census for 1870 was the earliest to list first and last names of free Blacks as cited in the section above on Henry W. Castleman.

In “Plantation Life,” a chapter in *An Annotated Narrative of the African American Community in Jefferson County, West Virginia* (ca.1996), Project Director Hannah Geffert quotes Howard University researcher Cassandra Smith-Parker that “... the enslaved were primarily used in domestic service and the production of food for people working in local industries.”<sup>43</sup> This duality of work – domestic service and food production – appears to hold true at Woodbyrne. The enslaved worked in house and fields.

Despite outnumbering whites year after year, enslaved Blacks appeared to have no surviving written documentation of their lives at Woodbyrne. Only in the federal census for 1870 do we have the names of free Blacks who lived there. Quarters for enslaved and free Blacks have disappeared though a few photos remain of them and those who lived in them (Figs. 14, 15).

Elsewhere, in 1854, enslaver Francis Peters from adjoining Berkeley County, advertised for sale a 43-year-old “Negro woman.” Her qualities were impressive. She was a mother to three pre-teen children. Peters added: “She is an accomplished pastry and meat cook, an excellent washer and ironer, and a beautiful seamstress.”<sup>44</sup> This enslaved mother cooked and baked, washed and

<sup>43</sup> Hannah Geffert, Project Director, *An Annotated Narrative of the African American Community in Jefferson County, West Virginia*, Typescript, (Charles Town, WV: Jefferson County NAACP, Berkeley County NAACP, n.d., ca. 1996), 7. Project funded by West Virginia Humanities Council.

<sup>44</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, February 28, 1854, 3.

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ironed, and made and repaired clothes. So did other enslaved Black women on farms and plantations in Jefferson County. Jefferson County held a greater percentage of enslaved humans than any other county in what became West Virginia.

In 1847 the Rev. Dr. Henry Ruffner, president of Washington College (now Washington and Lee University) argued against the economics of enslavement.<sup>45</sup> Looking at neighboring states of Ohio and Pennsylvania, Ruffner cited prosperity in these and other free states of the Northeast. There factory and farm workers worked for wages without the need for enslavement. Of course his argument was simplistic and ignored terrible working conditions of women and children in factories. Farmers fared better but still worked long, hard hours. Still, they were free.

### Criterion C: Architecture

In the 1700s a common architectural requirement was that anyone who leased or bought land "...build a cabin at least 16 feet by 20 feet with a chimney of stone or brick."<sup>46</sup> Especially with a chimney of stone or brick, such a house represented permanence when major landholders sought the permanence of settlement to attract even more settlers. More settlers would increase ground rents (often five shillings an acre, due on Saint Stephen's Day) and eventually land values. Then imagine the rarity of Battaile Muse's requirement in his will that his son build "...a two story Brick house fifty feet long and twenty feet wide in the clear with a cellar the whole size of the house, the cellar to be eight feet and partitioned with a stone wall ... finished completely and painted...."<sup>47</sup> Perhaps even more rare was that Muse, Jr., built the house his father requested.

Architectural historian David Taylor described the Woodbyrne house as "incorporating Federal and Greek Revival elements" with "Victorian additions."<sup>48</sup> Architectural historian William H. Pierson defines "Federal" architecture as "the least aggressive" expression of change rooted in the "late colonial era."<sup>49</sup> This description applies to the Woodbyrne core, begun as early as 1803 by rural builders who understood local building traditions based on patterns of what Lee and Virginia McAlester see as Georgian/Colonial in style.<sup>50</sup>

Unfortunately, neither the builder nor architect/designer of Woodbyrne is known. The senior Battaile Muse had traveled widely from Jefferson County, and therefore inspiration for his new brick house may have come from a distant trip. Woodbyrne resembles other local houses that architectural historian John Allen describes in Chapter One of *Uncommon Vernacular*, his

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<sup>45</sup> William Gleason Bean, "The Ruffner Pamphlet of 1847: An Antislavery Aspect of Virginia Sectionalism." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 61, No. 3 (Jul., 1953), 260-282.

<sup>46</sup> "Founders Online: From George Washington to John Ariss, 8 August 1784," accessed October 23, 2014, <http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/04-02-02-0028>.

<sup>47</sup> JCWB 1:49.

<sup>48</sup> Taylor, David. "Woodbyrne," West Virginia Historic Property Inventory Form JF-0190, 2.

<sup>49</sup> William H. Pierson Jr., *American Buildings and Their Architects* (New York, N.Y: Oxford University Press, 1986), 211.

<sup>50</sup> Virginia Savage McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Knopf, 1984), 152-56.

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compendium of early houses in Jefferson County.<sup>51</sup> For Allen, five-bay, center hall, houses are more common to southern Jefferson County – location of Woodbyrne – than northern Jefferson County. Five-bay, center hall houses can perhaps take inspiration from *Young Carpenter's Assistant* (1805) a how-to guide written by Philadelphia builder-architect Owen Biddle (1774-1806) (Fig. 9).<sup>52</sup> Biddle depicted prevailing style in Philadelphia, his home, rather than bolder Greek, French, or Gothic styles emerging in Britain.

Discernible Victorian additions abound with the wrap-around verandah supported by wooden posts with intricately traced Italianate brackets and an “oriel with a gabled roof”<sup>53</sup> (Photo 1). A porch, or its more fashionable cousin, verandah, served a practical purpose of sheltering an entrance. A verandah was also a prominent means of expressing a current style. It could be added at relatively little cost to the exterior of the house and with little disruption to daily living. It was a readably visible fashion statement from a distance. A verandah exuded leisure. A household could sit and read or talk. A verandah used exotic furniture materials different than in the house: willow, wicker, and rattan. A verandah held such plants too fragile for a barnyard or agricultural field as ferns and delicate flowers. A verandah allowed entertaining outdoors in less heat than indoors. Even its name “verandah” is exotic, coming to Britain from India, then to America.

Above the first-story verandah, the oriel window shows different styles, all fashionable and current. Oriel windows cropped up on Georgian/Federal houses throughout the county. The front façade of Woodbyrne – its show side – has a prominent oriel window capped with a Greek-inspired pediment. At the center of the pediment is a round window, itself bespeaking greater cost than one with edges cut at right angles. The pediment is clad in shingles, a fashion nod to Queen Anne Revival. Cladding of the walls is German siding, popular before 1880. The façade of Woodbyrne was pure fashion for rural Jefferson County.

The addition of the verandah and oriel window to Woodbyrne can be pinpointed to 1894. A simple, one sentence notice in the *Spirit of Jefferson* announced that the “spacious mansion of Mr. J. J. Singleton, near Myerstown, has been recently improved.”<sup>54</sup> Property assessments support this assertion. From its ownership by the Castlemans in 1856 through 1899, Woodbyrne was assessed at an unchanging \$2,500 for its buildings. In 1900, however, the assessment jumped by \$350, an increase of fourteen percent. This major increase in assessment to \$2,850 coincides with the Singleton's upgrade to their house a few years earlier.

Parthenia died in 1902, and James and his wife listed Woodbyrne for sale. The ad boasted a “BRICK MANSION of 9 rooms, bath, and basement. Verandah 12 feet wide and 100 feet long, on two sides. A new SIX ROOM cottage and 6 other tenant houses.”<sup>55</sup> Who occupied the new six-room cottage is unknown. The term “tenant houses” is possibly a euphemism for “former

<sup>51</sup> John C. Allen Jr., *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835* (Morgantown, West Virginia: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 20–33.

<sup>52</sup> Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular*, 90-95.

<sup>53</sup> Taylor, “Woodbyrne,” 2.

<sup>54</sup> *Spirit of Jefferson*, January 8, 1895, 4.

<sup>55</sup> *Shepherdstown Register*, May 8, 1902, 3.



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enslaved quarters.” Two surviving undated photographs attest to this (Figs. 14 and 15). In one photo can be seen a distant view of a simple cabin. In the second photo can be seen a prominent Black female with four Black children in front of a simple cabin.

Historically, housing for enslaved Blacks, later free tenants, stood to the rear of the main house. Like many other properties in Jefferson County, Woodbyrne enslaved housing was impermanent. It simply has not survived years of weather. Locations of enslaved housing cannot be determined with precision as with archeology, for example. Anecdotal explanations point to an owner before the Houghs who buried anything-and-everything on the property, thus rendering present-day archeology fruitless and inconsequential.

In 2024 a modern brick ell extends to the rear of the house. The Houghs added it in 2015. It replaces an earlier addition that had deteriorated. The Houghs salvaged as much brick and other old materials to incorporate into the ell. As with so many other historic houses in Jefferson County the ell contains safe wiring and modern heat and air conditioning. Together with up-to-date plumbing these utilities render the house more comfortable for modern living.

The modern addition (ca. 2015) is in keeping with the character of the house. It appears to meet requirements of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: Rehabilitation as a Treatment and Standards for Rehabilitation, Standards 9 and 10:

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.<sup>56</sup>

Owners recycled much material from the ell taken down, itself an ell added after construction of the original house between 1803 and 1810. Moreover, the modern ell is all but hidden from view from Ann Lewis Road or any other public roadway. It can be viewed only from an elevated vantage point on the property.

Current owners determined the historical color of the 1850s bank barn was red, and they have restored the barn, silo, and corn crib to that color. Woodbyrne is a working farm to Texas longhorn cattle, other cattle, poultry, and a rotation of crops.

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<sup>56</sup> “The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: Rehabilitation as a Treatment and Standards for Rehabilitation (U.S. National Park Service),” accessed October 2, 2023, <https://www.nps.gov/articles/000/treatment-standards-rehabilitation.htm>.

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### **Historical Integrity**

Woodbyrne retains historical integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It remains where it was built between 1803 and 1810; its design in the Federal/Georgian style has been embellished with late Victorian elements of a verandah supported by posts decorated with Italianate tracery; its setting remains rural, surrounded by other farms; materials of the original house have been retained, and in the case of the ell, recycled; and it retains the feeling and association of sights, sounds, and smells of a working farm.

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

**Public Records** available on line directly or through FamilySearch.org

Berkeley County, VA and WV, Deeds and Wills

Jefferson County, VA and WV, Deeds and Wills

**Newspaper accounts** available through GenealogyBank (subscription)

*Farmers Repository* (Charles Town, WV)

*Shepherdstown Register* (Shepherdstown, WV)

*Spirit of Jefferson* (Charles Town, WV)

**Federal Census Records** available through FamilySearch.org

### Published sources

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Allen, John C., Jr. *Uncommon Vernacular: The Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia, 1735-1835*. Morgantown, West Virginia: West Virginia University Press, 2011.

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):** None.

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** WVHPIF JF-0190

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 128

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	39.188151	-77.873965
B	39.187436	-77.864352
C	39.182055	-77.867528
D	39.182405	-77.869856
E	39.180691	-77.869985
F	39.181656	-77.874352
G	39.183087	-77.873429
H	39.183469	-77.875371

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Ann Lewis Road bisects the property into two sections: a 113-acre equilateral trapezoid to the northeast, and a 15-acre inverted keystone across Ann Lewis Road to the southwest (see

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Fig. 2). Its orientation is somewhat southwest. Except for the Ann Lewis Road bisection, the property is a contiguous parcel.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Jefferson County Tax Map, Parcel ID: 06 22000300000000, referenced to Jefferson County Deed Book 1125, page 476, defines the boundary. No other justification is warranted.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: John Demer, compiler  
organization: Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission  
street & number: P. O. Box 23  
city or town: Charles Town state: WV zip code: 25414  
e-mail: jdemer@hotmail.com  
telephone: (304) 876-6013  
date: November 20, 2023

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**Additional Documentation**

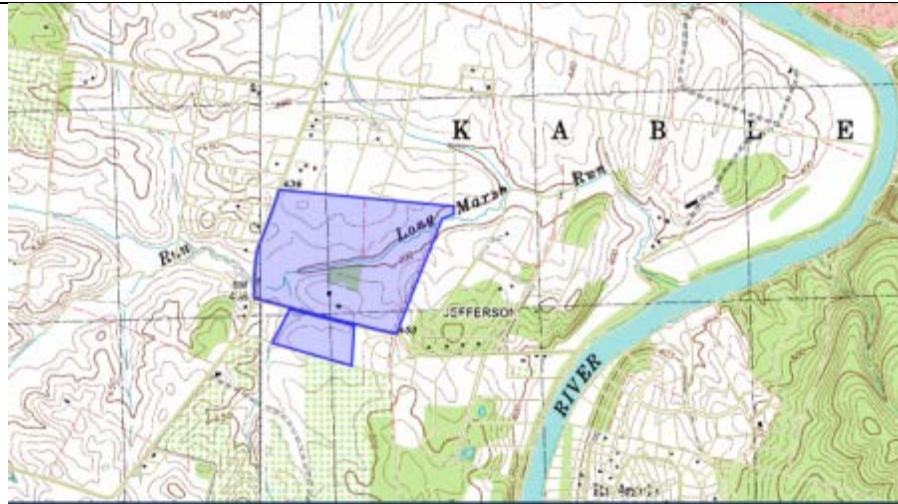
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location. *See Figures 1 and 2.*
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map. *See Figure 3.*
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Figure	Description
1	USGS map indicating the property's location.
2	Aerial view with UTM coordinates.
3	Sketch map and key to photographs.
4	Ralph Wormeley plat and Lord Fairfax land grants
5	Ad and transcription, <i>Virginia Gazette</i> , Purdie and Dixon, June 16, 1774.
6	Plat of property Battaile Muse devised to his sons (1803).
7	Mutual Assurance Society policy for The Rocks, 15 April 1803.
8	Restored perspective drawing of Woodbyrne, ca. 1810.
9	Three-bay, center hall house plan and elevation by Owen Biddle (1774-1806).
10	Samuel Howell Brown Map (1852).
11	Samuel Howell Brown map (1883).
12	Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan.
13	Singleton sale notice (1899), <i>Spirit of Jefferson</i>
14	Tenant house (enslaved quarter), undated.
15	Black family in front of tenant house (undated).
16	Elevation and plan of typical Jefferson County enslaved/tenant cabin.
	Diagram: Key to following interior views (graphic not to scale).
17	Diagonally-braced door at main entry (front door), 2014.
18	Center Hallway, 2014.
19	Parlor with end wall fireplace and mantel, 2014.
20	Dining Room with end wall fireplace and mantel, 2014.

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**Figure 1. USGS map indicating the property's location.** Woodbyrne is a 128-acre farm located off Kabletown Road (West Virginia Route 25) on Ann Lewis Road (West Virginia Route 25/7) in southwestern Jefferson County, West Virginia. Long Marsh Run flows through the property to the Shenandoah River.



**Figure 2. Aerial view with Latitude/Longitude coordinates.**

Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	39.188151	-77.873965
B	39.187436	-77.864352
C	39.182055	-77.867528
D	39.182405	-77.869856
E	39.180691	-77.869985
F	39.181656	-77.874352
G	39.183087	-77.873429
H	39.183469	-77.875371

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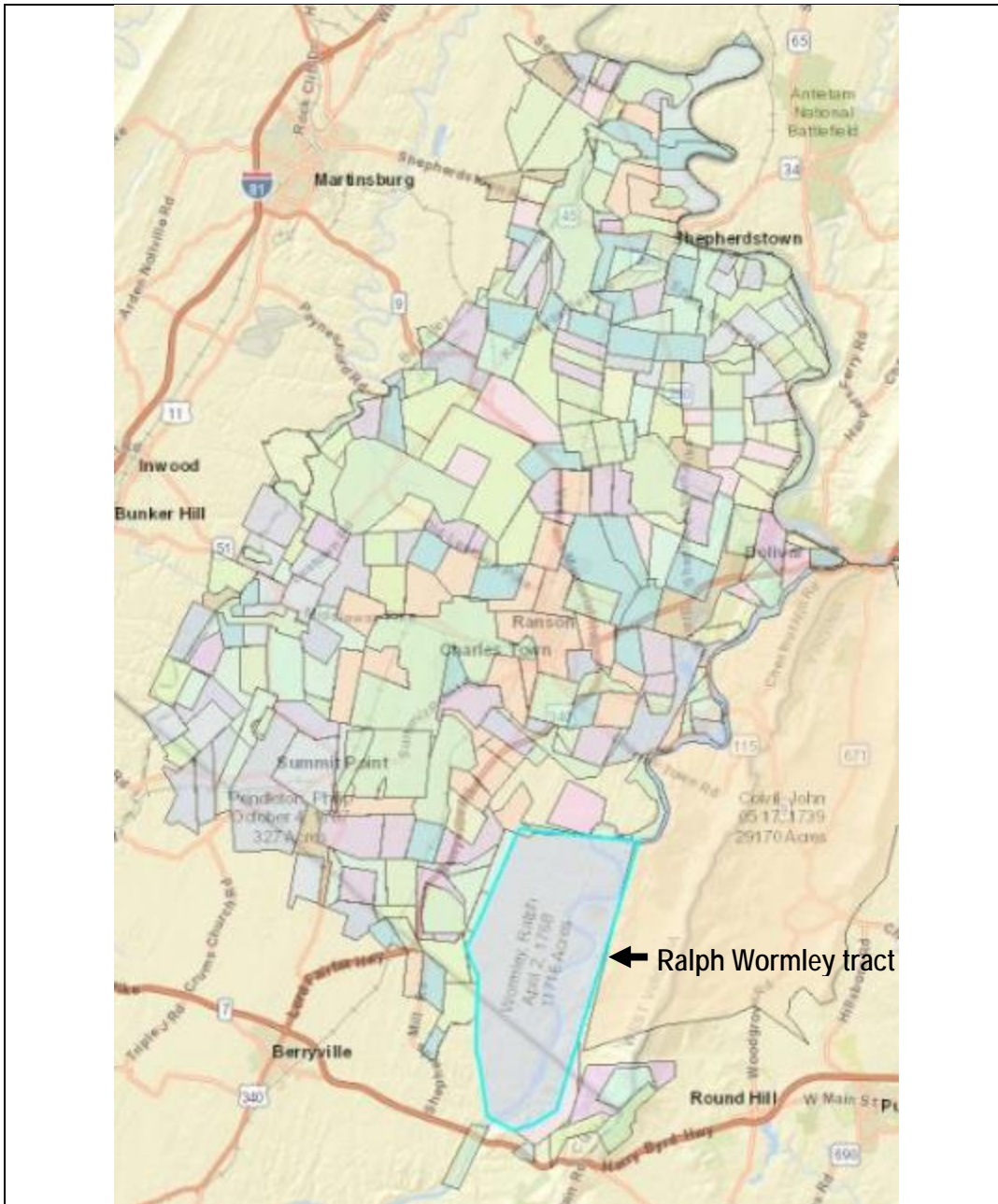
**Figure 3. Sketch map and key to photographs.**

Photo	Description
1	Woodbyrne house, front (south) façade, view to north.
2	Woodbyrne house, east façade, view to west.
3	Woodbyrne house, north façade, view to south.
4	Woodbyrne house, west façade, view to east.
5	Tenant house, front façade, view to west.
6	Garage, work shed, front façade, view to east.
7	Barn and silo, front façade, view to south.
8	Barn, silo, wood utility shed, metal shed, view to east.
9	Barn forebay and stock pen, view to north.
10	View south from Woodbyrne front door across farmed fields.
11	Stable, rear; view to southwest.



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**Figure 4 . Ralph Wormley plat and Lord Fairfax land grants.** Galto Geertsma reconstruction. Ralph Wormley owned 12,000 contiguous acres in western Virginia, an area slightly smaller than Manhattan, and more than anyone else in what became Jefferson County in 1802.

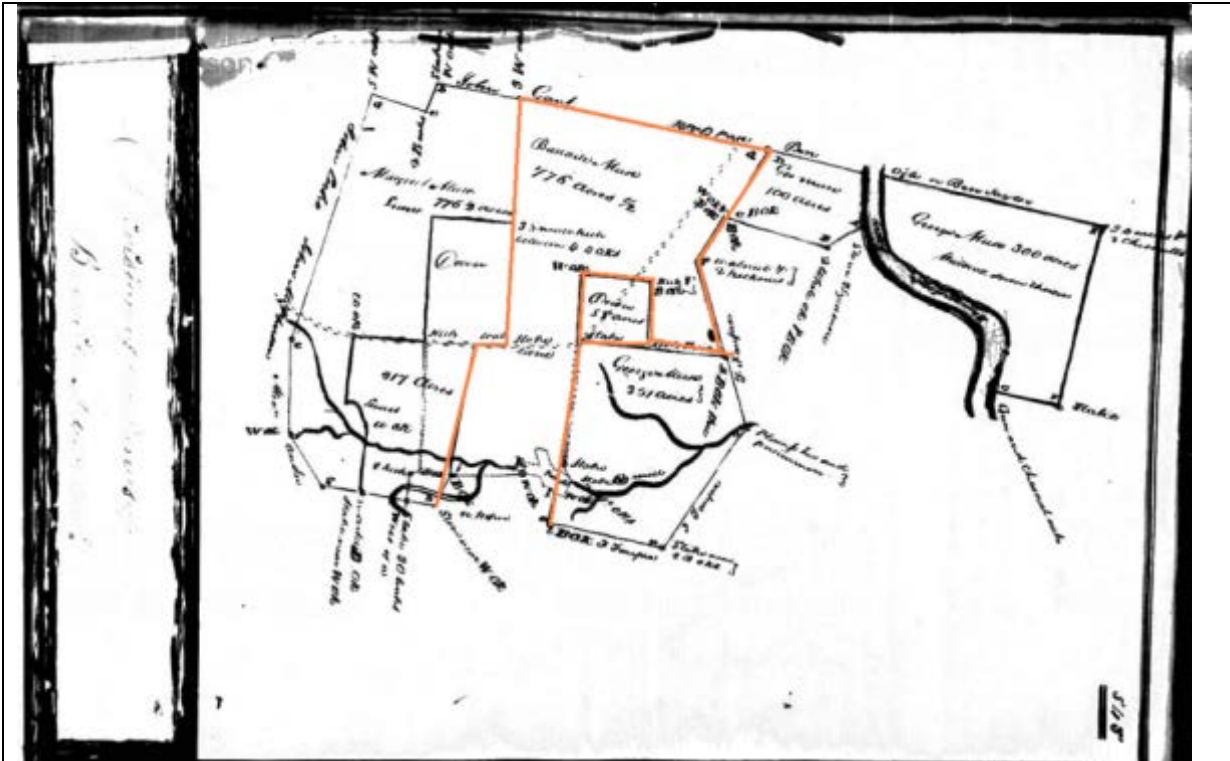
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<p style="text-align: center;">T O B E S O L D,</p> <p><b>A</b>TRACT of LAND in Berkley and Frederick counties, containing 12,076 acres; it lies 7 miles on each side of Shenando river, the quantity on the east side being only a slip of low ground, is inconsiderable; the quality of the land is remarkably good, and the conveniencies attending it great. There are two plentiful streams of water running through marshes three miles in length, some of which are already reclaimed meadows, and the rest, at a very small expence, might soon be reduced to the like state. On each side of the streams mills might be erected and furnaces, the land affording stone, lime, iron, and lead ore. On one of the streams I have already erected a complete merchant mill, with a pair of the best French burrs for grinding of wheat, and a pair of common stones for grinding of Indian corn; besides this, there is near the dwelling house a tub mill, and on the other stream there is a valuable saw mill. There are five settled and improved plantations; on one of them is a good stone house, 2 stories high, with 2 rooms on a floor, a kitchen, dairy, and all other convenient outhouses; on another plantation, where Michael Pike lived, there is a good stone house; and at the other plantations there are overseers houses, negro quarters, barns, stables, tobacco houses, &amp;c. The above tract shall be either partitioned off in lots of 1000 or 500 acres, or sold bodily to one purchaser. Belonging to this estate there are 112 negroes to be disposed of, together with all the stocks of cattle, equal to any in the colony, horses, mares, colts, hogs, &amp;c. likewise all the necessary implements for the planter or farmer. Any person or persons inclinable to purchase are desired to make their proposals to me at Rosegill, on Rappahannock river, or to leave them with the overseer, who lives at the house plantation, and will shew the land. In November I shall be on the premises, and may then be personally treated with. Part of this land, and some of the negroes, belong to my eldest son, who leaves to me the disposition thereof, and will confirm any engagement I enter into on his part.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">6 RALPH WORMELEY.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">TO BE SOLD</p> <p>A TRACT of LAND in Berkley and Frederick counties, containing 12,076 acres; it lies 7 miles on each side of the Shenando river the quantity on the east side being only a slip of low ground, is inconsiderable; the quality of the land is remarkably good, and the conveniences attending it great. There are two plentiful streams of water running through three marshes three miles in length, some of which are already reclaimed meadows, and the rest, at a very small expense, might soon be reduced to the like state. On each side of the streams mills might be erected and furnaces, the land affording stone, lime, iron, and lead ore. On one of the streams I have already erected a complete merchant mill, with a pair of best French burrs for grinding of wheat, and a pair of common stones for grinding of Indian corn; besides this there is near the dwelling house a tub mill, and on the other stream there is a valuable saw mill. There are five settled and improved plantations; on one of them is a good stone house; 2 stories high, with 2 rooms on a floor, a kitchen, dairy, and all other convenient outhouses; on another plantation, where Michael Pike lived, there is a good stone house; and at the other houses there are overseers houses, negro quarters, barns, stables, tobacco houses, &amp;c. The above tract shall be partitioned off in lots of 1000 or 500 acres, or sold bodily to one purchaser. Belonging to this estate there are 112 negroes to be disposed of, together with all the stocks of cattle, equal to any in the colony, horses, mares, colts, hogs, &amp;c. likewise all the necessary implements for the planter or farmer. Any person or persons inclinable to purchase are desired to make their proposals to me at Rosegill, on Rappahannock river, or to leave them with the overseer, who lives at the house plantation, and will shew the land. In November I shall be on the premises, and may then be personally treated with. Part of this land, and some of the negroes, belonging to my eldest son, who leaves to me the disposition thereof, and will confirm any engagement I enter into on his part.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">RALPH WORMELEY.</p>
<p><b>Source:</b> <i>Virginia Gazette</i>, Purdie and Dixon, June 16, 1774, page 2, column 3.</p> <p><b>Figure 5. Ad and transcription, <i>Virginia Gazette</i>, Purdie and Dixon, June 16, 1774, page 2, column 3. See: <a href="https://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/va-gazettes/VGSinglePage.cfm?issueIDNo=74.PD.28&amp;page=2&amp;res=LO">https://research.history.org/DigitalLibrary/va-gazettes/VGSinglePage.cfm?issueIDNo=74.PD.28&amp;page=2&amp;res=LO</a>. Accessed June 1, 2019.</b></p>	

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**Figure 6. Plat of property Battaile Muse devised to his sons (1803).** Muse, Sr., wished to divide his lands as fairly as possible, and ordered that three impartial “men” carry out his wish. In the resulting division, Battaile Muse, Jr. inherited the portion outlined in red. The eventual location of Woodbyrne would be about the middle “7” of “776 acres.” George, Battaile’s older brother, inherited The Rocks that included at least one stone house.

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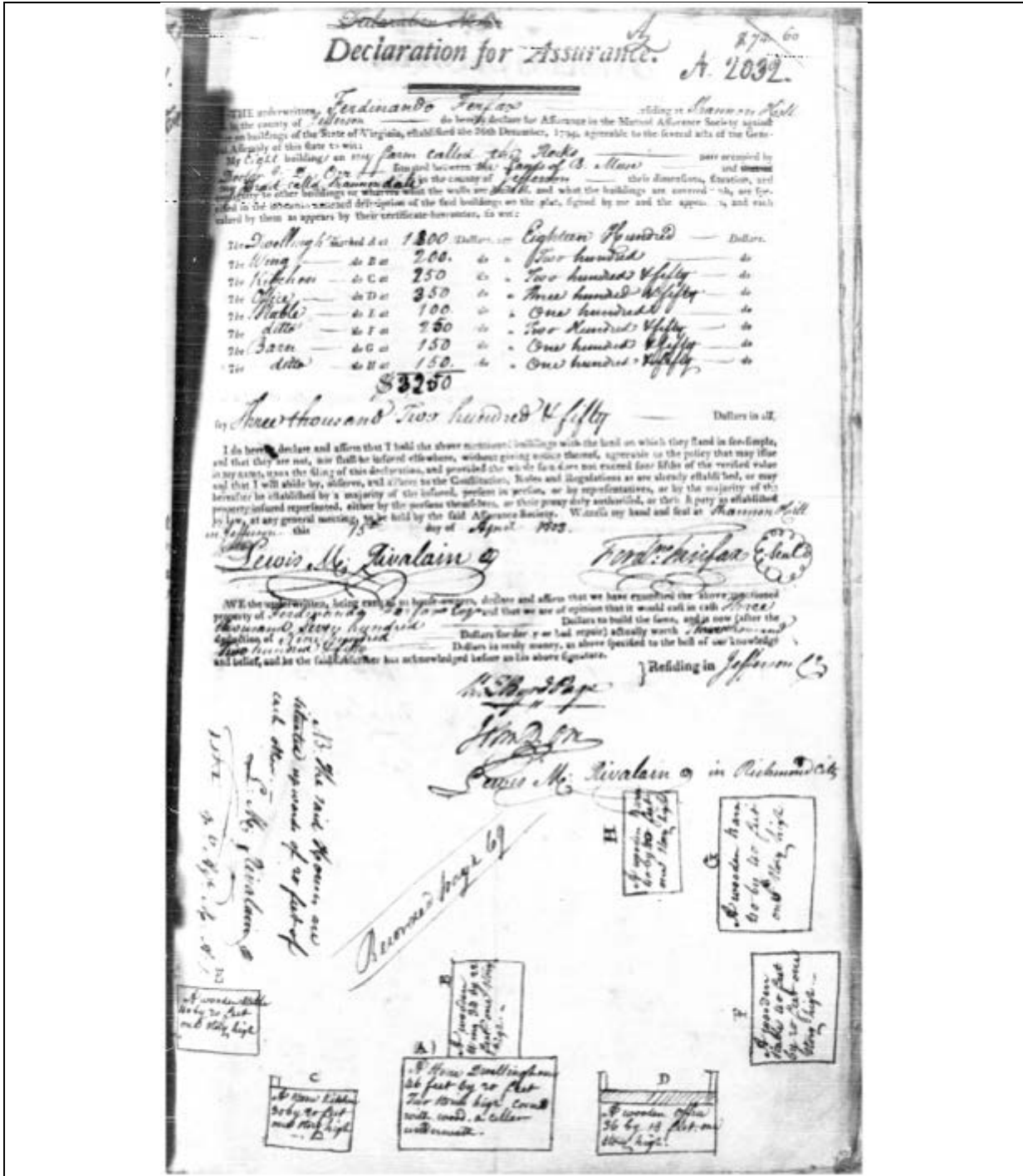
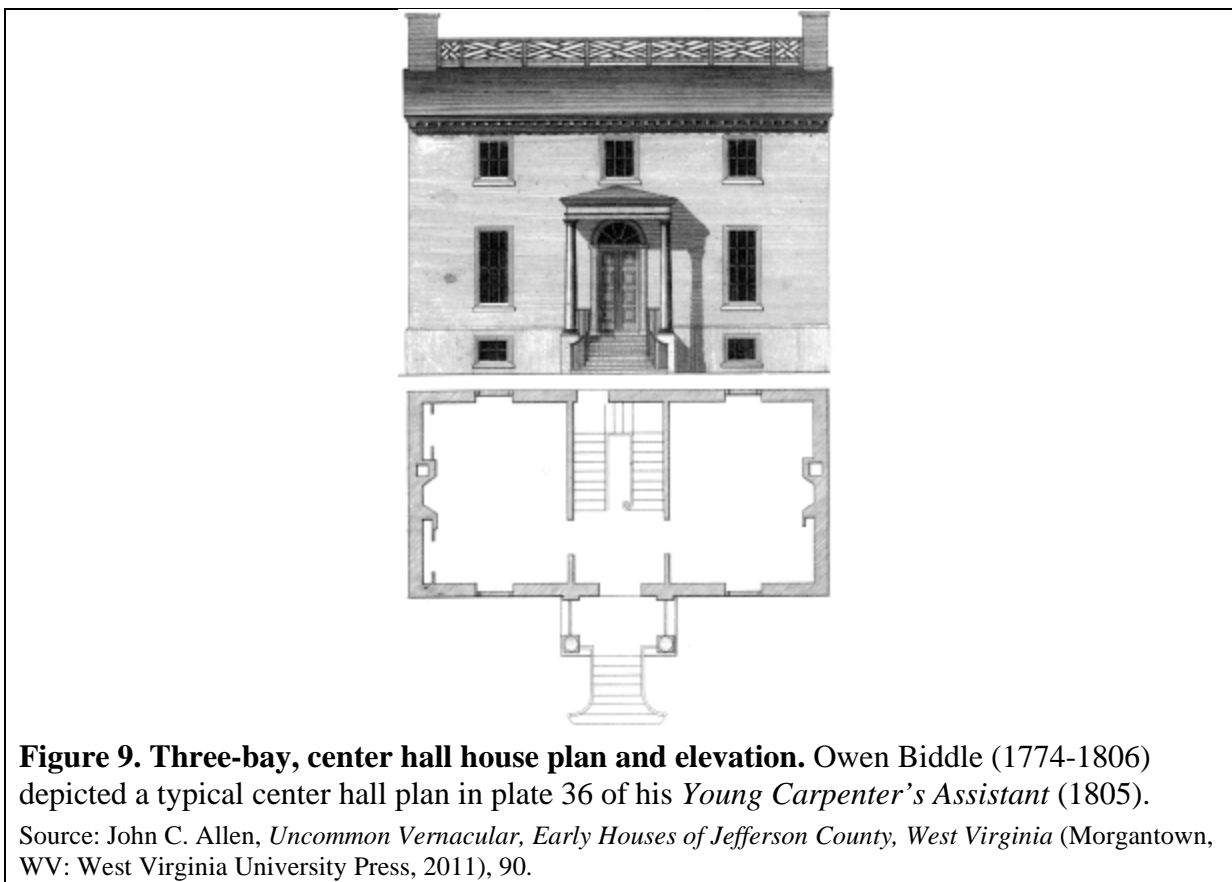
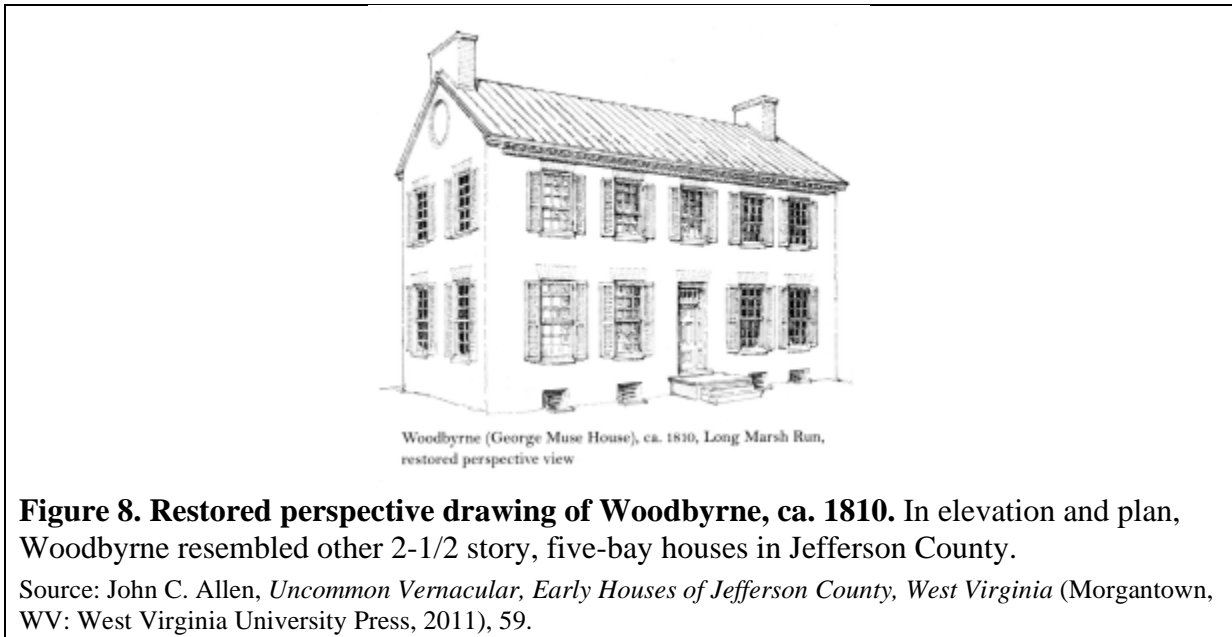


Figure 7. Mutual Assurance Society policy for The Rocks, 15 April 1803. Mutual Assurance Society policies for 1803 and a diagram from a chancery suit also depict an office, two stables, two barns, sawmill, merchant (grist) mill, and a distillery. Like other plantations, The Rocks was largely self-sustaining in its capacity to sustain those who lived there.

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Figure 10. Samuel Howell Brown Map (1852). Property owned by Hierome L. Opie, Jr.



Fig. 11. Samuel Howell Brown map (1883). Property owned by Henry Castleman.

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**Fig. 12. Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan (1833-1911), the “Great Dissenter.”**

Associate Justice John Marshall Harlan wrote the sole dissenting opinion in *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), the U. S. Supreme Court decision that codified the “separate but equal” concept of racial segregation. In his dissent, Harlan stated “the Constitution is color-blind.” In 2023, latter-day Court justices applied Harlan’s arguments to void racial preference in college admissions.

In 1892 Justice Harlan wrote the Court’s decision in *Opie v. Castleman* on the sale of Woodbyrne. In a nutshell: the Castlemans appealed lower court decisions that they make restitution to H. L. Opie III for partial payments in Confederate and Virginia specie toward purchase of Woodbyrne in the 1860s. In 1892 their appeal was accepted by the United States Supreme Court. Writing the Court’s decision was Justice Harlan, known then and now as “the Great Dissenter.” True to his reputation, the Great Dissenter dissented. With lower courts he agreed that payments from Castleman to the Opies in worthless Confederate currency and Virginia bonds were invalid and illegal. But – his dissent thundered – Opie III, a lawyer, had waited fifteen years to bring suit, while knowing details of the payments firsthand from when they occurred in the mid-1860s. For Justice Harlan – any statutes of limitations aside – too much time had passed. He issued a decision dismissing Opie III’s suit. The Castlemans finally owned Woodbyrne free and clear.

Justice John Marshall Harlan in 1890. Library of Congress.

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**PUBLIC SALE.**  
**OF VALUABLE**  
**PERSONAL PROPERTY.**

Intending to discontinue farming, the undersigned will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, at his residence, on Parthenia Singleton's farm, better known as the Henry Castleman farm, at the end of the Kabletown and Bloomery Turnpike, 1 mile south of Myerstown, 3 1/2 miles southeast of Ripon, and 7 miles northeast of Berryville, in Jefferson county, West Virginia, on

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1899,**  
the following described personal property:

**16 HEAD OF HORSES 16**  
One Imported French Coach Stallion, "Faisan," registered in French Coach Stud Book No. 87, and 10 of his colts, all fine lookers, all broken to harness and saddle; 3 Brood Mares in foal by him; large, heavy mares, will work anywhere; 3 Farm Horses in their prime; will work anywhere.

**27 HEAD OF SHEEP 27**  
Twenty-six Ewes and one Buck—Shropshire Southdown cross;  
Three Sows and Pigs. Two Thoroughbred Berkshire Boars.

**14 HEAD OF FINE CATTLE 14**  
Two yearlings, 3 rising 2 years; steers dehorned; 1 cow, a springer.

**FINE VEHICLES AND GOOD HARNESS.**  
One Stick Wagon and Single Harness; 1 Dayton Wagon with Shafts and Pole; 1 four-horse set of Wagon Harness; 1 two-horse set of Wagon Harness; 1 set of Cart Harness; all complete with Collars, Hames and Bridles.

**FARMING IMPLEMENTS.**  
One four-horse, broad-tread, Wagon, with 14 barrel bed; 1 two-horse, broad-tread Wagon, with 9 barrel bed; 1 two-horse Wagon with 5 barrel bed; 1 Dump Cart; 1 Deering Binder, 7-foot cut; 1 Wood Mower, 5-foot cut; 1 Barlow Corn Planter, will drill or check planting; 2 Hanch & Drungold Corn Cultivators; 1 Corn Ground Marker. PLOWS—1 Oliver Chilled, 2 Veauvius, 1 Southland, 7 Double-shovels, 1 Single-shovel. HALLOWS—2 Spring-tooth, 2 Square. One Osborne Horse Rake, new; 1 Deering Horse Rake; 1 Rock Island Hay Loader; 1 Constock Roller, iron frame; 1 Baker Fan;

**ONE SUPERIOR NINE-SPOUT DRILL,**  
Single Trees, Double Trees, Triple Trees, Forks, Shovels, and many other things too numerous to mention.

**TERMS OF SALE.**  
All sums under \$10 cash; on sums of and over that amount, 12 months time will be allowed, the purchaser giving a negotiable note with approved security, payable at either of the Banks of Jefferson county, West Virginia, or Clarke county, Virginia. Sale will begin at 10 o'clock a. m.

HEPLEDOWER & WEST, Auctioneers.  
BENJ YATE, Clerk.  
Sept. 20, 1899.

**JAS. J. SINGLETON.**

Figure 13. Singleton sale notice (1899), *Spirit of Jefferson*.



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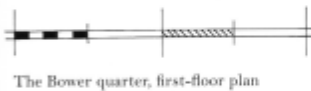
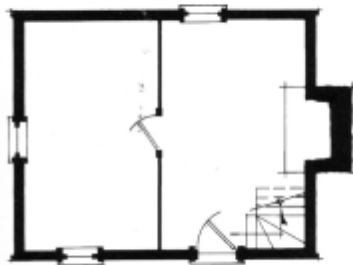
**Figure 14. Tenant house (enslaved quarter), undated.** View from west toward Woodbyrne.  
Source: Todd and Susan Hough Woodbyrne Collection.



**Figure 15. Black family in front of tenant house (undated).** View unknown.  
Source: Todd and Susan Hough Woodbyrne Collection.

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Enslaved cabins in Jefferson County were rarely built in stone or brick, but far more often of wood with an interior or exterior chimney.

After the Civil War these became tenant houses for the formerly enslaved families. Large families often lived in small cabins, such as those depicted here. Cabins may have been divided into two rooms as seen in plans to the left, but often were not. A family lived in one open room with a fireplace at the end.

Steep roofs allowed for an attic to shelter children. The attic was sometimes reached by stairs but could just as well be reached by a ladder.

**Figure 16. Elevation and plan of typical Jefferson County enslaved/tenant cabin.**

Source: John C. Allen, *Uncommon Vernacular, Early Houses of Jefferson County, West Virginia* (Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University Press, 2011), 135.

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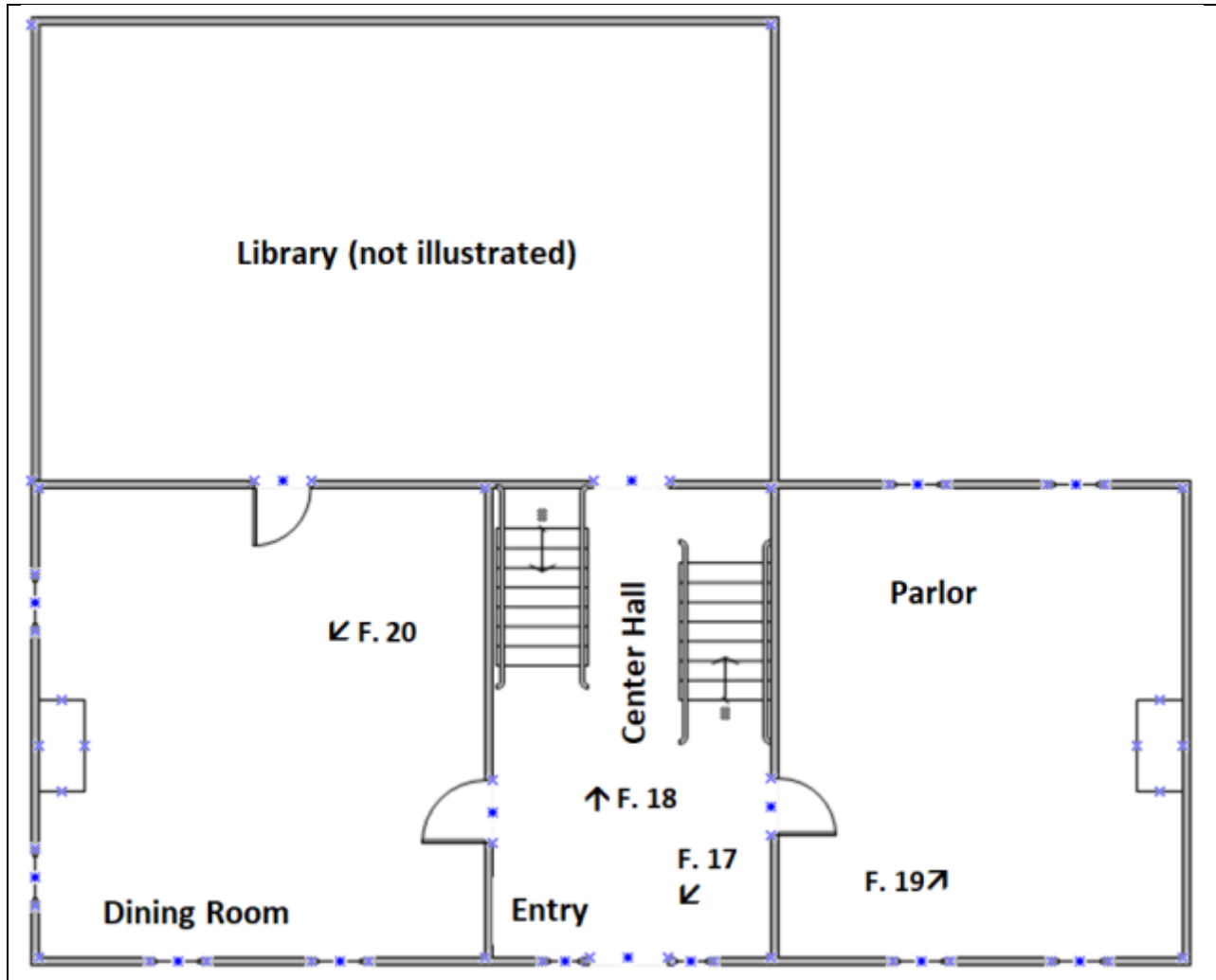


Figure	Area and direction of view
17	Diagonally-braced door at main entry (front door).
18	Center Hall.
19	Parlor with end wall fireplace and mantel.
20	Dining Room with end wall fireplace and mantel.

**Key to following interior views (graphic not to scale).**

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**Fig. 17. Diagonally-braced door at main entry (front door).** Built for strength and security, the door contains its original box lock.

Source: JCHLC archives, 2014.

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**Figure 18. Center Hallway.**

Source: JCHLC archives, 2014.

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**Figure 19. Parlor with end wall fireplace and mantel.**

Source: JCHLC archives, 2014.

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**Figure 20. Dining Room with end wall fireplace and mantel.**

Source: JCHLC archives, 2014.

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**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Woodbyrne

City or Vicinity: Charles Town

County: Jefferson

State: West Virginia

Photographer: John Demer

Date Photographed: January 12, 2024

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo	Description
1 of 11	Woodbyrne house, front façade, view to north.
2 of 11	Woodbyrne house, east façade, view to west.
3 of 11	Woodbyrne house, north façade, view to south.
4 of 11	Woodbyrne house, west façade, view to east.
5 of 11	Sarah Hough house, front façade, view to west.
6 of 11	Garage, work shed, front façade, view to east.
7 of 11	Barn and Silo, front façade, view to south.
8 of 11	Barn and Silo, Corn Crib, Metal Shed, view to east.
9 of 11	Barn forebay and stock yard, view to north.
10 of 11	View south from house front to farmed fields.
11 of 11	Stable rear; view southwest



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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0001.** Woodbyrne house, front façade, view to north.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0002.** Woodbyrne house, east façade, view to west.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0003.** Woodbyrne house, north façade, view to south.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0004.** Woodbyrne house, west façade, view to east.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0005.** Tenant house, front façade, view to west.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0006.** Garage, work shed, front façade, view to east.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0007.** Barn and silo, front façade, view to south.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0008.** Barn&silos, Corn Crib, Metal Shed, view to east.

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**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0009.** Barn forebay and stock yard, view to north.



**WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0010.** View south from house front to farmed fields.

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WV\_Jefferson County\_Woodbyrne\_0011. Stable rear, view to southwest.

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.