



Mulberry Grove

The original section of Mulberry Grove was built c. 1790 by Joseph Skeen. Samuel Willson, the great, great, great grandfather of the present owner, purchased the property in 1824. Willson made major additions around 1826 and 1835, and named the farm for the Chinese mulberry trees that he grew in an attempt to raise silk worms. In 1864, Union forces camped on Mulberry Grove farm just prior to "Hunter's Raid" on Lexington. After Willson's death, James A.E. Gibbs, inventor of the chain-stitch single thread sewing machine, bought Mulberry Grove for his daughter, Ellabel Gibbs Moore. M. McClung Sterrett, great grandson of Samuel Willson, purchased the farm in 1927 and it has remained in the Sterrett family since that time. Mulberry Grove's most recent renovation was completed in 2006 by the current owners, Barry and Isabelle Chewning. The house is listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.



The Farm House

One of the remaining original homes on the farm, it has undergone several renovations, the first from 1979 until 1982. At that time the wooden frame structure was bricked and the living room extended. The entire inside was gutted and restored, and the garage added. In 1997 the back porch was enclosed and the kitchen remodeled. The

latest update in 2009 added pieces of slate reclaimed from the current owners great grandfathers factory as flooring in the master bath. The house has hardwood floors through out and is furnished in early American antiques and treasured family pieces.



The Big Red Barn

The barn was built in the late 1800's from lumber cut on the farm and milled with a local portable sawmill. The framing was done with pegs, each part being set in place with pulleys and horse teams. The barn was built to house horses used to work the farm. The original horse stalls were in place downstairs until the early 1960's when it was turned into a cattle barn and the stalls were removed. It is used today as a main part of the working beef cattle operation. The barn floors and metal roof were replaced and the bathrooms added in 2011. The beams and posts downstairs are currently being replaced with the same framing technique as the originals.



The Granary

Until it's renovation in 1985 the Granary was just that, a granary, with a corn crib, wheat storage and a loft. After the renovation it was used as a farm office until it's second renovation to a private residence in 2009. The exposed stone foundation and interior beams are original. A curved oak staircase was added to replace the ladder to the loft area which is now a bedroom. The staircase was handmade by a local

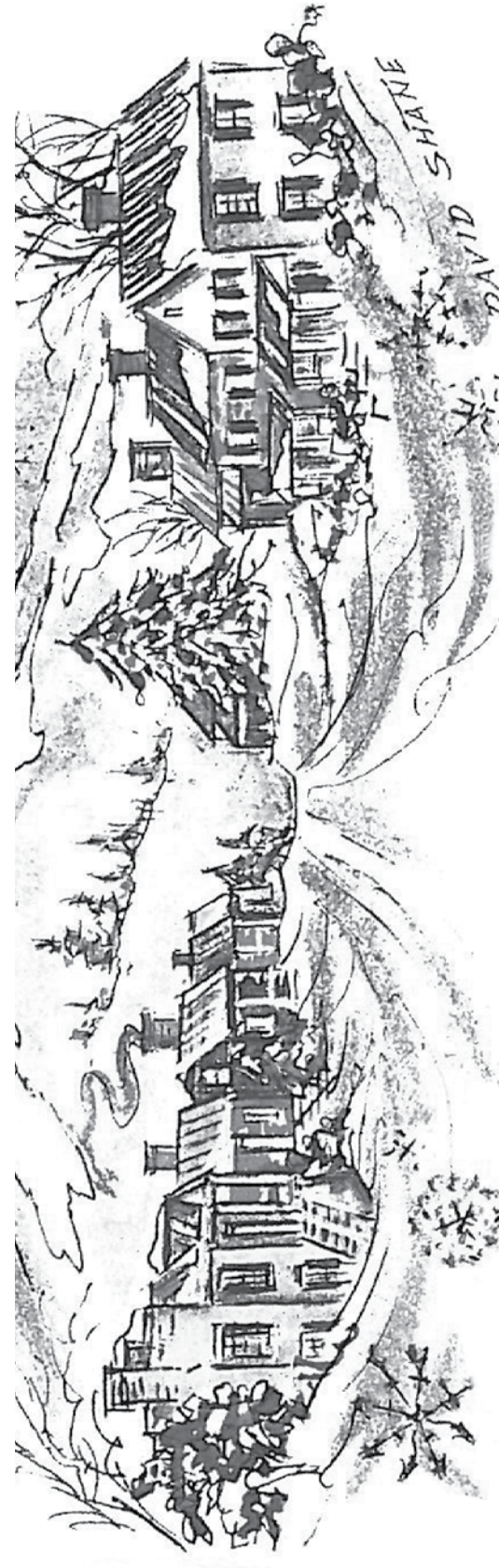
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Historic BROWNSBURG

CHRISTMAS IN THE COUNTRY
DECEMBER 10 and 11, 2011

Saturday lunch served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at New Providence Presbyterian Church. Make reservation by Dec. 3, \$12. Checks payable to: Dot Martin, 339 Finley Road, Raphine, VA 24472. Tour parking only at New Providence Presbyterian Church (shuttle provided). Tour tickets \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. Tickets are available at: Hamilton Robbins, Books and Co., Lexington; Blue Mountain Coffee, Staunton; Old South Antiques, Brownsburg.

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Historic BROWNSBURG

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craftsman and weighs over 1800 lbs. The curved banister was crafted from a solid piece of turned wood. The Granary is furnished with antique family pieces.



West Airlie "Stone House"

The stone home was completed in 1965 by local craftsmen after a three-year construction period. The exterior stone was reclaimed from a local mill and hauled to the site. All of the wood work, floor, doors, banisters, and mantles in the home were crafted on site. At the time of construction it was one of the largest homes in the area and dubbed "The Big House".

There are eight working fireplaces, six bedrooms, nine bathrooms, a formal living room, library, dining room, kitchen, butler pantry, office and family sitting room.



West Airlie

Jack Heslep spent many hours scouting the fields of West Airlie Farm in order to find the perfect location for the family's new home. (West Airlie Farm is located one mile south of Brownsburg on route 252) On a Sunday summer afternoon in 1963 Jack loaded the family into his four-wheel drive vehicle and took them to see the present location. There wasn't a road or fence anywhere—just open fields. Ramona, pregnant with their third child, agreed that this was indeed the perfect location for their new home. They would enjoy the woodland wildlife and the songbirds. The entire family was in awe of the panoramic view

of the Alleghany Mountains and the surrounding valley.

The house was under construction by the fall of 1963. Ramona found the house plans in an issue of Good Housekeeping magazine. Jack, Ramona, Connie, Scott, and baby Gail moved into the two-story colonial home the following fall, 1964.

The house contains four functional fireplaces. The large fireplace in the family room as well as the brickwork on the outside of the house is made of hand-forged bricks. The cabinetry and bookshelves are custom made. The kitchen cabinets are made of wormy chestnut. The outside shutters are still in working order. In the mid-80s Carl Prottil and Sons were contracted to make updates and other renovations to the home, one of which was turning the screened porch into a sun room.

It was one of Jack's wishes that Gail and her family would someday reside in this family home. In 2009 Ramona passed the house key to Gail. Gail and Ron Clark, Margaux and Matthew celebrated their first Christmas in the Heslep home place in 2010.

Ashbury United Methodist Church



Brownsburg. The corner stone was laid on May 17, 1917. Ashbury UMC has been part of the Lexington larger parish, and twice of the West Staunton charge.

Brownsburg Museum



When we think of the early Christians, we are impressed by the fact that life for them meant, love, service and sacrifice. Before our church was organized, both black and white attended the same church. About 1886 at the New Providence Presbyterian Church of Raphine, Virginia, a few members asked to organize this church in

The concept to create a museum for Brownsburg began in 2004. The idea being to preserve the historical aspects of Brownsburg and the region for all who wishes to learn more about their heritage.

The building was acquired in 2005, and work began to restore the building and make it conducive for a mu-

seum. Fund-raising was successful and the building was completed three years later. Acquisitions were identified and the exhibits were planned and assembled.

The museum opened to the public in September, 2009. The building is also decorated for the Christmas Tour of Homes.

Brownsburg Post Office



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Brownsburg has had a post office for many years. Several locations along the main road that runs through the village, have served as the post office. The current location was established in 1982. It is the former home of Dr. Scott, who was referred to as a "Doctor of sorts," sort of a doctor, but not much training. As you enter this

New Providence Presbyterian Church



Rockbridge counties. The graveyard includes old monuments and is the burial place of Mary Moore, well known locally as the "Captive of Abb's Valley," and her husband, Sam Brown.

This church, organized in 1746, is listed on the Register of Virginia Historic Landmarks. The present brick structure, the church's fifth sanctuary, was completed in 1859. Many of today's members are descendants of the Scotch-Irish who settled in this part of the valley west of the Blue Ridge, later to become Augusta and

For additional information,
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