Samuel Washington House, "Harewood"

Harewood

State Route 51, 3.3 miles west of Charles Town

Charles Town

West Virginia

Dr. John A. Washington (deceased 1987)

Harewood

Charles Town 25414

Court House

Charles Town

Historic American Buildings Survey: (19 sheets) (14 photos)

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Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

Washington D.C.
Harewood is a large two-story over-elevated basement stone Georgian mansion with a low hipped roof and a chimney at either end. A stone one-story kitchen wing with jerkin-head roof is located to the south and is attached to the main house by means of a lower one-story hyphen. The simplicity of Harewood's design and its excellent scale and workmanship endow this plantation house with great distinction.

The main house is 65 feet wide and 24 feet deep; the original kitchen wing is 40 feet long and 19 feet deep. The walls of both sections are constructed of random fieldstone; first floor windows in the main house have segmental relieving arches and second-story windows are topped by flat stone arches which are set up against a very fine modillioned cornice that is carried around the eaves. The present one-story stone north wing and hyphen, which match and balance the original south wing, were added in the late 1950's. Windows in the main house are adorned by exterior louvered shutters. The 18th century type central porch on the west elevation (originally the architectural rear) is a modern reconstruction. The one-story Italianate central porch on the east (present rear) elevation dates from around 1850. The south kitchen wing has a central chimney and contains two rooms on the first floor, a kitchen and dining room (now a bedroom) above these in the loft were the sleeping quarters for the house slaves.

The main house has a central hall plan with a single large room on either side and the house is also only one room deep. The center hall contains a very fine stairway which is set against the south wall. The most important room in the house architecturally is the drawing room, which is located to the north of the hall. The drawing room is lighted by two windows on either side, and opposite the entrance door is the fireplace wall. The walls are panelled from floor to ceiling with all the window-openings, entrance doors, and mantel flanked by Doric pilasters on pedestals. A full entablature that carries around the room breaks out over the pilasters, creating verticals from floor to ceiling. This accentuates the 12-foot ceiling height and gives the room a unusually monumental quality for domestic work. The entablature is elaborated with a pulvinated frieze and dentil course in the cornice. The pedestals have bold caps and there is an unusually delicate chair rail. The areas between the pilasters are treated with broad, simply-moulded panels, and the overmantel is a large, single panel over six feet wide and four feet high. This unusually simple overmantel contributes to the excellent scale of the composition and allows the attention to center on the superb fireplace facing. This is of dark green marble, in the form of a broad architrave. The backband is richly carved with egg-and-dart ornament, beautifully mitred with acanthus leaves at the corners. This frame is mounted on bold plinths and the openings is bordered by a moulded, beaded fillet. Extraordinarily simple in form, this mantel is one of the outstanding marble mantlepieces in Virginia houses and the room, in the opinion of Thomas Waterman "is one of the best of its period in the country." Family tradition reports that this mantel was a gift from Lafayette.
7. Description: (Continued)

On the south side of the center hall is the large dining room, also with fully panelled walls, deep window seats, and wide board floors. Here the fireplace has been rebuilt following the removal of a 19th-century mantelpiece. Upstairs there is a center hall and two large bedrooms.

The main house and south wing are original and little-altered except for the following: Front and rear porches on the main house date from the 19th and 20th centuries. The south passageway leading from the kitchen to the main house, originally open on one side, has been glassed in on the east side. The entire kitchen area floor has been paved with brick. Bathrooms have been installed in the closets upstairs in the main house. The dining room fireplace in the main house has been reconstructed. All brass locks are reproductions and all interior sufraces have been refinshed except on the paneling in the drawing room where the original paint has been retained. Finally, the north wing and passageway were added in the 1950's--the original door in the north end of the main house leading to this addition having opened into space until this time.

In excellent condition, Harewood is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors.
Built by the Virginia architect John Ariss for Samuel Washington in 1770, "Harewood" is an outstanding and little-altered example of a large Georgian stone mansion with a very finely paneled room of great distinction. Except for the front and rear porches, the brass locks, and a rebuilt fireplace in the dining room, the exterior and interiors of Harewood are original.

**HISTORY**

Attracted by the fertile farmland of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, George Washington and his brothers began buying land in present Jefferson County, West Virginia (then Virginia) in 1750. First to leave the relatively unproductive tidewater area of Virginia was Samuel Washington (1734-1781), who left his 600-acre farm on Chotank Creek in northern Stafford County and moved into his new stone mansion, "Harewood," in September 1770. When Samuel died in 1781 he had accumulated some 3800 acres. This estate has been divided and subdivided over the years so that the present farm surrounding the mansion consists of 260 acres.

Architectural details indicate that the builder of Harewood was John Ariss, who had built the more elaborate "Kenmore" mansion in Fredericksburg, Va. in 1752 for Samuel's sister, Betsy Washington Lewis. Established in Frederick County in the late 1760's Ariss also built a house called "Fairfield" for Samuel's older first cousin, Warner Washington.

George Washington's diary records several visits to Harewood. The houses most notable event occurred in 1794 when it was the scene of James Madison's wedding to Dolley Payne Todd. Dolley's sister, Lucy was the wife of George Washington, Samuel's son and owner of Harewood.

The Washington family moved from Harewood into nearby Charles Town in 1899, placing a tenant farmer in the old mansion. In 1951 the present owner and his family returned to Harewood and began the renovation of the old house. Still owned by the Washington family, Harewood is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 6-1/2 acres out of 260 acre farm

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Charles W. Snell, Survey Historian

ORGANIZATION: Division of History, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER: 801 - 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [ ] Local [ ]

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date
Boundaries of the Samuel Washington House Property, "Harewood:"

Approximately 6.5 acres of land, including the Samuel Washington House "Harewood", beginning at the northwest corner at latitude 39°18'14" - longitude 77°55'00", on the southern edge of State Route 51 then proceeding east along the southern edge of said road about 509 feet to the northeast corner at latitude 39°18'12" - longitude 77°54'53"; then going southwest about 517-1/2 feet to the southeast corner at latitude 39°18'06" - longitude 77°54'55", hence continuing east about 475 feet to the southwest corner at latitude 39°18'07" - longitude 77°55'01", then returning north about 526.9 feet to the northwest corner, the point of beginning.

Plat of Yard Area
HAREWOOD
in lands of Dr. John A. Washington
Scale 1" = 100'
Aug. 1971
Russell H. Druschel, P.E.
W. Va. Reg. No. 2948

Note: Bearings Mag.
U.S.G.S. 7.5 Minute Series,
Middleway Quadrangle,
West Virginia,
1955
Harewood—Samuel Washington House.

Latitude 39° 16' 09"
Longitude 77° 54' 57"

[Map to Middleway Quadrangle]