

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION REQUEST
SUBMITTED TO THE
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER
ON " BOXWOOD"

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History of Boxwood

I Statement of Significance:

"Boxwood" is a pre-1759 7.5 acre estate in western Prince William County set in the unincorporated rural village of Greenwich, Virginia. "Boxwood" is distinguished historically for its association with communities leaders from the eighteenth century including Thomas Thorton, and the Charles Green family of 1840-1880.

The home with outbuildings stands at the crossroads of Col. Burwell's Rd (previously Shenendoah Hunting Trail, Carolina Rd and now Burwell) and Vint Hill Rd. (formerly the Broad Run, Dumfries/Brentsville Rd). It was the site of Confederate and Union forces throughout the Civil War era, most notably in July 1861 prior to the Battle of Manassas and on October 14, 1863 during the Battle of Bristow. It has family ties to Civil War Confederate General PGT Beauregard, and has witnessed and been a part to the significant historical development of Prince William County.

The history of "Boxwood" is inextricably tied to two other historic properties adjoining the property. It was, from 1859 to 1906, part of a larger parcel of land owned by the Green family which is currently a Registered Historic Virginia Landmark, "The Lawn". Also adjoining the property is The Greenwich Presbyterian Church and Cemetery, which is a separate Registered Historic Virginia Landmark, also owned by Charles Green. (1)

"Boxwood" consists of a 5,700 square foot Main House and six out buildings, including a Smoke House, Water House, Well House, Carriage House, Chicken Coup and Barn. Remains of a wash house are visible; the ice house does not exist anymore although "oldtimers" point out its location and photographs survive. From 1859 when it was purchased by Charles Green until 1906 it was part of the large farm owned by Charles Green. In 1906 the late Charles Green's wife turned over the property to two daughters, Annie Mackall and Mary Green Veeder, who, in turn, "swapped" various parcels. Mary Green Veeder received "Boxwood" and 64 acres. (2)

"Boxwood" has played an integral part of the development of the Greenwich community. It is directly tied to the two other properties determined to be of significant historic importance. It is the third foundation piece that, when linked to the other two elements, adds significant information and meaning to the events, relations and community life for over 230 years.

II Historical Background:

By the time Lord Thomas Fairfax granted 307 acres of previously unsurveyed land to Timothy Thorton of Lancaster, Virginia in 1741, Prince William County was ten years old. Charles Carter, agent for the proprietary, had accumulated for himself over 125,000 acres of land in Virginia. Upon his death in 1732, Lord Fairfax realized that the accumulation of this amount of land had two negative aspects; namely, it deprived Lord Fairfax of land, and it resulted in this portion of the Northern Neck to be less inhabited than expected.

The latter aspect was important; a major reason for granting such land was to populate the area much like had been accomplished nearer the Potomac. It was Governor Spotswood who, in 1716, had encouraged the surveying of lands. By 1720 with the immediate risk of Indians and his far-seeing policy with respect to the French encouraged the Assembly to create two new counties: Spotsylvania and Brunswick. This action followed a petition to the Crown by the Council and Burgesses declaring their policy to be to "secure our present Settlements from the Incursions of the Savage Indians, and from the more dangerous Incroachments of the Neighbouring French." (3)

The 1722 the Indians restricted their movements to the Bull Run Mountains, thus reducing the threat to persons.

Robert Carter, the agent of Lord Fairfax, had used his role as proprietary agent from 1702 to further his land holding. During this timeperiod he acquired land consistently of tideswater plantations already determined to be profitable.

It was during his second agency as the representative of Lord Fairfax, which commenced in 1723, that Carter accumulated additional lands. During this second period conditions changed. In the seventeenth century there were no estates over 50,000 acres but by 1725 there were several. In 1724 Col Carter set aside land for his family on unoccupied lands which lay between Brent town and the Elk Marsh settlement by travelling up the Shenandoah Hunting Path, later to become Carolina Rd, Haymarket Rd and now Burwell Rd.

By the end he had surveyed and taken grants for over 89,999 acre. One tract, Broad Run, consisted of 12,285 acres which lay above the Kettle Run tract in the fork of Broad Run and which comprises one boundary line to the 1741 grant to Tim Thorton, later to become a boundary line of Boxwood.

These "great tracts" which were run as "manors" however, discouraged a growing population from coming to the Carter lands. It was the practice to only permit leases for three lives and not to convey the proprietary title. This meant that those who wanted a stake of land did not come to Carter's lands.

From Carter's death in 1732 through 1737 Lord Fairfax, who had come to Virginia to manage his own affairs, no land grants were given. The land grant of 1741 to Timothy Thorton thus represented the type that Lord Fairfax approved of; it was for a small amount of

acreage (307) and it was populated.

Timothy Thorton was the son of Dr. Thomas and Agatha Chinn Thorton. He had two brothers, Thomas and John and three sisters, Elizabeth, Ann and Agatha. His father died in 1741 suggesting that he acquired monies from that death to purchase the 307 acres. At the time of the death of Dr. Thorton, the Thorton family owned 800 acres adjoining the 307 titled to Timothy. The shape of the land suggests that it was considered "waste land" or that previous surveys omitted the land and therefore the owners on the different sides all thought that their land covered this territory. (4)

Other land holders included: Col. Carter, Matthew Moss, and Dr. Thorton. Land and tax records show that Timothy Thorton owned the property from 1751 although there is no accounting of taxes paid in that year simply an entry identifying Timothy Thorton as the owner of the 307 acres. (5)

The property has been clearly identified by the crossroads: currently Vint Hill Rd and Burwell Rd. Burwell Rd, once the Shenandoah Hunting Path for the Iroquois Indians, was the major north-south route. As stated in Landmarks of Prince William, "The Iroquois themselves forthwith adopted a detour which they hoped might secure them from further observation (by the people of Brent Town). They now left the original path after it had crossed Broad Run, and turning Southwest, passed below the southernmost of the foothills of the Bull Run Mountains (Greenwich) ...It was this detour which traced the route of the Carolina road as it appears in the later records." (6)

In an act of May 1742, the Virginia Assembly used the example of the Carolina Road to enact legislation based on the fact that horse and cattle thieves thrived. This led to the requirement for the holding of a bill of sale for cattle. It was referred to as "Rogues Rd."

Little surviving evidence is known about Timothy Thorton. He was a member of the Dittigen Parish church, although his land was technically in Hamilton Parish. He was a doctor who, records show, "cured Mrs. Horman" in 1750. Court records place him as a witness to many transactions from 1748 to 1753. Rent rolls of 1752 lists Timothy Thorton but omits the acreage suggesting that when the listing was made Thorton was alive but by the time of Michelmas (September 24) when rents were paid this was no longer the case or that he had moved away. (7)

When Fauquier County broke off from Prince William in 1759 a map was commissioned to show the exact line of demarcation. Thus in 1759 the house is shown to exist, along with the tenant, Thomas Legg. Proof that Legg was only a tenant exists in reviewing the Titables listing of 1765 which lists a Thomas Legg but shows no acreage associated with his being a "head of household". (8)

The map also shows that Thomas Thorton (jr) purchased additional land from the Carter Broad Run Tract, and his "ordinary" was located at the corner adjacent to Boxwood in

1759. Rent records indicated that by this time the Thorton's owned 1226 acres and a separate listing exists under Elizabeth Thorton for 100 acres, possibly, the property of Timothy Thorton. A historical marker along with photographic evidence survives of the Thorton Tavern, then known as the Tavern Tract.

The mortgage of 1785 shows a lien of 200.75 acres of the original 307 from Thomas Thorton and his wife Mary to Solomon Ewell yet it unclear as to why Thomas and Mary Thorton were allowed to mortgage land originally owned by Timothy Thornton. (9)

Of the original Carter Broad Run Tract, Traverse Nash had purchased 76 acres in 1782 and acquired an additional 105 in 1782. Thus, Thorton sold part of his property to Nash on the Broad Run Tract. Later Thorton mortgaged his property to Solomon Ewell the original Timothy Thorton tract.

By the time of his death on December 24, 1816, Traverse Nash owned several parcels: 76 acres (Col. Carter Broad Run Tract, to Caleb Smith, to his son James Smith, to Thomas Thorton, to Traverse Nash) in 1782, an additional 105 acres (Col. Carter's Broad Run Tract, to Caleb Smith, to sons and daughters-in-law of Smith including James Smith) in 1783, an additional 100 acres in 1812. In 1816 103.25 acres was mortgaged by Thomas Thorton to Solomon Ewell to Nash. This last property became the 64 acres of Boxwood until 1965. It is not clear how the property moved from Timothy Thorton to Thomas Thorton and then to Nash since deed books have been lost. (10)

With the death of Traverse Nash a survey divided the land among the four Nash brothers. This survey has not yet been found but was identified in the sale of property by the Nash estate but is not included in the Plat Book. Thus, Nash held 386 acres of which 221.5 acres was sold to Douglas, which has been referred to as the Smithfield tract. John Nash, son to Traverse, sold 64 acres in 1819 to Henry Barron. This tract remained the same acreage from this point until 1907 and is the property of Boxwood.

The house structure can be traced from the 1759 map. In 1820 it was purchased by Henry A. Barron from John W. Nash for \$600.00. Tax records show a significant increase in value from 1819 to 1820 suggesting substantial enlargement. A smaller building existed on the property -- one that was worth \$289.00 as stated in the 1819 deed. John W. Nash likely sold the larger Nash estate to pay outstanding debts incurred by his father after his death in 1816. (11)

A second sale took place in 1839 from Henry A. Barron to John Kulp for \$2,000.00. Kulp also acquired a 2 1/2 acre plot from Barron which was used as his residence. Deed book references show a transaction from Henry Barron to John Kulp of Montgomery County, Penn, of 64 acres in 1839. John Kulp (born 1793) and his wife Catherine (born 1795) had three children, Elizabeth (born 1828), Aron (born 1830) and Amelia (born 1836). Kulp sold one and a quarter acres in 1853 to James Moore and indicated that Moore lived on the property and a blacksmith shop existed. The Kulp property was sold to Charles Green on December 10, 1856. (12)

These two properties are identified in the 1839 deed. In 1856 it was sold to Charles Green from

John Kulp for \$2,400.00.

In a private letter from Charles Green to his neighbor Dr. Moxley, he expressed surprise at the willingness of the Kulp's to sell the property, indicating that Mrs. Kulp wanted to remain in the area. Yet, he was pleased because it now allowed him to set up a sheep farm. Up to this point, his original purchase of 22 acres comprising the Lawn did not permit such a farm. But when the 64 acres became available, he concluded that he must purchase other land. (13)

It remained in the Green (Veeder) family until 1965. Tax records show varying values from 1819 through 1880's due primarily to various recessions, such as in 1847 and the re-valuations that took place.

The original structure and out buildings were significant; they were assessed in 1822 for \$774.00, \$1193.00 in 1836 and \$3,225.00 in 1871. The 1820 purchase for \$2000, too, demonstrated the value of the estate since property value at that time for land alone was significantly less. (14)

Records from the Greenwich Presbyterian Church indicates that both John Kulp, his brother Mahlon Kulp and neighbor James Moore were members of the Church. In August, 1856, the Church held a Session moderated by Rev. John W. Pugh to inquire into rumors about the character of Mahlon Kulp who was accused of playing cards for money on the Sabbath Day. (15)

James Moore declared that he "had frequently seen the accused (Kulp) selling liquor on the Sabbath and that he (Kulp) received in his (Moore's) presence money in payment for said liquor" to slaves. Charles Green was asked to be the Counsel for the Defence. (16)

In 1856, Charles Green had already been married to his second wife for six years.

As stated in the National Register Application (drafted by William Frazier of Frazier Associates under commission from the Prince William Historical Commission), Charles Green was a native of Shropshire, England, who immigrated to Savannah, Georgia, in 1833 where he established himself as a wealthy cotton broker with a fleet of three merchant ships, The Highland Prince, The Elsie, and The City of Savannah. While visiting his sister in Greenwich in the mid-1850s, he met the granddaughter of Aminta Elizabeth Moxley, Lucy Irland Hunton, and married her.

It was his second marriage of three. Prior to the marriage he would travel from Savannah in springtime up to his summer home in Orchard Beach, Maine, stopping over in Greenwich.

In 1855 Charles Green purchased a twenty-two and one half acre site on which he built a residence. At that time the structures were valued at \$3000. In 1856 he purchased from John Kulp the 64 acres and incorporated it into The Lawn. (17)

He had also purchased a 241 acre farm from James W.F. and Cornelia Macree. Eventually he owned approximately eight hundred acres. From 1856 to 1861 Green's personal property taxes increased from \$200 to \$3030 indicating that The Lawn was finely appointed. Included on the list were nine slaves, fifteen horses, valued at \$1130, two carriages valued at \$250, twenty three cattle, fifty four sheep, seventeen hogs, a watch valued at \$50, two clocks, a piano valued at \$250 and household furnishings valued at \$500.

Later, Green's daughter, Mary Green (born 1863) married Ten Eyck De Wit Veeder (born 1854) on June 14, 1893 in Savannah, Georgia. The house was used by the Veeders and it remained in the Veeder family until 1965.

The Green family witnessed the many horrors of the Civil War, including the execution of a Union deserter on the property while General George G. Meade and the First Division of the 11th Corps encamped on the property. It was reported that Green and his sons, with umbrella in hand, walked down their property to witness the execution.

Although Green was obviously a southern sympathizer, he maintained his British citizenship and used it to protect his home and family during the war. John Chapman Gray, the Judge Advocate for the 11th Corps, in an August 2, 1863 letter to his mother, records that Green posted signs reading "British Property under Safeguard, by order of Gen. Meade." to protect his property from marauding troops. He also recounted that, "it was very strange to see a place nicely fitted up with everything and looking very much like the country houses about Boston in this country."

Green always tried to be hospitable to the Union troops in order to protect his neighbors and friends. His Gothic Revival mansion in Savannah, considered to be one of the finest and most modern homes there, was used as General Sherman's headquarters in 1864. His hospitality, however, did not help to keep him out of prison several months later at Fort Warren, Massachusetts, where he was accused of being a Confederate spy. He was later released, escaping execution with the aid of Lord Lyons, the British Ambassador.

Extensive information is available regarding the Charles Green family including his role in Savannah and in his relations to General Sherman. From his death in 1880 until 1906 it is not clear how the house was used. Surviving witnesses indicate that they were told that it was used by the Ringwood Female Seminary as a school for a short time, probably after the death of Rev. Balch.

The history of the Veeder family is less well known but no less significant.

Ten Eyck De Wit Veeder and Mary Green had seven children, including: Ten Eyck De Wit Veeder, Jr (born July 7, 1895), Mary Veeder (born: March 16, 1897), Suzanne Veeder (born: October 4, 1900), Aminta Elizabeth Veeder (born: October 31, 1901), William Schuetze Veeder (born: January 19, 1903), Ann Mackall Veeder (born: June 17, 1904) and Charles During Veeder (born: March 9, 1907). (18)

Ten Eyck De Wit Veeder was a graduate of the Naval Academy and was the

superintendent of the US Naval Observatory where he lived for a time at what is now the home of the Vice President of the United States. He attained the rank of Commodore. His son, William Schuetze Veeder, the last family owner of "Boxwood", also attended the Naval Academy (graduating in 1925), had six commands at sea and rose to the rank of Admiral. (19)

During the Civil War local stories place General PGT Beauregard at "Boxwood". After the war, Mildred Furman Green, the daughter of Douglas Green (son of Charles Green and brother of Mrs. Mary Green Veeder) married PGT Beauregard II on November 28, 1922 in Washington. Mildred Green was the cousin of the Veeder children who resided at "Boxwood". PGT Beauregard III of Chevy Chase, Maryland, two sisters, Suzanne Coster and Mary Williams of Leesburg, Virginia are the descendents of the famous General and continue to live in the area. Mrs. Mildred Green is buried in the Greenwich Presbyterian Churchyard. (20)

A well known story during the Civil War was that the UnionConfederate troops wanted to camp on the Greenwich Church grounds, adjacent to the home and owned by Charles Green, who was a British subject. Charles Green refused to have his property "invaded" by the Confederates and informed them that it was "British soil" and that they could not take over the property unless they wished to hurt the relations with England. Toward the end of the Civil War, the log cabin that served as part of the church was burned down by Confederate soldiers.

History also recounts that Greenwich was used by both Confederate and Union forces prior to the Battle of Bristoe Station. As the Confederate army of 45,000 began a movement around the Union's 75,000 right flank on October 10, 1863 and in order to avoid what happened to General Pope the previous year, General Meade began to withdraw his army north towards Manassas Junction.

On October 11-13 both sides meneuvered while Jeb Stuart's cavalry shielded the Confederate advance and harassed the retreating Federal troops. At 10 am on October 14th, Lieutenant General AP Hill's Third Corps reached Greenwich en route to Bristoe Station. The camp fires of the Army of the Potomac still smoldered. Hill ordered his men to pursue the Federal column. As the Confederates continued their march to Bristoe Station they noted abandoned blankets, knapsacks, and other equipment littering the road, indicating that the Union solders were not far away.

Further details are available in the National Register Application entitled "Civil War Properties in Prince William County, 1861-1865.

Oral stories passed down by Priscilla Veeder, the surviving widow of the late William Veeder tell of the Veeder children living at "Boxwood" and the dashing "Gray Ghost" Mosby who came to call at the house. "Boxwood", she has stated, was also used as part of the underground railroad during the Civil War and while a special hideway exists that is only accessible through an eave the story remains unconfirmed. (21)

"Boxwood" is also significant because of its ties to Prince William County and to those who still live in the area. The Greens (Veeder) had slaves originally purchased on the

auction block in Charleston, South Carolina. Descendants currently live in the area. In fact, an entire area, locally called "Greenville" remains the home for many of these families.

These families that currently live in the area have been associated with "Boxwood" for many generations. Oral history has confirmed the role that slaves played at The Lawn and at Boxwood. From 1860, Green had 7 adult and 9 slaves who had reached the age of 13 at Greenwich. After the War many of those free blacks were employed as servants in The Lawn and Boxwood.

One example is Silas Green who was a freed slave. His grandson Robert Turner (83) recalls his role in working at "The Lawn" with Anne Green Mackall and at later at "Boxwood" tending the fires. In an oral interview with me, Mr. Turner remembers the second stair case, now gone, that connected the upstairs of the kitchen and where the slaves lived. (22)

Another "slave attic", only accessible through a small hole in the eve of another part of the attic, has been pointed out as home to many slaves when they needed to hide for a period of time.

The Veeder/Green families required that the Veeder children refer to the black community in formal terms including "Mr. Olie Dennis" to denote their stature. The slaves lived in the second floor of the kitchen at "Boxwood". Later, Commodore Veeder built homes for those family associated with "Boxwood".

Local history further connects "Boxwood" with the Greenwich Presbyterian Church, another historic landmark, also part of the original Green property. A tablet on the sanctuary wall of the Church honors Jane Alexander Milligan as the founder of the Ringwood Female Seminary. Milligan was born in Georgetown in 1827 and began teaching early. Initially, the Seminary was located at the home of Pastor Balch, a Presbyterian minister who had been the pastor at Greenwich. Part of the original "Ringwood Manse" has survived. (23)

Given the unsatisfactory nature of public education in the 1800s, particularly for those who intended to go to college and those who wanted more Christian and cultural influences, Miss Milligan's school was a boon for local families. Even men attended as day students. Mrs. Mae Ellis, the oldest member of the Greenwich Presbyterian Church at the age of 103, has a medal given to her mother from Miss Milligan from 1880.

At one time Miss Miligan moved the Seminary to Greenwich and the lessons were conducted at "Boxwood". After a time, Miss Milligan returned the school to Ringwood where it remained until 1877 when she died. (24)

In another example, when the slate roof of the Church was replaced in 1900, the slate was stored at "Boxwood" Carriage House, some of which is still found on the property. (25)

The Greenwich Presbyterian Church was organized in 1802. In 1812 a log

structure was built as a church on the northwest corner of the present church property. Charles Green also purchased three acres beside the log church for a new church and largely financed the construction from 1854 to 1859 of the present day brick church.

The most prominent marker in the churchyard belongs to Bradford Smith Hoskins who rode with Col. John Mosby. In April 1863 at Miskill Farm a few miles north of Leesburg, Mosby and 69 of his men were surprised by two groups of Federal cavalry composed of 150 men. In the ensuing fight Mosby's rangers led away 82 prisoners and fifteen Union soldiers were too badly wounded to be moved.

On May 29, 1863 Mosby and 48 men left the vicinity of Aldie and headed into Prince William County. They had obtained a small howitzer and planned to use it to disrupt rail traffic supplying General Hooker's army on the Rappahannock River. Mosby came through Greenwich, stopping at The Lawn. In his group were men who were related to Mrs. Green, the former Lucy Irland Hunton and they were welcomed by the Greens.

Later they pried a rail loose in the tracks and waited for an oncoming train from Nokesville. As the train came off the tracks and onto the crossties, Mosby's men rushed the train. Fire was returned by Union soldiers on the train. The Union thought that a large force existed and ran and the rangers burned what they could.

Upon leaving the scene, the Fifth New York Cavalry appeared and in the ensuing fight Hoskins was shot. Mosby's rangers then fled into the woods while the Union then cared for their wounded. It is probably at this time that Charles Green came up the road in his cart being pulled by oxen which has previously been commandeered by the Union army. He stopped, picked up Hoskins and then offered brandy and water to Union soldiers. The wounded were then taken to The Lawn for treatment.

"Boxwood" continues to have a plethora of English and American boxwood plants in keeping with the rustic and peaceful nature of the environment that Green created. Formal patterns of boxwoods were meticulously cared for although over the past fifty years the house fell into neglect. The boxwoods were planted in a star configuration. (26)

In 1906 the Green sisters "swapped" ownership properties. In exchange for complete ownership of the 64 acres known as "Boxwood", Mary Green Veeder gave up all her rights to 124 acres to Anne Green Mackall. Anne Green Mackall, in turn, gave up all ownership rights in the "Boxwood" acreage. Surviving Veeder family members suggest that the value of the 64 acres was equivalent to that of the 124 acres because of the value of the "Boxwood" house, even though part of the 124 acres housed "The Lawn" home. (27)

The properties were exchanged after a falling out when the younger children of Mary Green Veeder were being disturbed by the older children of Anne Green Mackall.

Many of the workers of the Greens and later the Veeders, and who are slaves or

descendents of slaves, are buried in the Greenwich Presbyterian Church. Prior to their death they either lived in homes purchased by Mary Green or they lived in "Boxwood".

III Reason For Request:

"Boxwood" properly belongs to the community that knows it so well. Upon our purchase of the home in 1988, we learned of the many personal connections between the house and our neighbors and between the house and the community. People frequently come to the house and offer stories and anecdotes from their parents and grandparents.

Upon our purchasing of the home, we commenced a comprehensive restoration/preservation program to return the home to that era. Each of the outer buildings has been restored. The home has been restored. During the process we consulted with other families who have had a long association with the house, including elderly black members of the community who remember how it was used and decorated. The surviving widow of Admiral William Veeder has assisted us in piecing together stories and deciding fact from fiction. (28)

Similarly, we have meticulously attempted to refurbish and restore the house to its "original" state using authentic period furnishings. We have chosen the 1850-1870 timeperiod for refurbishing since it appears from tax and land assessment records that many improvements of the home took place during this period. (29)

We believe that the house and grounds should be included among the Virginia Landmarks because of unique character and its witness to history. Much of the history of Prince William County is tied to Greenwich, which existed as an unincorporated village since before 1820. The land derives from original ownership from Lord Fairfax to Timothy Thorton and the Greenwich intersection (of the Burwell and Vint Hill Rd, formerly the Haymarket, Warrenton and Dumfries Roads) was an important stopping point for British prisoner of wars taken during the American Revolution. A historical marker now exists by the Prince William Historical Commission.

The Kulps, Greens and Veeder families contributed much to our community. The house, known by all in the community, continues to serve as a "link" connecting various generations of local people with the history of the area.

"Boxwood" played an integral part in the development of the Greenwich community. It is directly tied to two other properties determined to be of significant historic value and currently on the Register. It is the third foundation piece that, when tied to the other two elements, adds significant information and meaning to the events, relations and community life for over 170 years.

The Prince William Historic Commission has indicated its support for positive consideration by the Virginia Department of Historic Landmarks and supports the creation of a "district" for Greenwich which would encompass the "Lawn", the Greenwich Church, and "Boxwood".

IV General Architectural Assessment:

"Boxwood" appears to have been built at several different times in a board and batten construction. The size of the house and the unique structure suggests that many of these changes occurred prior to 1900. Tax records suggest that major renovations occurred between 1870 and 1871 since the overall value of the house increased substantially from \$1200 to \$2500 in 1871 (30).

While no specific style of architecture appears to dominate, it appears that there were two major renovations. All apparently were completed prior to 1907. First, the house consisted of two rooms on the first floor and curved balustrade and a sitting room on the second floor with a foyer. This may have been completed by 1820, increasing the value of the house from \$298 to \$500. The second addition appears to be the addition of the Music Room, Library, Guest Room, bathroom on the first floor, the addition of four bedrooms on the second floor, and the incorporation of two rooms on the third floor.

The attic above the original house, complete with window, appears never to have been formally used. The pitch of the roof runs parallel to that of Vint Hill Rd. The second addition changes the pitch 90 degrees.

This second renovation appears to have incorporated the kitchen into the Main House, by adding a dining room next to the original living room, and connecting that room and an outside porch and enclosing in order for it to connect with the kitchen. According to primary sources, the kitchen originally had two stories - the slaves lived on the second floor. Beams in the kitchen attic show the roofline from the original rooms of the house, and the later additions. It is the kitchen wall that contains handnotched beams, wood pegs and has blacksmith nails, thus dating this portion between 1790-1820.

The tax records show that between 1870 and 1871 the value of the house more than doubled. This might explain the large addition from the original smaller home. Tax records do not suggest any major renovations after 1871. The original living room fireplace continues to have the cast iron hinges from which to hold pots over a fire.

The gravity-fed heating system was added in 1923, as evidenced by the DeWit Veeder will, and payment for the heating system. Craftsmanship around the top of the chimney are now within the eaves on the third floor, suggesting that they once had been exposed. (31)

The outside wrap-around porch had screens from the 1930s until 1972 when they were removed.

Using pictures from pre-1930 of "Boxwood" the outside is being restored to its original look. The walkway to the front door has been rebuilt and new boxwoods are being replanted. A porch rail was added since, according to sources, a rail existed prior to the inclusion of the screens on the porch.

The interior is horse-hair plaster, with crown moldings in most of the first floor rooms. All floors are made of pine in varying lengths and widths.

A small kitchen fire in 1980 required remodeling of the kitchen although the chimney and flue remain in tact. At that time a smaller porch was enclosed and became part of the kitchen.

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