

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **MAR 6 1986**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Henderson Hall Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number County Route 21/2 (Old River Road), off State Route 14 not for publication

city, town Williamstown vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Wood code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name 1) Michael B. Rolston (see Continuation Sheet)

street & number 2110 Plum Street

city, town Parkersburg vicinity of state WV 26101

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wood County Court House

street & number Court Square

city, town Parkersburg state WV 26101

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Henderson Hall Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Winter, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture and History

city, town Charleston state WV

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Henderson Hall Historic District is an important Ohio Valley complex of residences, outbuildings, dependencies and other ancillary structures that has played an important role in local agricultural affairs and state history from the point of settlement of the land in the early nineteenth century. The focal point of the district is "Henderson Hall", a 3-story Italianate mansion of the Italian Villa style which overlooks the Ohio River approximately two miles southwest of Williamstown, West Virginia. The lands surrounding Henderson Hall are level, or gently rolling, and are divided between two upper benches, or high ancient flood plains, and a lower tract, or bottomland, which has been used for over a century for pasturage. Both the house and grounds possess highly scenic qualities that are visible from local byways and the river.

The resources of the Henderson Hall Historic District are evenly distributed within the proposed boundaries, between State Route 14 and County Route 21/2 (River Road). At the southeast corner of the district is the tree-shaded Henderson Cemetery which contains the graves of generations of the Henderson family.

The segment of the historic district between Henderson Hall and the Ohio River is a two-level bottomland which has served as an integral part of the estate (for corn production), as a pasture for fine horses, and in years past, as a corridor for the passage of goods to and from the farm proper. Nineteenth century maps of the area show the riverbank marked with the name "Henderson's Landing," an appropriate designation considering the dependence of the local land holders on river traffic, such as freight and passenger service, which provided essential modes of 19th century transportation and communication before the coming of the railroads and paved highways. No above-ground features, however, remain visible at the landing site.

The Henderson Hall Historic District is a well defined 19th-century farm complex that illustrates through surviving dependencies the importance of large-scale farming and breeding operations in West Virginia's Ohio Valley during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The district's principal residence, Henderson Hall, moreover, is West Virginia's finest surviving and best preserved example of its particular architectural style.

The following resources are part of the Henderson Hall Historic District:

1. Henderson Hall, 1856-59, J.M. Slocomb, architect, key contributing. "Henderson Hall" is a perfectly preserved example of Italianate architecture of the Italian Villa mode. It stands on a broad terrace overlooking the Ohio River amid outbuildings and dependencies dating to various periods of the 19th century. Building materials used in construction of the house, including old brick, stone, and timber, were produced entirely on the Henderson farm. The dominant portion of the structure was professionally designed by an architect and built in the years 1856-59; a rear block, constructed in 1836 of locally handmade red brick, antedates the dominant Italianate-style section and is the oldest standing residential structure in the area.

The Henderson residence was built in the decade prior to the Civil War when the Italianate style was at its height of popularity in the United States. The great American architect Andrew Jackson Downing, in his The Architecture of Country Houses, referred to the Italian style as "one that expresses not wholly the spirit of country life nor of town life, but something between both". The house presents

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a massive silhouette in an impressive pastoral setting above the Ohio River; it is the focal point of Henderson holdings that formerly numbered several thousand acres. The house, nevertheless, would be equally significant had it been designed for a fashionable 19th century neighborhood in nearby Parkersburg, West Virginia, or Marietta, Ohio.

The hallmarks of the Italianate style are all present in the symmetrical plan and elegantly detailed proportions of Henderson Hall. Significant period design characteristics include: broad overhanging (very deep) eaves embellished with oversized paired bracketwork; round-topped windows detailed with stone hoodmoulds; a balustraded entrance porch with hand-carved stone columns matching the stone watertable and a stone third-story stringcourse; and a square, hipped-roof belvedere centrally placed above the shallow hipped metal roof. An especially interesting symmetrical feature of the front elevation is the coupling or pairing of tall windows in three, 3-story recessed bays.

Centered at the rear elevation is a gabled-roof 2-story brick residence-kitchen which forms the original unit of the house.

Condition of both portions of Henderson Hall is good; and integrity of the original fabric is exceptional. Minor water damage (rot), however, has occurred to portions of the soffits and cornices of the overhanging eaves due to leaks in the boxed gutters. Migration of water into the brick of the rear block is due to past or recent defective downspouting; and capillary moisture from the ground (rising damp) is present in the lower walls of the rear elevation unit.

Henderson Hall is a commodious residence with high ceilings and a spacious entrance foyer. There are virtually no alterations of the original exterior/interior fabric, save for the installation of gas and electricity for lighting and heating as those conveniences became available. In the words of the owner, a descendant of the builder, "Henderson Hall retains all of its original furnishings and two centuries of manuscripts, paintings, photographs, furniture and personal memorabilia of the family. Also surviving are extensive records, ledgers, publications and correspondence pertaining to the Henderson brothers..."

Condition: Good

2. Log Smokehouse, c. 1836, Contributing. Constructed of squared logs, notched in dovetail fashion at corners, this 1-story ancillary building is gable-roofed with weatherboarded gable ends.

Condition: Fair

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3. Carriage Barn and Schoolroom, c. 1860, Contributing. The gable-roofed, one story rectilinear frame building used for storage and currently houses a 19th-century carriage. (This carriage is shown in front of Henderson Hall in photograph 1A. The original photo was taken c. 1891.) Aside from its use as a carriage born in the 19th century, the building housed a schoolroom for children of the farm and nearby homes. Original benches, slate blackboards and other school equipment are preserved in the room. The schoolroom is believed to be one of the oldest surviving in the state.

Condition: Good

4. Log Corncrib, c. 1836, Contributing. This low gabled roof farm building is constructed of squared logs with notched corners. The ridge pole of the roof has collapsed.

Condition: Poor

5. Corncrib, c. 1856, Contributing. Also part of the immediate grounds of Henderson Hall is a frame corncrib with steeply pitched gabled roof. The building rests upon squared stone piers.

Condition: Good

6. Scale House, c. 1856, Contributing. Used for farm equipment storage, the scale house is a 1-story frame structure with pitched roof and siding of vertical flush boards. The building is entered through a large doubledoor. Remnants of a substantial corral and pens survive about the building.

Condition: Fair

7. Cow Barn, c. 1850, Contributing. This shed-roofed, 1-story bank barn, is "revetted" against a hillside upon a very substantial raised foundation of large squared sandstone blocks. The roof is in poor condition.

Condition: Poor

8. Barn, c. 1895, Contributing. The vertical board, story-and-a-half frame barn has a low-pitched gable roof.

Condition: Poor

9. Tenant House, c. 1895-1900, Contributing. The house is a modest story-and-a-half structure with slate roof. This subsidiary farmhouse has housed farm tenants during much of its history.

Condition: Good

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10. "Woodhaven" (Henry Clay Henderson House), c. 1877, Contributing. This 2-story frame house, with L-shaped plan, features shallow gabled roofs and tall, narrow window openings. It was built by H.C. Henderson, one of the Henderson brothers, for his family; it was later occupied by the family of George Travis Henderson.

Condition: Fair

11. Henderson Cemetery, early 19th century, Contributing. The Henderson family cemetery is encircled with a castiron fence and is shaded with giant century-old trees. The rows of graves are marked with a variety of 19th-century-style monuments such as: stone obelisks, round-topped and rectangular slabs and columns surmounted with draped urns or balls. Nineteenth century funerary symbolism and art forms are present throughout the grounds. Many members of the Henderson and Tomlinson families who settled this section of the Ohio Valley are buried in the cemetery which can be seen from Henderson Hall.

12. Stone Terrace Wall, mid-19th century, Contributing. This wall is shown in supplementary, c. 1891 photo #1 (copy of historical photograph). The terrace wall is composed of heavy, locally quarried, squared stone blocks with quarry-faced textures. The wall forms a demarcation point between the Henderson Hall complex of buildings and the lower pasture/bottomland fronting upon the Ohio River.

Indian Mound A, Contributing. This prehistoric mound, measuring approximately 25 feet in diameter and 8 feet high, is located about 100 feet southwest of Henderson Hall; it is apparently intact. Formal archaeological studies have not yet been made to ascertain scientific identification or dating, but similar mounds, including the giant Mound Cemetery mound at nearby Marietta, Ohio, have been associated with the Adena culture.

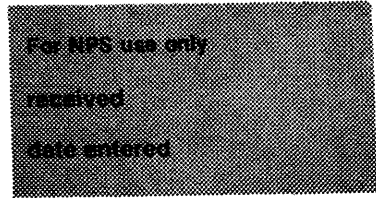
Mound B, Contributing. Smaller and less discernable than Mound A, this prehistoric man-made feature is located immediately east of Mound A.

Mound C, Contributing. Similar in size to Mound B, Mound C is located north of Henderson Hall and is less impressive in size than is Mound A.

The mounds at Henderson Hall are surviving elements of a culture once widespread in the Ohio Valley, in the Kanawha Valley of West Virginia, and in southern Ohio. They are probably associated with the Adenas, a native American people of the Early Woodland period, best known for their ceremonial burial practices. It is interesting to note that Elizabeth Ann Tomlinson, wife of Henderson Hall builder George Washington Henderson, was a member of the Tomlinson family which once owned the Grave Creek Mound at Moundsville, West Virginia. That mound is the largest of all known Adena culture tumuli.

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- 13. Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Line and Right-of-way, Noncontributing. Passes unobstrusively across a portion of the bottomland of the Henderson estate; the line and narrow right-of-way do not contribute to the historical themes or associative characteristics that make the historic district significant.
- 14. "Mounting Block", 19th century, Contributing. Sited in the yard, east and to the rear of Henderson Hall, is a stone mounting block. The object is of sand-stone, features a 3-step stair, and is fashioned from a single block. The mounting block was used by equestrians as an aid to mounting a horse, or as a convenience which permitted the user to enter a carriage in a gentlemanly fashion.

Mounting blocks have become increasingly rare (insitu) in West Virginia. The one at Henderson Hall is an important surviving example in the mid-Ohio Valley.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources

<u>Buildings</u>	-	10
<u>Structures</u>	-	4 (1 stone terrace wall; 3 mounds)
<u>Objects</u>	-	1 (mounting block)
<u>Sites</u>	-	1 (1 cemetery)
<u>Noncontributing</u>	-	1 (railroad line)

Total Contributing Resources - 16
Total Noncontributing Resources - 1

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1836;1856–59;1836–1936 **Builder/Architect** J.M. Slocomb, Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Henderson Hall Historic District is significant because it encloses the largest and best preserved complex of 19th-century farm and farm-related buildings surviving on the West Virginia side of the Ohio Valley. Among the district's dominant resources is "Henderson Hall", an Italianate mansion of the Italian Villa mode, which is the best preserved and most significant example of its style surviving in West Virginia. The complex derives additional significance from the several pre-historic tumuli that identify the site as a locus of the enterprises of ancient Ohio Valley peoples. The Hendersons who built Henderson Hall and developed this land were members of a family who were among the earliest and most prominent settlers in Wood County, (West) Virginia, and the Ohio Valley. Significantly, the Hendersons were associated through marriages, over a period of several generations, with the Tomlinson, Williams, and Beeson families who settled early Wood County, West Virginia.

Henderson family holdings in Western Virginia, of the late 18th and early 19th century, exceeded 25,000 acres. These lands were located in what is now Harrison, Wood, Wirt and Pleasants Counties. Three brothers, John Glassford Henderson, Alexander Henderson, Jr. (II), and James Henderson, all settled on portions of family lands and became locally important farmers who played roles in the formation of Wood County, which was organized from the western section of Harrison County, in 1798. The pioneering Henderson brothers were the sons of Alexander Henderson, Sr. (I), of Dumfries, Virginia, a wealthy merchant, member of the House of Burgesses, and a political supporter, associate and friend of George Washington.

The lands upon which Henderson Hall was built were developed by George Washington Henderson (1802–66), a son of Alexander Henderson, Jr. (II), and a grandson of Alexander Henderson, Sr. (I). The marriage of G.W. Henderson, and Elizabeth Ann Tomlinson Henderson (1810–88), in 1826, consolidated family lands, including portions of the original Tomlinson tomahawk claims which comprised portions of present Williamstown, one of the earliest points of settlement in the Ohio Valley. The Henderson lands of that time accounted for more than 2000 acres of surrounding northern Wood county countryside.

Development of the Henderson farm near Williamstown, in the quarter century before the Civil War, witnessed the construction of a large plantation which utilized the rich alluvial soils of nearby bottomlands and broad terraces for the raising of cash crops. From early times the Hendersons bred horses and cattle and contributed substantially to the agricultural economy of the locale. Three sons of George Washington Henderson, Henry Clay (1845–1920), Jock Bedell (1848–1942), and Arthur Taylor (1850–1926) remained active and highly successful farmers on the lands bequeathed to them by their mother, Elizabeth Anne Tomlinson Henderson.

The buildings and structures which survive from the original Henderson Hall estate (and are still used for certain farming operations) form a significant grouping of 19th-century agricultural buildings, among which are two pre-Civil War log structures used in former times for the storage of meats and grain. The complex is significant for its well distributed resources on a 65-acre tract between the Ohio River and the Henderson family cemetery.

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 65 acres approximately

Quadrangle name Valley Mills, WV; Marietta, Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	6	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

B

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	2	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone Easting Northing

C

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	7	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	2	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	6	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

E

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	7	2	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

F

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	7	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	8	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

G

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	6	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	7	5	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

H

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	2	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	9	1	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

I

1	7
---	---

4	5	8	0	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	3	5	8	6	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Unit
Dept. of Culture and History

date January 25, 1986

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone (304) 348-0240

city or town Charleston,

state WV

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 27, 1986

For NPS use only

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

Patrick Andrews
Keeper of the National Register

date 4/17/86

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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Dominating the complex is the family ancestral home, "Henderson Hall". Built in two sections, the major 1856-59 block designed by Marietta, Ohio, architect J.M. Slocomb, is the best preserved and finest surviving example of the Italian Villa mode of Italianate architecture in West Virginia. Its broad, bracketed eaves, low profile hipped roof, and square beveled are outstanding representative elements of its architectural style.

The Henderson family cemetery is significant because the graves of generations of area settlers, primarily from the Henderson-Tomlinson families, are found here. Numerous excellent examples of 19th-century funerary art, evocative of Victorian sentiment and custom, can be viewed in forms ranging from obelisks, draped urns and ball finials, clasped hands symbolising the "crossing over", to poetic epitaphs carved in script-like styles. The plot is encircled by a high cast-iron fence, itself an important object; it was produced by the Stewart Ironworks of Cincinnati, Ohio, one of the Ohio Valley's leading 19th-century manufacturers of iron products.

The Henderson Hall Historic District is significant historically for its association with several of the following representative figures:

Alexander Henderson, Jr. (II), sometimes called "Sandy". Alexander Henderson settled on lands in the Little Kanawha River Valley, c. 1798, near present Palestine, Wirt County. He and his wife, Jane Hutchinson Lithgow, were locally regarded for their cultivated interests. The Hendersons were acquaintances, or friends, of the Harman Blennerhassetts, of Blennerhassett Island, in the Ohio River, and are known to have visited the island. Henderson is often remembered as a witness for the prosecution in the nationally famous Burr Conspiracy of 1806, and trial of 1807, in which Harman Blennerhassett was also involved, and later acquitted. Alexander is buried with his wife in the Henderson Cemetery.

Archibald Henderson, a brother of Alexander Henderson, Jr. While this figure was never a long-term, or permanent, resident of the Henderson lands near Williamstown, he is, nevertheless, strongly associated with the estate and family lore.

Archibald Henderson (1785-1859), was a military professional who commanded the marines on the frigate "Constitution", and served as commandant of the U.S. Marine Corp in Washington for 40 years. He distinguished himself in the Florida campaign of 1837, and subsequently was brevetted a brigadier general for gallant service. (This was an unusually high honor for the period. Brevetted became a more common military honor during and after the Civil War.) Archibald Henderson visited Henderson Hall in 1841, while accompanying the body of President William Henry Harrison to its final place of rest at North Bend, Ohio. Henderson is credited in local histories as having brought the first peach tree to the Ohio Valley. A 19th-century photographic portrait and other memorabilia of the famous soldier are kept at Henderson Hall.

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George Washington Henderson (1802-66), son of Alexander Henderson, Jr. Builder of Henderson Hall, in two parts, and developer of the estate, G. W. Henderson is the dominant historical figure associated with the northern Wood County Henderson lands. G. W. Henderson was educated at Ohio University, and served in the Wheeling Convention of 1861 which met and determined that Western Virginia should remain loyal to the Union. Henderson also held local minor offices.

Before the Civil War some slave labor was used to run the estate. In the late 1840's, according to Parkersburg historian Bernard Allen, George W. Henderson accused David Putnam, Jr., of Marietta, Ohio, of aiding in the escape of nine of Henderson's slaves. Putnam later won the case when he was defended by Salmon P. Chase, later Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Jock Bedell Henderson (1848-1942), son of G. W. Henderson.

J.B. Henderson intensively farmed the estate and lived his entire, long life at Henderson Hall. He is remembered for the extensive horse breeding operations which once included an oval training track. His two brothers, Henry and Arthur, also worked the nearby lands.

Henry Clay Henderson (1845-1920), son of G.W. Henderson.

H. C. Henderson attended Marietta College and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1867. Henderson engaged in successful breeding and raising of fine stock, in addition to farming. H. C. Henderson represented Wood and Pleasants County in the W. Va. House of Delegates in 1876. In 1892, Henderson was elected to the State Senate. Henderson served as first president of the Williamstown National Bank.

Anna Rosalie McIntosh Henderson, d. 1927, wife of Jock Bedell Henderson. Anna Henderson was born in South Carolina and lived for a time in Florida and in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She was a poetess and writer of modest success who published articles in The Ladies' Home Journal, The Woman's Home Companion, and other magazines. She was published in youth oriented magazines also, among these Wide Awake, Our Youth and Little Men and Women. Anna Henderson published, in 1900, a regionally popular volume of poetry entitled Life and Song.

Jock and Anna Henderson were the owners of peacocks or peafowls that were given free run of the Henderson Hall grounds. According to Fruitful Valley, a local history, the peacocks "would roost around the house, the barn and high up in the hugh oak trees. They would let you know when a storm was coming by a peculiar cry. Anna had one pet male peacock, which made a circular path in front of her window, strutting and spreading out his beautiful fan tail whenever she sat sewing or reading."

The Henderson family carriage, used by Jock and Anna Henderson, is still preserved on the estate. The carriage made an eventful trip to New York City in 1871.

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While the above figures represent several of the prominent members of the Henderson family of past generations, one must not forget the presence of pre-historic peoples who occupied the lands long before the Hendersons arrived. The well preserved tumulus, or earthen mound, immediately southwest of the house, has not been scientifically evaluated under formal conditions. Two other mounds in the district also remain. It is possible that these mounds were built by the Adena culture, a native American people of the Early Woodland period famous for their ceremonial burial practices. It is apparent nevertheless that pre-historic archaeology potential in the district is good.

Period of Significance

The period of significance of the historic district begins with the early substantial development of the Henderson lands at the point of construction of the first segment of Henderson Hall in 1836. Development and improvement of the farm, essentially a plantation before the Civil War, continued throughout the remainder of the 19th century. The Henderson brothers, Jock, Henry, and Arthur, were agriculturalists of local import who utilized the land well into the 20th century. Jock Bedell Henderson, longest-lived of the brothers, worked the land until about the mid-1930's. The Henderson farm ceased to be a valley-wide operation of importance after c. 1935, although portions of the land remained in use in succeeding decades for grazing and corn production.

Pre-historic archaeology in the Henderson Hall Historic District references a significant though little known facet of the complex's cultural importance. Three mounds within a short walking distance of Henderson Hall have been attributed to the Adena culture of the Early Woodland period that flourished in the region from about 1000 B.C. to 400 A.D. The unexcavated mound immediately south of the house probably covers the remains of a high status individual.

Mrs. ^{G.W.} J.B. Henderson was a member of the Tomlinson family that discovered and once owned the Grave Creek Mound, largest and most famous of all Adena culture tumuli, located at Moundsville, West Virginia. The Henderson mounds near Williamstown are located only several miles southeast of the famous Adena Conus Mound (500 B.C. - 300 A.D.) in Mound Cemetery at Marietta, Ohio.

Other Historical References

Maps of the area still identify sections of nearby lands with the name "Pohick". The original unit of Henderson Hall was once called Pohick Hall, for Pohick in Fairfax County, Virginia. When the dominant section of Henderson Hall was built in 1856-59, the formal appellation "Henderson Hall" was accepted and the archaic reference to Pohick was dropped.

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The Hendersons entertained regional gentry and occasional travelers. Among the most interesting visitors recorded in family history was John Chapman (Johnny Appleseed, 1774-1845), the frontier missionary and nurseryman, who stayed with the Hendersons on several occasions while he visited the area. Johnny Appleseed is remembered in American folklore as the humble and religious planter of apple nurseries from the Alleghenies to central Ohio.

Architect J. M. Slocomb

Architect J. (John) M. Slocomb, designer of Henderson Hall, was professionally active in the mid-Ohio Valley during the decade prior to the Civil War. Little is known about this talented individual who maintained an office in Marietta, Ohio. Slocomb designed the First Unitarian Church (Unitarian-Universalist) at 232 Third Street, Marietta, in 1855-57. The perfectly preserved Unitarian Church remains as one of the finest Gothic Revival churches in Ohio. Another building credited to this architect is a large Gothic Revival brick house - the "Castle" - on Fourth Street, in Marietta. That edifice too is regarded as being among Ohio's most important surviving examples of Gothic Revival architecture.

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Alexander Henderson's role as an antagonist in the so-called Burr conspiracy of 1806, is mentioned in Otis K. Rice's West Virginia: A History, p. 53:

"When reports of the Burr conspiracy began to circulate, cordiality toward Blennerhassett and his wife turned to suspicion and scorn. While they were in Lexington, Kentucky, residents in a mass meeting called by Federalist Alexander Henderson condemned their actions, pledged support to President Jefferson, and laid plans to raise a corps of militiamen in case of an emergency."

Although arrested and sent to Richmond, Virginia, to stand trial, Burr and Blennerhassett were cleared of treason by Chief Justice John Marshall for want of sufficient evidence (Caruso, The Southern Frontier, p. 309). Technically Blennerhassett was not acquitted (as was stated in Item #8, p. 2); he never went to trial by reason of the acquittal of Aaron Burr. The court, therefore, had no reason to proceed with the indictment against Blennerhassett.

Bibliographical References

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Henderson Hall Historic District encompasses Tract 170 E and Tract 170 F between Co. Rt. 21/1 (River Road) and State Route 14; and Tract 170 F between Co. Rt. 21/2 and the Ohio River (Henderson Hall deeds, Wood County Court House); the Henderson Cemetery, southeast of Tract 170 F, and separated from Tract 170 F by State Route 14; is part of the historic district. Beginning at the southwest corner of the Henderson Cemetery a straight line approximately 300 ft. long runs between the east edge of Route 14 and the southeast corner of the cemetery along the south edge of the Henderson Cemetery; thence in a straight line approximately 225 ft. in a northeasterly direction along the southeast edge of the Henderson Cemetery to the northeast corner of the cemetery; thence in a straight line approximately 350 ft. along the northeast edge of the cemetery to a point of intersection with the east edge of Route 14; thence 100 feet northward along the east edge of Route 14; thence approximately 2,650 ft. in a straight line in a northwesterly direction to a point of intersection with the Ohio River; thence in a straight line 1000 ft. along the W.Va. bank of the Ohio River in a northeasterly direction (toward Williamstown and upriver); thence 1,850 ft. in a straight line in a southeasterly direction to a point of intersection with Co. Rt. 21/2; thence in a line approximately 200 ft. long, northward along the west edge of Co. Rt. 21/2; and thence in a straight line approximately 450 ft. in a southeasterly direction to a point of intersection with the west edge of State Route 14; thence approximately 1200 ft. south along the west edge of Route 14 to the point of beginning opposite the Henderson Cemetery.

Boundary Justification

The extent of distribution of resources in the Henderson Hall Historic District has determined the location of boundary lines. The linkage of buildings, structures, objects and spaces conveys a strong sense of cohesiveness; this ambience is enhanced through a focal point, or setting, relating in part to the Ohio River. The complex of farm buildings is dominated by Henderson Hall which was built to face the river. The house is oriented toward the river because the river was the principal highway of the estate in the 19th century (see Item 7, p. 1, paragraph 3). The lower pastures/fields between the house and river thus form an extraordinary vista connecting the farm complex with the river; additionally, these grounds have also played an important agricultural role as evidenced in Supplementary photo #1 (c. 1891 view of Henderson Hall). The house, dependencies, ancillary structures, cemetery and settings thus define the homogeneous character of the district through their relationships; the topography represented by these relationships is generally defined, or demarcated, by the selected boundary lines.

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PROPERTY OWNERS

- 2) Sandra Henderson Bauske
10429 South Millard
Chicago, Illinois 60655
- 3) Enid Henderson Jarrett
2110 Plum Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101
- 4) Jean Henderson Brady
2110 Plum Street
Parkersburg, WV 26101



DRY RUN ROAD

TRACT 170E

TRACT 170F

11

STATE ROUTE 14

← WILLIAMSTOWN & MARIETTA

CO. RT. 21/2 (OLD RIVER ROAD)

BOAZ, VIENNA, & PARKERSBURG →

10

TRACT 170E

TRACT 170F

MC

1

MA

MB

12

OLD US. 21

BALTIMORE & OHIO R.R.

13

TRACT 170 F

Henderson Hall Historic District
Co. Rt. 21/2 and State Route 14
Williamstown vicinity
Wood County, W.V.

APPROX.
65 ACRES

1 IN. = 300 FT.
APPROX.

HENDERSON LANDING

OHIO RIVER