



United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property **MAPLEWOOD**

historic name: **MAPLEWOOD**
other name/site number: **Sebrell-McCausland Farm**

66

2. Location

street & number: **1951 US 35** not for publication: **N/A**
city/town: **Pliny** vicinity: **X**
state: **WV** county: **Mason** code: **053** zip code: **25082**

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the
National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain):

[Handwritten Signature]

2/16/01

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	9	buildings
1	1	sites
	2	structures
		objects
9	12	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE:
 Agricultural Field
 Agricultural Outbuildings
FUNERARY: Cemetery

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling
AGRICULTURE:
 Agricultural Field
 Agricultural Outbuildings
FUNERARY: Cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

Materials

Foundation	<u>Stone</u>
Walls	<u>Wood Siding</u>
Roof	<u>Seamed metal</u>
Other	_____

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

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.)

 x **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.

 x **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.

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Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Agriculture

Architecture

Period of Significance

1850-1947

Significant Dates

1870

1890/92

1926

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: Owner- George McCausland, Pliny, WV

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Roughly 800 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: Robertsburg

A 17 416837 4282100
Zone Easting Northing

B 17 417145 4280415
Zone Easting Northing

C 17 414765 4280540
Zone Easting Northing

D 17 415120 4281660
Zone Easting Northing

E 17 414875 4281660
Zone Easting Northing

F 17 414980 4282175
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: George McCausland
with Katherine Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: December 2000

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston

State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owners

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

George B. McCausland
1951 US 35, N
Pliny, WV 25082

Andrew H. McCausland
8526 Furray Street
Houston, TX 77028

Georgina & Donald McDermitt
110 Big Sixteen Mile Road
Pliny, WV 25082

James W. McCausland
1930 US 35, N
Pliny, WV 25082

Kyle McCausland
309 Peters Street, SW Apt D
Atlanta, GA 30313

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The Sebrell-McCausland farm, also known as Maplewood, has a long lot extending west from the eastern boundary of the Kanawha River that adjoins the Cornstalk Hunting and Fishing Grounds. Now divided into three tracts, they share the commonality of a flat flood plain near the river for crop land, the right-of-way for US 35, and rear pasture land. The northern portion of the farm has two "dog tails" that contain a wood lot. The west property line for the nomination will end at the power line.

The main house and outbuildings associated with Maplewood are on Tract 1 approximately 2/10 of a mile from the river on a slight rise. A tornado in 1999 caused extensive damage to the main barn and hog barn. Old County Route 17 once crossed the property in front of the house, with the lane still being used as a farm road. The family cemetery is near the river, and has the graves of the Sebrells, Samuel McCausland and descendants, and neighbors by the name of Damewood/ Chandler. A slave cemetery associated with the Sebrell family is located on the hillside west of US 35, with the six graves marked by fieldstones. Also scattered on the west side are several Indian mounds that lie on each side of Big 16 Road (now called Black Oak Road).

A cemetery is also located on Tract 3. The graves are associated with the Cooper family. The oldest grave is Leonard Cooper, who fought in the War of 1812. The son of Major Leonard Cooper, he was the first white child born in the fort at Point Pleasant. Several modern homes are constructed on Tract 1 and 3, which are owned by family members.

Following is a description of the historic resources associated with the farm. These correspond to the site map.

1. Main House 1870 Contributing Building

The Italianate residence is two stories with wood siding. The east or front elevation has five front bays, the center door having two elongated round arch panes of glass, and the transom and sidelights having patterned glass. All the windows on the house are original 2/2 double-hung wooden sash with shutters. The full front porch has decorative trim with scrollwork and cutout designs, and wooden posts resting on a concrete foundation. The corners of the house have a trim post with a classical element. Paired brackets are under the eave. The hip roof is seamed metal, and the foundation is stone.

The south facade has two single windows on each floor and the north side has four window openings. The west or rear facade has a rear ell for the kitchen. A open porch is on the south side with the second floor having been enclosed in the 1950s with multi-pane sashes. A door leads out to the porch from the kitchen.

The interior of the house has the I-house plan with a center hall and room to each side. The fireplaces are not on the exterior wall, but are on the interior wall between the front and rear rooms. These are stuccoed on the exterior. A long staircase is in the entry. The lower rooms have approximate twelve foot ceilings.

The front parlor and dining room have wooden mantels with a decorative design at the top. The dining room has a built-in cupboard with wooden doors to two sections, and wainscoting. Doors to the hallway have glass transoms. The rear kitchen still has wood siding on the walls, with a rear staircase leading to the second floor. There are four bedrooms on the second floor.

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2. Coal House c. 1870 Contributing building
1 story, with vertical board siding, corrugated metal roof, post and beam construction resting on ground surface.
3. Chicken House c. 1870 Contributing building
1 story, with vertical board siding, gable corrugated metal roof.
4. Well house c. 1870 Contributing building
1 story, square plan with open sides, wooden posts at the corners support the hip roof with rolled asphalt covering. The well was hand dug and walled with stone. This is no longer used as the main source of water.
5. Schoolhouse/Storage Shed c. 1890 Contributing building
1 ½ story, wood siding, 1 front bay with center door having 4 panels, window covered on second floor. Each side has 2 window openings. Gable metal roof, supported by stone piers. Moved c. 1915 from near Big 16 Road. Known as the Waugh School.
6. Blacksmith Shop c. 1870 Contributing building
1 story, vertical board siding, shed roof with corrugated metal, end plank door. There are two windows on the north side.
7. Metal Corn Crib c. 1950/1963 Noncontributing structure
Circular metal corn crib. Moved from Wayne County. Concrete block foundation.
8. Machine Shed c. 1910 Contributing building
1 story, 1 end bay, rectangular vertical board building. There are two large bays on the north side, plus the end bay at the gable end leading into the building.
9. Main Barn c. 1870 Ruins/foundation
High winds associated with a tornado in 1999 caused extensive damage to the main barn. This barn had vertical board siding and a wide gable roof. The roof had been raised by Gen. McCausland after 1890, similar to the barn on the Grape Hill property. This barn is slated to be razed, but foundations may still be discerned. This is not included in the count
10. Hog Barn c. 1870 Ruins/foundation
High winds associated with a tornado in 1999 caused extensive damage to the hog barn. This barn had vertical board siding and a gable roof. This barn is slated to be razed, but foundations may still be discerned. This is not included in the count.

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11. Concrete silo c. 1920 Noncontributing structure
Circular concrete silo. This building is located on Tract 2, the nearby barn having been razed.

12. Sebrell-McCausland Cemetery Established 1850 Contributing Site
The cemetery was established by the Sebrell family with the oldest grave being John Sebrell, Sr. (b.1785-d 1850). The marble obelisk was made in Portsmouth, Ohio and the carvers mark is partially readable with "H.R.lesworth." A second obelisk was damaged by lightening, and a third obelisk has recently been reset by the family. Smaller stones mark the Morris family dating from the 1850-60s. Graves associated with the McCausland family date from 1915, with an infant son of Samuel McCausland. A neighboring family is also buried on the property by the name of Damewood. The wife married again and the names also bear the name Chandler. The cemetery is still being used with the last burial in 1993. There are currently 22 graves recorded by markers. A benchmark is by the corner of the cemetery reading 572.682 feet.

13. Jenny Lind House c. 1880 Contributing Building
1 ½ story, insul-brick siding, with porch facing the river. Gable seamed metal roof.

14. Modern House c. 1890/1980 Noncontributing Building (James McCausland)
1 story, T-111 siding, asphalt shingle roof. Irregular plan that includes part of an old school building. A glass greenhouse addition has been added to the west side. Several greenhouse structures are in the yard but are not included in the count.

15. Modern House 110 Black Oak Road c. 1980 Noncontributing Building (McDermitt)
1 story, brick with wood siding in gable ends, gable roof with asphalt shingles, attached garage. (Georgina McDermitt is the daughter of George McCausland).

16. House c. 1955 Noncontributing Building (Andrew McCausland)
1 story, 3 bays, aluminum siding, gable asphalt roof, concrete block foundation.

17. Hog House c. 1955 Noncontributing Building
1-1 ½ stories, gable metal sided center section with shed wings, one being of concrete block. Metal roofs.

18. Shed c. 1955 Noncontributing Building
1 story, vertical board, gable corrugated metal roof, building is partially collapsed.

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19. Metal Silos c. 1955 2 Noncontributing structures
Circular metal silos.

20. Cooper Cemetery c. 1853 Noncontributing Site
Located just north of the farm outbuildings, this small cemetery has 12 graves associated with the Cooper family. The two Hudson graves are believed to be family relations. The oldest grave is associated with Leonard Cooper, a rifleman in Captain Sickles Company in the War of 1812. The stones are modern in nature. The grave of Leonard Cooper has the old sandstone marker behind a new stone that is military issue of white marble. Although noteworthy to history, the cemetery is noncontributing because it is not associated with the Sebrell or McCausland family.

21. Machine Shed c. 1970 Noncontributing Building
1 story, multi-bays, gable metal roof.

22. Metal Silo c. 1970 Noncontributing Structure
Circular metal silo. Near by are two small modern grain bins which are not included in the count.

Slave Cemetery c. 1830
Six known graves are located on a terrace at a point of a hillside next to Big 16 Road/Black Oak Road. The depressions are also marked by fieldstone markers.

Indian Mounds

Scattered on the rear of the property are several Indian Mounds. SHPO plans to record these sites. A rough count is five at this time.

Since both the slave cemetery and Indian Mounds are out of the period of significance, they are not contributing sites for this current nomination. They are not included in the count at this time.

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Maplewood Farm, or the Sebrell-McCausland Farm, is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture, and Criterion C for Architecture. The period of significance begins in 1850 and extends to 1947.

John Sebrell came to the Kanawha Valley sometime before 1830. The deed references the Military Line which ran along the ridge of the first "river hill." It was a point of reference dating back to George Washington's ownership of the valley after the French and Indian Wars. He owned 575 acres that included the bottom land or flood plain and the immediate hillside. This acreage was purchased from the Custis heirs and was a Junior Patent. It is believed that Sebrell may have had slaves on the property, possibly serving in the fields and the house. Oral tradition passed by the land owners says that the six grave sites on a point of terraced land off present day Big 16 Road/Black Oak Road is a black cemetery. The six depressions can be discerned when the grass is cleared. The graves are marked by fieldstones.

John Sebrell's home was brick and once stood on the site of the present farmhouse. He was buried approximately 50 yards west of the river terrace in 1850. Upon his death his nephew, John P. Sebrell, inherited the farm.

The rich bottom land was probably cleared for crops at an early date, but due to intermittent flooding the higher hillsides and pastures were necessary to sustain the livestock. The long lot lines provided access to the Kanawha River for transportation, crop land and pastures, as well as wood lots with timber for lumber and fuel.

John P. Sebrell built a new home in 1870 on the foundation of the old brick home, using a slightly larger foundation. What happened to the older brick home is unknown. He passed away on Christmas day of that same year, being buried next to his uncle and near his son, Dr. Allen Sebrell, M.D., who had passed away in 1866.

Sebrell's widow sold the farm but the new owners were not able to make the payments and forced her to repossess the farm. John P.'s widow then approached neighbor Gen. John McCausland in 1890 to purchase the farm. The farm of 575 acres was purchased in three tracts between 1890 and 1892, and was later deeded to son Samuel.

Gen. McCausland tiled the farm sometime in the 1890s, since the farm fields were too swampy. Oral tradition in the family is that the three family farms [this farm, later owned by son Samuel; son John McCausland's farm; and Grape Hill, home of father General John McCausland and son Andrew] were the first farms in Mason County to be tiled, and possibly the first within the state of West Virginia. It is known that McCausland was in contact with the West Virginia University Experimental Station, and received their publications. He participated in a study conducted in 1892 on "The Growth of Weeds and the Best Methods of Procedure." The Experimental Station was established in 1862, and their first annual report was published in 1887-88. He may also have attended one of the many Farmer Institutes, which informed farmers about new agricultural methods, seeds and livestock, which were held in different parts of the state.

The ceramic tiles used in the tiling system were made in Henderson near the Ohio River in

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Mason County. Transported by river boat, the tiles range in size from 2 inches to 24 inches in width and measure roughly 18 inches in length. The tract of land has three elevations, or ridges running south to north. The capillary shaped system begins on the west side of today's US 35, and gradually drains roughly one inch every 50 feet toward a large 24" tile near the present farmhouse. The tiles drain in a northerly direction to Big 16 Creek or to several catch basins on neighboring farms. Those tiles on the lower terrace drain directly into the Kanawha River. Parts of the tile system effecting this farm begins on the neighboring Morgan Farm, which has one catch basin, but it also crosses the three tracts of the Maplewood farm and then the Lory farm before reaching the creek. Neighborly agreements allowed the crossing of the farms. The tile system was mapped by Gen. John McCausland, who was a trained engineer from the Virginia Military Institute, and has not been altered. This drainage system is still in use over 100 years later and allows the land to be used for agriculture production. (A map of the tiling is attached.)

Gen. John McCausland gave each of his sons a farm, with Maplewood going to Samuel H. McCausland in 1900. Samuel married Amanda Spradlyn in 1915 and set up housekeeping in the old Sebrell farmhouse. The name "Maplewood" was given to the farm by Amanda shortly after her marriage. The name referred to the abundance of sugar maple trees on the farm.

Between 1915 and 1926, Samuel enlarged the farm purchasing small farms owned by the Ashers, Putneys, Jordan, and Henry families. These farms were to the west of the Military Line, and allowed Samuel to increase his pasture land and add needed wood lots. Big 16 Creek meanders across this section of the property, watering the pasture land. Under his ownership the acreage increased to 1600 acres. Some of this property has since been sold.

The McCausland family raised and used mule teams on the farm. At any given time there may have been 150 mules of different ages on the property. The farm raised general livestock and grain, with corn, hay, wheat and oats being primary crops. A large herd of registered Hereford cattle were sold as breeding stock or the steers were fattened and sold as beef. Sheep were also raised for wool and mutton. At one time the farm had two large orchards, supporting mainly apple trees, with a few peach and plum trees. Bee hives were kept on the property. The barns were used separately for mules, cattle and sheep. One barn had divided stalls for working teams of mules, while a second barn was divided for different ages of cattle. The sheep had a smaller separate barn. The farm slowly changed from mule teams to machinery after 1947. The first modern farm tractor was purchased in 1948. Prior to that there had been one "huge" kerosene powered tractor used to run the threshing machine and to fill the silo. This tractor was for belt work only, it did not till the soil.

Samuel had three sons, George, Emmett and Andrew McCausland. Samuel divided the acreage east of US 35 to the Kanawha River into three tracts in 1952. The farm was still operated as one farm on a percentage basis until after Samuel's death in 1953. Then the farms were operated separately.

The farm continues to be maintained in family hands, with George and Andrew still owning a tract. The son of a first cousin, Kyle McCausland, purchased the property once owned by Emmett and has continued farming the 133 acres of Tract 2.

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Summary:

Maplewood is one of several mid to late 19th century properties in this part of Mason County that is still an active farm. However, it is one of the few properties that has remained in the hands of descendants for over one hundred years. Use of Criterion A for Agriculture is quite strong, and the history has greatly added to the historic context for agriculture in this portion of the state. The fertility and productivity of this farm is comparable to any of the better farms in Mason County.

Regarding Criterion C for Architecture: there are other farm properties that are listed on the National Register in the general vicinity, but this wooden farmhouse is an excellent representation of the Italianate style. The Eastham farm, several miles to the west, is a mid-19th century Greek Revival house. The house is owned separately from the farm acreage and there are no older farm outbuildings, other than a smokehouse. The 1830 Couch-Altrip House is also Greek Revival with various extensions forming a telescope house. The Elm Grove property is a Italianate house built with brick around c. 1885. Asymmetrical in plan, the house has similar brackets under the eaves, but the porches are different and the side gables allow decorative wood trim. A farm next door, called Woodlawn, is also a brick Italianate, but the architecture of Maplewood is earlier and more refined, with a symmetrical floor plan.

In regards to family ownership, this farm is one of three owned by the sons of Gen. John McCausland. Although the house predated the family ownership, the farm outbuildings did date to the McCausland family. Before heavy winds in 1999 damaged the barn, it was plain that the barn was similar in style to barns on the two other farms. Maplewood has been well cared for over the years and the interior reflects the original materials and workmanship.

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Bibliography

Early Deed Books are in Richmond, Virginia

Deed Books, Mason County Courthouse, Pt. Pleasant

DB 49/363 December 2, 1890

DB 49/364 December 3, 1890

DB 51/417 January 7, 1892

Acquisition of the Cooper Farm

DB 50/178 Jan 31, 1891

DB 50/237 Oct 19, 1891

Will Books, Mason County Courthouse, Pt. Pleasant

John Sebrell will, WB 1A/74 Probated November 4, 1850

Interview with George McCausland by Katherine Jourdan, Pliny, November 9, 1999; and
September 2000.

WV Agriculture Experimental Station. *Bulletin 22*, Vol. 11, No. 10, February 1892, Charleston,
WV: Moses W. Donnally.

WV Agriculture Experimental Station. *First Annual Report of WVU Experimental Station*.
1887-88.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries begin at the NE point of Andrew McCausland's north property line and the Kanawha River; thence south along the west bank of the Kanawha River to the south property line at the NE point of the James Morgan estate; then west along the south property line to US 35 and crossing the highway to follow the west side of Big Sixteen Road or Black Oak Road for approximately 50 feet and thence running with the south property line of George McCausland to the SW point; thence running with the west property line of George McCausland until it reaches Big 16 Road; thence west along the south edge of the road to the power lines; thence turning north and running with the power lines to the north property line of Andrew McCausland; thence turning east and running with the north property line to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries represent the acreage owned by the Sebrell family and the property purchased by Gen. John McCausland and his son Samuel, from 1890 to 1926. After consultation with the owners, the west property line will end with the modern power line. The boundaries include approximately 800 acres.

MAPLEWOOD
MASON Co.

SKETCH MAP

