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While surveying land in the Shenandoah Valley for Lord Fairfax, George Washington became favorably impressed with the prospect of farming virgin land. For this reason he purchased a tract within the present county of Jefferson, West Virginia. This action may have influenced his elder halfbrother Lawrence, for he soon bought large areas close to George's property.

In 1752 Lawrence willed 230 acres of his Valley land to Samuel Washington, his half-brother and George's full brother. On this land Samuel built Harewood, the oldest of eight standing Washington homes in Jefferson County, and the only one presently occupied by family members of the Washington name. The date of construction may be fairly accurately fixed by examination of George Washington's diary. In 1768 George mentions two visits to Samuel's house in Stafford County, Virginia, but in entries for 1770 the same diary mentions visiting Samuel's home in Frederick County which then included the site on which Harewood stands.

Soon after moving to the Shenandoah Valley, Samuel Washington began to amass considerable real estate holdings. At his death in 1781 he owned nearly 4000 acres of good farm land, all of it connected with the original 230-acre tract on which Harewood stands.

Besides being an important land owner, Samuel was also a prominent public servant. He had served as justice of the peace in Stafford County, and he continued to be a judge when he moved to Frederick County. When Berkeley County, now in West Virginia, was formed from a part of Frederick County in 1772, Samuel continued to serve as justice in the new county. In Frederick County he served as colonel of the militia, and he served the County of Berkeley as sheriff and county lieutenant. Poor health forced him to ask for relief from these duties in 1777, and the same ill health prevented his service in the Revolutionary War. He died at age 47 in 1781.

Harewood has had the honor of entertaining many famous people, and was the site of events of historic significance. In 1794, in the paneled drawing room, Dolley Payne Todd was married to James Madison. Reason for the marriage in this home was that Harewood then belonged to Samuel's son, George, whose wife, Lucy, was Dolley's sister.

Other famous visitors include Louis Philippe, later king of France. As noted, George Washington was a frequent visitor, as were undoubtedly such Revolutionary War figures as Generals Gates, Lee, Stephen, and others who lived nearby. Reports of a visit by Lafayette probably arose from his

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE	West Vir
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES	COUNTY

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

West Virgini	.a
COUNTY Jefferson	
FOR NPS USE ON	ILY
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MAR 14 1973	
	West Virgini COUNTY Jefferson FOR NPS USE ON ENTRY NUMBER

(Number all entries) 8

> association with the drawing room mantelpiece. Published itineraries of his visits to America include no mention of this area. He is said to have given the mantel to George Washington who placed it at Harewood. Presumably the gift was made during Lafayette's 1784 stay at Mt. Vernon. At this time Samuel Washington was dead and his children were wards of the General. One of the wards, a namesake of his uncle George, was to settle at Harewood in 1793 with his bride, Lucy Payne. Waterman considered the mantel "one of the outstanding marble mantelpieces in Virginia." Obviously imported, it is difficult to imagine a more likely source. "Land poor" Samuel Washington would hardly have indulged in such an extra, nor would this family have reason to invent the story.

The most reasonable conjecture concerning the designer of the house was made by Thomas Waterman. In his <u>Mansions of Virginia</u> he places it firmly among those built by John Ariss. He was misled into stating, on inadequate evidence, that construction took place in 1756. The now well established date of occupancy in 1770 coincides with Ariss's own move to the area in the late 1760's. Certainly George Washington kept an eye on the construction during visits to his Bullskin farm, adjoining Samuel's holdings. And his familiarity with the area would have enabled him to suggest the site which is close to a spring near the head of Evitt's run. Diaries covering the period are missing

Harewood is regularly open to the public during the scheduled House and Garden tours, a feature of Jefferson and Berkeley counties each spring. The present occupants, Dr. and Mrs. John Washington, from time to time, host visits by groups interested in historical architecture. In September 1970, the 200th anniversary of the house was celebrated by a luncheon attended by over 100 descendants of Samuel Washington.



Form 10-300a (July 1969)