

History, Notes & Features

1571 Celt Road

Stanardsville, VA 22973

HISTORY

Based on research at the Greene County Clerks Office, we have been able to determine the ownership of the property through 1808. Prior to 1832 Greene was not an individual county and all official business was through Orange County. Due to a fire in Greene, some of the records may be in the Richmond Archives. Some of the information below was obtained through the Greene County Historical Society.

It appears that the original land owners were by John Melone, Sr, (DOB 1755; DOD 1812, who married Rebecca B. Wayland, DOB 1778; DOD 1853) who purchased 160 acres adjoining James Beazley in October 1808 from Henry & Jane Cook. It is interesting that the person that witnessed the deed was William H. Stanard. We have not been able to obtain a copy of the Deed to determine further details and further confirm that this was in fact our property. We also are making the assumption that this land was eventually passed along to William Melone (son of John Melone, Sr.) – at least in part. Of interest is that John Melone, Sr. was in the Revolutionary War.

The first recorded Deed in Greene County was by William Melone (DOB 10/21/1783; DOD 6/2/1871) & Jane Melone (also known as Mary DOB 1/29/1785; DOD 5/5/1859) . The Melones sold the house to their daughter Lucy (DOB 11/9/1819; DOD 1/18/1909) & son-in-law Waller Fishback (DOB 5/27/1817; DOD 6/4/1888) 4/15/1845 for \$563.75 and it included 51 acres. We believe that the house was on the property at that time and was built by William Melone. There are several homes in Stanardsville that have many similarities in style and design elements that were built by Melone.

The 1850 census shows Waller & Lucy Fishback living here, along with two mechanics (one being 16 years old).

Waller Fishback becomes the local wheelwright and machinist for agricultural implements. An 1857 sales brochure (which was obtained from the Richmond archives) shows him offering grain threshers, wagons, ploughs, corn shellers and straw cutters. Fishback enlisted in the Civil War in 1864 and was in the 46th VA Infantry but was discharged only a few months later – we consulted with a Civil War historian, who indicated that it was most likely due to his age and the poor conditions in the field.

In December 1859 William Melone sold an additional 121 acres to Waller Fishback (son in law) for \$3,262.48.

The 1860 census shows Waller (41) & Lucy (38) Fishback, along with William Melone (76, Lucy's father) and Mary F. Melone (30, Lucy's sister)

In March 1864 Major General Stuart's Confederate cavalry engaged Brig. General George Custer's Union cavalry in what is called locally as the Battle of Stanardsville. After the "battle" Custer wanted to divert Stuart from Richmond and led his troopers down Celt road towards Charlottesville, destroying the railroad bridge over the Rivanna River and breaking communications between Gordonsville and Lynchburg. He passed our home – although not damaged – he was said to have taken prisoners and burned Confederate supplies. Due to harsh weather, Custer never made it to Charlottesville and retreated.

The 1870 census shows Waller (53) and Lucy (50) Fishback, along with William Melone (88, Lucy's father) and Mary F. Melone (42, Lucy's sister who later marries John G. Delaney). Also a DW Carpenter (32) who is a wheelwright and William B. Fields (12) a laborer.

In 1875 there is a court settlement wherein Joseph M. Good is awarded 379 acres in at least two parcels of 241 & 138 acres. This is part of the records that were destroyed in a fire and will require an appointment at the Richmond State Archives to find further details. We are unsure what happened that brought a lawsuit into the picture. What is strange is that both Waller and Lucy Fishback are still alive at this point in time and we are not sure where they ended up living.

In 1880 Joseph M. Good sells 145 acres (which includes home) to James W. Deane. There is no mention of sale price.

In 1895 James W. Deane passes the house/property to Mary F. Dulaney (daughter of William Melone; DOB 11/30/1827; DOD 2/21/1911). Mary had married Dulaney, but records show John Dulaney not dying until 1889 - which creates a bit of a mystery. The deed shows that transfer was made for \$250.00 plus the acknowledgement of "honest & faithful labor" as a servant and farm hand. The 1880 census notes her occupation as "keeping house".

In 1911 the Executor for Mary F. Dulaney, who died in 1911 auctioned off the house/property and was won by William Battle Cole, Jr for \$5,525.00 including 216 acres.

The house passed to Cole's wife, Pauline B. Cole in 1935 upon William's death. It was then sold in 1942 to WJ Morris and Mary Morris including 204 acres. The house is known as WB Cole Jr Homeplace. We did not research all of the separate land sales.

The property sells again in 1970 (60 acres), 1976 (60 acres), 1978 (25 acres), 1998 (25 acres) and finally in 2010, which eventually included all 25 acres.

The Melones and Fishbacks are buried in the cemetery on Celt Rd within the wrought iron fence. There is a street next to the cemetery that honors his name – Fishback Rd. During a Greene County History Society event we met a descendant of Waller Fishback, who provided us with photos of both Waller and Lucy. There are numerous descendants that resided in Madison County. Through this person we were able to meet some of the Melone descendants as well.

GENERAL COMMENTS: OLD SECTION

At one time there was baseboard heat as evidenced by the holes in several floors and trim. This was all removed by a previous owner.

All of the fireplaces in the old section of the house are original and have been converted to gas. There is only one bedroom that once had gas connected but it was removed prior to our purchasing the home. Each fireplace trim/mantel is a bit different – but all original unless noted below.

The heart pine floors in the old section are all original, although some boards were replaced with reclaimed heart pine floor boards during the refinishing process. The floors in the third floor bedrooms have not been refinished.

We are unsure which lock boxes may be original to the old section – as well as doorknobs.

All windows in the old section are original with mostly original glass. Glass that was damaged was replaced with old glass.

The roof was completely replaced in 2010 by a master roofer. He made the metal pans onsite and used old time practices to ensure the seams were appropriately crimped. Snowbirds were also installed to ensure safety when ice forms. We also used copper gutters to withstand the weather and weight of snow/ice. Roof vents were also installed. There are two places where copper was installed – namely, on the floor of the balcony and immediately under the upper level bathroom windows. The roof took approximately 5 months to complete.

The entire outside of the house and garage was painted in May 2021.

The Cold Room is original to the house, as well as the hand dug well sitting next to it. The door to the cold room was lowered, but it is the original door. Originally there were steps up to the door to allow for the cold air to stay lower to the ground.

MAIN LEVEL

FRONT PORCH

The barometer and case may not be original to the house, but is definitely at least from the early 1900s, as it is in a picture of the house from that era. The original porch was much smaller and there was an entrance underneath to gain access to the first floor. The front doors are original, as are the screen doors. The screen doors were found by the previous owner underneath the porch. The porch had lattice on the bottom, however, it was not salvageable.

The floor is mahogany and installed by the previous owner which were painted grey. The rails and the columns are original, however, we replaced the pickets. We had the floor refinished and enlarged the steps, also in mahogany and also replaced the step rails. The light is new and replaced by us.

We are unsure how old the swing is, but it is definitely not new. We did our best to sand and repaint. We also purchased new shutters that were installed both on the porch and front second floor.

This project was fully completed in 2016.

FOYER

This was our most recent project, which was completed in 2021. The original pine floors were refinished, although only the main level floor was treated with a sealant. The steps, risers and banisters had been painted with a yellow milk paint. This was all removed, sanded and stained/painted. The walls were all repaired and painted. The main floor entrance was trimmed out to resemble the other doors in the hallway. There was no door leading to the first level and we replaced and trimmed out that as well. Upstairs the steps to the transition to the new part were designed, built and trimmed out. We left part of the original 1830's joist exposed. Antique lights were restored and installed. The original step dust corners were cleaned and reinstalled.

LIVING ROOM

The fireplace was restored by us including reversing some of the bricks that were stained on the hearth. The floral tiles are antique tiles purchased at an antique show. The white subway tiles were cut to fit and purchased at a salvage shop in Orange, VA. They were from a bathroom at Montpelier, although it was probably when the DuPont's owned the property. The mantel and trim are all original, however the plinth blocks had to be recreated, based on paint lines. The gas logs were installed by us in 2016.

The cabinet at the back of the room was originally a back window. We had the cabinet doors made to look as close to the original windows as possible and used new old glass. We bumped the wall back about 5" inside the window to allow for cabinet space.

The chandelier is not original to the house and we believe was installed about 20 years ago by the previous owner. It is indeed an old chandelier and was taken down and cleaned while restoring this room.

The original windows were removed and broken glass replaced, as well as reglazed. Additional electrical outlets were also run into this room during restoration. Ducts were installed below the room to allow for conditioning.

The room has its original plaster walls, which we repaired and painted. The ceiling was sheet rocked by a previous owner, however we are not sure when that was done or for what reason. The crown molding has been there for about 20 years, but picture molding was added by us. All other trim/molding is original to the house.

This project was completed was 2016.

DINING ROOM

The fireplace is original as well as all trim and the mantel. The crown and picture molding were added by us. The closet was converted into a dish closet/butler's pantry by us. The light is an antique light installed by us. Repairs were made to the plaster walls and ceiling.

The servant's door is not original to the house, but we believe the doorway may be. The door was purchased in Pennsylvania and was a servant's door in a Philadelphia brownstone. All the glass is original. This was the first room that we restored after purchasing the house. The project was completed in 2012.

There was once a window on the wall of the kitchen – you can see a bit of a swell in the wall. This was done by a previous owner.

LOWER LEVEL

REC ROOM

There was a drop ceiling that was removed by the previous owners over 20 years ago, which exposed the original beams. You can clearly see the pegs holding the joists in place. In some places there are Roman numerals that were used to match joints.

The floor was tiled by us to match the kitchen flooring. We had to replace several steps and risers as they were damaged. The exposed bricks are all original – there appears to be several layers of bricks for the exterior walls, without any insulation. The bricks were varnished to ensure that their integrity was maintained. Windows were removed and then restored and glazed. The light over the billiard table is antique, which we installed.

Back window frame and trim are original. Back door was replaced by previous owner. The door and trim under the steps was replaced by us. Shiplap on the stairway was exposed and repainted. Electric was run into the room. We added baseboard and ceiling trim, as well as lights. Heat and A/C ducts were run into the room. A door in between to the Kitchen door was added by us. Antique lock boxes were purchased and installed by us.

We are not sure when the room under the porch was enclosed, but assume it was built to store canned goods and used as a root cellar. The previous owner put in a drain to allow for any water to not pool. We made screens for the windows to allow for ventilation and waterproofed the front wall after replacing cinderblocks.

This project was completed in 2014.

KITCHEN

We assume that this was not the original kitchen and there would have been a separate building that housed a kitchen to prevent a fire in the house. We believe that built in cabinet to the right of fireplace to also be original, however the corner cabinet is not. The previous owner added cabinets and sink to be able to use the kitchen. When the previous owner purchased the house, there was an addition off the back which housed a kitchen. He demolished this addition in order to build out the new section of the house in the mid 2000's.

The glass in the built-in cabinet was restored and reglazed. The interior of the bottom cabinets was not painted or restored to maintain their historic feel. The kitchen cabinets were painted by us and we had a cabinet maker come in to provide architectural drawing to restore the cabinetry, sink, counter top. The plans have been retained, but since we decided to put the house on the market we put this project on hold.

Electric and gas had been run into the room and has been brought up to code. The ceiling fan is new, although the globes are antique. The fireplace logs were replaced in 2012. It appears that someone replaced the brick face on the fireplace, but we are not sure when that was done.

The kitchen outside door was restored and reglazed by us. The walls are the original brick and the ceiling is plaster. The walls were varnished to protect the brick and the ceiling was patched by us. The most recent project was completed in 2021.

UPPER LEVEL

TWO BEDROOMS

Although it was in our plan to restore these two rooms, we only completed one prior to putting the house on the market. We did not run any duct work into the rooms, since they basically have remained unused, but there is capacity to do so from the attic.

The West bedroom has basically not been touched. We did allow for space in the new part of the house to have a full bathroom. Plumbing and electricity have been run into the space. The original house never had windows installed on the West side – we assume because of the winds. The previous owner removed the back window and installed it to the left of the fireplace. We still have the original trim work that can be used after insulating. There is a second window that was removed from the East bedroom, that we had planned on installing to the right of the fireplace – these items have also been retained. What is interesting is that both “non-windows” were framed on the house when built. It must have been a last minute design change to not have them put in.

The plaster in the East bedroom has been repaired and painted, including the ceiling. The original back window was removed and the wall insulated and repaired. The fireplace has a new set of gas logs. The trim was sanded, repaired and painted. The ceiling fixture is a vintage chandelier from approximately the 1950s. The original floor was sanded at one time by a prior owner but has not been refinished. We have several reclaimed heart pine boards that can be used to replace some of the damaged pieces if needed, however, we thought it best to wait until the West bedroom room was ready before refinishing.

ATTIC

We have done very little to the attic. The roof on the old part may have been the original metal roof. There were numerous places where there were leaks. Before the roof was affixed, we had new boards installed to ensure the integrity and prevent further leaks.

GENERAL COMMENTS: NEW SECTION

The new section begins at the back wall of the original 1830's house. We purchased this section as an empty shell – exposed walls, no heat, A/C, electric, plumbing, insulation, flooring, roof or siding/brick. Limited siding was done and no outside trim work was complete.

The trim and moldings were all done by a Master Craftsman to replicate the trim in the old part, so that it appears seamless walking in between and gives the illusion that it is of the same period.

The flooring is all reclaimed heart pine from Mountain Lumber and was refinished and sealed in 2011.

Brick on the entire house is brick from the 1800s and came from a tobacco warehouse in South Boston. It was originally destined to go to a restoration project in New Orleans. When Katrina devastated the New Orleans area it became available for purchase. We contracted an expert mason who was able to use the old bricks and lay them to match the original section of the house. He also removed the first

layer of bricks on the old section and replaced with the reclaimed “old” bricks to allow for a consistent look and tighten up any gaps in the walls.

Barn lights are all original old lights that were rewired and new goose neck brackets added.

Most of the rooms have antique door knob sets called Lydia. These were purchased by us through a variety of antique venues. There are also antique lock boxes that were repaired and restored. The outside doorknob sets are new and are fairly close to the antique inside sets.

The heat pump and air conditioning units were installed in 2011. They have all been serviced twice a year since they were installed and we have maintained a yearly contract with the original installation provider.

An Electrolux central vacuum was installed servicing the house in 2011. The main unit is located in the downstairs of house, with access outlets located throughout the new section on all three floors.

MAIN LEVEL

KITCHEN

The wall against the Dining Room has exterior house siding to give the appearance that it is the back of the original house. The ceiling is rough sawn pine. We had wainscoting with a chair rail installed. All appliances are Kitchen Aid (Refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, oven and Commercial stove). The farmhouse sink is by Shaw with Rohl faucets. The island is oversized and the counter tops are granite. The exhaust fan vents to the rear of the house and there is a Rohl pot filler above the stove. The light over the island is a new light, however, the light in the breakfast area is an antique. The ceiling fans are Hunter brand.

The electrical panel has been covered with a cabinet door (and currently is behind the antique phone). The French doors leading out to the breezeway have the ability to open a second panel to allow for larger items to be brought through the doorway. The light in this section is also an antique, which has been rewired.

LAUNDRY ROOM

The sink is a reclaimed corner mop/slop sink. The fixtures were recently replaced to resemble old fixtures. There is a built-in ironing board on the wall. The storage cabinet has removable wooden shelves. The cabinet under the sink has an antique lock set. The lights are antique and have been rewired.

FAMILY ROOM

Chair rails and oversized crown were installed, along with picture moulding. The oak fireplace is from the late 1800s and was purchased from a house in Hagerstown, Maryland. The Hunter ceiling fan has antique shades.

HALL/STAIRWAY

Brazilian cherry was used for the steps of staircase with dust corners. The bottom oak newel is antique and restored from an old Victorian home. The banister was handmade, sanded and varnished onsite. Pickets are new and oversized. Custom trim was added around the staircase. The double French doors leading to the old section of the house were installed. All of the lights in this section are antiques that have been rewired and restored.

HALF BATH

This bath was completed in 2011. New tile to resemble older patterns was laid on the floor. The built-in medicine cabinet and lighting are all new.

PRIMARY BEDROOM

The room has custom paneling and chair rail, as well as oversized crown and picture moulding. The Hunter ceiling fan has antique shades. The closet is lined with cedar wainscoting and also a full length mirror. There is also a pull out wall ironing board. There are new recessed lights and a brass antique light and shade.

This is the only room that can access the Sleeper porch. The flooring is pine and was refinished and sealed in 2020. There are new recessed lights, as well as an antique fluted barn light.

PRIMARY BATH

The slipper bathtub is cast iron with views of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The shower is tiled with a bench, niche and rimless door. The linen closet has an antique window on the upper half and custom bottom door. The built-in medicine cabinet and lighting are all new.

UPPER LEVEL

BATHROOM

Custom crown, wainscoting and trim were used to frame the room with cathedral ceiling, including a shelf. The tiled shower has a niche and rimless door. The tub is a cast iron clawfoot tub. There are wonderful views of the mountains from this room, with the large set of windows.

FOYER

There are two closets, one of which has shelving. The light over the steps is an antique oil lamp, which was rewired. The four sconces have antique shades and new bases. There is also an access panel to the attic, with pull down stepping.

BEDROOM WEST

This room has custom crown and chair rail. There is an oversized closet with shelving. There is also access from this closet to the water heater that services the upper level. The Hunter fan is new with antique shades.

BEDROOM EAST

This room has custom crown and chair rail. There is an oversized closet with shelving. The Hunter fan is new with antique shades.

STUDY

This room has custom crown and chair rail. The antique light has been rewired and restored. The French doors have antique porcelain door knobs. The back door to the balcony is new and currently has a safety lock at the top, as it is currently being used as a child's room. In order to go outside, you must remove the lace panel and then the wooden bar.

LOWER LEVEL

This section was completed in approximately 2013.

FOYER/LAUNDRY

Two new exterior doors were installed. The linen closet has custom shelves. The coat closet has an access panel for plumbing for the third floor, as well as houses the water heater for the main and lower levels. The flooring is marble tile. The room has custom wainscoting and crown molding. There is an access panel in the ceiling near the Billiard Room for plumbing. The utility closet has a stainless steel laundry sink and houses the water tank and acid neutralizer. The cable/DSL/phone lines are accessed through this closet as well. The laundry area has custom shelving and has an access for plumbing, along with a separate breaker box.

The stairs are pine and the newel is an antique salvaged piece that was refinished/restored. The pickets match the staircase in the Billiard Room. The three lighting fixtures are antique globes with restored bases. They were a rare find since they all match.

BATHROOM

This room has custom wainscoting and crown moldings. The shower has a bench and rimless door. The mirror is an antique with custom trim. There are two cabinets with shelving. The lights are all new. This bathroom has an electric wall heater.

LIVING ROOM

French doors lead into an extra large room with chair rail, custom crown and picture moulding. The fireplace is antique and purchased from Richmond. The gas logs were installed in 2013. The Hunter fans are new with matching antique shades. The Utility closet houses the HVAC and central vacuum. The flooring is an engineered hardwood over concrete. There is another closet with shelving towards the back down as well. The light by this closet is antique and was rewired.

BEDROOMS

Both rooms have chair rail, custom crown and picture moulding. There are also custom designed closets with shelving. The Hunter fans are new with antique globes.

GENERAL COMMENTS: OUTSIDE

There is a 1000 gallon propane tank underground to the front left of the garage. This is a leased unit from Quarles. They do not charge any lease fees as long as you fill the tank once a year through them.

There are a variety of trees, shrubs and flowering plants. Some include black walnuts, maples, river birch, cedar, Japanese red maple, cypress, pear, and crepe myrtle, as well as Hydrangea, forever roses, lilacs, peonies, lilies, and irises.

On the barn facing East is a custom painted panel that is part of the Greene County Art Guild's Barn Quilt Trail. We had a local artist (Cory Ryan) paint and seal this panel and installed it in 2019. Our panel, "Homage to 1850's Patriotism", is featured on their website and brochure. Greene County has the largest Barn Quilt Trail in the State with about 145 panels. The trail is self-guided with maps being available online and at the Visitor's Center.

The main level garage has steps leading up to a loft or walk-up attic. Conduit has been installed to allow for adding plumbing, should this be needed down the road. The lower garage has a 12 foot ceiling with metal girders to allow for the lifting of a car, if needed. There is also an oversized garage door in the lower section for larger vehicles, as well as two bay doors.

The drain field was replaced in 2012 and included a distribution box and three lines. We raised the access cover to the septic in 2016.

The entrance pillars are quite old, but we are not sure when they were built. The two walls adjoined to the pillars were built by us, using rocks from an old wall which we believe may have outlined a garden or orchard. This wall extends up to the top of the field on both sides. Likewise, the wall near the lower

garage was also built (but not completed) by us using the same rocks. It was our intention to complete that wall with two tiers following the curve of the driveway.

The stone walkway from the stone steps leading down from the driveway to the breezeway steps were installed by us in 2020.