

# WOMELDORF HOUSE

## Renovation and features from present owners

**Property** – 3 +/- acres, zoned R-1, served by public water & sewer.

**Mature landscape** – pecan trees, sugar maple, pin oak, walnut, redbud, cedar, evergreen, magnolia, hemlock – provides nice buffer from development on three sides. Old perennial beds still produce surprises! The farm has traditionally been known as one of the best birding locations in the region.

Limestone retaining walls on the north side – constructed during 2006/2007 renovation

Extensively tidied up landscape in 2005 – 2007 after 25 years of overgrowth and neglect.

**Four frame structures** for storage/garden, in need of TLC (old garage, chicken house, barn, small chicken house)

**Stone house** – 1827, possibly before, it is one of the oldest stone structures in the county. Likely an early immigrant's cottage – could date to 1700's. Washington and Lee University Archaeology class assessed and dug at the site in the 1980's. A paper on their findings is at W&L Anthropology Dept. Fireplaces at each gable end. Upstairs storage/, downstairs living space. Likely became two-bay slave quarters or perhaps used as living quarters for immigrants or slaves working on canal/Dam/lock system on the North River branch of the James River and Kanawha Co. canal system in the 1850s. Oral history mentions that the stone house also served as a dry goods store in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. North wall and corners, and NE corner rebuilt in 2013 – 2014 by local stonemason Michael Barry–Rec. Awaiting new roof and chimney restoration and overall rehabilitation. Ideal for a future guest house, garden house, or studio.

**Beautiful views** of House Mountain, western horizon – seasonal sunrises in the Master bedroom. Epic sunsets over House Mountain looking west from Family Room.

**House** (we still call it “Womeldorf” in the spirit of the last owners and *Harry Potter*)

**The Original House** - brick two over two Federal style, with walk in basement with fireplace on stone on cut limestone foundation. Built in 1827 by Andrew Reid, one of the original political figures who assisted in the organization of Rockbridge County. He was also the first County Clerk of Rockbridge, followed by his son Samuel McDowell Reid, who inherited the property when Andrew died in 1837. A side note, in 1797, Andrew purchased and further developed the historical home now known as “Mulberry Hill” (KA headquarters) in Lexington for his residence. In 1815, Reid owned 23 slaves. By the time this house was built he likely owned as many or more. It is likely that this property (his farm) was inhabited by an immigrant overseer and his family and Reid family slaves to work the land. The property originally ran to the river and included the Reid's Dam when it was completed in the late 1850s (first large Dam and boat lock below east Lexington. The original property also included Reid's Mill which stood on Mill Creek near where it empties into the Maury River (near Chessie Trail parking area on Old. B.V. Road). The house was inherited by Samuel McDowell Reid in 1837 upon the death of Andrew. Later, Samuel's daughter Agnes Reid Ross inherited it from Samuel. Agnes had married John Dehart Ross who was instrumental in the post war development of Jordan's Point in East Lexington. At the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century John and Agnes Ross sold it to a Quisenberry, who then sold it the Womeldorf family of Timber Ridge around 1906. The Womeldorfs raised a large family and farmed the land for 75 years (which has now become *The Ponds*).

**The late Victorian Addition** – The frame addition and wrap around porches were added around the turn of the century, it's not known whether Quisenberry or the Womeldorfs took on the project. Regardless, the builders were high quality. When we exposed during renovation, we were very impressed.

**Renovation** – 2005-2007 We completely gutted the interior. Followed with new sheet rock, rewired, replumbed, salvaged all trim and interior doors, cleaned and reused all that was worthy. We exposed and repaired any worthy brickwork, including what was hidden behind the plaster wall where the interior stairs attach. That exposed brick wall was the original south gable exterior wall of the original home. We completely reworked the kitchen in the footprint of the 20<sup>th</sup> century kitchen. We removed entire roof structure of the original house and replaced it with a 12/12 pitch to match the pitch of the addition and to raise the ceiling height of what would become the master bedroom. We added three baths. The original house only had a small cubby bath with a single stall shower downstairs. A large custom deck using Tiger wood and fir was added 2014/2015.

**Interior details:**

Three full baths

Kitchen – custom cabinetry with reclaimed wood from the farm, granite counter tops, Five-Star Range, great fridge

[https://www.fivestarrange.com/products/ranges/30\\_range](https://www.fivestarrange.com/products/ranges/30_range)

3 or 4 bedrooms/ Sunroom/Family Room/ Kitchen – all custom cabinets made of reclaimed barn wood from the property. High end hardware/dining Room/ Parlor/Library with floor to ceiling built in lockable drawers and glass door cabinets

All old windows replaced with Andersons - in the style of the originals

Semi-Finished basement, with baseboard electric heat, plus two rustic basements

Bosch on-demand Hot Water system (2008)

Original Mantels

2 zone HVAC – Propane Furnace in basement (2007)

All rooms wired for everything

Tall ceilings and custom woodwork throughout

75 % original, unpainted interior trim

Heart Pine and Oak floors – some original, some reclaimed locally

Ceiling fans in all bedrooms, den and parlor

Galvanized metal roof

Two story porches/Tiger - wood deck (2014)

Upstairs washer and dryer

Partially finished attic/bonus rooms