

Jefferson County Historic Landmarks Commission

Landmarks Nomination Report: *Riggs-Stiles*

Physical Description:

The farm now known as Riggs-Stiles is located on the west side of the Kabletown Road just south of Meyerstown, West Virginia. This property consists of an historic house and associated outbuildings off of by visible from the public road. The house is currently used as a private residence and the property is actively farmed.

Historic Description:

Originally part of the large Wormley lands that were subsequently purchased by Battaile Muse, this farm was inherited by Battaile Muse, Jr. in 1806. Mary Opie Norris inherited the farm from her father in 1841 about the time she married William Norris. In 1851, a land swap was recorded between Norris and Myers. It was this year that Norris built the subject farm. The 1852 tax record lists "\$3,000 added for new house." At the turn of the 20th century the property passed to Benjamin F. Ware, who in turn sold it to Joseph & Robert Cain. In 1963, Stanley & Barbara Stiles purchased the farm and live there today.

Historic Resources:

The main house, built in 1851, is a three bay, center-entry structure with paired, end-chimneys. This large, 2 story brick house is laid in 5:1 bond. Both central bays on the front elevation have sidelights. Detailing such as the wooden end-block window lentils place the construction date in the mid 19th century. In addition to the house, the property has numerous historic structures. Buildings such as the frame meathouse/icehouse, frame bank barn, and chicken house make up a fine agricultural landscape.

Nomination Criteria:

The JCHLC nominates this property under Criteria C for inclusion on the list of registered county landmarks. Criteria C states that a site may be nominated if, in the opinion of the JCHLC, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values. The property owner, Stanley & Barbara Stiles, have agreed to have the property listed as Jefferson County Historic Landmark.

Nomination Action:

The JCHLC voted unanimously to add Riggs-Stiles, under Criteria C, to the rolls of registered Jefferson County Historic Landmarks on March 19, 2008.