

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Old Manse

Other names/site number: Handy-Browning-Kempe House/DHR #275-5007

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 171 Landon Lane

City or town: Orange State: VA County: Orange

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

 A X B X C D

Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing, Storage, Agricultural Outbuilding (Barn)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Swimming Pool

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing, Storage, Agricultural Outbuilding (Barn)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Swimming Pool, Pool House

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MID-19th CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE 19th and 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD: Weatherboard; BRICK; METAL: Steel;
ASPHALT

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The property known as The Old Manse is located on a 46-acre parcel on the east side of Landon Lane in the Town of Orange. A wide, fenced yard with mature boxwoods, perennial gardens, and trees surrounds the house, which is set back from the road. A gravel-surfaced driveway accesses the property and circles around the front and the rear of the house (extending through the porte cochere at the back of the house). Open fields extend north and east beyond the fenced house yard. About 40 acres of pastureland, featuring a spring-fed farm pond and edged by stands of woods, also is associated with the property. The historic dwelling on the property, built about 1868, is a two-and-a-half-story, center-passage plan, frame house that stands on a brick foundation, is clad with weatherboards, and is covered by a metal-clad, side-facing gable roof. Centrally located gable-roofed dormers are present on the front and back. The front entry porch is detailed with round wooden Tuscan columns that support the roof and balustraded balcony above. Diamond-paned sidelights and a transom surround the double-leaf entrance doors. In plan, the house is a single-pile, center-hall plan with a transverse hall at the rear (east end) that holds the stairs to the second floor. The dining room and kitchen are later twentieth-century additions, as is the screened porch on the south end. The porte cochere at the back (east) of the house, dating to the original construction period, accesses the rear porch and entry. Interior details reflect both Greek Revival and Colonial Revival influences—the latter presumed to have been completed during the early twentieth century and during the Browning family's residency. The pyramidal-roofed meat house, located directly behind the house, dates to the original construction of the house (ca. 1868). A detached kitchen presumably stood in the yard, as well, but is no longer extant. Other associated historic buildings and structures on the property include a well, a swimming pool, a pool house, a gas house, a barn, and a corn crib with a shed lean-to. All resources were constructed during the identified Period of Significance and are contributing to the significance of the property.

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Narrative Description

Setting

The Old Manse property, located at 171 Landon Lane in the Town of Orange, comprises two parcels totaling approximately 46 acres. The property, notable for its large size within the town limits, is bordered by early-twentieth and late-twentieth-century dwellings set on much smaller residential parcels. The surrounding house yard, encompassing about four acres, is enclosed by wooden and wire fencing and holds numerous large trees, including old cedars, black walnut, holly, and crape myrtle, and mature stands of boxwoods that line the driveway. Rows of boxwoods also edge the rear yard and provide a visual screen for the pool area. The front of the property is relatively flat, while the land at the back of the house slopes to the northeast (towards the swimming pool) and southeast (towards the agricultural buildings). The surrounding fields extend over rolling topography and are edged by stands of woods. The farm pond is fed by one of two springs on the property. At present, the fields are leased for hay production.

Detailed Architectural Description

Exterior

The historic dwelling on The Old Manse property is a two-and-a-half-story, center-passage plan, frame house that stands on a brick foundation, is clad with weatherboards, and is covered by a side-facing gable roof of standing seam metal (formerly clad with wooden shingles).¹ The main section of the house was built around 1868 by Reverend Isaac W.K. Handy, who was serving as pastor of the Orange Presbyterian Church. Later additions and Colonial Revival-style details were constructed in the early-twentieth century (ca. 1910). Two brick interior chimneys are located on the north and south ends of the roof ridge. The pedimented, gable-roofed dormers, centrally located on the front and rear of the house and likely added after initial construction, are clad with wooden shake siding and hold six-over-six wooden sash windows. The centrally located main entrance to the house consists of double-leaf, paneled wooden doors with full-height diamond-paned sidelights and a transom above. The entrance porch, which is raised on brick piers with relieving arches, is accessed by a set of wide wooden steps. Wooden Tuscan columns support the roof porch, which also features a balustraded balcony above. Flat pilasters anchor the porch to the house and built-in wooden benches are located on each side of the porch. Most windows on the house are large, original six-over-six wooden sash with molded surrounds and flanking louvered wooden shutters. Other windows include wooden casements with diamond-shaped panes, and multi-paned windows at the basement level. Stylistic details on the building include corner boards with molded caps, a dentiled cornice, which also is present on the raking eave of the house, and gable-end returns.

A one-story, hip-roofed screened-in porch extends from the south end of the house. The porch, which is raised on a brick foundation, also features a wooden pergola on the south end. The porch opens into a small, boxwood-edged garden space that holds a well and a small octagonal-shaped concrete pool. According to oral history from the current owner, this is believed to be the original well for the house. In the late-twentieth century, the well was no longer in use and the dilapidated frame cover was replaced by a concrete cap and the present, non-historic frame structure above.²

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A one-and-a-half-story wing projects from the north end of the house. This wing, which is clad with weatherboards and covered by a side-facing gable roof, holds a brick interior chimney on the north end. Windows on the front are six-over-six wooden sash, and those on the rear are wooden casements with diamond-shaped panes. Details on this wing match those on the main dwelling. Centrally located, gable-roofed dormers project through the front and rear eave of the wing. Quarter-round windows are present in the gable end and a one-story porch extends from the north end of the wing. The porch, which is raised on a foundation of brick piers with concrete block between them (formerly wooden lattice), is detailed with wooden Tuscan columns and a handrail with rectangular-shaped balusters that replaced earlier diamond-shaped balusters similar to those on the rear porch.

The two-story gable-roofed ell that projects from the back (east) of the house holds a three-part window opening in the gable end, which at present is covered by louvered shutters. The ell, which holds the staircase on the interior, is flanked by lower, hip-roofed sections. The rear elevation exhibits the same detailing as the front, including capped cornerboards and a dentiled cornice.

Other elements on the back (east) elevation of the house include a rear porch holding a projecting enclosed entrance bay and the porte cochere, which is supported by wooden Tuscan columns set atop brick piers and a brick half wall. The hip-roofed kitchen wing and its north side porch entrance also projects from the back of the house.

Interior

The interior of the dwelling features a center hall with a parlor to the north and a library (in the past, also used as a bedroom) to the south. A transverse hall at the east end of the hall, accessed via an arched opening, holds the stairs to the second floor, as well as access to the rear porch, basement, and kitchen wing. The floors in the house are generally heart pine, but oak floors were laid over the original pine in the center hall and two flanking rooms. The oak floors, consisting of standard two-and-a-quarter-inch-width boards, are referred to as a "wearing surface" in a 1930s insurance assessment of the house and are installed over an earlier pine floor or subsurface.³ An inlay border detail extends along the outside edges of the floors. The original plaster wall surfaces in these three spaces (hall, parlor, and library) also were altered and have been reclad or surfaced with gypsum board, which has reduced the profile of the molded window and door surrounds. Both the library and the parlor hold fireplaces on the exterior wall that are detailed with original mantels consisting of a molded shelf, flat, tapered pilasters and a plain frieze. Much of the woodwork in these rooms (and in the corresponding rooms on the second floor) appears to be original, consisting of molded window and door surrounds, five-panel doors, and molded baseboards. The large window openings, which feature architrave surrounds, extend nearly to floor level and have wooden paneled aprons below. The woodwork in the library, however, appears to have been enhanced during the early-twentieth-century and includes a denticulated wall molding, a full entablature above the door opening, and built-in bookcases.

The screened-in porch on the south side of the house is accessed from the library by a set of French doors. A small hall on the east side of the room leads to a bath and built-in storage closets. The dining room, located on the north end of the house, is accessed from the parlor by a

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set of French doors and is finished with a pine floor, a chair rail, and baseboard. The mantel on the north end fireplace is of marble with ornate floral carvings and an arched opening. French doors that flank the fireplace lead out to the north end porch.

A door opening on the south end of the dining room leads into the butler's pantry and the kitchen wing located to the east side. At present, the kitchen is finished with vinyl tile and wooden cabinets.

The stairs to the second floor are detailed with a round newel post, turned balusters, and a vernacular detail on the stringer. The second floor spaces include two bedrooms and a center room currently used as an office. These rooms are detailed in a similar manner to the first floor spaces with crown molding, molded baseboards, and mantels with flat pilasters and plain frieze. The spaces on the second floor retain their original heart pine floorboards. Two baths, a linen closet, and a storage area are located off of the hallway that leads to the north end wing. The large bedroom located in that wing holds a wooden mantel detailed with a molded surround with crossette corners and a paneled frieze.

The basement level, accessed from the transverse hallway as well as from the exterior, features brick walls, a poured concrete floor. The basement holds heating and other utility equipment and is used as a storage space.

Domestic Outbuildings

Meat House (ca. 1868) Contributing

This one-story, frame building, located directly behind the house, stands on a stone foundation, is clad with weatherboards and is covered by a pyramidal-shaped roof of wooden shingles with a metal finial at the top. Access is through a wooden plank door on the north end. The building is an original outbuilding on the property.

Gas House (ca. 1868) Contributing

The stone gas house, located southeast of the house, was used to produce gas for lighting in the main dwelling. The walls are of coursed rubble stone construction and the gable roof, which is partially collapsed, is covered with tar paper. Gas lighting had been in use in the United States since the early nineteenth century and although was predominantly installed in cities, such systems were also used in rural areas and on farms, where owners often built their own systems. Gas lighting initially relied on gas generated from coal, but by the mid-nineteenth century systems were using acetylene gas, which was produced when water is added to calcium carbide. Late-nineteenth-century generators stored acetylene that was produced by dropping pellets of calcium carbide into water or by dripping water onto the calcium carbide. The gas produced would rise and was stored in a bell. The gas was slightly pressurized, then piped into the building.

The gas house at the Old Manse may date from the original construction period, and probably was in place by the 1870s or 1880s (such systems remained in used into the early twentieth century). Because the building may have held an early acetylene generator, it would have been

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banked or located somewhat below grade and away from the main dwelling due to a potential for explosion. At present, the building is partially collapsed and in poor condition; there did not appear to be any equipment left in the gas house. No piping related to the gas system was noted in the dwelling, but the old pipes may have been removed or replaced by later alterations (and the advent of electrical systems).⁴

Well (ca. 1868, ca. 1960) Contributing

According to family history, this is believed to be the original well for the house. In the late-twentieth century, the well was no longer in use and the dilapidated frame cover was replaced by a concrete cap and the present, non-historic frame structure above.

Pool House (ca. 1920) Contributing and Swimming Pool (1959) Contributing

The small, one-story, frame building located behind the house to the northeast was originally constructed as a small servant quarters in the early-twentieth century. The building stands on a concrete block foundation, is clad with weatherboards and is covered by a metal-clad gable roof. The single-space interior has a wooden floor, plaster walls, and the windows are six-over-six wooden sash. A large fireplace is located on the south wall. In 1959, the Kempe family installed an in-ground concrete swimming pool just west of the quarters and renovated the building for use as a pool house.⁵ The pool is detailed with scalloped edges and a concrete apron. The pool and pool house are set on a low terrace with coursed rubble retaining walls and tall boxwoods that visually screen the area from the house.

Agricultural Buildings

Barn (ca. 1900) Contributing

The barn, located southeast of the house, is banked into the hillside on the west side. The barn, dating to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, stands on a stone foundation that has been augmented with concrete, is clad with board-and-batten siding and is covered by a metal-clad, side-facing gable roof. Louvered openings are present on the sides of the barn and large hinged doors on the west elevation open into the threshing floor. The lower level of the barn is open on the south and east sides. A shed-roof extends over several equipment bays and a feeding area on the lower east side of the barn.

Corn Crib (ca.1940) Contributing)

Within the fenced barn yard, there is a frame corn crib clad with vertical wooden slats and covered by a metal-clad side-facing gable roof. A plank door is located on the west side of the building. A low, shed-roofed wing extends from the south side of the crib and formerly was used as a livestock shelter.

Inventory

Single dwelling, ca. 1868, Contributing
Smoke/Meat house, ca. 1868, Contributing
Gas House, ca. 1868, Contributing
Well, ca. 1868, ca. 1960, Contributing

Pool House, ca. 1920, ca. 1959, Contributing
Swimming Pool, 1959, Contributing
Barn, ca. 1900, Contributing
Corn Crib, ca. 1940, Contributing

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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.)

- 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.
- 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.

Criteria Considerations

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

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

LAW

Period of Significance

1868-1960

Significant Dates

1868

1910

1947

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

HANDY, Reverend Isaac W.K.

BROWNING, Justice George Landon

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The property known as The Old Manse in the Town of Orange is eligible on a local level for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B for its association with Reverend Isaac W.K. Handy, pastor of the Orange Presbyterian Church from 1865 to 1870 and for whom the dwelling was built in 1868. Rev. Handy lived at the house until 1870, when he accepted a pastorate at the Old Stone Church in Fort Defiance, Augusta County, Virginia. Prior to arriving in Orange, Handy served as pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church in Portsmouth between 1861 and 1863. In Portsmouth, Handy may have lived in a church-owned dwelling, but this has not been confirmed. In Augusta County, the Handys lived at Oakley Manse (DHR #007-0004), the pastoral residence located across Route 11 from the Old Stone Church. (Both the church and the manse are listed in the National Register under the areas of Architecture and Religion, but not identified as associated with Rev. Handy.) While in residency in Orange, Handy served as pastor to the churches in Orange and in Gordonsville. In addition to his pastoral duties and attending religious conferences and meetings, he also worked on his genealogical volume *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred* (published posthumously) and may have worked on compiling the memoir of his Civil War-era internment in a Federal prison, which was published in 1874.

The house also is eligible under Criterion B for its association with Justice George Landon Browning, who lived in the house from 1910 until his death in 1947. Justice Browning resided at the Old Manse during the time he was an attorney in Orange with the firm Browning and Browning, and continued his residency there during his tenure as a justice on the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals from 1930 until 1947.

The property also is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as an example of a mid-nineteenth century dwelling reflecting Greek Revival style influence and later Colonial Revival details. Although used as a manse for the Orange Presbyterian Church during Handy's residency, the building was not built nor owned by the church. The house design does not appear to be based upon any prescribed plan for Presbyterian parsonages or manses, and appears to reflect popular house designs of the period. The house is notable for its use of a transverse stairhall at the back of the center passage. Other period uses of this floor plan have been recorded in the region, including one near Gordonsville and another within the National Historic Landmark Historic District of Green Springs in Louisa County, but its use is unusual. The hall is set off by a wide, plaster archway and the stair is detailed with a stout newel post, turned balusters, and decorative stringers. The house is reflective of its period and retains good overall integrity. The identified Period of Significance extends from 1868 to 1960, encompassing the date of original construction through the last major additions to the property. The other resources on the property include a meat house, gas house, barn, corn crib, swimming pool and pool house. There are eight contributing resources (6 buildings and 2 structures) on the property.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Architectural Significance

The historic dwelling on The Old Manse property in the Town of Orange is an example of a mid-nineteenth century center-hall dwelling that reflects influences of the Greek Revival style in its detailing and floor plan. The three-bay-wide, single-pile house is covered by a side-facing gable roof with brick interior end chimneys. Stylistic elements include the use of classical supports and details on the porch, cornerboards, and cornice. The double-leaf entrance door is detailed with diamond-paned sidelights and transom. Interior detailing is restrained, but includes architrave door and window surrounds, molded baseboards, and a staircase detailed with a stout wooden newel post, turned balusters, and decorative stringers. Additions made in the early twentieth century include added porches on both ends of the house, as well as a one-and-a-half-story wing to the north end and a kitchen at the rear. The additions were executed with forms and details that are sympathetic to the original section of the house. The wing is shorter than the original house and also is set back from the front plane of the house. The house retains good overall integrity with regard to workmanship, materials, and design. The property retains excellent integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. The house retains the historically associated acreage, which has been enhanced by the addition of landscaping and recreational structures (swimming pool), but which also retains open fields and woodlands.

Reverend Isaac W. K. Handy

Isaac William Ker Handy (1815-1878) was born in Washington, D.C. into a prominent family from Maryland's Eastern Shore. Handy studied at Jefferson College in Pennsylvania and then entered Princeton Seminary (1835). He was licensed as a Presbyterian minister in Washington, D. C. in 1838 and served as pastor to a number of churches in Maryland. In 1844, he traveled as a missionary to Missouri before returning east in 1848 to a Delaware congregation. Handy, twice widowed, married his third wife, Rebecca Hall Dilworth in 1855. In 1861, Handy received a pastorate at Portsmouth, Virginia, where he remained until 1863.

At the beginning of the Civil War, most Presbyterian congregations in the Southern states split from the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. ("Old School"). In his genealogical volume, Handy stated that he was not a slave owner, but slaves of his wife's family resided in his home. Handy stated that he "deeply regretted the dissolution of the Union but strongly opposed the use of armed force to coerce the Southern states."⁶ Handy was active in both denominations over the course of his career, but after 1861 he adhered to the "Southern General Assembly" ("New School").

On July 20, 1863, while visiting family and friends in Maryland, Handy was arrested by Union forces and held prisoner at Fort Delaware (Pea Patch Island) for remarks he made were deemed traitorous against the United States. Arrested and held without charges or trial, Handy remained a political prisoner at the notorious prison from July 1863 to October 1864, during which time he preached every day, held Bible classes, and also surreptitiously kept a daily journal that he smuggled out to his wife. The diary is a highly detailed and faithful depiction of life at the

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prison, which included passages on visitors to the prison, guards, and other prisoners, and detailed about the prison facility itself including measurements of Handy's barracks. Although intended as a private diary, Handy published the journal as a book in 1874 and titled the work *United States Bonds; or Duress by Federal Authority*. In his preface Handy noted that his object in publishing the work was "neither pecuniary, nor ostentatious; but simply, to gratify inquisitiveness." Noted Civil War historian James W. Robertson cites Handy's book as "one of the two or three best personal accounts of Civil War prison life" that provides "a thorough narrative of day by day happenings" at Fort Delaware.⁷

For a short time after his release, Handy lived in Richmond, then in 1865, he was called to the churches of Orange Court House and Gordonsville of the West Hanover Presbytery (now known as the Presbytery of the James). He remained in Orange for five years, until his call to a church in Augusta County, Virginia. Handy died in Philadelphia in 1878 while seeking treatment for Bright's disease. He was buried at the Old Stone Church in Augusta County.⁸

The Old Manse in Orange

In the 1840s, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of the U.S. A. appointed a committee to aid struggling congregations in building suitable churches and manses for its ministers. It was not until the mid-1880s that the committee also produced samples of architectural designs for manses and churches for its member churches.⁹ While many of the church designs in the committee's report reflect late Victorian-era detailing and Gothic Revival style influences, the dwellings were restrained, two-story frame types with limited detailing, often in the form of mixed materials on the exterior (weatherboard, shingle, board-and-batten).

Manses in Virginia appear to have largely reflected period architectural styles over the years. Those dating from the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries include log houses, brick Federal dwellings, and Early Republic examples. Manses dating to the mid- and late-nineteenth century include several frame examples that exhibit Greek Revival details. The late-nineteenth century examples begin to reflect the popular Gothic Revival style, as well as Stick style, Queen Anne and colonial Revival style influences.¹⁰

Handy's house in Orange, therefore, appears to have been a product of the minister's own taste and budget, as well as what local craftsmen and builders could produce. The architectural detailing of the house is simple, but elegant; restraint may have been dictated by finances, but also would have been desirable in the home of a minister who would wish avoid ostentatious detailing. As noted, the house is typical in its overall center-hall, single-pile form; however, the use of the transverse hallway at the back of the center hall is a less common element. Two houses known to have a similar floor plan include Grand View, located just north of Gordonsville for Edwin Festus Cowherd. The house was built around 1855, partly destroyed during the Civil War, and rebuilt by 1866. Like The Old Manse, Grand View is a two-story, frame dwelling on a brick English basement and is three-bays wide. A one-story, Greek Revival-style porch with balcony above shelters the double-leaf entrance doors, which open into a central hall with the stair located in a separate cross-hall (transverse hall) at the rear. Unlike The Old Manse, Grand View is two rooms deep on one side, resulting in an L-shaped plan and is covered by a shallow-pitched hipped roof. A second house with a similar floor plan is Eastern View

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(DHR #050-0093), which is located in the Green Springs National Historic Landmark Historic District in Louisa County and was built about 1856. Eastern View is a two-story, single-pile, center passage frame dwelling that is covered by a hipped roof with two centrally located chimneys. Its floor plan resembles the plan of The Old Manse in its use of a transverse stairhall at the back of the center passage, but lacks the arched opening between the two.¹¹

At the time he was minister in Orange, Handy's family consisted of his wife Rebecca and four children. The Orange Presbyterian Church was organized in 1845 and included a church in Gordonsville. Although an active church, the relatively young congregation no doubt suffered financially after the war like other churches and at the time did not own a manse for its minister. In 1866, Handy traveled to Missouri, where he had served as a missionary before the war, and sold a farm he owned there. He then used that money and funds he raised "in the North and in Richmond" to pay for the construction of the parsonage in Orange.¹² In 1867 and 1868, Handy purchased two adjoining acres of land in Orange: a 21-acre parcel from Thomas and Virginia Scott and a 10-acre parcel from the Trustees for the Orange Presbyterian Church, who had purchased the land from Thomas Scott in anticipation of building a church parsonage. Land records give a \$1,500 value for improvements on the property by 1868, which indicates that Handy's home likely was completed by that time.¹³

The Old Manse is significant for its association with Rev. Isaac W.K. Handy during his tenure as the pastor for the Orange and Gordonsville Presbyterian churches. Records and written history indicate that Handy purchased the land on which the house was built and financed its construction himself. During his time in Orange, Handy continued work on his large genealogical volume *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred* (published posthumously), and likely compiled his prison diary from Fort Delaware, which was published in 1874 (while Handy was in Augusta County) as *United States Bonds: Or Duress By Federal Authority*.

The Old Manse After Handy

As noted, Handy left Orange Court House in 1870, taking on a pastorate in Augusta County. In 1872, Handy sold the 31-acre property "known as the Parsonage" to E.W. Row. Land records maintain a value of \$1,500 to \$2,000 for improvements on the property through the mid-1870s. Between the late 1870s and 1880s, the land transferred several times (including for a period 1879-1889, to Reverend Hilary E. Hatcher, who was then pastor of the Orange Presbyterian church), until 1910 when Evelyn (Eva) Byrd Hill Ransom Browning purchased the property (then listed as 56 acres) from John E. Morris, Sr.¹⁴

George Landon Browning

George Landon Browning (1867-1947) was born in Rappahannock County, Virginia, and attended the University of Virginia for two academic years. He then studied law in Washington, D.C, worked as a staff member in the U.S. House of Representatives, graduated from Georgetown University (LL. B., 1895) and returned to the University of Virginia for graduated studies.

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In 1899, Browning entered law practice with James Hay at Madison County Court House. In 1906, he married Eva Byrd Hill Ransom in Washington, D.C. Ransom, a widow, had one son and a daughter from her previous marriage. The Brownings also had three sons.

In 1909, Browning moved to Orange Court House and entered law practice with John G. Williams (who died in 1911) and then with his cousin, Alexander T. Browning and later, Severn M. Nottingham. Soon after, the Brownings moved to their Orange property and Browning became a lawyer practicing in Madison and Orange. In 1914, Browning was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, where he served two terms. The 1920 census lists Browning as a lawyer and a farmer, indicating that the agricultural buildings were likely present on the farm by this time.¹⁵

One biography notes that “the Browning home was one of the social centers of Orange County.” Browning is said to have enjoyed hunting and fishing and “spending the evenings singing and dancing with friends.”¹⁶ The dining room and kitchen additions appear to date from the Brownings’ residency at the Old Manse. Given their social status and the size of their family, these additions would have given the couple room to entertain, as well as additional bedrooms for their children.

In 1930, Browning was appointed to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals to complete the remainder of a term vacated after the death of Justice R.H.L. Chichester. In 1940, Browning won a 12-year term, which he served in until his death on August 27, 1947. During his tenure as a Supreme Court Justice, Browning authored over 300 opinions for the court and filed more than 50 dissenting opinions. Browning’s opinion written for *Moore v. Sutton* found that a state board of photographic examiners that was set up to regulate commercial photography was unconstitutional. Browning also wrote the opinion for *Staples v. Gilmer*, in which a special fund and registration procedure by which the poll taxes of the state’s servicemen could be paid and they could accordingly be registered to vote in state and local elections was found to be unconstitutional.¹⁷

Eva Browning died on March 21, 1940, after a long illness. Mrs. Browning’s will dispersed family items to her children, all of whom lived outside of Virginia, and left the Orange County home to her husband. The will was signed by Mrs. Browning at “The Old Manse, Orange.”¹⁸ After his wife’s death, Browning spent longer periods of time in Richmond, although he retained ownership of the Orange property until his death.

Justice Browning was a well-respected jurist in Virginia and upon his death, Governor William Tuck issued the following statement:

Justice Browning was a man of outstanding ability who wrought well for the Commonwealth. He was an able and upright jurist and he wore the judicial robes of his high station to enhance the traditions of the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia.... In addition, Justice Browning was a distinguished orator and a colorful character, known and beloved throughout the length and breadth of the Commonwealth. His death is not only a great personal loss and source of sorrow

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to me, but to many other Virginias, as well. He leaves void a place in the public life of Virginia which will be difficult to fill.¹⁹

After Justice Browning's death, his heirs sold the property to the current owners. Swimming pool and pool house at the property date to the late twentieth century and were added by the current owner's family. Since that time, only minor alterations to the house for security and utility purposes have been made.

The Old Manse is significant for its association with the formative years of Justice George L. Browning's legal and political career. It was the primary residence of the Justice during the his early years as a lawyer in Madison and Orange counties, during his tenure as a member of Virginia's House of Delegates, and during his 17 years as a Justice on the Supreme Court of Appeals.

ENDNOTES

Section 7

1. Mason Insurance Agency, Orange, VA, "Inspection and Survey Report, Property of Justice George L. Browning, Orange, Virginia, 1934.
2. Martin Alec Kempe, current property owner, Personal Communication, electronic mail message to Debra A. McClane, March 30, 2017.
3. Mason Insurance Agency, 1934.
4. Bill Kibble, "Gas Lighting Beyond the City," in *Old House Web Blog*, [2011]. Accessed online at <http://www.oldhouseweb.com/blog/gas-lighting-beyond-the-city/>; William W. Harris, "Pit Acetylene Generator," Patent Application, United States Patent Office. Filed February 18, 1922. Patented Nov. 9, 1926 (#1,605,942). Accessed online at <http://www.google.com/patents/US1605942>. Mason Insurance Agency, 1934, states that by that time, the house "is lighted by electricity."
5. Martin Alec Kempe, current property owner, Personal Communication, electronic mail message to Debra A. McClane, March 30, 2017. According to George Landon Browning III, the grandson of Justice Browning, Eva Browning suffered poor health for most of the time that she resided in the house at Orange. The small domestic building may have provided quarters for a caretaker or nurse for Mrs. Browning. George Landon Browning III, Personal Communication, telephone conversation with Debra A. McClane, February 22, 2017.

Section 8

6. Isaac W.K. Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*, (Ann Arbor, MI: William L. Clements Library, 1992), 528.
7. Isaac W.K. Handy, *United States Bonds: or Duress by Federal Authority, A Journal of Current Events During an Imprisonment of Fifteen Months, at Fort Delaware*. (Baltimore, MD: Turnbull Brothers, 1874), preface; James I. Robertson, "The War in Words," in *Civil War Times Illustrated* Vol. 13, No. 7 (Nov 1974), 23.
8. "Necrological Report Presented to the Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary at its Annual Meeting, April 29, 1879." By a Committee of the Association. Philadelphia, PA: Grant, Faires & Rodgers, Printers, 1879:37-39. Handy's first wife, Mary Jane Rozelle Purnell, died in Missouri. His second wife, Sally Selby Martin died in 1850. Handy had six sons and three daughters.
9. Lisa Jacobson, Senior Reference Archivist, Presbyterian Historical Society, Philadelphia PA. Letter to Debra A. McClane, January 20, 2017; "Fourteenth Annual Report of the Board of the Church Erection Fund of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States," Presented May 1884. New York: Published by the Board of Church Erection.

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10. The author is grateful to Aubrey Von Lindern, Architectural Historian, Northern Regional Preservation Office, Department of Historic Resources, for providing a list of recorded manses in Virginia. Log examples include the Parson Cummings Manse in Washington County (1773, 095-0008) and the manse associated with the Wesley Chapel in Rockbridge County, (c. 1850, 081-0321, demolished). Federal and Early Republic examples include the 1805 manse associated with the Providence and Genito Presbyterian Church in Powhatan County (072-0037), the Buckingham Presbyterian Manse built about 1820 (014-0037), and the 1850 manse at Charlotte Court House (0185-0008). Other Greek Revival examples dating to the mid- and late-nineteenth century include the old manse in Salem (129-0014), the manse in Fincastle (218-5005), and the Old Bethesda Manse in Rockbridge County (081-0378). The two-story, three-bay-wide, frame Greek Revival-style manse associated with the New Providence Presbyterian Church in Rockbridge County (081-5153) is similar to the Orange manse. An exuberant Gothic Revival-style manse, which is listed in the National Register, is the Falling Spring Presbyterian Manse in Glasgow, which was built in 1856 and was based on a design by Andrew Jackson Downing (081-0013). The Lexington Presbyterian Manse built in 1848 (117-0013) and the New Dublin manse in Pulaski County that was built in 1874 (077-0130), also based on a Downing design. Manses dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century tended to reflect influence of the Queen Anne style and include those built in Clifton Forge (1900, 105-0138), Blackstone (1890, 142-0007-0252), at Porter Street Presbyterian in Richmond (1895, 127-0859-0226), and in Chatham (1900, 187-5001-0104). All information gleaned from the Virginia Cultural Resources Inventory System and Archival files of the Department of Historic Resources.

11. Ann L. Miller, *Antebellum Orange: The Pre-Civil War Homes, Public Buildings, and Historic Sites of Orange County, Virginia* (Orange, VA: Moss Publications, 1988); Eastern View Survey Inventory Form, DHR #50-0093. Copy on file, Archives, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

12. Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*, (Ann Arbor, MI: William L. Clements Library, 1992), 531. Although Handy compiled this genealogical history of his family prior to the Civil War and sought its publication prior to the onset of the conflict, it was not published until over a century after his death.

13. Orange County Deed Book 46:203 (21 acres to Handy); Deed Book 46:231 (10 acres to trustees); Deed Book 46:439 (10 Acres, from trustees to Handy). The Trustees' sale of the church property to Handy appears to have caused friction among the congregation and church histories record a dispute over the payment of the stated price. It is unclear whether this situation contributed to Handy's brief stay in Orange, but he states in *Annals* that he left Orange to provide better educational opportunities for his children (p. 531). See Records of the Synod of Virginia, Orange Church, Session Minutes and Register, 1845-1870. On microfilm at the William Smith Morton Library of the Union Presbyterian Seminary, Richmond, VA.

14. Orange County Deed Book 69:80.

15. Justin Glenn, *The Washingtons: A Family History*, Vol. 4, Part 1 (El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2015). Eva Hill was born and raised in Culpeper County and was the niece of CSA Lt. Gen. A.P. Hill. In 1940, Georgetown awarded Browning an LL.D. Browning's mother was Mary Lewis Willis, who was descended from Mildred Washington, aunt and godmother to President George Washington. Browning's biography is contained in the Glenn volume as an eighth generation descendant of John Washington (1634).

16. W. Hamilton Bryson, "George Landon Browning" in *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Vol. 2, Sara Bearrs, et als, ed. Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia 2001, 327.

17. Moore v. Sutton, Record No. 3028, Supreme Court of Virginia, 185 VA 481-490, September 11, 1946; Bryson, 327; Staples v. Gilmer, Record No. 2898, Supreme Court of Virginia, 183 Va. 338; 32 S.E.2d 129; 1944 Va. LEXIS 159, November 20, 1944. The author gratefully acknowledges David Knight, Librarian, Virginia State Law Library, for his assistance in compiling a list of opinions authored by Justice Browning.

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18. Orange County Will Book 21:16.

19. "Veteran Jurist Succumbs Here, Aged 80," in *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 1947, 1.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Bryson, W. Hamilton. "George Landon Browning." *Dictionary of Virginia Biography*, Vol. 2. Sara Bearrs, et als, ed. Richmond, VA: The Library of Virginia, 2001:326-327.

Clerk of the Circuit Court, Orange County, Virginia. Orange County Deed Books and Will Books. Various Dates.

Glenn, Justin. *The Washingtons: A Family History*, Vol. 4, Part 1. El Dorado Hills, CA: Savas Beatie, 2015.

Isaac W.K. Handy, *United States Bonds: or Duress by Federal Authority, A Journal of Current Events During an Imprisonment of Fifteen Months, at Fort Delaware*. Baltimore, MD: Turnbull Brothers, 1874.

---. *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*. Ann Arbor, MI: William L. Clements Library, 1992.

Harris, William W. "Pit Acetylene Generator." Patent Application, United States Patent Office. Filed February 18, 1922. Patented Nov. 9, 1926 (#1,605,942). Obtained online at <http://www.google.com/patents/US1605942>.

Kibble, Bill. "Gas Lighting Beyond the City," in *Old House Web Blog*, [2011]. Accessed online at <http://www.oldhouseweb.com/blog/gas-lighting-beyond-the-city/>.

Mason Insurance Agency, Orange, VA. "Inspection and Survey Report, Property of Justice George L. Browning, Orange, Virginia." November 1934. Copy provided by property owner.

"Necrological Report Presented to the Alumni Association of Princeton Theological Seminary at its Annual Meeting, April 29, 1879." By a Committee of the Association. Philadelphia, PA: Grant, Faires & Rodgers, Printers, 1879:37-39.

Robertson, James I. "The War in Words." *Civil War Times Illustrated*, Vol. 13, No. 7 (Nov 1974): 23.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #275-5007

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 46.2

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.25324 | Longitude: -78.10880 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.25414 | Longitude: -78.10513 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.25000 | Longitude: -78.10326 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.24923 | Longitude: -78.10636 |
| 5. Latitude: 38.25287 | Longitude: -78.10898 |

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Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property encompasses two tracts designated as Parcel #02900000000620 (16.24 acres) and Parcel #0290000000062A (29.96 acres) on the enclosed Orange County, VA tax parcel map generated by the county's GIS mapping system. Together, these parcels equal 46.2 acres.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated property encompasses the area historically associated with the Old Manse and includes all historic architectural resources associated with the property. The property boundaries correspond to the present parcel lines comprising 46 acres.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian
organization: Debra A. McClane, Architectural Historian
street & number: 4711 Devonshire Road
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23225-3135
e-mail dmclane1@verizon.net telephone: 804/233-3890
date: March 10, 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The Old Manse
City or Vicinity: Town of Orange
County: Orange State: VA
Photographer: Debra A. McClane
Date Photographed: August 2016; February 2017

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0001
View Front elevation of dwelling
- 2 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0002
View Detail, front entrance
- 3 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0003
View Looking SE at front of dwelling
- 4 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0004
View S end of dwelling also showing well and small pool in garden
- 5 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0005
View Porte cochere and rear of dwelling
- 6 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0006
View Rear of dwelling and meat house
- 7 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0007
View N end of dwelling
- 8 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0008
View Looking E through center hall
- 9 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0009
View Looking W through center hall
- 10 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0010
View Looking S in library
- 11 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0011
View Detail, library mantel
- 12 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0012
View Detail, library door and surround and built-in bookcases
- 13 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0013
View Looking N in parlor. Note doors to dining room at right.

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- 14 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0014
View Looking N in dining room
- 15 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0015
View Detail, archway to stairhall and stairs
- 16 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0016
View Looking N at door to butler's pantry
- 17 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0017
View Second floor hallway leading to north wing
- 18 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0018
View Second floor, South end bedroom
- 19 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0019
View Second floor, room above center hall
- 20 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0020
View Second floor, Looking N in second bedroom
- 21 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0021
View Looking SW at Meat house
- 22 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0022
View Looking W at swimming pool
- 23 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0023
View Looking NE at Pool House
- 24 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0030
View Looking S at Gas House
- 25 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0025
View W elevation of Barn
- 26 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0026
View Looking NW at lower level of barn
- 27 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0027
View Looking E at Corn crib and shelter
- 28 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0028
View Looking N across hayfield towards farm pond
- 29 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0029
View Looking N across fields
- 30 of 30 VA_OrangeCounty_OldManse_0030
View Looking E across house yard. Note boxwoods to right.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

1. Photograph of Rev. Isaac W.K. Handy with Bible Study Class, Fort Delaware, 1864. Source: Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*.
2. Rev. Handy and sons Egbert (l) and Isaac Levin Charles (r), ca. 1866. Source: Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*.
3. Portrait of Justice George Landon Browning by Albert B. Vondra, 1947. Source: Supreme Court of Virginia, Virginia Appellate Court History, website: <https://scvahistory.org/>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 25



1. Photograph of Rev. Isaac W.K. Handy with Bible Study Class, Fort Delaware, 1864. Source: Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*. Although not attributed, this photograph may be one of the images taken by Philadelphia-based photographer John L. Gihon, who was allowed to make photographs at the prison. Handy noted Gihon's presence and his work at the prison in his memoirs.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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2. Rev. Handy and sons Egbert (l) and Isaac Levin Charles (r), ca. 1866. Source: Handy, *Annals and Memorials of the Handys and Their Kindred*. Rev. Handy and his wife Rebecca lived with these two sons and two daughters, Eliza Frances and Sophia Louisa, in the house at Orange.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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3. Portrait of Justice George Landon Browning by Albert B. Vondra, 1947. Source: Supreme Court of Virginia, Virginia Appellate Court History, website: <https://scvahistory.org/>

Sketch Site Plan

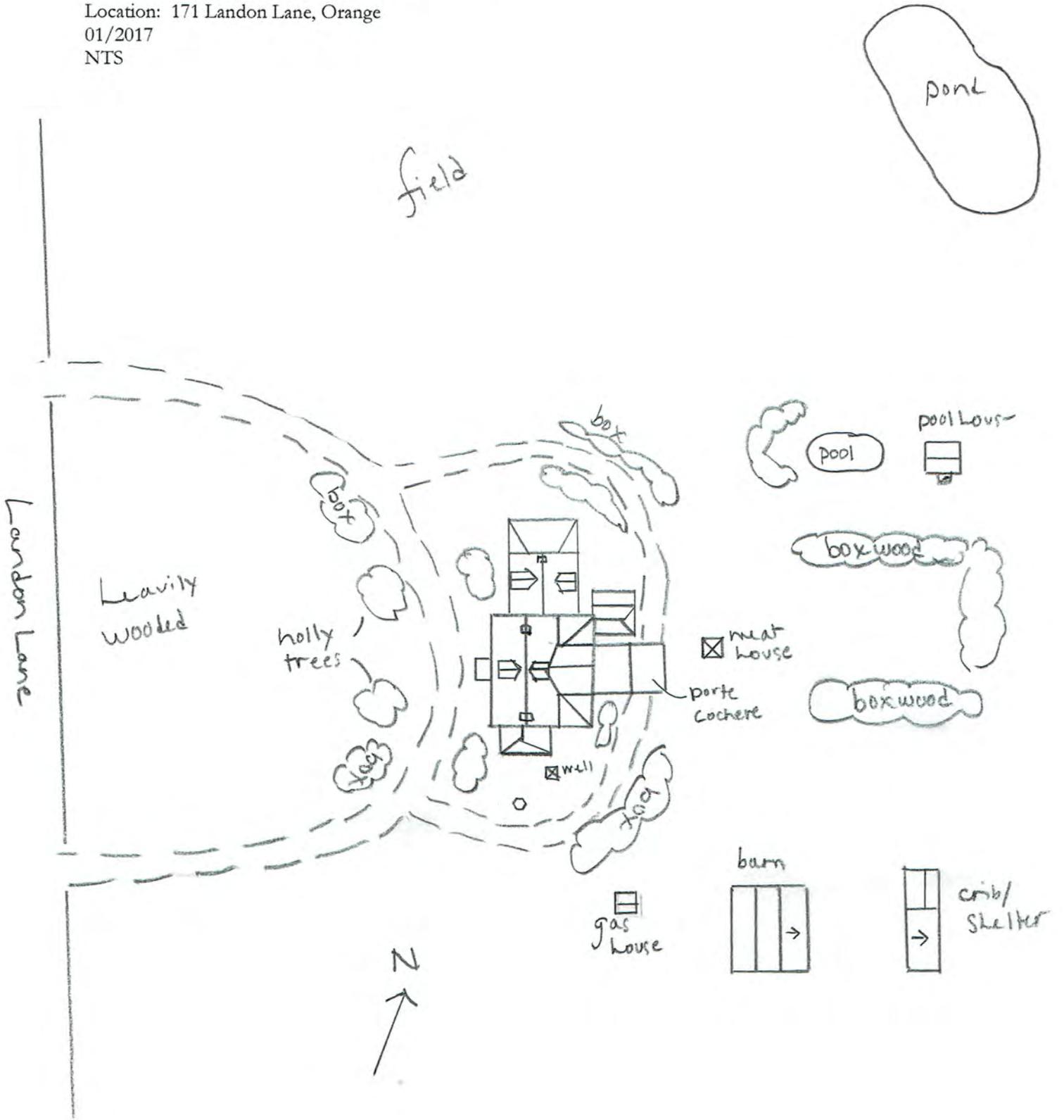
Resource Name: The Old Manse/Handy-Browning House

VDHR #275-5007

Location: 171 Landon Lane, Orange

01/2017

NTS



Sketch Floor Plan

Resource Name: The Old Manse/Handy-Browning-Kempe House

VDHR #275-5007

Location: 171 Landon Lane, Orange

01/2017

