

Haven B. Howe (1847-1911)

In 1864, Mr. Howe enlisted in the Civil War at the age of seventeen and was a member of company F, Fourteenth Virginia Calvary serving in the valley of Virginia until the close of the war.



He took part in the battles of Milford, Dinwiddie Court House, and Five Forks.

Mr. Howe built the brick two-story house between 1876 and 1879.

From 1891-1892, he was a member of Virginia Legislature as a delegate representing Pulaski and Giles Counties.

Mr. Howe was an early advocate for environmental reform. For over 20 years, Mr. Howe led a campaign to prevent the discharge of mine trailings into the New River.

In 1911, about one year before his death, Mr. Howe received a summons to appear as state's witness for the U.S. War Department in Federal Court in Wheeling, West Virginia. His testimony was aiding as the court banned the dumping of iron ore mud into the New River as of January 1, 1912.

The Farm

The Howe House was at the focus of a cattle farm, *Crescent Falls Stock Farm*, which included many outbuildings.

At its most expansive point, the cattle farm was comprised of about 2,000 acres.



The farm had a smokehouse, woodshed, carriage house, barn, springhouse, and a one room storehouse in the front yard that at one time was converted into a school building.

Water was provided for the house initially through a pump powered by a windmill, but was later replaced with a hydraulic pump.

Like the many houses of this social level in 1870's rural Virginia, the evening light was provided by kerosene lamp. Before electrification, the house was converted over to an acetylene gas system.



.....

Claytor Lake State Park
6620 Ben H. Bolen Drive
Dublin, VA 24084
Phone: 540-643-2500

Virginia State Parks

Historical Haven B. Howe House



**I
LOVE**
Virginia State Parks

.....

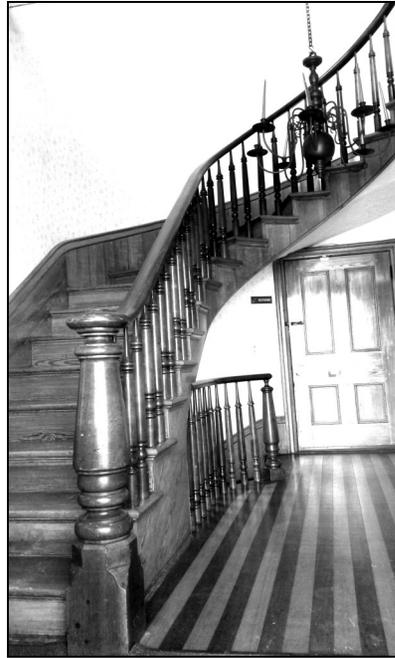
www.virginiastateparks.gov

About the House

“Over a period of two or more years, timbers consisting of oak, pine, maple, walnut and birch were felled from the surrounding forest and the lumber prepared from his own sawmill. Bricks were molded by hand from the bountiful supply of red clay and kiln-dried on the grounds. A circular dip in the front yard to one’s left facing the house shows the dim traces of the brick kiln. A large part of the interior woodwork was done by papa himself employing his creative talent for that type of handcraft. The front hall floor is of alternating boards of walnut and poplar; the spiral stairway from the basement to the third floor, treads, and banister rails are solid walnut, the large hand turned newel post, all are features of signal interest. Some of the fireplace facings are soapstone, a soft gray rock with a waxy texture, easily cut by hand into any shape or size. This stone was transported by ox wagons from Floyd County across the mountain trails to the ferry on the River near our home, thence to the building site. The hexagon shaped gray and yellow slate tiles on the dining room floor were procured from dealers in another part of the state and were brought by wagon transportation also. The house was under construction for about five years...”

-Mary Clayd Howe Farrow’s Memoir
(Haven B. Howe’s youngest daughter)

Interior



An alternating poplar and walnut floor.

The stair railing is solid walnut.

The staircase’s two newel posts and the fine churned spindles of the balustrade span all three runs of the staircase.

A close inspection of the woodwork reveals the amount of careful selection that was taken in order to choose boards that were the heart or center cut without knot-holes.



The soft gray soapstone was cut by hand to make up the rock surrounding the fireplace.

Original tile floor laid in 1879 still evident around the first floor and basement fireplaces.

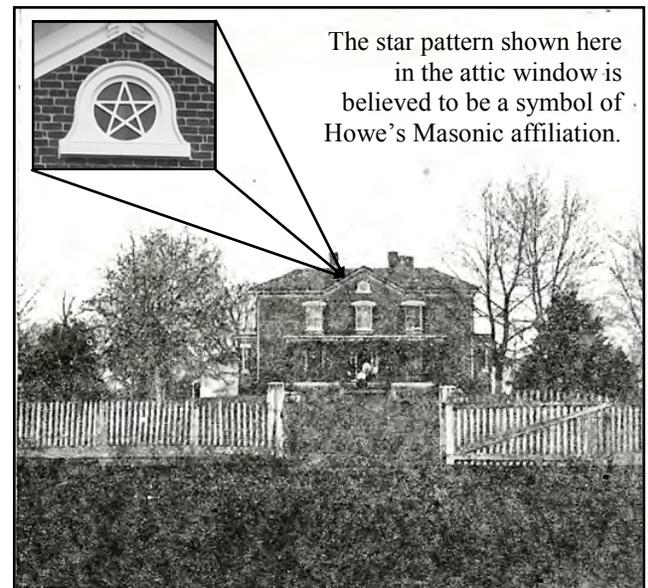
Exterior

The house is in the form of an offset T-plan which exhibits a balanced traditional Federal/Greek Revival plan with Italianate detailing.

The house illustrates a traditional form, with projecting one-story bays on both end walls.

Ornamental wrought iron porch supports- A product most likely ordered from an urban foundry and shipped by railroad to either Dublin or Radford.

Many buildings surrounded the property. One of which was located on the rear (south) side of the house. This building had a summer kitchen and another room with a large open fireplace for the big iron pots used for rendering lard during hog-killing season, making the years supply of soap in the spring and for laundry purposes.



The star pattern shown here in the attic window is believed to be a symbol of Howe’s Masonic affiliation.