

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Needwood Mansion

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Needwood Road

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Maryland-National Capital Park &

Telephone #: 589-1480

STREET & NUMBER

Planning Commission

8787 Georgia Ave. (main office)

CITY, TOWN

Silver Spring

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

M:22-35

**CONDITION**

**CHECK ONE**

**CHECK ONE**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR

- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This is a large, late-Federal brick house of three stories. Its formal, Georgetown-style of architecture is most unusual for this country setting. The brick is laid in common bond, and there are three bays on the main (north) facade. The entrance is in the east-end bay. The door originally had transom and sidelights. The windows directly above the door, on the second and third stories, also had sidelights, and thus were wider than the other windows. The door was replaced (ca. 1948) with the present heavy door and Greek Revival architrave, but the window sidelights remain. The shutters are folded over them, however, to balance the present appearance. The gently-sloping "A" roof is accented by double internal chimneys, that are bridged across the ridge by a low brick curtain.

Windows are tall, 6/6 sash on the first two stories, and are half-sized, lie-on-your-stomach openings at the attic level. (This was a Greek Revival feature on some Georgetown houses of the late-Federal period.) Each of the windows has stone sills, and thick wooden lintels with a raised molding. A lower, frame wing (from about 1913) extends from the main block on the east side, and a later brick wing has been added to the right.

Outbuildings include a two-story, stone dairy, that may have been a slave quarters upstairs, and a log shed that is now a garage. The block dairy barn remains at the golf course next door.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

M. 22-35

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

"Needwood" was a land patent to planter John Cooke. It was surveyed in 1758 for 1,000 acres. Descendants of Cooke's, the Robertson family (who married into the Muncaster family), inherited this land, and it is believed that William Robertson built the brick house about 1832. The building is now the headquarters for the Division of Interpretation and Conservation of the M-NCPPC Parks Department. (See reference notes.)

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:22-35

- 1) Farquhar, R.B. OLD HOMES & HISTORY OF MONT. CO. (1961)  
(note errors in text)
- 2) Notes from Mrs. Ruth Stickles.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

8/12/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

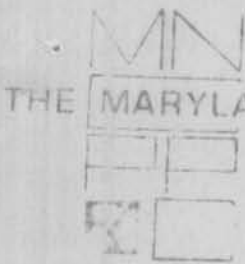
The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

M22/35

MRK

Needwood Mansion



8787 Georgia Avenue • Silver Spring, Maryland 20807

(301) 495-4565

MEMORANDUM

August 31, 1984

RECEIVED

SEP 18 1984

TO: Richard Ferrara, Director, Department of Housing and Community Development  
 John L. Menke, Director, Department of Environmental Protection  
 ✓ J. Rodney Little, Director, State Historic Preservation Commission  
 Susan Kuklewicz, Chairperson, Historic Preservation Commission  
 Perry Berman, Chief, Community Planning North

FROM: P.B.

SUBJECT: Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation: Rock Creek Planning Area Resources

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

I am pleased to transmit to you this August 1984 Preliminary Draft Amendment to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

This document contains the recommendations of the Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission concerning the unevaluated Rock Creek Planning Area historic resources identified in the County's Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites.

The Preservation Commission recommends the designation of seven (7) sites for protection under the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the County Code. The Commission also recommends the removal of 15 sites listed in the Locational Atlas.

The Montgomery County Planning Board will hold a public hearing on this Preliminary Draft Plan on Tuesday, October 2, 1984 at 7:30 P.M. in the Auditorium of the Montgomery Regional Office at 8787 Georgia Avenue, Silver Spring, Maryland.

Should you have any questions concerning this amendment, please do not hesitate to contact Marty Reinhart of Community Planning North staff at 495-4565.

PB:MR:dws  
Attachment

PRELIMINARY DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE AMENDMENT  
TO THE  
ROCK CREEK MASTER PLAN  
CHAPTER VIII

F. Historic Sites Master Plan and Ordinance

There are a number and a variety of historic resources in the County. Some are protected from adverse state or federal actions through identification on the Maryland State Inventory or the National Register of Historic Places. The County, recognizing the need for additional protection for these sites and for sites of local significance, adopted a functional Master Plan for Historic Preservation and enacted a Historic Preservation Ordinance, Chapter 24A of the County Code in 1979.

The Montgomery County Historic Preservation Commission was created with the enactment of the County's Historic Preservation Ordinance and was charged with the responsibility of researching and evaluating historic resources according to criteria specified in the ordinance. The Commission then recommends those worthy of preservation to the Montgomery County Planning Board for inclusion in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation and protection under the ordinance.

Upon receiving a recommendation from the Historic Preservation Commission, the Planning Board holds a public hearing to make its determination using the same criteria, considering the purposes of the ordinance, and balancing the importance of the historic resource with other public interests.

If, in balance, the Planning Board finds the historic resource should be designated, it will then recommend a master plan amendment to the County Council. The Council may hold a hearing before it acts, if appropriate. Upon approval by the Council and adoption by the Planning Board of the proposed amendment, the historic resource would then become designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, and thus, subject to the protection of the ordinance.

The architectural and historic significance of the Rock Creek Planning Area resources identified on the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Resources in Montgomery County, -- the County official historic inventory -- have been reviewed by the Preservation Commission as part of this comprehensive amendment.

As a result of their evaluation, the Preservation Commission recommends the Master Plan for Historic Preservation be amended to include the following sites:

<u>Atlas #</u>	<u>Site</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Associated Acreage</u>
22/1	Dorsey Springhouse	Dorsey Road	7880 sq. ft.

- The modest board and batten springhouse covers the headwaters of Rock Creek, which, next to the Potomac River, has historically been Montgomery County's most important body of water.

22/34 Eubanks Farm 6825 Needwood Rd. 11.52 Acres

- Constructed in 1889 for Samuel Robertson, this irregular Queen Anne villa bears the unmistakable quality of its designer, Thomas Groomes, Montgomery County's most prolific 19th century architect and the great popularizer of the revival styles in the Rockville-Gaithersburg area.
- Recommended environmental setting of the entire 11.52 acre parcel.

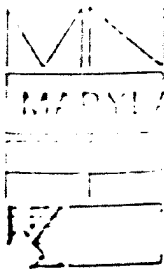
22/35 Needwood Mansion 6700 Needwood Rd.  
Needwood Golf Course

- Constructed for William George Robertson (Samuel's father). The main block, completed in 1856, repeats the tripartite motif characteristic of the late Greek revival-early Italianate periods in the windows, sidelights, and number of stories.
- Later flanking wings, the frame built in 1913, the brick in 1954, do not overshadow the strength of the main block.
- Recommended with 25 acres to include all outbuildings and a swath of Needwood Road preserving the rural vista of the site.

If designated on the Master Plan for Historic Preservation, any application to demolish; or to substantially alter the exterior of a resource or its environmental setting must be reviewed by the Historic Preservation Commission and a historic area work permit (HAWP) issued. The ordinance also empowers the County's Department of Environmental Protection and the Historic Preservation Commission to prevent the demolition of historic buildings through neglect.

Three sites within the Planning Area have already been designated as part of previous amendments to the Master Plan for Historic Preservation. The sites currently protected under the County's Preservation Ordinance are:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Designated As Part Of</u>
22/7	Bussard Farm	Upper Rock Creek Park	September 1983 Amendment
-	Circa 1900--Two story Victorian vernacular frame structure, represents the third dwelling on the site.		
-	Associated for more than 100 years with the Magruder family, prominent in the early historic of the State and County.		
-	Farm cultivated as early as 1734, reclaimed in the mid-1800's by Otho Magruder, an early proponent of agricultural innovation in the County.		



M:22-35

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated 8/31/84

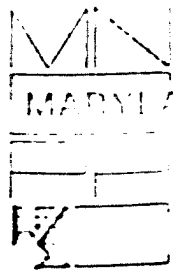
ACTION TAKEN

The Preservation Commission recommends the Master Plan be amended to include the following sites:

- M: 22/1.....Dorsey Springhouse
- M: 22/2 .....Pugh Farm
- M: 22/14.....Oatland Farm
- M: 22/25.....J.H. Cashell (Grantham) Farm
- M: 22/30.....Barnesley House
- M: 22/34.....Eubanks Farm
- M: 22/35.....Needwood Mansion

The following three sites within the Planning Area have already been designated as part of previous amendments to the Master Plan.

- M: 22/7.....Bussard Farm
- M: 22/15.....The Ridge
- M: 22/17.....Flint Hill II



M:22-35

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated

8/31/84

PRELIMINARY DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE MASTER PLAN FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION: ROCK CREEK PLANNING AREA RESOURCES

at  
7:30 P.M.  
Tuesday  
October 2, 1984  
in the Auditorium of the  
Montgomery County Regional Offices  
8787 Georgia Avenue  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20907

to take testimony on whether or not the following historic resources presently listed in the Locational Atlas and Index of Historic Sites in Montgomery County should be included in the Master Plan for Historic Preservation.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Dorsey Springhouse #22/1<br>Dorsey Road (between Rte. 124 & 108) | 9. Holland Farm #22/8<br>19510 Muncaster Road   |
| 2. Pugh Farm #22/2<br>6411 Dorsey Road                              | 10. Duley Farm #22/9<br>19600 Muncaster Road  |
| 3. Oatland Farm #22/14<br>4231 Briars Road                          | 11. Beane Farm Barn #22/10<br>Route 108 & Muncaster Road                                |
| 4. J.H. Cashell (Grantham) Farm #22/25<br>5867 Muncaster Mill Road  | 12. Elizabeth Darby House #22/11<br>Olney/Laytonsville Road near<br>Muncaster Mill Road |
| 5. Barnesley House #22/30<br>15715 Avery Road                       | 13. Thomas Griffith #22/12<br>Route 108 & Muncaster Road                                |
| 6. Eubanks Farm #22/34<br>6825 Needwood Road                        | 14. Chichester House #22/13<br>Olney/Laytonsville Road                                  |
| 7. <u>Needwood Mansion #22/35</u><br>6700 Needwood Road             | 15. Granby Farm #22/16<br>Muncaster Road  |
| 8. Carson Farm/Log Smokehouse #22/4<br>Route 124 - Laytonsville     | 16. H.B. Magruder/Water Farm #22/19<br>Muncaster Road near Redland Road                 |
|   | 17. Belt Farm #22/26<br>Route 115 & Avery Road  |
|   | 18. Adamson Farmhouse #22/27<br>Route 115 & Avery Road                                  |
|   | 19. Muncaster Mill Ruin #22/28<br>Muncaster Mill Road & North<br>Branch of Rock Creek   |
|   | 20. Pather Cemetery #22/29<br>Meyers Property off Avery Road                            |
|   | 21. Avery #22/31<br>Southlawn Drive & Avery Road  |
|   | 22. Gas House &<br>Watergate Phone Booth #22/32<br>Route 355 at College Parkway         |

Lamar Jackson's mother, went to school. Emma often met her beau, George Montgomery Bennett, under a large oak tree at this spot when George came courting. He always came on horseback from Spencerville, and on one of these visits his fine riding horse was taken from him by confederate soldiers on a raid. He lost

his horse but won Emma who became his bride, and they went to live in Spencerville.

Mr. Edward M. Acorn, son of former owner, G. W. Acorn, 1961, lives in the old house now on the site of the original home of two famous Quakers, Evan Thomas and Philip E. Thomas. He retains 32 acres, all balance now built on.

## Needwood

TO trace the line of ownership of the interesting plantation of Needwood from Colonial days to 1951 has been easier than is generally the case with such old estates. The definite condition of the land records is one reason. The land is from several very early original grants. One of the first owners is said to have been a Reverend Mr. Booth, a clergyman of the Church of England.

Booth came from Wales, according to a record in the Congressional Library, to the area of lower Frederick County at a very early date. Moving up Rock Creek from Georgetown he settled in the wilderness on land which bordered both sides of the main branch of Rock Creek south of Redland.<sup>1</sup> He called his estate Needwood, and started a school in a log cabin. The legend of a log house on the place as early as 1732 is given credence by the fact that there was a spring house near the present house with the date 1732 cut into it.

The Booth legend continues to the effect that during the Revolution, being a Loyalist to the Crown of England, he found the neighborhood not congenial to his work and "he fled over the mountains" to start another school in the safer and more secluded area of western Maryland in Washington County.

This fine farm is located on the south side of the road known as Needwood Road, from Derwood and is one and one-half miles from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad at Derwood. For more than a century it was known as Sunnyside.

In November, 1777, John Kennedy conveyed to James Latimer, for 1,310 pounds sterling, 82 acres of Locust Thicket, 194 acres of Needwood, and 150 acres of Granby, a total of 426 acres. In July, 1798, Latimer conveyed the same land to

William G. Wootton, and in 1832 Wootton conveyed the land to William Robertson. In 1842 William Robertson, "in consideration of \$5.00 and affection and natural love the said William Robertson bears to William George Robertson" 759 acres were transferred to his son William George together with all bridges, stock, numerous Negroes by name, and "all other stock and personal property."

According to a descendant of this old Maryland family who traces his line of descent from Samuel Robertson, born 1667, Samuel married Elizabeth Harris. Of their four sons and three daughters George Robertson, who died in 1792, married Susannah Waters. The issue of this union was three sons and four daughters. One of the sons was William Robertson who married Harriet Cooke, born in 1795. A son of this latter union was William George Robertson. William, Sr. died in 1852, after he had deeded the farm to his son, and Harriet C., died in 1877 at Sunnyside.

One daughter of William, Senior, and Harriet C. was Rachel who became the wife of Edwin Muncaster of Milton II. For a while Harriet C. Robertson appears to have owned both the Milton II and Sunnyside farms. William George Robertson I was unfortunate, after he had enjoyed ownership of Sunnyside for eighteen years. In June, 1861, he was riding in from the hay field, and just as he turned to ride into the barn, he and the horse were both killed by a stroke of lightning. He and his wife, Mary Victoria Key, had a family of seven sons and three daughters. One son was William George II, who also had a son, William George III, who passed away in 1950.

By a decree of the court passed September, 1875, the widow of William George, I, Mary V.

<sup>1</sup> Early Days of Washington, by Sullie S. Mackall.



NO. 78 E-8 WILLIAM ROBERTSON 1832 BRICK

K. Robertson, and the other heirs, transferred the plantation to George Washington Columbus Beall for consideration of \$8,500. The survey showed the tract thus conveyed to contain 299 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres, it being parts of Locust Thicket, Resurvey of Needwood, part of Burgundy, and part of Granby. It bordered the banks of Rock Creek, and extended down the meanderings of the Creek for twelve courses, a distance of about a mile. The deed to Beall was dated October 7, 1881.

G. W. C. Beall was born at Flint Hill I in 1837, and married Mary Ann Palmer, a daughter of E. Pennell Palmer who owned an adjoining farm. In January, 1869, a deed of partition was recorded dividing the Flint Hill I place between Charles A., a brother, and G. W. C. Beall, the moiety received by Charles A. being 156 $\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and that half received by G. W. C. con-

tained 193 acres, appraised as of equal value. Each brother gave to the other \$1.00 cash as a binder.

G. W. C. Beall, generally called "Lum" for short, was a moderately successful farmer. He was a unique character in several ways. He was reported to have had a rather violent temper, and was not always friendly with his neighbors. He displayed his temper by going for long periods without speaking to his hired hands or acquaintances. On one occasion he and a colored man, from a neighborhood farm, became involved in an argument and a scuffle. Lum was getting the worst of the fight, and ran to the house to get his gun. His good wife, Mary Ann, knowing his failing, and having observed the row, removed the shells from the gun. Imagine, if you will, Lum not knowing the gun was empty of ammunition, running to intercept the

man driving off in his wagon, and furiously snapping the triggers of two empty barrels.

Two sons of G. W. C. Beall owned the farm after his death: Frank and Edward Beall. Frank was for a number of years a successful official in Detroit. He was a vice-president of the Packard Motor Company, and later became associated with Graham Brothers. His brother Edward stayed on the farm, and managed it successfully.

After his years of manufacturing automobiles, Frank returned to the home farm. He and Edward obtained a patent for a medical remedy, and built a factory near the house for its manufacture. This product made from plants grown on the farm, was apparently sold for quite a while with some success. Frank died before the farm was sold, and Edward shortly afterward. Their children sold the farm in 1948 to Wilmer Franklin Stickle and his wife, Ruth Breuninger Stickle, both graduates of Swarthmore College.

The present handsome brick house facing the west is believed to have been built by William Robertson about the time he purchased the place in 1832. The brick were made in a pit still visible on the farm, and were laid up in Federal bond.

This handsome brick house was purchased in 1952, from Mr. and Mrs. Stickle, by Mr. Charles Ellison Eckles, with 369 acres, to which he has added 43 acres, now making 412 acres, total.

Mr. Eckles is continuing the dairy business run by Mr. Stickle, although with many improvements, in facilities. The dairy barns and silos are planned, for maximum efficiency, with automatic features, for feeding silage to the present herd of 120 cows, which are milked by machinery. The milk stream goes directly into tanks, by pipe lines and from thence into tank trucks, which call at the farm for the product.

Mr. Eckles has added a brick wing on the right side of the old house, to balance the two story wing to the left, giving a pleasing architectural effect. The whole interior is in splendid condition, the large front hall leading toward a parlor to the left, a living room to the right. The new wing off the living room is a luxurious library with books, a new fireplace. A formal parlor, is in front of the living room, the dining room and kitchen are to the left of the front hall and a large porch across the rear is enclosed with screening. Pleasant views toward the rear fields, are to be had.

The driveway to entrance gate on Needwood Road has been hard surfaced, with white pine trees planted on each side, flanked by white board fences. There are two huge English box trees in front of the house, at least 25 feet high, evidently as old as the house, built 125 years ago.

Mr. Eckles is in the real estate business in Washington.

## Norwood

THIS beautiful ivy-covered colonial brick house, one mile south of Sandy Spring could almost be called a home of perpetual youth, for Norwood is located in a country community which for many generations has been considered an unusually healthful one. People, threatened with early death, have come to the neighborhood and stayed to live out their lives far beyond the biblical span of "four score and ten" in usefulness and serenity.

That was the experience of Robert R. Moore, who, stricken with tuberculosis, had to give up a good business in Baltimore. At the age of twenty-seven he came to Sandy Spring, after being told that he had but a year or two to live.

He lived to be eighty-five, and for nearly fifty years efficiently performed the double duties of secretary and treasurer of the Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Montgomery County, which celebrated its one hundredth anniversary in 1948.

In 1839 when their son, Joseph T. Moore, was four years old, Robert Moore and Hadassah, his wife, settled in a house, now Plainfield, near the Norwood place, where they lived for fifty-six years. Young Joseph had an experience which in part drove him from the neighborhood; but later he, too, had to return to conserve his health. When about fifteen years of age, having seen a slave sold at auction on a nearby farm,