

## Ilangollen

ESTABLISHED IN 1795



THE LEGEND
OF LLANGOLLEN



ESTABLISHED IN 1795



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#### INTRO

#### Dear Future Steward of Llangollen,

It is with great pride but heavy heart that the current stewards, the Brennan family, have commissioned this brochure depicting the legacy of Llangollen — a truly wonderful and magical place without parallel or peer. It was this incredible uniqueness of understated yet breathtaking grandeur set amid the bucolic surrounds on the east face of the Blue Ridge that compelled us to commence its stewardship in 2007. The manor house is sited proudly in the center of over 1,100 acres of pastures, ponds and forest lands and attended to by all of the necessary structures and features of the grand estate that it is today.

Llangollen is not just a home but rather it is a "place," in the broadest sense of the term. It is steeped in historical significance and is one of the largest privately owned "Places" listed on the National Historic Registry. Its establishment dates to 1795, when soon-to-be-Chief Justice John Marshall purchased what was then known as the Leeds Manor tract from Lord Fairfax. Marshall subsequently sold a portion of the tract to Leven Powell, the founder of Middleburg and member of Congress, who, in turn, gifted it in 1804 to his son Cuthbert, who bestowed the name Llangollen in honor of the Powell family's ancestral home in North Wales.

Llangollen stood witness to many great historical events, such as hosting Marquis de
Lafayette on his grand tour of the United States in 1824, as well as being the site of the prelude
to the Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Fortunately, the estate suffered no damage and played a
significant role in the reconstruction of Virginia.

In 1932, "Jock" Whitney, son of J. H. Whitney, one of the most notable financiers of the golden era, recognized Llangollen for what it was and its future potential. With virtually unlimited financial resources, Whitney vastly improved the infrastructure of the estate by updating what was already present and adding significantly to its inventory of amazing accessory buildings.

In 1989, the honorable Roy Ash, founder of Litton Industries and subsequent director of the Federal Office of Management and Budget, purchased Llangollen and continued the enhancement of the estate with intense focus on the manor house and its proximate structures, resulting in these structures and their services being brought up to contemporary standards and appropriately furnished with pieces of historical correctness. The result was a truly magnificent manor house complex, retaining all of its historical grandeur, but artfully fitted out with all the modern day conveniences and accoutrements.

The focus of the Brennan family's stewardship has largely been that of maintaining and continually improving upon what Messrs Whitney and Ash put in place, bringing all of the accessory structures up to date and making extensive improvements to the many pastures, miles of roads, and stone and wood fencing. Three polo fields have been installed, plus an arena, training facilities and new maintenance complex, and the ¾-mile exercise track was returned to service.

Throughout its history, Llangollen has been one of the major and well-recognized estates in the nation, in large part due to the care that we and its previous stewards have lavished upon it — a level of care and attention well-deserved by this truly magical and wonderful place. It is our fondest hope that its next steward will recognize, as we did, the unique treasure that Llangollen is and feel the same motivation that we and our predecessors had to enjoy and

preserve its legacy in the first-class manner of the last 225 years.

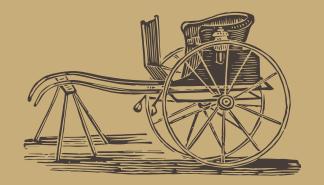
Llangollen is much more than just a home. It is a place of unprecedented character and extraordinary beauty. We will miss being part of its future, but will preserve its memories.

## The Brennan Family





# 225 Years of Llangollen





### HISTORY GALLOPS, YET TIME STANDS STILL

S

ome of the most notable names and events from more than two centuries of American history are interwoven into the fabric of this grand property called Llangollen. Llangollen's presence predating the birth of America has earned its position on the National Register of Historic Places. Llangollen has also been deemed a Virginia Treasure, recognized among the Commonwealth's most important ecological, cultural, scenic and recreational assets.

The esteemed and lofty history of Llangollen might seem like something from a tall tale, one Washington Irving or Mark Twain might have contributed to the canon of American literature. Nonetheless, the legend is real. And the legacy endures.

#### AN AUSPICIOUS BEGINNING

In the late 1700s, the yet unnamed Loudoun County, Virginia, was a remote and unpopulated area at the edge of Virginia's western frontier. During this time, Lord Fairfax assigned a young George Washington to survey the land. The future Founding Father was just a lad when he walked these acres at the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The main house of Llangollen — Welsh for "Land's End" — was originally constructed as a one-and-a-half-story patent house in 1795, probably to establish title to the land. The first owner was Leven Powell, a land speculator, merchant and entrepreneur who served in the Revolutionary War. By 1777, he was appointed to Lieutenant Colonel by George Washington and was elected to Congress in 1799. Leven's son, Cuthbert Powell, expanded the property over time, acquiring additional acreage in the 1800s. In that antebellum era, agricultural production at Llangollen was thriving. Construction demonstrated the Powells' status and wealth, and it was likely during this time that the Federal-style center block was built adjacent to the original, modest patent house.

In 1852, Llangollen was sold to Dr. Joseph Gray, who married his wife Eliza Ellzey in Llangollen's parlor. Dr. Gray sold the property to Robert Singleton in 1861. Five months later, Singleton sold Llangollen to George Ayre, an adjoining neighbor who owned several properties in the area. Although the Civil War raged nearby, Llangollen was largely spared, including the stone Icehouse and Cooling Dairy, which predate the war.

Despite economic hardship, Ayre farmed successfully post-war. He learned that Washington, D.C. was enduring a milk shortage. Ayre sensed an opportunity, so in the 1870s the Dairy Barn and the adjacent Bank Barn were built, and just like that, Llangollen was in the dairy business.





"It has on it a fine mansion erected there by the late Cuthbert Powell, esq. the former owner of the estate. It has also ample barns and out houses and is one of the most valuable estates in Virginia." *Alexandria Gazette*, 1872



New York society fixture and wealthy scion John Oothert Seibert purchased the mansion and farm in 1898. It has been suggested that it was perhaps purchased as a status symbol, and he is known to have entertained ambassadors there. He sold the property in 1908 to Harry Toulmin of Washington, D.C. A patent attorney, Toulmin has a place in history for securing the "flying machine" patent for the Wright Brothers.

At last, Llangollen was back on the path toward growth. Toulmin proved a worthy steward and increased Llangollen's boundaries to near what they are today. He also invested in the manor house, adding extensive Colonial Revival renovations, as was the trend for Loudoun County's antebellum mansions in the first decade of the 20th century.

#### IT'S OFF TO THE RACES AT LLANGOLLEN

When larger-then-life millionaire, and future U.S.

Ambassador to Great Britain, John Hay "Jock" Whitney purchased Llangollen and its 1,075 acres in 1930, it was as a wedding gift for his new bride Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Altemus Whitney. Jock was Oxford-educated, amiable and shared his parents' passion for thoroughbred racing and polo. Liz shared his fondness for horses and had a nationally ranked show career, was an avid foxhunter and was integral in the progress of Llangollen's racing and breeding operation.

In 1931, the Whitneys drew all eyes to Llangollen when they hosted the inaugural "Llangollen Race Meeting," a steeplechase run over a course modeled after England's Grand National in Aintree. A crowd of 20,000 attended, day and evening parties surrounded the events, and the Whitneys offered a monumental prize of \$5,000 for the winner of the Llangollen Cup.



During the 1930s, the Whitneys transformed Llangollen. One of their most famed additions is the Horse Shoe Stable, which was partially rebuilt in 1962. The semi-circular colonnade is 200 feet in diameter and forms a sheltered promenade inside.

Over the next decade, the Whitneys demonstrated a passion for Llangollen. The property's greatest expansion occurred during this period, including updating the main house, adding the Great Room and the stately Horse Shoe Stable for Liz's show horses and field hunters. Although the Whitneys eventually split, Liz remained devoted to Llangollen and her horses. Her accomplishments were widely published, and she was posthumously inducted into the Virginia Thoroughbred Hall of Fame.

#### WORLD-CLASS TRADITIONS CONTINUE

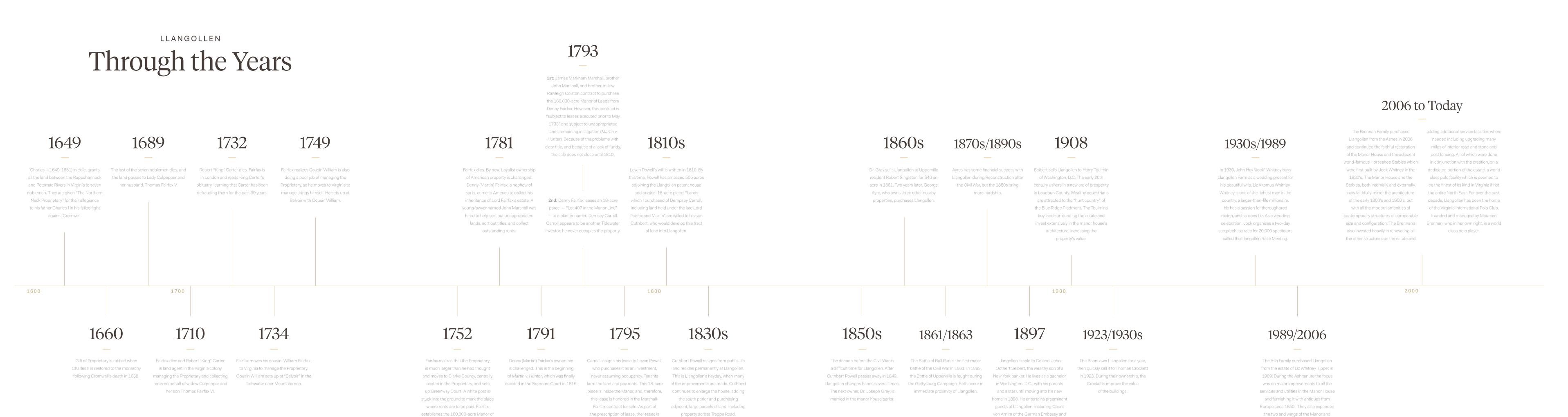
In 1989, the farm sold to Mr. and Mrs. Roy Ash, who saved Llangollen from redevelopment. In 2007, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Brennan purchased Llangollen, acquiring a priceless piece of American history in the process. The Brennan family has taken great pride in cultivating the Llangollen legacy. They have increased Llangollen's reputation for equestrian pursuits and constructed

world-class polo facilities on the vast property, including four Polo Fields. On special occasions, Llangollen is open to community organizations and charity polo matches. Likewise, the interiors and exteriors of the manor house and outbuildings have been meticulously maintained, because today is when we prepare for tomorrow.

In Donald Brennan's own words, "I view myself as a steward. I feel strongly this place should be preserved and shared. It is a very magical place."



CHAPTER 1 225 YEARS OF LANGOLLEN



Mr. Wauters Charge d'affairs of Belgium,

according to an article in the Richmond

Times Dispatch in 1901.

mproved sections of the land and other

elements of the infrastructure on the

1,100-acre estate.

Leeds (named after his home in Great

Britain) as a private hunting preserve.

The balance of the five-million-acre

Proprietary is used for income.

required to build a patent house, 16' x

20' with stone chimney and a walled

orchard of 100 trees. The 1795 patent

house still stands and is presently the Breakfast Room at Llangollen.

## A Country Escape





CHAPTER 2 THE LOCATION

## The Genteel Charms of Historic Upperville

Llangollen feels like a world all its own, but it is just three miles north of the quaint village of Upperville in Loudoun prominent horse breeding farms and country estates, County, Virginia. Upperville's history runs almost parallel such as Llangollen. This community of equestrians to Llangollen's. The town has been designated as the Upperville Historic District and is a Virginia Historic Landmark that is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Upperville was founded in 1757, and by the time of the American Revolution, Loudoun was Virginia's most populous county. Its rich agriculture and contributions of grain to George Washington's Continental Army in the 1700s earned it the nickname "Breadbasket of the Revolution." The county played a role in three major wars, including once again serving as a "breadbasket," this time supplying provisions to soldiers in World War I.

Today, Upperville and Loudoun County are home to hosts the oldest horse show in the United States every summer, The Upperville Colt & Horse Show.

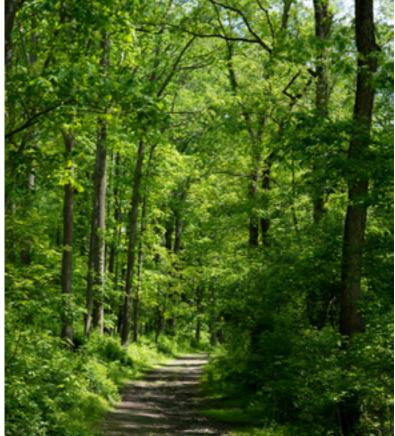
Upperville offers a blend of history and charm, including the Upperville Library, circa 1804, and Hunter's Head Tavern, circa 1750. Other local experiences include the excellent dining and shopping of Middleburg, historical immersion in Millwood and spectacular caverns just a short drive away.











## Equestrian Heritage



## Two Centuries of Thoroughbreds

The Commonwealth of Virginia has a legendary equine heritage, dating back to the 1600s with the arrival of the first horses to the Virginia colony from England. A Virginia-bred horse was a soldier's best friend during wartime. Likewise, horseracing has always been popular in Virginia, even during Colonial Times when village streets and level pastures set the scene for one-on-one competitions. The oldest horse show in the country, beginning in 1853, is Virginia's Upperville Colt & Horse Show — a very important Grand Prix with a long waiting liet

Among this history, Llangollen enjoys a legendary reputation in Virginia's "Horse Country." Even prior to its designation as a Virginia Treasure and its addition to the National Register of Historic Places in 2017, all eyes were on Llangollen for its significant size, scope and location. Llangollen is an asset to the worldwide equestrian community and equipped for non-stop horse activity, including polo, steeplechasing and any other equestrian pursuits.

Llangollen's Horse Shoe Stable, built circa 1930 in the era of John Hay "Jock" Whitney, is particularly renowned. Massive, awe-inspiring and curved like its namesake, the Horse Shoe Stable is a magnificently inspired jewel in the crown of Llangollen.

The Horse Shoe Stable features 24 stalls, a carriage room office and tack room. There are also six other barns, including the Mare Barn with 11 stalls, the Stallion Barn with two stalls, the Dairy Barn with 32

stalls, the Bank Barn with nine stalls, the Training Barn with 26 stalls, and the Mountain Barn with nine stalls. In all, Llangollen can house 113 horses.

The late Mary Elizabeth "Liz" Whitney Tippet was a legend in the horse racing community and a rider in her own right. By 1940, she had established Llangollen as one of the major racing stables in the U.S., and by the 1950s, her operation was one of the largest horse breeding businesses in North America.

Eight on-property houses include the Jockey House-Guest House with five bedrooms, four full baths and two half-baths.

The Brennan family greatly expanded the polo facilities at Llangollen in the early 21st century with a multimillion-dollar project, establishing itself as a top polo facility in the region, including four Polo Fields, a Polo Arena, a 5/8-mile Training Track, a Hitting Cage, an Octagonal Barbecue Pavilion and a Fieldside Spectator Pavilion.

Their commitment to the sport further cemented Llangollen's position in Virginia's Horse Country, and the property served as the training ground of the U.S. Open Iconica Team.

In 2017, Llangollen USA faced off against Swarovski England for the Thai Polo Club Ladies International Diamond Jubilee Trophy at the Guards Polo Club in England.





CHAPTER 3 EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE

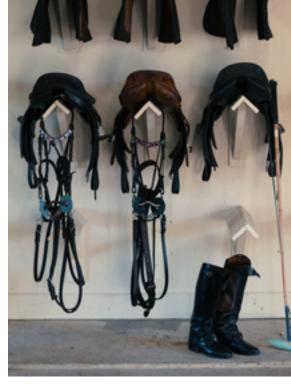


FOX HUNTING: When the leaves begin to change colors in the Virginia countryside, fox hunting will soon be afoot. These days, the time-honored tradition is about enjoying the chase with good company and

great scenery on a fine horse, and the fox is rarely captured. The area features several hunt clubs, including Piedmont Hunt, the oldest such club in the United States, founded in 1840.







find several thoroughbred-breeding farms in the area, including Llangollen, which is one of the top breeding farms that provide polo ponies for the "sport of kings."



STEEPLCHASING: Some come to watch the action between the rails. Others come to tailgate or relax on the lawn in their spring attire for a day of excitement. Virginia's steeplechasing culture is special and prolific, with thoroughbreds racing in several Point to Point events in the area. The Virginia Gold Cup attracts more than 50,000 spectators.



**SHOW JUMPING**: Show jumping is popular among young and adult riders in the Commonwealth, with horse Show Jumping Association series, and the Upperville shows gathering eager crowds to watch the participants Colt & Horse Show. display speed, agility and strength. Events include the

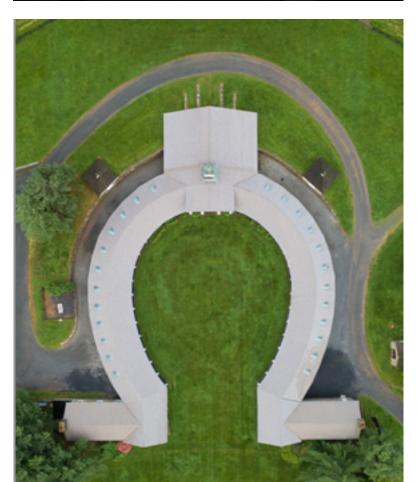
Shenandoah Classic Horse Show, the Central Virginia



CHAPTER 3 EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE





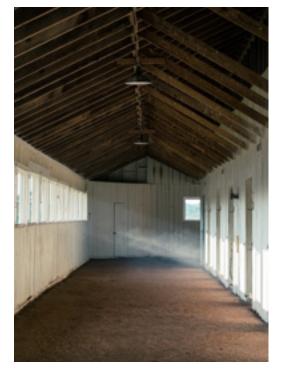














CHAPTER 3 EQUESTRIAN HERITAGE



The National Sporting Library Coaching Drive seems like a moment from another time. Every year, teams of magnificent horses pull these gleaming, carefully restored carriages to Upperville, driven by men and ladies in breathtaking period dress. Mr. Brennan has proudly welcomed this legacy event to his property for the last 12 years.

## The Estate



# A Virginia Treasure, A Very American Story

48/49

With 1,100 acres of prime Virginia land, one could accomplish almost anything. This is where dreams are cultivated, heritage is nourished, and fortunes are made — as well as enjoyed. The potential of Llangollen has been realized and passed down for generations, while keeping the original history and integrity of the estate intact by stewards who have understood its true worth.

The rolling green, mature maple and oak trees, and Blue Ridge Mountain vistas envelope Llangollen, creating a home for all seasons. Fall and winter holidays feel storybook perfect, where one might hang garland

along the balustrades and adorn the portico in lights. In springtime, the apple blossoms, rose bushes and peonies bloom, while the garden's dormant bulbs burst forth with colorful irises and tulips. As the Virginia summer approaches, the lavender and lilac proudly emerge for their time in the sun.

Summertime is when equestrian activities reboot on Llangollen, starting with the birth of the foals in May and June. From May through September, the estate bustles with polo matches, barbecues and the lifestyle of rural gentry.

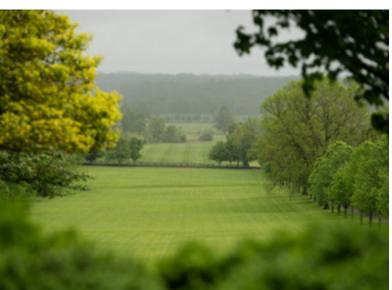






CHAPTER 4 THE ESTATE







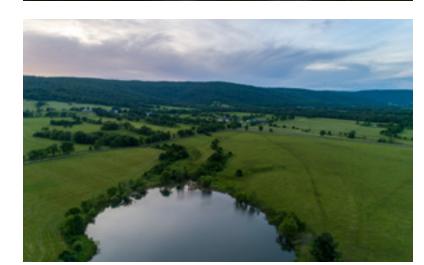














CHAPTER 4 THE ESTATE

## A Wine Renaissance

In addition to its renown as Horse Country, this area has earned another sobriquet: Wine Country. In fact, America's oldest wine grape, the Norton, was born in the region. Currently, Viognier, Cabernet Franc and Petit itself to making both New World and Old World wines. Verdot grapes flourish on Virginia vines.

The Blue Ridge Mountain region has become popular for wineries producing Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Gris, Bordeaux-style reds and other styles. Likewise,

Llangollen has the right soil, climate and mountainside environment for a vineyard. The Commonwealth's flexible climate, thanks to its mid-Atlantic location, lends With its ample resources, Llangollen presents a rare opportunity to cultivate vintages with a personal touch, whether private-labeled just for friends and family or widely marketed.











## The Manor House





58/59

Historically accurate and lovingly stewarded, the Llangollen manor house represents several distinguished American architectural styles seamlessly concentrated into one beautiful residence. While many buildings and structures sit on the expansive acreage, originally surveyed by future-president George Washington, the primary dwelling of this country estate is a three-story brick structure with stucco exterior that faces the sunrise, with the Blue Ridge at its back.

The original post-Revolutionary patent house, built in 1795 to claim title to the Fairfax property, still stands. In the early 1800s, Col. Leven Powell built the twostory main house in the Federal style, typified by a

smooth façade and louvered shutters. Classical Revival additions, circa 1918, include a double-story front portico with four two-story Doric columns that support a tympanum and fanlight lunette. In 1930, during the era of millionaire John Hay "Jock" Whitney, a southern addition was added to mirror the north addition. In the late 20th century, the Ashes oversaw other additions including balustrades that, echoing the front porch, run the full length of the flat roof above.

Although the main house was heavily restored in the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, the newer materials were carefully designed and executed to maintain its historical integrity and integrate flawlessly.











#### CONTEMPORARY COMFORTS

To step inside the Llangollen manor house is to feel at home. The main residence features 24 rooms with 17 fireplaces, including nine bedrooms, eight full baths, three half-baths and a three-car garage.

Wide-plank hardwood flooring, high ceilings, crown moldings, arches and warm woods repeat throughout the interiors. The Center Hall entrance makes a dramatic first impression with a sweeping, 20th century floating stair. To the right of the main entrance, the circa 1830 side Parlor is currently used as a Dining Room and is warmed by a charming fireplace. To the left stands another Parlor and a Sitting Room. Other first-floor rooms include the Great Room, Butler's Pantry and large Storage Pantry, Bar, Home Office with fireplace, and Library with fireplace. The first floor also has two full baths and two half-baths. A stairwell leads to the 19th century cellar, now used as the Tavern Room with an oversized stone fireplace, half-bath, walk-in vault and laundry room.

The contemporary Kitchen features a farmhouse sink, stainless steel appliances, granite countertops, eatin kitchen island and expansive counter space. The Wolf gas range inspires cooking and baking with six burners and a griddle that are precision-engineered for controlled heat and airflow. Professional-quality

refrigeration is assured by the refrigerator and companion freezer that, together, provide nearly a full wall of premium food preservation.

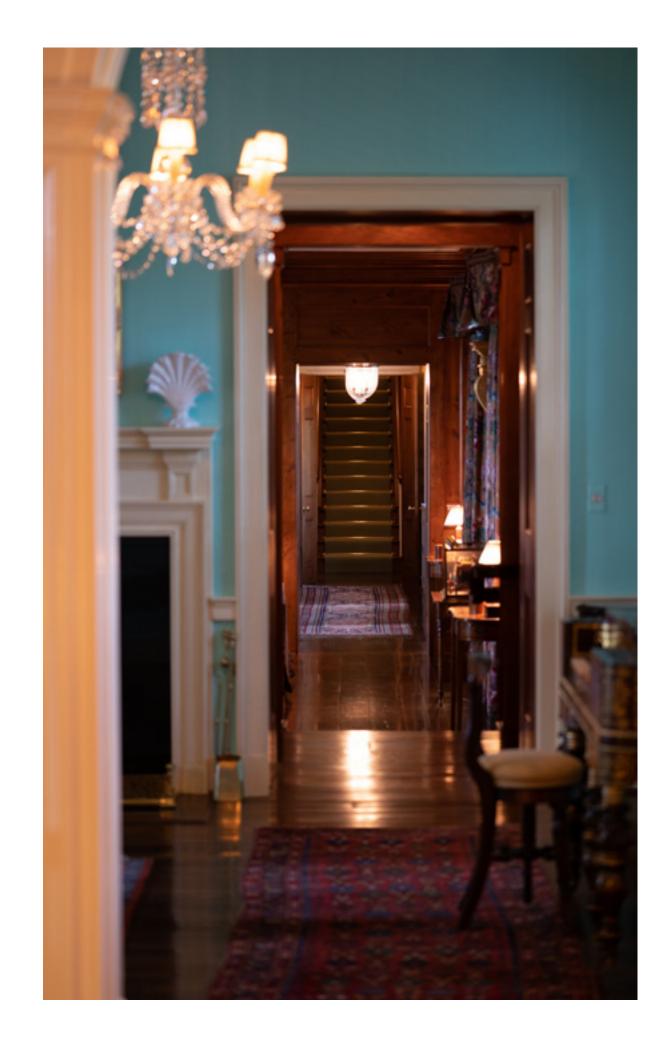
The Breakast Room sits in the original kitchen of the fully enveloped 1795 patent house and still retains the original, exposed brick cooking hearth as a reminder of pastoral times in this new nation.

The South Wing of the manor house is equipped with two large bedrooms and a bath. Meanwhile the North Wing includes an entire apartment, including two beds, one bath, a kitchen and a living room with fireplace.

The second floor includes a Master Bedroom Suite with fireplaces and bath, two additional bedrooms with baths and a bedroom with fireplaces and full baths. The third floor provides two more bedrooms and a bath.

#### CAREFULLY CURATED

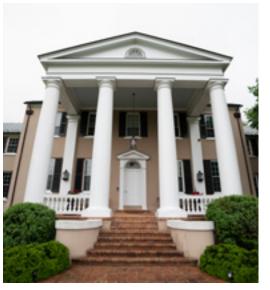
From the window treatments to the floor coverings, the Llangollen interiors have been astutely furnished to retain its age-appropriate, country house charm. Handpicked antique furnishings — many chosen by its original owners — fill the rooms with character and coexist beautifully with thoughtfully selected contemporary pieces.

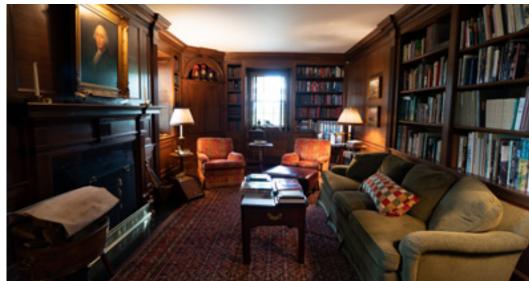


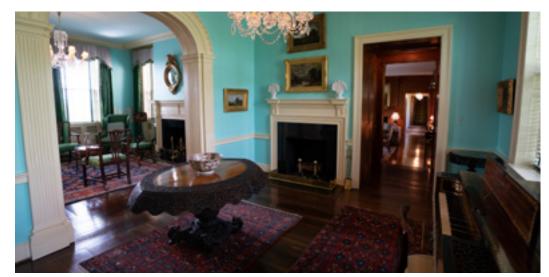


CHAPTER 5 THE MANOR HOUSE

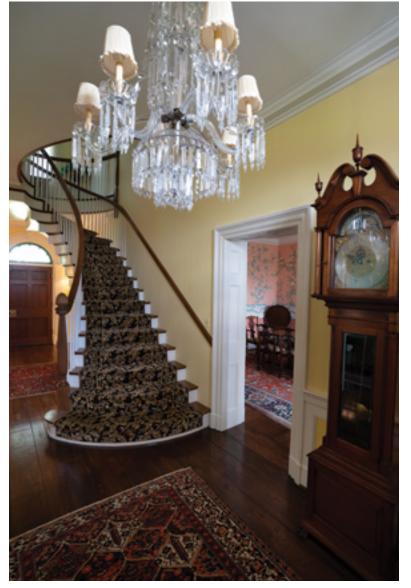




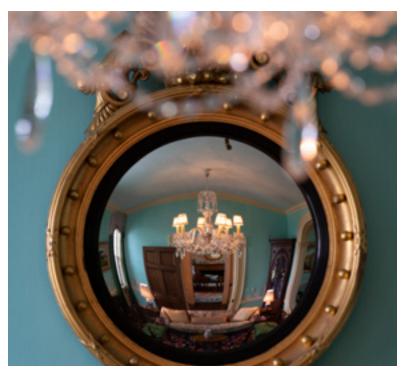


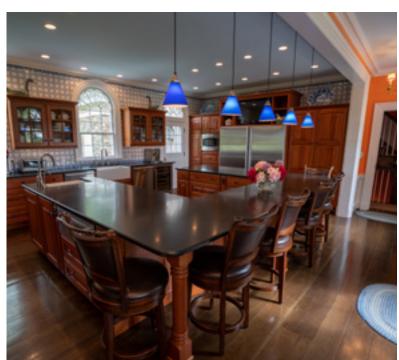














CHAPTER 5 THE MANOR HOUSE



Llangollen is a place for all seasons, from the first apple blossoms in spring to the powdery and picturesque winter landscapes.

Here, nature has created an endless bounty for outdoor enthusiasts, and holidays have a special magic.

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