

**HABS No. WV-296-A**

**WOODS HOMESTEAD, BARN**  
County Route 12 on the north side of the North Fork  
of the Hughes river, 2.2 miles north and east of  
Goose Run Road intersection.  
Harrisville  
Ritchie County  
West Virginia

HABS  
WVA  
43-HARVL,  
2A-

**PHOTOGRAPHS**

**WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA**

**HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY**

National Park Service  
Northeast Region  
Philadelphia Support Office  
U.S. Custom House  
200 Chestnut Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

HABS  
WVA  
43-HABV,  
2A-

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

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Location: County Route 12 on the north side of the North Fork of the Hughes River, 2.2 miles north and east of Goose Run Road intersection, Harrisville, Ritchie County, West Virginia

U.S.G.S.: Harrisville, West Virginia Quadrangle  
U.T.M.: 17.498930.4341620

Present Owner: Little Kanawha Soil Conservation District  
Route 5 Box 1000  
Parkersburg, West Virginia

Present Use: Storage

Significance: This two-story building was originally a mill house associated with the William Wells Mill. It was completely gutted and remodeled around 1920 into a barn that is a typical example of the type of heavy timber construction found in farm structures throughout the region.

### Historical Information

#### A. Physical History

1. Date of construction: No exact date of construction has been determined for the structure. However, sources indicate that the mill house for the original William Wells Mill was gutted and remodeled into a barn by Marcus A. Dorsey Broadwater, who owned the property from 1919 to 1926 (Broadwater, personal communication, 1995). According to tax valuation records, the value of buildings on the Broadwater property climbed from \$400 to \$1,000 in 1920, and this probably reflects the date of construction.
2. Architect: Not known.
3. Builder, Contractor, Suppliers: Not known.
4. Original builders/owners of the barn: Marcus A. Dorsey Broadwater (1919-1926).
5. Builder: Not known.
6. Original plans and construction: No plans or other construction details have been located.

### Descriptive Information

#### A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: The Woods Homestead barn is a two-story frame building with a gable roof of standing-seam metal. It is sheathed with weatherboards on the east and north sides and vertical boards on the west side. The south wall has been removed and two open hay sheds with roof additions have been added to the south side. Vertical planking on the west wall does not match the weatherboard on the other two walls. However, a small framed window located in the eaves suggests that this wall may be partially original.
2. Condition of Fabric: Only a few timbers and two walls appear to date from the original construction, and thus the structure retains no integrity relative to its use as a mill house. The later barn structure is in fair condition.

#### B. Description of Exterior

1. Overall Dimensions: The barn is asymmetrically massed, measuring approximately 29 feet, 9 inches on the north elevation, 37 feet, 3 inches on the south elevation,

and 42 feet, 6 inches on the east and west elevations.

2. Foundation: The barn sits on four cut stone corner posts and has a dirt floor.
3. Walls: The barn is covered in horizontal weatherboard siding on the east and north sides and vertical planks on the west side. The south side is open-walled for hay storage.
4. Structural systems: The barn structure is of heavy timber frame construction. Large square-cut timbers support rafters of similar size, some of which display notching and/or mortise and tenon joinery and the uprights rest on large rectangular sandstone footers. These timbers and the two walls they support may be the only surviving remnants of the original mill house, but this is unconfirmed.
5. Porches: There are no porches.
6. Chimneys: There are no chimneys.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and Doors: The north wall has a central ground floor doorway and has been modified with the addition of a larger second entrance, probably for cattle. A doorway-sized opening between floors on the east wall may have been used for conveying grain for storage. Also on the east wall is a doorway below the grain door.
  - b. Windows: On the second floor of the north wall are three small framed window openings. The east wall contains a small window opening below the grain door and another small window opening below the gable, and a small framed window opening is also situated in the eaves on the west wall.
8. Roof:
  - a. Shape, covering: The barn has a moderately pitched standingseam metal roof with two roof extensions on the south side.
  - b. Cornice and eaves: The barn has wide eave boards. decorative features are present on the gables or eaves.
  - c. Description of Interior: Examination of the interior reveals that it is heavily framed with four corner posts and posts in the center of six walls that are supported by heavy square-cut timbers. A wide variety of farm implements and other items are stored in the barn, including an antique spring-tine harrow and a small wooden horse-drawn plow.

Sources of Information

Ritchie County Deed Books, Ritchie County Courthouse, Harrisville, W.V. 1844-1954.

Ritchie County Land Records, Ritchie County Courthouse, Harrisville, W.V. 1844-1954.

Project Information

The house and small shed outbuilding remain in private hands and are above the 100-year flood elevation of the proposed reservoir. They are not part of the mitigation project. The barn, however, has been purchased by the Little Kanawha Soil Conservation District, Parkersburg, West Virginia, and is within the designated project area.

Billy Joe Peyton, Historian  
Past and Present, The Kemp Group, Inc.  
January 1998