



Formerly known as Brookside, Merrybrook is an evolved farmhouse, built in at least five periods from circa 1820 to circa 1950. The house was the residence of well-known Civil War heroine Laura Ratcliffe from circa 1869, when her mother bought the property, until her death in 1923. Well known for her gallant efforts in saving Colonel John S. Mosby's life during the Civil War, Laura became a legend in her own time. Mosby made mention of her in his book and credited her with saving his life. Laura's bravery and devotion to the southern cause, along with her beauty and tenderness, inspired General J. E. B. Stuart to write a poem about her, which he gave to her in an inscribed album. Her staunch, principled, and generous character continued to shine after the war as she resided for over fifty years at Merrybrook, which stands today as a testament to this heroic figure.

[Nomination Form](#)

Merrybrook

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places April 26, 2007

