

VLR a/6/6  
NRHP 12/1/6

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name George Chrisman House  
other names/site number DHR File #082-0136

**2. Location**

street & number 5341 Shaver Mill Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Linville vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Rockingham code 165 Zip 22834

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

12/17/60  
Date

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
     entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the National Register  
     removed from the National Register  
     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper  
Date of Action

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

George Chrisman House  
Rockingham County, Virginia

---

### 5. Classification

---

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

---

### 6. Function or Use

---

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION Manufacturing Facility

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling  
OTHER Ruins  
OTHER Electric Pump House

---

### 7. Description

---

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation STONE: Limestone  
Roof WOOD: Shake  
Walls STONE: Limestone  
Other BRICK

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)















**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 8 Page 6**

---

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The George Chrisman House, located in Rockingham County at 5341 Shaver Mill Road in Linville, Virginia, is significant under Criterion A for agriculture and Criterion C for architecture. The circa 1787 Federal-style limestone dwelling with original kitchen wing is an outstanding example of Shenandoah Valley vernacular architecture that embodies characteristics of both late eighteenth-century and nineteenth-century design and fashion. The development and cultivation of the original grant of 376 acres of land by his father allowed George Chrisman to begin a life for his family in the fertile Shenandoah Valley. On this land he was able to cultivate a variety of crops and livestock on a small scale in the beginning, while progressing to a more sophisticated agricultural system using the services of up to fifteen slaves. Future Chrisman generations enhanced the agricultural output of their Shenandoah Valley farm with the introduction of new livestock breeds. The addition of a gristmill by the Shaver family in 1830 and their continued use of the property as a working farm further contributed to the agricultural and architectural evolution of the property. While the property has been reduced in size over the years, it still reveals much about the agricultural settlement patterns, agricultural evolution, and architectural traditions of an Upper Shenandoah Valley farm of the late eighteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

**Historical Background**

**Acquisition of the Property**

The story of the Chrisman property began years before George and Hannah Chrisman acquired the land in 1761 by a grant from George's father, Jacob Chrisman, and mother, Magdalena Hite Chrisman, who resided in Frederick County, Virginia. Jacob, however, like many of the other German settlers had made his way to the Shenandoah Valley by way of Pennsylvania. George's mother was the daughter of Jost Hite, who is noted as one of the first settlers in the Valley. Jost Hite acquired over 7,000 acres in the Linville Creek area of the Shenandoah Valley. Upon acquisition of this acreage, Jost Hite established a mill on Linville Creek and, in turn, rented the mill to the founder of Linville, Thomas Linville, in 1742. Thomas Linville subsequently purchased 1,200 acres on Linville Creek from Hite by 1746, which was diminished when Linville sold 500 acres to Jacob and Magdalena Chrisman on November 14, 1746. There is no evidence to suggest that Jacob and Magdalena ever settled in the Linville Creek area, as their two-story stone homestead, Chrisman Springs, in Frederick County was undergoing construction at that time. On May 5, 1761 Jacob and Magdalena deeded 376 acres of the property to their sixteen-year-old son, George Chrisman, to establish his own farm and home. It is possible that the land was a wedding gift to George Chrisman and Hannah McDowell who were married by 1762.<sup>5</sup>









**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 9 Page 11**

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

- Andrews, Matthew Page. *Virginia: The Old Dominion*. Richmond: Dietz, 1949.
- Augusta County Courthouse Records, *Deed Book 9 Page 369*, 5 May 1761.
- Axelson, Edith F. *VA Postmaster and Post Offices 1789-1832*. Athens: Iberian, 1991.
- Baker, John Milnes. *American House Styles: A Concise Guide*. New York: W.W. Norton, 1994.
- Bucher, Ward. *Dictionary of Building Preservation*. New York: Preservation Press, 1996.
- Christman, Glen. *A Chrismam/Christman Genealogy: The Descendants of Jacob Christman I, of Frederick County, Virginia*. Decorah: Anundsen, 1983.
- Downs, Janet Baugher et al. *Mills of Rockingham County Vol. 2*. Dayton: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 1997.
- Downs, Janet Baugher et al. *Mills of Rockingham County Vol. 4*. Dayton: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 2003.
- Fisher, Silas. *Highland County Day Book 1853-1855*.
- Glassie, Henry. *Folk Housing in Middle Virginia*. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1975.
- Good, William A. *Discovery, Formation and Growth of Rockingham County and Harrisonburg*. Unpublished Manuscript, Harrisonburg-Rockingham County Historical Society.
- Harrison, J. Houston. *Settlers by the Long Grey Trail: Some Pioneers to Old Augusta County, Virginia, and their Descendants, of the Family of Harrison and Allied Lines*. Harrisonburg: C.J. Carrier, 1975.
- Heatwole, John L. *Chrisman's Boy Company: A History of the Civil War Service of Company A, 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, Virginia Mounted Reserves*. Bridgewater: Mountain and Valley, 2000.
- Kercheval, Samuel. *A History of the Valley of Virginia*. Harrisonburg: C.J. Carrier, 1981.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 9 Page 12**

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY (CONT.)**

Kline, Agnes. *Stone Houses on Linville Creek and Their Communities*. Harrisonburg: PVP, 1971.

Lounsbury, Carl R. ed. *An Illustrated Glossary of Early Southern Architecture and Landscape*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1994.

McAllister, Virginia and Lee McAllister. *A Field Guide to American Houses*. New York: Knopf, 2005.

Morrison, Hugh. *Early American Architecture: From the First Colonial Settlements to the National Period*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1952.

Moss, Roger W. ed. *Paint in America: The Colors of Historic Buildings*. New York: Preservation Press, 1994.

Norris, J.E., ed. *History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley Counties of Frederick, Berkeley, Jefferson, and Clarke*. Berryville: A Warner, 1890.

Phillips, Steven J. *Old House Dictionary: An Illustrated Guide to American Domestic Architecture 1600-1940*. John Wiley and Sons: New York, 1994.

Priode, Marguerite B. *Executor, Administrator and Guardian Bonds in Rockingham County, VA 1778-1864*, Harrisonburg, 1978.

Rockingham County Courthouse Records

...A to R; Chalkley Vol. 2, Dunkenson et. ux. V. Moore Judgments Sept. 1802.

...Rockingham County Minute Book Vol. 1 1778-1786.

...Land Tax Book for Rockingham County of 1787 First Book

Rockingham County Land Map 64A.

Terrell, Issac Long. *Old Houses in Rockingham County 1750 to 1850*. Verona: McClure, 1970.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 9 Page 13**

---

**BIBLIOGRAPHY (CONT.)**

United States Government Records

- ...United States Census 1810.
- ...United States Head of Household Census of 1784.
- ...United States Census Agricultural Schedule 1850.
- ...United States Census Agricultural Schedule 1860.
- ...United States Census Agricultural Schedule 1870.
- ...United States Census Agricultural Schedule 1880.

Upton, Dell, ed. *America's Architectural Roots: Ethnic Groups that Built America*. New York: Preservation Press, 1986.

Virginia Department of Historic Resources Archives Records

- ...EHT Traceries, Inc, *Historic Architectural Survey of Rockingham County*, Dec 2000.
- ...Letter from John Wayland to Fred Holm, DHR File #: 082-0136, 30 March 1957.

Wayland, John W. *A History of Rockingham County*. Harrisonburg: C.J. Carrier, 1996.

Wayland, John W. *Historic Homes of Northern Virginia and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia*. Harrisonburg: McClure, 1937.

Wayland, John W. *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley*. Harrisonburg: C.J. Carrier, 1975.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 10 Page 14**

---

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Chrisman House property is located within Rockingham County at the physical address of 5341 Shaver Mill Road, Linville, Virginia. The property is made up of 4.51 acres of land with three buildings on the property as defined on the Rockingham County Land Map 64 A, Lot 57 found in the Rockingham County Tax Assessor's office land book. The property is bordered to the west, south, and east by the Edom Acres, LLC property. The south boundary also follows a part of Joe's Creek. The north border is defined by Route 780, which is known today as Shaver Mill Road.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary of the nominated property includes the historical resources associated with the George Chrisman property and is recorded on Rockingham County Land Map 64A as Lot 57. The property is owned by Gordon Daniel and Susan Pinnell.

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section Photographs Page 15**

---

All photographs are of:

**GEORGE CHRISMAN HOUSE**

**LOCATION:**

5341 Shaver Mill Road  
Rockingham County, Virginia  
DHR File no. 082-0136

**PHOTOGRAPHERS:** Matthew Corder and Sarah Edwards

**DATE:** April 15, 2006

**NEGATIVE #: 22930**

All negatives are stored at the Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia

**VIEW:** East Elevation Main House

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 32  
**PHOTO 1 OF 15**

**VIEW:** South Elevation Main House

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 30  
**PHOTO 2 OF 15**

**VIEW:** South and West Elevations of Main House

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 8  
**PHOTO 3 OF 15**

**VIEW:** West Elevation of Main House

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 36  
**PHOTO 4 OF 15**

**VIEW:** North Elevation of the Main House

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 33  
**PHOTO 5 OF 15**

**VIEW:** First Floor Interior Looking South

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 24  
**PHOTO 6 OF 15**

**VIEW:** Interior of Stone Kitchen

**NEGATIVE #:** 22930, **FRAME #:** 22  
**PHOTO 7 OF 15**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section Photographs Page 16**

---

VIEW: Second Floor Interior Hall Looking South  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 18  
PHOTO 8 OF 15

VIEW: Southwest Bedchamber Mantel and Fireplace Detail  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 19  
PHOTO 9 OF 15

VIEW: Staircase Detail Southeast Corner of Main House  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 17  
PHOTO 10 OF 15

VIEW: Baseboard Detail with Period Finishes  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 11  
PHOTO 11 OF 15

VIEW: Cellar Entry Door Located on South Wall of Main House  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 10  
PHOTO 12 OF 15

VIEW: Ruins of Shaver Mill Looking South  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 27  
PHOTO 13 OF 15

VIEW: Non-Contributing Concrete Block Pump House  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 25  
PHOTO 14 OF 15

VIEW: Overview of Farmstead Looking North  
NEGATIVE #: 22930, FRAME #: 3  
PHOTO 15 OF 15

4271  
5261 III SW  
(SINGERS GLEN)

CHRISMAN HOUSE  
VADHR#082036  
ROCKINGHAM COUNTY

BROADWAY QUAD  
WGS84 / NAD83 4269  
UTM COORDINATES

1: UTM 17  
685724E  
4268482N

2: UTM 17  
685870E 4268  
4268433N 32'30"

3: UTM 17  
685812E  
4268331N

4: UTM 17 4267  
685685E  
4268409N

