

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED May 7 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Snapp House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

Wildflower Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

west side of State Route 757; south of Snapps Run; east side of Interstate 81.

CITY, TOWN

Fishers Hill

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Shenandoah

CODE

171

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Ms. Nancy Sullivan

STREET & NUMBER

Rural Route #1, Box 81-6

CITY, TOWN

Strasburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 22657

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Shenandoah County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Woodstock

STATE

Virginia 22664

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1971, 1977, 1978

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission - 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lawrence Snapp House is a two-story Continental log house built into a bank close to Snapps Run in Shenandoah County. The siting, on a slope perpendicular to its contours, allows multilevel entry at grade, is close to sources of water (Snapp's Run and a stream, over which the house was built), and is characteristic of houses built in the Shenandoah Valley by German settlers in the second half of the 18th century.

The main section of the house, set on a limestone basement, is two bays long with a door in the left (west) bay and a full-length, one-story porch with chamfered columns. The house is covered with plain weatherboards and has later louvered blinds and 6/6 sash. An off-center interior limestone chimney surmounts the gable roof which has late 19th-century eaves returns.

To the rear of the main block is an early 19th-century coursed rubble limestone ell. It is also two stories tall, three bays long, and has a central stone chimney stack. It has 6/6 sash and stone jack arches over the window and door openings.

The plan of the main block was originally the four-room Kreuzhaus variant of the Continental Flurkuchenhaus. One enters the western Kuche or kitchen, which has a massive stone fireplace. Behind this is a smaller room with a small fireplace in the north jamb of the chimney and stairs in the northwest corner. The partition of this smaller room was removed in the 19th century, and the room was made narrower and expanded into the wing. In recent years this expansion was reversed, and the small fireplace was closed. East of the chimney was the Stube, or parlor, which was heated by a five-plate iron stove fed through a hole in the back of the kitchen fireplace. (Two plates of a locally made five-plate stove, dated 1801, have been found on the property). A board partition, removed by the present owner, set off the Stube from the narrow Kammer (chamber) at the rear.

A small frame connector ties the log house to the stone ell which contains a dining room at the near end, a kitchen with a large fireplace, and stairs at the far end. There are cellars under the Stube/Kammer (which contain a spring) as well as under the ell dining room.

Decoration in the Flurkuchenhaus is minimal, as was normally the case in such structures. It consists mostly of six-panel, raised-panel doors, and the exterior doors have vertical beaded sheathing on the interior. Several interesting strap hinges survive, as does a Suffolk latch on the cellar stair. The exposed joists are chamfered, but the summer beam was cut out apparently in the 19th century.

The dining room is decorated with a pedestal chair rail and with a delicate mantel consisting of reeded pilasters without caps, supporting a plain frieze and entablature blocks and a relatively thin (for the Valley) molded shelf. To the right of the fireplace are original cupboards with recessed panel doors.

The ell kitchen retains its original floors and hearth. To the right of the fireplace is the date 1824, which may be the date of the ell, though this is open to question.

In the yard northeast of the original house stands the rubble stone chimney, underpinning, and trough of a springhouse. The building was set so that the stream running from the cellar spring to Snapp's Run would supply the cooling trough. Across the road,

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 late 18th century

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Snapp House in Shenandoah County is a rare surviving example of the Continental central-chimney houses built in the late 18th and early 19th centuries by the German-speaking settlers of western Virginia. The house's siting against a bank and near a good water supply, its original four-room or Kreuzhaus plan, its Continental-type roof trusses, and its partial basement are all products of the Germanic tradition. Another characteristically Continental feature of the Snapp House, the basement spring, is very rare in Virginia. The handsome early 19th-century stone wing and the remains of a springhouse/kitchen add to the exceptional assemblage. The family cemetery and the (sadly altered) mid-19th-century brick barn across the road from the house, while not owned by the same person and not part of the register bounds, further contribute to this remarkably complete picture of German-American life in the Shenandoah Valley.

The early history of the Snapp House property is very confused. All that can be determined is that the house belonged in the 18th century to Lawrence Snapp, Sr., a wealthy resident of the area. After Snapp's death in 1782 his property was divided among ten children (seven sons) who commenced a long and complex series of land sales and trades. One son, Phillip Snapp, may have become the eventual owner. At his death in 1812 another complex series of sales and legacies was initiated, partly as a result of Snapp's apparent insolvency. Part of the tract was left to Snapp's wife Sally, but by 1836 the property seems to have come by bits and pieces into the hands of John Copp. If this reconstruction is correct, it may be that the stone ell, although dated on the fireplace 1824, was constructed nearer 1837. At that time the building's taxable value, which had remained stable at \$437, increased to \$737 (although this increase may also reflect the construction of the brick barn).

The property, known in recent years as Wildflower Farm, was purchased several years ago by Mrs. Nancy Sullivan, who has renovated it.

DU/VDS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Frederick County Deed Books Nos. 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 17.
 Northern Neck Grants Books G, P, R, W, Y.
 Rockingham County Deed Books A - U.
 Rockingham County Land Tax Books 1782-1844.
 Rockingham County Will Books A, B, C, D, H.
 United States Census Reports for 1782 and 1810.
 Wayland, John. Virginia Valley Records. Strasburg, VA., 1930. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres
 QUADRANGLE NAME Toms Brook, Va. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	7, 2, 3, 0, 9, 0	4, 3, 1, 6, 6, 5, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on Snapp's Run 200' W of I 81 and 600' NE of intersection of I 81 and State Route 646; thence extending NE 300' along Snapp's Run, then 300' SE along said run to W side of State Route 757; thence extending SW approximately 200' on the said side of said route; thence extending NW 400' to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE November 1978
 STREET & NUMBER 221 Governor Street TELEPHONE (804) 786-3144
 CITY OR TOWN Richmond STATE Virginia 23219

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE X LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Julia Hill*
 TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director DATE NOV 21 1978
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE May 7 1979

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Snapp House, Shenandoah County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 9 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

not on the present owner's property, are a mid-19th-century brick bank barn and a family cemetery which originally belonged to the house.

The register bounds follow the road and property bounds on the south and west and Snapp's Run on the north and east.

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9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____. A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia. Strasburg, Va.: Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc., 1969.

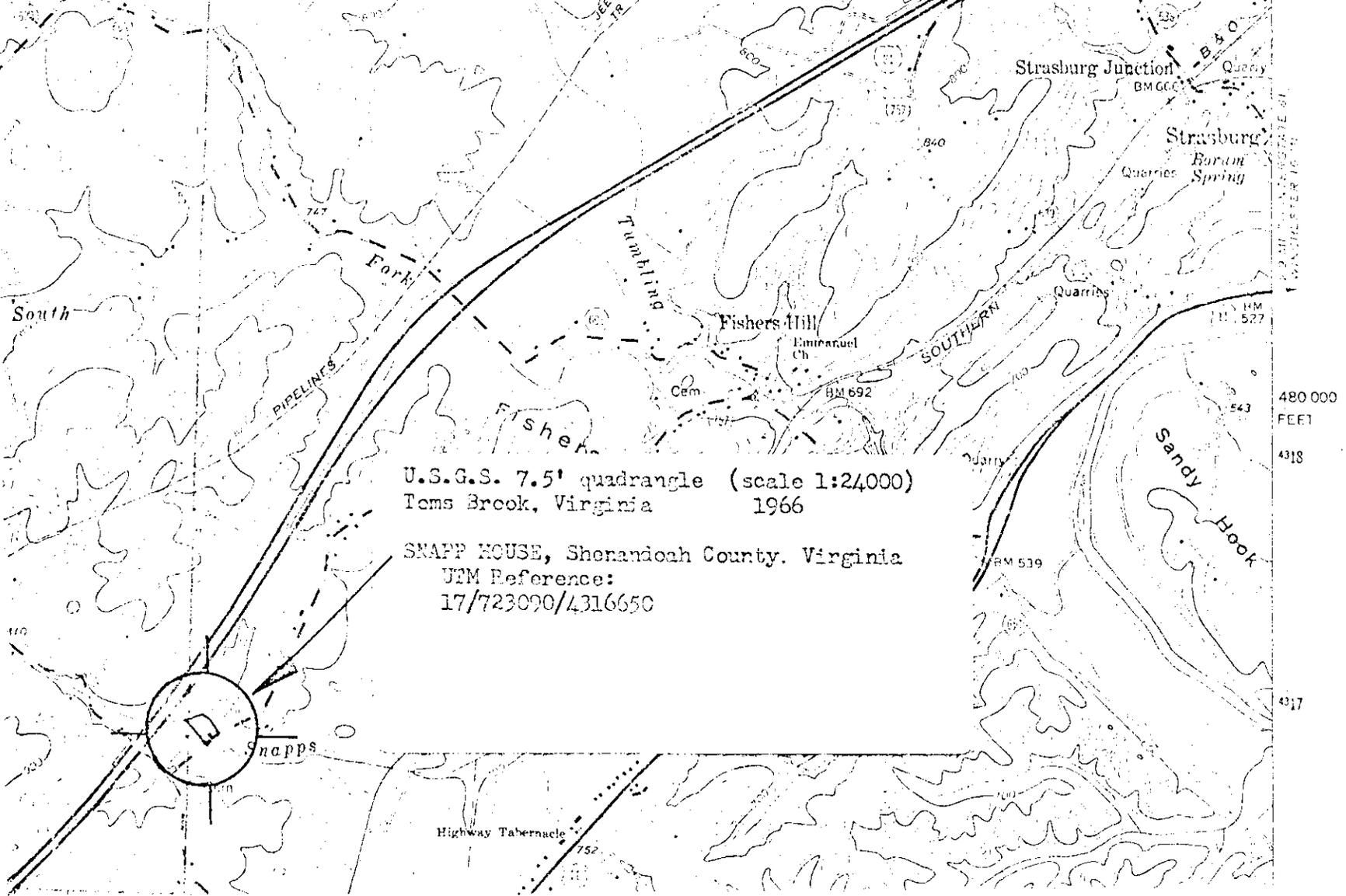
F VIRGINIA
RESOURCES
E GEOLOGIST

TOMS BROOK QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-SHENANDOAH CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW 1/4 STRASBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5362 III SE
(MIDDLE TOWN)

25' 724 725 2 030 000 FEET 726 WINCHESTER 19 MI
1 1/2 MI TO INTERCHANGE IN 78° 22' 30"
39° 00'



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)
Toms Brook, Virginia 1966

SNAPP HOUSE, Shenandoah County, Virginia
UTM Reference:
17/723090/4316650

480 000
FEET
4318