

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- X private
X public-local
X public-State
public-Federal

- building(s)
X district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (84, 20), sites (4, 0), structures (1, 6), objects (0, 0), Total (89, 26).

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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)

Table with 2 columns: Cat, Sub. Categories include DOMESTIC, COMMERCE, GOVERNMENT, EDUCATION, RELIGION, FUNERARY, AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, HEALTH CARE and their sub-categories like single dwelling, store, post office, school, etc.

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Table with 2 columns: Cat, Sub. Categories include DOMESTIC, COMMERCE, RELIGION, FUNERARY, AGRICULTURE and their sub-categories like single dwelling, store, religious facility, etc.

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

- MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVAL: Colonial Revival
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Craftsman
COLONIAL
OTHER: Vernacular

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE: limestone; CONCRETE
roof METAL: tin; ASPHALT
walls WOOD: weatherboard; WOOD: log
other N/A

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

See continuation sheets.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
___ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
___ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
___ B removed from its original location.
___ C a birthplace or a grave.
___ D a cemetery.
___ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
___ F a commemorative property.
___ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

- INDUSTRY
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: European
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
ARCHITECTURE
TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance ca.1760-1945

Significant Dates ca.1760; 1838; 1945

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- ___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # ___
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # ___

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 190 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone Easting Northing. Values include 1 17 697425 4288166, 2 17 697765 4287557, 3 17 698084 4287799, 4 17 698470 4287227

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth M. Andre, Architectural Historian
organization William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research date July 23, 2008
street & number 327 Richmond Road telephone 757-221-2584
city or town Williamsburg state VA zip code 23185

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Various
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 2

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Forestville Historic District encompasses roughly 190 acres at the crossroads of Route 42, Route 614, and Route 767, near the southern tip of Shenandoah County, roughly seven miles northwest of New Market, six miles southwest of Mount Jackson, and eighteen miles southwest of the county seat of Woodstock. The historic district is comprised of a collection of buildings and structures that range from the late eighteenth century through the early twentieth century. The log and wood-frame single dwellings, with domestic and agricultural dependencies, that dominate the district are substantiated by a gristmill, two commercial buildings, a church, a cemetery, a post office, two doctors' offices, and a school. The resources are predominantly characterized by their vernacular construction, which largely reflects the ubiquitous I-house form of the region, and heavy use of local materials, such as timber and limestone, representing the building traditions of the German settlers. Overall, buildings are in fair-to-good condition. Several of the buildings stand in a well-preserved state, while others have experienced the types of alterations, such as synthetic siding and roofing and new windows, that are common to the evolving communities of the Shenandoah Valley. The expansion of the highway system in the 1940s necessitated the demolition of a few structures at the village's primary intersection and resulted in the construction of two bridges that carry the road over Holman's Creek. Despite these changes, Forestville stands as an enduring snapshot of a nineteenth-century mill village.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Setting
Nestled in the valley that extends between the Allegheny and Blue Ridge Mountain chains, in the shadow of Massanutten Mountain to the east and the Shenandoah National Forest to the west, Forestville straddles the banks of Holman's Creek, an eleven-mile tributary that feeds into the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Originally covered with a thick forest of hardwoods, primarily oaks and hickories, and rich in limestone deposits, the site of present-day Forestville has been largely cleared for the establishment of the village and the cultivation of the fertile, calcified soils. Building lots at the core of the village, clustered around the intersection of two paved, two-lane highways, typically range from less than one acre to four acres, with larger farmsteads sprawled along the perimeter of the settlement. Holman's Creek passes beneath Route 767 at the easterly end of the village and beneath Route 42 at the southerly end of the village. The thickly vegetated creek defines the boundaries of several of the smaller lots and passes through the larger acreage of the agricultural fields. Graded lots are frequently bound by stone retaining walls, and mature deciduous trees remain scattered across both the smaller lots and the larger farmsteads. The slightly hilly landscape is dominated by a large eminence at the northeasterly corner of the village.

Architectural Description
The architecture within the village displays a cohesion that reflects both the vernacular building trends and predominance of local building materials within the Shenandoah Valley. The abundance of both hardwood timber and limestone effectuated the construction of log and wood-frame buildings on foundations of dressed stone. Although stylistic elements are present on a handful of resources within the historic district, the restrained execution of these styles and their application to simplified building forms further expounds the vernacular character of the village. The vernacular traditions are not solely expressed within the original building features but also in the patterns of evolution visible within the accumulated additions and alterations.

One of the oldest extant resources, and the centerpiece of the village, is the Zirkle Mill (085-0122), listed on the registers in 1982-83. Constructed in the 1760s, the restored mill has a wood frame clad in weatherboard, is raised on

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 3

(NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION CONT.)

a foundation of random ashlar limestone, and is topped with a standing-seam metal roof. Small, wood, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows open into the façade and elevations, and brick, interior-end chimneys rise from the roof. A well-preserved Fitz overshoot wheel, likely a nineteenth-century replacement of the original water wheel, is attached to the easterly elevation of the mill. Upon the establishment of the mill, the Zirkle family constructed a log dwelling across present-day Quicksburg Road. The dwelling no longer stands, but the original family cemetery remains upon the hill at the northeast corner of the village. Now associated with St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church, the Forestville Cemetery (085-0405) is the result of the continued growth of the grave site from its eighteenth-century familial origins through to the present day. The cemetery is now filled with nearly 150 upright headstones, many of which display influence of the Gothic and Romanesque Revival movements and elaborate funerary art, and enclosed by a wrought-iron fence.

The dominant building type within the historic district is the single dwelling, and the dominant form for that building type is the two-story, single-pile, side-gable, wood-frame I-house with rear ell. The vernacular I-house form is either fully expressed in or has heavily influenced the design of fifteen dwellings, all of which date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. These dwellings are typically constructed on foundations of ashlar limestone, are topped with standing-seam metal roofs, and feature either interior or exterior brick chimneys. An excellent example of this building form is located at 4112 S. Middle Road (085-0405-0027). Although clad in vinyl siding and outfitted with vinyl windows, the original two-story, three-bay, single-pile, side-gable massing, with rear ell and interior-end chimneys, is well preserved. Lutz's Store (085-0405-0021), a circa 1840 commercial building, although only a single story, expresses much of the vernacular form that characterizes the two-story dwellings, such as the side-gable, single-pile massing; wood frame construction; and limestone foundation.

According to both oral history and physical evidence, seven of the fourteen contributing dwellings that display the I-house form may be partially of log construction. As evidenced in the small, deep window openings, low knee-wall, and irregular fenestration patterns, 3256 Senedo Road (085-0405-0003), 3090 Senedo Road (085-0405-0007), the Dr. John Burkett House (085-0405-0017), 4159 South Middle Road (085-0405-0023), 4217 South Middle Road (085-0405-0024), 4220 South Middle Road (085-0405-0025), and the secondary dwelling at the Peter Myers Farm (085-0788) all appear to contain an older log structure beneath an expanded building envelope. The most notable, well-preserved example of an enlarged log dwelling, and the oldest extant resource within the historic district, is the secondary dwelling located on the Peter Myers Farm. Constructed sometime prior to 1760 as a log cabin for the Myers family, some of the earliest settlers within the vicinity of present-day Forestville, and later used as one of the first Brethren meetinghouses in the region, the dwelling was expanded in 1803 into the two-story, four-bay, single-pile, side-gable form that is present today.

The only truly high-style building within the historic district, and the only example of the Greek Revival style, is the main dwelling at the Peter Myers Farm (085-0788). Constructed around 1850 by the Myers family, this two-story, five-bay, hipped-roofed masonry building is laid in six-course, American-bond brick; is topped with a standing-seam metal roof; features a symmetrical façade arrangement of wood, six-over-six, double-hung sash windows and central entrance with side- and transom-lights; and boasts a molded cornice. The wood portico that shelters the façade entrance was reconstructed in 1964.

Four dwellings, the church, and the post office were constructed in the late nineteenth century and illustrate a variety of Victorian-era details. Restrained in their expression and building form, these resources display only vernacular interpretations of the popular late-nineteenth-century styles, thus more explicitly conforming to the architecture of the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 4

(NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION CONT.)

village. 3839 Senedo Road (085-0405-0009) and 3292 Senedo Road (085-0405-0018), both constructed around 1870, and St. Mark's Lutheran Evangelical Church, constructed in 1873, all embody characteristics of the Italianate style. 3839 Senedo Road displays the traditional, two-story, single-pile, side-gable I-house form but also features an Italianate-inspired porch that boasts square columns and a bracketed cornice. 3292 Senedo Road is a larger, more exquisitely-detailed example that displays a cross-gable massing; full roofline entablature; bracketed, columned porch; pierced, scalloped millwork; and bay window. Both examples are well preserved, with original wood windows, wood clapboards, and standing-seam metal roofs. St. Mark's Lutheran Evangelical Church, although slightly altered with a new façade fenestration pattern and vinyl siding, is an excellent example of the Italianate style, exhibiting crown moldings atop the window openings; a finely-detailed, bracketed cornice; and an elaborate cupola. The Dr. Allen Biller House (085-0405-0016) was constructed around 1900 in the transitional Queen Anne-Colonial Revival style. One of the grander residences within the village, the Dr. Allen Biller House boasts a Tuscan-style porch with turned balustrade; gable bargeboards; crown moldings atop the window openings; rooftop cresting; and a cross-gable roof, all of which is executed on a simple, nearly cubic, two-story, three-by-two-bay massing. The associated office that is located at the front of the property also displays fine Victorian-era details, including the turned, bracketed portico with spindlework and the patterned shingles.

Only two contributing primary resources within the historic district date from the twentieth century: a circa 1910 Colonial Revival-style dwelling located at 4133 South Middle Road (085-0405-0020) and the 1918 Craftsman-style Forestville School (085-0405-0028) located on Quicksburg Road. Despite the addition of vinyl siding and vinyl windows, the symmetrical, two-story, hipped-roofed massing of the dwelling at 4133 South Middle Road is still characteristic of the early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival style. The Forestville School, with its deep, raking eaves, exposed rafter-tails, and columned portico, embodies characteristics of the Craftsman style, while the rectangular massing, banks of large windows, and rooftop cupola are all typical of early-twentieth-century school construction.

In keeping with the cycles of prosperity and the transitions in architectural trends, the majority of the resources within the village have undergone alterations that primarily include the replacement of historic materials with new siding, windows, and roofing materials and the addition of façade porches. An abundance of Queen Anne- and Colonial Revival-style porches dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries are found on the contributing dwellings within the historic district. These porches boast a range of details that include square columns, turned posts, Tuscan columns, brackets, spindlework, and turned or milled balustrades. An excellent example of an early-nineteenth-century log dwelling-turned I-house with Victorian-era porch is found at 4217 South Middle Road (085-0405-0024). One of the oldest extant resources in the village, dating from around 1800, this otherwise well-preserved dwelling, with its stone piers, wood clapboards, six-over-six windows, and rear ell, has been outfitted with a finely detailed façade porch that boasts square columns, curving brackets, and ornate millwork. A widespread movement toward modernity in the mid-twentieth century is reflected in the use of aluminum siding and wrought-iron porch posts, as noted at 4220 South Middle Road (084-0405-0025), while the vinyl siding and windows found on a number of the contributing resources suggest efforts to renovate the long-standing structures.

Secondary resources within the historic district consist primarily of domestic or agricultural outbuildings. The majority of the barns and outbuildings, which are typically of wood-frame construction with gable or shed roofs, appear to date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. A well-preserved example is located at 237 Quicksburg Road (085-0405-0030). This large, two-story, gable-roofed, wood-frame barn is clad in weatherboard, topped with a standing-seam metal roof, and outfitted with a hayloft and stalls for livestock. In addition to the turn-of-the-century outbuildings are three well-preserved smokehouses dating from the mid-nineteenth century. Located at the Peter

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 5

(NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION CONT.)

0788) is a masonry smokehouse that displays diamond-pattern brickwork on its exterior walls. Located to the rear of 3119 Senedo Road (085-0405-0011) is a wood-frame smokehouse with a brick chimney; and located to the rear of 4133 South Middle Road (085-0405-0020) is a log smokehouse with a prominent stone chimney abutting the gable end. Domestic dependencies identified include detached kitchens, privies, garages, and sheds.

Non-contributing buildings within the historic district include a one-story Ranch-style dwelling that dates from the 1960s; a small, nondescript one-story dwelling and garage that also dates from the 1960s; and a one-story Minimal Traditional dwelling that dates from 1960. Two non-contributing bridges, that date from 1947, cross over Holman's Creek at the easterly and southerly ends of the village.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 6

HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

In the following inventory, which is listed numerically by street address, all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the period of significance, which extends from ca.1760 to 1945, and integrity. Although many contributing buildings have undergone renovations, particularly in the form of new siding, roofing materials, and windows, the form and massing of the buildings, i.e. vernacular, two-story I-house with rear ell, remain intact. The form and massing of the each building, and, thus, its contribution to the overall cohesion of the village, was the primary factor in determining integrity. Non-contributing resources fall outside the period of significance or have been significantly altered. In three instances (085-0405-0005, 085-0405-0006, and 085-0405-0012) the primary resource on the property is non-contributing but the secondary resources are contributing. The contributing secondary resources for 085-0405-0005 and 085-0405-0006 are circa 1900 barns, and the contributing secondary resources for 085-0405-0012 are two circa 1900 agricultural outbuildings. Non-contributing buildings are in bold.

QUICKSBURG ROAD

Quicksburg Road **085-0405-0031**
 Property Type: Bridge
 Date of Construction: 1947
 Structural System: Reinforced-concrete T-beam
 Stories: 0
 Architectural Style: No Style
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-structure)

51 Quicksburg Road **085-0405-0028**
 Property Type: School
 Date of Construction: 1918
 Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
 Stories: 2
 Architectural Style: Craftsman
 CONTRIBUTING (2-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (2-structure)

84 Quicksburg Road **085-0405-0002**
 Property Type: Single dwelling
 Date of Construction: ca. 1865
 Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
 Stories: 2
 Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
 CONTRIBUTING (2-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 7

(HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY CONT.)

108 Quicksburg Road 085-0405-0001 Other DHR ID#: 085-0122

Property Type: Mill
Date of Construction: ca. 1760
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)
CONTRIBUTING (1-structure)

237 Quicksburg Road 085-0405-0030

Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1990
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: No Style
CONTRIBUTING (7-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

SENEDO ROAD

Senedo Road 085-0405-0008 Other DHR ID#: 085-5014

Property Type: Bridge
Date of Construction: 1947
Structural System: Reinforced-concrete T-beam
Stories: 0
Architectural Style: No Style
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-structure)

3090 Senedo Road 085-0405-0007

Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: 1796
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 8

(HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY CONT.)

3118 Senedo Road 085-0405-0006
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: 1960
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 1
Architectural Style: Minimal Traditional
CONTRIBUTING (1-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (3-building)

3119 Senedo Road 085-0405-0011
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1840
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular
CONTRIBUTING (6-building)

3189 Senedo Road 085-0405-0012
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1960
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in brick veneer
Stories: 1
Architectural Style: Ranch
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

3199 Senedo Road 085-0405-0013
Property Type: Commercial building
Date of Construction: ca. 1945
Structural System: Concrete-block
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: No style
CONTRIBUTING (1-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-object)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 9

(HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY CONT.)

3208 Senedo Road 085-0405-0005
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1960
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in board-and-batten siding
Stories: 1
Architectural Style: No Style
CONTRIBUTING (1-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

3223 Senedo Road 085-0405-00014
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1860
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

3242 Senedo Road 085-0405-0004
Property Type: Ruins
Date of Construction: ca. 1840
Structural System: Brick (chimney remains)
Stories: 0
Architectural Style: No style
CONTRIBUTING (1-site)

3256 Senedo Road 085-0405-0003
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1840
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (3-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 10

(HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY CONT.)

3292 Senedo Road 085-0405-0018
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1870
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Italianate
CONTRIBUTING (4-building)

3305 Senedo Road 085-0405-0015
Property Type: Church
Date of Construction: 1873
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 1
Architectural Style: Italianate
CONTRIBUTING (1-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

3332 Senedo Road 085-0405-0017
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1840
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

3349 Senedo Road 085-0405-0016
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1900
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Queen Anne
CONTRIBUTING (4-building)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 11

(HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY CONT.)

3691 Senedo Road 085-0405-0010 Other DHR ID#: 085-0788

Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1850
Structural System: Brick, 6-course American bond
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Greek Revival

CONTRIBUTING (9-building)

CONTRIBUTING (1-site)

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

3839 Senedo Road 085-0405-0009

Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1870
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house

CONTRIBUTING (4-building)

CONTRIBUTING (1-site)

NON-CONTRIBUTING (3-building)

SOUTH MIDDLE ROAD

4112 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0027

Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: 1860
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house

CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

NON-CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

4126 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0026

Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: 1866
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house

CONTRIBUTING (7-building)

NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-structure)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 12

(HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY CONT.)

4133 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0019
Property Type: Post Office
Date of Construction: ca. 1870
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 1
Architectural Style: Late Victorian
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

4133 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0020
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1910
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Colonial Revival
CONTRIBUTING (5-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-structure)

4143 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0021
Property Type: Commercial building
Date of Construction: ca. 1840
Structural System: Wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 1
Architectural Style: Vernacular
CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

4147 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0022
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1840
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in vinyl siding
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (2-building)

4159 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0023
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: 1816
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (4-building)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 7 Page 13

4217 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0024
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: ca. 1800
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in weatherboard
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (3-building)

4220 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0025
Property Type: Single dwelling
Date of Construction: 1836
Structural System: Log and wood-frame clad in aluminum siding
Stories: 2
Architectural Style: Vernacular I-house
CONTRIBUTING (4-building)
NON-CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

4322 S. Middle Road 085-0405-0029
Property Type: Cemetery
Date of Construction: pre 1800
Structural System: Stone
Stories: 0
Architectural Style: Other
CONTRIBUTING (1-site)
CONTRIBUTING (1-building)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 14

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Forestville Historic District, which encompasses approximately 190 acres at the crossroads of Route 42, Route 614, and Route 767, near the southern tip of Shenandoah County, is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of industry, agriculture, commerce, European ethnic heritage, exploration and settlement, and transportation and under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The Forestville Historic District is eligible under Criterion A for its status as a well-preserved mill village, its association with the patterns of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century German settlement within the Shenandoah Valley, and its contribution to the advanced market economy of commercial wheat production, which is characterized by a highly developed road network, a hierarchy of interconnected communities, and an extensive farming and milling culture. The Forestville Historic District is also eligible under Criterion C for its collection of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century buildings and structures that embody both the vernacular building trends of the early German settlers and the evolving character of Shenandoah Valley architecture. The period of significance for the Forestville Historic District spans from its initial settlement in ca.1760, with the construction of the mill, to the general decline of the commercial wheat economy in 1945, at the end of World War II.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

It is within the context of an advanced settlement continuum, reliant on a single cash crop and woven together by a complex transportation network, that Forestville's significance as a mill village can be fully examined. A component within the interconnected market economy of the Shenandoah Valley, Forestville's development and subsequent growth was closely linked to the evolution of the cash crop economy.

Settlement History of the Valley

Covering around 6,500 square miles and stretching for 180 miles between the Potomac River south to the Natural Bridge, the Shenandoah Valley, with an abundance of natural resources, the fecundity of the agricultural landscape, and the fluidity of movement along the northeast-southwest corridor, served as a meeting ground for westward expansion into the backcountry of the Virginia colony and the southern migration of land-seekers from southeastern Pennsylvania.¹ The Shenandoah Valley is primarily characterized by the interrelationships of its hamlets, villages, and towns, which are at once hierarchical and reciprocal and are integral to the economic prosperity of the region. The waterways, roadways, and railways that physically bind the strategically-placed communities up and down the valley corridor served as a catalyst for stimulating these interrelationships and formed the passage through which people and marketable goods flowed across the region and beyond.

Initially part of Lord Fairfax's Northern Neck Land Grant, present-day Shenandoah County was established in 1738 as part of Frederick County and officially formed as an independent county in 1772. Between the 1730s and the 1770s - most notably from 1750 to 1776 - the Shenandoah Valley received a large population of German immigrants originating in the Rhine Valley. These settlers were part of a greater migration of German, Scots-Irish, and English immigrants who traveled along the Great Wagon Road from southeastern Pennsylvania, through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and into North Carolina and Georgia throughout the eighteenth century. The Great Wagon Road followed an old Native American trail that extended north to Canada and south to Georgia. In 1716, Alexander Spotswood led an exploring party through the Shenandoah Valley and surveyed 82 tracts for prospective settlers. These early three- and four-hundred-acre tracts provided access to water and typically subsumed both the fertile, limestone-rich lands and the less prolific shale lands that characterize the geography of the region.² Small farms quickly emerged along the tributaries of the Shenandoah River and within close proximity to the wagon road, the first and most prominent artery in the major transportation network that would soon weave its way through the backcountry settlements.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 15

Around 1720, Colonial Governor William Gooch began granting land to settlers in the lower Shenandoah Valley. He intended to settle the Valley as quickly as possible and to help provide a buffer against the French and Indians who posed a threat to the frontier of the colony. He encouraged settlement of the Valley by European emigrants, including Germans and Scots-Irish, many of whom made their way into the Valley from Pennsylvania.³

Emergence of a Cash Crop

Settlers of European origin brought to the Shenandoah Valley scientific agricultural practices that promoted diversity in crops, particularly small grains; combining crop production with animal husbandry; deep plowing; and soil rejuvenation techniques. Within the fertile, limestone-rich soils of the Valley, farmers produced a variety of grains, including wheat, corn, oats, and rye; pasture grasses, such as clover and timothy; and livestock, including beef and dairy cattle, draft horses, and swine.⁴

Initially, the small, diversified farms were widely dispersed and bound only by kinship ties and ethnicity, forming an open-country neighborhood of interrelated households that were generally spaced one quarter to one mile apart. This dispersal was necessary for settlers to secure the best possible aggregate of natural resources upon which to establish their farmsteads. Unlike the plantation economy of the Tidewater region, which relied heavily upon a single tobacco cash crop and enslaved labor, thus perpetuating a landscape of self-contained households, the early subsistence farms of the Shenandoah Valley required interconnectivity for the exchange of goods and services. Therefore, in the absence of clustered settlements, an advanced road system was established. These early roads connected individual farmsteads to one another and to local mills, which were necessary for the grinding of grains either for home use or for trade with neighbors.

During the early phase of settlement, up until the mid-eighteenth century, most agricultural commodities were consumed locally, as early farmers were primarily concerned with maintaining a subsistence living. At the outbreak of the French and Indian War, in 1754, the demand for flour grew considerably.⁵ Faced with this increased demand, valley farmers began producing greater surpluses of wheat, grinding it into flour, transporting it to Alexandria, and selling it to markets up and down the Atlantic coast. By the 1760s, wheat had emerged as the primary cash crop within the Shenandoah Valley and a source of stable profit for farmers. A surge in wheat prices, which offset the cost of transporting flour to outlying markets, during the period following the American Revolution, fueled an economic prosperity that would transform the valley during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, throughout the nineteenth century, and into the twentieth century and, with its status as “the most important wheat and flour-producing region of the entire South,” help define its cultural distinctiveness.⁶

Comparative statistics between the Shenandoah Valley and other regions both within and outside Virginia aid in illustrating the significance of wheat production to the economic and cultural development of the valley. In 1850, Shenandoah Valley farmers worked only nine percent of the improved acreage of farmland in the entire state but produced 22% of the wheat crop of the state. Additionally, in 1850, valley farmers produced nearly 20 bushels of wheat per capita, while other notable wheat producing regions in the South and Midwest were producing fewer than six bushels per capita.⁷ While the economic infrastructure of much of the South declined precipitously in the period following the Civil War, farmers in the Shenandoah Valley continued to produce capacious amounts of their cash crop; and as industrialization rapidly replaced large-scale agriculture as a source for economic stability in the rest of Virginia during the period of reconstruction and subsequent growth, agriculture continued to prosper in the valley. In his essay “The Staple of Our Country: Wheat in the Regional Farm Economy of the Nineteenth-Century Valley of Virginia,” historian Kenneth E. Koons writes: “The pattern of economic declension and malaise evident elsewhere in

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 16

Virginia and much of the South during the latter third of the nineteenth century was notably absent from the Valley of Virginia.⁸ Despite the path of destruction cut through the Shenandoah Valley during General Sheridan's 1864 march – a path of destruction that claimed barns, mills, crops, and livestock – valley farmers produced more wheat during the final three decades of the nineteenth century than they had during the three previous decades, experiencing a growth of 63%.⁹

Establishment of Mills

Critical to the success of both the early subsistence household economy and the large-scale commercial production of wheat was the gristmill. During early settlement, milling was an important subsidiary function to the operation of the small farm. By the mid-eighteenth century, milling became a vital step in the transformation of the wheat crop into a marketable commodity. A study on the growth of mills in the upper (southern) Shenandoah Valley during the eighteenth century illustrates the increasing importance of the gristmill to the sustained prosperity of the region. Only three gristmills are known to have existed in the upper valley before 1740. By 1750, there were around thirty-four; by 1760, there were around sixty; and by 1775, there were over one hundred.¹⁰ So important to the economy were gristmills that the Virginia House of Burgesses required all millers to establish their enterprises in convenient locations along roadways and to construct their dams wide enough for the passage of a road. Additionally, the county courts closely regulated the milling operations, setting fixed prices and maintaining mills as public spheres where service could be refused to no one.¹¹

The Shenandoah River and its tributaries provided ample opportunity for the harnessing of water power and “formed a kind of power grid stretched with all the erratic regularity of nature across the landscape.”¹² Particularly suitable to the needs of the milling industry were the less fertile shale lands, where steeply dropping streams generated a significant amount of water power. As the establishment of mills was dependent upon the appropriate natural conditions, they were not necessarily located where people had already settled; more often, the settlement patterns followed the locations of the mills. New communities sprouted around the mill complexes. In addition to milling, the production, transportation, and storage of wheaten flour required the auxiliary services of a variety of artisans, including mill-wrights, joiners, masons, wheelwrights, wagon makers, blacksmiths, harness makers, coopers, and ironsmiths, whose businesses were often clustered around an existing mill for the convenience of customers and the facilitation of trade.

Building a Transportation Network

Integral to the transshipment of wheat and other market commodities across the Shenandoah Valley and to outlying markets beyond was the finely tuned road network, which traces its roots to that vital transportation artery, the Great Wagon Road, that moved settlers south through the valley corridor. Road building began during the earliest years of settlement within the valley and continued at a constant pace throughout the 1740s and 1750s, linking the farms and mills of the open-country neighborhood.¹³ With the onset of commercial wheat production in the second half of the eighteenth century, the focus of the road network was shifted from local concerns to the attainment of access to regional and national markets.

During the 1790s, turnpike construction reached the valley, and road improvements were vigorously funded throughout the antebellum period. The Great Wagon Road remained the primary transportation artery and, thus, the focus of town settlement. With Winchester as its northern anchor, the major thoroughfare provided access to thriving ports at Philadelphia and Baltimore and fall-line centers, such as Alexandria, Georgetown, Richmond, and

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 17

Fredericksburg, allowing the Shenandoah Valley to tap into a major commercial sphere. The leg of the Great Wagon Road that passes through present-day Shenandoah County, from Winchester to Harrisonburg, was incorporated as the Valley Turnpike (or Valley Pike Road) in 1796. Secondary north-south arteries, namely Middle Road and Back Road, were established alongside the Valley Turnpike and also served as both trade routes and focal points for population centers, while tertiary east-west roads linked the major communication arteries with the outlying hamlets, villages, and towns.

Growth of Hamlets, Villages, and Towns

The dispersed, open-country neighborhoods that characterized the Shenandoah Valley during the first half of the eighteenth century quickly gave way to a network of organized hamlets, villages, and towns within which an advanced system of commercial wheat production flourished. The culmination of this transformation was the “settlement continuum” – the landscape of interconnected, interdependent communities – which generated a “town life” that “was richer, more vibrant, more complex, and more diverse than anywhere else in Virginia.”¹⁴

Winchester, originally Frederick Town, was established in the 1740s as the first town in the Shenandoah Valley. Located near the original Opequon settlement, the town emerged as a political center for the dispersed, rural population in the northern portion of the valley. Winchester continued to grow as a commercial and social hub of activity, and, by the end of the eighteenth century, had secured its enduring status as the principal urban center of the Shenandoah Valley. Upon Winchester’s heels, a pattern of new towns emerged during the 1750s that directly correlates with the ascendancy of the market economy in the valley. In fact, the commercial production of wheat was the “main catalyst for the growth of towns and for the establishment of commercial linkages with other regions” during the second half of the eighteenth century.¹⁵

A surge of town growth occurred during the last quarter of the eighteenth century, with fourteen new localities laid out between the outbreak of the American Revolution and the end of the century. By 1800, the northern valley contained a well-established urban hierarchy, with 15% of the population residing in villages and towns.¹⁶ With new towns spaced roughly six-to-twelve miles apart, by the end of the eighteenth century, most northern valley residents lived within a half day wagon trip to either a single store or a commercial enclave.¹⁷ Although fewer hamlets, villages, and towns were established during the first half of the nineteenth century, existing settlements continued to grow and evolve. By the mid-nineteenth century, Shenandoah County’s hamlet, village, and town population outnumbered its farm population by more than 3,000 residents, and 44% of its population alone lived in towns.¹⁸

The existence of hamlets, villages, and towns themselves is not distinctive. Rather, the crux of the valley’s complex fabric can be found in the hierarchical interrelationship of its varying localities. According to historian Warren Hofstra, as outlined in his 2004 book *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*, and historian Robert D. Mitchell, as outlined in his essay “The Settlement Fabric of the Shenandoah Valley, 1790-1860: Pattern, Process, and Structure,” hamlets, villages, and towns can be defined in the following ways:

- hamlet: a clustered settlement form that might include an occasional agricultural unit but was distinguished by three or four nonfarm functions, such as a store, artisan shop, or mill, or the residence of a local justice, minister or school teacher
- village: slightly larger settlement made up of one or two streets that typically contain no farm units and a greater number of functions and occupations, including stores, a church or meetinghouse, a post office, an inn or tavern, and the residences of several professional people; residential lots frequently back onto open pasture
- town: a larger urban settlement based on a surplus of population and a wide range of functions in excess of the needs of its own residents.¹⁹

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 18

Within the context of commercial wheat production, the hamlets and villages provided services to the surrounding countryside in the form of grist milling and other artisan specializations, such as blacksmithing and coopering, and the exchange of agricultural commodities at local stores. In turn, the farmers from the surrounding countryside provided the hamlets and villages with agricultural staples for either household consumption or for sale at local stores. Likewise, towns provided services that were not supported in the smaller hamlets and villages, and the towns themselves were often more closely linked with outlying markets, facilitating the export of wheaten flour out of the valley and the import of other commodities into the valley. And again, farmers from the surrounding countryside provided, either directly or indirectly through a local hamlet or village, the agricultural staples produced on the farm. In this reciprocal network, goods and services traveled up and down the hierarchy of communities, thus solidifying the interconnectivity within the settlement continuum.

Forestville and the Zirkle Mill

On March 26, 1736, Daniel Holman, one of a large number of German settlers to migrate into the region, was granted a patent for 319 acres along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Holman's Creek, named for the early land-owner, proved a resourceful location for the establishment of farms and gristmills during the eighteenth century. In February 1749, George Brock received a patent for 224 acres, upon which present-day Forestville now stands. Around 1760, a significant portion of Brock's acreage was conveyed to Andrew Zirkle for the construction of a gristmill and the establishment of a family homestead. Zirkle's mill was one of at least seven gristmills erected along Holman's Creek during this period, which directly coincides with the emergence of commercial wheat production. Subsequent with the establishment of the mill was the construction of an early log dwelling to the southwest of the village crossroads. The dwelling housed the Myers, German settlers who would remain closely tied to the community for years to come, and was additionally used as a Brethren meeting house, one of the first within the region.²⁰

Although a handful of buildings were erected in present-day Forestville in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries, village lots were not explicitly subdivided until 1838, at which time a man named Henry Hess constructed a residence and store at the intersection of South Middle Road, a major north-south arterial turnpike, and Quicksburg/Senedo Road, a major east-west route that linked the village to the Valley Turnpike. An additional dozen or more lots were sold off in 1842 and 1843. With a substantial settlement by the mid-nineteenth century, a town hall, also used as a free church and school, was erected near the northeast corner of the crossroads, at the foot of the hill upon which the 1918 school building now stands. The church relocated into a new building in 1873, and the free school moved to a new building upon the hill in 1872. The school building was subsequently replaced in 1893 and 1918 in order to accommodate the growing population.²¹

Commercial enterprises soon followed the religious, social, educational, and political institutions. By 1869, the village, with a population of two hundred, boasted two stores and a number of artisan shops. An 1879 inventory of businesses in Forestville reveals two tailors, two cabinet makers, two coopers, a blacksmith, a saddler, a shoe-maker, and a tanyard.²² An 1885 map of the village reveals nearly thirty improved lots, consisting primarily of dwellings and the assorted sundry businesses and also including the mill, school, church, town hall, and a newly-established post office. The Forestville Cheese & Creamery Company was established at the crossroads on September 1, 1906, and remained a village landmark for several decades until its 1940s demolition.²³

Rounding out Forestville's services during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries were a string of physicians that lived and practiced within the village for over eighty years. The earliest physician, Dr. John Burkett, constructed an office and residence on the north side of Senedo Road in the 1840s. Dr. Allen Biller, the last physician to live and practice in the village, constructed what is arguably the grandest residence in Forestville around 1900. Sited across the street from the Dr. Burkett House place, the Biller House also boasts a finely-appointed office.²⁴

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 19

Despite a handful of modern buildings and the loss of some historic fabric during the 1940s road widening, Forestville continues to embody its early character and stands as an enduring snapshot of village life in nineteenth-century Shenandoah Valley. Aside from two or three additional lots that have been subdivided at the westerly end of the village, along Senedo Road, the village structure has remained largely unchanged since the late nineteenth century. An 1885 map from the *Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia* illustrates a pattern of improved lots that closely resembles the present-day tax maps of the village. The primary density of the village core remains reasonably unchanged, and, more importantly, the outlying farmland continues to create a physical buffer that defines the perimeter of the village.

An assessment of other extant village communities in the northern valley reveals that Forestville remains one of the most well-developed and well-preserved examples of its type within the region. Due to both destruction during the Civil War and twentieth-century economic decline, a number of early villages have been reduced to either single buildings, such as a mill or store, or small hamlets that contain no more than a small cluster of resources. On the other hand, a number of early eighteenth- and nineteenth-century villages grew considerably during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, elevating their status from sleepy village to bustling town center. Communities along the Valley Turnpike, such as Woodstock, Strasburg, Edinburg, and Mt. Jackson, experienced a surge of growth upon the construction of the Orange, Alexandria, and Manassas Gap Railroad and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which followed the turnpike south from Winchester, in the 1850s and 1860s.²⁵

Closely adhering to the definition of “village” laid forth by Warren Hofstra in his 2004 book *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*, Forestville suitably met the needs of the surrounding countryside with its gristmill, stores, and collection of artisan shops and dually provided a seat for worship and education. Its location along both Holman’s Creek and South Middle Road, a major north-south turnpike dating back to the eighteenth century, reflects the patterns of early settlement, which sought out access to both waterways and the growing road network. Forestville’s relationship to surrounding communities is also evident. Lying roughly six miles from Mt. Jackson and approximately seven miles from New Market, Forestville was situated the ideal distance from two major town centers, a distance which required only a half-day travel by wagon. Its location along South Middle Road and its close proximity to the Valley Turnpike allowed the village easy access to Winchester and, thus, larger markets outside the region.

The significance of the mill alone should not be overlooked. Historic maps of the region indicate dozens of mills in existence during the nineteenth century. A large number of those mills were burned during the Civil War, and more were lost in the twentieth century because of a decline in the milling industry. Few of the surviving mills retain their original integrity, and only two of the known mills within Shenandoah County--the Zirkle Mill and the Lantz Mill--still retain the integrity of their mill races. Of those two mills, only the Zirkle Mill was spared destruction during the Civil War; Lantz Mill was reconstructed in the late nineteenth century. The Zirkle Mill, then, is an increasingly rare example of a well-preserved gristmill within the Shenandoah Valley.

Zirkle Mill also gains significance through its continued position as the focal point for a well-developed mill village. A field survey of several extant mills within the valley revealed that many either stand alone or have been subsumed within a larger urban development. Therefore, the mill village itself is a dwindling resource. With the milling industry so critical to the prosperity of the commercial wheat market, Forestville’s status, not as just a village but also as a mill village, further enhances its significance.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia

Section 8 Page 20

ARCHITECTURAL CONTEXT

Valley Architecture

Drawing on both German customs and honed building techniques from southeastern Pennsylvania, early Shenandoah Valley settlers initially constructed small, simple, impermanent dwelling of hewn log construction.

Typically consisting of one-to-three rooms around a central chimney, these early dwellings remained suitable to the needs of the small farms and engendered cultural ties within the dispersed settlements. The emergence of commercial wheat production during the second half of the eighteenth century heralded the first building boom of permanent dwellings within the Shenandoah Valley. The need for more permanent dwellings, the desire to display newly acquired wealth, and the influence of Georgian-inspired architecture kindled the widespread construction of the I-house, which quickly became the ubiquitous dwelling form within the Shenandoah Valley. Drawing upon the formal, center-hall plan of Georgian architecture, while incorporating the traditional craftsmanship of the Germanic culture, the I-house encapsulates the desire for ethnic groups to retain a semblance of their native customs while slowly acculturating.²⁶ This “architecture of balance and reason created a powerful symbol of the ordered world of civic culture that spread across the landscape of town and country in the Shenandoah Valley at the end of the eighteenth century.”²⁷

During the first half of the nineteenth century, the I-house form fully synthesized. Decorative embellishments, such as glazed brick, chimney patterns, and brick cornices, all endemic to the visual culture of the valley’s Rhenish natives, found their way into the architectural vocabulary of the new building form. Wood-frame structural systems gave way to local stone and brick, materials also heavily employed in the native country of valley residents. A two-story ell was added to the rear of the two-story, central-passage, single-pile dwellings, allowing the relocation of the family space to the rear and opening up the main block for more formal functions. The emphasis on formal spaces, along with the decorative details, is the visual manifestation of the new social and economic order brought about during this period of prosperity and cultural reciprocity. The I-house, in this respect, is often considered the first national vernacular style, as it is truly rooted in the cultural, economic, and social fabric of its local builders.²⁸

After the 1840s, the circulation of pattern books fostered a greater conformity in the architecture of the valley. Mass production of building materials and architectural details in the industrial postbellum period increased the ease by which valley residents could experiment with new styles and update their dwellings accordingly.²⁹ The prosperity of the late nineteenth century, in conjunction with this industrial, architectural revolution, led to a large number of I-houses in the Shenandoah Valley being updated with a variety of Folk Victorian details. Once again, the I-house became the visual representation of the shifting local trends.

Forestville Architecture

Forestville’s collection of eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early twentieth-century vernacular resources are closely linked to the broader patterns of architectural development within the valley. Several well-preserved examples provide a glimpse into the early construction techniques of the German settlers, and several updated examples illustrate the evolving character of the vernacular building as it followed both shifting architectural and economic trends. While the individual buildings speak the vernacular language of the regions early settlers, the cohesive total of the resources demonstrate the evolution of that language through time.

Forestville’s initial settlement occurred during the period of transition from the simple, impermanent dwellings that suited the need of the subsistence farm life to the expanded, permanent dwellings that display a sensitivity to the

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 8 Page 21

emerging Anglo-American architectural trends and reflect the nascent prosperity of the market economy. Steeped in the vernacular, with local hardwood timber and limestone and German building techniques, these buildings deeply embody the early character of the Shenandoah Valley.

During the flurry of development in the mid- and late nineteenth century, new log dwellings were constructed, existing log dwellings were expanded into the I-house form, and new I-house dwellings were constructed. The choice of building technique (log versus I-house), as well as the expansion of dwellings, likely reflects the wealth of the builder during the time of construction. In addition to enlarging the existing dwellings within Forestville during the late nineteenth century, a time of notable prosperity within the valley, a number of new buildings were constructed that display a mix of Victorian-era details. These details were expressed on the decidedly simple, vernacular, restrained building form that is characteristic of the region.

The architecture of Forestville can be viewed as a representation of both the acculturation of the German settlers and the reciprocity of architectural techniques between the German and Anglo-American cultures. Forestville's resources fully reflect the fusion of the two cultures into a distinctive building form that has become the hallmark of the Shenandoah Valley landscape.

Conclusion

A significant component within the interconnected settlement continuum of the Shenandoah Valley, Forestville, as a well preserved mill village, strongly contributes to the broad patterns of settlement, commerce, agriculture, industrialization, architecture, and ethnic heritage that converged on the landscape in the eighteenth century and unfolded into a network of closely linked hamlets, villages, towns, and open-country neighborhoods. As Warren Hofstra said of the Shenandoah Valley, "The social mechanisms of community formation, the developing economies of farming, trade, and manufacture, the technological changes underpinning economic activity, the evolving structure of society, the alterations in the politics of human relations from the local to the national, and the changing roles of religion and ideas in all aspects of life – all are engraved on the land."³⁰

Archaeological Potential

Although archaeological investigations have not been conducted within the community of Forestville, the village has the potential to yield information regarding such themes as participation in local markets and the wider economy, village organization and social structure, domestic activities through time and across social and economic classes, among others. The preservation of early examples of ethnically distinct architectural styles suggests that there may be such archaeological resources as intact builder's trenches and the remains of outbuildings, uncluttered or disturbed by subsequent construction. Comparison of the debris of everyday life, particularly if recovered from temporally discrete contexts, has the potential to provide data on acculturation of German and Scots-Irish immigrants and the development of an American identity in the Shenandoah Valley.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 9 Page 22

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Boyd-Bragg, Dorothy, ed. *Portals to Shenandoah Valley Folkways*. Staunton, Virginia: Lot's Wife Publishing, 2005.
- Chappell, Edward A. "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement." *Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society* 124 (1980): 55-89.
- Davis, George B., Leslie J. Perry, and Joseph W. Kirkley. *Official Military Atlas of the Civil War*. New York: Gramercy Books, 1983. Originally published, Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1891-1895.
- Downs, Janet Baugher, and Earl J. Downs. *Mills of Rockingham County*. Dayton, VA: Harrisonburg Historical Society, 1997.
- Edwards, David A. "Mount Jackson Historic District (265-0004) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1993.
- "Woodstock Historic District (330-0015) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1995.
- Garber, Beverly L. *Timberville: The Early Years*. Timberville, VA: Beverly L. Garber, 1993.
- Hensley, Paul. "Grist Milling in Eighteenth-Century Virginia." Master's thesis, College of William and Mary, 1969.
- Hernandez-Roy, Christopher. "Lantz Mill (085-0933-0001) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 2007.
- Hofstra, Warren R. *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004.
- _____. "Private Dwellings, Public Ways, and the Landscape of Early Rural Capitalism in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley." In *Gender, Class, and Shelter: Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, edited by Elizabeth Collins Cromley and Carter L. Hudgins, 211-224. Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1995.
- _____. *A Separate Place*. Berryville, Virginia: Doubleday Company, 1986.
- Hofstra, Warren R., and Robert D. Mitchell. "Town and County in Backcountry Virginia: Winchester and the Shenandoah Valley." *The Journal of Southern History* 59 (1993): 619-646.
- Kalbian, Maral S. "Edinburg Historic District (215-0001) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1998.
- Koons, Kenneth E., and Warren Hofstra, ed. *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia, 1800-1900*. Knoxville, University of Tennessee Press, 2000.
- Lake, D. J. and Company. *Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia*. Philadelphia: D. J. Lake and Company, 1885.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 9 Page 23

(MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT.)

- Magin, Irvin D. *Shenandoah County Gazetteer and Historical Geography*. Edinburg, VA: Shenandoah County Library, 1991.
- Massey, James C., et al. *Shenandoah County Historic Resources Survey*. Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2005.
- Meyer, David R. *The Roots of American Industrialization*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003.
- Mitchell, Robert D. *Commercialism and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley*. Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1977.
- Porter, Randy, and Nancy Sorrells. *A Cyclist's Guide to the Shenandoah Valley*. Staunton, VA: Shenandoah Odysseys, 1994.
- Shenandoah Bicentennial Committee. *Shenandoah Count: Industry with Plenty*. Woodstock, VA: Shenandoah County Bicentennial Committee, 1972.
- Smith, Elmer Lewis, et al. *The Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah Valley*. Allentown, Pennsylvania: The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, 1964.
- Stephenson, Richard W., and Marianne M. McKee, ed. *Virginia in Maps: Four Centuries of Settlement, Growth, and Development*. Richmond: The Library of Virginia, 2000.
- Sutcliffe, Andrea. *Touring the Shenandoah Valley Backroads*. n.p: Andrea Sutcliffe, 1999.
- Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. "New Market Historic District (269-0005) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1972.
- "Strasburg Historic District (306-0016) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1984.
- "Zirkle Mill (085-0122) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form." On file, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 1983.
- Wayland, John Walter. *The German Element of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia*. Charlottesville, Virginia: The Michie Company, 1907.
- Wayland, John Walter. *The Valley Turnpike, Winchester to Staunton, and Other Roads*. Winchester, Virginia: Frederick County-Winchester Historical Society, 1948.
- Weatherholtz, Sharon. Interview. February 28, 2008.
- Weber, Alfred. *Theory of the Location of Industries*. New York: Russell and Russell, 1971.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 9 Page 24

(MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES CONT.)

Wine, Joseph Floyd. *Life Along Holman's Creek*. Boyce, Virginia: Carr Publishing Company, 1982.

Wyckoff, William. "Frontier Milling in Western New York." *Geographical Review* 76 (1986): 73-93.

Zirkle, Lisa. Interview. February 28, 2008.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section 10 Page 25

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References

5. 17/698313/4287069 6. 17/697003/4287085 7. 17/696450/4287487 8. 17/696462/4287616

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Forestville Historic District is delineated by the dotted line on the associated map, "Forestville Historic District, Shenandoah County, Virginia," which is based on data from the Shenandoah County Commissioner of the Revenue, Real Estate Department, located in Woodstock, Virginia.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Forestville Historic District encompasses the contiguous eighteenth-, nineteenth-, and early-twentieth-century development of the village. Properties falling just outside the delineated boundaries either date outside the period of significance or are separated from the clustered, contiguous village settlement by large acreages of farmland. One farmstead, the Peter Myers Farm (085-0788), was included within the boundary for its close association with the early settlement of the village.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section Photographs Page 26

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs are common to:

PROPERTY: Forestville Historic District

LOCATION: Shenandoah County Virginia

DHR FILE NO: 085-0405

PHOTOGRAPHER: Elizabeth Mary André

DATE: February 28, 2008

ALL DIGITAL IMAGES ARE STORED AT: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

View: Village from Hill, Looking West

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0001.tif

View: Zirkle Mill, South and West Elevations, Looking Northeast

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0002.tif

View: St. Mark's Evangelical Church, Façade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0003.tif

View: Shutters House, Façade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0004.tif

View: Moore House, Façade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0005.tif

View: Lutz Store, Façade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0006.tif

View: Forestville Post Office, Façade and North Elevation, Looking Southwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0007.tif

View: Dr. John Burkett House and Office, Façade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0008.tif

View: Dr. Allen Biller Office, Façade and East Elevation, Looking Southwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0009.tif

View: 237 Quicksburg Road, Façade and East Elevation, Looking Northwest

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0010.tif

View: Forestville School, Façade East Elevation, Looking North

Image: VA-ShenandoahCounty-ForestvilleHD_0011.tif

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

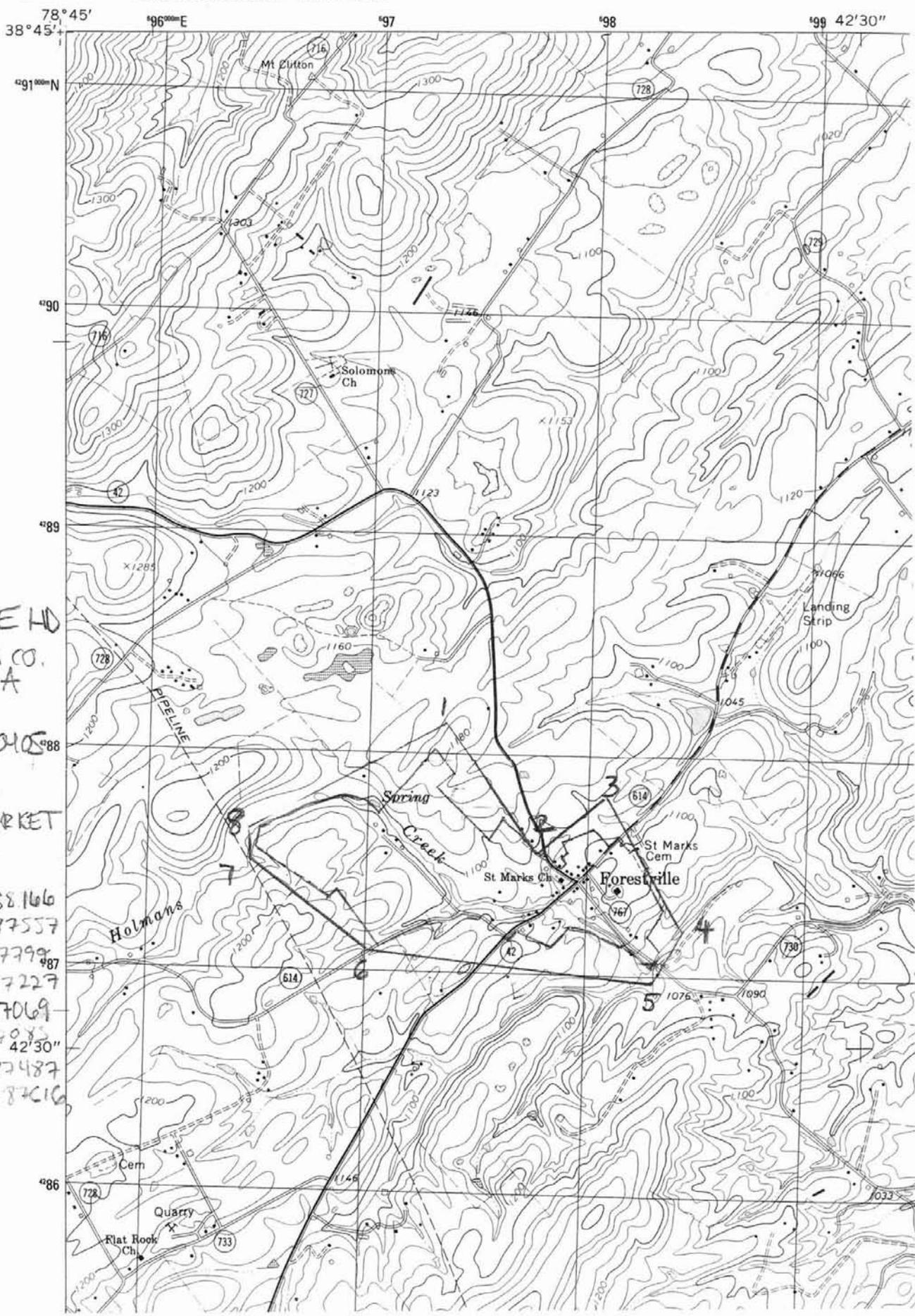
**Forestville Historic District
Shenandoah County, Virginia**

Section Endnotes Page 27

- ¹ Robert D. Mitchell, *Commercialism and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley*, (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977), 8.
- ² Warren R. Hofstra, *The Planting of New Virginia: Settlement and Landscape in the Shenandoah Valley*, (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2004).
- ³ _____, *A Separate Place (Berryville, Virginia: Doubleday Company, 1986)*, 6-12.
- ⁴ Kenneth E. Koons, ““The Staple of Our Country”: Wheat in the Regional Farm Economy of the Nineteenth-Century Valley of Virginia,” in *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000), 4-5.
- ⁵ Hofstra.
- ⁶ Kenneth E. Koons and Warren R. Hofstra, “Introduction: The World that Wheat Made,” in *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000), xvii
- ⁷ Koons, 10.
- ⁸ Ibid, 9.
- ⁹ Ibid.
- ¹⁰ Mitchell, 34.
- ¹¹ Hofstra, 155-6.
- ¹² Hofstra, 291.
- ¹³ Mitchell, 151.
- ¹⁴ Hofstra.
- ¹⁵ Koons and Hofstra, xviii.
- ¹⁶ Mitchell, 198.
- ¹⁷ Ibid.
- ¹⁸ Mitchell, 45.
- ¹⁹ Hofstra, 287. Mitchell, 34-5.
- ²⁰ Joseph Floyd Wine, *Life Along Holman’s Creek*, (Boyce, Virginia: Carr Publishing Company, 1982).
- ²¹ Ibid.
- ²² Ibid.
- ²³ Ibid.
- ²⁴ Ibid.
- ²⁵ Ibid.
- ²⁶ Ann E. McLeary, “Forging a Regional Identity: Development of Rural Vernacular Architecture in the Central Shenandoah Valley, 1790-1850,” in *After the Backcountry: Rural Life in the Great Valley of Virginia*, (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 2000), 92.
- ²⁷ Hofstra, 329.
- ²⁸ McLeary.
- ²⁹ Ibid.
- ³⁰ Hofstra, 51.

5261 (V SE
 YORKNEY SPRINGS)

UNITED STATES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



FORESTVILLE HD
 SHENANDOAH CO.
 VIRGINIA
 DHR FILE NO.
 085-0105-88

NAD 1927
 QUAD: NEW MARKET

UTMS

1	17	697425	4288166
2	17	697765	4287557
3	17	698084	4287799
4	17	698470	4287227
5	17	698313	4287069
6	17	697003	4287025
7	17	696450	4287487
8	17	696462	4287616