

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR - 12/4/96  
NRHP - 2/21/97

## 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 18A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 Hupp House

other names/site number Frontier Fort; Hupp Homestead DHR File No. 85-7

### 2. Location

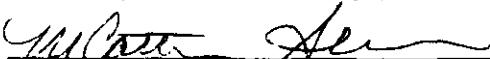
street & number 551 N. Massanutton St.  not for publication

city or town Strasburg  vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Shenandoah code 171 zip code 22657

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



12/30/96

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- 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): \_\_\_\_\_

HUPP HOUSE  
Name of Property

SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA  
County and State

### 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**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

### 7. Description

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

COLONIAL

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/LIMESTONE

walls STONE/LIMESTONE

STUCCO

roof METAL/TIN

other PORCH: WOOD/WEATHERBOARD

CHIMNEY: BRICK

### Narrative Description

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

HUPP HOUSE  
Name of Property

SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA  
County and State

#### 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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

#### **Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

##### **Bibliography**

(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  
# VA 908 — See note in Narrative
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

##### **Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE-EUROPEAN

EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

**Period of Significance**  
Ca. 1755

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1755

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Not known

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

Dept. of Historic Resources

221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

HUPP HOUSE  
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County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 1.57

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	7	28	9	00	4	31	9	32	0
Zone	Easting	Northing								
2	17	1	28	99	0	4	3	19	40	0

3	17	7	29	0	40	43	1	9	33	0
Zone	Easting	Northing								
4	17	7	2	90	00	43	1	9	27	0

See continuation sheet

**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 James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, Partners

organization Massey Maxwell Associates date 9/30/96

street & number P.O. Box 263 telephone 540-465-4566

city or town Strasburg state VA zip code 22657

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Frank R. Hupp

street & number 551 N. Massanutton St. telephone 540-465-3347

city or town Strasburg state VA zip code 22657

**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. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

HUPP HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

### 7. NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

#### Summary

The Hupp House (Frontier Fort) is an early Shenandoah Valley Germanic settler's stone bank house, traditionally believed to have been constructed around 1755. It is one of the finest and most historic houses of its type in Shenandoah County. The steeply gabled 2-1/2-story house measures 20' x 40', twice as deep as it is wide, and is situated with its narrow gable end facing the old Valley Turnpike (now U.S. Route 11). The exterior is of dressed rubble limestone. Although it features the traditional Germanic central chimney, the plan of the rooms is unusual and perhaps unique. The interior framing appears original, with heavy traditional Germanic beams and roof structure.

The house sits on a steep embankment that runs downhill from the Valley Turnpike to a spring immediately behind the house, and part of the stream's flow is diverted through the basement. The house is thus one story high on the road front and a full three stories in the rear, in addition to an attic. The stonework retains its historic integrity and original low-arched openings for doors and windows, although the windows are late-nineteenth-century replacements. A carefully sited modern wing is at the east side of the house.

The house is situated immediately northeast of the urban area of present-day Strasburg, Virginia, at the northern edge of Shenandoah County in the northern Shenandoah Valley. The old Valley Turnpike (U.S. Route 11) is at the front (south) side of the house and originally ran closer to the house than it now does. The original alignment of the road came close to the Victorian front porch (now removed), as shown in old photographs copied for this nomination.

The house is set into a steep limestone bank so that the street entrance is at the top floor. Below it was the principal floor, with the kitchen and directly opposing entrances on the east and west sides, as was the Germanic custom. At grade level

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SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VADescription (continued)

to the rear, the house was built adjoining Hupp Spring, which feeds the stream now known as Town Run.

Originally a very large farm, the Hupp property formerly included a limestone building to the southwest, known as the Hupp Stillhouse. The stillhouse, traditionally believed to have been built in the mid-eighteenth century, is still standing but is no longer under the same ownership as the Hupp House. Other outbuildings once on the property included a wash house, a smokehouse, and a pavilion over the spring, as well as at least two barns, one of which survived until the realignment of U.S. 11 in 1938; the other collapsed in the 1960s. Across the Valley Turnpike is another Hupp family house, originally a small, stone, two-room house which has been expanded over the years into a large Classical Revival-style mansion known as the Hupp Mansion. It also is no longer in the same ownership as the Hupp House.

From the Hupp House, the Valley Turnpike runs northeast up a steep grade known as Hupps Hill, at the top of which are Civil War earthworks (no longer in Hupp ownership).

The original house is a rectangle 20'-6" wide by 40'-8" deep, an unusually elongated proportion for a traditional Germanic central-chimney stone house. The walls of dressed rubble limestone native to the area are 22" thick, a common depth for houses of the earliest settlement period in the area.

The roof is a steep gable running from front to back, covered with modern rough-hewn wood shales. It replaced a standing-seam metal roof that was on the building from at least the later nineteenth century until recent years, as shown in early photographs. The original roof covering is believed to have been dressed-wood shingles, which would be typical for buildings in this area. There is no evidence in the county for the use of clay roof tiles such as those typically used by the Germans in Pennsylvania. The rear of the historic house has plain frame projecting eaves and flush return boards set into the gable masonry in the manner traditional to early Germanic

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HUPP HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

Description (continued)

buildings of this area. The street-front gable retains the eaves but has been altered by the addition of projecting returns and fine post-Civil War Victorian gingerbread fretwork at the top of the gable.

In 1956, when the east wing was constructed, the street-front facade of the original stone house was stuccoed to match the addition. The stucco on the original portion of the house was removed in 1995, and the stonework was repaired and carefully repointed to match the mortar in the original construction.

The windows on the first-, or ground-floor, kitchen story and on the second or street-front story are post-Civil War 2 1/2-light, double-hung, wood sash with decorative wood lintels set into the original segmental-arched stone window openings. The windows were probably lengthened in this process. Small windows at the attic level in each gable end contain old 4 1/2-light double-hung wood sash and have also received decorative wood lintels. Except for the attic window, there are no windows on the street-front elevation of the house. Two small windows with closely spaced wood slats are at the side near the front of the first, or kitchen, floor. At grade level in the rear wall are three small, angled slits with iron bars and without glazing.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>Such openings are often referred to as "gun slits," supporting the local tradition that the Hupp House, as well as a number of other early stone buildings with basement wall slits, was a stronghold to which settlers retreated for protection against Indian marauders in the late eighteenth century. However, it seems more likely that these fortress-like houses were surrounded by palisades and that the wall slits were intended primarily for ventilation rather than for military purposes. Apart from the fact that their inward slope would have made them impractical for defense, similar slits appear in stone buildings constructed long after the threat of Indian attack had passed.

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SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VADescription (continued)

The doors retain their original 7"-thick heavy frames, and the front door appears to be old, possibly 18th-century. It is a raised-panel door with glass lights later inserted in the upper portion. The two kitchen doors, on the sides of the house, are 19th-century doors with glass lights in the upper half. The basement door, which is on the west side, is a plain, vertical-board door without lights that does not appear to be original.

On the east side of the house is a modern wing, 1-1/2 stories at the front and 2-1/2 stories at the rear. It is constructed of stuccoed cast-cement block. In 1996 it was covered with vinyl siding imitating wood. Because of its relatively low height and its setback from the main facade, the wing is not intrusive and is clearly differentiated from the historic portion of the house. Windows in the wing have modern 1/1 wood sash. Two gabled dormers are in the attic on the front, and a raised continuous dormer is on the rear. On the rear of the wing, an enclosed frame porch is at street level, and a frame open deck is at the first-floor, or kitchen, level. All are set back from the rear facade of the historic stone portion of the building.

In the nineteenth century, probably after the Civil War, a three-bay, frame porch was added to the front of the house, extending almost to the line of the Valley Turnpike. The porch had a stone foundation, hipped roof, modest scrollwork ornament and a plain, horizontal-board railing. Subsequently enhanced by scrollwork railing and still later enclosed with screening, the porch was removed when the 1956 addition was built, or perhaps earlier. It was replaced by a small entry porch that is compatible in design with the old house, repeating at a smaller scale the gables. The modern porch has a cove plaster ceiling and wrought-iron trellis posts.

The steep original grade from the Valley Turnpike down to the spring and creek at the rear has been partly filled in at the front of the house, so that the present entrance is only one step

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HUPP HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

Description (continued)

above grade level. Previously the entrance was perhaps three feet above grade, as can be seen in old photographs.

The form of the house, an elongated rectangle set perpendicular to the road, is unusual, as is the fact that it was built directly to the road. More typical examples of early Germanic houses with traditional central-chimney, three-room plan (*kuche*, *stube*, and *kammer*), and, generally, doors on the front and back walls of the kitchen, exhibit less elongated proportions, with entrances in the side walls, and they sit farther from the road and parallel to it. An extensive literature exists on this type of house as found from Pennsylvania into Virginia. Several excellent nearby examples in stone include Fryes Fort (in Shenandoah County) and the Frohmann House (in Frederick County) on Cedar Creek and the Mounce-Byrd House near Mount Jackson. Although a longish rectangle housing a two-room plan does indeed represent an old Virginia tradition that is found in this area in the later eighteenth century--for example the Hudson House at Hudsons Crossroads and the Rogers House near Oranda-- these later houses have end chimneys. The elongated rectangle of the Hupp House in a proportion of 1:2 is uncommon and perhaps unique for center-chimney Germanic houses in this area. Although this type is rare in Pennsylvania also, a comparable example in Pennsylvania is the De Turck House in the Oley Valley (Berks County; recorded by HABS), in which the narrow gable front of the stone bank house faces directly on the road.

Analysis of the original plan and room uses of the Hupp House has been made difficult by later alterations and the unusual form of the structure. It seems likely that the kitchen, or first/ground, floor was probably the primary floor of the house and that the layout of the house was determined by the extant original stone central-chimney mass that rises through the attic to the brick exterior chimney. The first-floor kitchen had a large cooking fireplace and exterior entrances on the east and west sides in the traditional Germanic manner. However, the room is unusually large (about 16'x 21') suggesting that its current division into three spaces may also reflect the original layout,

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perhaps even with the larger space being the stube and the smaller a *kammer*, or bedchamber. However, the present partitions are of late-nineteenth century construction, and it was not possible to examine the structure to determine any earlier configuration. The remaining or south part of this story was a store room cut into the rock outcropping and was lighted only by small slatted openings on the east and west sides. The chimney base is open as if for a fireplace, but there is no flue. The chimney opening only supports the fireplace above. There is evidence on the west side of the chimney mass of early and probably original stairs to the floor above, and there is an old board door to the store room existing to the east side of the chimney mass. The kitchen fireplace itself has been closed in, and its interior could not be inspected. A second set of L-shaped stairs was located along the west wall of the kitchen, for which there is no evidence in the kitchen but for which there is evidence on the street-level floor above in the form of an L-shaped closet. It is not believed that these stairs, which have been removed, were original. The windows and doors on the first/kitchen floor are late-nineteenth century, 2/2-light, double-hung wood sash, and the simple trim is also of this period or later. The ceiling is acoustical tile over plaster and lath, and the walls are plaster with beaded-washboard wainscoting. The original open-beamed ceiling can be seen in some places. Next to the eastern door is a recess in the masonry wall, cut out to accommodate a small sink with running water and a small window over it. The date of this is not known, but there could have been an earlier sink or pump preceding the present one. This story is now used for storage and mechanical equipment, including the house furnace. No interior stairs up or down now exist, and there is no evidence that there were ever stairs from this level down to the basement storage room.

The basement storage room is not finished. The walls are unplastered, and the room has one wide (50") door and three narrow, angled ventilation slits with iron bars. At the north end, the spring, which is located just outside the house to the east, maintains a water course through the basement, exiting at

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the west end of the house to rejoin the main stream from the spring. A curb wall defining the inside spring course is of modern construction. The floor is of modern cement, possibly laid over stone flagging, the edges of which are visible beneath the modern gutter. The ceiling is exposed, showing the original beams, 6" x 8", set 30" o.c. The back of this room at the south end is cut into the natural stone outcropping at the location of the central chimney mass that rises above it.

The present principal, or street-level, floor retains the central chimney mass, although the fireplaces have been closed off on both sides. The front room is now a parlor, with plastered walls and ceiling and a ca. 1900 wood mantel at the closed-off fireplace. The front door appears to be possibly an eighteenth-century raised panel door with glass panes inserted above the meeting rail. There were originally windows on both the east and west sides; the east window was enlarged in 1956 for a door to the dining room and kitchen in the new addition. In the southwest corner of the room are enclosed winder stairs to the attic, but an examination of the attic floor framing suggests that, while these are of considerable age, they may not be original to the construction of the house. At the west side of the chimney mass is a passage to the rear rooms; this was the original location of the stairs to the kitchen. On the east side of the chimney mass, a small bathroom and closet have been installed, replacing an old and probably original passage between the front and the back of the house. In the rear of the house are two bedrooms and a bath with late-nineteenth-century or later partitions. The bedroom immediately behind the chimney mass has an L-shaped closet that previously contained winder stairs to the kitchen. This bedroom has a window on both the east and west sides of the house. The rear of this floor is divided into two rooms, a larger bedroom with two windows, side and rear, and a smaller bathroom, which is modern. These rooms have plastered walls and ceilings and plain modern trim. It was not possible to determine the original layout of the rooms, although it is possible that the present three-room division is original.

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SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VADescription (continued)

The attic in the original block is reached by means of old but probably not original winder stairs from the present parlor. It is divided into two rooms with a flush-board vertical partition and vertical-board door located two feet behind the rising stone chimney mass from below. This partition with 1" x 15" and 1" x 16" delicately beaded boards appears original to the construction of the house. The door has old H-L hinges. The floor boards are probably original and are mostly 14" x 1-1/2" tongue and groove. The attic is heavily used for storage, and it was not possible to locate any evidence of an earlier ladder or set of stairs to the attic. Although there is no evidence to suggest the original form of the stairs, they may have been ladder stairs, such as were frequently found in houses of this period, and they could have been in the location of the present winder stairs, for example. From the top of the 18"-high stone side walls, roof rafters, generally 4" x 5", rise to the gable peak, where they are pegged without a ridgeboard. Most of the rafters appear to be original, although some are replacements. A portion of the roof has been removed for the modern addition on the east side, and it is possible to see how the original rafters extended down into the stone masonry walls to meet the projecting 5" x 6-1/2" joists, which in turn rest on a 7"x7" sill within the wall. This provides excellent evidence in detail of the construction used at the earliest period in Germanic Valley houses. Since the house is only 20' wide, the rafters rise directly to the gable without the need for intermediary purlins or bracing systems such as are found in wider houses of the early period, such as the nearby Snapp or Bowman houses. The original attic is unfinished except for the board partition and door previously mentioned. The attic portion of the modern addition is in two partially finished rooms.

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**HUPP HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA****STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Hupp House, known also as Hupp Homestead and Frontier Fort, is thought to have been constructed ca. 1755. It sits beside a large spring at the northern edge of the town of Strasburg in what is now Shenandoah County (then part of Frederick County), Virginia. The 2-1/2-story, limestone dwelling with a center-chimney, three-room plan meets National Register Criteria A and C, for its architectural and historical significance. It is a rare, exceptionally early and intact example of Germanic masonry building practices in the Shenandoah Valley. As one of the oldest extant dwellings erected by Germanic settlers in Shenandoah County, it is significant for its contribution to the settlement patterns and ethnic heritage of its region. Located at the edge of the old Valley Turnpike, the most important route through the Valley in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, the property adjoins the sites of several major Civil War actions, including the engagement at Banks' Fort (May 24, 1862), the Battle of Hupp's Hill (October 13, 1864), and the Confederate retreat following the Battle of Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864). It has been continuously occupied by the Hupp family since the eighteenth century.

**History**

The Hupp House is thought to have been constructed ca. 1755, presumably by Peter Hupp, one of the earliest settlers in the Strasburg area. Like other German immigrants to the Shenandoah Valley, the Hupp family may have arrived at Philadelphia as early as the mid-17th century and probably lived for a time in York or Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, before moving to the Virginia frontier.<sup>2</sup> Peter Hupp is believed to have arrived in the valley in 1732, around the time the village of Strasburg was founded by

<sup>2</sup>Frank R. Hupp, Frontier Fort: The Old Hupp Homestead. Strasburg, Va.: Frank R. Hupp, 1991. Brochure.

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Jacob Stover.<sup>3</sup> Hupp's son John was born at Strasburg in 1766<sup>4</sup>. The Hupp House has been continuously occupied by the Hupp family since the eighteenth century.

The property on which the Hupp House was erected was part of a tract acquired from an English land speculator, John Richards, who recruited German immigrants living in Pennsylvania to settle land in the vicinity of Cedar Creek, the large stream marking the boundary between present-day Shenandoah and Frederick Counties.<sup>5</sup>

Situated approximately two miles north of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, beside a spring forming the headwaters of a creek, now called Town Run, that winds through the town of Strasburg to the river, the Hupp House was one of several frontier "forts" (probably palisaded houses) where settlers gathered for protection against Indian raids that troubled settlers in the 1750s and 1760s. Relations between the Indians and the settlers were seemingly amicable for about two decades after the first settlement efforts, as the Indians apparently accepted the German newcomers as parties to earlier peace agreements that William Penn had made with the tribes. However,

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<sup>3</sup>The village of Strasburg was legally established in 1761 by the Virginia House of Burgesses, but a settlement had already existed there for some time. [Klaus Wust, The Virginia Germans (Charlottesville: The University Press of Virginia, 1969), pp. 64-65.]

<sup>4</sup>Frank R. Hupp, "The Hupp Families, 1766-1955." Typescript in possession of Frank R. Hupp.

<sup>5</sup>L. Adolph Richards, "Hupp Family Among First Settlers in the Valley," Winchester Evening Star, January 21, 1958.

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HUPP HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

**Statement of significance (continued)**

the outbreak of the French and Indian War and an influx of English-speaking settlers from the Tidewater area, who were not considered by the Indians to be participants in the pacts, led to a flurry of raids in which many settlers were killed or captured and much property was stolen or destroyed. Among the last and most notorious of these attacks was the massacre on June 27, 1763, of George Miller and his wife and two children within two miles of Strasburg.<sup>6</sup>

By the mid-nineteenth century, the Hupp estate included about 1,000 acres, extending to Cedar Creek on the north and to the present location of the B&O Railroad and Southern Railroad lines on the west and south respectively. After the Civil War, the property was reduced to about 300 acres. The land has subsequently undergone further subdivision and sale, so that the property now being nominated for the National Register consists only of the 1.57-acre tract immediately surrounding the stone house.

In the nineteenth century, the estate included numerous other buildings in addition to the Hupp House described above. Although some of these buildings still exist, none are within the boundaries of the property now being nominated to the National Register. A stone building, probably constructed in the eighteenth or early nineteenth century and believed to have been used as a distillery, is located approximately 70 feet north of the Hupp House. It is now a residence. Another early stone house, also still extant though greatly altered, was erected on Hupp land on the east side of the Valley Turnpike. This small dwelling was greatly enlarged and remodeled in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries to form an

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<sup>6</sup>Wust, op. cit., p. 67.

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SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA****Statement of significance (continued)**

impressive stone and brick, Classical Revival-style house now known as the Hupp Mansion. A substantial stone barn (construction date unknown) east of the turnpike was demolished ca. 1937 when the highway was rebuilt and realigned. On the west side of the turnpike, a large frame barn on a stone foundation, presumably constructed in the mid- to late-nineteenth century, collapsed around 1960. Although the foundation remains, it is not within the boundaries of the nominated property. Also on the west side of the road, several frame outbuildings, probably constructed in the late-nineteenth century, were demolished around 1937. These included a smoke house, a wash house, and a pavilion erected on top of the spring.<sup>7</sup>

George F. Hupp, Sr. (1792-1885), the first owner of the property for whom census information is available, was a paymaster in the War of 1812. He later became a prosperous ironmaster, owning wholly or in part at least three charcoal furnaces in Shenandoah County, Virginia, and Hardy County, West Virginia. Hupp's furnaces, which included the well-known Columbia Furnace in Shenandoah County, supplied bar iron to an area that stretched for hundreds of miles. The Census of 1850<sup>8</sup> lists his occupation as farmer and his wealth in cash and real estate at \$113,000. In addition to extensive land holdings, Hupp is said to have possessed more than fifty slaves, an unusually large, though not unprecedented, number for German

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<sup>7</sup>Interview, Frank R. Hupp, December 1995.

<sup>8</sup> Vol. 24, page 71, line 2.

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farmers in the Shenandoah Valley.<sup>9</sup> He was also part-owner in a general merchandise store, Hupp & MCord, located on present-day Queen Street in Strasburg.<sup>10</sup>

George Franklin Hupp, Jr. (1830-1901), also a farmer, inherited the home site and approximately 300 acres from his parents. During the Civil War, George Hupp, Jr., and his brothers served in the Confederate Army with the Stonewall Brigade, 10th Regiment, Virginia Volunteer Infantry. Despite their Confederate loyalties and the proximity of the Hupp homestead to the Union army's line of march along the Valley Turnpike during Major General Philip H. Sheridan's celebrated "Burning" of the valley in 1863, the Hupp farm and outbuildings survived the war years unscathed, probably because both sides in the conflict found the strategically located buildings of use. The Hupp House, situated at the hub of several critically important points--Cedar Creek, Hupp's Hill, Strasburg, and Fisher's Hill--lay in the path of frequent troop movements by both sides throughout the war, and both Federal and Confederate troops camped on the surrounding Hupp land. Although no specific wartime use of the house itself has been documented, it is known that the adjacent Hupp Distillery housed Sheridan's headquarters escort, while the Hupp Mansion, across the turnpike, served both

<sup>9</sup>Although most Valley families kept one or two slaves, even large landholders seldom had more than eight. Wust (op. cit., pp. 121-128) offers practical reasons rather than a religiously inspired distaste for slavery for this phenomenon. Since German families were generally large and their farms were relatively small, there was little need for black labor.

<sup>10</sup>John W. Wayland, A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia, p. 513.

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as the headquarters of Confederate Lt. General Thomas J. Jackson in 1862, and as Sheridan's temporary residence in early October 1864.<sup>11</sup> In addition, battle lines moved back and forth across the property. On May 24, 1862, Confederate forces attacked Federal fortifications at Banks' Fort, Major General Nathaniel P. Banks' stronghold on the high hill at the southwestern edge of the property, overlooking Strasburg, the Manassas Gap Railroad, and the turnpike.<sup>12</sup> On October 13, 1864, Confederate troops under General Jubal Early engaged Sheridan's forces at Hupp's Hill (called variously the Battle of Hupp's Hill and the Battle of Stickley Farm) and were forced back through Strasburg.<sup>13</sup> On October 19, 1864, the house lay at the center of the Confederate retreat southward from the Battle of Cedar Creek (also called the Battle of Belle Grove), in which the Southerners were trapped by Union troops moving in from the south.<sup>14</sup>

With the death of George Franklin Hupp, Jr.'s widow, the house passed to their son, Bruce Franklin Hupp (1891-1945). A

<sup>11</sup>Richard B. Kleese. Shenandoah County in the Civil War: The Turbulent Years, p. 89. Reportedly, the mansion was also the headquarters at different times during the war of Generals Early, Banks, and James A. Shields. (E. E. Keister, Strasburg, Virginia, and the Keister Family, Strasburg, Va.: Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc., 1972)

<sup>12</sup>Kleese, op. cit., pp. 35-38.

<sup>13</sup>Theodore C. Mahr, The Battle of Cedar Creek: Showdown in the Shenandoah (Lynchburg, Va.: H.E. Howard, Inc., 1992), pp. 69, 71.

<sup>14</sup>Thomas A. Lewis, The Guns of Cedar Creek (New York: Dell Publishing, 1990), pp. 305-306.

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**HUPP HOUSE  
SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA****Statement of significance (continued)**

farmer by trade, Bruce Hupp ran a profitable enterprise raising watercress in the stream behind the homestead during the early 1930s. In 1922, with his cousins, Frank H. Miller and Dr. Archie C. Painter, he opened Crystal Caverns (formerly known as Hupp's Cave), a popular tourist attraction located on family property nearby. The caverns are no longer open to the public.

In 1954 Bruce Hupp's son, Frank R. Hupp acquired the Hupp House by deed from his widowed mother. In 1956 a concrete-block wing was built at the northeast side of the house, and both the wing and the front facade of the original portion of house were stuccoed.<sup>15</sup> The stucco was removed from the historic stone portion of the house in 1995, and the stone was cleaned and repointed to match the original mortar and pointing. Vinyl imitation-wood siding was installed on the wing only in 1996.

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<sup>15</sup>Interview, Frank R. Hupp, December 1995.

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Location of other surveys

The Historic American Buildings Survey collection at the Library of Congress contains a 1938 photograph (VA-908) by T. T. Waterman labeled "Hupp House, Strasburg vic." However, the building pictured is not the Hupp House, but the Hupp Distillery (also known as the Hupp Still House). Conversely, the photograph dated 7/10/58 accompanying the 1958 HABSI form for the Hupp Distillery (Hupp Still House) is not of the Distillery but of the Hupp House. The Hupp House was also included in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources Survey of Historic Resources in Shenandoah County (1993), and an intensive-level survey form with photographs is in the files of VDHR.

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SHENANDOAH COUNTY, VA

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

UTM References (continued)

5. 17 728 960 43 19 310  
6. 17 728 920 43 19 290

**Verbal boundary description**

The boundary is that of the existing 1.57-acre parcel for this house, bounded on the southeast by U.S. Route 11 (Massanutton Street) and the Town Run on the northwest and comprising the rectangle that is Tax Parcel 4 of the Shenandoah County Tax Map, less a rectangle at the southern corner representing the location of the previously owned Hupp Still House.

**Boundary justification**

The boundary represents the present ownership of the property and also follows the natural boundaries of U.S. Route 11 on the southeast and the Town Run on the northwest.

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1	728560
2	728990
3	729040
4	729000
5	728960
6	728920

5362' " SW  
MOUNTAIN FALLS

78°22'30"  
39°00'+

728000m.E MOOKEFIELD V4 - S 220-464

000m.E. MICROPIECE 44 VA 15 220-46 W. 700

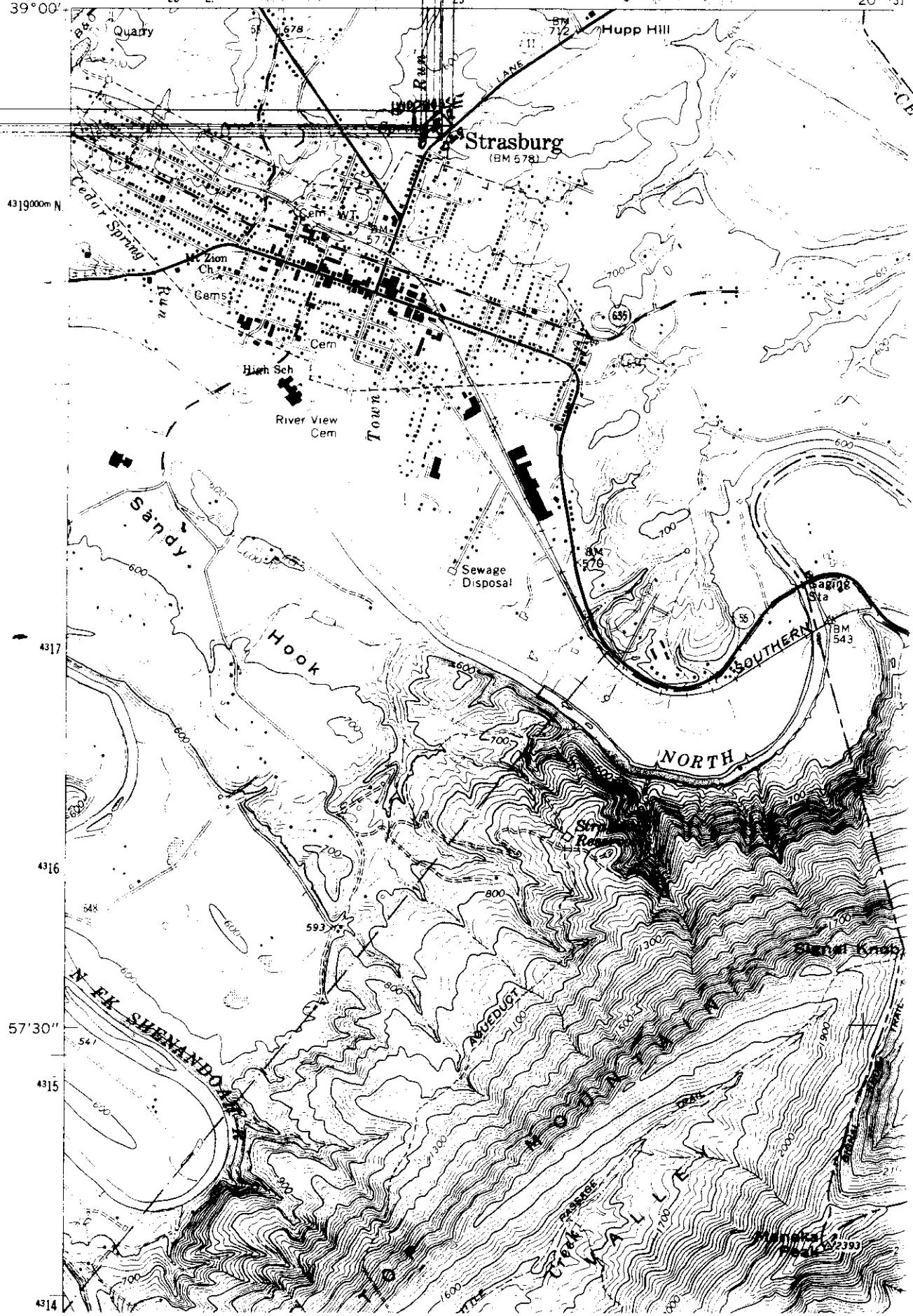
78°22'30" 72000m E MOOPEEPEE, VA 11-5 220-146 N 700

WINCHESTER - 1

30' 721

Hipp House

Strasburg, 7.5



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