

VLR-1/17/84 NRHP-2/23/84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Dr. Hockman House (preferred) (VHLC File No. 85-76)

and or common Chequers

2. Location

street & number Route 11 North

N/A not for publication

city, town Edinburg

x vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Shenandoah

code 171

3. Classification

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use, and other categories. Includes checkboxes for building type, ownership status, and present use.

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. and Mrs. James L. Vance

street & number 6159 Kellogg Drive

city, town McLean

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Shenandoah County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Woodstock

state Virginia 22664

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August 1973 1983 federal x state county local

depository for survey records 221 Governor St.

city, town Richmond

state Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Constructed in 1868, the Dr. Christian Hockman House is an outstanding example of the Italian Villa style in the Shenandoah Valley. The elegantly detailed, American-bond brick structure is designed with the cubic form and prominent square tower which characterize the Italian Villa style and maintains the three-bay symmetry popular in the region's vernacular architecture. The placement of the tower in the center of the main (west) facade and the symmetry of the handsome veranda convey the classical roots of the Italian Villa Style. The painted brickwork includes quoining on both the main block and the center tower and pilasters framing the paired windows on the side facades. However, in its richly textured details, the house embodies the picturesque qualities of the mid-19th century romantic movement. This is suggested by the wide, bracketed cornices, embellished with decorative scroll-sawn freizes on both the main block and the center tower, and the elaborately detailed front veranda with arched supports and a balustrade which dominates the main facade. The house faces a curved and landscaped drive off the main highway north of Edinburg on Route 11 and is set upon a partial knoll, as the land drops steeply behind the house eastward to the Shenandoah River.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

The Dr. Christian Hockman House is located one mile north of the town of Edinburg along old Route 11 (The Valley Turnpike). Set just 100 feet east of the highway, the front facade faces the road but is screened by a grove of trees and old boxwoods placed within the semi-elliptical drive which allows access to Route 11. The rear or east facade faces a deep drop, now clear cut, to a bend of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River and affords a panoramic view to the east of Edinburg Gap through a section of the Massanutten Mountains. Originally the Valley Turnpike ran farther to the west than its present alignment which dates to 1927. The original curved drive ran from the turnpike and ended at the house. The grove of trees and other plantings in front of the house were originally more extensive. The present semi-elliptical drive dates from 1927. The main facade is dominated by the three-story center tower and a decoratively detailed veranda. At the base of the tower the tall center entrance features three-quarter sidelights with molded panels below the glazing and a lighted transom decorated with molded consoles. Above the veranda on the second story a glazed double door with a bracketed cap is sheltered by a decoratively trimmed hood supported by consoles. The top story of the tower, originally ornamented with metal cresting, has paired four over four sash double-hung windows on the main facade and single four over four sash windows on its secondary elevations. The tower is capped by a wide cornice with paired brackets and a decorative brick and sawn wood freize. It has a shallow-pitched pyramidal roof. The tower is flanked by six over six sash double-hung

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1868-1870 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Dr. Christian Hockman House is architecturally significant as a rare example of the Italian Villa style in the Shenandoah Valley, illustrating principles of the picturesque movement in domestic architecture advocated by A. J. Downing and practiced by Alexander Jackson Davis. The wood ornamentation which is applied to the brick masonry form reflects the important change in building techniques as mass-manufactured components replaced those built by hand. Sold through illustrated catalogues by large companies in major cities, the architectural elements were distributed even to remote country towns by the ever-widening railroad network. While rail service had initially arrived in Edinburg between 1854 and 1859, it was thoroughly disrupted and partially destroyed during the Civil War years. The 1868-1870 date of construction of the Dr. Hockman House coincides with the 1868 date of the re-opening of rail service to Edinburg and points farther up the Valley. The Dr. Hockman House represents a somewhat late execution of the Italian Villa style in the Shenandoah Valley, but achieves an unusually opulent quality by the use of painted brick masonry with its stately quoins and projecting tower.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The design principles illustrated by the Dr. Hockman House are derived from the mid-19th century romantic movement which reacted against the proliferation of the Greek Revival style in domestic architecture. Designed in the Italian Villa style in 1868-1870, the two-story brick residence features a center tower with an ornately detailed, bracketed cornice, a large, exuberantly decorative front veranda, and a bracketed, highly detailed main cornice. In accordance with the ideas of Andrew Jackson Downing, its plan is oriented with respect to a view of the picturesque countryside, with the axis of the central hall leading from the entrance from the road to the panoramic mountain scenery to the east.

The aesthetic ideals explored by Downing and his collaborator, Alexander Jackson Davis, and later Calvert Vaux, were concepts of the beautiful and the picturesque. The beautiful included proportion and symmetry; the latter could be either regular or irregular. Those buildings designed with irregular symmetry are properly labeled "picturesque." They are illustrated in Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses by examples of villas designed in a variety of styles - the Gothic and Italian

9. Major Bibliographical References

Downing, A.J. The Architecture of Country Houses, Reprint. New York: Dover, (1850) 1969.

Lathrop, J.M. An Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties. Philadelphia: D.J. Lake and Company, 1885. (see continuation sheet #4)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 6.6 acres

Quadrangle name Edinburg

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

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7	12	5	8	0
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4	3	0	0	4	5	0
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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

As recorded in Deed Book 324, page 141: "Beginning at an iron pipe found in the curve, on the East side of U.S. Route 11 and a corner with John C. Brady; thence with the arc of the said curve 464.66 feet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries N/A (see continuation sheet #4)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emma Jane Saxe

organization Historic Preservation Consultant date December 1983

street & number 7714 Thor Drive telephone 703-573-3642

city or town Annandale state Virginia 22003

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

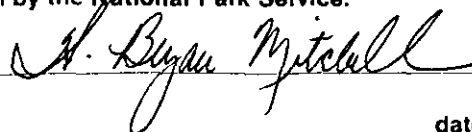
national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell

Executive Director



date January 17, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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windows topped with decorative window caps on both the first and second stories. The main cornice is also bracketed and has a wide frieze comprised of scroll-sawn elements and angled bricks. The veranda also has a decorative cornice and brackets as well as arched supports which span the posts. These braces are embellished with pendant drops. The porch elements, brackets, and window caps are mass-manufactured architectural components which were, by 1868, sold to the builder through catalogues. They may have been ordered from a prominent manufacturer, George O. Stevens & Company in Baltimore, whose business of producing "finishings for buildings" flourished between 1855 and 1890.1

The north and south elevations are identical: pilasters frame two tall, four over six sash double-hung windows on each story. The windows on the first story are overhung by a wide hood supported by consoles. The heavy bracketed cornice continues on these elevations and wraps around to the east (rear) elevation. A three-story brick addition was built to the east in 1956. Access is provided through the original rear doorway; and thus no wall area was removed. Each floor of the addition is one large room with a fireplace at the east end wall. A two-story deck (replaced in August 1983) extends eastward from the brick addition.

The two-story house features a full basement and a standing seam, metal, hipped roof with a very shallow pitch. Two interior chimneys serve the four fireplaces originally located on each of the two floors and basement.

The house has a central passage, two-pile plan which is unaltered from its original design. Doorways connecting the front to the rear rooms are situated such that one jamb abuts the portion of exterior wall that is between the two tall, four over six sash double-hung windows on the side facades. Window and door trim is heavily molded. The six-paneled front door is more elaborately molded than the two-paneled doors found throughout the rest of the interior.

The eight-foot wide central hall has a single run open staircase with decorative scroll brackets, turned balusters, and the original newel post. Again, the newel post and other staircase components are derived from a catalogue source. Other examples of such manufactured "catalogue elements" are the four elegantly molded surviving mantelpieces which are located on the first floor and the basement level. All of the fireboxes were blocked up in the 1950s.

The parlor is located to the south off the hall from the front entrance and features molded panels below its two windows and a molded mantelpiece. To the north of the front entrance is the dining room which contains a stained mantelpiece, molded trim and paneling below the windows. A half-bath was added in the southwest corner of the room, probably in the 1950s.

The rear room to the south has a chair-rail and ceiling molding which

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were probably added in the early 20th century. The rear room to the north functioned as a kitchen as evidenced by the tall, built-in cupboard on the east (rear) wall.

The second story of the central hall terminates at the front with a small room accessed by double doors above which is a lighted transom. This room contains the stairs leading to the top floor of the tower. It was converted to a half-bath in the 1950s.

The second floor-plan is identical to the first floor-plan. The four upstairs rooms feature molded window and door trim similar to that found downstairs. Wooden bracketed shelves, catalogue items again, are placed where it appears the original mantelpieces were removed. These molded wood elements have been discovered in the basement and will be put back into place.

A previous owner demolished the original outbuildings which consisted of two barns and various sheds. The parcel presently surrounding the house measures six and one-half acres and includes a small fenced field, trees and boxwoods near the house and an unencumbered view to the river and mountains behind the house.

¹Diana S. Waite, Architectural Elements, The Technological Revolution (Princeton: The Pyne Press, n.d.), pp.14-16.

8. SIGNIFICANCE:

being featured most prominently. All were placed out of the urban setting where they would be surrounded by "more or less land."¹ In the same popular design book, Downing featured villas in the classical manner whose exteriors were characterized by regular symmetry. The Dr. Hockman House illustrates this classical mode of the country villa.

In promoting higher architectural taste both to clients and to the reading public, through numerous printings of several books, Downing emphasized adapting the design to the landscape and expressed a preference, as did his contemporaries, for the rural setting. It was believed that such environments in America were naturally picturesque and ideal sites for the Gothic and the less preferable Italian styles. The Dr. Hockman House with its country setting looking out over a river and mountain scenery represents the application of these ideas of the picturesque movement.

The exterior wood detailing of the Dr. Hockman House, such as the brackets, window caps, hoods, and the elements of the veranda, are components that were manufactured by a mechanized industry ^{using} power wood-working machinery. As explained by Diana S. Waite in Architectural Elements, The Technological Revolution, the industry sold its products to the rapidly urbanizing population by the extensive use of trade catalogues. Manufacturers, not housewrights, supplied the demand for the more intricate designs demanded by the change in taste toward the Gothic and the bracketed mode. They relied on the expanding system of rail and water transportation networks to distribute their pro-

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ducts throughout the country.²

George O. Stevens & Co. of Baltimore could well have been ~~a~~^a supplier of milled elements to the Shenandoah Valley. The firm flourished between 1855 and 1878 and shipped to the southern states. The late 1850s date of completion of the railroad all the way to Edinburg and the hiatus during the Civil War probably indicate that the use of the catalogue process occurred only after the war. The Dr. Hockman House particularly illustrates what Waite describes as the comparatively conservative nature of the patterns sold. "Nearly all catalogs presented their newer offerings side-by-side, often literally, with others that had come into vogue a decade, or sometimes two or three, earlier."³

Dr. Christian Hockman may have been related to the Hockman family from Harrisonburg. One member of this family, Anthony Hockman, was a well-known builder in Harrisonburg, whose own house in town, built in 1871, has a front veranda which strongly resembles the one on the Dr. Hockman House. One might speculate that Anthony Hockman the builder went up to Edinburg to build his relative's house.

Other than the fact that Dr. Hockman was about forty when he started building his house, little is known about the man. His gravestone in the Edinburg Town Cemetery records the following: Dr. Christian Hockman was born July 25, 1830 and died November 27, 1894. He was a consistent member of the Christian Church, married L.V. Hockman, and buried three infants and one child. The last was Harry Hockman, born June 2, 1876 and died March 16, 1878.⁴

Christian Hockman is recorded in the 1880 census as a dentist, age 50 with a wife, Laura, age 30, and a white male child, E.S., age 1 year, at home. He does not appear in either the 1870 or the 1860 census records.⁵

An historical atlas published in 1885, based on surveys by J.M. Lathrop, lists "C. Hockman, Dentist" and indicates his residence north of Edinburg on the Valley Turnpike in the Madison Magisterial District of Shenandoah County.⁶

According to the courthouse records, Dr. Hockman sold the house, outbuildings and 40 acres to Sarah E. Creighton in 1889. David Clem owned and farmed the property from 1909 to 1946 when he sold it to Howard J. Benchoff who was the principal of the Massanutten Academy in nearby Woodstock. The large addition was made by Benchoff for an overflow of students whom he housed. Benchoff sold the property in 1959 to Ava Ott who sold to Dr. Raleigh Shelton in 1965. Dr. Shelton sold to Josephine Evans in 1973 and the present owners acquired the property in 1983.

¹A. J. Downing, The Architecture of Country Houses, Reprint (New York: Dover, 1969), pp. 271-363.

²Diana S. Waite, Architectural Elements, The Technological Revolution (Princeton: The Pyne Press, n.d.), pp. 5-16.

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³Ibid., p. 6.

⁴Tombstone, Town of Edinburg Cemetary, December, 1983.

⁵U.S. Bureau of Census, Shenandoah County, Virginia, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

⁶J.M. Lathrop, An Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, from Actual Surveys by J.M. Lathrop and B.N. Griffing (Philadelphia: D.J. Lake and Company, 1885), p. 27.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:

Tombstones, Town of Edinburg Cemetary, December, 1983.

U.S. Bureau of Census. Shenandoah County, Virginia, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

Waite, Diana S. Architectural Elements, The Technological Revolution. Princeton: The Pyne Press, n.d..

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA:

to an iron pipe set at the p.c. of the said curve; thence N 34 24 40 E 81.42 feet to an iron pipe set at a corner with Rawley M. Shelton, Jr., other land; thence with the said Shelton's line S 61 42 00 E 391.37 feet to an iron pipe set at a corner with a strip of land owned by the Virginia Electric and Power Company; thence with the said Power Company lines S. 18°14'10" W. 325.12 feet to an iron pipe set; thence, S. 05°34'30" W. 323.74 feet to an ironpin re-set, a corner with John C. Brady; thence, with the said Brady's line N. 64°45'30" W. 670.68 feet to the point of BEGINNING, containing 6.611 acres, more or less."

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Dr. Hockman House nomination includes 6.6 acres of land which is all of the property remaining with the house under the current ownership. The area is bounded on the west by Route 11 and on the east by the Shendandoah River, thus encompassing that portion of the original setting of the house which most contributes to the architectural quality of the residence. The property is comprised of open areas immediately to the north and south of the residence where the formerly existing barns and outbuildings were located. The area east of the house to the river is cleared, affording a view of the river. The remaining acreage beyond the yards is wooded.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (1:24000)
Edinburg, Va. 1966 (PR 1978)

DR. CHRISTIAN HOCKMAN HOUSE
Edinburg, Virginia
UTM References
A-17712580/4300450

