

VLR-6/13/01 NRHP-2/7/02

(Rev. 10-90)  
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Abraham Beydler House

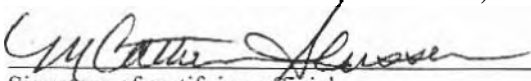
other names/site number Valhalla Farm; DHR FILE NO. 0085-0096

### 2. Location

street & number 2748 Zion Church Road not for publication   
city or town Maurertown vicinity   
state Virginia code VA county Shenandoah code 171 Zip 22644

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

  
Signature of certifying official

11/20/2001  
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or 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 commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

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

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

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

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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

N/A

**6. Function or Use**

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

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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

Cat: <u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>multiple dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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**7. Description**

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

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone; slate

roof METAL: tin

walls BRICK

other WOOD

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

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**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)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance ca. 1800-ca. 1850

Significant Dates ca. 1800  
ca. 1850

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder UNKNOWN

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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

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

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 9.328

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	17	723,000	4	309,719	2	_____
3	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

See continuation sheet.

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**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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Alfred M. Pollard, Owner

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ date March 21, 2001

street & number: 5918 Chesterbrook Road telephone 703 534 3025

city or town McLean state VA zip code 22101-3350

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**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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name Alfred M. Pollard

street & number 5918 Chesterbrook Road telephone 703 534 3025

city or town McLean state VA zip code 22101-3350

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**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**7. Summary Description:**

Valhalla Farm consists of a dwelling, originally known as the Abraham Beydler House, a smokehouse and the remains of a springhouse situated on nine acres adjacent to the North Fork of the Shenandoah River just across from Massanutten Mountain in Shenandoah County, Virginia. The Beydler House is a two-story, six room brick house, constructed around 1800, on a full-story basement. A two-story ell was added perpendicularly to the house around 1850. The original house and ell have attics and gabled roofs covered in standing-seam metal. The house is an excellent example of the Federal style that was popular with Shenandoah Valley residents during the early nineteenth century. Stone from the river and surrounding land provide the coursed foundation, while bricks made on the property were employed for the walls, some of which are laid in a Flemish-bond pattern. The house has interior-end chimneys at each gable end of the building. The interior of the house features heart-of-pine floors, horsehair plaster walls, chair rails and heavily decorated mantels. Doors throughout the house consist of two-inch-thick planks and six panels; exterior doors are topped by five-light transoms. Windows have one-over-one, double hung sashes and wooden shutters are reproductions of the originals.

Approximately 20 feet east of the house stands a one-and-a-half story smokehouse/summer kitchen situated on a high brick basement. Constructed around 1850, the building has diamond shaped air vents. The smokehouse and the remains of an original springhouse, approximately 75 feet east of the smokehouse, are contributing resources.

The house has undergone little alteration and remains a well-preserved example of late 18<sup>th</sup> century Federal-style architecture. A few modern additions have been made and the adjacent smokehouse has been thoroughly restored.

The buildings and grounds of the nominated property are in excellent condition and have been in continuous use for two hundred years and consistently maintained at the highest level.

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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

### Architecture and Construction Features of the Structures on Valhalla Farm

The Abraham Beydler House at Valhalla Farm represents German immigrant adoption of the Federal style of architecture, popular among residents of the Shenandoah Valley.(1) This is reflected in the use of the English-style construction of chimneys placed at the end of exterior walls, use of brick, carved woodwork for the parlor and other prominent rooms and a floor plan of two rooms wide, one room deep. The house form is referred to frequently as an "I house" and is very common to the Valley.(2)

The original house consisted of six rooms, a large home for the area.(3) The basement level's principal elevation faces south towards the river and the principal elevation of the top two floors and attic faces north. The house was constructed around 1800 and was referenced in a will executed by Abraham Beydler.(4) The bricks and wall plasters are made with horsehair, typical of construction materials employed in the Valley before the widespread introduction of wheat.(5) The basement level served as an area for storage and sheltering animals in winter.

The addition or ell was constructed around 1850. It consists of two stories with four rooms and a basement under part of the structure and an attic. First-floor rooms consist of an entry foyer and kitchen; the upper floor has bedrooms. The principal elevation of the ell faces east.

Bathrooms and closets were added in the 20th century. Wall pegs permitted families to hang and dry their clothes. Chair rails, that exist in almost all rooms of the house, were popular and were commonly placed in most principal rooms in the late 1700s.(6) A porch on the ell was added in the 1920s.

In the 1960s, a back porch was enclosed as a "mud room"; a few years later, a sleeping porch was constructed above it. Later a garage was added and then a studio above that in 1988. The original house, ell and adjacent smokehouse are painted white today. Wood shake roofs existed originally on the house and smokehouse, replaced with standing seam metal roofs

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in the late nineteenth century.(7)

The smokehouse/summer kitchen is constructed of brick, laid in Flemish bond. The foundation is brick, not fieldstone employed in the original house and ell. The roof, originally wood shake, is now standing-seam metal.

**ORIGINAL HOUSE AND ELL**

**Exterior**

The original house and ell addition, constructed of brick made on the property, have foundations that consist of stacked fieldstones of limestone and slate. External walls have Flemish bond brickwork on two elevations (north and south), while a five-course American bond is displayed at the other two elevations. A molded brick cornice extends across the north and south elevations of the original house. Windows have brick jack arches; the original nine-over-nine sashes have been replaced with one-over-one, double-hung sashes. Shutters are copies of the originals, one of which has been preserved. Exterior doors are topped with five-light transoms.

**Interior**

Inside, the house has horsehair plaster walls and floors made of heart-of-pine planks with sawdust caulking between the boards. The first-floor dining room has a boxed staircase leading upstairs and down to the basement. All doors in the house consist of two-inch-thick planks with six panels.(8) Almost all of the door hardware in the house is original. Fireplaces in the house have either been restored with bricks from the property or remain in their original condition; all fireplaces are in working order.

The following describe interior rooms of the original house and ell:

*Attics.* Rafters in the original house and ell appear to have been handcrafted outside on the ground and then carried to the attic. Each set of two rafters is joined at the peak with a mortise-and-tenon joint and pegged. In order to re-assemble each unique pair, the rafters were numbered with matching Roman numerals.(9) These remain visible on the charred



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rafters. The rafters have small hooks that were used to cure meat and also to dry herbs that were gathered near the river or from a garden. The rafters were burned or charred intentionally to prevent bug infestations.

*Basement Rooms.* The basement walls consist of fieldstones and of quarried, worked stones that are flat and well fitted. The walls are covered with horsehair plaster, most of which remains. Brick flooring exists in one of the three basement rooms, a storeroom of the original house that came to be known as the "egg room" in the 20th century. The room was used for keeping eggs before sale at market or for use by the family. The walls of the egg room have horsehair plaster and pencilled numbers and dates on the walls reflect the count and source of eggs. The egg room has an original brick floor laid in a "basket weave" pattern and traces remain of green paint that once covered the floor. Doors are wide, while windows have wooden bars.

*Kitchen.* The kitchen of the house is now in the ell addition and has a large, eight-foot-wide fireplace, of commonplace construction, that was heavily used. The swing pole, from which a kettle hung, was discovered in the barn and restored to the house. The kitchen walls are exposed brick. The cooking fireplace has a segmental arch firebox and a mantel consisting of a plain frieze and reed pilasters. Windows above the sink are original, containing hand-made glass panes. The wooden threshold at the back door to the kitchen is worn in the middle from years of active use. Originally flat to the ground, a raised hearth was built in 1975 of bricks taken from the basement floors.

*Parlor.* The parlor is the most ornamental room in the house. The large plaster medallion in the ceiling accentuates the height of the room. The Palladian-style cupboards have reeded pilasters, topped with a carved pineapple.<sup>(10)</sup> Above each cupboard, a semi-circular wooden arch crowned by a keystone springs from the pilasters. The Federal-style mantel has reeded banding, hatching and engaged Doric columns on pedestals. A central frieze tablet is accented by a carved flower motif and is flanked by carved pineapples in the frieze. The mantel shelf is bowed as are others in the house.

*Dining Room.* The dining room staircase is enclosed.<sup>(11)</sup> Chair rails and heart-of-pine floors along with horsehair plaster walls mirror other rooms of the house. A door to the basement, under the staircase, has a hand-painted, faux treatment.

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*Entry Room.* The entry room, now in the ell, originally contained four exterior doors; three remain with one now accessed through an added bathroom. The heart-of-pine floors and horsehair plaster are original as are the chair rails and coat hooks.

*Upstairs Rooms.* The east-facing bedroom in the ell has original, hand-made window glass in windows looking out to a sleeping porch. The master bedroom in the original house has an original fireplace with bowed mantel shelf, chair rails and coat pegs. A sleeping porch was added in the 1970s along the west wall of the ell. Above the dining room, a room leading from the original house to the ell was originally a bedroom. Floors in this room are heart pine and the fireplace has an original bowed mantel shelf. A room above the kitchen in the ell has two doors with interesting hand-painted faux designs simulating a raised wood surface. These door treatments are original to the room, which was used as a bedroom.

## OUTBUILDINGS

### Smokehouse/Summer Kitchen

The one-and-a-half story smokehouse/summer kitchen is situated on a high brick basement. It had many uses over the years and was restored in the early 1990s as a family residence, complete with a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and furnace room. Adjacent to the house, the smokehouse was added to the property around 1850 and mirrors the architectural character and interior features of the original house. The exterior walls are brick laid in Flemish bond and diamond-shaped vents are located at the roof line.<sup>(12)</sup> In the 1990s, the smokehouse was completely renovated with a furnace room, bathroom and kitchen added. The gable roof is covered in standing seam metal.

The foundation of the smokehouse is brick. Most of the interior has been replaced; the flooring of the top level is constructed of original wood flooring and the beams in the smokehouse are old and have a number of pegs and hooks for hanging meats or herbs. The first-level room faces the river and has a floor that mirrors the basket weave pattern employed in the house basement. The room has a working fireplace and stairs leading to the second level. The second level contains a dining area with fireplace, a kitchen and a bathroom. The third level contains a bedroom.

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**Springhouse**

Across the road (state route 654) from the smokehouse/summer kitchen are the remains of the original springhouse. Constructed of field stones and bricks made on the property, the springhouse was partially removed due to road construction, with about one quarter of the structure remaining.

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NOTES

- (1) Terrell, *Old Houses in Rockingham County* (Verona, Virginia: McClure Press 1970), pp. 10-12 (application of Georgian style by Germans in Shenandoah Valley).
- (2) Brownell, Loth, Rasmussen and Wilson, *The Making of Virginia Architecture* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press 1992), pp. 27-28 (notes on German immigrants migration through Pennsylvania, use of diverse architectural styles and construction features, including employment of heavy roof supports). Lyle and Simpson, *The Architecture of Historic Lexington* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press 1971), p. 17 (style brought to Virginia as early as the 1600s and reflected the rise of families from modest means to economic stability, particularly use of brick in construction).
- (3) In Lanier and Herman, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid Atlantic* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press 1997), p. 24, the authors note that millers and innkeepers built large homes of brick with well executed interior appointments.
- (4) The Beydler family was known to have an orchard and later raised wheat, engaging in their traditional family business as millers. Kennedy, *Architecture, Men, Women and Money in America 1600-1860* (New York: Random House 1985) (relationship of corn, tobacco, land speculation and western movement and impact on colonial period migrations), p. 118.
- (5) Dalzell and Dalzell, *George Washington's Mount Vernon: At Home In Revolutionary America* (New York: Oxford University Press 1998), Appendix— House-Building in Eighteenth-Century Virginia, pp. 229-231 (brick-making techniques) and 241 (animal hair plaster). Also Lanier & Herman, pp. 97-105 (brick-making) and 113 (plaster).
- (6) Dalzell and Dalzell, p. 239.
- (7) Dalzell and Dalzell, p. 237.
- (8) Dalzell and Dalzell, p. 238 (such doors were easier to produce and carve).
- (9) Lanier and Herman, p. 80 and at p. 114— the roof timbers were “prefitted, trussed and sometimes numbered in their raising order”, then joined with mortise-and-tenon joints. Also, Dalzell and Dalzell, p. 235.

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(10) Lanier and Herman, pp. 29 & 125, note that symmetrical, Palladian style cupboards or bookcases in a parlor reflect a frequent device of the time and the fact that the highest finishes in houses came along fireplace walls.

(11) Terrell, p. 10 (use of enclosed staircases in German immigrant houses).

(12) *Diamond vents were popular for kitchens and smokehouses; see Terrell, p. 17 (ventilation in 18<sup>th</sup> century construction through brick, diamond pattern vents), and Lanier and Herman, p. 80 (diamond pattern vents on smokehouses).*

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Narrative Statement of Significance (National Register Criteria C)

The Abraham Beydler house at Valhalla Farm, constructed around 1800 and added to in 1850, provides a glimpse into a significant segment of the architectural history of the northern Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and the rich heritage of its German immigrants.

Elements of the house, especially seen in the parlor mantel, show a high degree of skilled craftsmanship that existed by the early 1800s in houses throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

The house meets National Register Criterion C in the area of Architecture as a fine example of Federal-style architecture in the northern Shenandoah Valley. No master builder is in evidence; nonetheless, the house reflects the builder's direct application of elements of the Federal style, then popular among residents of the Valley, along with time-honored *architectural forms in American architecture* transported from Pennsylvania to the Shenandoah Valley. The house and smokehouse have survived in virtual pristine state from their date of construction.

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### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Valhalla Farm, which originally occupied land on both sides of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River, was carved from a land grant made to Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the lord proprietor for Virginia. Conveyed by the Lord Proprietor's office to one Samuel Denton in 1750 and then to John Tipton in 1783, the farm was transferred that year and held by the family of Abraham Beydler for over 100 years. In its first forty-five years, it varied in size based on marriages, purchases and inheritances; at one point, the farm consisted of more than three hundred acres. During its history, the farm acquired the name Valhalla. Most recently in 1988, the house, smokehouse/summer kitchen, springhouse remains and nine and one half acres of land were set apart and sold.

The property extends just over 400 feet along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River at a point in the river at the end of the famous Seven Loops, a large, compressed system of meanderings. Across the river and beyond a private farm (originally part of the Beydler property) is Massanutten Mountain.

The original brick house was constructed around 1800 by Abraham Beydler, a German immigrant and member of a Mennonite sect. Many German immigrants first settled in Pennsylvania during the 1700s and shortly thereafter began migrating through Maryland and down the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains into Virginia and western North Carolina. Land in the valley was cheaper and less desirable than acreage in the Tidewater region and along the navigable rivers of central Virginia.

Many of the deeds and wills related to the property reflect the strong Germanic heritage of its owners, with many documents either written in the German language or signed with names reflecting German spellings. Continued use of the language by the occupants— as well as the entire German community in the northern valley— throughout the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries was common.(1)

The following details the heritage and significance of the property's builders and owners:

The Beydler family (initially "Beutler") originated in Switzerland, near Bern, and family records go back to the 1580s.(2) A branch of the family moved to the Palatinate region and along with other Swiss Mennonite families found themselves refugees after action by Louis

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XIV in the 1680s to restore the Palatinate to Catholic France.(3) Christian "Beudler" was born in Germany or the German Palatinate in 1707 and married one Susanna just before emigrating to the United States. His age was listed as 24 and his wife's 23 when they landed in Philadelphia in August 1732 on the ship *Samuel*. He signed a document affirming his allegiance to the English King and later obtained a survey warrant for land in Philadelphia County where he built a grist mill.(4) His son Abraham was born in 1736. The family sold its property in 1744 and moved further west where he operated another mill and was listed as Christian "Beitler, millar." After his wife died, he remarried and moved once again. At his death in 1767, he left his plantation to his younger son and a separate 50-acre tract to his older son.

Christian Beudler's eldest son Abraham moved to the Shenandoah Valley some time around 1770, after selling the property his father left him, shortly after probating the will. He owned no land until 1783. In November 1772 his name appeared as Abraham "Pideler" in court minutes and in September 1776 he was called to testify in the case of a theft from himself and four others by one John Gordon.(5) On August 27, 1783, Beydler purchased 181 acres on the "North River of the Shanando" and a 1786 survey recorded buildings on the river property.(6) Abraham Beydler's name appeared again among those of other Mennonites signing a petition against the militia laws of Virginia in 1785.

In September 1797, he became the guardian to his four youngest children who were heirs to their mother's share of her parent's estate in Pennsylvania. His will, dated April 17, 1807, was probated at the time of his death on April 9, 1810.(7) Around 1800, he had constructed a much larger house than that surveyed in 1786 and, in his will, directed that his wife was *"...to live on the plantation where I now live, in the new dwelling house of which she shall have full possession during her widowhood and I do direct that my Son Jacob Beydler do plough and dung the Garden for my widow every year during her widowhood..."*(8) The will, common to the times, provides numerous specific bequests to other children and provides detailed bequests to his wife in terms of specific furniture, personal effects and even that she should have a cow and should the cow become "dry" then the son Jacob should provide her a cow that produced good milk.



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In its tenth provision, Abraham Beydler provided that

*"I give and devise to my Son Jacob Beydler himself and his heirs and assigns, forever, all the Plantation and tract of land whereon I now live, lying on both sides of the North River of Shenandoah, below the town of Woodstock about six miles, including the new entry Subject to the maintenance of my widow aforesaid and to the bequests to his brothers and sisters herein mentioned."*

In the eleventh provision, Beydler states *"I do value the tract of land I give to my Son, Jacob, at twelve hundred pounds current money of Virginia."*

Jacob Beydler was born on November 11, 1782, married in 1800 and died on April 9, 1830. In 1800, he moved to property owned by his mother and, after her death in 1812, obtained full title and purchased additional land as well as land inherited from his father. At the time of his death, Jacob Beydler had property appraised by Jacob Kronk, David Crabill and Jacob Fisher on May 25, 1830 and sold at an auction; a detailed account reported the proceeds as \$2186.05.<sup>(9)</sup> The remaining value of Jacob Beydler's estate was estimated by Isaac and Abraham Beydler, administrators, on May 27, 1830 at \$1785.91.<sup>(10)</sup> A further settlement of the Beydler estate by Isaac and Abraham Beydler was for \$2132.95 in 1832. A final settlement of accounts took place on December 24, 1833 for \$614.54.

Evidence that the property was part of the active commerce of the area is reflected in the records of a nearby historic site. On the same road as Valhalla Farm, two miles away, is the former Shenandoah County Farm, that originally served as the glebe house (or church residence) where Peter Muhlenberg, the Revolutionary War patriot, lived and rode circuit. Later called the Almshouse and then Poorhouse, it finally became a county work farm, where the unemployed or those who committed minor offenses could work for a time in lieu of incarceration. This County Farm was the last in operation in Virginia; it now houses the Alliance for Shelter. In the Almshouse account book for 1810, "Alex. Pollock, manager," recorded a transaction with Jacob "Bydler" for 67 bundles of straw at one pence per bundle.<sup>(11)</sup>

A number of transactions occurred within the Beydler family before the property left its ownership.<sup>(12)</sup> In the 1940s, the Carey family purchased the property and held it until the 1980s when the land was subdivided further and the house was sold to the Kelley family and

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Shenandoah County, Virginia**

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by them to the Monahan/Couric family and then to the current owners, the Pollard family, in 1998.

The property and the structures reflect the history of the Shenandoah Valley from the Federal era times through the Civil War to the present day. The house reflects the construction methods and architectural forms adopted by settlers to the Valley. The property, as well, reflects the values of twentieth and twenty-first century residents who have sought to maintain the heritage that Valhalla Farm represents.

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NOTES

- (1) Davis, *The Shenandoah* (New York: Farrar & Rinehart 1945), p. 33 (newspapers in Shenandoah Valley published in German into the 20<sup>th</sup> century). Also see Smith, Stewart and Kyger, *The Pennsylvania Germans of the Shenandoah Valley* (Allentown, Pennsylvania: Schlecther's Publishers 1964)(German immigrant religions, foods, rituals, customs, crafts and related topics).
- (2) The family originated in the Swiss Alps region, concentrated around the village of Oberdiessbach; *Familiennamenbuch der Schweiz* (Zurich 1940), Vol. I, p. 93; also see *The Mennonite Encyclopedia* (Hillsboro, Kansas: Mennonite Brethren Publishing House 1982), Vol. I, p. 266.
- (3) Bly, *From the Rhine to the Shenandoah: Eighteenth Century Swiss and German Pioneer Families in the Central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and Their European Origins*, Volume II (Baltimore: Gateway Press 1996), pp. 26-31. NOTE: this reference provides much of the history contained in here regarding transactions in the Beydler family.
- (4) *Persons Naturalized in the Province of Pennsylvania, 1740-1773* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company 1967), p. 14. It was recorded that Beydler, "being such who conscientiously scrupled to take an oath," was naturalized by affirmation, reflecting the religious beliefs of the Mennonite immigrants.
- (5) Shenandoah County Order Book 1772-74 (November 25, 1772)(Abraham Piderer was appointed overseer of a road on property of Jacob Burner). In Shenandoah County Order Book 1781-1784 (February 28, 1782), Abraham Piderer and three others were appointed to "view a way for a Road from the Top of Macenutin mountain to the old Road at Benjamin Stickler meadow and report the conveniences attending to the same court..." As to the trial referenced, it is recorded in the Shenandoah County Minute Book 1774-1780 (September 1776). These records indicate not only that Beydler was active in the community, but that he lived in the neighborhood where he eventually purchased property and built his house.
- (6) Shenandoah County Deed Book D, p. 294 (August 27, 1783). The deed reflects a transfer by patent from the Lord Proprietor's "office" to Samuel Denton in October 20, 1750 and from him to John Tipton at Deed Book D, p. 65 (January 29, 1783). The deed from Tipton to Abraham "Pidler" references some 181 acres on the North River of the "Shanando" and a price of 650 pounds. According to a survey of the area, three years later in 1786, Beydler had fifteen acres of first rate river bottom land and twelve acres of second rate bottom land in cultivation, twelve acres of meadowland in

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the river bottom and thirty six acres of second rate high land under cultivation. Cited by Bly in note 3 above, page 27 (statistical survey referenced as "Jonathan Clark Survey, 1785-1786").

The residence at that time was "a log dwelling-house, half worn, one and a half stories, 54 by 20 feet" with a "very indifferent" chimney of stone and earth. A barn existed of round logs, 44 by 28 feet and an orchard with 40 bearing apple trees was noted. The property consisted of land where the house and smokehouse are today.

(7) Shenandoah County Will Book G, p. 446.

(8) Shenandoah County Will Book G, p. 451.

(9) Shenandoah County Will Book Q, p. 195.

(10) Shenandoah County Will Book Q, p. 195. Also, the Shenandoah County Land Book 1830-1837, p. 5, lists the property of Jacob Beydler at some 431½ acres.

(11) Painter, *The Alms House of Shenandoah County* (Stephens City, Virginia: Commercial Press 1979), p. 14.

(12) Other transactions recorded for the property within the Beydler family took place in 1873, 1879, 1892 and in 1895 from A. Beydler to Hiram Beydler. Hiram Beydler was born on February 1, 1833 and died on October 21, 1896; he is buried at the Valley Pike Brethren Church; his wife Barbara ("Libby") died on March 27, 1900. A picture of the house and smokehouse dated from approximately 1895 shows Hiram and Libby Beydler. Following their deaths, in January 1902, the property was divided in to three tracts, one with 48½ acres on the North Fork of the river; the property was inherited by Laura Wakeman; she was the last of the Beydler family owners. She sold the property on September 1, 1918 to John Artz. It was then bought by Charles F. and Mary Headley who sold it on October 1, 1919 to Lawrence Roy Hockman [Deed Book 87, p. 182 (October 1, 1919)] who held the property until 1940 when it was acquired by B.G. Collier [Deed Book 129, p. 149 (September 9, 1940)]. Collier sold the property in 1942 to the Harth family [Deed Book 133, p. 421 (May 29, 1942)]. Shortly thereafter the Carey family purchased the land and buildings [Deed Book 136, p. 191 (May 10, 1943)] and, as noted in the text, held the property until 1988.

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## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated 9.328 property, is shown as the black line on the accompanying map entitled "Valhalla Farm" which has a scale of 1" = 100'. The tract is on state routes 654 and 600, designated parcel C-3 on the attached plat dated July 15, 1998 and contained in Deed Book 824, page 824 for Johnston Magisterial District of Shenandoah County, Virginia.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

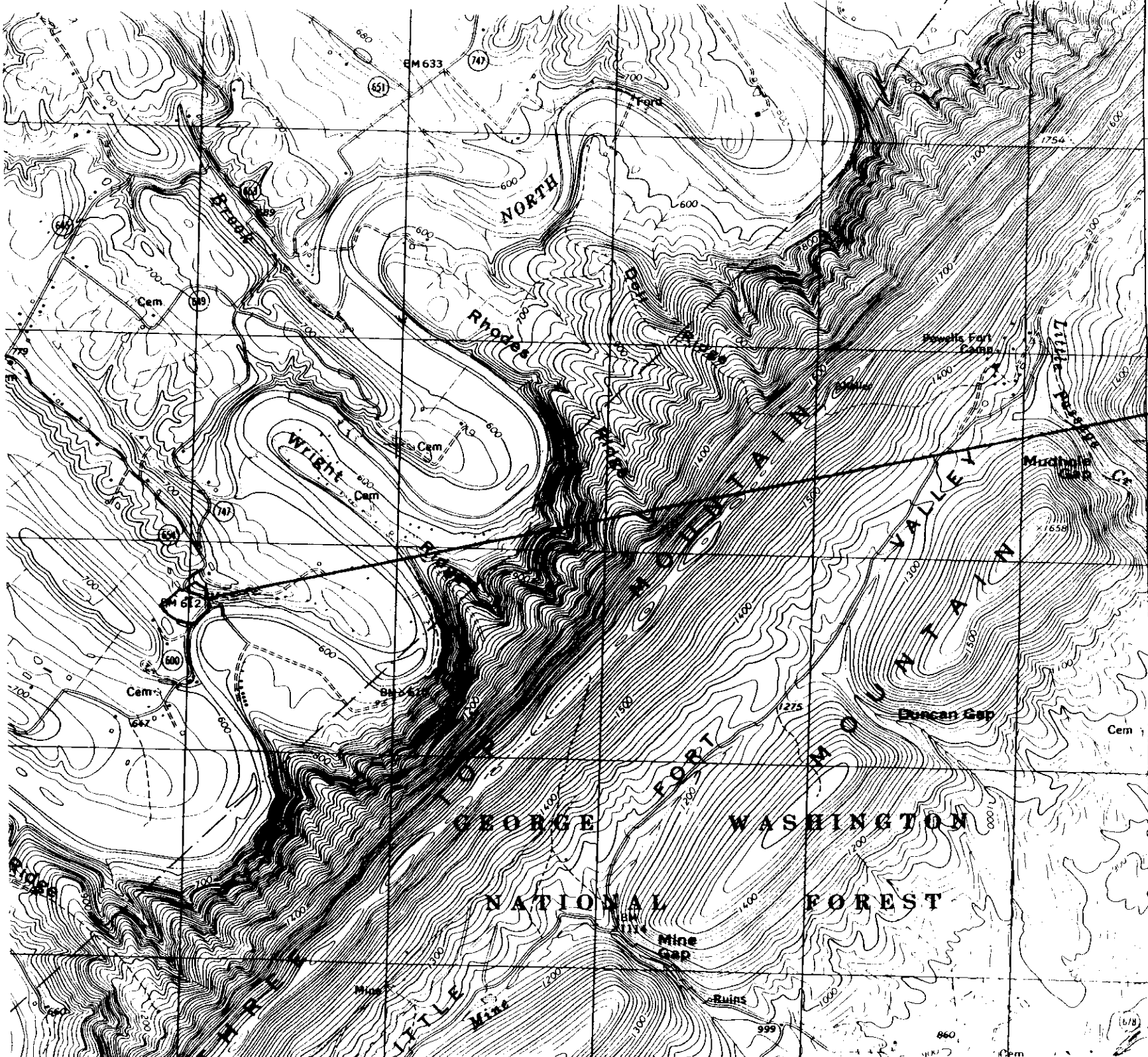
The boundaries include all historic resources associated with Valhalla Farm.

The boundary surrounds the core parcel of the property that was originally owned by the first settler family to occupy the land. The house, smokehouse and springhouse that were central to the property remain on the 9.328 parcel nominated. The acreage is significant as it encompasses the land features that were essential to the family for locating the house and its support structures—it includes a hillside that was a natural boundary and the source of a freshwater spring, the river that provided water and stone for construction, and a creek that feeds into the river and provides another natural boundary. The property boundaries are recounted in a deed of July 31, 1998, contained in Shenandoah County Deed Book 824, page 824.

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

### Owner

Alfred M. Pollard



ABRAHAM BEYDLER  
55' HOUSE

SHENANDOAH COUNTY  
VIRGINIA

UTM COORDINATE:  
17/723000/4309719