

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The house at Fairview Farm is situated near the village of Rockland in Warren County in the eastern portion of the lower Shenandoah Valley on gently rolling terrain. The two-story framed timber house is nearly square in plan and is topped by a hipped roof. The east and west facades are mirror images, with slightly asymmetrical three-bay fenestration and originally featured two-story gabled porches (now restored). The first floor incorporates a three-room plan and decorative features related to Continental sources, while the second-floor plan resembles the popular double-pile center passage house familiar to English settlers from published sources and buildings in the Tidewater region. The nomination includes the main house judged to be contributing and a modern, non-contributing outbuilding.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The house at Fairview Farm is a two-story hipped-roof structure of framed timber. The three-bay east and west facades are nearly identical mirror images. Each floor contains a transomed door in the center bay, but the doors are not vertically aligned, and neither are centered in the facade, due to different floor plans on each level and the corresponding locations of partitions. The window bays and the restored two-story porches are not centered, but are located approximately two feet to the north of the building's center. Two stone chimneys with shouldered brick flues above the eaves rise along the south wall, which was not originally pierced by any window or door openings. The chimneys vent fireplaces on the first and second floors. Evidence in the siding on the north revealed the original location of an off-center chimney narrower than the south chimneys on the symmetrical two-bay facade. The chimney carried smoke from a fireplace in the basement and first floor and would appear to have served only a stove flue on the second floor (a tin-plate stove is recorded in the inventory of owner Samuel Shackelford in 1835).

The house is sheathed with beaded, lapped weatherboard, and topped by a modillioned box cornice on all four sides. The doors and windows are surrounded by molded trim similar to that on the interior, although that on the first floor was altered in the nineteenth century.¹ The structure sits on a coursed rubble limestone foundation. The full basement is lit by high vertically barred vents beneath each of the windows in the floor above. Original basement entries were apparently located under the east window on the north wall and between the chimneys on the south wall, reached by flights of exterior steps.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input 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)		
	fourth quarter					

Specific dates eighteenth century **Builder/Architect** N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house at Fairview Farm represents the home of a prosperous lower Shenandoah Valley settler of English descent. The house, which dates from the late eighteenth century, incorporates elements of traditional decoration and plan features from Continental sources. The house's builder used a combination of Rhenish and popular elements in composing the elevations and the widely differing first and second-floor plans. The mingling of elements in the house, in which English and popular forms predominate, is illustrative of the interdependence of ethnic groups in the late eighteenth century Shenandoah Valley, and the survival of folk forms as decorative and ordering elements in a popular milieu.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first settlement of the lower Shenandoah Valley occurred during the decade of the 1730s. The claims of the Virginia colony were divided in 1738 into two counties, Frederick and Augusta. Frederick, the northern county, corresponded to the claims of Lord Fairfax as an extension of his Northern Neck proprietorship, and contained the lower and northern half of the Valley. Lord Fairfax's claims were confirmed in 1745 by the Privy Council in London. In 1791, Frederick had been subdivided into several counties, three of which, Berkeley, a reduced Frederick, and Shenandoah, occupied the lower Valley. (Fairview Farm, originally in Frederick, now lies in Warren County, an early nineteenth-century subdivision of Frederick and Shenandoah Counties.)

Beginning in the 1730s, the lower Valley was the subject of several settlement projects by Swiss and Germans from Pennsylvania and New York. Disputes between Lord Fairfax and the colony's government over jurisdiction delayed settlement, and when Fairfax's claims were confirmed he acted to encourage the speculative acquisition of tracts by Tidewater families, rather than settlement by the Ulster and German settlers who were moving into the Valley from Pennsylvania. Following the French and Indian War the policies of the proprietor resulted in an unusual conglomeration of settlers of English origin in the eastern side of the lower Valley. The influence of these Tidewater settlers in the late eighteenth century has been recognized as being

9. Major Bibliographical References

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Front Royal

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	7	7	4	8	4	4	10	4	3	1	9	8	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point at the end of a dirt road approx. 350' SE of VA 658, the entrance to said road located approx. 3200' NE of intersection of VA 658 with VA 661; thence extending approx. 50' SE; thence approx. 50' S; thence approx. 50' SW; thence approx. 50' W; thence approx. 50' NW; thence approx. 50' N to a point on the S side of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet #8)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham - Historical Architect, Charlotte Worsham - Preservation Consultant

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date September 1985

street & number Yellow Sulphur Springs, Route 2 telephone (703) 552-1139

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia 24073

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 

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Director date May 1, 1986
Division of Historic Landmarks

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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The structure is approximately square (29' 4" north and south walls by 30' 5" east and west walls). The house is framed with braced corner posts and one intermediate post in the center of each side, braced as adjacent openings permit. Additional support is provided by door and window posts and by studs. Eleven inch by nine inch beams span the house on the first floor between the intermediate posts, and support 3" wide by 9" joists running east to west on 2' centers. The first-floor beams were supported by a central pier or post, now replaced. The second floor is carried on a continuous beam spanning from the center of the north wall to the south and supported by a centered post in the first-floor transverse partition. It supports a series of joists similar to the first floor. The attic floor is spanned by a single 11" wide by 6" beam running east to west which carries the floor joists. The roof ridge is supported by a pair of hewn kingposts which are carried on slightly larger joists which align with the principal second-floor partitions. Angled braces support 4" x 5" high principal rafters which are augmented by 3" by 4" common rafters on 2' centers. At the angles of the roof these are nailed into a 4" x 5" angled member which is framed into the top of the kingposts.

Original framing for the gable of a porch roof survives above the central bay of the east front. The west side of the roof had been altered when a dormer was added in the early twentieth century and no evidence remained. Oak shingles were found in the attic.

Evidence in the flooring, framing, and wall materials indicate that the house was originally divided into very different floor plans on the first and second stories. The first floor contained three rooms. The house's 30' by 30' square was almost equally bisected by an east-west partition which divided two almost square rooms on the south from a long rectangular room on the north. Each of the smaller rooms was heated by a fireplace in the center of its south wall, while the north room was heated by a fireplace offset to the east to avoid the center post in the north wall. Both exterior doors opened close to the center partition at opposite ends of the long room, and the two smaller rooms communicated with each other and with the long room by doors located in the centers of their common walls. An open-stringer stair rose along the west wall of the long room over the west door and entirely covered the west window at that end of the room, which served only to light the basement steps, which originally descended below the main stair. A smaller stair rose from the southeast room to the second floor, but was removed in the nineteenth century.

On the second floor the floor plan more closely approximated that of the traditional double-pile house by locating a central passage running east to west between two pairs of chambers. The south chambers were heated by similar

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fireplaces, while the northeast chamber seems to have been heated by a stove, and the northwest room unheated. The stair from the first floor, however, and the separate enclosed winder stair to the attic near its head caused the northwest chamber to be odd-shaped and the door to the second floor of the west porch to be pushed over against the south passage partition to the north of the center post in that wall. The door to the similar porch on the east was located opposite it. The plan, and the structural bay system were at odds with the three-bay facade arrangement. The shift of the entire three-bay principal facades approximately 2' to the north can be attributed to an attempt to reconcile facade symmetry with internal symmetry in the first-floor parlor and chamber based on a room size and form that had been dictated by a central post in a two-bay structural system. On the second floor, the symmetry suggested by the three-part plan did not correspond with the rhythm set up on the lower floor and so was disregarded entirely.

The attic space was apparently unlit, unless in the porch gables, and was left unfinished, while the basement was apparently treated as an undivided space heated by a large fireplace on the north wall.

The long room on the first floor is finished in an elaborate manner through the use of paneled wainscot which originally surrounded the room and ran up the stair, crossing diagonally in front of the west window in the north wall in doing so. The stair features a ramped and eased railing supported by a pair of slender turned balusters on each tread. The stringer is decorated with sawn brackets in the shape of consoles of a highly attenuated and idiosyncratic shape. The basement stairs below are enclosed by a paneled partition corresponding to the wainscot. The stair ends in a slender turned newel. The doors which led to the west and east porches are surmounted by transoms. The crown mold in this room consists of a cyma recta crown above a rope fillet and a shallow frieze ornamented with carved alternating straight and pinwheel shaped four-lobed flowers.

The southwest room is the most ornate. The walls are surmounted by a heavy modillioned cornice which is mitred out over the mantel on the south wall. The segmentally arched firebox is surrounded by a pilastered mantel and an entablature enriched by a guilloche molding above a section containing three panels. Above the mantel is an elegant overmantel flanked by paneled pilasters containing a rectangular panel outlined by rope molding and accented by carved acorns at the corners. The mantelpiece is flanked by glass-fronted cupboards. The room is surrounded by a flush wainscot and a molded chair rail. The southeast room contains much simpler details, including similar wainscoting, a cyma recta crown, and a simplified version of the southwest mantel without the overmantel and the cupboards.

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The two south chambers above are similar to one another but unconnected. Both rooms feature an ogee crown mold above a molded chair rail and beaded baseboards. The mantels consist of a molded shelf above an architrave surround. The other spaces in the second floor all contain similar crown and chair rail details, while the central passage, which straddles the central partition below, also is fitted with a 3"-tall pin rail at 6'-4" above the floor. A section of the passage is occupied by a narrow enclosed winder stair which rises to the attic near the head of the main staircase. The attic stair is sheathed with diagonal beaded boards. The chambers on the north were much altered during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. While the northeast room seems to have been similar in size and shape to the rooms across the passage, the survival of early weatherboards behind the chimney, pierced only by a small opening suggests that the room was heated by a stove. The northwest room was reduced in size and shape by the protrusion of the stair to the first floor and was apparently unheated.

In the mid-nineteenth century one-story additions were made to the south side of the house. Access from the main section was gained through doors cut on either side of the chimney in the southeast room. Later in the century the early porch was removed and a wide two-story porch was built across the east front. Doors were cut in both window locations on that facade, and at that time or later, the partition between the southeast room and the long north room was removed and a new partition constructed across the long room dividing it into two rooms. This effectively created a new long room on the east side of the house and a separate stair and entry hall on the west next to the more highly ornamented southwest room. The stair in the southeast room was removed and the north chimney was demolished.

During the early twentieth century a one-story shed-roofed addition was made along the north wall and the entire house was stuccoed, including the chimneys. A pressed metal shingle roof replaced the wood shingle roof. The window sash were replaced with two-over-two double-hung sash.² A one-story porch with stuccoed arches was built across the west front where the early two-story central porch had been previously removed, and a hipped-roofed dormer was added on the west hip of the roof. The house took on the appearance of a foursquare house built at the turn of the century. In later years, the east porch was enclosed and an additional one-story porch added to the east.

During a 1984 restoration, the later additions were removed and early features restored where evidence in the fabric permitted.³ In some areas changes were made to accommodate modern usage, and several features, including

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the secondary stair, were not restored for lack of evidence of their appearance. The stucco was stripped from the masonry and weatherboarding and two new porches added on the east and west, with size, height, and railing details drawn from evidence in the building and some details, such as the corner posts and pediment, reconstructed from conjecture.

A two-story log kitchen, also stuccoed, was located to the southeast of the house. It contained two rooms on each floor and a large central stone chimney. It was considerably deteriorated and was removed when the house was restored. No other old outbuildings or barns survive at the site, which is now surrounded by a modern golf course.

Notes:

1. A large percentage of the weatherboarding and the cornice was intact and was reused in the 1984 restoration. All exterior doors and the door and window frames on the first floor exterior have been reconstructed to match existing doors and windows on the second floor.
2. Except the north window sash on the west wall, lighting the basement stair, which served as a model for the window sash restored throughout the house in 1984.
3. Only portions of the original crown and wainscot remained, and were used to recreate the missing elements in the 1984 restoration.

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out of proportion to their relative numbers in the Valley, but they represented the way of life of the governing elite and the social and cultural norms of the eastern planter. They introduced and fostered social and cultural patterns which eventually dominated the ethnic diversity of the Valley's population.

Joseph Shackelford and his family were settled in Frederick County, Virginia by 1777, in the eastern portion of the lower Shenandoah Valley. In that year he purchased 212 acres from Thomas Rees, who had purchased the tract from the Fairfax Proprietorship in 1771. In 1818, Joseph Shackelford recorded a deed of gift of slaves, cattle, and household and farm goods to his son Edmund. In 1820, the first year in which the value of buildings is recorded in Frederick County, Joseph paid taxes on improvements valued at \$300, while his son Samuel's land held buildings valued at \$2000. In 1823 Samuel's holdings totaled 800 acres, while his father retained ownership of 200 acres. It seems likely that Joseph Shackelford's land passed to his son Samuel upon his death, but no record has been found of a will or deed.

Samuel Shackelford's will was probated in March 1835, and the property on which Fairview Farm is located was left to his daughter, Evelina Thomas. In 1837 the 800-acre farm still contained buildings valued at \$2000. It was part of a 1200-acre estate. Shackelford's property had been appraised in May of 1835. It included 13 slaves (including 3 children), 50 hogs, numerous cattle, a clock, one set of mahogany tables, a dozen Windsor chairs, and a settle, one bed and bedstead on the first floor, five additional beds and furniture, a secretary and books, a tin-plate stove, and numerous other household and agricultural items, and mentioned a smokehouse.

Evelina O. Thomas, Samuel Shackelford's daughter, died in 1854 or 1855, leaving the property and house to her sons Robert B. and Samuel W. Thomas. In 1859 the property, by then known as Fairview Farm, was sold to settle debts of the Thomas brothers. The farm was bought at auction by Kimble Hicks who transferred ownership to his daughter Evelina T. Byrne. It was acquired in 1885 by the Rev. T.B. Sheppard, the buildings being appraised at \$3,180. The property passed from Sheppard's heirs in 1954.

It seems probable that the house at Fairview Farm was built for Samuel Shackelford in the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. The house incorporates features associated with German culture in portions of Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley. Architectural historians, in particular Edward Chappell, have described the Continental Plan house, or Flurkuchenhaus, as the principal sign of the ethnic culture of the region's German-American settlers. The house contained three rooms, grouped around a central chimney. The kitchen or hall occupied the full depth of the plan, contained the stairs to the second floor, and was the site of cooking and household activities. It was reached usually by doors to the front and rear.

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The area to the other side of the massive chimney contained a more formal room used for eating or family gatherings. It was heated by a small fireplace or stove connected with the fireplace in the kitchen. The smaller unheated room, partitioned off from the stube, was a sleeping room. The principal facade often incorporated two asymmetrically-placed bays.

The Continental Plan house was in the early years built chiefly in log and stone. During the eighteenth century the Continental Plan was often employed in conjunction with elevation and plan organization features derived from Anglo-American models. The central chimney was replaced by chimneys on the outside walls. Exterior and interior symmetry and formal interior finishes derived from popular sources were increasingly applied to houses in which the plan and the patterns of living remained based on Continental tradition. The development of a plan which assimilated certain elements of English tradition and popular developments accompanied the increasing acculturation of the descendants of German immigrants. The house of choice among settlers of English descent emphasized external symmetry and a separation of room functions connected with an increasing privatization of life. Since English as well as German builders tended to consider interior spaces over exterior in balancing the fenestration of a building, the rigid symmetry of the exterior also expressed a spatially less differentiated interior.

The imperfect balance of the center passage house at Fairview Farm is interesting not only in the extreme to which the Continental Plan was stretched in the builder's attempt to reconcile alternate spacial arrangements, but as an important example of the influence of German culture upon a non-German homeowner. The first-floor plan of the house is treated almost as a two-thirds double-pile side-passage house, a variety of the center passage house, a nationally predominant house form in the late-eighteenth to mid-nineteenth centuries. The hall is entered as nearly as possible on the house's center axis, contains an articulated open staircase, and is clearly not designed for use as a food preparation area (cooking has been relegated, as in the late Continental houses, to an outbuilding and to the basement). The equal-sized rooms opening off of it are treated as rooms opening off a central passage would have been. It is, however, quite different from a center-passage house in the addition of a fireplace or stove on the long wall, and in its unusual width. The inclusion of a three-bay facade in a house which is based on a two-bay structural system causes problems of door placement which prevent the successful composition of a symmetrical facade, a prime element in the center-passage form.

The lack of continuity between the first and second floor is even more indicative of the stubborn survival of the three-room plan as an organizer of space, because it is laid out as a nearly complete version of the competing double-pile center-passage form. Only in the matter of heating and lighting along the north wall does it vary from the paradigm. In the alterations

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carried out in the first-floor area during the next century, the problems of privacy and ease of circulation were resolved by enclosing the stair in its own room at the entrance, and opening the east room into the remainder of the hall to create a new long room along the eastern wall.

The timber frame of the house and the choice of a common rafter roof with kingpost supports are not in a tradition associated with the German settlers of the Shenandoah Valley. The roof form of English and popular derivation, further identifies the house as a transitional type. The decorative carvings incorporated in the crown mold of the long room on the first floor are associated with carvings found in several houses of the Shenandoah Valley,³ and represent additional evidence of the adaptation of traditional German elements into a popular form, pointing, like the plan and structure of the house, to the cultural interdependence of ethnic groups in the Valley.

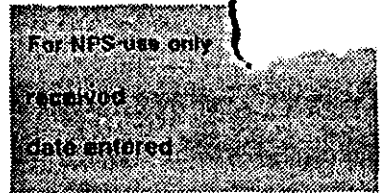
Notes:

1. Mitchell, Robert D., Commercialism and Frontier, Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1977), p. 31.
2. Chappell, Edward A., "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement," In Proceedings, (Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, vol. 124, no. 1, February 1980), p. 62.
3. Telephone interview with Edward A. Chappell, March 1985.

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Chappell, Edward A. "Acculturation in the Shenandoah Valley: Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement." In Proceedings, Philadelphia: American Philosophical Society, vol. 124, no. 1, February, 1980.

Frederick County, Virginia. Deed Books, 17, p. 439; 19, page 26; and 41, p. 65.

Herman, Bernard. "Continuity and Change in Traditional Architecture: The Continental Plan Farmhouse in Middle North Carolina." In Carolina Dwelling. Edited by Doug Swain. (Student Publication of the School of Design, vol. 26). N.C. State University, 1978.

Mitchell, Robert D. Commercialism and Frontier: Perspective on the Early Shenandoah Valley. Charlottesville: The University of Virginia, 1977.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal Boundary Description Continued

a dirt road; thence approx. 100' E along S side of dirt road to point of origin.

Justification

The boundaries have been drawn to include the house, one noncontributing outbuilding and the site of the demolished kitchen building. This boundary follows a new asphalt drive which encloses the above mentioned properties within a circle.

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FRONT ROYAL QUADRANGLE
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7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5362 II SE
(BOYCE)

CITY) 745 10' 746 2 100 000 FEET 747 748 78° 07' 30" 39° 00'

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Front Royal, VA 1967 (PR 1978)

FAIRVIEW FARM, Warren County, VA

UTM References:
17/748440/4319860

