



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 306-0013

1. General Property Information

Property name: Balzer Huber House

Property address: 148 West Queen Street

City or Town: Strasburg

Zip code: 22657

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Shenandoah County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building x

Site

Structure

Object

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 1 acre

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban Suburban Town x Village Hamlet Rural

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

The house is located within the Town of Strasburg and is a contributing building to the Strasburg Historic District. The residence is located on Queen Street, which runs parallel to King Street, the town's main street and commercial corridor. The street is primarily residential and sits less than a block from the Historic Hotel Strasburg. The Balzer Huber House is located on a small 1 acre parcel with the residence situated almost at the road. The front stoop stairs empty straight onto the brick sidewalk. The rear yard is flat, grassy and the owners have planted a small fruit orchard towards the rear.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): _____

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: _____

If the builder is known, please list here: _____

Date of construction (can be approximate): _____ ca 1766 _____

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

The Balzer Huber House today is a two-story, five-bay residence, covered in clapboard siding and situated on a limestone foundation. The house features a side gable roof with two interior end chimneys. The house began as a one and a half story log building, constructed ca. 1766. The west side of the house is log, now covered in clapboard. The log construction is evident on the interior as the walls have been left exposed. In ca. 1840, the east wing was constructed, the log portion was covered with clapboard and many of the Greek Revival details were added on the exterior and the interior. A dentil cornice stretches across the façade but does not continue around to the sides of the house. The east elevation features cornice returns and the west elevation does not. The front entry is accessed via a stoop with two flights of stairs leading to a wood paneled door topped with a narrow transom and flanked by sidelights and narrow fluted pilasters. Immediately above the front entry is a small second story balcony and door with access to the second floor center hall. The house features 6/6 double hung wood windows on the first story and 6/6 windows on the second story. A ca. 1860 a two-story ell, with first and second story porches was added off the rear of the original log section.

The interior today reads as a center hall plan, with a hall and stair dividing the two parlors. The center stair was constructed when the east wing addition was added. Originally, the log residence most likely contained a covered corner staircase that would have led to the ½ story loft area. The west parlor, part of the original log building, features original random width wood floors and a large stone fireplace. The center hall, which is still within the log section, features the same random width wood floors as the west parlor. The current closed string staircase was added ca. 1840 and features a heavily turned newel post, tapered wood balusters, two to a tread, as it stretches to the second-floor center hall. The east parlor added ca. 1840 features pine floors and a faux marbleized wood mantel. The rear ca. 1860 ell is accessed via the west parlor and features the now dining room and a later 1940 kitchen addition. The second floor mirrors the first, with three bedrooms. The bedroom immediately above the west parlor, a part of the original log building features the second stone fireplace in the residence.

Just off the rear of the 1940s kitchen addition, stands the original summer kitchen building. The interior features a large brick fireplace.

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Summer Kitchen- connected shed
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4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The Balzer Huber House is being considered for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, Exploration and Settlement as one of the earliest residences constructed in the Town of Strasburg, along Queen Street, which during Strasburg's earliest history, was considered the main thoroughfare through town. The lot where the house was constructed was originally owned by Peter Stover and was sold to Balzer Huber in 1765, who had one year to construct a residence on the lot. It was stipulated that the house must include a brick or stone chimney. Huber is said to have constructed the 1 and ½ story log residence to satisfy this requirement. The construction of this house coincides with the early development of the Town of Strasburg, which was laid out in 1761 and primarily settled by German settlers from York, Pennsylvania. During a later renovation of the house, an account book detailing transactions of a tailor was found, indicating the building was likely used as both a residence and for commercial enterprises as well.

The resource is also being considered under Criterion C, architecture as an evolved log building, reflecting the early traditional building techniques found throughout the Shenandoah Valley, one that tells the story of the success and progression of its owners over time. Philip Spengler, who was responsible for expanding the residence ca. 1840, with the addition of the east parlor, is responsible for transforming it into a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style. By the time Mr. Spengler purchased the residence, Strasburg was becoming a major center along the Valley Turnpike for several different trades, including pottery and flour milling.

In 1940s the owners at the time decided to restore the building and add a kitchen off the rear ell. The architect hired to do the work was James Raymond Mims of Luray.

The Balzer Huber House is a contributing building to the Strasburg Historic District, which was listed on the National Register in 1984. The district nomination generally outlines the significance of Town of Strasburg and its role along the Valley Turnpike from its earliest history, its role during the Civil War and its role as a later industrial center along the Manassas Gap Railroad. The Balzer Huber House may be considered for individual eligibility as representative of one of the town's earliest constructed log buildings, its evolution as a vernacular adaptation of the Greek Revival style, in addition to the stories of its owners and their contributions to the town. It is also an opportunity to explore the history of the town's early settlement and its development as one of the major industrial centers along the Valley Turnpike through research of one of its landmark properties. The proposed period of significance for the resource is ca. 1766, the date of construction of the log portion of the residence through 1860 and the construction of the rear ell.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: _____ Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Legal Owner's Signature: _____

Date: _____

• • *Signature required for processing all applications.* • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____


e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

Date: _____

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Balzer Huber House
Strasburg, Shenandoah County
DHR ID# 306-0013



 Proposed Boundary

0 150
Feet



PIF AERIAL-VICINITY MAP

Balzer Huber House
Strasburg, Shenandoah County
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-  Proposed Boundary
-  Strasburg Historic District (VLR, NRHP 1984)

0 600
Feet













































