

VLR-11/15/77 NRHP-5/22/78

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 22 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Stover House

AND/OR COMMON

Fore Stover (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

At northwestern end of State Route 660; .3 mile E of south Fork of Shenandoah River; .9 mile NW of intersection of state routes 660 and 654.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Luray

 VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51COUNTY
PageCODE
139

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES RESTRICTED YES UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

 COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER None

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Fort Stover Properties, Inc.

Mr. George W. Bauserman, Agent

STREET & NUMBER

RFD # 1

CITY, TOWN

Luray

VICINITY OF

STATE
Virginia

22835

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Page County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Luray

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (3j) (See continuation sheet 81)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1940, 1941

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Fort Stover, one of a group of Germanic houses called forts because of their vaulted cellars, is set at the edge of a steep escarpment facing across the flat Shenandoah River bottom land to Massanutten Mountain beyond.

The house is a two-story, rubble stone building set with its ridge parallel to the contours of the hill in such a manner that the basement projects its full height above grade on the river (west) side allowing ground-level entry to it here and ground-level entrance to the first story at the rear.

Fort Stover is three bays wide with the front entrance in the north bay of the west side. The windows on the west are evenly spaced, but the openings on the first and the second stories are not aligned. The fenestration on the rear elevation is irregular. Late 4/4 sash are currently used in all of the windows, which have small stone jack arches over them. The whole is surmounted by a gable roof and interior end chimneys.

The plan of Fort Stover is that of the traditional Rhenish Flurkuchenhaus except that two end chimneys are used in place of the traditional central stack to give the house a more up-to-date anglicized appearance.

The basement consists of a narrow room running along the north end corresponding with the first-floor küche and containing a cooking fireplace. From it one steps down into a vaulted room occupying most of the remainder of the basement level. It is this vault, with its ventilating openings narrowing to a slit on the exterior, which is responsible for the belief that the house was intended to serve as a fort. Actually, it is a traditional feature found in the Rhineland and was used to maintain a suitably cool temperature for the storage of meats and perishable foods. Numerous hooks and nails in the ceiling attest to its use in this manner. Steps in the northeast corner of this room once led to the first floor but have been closed off.

The first floor consists of a narrow küche, or kitchen running the width of the north end of the house; a large stube, or parlor, in the southwest corner; and a smaller kammer, or chamber, set off from the stube by vertical sheathing, in the southeast corner. In the latter room rises an enclosed winder stair.

The second-floor plan is similar to the first, but the relative sizes of the spaces corresponding to the küche and the stube/kammer have been reversed. There was, in addition, originally no partition between the two southern rooms, and the original partition between the küche and the stube chambers is made of vertical bevel-edged sheathing.

On the first floor, the küche is relatively plain. Its off-center segmental fireplace opening has been closed, and it has suffered the loss of some trim.

The stube is decorated with a pedestal chair rail and a molded mantel shelf running the length of the chimney breast. It has a segmental fireplace opening and a raised hearth.

(See continuation sheet #2)

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stover House, traditionally called Fort Stover, is an outstanding example of a transitional Rhenish house of the late 18th century. Retaining such European features as a three-room Flurkuchenhaus plan, vaulted cellar, and bank siting the house's end chimneys and three-bay facade reflect the growing acculturation of Germanic groups to Anglo-American culture in the Shenandoah Valley. Built and long owned by the Stover family, the house retains most of its original trim and some early paint in the second floor rooms. It is among the best preserved and least altered of the important group of 18th-century log and stone German houses of the Massanutten Settlement.

Daniel Stover first bought land in the Massanutten area from Peter Ruffnaugh in 1746. At that time he acquired, for five shillings, 250 acres "on South River of Sharendo [Shenandoah] at the mouth of Hawksbill Creek."¹ By 1787, Samuel Stover (d. 1807), the original resident's son and probable builder of the house, was charged in the land tax books with the possession of 694 acres in three parcels, a holding which changed continually over the course of the next ten years. After Stover's death his 196 acre home tract passed to his sons Daniel, who got the larger portion, and Samuel, Jr., who sold his portion to his brother in 1817. Stovers held the property throughout the antebellum period.

DU, MTP

¹ Augusta County Deed Book I, 60, (1746).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Augusta County Deed Book I, p. 60 (1746).
 Chappell, Edward A. "Rhenish Houses of the Massanutten Settlement." 1977. Manuscript at Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.
 Kerkhoff, J.A. Old Houses of Page County. Luray, Va.: Lauck and Company, Inc., 1962.
 Shenandoah County Land Tax Books.
 Shenandoah County Will Book G, p. 331 (1807).
 Strickler, H.M. A Short History of Page County. Richmond, Va., 1952.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	7,2,10,1,0	4,2,8,9,1,8,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The Fort Stover property is bounded by a line beginning at a point 200 feet W of the end of the unimproved southern extension of State Route 660, approximately .3 mile E of South Fork of Shenandoah River; then extending 200 feet E to intersection with S side of unimproved extension of State Route 660; then following S and W sides of said extension for a distance of a little less than 600 feet; then extending a little over 400 feet WSW; thence extending a little over 400 feet NW to point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
October 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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 Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE NOV 15 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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Fort Stover, Page County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1958 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.

- (3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1977
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Fort Stover, Page County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

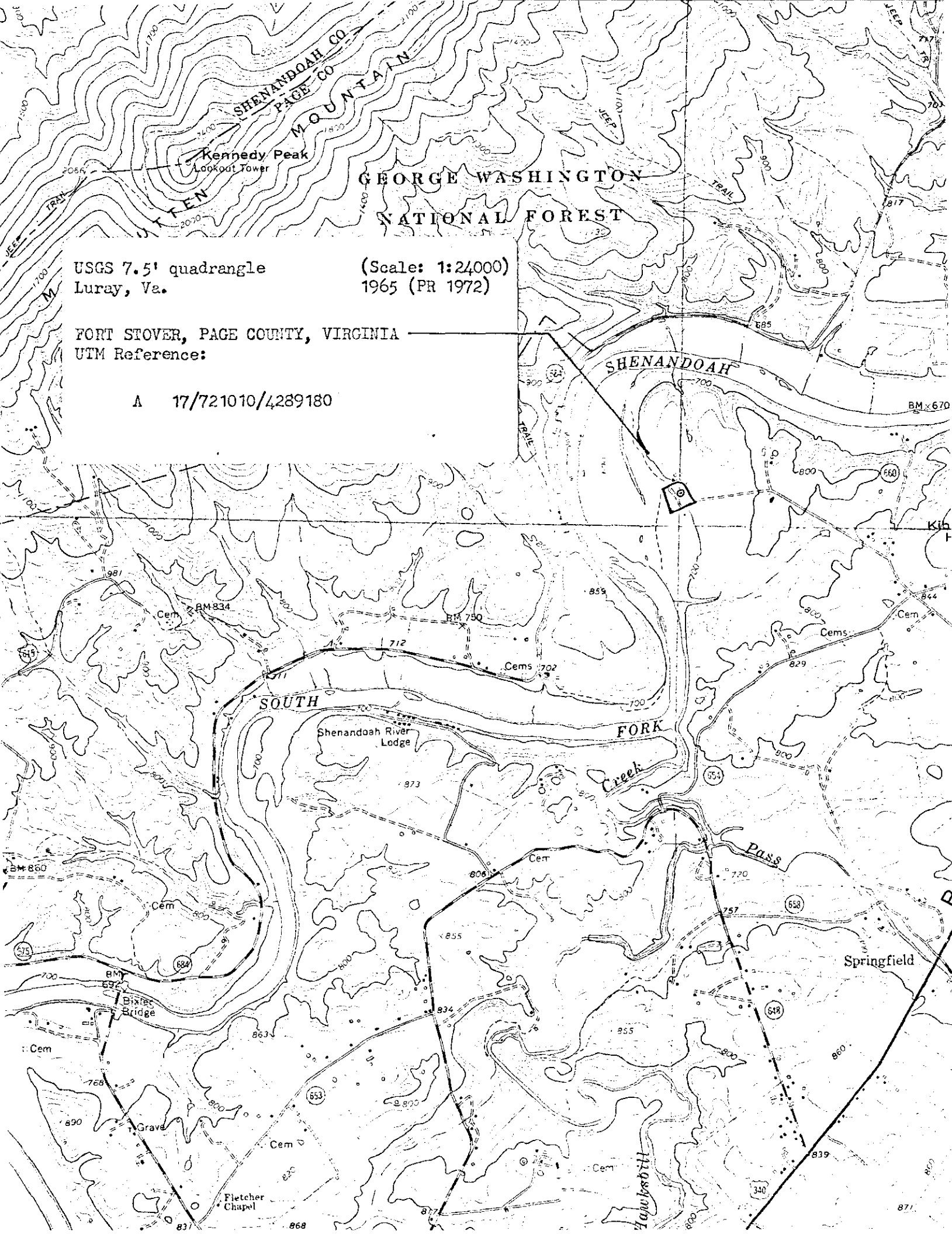
7. DESCRIPTION

The kammer is now the most spectacularly decorated first-floor room. Besides a heavy pedestal chair rail it also has a massive, classically molded shelf with mushroom-shaped pegs in the fascia mounted just above the door. A similar shelf has apparently been removed from the küche. An original corner cupboard in the southeast corner of the kammer was missing by the 1930s.

On the second floor an exposed molded square bearing joist runs the length of the house carrying transverse exposed joists of the same size and with similar moldings. The large küche chamber is decorated with a pedestal chair rail, a molded cornice shelf running the length of the chimney breast, and a segmental opening. There is a cupboard in the northeast corner between the chimney and the east wall. It has pegs inside and is surmounted by a heavy molded cornice. Its double three-panel doors have been removed but they are stored in the attic. An enclosed attic stair rises in the southeast corner of this room.

The only significant alteration to the house has been the addition of a frame, shed-roofed kitchen which is supported on posts and attached at first-floor level over the west kitchen doorway. No early outbuildings survive.

DU



SHENANDOAH CO
PAGE CO
MOUNTAIN

Kennedy Peak
Lookout Tower

GEORGE WASHINGTON NATIONAL FOREST

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Luray, Va.

(Scale: 1:24000)
1965 (PR 1972)

FORT STOVER, PAGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM Reference:

A 17/721010/4289180

SOUTH

FORK

Shenandoah River
Lodge

Creek

Pass

Springfield

Bixler
Bridge

Fletcher
Chapel

Lawson
Creek