

VLR-2/17/76 NRHP-7/30/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Massanutton Heights**

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

West side of U.S. Route 211, .1 mile north of the intersection of
Route 211 and state Route 615.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Luray

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Page

CODE

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:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Burner

STREET & NUMBER

RFD 3

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

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1973, 1975

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

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

Massanutton Heights is situated on a knoll west of Luray, near the Shenandoah River, in Page County. The large, two-story, four-bay house is built of brick laid in Flemish bond, with two exterior end chimneys and one interior chimney. The south exterior chimney has a rebuilt stack, but its base retains early red-painted brickwork with white-lined joints. The body of the house has been painted white, and the north chimney red. A four-course, molded-brick cornice embellishes the eaves of the gable roof. To the rear is a large, two-story frame addition constructed in 1924 when the building was used as a boarding house. The one-story porch which shelters the front and north gable end of the main house also dates from 1924.

Massanutton Heights has a three-room, single-pile plan with closed winder stairs in the southwest corners of the two end rooms. There is a cellar under the northernmost two rooms, which is entered from a stairway in the northeast corner of the south room.

The north bedroom is the plainest of the three ground-floor rooms. A chair rail and a pegboard at picture rail height encircle the room. The fireplace has a delicate Federal mantel with fluted pilasters, sunburst elliptical paterae in the entablature blocks, and a reeded band beneath the molded shelf. As in the other two rooms on the ground floor, the fireplace retains an early cast-iron Franklin stove which may be original to the house.

The south room has a very plain mantel with two horizontal recessed panels in the frieze and a band of molding above and below; that above the frieze being embellished with diagonal reeding. A pedestal-type chair rail is carried around the room. In the corner formed by the north wall and the cellar stairs is a two-level cupboard with large, flat-panel double doors. All of the woodwork is grained to resemble tiger maple. The graining is probably an original feature.

The central parlor is the largest and most elaborate room in the house. A plain pedestal-type chair rail is carried around the walls. The mantel consists of pairs of engaged, spindle-turned "colonettes" which support an entablature consisting of a broad frieze surmounted by a deep cavetto molding and a projecting shelf broken over the tops of the entablature blocks, which, with the central tablet, are carved with elliptical paterae. The whole of the entablature is enriched with a profusion of vertical, diagonal and horizontal reeding. To the left of the mantel is a handsome wall cupboard, supported on the chair rail. This has a four-panel, flat-panel door flanked by fluted pilasters, with understated caps, and a full, plain entablature. The most notable feature of the room is its early decorative wall painting. Below the chair rail are painted on the plaster, in brown and tan, quadrant panels in imitation of wainscoting. A border of flowers and vines on a yellow field follows the top of the chair rail and the perimeters of the doorways, window openings, and cupboard. Finally, red swag draperies with gold fringe and pairs of tassels are carried around the walls at the ceiling line. The painting is in excellent condition and has apparently not been retouched. Distributed throughout this room are many family items relating to the history of the house, including pictures of all of the owners and an early nineteenth-century mirror clock which has reportedly been in place since the construction of the building.

Among the many outbuildings still existing at Massanutton Heights are a frame and stone wash house/woodshed which was altered in the present century; an early nineteenth-century two-story, three-bay frame tenant house with a rock-and-brick exterior end chimney; a twentieth-century forebay bank barn, unusual for its gambrel roof and late date; and an early frame wagon shed which has been altered and enlarged.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 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

Massanutton Heights is an essentially undisturbed example of a prosperous early nineteenth-century Shenandoah Valley farmstead. The interior of the house is noted for its painted wall decorations which are a rare surviving example of popular art of the period. The decorations, combined with the house's bold provincial woodwork, the numerous family artifacts, and fine group of farm buildings, provide a vivid picture of the material culture of the German-American settlers in the Valley. The farm is still owned by the family which established it.

The house, which overlooks Massanutton Old Fields, one of the earliest settled areas of Page County, was probably built by John R. Burner and his wife Elizabeth Strickler around 1820. In 1831, Burner was granted a tavern license and presumably conducted his business there. From the builder, the farm passed to his son, John A. Burner (b. 1824) and then to James K. Burner (1873-1955). From the 1920s until the 1940s, the Burners took boarders at Massanutton Heights, and a large frame ell was added in 1924 to accommodate them. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Burner; Mr. Burner is a great-grandson of the builder.

The painted decorations in the first-floor parlor were probably executed soon after the house was built and are an attempt to imitate the border papers common in fine Federal houses of the early nineteenth century. The reds, greens, and yellows of the swags and flowers were the most popular colors among provincial decorators of the era, and they retain their original vivid hues. No painter's name has been connected with the decorations, although it is conceivable that the painter may have been local or even a relative of the owners. At least one relative, Johannes Spitler (1774-1837), was known for his artistic talents, as a number of pieces of painted furniture (some formerly located at Massanutton Heights) attest.

DTU

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Kerkhoff, Jennie Ann. Old Homes of Page County, Virginia. Luray, Va., 1962.
 Little, Nina Fletcher. American Decorative Wall Painting 1700-1850. New York, 1972.
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.
 Walters, Donald. "Johannes Spitler, Shenandoah County, Virginia, Furniture Decorator",
The Magazine Antiques, Vol. CVIII, Number 4, October, 1975, pp. 730-735.
 Waring, Janet, Early American Stencils on Walls and Furniture. New York, 1937.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 144 Acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	7 1,2 3,4,0	4,2 7,9 6,5,0	B	1,7	7 1,2 3,6,0	4,2 7,8 6,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,7	7 1,0 8,6,0	4,2 7,8 6,5,0	D	1,7	7 1,0 8,4,0	4,2 7,9 6,1,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Massanutton Heights property is bounded by a line beginning at a point on north side of U.S. Route 211 approximately .6 mile west southwest of intersection of U. S. Route 211 and State Route 615; thence extending 4500 feet westward in a straight line; then extending 1700 feet south in a straight line; then 400 feet slightly west northwestward; thence extending 1200 feet southward in a straight line, then 500 feet slightly east southeastward; then approximately 200 feet southward; then following U. S. Route 211 to point of origin. The 144 acres being nominated compose an essential setting

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES for this farmstead.

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

January, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

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 Judius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 17 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

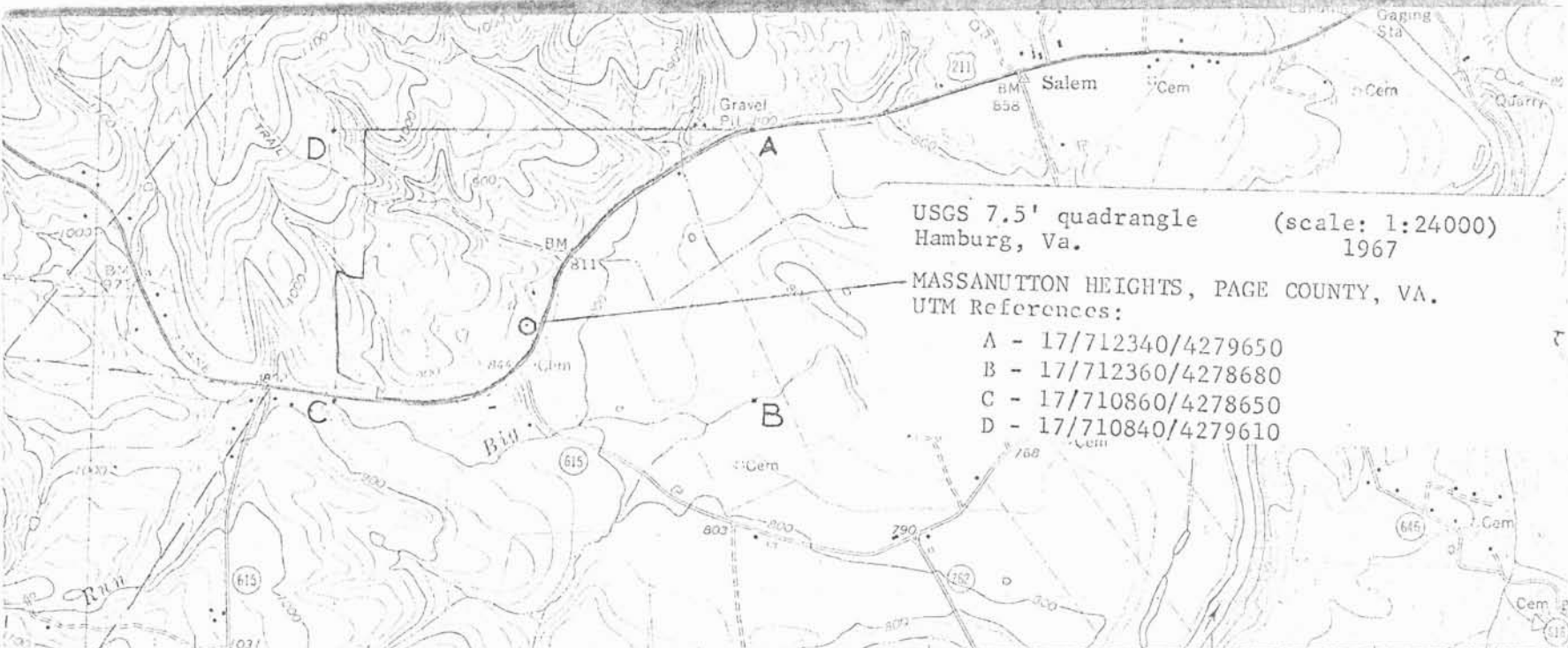
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



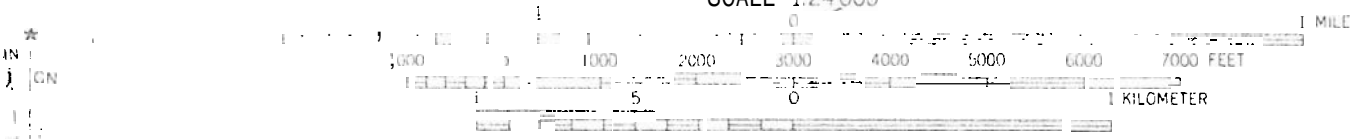
USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
 Hamburg, Va. 1967

MASSANUTTON HEIGHTS, PAGE COUNTY, VA.
 UTM References:

- A - 17/712340/4279650
- B - 17/712360/4278680
- C - 17/710860/4278650
- D - 17/710840/4279610

710 35' 2.4 MI. TO U.S. 340 712 (STANLEY) 5261 11 SE 713 32'30" 15

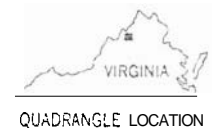
SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

1967 MAGNETIC NORTH
 AT CENTER OF SHEET

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 A FOLDLR DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMEOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION