

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 NOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Shenandoah Land and Improvement Company Office

AND/OR COMMON

Stevens Cottage (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

201 Maryland Avenue

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Shenandoah

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Page

CODE

139

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Shenandoah Heritage Page County Heritage Association, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 83

CITY, TOWN

Shenandoah

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

22849

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

(None Previously Recorded)

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY Foil SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The structure known as the Stevens Cottage was completed on May 6, 1891 and **sewed as the office** for the newly organized Shenandoah Land and Improvement Company. William Poindexter of Washington, D. C. was hired as the architect. The design of the building is a result of the combination of Edwardian and Shingle styles. It appears as a one-and-one-half-story cottage, but in fact contains a full second floor with attic space above within the roof of the structure. A recess at the first floor extends across the front (south); the gable projecting above creates the effect of a porch, supported on shingle piers. The enormous gable is cut by a three-part window at the second-floor level and flanked by inset rectangular stucco panels resembling half-timbering. At the attic level, the gable again projects with a shingled pediment face in line with the bargeboards,

The window and door openings on the first floor are oversized but are in proportion to the large house confined within a cottage form. The window sash are six-over-six. The front entrance door of oak has a large glass opening in the upper half of the door, flanked by rectangular glass panels with square glass blocks at the corners. Six raised-panel wood blocks with raised moldings are employed in the lower half of the door. A pedimented gable extends from the west face of the roof and terminates in a three-sided bay window. The only major alteration to take place on the exterior was the filling in of an open porch at the northwest corner of the house to provide a kitchen when the building was converted to a residence. This porch was defined by arched openings to the north and west sides, similar to the piers to the front and still visible at the rear of the house.

The interior decoration of the building is typical of the period, dark grained woodwork offset with light floral design wallpaper. The woodwork is intact and much of the original wallpaper is extant. The door architrave is a single member with reeded center; square corner blocks with circular insets complete the door moldings.

Most of the original furnishings purchased for the Shenandoah Land and Improvement Company are in the building. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the interior is the coal stove in the second-floor hall. This "Southern Oak" stove is a period piece representing the flamboyant "Victorian" style as applied to an apparatus as utilitarian as a heating unit.

The only significant interior alteration was the addition of an entrance to the north corner room from the central hall, accomplished after the office became a residence. A section of the brick masonry chimney at the first-floor level had to be removed to accommodate this entrance.

JFY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES May 6, 1891 (completed) ~~ENGINEER~~/ARCHITECT William M. Poindexter

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Shenandoah, like numerous Virginia Valley communities, experienced a "boom" period of growth and industrial activity in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Before this however, Shenandoah was a mining and manufacturing center. At Catherine Furnace, several miles north, iron ore was melted with charcoal, made into cast iron (pig iron) as early as 1838, and transported to Shenandoah where it was made into blooms at the Shenandoah Iron Works. Between 1861 and 1865, the Confederate government built and operated a gunpowder factory at Shenandoah on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, which forms the western boundary of the town. In 1882, William Milnes, Jr., at a cost of \$800,000.00, erected the Big Gem Cast Iron Furnace under the title of the Shenandoah Iron, Lumber, Mining and Manufacturing Company. Shenandoah became known as "The Pittsburgh of the Valley."

The Shenandoah Land and Improvement Company was organized in 1890. At the first meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided that a sum "not to exceed \$2,500.00" should be allocated to construct the company office at Shenandoah. The Washington, D. C. architect William M. Poindexter of 1505 Pennsylvania Avenue was commissioned to draw plans for the office, the Hotel Shenandoah, the passenger station, and other buildings in the town to handle the expected growth. The handwritten specifications for the office signed by Poindexter are extant. The designs for the hotel and station were executed in the shingled-Edwardian style, like the office. Poindexter is also listed as the designer of the old State Library in Richmond, now the Finance Building. Unfortunately, the hotel was destroyed by fire in 1891 and the station was never built.

The Land Improvement Company bought large tracts of land in the outlying districts of the town and conducted a survey of the entire corporate limits including the Company holdings; streets and lots were staked out, a map drawn, and a spectacular land sale conducted. The original map is now in the office of the reorganized Shenandoah Land and Improvement Company, which may be one of the oldest companies of its type in the country.

The success of the company can best be described with an excerpt from the First Annual Report in the Minute Book of the Company, dated May 1, 1892, "Notwithstanding the great depression that has extended over the entire country for the past year, we are glad to report that there has been a gratifying growth in the town of Shenandoah. Since the organization of our company there have been built and are now under construction within the town 123 buildings: Dwellings--96, Brick store houses--5, Stores and offices--14, Hotels--3, Churches--3, Odd Fellows Hall--1, and Livery stable--1."

The "boom" was short lived; in 1902 the office, no longer serving its purpose, was sold to Mary and Edna Stevens. In later years the building housed a newspaper, "The Herald of Progress", and during the late 1890's, a private school occupied the building. Miss Mary Stevens resided there until her death in 1968.

(see continuation sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letters and Specifications from the Office of William M. Poindexter.
 Notes from Page County Heritage Association in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.
 Ranson, Louise Lauck. Shenandoah, Daughter of the Stars, A History of Shenandoah, 1669-1940. (Booklet reprinted by Shenandoah Chamber of Commerce from a 1940 writing).
 "Shenandoah (A Mining, Iron-making, Manufacturing, & Trading Center), Page County,"
 Manufacturer's Record, 30 & 32 West 13th Street, New York, N. Y., August 2, 1890.

(see continuation sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

November 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

804-786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

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 89-685), 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.

Virginia Landmarks Register

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 10 1975

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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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Stevens Cottage, Page County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 7, 8 PAGE 1, 2

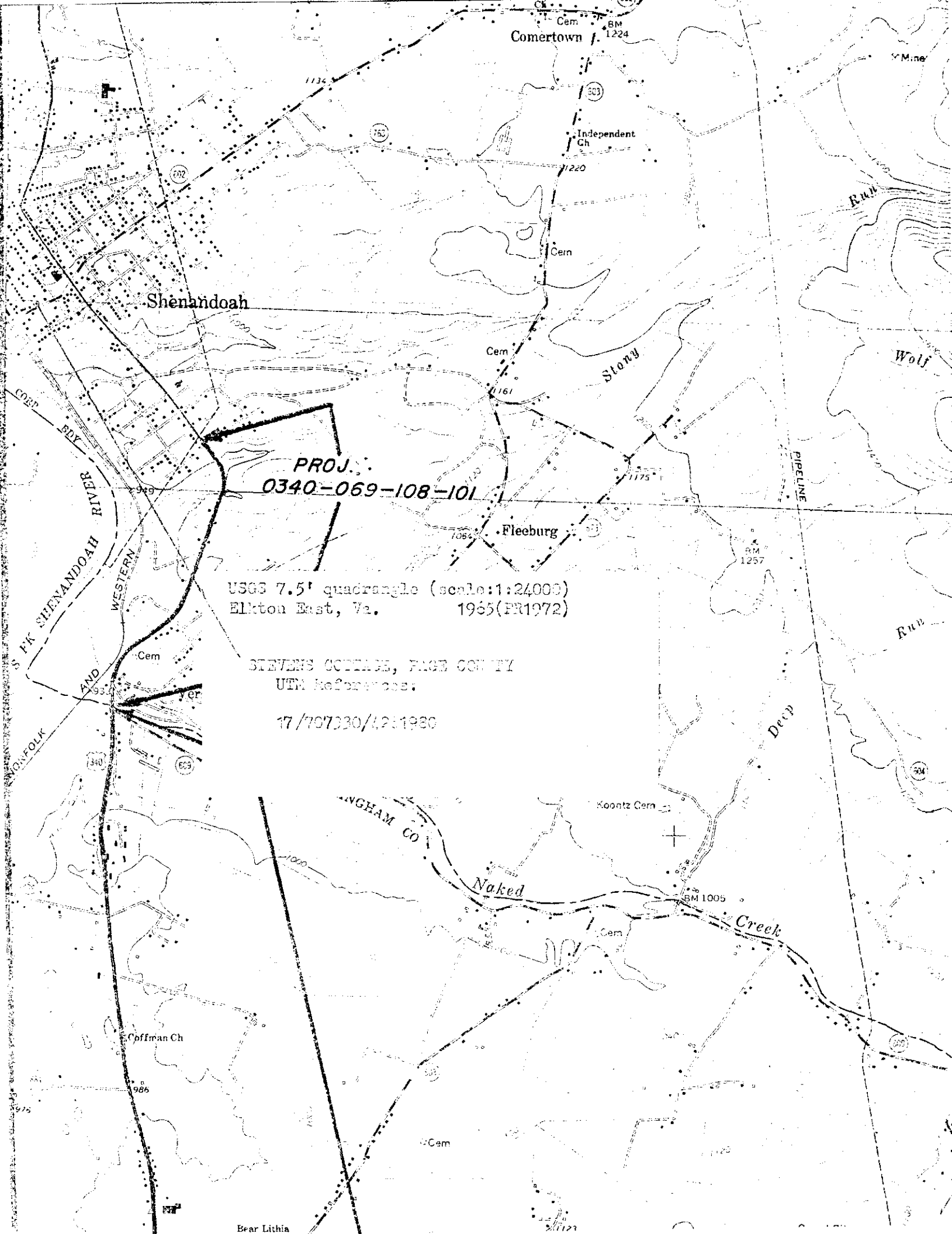
7. DESCRIPTION - Correction 5/19/78

Paragraph 1, Sentence 3 (line 3) should be deleted and replaced with:

The design of the building exemplifies the Shingle Style of the Edwardian period.

8. SIGNIFICANCE - Addendum 5/19/78

The broad gable above a deeply recessed porch is a characteristic and sophisticated element of the Shingle Style, applied to a house in cottage form. It represents an unusual departure from the residential use most often associated with this style, although the residential quality is evident in the structure. The cottage remains as the sole survivor of the buildings constructed in Shenandoah in anticipation of the industrial "boom" which never materialized.



Comertown

Shenandoah

PROJ. 0340-069-108-101

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Elkton East, Va. 1965(PR1972)

STEVENS COTTAGE, PAGE COUNTY
UTM references:

17 797330/4241980

SHENANDOAH RIVER
WESTERN
AND
NORFOLK

PAGE CO

Naked

Creek

Coffman Ch

Bear Lithia

Cem. BM 1224

Independent Ch

Cem

Cem

Fleeburg

Cem

Koontz Cem

Cem

Cem

PIPELINE

Wolf

Run

Deep

Run

Run

Run

202

75C

303

1220

1161

1175

1084

BM 1257

949

93

340

603

BM 1005

986

975