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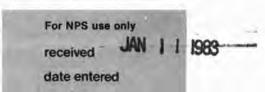
state Virginia

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Richmond

city, town



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historic	Lewis Shue	y House (Preferred)	9	
and/or common	Shuey Hous	e		
2. Loca	ation 5	of Sworbe or	n V A 7/3	
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city, town	Swoope	N/A vicinity of	state "	Virginia 24479
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6. Rep	resentati	ion in Existin	g Surveys	
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7. Description Condition Check one Check one unaltered X original site excellent deteriorated N/A X good /A X_altered ruins moved date fair unexposed

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Summary Description

The Lewis Shuey House is located in flat river bottom land in western Augusta County, along Middle River, one of the main arteries through the county. Distinctive continental European building traditions characterize the Shuey House, from its insulated cellar to the heavily braced roof system. The room arrangement on both floors still clearly exhibits the original German Flurkuchenhaus plan. Although German influence in decoration is often seen in the county throughout the early 19th century, Rhenish construction and plan features disappear by ca. 1800. Retaining much of its original interior finish, the Shuey House is the only unremodeled house of its type in the county.

Architectural Analysis

Early 20th-century photographs reveal that this two-story dwelling was built of dove-tailed log construction, but the log walls have always been covered with weatherboards. The four facade piercings have been organized into pairs, resembling the tradition of two-bay Rhenish facades. The far northeast bay contains the front entrance. In the 20th century, old pieces of beaded weatherboarding were moved to the facade, and aluminum siding was added to the side and back walls. Also at this time, the 6/6 sashes were replaced by new windows in the same small frames, and a two-bay, one-story porch front was added.

The Shuey House retains the traditional Rhenish Flurkuchenhaus (three-room) plan. On the main floor, three rooms are clustered around a large central chimney. A long narrow kuche (kitchen) runs the depth of the house, with a stube (parlor) to the south and kammer (chamber) divided off the stube in the southwest corner. The kuche retains its six-foot-wide cooking fireplace, but a smaller fireplace, serving the back part of the kitchen, has been closed off by a row of bookshelves. An enclosed corner staircase originally ascended off the main door in typical German fashion, but this has been removed and a new, open double-run staircase has been built in the back north corner.

Many of the major structural members of the frame--such as the summers and prick posts--are exposed throughout the house and remain unembellished. In the kuche, the floor joists are connected to the heavy summer beam by mortise-and-tenon joints with tusk tenons. Beaded board paneling covers the front wall which contains a raised, sixpanel exterior door hung on long strap hinges and enclosed by ovolo architrave trim.

The <u>stube</u> displays a more finished appearance. The ceiling and walls have been plastered, and later 19th-century vertical board wainscoting has been added to the log walls. A beaded board partition, again with a six-panel door, still divides the parlor from the rear chamber, which has been remodeled to provide a bathroom and closet space. Other decoration on this floor is minimal, consisting only of the ovolo architrave window and door moldings.

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Lewis Shuey House, Augusta County, Virginia

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Page 1

7. Description (continued)

The second floor retains the original partitions, which create four rooms. A frame wall off the west end of the chimney divides the front and back rooms, but the east-west partition along the south side is composed of beaded boards. The door between the two west rooms was cut in the mid-19th century. There are no fireplaces visible in the main chimney. At an early date a chimney had been built along the south stube wall. An early 19th-century architrave mantel design, topped with a layered cornice molding survives in the stube chamber, but the chimney has been torn down so this is no longer functional. A beaded board ceiling finishes this room, but the remaining three rooms display plaster ceilings. The kuche chamber contains an enclosed corner staircase located directly over the original first-floor stairs. A mixture of raised six-panel and four-panel doors serves these rooms. Ovolo molded door and window moldings provide the only other decoration on this floor as well.

The cellar under the south end of the house has been excavated and insulated in the German manner. The boards for the cellar ceiling have been set into grooves in the large floor joists, several inches below the first-floor boards laid across the joists. A "daubed" mixture of straw and clay fills the space between the ceiling and floor boards to maintain a cool cellar storage area. Like several other German houses in the Northern Valley of Virginia, a spring runs through the excavated cellar. Since the Shuey House does not adopt the bank siting which would allow a lower, grade-level entrance to the cellar on the back side or gable end, a series of outdoor steps provide this access along the back wall. The original beaded board-and-batten door with strap hinges still serves this entry.

The roof frame consists of a common rafter system with heavy three-truss German underframe. The purlins, which run parallel to the floor in the German fashion, rest on heavy vertical posts and support the collar beams. Each post was braced up to the purlins and down to the floor, but the downbraces have been removed. The common rafters are joined by bridled joints rather than the half-lapped joints found in early 19th-century houses in this area.

In the early 19th century, ca. 1820-40, a two-level, three-bay brick wing was added to one gable end. Brick had become a popular construction material with the local building boom of the 1820s-1840s. The Flemish-bond facade, American-bond side walls, jack arches, molded brick cornice, and transom-lighted entrance were common local features during these years. The central main level entrance and gable end chimney reveal a repertoire to the popular Georgian ideal, which came into the local repetoire during these years. The front door has been converted into a window, with 8/8 sash, and the front porch has been torn down.

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Lewis Shuey House, Augusta County, Virginia

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7. Description (continued)

This brick addition provided two rooms on each level. The ground floor has been remodeled, but this originally contained a kitchen and dining room. Stairs have been added leading from the former kuche to this service area. A large cooking fireplace remains on the north end, but the rooms have been opened into one space and the walls covered with older beaded board paneling from other parts of the house.

The central wall dividing the main floor into two rooms has also been removed. Federal woodwork still finishes this space, including chair railing and a delicate mantel with a decorative sunburst motif in the central frieze panel. An older staircase, probably located along the central partition, has been moved to the back corner by the kitchen stairs. According to local sources, these rooms had served as bedrooms in the early 20th century, but they now provide additional living area. A large portion of the log wall between the old house and the addition has been cut out, and several long steps have been added from the kuche to this level.

The only surviving farm building is a large turn-of-the-century barn located south of the main house. A 20th-century photograph shows a springhouse/service building located to the west of the brick addition. One local resident also recalls that the Shueys had an unusually large barn on this property in the 19th century.

AMcC

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8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 1700–1799 1800–1899 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture x architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning conservation economics education engineering x exploration/settlement industry invention	Iandscape architecture Iaw Iiterature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify
Specific dates	1795-1800	Builder/Architect	Unknown	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Statement of Significance

Although German settlement moved into the Valley of Virginia as far south as Augusta County, the classic, well-known Germanic house types are concentrated farther north, especially around the Massanutten settlement areas of Rockingham and Page counties. The Lewis Shuey House survives as a very rare example of a pure Rhenish-style house in Augusta County. Of log construction, it possesses one of only two known Flurkuchenhaus (three-room with center chimney) floor plans in the county and has the county's only known German-style common rafter roof system with heavy underframe. The house was built ca. 1795-1800 by Lewis Shuey, a veteran of the Revolutionary War, whose grandfather had immigrated to Pennsylvania from the Rhineland in 1732, and who himself emigrated from Pennsylvania to western Augusta County in 1795. Occupied by the Shuey family until the early 20th century, the house has retained its distinctive plan and much of its original robust trim and stands as a landmark in ethnic history of the Shenandoah Valley.

Historical Background

A refugee from the imperial wars that devastated the Palatine Rhineland throughout the first quarter of the 18th century, Daniel Shuey, the progenitor of his family in America, immigrated in 1732 to Pennsylvania "... in hopes and expectation of finding a retreat and peaceable settlement therein..." Accompanied by his wife, Mary Martha, and his six-year-old son Ludwig, he settled in the Germantown area of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where he successfully took up farming and helped to found the Swatora Reformed Church. Daniel's son Ludwig, also a farmer in Lancaster County active in the Reformed Church, died two years before his father, leaving a generous inheritance to his widow and to each of his five sons. The builder of the Lewis Shuey House was Ludwig's fourth son, John Ludwig Shuey, who began to call himself by his Anglicized middle name as soon as he arrived in Virginia.

Lewis Shuey served in the Revolution as a private in the 2d Battalion of the 3d Company of the Lancaster County militia. On the recommendation of an older brother who had moved from Pennsylvania to Boonsboro, Maryland, and owned land in this part of the Valley of Virginia, Shuey settled in Augusta County on a 400-acre tract overlooking the Middle River, which he bought from John MacPheeter for 1,100 pounds in 1795. With a family

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Lewis Shuey House, Augusta County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #3 Item number 8

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Page 1

3. Statement of Significance (continued)

consisting of seven children born in Pennsylvania between 1781 and 1794, Shuey would have completed the earliest part of his traditional German-style house very quickly, probably before the birth in 1797 of his son Jacob, the first Shuey to be born in Virginia.

Lewis Shuey increased his landholdings in the area, while developing a substantial farm on his original tract by 1815. The Augusta County Personal Property Tax records for that year describe Shuey's personal estate as consisting of four white tithables (himself and his three youngest sons), two slaves older than sixteen years of age, eleven horses, one hundred head of cattle, and two houses worth \$1,200 each. (By comparison, only eleven houses in this district of Augusta were assessed at more than \$3,000, nine were assessed at a value between \$1,000 and \$2,000, and thirteen were valued at less than \$1,000.) Shuey worked the farm until his death in 1839, at which time it was bequeathed to his youngest son, Jacob Shuey, also a farmer who had been accumulating land near North Mountain for several years.

3 Lewis Shuey is buried at the Glebe Cemetery located one-half mile from the house to the south-southeast.

In 1855 Jacob and his wife Elizabeth sold the family farm and all his holdings to Jacob's brother George for \$26,000 and moved the family west to Iowa to join his three oldest children and their families at a place known today as Shueyville. Ownership of the house and farm next passed to Jacob's nepnew, George W. Shuey, who was identified in 1876 as proprietor of "one of the finest farms in Augusta County, Virginia." The farm remained in the Shuey family until the middle of the present century, when the house was purchased by the Corbett family and extensively renovated.

AMcC/VDS/RAC

Ibid., p. 192.

D.B. Shuey, History of the Shuey Family in America from 1732-1876 (Lancaster, Pa., 1876), p. 24.

Pennsylvania Archives, 5th Series, Vol 7, p. 171.

³ Augusta County Will Book 22, p. 291.

⁴ Shuey, Ibid., p. 193.

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Lewis Shuey House, Augusta County, Virginia

Continuation sheet #4 Item number 9 & 10

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9. Hotchkiss and Waddell. <u>Historical Atlas of Augusta County</u>. "Map of Riverheads District." 1885.

Jones, Marion Shuey. Swoope, Va. Interview, October 1980.

Shuey, D. B. History of the Shuey Family in America from 1732-1876. Lancaster, Pa.: Inquirer P. and P. Co., 1876.

WPA Report, "The Meadows," p. 1185.

10. River; thence about 700' SE along said side and continuing about 75' E to W side of Va 713; thence about 900' S along said side to point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The acreage included in the nomination is nominal, including enough to provide a setting for the house and a clear view of it and the barn from county road 713.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

EVALUATION / RETURN SHEET

nited States Department of the Interior ational Park Service

Shuey, Lewis, House	
Augusta County	
VIRGINIA	1/1/22.91
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	Fed. Reg. Date: 2.7.84 Date Due: 2/0/83 - 2/25/83
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