

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Burner-Gearing Farm

Other names/site number: DHR ID# 085-0292

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 2497 Moose Road

City or town: Woodstock State: VA County: Shenandoah

Not For Publication:  N/A Vicinity:  X

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

    A     B   X   C     D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>3/21/2012</u> Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title : <span style="float: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</span>	

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
 determined eligible for the National Register  
 determined not eligible for the National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

*James Gabbert*  
Signature of the Keeper

6.1.2021

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE: animal facility

DOMESTIC: secondary structure

FUNERARY: cemetery

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

FUNERARY: cemetery

WORK IN PROGRESS

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; STONE; METAL; CONCRETE

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Burner-Gearing Farm is situated on the fourth bend of the famous “Seven Bends” of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River at the base of the Massanutten range of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It lies three miles northeast of the town of Woodstock, at the very end of a long country road dotted with other farms. Spanning over 70 acres with nearly a full mile of Shenandoah River frontage, the farm is a mix of timber and open pastureland set on three tiers of elevation. The highest tier is at 780 feet elevation upon which sits the current modern residence, with sweeping views of the Blue Ridge Mountains to the north, east, and south. The middle tier, at 700 feet of elevation, has a large barn, privy, well, pump, and cemetery, as well as 20 acres of pastureland currently farmed for hay. The lower tier, surrounded by the Shenandoah River, is at 640 feet of elevation and has a pair of oxbow ponds, a generous river beach area, 40 acres of pastures, and views of the Alleghany Mountains across the Shenandoah Valley. The landscape of the farm has been preserved with strong historic integrity and likely looks much like it did back in its early pioneer days of farming in the mid-to-late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The ca. 1925 barn, as the primary building, is an early 20<sup>th</sup> century indigenous hybrid of pole construction and standard light frame construction, while the associated outbuildings are early-20<sup>th</sup> century construction, and various archeological artifacts have been discovered which span the last few centuries. In addition to the barn, contributing resources include a ca. 1852 cemetery, ca. 1925 privy, ca. 1925

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pump, and ca. 1925 well, while the ca. 1970 dwelling is noncontributing as it postdates the property's period of significance.

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## Narrative Description

### *Inventory*

1. Gearing Barn. Ca. 1925. Contributing building.
2. Burner Family Cemetery/Dwelling Site. Ca.1852. Contributing site.
3. Privy. Ca. 1925. Contributing building.
4. Pump. Ca. 1925. Contributing object.
5. Well, Ca. 1925. Contributing structure.
6. Residence, Ca. 1970. Noncontributing building.

### *Gearing Barn*

#### Exterior

The **Gearing Barn** (inventory no. 1) is a two-level frame building with weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The siding, which is attached with wire nails (only wire nails have been observed in the barn's construction) is painted red with evidence of replacement in kind in some areas. The barn's south-facing side is the most complex. It has an off-center barn entry with tall sliding tongue-and-groove doors hung on a metal track. To the right are a window and a secondary barn entry with a weatherboard-sheathed sliding door hung on a metal track that projects beyond the gable end, supported by a treated post (presumably a replacement for an earlier post). To the left of the main entry are two batten doors for pedestrian entries, one close to the main barn entry and the other at the far corner. Between the doors is a row of four six-pane windows. These added windows likely adapted the barn to dairy use for a small milk cow herd. At the top of the elevation, to the left and under the eaves, is a batten hatch hung on small strap hinges.

Seams in the siding on this elevation relate to one or more periods of alteration. A corner board, formerly located at a corner but now surrounded by siding, indicates the barn was extended on the west end. The corner board does not extend down to the foundation but is interrupted by weatherboards around the row of windows, which suggests the windows may have been installed after the west extension was made. The west gable end features a batten Dutch door between sets of three six-pane windows similar to the windows on the south side. The siding is different around these windows, which may indicate they were added after the west gable end was extended. Above the Dutch door is a door-like opening to a hay mow inside. In the apex of the gable is a slatted vent. A similar vent appears in the east gable above a second-level louvered vent and a first-level Dutch door flanked by window openings. A downspout extends from the northeast corner to a point just over a concrete platform, suggesting the former existence of a rain barrel on the platform. The north elevation has an off-center barn entry with tall sliding tongue-and-groove doors hung on a metal track, a feature that mirrors the entry on the south

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elevation. The barn has a poured concrete foundation with an aggregate of river cobbles and limestone road-type gravel.

### Interior

The barn's significance as a transitional type pole barn is best illustrated in the construction details of its interior. The barn's frame structure is exposed on the interior. The barn has a central drive-through (made off-center by the west-end extension) flanked by animal stalls and other spaces with hay mows above. The barn is largely constructed of light dimensional lumber but has heavier 6x6-range posts (sawn or round trunk sections) at several locations enhancing the structural framing. The heavier posts support the hay mows along the drive-through with tall tree-trunk posts above supporting the roof structure (these tree-trunk posts are pole construction features). The tree-trunk posts have braces at the top and have cross-beams notched into them for stability. The structural bents they form are additionally stabilized by long diagonal braces that rise from the hay mow floor to heavy posts built into the outer walls to the sides of the main entries.

The rafters of the common rafter roof are butted and nailed at the top with short nailed collar boards. They support a metal rail for a hay carrier which is stowed at the east end. A cast iron hook at the base of one of the main entry jambs relates to the operation of the hay carrier. One of the tree-trunk posts on the east side of the drive-through has rungs nailed to it to serve as a ladder. The partition on the west side of the drive-through is set back, creating space for a grain bin constructed of tongue-and-groove boards with a sloped lid. Interior evidence of the barn's extension consists in part of the structure of the formerly exterior west wall, which has crisscrossing diagonal braces and a truss-like structure in the former gable. On the underside of the plate are nails leftover from when studs were removed. There is also a poured concrete foundation wall crossing the barn at the location of the former gable end. Mangers are constructed of boards. No early dates, names, initials, or other graffiti have been observed in the barn, though the name Gibbs, the word Morn, and the phrase "Front Bottom Pipe/AK" are written on various boards.

### *Burner Family Cemetery/ Dwelling Site*

The **Burner Family Cemetery** (no. 2) is a small family graveyard with approximately seven or eight marked burials. The rectangular cemetery is enclosed by a wire fence with two generations of wood posts, the most recent apparently fashioned from cedar trunks and with unusual cedar post bracing. The largest and most elaborate tombstone is that of Jonas Burner (1781-1852), signed J. Fagan Win[chester] at the bottom. The tabular marble tombstone has a scrolled top above a round-arched panel containing the figure of a weeping willow carved in bas relief. The center panel is flanked by narrow panels with quarter-round tops containing bas-relief carvings of pendant oak boughs or twigs with acorns. Near Jonas Burner's stone stands that of Rebecca Burner (1810-54), a simple marble slab with a segmental top and a lengthy inscription quoting from the Baptist hymn *O When Shall I See Jesus* (discussed in section 8). The two headstones have low marble footstones inscribed with the deceased's initials, J.B. and R.B. The graves of

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William Hausenfluck (1819-77) and Catherine Hausenfluck (1825-82) are also marble with simple segmental tabular forms and simple inscription, the names of the deceased arched to conform with the arched tops. The Hausenfluck burials also have small marble footstones with initials. The headstone of Elizabeth Bushong Wright (1811-90), wife of William D. Wright, is nearly identical to the Hausenfluck stones, one difference being the name of the deceased is horizontal rather than arched. There are two small uninscribed markers of slate or some sort of hard gray siltstone. They are approximately rectangular, like roof slates, but appear too thick and irregular to be roof slates. (Roof slates were sometimes used as grave markers in Virginia cemeteries.) One of these stones has spalled, possibly removing an inscription. An eighth interment may be marked only by a small footstone-like marble marker. The presence of such small markers suggests that there may be other interments that were either unmarked, marked by impermanent markers, or the markers have fallen and been covered over. The collection of carved tombstones are typical of mid- to late 19<sup>th</sup> century funerary art, and the craftsmanship of the stone cutters is evident in the scrolled ornament, bas relief carving, and hand-cut lettering that were common during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. During the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, machine-cut granite gravestones began rapidly replacing hand cut marble markers in rural Virginia and remain the norm today. Much more recent burials also are present in the cemetery, including John Fishburn, who bought the farm in 1948 and lived here until his death in 2003 and is buried alongside his wife, Fredelle Keys Fishburn.

The cemetery overlooks the stone foundation of the original 18<sup>th</sup> century settler domicile, including a fireplace hearth, as well as the stone retaining wall of an adjacent storehouse that otherwise has been demolished. Archaeological testing has not been conducted at this site. The potential for the site to yield important information and the extent of its integrity are not known. As visible features that provide insight into the farmstead's early history, however, the dwelling site together with the cemetery contribute to the property's overall significance in the area of architecture.

#### *Privy, Pump, and Well*

The **privy** (no. 3) is a small frame building with a metal-sheathed shed roof, exposed rafter ends, weatherboard siding, a batten door hung on manufactured triangular strap hinges, and a metal-sheathed roof vent. The interior has a two-seater bench, plaster board walls, a wood-sheathed vent shaft in a corner, a mirrored medicine cabinet, and beaded tongue-and-groove material as flooring and sheathing the base of the bench. The privy stands near the location of a former two-story frame house. The water **pump** (no. 4) has a cast iron handle, spout, and other fittings mounted on a steel pipe. The base is cast with the inscription Columbiana Pump Company, Columbiana O[hio] and the number 741. The pump is contained in a small wire-fenced enclosure. The nearby **well** (no. 5) is six feet wide and approximately sixteen feet deep lined with mortar and a brick-lined mouth. The original installation date is unknown. The well sits in the drainage area between two agricultural fields and, until 2017, a well house stood above the well. Remnants of the original stone foundation can still be found surrounding the well. The privy, pump, and well provide insight into the farm's historic layout and spatial relationships as they existed by the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The cemetery is some distance to the southwest of the 3

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resources, along with the site of an earlier dwelling and storehouse. The 3 extant resources, therefore, are indicative of how the farmstead has evolved since the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Dwelling*

The ca. 1970 **dwelling** (inventory no. 6) stands northeast of Moose Road/Route 644 on the property's highest tier and is northwest of the cluster of historic resources that occupy the farmstead's middle tier. A paved drive leads to the house through a landscaped yard. Although it postdates the farm's period of significance, the house's size and massing are appropriate in scale for the rural setting. The current dwelling is well removed from the site of the original house built on the property during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Integrity Statement*

The Burner-Gearing Farm possesses high overall integrity as an agricultural landscape that remains in productive use. The barn possesses integrity of location, design, workmanship, and materials in that it retains its historic form, partial pole construction, weatherboard siding, metal-sheathed side-gable roof structure, and key features such as the cast-iron hay carrier and unsawn tree-trunk structural members. The barn's immediate setting retains its agricultural setting and historic character as pastureland with a nearby historic privy, well, and water pump. The adjacent corral is in keeping with the barn's historic use. A 1995 survey noted the historic agricultural complex at that time included two frame livestock buildings, three frame poultry buildings, a woodshed, an equipment building, and a corn crib, all of which were removed in 2017. The barn's historic setting, therefore, has been eroded by the loss of this larger ensemble of resources. The ca. 1970 dwelling replaced an older dwelling that was moved to the farm from Woodstock sometime around 1948. The cemetery overlooks the stone foundation of the original 18<sup>th</sup> century settler domicile – complete with a fireplace hearth – and stone retaining wall of the adjacent storehouse. The integrity of the intermediate setting is also high, as is the integrity of the far setting, which includes views of the heights of the Blue Ridge Mountains abutting the winding Shenandoah River and its famous Seven Bends. All of these aspects contribute to the property's integrity of feeling as a rural farmstead in one of Virginia's most productive agricultural locales. The property also has integrity of association through the historical documentation and extant historic resources that together provide insight into the farmstead's evolution across almost two centuries and the circumstances that led to construction of the property's ca. 1925 barn and other early 20<sup>th</sup> century resources.



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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1925  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Fagan, John (tombstone carver/workshop)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Burner-Gearing Farm, located in Shenandoah County, Virginia, has a number of notable architectural features associated with the farm's development in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The farm was acquired by Jonas Burner (1781-1852) in the early nineteenth century and was owned in the twentieth century by the Gearing family, whose members included Edward Gearing, recipient of the Silver Star for his "fearless and skillful leadership" during World War II. The primary resource on the property is the ca. 1925 frame Gearing Barn, built with log principal posts which relate it to pole construction, a barn-building method just coming into general use in Shenandoah County in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, though it is likely the barn relates to earlier local experimentation in pole construction. The barn has the ground barn form rather than the bank barn form that was typical of historic-period barns in Shenandoah County. The property also includes the Burner Family Cemetery featuring Jonas Burner's ornate classically-influenced 1850s tombstone, which is signed by Irish-born stone cutter John Fagan and was carved by Fagan or another stone cutter in his Winchester workshop, the pioneering marble yard in the Valley of Virginia. The tombstone of Jonas's daughter Rebecca Burner (1810-54) features a lengthy inscription based on the Baptist hymn *O When Shall I See Jesus*. The Burner-Gearing Farm is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion C*; in the area of *Architecture* for its barn, which combines frame and pole construction techniques in its locally unusual ground barn form, and for its secondary resources including the Burner Family Cemetery and its notable tombstones. The period of significance is limited to the construction of the Gearing Barn ca. 1925 (the barn was extended early in its history, but both original construction and the extension appear to be close in date around ca. 1925), but earlier resources, including the cemetery, contribute to the sense of time and place of the barn as it functioned. The Burner-Gearing Farm is eligible at the local level of significance.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### *Historic Context*

Since the mid-1700s and until the present day, the Burner-Gearing Farm has been in continuous agricultural use as indicated from historical census records, archeological surveys, and existing supporting buildings. Located on one of the Seven Bends of the Shenandoah River and just three miles from the original Great Valley Road used by the early pioneers, the farm's fertile soils, mild temperatures, and natural irrigation has contributed to its productivity over the years and key role in the "breadbasket of the South." Located directly at the base of the Massanutten range of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the farm has nearly a full mile of river frontage on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. This provided a natural boundary for the early cultivation of cattle and good irrigation for rotation of crops, including hay and corn. Two oxbow ponds on the lower fields adjacent to the river also provided water for livestock. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, around the

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time that the farm was owned by notable Woodstock resident Frank Wilson Gearing Sr., cattle fences were installed along the perimeter of the property and a large barn and associated outbuildings were erected on the mid-tier of the property, near the end of Route 664. The farm contained cattle up until 2015 when it was converted to farming hay, which continues to the present day. Besides the barn as the primary historic building, supporting secondary resources of the same period include a privy (outhouse) and a well. Also important to the property's significance is the mid-19<sup>th</sup> cemetery where most of the notable residents of the property are buried, dating back to Jonas Burner who was born in 1781. The cemetery overlooks the site of the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century dwelling and adjacent outbuilding, the existence of which is visually indicated by a fireplace hearth and a stone retaining wall.

### *Criterion C: Architecture Area of Significance*

Context for the Gearing Barn is provided by two surveys. The ongoing Historic Barns of Shenandoah County Survey, an initiative of the Shenandoah County Historical Society, had surveyed 165 barns as of March 1, 2019, including the Gearing Barn. The barn is somewhat unusual for the survey in several ways. Of the 165 barns surveyed as of March 2019, 126 or 76 percent are forebay barns, whereas the Gearing Barn is not. Also, 151 of the surveyed barns are timber-framed, by which is meant constructed with heavy timbers with pegged mortise and tenon joints, whereas the Gearing Barn has nailed joints. The Gearing Barn, listed by the survey as a circa 1920 construction, is considerably younger than the average barn age of 135 years, though it is not the youngest barn in the survey. The Gearing Barn is, however, typical of the majority of the surveyed barns in that it is no longer in active agricultural use.<sup>1</sup>

Historic Shenandoah County barns were also surveyed as a result of the Shenandoah County Historic Resources Survey undertaken in 1993-95 with funding from the County of Shenandoah and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. As the more recent survey has determined, the 1993-95 survey found that the majority of the county's historic barns are forebay-type "Pennsylvania bank barns," a type brought to the county by Pennsylvania German settlers in the eighteenth century. Within and outside the bank barn type the county's barns exhibit considerable variety, ranging from the double-crib log Windel Barn (085-0464), which probably dates to the late eighteenth century; to the antebellum Hockman Barn (085-0093) and Snapp-Hupp Barn (085-0126), brick bank barns with ventilation slits and (for the Hockman Barn) decorative brick latticework; to the postbellum Gothic Revival barn that is part of a large farm building complex at the Mt. Airy Farm (085-0018). Timber-framing persisted for barn building in the county into the twentieth century and as late as the 1940s according to one source.<sup>2</sup>

This comparative analysis demonstrates that a significant feature of the Gearing Barn is both its partial pole construction and the early date at which this construction method was used. The pole barn construction technique, which initially utilized unsawn tree-trunk structural members and crude nailed connections, developed in its modern form in the 1930s and became widespread

<sup>1</sup> "Historic Barns of Shenandoah County." The Gearing Barn is designated 38.882-78.457 in the survey. The current (October 2020) number of barns surveyed is 260 (John Adamson personal communication with Dan Pezzoni).

<sup>2</sup> Maxwell et al, "Shenandoah County Historic Resources Survey," 26-27, 31, 32.

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after World War II. Historian Robert Vogel notes, “The pole barn concept went nowhere until the Second World War, when the federal government imposed a limit of \$1500 on the cost of new farm building construction to conserve materials for use in the war effort. Because it used less than one-third of the lumber required to build a conventional barn, the pole barn system was enthusiastically promoted by agricultural experts and quickly adopted by farmers.”<sup>3</sup> A previous resident of the farm stated that the Gearing Barn seemed to have been standing for “a considerable amount of time” by 1948, thus likely dating the barn to before World War II and making it likely one of the earliest examples of indigenous pole construction in Shenandoah County.<sup>4</sup>

In the postwar era, the Doane Agricultural Service of St. Louis, Missouri, was a major innovator and disseminator of the new construction method. Doane’s technique relied on pressure- or creosote-treated poles “that will outlast the rest of the structure.” The Doane barn designs were shed-like with the hay resting directly on the ground to eliminate the expense of supporting it with heavily constructed hay mows and understructure. “Two story construction is a thing of the past,” the service opined in a 1951 publication. Government and university specialists helped spread the new pole technology. In the 1950s agricultural engineers and extension specialists at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) participated with their counterparts at other Southern universities in the development of pole barn types. The federal Department of Agriculture published the designs in its 1955 handbook “Cattle Shelters and Equipment for Southern States.” The handbook emphasized single-level barns designed for hay loading and unloading by tractor. Although some taller barns with hay carrier systems were also illustrated, these were not traditional designs with elevated hay mows but featured central ground-to-roof spaces for large haystacks.<sup>5</sup>

Supporting the case that the Gearing Barn’s usage of early pole construction may have emerged from indigenous tradition, Shenandoah County is also home to the unusual Shane Steed Barn, classified by county barn historian John Adamson as a “posted forebay timber framed barn” which is built into a slight bank augmented by a ramp. The date 1893 painted on a post likely dates the barn to the 1890s, and other aspects of its construction point to that period. Wire nails are used throughout, such nails having come into common use during the 1880s. The Shane Steed Barn is essentially a pole barn, with debarked tree-trunk posts that rise from the hay mow floor to the girts that support the roof rafters. Poles also serve as the principal uprights of the exterior walls (with dimensional studs between) and as diagonal braces at the top of the freestanding posts. The hay mow floor is massively constructed with debarked tree-trunk joists and supporting posts. The Shane Steed Barn appears to be the result of the independent invention of pole technology by at least one county barn builder, decades in advance of the technology’s more general spread. The builder precociously recognized two features of pole construction: its overall affordability and its nailed (and notched) joints. Despite these innovations, most county

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<sup>3</sup> Granger and Kelly, “Historic Context Study of Minnesota Farms,” 5.44; Vogel, “Common Farm Barns of South Dakota,” E.20.

<sup>4</sup> Zott, Lynn oral interview with Joyce, Ryan T., November 24, 2020.

<sup>5</sup> *Doane Ideas on Farm Buildings*, 5, 17, 20; “Cattle Shelters and Equipment for Southern States.” Construction of Founders Hall, the main building at Girard College, began in the early 1830s and was completed in the late 1840s.

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barn builders continued to use traditional timber-framing well into the twentieth century, and it was not until after World War II that pole construction came into widespread local use—making the Gearing Barn one of the earliest local examples of pole construction. More specifically, the Gearing Barn is a transitional structure—a hybrid of pole construction and standard light frame construction, the former used for the principal posts and the latter for the rest of the fabric.<sup>6</sup>

The property's 1920s privy, well, and pump are located a short distance south of the barn and close to an unpaved farm road. The resources are utilitarian in design and function, but their presence provides insight into the farmstead's historic layout and function at the time the barn was constructed.

The Burner Family Cemetery, though it is not the property's primary resource, nevertheless contains a number of notable features that contribute to the property's architectural significance. The most elaborate memorial is the headstone of Jonas Burner (1781-1852), which the signature at the base of the stone identifies as the work of J. Fagan of Winchester. This was stonecutter John Fagan, a native of County Cork, Ireland. According to a 1924 biography of his grandson George W. Haines, Fagan immigrated to the United States in 1819, though more recent scholarship suggests he first settled in Quebec. "He lived in Philadelphia for some years," the 1924 account states, "and while working there at his trade as marble cutter helped build Girard College . . . In 1842 John Fagan established at Winchester the first marble yard in the Valley of Virginia. That business has descended from one generation to another of his descendants, and today is the oldest industry of its kind in the Valley." The 1924 account also describes the Fagan marble yard's transition from marble to granite. "Within the memory of many people still living marble was practically the only material used for monumental work. Gradually granite was introduced, and even before the death of John Fagan [possibly in 1871] some of this harder stone was being worked up in his yard." This transition occurred after the carving of the Burner stone.<sup>7</sup>

Members of the Fagan family operated marble yards in at least two other western Virginia communities during the nineteenth century. John's son Daniel Fagan (d. 1892) operated a marble shop in Luray. In Lexington, the brothers James and Ambrose D. Fagan operated a "marble manufactory" beginning in 1849. One of their advertisements illustrates the range of products and services a western Virginia marble yard like John Fagan's would have offered customers during the period:

Marble Manufactory

James Fagan and Brother, Sculptures, Main St., Lexington, Virginia  
Monuments, Chimney Pieces, Tomb & Head Stones, &c., &c.

Done in the neatest manner, and on the most reasonable terms.

P.S. House work in general, executed in all its branches in the best manner for Public and Private Buildings, also table and counter tops of every description.

<sup>6</sup> Adamson, John personal communication with Pezzoni, Dan; Adamson, Shane Steed Barn survey form.

<sup>7</sup> *History of Virginia*, 12; "Holiday House Tour Spotlight: 204 S. Loudoun Street;" "Winchester Historic District," 69.

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The relationship of James and Ambrose Fagan to John Fagan is unknown but the shared surname and profession suggest a familial connection. The 1860 census lists “Archibald” D. Fagan as a native of Ireland born in 1830, which would be too late for him to be a son of John’s, if John left Ireland in 1819. The opening of the Fagan marble yards occurred during a period that saw the establishment of a number of such enterprises in Virginia. Among the best documented is that of John Bascom Gaddess (1829-77), who learned the trade of stone cutting at his father’s marble yard in Baltimore before opening his own in Lynchburg in 1852. Gaddess took advantage of the burgeoning rail networks of the era to ship the products of his workshop across the state, as far afield as Augusta and Montgomery counties in the state’s western portion. Whether the Fagan marble yard shipped stones by railroad is unclear (there was no direct rail connection between Winchester and Shenandoah County until after the Civil War), but there were other means of shipping product to customers in neighboring counties and further.<sup>8</sup>

Gaddess published a collection of sample tombstone epitaphs, and the imagery carved on his workshop’s tombstones was generally standardized. Likewise, the Burner tombstone employs a stock image, the weeping willow motif which was common in elite American tombstone carving from the end of the eighteenth century through the late nineteenth century. The oak boughs that flank the central willow panel may symbolize strength and endurance, perhaps qualities associated with Burner’s personality. The scrolled top, somewhat suggestive of the volutes of a classical capital, is in keeping with the Greek Revival-inspired imagery of the era. With its slightly raised center and terminal lobes the scrolled top also has three-part symmetry reminiscent of the headboard tympanum form common in colonial New England and, in its classicized reformulation, during the nineteenth century. It should be noted that although the headstone is signed J. Fagan, it may actually have been carved by another stonecutter in Fagan’s shop. The tombstone of Rebecca Burner (1810-54), though different in form and somewhat different in lettering style, may also have been carved at the Fagan workshop, given that the Burners died within a few years of each other and it is plausible the family went to the same shop for their tombstones. Several simple uninscribed markers may indicate the graves of indigent persons or farm hands.

The cemetery overlooks the site of the mid-18th century dwelling and an adjacent outbuilding. Above-ground features of the site include a fireplace hearth and a stone retaining wall. Although the site has not been subject to archaeological testing for its information potential, it provides another visual cue of the farmstead’s original layout and how that evolved over the next two centuries.

### ***Background History***

The history of the Burner-Gearing Farm is indeed a history of America from its founding and early days of settlement through its periods of turmoil, troubled histories, and many wars. The residents of the farm witnessed--or in many cases actively participated in--the early Indian Wars,

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<sup>8</sup> *History of Virginia*, 12; “Daniel Fagan Collection;” Schneider, “Gravestone Designs in Rockbridge County,” 84-86; Pezzoni, “Virginian to the Grave,” 66-67. Ambrose moved on to Knox County, Tennessee, where he was listed as a stone carver in the 1870 and 1880 censuses (Harrill, “Harrill/Harris Cemetery”).

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Revolutionary War, Civil War, World War I, World War II, the Cold War, and most recently, the Global War on Terror. Many of the farm's residents over the last two centuries are buried in the Burner Cemetery on the hill above where the original settler house stood. They were, for the most part, God-fearing humble farmers who cherished the freedom and tranquility of life on the Shenandoah River, but did not hesitate to heed the call to defend that freedom when the time came. As notable Woodstock resident Peter Muhlenberg once declared from the pulpit, "there is a time to pray, and a time to fight." The Gearing Barn, and its associated agricultural structures from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, speaks to the pastoral history along the Seven Bends of the Shenandoah River, and the determined spirit that drove the early settlers into the Shenandoah Valley, a farmer boy to the beaches of Normandy, and experimentation with emerging barn construction techniques.

Although a few European settlers had laid eyes on the Shenandoah Valley as early as 1632, it wasn't until 1731 that Jost Hite liquidated his holdings in Pennsylvania and led a group of 15 families to resettle in the Shenandoah Valley by way of Maryland.<sup>9</sup> Known as the "Baron of the Shenandoah," Jost Hite was born in Germany in 1685, but the War of Spanish Succession and subsequent persecution in England led to his immigration to New York in 1710. Having arrived in the Shenandoah Valley in 1731, Hite acquired at least 140,000 acres with a mandate from the Colony of Virginia to settle one family per every 1,000 acres within two years.<sup>10</sup>

In 1751, Thomas Palmer of Maryland purchased 534 acres from Jost Hite's claim.<sup>11</sup> Palmer was the great grandson of Captain Thomas Palmer, an early English settler of Jamestown and member of the House of Burgesses who arrived in 1621 just before the Powhatan Attack of 1622, which killed a quarter of the population.<sup>12</sup> Palmer's claim spanned the north fork of the Shenandoah River, encompassing two of the famous "Seven Bends" of the Shenandoah River and adjacent to a 98-acre plot deeded to Jacob Strickler in 1775.<sup>13</sup> The following year, as Lutheran minister Peter Muhlenberg delivered his famous farewell call-to-arms sermon in nearby Woodstock, Michael Burner purchased the 98-acre plot from Strickler and began to raise his family.<sup>14</sup> Michael's father, Jacob, was also one of the original pioneers from Pennsylvania who settled in the Shenandoah Valley near Luray. In 1758, Jacob signed a letter on behalf of 39

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<sup>9</sup> Lewis, Charles E., "Descendants of Hans Justus Heydt of the Duchy of Wurttemberg." Index, 2004. <http://lewis-genealogy.org/genealogy/Weaver/Hite-1.htm>; Wayland, John W. *A History of Shenandoah Country, Virginia*. Second (Augmented). Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing House, Inc., 1927.

<sup>10</sup> Lewis, Charles E., "Descendants of Hans Justus Heydt".

<sup>11</sup> Gray, Gertrude E. *Virginia Northern Neck Land Grants, 1742-1775. [Vol. II]*. Baltimore, MD, USA: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1997.

<sup>12</sup> Palmer, Horace W. "Early Palmers of Virginia." *The William and Mary Quarterly* 14, no. 1 (1934): 16-19; Snyder. "Virginia Immigrants." WikiTree. ancestry.com; "Thomas Palmer." WikiTree, September 29, 2019. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Palmer-847>.

<sup>13</sup> French Fuller, Lena. Original land survey atlas of Shenandoah County, VA, 1739-1850s. U.S. Geological Survey, 2010. <https://www.worldcat.org/title/original-land-survey-atlas-of-shenandoah-county-va-1739-1850s/oclc/690453088>; Gerke, Matthew. "Michael Burner." WikiTree, July 12, 2019. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burner-49>.

<sup>14</sup> Gilreath, Amelia Cleland. *Shenandoah County, Virginia Deed Book Series*. B. Vol. B. Nokesville, VA: A.C. Gilreath, 1987.



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Mennonite families in Virginia appealing for aid from brethren in Holland after skirmishes with area tribes left the Shenandoah settlers in desperate circumstances.<sup>15</sup>

This pre-Revolutionary period was difficult on farmers in then-Dunmore County, such as Michael Burner, as local residents led by Peter Muhlenberg sponsored “The Woodstock Resolutions” which resorted to “stop all importation from Great Britain, and all exportations to it until [the Boston Port Act] be repealed.”<sup>16</sup> The Woodstock Resolutions were published in the Virginia Gazette in Williamsburg on August 4, 1774, and adopted by the First Continental Congress that October and enforced in December. In 1778, local residents, such as Michael Burner and Henry Artz, voted in favor of the Virginia House of Burgesses changing the name of Dunmore County (named after the Loyalist governor) to Shenandoah County, thus “clarifying to the rest of Virginia that people in this country were Patriot rather than Loyalist supporters.”<sup>17</sup> Although no Revolutionary War battles were fought in Shenandoah County, Michael Burner joined other local farmers who displayed their patriotism by sending crops and commodities to support the Continental Army, especially critical during the harsh winter spent at Valley Forge.<sup>18</sup> In addition, two of Michael’s brothers, Jacob and John, served in the county militia led by Michael Reader during the Revolutionary War.<sup>19</sup> A 1785 census of Shenandoah County listed Michael Burner as head of a family of ten, including Jonas Burner, who was born on 27 October 1781, the same month that General George Washington defeated General Cornwallis at the siege of Yorktown.<sup>20</sup>

Jonas Burner grew up alongside five biological brothers and sisters, as well as four cousins who came to live with his family after his uncle, Jacob Burner, passed away in 1782.<sup>21</sup> Jacob’s passing enlarged Michael Burner’s land holdings even further and was augmented by additional adjacent land purchases in 1785.<sup>22</sup> The 1786 Jonathon Clark Survey of farms on the North Fork of the Shenandoah River lists Michael Burner as possessing 25 acres of first-rate bottom land in cultivation, a small meadow, 40 acres of second-rate land in tolerable order and an “old log dwelling house, one and a half stories with a stone chimney,” as well as a barn of unhewed logs, 54 by 27 feet with a straw roof.<sup>23</sup> In the 1787 personal property tax list he had five horses and sixteen head of cattle compared to the two horses and seventeen cattle he had in 1783 and for

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<sup>15</sup> Gerke, Matthew. “Jacob Burner Sr.” WikiTree, June 14, 2012. <https://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Burner-43>.

<sup>16</sup> Stewart. *Dunmore/Shenandoah County Vol. 1*. Shenandoah County Library: Edinburg, VA., 14-23.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 19.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 22.

<sup>19</sup> Stanard, W. G. *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Vol 49, No. 4 (1941), 342-350.; Brumbaugh, Gaius Marcus. *Revolutionary War Records: Virginia Army and Navy Forces with Bounty Land Warrants for Virginia Military District of Ohio and Virginia Military Script, from Federal and State Archives*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1936.

<sup>20</sup> Wayland, *A History of Shenandoah County*, 230.

<sup>21</sup> *Will Books, 1791-1859*. Shenandoah County. Vol. A, 375. Salt Lake City, UT: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1952.

<sup>22</sup> Gerke, “Michael Burner.”

<sup>23</sup> Joyner, Peggy S. *Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants and Surveys, 1697-1884*. IV. Vol. IV. Portsmouth, VA: P.S. Joyner, 1987, 176.

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which he paid one pound, ten shillings, and three pence of taxes.<sup>24</sup> By 1800, Michael Burner would have added a sixth horse.<sup>25</sup> It should be noted that this was on the higher end of taxes paid in Shenandoah County, denoting that Michael Burner had established himself as a wealthy landowner in short order and without reliance on slave labor, as denoted in his 1783 tax record.<sup>26</sup> In addition to farming, Michael Burner was a master weaver, having taken in his brother-in-law as an apprentice.<sup>27</sup> His personal effects upon his death in 1811 lists a loom with “weaving gear, a wool wheel, a cotton wheel, two flax wheels, and reels.”<sup>28</sup>

On 19 February 1805, Jonas Burner married Sarah “Sallie” Artz, the daughter of Henry Artz, who owned much of the original 534-acre tract belonging to Thomas Palmer.<sup>29</sup> Upon Henry Artz’s death in 1818, his last will and testament divided his plantation equally among his nine children.<sup>30</sup> To this end, Henry’s son-in-law Jonas Burner came to possess the designated farm, which was adjacent to his childhood farm that he partially inherited after his father, Michael Burner, died in 1811.<sup>31</sup> In October 1826, Jonas Burner purchased additional acreage from Jacob Artz, son of Henry, thus enlarging the Jonas Burner farm considerably.<sup>32</sup> An 1832 trace map of the Shenandoah River shows Burner as a landowner on two of the famous “Seven Bends” northeast of Woodstock.<sup>33</sup> Historian John Schlebecker notes in his article *Farmers in the Lower Shenandoah Valley, 1850* that, “everything considered, the primary advantage of the Valley farmer lay not in the fertility of the soil, but in his easy access to market down the Shenandoah and Potomac.”<sup>34</sup> By 1850, corn cost 15 cents per bushel to harvest and sold for 59 cents per bushel at the market.<sup>35</sup> Jonas Burner’s enviable position spanning the North Fork of the Shenandoah River assured him easy access to markets in order to sell his excess crops. According to a 1937 Virginia historical inventory project, the house on the farm “was one of the pioneer homes in the area” built around 1800, which “stands under a steep hill with the river and mountain behind it. A splendid view of the mountain is had from the large back porch” while “the basement was once used for slaves, having a large fireplace for cooking.”<sup>36</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Pierce, Tom. “Shenandoah County Tax List.” 1783 Shenandoah County, Virginia Tax List, 2001. <http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/1783taxindex.html>.

<sup>25</sup> United States Census, “Person Property Tax Lists, 1800-1818.” Virginia State Library and Archives, Microfilm, 1993.

<sup>26</sup> Pierce, “Shenandoah County Tax List.”

<sup>27</sup> Shenandoah County, Virginia Order Book 1781-1784, Court of January 1784, 312.

<sup>28</sup> *Will Books, 1791-1859*. Shenandoah County. Vol. L. pp. 140. Salt Lake City, UT: Filmed by the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1952.

<sup>29</sup> “Virginia, Compiled Marriages, 1740-1850.” Ancestry.com <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/3723/>.

<sup>30</sup> The Jonas Burner Home. Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project, 1937, October 18, 2001. [http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/hom/S\\_joburn.html](http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/hom/S_joburn.html).

<sup>31</sup> Gerke, “Michael Burner.”

<sup>32</sup> Bly, Daniel W. *From the Rhine to the Shenandoah: Eighteenth Century Swiss & German Pioneer Families in the Central Shenandoah Valley of Virginia and Their European Origins*. 2. Vol. 2. Baltimore, MD: Gateway Press, Inc., 1996.

<sup>33</sup> Heron, James. “Trace of the Map of the Shenandoah River, East and west of the Massanutten Mountain.” Board of Public Works 504, (1832); Record # 000010959.

<sup>34</sup> Stanard, W. G. *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Vol 79, No. 4 (1971), 462-476. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1920299>.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 470.

<sup>36</sup> The Jonas Burner Home. Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project, 1937.

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It should be noted that despite there being no records that his father, Michael Burner, owned any enslaved people, Jonas seems to have adopted the practice by the time of the 1810 Federal Census, which listed him as owning one person; his slave ownership increased to five persons by the 1820 Federal Census—four males and one female. In typical practice of the period, the names of the enslaved person were not recorded by the census taker.<sup>37</sup> Jonas' decision to incorporate slavery into his farming may have been partially as a result of him owning hundreds of acres for farming, but not having any sons of his own to work the land until Noah Burner was born in 1818 and Israel Burner in 1820. Regardless, by 1823, Jonas Burner's labor force included four enslaved people and one free person of color. His expansive plantation, for which he paid \$2.14 in taxes, was at the upper-end of taxes for Shenandoah County residents.<sup>38</sup> The more detailed 1850 Federal Census Slave Schedules list Jonas Burner's household as having six enslaved workers, to include a 21-year-old black male, 17-year-old black female, 16-year-old black male, 15-year-old black female, 12-year-old black male, and a 9-year-old mulatto female, but again, names were not recorded.<sup>39</sup> Jonas' son, Israel Benjamin Absolom Burner, seems to have continued the practice of slavery as he was listed as owning four enslaved people in the 1860 Federal Census.<sup>40</sup> By that time, Israel Burner had moved to a river bend on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River and established a plantation he named "Promised Land" and ultimately left to be divided equally among his 19 children.<sup>41</sup> Israel Burner's legacy on the Shenandoah River is evidenced by the Burner Ford Landing public boat launch, named after the Burner family and now administered by the Virginia Department of Transportation; the launch is also known locally as "Burner's Bottom."<sup>42</sup>

In the 1850 Federal Census, Jonas Burner's profession was listed as "Farmer" and his land, totaling well over 300 acres, was valued at \$7000, on the upper-end of parcels in Shenandoah County.<sup>43</sup> The 1934 obituary for his grandson, Israel Harrison Burner, claimed that his grandfather, presumably Jonas, owned "a belt of about five thousand acres of land west of Overall [Virginia] that extended far into the Massanutten Mountain and embraced a great deal of

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<sup>37</sup> United States Census, "Shenandoah County, Virginia; 1810 Federal Census." USGenWeb Archives, 2000. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/shenandoah/census/1810/pg0200.txt>; United States Census, "Shenandoah County, Virginia; 1820 Federal Census." USGenWeb Archives, 2000. <http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/shenandoah/census/1820/p137a.txt>.

<sup>38</sup> Virginia. Commissioner of the Revenue (Shenandoah County). Ms. *Personal Property Tax Lists, 1782-1850*. Genealogical Society of Utah, 1993.

<sup>39</sup> "United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1850." Database with images. *FamilySearch*. <http://FamilySearch.org>: 20 October 2020. Citing NARA microfilm publication M432. Washington D.C.: National Archives, n.d.

<sup>40</sup> "United States Census (Slave Schedule), 1860." Database with images. *FamilySearch*. <https://FamilySearch.org>: 16 October 2019. Citing NARA microfilm publication M653. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.

<sup>41</sup> Page County Clerk Office, Deed Book 21, 16-17.

<sup>42</sup> Virginia Department of Transportation Staunton Office. "S Fork Shenandoah River: Burners Ford Landing." S Fork Shenandoah River: Burners Ford Landing | Virginia DWR. Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources, 2020. <https://dwr.virginia.gov/vbwt/sites/s-fork-shenandoah-river-burners-ford-landing/>.

<sup>43</sup> United States Census, "1850 Federal Population Census - Microfilm Catalog." M432, Roll 976. National Archives and Records Administration.

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the Shenandoah River Bottom,” a claim that was almost certainly embellished.<sup>44</sup> Regardless, Jonas Burner’s farm in 1850 was much larger than the average Shenandoah Farm size at that time of 250 acres, of which an average of 127 acres were employed acres. Furthermore, farms in the Shenandoah Valley were twice as profitable as the typical farm in Virginia, averaging \$16.30/acre of revenue in the Shenandoah when compared to \$8/acre elsewhere in Virginia. At that time, a family of 12 in the Shenandoah Valley needed 8 acres for wheat, five acres for corn, and one acre for potatoes and a garden to feed themselves, and the rest was for livestock.<sup>45</sup> Given the expansive farmland and an available enslaved labor force, Jonas likely enlarged his father’s count of seventeen cattle, especially given that manure formed the basic fertilizer that Shenandoah farmers were using by 1850 on a considerable scale.<sup>46</sup>

Jonas Burner died in February 1852 and his is the earliest marked grave in the Burner family cemetery on the southeast corner of the farm; hence the farm bears his name.<sup>47</sup> According to his wife’s family bible, his funeral sermon was based on Ecclesiastes 12:6-7 and the Psalms 51 was read by the congregation.<sup>48</sup> His tombstone was etched with symbols of a weeping willow, signifying sorrow, and oak leaves, signifying maturity and a life lived to a “ripe old age.”<sup>49</sup> Three years later his maiden daughter, Rebecca Burner, would be buried next to him. Rebecca passed away at the age of 43 and her tombstone is inscribed with the words to the Baptist hymn *O When Shall I See Jesus*.<sup>50</sup> This hymn is attributed to John Leland, a Baptist preacher who was born in Massachusetts but relocated to Virginia in 1776. In 1788 he began traveling around Virginia in a revival of sorts, and baptized more than 700 people.<sup>51</sup> Leland writes that he visited the seat of government in Shenandoah County, Woodstock, during this time, which would have been when Jonas Burner was seven years old.<sup>52</sup> Jonas had been raised a Mennonite, but it is possible he or his family converted with the arrival of Leland, who later wrote *O When Shall I See Jesus* in 1807.<sup>53</sup> Leland would go on to have great influence with James Madison and Thomas Jefferson through their many exchanges of letters regarding the separation of church and state. His influence on the Burner family was also evident given his words etched on the tomb of Jonas’ daughter.

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<sup>44</sup> Gaines, John. “Israel Burner Image 5,” March 12, 2015. <https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/Burner-95-4>.

<sup>45</sup> Stanard, W. G. *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*. Vol 79, No. 4 (1971), 462.

<https://doi.org/10.2307/1920299>.

<sup>46</sup> *Ibid.*, 476.

<sup>47</sup> Silvius, Don, “Jonas Burner Cemetery.” Shenandoah County GenWeb, 2006.

<http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/cem/jonasbur.html>.

<sup>48</sup> Gaines, John. “Sarah Burner Artz Family Bible.” WikiTree, March 16, 2015.

<https://www.wikitree.com/photo/jpg/Artz-86>.

<sup>49</sup> Bruck, Michael. “Symbols on Tombstones and Their Meanings.” Tombstone Symbols. Shenandoah County VA GenWeb, July 24, 2003. <http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/cem/tcarv.html>.

<sup>50</sup> “Rebecca Burner Cemetery Image.” Shenandoah County GenWeb Project, May 7, 2018.

<http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/cem-images/jonas-burner/burner-rebecca.jpg>.

<sup>51</sup> Sprague, William Buell. “Baptist History Homepage.” John Leland, Colonial Baptist Minister, 1860.

<http://baptisthistoryhomepage.com/leland.john.annals.1860.html>.

<sup>52</sup> Writings of Elder John Leland. Primitive Baptist Digital Library, n.d.

<https://www.primitivebaptist.net/Articles/Church%20History/Writings%20of%20Elder%20John%20Leland.pdf>.

<sup>53</sup> Leland, John. “O When Shall I See Jesus.” Hymnary.org, 19AD.

[https://hymnary.org/text/o\\_when\\_shall\\_i\\_see\\_jesus\\_and\\_reign\\_with](https://hymnary.org/text/o_when_shall_i_see_jesus_and_reign_with).

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Upon his passing, Jonas' son-in-law, John Hausenfluck var. Hausenflook, took up residency on the farm which he had bought from Jonas on October 8, 1847.<sup>54</sup> By the time Hausenfluck passed away in 1885 the farm encompassed 316 acres and was one of the largest and most prominent in the vicinity of Woodstock.<sup>55</sup> Hausenfluck himself was no stranger to prominence as he was the President of the Board of Supervisors for Shenandoah County.<sup>56</sup> An 1860 census denotes the Jonas Burner Farm as "Dwelling 1860" headed by John Hausenfluck, age 43 and the profession of 'Farmer'. The land and structures were valued at \$9450 and Hausenfluck's personal property was valued at \$3250, which was the equivalent of nearly half a million dollars in the year 2020 value.<sup>57</sup> Of note, Jonas Burner's wife, Sarah Burner, was listed as living with John, his wife Mary, and their four children. A study of the 1860 census suggests that John and Mary are also buried in the Jonas Burner family cemetery, as there are "ground depressions indicating several unmarked graves."<sup>58</sup> This was later confirmed during a February 2020 site visit to the farm conducted by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.<sup>59</sup>

From 1861-1865, the Shenandoah Valley witnessed the Civil War and, just like the other residents of Woodstock, the descendants living on the Burner-Gearing Farm bore witness to numerous skirmishes and campaigns.<sup>60</sup> Woodstock was the location of no less than six skirmishes during the war and was constantly oscillating between Union and Confederate hands.<sup>61</sup> On April 2, 1862, as General Stonewall Jackson's army was in retreat, a Union soldier camped outside of Woodstock, Virginia, wrote that "*the enemy are on the hills and edges of the woodland on the south side of the creek and our lines are on this (north) side...they are about 1 ½ miles apart. The creek is called the North Branch of the Shenandoah...the enemy keeps lurking in the woods until they see a squad of spectators or soldiers, then they move out their artillery and throw a shell or two, when our guns reply and then they run back and that ends the skirmish for the present.*"<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>54</sup> The Jonas Burner Home. Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project.

<sup>55</sup> "Shenandoah and Page Counties Patrons Directory 1," D. J. Lake and Co. 1885.

[http://www.proquest.historicmapworks.com/Map.php?c=US&m=171493&l=Virginia&cont=](http://www.proquest.historicmapworks.com/Map.php?c=US&m=171493&l=Virginia&cont=;); Untitled.

[http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/lake\\_pg22\\_c.html](http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/lake_pg22_c.html).

<sup>56</sup> "Some Businesses of Shenandoah County in 1885." Shenandoah County GenWeb, October 25, 1999.

<http://www.vagenweb.org/shenandoah/busi.html>.

<sup>57</sup> United States Census, "1860 Federal Population Census - Microfilm Catalog." M653. National Archives and Records Administration. <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/microfilm-catalog/1790-1890/part-04>.

<sup>58</sup> Vann, Marvin J. *Shenandoah County, Virginia: a Study of the 1860 Census, Volume 8*. Place of publication not identified: Heritage Books, 2013.

<sup>59</sup> Jolley, Robert of Virginia Department of Historic Resources oral interview with Joyce, Ryan T., February 1, 2020.

<sup>60</sup> "A Chronology of Armed Conflict in the Shenandoah Valley." Shenandoah at War, 2015.

<http://www.shenandoahatwar.org/a-chronology-of-armed-conflict-in-the-shenandoah-valley/>.

<sup>61</sup> Lowe, David W. *Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia: Pursuant to Public Law 101-628*.

Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division, 1992.;

Snedden, Robert Knox. "[Map of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign, 1864]." The Library of Congress, 1864.

<https://www.loc.gov/item/gvhs01.vhs00195/>.

<sup>62</sup> "Unidentified Union Soldier Letter, 1862 April 2." United States - Army - Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, 46th. Virginia Sesquicentennial of the American Civil War, 1862.

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The Burner-Gearing farm, situated on the “North Branch of the Shenandoah,” was likely the site of a skirmish or experienced soldiers passing through the property, as the road through the property guarded the sole passage over the Massanutten Mountain range through the Woodstock Gap. On March 25, 1862, Confederate General Stonewall Jackson summoned famous American Civil War cartographer Jedediah Hotchkiss to his headquarters and asked him to “make me a map of the Valley, from Harper’s Ferry to Lexington, showing all the points of offense and defense in those places.”<sup>63</sup> The resulting 1862 map shows a road leading out of Fort Valley and descending from Woodstock Gap to the North Fork of the Shenandoah River before crossing north, either by bridge or ford, through the Burner-Gearing farm. A second crossing of the river on the north side of the farm provided multiple options for troop movements and a means to circumvent or attack Woodstock from various directions.<sup>64</sup> Forces positioned on the farm’s higher elevations would have provided a means to observe and cut off forces attempting to flank Woodstock or infiltrate from Fort Valley. Further evidence of the farm’s strategic importance during the Civil War was displayed by the Confederate States belt buckle found on the property in October 2019 by members of the Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association, as well as lead spills from hastily-made bullets.<sup>65</sup> Furthermore, John Hausenfluck’s son, William Hausenfluck, served in the 146<sup>th</sup> Virginia Militia, according to a military service record from 1861.<sup>66</sup> He died in 1877 and is buried next to Jonas Burner in the farm’s family cemetery.<sup>67</sup> Jonas Burner’s son, Israel Benjamin Absolom Burner, also served as a Private in Company B of the Virginia 8<sup>th</sup> Battalion.<sup>68</sup> What became of the enslaved African Americans who had worked at the Burner-Gearing Farm prior to the war is not known.

In August 1864, Union Major General Phillip Sheridan took command of the Army of the Shenandoah and received orders from Ulysses S. Grant to turn the Shenandoah Valley into a barren wasteland. Within weeks General Sheridan reported, “I have burned all wheat and hay, and brought off all stock, sheep, cattle, and horses south of Winchester.” The Burning, as it came to be known, destroyed over 2,000 barns in the Shenandoah Valley.<sup>69</sup> It is likely that Jonas Burner’s original barn was destroyed during this period and likely contributed to John Hausenfluck’s property value plummeting from \$9450 in 1860 to \$3600 in 1870.<sup>70</sup> In addition, the depleted cattle herds from raiding armies during the Civil War reduced the manure supply, which also severely reduced crop yields for years to come.<sup>71</sup> The current standing barn on the farm was constructed in the early- to mid-twentieth century according to a Shenandoah Country

<sup>63</sup> “Jedediah Hotchkiss | American Battlefield Trust.” Civil War Trust. American Battlefield Trust. <http://www.civilwar.org/education/history/biographies/jedediah-hotchkiss.html>.

<sup>64</sup> Hotchkiss, Jedediah. *Map of the Shenandoah Valley*. [1862] Map. <https://www.loc.gov/item/99446754/>.

<sup>65</sup> “Northern Virginia Relic Hunters Association (NVRHA) Newsletter, Volume XL, Number 12” December 2019.

<sup>66</sup> The National Archives. “Hausenfluck, William.” Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia. NARA, 1861. <https://www.fold3.com/document/14743140/>.

<sup>67</sup> Silvius, “Jonas Burner Cemetery.”

<sup>68</sup> “Israel Benjamin Absolom Burner (1820-1886)” Find a Grave Memorial no. 49968686, March 20, 2010. [https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49968686/israel-benjamin\\_absolom-burner](https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49968686/israel-benjamin_absolom-burner).

<sup>69</sup> “The Burning.” National Parks Service. U.S. Department of the Interior, February 26, 2015. <https://www.nps.gov/cebe/learn/historyculture/the-burning.htm>.

<sup>70</sup> United States Census, “1870 Federal Population Census - Microfilm Catalog.” M593. National Archives and Records Administration. <https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/7163/>

<sup>71</sup> Stanard, Vol 79, No. 4.

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Barns Survey conducted in March 2018.<sup>72</sup> It is characterized as “part timber frame, part balloon frame” and a “transitional structure between timber frame and post & beam.” The barn is specifically identified as a structure on a 1947 U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) map of Strasburg.<sup>73</sup> John Hausenfluck’s daughter, Sallie, and her husband, George Wright, took possession of the farm after John’s death and owned it from 1890 to 1920.<sup>74</sup>

In the wake of the Great Depression, the Civilian Conservation Corps established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt built the Woodstock Tower in 1935 on the mountain just above the Burner-Gearing Farm in the George Washington National Forest.<sup>75</sup> This observation tower, which is visible from the property, affords a sweeping view of the Shenandoah Valley from the Blue Ridge Mountains and the north fork of the Shenandoah River as it winds its way through Woodstock. The multiple bends of the river visible from the tower became known as the famous “Seven Bends” of the Shenandoah River, after which the nearby State Park was named and opened in 2019<sup>76</sup>. The Burner-Gearing Farm encompasses the fourth of these seven bends and has been routinely admired and photographed over the years by visitors atop the Woodstock Tower for its multiple ponds, iconic barn, rolling pastures, and full mile of river frontage.<sup>77</sup>

In May 1924, the farm was purchased by Dr. Frank Wilson Gearing Sr. from his mother after his father passed away and would hence become known locally as the “Old Gearing Farm.”<sup>78</sup> Dr. Gearing was a veteran of World War I, having been drafted in 1917, and subsequently hired by Massanutten Military Academy (MMA) as the chief resident physician by the end of 1918.<sup>79</sup> He was a graduate of MMA himself and would go on to serve on MMA’s board for 48 years and be a staple of the Woodstock community.<sup>80</sup> His grandson, Frank Gearing, recalls that he also served as the physician at nearby Camp Lupton, a summer camp for boys on the Shenandoah River which has since become Seven Bends State Park.<sup>81</sup> Gearing Sr. would later admit to family members that the farm had been a critical source of sustenance during the Great Depression (1929-1939) and that the produce from the farm kept his family fed even as his supplementary

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<sup>72</sup> Adamson, John. “The Historic Barns of Shenandoah County.” Shenandoah County Historical Society Barns Project. <http://shenandoahcountyhistoricalsociety.org/barns.php>.

<sup>73</sup> “USGS 1:62500-Scale Quadrangle for Strasburg, VA 1947.” Data.gov. U.S. Geological Survey, 1968. <https://catalog.data.gov/harvest/object/80f12978-8009-4bc4-9b69-b8bb351779bf/html/original>.

<sup>74</sup> “Family Search.” FamilySearch Catalog: Bible records and other documents relating to the Borner, Hausenfluck, and Wright families, 1781-1882 - FamilySearch.org. <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/477196>; The Jonas Burner Home. Virginia W.P.A. Historical Inventory Project.

<sup>75</sup> “Woodstock Tower Observation Site.” George Washington & Jefferson National Forests - Woodstock Tower Observation Site. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/gwj/recreation/recarea/?recid=74047>.

<sup>76</sup> “Seven Bends State Park.” Department of Conservation and Recreation. <https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/seven-bends>.

<sup>77</sup> “Woodstock Tower.” Shenandoah County Library Archives. <http://archives.countylib.org/exhibits/show/fv/wt>.

<sup>78</sup> “Shenandoah County Clerk Office, Deed Book 94.” FamilySearch Catalog: Deed books, 1772-1900, 293. General Indexes to the Deeds, 1772-1900 - FamilySearch.org.

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<sup>79</sup> Sonner, Calvin. “The Military Draft 1917.” Shenandoah County Virginia Residents Called for Military Draft 1917, 1917. <http://www.csonner.net/draft.htm>.

<sup>80</sup> Gearing, Mary, granddaughter of Dr. Frank Gearing Sr., oral interview with Joyce, Ryan T., November 12, 2020.

<sup>81</sup> “Camp Lupton Shenandoah Camp for Boys Massanutten Military Academy Woodstock VA.” WorthPoint.com. <https://www.worthpoint.com/worthopedia/camp-lupton-shenandoah-camp-boys-1789895818>.

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work as a physician waned.<sup>82</sup> One of his sons, Edward Marcellus Gearing, would go on to become a highly decorated World War II hero, even being awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by then President Roosevelt. One of the soldiers whose life was saved by Gearing noted that he “*was the kind who took charge, was sympathetic to all other men, a very good officer. The kind of officer thirty older men would follow, possibly to their deaths.*” Another noted, “[Gearing] didn’t stand back and tell you what to do. He did it. He was a leader.”<sup>83</sup> As Edward grew up playing on his father’s farm, his amazing story is worth examining in greater detail.<sup>84</sup>

Edward Gearing attended MMA from 1937 to 1942, after which he received a commission in the U.S. Army and was shipped off to Europe to fight in World War II.<sup>85</sup> On 6 June 1944, twenty-year old Second Lt. Gearing was the Platoon Leader in Company A of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, consisting of 30 enlisted soldiers from Bedford, Virginia, and designated as the first wave to storm Omaha Beach at Normandy. Gearing’s Higgins-class landing craft was five thousand yards from the beach when it was targeted by enemy artillery fire. Still one thousand yards from the beach, the landing craft hit an underwater mine and all the men, including Gearing, were blown out of the boat.<sup>86</sup> Gearing was unable to reach his radio operator in time struggling under the weight of the radio equipment and screaming, “Help me! I’m drowning!” After five other men also drowned from their heavy equipment, Gearing drew his bayonet and began cutting the heavy packs off his men’s backs—saving multiple lives in the process.<sup>87</sup> Gearing ordered his men to cling to the side of the damaged boat and they paddled around until being rescued by another British royal naval craft.<sup>88</sup>

Back on the troop transport *Empire Javelin*, Gearing issued orders to send his remaining men back to England to rearm and reequip and return to Normandy the next day.<sup>89</sup> However, Gearing himself grabbed a rifle and boarded another landing craft in order to head back to shore where he encountered the remnants of Company A “inert, leaderless, and almost incapable of action” given all of the officers had been killed already.<sup>90</sup> As his Distinguished Service Cross citation states, Lt. Gearing landed ashore “*in the face of heavy enemy rifle, machine gun and artillery fire. This intense fire pinned the men down on a narrow beachhead, inflicting numerous*

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<sup>82</sup> Gearing, Frank, grandson of Dr. Frank Gearing Sr., oral interview with Joyce, Ryan T., November 12, 2020.

<sup>83</sup> Kershaw, Alex. *The Bedford Boys*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press, 2004.

<sup>84</sup> United States Census, “Edward M. Gearing.” Edward Gearing from Woodstock in 1940 Census District 86-11, 1940. <http://www.archives.com/1940-census/edward-gearing-va-6406010>.

<sup>85</sup> “Harrisonburg Daily News Record Archives, Nov 21, 1963, p. 24.” NewspaperArchive.com. Harrisonburg Daily News Record, November 21, 1963. <https://newspaperarchive.com/harrisonburg-daily-news-record-nov-21-1963-p-24/>.

<sup>86</sup> “Boys’ Life, Vol 84. No.6.” Google Books. Google, June 6, 1994. <https://books.google.com/books?id=sv8DAAAAMBAJ>.

<sup>87</sup> Haines, Dan. “Bedford’s Valiant Boys.” Warfare History Network. October 26, 2016. <https://warfarehistorynetwork.com/2016/10/26/bedfords-valiant-boys/>.

<sup>88</sup> Marshall, S. L. A. “First Wave at Omaha Beach.” *The Atlantic*. Atlantic Media Company, November 1960. <https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/1960/11/first-wave-at-omaha-beach/303365/>.

<sup>89</sup> Balkoski, Joseph. *From Brittany to the Reich the 29th Infantry Division in Germany, September - November 1944*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books, 2012.

<sup>90</sup> Holt, Tonic, and Valmai Holt. *Major and Mrs Holt’s Definitive Battlefield Guide to the D-Day Normandy Landing Beaches*. Barnsley: Pen & Sword Military, 2012.



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*casualties with resultant disorganization. In the reorganization and preparation of his platoon for attack, Second Lieutenant Gearing fearlessly and, with complete disregard for his own safety, on numerous occasions exposed himself to the direct enemy fire. He then led his platoon in a successful assault upon the enemy positions.”*<sup>91</sup> Gearing continued to fight his way inland each of the next few days. His soldiers recalled, “*on the fourth day after landing, [Gearing] had jumped into a trench during a firefight and landed on top of a soldier’s bayonet. Both men were surprised, but he was able to shoot the Jerry [sic] with his pistol and was only slightly injured by the point of the bayonet.*”

The above actions alone would have been enough for any man to endure in a war. But Gearing wasn’t finished. Four months later, and freshly promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant, Gearing found himself in Wurselen, Germany, as executive officer of Company A leading a team through a fusillade of considerable large-caliber fire into a group of enemy-occupied buildings. As four German tanks roamed the streets outside, Gearing led his men through a maze of underground urban fighting. As one of his men recounted, it was “*not open street fighting, but house-to-house, or rather cellar-to-cellar fighting. Often the enemy was just across the street or in the cellar of an adjacent house. Our guys had to fire out cellar windows, or sometimes blast a hole in the cellar wall to gain access to the next cellar, advancing room by room, below ground at all times.*”

Gearing would go on to be awarded the Silver Star for his actions in Wurselen with the citation noting, “*despite intense enemy automatic fire at very close range, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Gearing, by his fearless and skillful leadership, succeeded in driving the enemy from the first group of buildings with a minimum of casualties. Shortly thereafter, while leading his men in an assault against a second group of enemy-occupied buildings, Gearing was wounded by enemy fire [and a wall collapsed on his legs.] Undaunted, he continued to direct operations, which resulted in the capture of the buildings and forty of the enemy.*”<sup>92</sup> Having also earned the Purple Heart, Edward Gearing returned to Woodstock after the war with the rank of Captain, after which the MMA rifle team would rename itself the “Gearing Rifles” in honor of the fellow alum and Woodstock war hero.<sup>93</sup> Gearing was on hand a decade later at the unveiling of a D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia, to honor the nineteen sons of Bedford lost at Omaha Beach under his command—the highest proportional loss out of any community in the United States. Recognizing the immense sacrifice of “The Bedford Boys” of Company A, Congress established the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford on June 6, 2001.<sup>94</sup> Gearing later wrote, “*Company A was different from other organizations. It was made of ‘home town’ folks—fathers, cousins, etc. Under these circumstances it is more difficult to see these men die and as difficult to return to the same community and resume the same way of life.*”<sup>95</sup>

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<sup>91</sup> “Edward Gearing - Recipient.” The Hall of Valor Project. Sightline Media Group.  
<https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/22147>.

<sup>92</sup> Balkoski, *From Brittany to the Reich*.

<sup>93</sup> Harrisonburg Daily News Record, November 21, 1963.

<sup>94</sup> “The National D-Day Memorial.” <https://www.dday.org/the-memorial/>. National D-Day Memorial Foundation.

<sup>95</sup> Kershaw, *The Bedford Boys*.

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In September 1948, the Gearing family sold the farm to John Tipton Fishburn, who was a US State Department official serving as the Labor Attaché in Uruguay during World War II.<sup>96</sup> Fishburn's daughter, Lynn Zoll, recalls that the Gearing Barn had been standing for quite some time by 1948 and stood alongside a tall silo at the northwest corner that was taken down soon after due to disrepair. The farm conveyed with two Percheron draft horses named 'Kate' and 'Star' which were used to plow the fields and were stabled in the southeast side of the barn. The northwest extended half of the barn was used as a dairy for a small herd of Jersey cattle which grazed on the farm's extensive pastureland. Hay filled both lofts and the center of the barn as there was no need to store a tractor in the 1940s. A large bull named 'Commander' roamed the fields and often broke through the fencing into neighboring farms.<sup>97</sup>

John Fishburn would go on to serve in a half-dozen postings in Latin American and Europe, to include partnering with the Central Intelligence Agency to stem the spread of communism in Brazil.<sup>98</sup> In August 1951, Fishburn was listed by Senator Joseph McCarthy as one of many US diplomats who presented a "clear security risk" and his name was disparaged in the loyalty-security channels in the State Department.<sup>99</sup> Fishburn was ultimately exonerated of the accusation of being a Soviet spy that was levied against him during the so-called "McCarthy Trials" and went on to be regarded as an American patriot.<sup>100</sup> He retired from the State Department in 1970 and constructed the current residence that same year. Upon its formation in 1974, the Capital Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association (CHGPA) began using the Burner-Gearing Farm as the preferred landing strip for adventurers taking off from Woodstock Tower and soaring high above the Shenandoah's Seven Bends. In 2000, John Fishburn placed the farm in conservation easement to ensure its natural beauty and historic integrity in perpetuity. John Fishburn lived on the Burner-Gearing Farm until his death in 2003 and is also buried alongside his wife, Fredelle Keys Fishburn, in the Burner Cemetery.<sup>101</sup>

From its original purchase in 1751 until the present day, the farm has been in continuous agricultural use, alternating between crops of corn or hay, and grazing cattle. In May 1995, the Burner-Gearing Farm was surveyed as a Virginia Historic Property (DHR ID 085-0292) with the historic time period listed as "Antebellum Period (1830-1860)."<sup>102</sup> This date likely was based on the series of outbuildings then surrounding the barn, including two frame livestock buildings, three frame poultry buildings, a wood shed, equipment building, a corn crib, and an outhouse

<sup>96</sup> "Shenandoah County Clerk Office, Deed Book 156." FamilySearch Catalog: Deed books, 1772-1900, 133. General Indexes to the Deeds, 1772-1900 - FamilySearch.org, <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/385833?availability=Family+History+Library>; "Uruguay." Uruguay Country Reader. Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training, n.d. <https://adst.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/Uruguay.pdf>.

<sup>97</sup> Zoll, Lynn, daughter of John Fishburn, oral interview with Joyce, Ryan T., November 24, 2020.

<sup>98</sup> Welch, Cliff. Essay. *The Seed Was Planted: the São Paulo Roots of Brazil's Rural Labor Movement, 1924-1964*, 319. University Park, PA: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1999.

<sup>99</sup> Buckley, William F., and L. Brent. Bozell. *McCarthy and His Enemies: The Record and Its Meaning*. Washington, DC: Regnery Publishing, 1995.

<sup>100</sup> Shea, James. Interview with John T. Fishburn. Other. *The Association for Diplomatic Studies and Training*, July 1991. <https://www.adst.org/OH%20TOCs/Fishburn,%20John%20T.toc.pdf>.

<sup>101</sup> Silvius, "Jonas Burner Cemetery."

<sup>102</sup> Fishburne Farm, Architectural Survey Form, Virginia DHR ID: 085-0292; Virginia Cultural Source Information System. <https://vcris.dhr.virginia.gov/VCRIS/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2Fvcris%2F>.

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(privy). The survey also highlighted the well, well house, and pump. Most of the outbuildings were removed in 2017, but the privy remains, as does the well, which likely dates back to the antebellum era. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources survey lists the farm as the “Fishburne Farm,” [sic] named after John Fishburn. Of note, a secondary dwelling on the property at the time dated back to the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and originally stood on Main Street in Woodstock. It was relocated to the farm around the time that Dr. Frank Gearing Sr. sold the farm to John Fishburn (the relocated house is no longer extant on the farm).

When asked why Edward Gearing and the other men of Company A of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division were selected to lead the assault on Omaha Beach, Major General Charles Gerhardt responded that they “*showed the characteristics necessary on that particular day. Who were these boys? The record of the 29<sup>th</sup> goes back to 1620, through the regimental history of Virginia troops, and their record has been unequalled. Those boys were the decedents of those who fought.*”<sup>103</sup> Company A of the 29<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division went to war again in 2004 in Afghanistan. In March 2019, the Burner-Gearing Farm was renamed “Patriots Bend” in memory of all the above residents, many of whom fought to protect the freedom they enjoyed on the banks of the Shenandoah River. A memorial plaque was unveiled during a dedication ceremony on August 3, 2019, which was attended by the mayor of Woodstock, Jeremy McCleary, in honor of two US Army soldiers who fought alongside a current resident of the farm and died in Logar Province, Afghanistan, in 2013.

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<sup>103</sup> Haines, “Bedford’s Valiant Boys.”

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register

\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Burner-Gearing Farm  
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\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR ID# 085-0292

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 70.45

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.882565 | Longitude: -78.459625 |
| 2. Latitude: 38.884687 | Longitude: -78.456707 |
| 3. Latitude: 38.882630 | Longitude: -78.453680 |
| 4. Latitude: 38.879859 | Longitude: -78.452544 |
| 5. Latitude: 38.878590 | Longitude: -78.452930 |
| 6. Latitude: 38.877938 | Longitude: -78.456578 |
| 7. Latitude: 38.879990 | Longitude: -78.458120 |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map. The boundary coincides with the perimeter lines of the parcel recorded as 047-A-072 in Shenandoah County Tax Records.

Burner-Gearing Farm  
Name of Property

Shenandoah County, VA  
County and State

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary corresponds to the modern tax parcel 047-A-072 on which the contributing resources stand and captures the immediate environs and historic setting of the domestic complex along with agricultural fields associated with the property.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Ryan T. Joyce (with contributions by J. Daniel Pezzoni)

organization: Owner

street & number: 2497 Moose Road

city or town: Woodstock state: Virginia zip code: 22664

e-mail: ryanthomasjoyce@yahoo.com

telephone: (703) 994-0021

date: January 5, 2021

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photographs**

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Burner-Gearing Farm City or Vicinity: Woodstock vicinity

County: Shenandoah State: Virginia

Photographers: Kate Magee Photography, Ryan Joyce, William Nordman

Date Photographed: April 2020

Burner-Gearing Farm  
Name of Property

Shenandoah County, VA  
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 1 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0001  
View: Gearing Barn, southwest elevation, camera facing northeast
- 2 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0002  
View: Gearing Barn, northwest elevation, camera facing southeast
- 3 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0003  
View: Gearing Barn, northeast elevation, camera facing south/southwest
- 4 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0004  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast elevation, camera facing northwest
- 5 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0005  
View: Gearing Barn, southwest elevation, camera facing northeast
- 6 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0006  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast elevation, camera facing southwest
- 7 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0007  
View: Gearing Barn, northwest internal hayloft, camera facing northwest
- 8 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0008  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast internal support structure, camera facing southeast
- 9 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0009  
View: Gearing Barn, northwest internal support structure, camera facing northwest
- 10 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0010  
View: Gearing Barn, northwest internal support structure, camera facing northwest
- 11 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0011  
View: Gearing Barn, internal roof structure, camera facing northwest
- 12 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0012  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast hay loft, camera facing northwest
- 13 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0013  
View: Gearing Barn, internal southwest wall, camera facing north
- 14 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0014  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast internal joinery, camera facing southeast

Burner-Gearing Farm  
Name of Property

Shenandoah County, VA  
County and State

- 15 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0015  
View: Gearing Barn, southwest foundation joinery, camera facing south
- 16 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0016  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast internal joinery, camera facing southeast
- 17 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0017  
View: Gearing Barn, northwest animal bays, camera facing east
- 18 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0018  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast structural beam, camera facing west
- 19 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0019  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast internal joinery, camera facing west
- 20 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0020  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast internal joinery, camera facing northwest
- 21 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0021  
View: Gearing Barn, southeast internal joinery, camera facing northwest
- 22 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0022  
View: Burner Cemetery, external view, camera facing southeast
- 23 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0023  
View: Burner Cemetery, Jonas Burner headstone, camera facing southeast
- 24 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0024  
View: Burner Cemetery, Jonas Burner headstone, camera facing southeast
- 25 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0025  
View: Burner Cemetery, Rebecca Burner headstone, camera facing southeast
- 26 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0026  
View: Burner Cemetery, William Hausenfluck headstone, camera facing southeast
- 27 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0027  
View: Burner Cemetery, Catherine Hausenfluck headstone, camera facing southeast
- 28 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0028  
View: Burner Cemetery, Elizabeth Bushong headstone, camera facing southeast
- 29 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0029

Burner-Gearing Farm  
Name of Property

Shenandoah County, VA  
County and State

View: Burner Cemetery, Rebecca Burner footstone, camera facing northwest

30 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0030

View: Burner Cemetery, Uninscribed slate headstone, camera facing southeast

31 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0031

View: Burner Cemetery, Uninscribed slate headstone, camera facing northwest

32 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0032

View: Burner Cemetery, J Fagan inscription, camera facing southeast

33 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0033

View: Privy, northwest elevation, camera facing northeast

34 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0034

View: Privy, northwest internal view, camera facing southeast

35 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0035

View: Well, northwest mouth view, camera facing northwest

36 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0036

View: Well, internal depth view, camera facing northwest

37 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0037

View: Burner-Gearing Farm, aerial view with North Fork Shenandoah River at bottom right, oxbow ponds right of center, and Gearing Barn at top left behind treeline, camera facing northeast

38 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0038

View: Burner-Gearing Farm, aerial view with North Fork Shenandoah River at left, Gearing Barn at center, and non-contributing dwelling at right, camera facing southeast

39 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0039

View: Burner-Gearing Farm, oxbow pond, camera facing northeast

40 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0040

View: Burner-Gearing Farm, oxbow pond, camera facing east

41 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0041

View: Burner-Gearing Farm, upper pastureland, camera facing northeast

42 of 42: VA\_ShenandoahCounty\_BurnerGearingFarm\_0042

View: Burner-Gearing Farm, lower pastureland, camera facing southeast



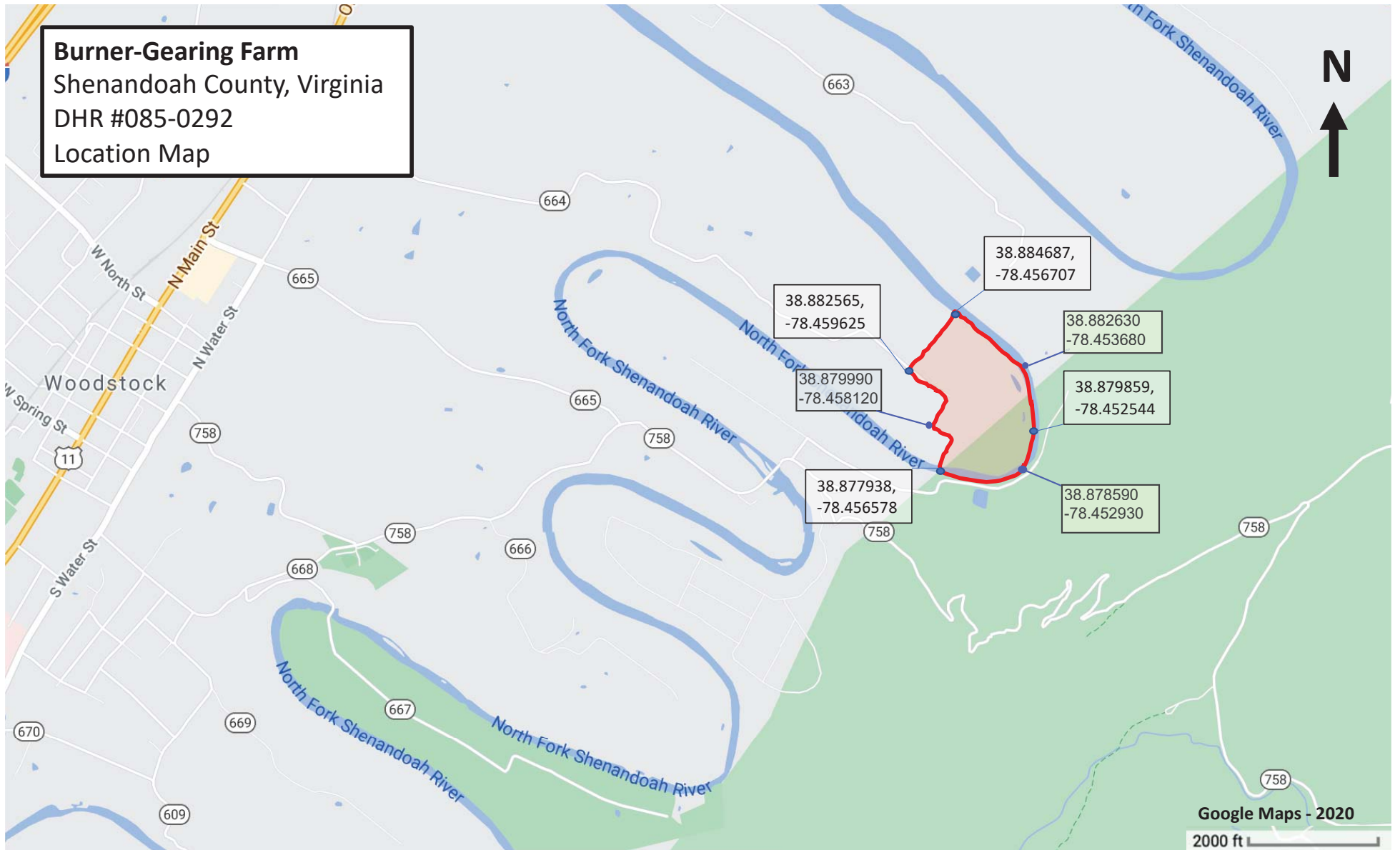
Burner-Gearing Farm  
Name of Property

Shenandoah County, VA  
County and State

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Burner-Gearing Farm**  
Shenandoah County, Virginia  
DHR #085-0292  
Location Map

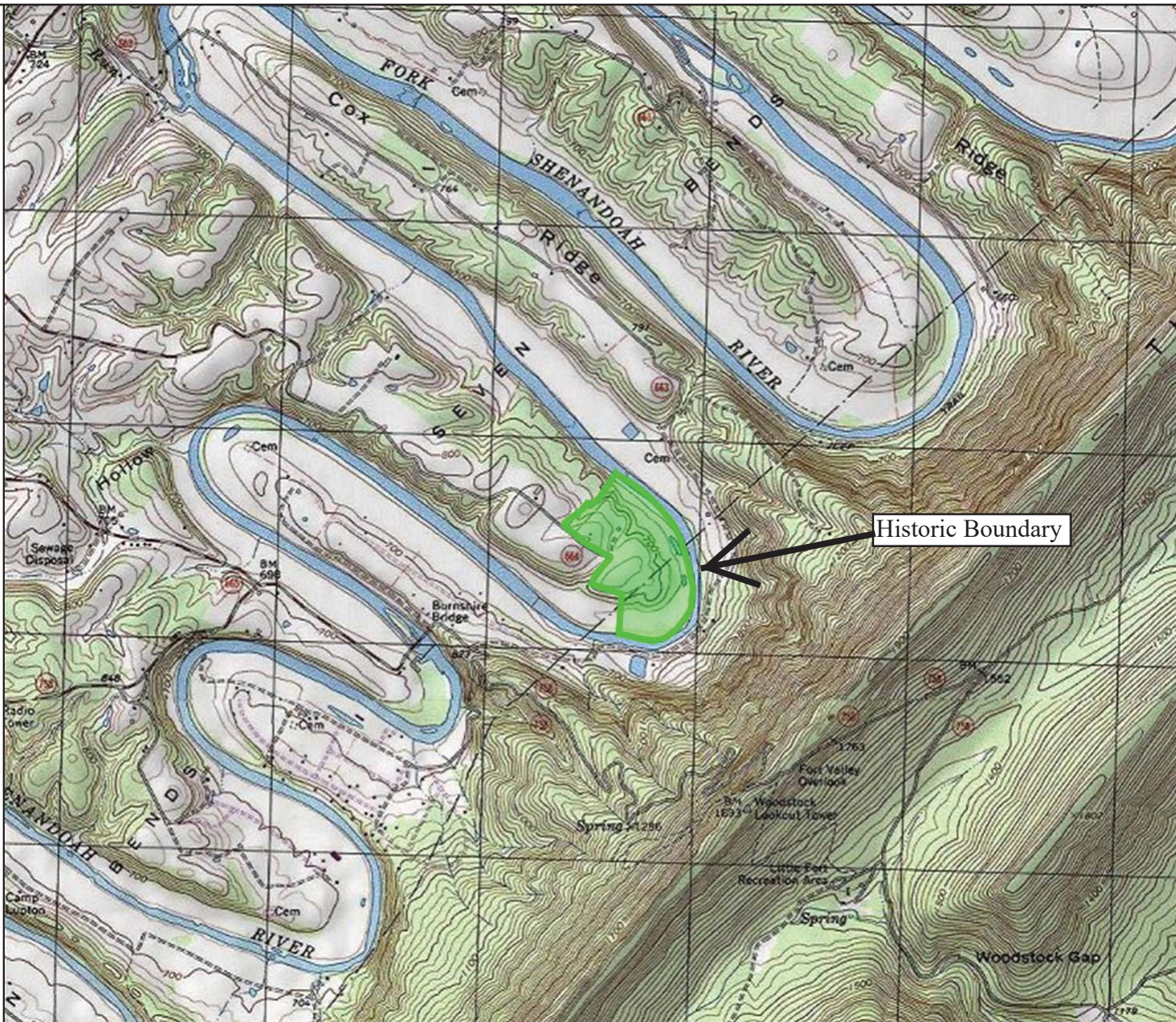




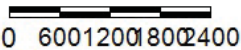


TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Burner-Gearing Farm  
Shenandoah County, VA  
DHR No. 085-0292



Feet



1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 2/5/2021

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*



**Burner-Gearing Farm**  
Shenandoah County, VA  
DHR #085-0292  
Sketch Map

**Contributing Inventory**

- 1 Gearing Barn
- Burner Family Cemetery/  
2 Dwelling Site
- 3 Privy
- 4 Pump
- 5 Well

**Noncontributing**

- A Residence

**Reference Sites**

- 1 Shenandoah River
- 2 Oxbow Ponds

**Historic Boundary:**

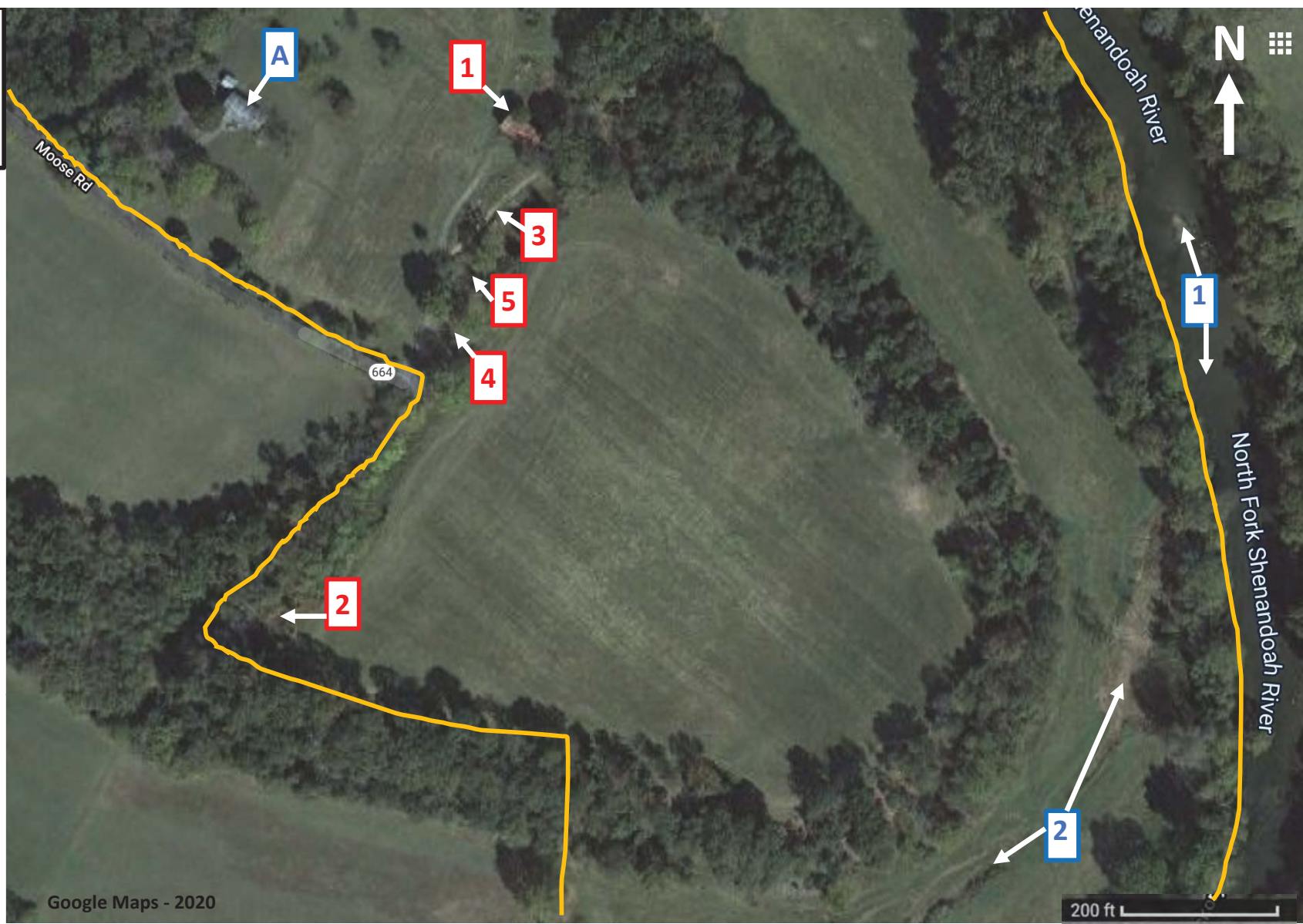






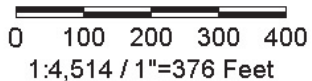
PHOTO KEY (exterior views)

Burner-Gearing Farm  
Shenandoah County, VA  
DHR No. 085-0292

# → = Photograph Locations



Feet



Title:

Date: 2/25/2021

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

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**Burner-Gearing Farm**  
Shenandoah County, Virginia  
DHR #085-0292  
Tax Parcel Map



Source:  
<https://www.shenandoahgis.org/>  
Accessed 1/5/2021

*Tax Parcel 047-A-072*  
**Property Boundary:**

