

Calico Cottage

Built ca.1813 by Simeon Shunk

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1756 – Fairfax Grant of 570 acres to **Nicholas Lemon (Sr.)**. The boundary of the tract began on the “Northern side of the Waggon Road that leads from Shennandoah to Opeckon” and crossed “the Waggon Road that leads from Potowmack to Winchister,” adjoining Nicholas Mercer and John Hiatt. (NN GB H/661)

This sounds like it included Walper’s Crossroads as well as Kerneysville.

1761 – Nicholas Lemon (Sr.) will divided his land between his two sons **John Lemon** and Robert Lemon. They were apparently young children at the time as the will stipulated that his wife and his brothers, John and Robert, were “to do my children justice.” (FC WB 2/489)

The division between the sons John and Robert appears to have occurred in 1786 when John Lemon sold 110 acres to Robert Lemon by Lease & Release, “part of the tract devised by their father to be divided,” adjoining Joseph Koyle, the Wagon road, and Henry Bush. (BC DB 6/552)

No deed for John’s half was found but his appears to have been at least 120 acres (see below). Oddly, the 1787 BC Land Tax listed Robert Lemon with 61 acres (this stayed consistent through later records too), John Lemon with 79 acres, and another John Lemon (Uncle?) with 219 acres. In 1789 it was just Robert (61 acres) and one John Lemon with 174 acres. In 1797, John Lemon was listed with 165 acres (Robert with 61 acres).

1798 – John Limmon [sic] listed on the Berkeley Co. House Tax with a country house valued at 157.50.

1799? – John Lemon devised his land to his son **Nicholas Lemon, Jr.** Could not find a deed or will to confirm this but all the later deeds refer to this transfer of the property.

1800 – Nicholas Lemon Jr. sold 120 acres to **James Kerney, Sr.** for £500, described as adjoining Joseph Kyle’s heirs, John Snider [sic], and John Marke [sic] (*Travellers Rest*), part of the land Nicholas inherited from his father John Lemon. (BC DB 16/313)

Kerney does not appear to have been taxed on this land. Beginning in **1804**, George Ronemus was listed in the Jefferson County Land Tax with 120 acres. Then from **1806-1811**, the 120 acres were assessed under the name “Ronemus, George & Shunk.”

1811 – James Kerney Sr. sold 50 acres to **Simon (Simeon) Shunk** for £313 (DB 6/481), and 66 acres to **George Ronemus** for £413 (JC DB 6/484). Both tracts were described as part of the 570-acre Nicholas Lemon grant, passed down to John Lemon and to Nicholas Lemon Jr.

1815 – House tax listed Simeon [sic] Shunk with 1 house valued at \$100 (\$600 total).

Given Shunk's purchase price of £313 in 1811, it appears the house (*Calico Cottage*) was constructed between 1811 and 1815.

1820 – Simeon [sic] Shunk listed on the land tax with 50 acres adjoining George Ronemus (*Effie McIntyre House*) with buildings valued at \$700. In August, Shunk sold the 50 acres, “near Walpers Tavern,” to **Amos Mendenhall** for \$1,500. (DB 11/257)

1844 – Amos Mendenhall died. He left the property to his daughters **Hannah Taylor and Phebe Bennett**. (WB 10/436)

Amos Mendenhall apparently never did a darn thing to the house he purchased in 1820. In 1837 he sold ½ acre of the tract to Abraham Snyder “for a road one rod wide.” In 1841, his building assessment went up \$100 to \$800 total, but so did everyone else's that year.

1846 – Mendenhall's daughters, Taylor and Bennett, sold the 52 acres, minus a half-acre lot sold to Benjamin Stevens in 1845, to **Daniel Henkle** for \$2,500. (DB 28/171)

1856 – Henkle's building assessments remained at \$800 as late as 1856. Apparently he got into debt to Daniel Border who brought a chancery suit against Henkle. The court ordered the sale of the property. It was advertised in the Shepherdstown Register and then sold on October 29, 1856 in front of the Entler Hotel in Shepherdstown. **Richard H. Lee** was the purchaser for \$59 per acre, a total of 51 acres. (ref in DB 1/428)

1859 – After having paid off the purchase price, Lee sold the property to **Nathan Osburn** and then Osburn quickly sold 13 acres of the tract to **J.G. Ruckle** for \$668.12. (DB 1/428 and DB 1/439)

1875 – Ruckle must have purchased the rest of the property from Osburn soon after and then got into debt problems. He entered into a Deed of Trust with William L. Wilson (DB C/26) and Wilson sold the “40 acres...with the improvements thereon...then in the occupancy of J.G. Ruckle” to **Robert L. Roberts** for \$2,515; the deed was finalized in 1876. (DB D/195)

1877 – R.L. Roberts, of Shenandoah County, sold the now 38 ½ acres to **Daniel Border** (former creditor of Daniel Henkle) for \$2,600. (DB E/270)

1880 – Daniel W. Border gave the property to his wife, Clara C. Border in a Deed of Gift. The deed reserved a life estate for him if she died before him. (DB H/319)

In 1936 it was owned by the York Orchard Company who sold it to M.F. Miller (orchardist?). A church lot was carved from the property sometime after 1880.