

Balzer Huber House (1766)

Wendy Tiefenbacher & Ken Mazzer
148 West Queen Street

Expanded and added onto over a period of nearly 100 years, this iconic “country” Greek Revival home began life as a one-and-a-half story log house in 1766. Though the lot was originally purchased in 1765, by the laws of the time if a building was not constructed on it within a year, it reverted back to the developer, who in this case was Peter Stover. Balzer Huber bought the property in 1766, and his house was completed that same year. After having changed hands several times, the house was bought by Philip Spengler who doubled its size by raising the roof of the home to create two full stories and an attic, and by building a two story addition of the same size to the east, integrating the whole with clapboard. A distinctive balcony was built over the front door shading an entry porch accessed by stairs from the east and the west. In 1860, a two story north wing with porches was added behind the original log portion and now serves as a dining room and kitchen on the ground floor and a bath and office on the second floor. A living room, featuring a faux marbled wooden mantle and a bedroom above occupy the east wing. The central hall features the same wide floorboards as the log wing and appears to be of the same period. The top of the simple Greek Revival newel post of the staircase is worn smooth by the touch of generations of hands. Two large stone fire places of the log home (the east living room and bedroom above) are original. Extensive renovations were made by the previous owners and current owners, Wendy Tiefenbacher and Ken Mazzer who bought the house in October of 2021 have completely renovated the kitchen down to the studs and brick. During the process large cut stones were found in the crawl space along with Civil War bullets and Strasburg pottery found there and in the yard. The renovated summer kitchen sits in a separate building behind the kitchen and serves as the laundry room. Former owner Lavern Pittman, believed this home was haunted, and it is on the Strasburg Ghost Tour.

Spengler Hall (1820)

Laura & Sean Cadden
31501 Old Valley Pike

This early 19th Century Federal style home has been the center of gracious living and regional hospitality for over 200 years. Built in the years 1812 to 1820, Spengler Hall is situated over-looking the former Old Valley Pike on what was once known as Matin Hill. The bricks for the 12-room home were hand made and fired on site, and the timber was cut from the property. As was the case throughout the Valley, Spengler Hall was occupied by Union and Confederate armies beginning with General Alpheus Williams of the Michigan unit of the Union Army, whose chair was left behind, to Jubal Early who pitched his command tent on the lawn in 1864. Spengler Hall has been occupied by descendants of Capt. Anthony Spengler and his wife, the former Catherine Kendrick of Strasburg, and 3 of their 12 children to this day. In 1946 the home was transferred to George and Maria Hinkins. Mr. Hinkins was a descendent of Anthony Spengler. Virginia Cadden was their daughter and upon her death in 2021, it transferred to her son, Sean and his wife Laura Cadden. The historical and architectural integrity of the home and grounds have been maintained with few changes other than modernizations, throughout its history. Sean and Laura Cadden continue the traditions of Virginia Cadden, who so well understood that Spengler Hall very much belongs to the history of Strasburg as well as to the family. Prior to the building of the Strasburg Presbyterian Church in 1824, services were held at Spengler Hall. The land upon which the church was built was donated by Captain Spengler, and the Caddens hosted the 175th anniversary of the church at their home in 1999. Many parties and celebrations are given in the home and its stunning grounds. A wonderful record of New Year parties is a collection of Champagne bottles dating from the 1920’s through 2007. Each bottle contains a list of the guests in attendance for that year. The bottles sit on the mantel over the cooking fireplace of the original kitchen, which now serves as a gathering place and holds many artifacts from the home’s history. Eleven fireplaces grace the rooms of Spengler Hall with varying degrees of ornate woodwork on the mantels and surrounds, most prominent being the sunburst design of the informal parlor fireplace. Virginia and Dr. John Cadden were married in front of the fireplace in the formal

parlor. Entering through the wide central hall the formal parlor lies to the left and a family room of the same proportions is to the right. Laura’s antique piano still leaves plenty of space as you pass through the hall to the staircase that leads to the second floor. Behind the parlor is a spacious dining room which features a lovely crystal chandelier and fireplace. The original variable width, heart of pine flooring can be found in the front parlors, but has been replaced with hardwood in the dining room. None of the original furnishings of Spengler Hall survive, but the house is decorated with Federal, Empire and Victorian pieces collected by Virginia Cadden’s mother. General Williams’ chair which along with a Union Calvary sword found on the property, have been on loan to the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, but will be on display as well as many examples of Virginia Cadden’s Strasburg Pot collection. Only the ground floor will be open to the public.

*****We wish to express our appreciation to our hosts who have graciously opened their homes during this busy season. We know you will enjoy their individual decorating styles and interesting collections.*****

**HOMES MAY BE VISITED
IN ANY ORDER.**



2022 Strasburg Holiday Heritage Homes Tour

Presented by

Strasburg Heritage Association

Saturday, December 10th

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Tickets \$10.00

Tickets Go On Sale Thanksgiving Weekend

Advance and Day of

Tickets available at:

Clementine Vintage—148 E. King St.
Pot Town Organics—181 W. King St.
Sager Real Estate—111 E. King St.
Strasburg Visitor Center—33229 Old
Valley Pike



Complimentary
refreshments served at
Strasburg Mennonite
Church and School

TOUR HELD RAIN, SHINE, OR SNOW

Mount Pleasant (1812)
Teresa & Ingemar Westphall
292 Hite Lane

Strasburg Heritage Homes Tour had the pleasure of visiting Mt. Pleasant in 2013, when it was the home of Caroline Stalnaker. This year we will have that pleasure again, but now under the ownership of Teresa and Ingemar Westphall. After having fallen in love with it sight unseen, on a real-estate web site, while serving in the Air Force on Okinawa (He is now stationed at the Pentagon.), Ingemar made up his mind that Mt. Pleasant would become the couple's home and purchased it in 2019. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places and Virginia Historic Landmark Register, Mt. Pleasant was built in 1812 by Capt. Isaac Bowman who served in the Ohio campaign of the Revolutionary War with George Rogers Clark. Born at nearby Harmony Hall, Bowman was a cousin of Isaac Hite Jr., builder of Belle Grove Plantation. Built of handmade brick in the Federal style, Mt. Pleasant features a wide central hallway with doors at both ends that allowed cool night breezes to flow through after warm summer days. To the right of the south entry is a formal dining room with a fireplace and the original Federal style mantel and pillared surround which leads to a second room of equal size and another fireplace of the same style. Across the hall and further to the north is the large parlor with a fireplace at the end and original built-in cupboards on either side. Upstairs are four roomy bedrooms, each with its own fireplace and a variety of styles of cupboards and built-in recesses. All of the woodwork is original as are most of the floors, the lumber for which was sawn from trees on the farm by itinerant carpenters who were former Hessian soldiers fighting in the Revolutionary War. The ceilings on the first floor are 12 feet tall, while those on the second floor are 10 feet tall. The wrought-iron, "elbow latch" hardware on all of the doors was made by the Mt. Pleasant blacksmith at the time of construction. Each of the eight fireplaces features a different style of hand-carved molding and most have chimney cupboards on either side. The Westphalls have replaced the windows in the house with double-paned mullioned ones, keeping as close to the form of the original windows as

possible. A new heating and cooling system as well as a laundry room have also been added, and they are in the process of redecorating in the historical style of the era of the home. It is Ingemar's dream to begin farming Mt. Pleasant when he retires from the Air Force, restoring its long history as a productive contributor to the heritage of Strasburg and the Shenandoah Valley.

Copp House (1909)
Lana & Don Le Vine
411 Stover Avenue

Built in 1909 by George Copp supposedly as a 'town home' for his wife, Emma, this late Victorian style home welcomes travelers entering Strasburg from Rt. 11 south with a burst of gardens, flowers, and seasonal décor throughout the year from Valentine's Day to Christmas. Its wrap around porch, dormered windows, and generous proportions are a fitting introduction to Strasburg's hospitality and historic architecture. Bought by Lana and Don Le Vine in 1994, the home has been lovingly restored and furnished in keeping with early 20th Century style. The Le Vine's replaced the back of the house with a large addition in 2014-15, which includes a kitchen, breakfast room, laundry and bath on the first floor and a sitting room, hall and bathroom on the second floor. The oak woodwork with bulls eye rosettes that is found throughout the original house was duplicated for the new addition as well as were transoms over the doors and foot high baseboards. The breakfast room off the kitchen and the sitting room above are located in a tower shaped construction fitted with windows overlooking the back garden, pool, pond and fountain. A shelving unit in the laundry room is hinged to reveal the original back curved stairs of the house and the new bathroom is built over the space that once held the outdoor privy (oddly, attached to the outside of the house). All doors and wainscoting in the house are of planed oak that preserves the original faux graining treatment painted by an itinerant craftsman, while the walls of the study and above the dining room picture rail were faux painted by John W. Orndorff. A low boy from Lana's grandmother and china given to her parents on their wedding day by her uncle are on display in the dining room.

The parlor features a Murano glass chandelier from a hotel in Venice, Italy, circa 1909, a restored piano also from 1909, and a mannequin in a dress reputed to be from the family of Milton Hershey. The center hall of the home leads to the glass paned front door, and a vestibule decorated with a Christmas tree, the parlor and dining room sharing the main tree decorated in Victorian style with decorations collected over the last 40 years, and the family room decorated with Lana's collection of angels and snow people. There are over twenty trees throughout the house, every room offering a tree of a different motif. You may look forward to a Christmas wonderland in this elegant yet warm and inviting home.

Spengler Mill (ca. 1797)
The Old Mill Restaurant (1938)
Fraternal Order of Eagles #4186
499 Stover Avenue

The Old Mill, now under the ownership of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles #4186, will open its doors to the public for the 2022 Christmas Homes Tours. Built between 1797 and 1804 by the Spengler family, this iconic landmark has witnessed much of Strasburg's history from its days as a working flour mill through its many years as a beloved local restaurant and entertainment spot. During the Civil War it was saved from burning by having been requisitioned by the Union Army for the production of its flour. Remnants of the names of Civil War soldiers can still be seen written on a beam on the ground floor room. Built of local limestone, the east wall next to the overshot waterwheel was constructed of wood as it absorbed the vibration from the turning wheel and in the event of a dust explosion would explode outward, limiting damage to the rest of the building. In 1938, the Mill was bought and renovated by the George Pappas family and opened as a restaurant. It was in continuous operation under George Pappas, who ran it into old age along with his son, Mitchell and daughter-in-law Peggy. His first cousin, Tommy Hart, was the cook for many years. The Old Mill was the place to go for dining, dancing and community celebrations under a number of different managers for nearly seventy years. You will recognize the Old Mill from days of old. Other than the construction of a large bar on the ground floor

built by members of the Eagles, and a few modern upgrades on the mill level, the stone walls and fireplaces, beams and original floors are still intact. The mill wheel is visible through a glass window on the east wall of the lower floor, and as the Eagles are committed to restoring it to working conditions, they are currently fundraising to that end. Many photographs and records of the old mill history will be on display and you will be welcomed to share your stories and memories as well.

Strasburg School (1928)
Strasburg Mennonite Church and School
239 High Street

We are so happy to be returning to the Strasburg Mennonite Church and School this year where refreshments will be served in addition to a tour of the building. Having served as a Strasburg public school from 1928 to 1992, this Italianate style building was derelict and deteriorating until 2004 when it was purchased by the Strasburg Mennonite Church. A complete renovation and historic restoration by church members began immediately and in 2006 the doors opened for services and other church related activities. Today the building not only houses the church, but also a school for 23 Mennonite students in grades 1 thru 12 from the surrounding areas from New Market to Frederick and Warren counties. Under the auspices of the Southeastern Mennonite Conference which oversees 6 schools and 17 churches, all members work together to provide Medical Mutual Aid and school financial resources to cover teacher salaries and other needs. Activities sponsored by the church include visiting speakers, topical speakers from among youth members, Bible study, prayer meetings, and singing concerts at area nursing homes. In addition to Sunday services, there are two evening services a month, a bi-yearly community supper, and Christmas caroling of the High Street neighborhood. Strasburg Mennonite Church and School is also happy to give tours and loves hearing stories from those who attended the former public school. The beautifully renovated gymnasium is used for school recess as well as being rented to various organizations such as Upwards Basketball, the Kiwanis Club and local recreational practice as well as for birthday parties and other celebrations in the gym or cafeteria. Rental information can be found at strasburgmennonite.info. Women of the church also come together at the school to make lap blankets and walker bags for nursing homes, swaddling blankets, comfort and blanket kits.