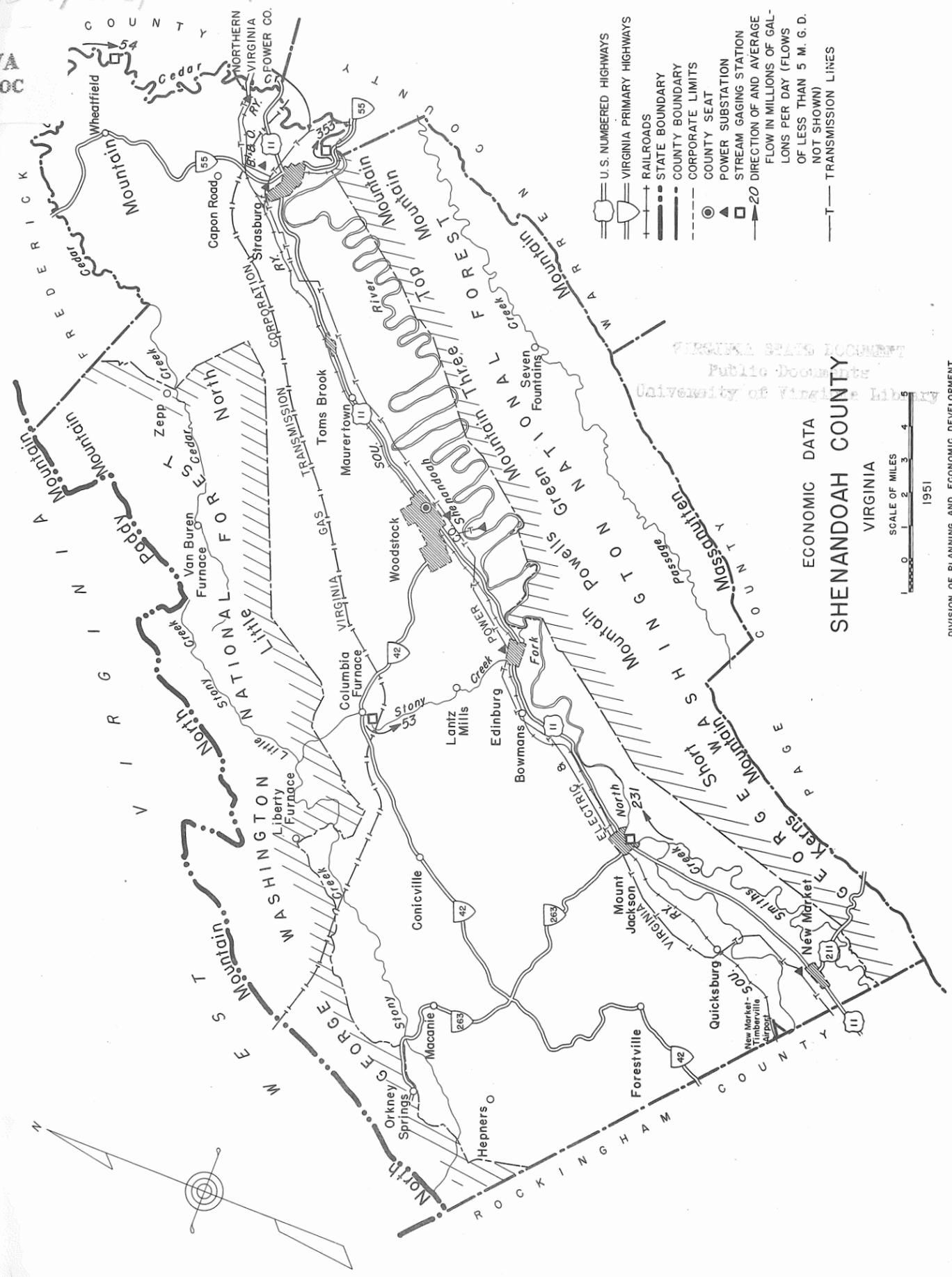


PL
3/1026/SHS/951-72

VA
DOC



- U.S. NUMBERED HIGHWAYS
- VIRGINIA PRIMARY HIGHWAYS
- RAILROADS
- STATE BOUNDARY
- COUNTY BOUNDARY
- CORPORATE LIMITS
- COUNTY SEAT
- POWER SUBSTATION
- STREAM GAGING STATION
- DIRECTION OF AND AVERAGE FLOW IN MILLIONS OF GALLONS PER DAY (FLOWS OF LESS THAN 5 M. G. D. NOT SHOWN)
- TRANSMISSION LINES

VIRGINIA STATE DOCUMENT
Public Documents
University of Virginia Library

ECONOMIC DATA
VIRGINIA
SHENANDOAH COUNTY





INDEX TO COUNTY LOCATION

The Indian name Shenandoah is said to mean "Beautiful Daughter of the Stars." Shenandoah County, formed in 1772 as Dumfries County but renamed in 1778, had been settled about 1730 by Scotch-Irish and Germans, many of whom moved down the valley from Pennsylvania. Its 1950 population was 21,169. Woodstock, the county seat (pop. 1,816), was established in 1752. At New Market the Henkel Press, one of America's oldest publishing houses, has been in business since 1806. The county was the scene of much action in the War Between the States, and at New Market on May 15, 1864, the Virginia Military Institute cadets made their famous charge. A Confederate hospital was at Mount Jackson.

The county (507 sq. mi. - 324,480 acres) is bounded by the Massanutten Mountains on the east and the North Mountains of the Alleghenies on the west, with the North Fork of the Shenandoah River winding a twisting course in the valley between. Elevations vary from about 1,200 feet in the valley to 3,500 feet in the western ridges. The average temperature is 34° in January, 75° in July. Annual precipitation averages 34 inches.

About half the total county area is forested, chiefly on the mountains. The George Washington National Forest embraces large portions of both the Massanutten and the North Mountains. Manganese, limestone, dolomite, paint pigment materials, and types of clay are present. Iron smelting furnaces, long inactive, operated on local ores for over a hundred years. Mineral springs are common in Shenandoah and in the valley around New Market are several of the caverns famous for their limestone formations.

In the well cleared valley the limestone soils are excellent for crops, fruit, and pastures. Though once known for its grain production, Shenandoah County is more famous in recent years for poultry, livestock, and fruit, and ranks among the leading counties of the nation in turkeys and chickens, especially broilers. Peaches, apples, and cattle are also important.

Much of the local manufacturing is geared to the farm economy. Products include vinegar and other apple products, flour and meal, dairy products, poultry and livestock feeds, fertilizers, insecticides, agricultural lime, and equipment for fruit and poultry grading and processing. There are large poultry dressing plants and freezers. Other manufactures are apparel, rayon fabric, cement blocks, crushed and burned limestone, and printing and publishing. At Bird Haven a handicraft factory uses native walnut and maple to make polished bowls and other woodenware.

Massanutten Academy at Woodstock and Shenandoah Valley Academy at New Market are private schools, and near Woodstock are two well-known summer camps, Camp Lup-ton for boys and Camp Strawderman for girls. A 50-bed community hospital opened in Woodstock on October 1, 1951.

SHENANDOAH COUNTY

	POPULATION		1950	1940
	Total	Per cent		
1950.....	21,169	White.....	98.4	
		Male.....	50.1	
1940.....	20,898	Native-born.....	99.7	
		Native white.....	98.1	
1930.....	20,655	Farm.....	54.1	
Population of incorporated towns, 1950:				
Edinburg.....	533	Strasburg.....	2,022	
Mount Jackson.....	732	Toms Brook.....	256	
New Market.....	701	Woodstock.....	1,816	

HOUSING		1950
Dwelling units.....		6,363
Population per unit.....		3.3
(State average, 3.7 per unit)		

WATER AND SEWAGE SYSTEMS

The municipally owned supply system for Edinburg uses untreated spring water. Those for Mount Jackson, New Market, Strasburg, and Woodstock use surface water which is either chlorinated or filtered and chlorinated.

The only sewage treatment plant in the county is at Orkney Springs. It is privately owned and provides primary treatment. Plans for a sewage treatment plant at Woodstock have been approved and work on this plant will be started soon.

SCHOOLS			Public high schools (1951-52 Virginia Educational Directory):
Enrollment, 1950-51:	Male	Female	
White elementary schools....	1,584	1,446	Edinburg
White secondary schools....	642	761	New Market
Negro elementary schools....	33	29	Strasburg
Negro secondary schools....	0	0	Toms Brook
Total.....	4,495		Triplet, Mount Jackson
Private secondary schools:			Woodstock
Massanutten Academy, Woodstock			
Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market			

RECREATIONAL RESOURCES

Shenandoah County's natural assets make possible many types of recreation. In the George Washington National Forest are scenic drives, hiking trails, picnic and camp areas, and hunting and fishing in season. One of the most beautiful drives runs along the valley within the Massanutten Mountains. On this road is a viewing tower from which one can see the seven horseshoe bends of the Shenandoah River. There are picnic grounds at Elizabeth Furnace and Little Fort, and at Powells Fort, an organization camp which accommodates about 100 persons, with a swimming pool and several playgrounds.

Two of the famous limestone caverns lie within Shenandoah County -- Battlefield Crystal Caverns near Strasburg and Shenandoah Caverns north of New Market -- and just over the Rockingham County line 3 miles south of New Market are Endless Caverns. There is an annual county fair at Woodstock and small fairs in many of the communities where recreational events are often sponsored by church, school, and civic

organizations. Square dancing has become popular at several places. A horse show is held at Orkney Springs in August.

Throughout the county are hotels and boarding places, especially at the mineral springs, which draw summer visitors and provide golf, horseback riding, swimming, and other sports. At Shrinemont near Orkney Springs is a collection of paintings open to the public, and at New Market there is a permanent exhibit of china, pottery, earthenware, and crystal. Between Edinburg and Mount Jackson there is a museum of Indian relics and handicrafts. Several chinchilla farms, which constitute a new and profitable industry for Shenandoah County, are interesting to visit.

PER CAPITA INCOME

	<u>Shenandoah County</u>	<u>The State</u>
Per capita income, 1947.....	\$618	\$959

Source: Bureau of Population & Economic Research, University of Virginia

PUBLIC FINANCES

	Rates of local tax levies per \$100, 1951			
	<u>Real estate</u>	<u>Tangible personal</u>	<u>Machinery and tools</u>	<u>Merchants' capital</u>
Shenandoah County: Ashby district.....	\$1.60	\$1.60	\$0.60	\$0.20
Davis district.....	1.60	1.60	0.60	0.20
Johnston district.....	1.60	1.60	0.60	0.20
Lee district.....	1.60	1.60	0.60	0.20
Madison district.....	1.60	1.60	0.60	0.20
Stonewall district.....	1.60	1.60	0.60	0.20
Edinburg town.....	2.70	2.70	0.60	0.20*
Mount Jackson town.....	2.60	2.60	0.60	0.40*
New Market town.....	3.60	3.60	0.60	0.20*
Strasburg town.....	2.40	2.40	1.40	0.20*
Toms Brook town.....	2.20	2.20	0.60	0.20*
Woodstock town.....	2.90	2.90	1.90	0.20

* Merchants' license tax is imposed

Assessed values subject to taxes, 1950

		<u>Shenandoah County</u>
Local:	Real estate.....	\$7,976,665
	Tangible personal property.....	5,737,803
	Machinery and tools.....	189,952
	Merchants' capital.....	2,817,584
	Public service corporations.....	1,792,153
State:	Intangible personal property.....	2,072,469
	Bank and trust company stock.....	867,983
	Aggregate.....	\$21,454,609

Source: Virginia Department of Taxation, (1) Local Tax Rates, Tax Year 1951, (2) Report for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1951

According to the Virginia Department of Taxation, the average ratio of the assessed value of real estate to its actual sale value in 1950 was 18.5 per cent in Shenandoah County. According to the Virginia State Corporation Commission, the state-wide ratio of the assessed value of public service corporation property to its true value is 40.0 per cent. For the other classes of taxable property, no accurate estimate of the ratio of assessed to true value can be made.

LABOR RESOURCES

	Male		Female	
	1950	1940	1950	1940
Shenandoah County:				
Persons 14 yrs. & over.....	7,689	7,689	7,660	7,660
In labor force.....	5,984	5,984	1,143	1,143
Per cent in labor force.....	77.8	77.8	14.9	14.9

EMPLOYMENT

	Male		Female	
	1950	1940	1950	1940
Shenandoah County:				
All employed persons.....	5,366	5,366	1,038	1,038
Agriculture, forestry, fishery.....	2,651	2,651	53	53
Mining.....	192	192	-	-
Construction.....	393	393	2	2
Manufacturing.....	555	555	135	135
Transportation, communication, public utilities...	229	229	30	30
Trade.....	583	583	147	147
Finance, insurance, real estate.....	54	54	20	20
Business services.....	105	105	4	4
Personal services.....	123	123	420	420
Amusements, recreation.....	43	43	12	12
Professional services.....	189	189	170	170
Government.....	114	114	18	18
Industry not reported.....	135	135	27	27

MANUFACTURING

	1947	1939
Number of establishments.....	32	35
Production workers.....	661	415
Value added by manufacture.....	\$1,801,000	\$603,000

	1947
Number of establishments by type:	
Food and kindred products.....	13
Textile mill products.....	2
Apparel and related products.....	2
Lumber and basic lumber products.....	3
Printing and publishing.....	4
Chemicals and allied products.....	1
Stone, clay, and glass products.....	6
Machinery (except electrical).....	1

AGRICULTURE

Number of farms, 1950.....	2,088	Cropland, 1950.....	82,010 acres
Land in farms, 1950.....	199,271 acres	Woodland.....	63,922 acres
Per cent of area in farms....	61.4	Pasture land.....	46,019 acres
Average size of farms, 1950..	95.4 acres	Other farm land....	7,320 acres

Value of all products sold, 1949 - \$6,272,869
 Three-fourths (74.8%) of value of all products sold came from two types of products:
 \$2,795,959 from poultry and poultry products (chickens, eggs, turkeys)
 \$1,893,108 from livestock and livestock products, other than dairy and poultry
 (cattle, hogs, sheep)

Value of poultry products - 4th highest county in the state
 Value of fruits and nuts - 6th highest county in the state
 Value of livestock and livestock products - 8th highest county in the state

PUBLIC LANDS

<u>Federal (1945)</u>	
George Washington National Forest..	75,652 acres
<u>County (1945)</u>	
Schools.....	61 acres
Other.....	289 acres

<u>State (1945)</u>	
None	
<u>Municipal (1945)</u>	
Watersheds.....	1,580 acres

MINERAL RESOURCES

Deposits of manganese have long been known to occur in the Capola Mountain - Cedar Creek Valley district, in the vicinity of Liberty Furnace, and in the Fort Valley area in the Massanutten Mountains in this county. The earliest mining operations were in the Capola Mountain - Cedar Creek district between 1843 and 1845. Manganese has been mined at intermittent periods since then. Large reserves of limestone and dolomite occur throughout the county, and both lime and limestone are produced from established commercial plants at or near Strasburg, Strasburg Junction, and Toms Brook. Shale and clay in the vicinity of Strasburg and Woodstock have been used for making brick. Ocher has been mined near Woodstock, and showings of lead and zinc near Moore's Store, northwest of Quicksburg, have been prospected.

Detailed information concerning the mineral resources of Shenandoah and other counties in Virginia may be obtained from the Virginia Geological Survey, P. O. Box 1428, University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia.

FOREST RESOURCES

Shenandoah County has approximately 157,600 acres of commercial forest exclusive of public reserved and other noncommercial forest land. About three-eighths (37.4%) of the timber is softwood (Virginia pine, shortleaf pine, white pine) and five-eighths (62.6%) is hardwood (white oak, red oak, yellow poplar, hickory, and miscellaneous hardwoods). The Virginia Forest Service estimates that annual growth amounts to 5,751,000 board feet, while annual drain is 5,767,000 board feet.

WATER RESOURCES

Ground Water

This county is underlain mainly by belts of limestone, shale, and sandstone. As in most other counties in the Appalachian Valley and Ridge region, the sandstone or quartzite belts form ridges or hills and the limestone and shale belts generally form valleys.

Yields of from 1/2 to 60 gallons per minute of hard "calcium carbonate" water are obtained at depths of from 25 to 300 feet in the limestone belts; from 1 to 50 gallons per minute of generally soft water are obtained at depths of from 44 to 175 feet in the belts of shale. No reliable data are available regarding wells in the sandstone belts.

Detailed information concerning ground-water conditions and supplies, in this and other counties in the state may be obtained from the Virginia Geological Survey, P. O. Box 1428, University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Surface Water

The main stream in Shenandoah County is the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Smaller streams in the county are Passage Creek, Cedar Creek, and Stony Creek. There are also a number of good springs in the county and measurements of flow are available for some of them.

Five stream-gaging stations are located in this area, two of them on the North Fork of the Shenandoah, and one each on Passage Creek, Cedar Creek, and Stony Creek. These stations provide good information concerning the available water resources. Data are available on both the quantity and quality of these waters. The investigation of water resources is a cooperative undertaking between the Division of Water Resources, Virginia Department of Conservation and Development, and the U. S. Geological Survey. Data may be obtained by writing to the Commissioner, Division of Water Resources, P. O. Box 1338, University Station, Charlottesville, Virginia.

During periods of normal rainfall there is a large volume of water in the streams. During droughts the smaller streams become quite low, but there is still a good flow in the North Fork of the Shenandoah. Some of the springs offer very good possibilities. The water in these springs is hard but cool temperature is an advantage for some industrial uses.

The quality of water varies considerably. In the small streams originating in the mountain ridges, water is soft. In the main streams in the valleys and in the springs, water is quite hard. The small mountain streams have slightly acidic water whereas the valley streams are alkaline.