

The Frontier Culture Museum

The Frontier Culture Museum is an outdoor, living-history museum and educational institution of the Commonwealth of Virginia located in the Shenandoah Valley near Staunton. The Museum currently features six permanent, outdoor exhibits comprised of original farm buildings from England, Ireland, Germany, and Virginia. These buildings have been carefully documented, dismantled, transported to Virginia, and restored. One of the displays is the Bowman House and features how the early immigrants lived. When Georg Baumann began constructing his farm house in 1773, he could not imagine that it would become a living museum documenting 18th Century life in Virginia. The Baumann House, now known as the Bowman House, originally occupied land in Rockingham County, Virginia. The Bowmans like most early German immigrants constructed their dwelling as a single story hewn-log structure with a large cellar and centrally located chimney. Interior space was divided into three rooms with an entry way being accessed through the kitchen. That architectural style was formerly referred to as “Ernhaus” or “flurkuckenhaus,” a German term meaning “entry way kitchen house.” In America the architectural style later became known as “Pennsylvania German House.” Although renovations brought changes to the structure in the 1800’s, the original German features were not significantly altered. This was important because most other examples of Pennsylvania German houses were changed to such an extent that original features were virtually eliminated or destroyed. Seven generations of Bowmans lived on the farm property and utilized the house until the 1990’s when it was sold. The new owners recognized the value of the house and sought its long term preservation. A decision was made by the owners in 2001 to donate the structure to the Frontier Culture Museum. Since that time staff members have studied, documented, restored, and relocated the house to the Frontier Culture Museum, an educational agency of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Frontier Culture Museum is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm and also features special activities for children, story telling, art projects, and other events throughout the year.



*Photos and article courtesy of
The Frontier Culture Museum*



Top photo: Exterior of 1820's American Farm Exhibit.

Bottom photo: Dinner at the 1850's American Farm Exhibit.

For more information: www.frontier.virginia.gov