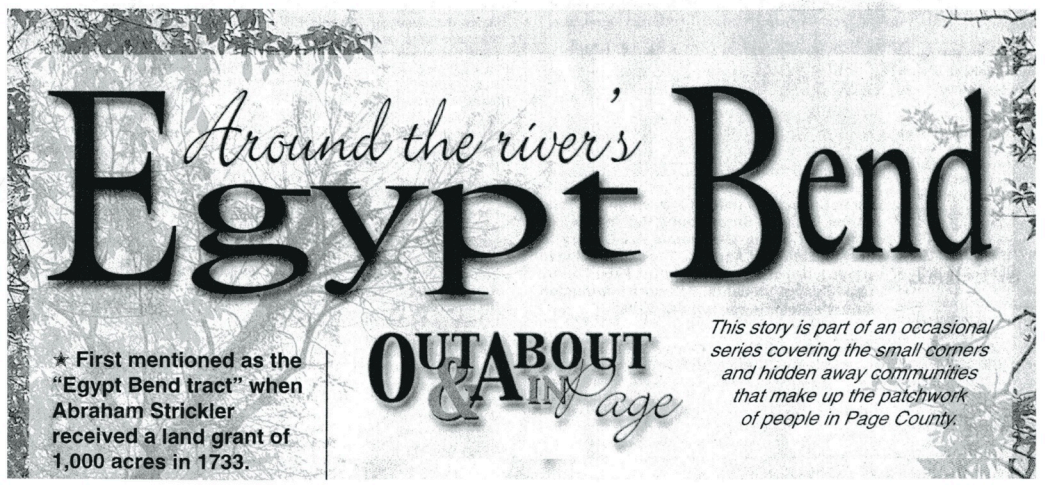


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Egypt Bend

Around the river's

★ First mentioned as the "Egypt Bend tract" when Abraham Strickler received a land grant of 1,000 acres in 1733.

OUTABOUT
& IN Page

This story is part of an occasional series covering the small corners and hidden away communities that make up the patchwork of people in Page County.

★ Named for the fertile land around the Shenandoah, which is reminiscent of “land of Egypt.”

★ Population in 1909 was 17 families, around 40 people.

Riverside community dates back to 1733

By Luther Johnson
Staff Writer

From its waters one can see the fertile land and remnants of past civilizations.

From the Nile River, a boat will have views of desert in the distance, fertile landscape along the banks and pyramids.

But this is not Egypt.

This is the Shenandoah River, and instead of pyramids, there are Indian mounds and 18th century farmhouses — but the common features have given a community its name.

Like the Nile, the Shenandoah River is one of the few rivers in the world that flows north.

An article titled “All about Egypt Bend” from 1909 gives the story.

“The land along the river prior to the flood of '70 is said to have resembled that in the ‘land of Egypt,’ along the river Nile, and is yet very productive, as grain and fruit of all kinds grow here to perfection,” writes W.L. Strickler. “The west, or mountain part, is well timbered and watered, there being small branches coming down from the mountain about every 200 yards, as well as fine sulphur and chalybeate springs on almost every place.”

A few miles west of Luray, the Egypt Bend community sits along Route 615, otherwise known as Egypt Bend Road.

ferry boat and a dinky skiff.”

Gary Bauserman, a resident of the area, said the earliest document naming the area was a 1733 land grant to Abraham Strickler, giving the pioneer 1,000 acres known as the “Egypt Bend Tract.”

The tract of land is located on the western side of the Shenandoah, along a horse-shoe shaped bend in the river.

Near the center of that original tract is the historic Fort Egypt House. Built around 1758 by Jacob Strickler, the home still stands and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

In the 1979 application for listing on the register, the home is described as “among the most important” and “one of the earliest” of a group of Germanic farmhouses built in the 18th century along the river in Page County.

Some of the details noted in the log home’s description include the full-dove-tail notching at its corners, the central chimney design and minimal alteration over the years.

The cellar was designed with loop holes in place and fortified in case of possible attack from Indians, although there is no record of any attacks.

In 1954, a monument was built in honor of Abraham Strickler by his descendants.

The area, due to its location along the banks of the Shenandoah, is a center for outdoor activity and scenic views.

The area is home to the Page County Sportsman Club and public boat access to the river.

In the 1909 article, Strickler refers to the hunting in the area.



The road sign standing at the entrance to Egypt Bend Estates, marks the intersections of Egypt Bend Road.

Prior to the pioneers, the area was a visited spot by Native Americans, due to signs such as arrowheads, stone tools, mounds and other artifacts.

During his time, Strickler wrote the population of Egypt Bend was "some 14 families, or 70 souls, with a school house about the center. We also have a free

"I have heard my father (the late Adam Strickler) say that old Uncle Davy Strickler could get a deer at his 'lick' most any time, 75 years ago," wrote Strickler.

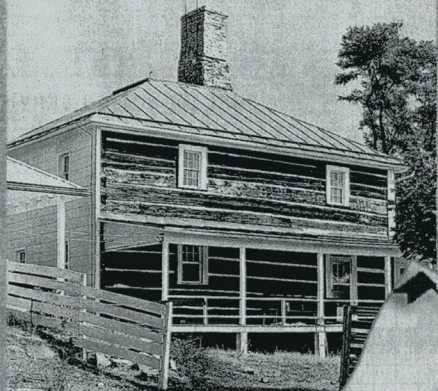
Due to development and new residents moving to the area, Egypt Bend has begun to shift from the area around the original "Egypt Bend Tract."

"Overtime [Egypt Bend] had moved north," said Bauserman.

Two residential areas, Riverview Estates and Egypt Bend Estates have been developed in the area, bringing in many new residents.

"A lot of the residents, due to the two subdivisions," Bauserman said, "are retired and moved from the Washington area."

Views of the Shenandoah, along with the hydroelectric power plant and the rural character the county is known for, are what the residents of Egypt Bend call home.



Courtesy photos

This photo shows Fort Egypt house from the 1979 application to be listed on the National Register of Historical Places. The other picture (at right) is a drawing of the house as it was first built in 1758.

