

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 18A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900e). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete an item.

1. Name of Property

historic name Rose Hill

other names/site number WER File No. 112-32

2. Location

street & number 900 black of North Royal Aves. not for publication N/A
city or town Front Royal vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Warren code 187 zip code 22630

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide x locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julie A. Smith Signature of certifying official/Title 4-4-96 Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other [explain]: _____

Signature or Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- x- private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- x- building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows include buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC Secondary Structure

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single dwelling
DOMESTIC Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

FEDERAL
GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE
walls WOOD
STUCCO
roof METAL
other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Military

Period of Significance 1830-1937

Significant Dates 1830, 1845,
1862, 1937

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
9. Major Bibliographical References
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on file (NPS)
- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data
- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreege of Property 8.5

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17	743140	43	12580
3			4	

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title MARAL S. KALBIAN, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization _____ date December 14, 1995
street & number ROUTE 1 BOX 86 telephone 540-837-2081
city or town BOYCE state VA zip code 22620

=====
Additional Documentation
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====
Property Owner
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name/title Mrs. John D. White
street & number P.O. Box 590 telephone 540-635-3464
city or town Front Royal state VA zip code 22630

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

**Rose Hill
Warren County, Virginia**

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Rose Hill, located along the west side of North Royal Avenue in the town of Front Royal, is a well preserved mid-nineteenth-century frame dwelling. Once the center of a larger estate, the property now encompasses eight-and-one-half acres of land. The original section of the house was constructed in 1830 by George C. Blakemore on land conveyed to him in 1825 by Thomas Buck, his father-in-law. This section of Rose Hill features a central-passage, single-pile plan and exhibits vernacular design elements derived from the Federal style. A rear brick ell, added in 1845, demonstrates vernacular Greek Revival components in its interior trim. A frame garage wing was added west of this ell in 1937. Other modifications made to the house at that time include the addition of the stucco over the original weatherboard siding on the front of the house. The interior of Rose Hill is in relatively unaltered condition except for the replacement of some woodwork in 1937. Also located on the property are three additional contributing buildings. The oldest of these three buildings is a two-story frame cottage, probably built originally as a kitchen/slave quarters. Greatly remodeled in the 1930s, it appears to date to the mid-nineteenth century. The other two buildings are ca. 1937 frame sheds clad in novelty siding. The property includes one noncontributing garage that dates to 1965. Although now located in the town of Front Royal, Rose Hill has the ambiance of a secluded rural setting. Its surroundings are extremely pristine, well-preserved, and support mature trees and bushes. The house has undergone few alterations in the past fifty years, and preserves a high degree of architectural integrity. Rose Hill is also one of only a few surviving antebellum houses in the town of Front Royal.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Rose Hill is sited on top of a hill surrounded by mature trees and shrubs. The property originally encompassed a large tract of farmland. Presently, the house sits on eight-and-one-half acres that include the yard and woods beyond. The primary facade of Rose Hill faces east, fronting onto North Royal Avenue, the main road from Front Royal to Winchester. Brick gateposts bearing the name "Rose Hill" and the date "1820" were added to the North Royal Avenue entrance in the 1950s. The paved driveway climbs from North Royal Avenue to the side of the house, passes the outbuildings, encircles the cottage, and continues out onto Virginia Avenue through another pair of brick gateposts.

Rose Hill is composed of a two-story rectangular frame block, measuring roughly forty-four by twenty-two feet, with a rear two-story brick ell (Photo 1). According to land tax records, the house was constructed in 1830 and valued at \$1,000. The front of the house is the original section and features five bays on each floor, a standing-seam metal gable roof, and a boxed

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wooden cornice. This portion of the house is of frame construction and is currently clad in stucco, but an 1899 photograph indicates it was originally sheathed in weatherboard (Photo 2). The house rests on a limestone foundation that is fully exposed at the rear with a bulkhead basement entry and three-light windows. Two four-light attic windows flank the exterior-end brick chimneys that are laid in three- to five-course American bond. The central doorway features a single-leaf door with two vertical panels topped by a four-light transom, all framed by fluted trim with corner blocks. The entrance is further emphasized by a one-story, one-bay, hip-roofed, Greek-Revival-style porch with paired Doric wooden columns (Photo 3). Other porch details include a paneled ceiling, dentil mold along the interior cornice, a plain entablature with dentils, and a simple balustrade and handrail along the sides. The porch floor is of flagstone set in mortar, not the original material. The front porch appears in the 1899 photograph in much the same condition as it is today (Photo 2). Mid-twentieth-century concrete stairs with a boxwood allee lead from the bottom of the hill at North Royal Avenue up to the front porch of the house (Photo 4).

The double-hung windows on the front block of Rose Hill have nine-over-six sashes on the first floor and six-over-six sashes on the second. Most of the windows retain their operating wooden louvered shutters and fluted trim with plain corner blocks. These same details appear in the 1899 photograph of the house.

The north and south sides of the front block of the house feature exterior-end brick chimneys flanked by a window on each level, including four-light attic windows. A one-story, two-bay, gable-roofed, screened porch projects from the north end. This was added in 1937 by Col. Samuel Rolfe Millar, Jr., stepfather of the present owner, Mrs. John D. White.

The rear (west side) of the house was originally five bays wide, but two of those bays were covered by a two-story ell that was added around 1845 (Photo 5). Topped by a gable roof of standing-seam metal, the ell has an interior and an interior-end brick chimney. It is four bays long, laid in five-course American bond and features a two-story, two-level, four-bay porch along its south side (Photo 6). The porch has an integral roof, chamfered columns, and plain balusters and handrail. Other details on the ell include six-over-nine and six-over-six-sash windows, brick jack arches, louvered wooden shutters, and an eight-light transom and sidelights around the side door. This door is now used as the main entrance to the house because of its proximity to the driveway. The floor of the porch fronting this entrance is of flagstone, and matches that found on the front porch. Brick stairs lead down to a wooden batten basement door. Along the north side of the ell is a one-story frame wing (now the kitchen) with an attached three-bay screened porch (Photo 5). These additions were also made in 1937.

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Connected to the west end of the rear ell is a shorter, two-story, two-bay, frame garage wing that was added in 1937. The maid quarters on the second floor are accessible from a single-run staircase located behind a single-panel door on the first floor. This wing features a gable roof of standing-seam metal, stucco cladding, a garage door on the first floor, and six-over-six sash windows on the second floor.

The interior of Rose Hill reflects its two major building campaigns as well as the 1937 remodeling. The decorative details throughout the house are relatively elegant for the period. Walls and ceilings are mostly plaster and lath, with chair rail, baseboards, crown molding, original mantels, random-width pine flooring, and paneled doors still present in all the rooms. The doors in the first-floor rooms have two vertical panels and Carpenter locks.

The front block of the house has a central-passage, single-pile plan. The staircase runs along the south wall of the central passage. It appears as though the current woodwork of the staircase may date to the 1937 remodeling. It is composed of an unpainted square pine newel post with a flat top, rectangular painted balusters, and a plain unpainted handrail (Photo 7). The stringer is modestly decorated with parenthesis-like brackets. A small bathroom, originally a closet, is located beneath the staircase and the wooden spandrel is paneled. Located at the end of the central passage is a door that originally led outside but now leads into the kitchen. The built-in bookcases along the north wall were constructed in the late 1930s. Doors that lead into the parlors that flank the central passage are located in front of the stairs, just inside the entrance. These doors have single-light transoms that appear to be turn-of-the-century additions. The woodwork in the central passage is composed of reeded trim with bull's-eye corner blocks around the doors, reeded chair rail, and relatively plain baseboard and crown mold.

The parlor located on the north side of the central passage is now used as the formal living room. Centered along the north wall, the fireplace with brick hearth has a mantel composed of tapered Doric pilasters, a plain frieze, and mantelshelf (Photo 8). The mantel is of the vernacular Greek Revival style and was perhaps replaced in 1845 when the rear wing was constructed. A door to its left leads to a screened porch that was built in 1937. Both the east and west walls have two windows. The floors are original as is the reeded trim, paneled door with Carpenter lock, chair rail, baseboard, and crown mold.

The south room, now used as a sitting room, is identical in size to the one on the north, but features a more ornate mantel with pilasters, a paneled frieze with a reeded band, and a stepped mantelshelf (Photo 9). The rest of the woodwork is a plain architrave trim with plain chair rail, baseboard, and crown molding. The trim in this room is a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style, and is consistent with the age of this part of the house. The hearth is brick and

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the firebox surround has been plastered. Along the west wall of this room is a door that leads to the rear brick ell, constructed around 1845.

The rear ell is currently made up of an entrance foyer, a small stair hall, a dining room, and what was once a butler's pantry, but is now an informal dining room. All the trim in this section matches and consists of symmetrically-molded trim with bull's-eye corner blocks, derived from Greek Revival models. It is heavier and bolder than the Federal-inspired trim on the front part of the house.

The dining room is the largest of all the rooms in the ell and is located at the rear (Photo 10). It features a large fireplace along its west wall. The mantel is of the late Federal style with fluted Doric pilasters, diamond-shaped panels above the pilasters, a paneled frieze, and a molded mantelshelf. Flanking the fireplace are built-in cabinets with double half-glass doors. These appear to be original, as does the crown mold, chair rail, and baseboard. The dining room has two doors; one leads to the small stair hall and the other to the old butler's pantry.

The entrance foyer is located just inside the entrance along the south side of the ell. It has four doors; one to the front of the house, one to the outside, one to the former butler's pantry, and one to the stair hall (Photo 11). The exterior door has two vertical panels and an eight-light transom and sidelights. The single-run enclosed staircase that leads upstairs is located between the foyer and the dining room.

The butler's pantry is now used as an informal dining room. The door that leads from it to the current kitchen was originally an exterior one and has a four-light transom and wooden reveals. This room also contains the door that leads to the single-run basement stairs.

The kitchen is located in the one-story wing that was added in 1937. It leads out to a screened-in porch that was also built at the same time. The kitchen was remodeled in 1965.

The second floor of the main block of Rose Hill is similar in plan to the first floor, but bathrooms and closets were added in 1937, making the two main rooms somewhat smaller. The second-floor landing features built-in closets on either side of the central window that faces out the front of the house. A single-run boxed stair leading to the attic is located along the north wall of the landing. New dry wall ceilings were installed over the original plaster ones in the 1960s.

The bedroom over the north parlor has a Federal-style mantel centered along its north wall (Photo 12). It features delicately reeded pilasters and a paneled frieze. A large bathroom and closets were added along the interior wall of this room during the 1930s. This made the room

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somewhat narrower than its counterpart downstairs. The woodwork around the doors and windows is composed of plain architrave trim, chair rail, and baseboard, and matches those found in the first-floor sitting room.

The southern bedroom features a plain mantel with applied trim and a stepped mantelshelf (Photo 13). The rest of the woodwork matches that found in the other bedroom and in the southern first-floor parlor. A curtain wall was added along the west side of this room during the 1937 renovation, creating a small hall with an attached bathroom behind it. It is accessible from the landing at the end of the first run of the staircase.

The second floor of the rear ell contains two bedrooms with the service staircase located between them. The floors are original and the woodwork includes chair rail, baseboard, and architrave trim. The room closer to the front of the house is now used as an office and has a door that leads out to the second floor of the side porch.

The bedroom towards the back is located above the dining room and features a Greek Revival-style mantel with symmetrically-molded trim and bull's-eye corner blocks that matches the trim around the doors and windows on the first floor of the ell (Photo 14). Shallow closets with vertical two-panel doors are found on either side and correspond to the built-in cabinets in the dining room below.

The attic of Rose Hill is accessible by a single-run stair along the northern wall of the second-story hall, behind a four-paneled door. Some historic graffiti, including the sketch of a man's head, are located on the unpainted plaster along the staircase. The attic is composed of two large rooms used for storage. The heavy timber framing is exposed and includes sawn rafters secured by wooden pegs and collar beams. The wide plank floors are original. The attic over the rear ell is accessible and exhibits rafters mortised into a ridge pole.

The basement of Rose Hill is accessible through the rear ell. An exterior batten door is located under the side porch, and an interior staircase is accessible from the old butler's pantry. The handrail and newel on the staircase are simple but well worn and appear original. Other features in this portion of the basement include, six-over-three sash windows, original interior batten shutters, beaded trim, and a large stone fireplace beneath the dining room. This appears to have originally been a cooking fireplace. The floors are now of poured concrete. The basement under the front of the house features hand-hewn log joists and stone walls, with evidence that they were originally whitewashed. Hand-wrought iron hooks are found on some of the joists. The basement is now used as a workshop, for storage, and to house the furnace.

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Only one of the three contributing outbuildings at Rose Hill is contemporary with the house. The two-story cottage is located just south of the house and is of frame construction with stucco cladding (Photo 15). It has a gable roof of standing-seam metal and six-over-six-sash double-hung windows. This building, which was probably originally a kitchen and slave quarters, underwent a large remodeling in the 1930s. Several later one-story additions have also been built. Although greatly remodeled, it still retains its distinctive central chimney with large fireplace and cooking crane. The interior has exposed ceiling joists, hardwood floors and plain trim.

The other two outbuildings date to the 1930s. A shed-roofed, frame chicken coop clad in novelty siding is located behind the main house and is now used as a garden shed (Photo 16). Another outbuilding is similar but larger and is located behind the guest cottage. The noncontributing building is located next to this shed and is a small, gable-roofed garage that was built in the 1950s (Photo 17).

Although at one time the Rose Hill property encompassed a much larger tract of land, the farm has since been split, and the land developed as part of the town of Front Royal. The house now sits on an eight-and-one-half acre tract of land. It is one of the largest lots in town, taking up one town block. The grounds are shaded by very large oak trees and evergreens. The buildings sit on top of a hill. A run of early-twentieth-century concrete steps leads up to the house from North Royal Avenue. A picket fence encloses a portion of the back yard, while a three-board fence surrounds a larger area of the property.

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**Rose Hill
Warren County, Virginia**

SECTION 8:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Sited on a hill overlooking the town of Front Royal, Rose Hill is one of Front Royal's few surviving Federal-style dwellings. George C. Blakemore constructed the front section of Rose Hill in 1830. William Richardson added a brick ell to the rear of the house in 1845, by which time it had acquired its present name. Rose Hill's prominent location overlooking the main road to Winchester made it a crucial site in the Battle of Front Royal on 23 May 1862. Troop movements throughout the area and the war-time experiences of the occupants of Rose Hill are recorded in a diary kept by Miss Sue Richardson from October 1, 1863 until May 23, 1865. Carefully remodeled by Col. Samuel Rolfe Millar, Jr. around 1937, Rose Hill represents a relatively unaltered example of vernacular I-house with Federal- and Greek Revival-style decorative elements. One of three contributing buildings dates to the period of the main house; the other two were constructed in the 1930s. The architectural form and details of Rose Hill, together with its pristine country setting and significant outbuildings, render the property locally significant under Criterion C of the National Register. Given the documented loss of so many significant terrain and cultural features related to the Battle of Front Royal and the specific references to Rose Hill in several battle accounts, the property's association with this battle and other local events of the American Civil War make it eligible for listing under Criterion A. Both architecturally and historically, the property possesses integrity of association, design, feeling, location, material, workmanship, and setting.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Rose Hill is located along North Royal Avenue in the town of Front Royal, Virginia. When constructed in 1830, it was the plantation house for an estate that extended all the way to the Shenandoah River. Currently sited on an eight-and-one-half acre parcel of land, Rose Hill is one of Front Royal's finest early-nineteenth-century vernacular dwellings, exhibiting architectural details from the Federal and Greek Revival styles.

The Rose Hill tract was originally part of a larger piece of land purchased by Thomas Chester from William Russell in 1737.¹ Chester, one of the earliest settlers in the area and a prominent entrepreneur and landowner, operated a ferry across the forks of the Shenandoah River by 1736. The Rose Hill tract was part of 416 acres inherited by Chester's five grandsons with the last name of Smith.² It appears that Burr Powell of Middleburg acquired one of the five tracts that became Rose Hill before combining it with another tract and selling it in 1801 as 341 acres to Thomas Buck.³

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Rose Hill
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Buck, a prominent citizen of Front Royal in its early days, served as one of the town's first trustees after its incorporation in 1788. Front Royal had arisen as a stopping place for travelers at the intersection of several Valley roads. By the end of the eighteenth century, it had earned the name of "Helltown" because of the frequent brawls that occurred at its taverns. The town developed slowly until the formation of Warren County in 1836, when it became the county seat.

When Thomas Buck purchased the Rose Hill tract in 1801, he resided at Bel Air, a dwelling he had erected in 1795 on land overlooking Happy Creek in what is now Front Royal. Buck improved the Rose Hill tract during his tenure by the addition of a saw mill and other ancillary buildings that were valued in the 1825 land tax records at \$500.

In 1825, Thomas Buck sold 187 acres of land (including the Rose Hill tract and improvements) to his son-in-law George C. Blakemore. In 1830 the value of buildings on the property suddenly increased by \$1,000. This evidence, combined with the architectural evidence of the building itself, supports the theory that the front of Rose Hill was constructed in 1830, not earlier.

George C. Blakemore and his wife Elizabeth moved to Tennessee in 1841 and conveyed Rose Hill to Elizabeth's cousin William Richardson. The deed states that this was the same land as conveyed to Blakemore by Buck in 1825.⁴ The land tax records show the value for buildings remained at \$1,500 until 1845 when \$1,000 was added for new buildings. This appears to confirm the construction of the two-story brick ell on Rose Hill at that time. The name Rose Hill first appears on the land tax records in 1845, while under the ownership of William Richardson. It is unclear where the name came from. One can only surmise that roses were once planted on the hill surrounding the house.

After William Richardson's death in 1859, the property passed to his wife, Elizabeth. The inventory of Richardson's estate verifies his wealth. A description of the rooms in the house with their contents is given, confirming that the house evolved into its present form by the time of his death.⁵ In addition, Richardson owned thirty-one slaves, quite a large number compared to many of his peers in Warren County.

During the Civil War, Rose Hill was occupied by the widow Elizabeth Richardson and several of her daughters, including Sue Richardson. Miss Sue Richardson, who never married, kept a diary from October 1, 1863 until May 23, 1865. This "Rose Hill Diary" is now in the possession of the current owner, Mrs. John D. White. It not only documents troop activities on the property, but also personalizes the grief and sadness experienced by Miss Richardson and her family during the period. The Battle of Front Royal took place on May 23, 1862, before Miss Richardson began her diary. Other documents confirm that Confederate Major Wheat directed his Louisiana troops from Rose Hill during this battle. The battle was a victory for

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Major General T. J. Jackson, whose troops ultimately forced Union divisions at Strasburg to retreat, and allowed Jackson to position himself directly behind the Union army in Winchester. This in turn contributed greatly to Jackson's defeat of Maj. Gen. Nathaniel P. Banks's army at the First Battle of Winchester two days later.⁶

The May 23, 1864 entry of the Rose Hill Diary notes that it had been two years since the battle. Miss Richardson describes the scene:

This day 2 years was the battle. Jackson drove the enemy beyond Winchester and such rejoicing! It made Ma very sick cannonading over our house. We carried her to the cellar. Our yard was full of our soldiers. Major Wheat gave orders from the yard... All of our servant men retreated with the Yankees, so the women had all their work to do. There was scarcely a spot in our house where there was not a bed, or soldiers lying on the floor, several wounded and many sick were brought in, one poor man (Mr. Charles Laden, Louisiana Tiger) had his leg amputated and died that night. Mr. Hough survived the operation and staid [sic] with us four months.⁷

The diary also confirms that Rose Hill was the site of many visits by both sides and was also used as a hospital. The August 14 - 16, 1864, entries describe some of visitors at Rose Hill.

Had seven soldiers to breakfast. One of the pickets came in and reported the Yankees near when all left the table in a hurry, but there was no cause for the excitement as none crossed the river. A great many ate here during the day; very fatiguing and hard for us to get along, everything so scarce. No vegetables... The artist (Mr. Armen) came out to draw a map for Gen'l Fitz Lee. The girls fixed the table for him in the front porch; it soon commenced raining and we moved him in the parlor, here he staid [sic] all day and finished his map...Liet. Cunningham wounded slightly in 5 places, came here, also Liet. A. J. McMurray severely wounded. I never witnessed such suffering...⁸

Lieut. McMurray eventually died and the Richardsons buried him at their family cemetery (no longer part of the Rose Hill property). Miss Richardson tells of the difficult task of writing to McMurray's father to explain his son's death.

The diary also documents the pillaging of the property by Union troops. It appears that they mostly destroyed outbuildings, fencing, and stole livestock. However, at one point they came into the house and took the belongings of Sue's brother Willie, who had died in Williamsburg

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a few months earlier.⁹ It is interesting that the remarks in the 1863 land tax records state that \$3500 was deducted for damages by army occupation.

At one point the family thinks of moving for fear that the house will be burned because of its location.¹⁰ Slowly things appear to get better and by May 25, 1865, the family had hired tenants to work on their farm. The entry for that date reads:

Cousin Thomas came out early and talked with us about Mr. M-- taking the farm. Ma so nervous and we all feel so badly, can't decide what is best. Mr. and Mrs. M-- came and we decided, painful as it is to give up the wing of the house; indeed every spot seems so sacred to us, 'tis hard to change the things. But after all left we felt relieved and gratified that we had gotten someone to cultivate the farm. These are truly trying times for us.¹¹

Miss Sue Richardson died in 1902 and it is said that her ghost and that of a Yankee soldier who died in the north bedroom, haunt the house.¹²

After her mother's death, Rose Hill and ten acres passed to Miss Sue Richardson. Since she had no heirs, she devised it to her cousin, Samuel Rolfe Millar, Sr. He in turn conveyed it to his eldest daughter, Susan Millar, who sold it to her brother, Col. Samuel Rolfe Millar, Jr. The present owner, Mrs. John D. White, is Col. Millar's step-daughter. She moved to Rose Hill as a child in 1935 and is able to recall what changes have been made to the house since that time. The Whites have owned Rose Hill since 1965. The Millars were a prominent family in Front Royal and donated part of the land that was once Rose Hill for the construction of Warren Memorial Hospital.

Rose Hill's period of significance begins at the completion of the house in 1830 and continues until 1937, when several additions were made. Rose Hill is an intact example of a mid-nineteenth-century vernacular I-house with Federal- and Greek Revival-style details that illustrate its evolution. It is one of the more prominent dwellings of the period in the town of Front Royal. Its role during the Civil War, particularly in light of the wealth of documentation through personal memoirs, further increases the property's significance.

ENDNOTES

1. Personal interview of Rebecca H. Good by Maral S. Kalbian on September 5, 1995. Mrs. Good is a well-known genealogist and historian of the area. She had conducted research on Rose Hill in the late 1970s and shared her records with me. The interviewer later verified the information in the courthouse records.

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2. Personal interview of Rebecca H. Good by Maral S. Kalbian. September 5, 1995, Front Royal, VA.
3. Frederick County LSC 40, p. 609, December 14, 1801. Winchester, Virginia.
4. Warren County Land Book B, p.111, September 4, 1841. Front Royal, Virginia.
5. Warren County Will Book C, p. 297, May 22, 1860. Front Royal, Virginia.
6. National Park Service. Study of Civil War Sites in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Washington, D.C.:U.S. Department of the Interior, 1995. page 55-57. The discussion of the Battle of Front Royal in this report indicates that the area of the battlefield has lost many of its terrain and cultural features due to the growth of Front Royal. Rose Hill and its immediate surroundings constitutes one of the few sites in the Battle of Front Royal that remains virtually undisturbed.
7. Richardson, Miss Sue. Personal diary from 1863-1865. Unpublished. In possession of Mrs. John D. White, Front Royal, VA, May 23, 1864 entry.
8. Richardson, Miss Sue. Personal diary from 1863-1865. Unpublished. In possession of Mrs. John D. White. Front Royal, VA., August 14-16, 1864 entries.
9. Richardson, Miss Sue. Personal diary from 1863-1865. Unpublished. In possession of Mrs. John D. White. Front Royal, VA. September 21, 1864 entry.
10. Richardson, Miss Sue. Personal diary from 1863-1865. Unpublished. In possession of Mrs. John D. White. Front Royal, VA. September 26, 1864 entry.
11. Richardson, Miss Sue. Personal diary from 1863-1865. Unpublished. In possession of Mrs. John D. White. Front Royal, VA., May 25, 1865 entry.
12. Personal Interview of Mrs. John D. White by Maral S. Kalbian at Rose Hill, Front Royal, VA. September 5, 1995.

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SECTION 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Rose Hill File at Warren Heritage Society Archives. Belle Boyd Cottage; Front Royal, Virginia.

Warren County Deed, Will, and Land Tax Books, 1836-1995. Warren County Clerks Office, Front Royal, Virginia.

Warren County Land Tax Records, 1836-1850. Microfilm from Virginia State Library Archives in Richmond.

Wayland, John W. A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia. Strasburg, VA: Shenandoah Publishing House, 1927.

SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries for Rose Hill are described in the Warren County tax maps as 20A5-3, parcels C and B.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries for Rose Hill are drawn to include the house, three surviving outbuildings, and that portion of the original acreage that retains historic integrity.

Rose Hill
Front Royal, VA
Warren Co., VA
UTM Reference
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