

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 6/8/06  
NHP 8/30/06

### 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 16A). 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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Belle Grove

other names/site number DHR File No. 030-0008; Other ID No. 030-5369-0068

#### 2. Location

street & number 1402 Winchester Road not for publication N/A

city of town Delaplane vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Fauquier code 061 Zip 20144-1728

#### 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    nationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]  
Signature of certifying official  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

2/13/06  
Date

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 of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

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National Park Service

Belle Grove  
Fauquier County, Virginia

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property** (not previously listed and counted below)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
2	0	sites
2	1	structures
0	0	objects
6	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 8 (listed within the Crooked Run Valley Rural HD in 2004)

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE

- Sub: Single Dwelling  
Secondary Structure – Meat House  
Secondary Structure – Well  
Agricultural Outbuilding – Barn  
Agricultural Outbuilding – Sheds

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

- Cat: DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
DOMESTIC  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTANCE

- Sub: Single Dwelling  
Secondary Structure – Meat House - storage  
Secondary Structure – Well - abandoned  
Agricultural Outbuilding – Barn  
Agricultural Outbuilding – Sheds

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE - Sandstone
- roof METAL – Standing Seam
- walls BRICK; STONE - Sandstone; WOOD - Weatherboard
- other Windows - WOOD
- chimneys BRICK

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

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**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.)

- 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.

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

- 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.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture  
Military  
Agriculture

**Period of Significance** 1812-1956

**Significant Dates** 1812, 1861-1865

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

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

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**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 #

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**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other See Bibliography
- Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 90.3 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1 - 18	244300	4319130	2 - 18	244550	4319100
3 - 18	244260	4318290	4 - 18	244060	4318120

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 Cheryl H. Shepherd, Architectural Historian  
 organization Millennium Preservation Services LLC date 24 March 2006  
 street & number P. O. Box 312 telephone 540-349-0118  
 city or town Warrenton state Virginia zip code 20188-0312

**Additional Documentation**

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 Mr. & Mrs. David de Give  
 street & number Belle Grove, 1402 Winchester Road telephone 540-592- 3889  
 city or town Delaplane state Virginia zip code 20144-1728

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington DC 20503.

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**7. Summary Description**

**Belle Grove Setting**

Surrounded by rolling agricultural fields and parkland, the nominated ninety-acre Belle Grove property lies on the west side of the Winchester Road, also called the Delaplane-to-Paris Road and U. S. Route 17, in the pristine Crooked Run Valley Rural Historic District (030-5369 NR 5/27/2004). The rural village of Paris is about a mile to the north, and Delaplane is nearly six miles southeast. Edmonds Lane (Route 710) and the vast Sky Meadows State Park (030-0283 NR 5/24/2004) border the north boundary, while Leeds Manor Road runs along the southern perimeter. Formerly part of Belle Grove, five lots of three-and-one-half to seven acres in size were partitioned at the northwest corner in 1986. Fronting on Edmonds Lane, three of those lots have single-family houses on them and are well-buffered by trees overhanging the stone fence along Belle Grove's northwest boundary. Situated on the divide of the Gap Run and Crooked Run watershed, the Belle Grove manor house is shadowed by the Blue Ridge Mountains during the western sunset.

The grand 1812, Federal-style manor house stands back a considerable distance from Winchester Road where the entrance between the dry-stacked stone fence along the frontage is marked by round stone gateposts with hefty, circular, cast-stone caps supporting ball finials. The long, straight asphalt driveway is protected by an electric wire fence from the cattle grazing in the south and north pastures. The grade in the front yard slopes lower to the north, and a stone ha-ha wall with angled wings and a rank of seven off-centered, stone steps presents the first landscaping feature that may have begun as a mounting block, altered in the late twentieth century. Far-reaching limbs of aged hardwoods in the front, including a rarely-seen ginkgo tree, a tall holly and a circa 185-year-old English walnut tree frame the Federal-style residence, a view further enhanced by the mountains in the background. The old stone well remains in front of the northeast wing of the dwelling. Well-maintained American boxwoods are set out from the foundation. There are fewer trees in the back yard where the stone meat house stands in the northwest corner. A swimming pool is well removed from the dwelling and nearer to the white board fence enclosing the expansive rear dooryard.

Among the identified resources on the property, a barn and a chicken house are located on the north side of the back gravel extension of the driveway and parking area. A frame cattle shed and a loading chute are north behind these buildings and across a dirt barnyard road. Beginning about thirty feet to the west, deteriorating dry-stacked stone fences and overhanging trees border this early farm road as it approaches the rear property boundary where a stone chimney marks the location of a circa 1900 tenant house on the south. The road then turns north crossing a ford and continues through an opening in the stone fence bordering Edmonds Lane. The remains of the stone foundation of a small shed are down the slope from the loading chute in the northwest field. An approximate four-foot-square stone foundation, believed to be a well, is further down the hill before the three-sided stone springhouse ruin. A loafing shed stands to the northwest on a hill. There are no resources in the front southeast pasture. The stone-walled family cemetery is south of the house in the south field where a machine shed remains well to the northwest.

**Contributing and Non-contributing Resources (15 total)**

The property encompasses seven buildings contributing to the 1812-1956 period of significance including the 1812 manor house, the circa 1812 meat house, the circa 1830 barn, a circa 1900 chicken house, a circa 1940 cattle shed, a circa 1940 loafing shed and a circa 1940 machine shed. The five contributing sites include: a circa 1812 four-foot-square, stone foundation; a circa 1812 stone springhouse ruin; the Edmonds-Settle-Chappelear Cemetery (1826-1940); a circa 1900, eight-by-twelve-foot stone foundation; and a circa 1900 tenant house ruin. The two contributing structures are a circa 1812 stone well at the manor house and a circa 1940 loading chute to the north of the house. The solitary non-contributing resource is the circa 1980 swimming pool structure in the rear dooryard of the residence.

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**Manor House, contributing building, 1812:** Rectangular in plan, the 1812 Federal-style manor house is composed of a dominant two-and-one-half-story, five-bay, brick and stuccoed-stone masonry main block with brick, interior-end chimneys. The main block was joined to its one-and-one-half-story, three-bay summer kitchen in circa 1850. The connecting hyphen is three bays wide. The house stands on a stone foundation and has a standing-seam-metal gable roof. The main block's wider front cornice is boxed above elegantly carved dentils and a molded trim band. The kitchen at the north end also has an interior-end chimney. Facing east, the facade of the five-bay main block is dressed with a Flemish-bond brick pattern, while five-course American bond is seen on the front of the north wing, its rear elevation and all side elevations. The bricklayer enhanced the mortar joints with white penciling after a red wash application to the bricks, which was a fashionable practice in the early nineteenth century, even though they are a mix of reds and glazed. Yet, the more extraordinary feature is hidden behind the stucco on the back elevation of the main block. Temporarily exposed in 2003 for repair of the stucco, the entire five-bay, rear elevation is rubble stone. Upon restoration, the painters applied a brick red paint to the stucco.

Appropriate to its period of construction, the wooden, first-story windows of the main block of the house exhibit nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash, and the five across the second story are nine-over-six. Louvered wood shutters remain only on the two first-story windows flanking the center door. Brick jack arches crown the east front and side windows which have stone sills. An interesting feature is shown in the contrasting rubbed-brick definition of the front second-story jack arches and those flanking the main entrance. The entry is complemented with Federal-style details including the semi-circular fanlight with wooden radiating tracery and swags where Isaac Settle placed a metal date and signature plate with, "1812 I. S." on two lines. The plate has been removed and is stored in the residence for protection. Resting on a reeded rail, the fanlight and a fine, double-leaf, beaded, flush-paneled door set deeply under a flat-paneled surround. The flanking pilasters, with delicate Federal sunflowers carved into their capitals supporting the dentiled rectangular crown, are further balanced with cabled fluting. The box lock on the door was converted in circa 1885 to a patterned bronze metal doorknob and double-key escutcheon that may have come from the Trenton Lock and Hardware Company in New Jersey.<sup>1</sup>

Covered with standing-seam-metal, the hipped roof of the one-story, three-bay porch, added in circa 1850, is unusually supported by octagonal wooden posts and nicely carved and graceful scroll brackets with a floral cutout. The porch ceiling is matchboarded. The risers of the seven wooden steps to the wooden floor have a functional and uniquely-designed vent represented in a segmental arch rising to a center pinpoint. Set apart, there are two vents per step serving to break the impression of wideness given by the white-painted risers as they provide eye-catching ornamentation to a seldom noticed element. The steps are flanked by a molded handrail above a plain balustrade. The square bottom newels have a beveled top. Square lattice trims the under porch. The probably original, stone entry steps remain underneath the floor. The hewn, mortise-and-tenon-joined cellar windows with horizontal hewn wooden bars have been well maintained. Their presence across the front suggests that a full-width porch was not planned.

The front of the north kitchen wing is six bays wide including the hyphen with its three nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash, wood windows. The central window dates to 1999, while the flanking windows probably date to circa 1970 when some interior changes were made to this current kitchen space. A board-and-batten door into the cellar of this circa 1850 hyphen is below. Its lintel appears to date to the nineteenth century. The original kitchen to the north features a six-light, wood casement window set inside an exterior horizontally-barred wood box, but the frame displays twentieth-century workmanship. The hewn bars and strips may have authenticity to an earlier period since there are cut nails in the latter. An obviously original board-and-batten door with a soldier-course of brick above an elongated hewn lintel is to the north. The initials, H. E. C. are carved into the door. Its deep-set frame is beaded. A nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash, wood window with thick muntins and a pegged frame is to the north under a wide hewn lintel. A circa 1970, one-story, four-bay porch with octagonal wooden columns, a flat roof and a plain upper

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balustrade shelters the full ground story of this north kitchen wing. There was an earlier shed-roofed porch as evidenced by the ghost left on the north side of the main block. An apparently original, six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood window is north of a six-light, wood, casement window at center and a nine-light casement window to the south on the three-bay second story. The casement windows date to 1999.

There are no openings on the north side of the north kitchen wing. The upper gable and chimney show the repointing of the interior-end chimney in a non-matching mortar color. On the main block, a board-and-batten door into the cellar is set under a heavy hewn and mill-sawn lintel, recycled, judging by the visible mortises with broken tenons and wrought nails underneath. The second-story fenestration consisted of two widely-spaced, six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood windows with brick jack arches, but the back opening was enclosed with brick, probably at the same time the kitchen connecting wing appeared, since the mortars match. A nine-light, wood, casement window sets in the center of the gable indicative of separated flues in the chimney. Four-light, wood, casement windows flank the interior-end chimney at the opposite south side. Six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood windows are below on the second story, and nine-over-nine windows are on the first. All have brick jack arches, and their sills are wooden, contrasting with the better-finished front.

The five-bay fenestration on the back of the main block is similar to the front elevation, except for an absence of ornamentation around the single-leaf, beaded and flush-paneled door. The window sills are stone, as on the facade. Stucco covers the underlying stone wall. This backside also has four barred cellar windows in the foundation as seen through the diagonal lattice under the one-story, five-bay porch. Square posts on brick and stone piers support the standing-seam-metal shed roof of this porch, although the northwest and southwest corners have a stone foundation. Flanked by a railing and balustrade that matches the front design, wooden steps rise to the wooden porch floor. The ceiling is matchboarded.

The rear elevation of the kitchen wing is asymmetrical, with the first-story openings on the original section being lower than those on the connecting wing. A nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash, wood window with a stone sill is north of a board-and-batten door with a heavy hewn lintel above. Widely distanced to the south and higher, a nine-over-nine window is north of a German-sided-frame, two-bay, lean-to mudroom with its metal, low-pitched shed roof. A one-over-one window and an eight-light door are on this rear elevation. A six-over-six, double-hung-sash, wood window and a nine-light, wood casement window are widely spaced on the second story.

Manor House Interior - Cellar – Accessed near the northeast side corner, the half cellar under the main block received a cement floor in 1969 as considerably dated and signed by a youthful resident Mary Wilkerson. The thick interior walls are brick and suffer heavy spalling probably caused by the early application of plaster which inhibited breathing through years of rising moisture. The later insertion of four-light awning windows and a suspected use of lower-quality bricks also slowed ventilation. The back root cellar is notable for its wrought-nailed, board-and-batten door with rarely-seen hewn-wood hinges permitting the door to pivot on hand-made iron pins. The cellar in the connecting wing is just a room deep and has a dirt floor.

Primary Floor – The main entrance opens into a central passage in the main block. The classical surround on the inside of the entrance door is well articulated as shown in the carved keystone and the indented molding defining the fanlight. The arch is supported by flat-paneled pilasters matching the interior door. While the woodwork is dark stained, the earlier faux-painted raised-panel design remains faintly visible on the door. The single-leaf back door is directly opposite the front, and its rectangular architrave is molded and appropriately restrained in ornament. The stairway rises three stories up the south side wall beginning at the parlor entrance. The handrail is molded and gently slopes to a tapered newel. The balusters, however, are straight. Maintaining symmetry of the Federal style, a



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handrail runs gracefully up the south plaster wall along the steps, and flat-paneled pilasters align with each newel post. Stained flat-paneling enriches the side stair, and the tread ends are ornamented with an intricately-carved bellflower. Although the slightly embedded wall railing and pilaster detail carries to the second floor, the step ends become plainer with a broad-bodied bracket. Drop finials decorate the bottoms of the upper newel posts.

The parlor on the south of the passage extends the full depth of the main block. Just like the hall, the parlor has heart-pine random-width floors, a baseboard, a molded chair rail, and the walls and eleven-foot-high ceiling are plastered. Yet, the chair rail molding is heavier, perhaps to signify greater importance of the room. The hallmark of the parlor is the obviously hand-tooled Federal-style mantelpiece with vernacular influences on the south wall with its oval sunflower paterae on the fluted pilasters, a round-toothed dentil under the shelf and a rectangular central frieze panel composed of vertically-oriented oval chain molding flanking what appears to be tiny petal or teardrop molding. Repeated paint applications make it difficult to identify the delicate molding strips that are set in patterns of five with four reeds between the sets. The hearth is brick, and as found throughout the house, the mitered trim is scribed into the floor. The slip surrounding the fireplace is parged. Flat-paneled jambs and an over panel enhance the deeply set, nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash, wood windows that maintain rigid alignment on the front to back walls. The flat-paneled door features faux panel painting.

Directly opposite the passage from the parlor door is the entrance to the library where the similarly dark-stained door exhibits the faux raised-panel detail in gold. Flooring here continues the original use of random-width heart pine, and the walls and eleven-foot-high ceiling are plastered. The baseboard similarly rises six-and-one-half inches, the chair rail is molded, and this room also has no cornice. The stained pine mantelpiece on the north wall has a shallow shelf supported by fluted pilasters and shows skilled hand craftsmanship in the gouged dentil work. The fireplace hearth is modern brick. The door on the west side of the interior chimney is flat-paneled on this side while beaded and flush-paneled facing the kitchen wing. Rising much higher, a cabinet with a double-leaf, flat-paneled door is east of the chimney and fireplace.

The northwest dining room is accessed through the centered door on the west wall of the library. The heart pine floor, plastered ceiling and walls and the baseboard retain original integrity, but the heavy chair rail molding appears uncharacteristically heavy. The mantelpiece on the north wall is ornamented with geometrical Federal-style motifs articulated in the diamond lozenges on the fluted pilasters, and the herringbone reed molding with raised and recessed squares under the shelf and above the frieze. Originally a brick hearth, Alberene soapstone from the Alberene Soapstone Company in Nelson and Albemarle counties replaced it in circa 1990. A paneled cupboard is in the northeast corner, and the door into the circa 1850 connecting wing, now the kitchen, is situated on the northwest side of the chimney and mantel. The two wooden steps from the addition are worn, but not nearly as much as those rising to the door into the library which suggests that the dining room was formerly in the library. The current dining room's formality of ornamentation belies that theory except for the evidence that the plaster appears to have been applied before the mantelpiece. Additionally, the doorway near the northwest corner into the dining room was cut into the main block when the connecting wing appeared in circa 1850.

The current kitchen is within the connecting wing, and this space has expected modern improvements that began in the 1970s and evolved in 1999. The walls are plastered, but dry wall fills the spaces between exposed mill-sawn ceiling joists that have nail holes and white lines on the bottoms, showing the ceiling was once fully plastered. Legend holds that one of Mosby's Rangers hid under the floor below the three front nine-over-nine windows, and the present owners found plywood here when they acquired the house. The preceding owners thought a stairway was once here, but it would seem quite unnecessary since the stairs in the adjoining summer kitchen retain integrity and are so close. Linoleum covered the rest of the floor, and its removal by the de Givès revealed that all but one of the

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three-inch-wide boards were installed upside down. A small pantry is in the northeast corner. The back door to the frame mudroom in the southwest corner is an early board-and-batten element that has had nine lights cut into it.

The throughway to the attached lower summer kitchen is in the northwest corner. The steps to the garret rise immediately to the east, and a mill-sawn board-and-batten door here has clenched wrought nails in the battens, wrought strap hinges and appears authentic. The floor is cement and painted to imitate flagstone, a circa 1970 alteration. The interior chimney on the north wall is stone, unlike the brick stack above the roof. Although stone was inserted to decrease the size for economy of modern heating costs, the original size of the arched fireplace opening is discernible and measures seventy-one inches wide by fifty-seven inches tall. After a chimney fire destroyed the earlier lining, the inside parging occurred in 1986, as evidenced in the inscribed date and initials RBR and DVD above the firebox. The lintel is supported with iron and elaborated with a brick arch above. This was a substantial cooking fireplace in 1812. An off-center stovepipe for the presently-used wood stove cuts into the chimney near the northeast corner. The mill-sawn joists and floor of the upper quarters are exposed, and there are no signs that the ceiling was ever plastered. The board-and-batten door on the west rear wall features hand planing marks, wrought T-head nails and a beaded frame as shown on the opposite front door.

Second Floor - The steps up the landing to the present kitchen rise eastward to a stair passage on the second floor of the summer kitchen. The balustrade is solid pine board paneling, placed vertically, and the crudely-hewn and worn railing above it is a distinguishing early-nineteenth-century feature. Again, the authenticity to the period of original construction is remarkable. Wide pine boards fastened with wrought nails compose the flooring. A small bathroom has been sympathetically created on the east wall. Framed into a partition created with broad, tongue-and-grooved floor boards to the north of the stair passage, a board-and-batten door with wrought rose-head nails and leather washers in H-L hinges opens into a fireplace-heated, north bedchamber. Yellow firebrick in the north fireplace reveal a late-twentieth-century reconstruction of the feature after the chimney fire. This chamber is illuminated with pegged six-over-six, double-hung-sash windows on the east front and west rear walls. The exposed hewn ceiling joists remain whitewashed as originally. The walls are plastered. Accessed through a board-and-batten door beyond steps in the back southwest corner of the stair hall, a bedchamber is south in the circa 1850 connecting wing. The broad-axed rafters in this section and the joining collars are partly buried within a modern plastered ceiling. Illuminating this chamber, a late-twentieth-century, nine-light, wood casement window is on the west back wall, while a six-light casement is on the east front wall.

The second-floor bedchambers in the main block are accessible only from the primary stairway which slightly diminishes in ornament to the private family quarters where the flooring features wrought-nailed, random-width, pine boards, and the walls and ten-foot-high ceilings are plastered. The master bedroom is the great room on the south above the parlor. Brightly lit by two nine-over-six windows on the east front and west back walls, one with a pane scratched "Diamond 1888," this chamber continues the chair rail detail featured on the first floor. The mantelpiece on the south wall with its herringbone molding under the shelf is decorative for an early-nineteenth-century bedroom. Yet, the pilasters are more restrained since they are flat-paneled and not fluted, and the frieze is plain. The formerly brick hearth has circa 1990 Alberene soapstone similar to the dining room. The scribed hearth frame is charred. The door is faced with faux-painted panels on the hall side and raised panels on the bedroom side. Two circa 1970 bathrooms have been added outside the chamber in the front portion of the hall which originally contained a small bedroom.

The northeast bedchamber is the green room where the molded chair rail on plaster walls continues, an unusual feature for private quarters. However, its height, along with the baseboard's, is an inch shorter than those on the primary floor. A small fireplace with a gouged mantelpiece and brick hearth with scribed framing is on the north wall. The northwest yellow bedroom conforms to the size of the northeast chamber. The neat feature between these

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two rooms is a narrow ventilating opening through the joined closets on their north back and west side walls. Thick coats of paint prevent analysis of nails in the opening's framing, but the closets with louvered doors in each chamber most likely appeared in the late twentieth century when the earlier corner closet doors on the north walls were removed to a new linen closet in the outer hallway. This room has the only cement hearth in the house for a non-original woodstove. The fireplace slip is parged. The mantelpiece is plain suggesting perhaps that this was the Settle children's bedchamber. Wrought T-head nails again fasten the heart pine floor boards. Similar to the master bedroom's door, the sides facing the bedroom have raised panels, while those facing the hall are flat paneled but render an impression of a raised panel through the use of gold paint. The ornate faux-painted, flat-paneled side is considered the more formal at Belle Grove when typically a raised panel faces the hall, and the flat panel faces the bedchambers. It is unusual to have such formality of detail on the second floor in houses of the Federal period.

Attic - The attic above the main block has floor boards measuring an average of twenty inches wide, and they are fastened with hand-headed cut nails mostly, but wrought nails still appear. The broad-axed rafters have Roman numerals designating their pre-fitted joining member to which their mortises and tenons are pegged. The hewn collar ties have pegged half-lapped joints. Circular-sawn struts were installed a foot below the base of the collars in a twentieth-century roof repair. The south gable reveals the stuccoed split flues rising diagonally up the broad chimney where they meet in the stack, allowing for the nine-light casement window between them. The rafters to the east have charring from a lightning strike during a circa 1948 tornado that caused reconstruction of the chimney. Another significant element in the attic is the design of the door from the upper stair hall. It has a beaded frame made with crossover-period nails, and the H-L hinges have wrought rose head nails. The door is flat paneled within the attic, and a deeply-planed, raised-panel side faces the hall. Extraordinary authentic detail for an attic space.

The Belle Grove manor house is an amazingly authentic representation of its first period of construction in 1812. While changes have occurred, they are expected, minor and sympathetic, such as the addition of two bathrooms on the second floor, closets, the circa 1850 one-and-one-half-story wing joining the house to the summer kitchen, and the late-twentieth-century window changes to the food-preparation appendage. The form, Federal design, craftsmanship, nails, materials, flooring and other details retain original integrity. The house demonstrates the respect of its owners, most of whom were descendants of Isaac and Mary Settle. The Belle Grove manor house retains very high integrity in design, materials, workmanship, setting, location, feeling and association.

**Well, contributing structure, circa 1812:** Located in front of the attached summer kitchen on the manor house, this approximately eighty-foot-deep, circular stone well has been capped with recessed cement according to safety standards. Repaired with modern mortar, six rubble-stone courses rise above the ground. The brick sidewalk in front of the residence extends to the contributing structure.

**Meat House, contributing building, circa 1812:** The one-story, one-bay, stone meat house stands near the northwest rear corner of the summer kitchen that was connected to the residence in the 1850s. Measuring sixteen-and-one-half-feet wide and about thirteen-feet deep, this rectangular building probably had a gabled or hipped roof before its reduction to the existing overhanging, wood-shingled, shed roof. A rectangular meat house is atypical in Fauquier County where surviving examples overwhelmingly have square plans and pyramidal roofs. Although the roof has been altered, the Belle Grove meat house retains the hewn front plate and displays pit-sawn joists. The latter tooling might indicate the use of recycled timbers or be the result of the cross-over period. Repointing occurred in the early twentieth century with the change in roof form. Wrought nails fasten the board-and-batten door on the east front, and this component may be original. Yet, it has suffered some deterioration and shortening causing a horizontal insert at the top, and the jambs and bowed board lintel are twentieth-century features. A six-light window is on the back elevation. The several modifications imply that this former smokehouse caught fire, causing

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replacement of the roof, door frame and back window. Still, the meat house retains fair integrity, remains important as a surviving domestic outbuilding, along with the summer kitchen, and contributes to the property.

**Swimming Pool, non-contributing structure, circa 1980:** This non-contributing, underground swimming pool is situated approximately one-hundred feet from the manor house in the southwest corner of the back dooryard. A plain black metal fence non-obtrusively surrounds the structure.

**Barn, contributing building, circa 1830:** Underpinned with a stone foundation, this seventy-eight-foot, seven-inch-wide by twenty-four-foot, five-inch-deep, two-story, frame barn has six cart or machine storage bays across the mostly unenclosed south front where the standing-seam-metal gable roof is supported by five widely-spaced posts. The three, seven-inch-wide, hewn posts with chamfering halfway down may be original to the barn, while two pressure-treated members were added in the late twentieth century during partial replacement of the roof which apparently suffered great water and termite damage. This penetration is evidenced in the log and hewn front rafters that appear to have been saved and spliced into new timbers. This may be the barn that Amanda Edmonds reported high winds moving six feet from its foundation, tearing part of the roof off. She also described the curiosity of its repair in May of 1860.<sup>2</sup> Covered with plywood and battens on the east side, the north rear elevation and above the west eave in the late twentieth century to protect deteriorating siding, the sheathing enclosing the front corners has no battens. Visible from the inside, the front corner walls and part of the west side elevation back to the vertically-slatted granary, at least, were originally covered with mill-sawn and cut-nailed weatherboards. Now providing greater illumination to the second story, a twelve-over-twelve, double-hung-sash, wood window has replaced the hayloft door on the east gable. Two six-light, wood casement windows are below on the first story. A nine-light, fixed-sash, wood window is in the west gable.

Interior – This circa 1830 barn displays hewn and mill-sawn timber framing fastened with wooden pegs and cut nails, although there are some wrought and hand-headed nails used for hang ups. A workshop and a cart or machine shed extend full-depth at the east end of the barn on the first floor. Three cow stalls with modern cement floors are at center. The middle doorway retains a blacksmith's iron hook. The front and side walls of the cattle compartments are composed of widely-spaced, mill-sawn vertical boards applied to hewn horizontal girders. The sixth and seventh boards inward from the full-depth cart bay on the west were scribed with a sharp point, "Co. A 6 Reg. Va C". The serifs on the capital letters and uneven wear may serve as an indication of authenticity from the hand of a member of the 6<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the Virginia Cavalry of the Confederate army, probably Lewis and Elizabeth Edmonds' sons Benjamin Sydnor or his brother Edward "Bud." A board-and-batten door on the east wall opens into the elevated granary on the west end of this barn. This full-depth room appears to have been partitioned in half at one time judging by the mortises in the side girders and a gap in the floor. Widely-spaced vertical slats for ventilation can be seen behind the interior framing in the back.

Modern, circa 1970 steps just west of the Civil War-period graffiti enable access to the upper loft over the central cow stalls. Not surprising, considering the long use, the flooring dates to the twentieth century. Yet, a two-foot-higher row of hewn and sawn joists joining the north back and south front plates of the roof show some non-threatening decay along their tops where they received long periods of water prior to the roof repair. Nail holes on the sides of some of the joists suggest the attachment of earlier bins while nail holes on the top indicate a partial floor toward the back. The form of this early-nineteenth-century multi-function barn with its granary, front and side cart sheds, central livestock stalls, workshop and hayloft is atypical in Fauquier County. Regardless of the roof replacement, the building remarkably survived the Civil War when three of the Edmondses' sons rode with Mosby, and it retains very good integrity in all qualities and contributes to the property.

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**Chicken House, contributing building, circa 1900:** Now adapted into a small machine shed facing south, this one-story, one-bay-wide, two-bay-deep, weatherboard-frame building stands on poles and has a standing-seam-metal, low-pitched gable roof with extending rafters. The inside corner posts of the exposed framing are down braced. The chicken house stood northwest of the meat house at the end of the back farm road before its relocation to the west side of the barn in the 1980s. An unusual two-light over six-light, double-hung-sash, wood window is to the south of a board-and-batten door on the west side. The combination of window sashes shows the non-wasteful adaptive lifestyle of Belle Grove farmers. This contributing chicken house demonstrates the continuation of agricultural subsistence on the farm into the twentieth century and retains good integrity.

**Loading Chute, contributing structure, circa 1940:** A stone loading ramp with a seven-ranked board chute joined to flanking fencing is located under trees to the northeast of the barn and east of the four-bay cattle shed. The ramp rises to the south dirt road bed and inner barnyard. Although the fields are periodically leased for grazing cattle, the low-lying limbs of the trees indicate this resource is not in use. The contributing structure has very good integrity remains as an important indication of the raising of livestock, particularly cattle, at Belle Grove in the 1940s and beyond.

**Cattle Shed, contributing building, circa 1940:** Facing north into the barnyard, this one-story, four-bay, vertical-board-frame, pole building with a corrugated-metal shed roof stands to the north behind the barn. The rafters extend on the front above the four openings that have angled corners. The southeast entrance is open, but the left-west half of a pivoting-board gate remains on the west side, while horizontal boards block access into the three bays on the west. The five posts supporting the front roof are dressed with a wider vertical board, unlike the exposed posts on the other sheds. An ailanthus tree has grown into the front southeast corner pole. Painted light green, the cattle shed complements the agricultural setting and contributes to the period of significance.

**Stone Foundation, north of the cattle shed, contributing site, circa 1900:** Discovered on the incline back of the cattle shed, not enough physical evidence remains to more definitively date the partially remaining stone foundation of a building shown in the 1937 aerial photograph of the property.<sup>3</sup> It measured approximately eight feet by twelve feet. A rusted axle lies among the stones. Apparently built without Portland cement, this foundation may date to the late nineteenth century. Although it is reduced to a site, this contributing foundation bears interest in this location adjoining the barn lot where it may have been an early blacksmith shop.

**Stone Foundation, contributing site, circa 1812:** Measuring just under four feet square, an unidentified stone foundation remains largely underground further down the north slope below the loading chute and before the springhouse ruin. Some broken cast stone is above ground on the lower north side, turning the east corner. A large stone appears to have been thrown inside, and it has been stopped by infill. Perhaps an early well, this feature appears as a square in the 1937 aerial photograph of the farm.<sup>4</sup>

**Springhouse Ruin, contributing site, circa 1812:** Situated in a spring that seems to feed into Gap Run in the northwest field below the residence and agricultural buildings, this ruin is about twenty-five feet from the stone fence bordering the east front pasture. Facing east with no roof remaining, a tree has crashed through the entrance and remains within the three-sided building with walls rising to about six feet in height. Large stones form the corners of this circa ten-foot-square building. A finely hewn and pegged window frame with diagonal slots on the sides for a louvered vent remains in good condition on the west back elevation. The louvers are more common on a dairy, but the use is little distinguished from a springhouse. Common mortar is still visible in some of the joints of this rubble-stone resource which might be stabilized with the removal of the tree trunk and some minor shoring of slipped stones to maintain it on the landscape. A fairly substantial standing ruin with integrity of form, except for the

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loss of the roof and front wall, this contributing springhouse site is significant in the domestic and agricultural function of Belle Grove in the early nineteenth century.

**Loafing Shed in the northwest field, contributing building, circa 1940:** Facing south, this one-story, four-bay, vertical-board-frame, pole shed has a standing-seam-metal shed roof. The worn building retains a residue of red paint above the openings that have angled corners due to the Y-braces above the posts supporting the roof. The rafters extend in the front. The north rear boards have deterioration at the bottom, but the building remains in fair condition with high integrity. Boarding cattle still seek shelter in this loafing shed which contributes to Belle Grove's agricultural significance through the early twentieth century.

**Machine Shed outside the SW corner of the board-fenced dooryard, contributing building, circa 1940:**

Facing east, this one-story, four-bay, vertical-board-frame, pole shed has a corrugated-metal shed roof. Dated 1980 and designated as non-contributing in the Crooked Run Valley Rural Historic District inventory, this shed appears contemporary in design, form, materials and workmanship to the similar agricultural sheds built in circa 1940 at Belle Grove. Retaining excellent integrity and still functioning, this machine shed contributes to the agricultural theme through the early twentieth century.

**Tenant House Ruin, contributing site, circa 1900:** A stone chimney and part of the stone foundation of a tenant house remain on the landscape in the northwest corner of the central west field behind the manor house. Close to the west boundary line, the exterior-end chimney with a first-floor fireplace and a second-floor stovepipe stands at the north end of this former dwelling. Two nosed bands of iron, one with a hole as seen on a wheel band, serve as the fireplace lintel. Falling stone walls mark the old road bed from Edmonds Lane on the north to this site. Trees further define the fences which turn to the east past the house and end about fifty feet from the Belle Grove Barn. The absence of Portland cement and the sparse lime content support the circa 1900 date for this former tenant house, destroyed by fire in the mid-twentieth century. A few older shade trees surround this tenant house site which bears significance for demonstrating the transition from slave labor to hired labor in residence on the farm in the reconstruction period.

**Edmonds-Settle-Chappelear Cemetery, contributing site, 1826-1940:** The dry-stacked stone wall surrounding the family cemetery is protected from grazing cattle by an outer barbed-wire fence and gate. While descendants believe that the earliest property owner of Belle Grove, George Washington Edmonds, lies here, the earliest grave according to existing, readable headstones, belongs to Helen Winifred Bradford who died in 1826. Her fallen stone reveals that she was the daughter of George's brother Elias Edmonds. Willow trees are carved into the headstones of "Mary Settle, Wife of Isaac Settle, Born Feb. 13, 1775, Died Jany. 16, 1847" and "Isaac Settle Died December 7<sup>th</sup>, 1852, Aged 75 years." Additionally, the cemetery contains the remains of the following descendants:

Lewis Edmonds, Husband of Elizabeth Settle Edmonds, Died August 27, 1857, age 57;  
Elizabeth Settle Edmonds, Wife of Lewis Edmonds, Died March 14, 1874, age 68;  
Clement West Edmonds, Died December 4, 1875, age 29;  
John Armistead Chappelear, Born Dec. 1, 1835, Died June 1, 1916;  
Amanda Virginia Edmonds, Wife of John Armistead Chappelear, Born January 13, 1839, Died July 13, 1921;  
Zulieme Edmonds Chappelear, Born May 20, 1873, Died Nov. 17, 1922, Daughter of John Armistead Chappelear and Amanda Virginia Edmonds Chappelear;  
Elizabeth Naomi Lee Chappelear Gray, 1879-1940.

The stone of Bessie Lee Chappelear, Born June 6, 1879, Died March 10, 1940 is not visible. Others reported to be buried at Belle Grove are Alexander Edmonds, Lewis's brother, deceased in 1892, Elizabeth Lou Edmonds, Lewis's

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daughter, deceased June 29, 1896 and Dr. Daniel Payne, son of Dr. Albert S. Payne.<sup>5</sup> Numerous unmarked stones probably indicate the graves of former servants. As expected, the lettering on the nineteenth-century chiseled gravestones shows signs of weathering. Although the descendants of the Edmonds, Settle and Chappellear families have greatly diminished and visitation is rare, this cemetery is well-maintained and well-protected by the current owners of Belle Grove.

**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Maud L. Eastwood, *Antique Builders' Hardware Knobs & Accessories; Research Manual & Collector's Guide* (Beaverton, Oregon: Maud L. Eastwood, 1982), 147-48.

<sup>2</sup> Nancy Chappellear Baird, ed., *Journals of Amanda Virginia Edmonds; Lass of the Mosby Confederacy 1857-1867* (Delaplane, Virginia: Nancy Chappellear Baird, 1988) 40.

<sup>3</sup> Aerial Photograph of Northwest Fauquier County West of the Blue Ridge and South of Paris, FG 132 99, 8 May 1937.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Nancy Baird, Carol Jordan and Joseph Sherer, *Fauquier County [Virginia] Tombstone Inscriptions*, Vol. 2 (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 2000), 54.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

Belle Grove meets three areas of significance in local history relating to the themes of agriculture, architecture and military history from 1812 through 1956, making it eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A and Criterion C. Built in 1812 for Paris tavernkeeper Isaac Settle, the Belle Grove manor house is a remarkably graceful and finely-articulated representation of a stately, brick, Federal-style dwelling. Aside from the ornamentation, the house is extraordinarily built with three brick elevations, including a Flemish-bond facade, American-bond sides and a stuccoed-stone rear elevation. While it is common for early-nineteenth-century buildings to have especially formal facades, the construction of the entire back wall in stone on a brick building is without precedence in the area, and perhaps in the state. Further contributing to the architectural significance, Belle Grove is a rare authentic local study of the use of wrought and hand-headed cut nails in the crossover period between the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. Relating to Criterion A, agriculture sustained the families of Belle Grove into the mid-twentieth century through crop and livestock diversification. Primary-source records and the unusual circa 1830 granary and cart shed with livestock bays demonstrate an early-nineteenth-century transition from orchard and tobacco farming to primarily wheat and cattle raising. Recorded in the diaries of Isaac Settle's granddaughter Amanda Edmonds, Belle Grove is also eligible under Criterion A for becoming a boardinghouse, hospital and house of entertainment for wounded, famished and homesick Confederate soldiers seeking refuge and comfort throughout the Civil War. Upon taking in the first wounded soldier from Mississippi in August of 1861, Amanda established the hospitable philosophy that would carry them all through the war, "We welcome him to our home, poor fellow – away from home and kindred and disabled. Who could but show our Confederate soldiers kindness and attention?"<sup>1</sup>

**Historic Context**

Belle Grove lies within the 7,883 acres located south of Ashby's Bent that Northern Neck proprietor Thomas Lord Fairfax granted to Capt. James Ball of Lancaster County in 1731. Twenty-one years after the formation of Fauquier County, John Edmonds of Northumberland acquired 1,000 acres of the Ball patent in March of 1780 and began building his frame dwelling facing east to the colonial road from the Shenandoah River to Falmouth. Known as Wayside Cottage, this residence stands on the north hill across Edmonds Lane within Sky Meadows State Park, (030-0283, NR 5/27/2004), a property with significant ties to the history of Belle Grove.<sup>2</sup> John Edmonds served Fauquier County as Commissioner of the Provision Law and Commissioner of the Peace. The 1785 state census listed him with eleven white tithes, two dwelling houses, five outbuildings and four cabins or slave houses.<sup>3</sup> The second house, outbuildings and cabins do not stand at Sky Meadows nor do they remain within the bounds of Belle Grove which would later be divided from Edmonds's 1,000 acres.

Twice married, John Edmonds had eight children: Frances, George Washington, Margaret, Helen, Ann Nannie, Elias, William and John. At his death in 1798, he still retained his entire 1,000-acre plantation and two leased lots in Leeds Manor near the western border, and the court surveyed, platted and divided his estate four years later according to his will.<sup>4</sup> Wayside Cottage with a blacksmith's shop went to his son John, Jr., Elias received the future Belle Grove tract of 350 acres to the south and their brother George obtained the western part where Abner Settle, Isaac's son, would build Mount Bleak in circa 1843. Elias Edmonds was the first to part with the inherited property when he sold Paris tavernkeeper and postmaster Isaac Settle the entire 350 acres in 1808, "whereon the said Elias Edmonds Jun'r now resides."<sup>5</sup> The location of Elias's residence remains unknown. Two years later, George Washington Edmonds sold Isaac the southern 171-acre portion of his inheritance, providing Mr. Settle deeper agricultural fields since the land joined the western boundary of his first acquisition.

Isaac Settle was born to George and Mary Morgan Settle in Fauquier County in 1777. The Settle and Morgan families had earlier established in the county on Barrows Run in the Springs Valley where his grandfather Isaac and



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uncle William received grants of 370 and 507 acres adjoining Charles Morgan.<sup>6</sup> George Settle deeded his son Isaac two properties in Kentucky in 1803 and 1804, but he chose instead to reside in Paris where he had leases on lots four and three respectively from Peter Glascock in December, 1802 and August of 1803, and thereon he built his first dwelling containing a tavern.<sup>7</sup> Isaac Settle became the postmaster of Paris in 1805. In the years immediately following, the county land tax records and other property executions list the village of Paris as his residence.<sup>8</sup>

**Architectural Significance**

The first decade of the nineteenth century brought many changes for Isaac Settle. He married Mary Humphrey, the daughter of Abner Humphrey of Loudoun County, and the couple soon had three children including Elizabeth "Betsy" in 1806, Thomas George in 1808 and Abner Humphrey in 1810.<sup>9</sup> The time came to build a home worthy of a successful tavernkeeper and postmaster on the land he purchased from Elias Edmonds. Unlike Falmouth merchant William Allason, owner of North Wales, and his own son Abner Settle, who would much later become a store keeper in Paris, Isaac chose to face his manor house, not toward the village containing his tavern, but to the rising sun in the east and the Shenandoah-Winchester-Falmouth Road. He set it back deeply, thereby allowing for an imposing impression as visualized from the slow center-axis approach up an unswerving plantation road. While stone was prolific in this Piedmont region, he determined to spend many months making and firing the multi-colored brick, most likely on site in a field kiln, that would render a more elegant Federal-style dwelling, fifty years before the evolution of rail service to the Crooked Run Valley. The 1810 census indicates that he owned only four slaves of unlisted age and sex, but including himself at thirty three, four free white males between the years of twenty-six and forty-four resided in his Paris residence. While one or more of these men might have labored at the tavern, a question remains as to whether a bricklayer was among them.<sup>10</sup>

Rising two-and-one-half stories within interior-end brick chimneys, displaying rigid symmetry, proportion and gracefulness in design across a facade dressed in a colorful Flemish-bond brick and a formal semi-circular fanlight over the entrance, Isaac Settle's manor house is an exceptional local example of the Federal style. The entrance is finely distinguished with classical characteristics in the reeded rail beneath the fanlight and the well-balanced, cable-fluted pilasters with delicate sunflowers carved into capitals supporting a dentiled rectangular crown. Isaac further established the hierarchy of the facade in the rubbed-brick jack arches above the second-story windows and those flanking the entrance, while there is less refinement in the five-course American-bond brick pattern on the unornamented side elevations and the later-attached kitchen on the north. Certainly, the bricklayer demonstrated his training, skill and knowledge of early-nineteenth-century techniques by defining his finely-tooled mortar joints with white penciling.

Although the rubble-stone rear elevation cannot be seen due to the restored stucco on this equally symmetrical and proportionate wall, this truly represents an anomaly unknown locally in Fauquier, the Piedmont region and perhaps the state.<sup>11</sup> While it is common to see buildings with especially formal facades, the construction of the entire back wall in stone on an otherwise brick masonry building is truly unexpected and significant. In the absence of Isaac Settle's journals, one can only speculate about the intent. Photographs taken during the restoration of the plaster in 2003 show the stonework as clearly being uncoursed rubble, roughly-laid in common mortar, and the insertion of some brick stretchers beside the two north, second-story windows.<sup>12</sup> The irregularity of the stone and the infill with a few bricks around those window frames surely suggest that this back wall would be stuccoed.

The impressive interior features articulating Federal-style characteristics include those seen in the central passage where the fanlight above the entrance is distinguished with a carved keystone and indented molding, and the stair ends are defined with an applied delicately-carved bellflower. Although the graceful handrail and tapered newels are an expected design on a Federal stairway, the symmetrical embedding of an inside handrail and a flat-paneled

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pilaster opposite the posts in the plastered wall along the stairs is unusual locally. It is also infrequent in the Federal period to see ornament carry up to the second floor as it does at Belle Grove in the simpler stairway detailing, somewhat plainer mantelpieces and the continuation of the chair rail. Most surprisingly, the faux-painted panel on the flat-paneled doors found in the library, dining room and parlor on the first floor also extend upstairs facing outward to the hall, while the interior panels are raised. The first-floor mantelpieces have exceptional designs in their hand-tooled combination of Federal-style and vernacular details as featured in the parlor fireplace where fluted pilasters rise to sunflower paterae, a central frieze panel is defined with vertical oval chain molding, and the round-toothed dentils have varied finger-like lengths. The gouged pine mantel in the library and the geometrical chimneypiece in the dining room with herringbone reeding in the diamonds above the pilasters and the undulated square molding under the shelf are interesting expressions of the combined qualities of skilled craftsmanship and elegance.

According to the dated and initialed metal plate that he placed in the half moon formed by the tracery of the fanlight above the front entrance, Isaac Settle completed his manor house in 1812. Commensurate with Falmouth merchant William Allason's stone Georgian mansion at North Wales (030-0093 NR 6/29/1999) in the Springs Valley, Isaac's brick and stuccoed-stone dwelling was valued at \$1,500 in the 1815 personal property tax list. This ranks Belle Grove among the top ten most prestigious residences in Fauquier County at the time.<sup>13</sup> Further contributing to the architectural significance of this highly-authentic historic resource, Belle Grove is an outstanding local study of the use of wrought and hand-headed cut nails in the crossover period between the late-eighteenth and early-nineteenth centuries. In visible woodwork from the cellar into the attic, the carpenters overwhelmingly continued to employ wrought nails in 1812, while hand-headed cut nails supplemented, and transitional machine-cut nails or modern machine-cut nails were entirely absent in the original construction period. Considering the high level of historic integrity seen throughout the main block of this nearly two-hundred-year-old building, the documented findings in the Crooked Run Valley Rural Historic District provide an important basis for further analysis throughout the Piedmont.

The preservation of the original doors with blacksmith-made hardware and the rare surviving example of wooden hinges on the root cellar door enriches the significance of this early-nineteenth-century, high-style dwelling. The manor house is notable for presenting another example of the rarely-seen use of the beaded flush-paneled door as found in the main entrance and in the interior doorways to the north kitchen wing. The closest neighbor displaying this feature is Yew Hill (030-0060 NR 1/20/2005), built in 1760-61, where one remains in the south doorway to the outbuildings and a second opens to the back stair hall. Ultimately, they proved to be later replacements. A beaded flush-paneled door appears in the rear cellar entrance of the 1833 Rappahannock County Courthouse (322-0005) and inside the former Washington Presbyterian Church, 1857, (322-0004) in Washington, Virginia. Considering the original appearance of the double-leaf front door here at Belle Grove and the authenticity of these doors in Washington, a date range for this largely undocumented design tentatively falls between circa 1810 and 1860.

The circa 1830 barn remaining at Belle Grove is another architecturally significant building for its type, form and function. Its survival through the Civil War is astonishing, since the grandsons of Isaac and Mary Settle, Benjamin Sydnor Edmonds and Edward Gilbert "Bud" Edmonds were in Company A, 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry and Clement West Edmonds of Company B, all rode with Mosby at times. Clement became a full ranger with Mosby in February of 1864.<sup>14</sup> Built with hewn and mill-sawn timber framing fastened with wooden pegs at major joints and with machine-cut nails elsewhere, this building is a most unusual example of an early multi-purpose barn with the granary and cart shed form indicative of its primary function. The open cart shed bays across the front and in the wings to the crib or granary on the west end and the workshop on the east are uncommon in Fauquier County. Measuring seventy-eight feet, seven-inches wide by twenty-four feet, five-inches deep, grain appears to have been threshed on the open second floor and swept or channeled down into carts waiting below in the front. The barn has

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upper loft space for hay, and the central livestock bays with feeders set to cattle height indicate the diverse purpose of this agricultural building.

This granary and cart shed is further distinguished with Civil War graffiti discovered on the original mill-sawn boards in front of the livestock bays. The "Co. A 6 Reg. Va C" scribed with serifs on the capital letters surely bears the authentic mark from the hands of one of the three Edmonds lads or possibly a comrade. Often accompanied by other soldiers in their regiment, Syd, Bud and Clement frequently returned to Belle Grove for home-cooked warmth and rest during the war as their sister, Amanda Virginia Edmonds, documented in her journals.<sup>15</sup> Like the house, the very good condition and high integrity of the barn demonstrates the dedicated stewardship of owners. While the exterior weatherboard, widely-spaced slats and vertical boards remain preserved underneath to the extent possible, protective plywood and battens sheaths these early materials and their workmanship.

**Agricultural Significance of Belle Grove's Early-nineteenth-century Progression into Wheat Production**

The granary and cart shed barn remains as an important example of the early-nineteenth-century transition from orchard and tobacco farming principally in the Piedmont to wheat production replacing the latter. As in the Tidewater, repeated tobacco plantings depleted the soil causing many to follow tradition and migrate west for pristine unsettled land.<sup>16</sup> Similarly to corn and other grains, wheat sustained the agricultural economy of the Crooked Run Valley planter who determined to holdfast. Well watered by Crooked Run and Gap Run with their branches and springs flowing freely through the fields at the eastern foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the fertility of Belle Grove's soil could remain strong, especially with the advent of fertilization. Published in the early nineteenth century, Isaac Settle and Lewis Edmonds had several wide-reaching agricultural references endorsing the breeding of livestock, land fertilization, crop rotation and diversity to help them maintain productivity. In 1813, John Taylor of Caroline County advised in his book, *Arator*, that manure rich in animal and vegetable waste deeply plowed into the soil could greatly enhance its fertility, as could crop rotation. Agriculturalist and soil chemist Edmund Ruffin wrote the popular *Essay on Calcareous Manures* in 1832 and created the monthly journal, *Farmer's Register*, the next year. Word of Loudoun County farmer John Binnses' successful experiments with plowing gypsum into the earth to replenish nutrients likely spread to the nearby Crooked Run Valley as well.<sup>17</sup>

**Belle Grove Becomes the Home of Elizabeth "Betsy" Settle Edmonds and Husband Lewis Edmonds**

Isaac Settle had only added one more slave to his possession before 1830, and the youthful ages of the servants imply they were the children of older slaves. The three males included a boy under ten, an older individual between ten and twenty-four and a third young man between twenty-four and thirty-six years of age. One female was between ten and twenty-four, while the second was older than fifty-five and may have been the cook. Isaac had downsized his Belle Grove property by selling 200 acres to Nathaniel Grigsby in 1820, largely involving the 171 acres purchased from George Edmonds. Leaving a 321-acre Belle Grove and the operation of his tavern and post office in Paris, Mr. Settle may have been capable of managing the farm without more servants or he disfavored the practice of slave labor.<sup>18</sup>

An ethical businessman, Isaac Settle obeyed regulations placed upon tavernkeepers and postmasters. He maintained his ordinary licenses for the Paris tavern without fail until 1847, according to surviving records. Postmaster General Amos Kendall again appointed Isaac Settle postmaster of Paris in 1837.<sup>19</sup> About this time, the stagecoach made its usual stop at the tavern with the mail, and the postmaster general disembarked for an unannounced inspection. Perhaps intentionally to see the reaction, Mr. Kendall did not identify himself and boldly walked into the restricted area of the post office to watch Isaac sorting mail. Anxious to maintain the rules, the Paris postmaster ordered him to

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leave, and he immediately obliged. When informed by the coach driver that the unidentified traveler was Amos Kendall, Isaac immediately apologized but surely took pleasure in his demonstrated adherence of requirements.<sup>20</sup>

Lewis Edmonds, the son of John Edmonds, Jr. who had inherited Wayside Cottage, married Isaac and Mary Settle's daughter Betsy in 1825. The couple had five children surviving childbirth by 1842, including Amanda Virginia Edmonds, when Isaac and Mary sold them all of Belle Grove, a more appropriate abode for a growing family.<sup>21</sup> By this time Isaac was sixty-five, and Mary was sixty-three with no children at home needing the spacious house. They could return to their tavern in Paris which they still owned and operated until selling it to Enoch O'Rear in 1848.<sup>22</sup> Isaac Settle died at Mount Bleak on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 1852 at the age of seventy-four. His obituary in *The Alexandria Gazette* praised the former postmaster and tavernkeeper as, "universally respected by his neighbors and friends – among whom, he lived to a good old age, sustaining a reputation for high moral worth and strict integrity of no ordinary character to the close of his life – he sank peacefully to his rest, leaving to his children and grandchildren the rich inheritance of an unsullied name and spotless reputation."<sup>23</sup>

The substantial \$13,500 agricultural value of Belle Grove during the ownership of his daughter and son-in-law in 1850 exceeded the \$9,000 assessment of neighboring Mount Bleak, owned by Betsy's brother Abner. Identified as a farmer in the population census that year, Lewis Edmonds had more than twice the value of farm implements at \$700, probably being stored in the granary and cart shed barn. Wheat was the major crop, corn came in second, and the orchard produce was third. The livestock, composed of seventeen horses, three mules, thirty-five beef cattle, eight milk cows, twenty swine and two working oxen, valued \$2,000.<sup>24</sup> Such impressive values indicate a sustaining produce in the beginning of the decade preceding the Civil War. However, Lewis Edmonds fell ill toward the end of the decade. The next agricultural and population censuses in 1860 identified his wife Betsy as a farmer and showed the devastating consequences with the total value and number of beef cattle cut in half, the milk cows were gone, and the fields were reported as "not cultivated last year."<sup>25</sup> This must have been an extraordinary strain for the Edmonds family as the Civil War approached.

Some cultivation in the last few years of the 1850s does appear to have occurred. An October 1857 appraisal of the property of Lewis Edmonds after his death that summer further acknowledges his concentration on wheat production on the farm in the list of implements he possessed. He owned a wheat thresher, a wheat machine, appraised at a hundred dollars, two wheat fans for blowing away the waste product, two ox carts and yokes, four wagons, several harrows and plows, including four double-shovel plows and a lot of rakes and forks. If his poor health permitted the planting of a wheat crop that year, he should have harvested it earlier in the summer. However, the appraisers valued about 250 bushels of corn still standing in the field at \$437.50 and approximately 600 bushels of rye at \$360. The number of cattle had drastically dropped from forty-three beef and milking cows in 1850 to a red back cow, two white cows, a roan and two calves. Three sheep and nineteen hogs remained among the livestock, as well as ten horses, but without the oxen, perhaps already sold, future planting and harvesting would become more difficult for his servants and surviving family.<sup>26</sup>

Betsy and Lewis had three more children at Belle Grove. Eighteen-year-old daughter Amanda started a journal of her family's life there in 1857 that extended through the anguished Civil War times when three of her brothers and so many of their friends in the Crooked Run Valley joined the cause. Most enlisted in Gen. J. E. B. Stuart's 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, like her brothers Bud and Syd. The diaries are significant for telling of events occurring during the war along the Winchester Turnpike when Rebels and Yankees alike sought shelter at Belle Grove. She expressed the war's effect on families in the Crooked Run Valley and surrounding villages as they strove to sustain a measure of daily normalcy among the echo of cannons, gunfire and galloping hooves. Her perspective on major battles of the war and the assassination of President Lincoln reveals some of the bitterness felt by decent southerners who treated

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their servants as family. Ending in 1867, Amanda's journals provide insight into the conditions left by war in the Piedmont and the beginning of reconstruction.

Amanda mourned greatly over the death of her father on August 27, 1857 and the sad procession, singing "And must this body die," to the Belle Grove cemetery the next day.<sup>27</sup> Unable to bear it, she heard the hymn from her retreat in the garret. In the following weeks she wrote, "There seems but a sad gloominess that hangs over Bellgrove, now when we reflect its master lives to manage it no more. With the last few years he seemed to give up all interest in it. I suppose this was owing to the state of his business, which he left in a sad state."<sup>28</sup> Since Lewis died in debt, Betsy had to sell all possessions that the family could do without to reimburse creditors. The inventory of his estate reveals the names of slaves: Easter, Letty, Liggy and child, Jesse, Turner, Marshall, Bob Scott, Shirley, Tom Gaddus, Charles, Tom, Charley, Rufus, Bill, Mary and Molly.<sup>29</sup> In April of 1858, Amanda was troubled with the forced sale of Liggy, Turner, Rufus, Marshall, Shirley and Mary Jane. Turner and Amanda both burst into tears as he bid farewell to her. Relieved that most went to good homes, she wrote, "I know servants are very aggravating sometimes and wish they were in Georgia, but when I see the poor ignorant, and sometimes faithful, ones torn away so, I cannot help feeling for them. They have all been good and honest, so far."<sup>30</sup> That kindness and honesty earned them family names, such as "Aunt Letty," "Uncle Jess," "Uncle Nat" and "Aunt Topsy."<sup>31</sup>

The unfortunate debts of Lewis and Betsy Edmonds included an 1851 deed of trust placed on 300 acres of Belle Grove in return for a \$5,000 loan from John Dulany who allowed them to continue to stay in residence and enjoy the farm's annual agricultural produce. In July of 1859, the loan still remained unpaid in full, and as the deed provided, court-appointed commissioners auctioned the property. Others owed money joined in to claim their due, such as Betsy's brother Abner, trading as Settle and Rogers in Paris, although he remained empathetic in his role as a special commissioner of the court. The public advertisement for the auction provides a description of the property and the house, confirming the architectural evidence that the kitchen was already attached:

On Tuesday the 12<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1859, [the special commissioner will] sell, on the premises, the highly improved estate of the late Lewis Edmonds. This Farm contains about 330 Acres, with a sufficiency of wood; is well supplied with water having on it many good springs; is under good stone fence, and divided into convenient fields. The improvements consists of a large and conveniently arranged BRICK DWELLING, with Kitchen attached. The out-buildings are on a large scale, and in good repair. It is situated about 2 miles from the village of Paris, and 6 miles from Piedmont Station, on the Manassas Gap Railroad, in a very healthy region. The quality of the soil ranks with the best in Upper Fauquier.<sup>32</sup>

The Edmonds family anxiously awaited the outcome of the auction of Belle Grove. Relief surely came upon noting that no one in the crowd had the means, allowing Betsy to submit a successful bid. Abner permitted partial payment representing the larger amount for 300 acres, leaving the manor house and outbuildings as mortgage for the final payments. Betsy struggled, but paid off the debt and held full title by the first of March 1861. The intervention of the Civil War prevented its recording until 1869.<sup>33</sup>

**Civil War Military History of Belle Grove**

Considering her concern for the Belle Grove servants, Amanda showed her conflict for states' rights during John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry in November, 1859. She wrote, "To free the slaves of the South, that our dear old State should be made a free State! O! the idea is overbearing should they attempt anything like that!"<sup>34</sup> Attended by 1,500 soldiers and three brass bands, she described the hanging of the abolitionist as a "charmed scene" and wished to be a man to have witnessed it.<sup>35</sup> Two months after the start of the war in April of 1861, Belle Grove welcomed to dinner the first of the hundreds of hungry and tired soldiers that would follow as they rode to their units or from

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battle. July brought Syd's decision to enlist in Company A, 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry and Amanda making shirts for him, taking some comfort in his joining a regiment largely composed of Fauquier men. The first of the wounded arrived in August, a young Confederate from Mississippi who Uncle Abner had invited to Mount Bleak should any harm come to him. Suffering a wound he received fighting in the First Battle of Manassas and retreating on the Winchester Turnpike, he was overtaken by exhaustion upon seeing the inviting Belle Grove where the Edmondses received him warmly and treated his wound. Thus, began Belle Grove's era as an unofficial hospital and boardinghouse for grateful soldiers, continuing throughout the war.<sup>36</sup>

In the earliest days of the conflict, Amanda looked forward to the arrival of dashing Confederates, many of whom she had known since childhood. They brought her fascinating news of the battles and her brothers' safety. She also enjoyed their playful flirtations, especially those of Lt. Matthew Magner, a frequent boarder, Mr. Corbin and her future husband Armistead Chappellear. She longed for her brothers to come through the double-leaf door the first Christmas, but settled for the knock of Armistead, Lewis Strother, Sam Hicks and the Robinson boys seeking a dance to lift their spirits. Sometimes her Rebel friends would drop in for supplies such as planking for a field hut, often sarcastically called their palace, when not referred to as a shanty, at another camp or hidden in the woods behind Belle Grove.<sup>37</sup> On September 3, 1862, Belle Grove was shaken when the Yankees exploded the Winchester powder mill. Amanda could not help but wonder how it felt there. On the fifth, news came that General Jackson's wagons were nearby in Paris, and several men from different states arrived at Belle Grove. Their encampment cheered Amanda from the blues. The next day, Lt. Douglas Gibson and the Ferguson boys of Hurry Hill were already taking respite when Bud appeared with an army of volunteer and conscript soldiers. Amanda enjoyed conversing with one from New Orleans and appreciated the captured Federal souvenir money another gave to her. The next month ten riders with the Black Horse Cavalry stayed overnight.<sup>38</sup>

Although not as frequent, Yankees came both to inspect for Confederates or dine and took refuge and rations. An early unpleasant arrival dismounted with their pack of dogs in April of 1862 when the family sat on the front porch in the evening where they could see enemy campfires burning red on the hills around Paris, both a beautiful and disturbing site. After being fed, the soldiers demanded all the stock of eggs which they would not believe had been sold the previous day. To appease these disreputable characters of Dutch-German and Irish descent, Amanda provided three eggs with chicks inside. They ransacked the kitchen loft and pantry, then the cellar, closet and meat house after demanding their keys. They took all of the family's knives and forks but for three or four. These were the very men who had skirmished with the 6<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, taking two prisoners, in December. A thirteen- or fourteen-year-old Benny Butler expressed regret at not having money to reimburse the Edmondses for the food they took and his mounting realization that war was not fun after all. The next day, five Yankees stole away with five wagons containing all the corn and oats. Lieutenant Frantz promised Betsy that she would receive a receipt for all taken rations for reimbursement by the Federal government. Yet, she knew not to expect it.<sup>39</sup> As one of the described Dutch vagabonds walked by a Belle Grove window, he sang, "I vish I vas in Dixie, avay, avay," provoking Amanda to write a retort, "I trust you may indeed find a resting place in Dixie – and soon!"<sup>40</sup>

Finally they departed, and Amanda inspected the barn. Some of the Yankees had praised the shelter for providing their most restful sleep in many moons. She found that compliment repulsive with, "our boys taking the rain and more than likely cold, wet ground for their bed. Too hateful to think about."<sup>41</sup> Short relief to have them gone when another band of northern thieves arrived: "I thought we were pretty well done with the villains and here comes three more wagons for something. How will we live? Ah! this is the way they are going to subdue the South – by starvation. I would [pray] to Heaven that our Cavalry would come and nab the last one."<sup>42</sup>

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Tension increases still more in June of 1863 as Amanda records hearing cannons firing across the Shenandoah Valley and witnessing the procession of Gen. Robert E. Lee and generals Longstreet, Hood and Pickett passing Belle Grove's gate on the turnpike. Her romanticism of fighting for the southern way came to an end:

The horses, cavalry and ambulances of our wounded went up in quick time. Oh! Horrid sight, did I ever dream of seeing and being in the midst of it? One week ago, little did we imagine our quiet piece of country would be so turned into a whirl of excitement and the battle ground of two contending Cavalry forces. Little do we know what a day or an hour will bring to pass . . . I feel unhappy. I cannot account for it unless it is that our friends with whom we now meet in health and fine spirits may soon pass through the horrid ordeal that sweeps so many dear ones from our land. I do not feel the pleasure and ecstasy in beholding regiment after regiment arrayed for battle that I did at the beginning of the war. No! No, the glory and circumstances of war have lost all fictitious glitter – too much stern reality clothed in suffering, sorrow and grief usurps the glory in which it was first arrayed.<sup>43</sup>

Shortly after Amanda's brother Clement joined Mosby's Rangers in February 1864, he, Bud, Syd, comrades George Triplett, Sam Alexander, Hunt, Jack and Ches had bedded down when Yankees surrounded the Belle Grove manor. Betsy Edmonds helped Bud, Sam and George with their belongings from the upstairs bedchambers to an unspecified secret hiding place in the house. The Federals found Clem and Ches upstairs, but Betsy proclaimed them to be civilians. Amanda glibly gave the hunters a guided tour through the house into the cellar as they chased for hiding Rebels and Rangers. From the kitchen porch outside the cellar entrances, she watched the ungratified Yankees leave, but something alerted them to the backyard where they proved the whereabouts of Hunt and Triplett who seemed to enjoy the hide and seek. They alone were taken as prisoners.<sup>44</sup>

Always fearing for the welfare of Belle Grove's fighting sons, the family would get to welcome them all home. However, everyone grieved with Bud when he suffered the loss of his eye in the same Battle at Yellow Tavern that claimed the life of General Stuart. Certainly great anguish and disappointment raged through the Piedmont and Crooked Run Valley with the surrender of the South in April of 1865. Amanda was unforgiving, bitter and unremorseful in praising the assassin of President Lincoln. The time came to say long goodbyes to the many Confederate men who had joined the Belle Grove family throughout the war. One by one the weary, beaten and dispirited men left for home. Mr. Wagner and George Triplett were particularly hard farewells for Amanda. Departing in May, George had to pursue Amanda through the sitting room, library presently, into the parlor where she hid behind the door to kiss her goodbye. Mr. Wagner delayed leaving for his home in Mississippi until September. Amanda wrote, "so the last representative of the far South leaves Fauquier and we are just where we were before the war – only extremely poor!"<sup>45</sup> The tears were far from over. Amanda had to say her final goodbyes to the beloved family servants, not only because of their freedom, but because the Edmondses did not have the financial means to pay for their labor or food. On September 6, 1865 she wrote of the added changes, heartbreak and sacrifice of loved ones after the war:

Had the corpse of our good, faithful, honest Aunt Letty been taken from the house today, I could not have felt worse. Driven to the step, she quits her old home, where she has lived in youth and old age. Sam leaves but not without being obliged to leave as his wife's master refuses to keep her any longer. He comes as a faithful honest servant should and consults us, as to what to do. We cannot take the wife

and five children to support and he can get no other home, save down in Fairfax, the Jerusalem for all who claim President Johnson as their protector. In consequence his mother with the right view, says she is getting old and will have no one to care for her when she gets helpless and, rather than be a

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nuisance on our hands, she follows her children. They packed the wagon with their luggage and both bid us good bye. Poor Aunt Letty cried as if her heart would break and expressed her regret at having to part with us and her old home. She says she knows she is leaving a home, such as she will never have again and she will never feel natural anywhere else. Our best wishes go with her. May she ever do well.

Oh! Oh! Just to contemplate the miserable changes that four years have brought upon our happy country, changes that we can not get used to; it is enough to run the strongest crazy. What we are to come to the Lord only knows! We hope for the best and trust in a High Power, though He seems to have forsaken us in this affliction.<sup>46</sup>

Seeing the Edmondses through the holidays, Aunt Topsy and Harriet remained through January of 1867. The last servant, Aunt Easter stayed until February 14<sup>th</sup> when the tearful family was forced to take her to the poor house. Thus, adjustments, repairing broken hearts and life carried on for Amanda Virginia Edmonds and her siblings until each married and moved away from Belle Grove. Only briefly mentioned in the diary, it appears that a school, "Belle Grove Academy" and the taking in of boarders contributed to the family's reconstruction-period income. Therefore, the constant comings and goings of visitors maintained the atmosphere of excitement the house had

always known, even in the worst of times. Finally, John Armistead Chappelle convinced Amanda to marry him, and together they managed Belle Grove until his death. Amanda's last entry in her final journal on February 23, 1867 informs that Armistead and the boarding Mr. Borst bought a piano, strung the guitar, and the music played on.<sup>47</sup>

Betsy Edmonds placed Belle Grove in Armistead's name in 1870. He and Amanda had five children. Their first born, Harry E. Chappelle, is responsible for the deeply-carved initials "H. E. C." in the board-and-batten door of the kitchen. He was apparently a prankster whose amusements and alcohol consumption exceeded good judgment. In circa 1895 in a drunken state, he jumped out at a carriage transporting the Episcopal minister and his pregnant wife. Frightening the horses, he caused her to miscarry. Thereafter, Harry went to New York where he became a photographer. While there were likely more influences than this event, Armistead wrote in his 1916 will, "my oldest son Harry E. Chappelle who is to have one dollar – and for good reasons I expressly command that he Harry E. Chappelle is to be excluded from receiving a particle more of my estate than the one dollar aforesaid."<sup>48</sup>

Amanda Edmonds Chappelle turned Belle Grove over to her daughters Zulieme and Elizabeth Naomi in 1921. The property remained in the family until the widow of Benjamin Curtis Chappelle, a locally-renowned historian, financially had to let go in 1967. The Hylton Wilkersons owned the downsized property from 1969 through 1986. They modernized the house, installing bathrooms, closets, plumbing and heating systems. The Wilkersons found the south windows in the main block bricked over, and unbricked them. They also changed the roof form of the porch on the kitchen and added the balustrade above the eave.<sup>49</sup>

Like many of the farms in the Crooked Run Valley, Belle Grove maintains an agricultural tradition of leasing to local farmers. Currently, the Davenports of Hollin Farm board and graze excess cattle and grow hay from a mix of orchard grass on the still fertile landscape. Current owners David and Josephine Fisher de Give purchased Belle Grove with approximately ninety acres in 1986 and have remained dedicated to the good stewardship of the house, outbuildings and farmland, donating an open space easement on the property in 2002 to the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. A retired banker, David de Give was a founding director and senior vice president of Southern Financial Bank in Warrenton; prior to that he was at Chemical Bank in New York. David was born and raised on Manhattan Island, but the de Give family comes from Atlanta, Georgia, where the de Give Theater premiered *Gone With the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell, a de Give cousin. The original Henri de Give was sent to Atlanta by the Belgian consul



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to the Confederate States of America. Although Belgium subsequently decided not to recognize the Confederacy, de Gives have since served as honorary Belgian consuls in Atlanta. Josephine “Jolly” de Give grew up in Charles City County, Virginia, where her family has owned Westover since 1918. Her maternal grandmother was Ellen Douglas Bruce of Berry Hill in Halifax County, Virginia. Jolly is well known in the Piedmont and throughout the state as the director of planning services for the Piedmont Environmental Council. Under the care of these strong supporters of land conservation and preservation, the grand Federal-style home of Paris tavernkeeper and postmaster Isaac Settle and Amanda Virginia Edmonds survives to tangibly represent its significant history.

**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Nancy Chappelle Baird, ed., *Journals of Amanda Virginia Edmonds; Lass of the Mosby Confederacy 1857-1867* (Delaplane, Virginia: Nancy Chappelle Baird, 1988), 55.

<sup>2</sup> Northern Neck Grant Book C, Page 179, Thomas Lord Fairfax to Capt. James Ball of Lancaster, County, 7,883 acres in Prince William County by Ashby’s Bent Run and the corner of Landon Carter, 1 July 1731; Cheryl H. Shepherd, “National Register Nomination, Sky Meadows State Park, VDHR #030-0283,” (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources), 2004.

<sup>3</sup> Joan W. Peters, *Military Records, Patriotic Service, & Public Claims From the Fauquier County Virginia Court Minute Books 1759-1784* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 66, 115; Virginia State Census, *Fauquier County, Virginia, 1785*.

<sup>4</sup> Fauquier County Will Book 3, Page 244, Last Will and Testament of John Edmonds, deceased 28 August 1798, proved 24 December 1798; Fauquier County Deed Book 3, Page 434, Division of the Lands of John Edmonds, deceased, to Elias Edmonds 350 acres, 24 December 1798, recorded 2 April 1802.

<sup>5</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 17, Page 230, Elias Edmonds, Jr. to Isaac Settle, 350 acres whereon said Elias Edmonds, Jr. now resides, recorded 23 February 1808.

<sup>6</sup> William E. Reese, *The Settle-Suttle Family* (Carrollton, Georgia: Printed by Thomason Print Company, 1974), 329; Northern Neck Grant Book E, Page 491 and 455, Thomas Lord Fairfax to Isaac Settle of Prince William County, 370 acres on the north branch of the Rappahannock River and on both sides of Barrows Run, 31 July 1742; Northern Neck Grant Book E, Page 490 and 455, Thomas Lord Fairfax to William Settle of Prince William County, 507 acres on Barrows Run, 30 July 1742.

<sup>7</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 15, Page 446, Peter Glascock to Isaac Settle, Lot 4 in Paris, made 14 December 1802; Fauquier County Deed Book 15, Page 447, Peter Glascock to Isaac Settle, Lot 3 in Paris, made 9 August 1803; Reese, 329; B. Curtis Chappelle, *Maps and Notes of Upper Fauquier County, Virginia* (Warrenton, Virginia: Warrenton Antiquarian Society, 1954) 33.

<sup>8</sup> Edith F. Axelson, *Virginia Postmasters and Post Offices 1789-1832* (Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Company, 1991), 113; Fauquier County Land Tax Records, 1800-1808; Fauquier County Deed Book 16, Page 524, Isaac Settle to George Settle, Release of land in Kentucky, 27 October 1806; Fauquier County Deed Book 16, Page 724, John M. Settle et al to Isaac Settle, Trustee, 27 April 1807.

<sup>9</sup> Reese, 329; Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, xxiii.

<sup>10</sup> Marcus Whiffen, *The Eighteenth-Century Houses of Williamsburg*, rev. ed. (Williamsburg, Virginia: The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1985), 11; U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Fauquier County, Virginia 1810*.

<sup>11</sup> David Edwards, Architectural Historian, interview by author, Richmond, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 8 March 2006.

<sup>12</sup> The photographs were taken by current owner Jolly de Give in 2003 during the repair of the stucco.

<sup>13</sup> Fauquier County Personal Property Tax List, 1815; Cheryl H. Shepherd, “National Register Nomination, North Wales,” VDHR No. 030-0093,” (Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources), 1998.

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<sup>14</sup> Hugh C. Keen and Horace Mewborn, *43<sup>rd</sup> Battalion Virginia Cavalry Mosby's Command*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Lynchburg, Virginia: H. E. Howard, Inc., 1993), 316; Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, 180.

<sup>15</sup> Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, 116, 118-124, 126, 134, 169, 185-189, 199, 212.

<sup>16</sup> Norman L. Baker, *Valley of the Crooked Run; The History of a Frontier Road* (Delaplane, Virginia: Norman L. Baker, 2002), 107; Chappelle, 77.

<sup>17</sup> Kevin R. Hardwick and Warren R. Hofstra, eds., *Virginia Reconsidered* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2002), 213; Virginius Dabney, *Virginia The New Dominion* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 1971), 276-281.

<sup>18</sup> U. S. Bureau of Census, *Fauquier County Population Schedule, 1830*; Isaac Settle and wife Mary to Nathaniel Grigsby, Sr., 200 A. , 6 July 1820, R. 22 July 1820 in the Thomas Lee Settle Papers 1795 (1820-1900) 1949, Collection No. 5743, Durham, North Carolina: Duke University.

<sup>19</sup> Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Ordinary Record Series, 1821-002-1847-001; Isaac Settle, Paris, Virginia, 11 February 1837, U. S. Post Office Department Records, Reports of Site Locations in Fauquier County, Virginia 1837-1950, Microfilm 610, Richmond: Library of Virginia.

<sup>20</sup> Reese, 330-31; Chappelle, 35.

<sup>21</sup> Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, xxiii; Fauquier County Deed Book 42, Page 291, Isaac Settle to Lewis Edmonds, 321 A., recorded Sept. 1842.

<sup>22</sup> Settle Papers, Deed of B & S, Isaac Settle of the Town of Paris to Enoch O'Rear of Clarke County, Lots with improvements in Paris being the lots purchased of Peter Glascock, partly square 1, now being occupied by Isaac Settle as a Tavern, 28 October 1848.

<sup>23</sup> "Obituary, Mr. Isaac Settle," *The Alexandria Gazette*, 20 December 1852.

<sup>24</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Fauquier County, Virginia, Population Schedule 1850 and Agricultural Schedule*, 1850.

<sup>25</sup> U. S. Bureau of the Census, *Fauquier County, Virginia, Agricultural Schedule, 1860 and Population Schedule, 1860*.

<sup>26</sup> Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Probate Records, 1857-007 Inventory of Lewis Edmonds, deceased, probated 31 October 1857.

<sup>27</sup> Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, 5.

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, 6.

<sup>29</sup> Probate Records, 1857-007 Inventory of Lewis Edmonds.

<sup>30</sup> Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, 13.

<sup>31</sup> *Ibid.*, 1, 40, 77, 243.

<sup>32</sup> Public auction advertisement in Fauquier County Clerk's Loose Papers, Chancery Suit 1874-008 Settle & Rogers vs. Dulany et al.

<sup>33</sup> Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, 29; Fauquier County Deed Book 59, Page 130. A. H. Settle, Spec Commissioner in *Settle & Rogers vs. Dulany et al* to Elizabeth S. Edmonds, 330 acres, a trust remaining on 25, recorded 26 November 1860; Fauquier County Deed Book 61, Page 287. A. H. Settle, Commissioner in *Settle & Rogers vs. Dulany et al* to Elizabeth S. Edmonds, estimated 330 acres, 1 March 1861, recorded 27 April 1869.

<sup>34</sup> Baird, *Journals of Amanda*, 32.

<sup>35</sup> *Ibid.*, 35.

<sup>36</sup> *Ibid.*, 50, 52, 55, 60, 114, 119, 184.

<sup>37</sup> *Ibid.*, 59, 60, 62, 64-66, 149, 184, 187-189, 195-99, 205, 220.

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**Belle Grove  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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<sup>38</sup> Ibid., 111, 121.

<sup>39</sup> Ibid., 73-80.

<sup>40</sup> Ibid., 79.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid., 80

<sup>42</sup> Ibid.

<sup>43</sup> Ibid., 154-56.

<sup>44</sup> Ibid., 180-83.

<sup>45</sup> Ibid., 194-99, 218, 222, 224, 231, 233.

<sup>46</sup> Ibid., 232.

<sup>47</sup> Ibid., 236, 242-43, 246

<sup>48</sup> Fauquier County Will Book 47, Page 160, Last Will and Testament of John A. Chappellear, probated 5 June 1916.

<sup>49</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 533, Page 796, Hylton E. Wilkerson and wife Marjorie L. to David de Give and wife Josephine F., 90.29 acres being part of Belle Grove, recorded 26 August 1986.

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Fauquier County Deed Book 115, Page 313. Amanda V. Chappellear, widow of John A. Chappellear to Zulieme E. Chappellear et al, release of dower rights, recorded 14 December 1916.

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**Belle Grove  
Fauquier County, Virginia**

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA** (continued)

UTM References Continued, 5<sup>th</sup> through 10th

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
5 - 18	243970	4318100	6 - 18	243670	4318350
7 - 18	243820	4318700	8 - 18	243960	4318680
9 - 18	243980	4318860			

Verbal Boundary Description:

The selected National Register property boundary encompasses the 90.3-acre tract of land known as Belle Grove, PIN 6034-80-4823, owned by Mr. and Mrs. David de Give and having the physical address of 1402 Winchester Road. This designated area is bordered on the east by the Winchester Road (U. S. Route 17), on the north by Edmonds Lane (Route 710), at the northwest corner by the lots of Hylton Wilkerson, Mary Torrey, Susan Walker, Douglas Manuel and Douglas Morris, on the west by James Mathews, on the south by Charles E. Strother, Jr. and Leeds Manor Road (Route 688). Shown as a heavy black line on the attached January 2006 Fauquier County GIS Map, the designated Belle Grove boundary fully surrounds the manor house, its outbuildings, structures and sites, including the family cemetery.

Boundary Justification:

The nominated Belle Grove boundary encompassing 90.3 acres surrounds all of the identified historic resources associated with the Settle, Edmonds and Chappellear families that contribute to the period of significance. They include the 1812 Federal-style manor house, the meat house, barn, chicken house, a cattle shed, the loafing shed, machine shed, the stone-lined well at the manor house, a loading chute, a tenant house ruin, two stone foundations, a springhouse ruin and the family cemetery. Among the above-listed, the secondary resources are situated behind the house, to the sides and across the property in the south, west and northwest pastures. Additionally, this perimeter incorporates the rural setting and agricultural fields defined by early-nineteenth-century, dry-stacked stone fences.



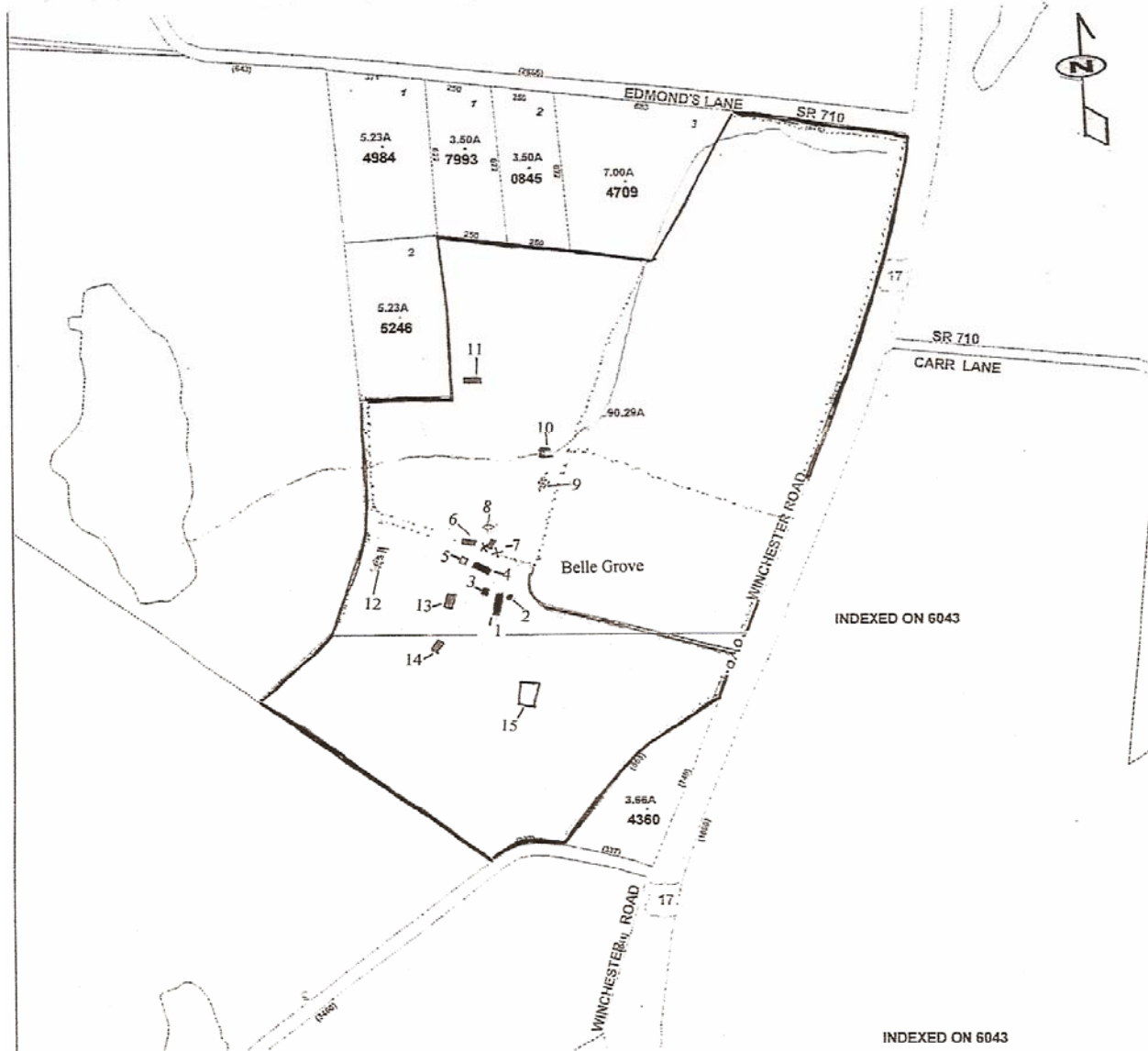


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Fauquier County, Virginia

Section Additional Documentation – Belle Grove Site Plan Page 29



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Manor House – contributing                          | 9. Circa 1812 Stone Foundation 4' x 4' – contributing |
| 2. Well – contributing                                 | 10. Springhouse Ruin - contributing                   |
| 3. Meat House – contributing                           | 11. Loafing Shed – contributing                       |
| 4. Barn – contributing                                 | 12. Tenant House Ruin – contributing                  |
| 5. Chicken House – contributing                        | 13. Swimming Pool – non-contributing                  |
| 6. Cattle Shed – contributing                          | 14. Machine Shed – contributing                       |
| 7. Loading Chute – contributing                        | 15. Cemetery - contributing                           |
| 8. Circa 1900 Stone Foundation 8' x 12' – contributing |   |

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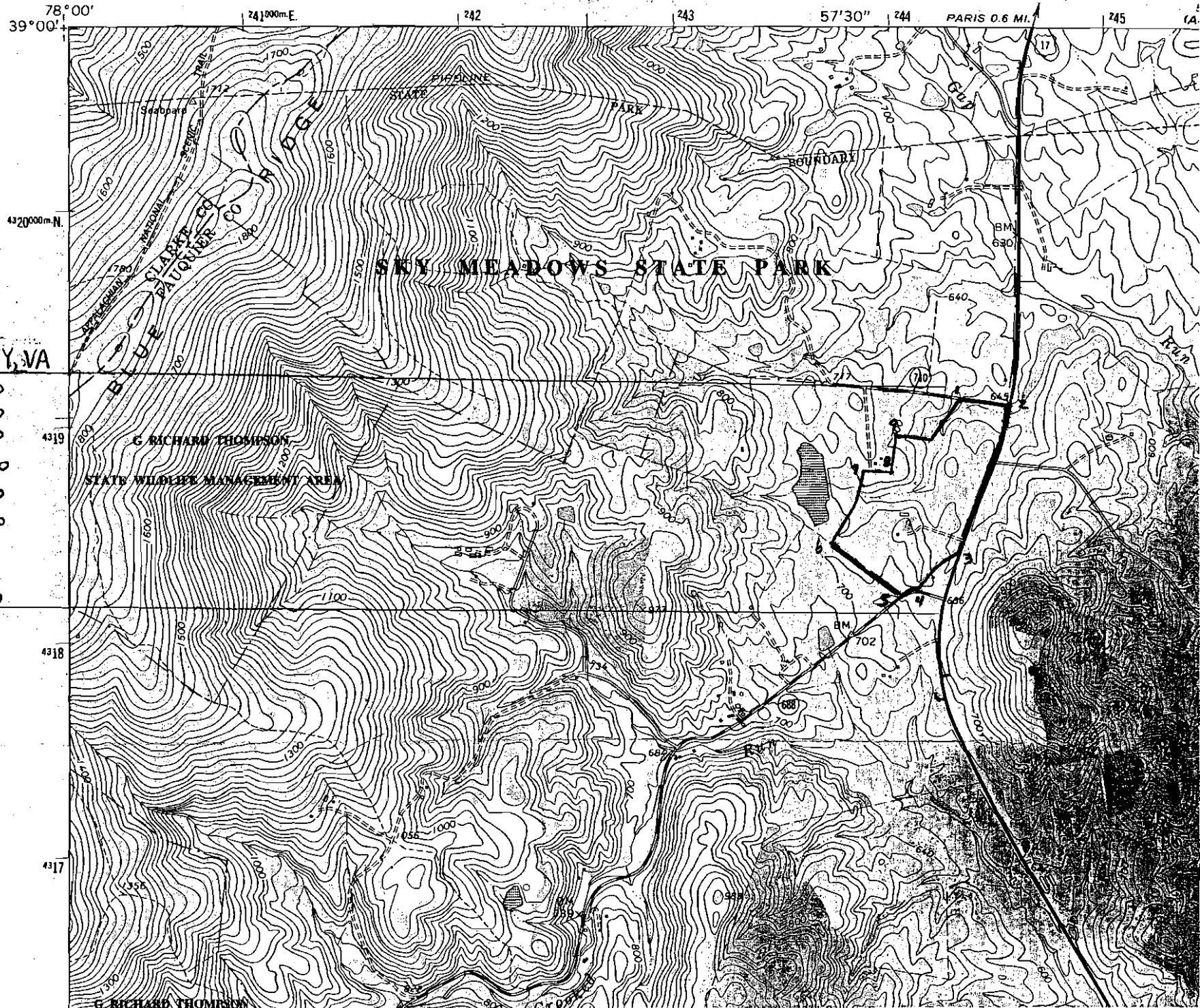
**PHOTOGRAPHS** Negative strips were numbered 20657 and placed in acid-free archival sleeves with a negative list for VHDR Richmond archives. Date of all images – 19 February 2005, Cheryl Shepherd, photographer.

1. VIEW OF: Manor House East Front Setting  
Entrance Drive & Barn, facing SE  
Neg. No. 20657-20  
Photo 1 of 18
2. VIEW OF: Manor House E Front  
elevation, facing West  
Neg. No. 20657-06  
Photo 2 of 18
3. VIEW OF: Manor House & Meat House W Rear  
Elevation, facing East  
Neg. No. 20657-02  
Photo 3 of 18
4. VIEW OF: Manor House, Meat House, Pool W Rear  
Setting, facing NE  
Neg. No. 20657-04  
Photo 4 of 18
5. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Front Entrance Facing East  
Neg. No. 20657-12  
Photo 5 of 18
6. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Stairs, Stair Hall, Back Door  
and Door to Parlor on Left-south, facing SW  
Neg. No. 20657-13  
Photo 6 of 18
7. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Bell Flower Side Stair Ornament  
on Main Stairway, facing South  
Neg. No. 20657-14  
Photo 7 of 18
8. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Mantelpiece in Parlor Close Detail,  
facing South  
Neg. No. 20657-11  
Photo 8 of 18
9. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Doorway with Heavily-worn Steps  
From Kitchen to Library, facing South  
Neg. No. 20657-18  
Photo 9 of 18
10. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Door with Worn Steps  
From Kitchen into Present Dining Room, facing South  
Neg. No. 20657-19  
Photo 10 of 18
11. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Faux Painting on Hall  
Side of Door Between Library & Hall, facing SE  
Neg. No. 20657-21  
Photo 11 of 18
12. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Mantelpiece  
Detail in Master Bedroom, south wall, facing SW  
Neg. No. 20657-23  
Photo 12 of 18
13. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Garret of SK Vertical  
Board Wall with B&B Door & H-L Hinges, facing South  
Neg. No. 20657-30  
Photo 13 of 18
14. VIEW OF: Manor House Interior Cellar B&B Door with  
Wrought Nails & Wooden Hinges, facing South  
Neg. No. 20657-32  
Photo 14 of 18
15. VIEW OF: Barn & Chicken House West Side & South  
Front Elevations, facing NE  
Neg. No. 20657-3  
Photo 15 of 18
16. VIEW OF: Cemetery – Gravestones of Mary & Isaac  
Settle, facing SE  
Neg. No. 20657-34  
Photo 16 of 18
17. VIEW OF: Cemetery – Headstones of Amanda  
Edmonds, John A. Chappellear, their dtr. Zulieme, to E  
Neg. No. 20657-35  
Photo 17 of 18
18. VIEW OF: Cemetery, House, Loafing Shed, facing  
North  
Neg. No. 20657-36  
Photo 18 of 18

536 1/2 SE  
(60 YCS)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FAUQUIER CO., VA , UPPERVILLE QUAD

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES



#030-000B

BELLE GROVE  
FAUQUIER COUNTY, VA

- 1) N 4319130 E 244300
- 2) N 4319100 E 244550
- 3) N 4318290 E 244260
- 4) N 4318120 E 244060
- 5) N 4318100 E 243970
- 6) N 4318350 E 243670
- 7) N 4318700 E 243820
- 8) N 4318680 E 243960
- 9) N 4318860 E 243980

G. RICHARD THOMPSON