1. NAME
   COMMON:
   Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove
   AND/OR HISTORIC:
   Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove

2. LOCATION
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   on Va. Route 727 near Middletown (Belle Grove) and vicinity
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Middletown
   STATE:
   Virginia
   CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
   Seventh (7th)

3. CLASSIFICATION
   CATEGORY (Check One)
   ☒ District ☐ Building ☐ Site ☐ Structure ☒ Object
   OWNERSHIP
   ☒ Public ☐ Private ☐ Both
   PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
   ☒ In Process ☐ Being Considered
   STATUS
   ☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☒ Preservation work in progress
   ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
   ☒ Yes: Restricted ☒ Unrestricted ☐ No
   PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
   ☒ Agricultural ☐ Government ☐ Park ☐ Transportation ☐ Comments
   ☐ Commercial ☐ Industrial ☒ Private Residence ☐ Other (Specify)
   ☐ Educational ☐ Military ☐ Religious
   ☐ Entertainment ☐ Museum ☐ Scientific

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
   OWNER'S NAME:
   National Trust for Historic Preservation
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   748 Jackson Place
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Washington
   STATE:
   D.C.
   COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
   Frederick County Clerk's Office
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Winchester
   STATE:
   Virginia

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
   TITLE OF SURVEY:
   Historic American Buildings Survey
   DATE OF SURVEY:
   DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
   Library of Congress/Annex
   STREET AND NUMBER:
   Prints and Photographs Division
   CITY OR TOWN:
   Washington
   STATE:
   D.C.
Isaac Hite, the builder of Belle Grove was a successful farmer who began with 483 acres in 1783 and acquired 7,437 by 1814. In 1820 a west wing was added to the mansion, increasing its dimensions from 74 x 40 feet to one exceeding 100 x 40. Sometime between 1815 and 1828, outbuildings were added. The smokehouse and icehouse are still extant.

In 1836 Major Hite died and in 1860 his family sold it to John and Benjamin Cooley. War damages forced them to sell to an Englishman, James Davison, in 1867. The names of Union soldiers can still be seen scratched on the walls and ceiling over the north portico.

Belle Grove was maintained as an inn from 1907 until the late 1920's. In 1929 Francis Hunnewell of Wellesley, Mass. bought Belle Grove and began its restoration. He bequeathed the mansion and 100 acres to the National Trust in 1964. Today, Belle Grove is an operating farm that also serves as a center for the interpretation of rural folk life.

It conducts varied educational programs, including, for the last three summers, student excavations on the mansion grounds. These have so far uncovered the remains of a late 18th or early 19th century outdoor bake oven, the limestone foundation of an early 19th century dairy, and numerous artifacts.

Belle Grove mansion is a dressed limestone house of one full story on a very high basement. The walls are quoined with rough-hewn stone, and keyed flat arches of stone emphasize each window opening. Four widely spaced chimneys, also of stone, rise symmetrically from the broad hip roof. Belle Grove was designed in the Classical Revival style; its four porticoes, three of which had been removed, are now restored to their original condition.

Some of the earthworks used by the 6th Corps at the beginning of the battle are still in existence. They surround the crest of a round hill just west of the Belle Grove mansion.

**BOUNDARIES:**

The boundaries are those recommended by John D. McDermott and Edwin C. Bearss in their 1969 Special Report on Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove, Frederick County, Virginia, done for the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. The boundaries include all the area where fighting occurred on October 19, 1864, except for Interstate Highway 81, which divides the site into two sections. The southern section contains Robert's Ferry and Bowman's Ferry, where the Confederates crossed the Shenandoah, and the site of the morning position of Crook's VIII Corps. The northern section contains Belle Grove, and the sites of the original positions of Wright's VI Corps and Emory's XIX Corps. The latter unit's entrenchments are the only ones still prominent. Enclosed is their verbal description of the boundaries. Also included are maps showing the position of the battle's focal points on the U.S.G.S. topographic maps for this area, and a sketch map showing the relationship of the buildings and excavations at Belle Grove.
Belle Grove was one of the first mansions built in the Shenandoah Valley; it was completed in 1797 for a sister of James Madison and her husband. In 1864 it was made into Union General Philip Sheridan's headquarters, and served as a focal point for the Battle of Cedar Creek.

Cedar Creek Battlefield, which extends for miles in every direction from Belle Grove, was the site of the last decisive conflict in the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederate defeat here forced their final retreat from the area, after which General Sheridan devastated it from end to end.

HISTORY

Belle Grove was built in 1794 by Major Isaac Hite, the grandson of Jost Hite. The older man was one of the first settlers in the Shenandoah Valley and held claim to 140,000 acres there. Isaac Hite was granted 483 acres in Frederick County by his father early in 1783. That same year he married Eleanor Conway Madison, sister of the future President. Certain architectural refinements of the main structure are attributed to Thomas Jefferson, Madison's close friend.

In 1864, Belle Grove stood in the direct line of march for both the Union and Confederate armies in the Shenandoah Valley. Major General Philip Sheridan had orders to advance through the valley and destroy everything of use to the Confederacy. After pushing back Jubal Early's army at Winchester and Fisher's Hill in late September, Sheridan was able to destroy most of the farmland north of Staunton.

Sheridan halted his march in early October and drew up a temporary defensive position along the low-lying hills on the north side of Cedar Creek. Belle Grove, located to the center rear of the crescent-shaped line, became Sheridan's headquarters. Sheridan then left for Washington to confer with Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and General Grant, assuming that his troops faced no immediate threat.

However, by October 16 Jubal Early had regrouped his scattered forces six miles south of Belle Grove at Fisher's Hill near Strasburg. He took his troops on a predawn march around the base of Look-Out Mountain and then across the lightly guarded north fork of the Shenandoah below Cedar Creek on the Union left. Positioning of artillery, for fear of noise
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Freeman, Douglas Southall, Lee's Lieutenants, 1944.
Wayland, John W., Historic Houses of Northern Virginia, 1937.
Work Projects Administration, Virginia: A Guide to the Old Dominion, 1940.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 900

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Survey Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service

STREET AND NUMBER: 1100 L Street, NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D.C.

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National [ ] State [X] Local [ ]

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)

Name ____________________________

Title ____________________________

Date ____________________________

1969 - 20-76
Location: Generally, Cedar Creek Battlefield lies between Middletown and Strasburg in Frederick County, Virginia. Interstate Highway 81 divides the battlefield into northern and southern units. **North Section:** Beginning at 78° 18' 46" Longitude and 39° 0' 33", the boundary line runs in a northeasterly direction to 78° 17' 16" and 39° 1' 23", then in a northwesterly direction to 78° 17' 21" and 39° 1' 26", then in a northeasterly direction to 78° 16' 47" and 39° 1' 53", then in a northwesterly direction 78° 16' 55" and 39° 2', then in a northeasterly direction to 78° 16' 30" and 39° 2' 15", then in a northwesterly direction to 78° 16' 6" and 39° 2' 35", then in a northwesterly direction to 78° 16' 42" and 39° 3' 1", then in a southerly direction down the center of State Highway 625 to its intersection with State Highway 621, then in a southeasterly direction to 78° 18' 2" and 39° 1' 45", then in a northwesterly direction to 78° 18' 38" and 39° 1' 20", then in a southerly direction to 78° 18' 4" and 39° 1' 33", then in a westerly direction to 78° 18' 5" and 39° 1' 33", then in a southerly direction to the point of beginning. **South Section:** Beginning at 78° 19' 15" Longitude and 38° 58' 29" Latitude, the boundary runs in a northeasterly direction to 78° 18' 2" and 39° 1' 20", then in a northerly direction to 78° 18' 4" and 39° 1' 33", then in a westerly direction to 78° 18' 4" and 39° 1' 33", then in a westerly direction to 78° 18' 38" and 39° 1' 20" and then in a southerly direction to the point of beginning. Generally, this rectangle excludes most of the small community of Meadow Mills.
The attack took the Union left completely by surprise. The disorganized Federal troops fell back in confusion through the predawn mist. By 9 a.m., the Union forces had been driven through Belle Grove to a tenuous position four miles from those they had held the previous day. Except for the veteran 6th Corps and some cavalry units, the Union command structure had all but disintegrated under the impact. Thousands of men were fleeing northward along the valley pike towards Winchester.

Early had few reserves with which to press home his advantage. He may have been unaware of the magnitude of his success so far. In any case, the Confederates halted by mid-morning to regroup north of Middletown.

Sheridan had returned from Washington to Winchester the night before. By 9 a.m. he had heard the distant artillery fire and immediately began a pell-mell 20 mile gallop to the battlefield. Rallying troops all along the way, he arrived to the shouts and cheers of his reinvigorated soldiers. By 4 p.m. the Union counterattack had begun. Early's army, exhausted and outnumbered, broke and ran. Most of the Confederate artillery and supplies were lost and the army irrecoverably beaten. Of the 40,000 men involved on both sides, one-fifth were casualties. The Shenandoah Valley never was used, as an invasion route or as a granary, by Confederate forces again.
STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Frederick

1. NAME
COMMON: Belle Grove
AND/OR HISTORIC: Belle Grove

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: .3 mi. SW of Meadow Brook, .1 mi. E of Rt. 727, .5 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 727 and Rt. 11.

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One)

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COMMENTS

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNERS NAME: National Trust for Historic Preservation
STREET AND NUMBER: 748 Jackson Place
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia
CODE: 08

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Frederick County Clerk's Office
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Winchester
STATE: Virginia
CODE: 45

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1941
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: District of Columbia
CODE: 08
Belle Grove is a one and one-half story, hip roof, locally cut limestone structure; the front of the house laid in ashlar hand cut blocks, the sides and rear facade being of random coursing. Both front and rear facades are focused around a one-story Roman portico.

The interior is characterized by fine hand carved paneling, mantels, and woodwork. The parlor is especially fine with elaborate corner pilasters and doors. An interesting feature of the house is the concealed stairway which rises from a closet in the hall. The layout of the rooms is symmetrically oriented around a longitudinal hall.
**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century

**SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)**

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Aboriginal
- Prehistoric
- Historic
- Agriculture
- Art
- Commerce
- Conservation
- Education
- Engineering
- Industry
- Invention
- Landscape
- Literature
- Military
- Music
- Theatrical
- Transportation
- Urban Planning
- History
- Religion/Rit.
- Science
- Sculpture
- Social/Human.
- Technology
- Theater
- Archaeology

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)**

Belle Grove was built by Major Isaac Hite, grandson of Jost Hite, one of the largest landholders and earliest pioneers in the Shenandoah Valley. Because of this association, the property is closely linked with the history and development of that part of Virginia. On October 19, 1864, it was the scene of the Battle of Cedar Creek, the decisive battle of the Civil War in the Valley. At this time it served as headquarters for Union General Philip Sheridan.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES


"Belle Grove" pamphlet, National Trust for Historic Preservation.


10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY

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LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE

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NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
April 24, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE
Virginia

CODE
45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National □ State ☑ Local □

Name
Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date June 2, 1969

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register
Fig. 1

OVERALL GRID PLAN

1972 EXCAVATIONS
1973 EXCAVATIONS

STATE ROUTE 727

FARM BUILDINGS

ICE HOUSE

GARDEN

SLAVE GRAVES

SCALE FT.

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