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	2.	Cedar Creek Batt	clefield and	Belle Grove							
		STREET AND NUMBER: <u>on Va. Route 727</u> CITY OR TOWN: Middletown	7 near Middle	town (Belle	Grove) a CONGRESSION Seventh	AL DISTRICT:		_			
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NSTRU	4	Image: Agricultural       Government       Park       Transportation       Comments         Commercial       Industrial       Private Residence       Other (Specify)									
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	64. Today.						

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.

as a center for the interpretation of rural folk life.

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 <u>Special Report on Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove</u>, <u>Frederick County, Virginia</u>, 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.

ERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	🕱 18th Century	20th Century
15th Century	📋 17th Century	🕱 19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicab	le and Known) 1797–1	864	
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropri-	ate)	
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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, Sheriden 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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAFTICAL REFUNCES	<del></del>	
Freeman, Douglas Southall, <u>Lee's</u> Pond, G.E., <u>The Shenandoah Valle</u> Wayland, John W., <u>Historic House</u>	ey in 1	1864,1889.
Work Projects Administration, V	irginia	a: A Guide to the Old Dominion, 1940.
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Stephen Lissandrello, Historia	an, La	ndmarks Survey Project
Historic Sites Survey, Nation	al Dari	
STREET AND NUMBER:		<u>k Service</u> 2/15/75
1100 L Street, NW.		z
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As the designated State Liaison Officer for the tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Publ 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for ind	ic Law clusion	I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register. (NATIONAL H <del>REFORIC</del>
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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 northeasterly 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 southwesterly direction down the center of State Highway 625 to its intersection with State Highway 621, then in a southeasterly direction down the center of State Highway 621 to its intersection with State Highway 625, then in a southwesterly direction down the center of State Highway 625 to 78°17'40" and 39° 1'49", then in a westerly direction  $78^{\circ}$  18'2'' and  $39^{\circ}$  1'55'', then in a westerly direction to 78° 18"28" and 39° 1' 48", then in a northwesterly direction to 78°18"38" and 39°2', and then down the center of Cedar Creek in a southerly direction to the point of beginning. Excepted within this section is a rectangular unit whose boundary line begins at 78° 18' 34" Longitude and 39° 1'16" Latitude and runs in an easterly 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. South Section: Beginning at 78°19'15" Longitude and 38°58'29" Latitude, the boundary runs in a northeasterly direction to 78°17'40" and 38°58'56", then follows the center of State Highway 611 to its intersection with State Highway 612, then continues in a northerly direction down the center line of Highway 612 to 78°18'12" and 39°0'11", then in a westerby direction to 78°19'30" and 39°0'6", then down the center of Cedar Creek and the North Fork of the Shenandoah River to the point of beginning.

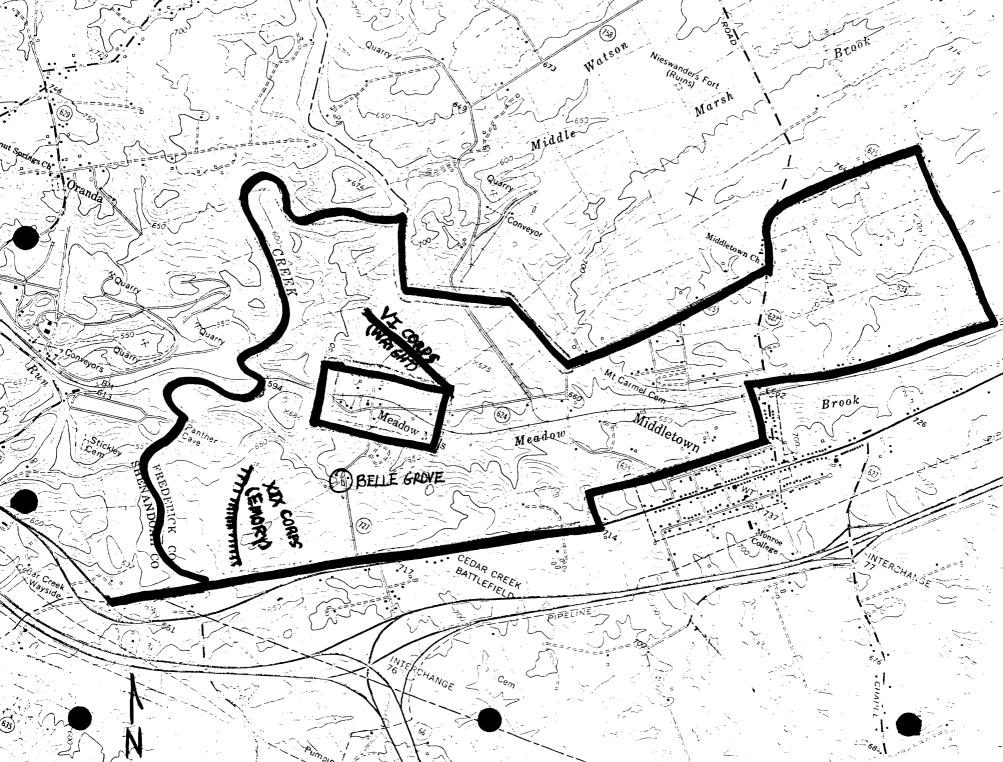
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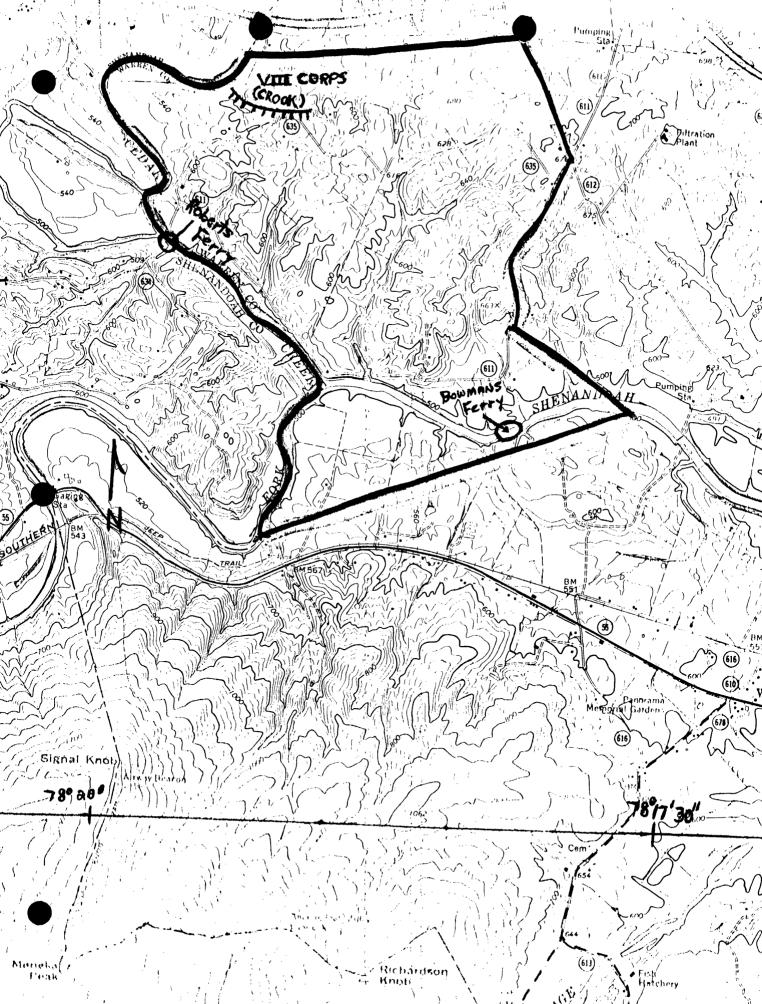
on macadamized roads, was delayed until after the first infantry units struck.

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.





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CONDITION	Excellent 🗌	Good	X Fair (	(Che	ck One) rated 🔲	Ruins 📋	Unexposed 📋
INTEGRITY		(Che	eck One)			(Ch	eck One)
INTEGRITY	Altered		Unaltered	X	Move	d 🔲	Original Site 🛛

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 (Che	ck Une of M	ore as	Appropriate)					
` Pre	-Columbian		16th Centur	у 🗌	18th Century 🕱		20th Century	
15+	n Century		17th Centur	у 🗌 💡	19th Century 🔲			
SPECIFIC DA	TE(S) (If A)	pplicabl	le and Known)				•	
AREAS OF SI	GNIFICANC	E (Che	ock One or More as	Appropria	ite)		×	
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Pr	ehistoric		Engineering		Religion/Rhi-		Other (Specify)	X
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			Music		Transportation			

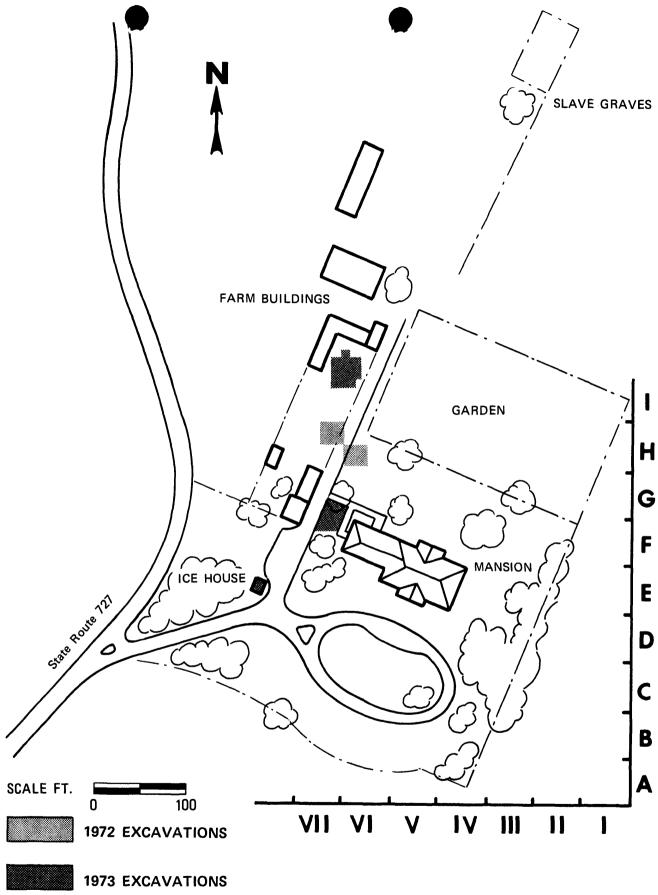
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

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.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCE	5					
"Belle Grove," Special Issu (July-December, 1968), pu Preservation, 1968. "Belle Grove" pamphlet, Nat Wayland, John W., <u>Historic</u> The McClure Company, Inc.	blished ional Tr Homes of	by us	National Trust fo t for Historic Pres	r Hist ervati	oric on.	
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FORM PREPARED BY						
Staff, Virginia Historic Land ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks (			ission, James W. M	DA		
STREET AND NUMBER:				<b>[A</b> P	111 24,	1,70,7
Room 1116, Ninth Street State	e Office		ilding			CODE
Richmond			Virginia			45
STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICAT	ION	ी	NATIONAL REGI	STER VE	RIFICATIO	
As the designated State Liaison Officer tional Historic Preservation Act of 1966 89-665), I hereby nominate this property in the National Register and certify that evaluated according to the criteria and p forth by the National Park Service. The level of significance of this nomination is National State X L	(Public Law for inclusion it has been rocedures se recommended	t	I hereby certify that this National Register. Chief, Office of Archeol			
Name Que P. Alexander per Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Title Virginia Historic Landma	Chairman		Date	<u>э (</u>	-2	

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## OVERALL GRID PLAN

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