

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0684503

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED SEP 19 1978

DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1978

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Rosswood

AND/OR COMMON

(Hamer House)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

E of Lorman on MS 552

North side of State Highway 552

CITY, TOWN

Lorman

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE
28

COUNTY
Jefferson

CODE
063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Colonel Walter R. and Jean G. Hylander

STREET & NUMBER

Bechtel-Jubail, APO

CITY, TOWN

New York

VICINITY OF

STATE
New York 09616

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 145

CITY, TOWN

Fayette

STATE
Mississippi 39069

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1977

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE
Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on Highway 552 between Lorman and Red Lick in Jefferson County on a rural tract of land encompassing almost one hundred acres, Rosswood is a square frame two-story Greek Revival residence. A two-story pedimented portico of the giant Tuscan order occupies the three central bays of the five-bay south facade. The house is set upon a low brick foundation wall with a molded wood cap from which the weatherboarded walls, trimmed with beaded corner boards, rise to a wide entablature with bracketed cornice. The low hipped roof is pierced by four tall brick chimneys, two at each side.

On the facade, the entablature is carried forward to define the pediment, which contains a molded triangular panel; the soffit of the pediment is paneled. The fascia of the upper-porch floor is treated as a secondary entablature with modified triglyphs and guttae placed on the architrave and paired brackets placed on the frieze to support the molded wood cornice. A simple railing with rectangular-section balusters runs between the round stuccoed brick columns on the upper level, but the balusters of the lower level are turned.

Access to the interior from both porches is provided by elaborate doorways flanked by jib windows. The lower frontispiece is composed of a full entablature supported by two attached box columns set between pilastered antae. Between the columns is a single-leaf four-panel door and a rectangular transom, and between the columns and the antae are the side lights set over molded panels. The door, the transom, and the side lights are deeply recessed behind the frontispiece. The upper frontispiece is identical to the lower one, except that the upper entablature is supported by two detached columns set between the antae.

Pediment-shaped window heads trim the windows, which contain six-over-six double-hung sash. Low rectangular openings with plain wood frames and rectangular wood bars are set in the south and east foundation walls to provide ventilation and light to the cellar. The cellar consists of two connected rooms, each with its own exterior entrance to the east. Although both cellar entrances were originally of the bulkhead type, the south entrance has been topped with a small box-like frame structure, the gable roof of which reaches only to the sill of a first-floor window. The cellar rooms contain cooking fireplaces and were probably originally a winter kitchen. (The location of the principal kitchen, a separate brick building sketched and described by the first owner of Rosswood, Dr. Walter Wade, in his diary, is perhaps indicated by what appear to be the remains of an old outbuilding in the yard.)

The original one-story gallery across the back of the house has been fully enclosed and partially extended several times, most recently to provide space for modern family living and conveniences. One original porch column, embedded in the framework of the enclosure, is still visible from the exterior at the east corner.

The double-pile central-hall plan of Rosswood features double parlors on the west side of the hall. The parlors are separated by a large pair of sliding doors set in a frontispiece composed of two fluted Ionic pilasters of wood which support a full entablature of plaster. The plaster cornice of the entablature continues around both parlors. Like the rest of the house, the parlors are trimmed with simple Greek Revival pilastered mantel-pieces of wood, bases with molded crowns, windows set over fixed or movable panels, and four-panel modded doors. Door and window openings are defined by pilasters supporting full entablatures. Those connecting to the hall contain both doors and transoms.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT David Shroder, architect/builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rosswood is an eclectic Greek Revival mansion of handsome proportions and great integrity of setting. It is significant as the only surviving example of a documented building designed and built by David Shroder, the architect of Windsor Plantation in adjoining Claiborne County. Now probably the most famous ruin in the United States, Windsor's Corinthian colonnade "marks the site of Mississippi's most lavish residential essay in the Greek Revival style."¹ Rosswood is signed and dated by the architect on the interior wall above the main entrance, "D. Shroder Builder '57," and its construction was carefully chronicled in a journal kept by Dr. Walter Wade, for whom the house was built.²

Research into the history of Rosswood substantiates the claim made in Goodspeed's Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, published in 1891, that David Shroeder [sic] was the planner of Windsor.³ The 1860 census lists David Shroder as a resident of Rodney, Mississippi, and describes his occupation as master mechanic. He was born in Maryland and in 1860 was thirty-eight years old.⁴

David Shroder can be documented as the designer of only Rosswood and Windsor, but he was almost definitely the architect of Highland, or the Hamilton House, which was built in 1856 between Port Gibson and Grand Gulf, Mississippi. Although the house burned in 1929, a former resident of the house has commented on the resemblance to Rosswood,⁵ and pictures of the house reveal a striking similarity.⁶ Shroder may also have designed the Darden House, which was built c. 1850-55 southwest of Port Gibson.⁷ Features common to Rosswood, Highland, and the Darden House are the eclectic blending of Gothic, Greek Revival, and Italianate details and the early use of interior doorway transoms. Certainly, Rosswood will afford architectural historians the best evidence to date for conjectural descriptions of Windsor.

Dr. Walter Wade (1810-1862), for whom Rosswood was constructed, was a planter and a physician. He was a grandson of Captain Isaac Ross,⁸ who precipitated a great legal controversy in Mississippi when he died in 1836 and stipulated in his will that his slaves were to be offered their freedom in Liberia. After a lengthy court battle, about 250-300 of the Ross slaves were sent to Africa.⁹

Rosswood was built on the 1,285-acre tract referred to as "Rosswood Plantation" in Dr. Wade's 1849 deed of purchase from the estate of his kinsman, John Isaac Wade Ross.¹⁰ Upon the death of Dr. Wade in 1862, the land was divided among his widow and his children. Mrs. Wade received the "mansion house" and approximately one hundred acres,¹¹ and the property on which the house is located has remained intact since the 1862 division.

In the journal of Dr. Walter Wade, which encompasses the years 1855 to 1862, he recorded in January, 1856, that he met with David Shroder concerning the building of a dwelling house. On May 14, 1856, he wrote that he and David Shroder had agreed to a two-story frame house with two cellar rooms, single back gallery, shingle roof, and a two-story brick kitchen. The

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Douglas, Ed Polk. Architecture in Claiborne County, Mississippi. Edited by James H. Stone. Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1974.

Goodspeed. Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100

QUADRANGLE NAME St. Joseph, Miss.-La.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,5 6,8,8 5,2,0 3,5 2,2 0,0,0

B 1,5 6,8,8 2,8,0 3,5 2,1 3,6,0

C 1,5 6,8,7 8,4,5 3,5 2,1 7,3,0

D 1,5 6,8,8 0,9,0 3,5 2,2 4,5,0

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The one hundred acres of Rosswood Plantation is generally described as beginning at a stake at the southeast corner of what is known as the Richard Wade property on the

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mary Warren Miller, Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

DATE

June, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

506 High Street

TELEPHONE

(601) 442-9786

CITY OR TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 11, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

James H. Gilmore

DATE

12-8-78

ATTEST: *James H. Gilmore*

DATE

12/8/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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7- Description

The hall is divided unequally by a low plain semi-elliptical plaster arch supported at each side by a short wood entablature, which itself is supported by a pair of Gothic-paneled box columns, one attached and one freestanding. The ceiling of the smaller entrance hall is elaborated by a molded recess. The larger back hall contains an open stair which begins at the rear with a cluster of delicately turned balusters in place of a newel, makes a quarter turn, and rises along the east wall to the second floor, where room arrangement and trim are similar to those features on the first floor. The stair rail continues unbroken around the stair well to ascend a second flight of stairs to the unfinished attic.

Modern plumbing and closets have been added sympathetically to the house, and the only major alteration occurs in the window openings in the rear wall of the first story.

8- Statement of Significance

price of the house was to be \$10,000. On July 6, 1857, the Wade family spent their first night at Rosswood.¹² Dr. Wade not only provided a description of his house, the story of its construction, and a definitive date for its completion; he also made available valuable information about the building trade in Jefferson County and mid-nineteenth century America.

Tradition has maintained that Rosswood was constructed for Dr. Wade's second wife, Mabelle (spelled variously Mabello and Mabella) Chamberlain Wade. However, since the house was built in 1857, approximately two and a half years before their marriage in December, 1859,¹³ the story has little basis in fact. Dr. Wade's first wife was Martha Taylor Wade, his first cousin, who died in 1848.¹⁴

In 1898, Rosswood was acquired by Mrs. Mary E. Hamer, a niece of Confederate President Jefferson Davis, and was referred to as the Hamer House for many years.¹⁵ Rosswood was sold again during the Depression, and in recent years it has had several owners. Among the latter were Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Mason, who are credited locally with having rescued the house from severe neglect, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Black, who were responsible for most of the modernization of Rosswood. The present owners, Colonel and Mrs. Walter R. Hylander, purchased the property in 1976. Although the interior of the house is in good condition, much work is required to repair and restore the exterior. The respect with which the Hylanders regard Rosswood will be reflected in the accuracy of their restoration and preservation of the house.

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8 - Statement of Significance (Notes)

¹Ed Polk Douglas, Architecture in Claiborne County, Mississippi, Ed. James H. Stone (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1974), p. 99.

²Dr. Walter Wade, "Journal of Rosswood Plantation, 1855-1862," microfilm copy and typescript in the Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

³Goodspeed, Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi (Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891), II, 1049.

⁴Jefferson County, Mississippi, 1860 census records.

⁵Mary Lee Trimble, in a conversation with Lucia Bacot of Natchez, Mississippi, February, 1978.

⁶Douglas, p. 17.

⁷Douglas, p. 89.

⁸Anne Mims Wright, A Record of the Descendants of Isaac Ross and Jane Brown and the Allied Families of Alexander, Conger, Harris, Hill, King, Killingsworth, Mackey, Moores, Sims, Wade, etc. (Jackson: Press of Consumer's Stationery and Printing Company, 1911), p. 168.

⁹D. Clayton James, Antebellum Natchez (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968), p. 176.

¹⁰Deed Book G:104.

¹¹Probate Records Book I:38-41.

¹²Dr. Walter Wade.

¹³Anne Mims Wright, p. 168. (The date is substantiated in the marriage records of Jefferson County.)

¹⁴Anne Mims Wright, p. 168.

¹⁵Marie T. Logan, Mississippi-Louisiana Border Country: A History of Rodney, Mississippi, St. Joseph, Louisiana, and Environs (Baton Rouge: Claiborne Publishing Division, 1970), p. 187.

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9 - Major Bibliographical References

- James D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.
- Jefferson County, Mississippi. Census Records.
- Jefferson County, Mississippi. Deed Books.
- Jefferson County, Mississippi. Probate Records.
- Logan, Marie T. Mississippi-Louisiana Border Country: A History of Rodney, Mississippi, St. Joseph, Louisiana, and Environs. Baton Rouge: Claiborne Publishing Division, 1970.
- Trimble, Mary Lee. Conversation with Lucia Bacot of Natchez, Mississippi, February, 1978.
- Wade, Dr. Walter. "Journal of Rosswood Plantation, 1855-1862." Microfilm. Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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10 - Verbal Boundary Description

north margin of public road and running thence in a north or northeasterly direction along the Richard Wade property line approximately thirty-five chains to a deep ditch or bayou; then running in a southeasterly direction down the center of said deep ditch or bayou approximately thirty chains to a stake at the southwest corner of what is known as the "Turpin Tract" owned by Dockery. From this point, the line runs in a southerly direction approximately thirty chains to a point on the north margin of the gravel road which leads from Red Lick to Lorman. From this point the line runs in a northwesterly direction along the north margin of said gravel road to the point of beginning. The distance along the gravel road is estimated to be thirty-five chains, but the line from the southwest corner of the "Turpin Tract" to the southeast corner of the land is to be so located and surveyed as to include within the part of Rosswood Plantation exactly one hundred acres. The one hundred acres is bounded on the northerly side by the deep ditch or bayou, on the westerly side by the Richard Wade property, on the southerly side by the gravel road which extends from Lorman to Red Lick and on the easterly side by other property of Holloway Huff. The one hundred acres here described is in the shape of a diamond with the Rosswood residence practically in the center.