

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland
COUNTY:	Cecil
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Rose Hill

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
"Chance" and "Wheeler's Point"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Grove Neck Road, five miles west of Cecilton

CITY OR TOWN:  
Earleville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
First

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24 COUNTY: Cecil CODE: 015

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. and Mrs. Newbold Smith

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Rose Hill

CITY OR TOWN:  
Earleville

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Cecil County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
East Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Elkton

STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1967  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:	Maryland
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ENTRY NUMBER	
DATE	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rose Hill stands on the highest knoll of ground in a 400 acre farm on Sassafras Neck, Cecil County, five miles west of Cecilton. The house sits nearly a mile north of the river and commands a view of the undulating ground, the Sassafras River and Kent County beyond.

Seperated from the field by a "ha ha," the house is the product of four major building periods. The first, a gambrel roof frame structure, was built at the end of the 18th or the beginning of the 19th Century in a form very common to rural Tidewater Maryland. East thereof, a two and a half story brick "town house" was constructed in 1837. A small frame kitchen and a one story wing were built in the 1960's. East of the house are early outbuildings, including a smoke house, ice house and shed.

The gambrel section of the house is covered with chamfered clapboard and on both facades there is a leanto porch. The latter is recorded in a 19th Century watercolor in the collection of the Maryland Historical Society. The interior of this section consists of two rooms and a central hall on both floors. Its interior trim is more refined than most gambrel-roof dwellings, with double crossette trim around the doors and windows, chair rail with gouge carving, and a semicircular fanlight above the door between the east room and hall. Beneath the window trim are paneled pilasters. Fluted pilasters are built beneath the walnut half-rail along the stair; the balustrade and over half of the trim of the west room is a replacement. The second floor remains undisturbed, with the exception of a bath at the head of the stairs.

From the east room, there is a step up into the 1837 wing. Its floor plan consists of a stair hall and parlor south of a dining room. The ceilings are quite tall, with plaster cornices and acanthus leaf medallions in the center of the ceilings with other decorative devices flanking the fireplaces. Black Egyptian marble mantels in the Empire style are in both first story rooms. Those on the second floor are plain and call to mind the slate mantels used in ante-bellum houses of the area. The window trim, with corner blocks, extends to the baseboard. There are recessed paneled shutters in the windows. Two of the windows, one on each gable, are gyb doors to the exterior. Between the dining room and parlor is a pair of large folding double doors, original to the house. There are, in addition to the second floor rooms, two on the third with plain mantels and lighted by a single dormer each, and an attic lighted by two lunette windows on the gables. At the top of the roof is a jack between the pair of chimneys on the east and the single chimney of the west. The kitchen was formerly in the basement of the 1837 section; it was remodeled to a recreation room in the 1960's, using the wood from the huge cherry tree which was felled by a storm.

When the kitchen was added in the early 1960's, the original portion of the house was copied, but in the late 1960's, no attempt was made to copy the original, a compatible contemporary structure was built for the convenience of the retired owners. The latter was designed by the firm of Victorine Homesey of Wilmington.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**SIGNIFICANCE**

**PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)**

- Pre-Columbian
- 16th Century
- 18th Century
- 20th Century
- 15th Century
- 17th Century
- 19th Century

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

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

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education            | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military  | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The principle area of significance of Rose Hill is that it was the home of General Thomas Marsh Forman (1756 - 1845), who served as a young man in the Revolution, at the battles of Land Island, Monmouth, Trenton and Brandywine, and again as an officer in the War of 1812. He was a member of the Maryland General Assembly for three terms between 1790 and 1800; was commander of the first Brigade, Maryland Militia, and was a president of the Maryland Jockey Club in 1830, being an avid horseman most of his life.

Secondarily, the house is a good historical document on changing tastes and how a rural early 19th Century gentleman farmer lived. His second wife has left us a diary in which she describes the day-to-day life of this Cecil County farm. One of the best of her legacies lies in a depression west of the house - the remains of her garden, with numerous boxwood and holly specimens. In one corner of the garden stand two of the largest yew trees living in the United States.

Rose Hill was bequeathed to General Forman by his grandfather, Thomas Marsh in 1776. His parents lived on the farm, but it is yet undetermined when the General took it over. The tract consists of two parcels called "Chance" and "Wheeler's Point"; both 17th Century patents. Upon his death, in 1845, it was devised to his grandson provided he take the name of Thomas Marsh Forman, which he did and subsequently inherited the vast estate which Forman had acquired. Late in the 19th Century, William Ward purchased and lived on the farm. He was a member of the Maryland Legislature as had been the owner of the century before. Rose Hill is important locally as one of the great mansions of the Tidewater region.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cassatt, Alexander J. Interview. Spring, 1972.

CE-27

Forman, Henry Chandlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland.  
Easton, 1881.

Hall of Records, Annapolis, Maryland. Cecil County Land and Probate  
Records Patent Records. Queen Anne's County Land and Probate Records  
Rent Rolls.

(see continuation sheet #1)

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	39 ° 23 ' 30 "	75 ° 57 ' 24 "		°	'	"
NE	39 ° 23 ' 30 "	75 ° 57 ' 12 "				
SE	39 ° 23 ' 17.87 "	75 ° 57 ' 11 "				
SW	39 ° 23 ' 17.87 "	75 ° 57 ' 23 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 55 acres 31 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Michael O. Bourne, Coordinator of Field Services

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

**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: Orlando Ridout, IV

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: February 28, 1974

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Maryland	
COUNTY	
Cecil	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

Rose Hill

No. 9. Major Bibliographical References Continued.

Historical Society of Cecil County, Elton, Maryland. Research Files.

Johnson, George. History of Cecil County, Maryland. Elkton, 1881.



# Easement

0800272004

Form 10-445  
(5/62)

<p>1. STATE <u>Maryland</u>          COUNTY <u>Cecil</u> CE-27          TOWN <u>Grove Neck</u> VICINITY          STREET NO.            ORIGINAL OWNER -----          ORIGINAL USE <u>Dwelling</u> 3.          PRESENT OWNER <u>Alexander Cassatt</u>          PRESENT USE <u>Dwelling</u>          WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>clapboard and brick</u>          NO. OF STORIES <u>Combined house.</u></p>	<p>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY          INVENTORY CE-27</p> <p>2. NAME <u>ROSE HILL</u> <sup>&amp; 1820's</sup>          DATE OR PERIOD. <u>1700, <del>1820</del></u>          STYLE <u>Maryland Gambrel and Federal</u>          ARCHITECT          BUILDER</p> <p>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</p>
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4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC NO

Rose Hill is a curious combination of a Maryland gambrel colonial and a Philadelphia style town house. The old section of the house is a one-and-a-half storey Maryland gambrel constructed of wide old clapboard. It has an enclosed chimney on ~~its~~ <sup>each gable</sup> end. It is five bays long with a central door. Two of the windows are six-over-six sashes and two are nine-over-nine. There are three six-over-six shed dormers on the roof. Added to this <sup>1820's-1830's</sup> very good, late seventeenth century house, in ~~1810-1820~~ was a tall Federal style townhouse. The resulting proportions are awkward and amusing. This house is three bays wide and four deep with a very high steep roof which terminates in a flat ridge on the top, surmounted by a wooden ~~balustrade~~ <sup>balustrade</sup>. There are two chimneys on the left end with a curtain between and one on the right end. There is one pedimented dormer <sup>on the west</sup> on the front roof with Doric pilasters. The door occupies the ~~right~~ front bay. All the windows are six-over-six sashes with panelled shutters. This section of the house is of stuccoed brick. The garden door has a very delicate overlight. There are many old boxwoods on the gardens around ROSE HILL and a lovely view of the river.

This property is excellently maintained and is noteworthy for containing two fine examples of two distinct and important architectural types. Their combination is interesting and curious and makes ROSE HILL a remarkable piece of architecture.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered NO Interior good Exterior good

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional) 7. PHOTOGRAPH 10301-14

4 b x w neg

<p>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)          INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.</p> <p><u>Forman, Early Manor &amp; Plantation .... 1934, p. 236-238</u></p>	<p>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</p> <p><u>Paul Alan Brinkman</u>  <u>15 December</u></p> <p>DATE OF RECORD</p>
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTO CAPS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

# Interior

CE-27

The center hall of the gambrel wing of Rose Hill has carved chair rail, dentil cornice delicate stair to the second floor and dog ear molding around the doors. The two rooms flanking the hall also have woodwork of the late 18th century.

Inside the 19th century wing the ~~victorian~~ stair rises to the attic. The parlor and dining room have black Egyptian marble mantels of the Empire style with engaged columns. The ceilings of the latter two rooms are decorated with Empire plasterwork bands around the rooms and medallions in the center from which hang fixtures.

ROSE HILL

An eagle's nest, high in an old pine tree, stands as a solitary sentinel at the entrance to the long drive up to Rose Hill.

The first sight of Rose Hill is that of surprise - the surprise of the sleek, vertical lines of a sophisticated town house balanced by the low-hugging spread of the wings. And beyond, a broad expanse of descending meadowland, dipping down to the Sassafra River.

This is Rose Hill, its wings having been built at approximately century and a half intervals, the first constructed between 1680-1685 by Thomas Marsh. This low frame, Jacobean dwelling, now the center and main entrance, he left to his grandson, General Thomas Marsh Forman of Revolutionary War fame, who in turn in 1814 added a wing to meet his own needs - a three story brick addition, elegantly tall and trim, in order to please his wife who admired Philadelphia city houses.

Both General Forman and his wife are buried on the place, south of the house, below what had once been their rose garden. On Mrs. Forman's tomb, the General had inscribed that "the troubles of her husband were alleviated by her counsels and sweetened by her endearments - he put his heart on her bosom and received comfort".

During the Forman's occupancy, life at Rose Hill was synonymous with the Maryland way of life. Here hospitality was dispensed with spontaneous lavishness. Here General Forman stabled his race horses. Here, at the behest of a devoted wife, he set about beautifying his estate until it was one of the garden spots of the country.

Mrs. Forman's diary reveals that they set out more than 60 varieties of rare trees and shrubs, fruit and nut trees. In 1818 alone, Mrs. Forman set out 1,400 cuttings of boxwood.

Much box still remains - some of it ringing circles of four holly trees which in turn surround a fifth center holly tree. Two magnificent yew trees are thought to be the largest in America, and the cucumber tree, one of the finest specimens in Maryland. There are the lindens, the willow-oaks, and a huge old oak with a span of 145 feet.

Legend has it that the General (who in 1830 was the first president of the Pimlico Jockey Club, later the Maryland Jockey Club) buried one of his favorite race horses here. One former occupant of Rose Hill remains firm to this day in her insistence of having seen the ghost of this stallion, shod with silver shoes, crying eerily at the farm gate.

The two wings added by Mr. Cassatt represent his thoughtful contribution at Rose Hill to nearly 300 years of life lived with the charm of the past and yet the promise of the future.

Compliments of Mrs. Cassatt  
This is full of errors MGS



⑨

Rose Hill

CE-27

NORTH ELEVATION

NR

EARLEVILLE, MD.

PST 10/78

DEV. BY  
Elizabeth E. Booth

9/22/79



⑫

ROSE HILL

CE-27

SOUTH ELEVATION

NR

EARLEVILLE, MD.

81ST 10/78

DEV. 34  
Elizabeth E. Booth

9/22/79



Rose Hill

CE-27

(10)

NORTH ELEVATION

NR EARLEVILLE, MD

P13T 10/78

PTV. 154

Elizabeth E. Booth

9/22/79



⑪

Rose Hill  
NORTH ELEVATION  
NR

EARLEVILLE, MD.

PBT 10/78

CE-27

DEV. BY  
Elizabeth E. Booth

9/22/79



#22

CE-27 Rose Hill 176 6/95



#27

CE-27 Rose Hill P/B 6/75



#19

CE-27 Rose Hill 273  
6/95



#5

16.77 Rose Hill P/B 6/1/15

10.11.15, Farnham, 10.11.15



#0

CE 27 Rose Hill parlor mantel PJ2 #195



#8

Rose Hill CE-27 1929 wallpaper in hall RSR 4/15



63#

CE 27 Rose Hill dairy PJB 6/75



CE-27

Rose Hill



ROSE HILL

CE-27

SOUTH ELEVATION

NEAR EARLEVILLE

MUB/1968

NEG. / MA. HIST. TRUST