



HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

30 North Market Street, Third Floor Frederick, Maryland 21701 (301) 600-7147



CASE NO. CR 20-02
NOMINATION TO COUNTY REGISTER
STAFF REPORT

SUMMARY

Property: **Rose Hill Manor**
 1611 North Market Street, Frederick, MD

Applicant: **Frederick County Government**

Public Hearing for consideration of placing Rose Hill Manor located at 1611 North Market Street, Frederick, on the Frederick County Register of Historic Places. Submitted by Frederick County Government, property owner of record.

The public hearing for the nomination of the property to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places will be held at 7:00 p.m., or thereafter, on January 6, 2021.



DESIGNATION STATUS

The property is listed on the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties under survey number F-3-126 as well as to the National Register of Historic Places. Rose Hill Manor was designated to the National Register in December 1971 under Criterion B and C for its association with Maryland's first governor, Thomas Johnson, and for embodying the distinctive characteristics of types, periods, and methods of construction.

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

The Maryland Historical Trust Review form, National Register nomination form, aerial map, topographic map, and digital photographs are included.

SITE VISITS

Rose Hill Manor is a county park and is opened to the public. Commissioners are encouraged to visit during visiting hours to familiarize themselves with the property.

REVIEW CONSIDERATIONS

1) Analysis

The documentation provided in the National Register nomination and Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties clearly establishes the architectural and historical significance of Rose Hill Manor, indicating that is eligible for listing under Criteria 6B(1A), 6B(1C), 6B(1D), and 6B(2A).

2) History Summary

In 1746, Hans Peter Hoffman, who emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1733, purchased the nearly 228-acre tract of land from Daniel Dulaney who was selling portions of his land grant known as Tasker's Chance. Hoffman and his wife Maria are believed to have built a log cabin on the property where they raised their seven children. Thomas Johnson purchased the land from Hans Peter Hoffman in 1778 and leased the property for farming for 10 years. In 1788, Johnson gifted the land to his daughter Anne and her husband Major John Grahame. Rose Hill Manor was built as a home for herself and her husband shortly thereafter in the early 1790s. Thomas Johnson moved to the home in the early 1800s to spend his retirement years with his daughter.

Rose Hill Manor is a two-and-a-half-story brick house, five-bays-wide on the main block. A two-story, three-bay-wide, brick wing is attached to the west elevation of the main block. The house is a transitional style between late Georgian and Greek Revival, built circa mid-1790s. The property also contains several structures and landscape features that existed during the time of the farm's establishment.

The property passed through several other families following the death of Anne Grahame in 1837. In 1964, the Frederick County Commissioners purchased 39.3 acres of the property for a school site (Governor Thomas Johnson High & Middle Schools). Later, in 1968, the County Commissioners purchased 46 acres to establish Rose Hill Manor Park and Museum as the first County Park.

3) Historic, Archaeological, and Cultural Significance Criteria

The district is eligible for listing under this category by meeting the following criteria outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(1) of the Frederick County Code:

- *The property has significant character, interest, or value as part of the development, heritage, or cultural characteristics of the County, state, or nation;*
- *The property is identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society; and*
- *The property exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the County and its communities.*

In 1746, Hans Peter Hoffman, who emigrated to the United States from Germany in 1733, purchased the nearly 228-acre tract of land from Daniel Dulaney who was selling portions of his land grant known as Tasker's Chance. Hoffman and his wife Maria are believed to have built a log cabin on the property where they raised their seven children. Thomas Johnson purchased the land from Hans Peter Hoffman in 1778 and leased the property for farming for 10 years. In 1788, Johnson gifted the land to his daughter Anne and her husband Major John Grahame. Rose Hill Manor was built as a home for herself and her husband shortly thereafter in the early 1790s. According to the National Register Nomination for Rose Hill:

Grahame was a native of Calvert County; his father Charles Grahame of Patuxent Manor, Calvert County, was an outstanding political figure in late eighteenth-century Maryland and a close associate of Thomas Johnson.

Major Grahame, a member of the first Board of Directors of the Frederick National Bank, was mentioned several times in the Episcopal Vestry records of All Saints Parish, Frederick County, 1742, as were Henry Ridgely Warfield, William Goldsborough, Benjamin Ogle and Francis Scott Key.

Entering politics in 1813, Grahame was elected to the Maryland Legislature as a Federalist and was nominated and accepted in 1816 as an elector of the state senators, as was Roger Brooke Taney (1777-1864), leader of the Maryland Federalists...

In the first decade of the nineteenth century, the Grahame household expanded to include Thomas Johnson, who, as a recent widower, left his home, “Richfields”, in order to live with his daughter. Johnson retired from public life holding no position other than that of an acknowledged leader of Frederick County. From 1794 until his death in 1819, Johnson performed only one civic duty: he delivered a panegyric in memory of George Washington on February 22, 1800...

Following Johnson’s death in 1819 and then Major Grahame’s in 1833, the property was listed for sale in the Frederick Town Herald and described with improvements that consisted of the main brick house, a brick kitchen, out houses, a two-story log building used as a quarters, a large garden, and a peach and apple orchard. Rose Hill Manor and its outbuildings and landscaped gardens exemplify the economic, social, and political heritage that existed in the county during the Johnson/Grahame ownership.

The property was sold several times over the years until in 1964, the Frederick County Commissioners purchased 39.3 acres of the property for a school site (Governor Thomas Johnson High & Middle Schools). Later, in 1968, the County Commissioners purchased 46 acres to establish Rose Hill Manor Park and Museum as the first County Park.

Archeological excavations in 2000 were conducted in an area proposed for a new drainage system. This excavation identified the remains of entrances that allowed access to the full cellar beneath the main block of the house on the east and west sides of the house. The excavation also recovered architectural objects, kitchen-related items, and 185 miscellaneous or unidentified items.

In 2005, the site was again part of a Phase I archeological survey for the enlargement of the visitor parking lot area and the widening of the maintenance access road. Near the parking lot were a mixture of 18th, 19th, and 20th century artifacts with the majority of artifacts consisting of kitchen ceramics.

4) Architectural and Design Significance Criteria

The property is also eligible under this category by meeting for meeting criteria 6B(2A) as outlined in Chapter 1-23-6B(2) of Frederick County Code:

- *The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or architecture.*

Rose Hill Manor features several characteristics typical of late Georgian style, which include the symmetrical composition and classical details. The symmetrical arrangement of windows and doors, side gabled roof, transoms over front doors, and a central hall interior plan are all features of a Georgian style. It also represents Greek Revival with the large pedimented portico supported by Doric and Ionic columns, the fanlight in the pediment, and the entablature of

triglyphs. The property also contains several structures and landscape features that existed during the time of the farm's establishment.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends Rose Hill Manor for designation to the Frederick County Register of Historic Places pursuant to Criterion 6B(1A), 6B(1C), 6B(1D), and 6B(2A) as described in Section 1-23-6B of the County Code.

If the Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) recommends the property for local designation, the HPC will submit a letter of recommendation to the County Council for final action.