

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 4/6/7  
NRHP 8/8/7

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See Instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Roseville Plantation  
other names/site number Floyd's (VDHR 050-0060)

**2. Location**

street & number 3736 Herring Creek Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Aylett vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county King William code 101 zip code 23009

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date June 27, 2007  
Signature of certifying official  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  
See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other {explain}. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_



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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** 1807 – 1957

**Significant Dates** 1807, 1822

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # VA-766
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** 148.8 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
<u>1. 18 / 301057 / 4191549</u>	<u>2. 18 / 301209 / 4191411</u>	<u>3. 18 / 301168 / 4191096</u>	<u>4. 18 / 301275 / 4190944</u>

See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

name/title Janel Crist Kausner  
organization Ashley Neville, LLC date 22 March 2007  
street & number 112 Thompson Street, suite B1 telephone 804.798.2124  
city or town Ashland state VA zip code 23005

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**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Nancy L. Hubbard  
street & number 3736 Herring Creek Road telephone 804.994.2637  
city or town Aylett state VA zip code 23009

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

**Section   7   Page   1**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

A striking row of cedar trees welcomes guests and directs them down the path from Herring Creek Road towards Roseville Plantation. Fields of soy beans and mature grown trees create a lush backdrop and serve as a reminder of the rich agricultural history of King William County. The plantation abuts the Herring Creek to the east, which has proven to be particularly advantageous and critical to its success. Roseville's contributing resources consist of a two-and-a-half story, four-bay frame dwelling and surviving outbuildings: a one-story, one-bay detached frame kitchen, a one-story, two-bay frame school, a large, one-story, single-bay frame granary, a privy, a 1930s era barn, and two chicken houses, of which one has been converted to an equipment shed. Also located on the substantial grounds are the Ryland family cemetery and a slave cemetery, which are contributing resources to the plantation.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION**

House

The house at Roseville stands at the end of a long entrance lane flanked by cedars. The school, privy, and Ryland family cemetery are located to the rear of the house, while the remaining outbuildings are located to the west of the house, with the granary located next to a creek. The main house, oriented to the west, faces Herring Creek Road.

Built in 1807, this two-and-a-half story frame dwelling, clad in beaded weatherboards painted white, rests on a brick foundation laid in Flemish bond. The asymmetrical façade is four bays across at the ground level, while the second story is three bays. Three gable six-over-six-light dormers pierce the standing-seam metal gable roof. Windows on the ground level are nine-over-nine-light sash, with six-over-six-light sash windows above. A modern replacement porch featuring a pedimented gable roof supported by two chamfered posts embellishes the façade. The rear is configured differently, as both the first and second floors are four bays wide, with only two dormers above. The rear door is also surmounted by a pedimented gable roof supported by brackets. The south end features a remarkable double chimney laid in Flemish bond, with glazed headers and a pent closet the width of the house. The chimney was previously repointed. Prior to 1910, the original free-standing plantation office was moved from behind the house and attached to the south elevation. Through most of the twentieth century it was used as a kitchen and is today an office once again. The office façade is two bays with four-over-four-light sash windows. The south elevation and the rear are single bay, with six-over-six-light sash windows. A modern garage adjoins the north end of the main house. The one-and-a-half-story two-bay structure complements the main house and matches in its massing and design. An additional chimney is featured on this north elevation. This chimney was rebuilt in the late twentieth century. It too is laid in Flemish bond. A date brick stamped with "Fox 1807" is found near the base of the chimney.

The interior of the main house features a double pile, central-passage plan with an off-center passage. The stair, typically located in the central passage, is instead located in a rear room and rises along the exterior wall. Wainscoting topped with a chair rail is found in all ground floor rooms. The original wood floor, which is face nailed, is extant throughout the house. A dining room, historically used as a living room, occupies the northwest quad of the ground floor. This room features a Federal-style mantel on the north wall. The mantel has fluted pilasters and reeding on the frieze. To the rear of this room is the stair hall. The open-string stair also rises along the east, rear wall. The railing has simple, squared

balusters that support a molded handrail. The square newel post is simple and without decoration.

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(8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

Section 7 Page 2

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The south front room has a plainer mantel than the north room, featuring a simple cornice with ogee moldings. To the rear is a modern kitchen that also provides access to the office. An enclosed service stair in the northeast corner of the kitchen leads to a second floor bedroom.

The second floor originally had a double-pile, central-passage plan with an enclosed stair to the third floor located at the front of the passage. The two smaller rooms have been converted into bathrooms. The mantels on this floor are identical to the mantel in the south first floor room. Two additional rooms and an adjoining bathroom are located on the third floor.

Although Roseville may be viewed as a traditionally designed dwelling, certain features suggest the builders were experimenting with the design to address current housing issues. The non-traditional placement of a second passage and the stair in the rear, along with the asymmetrical fenestration of the facade supports this theory. Some studies suggest that the vernacular builder broke down accepted forms into individual components and then applied their building knowledge and technology to develop solutions to new problems. Exerting a certain amount of individuality, builders were able to create new forms with this formula.<sup>1</sup> One of the new dilemmas confronting families like the Foxes was a need for greater privacy. The traditional placement of the stairs in central passage did not allow for enough separation between the public rooms on the ground floor and the private rooms above. It was feared a guest would venture to the second floor if the stairs were easily accessible. Builders at this time began to experiment with slightly more flexible plans to achieve this greater privacy. If the stair was still connected with the passage, it was at minimum repositioned to a side compartment.<sup>2</sup> Following this premise, it is feasible to conclude that Roseville's builder manipulated the traditional passage plan to meet the needs of his employer.

The asymmetrical façade further supports this experimentation hypothesis. A typical feature of the central passage dwelling is a symmetrical façade, which alludes to the interior floor plan.<sup>3</sup> Due to a lack of structural evidence to suggest that the window was inserted at a later date, it may be presumed the builder once again experimented with the traditional building vocabulary to address a spatial issue. Roseville's west front room is larger than the front room on the opposite side of the passage. It is possible the builders created the asymmetrical façade to accommodate a larger room. To be sure, the building form evolved to meet the changing needs of its inhabitants.

As Roseville evolved, several changes were made to the plantation. Over the past 200 years, the north chimney deteriorated significantly. Unfortunately it could not be salvaged and was rebuilt. The date brick was rescued and can be found on the rebuilt chimney today. The south chimney fared better and only needed repointing. Two photographs document major alterations that were mostly likely made during the Ryland sisters' management of Roseville. An early photograph shows a square porch with four round brick columns supporting a flat roof with solid paneled balustrade. A second photograph dated 1910 depicts the porch with the same brick columns but with shed roof. The last major change to the house was the addition of a garage and laundry room on the north end.

Kitchen

South of the house stands a one-story, one-bay, frame kitchen sheathed with beaded weatherboards with a side-gable, standing-seam metal roof. The inset two-bay porch has chamfered posts. A rebuilt chimney and a four-light attic window occupy the east wall. On the south and west elevations six-over-six-light sash windows are used with an additional four-

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

**Section   7   Page   3**

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light attic window on the west elevation. A batten door leads to the interior. The framing is exposed on the interior and a lack of nail holes or plaster indicates that this space has never been finished on the ground floor. The four imposing corner posts are hewn, but not fashioned into an L-shape, and are secured with large wood pegs. Ladder-like stairs with worn treads to the loft are located in the southwest corner of the kitchen. Pieces of beaded weatherboards cover the back of the stair. Nail holes for lath and traces of white wash all indicate that the loft was finished at one time. The presence of a fireplace and double-hung sash windows in the attic further indicate that this space was most likely used as living quarters. The sash-sawn roof framing with lapped and pegged common rafters is exposed in the loft. The type of construction and the cut nails found in the kitchen framing suggests a construction date of 1820-1830. The kitchen is a contributing resource at Roseville.

School

A plantation school is located behind the main house. Similar to the kitchen but smaller, it is a one-story building on brick piers, sheathed with weatherboards with a standing-seam metal gable roof. The façade of the school, however, is two bays with a four-over-four-light sash window. The north and west elevations feature six-over-six-light sash windows with an additional four-light attic window on the west. A brick chimney, laid in six-course bond, is located on the east end. On the interior, the windows and doors have plain architrave trim and there is a plain chair board. There is an enclosed stair in one corner. The school also has brick nogging in the lower half of the wall. The principle beams are hewn and sash sawn and the building is more lightly framed than the house and kitchen suggesting a time period of 1830-1840 for construction. The floorboards are face nailed and appear to be original. Few plantation schools survive in King Williams County. Only one other such school was identified on properties surveyed in King William. That school was located at Burlington (050-0010) but no additional information was available on what type of building it is. The school is a contributing resource.

Granary

The third extant outbuilding is a granary located behind the kitchen on the southwestern edge of the property, near Herring Creek. It was probably built early in the tenure of the Ryland family who also had two grist mills in the county. The building is tightly clad with shiplap siding and raised on a brick foundation and piers laid in three-course and five-course American bond. The granary is built on an embankment, enabling a cart to enter under the building from the south end. There is an elongated opening in the granary floor to allow grain inside the granary to be placed in the cart below. The interior framing features large double corner posts with down braces and wide floorboards. Throughout the granary there is evidence of reciprocal sawing and cut nails. Granaries of this size and apparent age are not common. The brick pier laid in three-course American bond suggests a date of around 1820. Only four other granaries have been documented in the King Williams County survey files. Three are combination granaries/corn cribs and are smaller buildings. Two of these were constructed in the twentieth century. The fourth granary may be an early granary but the only documentation is a photograph from a distance and it is not known if it is still extant. The granary is a contributing resource.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

Section   7   Page   4  

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Office

In the nineteenth century, Roseville also included a detached plantation office. Today it is attached to the main dwelling. The design and layout of plantation office is identical to that of the schoolhouse. The similarities found in the two buildings suggest that they were constructed during the same time period. It is thought that the office was moved and attached to the house after the death of Susan Ryland in 1888. A 1910 photograph depicts the plantation office attached to the main dwelling, confirming it was moved prior to this date.

Cemeteries

Two cemeteries are located to the rear of the house and school. The Ryland family cemetery is nearest to the house. Two gravestones are extant, although additional members of the Ryland family are believed to be buried here. The earliest gravestone is that of Nannie Semple Burruss, a granddaughter of William Semple Ryland, who died in 1873 as a young adult. The other stone is for Ann Semple Ryland, a daughter of Ryland who died in 1913. Ann, one of the three sisters who ran the farm at the turn-of-the twentieth century, apparently was the last of the Ryland family to be buried in the family cemetery at Roseville. Also buried in the family cemetery is Sallie Brown Ryland who was buried here in 1907 although no stone survives for her. As many as ten additional graves may be located in the cemetery but this cannot be confirmed.<sup>4</sup> Approximately one hundred yards southwest of the Ryland family cemetery, in the center of the farm, is a copse of trees that tradition holds is a slave cemetery. No grave markers survive, although sunken areas are extant. Both cemeteries are contributing resources.

Privy

A small frame privy stands to the rear of the house. It is one story and is sheathed with vertical boards and has a shed roof of standing-seam metal. Its date of construction is unclear. Most privies were generally not long lived and could be moved from place to place further contributing to their more frequent reconstruction than most outbuildings.

Barn

A barn, built in the 1930s, stands west of the house and north of the kitchen between the house and the granary. It is a two-story, three-bay building sheathed with weatherboards and topped with a gable roof of standing-seam metal. It has a central pedestrian door flanked by two vehicular-sized openings. There is a small one-story, shed-roof wing on the south side of the building.

Chicken Houses

Two chicken houses are extant, both probably built in the 1940s when the Adamases sold eggs. Both are one-story, frame buildings covered with weatherboards with shed roofs of standing-seam metal. The roosting boxes are still extant in one of the buildings but the other has been converted to an equipment/vehicle shed. Both are located west of the house and south of the kitchen.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

**Section   7   Page   5**

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Architectural Context

Numerous surveys conducted in King William County provide some insight into the early nineteenth-century building practices of the area. Perhaps most significantly, these surveys indicate that the complex of numerous and diverse outbuildings extant at Roseville rarely survive in the county. These surveys also suggest that it was still common for builders to erect one-and-one-half-story, two-room dwellings in the early nineteenth-century, such as Seaton House (0050-0063). While two-story and two-and-one-half-stories are also found, Roseville's size certainly denotes the prominence and wealth of its residents, and Fox's position within the social hierarchies of the county. Roseville is also remarkable for its atypical fenestration and interior plan. The plantation employs an asymmetrical façade which surveys show are rarely found during this time period. The dwelling utilizes a central passage plan, which is common although there are some examples of side passages. However, of the resources surveyed, the stairs were located within the passage, while Roseville's stairs are located in the rear southwest quadrant of the first floor. This deviation from traditional interior plans is significant and suggests that builders were experimenting with lateral circulation patterns while still retaining the traditional center passage.

A second Fox family house, Retreat (050-0058), was built by John Fox's nephew James and is located approximately one half mile south of Roseville. This dwelling was completed the year after Roseville, in 1908.<sup>5</sup> While they were built contemporaneously, Retreat and Roseville are architecturally dissimilar. Retreat is a two-story brick structure built in two separate sections. The original section was designed as side passage plan; however, the later addition converted this building into the more typical central passage plan that survives today. Retreat did not experiment with an atypical façade fenestration or interior stair placement, further demonstrating the exceptionality of Roseville and its significance to King William County.

Roseville also contains an interesting collection of surviving outbuildings. These buildings include a kitchen, plantation school, early granary and two historic cemeteries along with twentieth century farm buildings that include a barn, chicken house, privy and modern storage shed. Kitchens, smokehouses, and barns are probably the most common outbuilding types that survive on former plantations and farms. Plantation schools and granaries survive less frequently and a review of surveyed properties reveals only one other former plantation with school and only a handful of granaries. The school was located on Burlington but no information was available on the school. Most of the other granaries surveyed in King William County are combination granary/corncrib and were built in the twentieth century. The one other granary for which information was available was also classified as a granary/corncrib and is a much smaller building than the granary located on Roseville. Not only is the Roseville granary a fairly spacious and substantial building, its banked siting allowed carts to be pulled beneath the building for loading through an elongated slit in the floor.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Roseville  
King William County, VA

Section 8 Page 6

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roseville, a plantation located in King William County, is significant for its ensemble of buildings that includes the house, outbuildings, and cemeteries. Few other properties in the county contain the number and type of buildings and sites found at Roseville. The buildings were constructed beginning about 1807 by John Fox and later by William Ryland. The complex includes the main house, detached kitchen, school, and granary. The former plantation office was moved and attached to the main house as a wing after the Civil War but before 1910. In addition, there are several outbuildings built in the first half of the twentieth century. Also on the property are two cemeteries, a family cemetery and a purported slave cemetery. Architecturally, these buildings are a cohesive complex that illustrates both the success of the successive owners of Roseville and the building practices of this period in King William County. Additionally, Roseville has the potential for archaeological investigations to document other buildings that may have stood on the property including housing for the substantial number of slaves owned by the Fox and Ryland families.

JUSTIFICATION OF CRITERIA AND PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roseville is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C in the area of architecture because of its surviving collection of buildings and their solid integrity. Its period of significance is from 1807, the date of construction of the house, to 1957, which brings the property to within fifty years of the present and includes the Adams tenure, which ended in 1988. The Adams family was the last to the actively farm Roseville. During these years the plantation witnessed and benefited from the economic boom of the antebellum South, its subsequent decline, and the changing landscape of the twentieth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

As populations grew in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, counties were frequently dividing and reorganizing. In 1691, King and Queen County was formed out of Kent County. This county then split in 1701 when King William County was organized. The success of King William is deeply rooted in its topography. It has a long tradition of tobacco and cereal crop agriculture, as well as a long history of Native American occupation prior to English settlement. Alluvial floodplains create rich soil and equally important transportation routes. A primary harbor was created at West Point (in King William County) in the eighteenth century. This deep water port connected with the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers, and in turn, facilitated water transportation throughout King William County.<sup>6</sup> By 1859, the Richmond and York River Railroad linked Richmond to West Point, enabling farmers to transport goods along the rivers and then directly to Richmond. The importance of this traffic cannot be underestimated. As Herring Creek flows into the Mattaponi, Roseville was ideally situated.

The Fox family came to Virginia in the mid-seventeenth century and settled in King William County by 1700, having acquired much of this land through royal grants. The family was important to local history, and produced several public servants, including Henry Fox, a county justice, magistrate, and representative in the Virginia House of Burgess, the Reverend John Fox, and Joseph Fox, who was appointed a Tobacco Inspector by the Governor of the Virginia Colonies.<sup>7</sup> John Fox, builder of Roseville, was born in 1760 and held several significant local government positions. He served as Lieutenant and Captain in the Continental Army, Justice of the King William County Court, surveyor, Sheriff, and Master Commissioner.<sup>8</sup> John Fox was obviously well established in the county when he purchased 300 acres of land in the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Roseville  
King William County, VA

Section 8 Page 7

northwestern corner of King William County. He lived here at "Retreat", steadily increasing his land holdings to 1,220 acres until 1807 when he built Roseville, which he called Floyd's.<sup>9</sup> At this time Fox owned eighteen slaves, nine horse/mules and two chairs.<sup>10</sup>

At Fox's death in 1814,<sup>11</sup> Roseville plantation included twenty-one slaves, nine horses/mules, five cows, two "gigs" and 1,457 acres of land.<sup>12</sup> Two years later, in 1816, an advertisement in the *Richmond Enquirer* announced the "Cash Sale of Negroes...ten to twelve likely young Negroes, consisting chiefly of men and boys, belonging to the estate of Capt. John Fox, dec."<sup>13</sup> Fox's wife, Frances, was also sold several hundred acres of land. Frances Fox moved to Richmond in 1821, two years before her death, and announced the pending public auction of Roseville in the *Richmond Enquirer*. The advertisement stated "...the high land is in good farming order and in a state of rapid improvement. The improvements are extensive and convenient."<sup>14</sup>

In 1822, Roseville and its 337-1/2 acres were sold at public auction to William Semple Ryland for \$3,375.<sup>15</sup> Under Ryland's management the plantation continued to grow and prosper and his family owned Roseville for ninety-five years. William Ryland, together with Major Dabney, another prominent King William County resident, purchased Upper Mill, commonly known as Dublin Mill, in 1833. Not long after Dabney died, Ryland bought his share and became the sole owner.<sup>16</sup> In 1841, Ryland acquired and operated a second mill, known then as Lower Mill, which was originally built by the Burwells family in the eighteenth century.<sup>17</sup> The 1850 agriculture schedule reports that the Dublin Mill produced 17,500 bushels of corn annually, for a total value of \$12,250.<sup>18</sup> Although the mills were located on a separate parcel from Roseville, they indicate the industry of Ryland at this time. The mills augmented Ryland's income, allowing him to grow his plantation steadily. In 1850, Ryland owned eleven horses, eleven mules, nine milk cows, twenty cattle, thirty sheep and seventy-five swine.<sup>19</sup> The cash value of the farm (apart from the mill) increased from \$7,000 in 1850, to \$15,000 in 1860.<sup>20</sup> Accordingly, the number of slaves owned by Ryland also increased from twenty-six slaves in 1830, to forty in 1860.<sup>21</sup> Ryland steadily increased his land holdings until his death in 1861, at which time the plantation was 798 acres.<sup>22</sup>

William and Susan Ryland had a large family that included one son and six daughters. Ryland was a supporter of education as evidenced by the school that stands behind the house and was probably built during his tenure at Roseville. He also actively supported higher education. Ryland family members were founders of what is now known as the University of Richmond. Originally, it was the Virginia Baptist Seminary (1830-1840), then Richmond College (1840-1920) and the University after 1820. William Semple Ryland was a trustee and on the Board of Managers from 1835 to 1842, his father had been a trustee before that and his brother was president of the college from 1841 to 1868. William's son, Robert, graduated from Richmond College. At least three of the Ryland girls received additional education at Hollins Institute, which became Hollins College and is now Hollins University.<sup>23</sup>

By all accounts, the Ryland family inherited a healthy, prosperous plantation upon William's death. Susan Ryland, William's wife, continued to manage Roseville during the thriving antebellum years. The Lower Mill was conveyed to Ryland's daughter, Ann Ryland, who operated it until 1893, at which time she sold the mill and eight acres to the Fox and Moran family for \$ 655. Today the Lower Mill is commonly known by King William County residents as Mitchell's Mill.

Although King William County was not a battleground during the Civil War, it witnessed the passage of 125,000 Confederate and Union soldiers, their equipment, and approximately 56,000 animals through the county.<sup>24</sup> Today, a

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEETRoseville  
King William County, VASection 8 Page 8

monument at the King William Courthouse notes that 450 men from the county served in the Confederate army. On June 1, 1861, Susan's son Robert, and approximately eighty-four men, marched to Bend's Store and enlisted in the King William Artillery under Dr. Thomas H. Carter.<sup>25</sup> Robert Ryland was transferred to the 9<sup>th</sup> Virginia Calvary in 1862.<sup>26</sup> During the war, Robert was wounded three times, and in March 1865, he was captured and became a prisoner of war. The war affected Roseville and this rural farming area. The cash value of the farm plummeted from 15,000 in 1860 to \$8,000 in 1870.<sup>27</sup> The significant decrease in the value of the farm equipment (\$1,000 in 1860 to \$30 in 1870) and the value of the livestock (\$2,000 in 1860 to \$700 in 1870) may represent the depressed economy in King Williams County after the war or suggest that the Rylands perhaps sold some of their assets to continue to run the plantation.<sup>28</sup> According to the data reported on the agriculture schedules, Roseville's plantation landscape was dramatically transformed after the war.

Upon Susan Ryland's death in 1888, Roseville again experienced great change when its 798 acres were divided into ten lots up among the Ryland children. Three Ryland sisters, Dora, Peachy and Ann inherited 187 ½ acres and all the plantation buildings.<sup>29</sup> The women continued to manage the house and farm, and a fourth sister taught at the school on Roseville probably in the schoolhouse built by her father. Ann inherited on the mills and oversaw its operation in addition to keeping Roseville going. The entire family was active in Beulah Baptist Church. Robert was Sunday School Superintendent and Ann taught the young men's Sunday School class for years. She was known for going out and rounding up the youth who were standing around and talking outside instead of attending class. By all accountants, she was a very tough lady.<sup>30</sup>

It is believed that the plantation office was moved under the sisters' tenure after Susan Ryland's death in 1888. According to a Fox descendant, Elizabeth Parr Trice Adams, "[i]n later years after the slaves were freed, this building was moved to the southern end of the house and has been used as a kitchen..."<sup>31</sup> It is unclear when precisely the office was moved. The only available documentary evidence is a photograph dated 1910 that shows the office attached to the house. Moving the office to the main dwelling signifies a critical change in the way the plantation is managed and also indicates the deteriorated social hierarchies of the plantation landscape. The property was owned by Ann Ryland until her death in 1913.

Lemuel and Sallie Ann Adams bought Roseville in 1917. The Adamses were only the third owners of Roseville and the family owned it for about seventy years. During the Adams tenure, electricity and running water for cooking were added but few changes were made to the house. Throughout the 1950's, wood stoves provided cooking and heat and coal was burned in the six fireplaces for heat. A bathroom was not installed until the 1960's (the outdoor privy is still in the yard). The Adamses built additional buildings on the Roseville property in the late 1920's or early 1930's and all were related to the farming operation. They included a large, eight-stall barn primarily for the cows, six chicken houses, two brooder houses, and two equipment sheds that originally were used for the horses. They used the detached kitchen as a wood shed to keep wood dry for the house stoves and for the brooder house. Only the barn and two of the chicken houses survive from this era.

The Adamses were subsistence farmers and almost all their food and income came from the farming operation of about seventy-five acres with the remainder of the property left in woods. The major crops were corn, wheat and tobacco. Corn was grown for livestock as well as for milling. Other crops included hay for the livestock, cucumbers and black-eyed peas. Black-eyed peas were a cover crop rotated around the farm and plowed under for fertilizer. There was a garden and fruit trees to grow items for family consumption. The Adamses typically had ten to twelve milk cows and one bull (Jersey and

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Roseville  
King William County, VA

Section 8 Page 8

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Holstein), three to five horses for farming and transportation, hundreds of chickens (White Leghorns) for egg production, and twelve to fifteen hogs with five or six annually for personal consumption and the rest sold.<sup>32</sup>

When Lemuel Adams died, his wife Sallie remained on the farm with several of their children and continued the farming operation. At Sallie's death, the property went to the oldest son, John. John Adams ran the farm until his death. After John's death, the farm and the 165 acres was sold to James R. and Linda C. Smith in July of 1988. The Smiths made few changes to the house or outbuildings. The Hubbard's purchased the property in June, 1999 and are only the fifth family to live at Roseville.<sup>33</sup>

The Historic Building and Structure Survey (HABS) document of Roseville in 1936 and 1958 and early photographs depict Roseville in a deteriorated state with broken windows and in need of paint. The detached kitchen is dilapidated – the chimney had collapsed, leaving the west end exposed. While the changes to the buildings noted are important, the basic architectural integrity of Roseville remained at the time of the reports. The HABS photographs are useful in underscoring how relatively little Roseville was altered since the Fox and Ryland period.

The house and the variety of the surviving antebellum outbuildings of Roseville plantation are a rare and important piece of King William County history. Only a few complexes of this breadth survive in the county today. Only one other plantation school was identified in the county and little is known about it. The granary at Roseville is also a rare survivor. Through them one can gain a better understanding of nineteenth century rural Virginia life.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

**Section   9   Page  11**

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

Section   9   Page  12 

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

**Section   10   Page   13**

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UTM REFERENCES CONT.

5. 18 / 301961E / 4191488N

6. 18 / 301387E / 4192062N

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property is King William County parcel number 4-20.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of the land historically associated with Roseville and nears the extent of the plantation's nineteenth century boundaries.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

Section Photo List Page 14

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Roseville, King William County, Virginia

All photographs were taken by Ashley Neville, February 2007. Original negatives are on file at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.

1. Main dwelling façade, showing attached plantation office and modern garage, view northeast (*negative no. 23409*)
2. Rear of main dwelling, showing schoolhouse, kitchen, granary, attached plantation office, and chicken house, view west (*negative no. 23410*)
3. Main dwelling, second floor, front room, showing mantel, view northeast (*negative no. 23409*)
4. Main dwelling, ground floor, front room, showing mantel, view northeast (*negative no. 23409*)
5. Main dwelling, second floor passage, showing stairs to attic, view northwest (*negative no. 23409*)
6. Detached kitchen, façade and side elevation, with chicken house in the distance, view west (*negative no. 23409*)
7. Detached kitchen, interior, showing corner framing, view north
8. Granary, showing embankment, view northwest (*negative no. 23410*)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Roseville  
King William County, VA**

**Section** END NOTES **Page** 9

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**END NOTES**

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- <sup>1</sup> Thomas Hubka, "Just Folks Designing: Vernacular Designers and the Generation of Form." in *Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture*, ed. Dell Upton and John Michael Vlach (Athens: The University of Georgia Press, 1986), 429-430.
- <sup>2</sup> Fiske Kimball, Metropolitan Museum of Art, and Division of Educational Services, *Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic* (New York: Dover Publications, 1966), 153-155.
- <sup>3</sup> Gabrielle M Lanier, Bernard L Herman, and the Center for American Places, *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic: Looking at Buildings and Landscapes* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997), 124.
- <sup>4</sup> The funeral of Sallie Brown Ryland was noted in the diary of Jeanette Ryland Gwathmey, Gwathmey Family Papers, 1790-1982 (Mss1 G9957 c FA2), Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia, Robert Hubbard, personal communication, 27 April 2007. Hubbard is the current owner of Roseville.
- <sup>5</sup> Information regarding Retreat was extracted from a Reconnaissance Level Survey filed at the Department of Historic Resources, resource no. 050-0058.
- <sup>6</sup> Virginia Department of Historic Resources, *King William County/Golden CAT Road Improvements: Phase I Intensive Cultural Resources Survey*, Lyle E. Browning, 1997, File 95-2006, 27-28.
- <sup>7</sup> Ellen Mooklar Cocke, *Some Fox Trails in Old Virginia; John Fox of King William County, Ancestors, Descendants, Near Kin* (Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1939), 48-51.
- <sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 51-53.
- <sup>9</sup> Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Records, King William County, Virginia, 1807, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>11</sup> Cocke, *Some Fox Trails in Old Virginia*, 61.
- <sup>12</sup> Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Records, King William County, Virginia, 1814, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>13</sup> Cocke, *Some Fox Trails in Old Virginia*, 61.
- <sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 64.
- <sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>16</sup> Elizabeth Hawes Ryland, *King William County, Virginia, From Old Newspapers and Files* (Richmond: Dietz Press, 1955), 92-93.
- <sup>17</sup> Malcolm Hart Harris, *Old New Kent County, some account of the planters, plantations, and places in New Kent County*, vol 2 (West Point, VA: Harris, 1977), 963.
- <sup>18</sup> U.S. Census, Agriculture Schedules, 1850, Virginia, King William County, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*
- <sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, and U.S. Census, Agriculture Schedules, 1860, Virginia, King William County, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>21</sup> U.S. Census, List of Inhabitants, 1830, Virginia, King William County, LVA.
- <sup>22</sup> Auditor of Public Accounts, Land Tax Records, King William County, Virginia, 1861, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>23</sup> Sesquicentennial Committee, *University of Richmond, Directory of Trustees, 1830-1980*, (Richmond: University of Richmond, 1979).
- <sup>24</sup> Dorothy Francis Atkinson, *King William County in the Civil War: Along Mangohick Byways* (Lynchburg, VA: H.E. Howard, 1990), 158.
- <sup>25</sup> *Ibid.*, 25 and 262.
- <sup>26</sup> *Ibid.*, 262.
- <sup>27</sup> U.S. Census, Agriculture Schedules, 1860, Virginia, King William County, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*, and U.S. Census, Agriculture Schedules, 1870, Virginia, King William County, LVA, microfilm.
- <sup>29</sup> Elizabeth Parr Trice Adams, "Memories and History of Fox Homes in Upper King William County as Presented at the 51<sup>st</sup> Fox Reunion at Roseville" (lecture, Roseville, King William County, VA, October 19, 1980).
- <sup>30</sup> Robert Hubbard, personal communication, 27 April 2007. Mr. Hubbard has gained much of the information about the family from a 90-year old niece of Ann Ryland.
- <sup>31</sup> Elizabeth Parr Trice Adams, "Memories and History of Fox Homes in Upper King William County as Presented at the 51<sup>st</sup> Fox Reunion at Roseville" (lecture, Roseville, King William County, VA, October 19, 1980).
- <sup>32</sup> Robert Hubbard, personal communication, 27 April 2007. Hubbard currently owns Roseville and has gathered information about the farm from elderly Fox, Ryland, and Adams family descendants.
- <sup>33</sup> *Ibid.*



LEVEL

560 000 FEET  
(SOUTH)

4192  
Rose Hill OSO-0066  
King William Co  
VA

UTM REFERENCES  
 1. 18 | 301057E | 4191549N  
 2. 18 | 301209E | 4191411N  
 3. 18 | 301168E | 4191096N  
 4. 18 | 301275E | 4190944N  
 5. 18 | 301961E | 4191488N  
 6. 18 | 301387E | 4192062N

4190

50'

4189