National Park Service
Cultural Landscapes Inventory

2007

Revised: 8/2025



Bowman-Hite Farm

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park

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Introduction

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI)

The Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) is a comprehensive inventory of all cultural landscapes in the National Park System. Landscapes that are listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places, or are otherwise managed as cultural resources and in which the National Park Service has, or plans to acquire, legal interest are included in the inventory. The CLI identifies and documents each landscape's location, size, physical development, landscape characteristics, character-defining features, and condition. Cultural landscapes have approved CLIs when concurrence with the findings is obtained from the park superintendent and all required data fields are entered into the Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS-CL) database. In addition, for landscapes not currently listed on the National Register and/or without adequate documentation, concurrence is required from the State Historic Preservation Officer, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, or the Keeper of the National Register.

Scope of the CLI

The information contained within the CLI is compiled from primary and secondary sources and through on-site surveys of the landscape. The level of investigation is dependent upon scoping the need for information. The baseline information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape. Documentation and analysis of the existing landscape identifies character-defining characteristics and features and allows for an evaluation of the landscape's integrity and an assessment of the landscape's condition. The CLI also includes historic maps, drawings, and images; photographs of existing conditions; and a site plan that indicates major features. The CLI documents the existing condition of park landscape resources and identifies impacts, threats, and measures to stabilize condition. This information can be used to develop strategies for improved stewardship. Unlike a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR), the CLI does not provide management recommendations or treatment guidelines for the cultural landscape, but it may identify stabilization measures.

The Cultural Resources Information System (CRIS)

CRIS is the National Park Service's database of cultural resources on its lands, consisting of archeological sites, historic structures, ethnographic resources, and cultural landscapes. Cultural Resources Inventory System (CRIS) replaces three legacy inventory systems: ASMIS (archeology), CLI (cultural landscapes), and LCS (historic structures); and it reinstates the former ERI (ethnographic resources). This Cultural Landscape Inventory document reflects the information in a corresponding CRIS Cultural Landscape record.

Statutory and Regulatory Foundation

The legislative, regulatory, and policy directives for conducting and maintaining the CLI within CRIS are:

- National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (16 USC 470h-2(a)(1)) Sec. 110
- Executive Order 13287: Preserve America, 2003. Sec. 3 (a and c)
- Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Federal Agency Historic Preservation Programs
- Pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act, 1998. Std. 2
- Cultural Resource Management Guideline, 1997, Release No. 5, page 22; issued pursuant to Director's Order #28 (DO-28)

The NHPA requires the identification, evaluation, and nomination of historic properties to the National Register of Historic Places and the maintenance and expansion of an inventory of cultural resources. DO-28 requires a cyclic assessment of the current condition of cultural landscapes based on an assessment interval, with a default of six years.

Use

Beyond fulfilling legal and policy requirements, park staff can use the Cultural Landscape Inventory in the following ways:

- To learn about park cultural landscapes (all staff)
- To inform management decisions (park managers)
- To inform project planning and development (park managers, facility managers, project managers, compliance specialists)
- To monitor the condition of the cultural landscape and take measures to protect its significance and integrity (cultural resource managers, facility managers)
- To recognize the stabilization and treatment needs of landscape features and plan work within cultural landscapes to address the needs (facility managers, cultural resource managers)
- To understand the cultural value of natural systems in a cultural landscape (natural resource managers)
- To create programming and educational materials based on site history (interpretation and education specialists)
- To recognize impacts within cultural landscapes and enforce protection measures (visitor and resources protection staff)

General Information

Property Level and CLI Numbers

Inventory Unit Name: Bowman-Hite Farm

Resource Classification: Cultural Landscape

CLI Identification Number: 975420

Parent Landscape: 975420

Inventory Status: Complete

Park Information

Park Name: Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park

Alpha Code: CEBE

Park Organization Code: 4240

Park District: CEBE

Region: Northeast

Restricted: Yes

Landscape Description:

The Bowman-Hite farmstead is in rural Warren County, Virginia, on Bowman Mill Road, approximately two miles east of Strasburg. The farm is part of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, which consists of three discontiguous areas encompassing 3,713 acres across Frederick, Shenandoah, and Warren counties in Virginia. The park includes a portion of the battlefield where the Civil War Battle of Cedar Creek was fought on October 19, 1864, as well as the antebellum Belle Grove Plantation and other buildings, sites, structures, and objects associated with the battle and significant aspects of the area's history and development. The land within the park consists primarily of open agricultural fields and wooded parcels along the historic route of Valley Pike and lower Cedar Creek, situated between the towns of Middletown and Strasburg. The North Fork of the Shenandoah River forms the southern boundary of the park. The wide right-of-way of Interstate 81 and the modern alignment of Valley Pike (US Route 11) separate the discontiguous areas of the park. Various entities, including the National Park Service, National Park Service partner organizations, and private individuals, own land within the park boundaries. Some privately owned land is protected by conservation easements.

Perched upon eight-acres of flat pastureland that gently slopes west toward Cedar Creek, the Bowman-Hite farmstead was constructed during the early 1850s by Charles and Rebecca Hite and was once part of their approximately 500-acre farm. On October 19, 1864, their farmyard was the site of the opening conflict of the Battle of Cedar Creek, witnessing the strategic movement of Confederate Major General Joseph Kershaw's left flank through the property in preparation for their morning attack on the positions held by Union Colonel Joseph Thoburn on a ridge just to the northeast. In 2003, the National Park Service acquired the farm parcel which includes a vernacular Greek Revival farmhouse built by the Bowman-Hite family that was present during the Battle of Cedar Creek, a ca.1881 traditional Pennsylvania bank barn, a late nineteenth-century smokehouse, a well now marked by a late nineteenth century or early twentieth century stone and concrete wellhead capped with wooden planks, and a nineteenth century historic road trace, all set on eight acres of meadow dotted with deciduous and coniferous trees.

Earthworks and other features associated with the Battle of Cedar Creek are located on surrounding lands owned by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, as well as on privately owned land within the authorized boundaries of the park. The views across the cultivated farmland and old field meadows to the wooded hillsides surrounding the

eight-acre parcel remain today.

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Bowman-Hite Farm is primarily significant at the national level under National Register of Historic Places Criterion A in the area of Military, as it was the site of the opening conflict in the battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864. This battle was a decisive engagement in the Civil War's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. During the battle, the Bowman-Hite Farm witnessed Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early's early morning attack on United States Major General Philip Sheridan's left flank.

Additionally, the property possesses significance at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: Black, due to its association with the presence and activities of Black individuals enslaved by Rebecca Bowman Hite and Charles Hite during the mid-nineteenth century. The farmstead is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture at the local level, as an example of nineteenth-century agricultural practices in the northern Shenandoah Valley. The site is significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture at the local level for the vernacular Greek Revival style of the Bowman-Hite Farmhouse, which was the prevailing architectural style in the region during the mid-nineteenth century, as well as a ca.1881 bank barn and late nineteenth century smokehouse. The property is significant at the local level under Criterion D in the area of Archeology Historic-Non-Aboriginal for its association with the Battle of Cedar Creek. It is also significant at the local level under Criterion D in the area of Archeology: Prehistoric-Aboriginal for a site associated with the use of the area by Native American tribes before occupation by European settlers in the early seventeenth century.

The property has two periods of significance. The first period of significance spans from 8000 BC to 1500 AD which covers the pre-contact Native American occupation of the area as represented by a contributing site. The later period of significance for the property is 1734-ca.1900, beginning with the year George, and his wife Mary Hite Bowman, the grandparents of Rebecca Bowman Hite, acquired a 1,000-acre land patent near Cedar Creek that included the future Bowman-Hite farmstead. The period concludes ca.1900 with the death of farm owner Abraham Kerns, after which Ella Kerns and her young son, Charles Kerns made changes to the landscape, including the painting of the exterior of the house, the installation of lightning rods on the barn, and the addition of wire fencing through farm fields.

ANALYSIS AND EVALUATION SUMMARY AND CONDITION

Historic integrity is assessed by comparing the cultural landscape conditions from the period of significance, 1734 to ca.1900, with the existing conditions evaluated in 2025. Many landscape characteristics and features from the historic period remain intact today at the eight-acre Bowman-Hite farmstead parcel. They include natural systems, topography, spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, cluster arrangement, views and vistas, and small-scale features.

Notable extant features date back to the antebellum agricultural period, the Civil War, and post-Civil War agricultural development. These features include the gently sloping pasture lands of the eight-acre parcel, the vernacular Greek Revival Bowman-Hite farmhouse, the mid-nineteenth century road trace that once connected the Bowman-Hite farm with Fort Bowman, a residence to the north, as well as the late nineteenth-century bank barn and smokehouse, the late-nineteenth century/early twentieth century wellhead marking a spring used during the battle, and views of the hillside where United States Major General Philip Sheridan's left flank was entrenched, along with views of the town of Strasburg and Bowman Mill Road.

Condition:
The overall condition of the Bowman-Hite Farm is evaluated as "Fair." This assessment indicates the farmstead's landscape shows some evidence of negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, primarily manifest in the condition of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse. However, the cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of the farmhouse will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition.

Landscape Hierarchy Description:

The eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm is classified as a landscape in the Cultural Resource Inventory System (CRIS-CL) database. Formerly inventoried as the Whitham Farmstead, it represents the only CLI in the park, to date.

Landscape Type:

Historic Site

Other Names:

Other Name:	Whitham Farmstead	**Other Name Type:**	Current
Other Name:	Whithaven	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Hite-Bowman House	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Charles Hite Farm	**Other Name Type:**	Historic
Other Name:	Hite Farm	**Other Name Type:**	Historic

Site Plan



Site map, 2025.

Concurrence Information

Concurrence Status:

Park Superintendent Concurrence: Yes

Park Superintendent Date of Concurrence: 08/31/2007

Completion Status Explanatory Narrative:

A Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Bowman-Hite Farmstead, previously named the Whitham Farmstead after its last private owners, was completed in 2007 by the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. A landscape condition reassessment was completed in 2013. In 2025, Jennifer Hanna, a Historical Landscape Architect with the Olmsted Center conducted research and wrote this Cultural Landscape Inventory Update. Megan Cahill, GIS Technician with the Olmsted Center, created the site map. For inquiries regarding cultural resources at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, please contact Jonathan Tracey, Historian and Cultural Resource Program Manager, at Jonathan_Tracey@nps.gov or 540-333-9564.

SUMMARY OF CLI REVISIONS, 2025

Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Bowman-Hite Farm CLI has been conducted at a Level A effort. The following edits have been made:
• The management category for the landscape remains, “Must be Preserved and Maintained.”
• The areas and period of significance are expanded from Military to also include Agriculture, Ethnic History-Black, Architecture, Archeology-Prehistoric-Aboriginal and Archeology-Historic-Non-Aboriginal. The 1864 year of significance has been extended to two periods, 8000 BC to 1500AD and 1734 to circa 1900 period. The areas and period of significance are consistent with the park’s 2025 National Register documentation.
• Updates to the Chronology and Physical History sections document changes in the landscape since 2007 and incorporate recent scholarship on the property's history.
• Inventoried features in the Analysis and Evaluation chapter are consistent with the findings of the 2025
National Register.
• The overall landscape condition was evaluated as “Fair” in 2007 and 2013. The proposed landscape condition evaluation for 2025 remains “Fair.”
• Updates to existing condition photographs and the site map.
• Upon approval by the Park Superintendent, this update will supersede the previous version of the Bowman-Hite Farm (Whitham Farmstead) CLI.

Concurrence Graphic Information:

Attachment File Path

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE INVENTORY
CONCURRANCE FORM

Whitham Farmstead
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park concurs with the findings of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI) for the Whitham Farmstead including the following specific components:

MANAGEMENT CATEGORY: Must Be Preserved and Maintained

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The Cultural Landscape Inventory for the Whitham Farmstead is hereby approved and accepted.

8-31-2007

Superintendent, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, August 31, 2007.

Whitham Farmstead-NPS Cultural Landscapes Inventory
List of Contributing and Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics and Associated Features
Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
August 2007

Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

The following landscape characteristics and associated features contribute to the property's historic character, though not all are considered countable resources according to the National Register of Historic Places.

Topography
Gently sloping land

Land Use
Agricultural field
Pasture land

Circulation
Road trace

Buildings and Structure
Whitham house

Views and Vistas
Views to Thoburn's left flank
Views to Strasburg and Bowman's Mill Road

Archeological Sites
Whitham house site (ASMIS#CEBE0088)

Non-Contributing Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features
(Less than fifty years old)

Land Use
Small domestic apple orchard
Vegetable/fruit garden
Pine plantation

Circulation
Terrace
Sidewalks

United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Northeast Region
United States Custom House
200 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H30 (NER-RS&S OCLP)

AUG 2 1 2007

Dr. Ethel Eaton
Office of Review and Compliance
Department of Historic Resources
Commonwealth of Virginia
2801 Kensington Ave.
Richmond, VA 23221

Dear Dr. Eaton:

Enclosed you will find a copy of the Cultural Landscapes Inventory (CLI) for the Whitham farmstead landscape located within Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park (NHP). We seek your concurrence on previously unevaluated resources identified in this CLI. The report has been prepared by a team of historical landscape architects with the National Park Service (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation. The CLI program and the enclosed report continue the NPS efforts to update our cultural resource inventories.

Through the CLI program, the NPS is currently in the midst of a nationwide effort to inventory its cultural landscapes. The CLI is conducted in accordance with Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended). It is an inventory of baseline information for all historically significant cultural landscapes within the national park system, and it examines multiple landscape features that contribute to the significance of historic properties. The CLI process includes gathering information from existing secondary sources and conducting on-site reconnaissance of the existing landscape. The information collected provides a comprehensive look at the historical development and significance of the landscape, placing it in context of the property's overall significance. For landscapes found potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, the evaluation describes their character-defining features and assesses the landscape's overall historical integrity. It also raises questions about the landscape that need further study.

It is important to note that the CLI reports are not intended as comprehensive inventory reports for any one property, although for some properties they provide fuller documentation than for others. For example, the reports do not include a full architectural description of structures, but document structures as elements of the overall landscape, and similarly documents other characteristics such as vegetation, spatial organization, and views and vistas. The CLI is one component of the NPS inventory effort that also includes cultural resource inventories for

SHPO concurrence form, September 20, 2007 (7 pages).

Vegetation

Red maple (Acer rubrum)
Butterfly-bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
Tatarian dogwood (*Cornus alba*)
Slender deutzia (*Deutzia gracillis*)
Panicled goldenraintree (*Koelreuteria paniculata*)
Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*)
Eastern redcedar (*Juniperus virginiana*)
Common crapemyrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*)
Apple (*Malus sp.*)
Saucer magnolia (*Magnolia soulangiana*)
Common mulberry (*Morus alba*)
Empress tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*)
Eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*)
Sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis*)
Sargent cherry (*Prunus sargentii*)
Chinese quince (*Pseudocydonia sinensis*)
Common pear (*Pyrus communis*)
Azalea (*Rhododendron sp.*[azalea cultivar])
Rhododendron species (*Rhododendron sp.*)
Rose species (*Rosa sp.*)
Bridalwreath spirea (*Spiraea prunifolia*)
Common lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*)
Grape (*Vitis labrusca*)

Building and Structures

Metal storage building
Chicken house, SW corner of barn
Loafing sheds and livestock pens
Wood frame shed
Moveable poultry house w/ run
Utility lines

Small-scale Features

Drilled well
Brick gate piers
Metal fence gates

Undetermined Landscape Characteristics & Associated Features

Circulation

Farmstead driveway

historic structures, archeological sites, ethnographic resources, and museum objects. For example, the NPS List of Classified Structures inventory includes structural features of cultural landscapes, but the CLI takes a more encompassing approach to the properties, inventorying all above-ground features in each park in which the NPS has a legal or mandated interest.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP was authorized and administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 19, 2002 (NRIS #04000273). Previously, the larger Whitham property was included within the boundary of the 900-acre Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove National Historical Landmark (NHL) designated on August 11, 1969 (NRIS #69000243). However, the larger Whitham property is not specifically enumerated in the narrative. An inventory form (VA DHR ID# 093-0138) for the property was prepared by your office in 1971 and updated in 1991.

In 2001, a resource study entitled, *Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District Special Resource Study*, was prepared in response to the requirements of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District and Commission Act of 1996 (P.L. 104-333). The study area encompassed 22,000 acres. The act required the NPS to determine whether the District or components thereof met the criteria for designation as a unit of the national park system. As a result of this special resource study, the park was authorized to commemorate the nationally significant Civil War landscape and Belle Grove Plantation. The park's legislative purpose is to preserve, protect, and interpret a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum plantation, tell the rich history of the Shenandoah Valley history from early settlement through the Civil War and beyond, preserve the significant historic, natural, cultural, military, and scenic resources, and serve as a focal point to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. As of July 2007, there is no documentation for the park beyond that prepared for the NHL.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, located within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historical District, is managed by the NPS, in partnership with several non-profit and municipal entities. The park encompasses 3,593 acres, eight acres of which are owned by the NPS. The eight-acre Whitham farmstead parcel, which includes the main house, barn, and ancillary buildings, and surrounding agricultural lands, constitutes just a fraction of the 134-acre Whitham property. The remaining 126 acres are owned by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. Neither the Whitham property nor Whitham farmstead has been specifically evaluated for its contribution to the historic landscape of the park.

Included as part of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, the eight-acre Whitham farmstead parcel is significant under Criterion A for its association with the Civil War and Battle of Cedar Creek. As part of the larger Whitham property, the eight-acre Whitham farmstead parcel represents a portion of the battlefield landscape that served as an avenue of approach by General Kershaw's Confederate forces prior to their morning attack on Union positions of Colonel Thoburn located on high ground north of the farmstead. In addition, according to the VA DHR inventory form, the Whitham farmhouse may have served as a field hospital for wounded troops. However, as of this writing (2007), no documentation has been found to support the claim that the Whitham

I concur with the above-stated evaluations of the Whitham farmstead landscape, including contributing and non-contributing landscape resources for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

for Kathleen S. Kilpatrick
Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

9/20/07
Date

3

Buildings and Structures

Chicken house
Bank barn
Meat shed (smoke house)
Collapsed outbuilding (ruin)

Small-scale Features

Stone-lined well
Multiple fence remnants

farmhouse was used as a field hospital during the Civil War. The eight-acre Whitham farmstead also derives significance under Criterion D, archeology, for its potential to reveal significant information regarding the Civil War period. The period of significance is October 1864.

The CLI fully evaluates the cultural landscape, particularly the associated landscape characteristics and features, and finds that the overall Whitham farmstead landscape retains integrity to the area of military significance.

As noted above, the park's legislation also identifies "Shenandoah Valley history from early settlement through the Civil War and beyond" as significant. Further research of the larger Whitham farmstead is required to determine whether this property possesses significance in the areas of settlement and agriculture as a primary economic activity. Therefore, the resources associated with these themes are considered as undetermined at this time.

We call your particular attention to the Landscape Description, National Register Information, Statement of Significance, and Analysis and Evaluation Summary in the enclosed CLI.

Based on the CLI, we seek your concurrence on the following:

- The Whitham farmstead is significant under Criteria A and D.
- The area of significance is military.
- The period of significance for the Whitham farmstead is October 1864.
- The cultural landscape retains integrity to the period of significance.
- The property retains landscape characteristics and associated features that contribute to the sites' historic character (see attached lists).

If you concur with our evaluation for the Whitham farmstead landscape resources at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, we ask that you please sign on the space provided on the following page and return this letter to Jeff Killion, CLI Coordinator (Address: Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, 15 State Street, 6th Floor, Boston, MA 02109) **within thirty days**. Thank you for your attention to these reports. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mr. Killion at 617-223-5053.

Sincerely,

John A. Latschar
Acting Regional Director
Northeast Region

Enclosures

cc:
Superintendent, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
Condition Reassessment
2013

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park
Whitham Farmstead

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park concurs with the condition reassessment for the Whitham Farmstead, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Whitham Farmstead

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The condition reassessment for the Whitham Farmstead at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park is hereby approved and accepted.

James A Northy 7/30/13

Superintendent, Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park Date

Condition reassessment form, July 30, 2013.

Cultural Landscapes Inventory
CLI Updates Certification Form
2025

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park

Bowman-Hite Farm

Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park certifies the CLI update for Bowman-Hite Farm, including:

CONDITION ASSESSMENT: Fair – Bowman-Hite Farm

Good: indicates the inventory unit shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The inventory unit's cultural and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.

Fair: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the character defining elements, will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.

Poor: indicates the inventory unit shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural values.

The CLI update for Bowman-Hite Farm at Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park is hereby approved and accepted.

JAMES STAKELY Digitally signed by JAMES STAKELY Date: 2025.08.21 12:12:58 -04'00'

Superintendent, Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park Date

Park concurrence form, August 21, 2025.

Revision:

Revised By	Type of Revision	Revision Date	Revision Narrative
Jeff Killion	Change in Condition	07/30/2013	Condition reassessment completed as scheduled.
Jeff Killion	CLI Update	08/21/2025	Three levels of effort have been developed for CLI Updates: A, B, and C. Level C is limited to a condition reassessment of the landscape; Level B includes C and is a targeted update of select data fields; Level A includes C and is a comprehensive update of all data fields. This 2025 update to the Bowman-Hite Farm CLI has been conducted at a Level A effort.

Geographic Information

State and County:

State	County
Virginia	Warren County

Size (Acres): 8

Land Tract Number(s)

01-114, Parcel 4

Boundary Description:

Located in Warren County of the State of Virginia, the eight-acre Whitham farmstead parcel is situated within the larger 134-acre Whitham property. The National Park Service owns the eight-acre Whitham farmstead parcel and the remaining 126 acres are owned by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation.

The larger Whitham property lies approximately one-half mile northwest of the confluence of Cedar Creek and Shenandoah River. Bounded by Bowman's Mill Road (Route 635) on the east, Cedar Creek on the south and west, and an unnamed tributary (name given by Clarence Geier) on the north, the majority of the landscape consists of agricultural lands.

As part of the larger Whitham property, the eight-acre rectangular shaped farmstead parcel is further described in the 2003 deed as followed:

"Beginning at an iron rod set at the southeasterly corner of the new division of Parcel "A" [Whitham farmstead] in the northerly right of way line of Bowman's Mill Road (Virginia Secondary Route 635); thence, with the northerly right of way line of Bowman's Mill Road for the five following courses: S 63° 54'53"W-15.30 feet to a point; thence with the Arc of a curve to the left 138.72 feet to a point; thence S 42° 32'56" W-64.74 feet to a point, thence with the Arc of a curve to the right 247.72 feet to a point; thence N 82° 51' 37" W-90.43 feet to an iron rod set at the southwesterly corner of the new division of Parcel "A" [Whitham farmstead]; thence with new division lines of the Charles L. Whitham, Successor Trustee of the Loyd [sic] R. Whitham Residual Trust land N 12° 44' 20" W-678.96 feet to an iron rod set; thence N 77° 15' 40" E-515.5eight-feet to an iron rod set; thence S 12° 44' 20"-582.37 feet to the point of beginning."

Boundary Coordinates

Source	Type of Point	Latitude	Longitude	Narrative
Aerial Photograph	Point	38.996837	-78.324383	
Aerial Photograph	Point	38.998645	-78.325221	
Aerial Photograph	Point	38.999317	-78.323022	
Aerial Photograph	Point	38.997385	-78.322588	

Location Map:



The Bowman-Hite Farm is located in Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park which is in Warren County in northern Virginia within the northern Shenandoah Valley.



Regional Landscape Contexts:

Type of Context: Cultural

Description:

Cultural context is the general human overlay on the physical form of the landscape. Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP preserves the nationally significant landscape of the Battle of Cedar Creek, a decisive engagement in the Civil War's 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign. The Bowman-Hite farm was the site of the battle's opening conflict on October 19, 1864. This eight-acre parcel, part of the larger 398-acre Bowman-Hite property, served as an avenue of approach for General Joseph Kershaw's Confederate forces prior to their morning attack on the Union positions held by Colonel Joseph Thoburn, located on high ground north of the farmstead. The existing pattern of fields and forests, along with the farmhouse and roads, preserves the agricultural character of the land as it was during the Civil War.

Type of Context: Physiographic

Description:

Physiographic context is the large-scale physical forms and patterns of the landscape such as hill, plateau, ravine, drumlin, etc. The eight-acre Bowman-Hite parcel is located in the northern Shenandoah Valley, an area drained by the Shenandoah River and its tributaries. The river has two branches, the North Fork and the South Fork, which flow from its origins in Augusta and Rockingham Counties to its confluence with the Potomac River at Harper's Ferry, encompassing a watershed of approximately 1.5 million acres in northwestern Virginia. The North Fork runs along the southern border of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP. This unique drainage pattern can be confusing, as the northern part of the Shenandoah Valley is known as the Lower Valley and the southern part as the Upper Valley. (EOA 2009: 25)

Situated within the Valley and Ridge physiographic province, the Shenandoah Valley is bordered by the Blue Ridge to the east and the Appalachian and Allegheny Plateaus to the west, with the Potomac River to the north and Roanoke to the south. The valley's soils, weathered from limestone, dolomites, sandstones, siltstones, and acidic shales, are fertile and suitable for agriculture. The soils in the project area primarily consist of deep, well-drained Berks channery silt loam, relatively shallow, well-drained Sequoia silt loam, and shallow, excessively drained Weikert-Berks channery silt loam. The broader landscape features a series of narrow, elongated forested knobs and ridges formed by geological processes over the past five hundred million years. These natural characteristics facilitated the inclusion of the Lower Shenandoah in a vital transportation route connecting the Eastern Woodlands to the interior, enabling travel north to New England and the Great Lakes, and south to the Gulf of Mexico. This transportation route has significantly influenced the region's dramatic history, affecting indigenous political relations, European settlement patterns, and the strategic importance of the area during the Civil War. (Natural Resources Conservation Service 2012; EOA 2009: 25, citing Hofstra 2004: 330)

A prominent knob rises just to the northeast of the farmstead, beyond the boundaries of the 8-acre parcel but within the bounds of the Bowman-Hite property during the Civil War. At its apex, the land slopes sharply to the north and northeast into an unnamed tributary (colloquially known as Thoburn Run), while the south and west sides slope more gradually to the southwest. Both the high knob and Thoburn Run were significant during the early morning attacks in the Battle of Cedar Creek. Colonel Thoburn established an encampment on the knoll to observe enemy movements near the fords and Valley Pike, while the steep terrain associated with Thoburn Run hindered the Federal forces' escape during Confederate raids.

Type of Context: Political

Description:

Political context is the overlay imposed on the landscape through general land use, zoning, legal restrictions, transportation, utilities, population, and political jurisdiction (e.g., state, county, city, borough, or village). Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP encompasses 3,713 acres of public and private land across three counties: Shenandoah, Warren, and Frederick in northern Virginia. The closest municipalities are Middletown, located directly to the east, and Strasburg, situated to the southwest. As of 2025 both are small, rural towns with populations of 1,449 and 7,362, respectively. Both Strasburg and Middletown feature suburban neighborhoods around their perimeters and at nodes along the interstates.

Interstate 81 provides regional access to the park; this limited-access, asphalt-paved highway runs east-west through the park approximately one-half mile from the Bowman-Hite Farm and intersects with Interstate 66 near the park's center. Route 11, which approximates historic Valley Pike, extends from the city of Winchester in the north to the city of Bristol in the south and runs parallel to Interstate 81 for much of its length. Like Interstate 81, Route 11 runs east-west through the park. Near the park, large areas of former farmland have been subdivided for low-density, single-family developments, particularly along the northern edge of the park, outside the authorized boundary. (NR 2025, Sec.7: 7)

Management Information

General Management Information

Management Category: Must be Preserved and Maintained

Management Category Date: 08/31/2007

Management Category Explanatory Narrative:

As approved on August 31, 2007, the Bowman-Hite Farm (formerly Whitham Farmstead) meets the Must be Preserved and Maintained management category because the property is directly related to the park's legislative theme of preserving, protecting, and interpreting a nationally significant Civil War landscape. The eight-acre property is within the designated boundary of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, which was created by an act of the United States Congress on December 19, 2002. The park is a partnership park managed by the NPS and several non-profit and municipal organizations to "preserve, protect, and interpret a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum plantation" and to "tell the rich story of Shenandoah Valley history from early settlement through the Civil War and beyond." (P.L. 107-373, U.S. Statutes at Large 116 [2002], 3104–3110)

The property is also part of the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation National Historic Landmark District, designated in 1969. The National Historic Landmark documentation identifies the Bowman-Hite farmhouse and an archeological site as contributing. The Bowman-Hite farm is also listed as nationally significant as part of the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove National Historical Park Historic District under National Register of Historic Place Criteria A and C.

Management Agreements:

Type of Agreement: None

Management Agreement Expiration Date:

Management Agreement Explanatory Narrative:

Legal Interests:

Type of Interest: Fee Simple

Narrative: Tract 01-114 (8 acres)

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative: ROW granted to Northern Virginia Power Company Recorded October 13, 1943 in DB 54, p. 427. L. Can not be platted.

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative: Commonwealth of Virginia: Recorded June 11, 1973 Deed Book 202, pg. 82, 30 foot ROW from northern edge of Bowman Mill Road

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative: Potomac Edison Company: Recorded Aug 17, 1983, DB 304, p 83, 20-foot-wide ROW, mapped

Type of Interest: Less Than Fee Simple

Narrative: Shenandoah Telephone Company: Recorded July 30, 1991, DB 453, p 83, ROW mapped.

Located in managed wilderness?: Unknown

Adjacent Lands Information

Do Adjacent Lands Contribute? Yes

Adjacent Lands Narrative:

Adjacent lands are lands outside the cultural landscape boundary, including lands inside or outside the park. The land surrounding the 8-acre Bowman-Hite farmstead is owned by the nonprofit organization the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Trust and remains in cultivation, preserving the bucolic character, associations, and setting of the historic Bowman-Hite farm. Several historic resources are located on this adjacent land. While they are not included in this Cultural Landscapes Inventory addressing the core 8-acre parcel owned in fee simple by the National Park Service, they are important to the historic context of the property. Just northeast of the Bowman-Hite farmstead, near a large cedar tree on land owned by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, is a cluster of at least three burials known as the Hite Family Graves. Rebecca Frances Washer Bowman Hite (1821–1892) and her two children, George S. (b. ca.1852–ca.1862) and Francis M. (b. ca. 1857–ca.1862), are believed to be buried in this location. Rebecca's grave is marked by a broken footstone inscribed with the initials "R.F.W.H." and the broken base of a headstone. Nearby, two uninscribed river stones are thought to mark the graves of her children. In addition, Civil War era earthworks incise the hillsides to the east of the 8-acre parcel and were once part of the larger Bowman-Hite farm. South of the Bowman-Hite farmstead parcel on the east bank of Cedar Creek, are the remnants of the late eighteenth-century Bowman's Mill millrace which was constructed to divert water from a western meander to power Isaac Bowman's mill. (NR 2025, Sec.7: 8)

National Register Information

National Register of Historic Places

Documentation Status: Entered Documented

Documentation Narrative Description:

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park (NHP) was authorized and administratively listed in the National Register of Historic Places on December 19, 2002 (NRIS #04000273). The park's legislative purpose is to preserve, protect, and interpret a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum plantation, to tell the rich history of the Shenandoah Valley history from early settlement through the Civil War and beyond, to preserve the significant historic, natural, cultural, military, and scenic resources, and to serve as a focal point to recognize and interpret important events and geographic locations within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District including the significant Civil War landscape and Belle Grove Plantation (Public Law 107-373).

On August 11, 1969, the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation National Historic Landmark District (NRHP 69000243) was established. The NHL designation was based on a 1969 special report on Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove prepared by John D. McDermott and Edwin C. Bearss for the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings. The 100-acre district primarily focused on Belle Grove and on-site earthworks. At this time (no specific date given) a National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, "Belle Grove," approved by the Keeper of the National Register identified significance in the areas of Art and Other (History) for the eighteenth century (no specific dates given). The form identified Belle Grove as significance at the state level.

On August 24, 1976, an update National Register Nomination-Inventory Form, "Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove," approved by the NHL Program provided more clarification about the district. Significance was identified in the area of Military for the period 1797-1864, beginning when the Belle Grove was completed and ending with the Battle of Cedar Creek. Following the recommendation in the 1969 report by McDermott and Bearss, the boundary expanded to 900 acres to include, "all the area where fighting occurred on October 19, 1864, except for Interstate Highway 81…" The boundary also included an area of exclusion, a "donut hole," which is no longer permitted by NHL Bulletin guidance. Regarding the landscape, the nomination form stated, "Cedar Creek Battlefield, which extends for miles in every direction from Belle Grove, was the site of the last decisive conflict in the Shenandoah Valley. The Confederate defeat here forced their final retreat from the area, after which General Sheridan devastated it from end to end."

On February 18, 2000, the Multiple Property Documentation Form, "The Civil War in Virginia, 1861–1865: Historic and Archeological Resources," approved by the Keeper of the National Register, provided contextual statements on the significance of Civil War related resources in Virginia and provides descriptions of associated property types (battlefields, earthworks, campsites, military hospital, military headquarters, military prisons). Cedar Creek was described as part of the Shenandoah Valley Campaigns of 1864-1865 and the battlefield property type. There were no specific references to the Bowman-Hite or Whitham Farm.

On September 20, 2007, the Whitham Farm Cultural Landscape Inventory was approved by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). The CLI identified national-level significance for the 8-acre property in the areas of Military and Archeology for the year 1864, the Battle of Cedar Creek. Contributing resources included the Whitham House, road trace, agricultural field, pasture land, the gently sloping topography, views to Thoburn's Flank, views to Strasburg and Bowman Mill Road, and the Whitham House Site (archeology). The documentation identified 37 noncontributing features and 7 unevaluated features.

On September 2, 2024, updated NHL documentation for "Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation" was accepted by the Secretary of the Interior. Significance for the 10,852-acre NHL district

was identified under NHL Criterion 1 in the areas of Military and Politics/Government and Criterion 5 in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Commerce, Ethnic Heritage, Exploration/Settlement, and Social History. The period of significance was identified as 1771-1864, beginning when Fort Bowman was completed and ending with the battle on October 19. The documentation describes the 8-acre parcel owned by the NPS that includes the Bowman-Hite House (contributing), and a bank barn and smoke house (noncontributing), as well as the surrounding 134-acre tract owned by Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation consisting of fields and woodlands. According to the documentation, “This is a significant antebellum period architectural resource relating to the contexts of agriculture and architectural development within the cultural landscape as well the Battle of Cedar Creek.” The National Historic Landmark documentation highlights that the Bowman-Hite farmhouse was “located on a high prominence above Cedar Creek, [with] . . .a clear line of sight to Mount Pleasant as well as the Bowman Cemetery located to the northwest of Fort Bowman.

On October 17, 2024, the National Register Registration Form, “Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park,” was approved by the Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer, and on May 6, 2025, was signed by the Federal Preservation Officer, to provide the first comprehensive National Register evaluation of historic resources within Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP. National-level significance for the 3,137-acre district was identified in the areas of Military, Agriculture, Architecture, Ethnic Heritage-Black, Archeology (Prehistoric and Historic–Non-Aboriginal), and Other (Commemoration). The periods of significance were identified as 8000 BC–1500 AD and 1720–1926, the latter period beginning with settlement of the Shenandoah Valley and ending with installation of the last commemorative monument. At the federally-owned portion of the Bowman-Hite Farm, five contributing resources were identified: Bowman-Hite Farm Road Trace, Bowman-Hite House (Whitham House), Bowman-Hite Smokehouse (Whitham Farm Smokehouse), Bowman-Hite Bank Barn (Whitham Farm Bank Barn), and Bowman-Hite Wellhead. Contributing resources to the former Bowman-Hite farm beyond the federally-owned property include: Bowman’s Mill Millrace trace, Bowman Mill Road, Long Meadow Road, Bowman’s Mill Ford, and the Hite Family Graves.

According to research conducted for this CLI and the categories of National Register documentation outlined in the “CLI Professional Procedures Guide,” the areas and periods of significance for the Bowman-Hite Farm and the site’s numerous historic resources that contribute to its significance, are adequately documented in the 2025 National Register documentation. Therefore, for purposes of the CLI, the Bowman-Hite Farm is considered “Listed – Documented.”

Eligibility: Eligible -- Keeper

Concurrence Eligibility Date: 05/06/2025

Concurrence Narrative:

Significance Level: National

Contributing: Contributing

Classification: District

Statement of Significance for National Register of Historic Places:

The Bowman-Hite Farm is significant at the national level under Criterion A in the area of Military and at the local level in the areas of Agriculture and Ethnic History-Black. The 8-acre property is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property is significant at the local level under

Criterion D in the area of Archeology Historic-Non-Aboriginal for its association with the Battle of Cedar Creek. It is also significant at the local level under Criterion D in the area of Archeology: Prehistoric-Aboriginal for a site associated with the use of the area by Native American tribes before occupation by European settlers in the early seventeenth century. The property has two periods of significance. The first period of significance spans from 8000 BC to 1500 AD which covers the pre-contact Native American occupation of the area as represented by a contributing site. The later period of significance for the property is 1734-ca.1900, beginning with the year George, and his wife Mary Hite Bowman, the grandparents of Rebecca Bowman Hite, acquired a 1,000-acre land patent near Cedar Creek that included the future Bowman-Hite farmstead. The period concludes ca.1900 with the death of farm owner Abraham Kerns, after which Ella Kerns and her young son, Charles Kerns made changes to the landscape, including the painting of the exterior of the house, the installation of lightning rods on the barn, and the addition of wire fencing through farm fields.

CRITERION A

Military:
The Bowman-Hite Farm is nationally significant in the area of Military as the site of the Battle of Cedar Creek (October 19, 1864), the decisive battle of the Shenandoah Valley Campaign of 1864 during the Civil War. Fought on October 19, 1864, the battle represented a last-ditch effort by Confederate Major General Jubal Early's Army of the Valley to end Federal Major General Philip Sheridan's campaign to destroy agricultural production in the Shenandoah Valley and eliminate it as a source of supply for General Robert E. Lee's besieged Army of Northern Virginia at Petersburg. After being dispatched by General Ulysses S. Grant to the valley in August 1864, Sheridan had defeated Early at the battles of Opequon (Third Winchester, September 19, 1864) and Fisher's Hill (September 21–22, 1864), forcing the Confederates to retreat southward and opening the valley to Sheridan's campaign of devastation. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 65)

The fields and forests of the Bowman-Hite Farm served as the Confederates' avenue of approach toward the United States troops under the command of Colonel Joseph Thoburn entrenched on a prominent knoll to the northeast of the farmhouse. During the battle, the farm witnessed Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early's early morning attack on United States Major General Philip Sheridan's left flank. Thoburn's division established an arcing entrenched line that straddled Bowman Mill Road on a high ridge east of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse, beyond the boundaries of the eight-acre site. Three artillery batteries on the knoll directly overlooked the farmyard, while the infantry was entrenched to the north, overlooking a ford crossing Cedar Creek. This location provided Colonel Thoburn with expansive views of Cedar Creek, as well as the strategic fords to the south and west, and the Confederate Army's positions on the heights south of Cedar Creek. On October 19th, Confederate forces advanced on Colonel Thoburn's troops, maneuvering around the Bowman-Hite farmhouse and outbuildings through a heavy fog and up the hillside to overrun the Federal position. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 84-101)

The Confederates, however, failed to follow-up their advantage, as many troops stopped to plunder the well-stocked Federal camps and Early chose to halt the advance. Alerted to the battle by the distant rumble of artillery, General Sheridan, in Winchester on his way back from a meeting in Washington D.C., rode in haste toward Cedar Creek and, in what is one of the most exemplary displays of Federal generalship during the war, rallied his troops for a counterattack that routed Early's army, forcing the Confederates to retreat up the valley. The Battle of Cedar Creek was a significant military victory for the Federal army because it effectively eliminated the threat from Early's army in the Valley and deprived Lee of his last major source of supply, thereby contributing to the Confederate commander's decision to abandon Petersburg and Richmond the following April. The battle also had important political consequences for its effect in boosting the flagging morale of the war-weary North . In combination with General William T. Sherman's victory at Atlanta and subsequent march through Georgia and Savannah, the Federal victories in the Valley helped to quell the movement for a negotiated peace promoted by the Democrat Party and ensure Abraham Lincoln's reelection in November 1864. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 88, citing Early 1912: 442)

Ethnic Heritage – Black:
The Bowman-Hite Farm is locally significant in the area of Ethnic Heritage-Black for its association with the presence and activities of free and enslaved Black people in the Lower Shenandoah Valley, specifically within the Cedar Creek area, from the early eighteenth century through the nineteenth century. During the

Colonial era and the first half of the nineteenth century, the northern Shenandoah Valley was a major grain-producing region and relied heavily on the labor of enslaved Black people and indentured servants for agricultural production and domestic services. As wheat production in the Shenandoah Valley increased, hiring out of enslaved people became more pervasive. Nearly all the major farms within the area that was to become Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park used enslaved labor, including the Bowman-Hite farm. The Civil War and the subsequent decline in wheat production had immediate impacts on the experiences of Black inhabitants. While emancipation contributed to the growth of visible Black communities in the Shenandoah Valley, escape from bondage was not freedom from servitude and inequity which led many Black people to leave the Valley during Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction eras.

During the eighteenth century, the majority of the Valley's settlers established small family farms and relied primarily on their children and kin to provide essential labor, which was supplemented by landless white day laborers, free Black people, and enslaved people hired out from neighboring farms. As farming became more profit-driven, Shenandoah Valley farmers began to integrate enslaved workers permanently into their operations. Free and enslaved Black people engaged in a variety of activities on farms, including cooking, cleaning, caring for children, clearing, plowing, and sowing fields; cutting ice; salting and smoking meat; making butter and cheese; and repairing farm buildings and tools. By 1850, enslaved people comprised 13.6 percent of the population in the Shenandoah Valley and free Black residents made up about 4.4 percent of the population (NR 2025, Sec. 8: 83).

According to the 1860 census, Charles and Rebecca Hite enslaved eight individuals, documented as Dan, Moses, Delilah, and Delilah's five young children. A ninth enslaved person, a 40-year-old man described as the "property of" Mary Jones, was "employed by" Charles Hite. James Foster, who was enslaved by Isaac Bowman at Mount Pleasant but earned wages as a shoemaker to support his free family, also worked for Charles and Rebecca Hite. Isaac Bowman was Rebecca' brother and Mount Pleasant was adjacent to the Bowman-Hite farm. Foster used his earnings to support his wife and children who were free and lived near Cedar Creek (https://home.nps.gov/articles/000/foster-petty-family.htm, accessed 3-22-2025). Little more is known about these individuals, but on April 11, 1861, an agreement between Charles and Rebecca Hite and her brother, George Bowman, to secure debt notes confirms the Hites' ownership of the eight enslaved people (Warren County Deed Book H: 16). A chancery suit in a Warren County court between Rebecca Hite and George Hupp cites a May 20, 1863, note from Rebecca Hite to W. P. Williams, the acting trustee, stating, "I have sold to Mr. John Cooley my negroes for the amount of $3,340.00, which I wish you to authorize and in trust pay over to me, as I wish to make a purchase of others to fill their place" (Chancery Suit, Warren County, Virginia, "Rebecca Hite v. George Hupp," 1880). At the time of the sale, John Cooley owned Belle Grove Plantation with his brother Benjamin. From these accounts, it appears that Moses and Delilah were enslaved by Rebecca Bowman at least from 1839 until they were sold to John W. Cooley in May of 1863. It is not clear where the Moses, Delilah and their children lived after they were sold (email, Jonathan Tracey, CEBE to Kristen Laise, Belle Grove, June 2022).

Agriculture:
The Bowman-Hite farm is locally significant in the area of Agriculture for its association with the agricultural history of the Shenandoah Valley as embodied in its collection of homesteads, mill sites, plantations, and dairy farms that span the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. The Shenandoah Valley was settled and developed in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries primarily for agricultural purposes, earning its reputation as the region's "breadbasket" until railroads extended into the Midwest farmlands. The Bowman-Hite farm, which includes a historic farmhouse, smokehouse, barn, road trace, and meadow, conveys the agricultural character typical of the nineteenth century.

Beginning in the 1720s, English authorities granted large land tracts in the Shenandoah Valley to speculators and investors who in return had to establish settlers on the land within a certain period. Movement through the Shenandoah Valley was impeded by the rugged ridgelines to the west and east, which could be easily crossed only at wind or water gaps. As a result, settlers arrived primarily from the northeast, following the Shenandoah River. The first European settlers, who arrived in the Shenandoah Valley in the mid-eighteenth century, originated from Pennsylvania or Tidewater Virginia. Although dispersed among large land grants, settlements in the Shenandoah Valley tended to be kinship-based and formed around paternal homesteads, with towns eventually forming at the crossroads of valley and over-ridge routes. The first crops grown for external markets were hemp and tobacco and then wheat in the late

1750s, as the French and Indian War (1754–1763) increased the demand for flour in the colonies. The market for wheat continued to increase in the late eighteenth century with an increased demand from Mid-Atlantic cities.

Unlike the Tidewater region, where plantations tended toward monoculture cultivation, the farms of the Shenandoah Valley generally practiced “mixed farming” and diversified production between grain and livestock. Many farmers raised livestock—swine and cattle, along with geese and poultry—for their own consumption and to sell at regional markets. To delineate their fields and pastures, they built systems of stone walls and fences using rocks collected from tilled fields and wood rails.

Pennsylvania German Jost [Joist] Hite (1685–1761) was one of the first settlers in the Shenandoah Valley. Hite settled on the Opequon Creek a few miles south of present-day Winchester in 1731, having purchased land from his Pennsylvania neighbors John and Isaac Van Meter. A year earlier, Virginia Governor Sir William Gooch had granted the two Van Meter men the land in grants of 30,000 and 10,000 acres respectively. To encourage frontier settlement, the governor had removed the traditional 1,000-acre limit per grantee when he granted the men the large land holdings but required them to settle one family for every 1,000 acres granted within two years. Jost Hite and his extended family helped the Van Meter’s to meet their agreement obligations. (Spencer 2013: 16)

In 1734, Mary Bowman, daughter of Jost Hite, and her husband George Bowman, procured from Mary’s father a 1,000-acre land tract located near Cedar Creek, about a mile north of the town of Strasburg. In 1843, their son, Isaac Bowman, bequeathed the land that would become the Bowman-Hite farm to his daughter, Rebecca. About 1851, Rebecca (1821-1892) and her husband, Charles Hite (b. 1822 – unknown) established their farm on Rebecca’s inherited land and built their farmhouse on a gentle hill overlooking Cedar Creek and surrounded it with agricultural dependencies. The property was connected to Fort Bowman on the other side of Cedar Creek by the Bowman-Hite Farm Road trace, conforming to the regional kindship-based agricultural development characteristic of the Shenandoah Valley. Rebecca and Charles’ farm encompassed approximately 393 acres, almost double the average farm in the Shenandoah Valley at that time. According to the agricultural census, in 1860 the farm produced 1,700 bushels of corn and 1,250 bushels of wheat and had large herds of swine and cattle. Despite this pre-war prosperity, the Hites, like many farmers in the region, suffered major losses in property and struggled in the economic depression that followed the Civil War. In 1863, Rebecca sold the eight people she enslaved to the owner of Belle Grove and auctioned the farm in 1872 to settle outstanding deeds of trust dating to the 1860s. Charles Hite abandoned Rebecca and their children in the 1870s.

By the early twentieth century, the Shenandoah Valley was no longer the region’s primary producer of wheat. Apple orchards quickly replaced many wheat fields throughout the valley, including those on the Bowman-Hite farm. In 1864, it was estimated that 5 percent of the district’s improved land was devoted to orchards; by 1937, this figure had risen to over 20 percent. While wheat continued to be grown for mid-Atlantic markets, more farms began to focus on dairying, grass farming, and orchard production. Dairying started as a home industry, requiring farmers to grow feed, raise milk cows, process the collected milk, and bring their products to market. Local creameries were established as centralized processing points for dairy farms, enabling them to concentrate on increasing production. In this way, creameries transformed the region's field-to-market rural economy into a commercialized industry.

As cattle raising and milk production increased, bank barns with large haylofts, silos, and milking floors were constructed. Adopted from Pennsylvania, bank barns are typically large frame buildings with at least one wall built into a slope, allowing the lower level to shelter animals while the overhanging forebay provides access to the barnyard. The upper level is used to store animal feed, hay, and equipment, resulting in few windows. The ca.1881 bank barn at the Bowman-Hite farm exemplifies this type of structure.

By the mid-twentieth century, orchard products, particularly apples, had surpassed wheat as the Shenandoah Valley's primary cash crop. Apples thrived in the soils along the region's shale and limestone ridges, which were less suitable for field crops. To support apple production and processing, farm owners constructed cold storage facilities and shelters for equipment. Most farmers supplemented their orchard production with livestock farming, which provided valuable manure. Eggs, dairy products, and livestock for consumption were transported to market by railroad or truck.

As a result of improved transportation infrastructure and the rise of automobiles, communities throughout the Shenandoah Valley began to grow in the late twentieth century and residential development surged significantly. Development concentrated in and around Middletown and along the arterial roads of US Route 11. Mechanization in agriculture reduced labor demands, leading to an increase in retail and service sector industries in the region. Farmers sold underutilized farmland to developers, who subdivided the land into marketable house lots. Land that was waterlogged, rocky, or inaccessible often avoided redevelopment and reverted to forest. In the twenty-first century, the local food movement and a rise in agritourism, however, have reinvigorated farming in the Shenandoah Valley supported through nonprofit conservation efforts such as those of the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF), a National Park Service partnership organization in Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park. SVBF supports agricultural use within the authorized boundary of Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park and the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District through the purchase and management of conservation easements. The SVBF was founded prior to the involvement of the National Park Service at Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park and is responsible for managing the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 130-134)

CRITERION C

Architecture:
The Bowman-Hite Farm is locally significant in the area of Architecture as an important example of Shenandoah Valley architectural forms and styles. The ca.1851 Bowman-Hite Farmhouse exemplifies the vernacular Greek Revival architectural style that prevailed in the valley during the first half of the nineteenth century. By the mid-nineteenth century, Greek Revival architecture had become the dominant style in the eastern United States. Side-hall Greek Revival-style houses with understated decoration gained popularity in the region. These houses, typically constructed of brick and limestone, feature low-pitched side-gable roofs, three-bay façades, recessed entrances, and lack entrance pavilions. Brick examples often showcase narrow corbelled cornices, simple window surrounds, and modest interior decoration. Windows are generally six-over-six sash, arranged singly. The Bowman-Hite house, built as a side-hall Greek Revival-style residence, represents the most common regional variation of this architectural style. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 153-155)

Bank barns with large haylofts, silos, and milking floors were constructed as cattle raising and milk production increased. Adopted from Pennsylvania, bank barns are characteristically large frame buildings built with at least one wall built into a slope so that the lower level can shelter animals and the overhanging forebay shelters access to a barnyard. The barn's upper level stored animal feed, hay, and equipment and, therefore, seldom had windows. The Bowman-Hite Bank Barn dates to ca.1881. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 142)

A smokehouse, such as the late nineteenth century structure at Bowman-Hite, was built to smoke meat or store salt-cured meat. Pervasive in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries in the Shenandoah Valley, smokehouses enabled farmers to preserve meat for their own consumption or for transport to distant markets. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 156)

CRITERION D

Archeology-Prehistoric
The Bowman-Hite Farm 8-acre parcel is locally significant in the area of Archeology-Prehistoric as it is associated with the National Register listed Bowman-Hite Farm Site (44WRO164) that reflects use of the area by Native American tribes before occupation by European settlers in the early seventeenth century. For further information about the archeological significance of the property, please consult the National Register documentation or contact staff of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

Archeology-Historic-Non-Aboriginal:
The Bowman-Hite Farm 8-acre parcel is locally significant in the area of Archeology-Historic-Non-Aboriginal for the Bowman-Hite Farm Site (44WR0164) associated with the historic occupation and use of the farm during the 1730 – ca 1900 period of significance, including the Battle of Cedar Creek and is listed as contributing on the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmark

documentation. For further information about the archeological significance of the property, please consult the National Register documentation or contact staff of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park.

National Register Significance Criteria:

Significance Criteria A - Associated with events significant to broad patterns of our history

Significance Criteria D - Has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important to prehistory or history

Significance Criteria C - Embodies distinctive construction, work of master, or high artistic values

National Register Criteria Consideration:

National Register Periods of Significance (with Historic Context Themes):

Time Period: CE 1864 - CE 1864

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Shaping the Political Landscape	The Civil War	Battles In The North And South	

Time Period: BCE 8000 - CE 1500

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Peopling Places	The Earliest Inhabitants:	The Early Peopling Of North America	

Time Period: CE 1734 - CE 1851

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	Agriculture	Plantation Agriculture	

Time Period: CE 1865 - CE 1900

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Developing the American Economy	Agriculture	Farming For Local Markets (Dairying, Fruits, And Vegetables)	

Time Period: CE 1851 - CE 1851

Historic Context Theme	Subtheme	Facet	Other Facet
Expressing Cultural Values	Architecture	Greek Revival (1820-1840)	

Area of Significance:

Area of Significance Category: Military

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Agriculture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Architecture

Area of Significance Subcategory:

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Ethnic Heritage

Area of Significance Subcategory: Black

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Prehistoric

Explanatory Narrative:

Area of Significance Category: Archeology

Area of Significance Subcategory: Historic-Non-Aboriginal

Explanatory Narrative:

NRIS Information:

NRIS Name:	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove
NRIS ID:	69000243
Primary Certification Date:	08/11/1969
NRIS Name:	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park
NRIS ID:	04000273
Primary Certification Date:	12/19/2002
NRIS Name:	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Landmark District
NRIS ID:	69000243
Primary Certification Date:	09/02/2024
NRIS Name:	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Register District Update
NRIS ID:	04000273
Primary Certification Date:	05/06/2025

State Register Documentation:

Identification Number:	VDHR 034-0303
Name:	Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation
Identification Number:	VDHR 093-0138
Name:	Bowman-Hite House
Identification Number:	VDHR 44WR0164
Name:	Archeological Site

National Historic Landmarks:

National Historic Landmark?	Yes
Theme:	Civil War, The
Contributing:	Contributing
NHL ID:	
NHL URL:	
Date:	09/02/2024

Statement of Significance for National Historic Landmark:

The period of significance for the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation National Historic Landmark District extends from 1771 with the construction of Fort Bowman through the Battle of Cedar Creek on October 19, 1864. The District is nationally significant under Criteria 1 and 5 in the areas of Military History and Politics/Government. The battle was a decisive engagement in the Civil War that established Union control of the Shenandoah Valley, a strategic corridor for movement and supply. The battle had an important effect on the course of the war and, and along with Sherman's southern campaign, solidified President Lincoln's re-election in 1864. As such, the battlefield embodies, Theme IV (Shaping the Political Landscape) and associated sub-themes (2) governmental institutions and (3) military institutions and activities. The collection of resources and features related to the Battle of Cedar Creek, including battle and encampment sites, fortifications, landforms, roads, fords, headquarters, and dwellings, outstandingly illustrate its historical significance. (NHL 2024: 10-11)

The District is also nationally significant under Criteria 1 and 5 in the areas of Agriculture, Architecture, Commerce, Ethnic Heritage, Exploration/Settlement, and Social History. As a rich and varied cultural landscape containing significant resources from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries that collectively tell the story of the backcountry colonization and settlement of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The disparate resources within this cultural landscape collectively embody Theme I (Peopling Places), Theme III (Expressing Cultural Values), and Theme V (Developing the American Economy). The remarkably intact collection of resources within this landscape includes eighteenth century farmsteads, antebellum period plantations, mills, early roadways, and archaeological sites that together comprise a landscape of exceptional historical significance. (NHL 2024: 10-11)

World Heritage Site:

World Heritage Site? No

Category:

WHS ID:

WHS URL:

Date:

Is Resource within a designated National Natural Landscape: No

Chronology and Physical History

Chronology:

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
BCE 5000 - 1700	Farmed/Harvested	Indigenous groups including the Shawnee, the Susquehannock, numerous eastern Siouan groups including the Catawba, the Cherokee, the Manahoac, the Monacan, and members of the Six Nations including the Delaware and the Creeks, use the valley as a central corridor for travel, migration, hunting and planting.
CE 1700 - 1732	Removed	Conflicts between Indigenous Tribes and Europeans, and introduced diseases lead to widespread death or relocation of Indigenous people in the Shenandoah Valley.
CE 1709	Settled	Jost Hite, a refugee from the Palatine Region of German is settled by the British government in the Hudson River Valley near the modern day town of New Paltz with his wife and child.
CE 1714	Settled	Jost Hite and family move to modern Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.
CE 1730	Land Transfer	John and Isaac Van Meter, Dutch fur traders, receive land grants of 30,000 and 10,000 acres respectively in the vicinity of the forks of the Shenandoah River. As part of the land agreement, within two years the Van Meter men must divide the land into 1,000-acre tracts, each settled by a single family.
CE 1731	Settled	Jost Hite acquires the land from the Van Meters. The land is later acquired by his children: John, Jacob, Isaac, Abraham, Joseph and daughter Mary Bowman (with husband George), and as well as other German families.
CE 1734	Settled	The 1,000-acre tract of land procured by George and Mary Bowman, is located in the vicinity of Cedar Creek, about a mile north of the town of Strasburg, Virginia. The land patent includes the site of the future Bowman-Hite farmstead. At the time of the purchase the entire tract falls within the boundaries of Frederick County, which had not yet been subdivided into Warren and Shenandoah Counties.
CE 1737	Land Transfer	Isaac Hite, third son of Jost Hite, is given a 900-acre tract of land located where Cedar Creek flows into the Shenandoah River. This land is part of the original Jost Hite land acquisition but does not include the land of the Bowman-Hite farm.
CE 1743 - 1744	Built	A road is constructed from Funks Mill crossing Cedar Run Creek. George Bowman, brother-in-law of Jost Hite, works as a Road Surveyor and helps oversee the road's construction.
CE 1750 - 1759	Built	The first "Bowman's Mill" is constructed in the 1750s along Cedar Creek to the northeast of the future Bowman-Hite Farm, near where modern Route 11 crosses Cedar Creek.
CE 1753	Built	Springdale is constructed by John Hite, oldest son of Jost Hite circa 1753, approximately ten miles north of the future site of Harmony Hall.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1758	Built	George Bowman again tasked with road construction of a road from “Peter Stoufers [sic] to George Bowman’s Mill. This Bowman’s Mill on Cedar Creek is the first of two Bowman Mill sites, and is located near modern Route 11 crosses Cedar Creek, north of what would become the Bowman-Hite property.
CE 1768 - 1769	Land Transfer	George Bowman and his eldest son die. George Bowman’s estate is divided among his remaining sons, Isaac, George, Abraham and Joseph. Colonel Isaac Bowman, George Bowman’s youngest son, receives one-quarter of the estate, approximately 180 acres (then in Shenandoah County) which includes the current Bowman-Hite property.
CE 1771	Built	George Bowman constructs Fort Bowman (Harmony Hall) on the banks of Cedar Creek within the bounds of the 1,000-acre land tract, to the northeast of what would become the Bowman-Hite Farm circa 1771.
CE 1778	Land Transfer	Isaac Hite Sr., third son of Jost Hite, has expanded land holdings to 1,689 acres including the Long Meadow property, land adjacent to the future Bowman-Hite farm.
CE 1787	Exploited	Personal property tax records for Shenandoah County show Colonel Isaac Bowman enslaving 8 people.
CE 1788	Built	Traveler’s Rest, house on the land of Isaac Hite, third son of Jost Hite, is constructed by 1788 on approximately 1,689 acres. By 1848 this structure is replaced with the current Federal style brick home, Long Meadows. Although the main house is no longer extant, ancillary structures, including the overseer’s house remain today.
CE 1793 - 1800	Built	Colonel Isaac Bowman begins construction of his new mill complex, located on the east side of Cedar Creek in modern day Warren County in 1793 just west of the Bowman-Hite Farm. By the early nineteenth century, the site contains a merchant mill, a saw mill, a wood-frame house, blacksmith shop and two other wood-frame structures located on a roughly eight-acre parcel near the present day crossing of State Route 635, also known as Bowman Mill Road, over Cedar Creek.
CE 1797	Built	Belle Grove, is built by Colonel Isaac Hite’s son, Isaac Hite Jr. and completed by 1797 on land of the original Jost Hite patent.
CE 1812 - 1813	Built	Colonel Isaac Bowman builds Mount Pleasant, a Federal style brick structure is located about ½ mile southwest on the west bank of Cedar Creek.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1826	Land Transfer	Colonel Isaac Bowman dies and his will states that his Virginia holdings should be divided among his six younger children, Isaac, George, Robert, Washington, Mary, and Rebecca (b. 1821), as the older children had already received allotments in both Indiana and Kentucky. The will divides about 1,100 acres into 4 equal parts: Mount Pleasant, Fort Bowman/Harmony Hall, the merchant mill and improvements, and the island tract. Colonel Bowman's will stipulated that the estate stay intact until Rebecca Bowman reached the age of twenty-one. Colonel Bowman leaves the portion of land, 498 acres, where the Bowman-Hite house now stands, as well as the Bowman Mill complex, to his young daughter Rebecca Bowman.
CE 1836	Established	Warren County is created out of Frederick and Shenandoah Counties.
CE 1843	Land Transfer	Rebecca Bowman turns 21 and inherits her portion of Colonel Isaac Bowman's estate, 498 acres in Warren and Shenandoah Counties following the estates division into four tracts: brick house tract (243 acres), stone house tract (210 acres), the mill tract (498 acres), and the island tract (200 acres). The children "draw straws" to determine which child receives which property. Rebecca Bowman receives the 498-acre tract consisting of land within Warren and Shenandoah counties, including what will become the Bowman-Hite Farm.
CE 1843	Purchased/Sold	Rebecca Bowman sells the southern portion of her holdings, about 98 acres, in Shenandoah County.
CE 1849	Built	Warren County land tax records of 1849 indicate Rebecca F.W. Bowman-Hite (and her new husband Charles J. Hite) as owners of a 222 ¼ acre parcel with a $1200 in taxable improvements.
CE 1849 - 1850	Purchased/Sold	Rebecca (Bowman) Hite and Charles Hite purchase roughly 171 acres of land between 1849 and 1850 on the Warren County side of Cedar Creek from George and Mary (Bowman) Brinker, Rebecca's sister.
CE 1850	Purchased/Sold	Rebecca (Bowman) Hite and Charles Hite sell the mill property, 8-acres with several structures, including a small frame house, for $2,050 to Rebecca's brother, George Bowman on September 14, 1850. They are taxed that year for 393+ acres. Charles and Rebecca Hite are taxed for 393 +/- acres with $500 in improvements from 1851 to 1857.
CE 1850 - 1851	Built	In the early part of the 1850s, Rebecca and Charles build a brick, side-passage plan house in the Greek Revival style. They also erect a kitchen structure sometime before 1860. Recent archeological investigation suggests that an earth-fast domestic structure was located southwest of the main house. Other features identified in the investigation include a cistern, at the southeast corner of the farmhouse, and a stone foundation located south of the earth fast domestic structure.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1860	Farmed/Harvested	Agricultural census records from 1860 indicate that the Bowman-Hite farm is worth $13,000, almost double that of the average Warren County farm, reflecting in part that almost 2/3 of the farm acreage (285 acres) is improved. Livestock mentioned include sheep, swine, cattle, dairy cows, mules, ox and horses, as well as corn, wheat, rye, oats, potatoes, hay, clover and a small orchard.
CE 1859 - 1861	Purchased/Sold	September 10, 1860, a deed of trust is taken out with a local wealthy farm owner, William Stickley for $4,100, due in three years, and if not repaid the property would be sold. Secured to David Fisher, who is the guardian for William D. Stickley.
CE 1864	Military Operation	During the Battle of Cedar Creek, the land of the Bowman-Hite Farm becomes a battleground. The Federal army creates an encampment with earthworks and batteries on a hill crest to the northeast of the farmhouse. The 8-acre portion of the Bowman-Hite property includes the core of the farmstead which Confederate General Kershaw and his troops used as an avenue of approach prior to their attack on the morning of October 19 on the Union positions of Colonel Thoburn located on high ground northeast of the farmstead.
CE 1867	Inhabited	Charles and Rebecca Hite live in nearby Middletown and rent Bowman-Hite Farm for income.
CE 1869	Farmed/Harvested	Charles Hite and business partners intensively log the land of the Bowman-Hite Farm until stopped by court injunction to prevent the loss of value to the bank secured asset prior to auction.
CE 1870	Inhabited	Charles, Rebecca and three children are living in Middletown in Frederick County. Charles is listed as a “horse dealer.” Real property in Middletown assessed at $1,200.
CE 1871	Farmed/Harvested	Samuel M. Grove rents the Bowman-Hite farm from Rebecca with crops consisting mainly of wheat corn and oats.
CE 1870 - 1872	Land Transfer	George Hupp calls in the Hite family debts on December 2, 1870. Hupp places an ad in the Warren Sentinel for a public auction to be held on January 7, 1871. Though the sale is delayed due to Rebecca’s protest of the sale and lack of bids, William Stickley purchases the farm on September 16, 1872, for $8,000, only about half of its 1860 $15,880 assessed value.
CE 1872 - 1873	Farmed/Harvested	Samuel M [Mark] Grove continues to rent the 397 +/- acres of the Bowman-Hite farm from William D. Stickley.
CE 1876	Purchased/Sold	William D. Stickley sells the Bowman-Hite farm to John Pirkey for $5,200.
CE 1876 - 1886	Built	Under Pirkey’s ownership the rear frame portion of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse is added, likely to bring the kitchen back inside the house and add a sleeping room, and the side porch is extended.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1876 - 1886	Altered	The exterior of the Bowman-Hite house is lapped in horizontal wood siding and painted white, though it may have been unpainted for some time after construction.
CE 1876 - 1879	Built	Pirkey also constructs a “good new frame dwelling house, stabling, and any other necessary improvements” on the southern end of the Bowman-Hite farm adjacent to the Bowman Mill site, then occupied by Daniel Coverstone.
CE 1879	Purchased/Sold	The August 8, 1879, issue of the Shenandoah Herald, the newly built frame dwelling house (adjacent to the Bowman Mill), as well as 270 acres of the “old Charlie Hite farm” are listed as auctioned to secure debts owed to Philip Grove. Eventually sold to H.C. Wilson. Purchase does not include Bowman-Hite farmhouse and land.
CE 1880 - 1881	Built	The existing bank barn is constructed as revealed by an increase in land tax values and reference the existence of a large barn on the property.
CE 1881 - 1896	Built	The deed for the ½ acre mentions “A.H. Kerns barn yard” confirming the presence of multiple agrarian structures including the ca.1881 bank barn.
CE 1886	Purchased/Sold	Pirkey sells the Bowman-Hite farmhouse and 128 acres to Abrams H. Kerns for $2,800. While the formal transfer of the 128 acres occurs in 1886, Kerns appears to have been paying taxes on the 128 acres of land and perhaps living in the Bowman-Hite farmhouse as early as 1881.
CE 1886	Purchased/Sold	Kern sells 44.5 acres of land to Adaline Rittenour for $800. The property is noted as being in Warren County, partially along Cedar Creek, bordering D. Stickley’s and H. Wilson’s property lines.
CE 1896	Purchased/Sold	On March 9, 1896, Kerns and his neighbors to the east, M.C. Wilson and O. Wilson enter into an agreement to transfer approximately ½ acre of land. Maps suggest that the construction of the county road, now Bowman Mill Road, cut portions of the contiguous land holdings of both Kerns and the Wilsons. To ascertain more defined property boundaries, land was exchanged with the “said road” becoming “the line between the said parties and to be used jointly between the places…”
CE 1901 - 1905	Built	Following Abraham Kerns’s accidental death, Ella Kerns assumes management of the farm. She oversees installation of wire fencing is run in 1901, 1904, and 1905 on the Bowman-Hite property.
CE 1905	Altered	Charles Kerns, son of Ella Kerns, who is the wife of Abraham Kern (deceased) paints the exterior of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse.
CE 1905	Altered	Lightning rods are attached to the barn.
CE 1937	Planted	Two orchards are planted on the Bowman-Hite property sometime before 1937 as revealed by aerial imagery.
CE 1942	Farmed/Harvested	An inventory of the Bowman-Hite property notes the presence of livestock, including a black heifer, a Roane Durham cow, a Guernsey cow, and a Roane Durham male.

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 1950	Removed	Orchards are removed from lands of the Bowman-Hite farm about 1950.
CE 1967	Purchased/Sold	Mary Kern sells 127.5 acres of the Bowman-Hite farm property, including the brick house, on December 20, 1967, to Lloyd and Ruth Whitham.
CE 1971	Altered	Lloyd and Ruth Whitham enclose the south porch on the farm house, and add a two car garage on the east side and raise the east wing to a full two stories. The two additions completely enclose the rear frame addition added by Pirkey between 1876 and 1880.
CE 1971	Altered	Lloyd and Ruth Whitham add a cinder block front porch replacing the Greek Revival porch seen in an image from 1971.
CE 1950 - 2003	Planted	A small domestic apple orchard and a pine plantation are planted north of the farmhouse. Foundation and mass plantings are planted by the Kern and Whitham families throughout the property.
CE 1969	Established	Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove is designated a National Historic Landmark.
CE 1990 - 2003	Farmed/Harvested	Agricultural records indicate corn and hay cultivation and cattle raising on the property by the Whitham family.
CE 2002	Land Transfer	The 127.5 acres of the Bowman-Hite farm is passed to a residual trust with the passing of Lloyd Whitham (1993) and Ruth Whitham (2002),
CE 2002	Established	Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park is authorized.
CE 2003	Purchased/Sold	The lands owned by the Whitham family are subdivided into two parcels. The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation acquires approximately 126 acres, and the remaining eight acres are purchased by the National Park Service. The eight-acre parcel includes a farmhouse, barn, and meat or smoke house.
CE 2011	Removed	The NPS removes a non-historic CMU foundation and concrete porch attached the front of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse and the non historic attached garage.
CE 2014	Repaired	The exterior of the Bowman-Hite smokehouse is stabilized and repaired, and painted.
CE 2014	Removed	To remedy ingress, egress and storm water erosion issues at the existing driveway to the Bowman-Hite farm, the NPS removes three non-historic 2 foot- 4 inch masonry structures serving as driveway markers to no lower than six inches below ground level.
CE 2014	Removed	The NPS removes two non-contributing buildings, a large metal storage shed and a livestock shed near the barn.
CE 2014	Repaired	The NPS completes a stabilization project on the Bowman-Hite barn including repointing the limestone foundation, adding structural support systems and removing damaged windows from the lower level of the barn and installing louvers

Year	Event	Major Event Narrative
CE 2015	Removed	Five trees are removed from the Bowman-Hite property. They include two small ornamental trees located at the end of the driveway to allow for large vehicle access. In addition, three potentially hazardous trees growing in the barn yard are removed.
CE 2017	Altered	The septic stank is abandoned, crushed in place and backfilled with soil.
CE 2017	Altered	The bank barn's new standing seem metal roof and the new exterior wooden slide doors are painted. The smokehouse's existing standing seam metal roof and existing wooden exterior door are also painted
CE 2017	Repaired	The National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC) repairs sections of masonry on the Bowman-Hite farmhouse.
CE 2018	Repaired	HPTC replaces the roof on the Bowman-Hite farmhouse.
CE 2018	Altered	HPTC paints the exterior brick portions of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse white
CE 2021	Altered	The ca.1886 stone well is capped with a concrete cap. The barn doors are secured against opening by the public.
CE 2023	Repaired	Latex paint applied to Farmhouse by the NPS/Historic Preservation Training Center is stripped by hand and replaced with mineral silicate paint. Damaged mortar is repointed.
CE 2024	Removed	Eleven obsolete cedar fence posts which were located around a circa 1950 apple orchard are removed. These fence posts may have marked a historic fence line given that this fence aligned with the smokehouse, indicating that the fence was once part of a domestic curtilage surrounding the historic dwelling. Therefore, the posts are cut just below ground level and affixed with a metal nail to aid in identification if necessary. An obsolete utility line post is also removed.
CE 2025	Repaired	The earth ramp on the north elevation of the ca.1881 barn is replaced in kind.

Physical History:

LAND DEVELOPMENT TO 1734

Note: For a detailed documentation and analysis of this period within the Shenandoah Valley region, please refer to the Ethnographic Overview and Assessment, Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park by Kathleen J. Bragdon. This report was completed in 2009 under a cooperative agreement with the College of William and Mary by the Northeast Region Ethnography Program, and it serves as the primary source for this section of the Cultural Landscape Inventory.

Palynological studies suggest that the cold climate at the end of the Pleistocene Era supported a vegetational landscape dominated by conifers, characterized by a rich biota that attracted early indigenous hunters known as Paleoindians. While Paleoindians elsewhere in North America hunted big game such as mastodons and bison, these animals had apparently disappeared from the Shenandoah Valley region by 12,000 years ago (B.P.). Instead, moose, elk, caribou, and deer

became the primary focus of hunting activities, supplemented by the exploitation of plants, small mammals, and fish. (EOA 2009: 29, citing Gardener 1986, 1989; Turner 1989)

Although fewer than fifty Paleoindian sites have been identified in Virginia, a significant number are in or near the Shenandoah Valley. (Turner 1989) The allure of the region's quarries, which contained minerals prized by Paleoindians, likely encouraged frequent returns to or reuse of these sites. Thus, while there is no direct evidence of Paleoindian activity within the boundaries of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP it is highly probable that Paleoindian people hunted and gathered throughout the region, traversing the high ground between the Shenandoah and the Blue Ridge (later known as the Great Warrior Path), part of which is located within the park. (EOA 2009: 29-31)

At the beginning of the Archaic period (10,000–3,000 B.P.), the forest cover of the Blue Ridge and Appalachian Plateau remained dense. However, by the end of this period, a mixed deciduous and coniferous cover began to emerge, supporting an increasing variety of flora and fauna. (EOA 2009: 27-30) The Archaic period marks the beginning of the intensive use of shellfish and estuarine resources in many areas of the Eastern Woodlands, and it is likely that river and wetland resources were also commonly exploited. As the Archaic period progressed, rising temperatures and decreasing rainfall led to the replacement of coniferous forests with deciduous ones. Smaller game animals thrived in this changed environment, replacing larger species such as elk, moose, and bison, although deer remained an important dietary staple. The new deciduous forests also supported nut-bearing trees, like chestnuts, which attracted both humans and animals to the terraces and mountains on either side of the valley. Foraged food became a more significant part of the diet, as evidenced by the appearance of grinding stones in archaeological sites from this period. At Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, nearly all the Native American sites identified within the park are located on river or stream terraces, indicating that access to water was a primary concern for people settling the area throughout history. (EOA 2009: 32 citing Geier and Tinkham 2004: 69-71)

It is generally believed that the cultural, economic, and social patterns characteristic of indigenous North American societies in the Eastern Woodlands were established by the beginning of the Woodland period (3000–400 B.P.). Ethnohistorians and archaeologists have begun to identify linguistic and cultural boundaries, recognize distinct “tribal” entities, and measure the effects of long-distance trade. The archaeological record reveals complex religious practices, reflecting the nuanced cosmologies that motivated them. Growing sedentism, related to an increased reliance on maize-based horticulture, became a hallmark of Woodland occupation. By the Middle Woodland period, the native people of the northern Shenandoah began to adopt distinctive burial practices, particularly the construction of stone burial mounds. According to William Gardner, these mounds were built in clusters; while they were constructed along other drainages like the lower Potomac, they were also concentrated around the South Fork of the Shenandoah, near settlements that may have been established on park properties. (EOA 2009: 33-34 citing Gardner 1986: 71-72) Archaeological evidence from the northern Shenandoah Valley helps clarify this general outline of the Woodland period. Ground stone tools found at sites from this time suggest that agriculture was adopted by the peoples living in the northern Shenandoah region around 900 A.D., coinciding with the introduction of new species of maize, beans, and squash. (EOA 2009: 378)

Cultural geographer Robert Mitchell in his book titled “The Shenandoah Valley: A Historical Geography,” which explores the historical and geographical development of the Shenandoah Valley and examining the interactions between the landscape and the people who have inhabited the area, estimates that between 1730 and 1780, approximately 140,000 settlers migrated to the Shenandoah Valley. They traveled down the natural corridor from Pennsylvania or westward from the Tidewater region. While settlement in the mountains flanking the valley was uncommon before the end of the eighteenth century, most mountain land was already in the hands of absentee speculators who had received land grants from either the colonial governor or from the proprietor of the Northern Neck. (EOA 2009: 77)

The Northern Neck Proprietary encompassed over five million acres, extending from the Potomac River in the north to the Chesapeake Bay in the east, the Rappahannock River in the south, and as far west as the present-day West Virginia counties of Berkeley, Hampshire, Hardy, Jefferson, and Morgan. By 1681 all rights to the grant were held by Thomas, Lord Culpeper, and upon his death in

1689, these rights were inherited by his daughter Catherine. Control of the proprietary then passed from Catherine to her son Thomas, the sixth Lord Fairfax, who was born in England in 1693. (Weisiger 2002) Until his death in 1732, Robert “King” Carter, a powerful Virginia planter, administered the lands of Lord Fairfax in the Northern Neck region. (Bragdon 2009: 77-78)

LAND OWNERSHIP OF THE BOWMAN AND HITE FAMILIES PRIOR TO CIVIL WAR, 1734–1861

One of the earliest land grants in the Shenandoah Valley was obtained by Jost Hite (1685–bef. 1761), originally baptized Hans Justus Heyd. Hite was a Lutheran immigrant from Strasburg, Germany, who first settled in the Hudson River Valley of New York around 1709. Hite relocated to Pennsylvania in 1714 and then moved to Virginia in 1731. The Strasburg region of Germany, once known for its lush vineyards and forests, had been devastated by a series of wars since 1618, leaving the countryside barren by the early eighteenth century. Following Europe's bitterly cold winter of 1708-1709, thousands of Germans fled the devastation to Rotterdam and then to London where the British had agreed transport as many as 8,000 refugees to the American Colonies. It was in this context that Hite embarked on his journey, part of what would later be referred to by scholars as the Great German Exodus. In July 1709 Jost Heydt and his family traveled across the English Channel to a refugee camp south of London. After an arduous journey, "Jost Hayd," his wife Anna Maria, baby daughter, and stepmother Maria Hayd, were settled with about a thousand other refugees approximately fifteen miles from New Pflaz [New Paltz], New York where a small German settlement of Palatines had been established. Then, in spring 1714, Jost Hayd (from here forward referred to as Jost Hite) and his family moved to the Skippack Creek area of what is now Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. After a few years, Hite purchased additional land on Perkiomen Creek and built a stone house and grist mill. (Gaugler and Connor 1987: 15-35) Around 1731, Hite purchased a large tract of land near the forks of the Shenandoah River, close to Opequon Creek in Virginia, from his Pennsylvania neighbors John and Isaac Van Meter, two Dutch fur traders. (Jones et.al. 1979: 10-12) Governor Gooch had granted the two Van Meter men 40,000 acres a year earlier. To encourage frontier settlement, the governor had removed the traditional 1,000-acre limit per grantee when he granted the men the large land holdings but required them to settle one family for every 1,000 acres. The Van Meters deeded this large tract, and the responsibility for settling it, to Hite in August 1731. (Jones et.al. 1979: 21 citing Executive Journal of the Council of Virginia, pp. 236, 253, 363-4)

Hite arrived in Virginia in late 1731 with his extended family. (O'Dell 1995: 232) He built a cabin and fort at Opequon Creek, near Springdale on modern Route 11, about twelve miles north of present-day Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP. Later, he operated an inn and a mill on his property. (Bragdon 2009: 79-80, citing Dohme 1976: 4, Waddill 1986: 23, and Spencer 2013: 18)

In the following years, extended family members of Hite as well as additional settlers, many from the Pennsylvania region where Hite had migrated, acquired tracts of land from Hite and moved to the Opequon Creek area. Patents issued on June 12, 1734, to the "masters of families" included the surnames Hite, Bowman (Baughman), Chrisman, and Froman (married names of Hite's daughters), all of whom settled on 1,000-acre tracts in the region. (Spencer 2013: 18, citing Virginia Magazine, Vol. XIII, No. 2, 115-119) Among those Hite recruited from Pennsylvania was John Bowman (Baughman), whose son George married Jost's daughter, Mary Hite. In 1732, Jost Hite's son Isaac and his son-in-law George Bowman took up more land along the North Fork of the Shenandoah River. Although Isaac Hite's original log home was destroyed by fire, the existing house, known as Long Meadow, was built on its original foundations in the mid-nineteenth century. Long Meadow is located within the authorized boundary of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP and is currently in private ownership. (Bragdon 2009: 80) (Figure 1).

While the Opequon Creek region served as a focal point for early settlement, there was no centralized settlement plan. Instead, farms were scattered across the productive, well-watered lands, linked by familial ties, with services such as shops, mills, and ordinaries also dispersed throughout the area. These kin-oriented settlements would soon rely on an evolving network of small towns and villages. (Hofstra and Mitchell 1993: 626-628) The first town to emerge in Frederick County was Winchester, established as a fledgling settlement in 1746 and granted a charter in 1752. Winchester was soon followed by other market towns along the transportation corridor known as the Great Wagon Road through the Valley. In 1758 lots were laid out in the new town of Stephensburg (now Stephens City), located eight miles south of Winchester. Three years later, Strasburg was established ten miles south of Stephensburg at a bend in the Shenandoah River, and the town of Woodstock was laid out twelve miles south of Strasburg. (Bragdon 2009: 81, citing Hofstra 2004: 251) These dispersed farming settlements were linked by the Great Wagon Road which was built

upon the Indigenous Great Warrior Path and today can still be traced through modern roads and highways, particularly along U.S. Route 11, which runs parallel to the original route. (Bragdon 2009: 81-82)

In 1734, Jost Hite's daughter, Mary and her husband, George Bowman, acquired a 1,000-acre tract of land near Cedar Creek, about a mile north of the town of Strasburg. By 1771, Mary and George Bowman had constructed Harmony Hall (Fort Bowman), located across Cedar Creek to the north of the Bowman-Hite Farm. Harmony Hall, a two-story stone manor house, follows many of Germanic traditions in form, aesthetics and construction. (Spencer 2013: 19) The Bowman's land at the time encompassed the present 8-acre Bowman-Hite Farm parcel.

Frederick County order books note George Bowman as working as a road surveyor as early as 1743, when he is appointed, along with two other men, to oversee construction of a road from Funks Mill, crossing Cedar Run Creek. Later in 1758, George Bowman is again tasked with road building from "Peter Stoufers [sic] to George Bowman's Mill…" George Bowman's Mill on Cedar Creek, the first of two Bowman Mill sites, was constructed by George Bowman around 1753. The other Bowman Mill, the land of which is now owned in fee simple by the NPS, was constructed by George's son Isaac Bowman in 1793 on the east side of Cedar Creek in what is now, Warren County.

Around the same time that the Bowmans were building Harmony Hall, other members of the Hite family were improving their lands. John Hite, oldest son of Jost Hite, constructed Springdale around 1753, another stone structure, located where the Valley Pike crosses Opequon Creek. This structure shares many of the same attributes as George Bowman's house, Harmony Hall, located nearby. The eighteenth-century ruins of Jost Hite's house are located close to Springdale. (Spencer 2013: 40-43)

In 1737, Jost Hite gave a 900-acre tract where Cedar Creek flows into the Shenandoah River to his third son, Isaac Hite Sr. By 1778, Isacc had expanded this land holding to 1,689 acres and within the next ten years he built a house on the property known as "Traveler's Rest." While the original eighteenth-century house was replaced by a Federal-style brick structure, Long Meadow, in 1848, many of Isaac Hite Sr.'s farm's ancillary agricultural structures including the overseer's house, remain. In 1795, Isaac Hite Sr. son of Jost Hite passed away and willed his 483-acre land holdings to his son, Isaac Hite Jr. who was married to Nelly Conway Madison, sister of the future President of the United States, James Madison. They constructed Belle Grove on the property by 1797. Belle Grove and Long Meadow are both located within the authorized boundary of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP. Belle Grove is open to the public, and Long Meadow is in private ownership.

Meanwhile, George Bowman, brother-in-law to Isaac Hite Sr. and uncle to Isaac Hite Jr., passed away in 1768. While George Bowman retained substantial land holdings in Shenandoah County, including Harmony Hall, he
had also accumulated vast land holdings in Augusta County, which were bequeathed to his son John Bowman. Therefore, George Bowman's 1764 will bequeathed the 720 acres in Shenandoah County in four equal parts with his other sons, Isaac, George, Abraham and Joseph.

Isaac Bowman, who inherited the land that included the present-day Bowman-Hite farm, spent several years on the western frontier with his brothers and cousin, Isaac Hite, accompanying settlers to Kentucky following his father, George Bowman's death. In 1778, at the age of 21, Isaac Bowman enlisted in George Rogers Clark's Illinois militia and participated in various Revolutionary War assignments, eventually receiving a land grant of 2,156 acres in Indiana for his service. After the war, in 1779, he again led a group of settlers westward but was captured by a hostile tribe and did not return to Virginia until 1782. Three years later, on April 6, 1785, he married Elizabeth Gatewood.

By 1787, Elizabeth and Isaac Bowman were living at Harmony Hall where they enslaved eight people and owned 4 horses and 30 head of cattle according to Warren County tax records, considerable wealth by eighteenth-century standards. Over the next five years, Elizabeth and Isaac had five children before Elizabeth's death in 1790. In 1792, Isaac Hite Bowman married Mary Jane Chinn. Around 1812-1813 they constructed Mount Pleasant, a two-story, five bay, Federal-style brick dwelling, located on Cedar Creek, west of the future Bowman-Hite farmhouse. Through this marriage, both Mary Ann Bowman (b. 1815) and Rebecca Bowman (b. 1821) were born. In 1826,

when Rebecca was about five years old, her father Isaac Bowman died, and she inherited the property that would later become the Bowman-Hite farm. Her father's will was specific about the allocation of his property, stating that his Virginia holdings should be divided among his six younger children, including Rebecca. His older children had moved to Indiana and Kentucky and already received allotments from his estate. In addition, he explicitly provided for the education of his children, paid for from his estate that was to remain intact until Rebecca turned 21. Later, records reveal that George Washington Bowman, acting as guardian to his younger sister Rebecca, raised $914.99 ($758.99 after subtracting commission) by hiring out the enslaved people Rebecca inherited from her father, Moses, Emanuel, Delila and Dinah. (Peters 2010 citing Shenandoah County Will Book T, 521 and Will book V, 18-19) Isaac Bowman's will divided his estate lands in Frederick and Shenandoah counties, about eleven hundred acres in total, into four equal parts amongst his younger children. Division One to be 'My Brick Dwelling with the lands and improvements immediately adjacent… [Mount Pleasant]; My Stone House in which I formerly lived with the lands and improvements thereto shall constitute the Second division [Fort Bowman]…My merchant Mill and the lands and improvements adjacent hereto shall constitute the third division [Mill Tract/Bowman's Mill]… and my tract commonly called the Island tract shall constitute the fourth division. (Shenandoah County Will Book N, 521-526 1826)

However, it was not until a Chancery Suit in 1843, prompted by Rebecca coming of age, that Isaac Bowman's estate was divided among his named heirs. Ultimately, Rebecca was awarded what was then referred to as the "mill tract," which consisted of 498 acres spanning both Warren and Shenandoah Counties (Figures 2 and 3). This large parcel included the mill complex built by her father, Isaac Bowman, in 1793, along with a nearby small frame house. The other land divisions were assigned as follows: Robert Bowman received the "brick house" tract, also known as the Mount Pleasant; George and Mary Bowman Brinker were assigned the "stone house" tract, referred to as Harmony Hall and later by Fort Bowman; and Washington Bowman obtained the Island tract, which at that time contained no residence. To ensure fairness, Washington Bowman received additional funds from his siblings based on the assessed value of their inheritances, providing him with the means to establish a "comfortable home" on the Island tract. The amounts were noted as follows: Robert Bowman contributed $1,833.33, George and Mary Brinker $333.33 and Rebecca Bowman, $333.33. This information offers insight into what the family considered the cost of constructing a "comfortable home" at the time.

Later in the Chancery suit, the "brick house tract" would be further divided, with Isaac Bowman retaining Mount Pleasant and Robert Bowman receiving adjacent farmland where he would eventually build another home. Throughout the probate and inheritance process, Rebecca continued to reside at her childhood home, Mount Pleasant, directly across from her new land holdings, the future site of the Bowman-Hite Farm. (Spencer 2013: 46-47)

On May 10, 1849, Rebecca Bowman married Charles J. Hite. Charles, born in 1821 in Virginia, was a son of James Madison Hite and his wife, Elizabeth Briscoe. His sister was Eleanor Briscoe Hite who married Rebecca Bowman's older brother, Isaac S. Bowman of Mount Pleasant. Charles Hite's family, including his father James Madison Hite, resided in Jefferson County, Virginia, in present-day West Virginia. While Rebecca, and presumably Charles, were living with Rebecca's brother at the recently constructed, Long Meadow, on September 14, 1850, Rebecca and Charles sold Rebecca's 8-acre mill complex with "water rights and privileges," to her brother, George W. Bowman for $2,050 (Warren County Deed Book E, folio 66). The deed is ambiguous, however, as to whether the sale included the sawmill and other dependencies, or only the grist mill. In 1850, Warren County land tax records document that Charles and Rebecca owned about 393 acres and $500 in improvements, a $700 decrease in taxable improvements but a 171 acre gain from 1847 when they owned the entire mill complex. Rebecca and Charles may have been spurred sell the mill to raise money to build their own home and establish their own household as they welcomed their first child, Mary Hite. In the first ten years of their marriage, Rebecca and Charles had five children including Mary (b. ca. 1850), George (1852), John (1855), Francis (1858), and Ellen (1859). (Spencer 2013: 48; 1860 Census)

The Greek Revival-inspired, side-passage brick farmhouse that Charles and Rebecca Hite built between 1850 and 1851 was a popular style in the region during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, before gradually fading out of fashion after the Civil War. The side passage, also known as

a foyer or hall, helped separate and define the interior spaces of the structure, a feature considered desirable in the antebellum South. Such a design not only provided for the necessary separation of spaces on a budget, but it also allowed for the potential expansion to a more formal center-hall plan if desired. In addition to its layout, another notable variation from other Bowman and Hite family homesteads was the smaller size of this structure. Standing two stories tall, three bays wide, and a single pile deep (excluding the rear "ell"), the original farmhouse consisted of only four distinct rooms, along with the primary stairwell and foyer. This made the Bowman-Hite farmhouse roughly half the size of other family structures, such as Mount Pleasant or the recently built Long Meadows. (Spencer 2013: 49) The Hite family connected their new farm to Rebecca's extended family at Harmony Hall (later known as Fort Bowman) via a narrow dirt road. This road began east of the farmhouse, then turned north to follow the edge of a field before crossing Cedar Creek to reach Harmony Hall. Another road, beyond the extents of the National Park Service owned eight acre parcel, connected Bowman-Hite farm to Mount Pleasant (NR 2025, Sec.7: 27)

The Hite's also constructed a kitchen building during this period, which was specifically noted in 1861 when the Hite's mortgaged their property: "…to secure on his [Hite's] household & kitchen, the said household & kitchen furniture is hereby subject to debt" (Spencer 2013: 49 citing Warren County Deed Book H: 16) Archaeological excavations by the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research in the 2000s suggest that an earth-fast domestic structure was located southwest of the main house. Other nearby features, such as a cistern at the southeast corner of the farmhouse and a stone foundation south of the earth-fast domestic structure, suggest that the Bowman-Hite farm's domestic yard was typical of the mid-nineteenth century. The location of the dwellings of the enslaved people is unknown, but some may have lived within the kitchen structure. (Spencer 2013: 49)

Though drawn in 1864, the Hotchkiss Maps provide insight into the layout of the farm during the 1860s. Hotchkiss's map with troop movements illustrates five buildings on the "C.J. Hite" property, three north of the road through the farmyard, and two south of the road, while the sketch of the battle without troop movements shows three buildings north of the road and one to the south (Figures 4 and 5).

Early in their marriage, tax records indicate that Rebecca and Charles Hite enslaved five people. But death records and the claim file of James Foster, the man enslaved by Rebecca's brother who worked for Rebecca and Charles and was paid, suggest a larger enslaved community. By 1852, the Hites' holdings included 34 head of cattle and four horses. By 1861, the number of people that the Hite's enslaved had increased to eight: a man named Dan, a woman named Delilah, her husband, Moses, and their five children, two boys and three girls under ten years old. (Spencer 2013: 25) The 1860 census indicates that the Bowman-Hite farm was worth $13,000, almost double the value of the average farm in Warren County, though Rebecca's sister Elizabeth and Elizabeth's husband George Bowman's nearby Mount Pleasant was valued at $30,000. Almost two thirds of Rebecca and Charles's land holdings, or 285 acres, were described as improved. In contrast, only about half of the land of the average Warren County farm was improved. The Hite family was also heavily invested in agricultural machinery, with an aggregate value of $350, much higher than the county average of $109. Records confirm Hite's investment in progressive farming methods, noting three McCormick ploughs, four or five double shovel ploughs, one barrow, gearing for six horses, two farm horse wagons, and one two-horse wagon. (Spencer 2013: 26-27) While the Hite's farm was larger and more valuable than the average farm in the region, it grew similar crops and raised comparable livestock, including sheep, swine (hogs), cattle, dairy cows, mules, oxen, and horses. While much of the day-to-day activity would have occurred within the barn yard, the surrounding fields, 285 acres by 1860, with additional acreage in timber, was used to sustain the Hite's agricultural operation. The crops cultivated on the farm included rye, oats, potatoes, hay, clover, and a small orchard. However, like many farmers in the area, the Hite's primarily focused on the cultivation of corn and wheat. (Spencer 2013: 26)

While wheat and corn were the dominant crops in the region, they represented only a portion of the total farm operation, which helped insulate the farm from fluctuations in pricing and changing climatic conditions. Rye and oats were also grown on the farm, although not in quantities comparable to those of corn and wheat. Additionally, other crops, such as potatoes, were cultivated in the area, with the Bowman-Hite farm reporting a yield of 23 bushels in 1860. Warren County averaged 28.77

bushels of tobacco per farm in 1860; however, this crop seems to have been more prevalent on larger plantations, as the Bowman-Hite farm reported no tobacco production in the same census. (Spencer 2013: 28) The Bowman-Hite farm also sold $20 of orchard fruit in 1860 which indicates a substantial orchard as the average orchard value in Warren County that year was $3. While the Shenandoah Valley is often referred to as the breadbasket of Virginia, it was livestock that likely generated significant profits for farmers like Charles and Rebecca Hite. In 1860, the average investment in livestock in Warren County was $720. The total livestock investment on the Bowman Hite Farm was $1,600—more than double other farms in the region, a significant value that included six horse, one mule, six milk cows, 29 beef cattle, 12 sheep and 38 swine. Aside from raising livestock for butchering, the Bowman-Hite Farm, along with other farms in the area, raised dairy cows for substantial butter production and sheep for wool.

The first hint of financial challenges facing the Charles and Rebecca Hite appear in the historic record in September, 1860 when in an effort to leverage the value of the farm for cash, the Hite's entered into an agreement with a local wealthy farm owner, William Stickley. The Hite's signed a deed of trust for $4,100 (about $150,000 today) promising to pay back the loan in three years, or the property would be "advertised in a local newspaper," ensuring loan repayment. (Spencer 2013: 27)

Only a few months later and one month before the opening battle of the Civil War, in March 1861, another deed of trust was recorded between the Bank of Winchester and Rebecca and Charles Hite for $4,100, this time secured by Robert Bowman, Rebecca's brother. Robert required that all the young couple's assets—farm, house, kitchen, slaves and furniture—be collateralized to secure the debt. Whether this was the original deed of trust sold by Stickley to the bank, or whether the Hite's mortgaged additional funds, is difficult to determine. Nevertheless, by the end of the year, Charles and Rebecca Hite were in debt and creditors were requiring "more ample and substantial securities." (Spencer 2013: 27).

Around this same time, Rebecca and Charles's ten-year-old son, George S., and their five-year-old son, Francis M., passed away. Their graves are believed to be located near a large cedar tree northeast of the farmstead, just beyond the NPS fee-simple boundary as reflected in the Cultural Landscapes Inventory and are marked by two river stones. Thirty years later, Rebecca was buried next to her two children, her grave marked by a footstone inscribed with the letters "R.F.W.H.," representing Rebecca Frances Washer [Bowman] Hite. (NR 2025, Sec.7: 28)

Coinciding with the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation by President Lincoln on January 1, 1863, Major General Robert Milroy, commander of the Second Division of the Federal VIII corps, occupied Winchester and announced his intention to free the enslaved people in the upper Valley, causing further consternation among the local residents. That same year, Rebecca sold the people she enslaved to Mr. John Cooley, owner of the nearby plantation, Belle Grove for $3,340. Though she suggests in a letter to her acting trustee that she will use the money from their sale to "replace them," she may have been leveraging their value to pay the debts on the farm that were due on September 10, 1863. She instructed her acting trustee, W.P. Williams, to authorize the sale and to ensure Mr. Cooley paid her for them. At the time, women were required by law to use acting trustees when their husbands were absent and therefore unable to make financial decisions. Women had no right to enter legal contracts, manage finances or, in some cases, independently own property. Rebecca's use of an acting trustee in the settlement of the sale of her enslaved people suggests that Charles is not living at home at the time. A surviving parole pass from 1865 indicates Charles may have been away serving in the Confederate Army, though a receipt for supplies purchased from Hite by the Army in 1864 suggests he may have been at home at certain times. Rebecca, however, appears to have stayed within the area of the Cedar Creek battlefield, if not on the farm, throughout the war. (Spencer 2013: 27)



Figure 1. A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia prepared by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson in 1775, annotation in red by author to mark Josh Hite's settlement location near Opequon Creek, and that of his children near Cedar Creek. (Library of Congress)

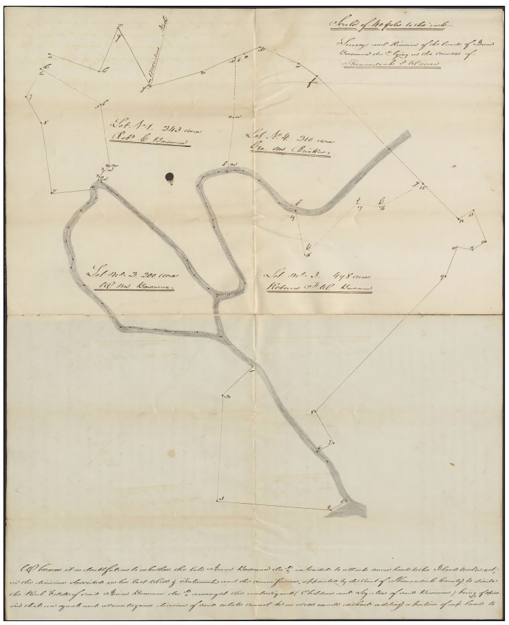


Figure 2. The 1843 plat showing the division of Isaac Bowman's land among his children. Rebecca Bowman Hite would inherit the large section of land on the east (image right) side of Cedar Creek. (Library of Virginia)

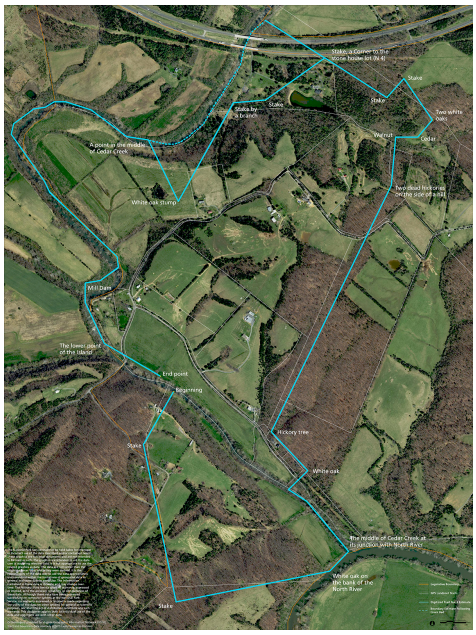


Figure 3. Approximation of Rebecca Bowman Hite's property boundaries, based on the 1843 plat, overlaid upon a 2024 aerial photograph. (NPS, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation--hereafter OCLP)



Figure 4. Detail from the "Report of the camps, marches & engagements, of the Second Corps, A.N.V., and of the Army of the Valley Dist. of the Department of Northern VA., during the campaign of 1864: wing the location of buildings, roads, field and forest near the "C.J. Hite" property." (Library of Congress)



Figure 5. Detail from the Jedediah Hotchkiss map, Sketch of the battle of Belle Grove or Cedar Creek, Wednesday, Oct'r 19th. 1864. showing the location of buildings, roads, field and forest near the "C.J. Hite" property. (Library of Congress)

THE CIVIL WAR

Note: The following section provides an overview of the Battle of Cedar Creek drawn primarily from the National Register of Historic Places documentation for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, completed in 2025.

When the Civil War began, the Shenandoah Valley was one of the most productive agricultural regions in Virginia and grew increasingly important as the war progressed. Often referred to as "the Breadbasket of the Confederacy," the Valley was a vital source of grain, cattle, horses, and a variety of other products necessary to sustain the war effort in Virginia, particularly for General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. The southwest-to-northeast orientation of the Shenandoah Valley favored Confederate war aims, as the lower Valley opened into Maryland and provided a direct route to threaten Washington, D.C. from the rear. At critical junctures during the war, Lee utilized the Valley to occupy Federal forces that might otherwise have combined against him while he maneuvered to counter the various attempts by the Army of the Potomac to seize the Confederate capital of Richmond. Additionally, the Valley served as a pathway for invasion into the North, playing a significant role in the military campaigns into Maryland and Pennsylvania, which culminated in Confederate defeats at the battles of Antietam (September 17, 1862) and Gettysburg (July 1–3, 1863), respectively. (NR 2024, Sec.8: 51)

For the Federal army, the Shenandoah Valley served as an adjunct to the main operations of the Army of the Potomac in eastern Virginia. Gaining control of the Valley would eliminate it as a source of supply to the Confederates, obviate threats from that direction against Washington, DC, and open the possibility to attack the left flank of Lee's army. Military operations in the Valley, however, seldom produced the desired results, as the forces stationed there were divided into separate units for much of the war and rarely cooperated effectively. Other problems stemmed from confusing and sometimes contradictory orders from the high command at Washington, chronic supply problems, operating in Confederate territory on terrain that was more familiar to the enemy, and the questionable abilities of some of the generals in charge. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 51, citing Cozzens 2008: 3)

Both armies depended heavily on the Valley's roads and railroads for troop movements and to

maintain supply lines. The most important road was the Valley Pike (or Valley Turnpike), an improved macadamized road that ran from Staunton to Martinsburg, West Virginia, about a mile north of the Bowman-Hite farm and connected the Valley towns in between. No railroad ran the length of the Valley, but several provided vital links with eastern Virginia. The Virginia Central Railroad, middle Virginia's most important line, ran from Richmond northwest to Gordonsville and Charlottesville, where it intersected with the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, crossed through the Blue Ridge at Waynesboro, and then continued to Staunton in the upper Valley. The Manassas Gap Railroad ran west from its eastern junction with the Orange and Alexandria through its namesake gap at Front Royal to Strasburg (about two miles west of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse), and then continued southwest to Mount Jackson. The Winchester and Potomac Railroad, a spur off the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, ran from Harpers Ferry southwest to Winchester. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 52)

Following General Jackson's success in the Seven Days Battles (June-July 1862) which ended Federal General McClellan's campaign against Richmond, the village of Middletown, just a few miles from the Bowman-Hite farm, served as an advanced outpost for Federal forces based at Winchester. During the spring and early summer of 1862, several Federal camps were established at farms in the area, including those belonging to the Heater and Stickley families just northeast of the Bowman-Hite farm. Federal foraging parties were sent to gather supplies from nearby farms and some, like units from Brigadier General Louis Blenker's division, took to outright plunder, sparking increased anger against the Federal presence among area residents. (NR 2025, Sec. 8: 52-53) Charles Hite submitted documentation as part of the Confederate Papers Relating to Citizens or Business Firms, which recorded information about Southern civilians and companies who provided goods and services to the Confederate government during the war. (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:VWBR-FCG, accessed 3/9/2024) In order to obtain repayment for goods taken by United States soldiers, civilians had to prove their constant loyalty to the United States. Votes for secession, a Confederate Army service record, or a receipt for goods sold to the Confederacy, would have led the Federal government to deny any Hite family claim for compensation. Following the end of the Civil War, such documentation was used by the Federal government to compensate southerners for their losses or the services they provided.

By early May 1864, with simultaneous Federal offensives underway, Federal Army General Ulysses Grant accompanied General George Meade to personally direct the operations of the Army of the Potomac during what became known as the Overland Campaign (May 4–June 12, 1864). The advance of the Army of the Potomac into Virginia through this military campaign was extremely costly; approximately 55,000 Union men were killed, wounded, or missing, while the Confederates suffered about 32,000. Though the Federal army lost more men, and they achieved little strategic gain, the results of the campaign favored the Federal army simply because they had a larger population of men to replace those that had been lost. Lee's army, however remained a formidable fighting force and Richmond remained in Confederate territory. Federal General William Tecumseh Sherman's drive on Atlanta had also stalled on the outskirts of the city. The extensive Federal casualty lists and seeming lack of progress on any front, contributed to the public's growing disenchantment with President Lincoln and his administration during the summer of 1864. He faced serious political opposition both from his own Republican party, the radical elements of which objected to his handling of the war, and the Democrat Party, where many supported ending the war either by readmitting the rebel states to the United States by legally protecting slavery or by recognizing the Confederacy as a sovereign nation. If Lincoln were to prevail in the upcoming presidential election in November, he needed the US Army to produce significant military victories that would turn the tide of the war. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 55-56)

With Lee pinned in the defenses around Petersburg and no longer able to mount a prolonged offensive, Confederate strategy turned to producing a military stalemate that might tilt the national presidential election in favor of a Democrat candidate willing to negotiate peace on favorable terms. Ironically, the candidate the Democrats selected at their convention in August 1864 was George McClellan, the commander of the Federal Army of the Potomac until 1862. By 1864, he supported the party's platform calling for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a negotiated settlement with the Confederacy. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 56)

Maintaining the supply lines from the Shenandoah Valley, particularly through the upcoming harvest

season, was critical to the survival of Lee's Army and the citizens of Petersburg (and therefore Richmond) during the siege. Lee also recognized the political value of another invasion into the North's territory via the Valley to increase the Northern public's frustration over the war and further damage President Lincoln's prospects for reelection. Although he was concerned about weakening his army, Lee calculated that he could hold his defensive position and believed that Grant would also have to detach forces from Petersburg to respond, possibly providing an opportunity to land a military blow that would loosen the Federal grip. Lee selected Jubal Early, one of his most aggressive and seasoned generals for the assignment. On June 12, 1864, Early received orders to take his Second Corps to Lynchburg to link up with John C. Breckinridge's force and defend the city from the Federal force's attempt to take it. Afterward, he was to clear the Shenandoah Valley of Federal forces and move north across the Potomac River where, if he thought it possible, he was to advance on Washington, DC, from the northwest. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 56)

General Early accomplished the first two major goals of his mission in a single engagement when he met and defeated General David Hunter's Federal force at the Battle of Lynchburg (June 17–18, 1864), and then continued through Maryland and up to Pennsylvania ransoming and destroying towns. General Grant and the Lincoln administration were angered and frustrated by the performance of the Federal commanders that had allowed Early to execute his campaign and escape without serious opposition. They then appointed thirty-three-year-old Major General Philip Sheridan to lead the Middle Military Division, commonly known as the Army of the Shenandoah. This division initially consisted of about 26,000 officers and men, which would grow to more than 40,000 by mid-September. Their goal was to find and attack General Early's Confederate army and destroy provisions and stock—anything that could support the enemy's return. Sheridan began his advance toward the Shenandoah Valley from Harpers Ferry on August 10, 1864. Two days later, his army reached Cedar Creek, where a brief skirmish occurred between the Federal and Confederate cavalry. Having been alerted by Grant that Lee had sent substantial reinforcements to the Valley and warned to exercise caution, Sheridan pulled back northward and established a line at Halltown, south of Harpers Ferry, with Early in pursuit. Throughout the remainder of August and the first half of September, no major battles took place, although skirmishes between opposing cavalry and advanced infantry forces were common. The Federal withdrawal down the Shenandoah Valley and Sheridan's apparent lack of aggressiveness sparked an outcry in the North. The public was reminded of previous Federal campaign failures in the Valley, raising concerns that the Confederates might once again threaten Washington, DC. (NR 2025, Sec. 8: 59)

Following two successful battles in four days and believing that Early was no longer a significant threat in the Valley, General Sheridan withdrew down the Valley from Harrisonburg to Cedar Creek. There, he planned to establish a strong defensive line that could be held by a reduced force, allowing him to transfer the bulk of his army to Petersburg. On their way, the Army carried out Grant's instructions to decimate the Valley, leaving it "a barren waste." (NR 2025, Sec. 8: 59-61) On October 6, Sheridan began moving his entire force northward, spreading out across the width of the Valley to destroy everything that might be of value to the Confederate war effort. After reaching Woodstock on October 7, Sheridan provided Grant the following description of his accomplishments:
"In moving back to this point the whole country from the Blue Ridge to the Nortth Mountains has been made untenable for the rebel army. I have destroyed over 2,000 barns, filled with wheat, and farming implements; over 70 mills, filled with flour and wheat; have driven in front of the army over 4,000 head of stock, and have killed and issued to the troops not less than 3,000 sheep. This destruction embraces the Luray Valley and Little Fort Valley, as well as the main valley…Lieut. John R. Meigs, my engineer officer, was murdered beyond Harrisonburg, near Dayton. For this atrocious act all houses within an area of five miles were burned…To-morrow I will continue the destruction of wheat, forage, &c., down to Fisher's Hill. When this is completed the Valley, from Winchester up to Staunton, ninety-two miles, will have but little in it for man or beast." (NR 2025, Sec. 8: 62-63, citing O.R. Vol. 43, Part II: 307-308)

On October 10, 1864, Sheridan arrived at Cedar Creek and put his plan into action by ordering a portion of his force to continue to Grant. He instructed Wright to move his VI Corps northeast through Ashby's Gap and on to Alexandria, where General Henry Halleck was to arrange transport to City Point. The remaining infantry occupied a defensive line anchored on the left by the Shenandoah River and the base of Massanutten Mountain, extending northward along the ridge above the east

side of Cedar Creek. With the steep and rugged mountain providing a seemingly impregnable barrier against an assault on his left, Sheridan concentrated his troops at what would become the Cedar Creek Battlefield to the northeast, covering the roads and fords that offered potential avenues of approach, including those of the Bowman-Hite farm. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 64)

Brigadier General George Crook's VIII Corps consisted of two divisions under Colonel Joseph Thoburn and Colonel Rutherford B. Hayes (the future President of the United States) and a small provisional division under Colonel J. Howard Kitching. They formed the Federal left and were posted south of Valley Pike. Thoburn's division established an arcing entrenched line that straddled Bowman Mill Road on a high ridge just east of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse on the Bowman-Hite Farm. Earthen remnants of this line within the Cedar Creek Battlefield NHP consist of Thoburn's Defensive Line, Union VIII Corps Site/Cedar Creek Battle Trenches Site, and Union VIII Corps Earthworks (all near, but not on the 8-acre Bowman-Hite Farm parcel). Hayes' division was positioned north of Thoburn's in a camp along the south side of Valley Pike. Both divisions were supported by batteries from the XIII Corps' artillery brigade commanded by Captain Henry A. Du Pont. Brigadier General William H. Emory's XIX Corps, consisting of two divisions under Brigadier Generals James W. McMillan and Cuvier Grover, established an entrenched line, the Union XIX Corps Entrenchments/XIX Corps Trenches, that extended north from Valley Pike to Meadow Brook. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 64-65)

On October 11, 1864, Early learned that Sheridan was preparing to move Wright's VI Corps from the Valley. Therefore, to prepare for what he saw as a possible attack opportunity, Early moved his army north to its former position at Fisher's Hill. On October 13, he went with a contingent of infantry and artillery to a modest promontory west of Cedar Creek, to reconnoiter the Federal position. While there, Early's artillery opened fire on a Federal regiment that had moved out into a cleared field near Belle Grove. The engagement turned into a heavy skirmish near the Abraham Stickley farm after Crook ordered Thoburn's division to cross Cedar Creek, likely near Fort Bowman, via the Fort Bowman Ford before proceeding toward Belle Grove. At Belle Grove he met elements of Kershaw's infantry division and was driven back across the creek after sustaining about 200 casualties. The skirmish proved consequential to the subsequent planning of both sides (Figure 6). Early discerned from his reconnaissance that the Federal center was strongly held and decided thereafter to explore options for a flanking movement. For Sheridan, the skirmish established that Early had moved up with his entire force and was inclined to take the offensive. He therefore canceled Wright's march east and ordered him back to Cedar Creek where his corps would take up a reserve position northwest of the XIX Corps line on October 14. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 65)

Early spent several days following the October 13th skirmish at the Stickley farm considering his options. He decided on one last effort to defeat Sheridan, because of his dwindling supplies and the prospect that his army would soon be diminished, either by Lee's needs at Petersburg or by desertion of troops who were concerned about the fate of their families during the ensuing winter months. His initial inclination was to assault the Federal right because of Massanutten Mountain on the left. On October 17, however, Brigadier General John Pegram, whose division was sent from Fisher's Hill to reconnoiter conditions on the Federal right, reported that the steep banks of Cedar Creek in that area would make for a difficult crossing. The same day, Early sent Major General John C. Gordon along with several members of his staff and the army's topographical engineer, Jed Hotchkiss, to Signal Knob to examine the Federal left. After making the difficult climb up the steep mountain, the party was presented with expansive views of the entire Valley to the north and could clearly discern the dispositions of the entire Federal position. As Gordon later recounted,
"the entire Federal Army—all seemed but a stone's throw away from us…Not only the general outlines of Sheridan's breastworks, but every parapet where his heavy guns were mounted, and every piece of artillery, every wagon and tent and supporting line of troops, were in easy range of our vision. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 67 citing Gordon 1903: 333-334)

From the vantage point, Hotchkiss prepared a detailed map of the Federal position and the topographical features of the area (see Figures 4, 5 and 6). Noticing that the Federal left was lightly protected, Gordon and Hotchkiss discussed a possible turning movement and that evening presented that information to Early. The problem of passing infantry around the steep precipice was solved when Gordon and Hotchkiss discovered a narrow pathway around the nose of the mountain that was

shielded by thick forest. Gordon volunteered to lead the flanking movement and estimated he would need an entire night for his force to make the 5-mile march from Fisher's Hill to Bowman's Mill Ford, where the Confederates would cross the North Fork of the Shenandoah, and assault the right rear of the Federal VIII Corps. Early agreed to the plan and issued orders for the attack at a meeting of his general staff at 2 pm on October 18. Gordon's, Ramseur's, and Pegram's Second Corp divisions and Brigadier General William Payne's cavalry brigade, with Gordon in overall command, would depart Fisher's Hill at nightfall and cross over the North Fork of the Shenandoah River at temporary bridge that Confederate engineers had erected. After navigating the wooded path around the base of Massanutten Mountain, the force would re-cross the river at McInturf's and Bowman's fords near Long Meadow Plantation and Bowman's Mill and move northward along the general route of Long Meadow Road, through the land inherited by Rebecca Bowman Hite, to a designated rallying point at a house owned by J. Cooley (not extant), and attack the left flank of the VIII Corps from the rear (Figure 7). (NR 2025, Sec.8: 67)

Early's plan was audacious and risky. No official reports are available, but estimates put the number of his total force (infantry, cavalry, and artillery) between 15,000 and 21,000 to face an entrenched Federal force of about 31,600. The success of the attack depended entirely on surprise and the abilities of the commanders of the separate columns descending on the area from all directions to perform their assignments at the expected times. Accordingly, Gordon ordered his troops to leave their canteens and everything else that might make noise that would alert Federal pickets to their movement, and the commanders synchronized their watches to launch their attacks at 5am the following day. Before setting out during the early evening of October 18, Gordon posted guides at every fork of the wooded path to ensure his troops would not take the wrong route in the dark. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 68)

The opening salvos of the Battle of Cedar Creek occurred about 4am when Major General Thomas L. Rosser's cavalry crossed Cedar Creek at Cupp's Ford to execute the planned diversion on the Federal right. Elements of George A. Custer's cavalry division met the Confederates near Hupp's Hill and after a brief skirmish, Rosser retreated across the creek. At about the same time, Payne's cavalry splashed across the Shenandoah River at McInturf's and Bowman's fords, firing on and neutralizing the Federal pickets posted on the Federal left. Gordon's infantry followed closely and moved up Long Meadow Road toward the rallying point at the Cooley House, where the Confederates formed a west-facing line opposite the rear of Crook's VIII Corps camps. Brigadier General Clement A. Evans, in temporary command of Gordon's Division, took the left, Ramseur the right, and Pegram was behind in reserve. Although some in the Federal lines heard the distant gunfire, it did not raise a general alarm because it was widely known that Wright had ordered a reconnaissance mission during the morning, and it may have run into some resistance. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 68-69)

Meanwhile, Kershaw crossed Cedar Creek at Bowman's Mill Ford and quietly captured the pickets there without being detected. Creeping through the Bowman-Hite farm toward the Federal line in a heavy fog that helped conceal their approach, Kershaw's men got close enough to hear voices in the Federal camp as the troops began to perform their normal morning routine. Several of Thoburn's regiments had been roused by the gunfire on the flanks and moved up to man the entrenchments on the ridge above the ford. Promptly at 5am Kershaw's troops rose up and fired a thunderous volley on Thoburn's line. The response by the Federal infantry and artillery in the entrenchments was hampered by the fog and confusion and they were quickly overwhelmed by the charging Confederates. Kershaw's men then advanced on the Federal camps, driving the surprised Federal troops there northward in panicked disarray. During this initial phase of the battle, Kershaw inflicted about 600 Federal casualties and seized seven pieces of artillery. During the retreat, Thoburn was mortally wounded in a vain attempt to rally his troops near Middletown. (NR 2025, Sec. 8: 69)

At 6am on the day of the Battle of Cedar Creek, Federal General Sheridan was awakened in his hotel room in Winchester by an officer who reported hearing artillery fire from the direction of Cedar Creek. Like many of the troops along Cedar Creek, Sheridan was initially unconcerned, supposing the firing was due to the reconnaissance mission that Wright had planned for that morning. Although he tried, he was unable to fall back asleep and requested that his breakfast be prepared quickly so he could begin his ride to the army. About 8:45am, he mounted and road out toward Cedar Creek with his

escort. By the time he reached Mill Creek about 0.5 miles south of Winchester, he was convinced the constant boom of artillery signaled a general battle and that the increasing volume meant his army was falling back. As he thought over the last few days and made his way toward the front, he recognized that a gap had formed in Confederate defenses where Confederate General Gordon pulled back to a position on Middle Marsh Brook. Sheridan rushed toward Cedar Creek, rallying the demoralized Federal soldiers to continue the fight and lead a counterattack against the Confederate Army (Figure 8). The Federal counterattack was successful, and the Confederate line disintegrated with the troops fleeing in complete disorder southward, chased by Federal forces. As the sky darkened about 6:30pm, the remnants of Early's army were redrawing to Fisher's Hill, the chase was called off, and the battle ended. The next day, the remnants of Early's army retreated southward and would not present a serious threat in the Shenandoah Valley again. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 74-75)

As the Federal Army of the Shenandoah led by Sheridan returned to its camps at Cedar Creek, the process of tending to the wounded continued. Several local houses, including the Daniel Stickley House, Belle Grove, and possibly the Bowman-Hite farmhouse, were taken over for use as field hospitals. The number of casualties from the battle was staggering. According to official Federal army counts, 644 men were dead, and 3430 men were wounded, captured, or missing. General Early estimated that 1,860 Confederate men were dead or wounded, and more than 1,100 captured or missing. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 75)

Having won the Battle of Cedar Creek just a month earlier, Republicans had proof that the Federal armies were making substantial progress on the battlefield, and they cast the Democrats as disloyal and unpatriotic for their drive to broker peace with the Confederacy. President Lincoln won the November election in a landslide. The boost in Northern morale was accompanied by a corresponding bottoming of Southern hopes, as the last best chance at preserving the Confederacy slipped away. In the months after the election, General Sherman marched through Georgia, burning and destroying crops as Sheridan had done in the Shenandoah Valley. Although Jefferson Davis continued to remain defiant and Lee fought on, as 1864 closed few in the Confederate high command believed there was any chance of winning the war. (NR 2025, Sec.8: 77)

Despite threats posed by the nearby Federal Army encampments and occasional skirmishes between the Confederate and Federal armies on and near her land, Rebecca Hite and her children appear to have remained on their farm or nearby at family homes throughout the war. Charles Hite may have been gone for some of the war period, as suggested by Rebecca's use of an agent to sell the people she enslaved in 1863. In addition, a 1872 deed refers to the farm as "that upon which they [Rebecca and Charles Hite] then & lately resided. . ." (Peters 2010: 11) While further research is necessary to understand the impact of the Civil War on the Hite family's land and finances, Civil War era maps illustrate their proximity to the theater of battle. The map created by Confederate soldier Jedediah Hotchkiss representing the Battle of Belle Grove on Wednesday, October 19, 1864, indicates the name "C.J. Hite" on land located on the east side of Cedar Creek. Four dots mark buildings in the vicinity, two to the north and two to the south of the Bowman Mill Road. Bowman's Mill, then owned by Rebecca's brother, George Bowman is prominently depicted on Cedar Creek, along with the sawmill and its associated structures. Another iteration of the map also shows the "C. Hite" property, which features three structures north of the old road and another to the south. The mill complex is similarly highlighted (see Figure 5, Hotchkiss Map 1864).

By 1867, Charles and Rebecca, facing mounting debt, had moved to Middletown in Frederick County. They rented their farm to James M. Bly and Connor Stickley between 1867 and 1869. Bly later noted in a Chancery Suit that he "cultivated a portion of it—the greater portion." In 1869, Charles and Rebecca leased their farm to John R. Baldwin, who allowed Charles Hite and his business partner, John W. Winsburrow, to log the land. However, their attempts to generate additional revenue from the property were halted when Hite's lenders observed that Hite and his partner had "…been engaged in chopping and selling timber in such large quantities as to render said real estate an incomplete security. (Spencer 2013: 27 citing Chancery Suit, Warren County, Virginia, 'Richardson vs. Charles I. Hite', 1876)

Sometime after the injunction to stop the logging, Charles Hite abandoned his wife Rebecca and their children. Then, in early December 1870, Charles and Rebecca's debts were called in by George

Hupp, who immediately placed an advertisement in the Warren Sentinel to sell the farm at a public auction a few weeks later. The notice described the property as:
"a large number of acres of fine bottom land, the upland is fertile and productive, well-watered, with a fair proportion of timbered land. The mansion is a good brick and commodious building with all necessary outhouses, and a spring of fine water near the house, and upon the whole, a most valuable and desirable estate." (Chancery Suit, Warren County, Virginia, "Rebecca Hite v. George Hupp," 1880)

Rebecca protested the sale, stating that the rent from the land "is the only support now left to the complainant" and that, as "money is scarce" in the county, the timing would be particularly challenging. Rebecca continued to lease out the property in 1871 and 1872, and the leasee, Samuel M. Grove, cultivated mainly corn, wheat, and oats. Despite her objections to the sale, however, the auction process proceeded. Two attempts to auction the property failed to attract bids before William Stickley who owned land to the north and west of the Hite's, purchased the farm on September 16, 1872, for $8,000. (Spencer 2013: 28)

The sale of the Hite farm serves as a microcosm of the broader issues faced by similar landowners across the South during the post-Civil War era. Many families, like the Hites, had invested much of their previous wealth in enslaved people or "labor," which had become obsolete with the abolition of slavery. Additionally, the value of Confederate bonds and currency had plummeted, rendering these financial instruments worthless. As a result, these families found themselves with limited options, often having no recourse but to sell their land to settle debts and try and secure their financial futures. Rebecca's situation was exacerbated by her husband's abandonment in a situation where she had little legal authority or financial recourse.

Compounding their difficulties were the falling prices for essential commodities such as wheat, corn, and livestock, which began to decline immediately following the Civil War. This sharp drop in prices significantly reduced the income potential for farmers, making it increasingly difficult for individuals like Charles and Rebecca Hite to meet their financial obligations. With little ability to generate revenue from their crops or livestock, many landowners were forced to confront insolvency. The combination of these economic pressures led to widespread property sales, flooding the market and compounding the reduction in regional property values.

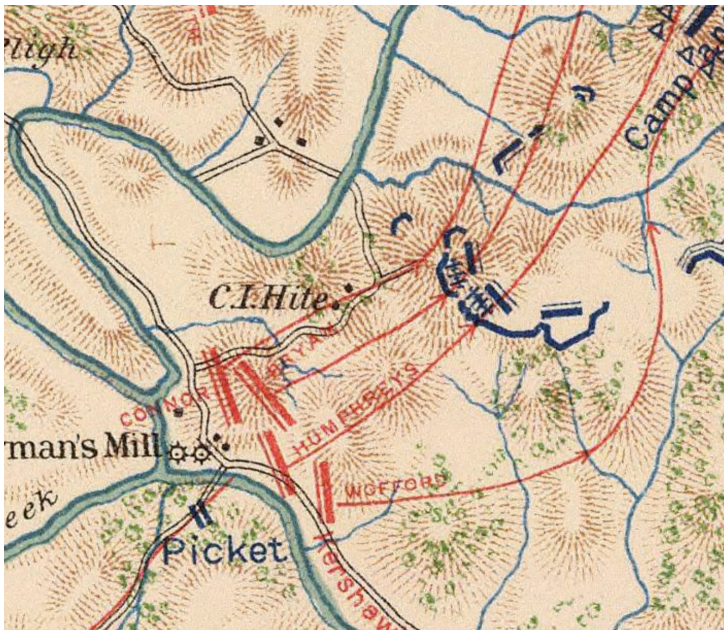


Figure 6. An 1895 map of the Battle of Cedar Creek by Jedediah Hotchkiss showing the spatial pattern of open treeless bottomlands and upload slopes with agricultural fields and pastures. (David Rumsey Map Collection)

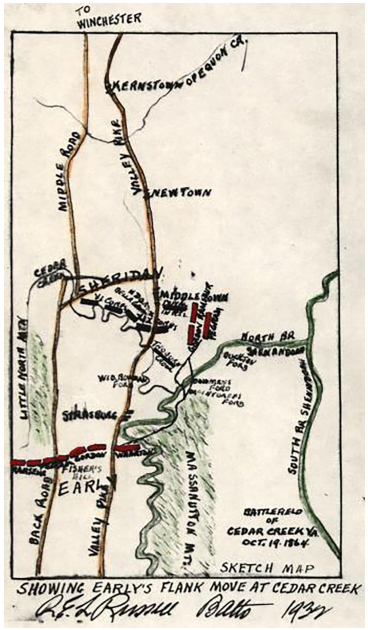


Figure 7. Map showing General Early's flank move illustrates the importance of the Bowman Ford to the battle plan. Robert E.L. Russell, "Battlefield of Cedar Creek, Va., sketch map, showing Early's flank move at Cedar Creek. [S.l.: s.n, 1864]. (Library of Congress)



Figure 8. Open fields are visible in the background of this sketch of the Battle of Cedar Creek by Alfred R. Waud, "Sheridan's Ride. Battle of Cedar Creek. Cedar Creek United States Virginia, 1864." (Library of Congress)

POST CIVIL WAR, 1872–1900

Following the auction sale of the Bowman-Hite farm to William D. Stickley in 1872, the property continued to be rented to Samuel M. Grove until 1873. The 1873 map of the Cedar Creek battlefield, drawn by Gillespie, confirms this, noting the occupant of the structure as Mark Grove (Samuel M. Grove) (Figure 9). At the time, local farmer William D. Stickley owned approximately 397 acres of the Bowman-Hite Farm, as well as a significant amount of adjacent property. (Spencer 2013: 28, citing Lake Atlas, Shenandoah County, Virginia 1885)

Stickley owned the Bowman-Hite property for only four years, before selling it to the Reverand John Calvin Pirkey (1816-1887) and his wife Catherine, for $5,200 in 1876. Pirkey was born in 1816, in Rockingham, Virginia. He married Flora E. Funk in 1846, who died only a few years later, and later married Catherine Bowman Pirkey (ca.1825-1886). By 1880, John and Catherine were living in the Bowman-Hite farmhouse with their children Omar (John's 31 year old son with his deceased first wife Flora working as a Rail Road Clerk), Mary (24), Martin (23), Frank (11), Catherine's son through a previous marriage, Abby Hoffman (29), and niece, Mary Bowman (18). (1880 Census, Catherine Bowman Pirkey) The land tax books indicate that the total value for the farm in that year was $6,000 with the building improvements taxed at $300. Over the next ten years, Pirkey made significant changes to the property, expanding the side porch and adding a rear frame addition to the Bowman-Hite farmhouse, likely including a kitchen with a sleeping room for family members. Around 1881, he built the existing bank barn. These alterations to the Bowman-Hite farm coincided with Pirkey's efforts near the Bowman Mill, at the southern end of the property, which was then occupied by Daniel Coverstone. There, Pirkey constructed a "good new frame dwelling house, stabling, and other necessary improvements." (Spencer 2013: 29)

However, much like the Hite family had faced a decade earlier, the Pirkey family encountered financial difficulties. In the August 8, 1879, edition of the Shenandoah Herald, their new frame dwelling house near the mill, along with "270 acres of the old Charlie Hite farm," was advertised for auction in order to settle debts owed to Philip Grove. (Spencer 2013: 29, citing Shenandoah Herald, August 6, 1879, p 1 col. 4). This advertisement highlights the ongoing economic challenges that plagued landowners in the region during this period, reflecting a cycle of financial instability that was common in the post-Civil War South (Figures 10, 11).

H.C. Wilson eventually purchased a portion of the Bowman-Hite farm from Pirkey. Wilson's purchase, however, did not include the Bowman-Hite farmhouse, barn, and outbuildings, which remained with John and Catherine Pirkey. By the early 1880s, John Pirkey also had a young boarder, Abraham Kern, who would go on to purchase the remaining portion of the Bowman-Hite farm a few years later from Pirkey. (Peters 2010: 24)

Abraham Henry Kerns was born around 1852 to Henry and Rebecca Kern, both of whom died during the Civil War when Abraham was just eleven years old. By 1870, young Abraham was living with his sister, Sarah, and her husband, George Amos Hinkins, at nearby Fort Bowman, where he worked as a farmhand (1870 census). By the early 1880s, Abraham had moved to the Bowman-Hite farmhouse and was residing in the household of John and Catherine Pirkey. In 1881, he began paying the taxes on the 127 acres that had previously been charged to Pirkey. The recent construction of the bank barn had caused the value of the estate to rise by $500. That same year, Abraham married Ella Ora McInturff, who was about 18 years old at the time (Ella Kern, Death Certificate, 1956). Abraham and Ella welcomed their first and only known child, Charles Grover Kerns, in 1884 and continued to farm the 127 acres of the former Bowman-Hite farm. In 1885, Abraham was assessed for a horse, four heads of cattle, two carriages, a clock, and a sewing machine. After five years of living on the farm, in 1886, Abraham and Ella purchased 127-acres of the Bowman-Hite farm for $2,800 from the Pirkeys, who had since moved to Winchester, Virginia. Catherine Pirkey passed away the same year, and John followed in 1887. (Spencer 2013: 56-57; Census 1880; Death Certificate John Pirkey 1887) The deed for the Bowman-Hite farmstead described the "brick house, now occupied by Abraham Kerns," along with a "well." (Warren County Deed Book Q, 271, 1886) Perhaps to raise funds for this purchase, Abraham sold a portion of the land he had inherited from his parents about twenty years earlier—a 44.5-acre tract in Warren County along Cedar Creek—for $800 but retained a 75-acre tract in Shenandoah County. (Census records, 1860, 1870, 1880; Peters 2010: 28-32)

In March 1896, Abraham and Ella Kerns added a half-acre parcel adjacent to their land when Abraham Kerns and their neighbors to the southeast, M.C. [Margaret Catherine Borum] Wilson and her son O[scar] Wilson, likely relatives of H.C. Wilson, entered into an agreement. (1900 Census) At that time, the upgrading of the county road to the east of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse had cut a portion of the contiguous land holdings of both the Kerns and the Wilsons. According to the agreement, the new road alignment became the boundary between the two parties. Henry Wilson appears in land records in 1882 when he is assessed for 273 acres described as "adjacent to Kern [sic]" with $400 of building improvements, likely a residence as Henry is described in the record as living on the property. Though an earlier deed from Pirkey to Kerns says that the remaining portion of Charley Heite's [sic] farm (400 acres minus 127+ acres = 273 acres) was owned by M.C. Wilson. (Warren County Deed Book 1: 319) By 1886, Henry Wilson is also paying taxes on a two-acre parcel of the "Bowman's Mill" property, with $500 acres of improvements, as well as 273-acres of the former Bowman-Hite farm with $500 worth of improvements. (Peters 2010: 13-14)

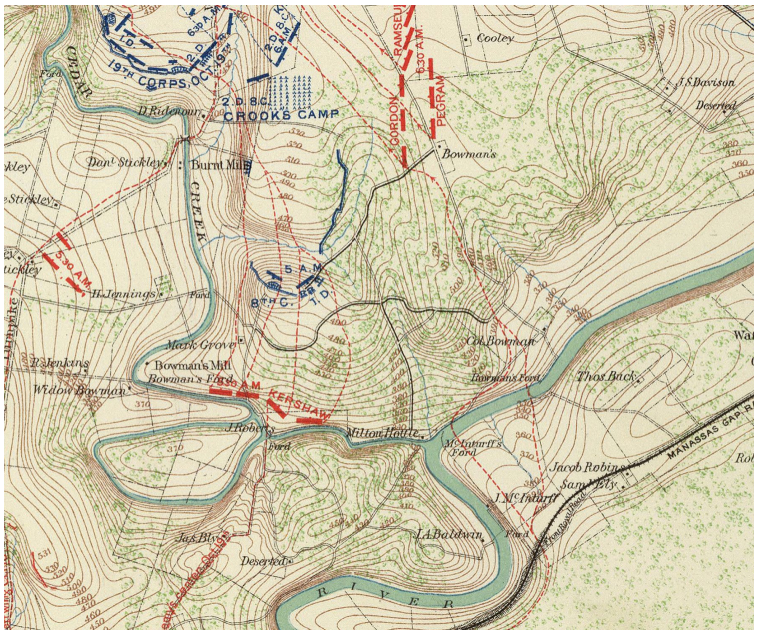


Figure 9. Detail from the 1873 Map of the Battle Fields of Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek by G.L. Gillespie showing Mark Grove in the location of the Bowman Hite farmhouse. Note the map shows Bowman's Mill in the incorrect location. (National Archives and Records Administration)



Figure 10. Corn fields above Bowman's Mill Ford, ca.1880's, showing the mix of fencing and open landscape. (MOLLUS Collection)



Figure 11. This 1885 map illustrates the development near the Bowman Mill Site. Map of Davis Magisterial District [map]. Scale 20 rods to 1 inch. In: Lake, D. J. & co. Atlas of Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia 1885. (Library of Virginia)

FARMING IN THE TWENIETH CENTURY, ca.1900–2003

Tragically, on the evening of April 4, 1900, 45-year-old Abraham Kerns accidentally shot and killed himself. (Richmond Times Dispatch, April 5, 1900) Ella became a widow at the age of 35 and was appointed as the administrator of his estate, which was appraised by her neighbors E.W. Foltz, B.F. Rittenour, and her brother-in-law, George A. Hinkins. The inventory and appraisal, completed a few months after Abraham's death, included a variety of assets: a bull and cows ($281); 4 tons of hay ($61), 3 hogs ($15), 360 bushels of wheat ($216), a wheat drill or a tool used to plant grain in a row ($20), a spring tooth harrow ($70), a horse rake and mower ($150), a vice and grind stone ($2); a safe ($5); clock ($1); 6 split bottom chairs ($10.50); one suit [sic] of furniture-walnut ($14); money in the Massanutten Bank ($441); an account due from B.F. Gordon of $15; and an amount due on a note from W. E. Stickley of $22.22. (Spencer 2013: 34 citing Warren County Will Book G, 180-181; 1900) Probate assigned one-third of the estate's value to Ella and two-thirds to her son, 15-year-old Charles, to be received when he turned 21 in 1906. To provide context for understanding the dollar values at the time, note that A.C. Stickley was paid $15 for a "lot in cemetery," the undertaker charged $40, and the cemetery monument was $95. After Charles turned 21 and the estate was settled, the property was inventoried again in 1906. The settlement determined that Ella was owed $300 for her four years of "labor." Her property included six cattle, six yearlings, three horses, a wagon, a binder, a mower, a horse rake, buckboards, and harnesses. Her 127 acres of land was valued at $1,150. (Spencer 2013: 34 and Peters 2010 13-15)

At 127 acres, the Kerns family farm was slightly under the average 140-acres of a moderately sized farm in Warren County during the early twentieth century. Records record several changes to the property in the first few years of Ella's management, including the running of wire fencing in 1901, 1904, and 1905. The running of wire fencing reflects the Kerns farm's shift from crop production to livestock production and horse raising. Wire fencing marked the boundaries of fields and farmyard spaces and was a relatively modern and inexpensive fencing type in the region. The region's earliest fences were stone, followed by wood "worm" fences in the mid-to late nineteenth century. In 1905, the year Charles came of age, the family spent $87 painting the house and $63 on lightning rods. (Spencer 2013: 34)

Ella Kerns was recorded in the 1910 Census as a "general farmer," and her son, Charles, by then

twenty-five years old, as the “farm manager.” There does not appear to be any substantial increase in the taxable value of the building improvements on the property between 1907 and 1926, except for building value which increases from $400 to $650. Sometime before 1920, Charles married Mary Susan Cornelia Stickley (1891-1975), daughter of farmers Annie E. and Hugh Stickley living nearby on Valley Pike in Shenandoah County. (1900 Census Record) Ella, Charles and Mary likely planted gardens, trees and shrubs around the house, but no photographs have been found that reveal the conditions of the farm landscape at this time. On the 1930 census, Charles is listed as the head of the household, and his mother Ella describes herself, at age 64, as a farm laborer. Sometime before 1937, as revealed by aerial imagery, the Kerns planted two orchards on the Bowman-Hite farm, north of the farmhouse (Figures 12, 13). After the widespread introduction of the refrigerated railcar in the late nineteenth century which allowed distant fruit-growing regions to compete in major city markets, fruit production in the Shenandoah Valley experienced a remarkable surge. Apples replaced wheat as the primary cash crop. The Kerns removed their orchards by the late 1950s (Figures 14, 15).

Together Ella, Charles and Mary, who had no known living children, kept the farm afloat through the Great Depression. Likely quite early in their ownership, the Kerns constructed a corn crib/wagon shed northwest of the barn, a chicken house to the northwest of the corn crib/wagon shed, a smoke house (extant, but moved from its earlier location), a hog pen and hog house northeast of the barn, and numerous sheds.

In 1941, Charles Kerns passed away at age 57. His will, written the year before his death, designated his wife, Mary Susan Cornelia [Stickley] Kerns, as his heir. In the will, Charles noted that he had “lived there [on the farm] his whole life.” As was the case at his father’s death forty years earlier, the estate was settled by inventorying and assessing the farm, which was valued at $4,000. The livestock at that time included a black heifer, a Roan Durham cow, a Guernsey cow, and a Roan Durham bull. (Warren County Will Book L, 375 (1940); Warren County Will Book L, 411, 440 (1942) By 1948, land tax records reveal that the value of the 127.8-acre property had decreased to $1,150 with building improvements valued at $850. Sometime before 1958, the Kerns installed a large vegetable garden to the east of the house. By the 1940s, the fields around the farmyard were cultivated to their fence-lined edges. Very few trees grew along the field boundaries, and much of the apple orchard had been removed. The dirt road leading northward toward Fort Bowman remained distinctly etched into the landscape, leading from the farmstead, over the fields to the east of the house, through the woods on the hillsides to the north, and across Cedar Creek to Fort Bowman. (Aerial 1957; Peters 2010: 15-16)

Soon after Charles’s death, Mary moved off the farm to nearby Middletown in Frederick County, Virginia, but she retained ownership of the property until 1967. (Peters 2010: 15-16) Mary likely leased the farm either to Ella or to others, though the only other recorded transaction found thus far is for a 1943 deed of easement conveyed by Mary to the Virginia Power Company for a right of way. Ella passed away in 1957 in nearby Middletown. (Ella Kerns Death Certificate, 1957) A trove of photographs and drawings completed as part of an oral history project reveal clues about the appearance of the property in the 1960s with buildings and features dating from the previous decades (Figures 16, 17, 18, 19).

On December 20, 1967, Mary sold the 127.8 acres of the former Bowman-Hite farm, including the brick house and agricultural outbuildings, to Lloyd and Ruth Whitham. Around 1971, the Whithams raised the east wing to a full two stories to completely enclose the rear frame addition added by Pirkey between 1876 and 1880. They also enclosed the south porch on the farmhouse, added a two-car garage on the east side of the structure, and replaced the Greek Revival porch shown in a 1971 photograph with a cinder block front porch (Figures 20, 21). (Peters 2010: 16) In the 1980s the Whithams also planted an orchard to the north of the house. As earlier in the century, little woody vegetation grew along the field boundaries to the east and west of the house, and along Bowman Mill Road, likely as the fields surrounding the farmstead were actively cultivated (Figures 22, 23, 24). (Aerial photography, 1982, 1984, 1997)

Lloyd Whitham passed away in 1993, and Ruth passed away in 2002. The 127.5 acres of the Bowman-Hite farm then passed to a residual trust which was formed of from the marital trust Ruth and Lloyd had established in 1972. Charles Whitham served as successor trustee following Ruth’s

passing. On March 21, 2003, Charles Whitham and Charles E. Davidson, who had a life estate in the property, conveyed eight acres of the farm to the United States Department of the Interior. They also conveyed 134.12 acres of the property to the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation. Today the eight-acre core of the Bowman-Hite farm is managed by the NPS as part of the Cedar Creek & Belle Grove National Historical Park. (Spencer 2013: 26-27)

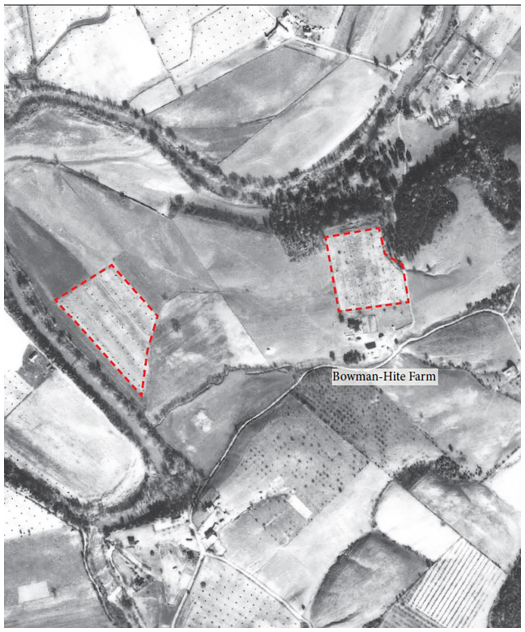


Figure 12. Orchards on the Kerns portion of the Bowman-Hite farm are revealed in a 1937 aerial, excerpted from Cultural Landscape Analysis, Volume 1, 2012. (NPS)



Figure 13. Aerial photograph, October 31, 1937, Strasburg Collection Center. Strasburg [aerial photo]. Scale not given. Photo FG16220. Conservation Survey. (NPS)

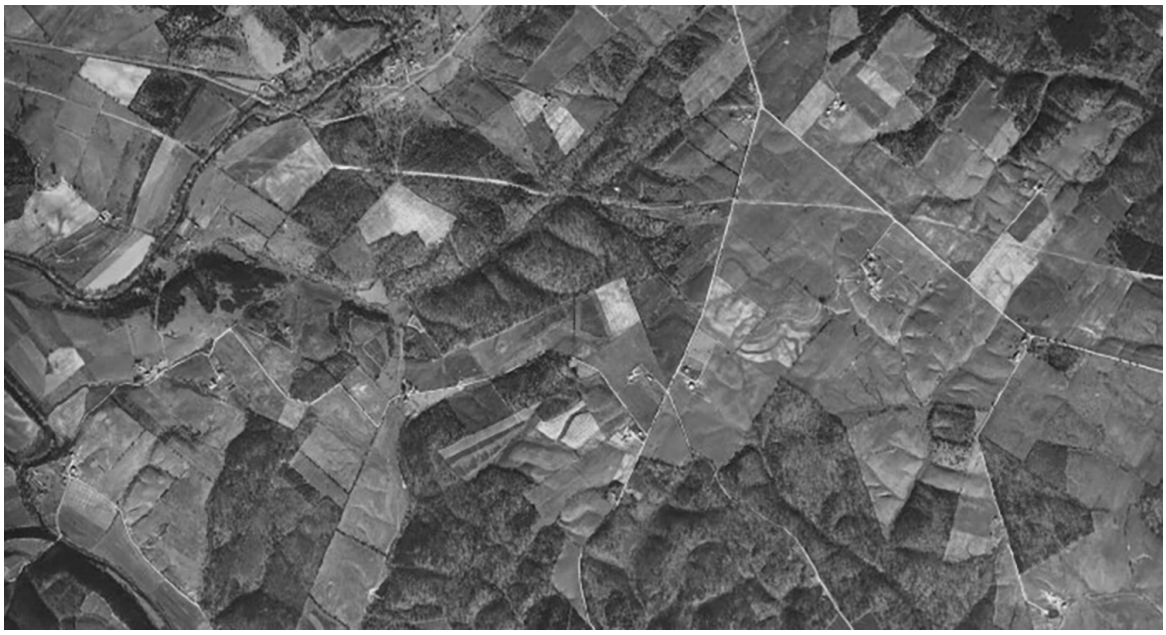


Figure 14. Aerial photograph, November 14, 1950. Newman Library Strasburg [aerial photo]. Scale not given. Photo DJP 15G 155, Conservation Survey. (NPS)



Figure 15. Orchards on the Kerns portion of the Bowman-Hite farm had been mostly removed by the time of this 1950 aerial, excerpted from Cultural Landscape Analysis, Volume 1, 2012. (NPS)



Figure 16. Looking from the northwest, down upon the Bowman-Hite farmstead during the 1960s. (NPS)



Figure 17. Detail, looking from the northwest, down upon the Bowman-Hite farmstead during the 1960s. (NPS)

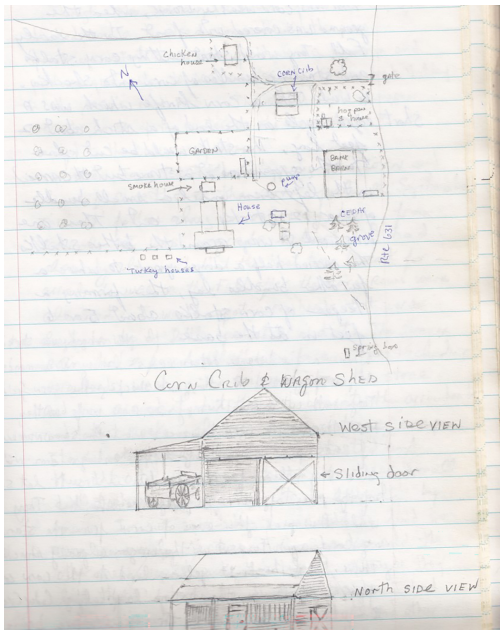


Figure 18. Drawing of farmyard, from Mike Kehoe, completed in 2018 depicting conditions in the 1960s. (CEBE, original scan truncated)

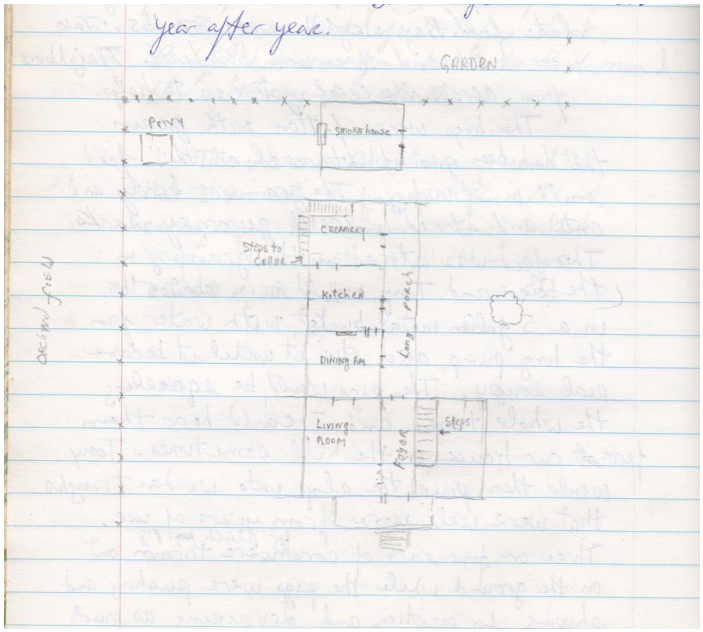


Figure 19. Drawing of house layout, from Mike Kehoe, completed in 2018 depicting conditions in the 1960s. (CEBE)



Figure 20. Bowman-Hite Farmhouse, 1971. (CEBE)



Figure 21. Bowman-Hite Farmhouse, ca.1971. (CEBE)



Figure 22. Aerial photograph, June 9, 1967, showing field and forest patterns, Newman Library. Scale not given. (Photo DJP 4GG 50, Conservation Survey)



Figure 23. In this annotated 1967 aerial, the locations of earlier orchards (green dots) are overlaid, as they were removed by the 1950s, Aerial Photograph, June 9th 1967, Newman Library. Scale not given. (Photo DJP 4GG 50, Conservation Survey, Cultural Landscape Analysis, Vol. 1, 2012)

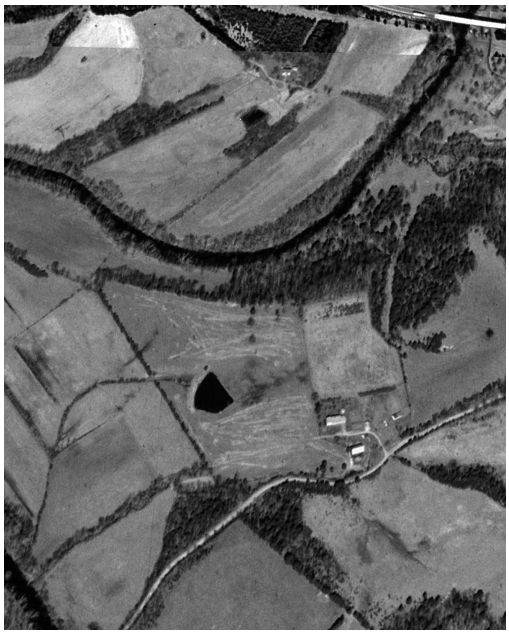


Figure 24. Aerial photograph, 1997. (GoogleEarth)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE OWNERSHIP, 2003–2025

Over the next twenty years, the NPS undertook numerous projects to stabilize and preserve the property while managing public access to the site. In 2011, the NPS removed the early 1970s concrete porch and the attached garage from the Bowman-Hite farmhouse. In 2014, the exterior of the Bowman-Hite smokehouse was stabilized, repaired, and painted. To address issues related to vehicle ingress, egress, and stormwater erosion at the entrance of the existing driveway, the park removed three non-historic masonry structures that served as driveway markers. I n 2015, the NPS also removed buildings dating from the Kerns and Whitham ownerships, including a large metal storage shed and a livestock shed, or chicken coop, located near the barn. Additionally, the NPS stabilized the Bowman-Hite bank barn by repointing the limestone foundation, adding structural support systems, and installing louvers in the damaged windows of the barn's lower level. The barn and smokehouse received new standing seam metal roofs, and new wooden sliding doors were installed on the barn.

The NPS also removed potentially hazardous trees from the barnyard and small ornamental trees located at the end of the driveway to allow for larger vehicle access. In 2017, the NPS continued repairs to the Bowman-Hite farmhouse, including replacing the roof, repairing masonry, and painting the brick exterior of the house white. In 2021, the ca.1886 stone well was capped with a lid, and the open silo foundation, likely dating to the early 20th century, was covered. That same year, the park replaced the earthen ramp on the north elevation of the bank barn in kind. In 2024, eleven cedar fence posts located around the ca.1950 apple orchard were removed. These fence posts may have marked a historic fence line, as their alignment with the smokehouse suggests that the fence was once part of the domestic curtilage surrounding the historic dwelling. Note, however, the smoke house may have been relocated during the Kern ownership. As such, the fence posts were retained below grade and affixed with a metal nail to aid in their identification. (Planning, Environment & Public Comment System-PEPC, CEBE)

SUMMARY

The complex land transactions that underpin the development of the Bowman-Hite farm linked the Bowman and Hite families for more than one hundred and fifty years before the Civil War, primarily through women. The Hites and Bowmans, who had Germanic rather than Anglo roots, followed a Palatinate tradition of property inheritance instead of the English practice of primogeniture, where the eldest son was the primary inheritor of the family's lands.

As illustrated by the wills of both George Bowman I and his son, Colonel Isaac Bowman, parents made efforts to equalize the inheritances bequeathed to their children. This was particularly evident in the lengthy instrument that divided Colonel Isaac Bowman's estate among his numerous offspring, including his daughters. The land on which the farmstead is located, along with the properties of many landholders in the immediate area, was once part of the Bowman holdings dating back to George Bowman I's original acquisitions from his father-in-law, Jost Hite, and later inherited by his granddaughter, Rebecca Bowman Hite. (Peters 2010: 17)

The development of the farm landscape and the fruits of agricultural production were closely tied to the region's economic conditions. In the early nineteenth century, much of the arable land that would later become the Bowman-Hite farm was likely cultivated as part of the Bowman family lands. When Rebecca came of age and married in the early 1850s, the construction of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse and ancillary agricultural structures in the mid-nineteenth century was made possible by the couple's inherited wealth held primarily in enslaved people and land. Early in their marriage, Rebecca and Charles invested heavily in their new farm, allocating funds for equipment, construction, and land acquisition. However, by the onset of the Civil War, they were already facing financial insecurity due to mounting debt. In an attempt to retain ownership of the farm, Rebecca sold the family she and Charlie enslaved to the owner of Belle Grove in 1863. However, like many former plantations in the area after the Civil War, in 1876 the Bowman-Hite farm was subdivided and sold to other local families in service of the former owners' debts.

The shift from larger to smaller farms after the Civil War is evident throughout the region. Shenandoah County had an average farm size of 335 acres in 1860; however, by 1880, the average had decreased to 134 acres. Similar trends can be observed in Warren and Frederick counties. The Bowman-Hite farm exemplifies these changes; in the 1860s, the Bowman-Hite Farm was 420 acres but was reduced to roughly 127 acres by 1879 due to land sales. This decline in farm size coincided with a drop in the average cash value per acre of farm products from 1870 to 1900. During the 1870s, Warren County farms produced on average about $9.50 per acre in farm products. By the 1890s, the same acre was bringing in just $5. In 1870, the Bowman-Hite farm was generating roughly $2,704 in revenue, but only $1,439 in 1880, almost a fifty percent decrease in ten years. This trend continued throughout the late nineteenth century, reflecting a depressed economic market where multiple generations often lived together on one property, or families took in boarders to make ends meet.

As a result, sometimes farmhouses were expanded to accommodate these additional occupants. The expansion of buildings during the Pirkey ownership (again connected to the Bowman family through Catherine Bowman Pirkey) of the Bowman-Hite farm illustrates this trend. Broader macroeconomic shifts, driven by advances in transportation technology, also influenced agricultural development in the region. Production gradually shifted from grain to dairy, meat, and market crops made possible through advancements in refrigeration in railroad and later trucking technology. The Kerns family's focus on dairying, horses, and fruit production, exemplified this transition.

Finally, the Whitham ownership of the Bowman-Hite Farm in the late twentieth century reflects an increasing emphasis on residential use of former farms in the area. This shift is evidenced by increasing tree coverage around smaller fields, and an emphasis of ornamental, pseudo agricultural landscapes with small orchards and large vegetable gardens surrounding farmhouses, highlighting the evolving relationship between agriculture and residential development in the region.

Uses

Functions and Uses:

Major Category	Category	Use/Function	Historic	Current	Primary
Defense	Battle Site		Yes	No	Yes
Agriculture/Subsistence	Farm (Plantation)		Yes	No	No
Domestic (Residential)	Single Family Dwelling	Single Family House	Yes	No	No
Education	Interpretive Landscape		No	Yes	Yes

Public Access:

Public Access: With Permission

Public Access Narrative:

The buildings located on the Bowman-Hite Farm parcel are locked and not open to the public. The site is open to the public during daylight hours. Public vehicle access to the site is currently blocked by a gate.

Associated Ethnographic Group

Ethnographic Study Status: Yes-Unrestricted Information

Ethnographic Narrative:

The 2009 Ethnographic Overview and Assessment of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park identified culturally significant resources within the park and surrounding areas. It detailed the importance of these resources to park-associated communities and explored how these groups historically and contemporarily perceived the park. The study recognized several groups with significant ties to the park including park neighbors, park partners, members of historic Reformed Churches (particularly the Church of the United Brethren), Native Americans, descendants of enslaved African Americans linked to Belle Grove Plantation and other farms (though not the Bowman-Hite Farm) now within the park boundaries, and Civil War reenactors. Among the Native American peoples known or believed to have settled in or traversed this region since the sixteenth century are the Shawnee, Susquehannocks, various eastern Siouan groups such as the Monacans and Manahoacs, Catawbas, Cherokees, members of the Six Nations, Delawares, and Creeks. (EOA 2009: 28)

Analysis & Evaluation of Integrity

Analysis and Evaluation of Integrity Narrative Summary:

The historic integrity of the eight-acre Bowman Hite Farm site is evaluated by comparing landscape characteristics and features present during the period of significance, 1734 to circa 1900, with the existing conditions as assessed in 2025. Many landscape characteristics and features from the period of significance remain today. For the Bowman-Hite farm parcel, the identified landscape characteristics include natural systems, topography, spatial organization, land use, circulation, vegetation, buildings and structures, views and vistas, small-scale features, and archaeological sites.

Notable extant landscape features associated with these characteristics date back to the antebellum agricultural period, the Civil War, and post-Civil War agricultural development. These features include the gently sloping pasture lands of the eight-acre parcel, the vernacular Greek Revival Bowman-Hite farmhouse, the mid-nineteenth century road trace that once connected the Bowman-Hite farm with Fort Bowman, a residence to the northeast, as well as the circa 1881 bank barn, late nineteenth century-smokehouse, the early twentieth century wellhead, and views of the hillside where Thoburn's left flank once mustered, along with views of the town of Strasburg.

Since circa 1900, some landscape characteristics and features at have changed. Namely, alterations and additions to the farmhouse have impacted its nineteenth century integrity, as well as the loss of small-scale features such as fence lines, and ancillary support structures such as the farmstead's nineteenth century kitchen, sheds and other agricultural outbuildings.

INTEGRITY

The National Register of Historic Places defines integrity as the ability of a property to convey its significance through physical resources. The National Register program identifies seven aspects of integrity: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Retention of these qualities is necessary for a property to convey its significance; however, not all seven aspects must be present to retain integrity. The following evaluation is based on a 1734 to ca.1900 period of significance for the Bowman-Hite Farm.

Overall, the eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm retains its integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship, association, and feeling as the site of the opening conflict of the Battle of Cedar Creek, as well as for its nineteenth-century agricultural significance as part of a much larger 490-acre landholding belonging to Rebecca Bowman Hite and Charles Hite. Situated at the core of the larger Bowman-Hite property, the eight-acre farmstead parcel represents a portion of the battlefield landscape that served as an avenue of approach for General Kershaw's Confederate forces during their morning attack on Union positions held by Colonel Thoburn on high ground north and east of the farmstead on October 19, 1864.

Although the farmhouse has been modified, it remains in the same location and retains much of its original architectural materials. The rural character of the eight-acre farmstead has been preserved, and the gently sloping land, road trace, farmhouse, and strategic views evoke conditions during the Civil War, enhancing visitors' understanding of the landscape's significant role in the unfolding of this historic battle. Additionally, the late nineteenth-century addition of the existing bank barn, smokehouse, and wellhead contributes to the integrity of the property's agricultural past.

Location:
Location is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred. The eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm site, part core farmstead central to the original land holdings of Rebecca Bowman Hite in the nineteenth century, remains in its original location.

Design:
Design is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property. The integrity of the core eight-acre parcel of the Bowman-Hite farm's nineteenth century design is difficult to determine as little documentation of the detailed layout of the grounds remains.

Setting:
Setting is the physical environment of a historic property. Located at the core of the larger 490-acre Bowman-Hite property, the eight-acre Bowman Hite farmstead parcel represents a portion of the battlefield landscape that served as an avenue of approach by General Kershaw's Confederate forces during their October 19th morning attack on Union positions of Colonel Thoburn located on high ground northeast of the farmstead. The surrounding field and forested land remain in a condition similar to that during the nineteenth century battle.

Materials:
Materials are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property. The physical integrity of the nineteenth century material that comprised the Bowman-Hite farm landscape, has been impacted by the loss of agricultural support structures, however, the grass and forbs growing in the open fields surrounding the house, and the brick and wood of the house itself, contribute to the material integrity related to the Civil War period of significance. The integrity of materials related to the agricultural significance is present in the barn and smoke house construction and in the open fields stretching from the farmyard into the surrounding landscape.

Workmanship:
Workmanship is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in history or prehistory. Integrity of workmanship has been impacted by the loss of agricultural support structures but is present in the workmanship of the bank barn foundation (likely dating to the antebellum era), the farmhouse, and smokehouse.

Feeling:
Feeling is the property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time. The vernacular Greek Revival style architecture of the farmhouse set upon the gently sloping open meadows and surrounded by the wooded upland hills and creek valley evokes the agricultural landscape of the Civil War era and the conditions present during the initial conflict in the Battle of Cedar Creek.

Association:
Association is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property. The rural character of the eight-acre farmstead remains preserved and the gently sloping land, road trace, farmhouse and strategic views evoke the Civil War and are present to assist in understanding the strategic role of the landscape in the unfolding of the historic battle.

The next section presents an analysis of landscape characteristics and their associated features and corresponding Historic Structures Inventory (HSI, formerly List of Classified Structures) names and numbers, if applicable. It also includes an evaluation of whether the feature contributes to the property's National Register eligibility for the historic period (1734 – ca.1900), contributes to the property's historic character, or if it is noncontributing, undetermined, or managed as a cultural resource. If a feature is non-contributing, it is evaluated as "compatible" (visually congruent with the historic character of the landscape) or "incompatible" (visually incongruent with the historic character of the landscape).

Landscape Characteristic: Natural Systems and Features

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Natural systems and features are the natural aspects that have influenced the development and physical form of the landscape, and can include geology, geomorphology, hydrology, ecology, climate, and native vegetation. Located within the Valley and Ridge physiographic province, the Shenandoah Valley is bordered by the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east, the Appalachian and Allegheny Plateaus to the west, the Potomac River to the north, and the city of Roanoke to the south. The ridge tops of the region are primarily composed of sandstone, while the valleys are formed by carbonate rocks, such as limestone. The soils in the Shenandoah Valley are considered fertile and productive for agricultural purposes, having weathered from parent materials including limestone, dolomites, sandstones, siltstones, and acidic shales.

The Shenandoah River serves as the major water source for the region. As a tributary of the Potomac River, the Shenandoah and its tributaries drain several lateral valleys on the western slope of the Blue Ridge. Flowing in a northerly direction, the river is divided by Massanutten Mountain into the North and South Forks. These two branches converge just north of Front Royal and continue northward to their confluence with the Potomac River at Harpers Ferry.

The natural systems and features found within the Bowman-Hite Farm are representative of the Shenandoah Valley landscape. The property is underlain by Martinsburg Shale, and the soils present are moderately well-drained carbo-silt soils from the Weikert, Berke, and Blairton series. In the mid-nineteenth century, the boundaries of the Bowman-Hite Farm extended to the deeply cut Cedar Creek to the northwest and southwest, as well as to a small tributary of Cedar Creek that formed the farm's northeastern boundary. This tributary, known as Thoburn's Run, served as an important military feature in October 1864, separating the encampments of Hayes and Thoburn during the Battle of Cedar Creek. Thoburn's Run is deeply incised, characterized by narrow, sharply angled V-shaped banks above a narrow, poorly developed bottomland. The topography, soils, and waterways of the area directly influenced the locations of the farmhouse, barn, ancillary buildings, and roads within the larger Bowman-Hite property.

Evaluation:
The natural systems of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm are characterized by well-draining airable and fertile soils which supported the development of agriculture in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The farmstead's proximity Cedar Creek, and a small tributary of Cedar Creek, now known as Thoburn's Run, impacted the locations of buildings and structures as well as the Battle of Cedar Creek. However, only the naturally occurring spring, which may have been a factor in the selection of the site for the construction of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse, is a contributing feature of the site's natural systems. The location of the natural spring is marked by the late nineteenth-century wellhead.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Spring	209930	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Spatial Organization

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Spatial organization is the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces. The eight-acre Bowman-Hite parcel is situated approximately one mile northwest of the confluence of Cedar Creek and the Shenandoah River, near the Valley Turnpike (currently U.S. 11). During the historic period, the farm was part of a larger upland open agricultural area, bordered by forested slopes. During the Battle of Cedar Creek, Union forces bivouacked on one of these forested slopes, a prominent knoll to the northeast of the farmstead, which they used to observe the movements of the Confederate forces near the ford crossings along Cedar Creek. This knoll is located beyond the boundaries of the eight-acre parcel but was historically part of the farm when Union Colonel Joseph Thoburn established an encampment and erected artillery batteries and earthworks on the heights above the farmstead.

Evaluation:
Although the Bowman-Hite property has undergone significant changes throughout its history, the field and forest patterns and road systems have remained relatively intact since the historic period. While the loss of nineteenth century agricultural outbuildings in the core of the Bowman Hite farmstead has impacted the feeling of enclosure within the farmyard, the eight-acre site retains integrity of spatial organization in the relationship between the farmhouse, the existing bank barn, the nineteenth century road trace, and the rolling meadows of the surrounding farmland (Figure 25).

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 25. The nineteenth-century farm yard is still visible in the space between the Bowman-Hite Bank Barn (image left) and the Bowman-Hite House (right). The space is now bisected by a twenieth-century entrance drive. (CEBE, 2025)

Landscape Characteristic: Topography

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Topography is the three-dimensional configuration of the landscape surface characterized by features (such as slope and articulation) and orientation (such as elevation and solar aspect). While topography within the Shenandoah Valley varies significantly, it is defined by a series of narrow, elongated forested knobs and ridges formed by geological forces over five hundred million years ago. During the historic period, this topography played a crucial role in the development of the larger Bowman-Hite Farm and influenced the military outcome of the Battle of Cedar Creek. Topography affected the locations of crops, cattle grazing, buildings, and military positions.

A high, weathered knoll is situated to the northeast of the eight-acre property, in contrast with the relatively flat topography of the parcel. From the apex of the knoll, the land descends sharply to the north and northeast into the deeply cut valley of Cedar Creek. To the west and southwest, the land slopes more gradually before reaching Cedar Creek. During the Battle of Cedar Creek, Union Colonel Joseph Thoburn established an encampment on this high knoll to observe enemy movements near Harmony Hall, Bowman's Mill, and Widow Bowman's fords. Batteries and earthworks were strategically located throughout the encampment.

The eight-acre Bowman-Hite farmstead parcel is located southwest of the knoll. The gently sloping land was highly suitable for agricultural fields, allowing them to drain, and for siting the farmhouse and surrounding agricultural support buildings. During the battle, Confederate General Joseph B. Kershaw's left flank would have pressed through this eight-acre parcel as an avenue of approach for attacking Thoburn and DuPont's position on the hill ahead.

The eight-acre parcel lies within the Ridge and Valley physiographic province, specifically in the northwestern portion of Warren County. It is situated along a broad, dissected finger ridge that overlooks Cedar Creek, approximately 300 feet to the north. The farmhouse and barn are surrounded by rough cut lawn, dotted with ornamental shade and flowering trees and shrubs, within a large pasture. The existing bank barn was constructed along the edge of the site's primarily flat pasture, which slopes abruptly to the south into a drainage that runs east-west along the property's southern boundary. The north pasture behind the house is characterized by relatively flat terrain that gently slopes into a broad ravine.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Since the historic period, the integrity of the existing topography remains intact. Most modifications have been at a smaller scale and limited to the realignment of the driveway.

Evaluation:
The gently sloping land contributes to the historic significance of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm parcel (see Cover).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Gently-Sloping Land	126801	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic: Land Use

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Land uses are the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize the landscape as a result of human interaction. Archaeological investigation on the eight-acre parcel of the Bowman-Hite farm has provided insight into the use of the site by Indigenous Tribes prior to European contact; however, documentation of these uses is beyond the scope of the Cultural Landscape Inventory. In general, the broader landscape of the Shenandoah Valley was a central topographic corridor used by Indigenous people for travel, migration, hunting, and agriculture.

Originally dominated by forests, the lands encompassing the larger Bowman-Hite agricultural lands were cleared for agricultural use during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Agricultural census records from 1850 indicate that horses, sheep, cows, and cattle were raised on the property. The crops cultivated included wheat, Indian corn, rye, oats, Irish potatoes, hay, and sweet potatoes. Beginning in the late nineteenth century or early twentieth century, fruit and livestock production on the farm increased, and field crop production decreased.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The property continued to function as an agricultural landscape after ca.1900. A 1937 aerial photograph reveals orchards interspersed among the plowed fields, with one large-scale orchard located within the eight-acre Bowman-Hite farmstead parcel. Additionally, a rectangular-shaped vegetable and fruit garden was placed to the east of the farmhouse.

By 1950, the large orchards had disappeared, but agricultural activity remained evident. By the 1970s and 1980s, within the current eight-acre Bowman-Hite farm parcel, there was a small domestic apple orchard, a vegetable garden, a pine plantation, pastureland, and widening hedgerows marking the former fenced boundaries of cultivated fields, now left to grow in pasture. The use of the eight-acre property as a residence without a prominent farm function increased during the Whitham ownership in the 1970s and 1980s. Today the site is part of the cultural landscape of Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historic Site, managed by the NPS for preservation and public interpretation.

Evaluation:
The existing use of the property does not contribute to its historic integrity as there are no longer any agriculture activities.

Landscape Characteristic: Circulation

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Circulation refers to the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute systems of movement in a landscape. Previously used by Indigenous Tribes as a migratory route, the major northeast-southwest route through the Shenandoah Valley, known as the "Great Wagon Road," became a major transportation corridor for European settlers. From its beginning, the "Valley Turnpike" as it was later called, served as the spine for transportation within the Shenandoah Valley. Eventually, roads would branch out from it to form a network of transportation corridors, connecting settlements with individual farms and industries.

According to Gillespie's Battlefields of Fisher's Hill and Cedar Creek and Hotchkiss' The Battle of Belle Grove, three roads provided access to the Bowman-Hite property during the battle; however, only two are adjacent to or cross the eight-acre parcel. Extending southeast from the Valley Turnpike, the existing Bowman Mill Road forms the southern boundary of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm parcel. During the battle, and up until the late nineteenth century, Bowman Mill Road ran between the Bowman-Hite Farmhouse and the Barn. While today Bowman Mill Road runs to the south of the barn, prior to the late-19th century, the road would have led "to the yard…of the brick house," as noted in the 1886 deed between Pirkey and Kerns. By 1896, another deed notes the presence of the current county road (current Bowman Mill Road) and another road "running from the County road into A.H. Kerns Barn Yard…" (Warren County, Virginia. Clerk's Office, Deed Book Q, 271)

During the ownership of the Hite and Kerns families, a road extended northeast from Bowman Mill Road, just east of the farmhouse, crossing Cedar Creek to connect with the Fort Bowman plantation and continuing eastward to the Valley Turnpike. A road trace remains in this location. Additionally, Hite Road, which connected with Bowman Mill Road to the south of the Bowman-Hite Farm, ran along the eastern edge of the larger Bowman-Hite farmland holdings, ultimately joining Long Meadow Road to the north. During the Battle of Cedar Creek, these corridors played a crucial role in transporting artillery and soldiers. (Geier and Harding, 2006: 52)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
By the late 1930s, both Bowman Mill Road, which connected the Valley Turnpike to Hite Road (now Route 635), and the road from Fort Bowman to the Bowman-Hite Farm, extending east to Long Meadow and the Valley Turnpike, were abandoned. However, the road trace connecting Fort Bowman to the Bowman-Hite Farm remains visible as it passes east-west through the eight-acre Bowman-Hite farm parcel.

Although the date of construction is unknown, the current farmstead driveway appears in a 1937 aerial photograph, though it was likely constructed earlier. Since then, the driveway has been realigned. In the 1970s, a terrace and concrete sidewalks, measuring between two and three feet wide, were constructed to the south of the farmhouse, although the terrace has since been removed.

Evaluation:
The Bowman-Hite Farm Road Trace that crosses the Bowman-Hite property east to west and continues north along the east boundary of the eight-acre parcel contributes to the historic significance of the property. The sidewalks, driveway, and gravel parking area post-date the period of significance and thus do not contribute. Bowman Mill Road forms the southern boundary of the 8-acre parcel and contributes though it is not owned by the NPS and thus is not a contributing feature within this Cultural Landscape Inventory. In addition, its alignment has been altered since the period of significance (Figure 29).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Bowman-Hite Farm Road Trace	126707	Contributing	1074245				No
Entrance Road	126709	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Sidewalks	126713	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Gravel Parking Area	209935	Noncontributing – Compatible			Location	258738	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 29. View of the twentieth-century driveway (image center) and the nineteenth-century Bowman-Hite Farm Road Trace (image far right), looking east toward the hillsides where Thoburn's Left Flank mustered during the Civil War. (CEBE, 2025)

Landscape Characteristic: Vegetation

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Vegetation includes deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, groundcovers, and herbaceous plants and plant communities, whether indigenous or introduced in the landscape. Prior to the eighteenth century, the landscape of the larger Bowman-Hite farm was likely forested with oaks, hickories, and a scattering of pines and other conifers. By the mid-eighteenth century, settlers had likely cleared much of the forest in the lowlands for pasture and cultivation. Thus far, no documentation has been found referencing vegetation on the eight-acre parcel during the nineteenth century. However, it is likely that the land was cleared of trees for agricultural use by the time of the Battle of Cedar Creek. The open character of the landscape provided clear views of fords and roads during the battle. The land continued to be used for agriculture following the Civil War and throughout the second half of the nineteenth century.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
The landscape of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite Farm is pasture characterized by a “old field” plant ecosystem. Vegetation includes orchard grass (Dactylis glomerata), fescue (Festuca sp.), thistle (Carduus sp.), black-eyed Susan (Rudbeckia heliopsidis), blackberry (Rubus sp.), goldenrod (Solidago sp.), sheep-sorrel (Rumex acetosella), plantain (Plantago sp.), broome straw (Andropogon sp.), vetch (Vicia sp.), Kentucky bluegrass (Poa pretensis), clover (Trifolium sp.), and alfalfa (Medicago sativa). (NPS 2007: 42)

The vegetation on the property dates to the Kerns and Whitham ownership periods. Vegetation includes traditional farmstead plants likely both planted and volunteer: Eastern redcedar (Juniperus virginiana), common mulberry (Morus alba), black walnut (Juglans nigra), bridalwreath spirea (Spiraea prunifolia), and common lilac (Syringa vulgaris). Species likely introduced after 1970 include Tatarian dogwood (Cornus alba), Sargent cherry (Prunus sargentii), Chinese quince (Pseudocydonia sinensis), azalea, and rhododendron (Azalea cultivar). Plants introduced as part of the Whitham’s orchard and pine plantings include, apple (Malus sp.), common pear (Pyrus communis), and Eastern white pine (Pinus strobus). A pine plantation, planted by the Whitham family, is located to the north of the eight-acre parcel. Presumably self-seeded plantings within the eight-acres include red maple (Acer rubrum) and some of the Eastern redcedar. The age of the American sycamore (Platanus occidentalis) is unknown, though it is too young to date to the period of significance. Whether the fences were kept clear of trees during the historic period is unknown; however, by 1937 very few trees grew along fences to the east and west of the property. The eight-acre parcel fences are a post-historic period introduction, further reinforced by the hedgerows that grow along the east and west parcel boundaries.

Evaluation:
While the individual plantings of traditional farmstead species do not contribute, they are typical of vegetation that would have been found on farmsteads during the nineteenth century and help to evoke the agricultural and residential nature of the property. The “old field” successional open pastureland, which comprises the majority of the eight acres, contributes to the significance and integrity of the property. The hedgerows along the east and west fence lines do not contribute (Figures 26, 27, 28).

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Pasture, “Old Field”	209931	Contributing					No
East and West Hedgerow/Fence line Vegetation	209932	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
Ornamental Vegetation	209933	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Apple Orchard	209934	Noncontributing – Compatible					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 26. While not historic, trees and shrubs near the house and barn are characteristic of vegetation that grew on farmsteads throughout the 19th century. At image left are a nineteenth century stone well head and likely early twentieth-century silo foundation, both with a wood plank coverings. In the foreground is a concrete trough. (CEBE, 2025)



Figure 27. Aerial photograph showing non-historic hedgerows on the east and west boundaries of the 8-acre parcel. (CEBE, 2024)



Figure 28. View of the hedgerow and fenceline along the edge of the property. (CEBE, 2025)

Landscape Characteristic: Buildings and Structures

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):

Buildings are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape, while structures are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activity. Identified in Jed Hotchkiss' Civil War map, The Battle of Cedar Creek, Oct. 19, 1864, as the "C.I. Hite" dwelling, the farmhouse on the Bowman-Hite property was constructed ca.1851. At the time documentary evidence suggests that a free-standing kitchen structure that likely also housed enslaved people was located to the south of the farmhouse. A Standard Pennsylvania timber frame bank barn was constructed about 1881, likely by Abraham Kerns or perhaps John Pirkey utilizing many repurposed materials, some likely dating to the late-eighteenth century and early nineteenth centuries. Physical evidence also indicates that the current barn was possibly constructed on the limestone foundation of a previous barn, of similar size, present during the Battle of Cedar Creek. (Spencer 2013: 12)

Maps from the Civil War indicate the presence of four large structures near the brick farmhouse, not including smaller dependencies like chicken coops. Perhaps illustrating this best is the Jedediah Hotchkiss sketch (map) of the Battle of Belle Grove of Wednesday, October 19, 1864, which shows four dots mark buildings in the vicinity, two north, and two south of the road. However, it is unclear exactly which one would have been the Hite's farmhouse and which were the subsequent dependencies. Another iteration of the map also shows the "C. Hite" property with three structures north of the road and another to the south. While one of the dots is known to be the house, the other three dots may refer to the kitchen, barn, and an unknown structure (see, Figures 5 and 6). (Spencer 2013: 25-26)

The kitchen, like the farmhouse, was also erected during the 1850s and is noted specifically in later records, "…to secure on his [Hite's] household & kitchen, the said household & kitchen furniture is hereby subject to debt." Archaeological excavations by the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research seem to confirm the presence of a nearby earth-fast domestic structure southwest of the main house. The kitchen at the time would likely not only have functioned for preparing food, but also perhaps for housing for the Hite's enslaved people. The notation of two dining room tables in an 1861 household inventory, as well as the mention of furniture in the kitchen, further alludes to this possibility. (Spencer 2013: 26)

Situated on the south side of the farmhouse and the kitchen site is the current ca.1881 barn. Forensic analysis of mortar samples taken in 2010 indicates that an earlier barn, of which a portion of the stone foundation likely remains, was present on the site. Civil War-era maps note a large structure in the same location as the current barn during the 1860s. While no records exist to indicate what the barn looked like during the Hite family's tenure, it likely resembled other barns in the area. Mortar analysis suggests that the earlier structure had a similar footprint and a stone foundation. Timber framing would have been used for the structural system, as plank framing techniques were not adopted until well after the Civil War. There is a distinct possibility that some of the reused members in the ca.1881 barn originated from this earlier structure, although this cannot be confirmed. The absence of a burn layer in the archaeological findings suggests that the earlier barn was dismantled rather than destroyed by fire, allowing for the construction of a new barn. The dominant barn types in the area at the time were, as noted from earlier periods, the Sweitzer and Standard Pennsylvania barns, both variations of the bank barn. The site's topography would also have lent itself well to these types of barns.

The barn also served as a dairy at one point, and its basement contained several stalls for dairy cows. However, by the 1920s, the implementation of new health regulations likely led to the cessation of such small-scale dairy operations. The stalls are adjacent to a paddock where livestock would have been corralled. The small circular concrete foundation located in the northwest corner of the structure is the likely remnant of a silo, built in the early 20th century. The advent of such structures occurred during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Photographic and archival evidence indicates that numerous additional dependencies, constructed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, were spread across the farmyard. All except for a smoke house, or meat house, have been demolished.

The purpose and form of a non-extant fourth structure, east of the farmhouse, noted on the Civil War era maps, is at present unknown. However, its existence, as well as other features in the

same vicinity, such as a brick lined cistern located at the southeast corner of the farmhouse and a stone foundation located south of the earth-fast domestic structure, indicate its possible use as another agricultural dependency. (Spencer 2013: 27, citing Archaeological Assessment 2012)

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Since the historic period, the Bowman-Hite farmhouse has been extensively altered. During the 1970s, a two-story, frame, aluminum siding-clad addition encapsulated the earlier ca.1881 kitchen wing and side porch. A one-story, two-bay, frame garage was attached to the east elevation of the 1970s addition but has since been removed. During the early twentieth century, many agricultural support structures such as loafing sheds and a chicken coop were added to the farmyard. These were removed by the NPS in the early twenty-first century. (Spencer 2013: 28)

Bowman-Hite Farmhouse.
This single-family dwelling is a side passage, two-story, three-bay, single-pile, cross-gabled, brick structure with a rear ell. The farmhouse was originally constructed in the early 1850s by Charlie and Rebecca Hite. The Pirkey family added a one-and-a-half-story ell during the 1870s. A rear frame addition and garage were added by the Whitham family in the 1970s. During the period of significance, the farmhouse faced west towards Cedar Creek and Rebecca Hite's family home Mount Pleasant about a mile away. The circa 1970 rear frame addition reoriented the structure to face towards the driveway and Bowman Mill Road. (HSR 2013: 84)

The original portion of the house, constructed between 1851 and 1853, consists of a three-bay, one-pile, side-passage, Greek Revival-style main block with an attached rear ell, forming a combined L-plan unit. This original construction rests on a foundation of semi-coursed, quarry-faced limestone ashlar, and its brick is laid in five course common bond. The roof exhibits no overhang at the eaves and is covered in asphalt shingles. Evidence identified and recovered during the National Park Service's replacement of the asphalt shingle roof reveals that the house likely had a metal roof during at least a portion of the historic period. A brick interior end chimney rises at the north gable end of the main block. A second, 1.5-story, brick, rectangular-plan, telescoping rear kitchen addition was added circa 1876. Extending down the south elevation of this combined building was a one-story frame porch. During the 1970s, a two-story, frame, aluminum siding-clad addition encapsulated the earlier ca.1870s kitchen wing and side porch. A one-story, two-bay, frame garage was attached to the east elevation of the 1870s addition but has since been removed. The three-bay façade of the main block faces west. The main entrance is in the easternmost first-story bay, and features multi-pane, rectangular, Greek Revival-style, side and transom lights. The first-story windows of the main block are two-over-two, double-hung, wood-sash on wood sills, while the second-story windows are six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash windows on wood sills. A two-course, corbelled brick cornice extends at the roofline. (HSR 2013: 84-85)

The two-story, frame, 1970s addition is built on a raised concrete block foundation. The south elevation of the 1970s addition is divided into seven first and second story bays, with the second story slightly overhanging the first. The centered primary entrance is in the south elevation. Windows include six-over-six, double-hung, wood-sash and one-over-one, double-hung, wood-sash windows. In addition to the brick circa 1870s end chimney, the roofline of the now demolished 1970s rear garage is still visible in the east elevation of the addition (Figures 30, 31).

Bank Barn.
The Bowman-Hite Bank Barn is approximately 150 feet southeast of the house. It is a Standard Pennsylvania bank barn that may have been built on the foundation of a pre-Civil War barn. The barn has a side-gable, corrugated metal-covered roof; rough circular-sawn vertical plank siding; and a random ashlar limestone foundation that opens to livestock pens on the south. It has large, sliding barn doors in the north and south elevations that provide access to the hay loft. The poured concrete foundation of a former silo is adjacent to the west gable end (see Small Scale Features) (Figures 32, 33).

Smoke House.
The late nineteenth century Bowman-Hite farm Smokehouse, also referred to as a meat shed, or curing shed, is immediately northeast of the house. It is a square wood-frame building on non-

historic concrete block piers with an end-gable, tin sheet-covered roof, and weatherboard-clad walls. A vertical board door is in the east edge of the south elevation. There is an opening in the floorboards in the southwest corner and carbon or creosote buildup on the adjacent walls suggesting that the fire pit was in this location (Figure 34).

Evaluation:
The Bowman-Hite farmhouse, smoke house/meat shed, and bank barn date to the period of significance and contribute to the significance and integrity of the property.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Bowman-Hite House	126761	Contributing	974261		Location	237044	No
Bowman-Hite Smoke House	126765	Contributing	982330		Location	99047	Yes
Bowman-Hite Bank Barn	126763	Contributing	980638		Location	99039	Yes

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 30. Bowman-Hite Farmhouse, east and north facades. (CEBE, 2025)



Figure 31. Bowman-Hite Farmhouse, east and south facades. (CEBE, 2025)



Figure 32. Bowman-Hite Farmhouse, north facade. (CEBE, 2025)



Figure 33. Bank Barn, view of south facade. (CEBE, 2025)



Figure 34. Smoke House, south and west facades. (CEBE, 2025)

Landscape Characteristic: Views and Vistas

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
A view is the expansive and/or panoramic prospect of a broad range of vision that may be naturally occurring or deliberately contrived. A vista is a controlled prospect of a discrete, linear range of vision, which is deliberately contrived. Throughout the nineteenth century, the Bowman-Hite farmstead parcel offered panoramic views of the Blue Ridge, Massanutten Mountain, Hupps Hill, and Pouts Hill, all of which were critical to the military strategies of both Union and Confederate forces. Union Colonel Joseph Thoburn established an encampment at the apex of the high knoll northeast of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite parcel to observe enemy movements near Bowman's Mill Ford to the south, Harmony Hall/Fort Bowman Ford to the west, and Widow Bowman's Fords to the southwest.

The open agricultural character of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite parcel provided vital looking northeast toward the western flank of Thoburn's defenses during the morning attack by General Kershaw and the Confederate forces on October 19, 1864. Similarly, views looking southwest to Strasburg and Bowman Mill Road were also visible from within the eight-acre parcel.

Following the Civil War, most fields remained in cultivation or pasture so the open nature of the landscape continued to allow broad panoramic views.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
In the last thirty years, the construction of billboards, residential and commercial developments, and reforestation—particularly along roadways and fences—have impacted the views from the property. Despite these changes, views of Thoburn's left flank and Strasburg are extant from within the eight-acre farmstead parcel (Figures 35, 36).

Evaluation:
Views from the eight-acre Bowman-Hite farm parcel outward towards the location of Thoburn's Left Flank, and the town of Strasburg and Bowman Mill Road, contribute to the significance and integrity of the property.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
View toward the location of Thoburn's Left Flank	126783	Contributing					No
View toward the town of Strasburg and Bowman Mill Road	126785	Contributing					No

Landscape Characteristic Graphics:



Figure 35. View east toward the location of US Colonel Joseph Thoburn's Left Flank. (CEBE, 2025)



Figure 36. View west toward the town of Strasburg. (CEBE, 2025)

Landscape Characteristic: Small Scale Features

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Small-scale features are elements that provide detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in the landscape. Maps from the period of significance are of a scale that makes it impossible to depict small-scale features within the larger Bowman-Hite property. However, deeds from the nineteenth century indicate that a spring was located in the area of the existing stone wellhead. This stone lined well shaft is located near the northeast corner of the bank barn and is believed to date to the ninetieth century. The wellhead is covered with a concrete cap and a wooden platform added in 2022.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Early twentieth-century documentation indicates that wire fencing was used around the farmstead to control the movement of livestock and prevent wildlife from harming crops. Whether any of the wire fencing that remains on the property dates to this period is unknown. Around 1970, the Whitham family drilled well north of the farmhouse that is currently equipped with the pump previously found on the stone-lined well near the barn. In the 1970s, the Whitham family constructed brick piers to mark the entrance to the property. These were removed by the NPS in 2022. Agricultural woven wire fencing that currently lines the boundaries of the eight-acre Bowman-Hite parcel does not contribute to the historic integrity of the property but is visually compatible. The overhead twentieth-century utility line that crosses the property does not contribute and is visually incompatible. The dates of construction of the silo foundation, and the introduction of the concrete tough used for providing water or food to livestock, are unknown (see Figure 26).

Evaluation:
The wellhead is the only small-scale feature that contributes to the significance and integrity of the Bowman-Hite Farm. The agricultural fencing does not contribute. The contributing status of the concrete trough and the concrete silo foundation, which is located to the northwest of the gable end of the bank barn, is undetermined.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Wellhead, Bowman-Hite	126787	Contributing					No
Drilled Well	126789	Noncontributing – Compatible					No
Utility Lines	209937	Noncontributing – Incompatible					No
Trough	209938	Undetermined					No
Silo Foundation	209939	Undetermined					No

Landscape Characteristic: **Archeological Sites**

Archeological sites are the locations of ruins, traces, or deposited artifacts in the landscape and are evidenced by the presence of either surface or subsurface features. Only sites identified in approved National Register documentation are identified in this report. One archeology site has been identified as a Virginia State Historic Register under the number 44WR0164 and contributes to both the National Register and National Historic Landmark districts in the areas of both Prehistoric-Aboriginal and Historic-Non-Aboriginal. See the 2025 National Register documentation, or contact park staff, for additional information on archeology sites.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Bowman-Hite Farm Site	209940	Contributing		44WR0164			No

Landscape Characteristic: Cluster Arrangement

Historic Condition (to ca.1900):
Cluster arrangement is the locations and patterns of buildings, structures, and associated features in the landscape. During the period of significance, the cluster arrangement of buildings on the site was defined by the farmhouse, the barn and the agricultural support structures and fencing that defined the farmyard. At the time of the Battle of Cedar Creek, the farmhouse was oriented facing westward toward Rebecca's childhood home Mount Pleasant. Based on the 1864 Hotchkiss Map, the farmyard was located to the south and to the east of the house divided by Bowman Mill Road that ran east to west across what is now the eight-acre Bowman-Mill farm parcel. The road divided the farm building cluster in two, dividing the farmhouse and at least two outbuildings from the barn. Though the existing Pennsylvania bank barn post-dates the battle, structural evidence suggests the barn was built on the foundation of an earlier barn.

Post-Historic and Existing Conditions:
Throughout the twentieth century history of the Bowman-Hite farm parcel, numerous outbuildings were located to the south and east of the farmhouse. Most of these outbuildings have been removed.

Evaluation:
The cluster of buildings that anchored the Bowman-Hite Farm during the nineteenth century remains visible through the existing farmhouse and bank barn, which date to the nineteenth century, as well as the meat house/smoke house and well head, which date to the late nineteenth or early twentieth centuries. The integrity of the farmstead cluster, however, has been impacted by the loss of agricultural support structures, fencing, and the realignment of Bowman Mill Road.

Landscape Features:

Feature Name	CLI Feature ID	Feature Contribution	CRIS-HS Resource ID	Associated CRIS-AR ID	FMSS Record Type	FMSS Record Number	FMSS Exact Match
Bowman-Hite Farmstead Cluster	209936	Contributing					No

Condition

Assessment Interval (Years): 6

Next Assessment Due Date: 08/21/2031

Condition Assessment and Impacts

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/21/2025

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The condition of the property is “fair.” The property shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values, primarily to the Bowman-Hite farmhouse. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the property to degrade to a poor condition.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 09/25/2023

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

Provisional. The condition reassessment for this CLI has been delayed due to the effects of Covid-19 travel restrictions and staffing shortages. In the meantime, the most recent condition assessment will remain in place until it is reassessed. Planning and scheduling for this update will occur in FYs 2023-2024.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 07/30/2013

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

In consulting with Amy Bracewell, site manager at the park, and with concurrence from the Superintendent, the Whitham Farmstead landscape is in fair condition. The definition of “fair” is as follows: “The inventory unit shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within 3-5 years to prevent further harm to its cultural and/or natural values. If left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, the cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the landscape characteristics will cause the inventory unit to degrade to a poor condition.”

According to project statements in PMIS for the Whitham Farmstead, work is underway regarding the stabilization and treatment of the Hite/Whitham Bank Barn (PMIS 162427, 164369) and the Bowman-Hite House (166841). There are no projects regarding the landscape, and the threats and potential degradation of the landscape is still prevalent. There is a proposal to develop a comprehensive interpretive plan for the park (145919), which will address the role and importance of the landscape.

Condition Assessment: Fair

Assessment Date: 08/31/2007

Condition Assessment Explanatory Narrative:

The Whitham farmstead parcel is considered to be in fair condition. Natural elements and deferred maintenance, coupled with inappropriate modifications to the buildings and landscape, have negatively impacted the historic character of the landscape. In addition, residential and commercial development outside the boundaries of the park threatens the historic setting and viewsheds. Without the appropriate corrective actions, the landscape characteristics may deteriorate causing the unit to degrade to a poor condition

Impacts

Type of Impact: Deferred Maintenance

Other Impact:

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Natural elements and deferred maintenance have caused the deterioration of the farmhouse, though it has been stabilized.

Date Identified: 08/21/2025

Type of Impact: Impending Development

Other Impact:

External or Internal: External

Impact Narrative: Continual privately-owned residential development outside the boundaries of the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park threatens the historic setting and viewsheds.

Date Identified: 09/20/2007

Type of Impact: Other

Other Impact: Inappropriate Development

External or Internal: Internal

Impact Narrative: Alterations to the farmhouse, completed c.1970, have negatively impacted the integrity of the building.

Date Identified: 08/21/2025

Treatment

Stabilization Measures

Treatment Documents

Treatment Type: Rehabilitation

Treatment Completed: No

Document Type: General Management Plan

Title:

IRMA Link:

Narrative:

The Rehabilitation treatment approach is consistent with the “Preferred Alternative D” as outlined in the General Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park, dated April 15, 2011. Per the GMP, “the NPS will rehabilitate and adaptively reuse the Hite-Whitham House [now the Bowman-Hite Farm] and farm-related outbuildings to support park operations and visitor interpretation” and manage the historic property owned in the park owned by the NPS as well as other cultural resources it acquires. (GMP 2011: 6) Please note, as of 2025, adaptive reuse of the Bowman-Hite farmhouse is no longer considered feasible. The park is currently undergoing Section 106 compliance to demolish the 1970s addition and restore historic features to the house but plans no interior visitor access.

In the park’s Foundation Document, the Bowman-Hite Farm is identified as a fundamental park resource. Fundamental resources warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove NHP to, “preserve, protect, and interpret a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum agricultural community; to tell the rich story of Shenandoah Valley history from early American Indian occupation onward; to preserve and interpret the significant historic, natural, cultural, military, and scenic resources associated with the Cedar Creek Battlefield and Belle Grove Plantation areas through partnerships with local landowners and the community; and to serve as a focal point within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields National Historic District to recognize and interpret important Civil War events, including the key battles and campaigns of 1862 and 1864.” (FD 2019: 4)

Approved Treatment Costs

Cost Narrative:

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Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Documentation of Charles Hite losses from actions of the Confederate Army

Supplemental Information Narrative:

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Supplemental Information Title: 2019 CEBE Foundation Document

Supplemental Information Narrative:

https://www.npshistory.com/publications/foundation-documents/cebe-fd-2018.pdf

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Article about enslaved man James Foster and his wife Mary Petty

Supplemental Information Narrative:

https://home.nps.gov/articles/000/foster-petty-family.htm

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: Article “Jost Hite from the Neckar to the Shenandoah” in Pennsylvania Folklife by Nancy Gaugler & Ralph Connor

Supplemental Information Narrative:

https://digitalcommons.ursinus.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?params=/context/pafolklifemag/article/1117/&path_info=Pennsylvania_Folklife___Autumn_1987.pdf

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3880.ct000370/

Supplemental Information Narrative:

A map of the most inhabited part of Virginia containing the whole province of Maryland with part of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and North Carolina. By London, Thos. Jefferys [1755] Joshua Fry (1700-1754)

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3881sm.gcwh0008/?sp=34

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Report of the camps, marches & engagements, of the Second Corps, A.N.V., and of the Army of the Valley Dist. of the Department of Northern VA., during the campaign of 1864 : [Virginia] Battle of Belle Grove & Cedar Creek, Jedediah Hotchkiss

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: https://www.loc.gov/item/2005625102/

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Hotchkiss, Jedediah. Sketch of the battle of Belle Grove or Cedar Creek, Wednesday, Oct'r 19th. 1864. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/2005625102/.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: https://www.loc.gov/resource/ppmsca.21355/

Supplemental Information Narrative:

Waud, Alfred R. , Artist. Sheridan's Ride. Battle of Cedar Creek. Cedar Creek United States Virginia, 1864. Photograph. Library of Congress.

Supplemental Information:

Supplemental Information Title: https://www.davidrumsey.com/luna/servlet/detail/RUMSEY~8~1~26911~1100210

Supplemental Information Narrative:

1895 map of the Battle of Cedar Creek by Jedediah Hotchkiss showing the spatial pattern of open treeless bottomlands, upload slopes with agricultural fields and pastures, and steeper, wooded slopes that is characteristic of the agricultural lands along Cedar Creek.

Landscape Documents:

File Name	Date	Attachment Type
CL-FMSS_crosswalk-CEBE.xlsx		Other Report

Source