Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS US		<u> </u>		03	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

NAME				
HISTORIC	swood 🔥			
AND/OR COMMON	mer House)			
LOCATION STREET & NUMBER	V	on MS 552		
N	North side of State Hi	Lghway 552	NOT FOR PUBLICATION	
CITY, TOWN Lorman	ı x	VICINITY OF	congressional distr Fourth	ICT
STATE Missis		CODE 28	COUNTY Jefferson	CODE 063
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CATEGORY DISTRICT X_BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT	OWNERSHIP PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITION IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED	STATUS <u>V</u> OCCUPIED <u>UNOCCUPIED</u> <u>WORK IN PROGRESS</u> ACCESSIBLE <u>X</u> YES: RESTRICTED <u>YES: UNRESTRICTED</u> <u>NO</u>	PRES XAGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	ENT USE MUSEUM PARK X_PRIVATE RESIDEN RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:
STREET & NUMBER	Walter R. and Jean G		r o the second of the second sec	
CITY, TOWN			state New York	09616
	OF LEGAL DESCR	VICINITY OF IPTION	<u></u>	
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ET	Office of the Ch	ancery Clerk		
STREET & NUMBER	P.O. Box 145			
CITY, TOWN	Fayette		state Mississi	ppi 39069
TITLE Statewide	FATION IN EXIST e Survey of Historic		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
DATE 1977		FEDERAL	STATECOUNTYLOCAL	
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS	Mississippi Departm			



CON	DITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
EXCELLENT GOOD · X_FAIR	DETERIORATED RUINS UNEXPOSED	UNALTERED X_ALTERED	XORIGINAL SITE MOVED DATE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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

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

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

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

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

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

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
_PREHISTORIC	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	COMMUNITY PLANNING	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	RELIGION	
_1400-1499	ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	LAW	SCIENCE	
_1500-1599	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE	
_1600-1699	X_ARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
	ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER	
<u>X</u> 1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION	
_1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT David Shroder, architect/builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

1857

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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

Goodspeed. <u>Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi</u>. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTIO				
The one hundred acres at a stake at the southea	st corner of what	: is known	as the Richard	Wade property on the
LIST ALL STATES AND COU	INTIES FOR PROPERTIES	S OVERLAPPI	NG STATE OR COUN	TY BOUNDARIES
STATE	CODE	COUNTY		CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	<u> </u>	CODE
11 FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Mary Warren Miller, Re		t		
ORGANIZATION			DATE	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
	······		June, TELEPHO	
STREET & NUMBER 506 High Street		de la compañía	(601) 442-	
CITY OR TOWN		<u> </u>	STATE	5700
Natchez			Mississipp	i 39120
12 STATE HISTORIC PR	ESERVATION	OFFICE	R CERTIFICA	TION
THE EVALUAT	ED SIGNIFICANCE OF TH	IS PROPERTY	WITHIN THE STATE	IS:
NATIONAL	STATE	<u>X</u>	LOCAL _	
As the designated State Historic Presen hereby nominate this property for inclu- criteria and procedures set forth by the	usion in the National Reg			
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE	SIGNATURE	han R.	thilling	
	Preservation Offi	cer	DATE	September 11, 1978
FOR NPS USE ONLY I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PRO	PERTY IS INCLUDED IN	THE NATION	AL REGISTER	
1. Charlua	Suni, In	~	DATE	12-8-78
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL RE	GISTER			12/8/70
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED SEP 1 9 1978 DATE ENTERED DEC 8 1978

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 2

7- Description

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

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

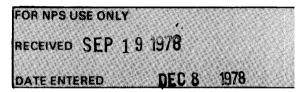
8- Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

8 - Statement of Significance (Notes)

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

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

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

⁴Jefferson County, Mississippi, 1860 census records.

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

⁶Douglas, p. 17.

⁷Douglas, p. 89.

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

⁹D. Clayton James, <u>Antebellum Natchez</u> (Baton Rouge: Luoisiana State University Press, 1968), p. 176.

¹⁰Deed Book G:104.

¹¹Probate Records Book I:38-41.

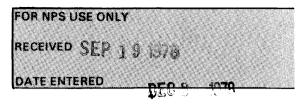
¹²Dr. Walter Wade.

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

¹⁴Anne Mims Wright, p. 168.

¹⁵Marie T. Logan, <u>Mississippi-Louisiana</u> <u>Border Country: A History of Rodney</u>, <u>Mississippi, St. Joseph, Louisiana</u>, and <u>Environs</u> (Baton Rouge: Claitor's Publishing Division, 1970), p. 187.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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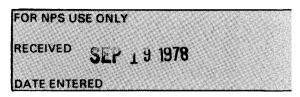
- 9 Major Bibliographical References
- James D. Clayton. <u>Antebellum Natchez</u>. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968.
- Jefferson County, Mississippi. Census Records.

Jefferson County, Mississippi. Deed Books.

Jefferson County, Mississippi. Probate Records.

- Logan, Marie T. Mississippi-Louisiana Border Country: <u>A History of Rodney</u>, <u>Mississippi, St. Joseph, Louisiana</u>, and Environs. <u>Baton Rouge</u>: Claitor's <u>Publishing Division</u>, 1970.
- Trimble, Mary Lee. Conversation with Lucia Bacot of Natchez, Mississippi, February, 1978.
- Wade, Dr. Walter. "Journal of Rosswood Plantation, 1855-1862." Microfilm. Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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10 - Verbal Boundary Description

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



DEC 8 1978

ROSSWOOD

- Lorman, Jefferson County, Mississippi
- Mary Warren Miller
- 1978
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History
- House in its setting, looking north
- from entrance drive. Photo 1 of 5 SEP 1 9 1978



ROSSWOOD Lorman, Jefferson County, Mississippi Mary Warren Miller 1978 Mississippi Department of Archives and History Facade (south elevation), looking north from front garden gate. Photo 2 of 5 SEP 1 9 1978 DELIA 1978



ROSSWOOD

- Lorman, Jefferson County, Mississippi Mary Warren Miller 1978
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History North (rear) and east elevations, looking southwest. SEP 1 9 1978
- Photo 3 of 5 DEC 8 1978





ROSSWOOD Lorman. Jefferson County, Mississippi Marv Warren Miller 1978 Mississippi Department of Archives and History Words. "D SHRODER, Builder, '57," painted on interior above front door transom, looking south. Photo 4 of 5 SEP 1 9 1978

DECR



ROSSWOOD

Lorman, Jefferson County, Mississippi Mary Warren Miller DEC 8 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Rear parlor, looking south. Left: door leading to hall; right: sliding door in frontispiece leading to front parlor. Photo 5 of 5

SEP 1 9 1978