

VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION SURVEY FORM

Historic Name: **Baker-Ransdell House**

County/Town/City: **Manassas**

Street Address or Route Number: **9005 Richmond Avenue, Manassas VA 22110**

USGS Quad: **Independent Hill**

Date or period: **c1880-1900**

Original owner: **J. T. Baker? F. A. Weedon**

Architect/builder/craftsmen:

Original use: **Residence**

Source of name:

Present owner: **L. J. Kirby**

Source of date: **Architectural evidence**

Present owner address: **7808 McLean Street, Manassas**

Stories: **2 stories**

Present use: **Residence**

Foundation and wall const'n: **Stone & frame**

Acreage: **20,741 sq. ft.**

Roof type: **metal covered gable roof**

State condition of structure and environs:

State potential threats to structure:

Note any archaeological interest: **Possible location of Civil War-related structure. See 1862 map of Manassas**

Should be investigated for possible register potential? Yes No

Architectural description (Note) significant features of plan, structural system and interior and exterior decoration, taking care to point out aspects not visible or clear from photographs. Explain nature and period of all alterations and additions. List any outbuildings and their approximate ages, cemeteries, etc.)

This two-story, frame, el-plan, gable-roofed house rests on a stone foundation built on an elevated parcel. At the time of this survey, the house's exterior weatherboarding was covered with simulated brick roll siding, though owner said he intended to cover the house with new siding. A one-story open porch supported by square posts runs across the front (northwest) and northeast side. The lot behind the house levels off, creating a walk-in basement. A former porch filling in the rear el has been enclosed. The house has a central peak, 6/6 sliding sash windows trimmed with architrave moulding, a central entrance flanked by sidelights, and a moulded cornice. There are two brick interior and chimneys on the main block, one apparently for some sort of fireplace. A pair of small chimney windows at either end suggests the attic may have been finished formerly for bedrooms, the interior has been remodeled somewhat, and much of the plaster in the walls replaced with drywall. The house has lost some of its architectural "integrity" through the remodeling and sealing off of former entrances, the poor reconstruction of the porch, etc.

Historic significance (Chain of title: individuals, families, events, etc, associated with the property.)

The present owner purchased the property from Cecil R. McDonald in 1961. McDonald had purchased it in 1952 from R. C. Bowers. At that time, the lot measured 2.5 acres. Bowers also owned other property near the house parcel. R. C. Bowers purchased the house on 18 acres in 1922 from French E. Ransdell. Ransdell had acquired the property 918 acres?) from J. T. Baker in 1901. In 1882, J. T. Baker bought a tract of 100 acres south of Manassas known as the Weedon farm, formerly the home of Ferdinand A. Weedon. This house could have been the Weedon residence.

F. E. Ransdell, born in Midland, Fauquier County, Va., in 1856 was a railroad man who worked for the Southern Railway. Ransdell was married twice, the first time to Blanche Nicol, daughter of Judge Aylett Nicol. Ransdell's second wife whom he married in 1902 was Frances A. Simpson.

J. T. Baker came to Prince William from the Valley of Virginia about 1882. His farm which he had bought from the Weedons, was located approximately 1/2 mile south of Manassas between the Bradley and Spriggs Ford Roads, adjoining the lands of Loveland, James, Good, and Brown, according to the 1882 deed. Baker was a founder of the Brethren Church in the Manassas area.
