

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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11. (N-5349):

A. Property Name: Belmont Hall

B. Location & Verbal Boundary Description: Belmont Hall is located at 302 West Main Street on the south side of the street between Hillside Road and Old Oak Road. The building is situated on the western half of a 5.16-acre lot that also includes the Curtis Mansion (No. 16, N-5350), which is presented elsewhere in this multiple resource nomination. In nominating the entire property surrounding these two buildings, the integrity of their setting at the period they achieved significance is maintained. Approximate acreage is 2.58 acres.

C. Owner: University of Delaware, HULLIHEN Hall, Newark, Delaware 19711

D. Property Description:

Belmont Hall is a two-and-one-half-story, gable-roofed brick building with stuccoed walls and neo-Classical detailing. The original part of the house, the three northern bays, dates to circa 1844. In 1911, major renovation occurred, which included adding another bay to the southern end of the building, and adding neo-Classical features such as the Doric-columned porch that extends around three sides of the house, the segmental dormers, French doors on the first floor, and some irregularly-spaced windows. The interior was also re-partitioned at that time. The house was not stuccoed until sometime after 1937.

Most of the windows are six-over-six sash, but there are also several multi-light casements. The eyebrow windows on the upper story are casements with wooden grilles. A parapet chimney occupies the north endwall and has a datestone set into it which reads "1844-1911". The roof is emphasized by a molded box cornice with partial returns and a dentil molding.

E. Historical Background:

Belmont Hall was constructed for Thomas Blandy between 1838 and 1844 (local sources quote both dates). Blandy owned approximately forty acres of farmland surrounding this residence. A member of an affluent family from Maderia, Spain, Blandy also became owner of a foundry that was located across from the present site of the Deer Park Hotel and had, at the time of his death, invested a substantial amount of money in Chesapeake and Delaware Canal Company stock. The house and its surrounding property remained in the Blandy family until the turn of the century, when it was sold to the Frazer family, the previous owners of Rhodes Pharmacy. The Frazers were able to buy the property and renovate it because of a substantial inheritance they received. In 1950, the University of Delaware purchased the building as a home for its president. Today, Belmont Hall is used as a dormitory for honor students.

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F. Significance:

Belmont Hall dates from 1844; however, it derives its significance from the early-twentieth century, neo-Classical renovations it received. Historical Revival styles, particularly the neo-Classical style, became very popular in Newark at the beginning of the twentieth century. This style was used mainly on larger estates such as Belmont Hall, and on public and commercial buildings. As such, it is eligible under Criterion C for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bibliographical References:

Biographical & Genealogical History of the State of Delaware,
(Chambersburg, PA: J. M. Runk & Co., 1899), page 683.

William D. Lewis, "University of Delaware: Ancestors, Friends,
and Neighbors", Delaware Notes, (Newark, DE: University of Delaware,
Vol. 34, No. 1, 1961), page 216.

Joan MacLachlan, "The Belmont House", unpublished Art History Paper,
1964, University of Delaware Archives, Box 295, Folder 104.

Adele Smith, Pictures of Newark Delaware, Photograph Album, 1942,
University of Delaware Library, Delaware Collection.

SKETCH MAP Scale 1"-100'

N-5349
Belmont Hall

Property no. (1)
Lot no. 163

