

PH0028916

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Delaware	
COUNTY: Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.12.10.0018	DATE 12/16/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
Belmont Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Belmont Hall

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 13, one mile south of Smyrna

CITY OR TOWN:
Smyrna

STATE Delaware	CODE 10	COUNTY: Kent	CODE 001
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mrs. Cummins E. Speakman

STREET AND NUMBER:
Belmont Hall

CITY OR TOWN:
Smyrna

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Dover

STATE: Delaware	CODE 10
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:
_____ Federal State County Local

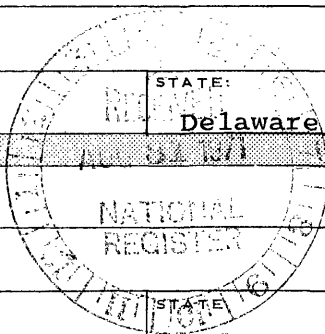
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington, D.C.

STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:
COUNTY:
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DATE

71.12.10.0018
12/16/71

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belmont Hall is located one mile south of Smyrna on the east side of Route 13. Approached by a straight driveway through a grove of tall trees, the Georgian brick house of three stories faces south. A docked gambrel pediment surmounts a five bay facade with an unusual stair tower on the north end. This leads to a captain's walk with balustrades.

The brick facade is laid in Flemish bond coursing with heavy dentilled cornices. The proportion of the length of the facade to the narrowness of the end is accentuated by the placing of the pediment on the long axis. Over the ground floor windows are heavy flat arches with key block. These are of wood simulating stone.

The front part is said to have been built by Thomas Collins in 1753 with bricks brought from England. The rear is said to have been done in the late seventeenth century. This north side has two parallel brick wings laid in common bond coursing. These projected originally from a contemporary structure that was replaced by the present south front of the house. Each back wing measures 18' x 16' and stand 14' apart. The front is 46' wide and 21 $\frac{1}{4}$ ' deep.

The front structure consists of two parlors divided by a central hall and stairway with corresponding bedrooms on either side of the stairway on the second and third floors. The entrance hall and west parlor have an unusually heavy cornice consisting of crown molding and dentilled course. The corner cupboard with large flat panelled doors has a simulated arched top. Long strap hinges on pintles support the entrance door which is topped by a five pane skylight. There is flat panelled wainscoting below the chair rail.

Part of the style

Not all the rooms have as elaborate woodwork and there have been modifications and adaptations to modern living over the years. In 1922 a fire destroyed the top floor. In renovating the dormers on the east and west sides were added at this time. The present owner recalls that the entrance portico was removed and one similar was added at this time to the east end of the house. The owner says the portico was a Victorian addition. The interiors of the rear wings which includes kitchen and dining areas have been remodeled.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

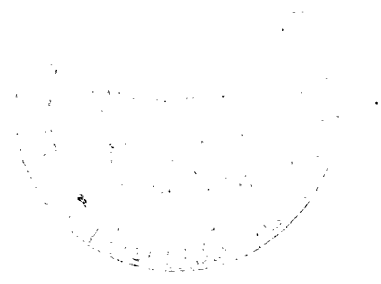
Belmont Hall has been called one of the handsomest homes of colonial Delaware. The two back wings are said to have been built soon after the 600 acre tract of land, known as "Pearman's Choice" was granted by William Penn in 1684. The main front structure dating from the mid 18th century is representative of the best colonial building in the area.

Belmont Hall was the home of Thomas Collins, High Sheriff of Kent County, Brigadier-General in the American Revolution, and eighth President of the State of Delaware. It was under his administration that Delaware became the first of the original states to accept the United States Constitution on December 7, 1787, thus becoming "The First State."

In 1777 the State Council met at Belmont because New Castle was not considered safe. Two of the chairs used at that time are still in the house. Belmont Hall, however, was not impervious to attack. Despite fortifications, a sentry on the Captain's Walk was shot and died in the room below. A plaque in the entrance hall commemorates this act.

The house is still owned by the descendants of Collins. Thomas Collins' sister married John Cook, also a President of Delaware. Their grandson, John Cloak bought it from his Collins cousins in 1827. He left it to his daughter, Caroline Speakman, who in turn left it to her son, Cummins E. Speakman, whose widow still lives there.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 0 0	0 0 0		39° 17' 39"	75° 35' 46"	
NE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SE	0 0 0	0 0 0				
SW	0 0 0	0 0 0				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Sophie Consagra

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Site Surveyor, State of Delaware** DATE: _____

STREET AND NUMBER:
Hall of Records

CITY OR TOWN: **Dover** STATE: **Delaware** CODE: **10**

12 STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Rea Thicket*
Title: Historic Registrar
Date: June 30, 1971

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connelly
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

DEC 16 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:
William H. Hartsog
Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 7 1971

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Delaware	
COUNTY Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 7/12.10.0018	DATE 12/16/71

(Number all entries)

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (cont'd.)

Primary Sources

Delaware Gazette, May 2, 1789.

Secondary Sources

Eberlein, H.D. and Hubbard, C.V.D., Historic Houses and Buildings of Delaware, Public Archives Commission, Dover, Delaware, 1962.

Eckman, Jeannette, et al, Delaware, A Guide to The First State, Hasting House, New York, 1955.

Harland, Marion, More Colonial Homesteads and Their Stories, Putnam, New York, 1899.

Macdonald, Betty Harrington, Historic Landmarks of Delaware and the Eastern Shore, Daughters of the American Colonists, 1963.

Pratt, Dorothy and Richard, A Guide to Early American Homes-- South, McGraw-Hill, New York, 1956.

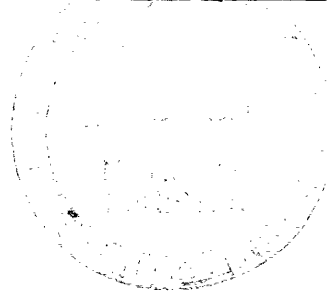
Scharf, J. Thomas, History of Delaware, 1609-1888, L. J. Richards & Co., Philadelphia, 1888.

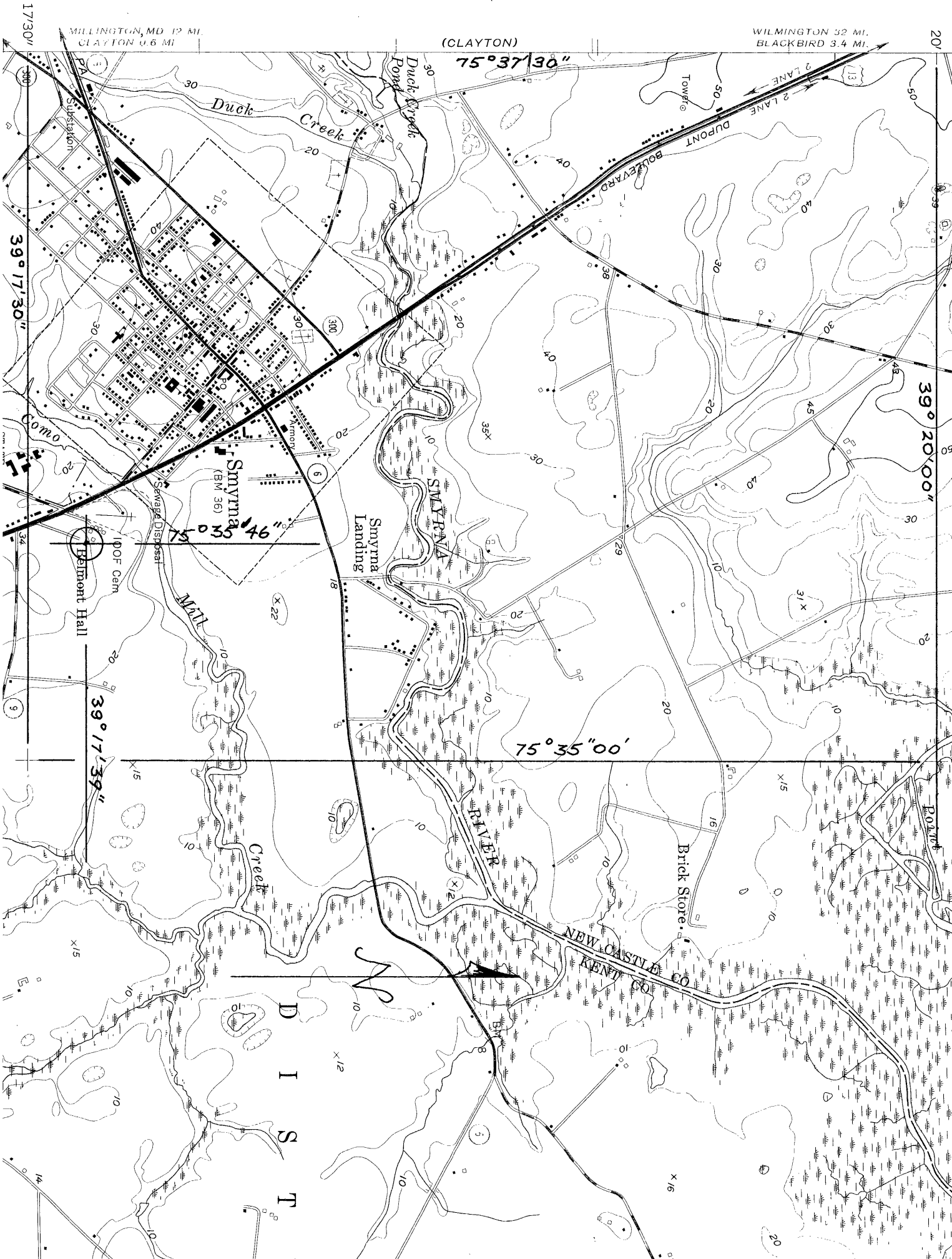
Wise, Herbert C. and Beidleman, H. Ferdinand, Colonial Architecture for Those About to Build, Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, 1913.

Articles

Frank, Bill, "Hero of State's Finest Hour", Wilmington Morning News, September 21, 1965.

Speakman, Marjorie, "The Ballad of Belmont", Dateline Delaware, June 1961.





MILLINGTON, MD 12 MI.
CLAYTON 0.6 MI

(CLAYTON)

WILMINGTON 32 MI.
BLACKBIRD 3.4 MI.

75°37'30"

20'

1730'

39°17'30"

39°20'00"

75°35'46"

75°35'00"

39°17'39"

D
I
S
T

Belmont Hall

Smyrna
(BM 36)

Smyrna
Landing

Brick Store

NEW CASTLE CO
KENT CO