

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **DEC 16 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Belvedere

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 811 Belvedere Farm Drive not for publication

city, town Charles Town vic. vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Jefferson code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Nancy Wilson Truettner

street & number 811 Belvedere Farm Drive

city, town Charles Town vicinity of state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Jefferson County Courthouse

street & number George and Washington Streets

city, town Charles Town state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Resource Survey, Charles Town
title By-Pass Project, by Paul D. Marshall and Associates has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date 1980 federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, WV Dept. of Culture & History

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The stately mansion "Belvedere," sits at the end of tree shaded Belvedere Farm Drive, outside of Charles Town, Jefferson County, West Virginia, commanding a majestic, panoramic view that has remained virtually unchanged since the farm came into existence in the 18th century.

The Belvedere Mansion as we find it today is a composite of the original house believed to have been built about 1807 by Magnus Tate II, and a larger house built in 1824 by Magnus' son, William. The original smaller house is generally referred to as the kitchen house. Thomas Willis joined the two units together in 1939 although there is no opening between spaces on the second floor. During this work, the remains of a wood sill were found embedded in a masonry foundation, suggesting an earlier log building on the site of the kitchen house.

Both units of the building are designed in the Federal style. The 1807 unit is two-story constructed with an exterior of hand-molded brick. American common brick coursing was used for the north, south, and west facades. Flemish bond coursing is on the east facade. The existing entrance to the kitchen building is a doorway on the north side which is flanked by side lights and has an ornamental transom above. A circular window is located in the gable end above the second floor window. The west facade has a shed roof porch with a dentiled architrave supported by four square wood posts. One interior chimney interrupts the standing seam metal roof of the building. The roof of the original kitchen building is a gable type similar to the earlier Georgian style. The windows are six over six light sash with louvered shutters.

The original kitchen house was about 20 feet wide and 32 feet long with two rooms on each floor and a center chimney serving fireplaces in each room. The 1939 renovation added space to the north end of the building to facilitate the connection of the two buildings and provide bath facilities.

The main section of the house, built circa 1824, is also two stories in height constructed with an exterior pressed brick using Flemish bond on the front and American Common on the north, east, and south. An important feature of both units of the house is a well preserved example of brick corbeled dentil cornice work. Both units of the house rest on a random coursed limestone foundation. The west entry is an excellent example of Federal style architectural detail. The podium entrance has four Doric columns all connected with a wood railing. The door is flanked by sidelights and has an ornamented transom. Three window openings are balanced on the second level with six over six lights and louvered shutters. The center window is tripart aligned above the entrance door. Two attic dormers interrupt the metal roof on the west elevation and all window openings are double sash, six over six lights. The north chimney is inside the north end of the house and the south chimney extends to the outside of the south wall. The 1824 building has a low-pitch hip type roof design typical of the Federal architectural period. The main unit measures approximately 49' x 24' with essentially a "two over two" arrangement and center stair hall between rooms on both floors. Except for a second floor bath located at the end of what was originally the center hall, the original room arrangements are basically unchanged. A small bath room, added in 1978, is located at the point where the two buildings intersect.

Belvedere is a property whose architectural significance and pristine setting make it one of Jefferson County's most noteworthy landmarks.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1807;1824 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

"Belvedere," located in a pristine rural setting near Charles Town in Jefferson County, West Virginia, is significant as a fine example of Federal style architecture in a rural area.¹ It is also significant as home to prominent Jefferson County families, particularly the well known Tate family.²

Explanatory Notes

1. "Belvedere," meaning "beautiful view" is situated in one of the most awe inspiring rural settings in West Virginia. From the front porch of "Belvedere" one has an unobstructed view of an immense estate of gently rolling fields to the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance. From "Belvedere" this vista extends to include four counties, Jefferson County, West Virginia, Washington County, Maryland, and Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia. Although its architectural style and detailing is addressed in Part 7, the Description, it should be noted that "Belvedere" is a significant example of two Federal style building units that are situated in such a manner as to render them architecturally unique in this region of West Virginia.

2. Evidence indicated that the Tate family, a prominent one in local, state, and even national affairs, occupied the present site of "Belvedere" as early as the 1760's. Magnum Tate III is known to have been born there in 1767. The original structure was probably of log construction, though nothing of it remains. The first unit of the present "Belvedere" mansion was constructed in 1807 by Magnus Tate II (1732-1808), who was prominent in the organization of the city of Charles Town and served on its first board of trustees (1787). Of the four sons of Magnus Tate II, all of them born and reared at Belvedere, three of them rose to prominence. George Tate was twice (1803, 1804) elected to represent Jefferson County in the Virginia Assembly. William Tate (1776-1818), who inherited "Belvedere" (then spelled "Belvidere") from his father in 1808, was a member of the first organized bar of Jefferson County, and, like his brother, served two terms (1809, 1812) in the Virginia Assembly. Magnus Tate III (1767-1823) was the most prominent of the three. He served seven terms in the Virginia Assembly (1797, 1798, 1799, 1802, 1803, 1809, and 1810), was twice High Sheriff of Berkeley County, and from 1815 to 1817 was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

After the death of William Tate, in 1818, the "Belvedere" estate, one of Jefferson County's largest farms, passed to his son George Tate II, Abigail Humphreys Tate, continued to reside there until her death in 1862. In 1824 the second (now the main section) of the house was constructed, in similar style to the 1807 building. During the Civil War, it is recorded, a Confederate raiding party under Capt. R. Preston Chew, left their horses at "Belvedere" while they raided the Union garrison in Charles Town, making off with 54 prisoners and 75 horses.

"Belvedere" passed from the Tate family to the T. H. Bates family in 1882. Mr. Bates was a prominent Jefferson County attorney. The estate has passed into the prominent Wilson family in the second half of the 20th century and retains not only its architectural

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bushong, Millard K., Historic Jefferson County, Carr Publishing Co., Boyce, Va., 1972.
 Evans, Willis F., History of Berkeley County, West Virginia, privately printed,
 Martinsburg, WV, 1928.
 McIlhenny, Hugh Milton, Jr., Some Virginia Families, Stoneburner & Pruffer, Staunton, VA,
 1903.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approximately 10 acres

Quadrangle name Charles Town, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

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2	5	4	4	8	0
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4	3	5	1	9	6	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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4	3	5	2	0	8	0
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4	3	5	1	9	2	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the point where the southern fence line intersects the western fence-line hedge at the rear elevation of the Belvedere Mansion; thence 600 feet along the fence-hedge north to where said line intersects the Private Belvedere Farm Road; thence approximately 800 feet east along the southern edge of said

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian and Paul D. Marshall, Architect

Historic Preservation Unit

organization WV Dept. of Culture and History

date November 18, 1983

Cultural Center

street & number Capitol Complex

telephone (304) 348-0240

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 18, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date

1/12/84

[Signature]
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet Belvedere

Item number 8

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ambience but is still the seat of a 273 acre farm that commands, as it always has, on of the area's most pleasant vistas.

Officially declared a Jefferson County Historic Landmark in 197 , "Belvedere" retains an early 19th century character of significance to the region.

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Continuation sheet Belvedere

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Norris, J. E., History of the Lower Shenandoah Valley, A. Warner & Co.,
Chicago, Ill., 1890.

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"Belvedere", Jefferson County, West Virginia

Continuation sheet

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#10 Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification:

farm road to where it intersects the first western fence line; thence approximately 550 feet south along the fence line to its terminus with the southern fence line; thence approximately 800 feet west along the southern fence line to the point of beginning encompassing approximately 10 acres. This boundary allows for the inclusion of the major portion of the lawn fronting on the principal residence, maintaining the integrity of the vista that, historically, gave its name to the property: "Belvedere" - "beautiful view".