

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Tennessee
COUNTY:	Davidson
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 25 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:
Belle Vue (Rep. Richard Fulton)

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Old Harding Road *off* U.S. 705

CITY OR TOWN: Bellevue CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth

STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Davidson CODE: 037

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	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:
Mr. and Mrs. Sparky Foster

STREET AND NUMBER:
Belle Vue, Old Harding Road

CITY OR TOWN: Bellevue STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Register of Deeds, Davidson County Register's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

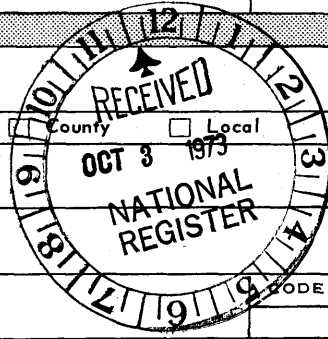
TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:



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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
(Check One)			(Check One)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered			<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		
			<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

It is believed that the original portion of Belle Vue was a two-story log cabin (approximately 12' x 28'); Abraham Louis DeMoss, Jr., purchased the cabin and 15 acres of land near Flat Creek in Davidson County (the present location) in 1818. Records also indicate that there was a log cabin, used as a kitchen, presumably, standing several yards to the rear (west) of the main cabin. Sometime around 1820, Abram Demoss left by flat-boat to take a load of meat to New Orleans for sale; the trip required about seven months and, during his absence, his wife (Elizabeth Newsom DeMoss) and the slaves enlarged the home. The two-story log cabin - now the east wing of the home - was incorporated in the "new" Colonial home as bedrooms; the west wing of the home included a parlor (about 15' x 28') with overhead bedroom and two small dressing rooms, the entrance hall on the main floor (about 6 x 10) with staircase to the second floor and the small landing above, leading to the bedroom. The free-standing log kitchen was attached to the house with a long (10' or so) porch, and was used as the dining room. A small kitchen was added at the west end of the porch. The entire structure was covered with poplar siding and painted white. Mrs. DeMoss spared no expense in decorating the home's interior, importing French wallpaper (reputed to have been similar to that used in Andrew Jackson's "Hermitage") for the parlor, incorporating over-sized fireplaces and mantels for the west wall of the new wing, and using natural wood paneling, moulding and cabinets throughout the house.

The name Belle Vue (French: "Beautiful View") was given to the home in 1820, upon the death of the senior A. L. DeMoss; he had named the first DeMoss homeplace on the west side of Big Harpeth River in memory of his native land. The primitive two-story original home, Belle Vue, stands today in a state of near collapse. The sagging log structure is used for farm storage.

A. L. DeMoss, Jr., died in 1849 and his youngest son, William E., inherited the homeplace near Flat Creek. He helped his mother, who remained with him on the farm, run the plantation and, in the early 1850's, studied to become a physician. It was during this time that a small plantation office (approx. 8' x 10') was constructed of wood, with wooden siding, to be used as the office when William DeMoss obtained his license to practice medicine. After his marriage to Tabitha Allison in 1871, Mrs. W. E. DeMoss added the small wooden porch, with railings and shingle roof, to the front of the home.

The house has remained very much the same in physical appearance until contemporary times. After Mrs. W. E. DeMoss's nephew, T. A. Baugh, inherited the home at his aunt's death in 1926, he closed the house and lived in the small plantation office several yards to the east of the home. Around 1947, he made extensive improvements in the home, in anticipation of his marriage three years later. He had the home wired for electricity, added new light fixtures, and covered the wallpaper, wood paneling and cabinets with layers of white paint.

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7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

After the deaths of Mr. Baugh, in 1971, and Mrs. Baugh, in 1972, the home and about 7 acres of land were purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Sparky Foster of the Bellevue community. The Fosters are refurbishing and restoring the home, having torn down the old wooden back porch and additions; they retained only the old log "kitchen" attached to the rear of the home, have covered that portion with new siding, and completely painted the exterior of the home. Plans call for as-accurate-as-possible restoration of the interior in the coming months.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Belle Vue is representative of many of the plantation homes built by stages in frontier Tennessee; although not one of the area's more palatial homes, it is comfortable and appealing. It is one of only two or three homes built in the early 1800's remaining in southwestern Davidson County.

Because of the influence and activities of the DeMoss family residing in Belle Vue, a community began to build around the home's vicinity in the early 1800's. References are made to the "DeMoss Settlement;" with notations that the brothers (Lewis and James) had purchased land in 1800 and that A. L. DeMoss, Jr., constructed at that time a grist-and-saw-mill over Big Harpeth River "which was of vast importance to the neighborhood." The senior A. L. DeMoss served as a Justice of the Court of Davidson County for many years. It was not until the death of the senior DeMoss in 1820, and the vacating of the original log homeplace, that the name Belle Vue was attached to the second DeMoss homeplace. In 1852, the Nashville and Northwestern Railroad was chartered with plans for the line to extend west of Nashville; in 1859 the train depot carried the name "Bellevue Station," named for the DeMoss home, Belle Vue. The advent of the railroad established the "DeMoss Settlement" as the center of the community; from that settlement evolved the present-day, sprawling community of Bellevue.

The DeMoss influence was much stronger in post-Civil War Bellevue than today. Mrs. W. E. DeMoss purchased the Norman Morton general store, on the northwest corner of the railroad tracks and Old Harding Road in the middle 1870's and rented the building to house the local post office and handle general merchandise (the store, now of brecko block, is still in operation today). She also owned a granary located on the south side of the railroad tracks, across from the store; grain was stored in the lower level and the Isaac Jones O.F.M. Lodge met upstairs. The granary stands today - having been occupied by the Bellevue Christian Church for several years in the early 1900s, and is presently used again as a Masonic Lodge. Through her many shrewd enterprises, the Widow DeMoss (as she was known to the community after the death of her husband in 1877) established a thriving commercial community in Bellevue and saved Belle Vue during the post-war financial ruin.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"The DeMoss Family of Tennessee and Relations," unpublished manuscript by Horton J. and Nova B. DeMoss, undated.
 Davidson County Court Records, County Courthouse, Vol. E.
History of Davidson County, Tennessee by W. W. Clayton, 1880.
Reliques of the Rives by James Rives Childs, 1929.
 Handwritten statement by A. L. DeMoss's granddaughter, Mrs. William J. Carter, 1911.
 Personal interviews with DeMoss descendants, Dr. John C. Burch, local historians and new owners of Belle Vue, Mr. and Mrs. Sparky Foster.

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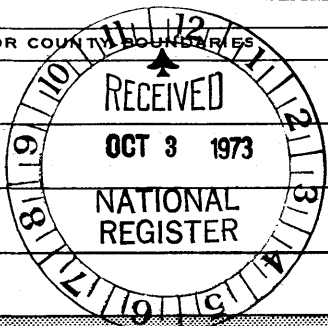
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	36°	03'	58"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	86°	56'	16"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Mrs. Ilene J. Cornwell

ORGANIZATION: Bellevue Historical and Literary Society DATE: 9/27/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
 1004 Harpeth Valley Court

CITY OR TOWN: Nashville (Bellevue) STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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: Michael J. Smith

Title: Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: September 28, 1973

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

Ernest A. Connally
 Associate Director, Professional Services
 Date: OCT 25 1973

ATTEST:
W. J. H. [Signature]
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date: 10-17-73

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont.)

Another member of the DeMoss family, who resided in Belle Vue until the 1850's was A. L. (Abe) DeMoss, III. He was a partner in the law firm of DeMoss and Malone and was described as one of the "biggest legal guns" in Nashville during the 1860's, serving as a Criminal Court Judge in 1870.

