

THEME: Painting; Fulfillment of Realism, 1876-1913

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Stafford
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM  
(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Belmont

AND/OR HISTORIC: Gari Melchers Home (Belmont)

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: 226 Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN: Falmouth CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Stafford CODE: 179

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME: Commonwealth of Virginia

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Stafford County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Stafford STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1970  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Prints and Photographs Division

STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress/Annex

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Stafford  
ENTRY NUMBER:  
DATE:  
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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

Belmont is a two-story, white frame building. It was built around 1761 by John Dixon of Williamsburg. In 1825 it was purchased by Joseph Ficklin of Stafford County, who enlarged the central position of the house and added a new wing. Ownership of Belmont remained with the Ficklin family until the house was purchased by Gari Melchers in 1916, who added a studio wing. Mrs. Melchers made Belmont a gift to the Commonwealth of Virginia; it is now operated by Mary Washington College in Fredericksburg. A large stone studio houses many of Melchers' paintings, while Belmont itself has become the residence of a retired president of Mary Washington College. It is structurally the same as when Melchers lived there, except for a small sun-porch added by Mrs. Melchers following her husband's death. A summer house and barn, as well as the stone studio, are all subsequent additions to Belmont, as is a stone garage. A small cook's house, and a dairy house, dates back to Melchers' occupancy. The coach house does also, but recently, wings have been added to either side. The caretaker's home on the other side of Route 1001 is original, but in use as a modern home.

The Belmont property line running through Route 1001 lies in front of a series of dilapidated buildings. Two of these, including Melchers' original studio, dates from his occupancy. All are in disrepair.

Boundary

The boundaries are those shown by the yellow line on the accompanying Map A, labelled "Belmont" and dated 18 February, 1967. They include all the land bequeathed to Mary Washington College by Mrs. Melchers. This area, comprising some twenty-seven acres, is retained intact today by the college.

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) 1916-1932

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/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention    | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humon-  | _____                                    |
| <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

The Gari Melchers Home (Belmont) was the residence of the popular American painter from 1916 until his death in 1932. Melchers is most noted for his large murals, "Peace" and "War", which he did for the Library of Congress building in Washington, D.C. Melchers did much to gain recognition in Europe for American art at a time when this nation was struggling for cultural respectability.

Biography

Gari Melchers (1860-1932) was born in Detroit, the son of a Westphalian sculptor and decorator. In 1877 he went to Dusseldorf to study painting at the Royal Art Academy. The following year he visited the Paris Exposition, which had a tremendous effect on him. In 1881 he entered the Ecole des Beaux-Arts in Paris, where he studied under the famous artists, Boulanger and Lefebvre. One of Melchers' paintings was accepted for the 1882 Salon, the most prestigious exhibit in the world at that time.

After a brief period of work in Italy, and a visit to his home in Detroit, Melchers resumed his painting at studios in Paris and Egmond, in Holland. From 1884 on Melchers' reputation grew steadily for mastery of accepted styles in religious, secular, landscape and still life painting, portraiture and mural decoration. In 1903 he married Corinne Lawton Mackall, a beautiful woman who modelled (clothed) for many of his later paintings.

In 1916 the Melchers settled at Belmont, near Fredericksburg, Virginia. Universally acclaimed and heaped with honors from many nations, Melchers died in 1932. Among his better-known paintings are "Supper at Emmaus," "The Family," "Mother and Child" (all at the Chicago Museum of Art), "Peace," and "War" (in the Library of Congress), and a portrait of Theodore Roosevelt (the Freer Gallery).

Melchers' painting was not original, or especially creative, but his popularity did gain attention abroad for American artists, and spark interest in the fine arts here.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carmichael, Virginia, Porches & Portals of Old Fredericksburg, Virginia, Richmond: Old Dominion Press, 1928.  
 Darter, Oscar H., Colonial Fredericksburg and Neighborhood in Perspective, New York: Tulane Publishers, 1957.  
 Embrey, Alvin T., History of Fredericksburg, Virginia, Richmond: Old Dominion Press, 1937.  
 Goolrick, John T., Old Homes and History Around Fredericksburg, Richmond: Garrett & Massie, 1929.

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
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	UTM	18.2834	0.4244	720		
NE		18.2838	70.4244	690		
SE		18.2840	10.4244	70		
SW		18.2836	0.4244	210		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 27

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Stephen Lissandrello, Historian, Landmarks Survey Project

ORGANIZATION: Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service      DATE: Feb. 10, 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 1100 L Street NW.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date (NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS)  
 Landmark Designated: 12/21/65  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation date

(NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS) Boundary Certified:  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ date  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register 9/25/75  
 Director, OHP date

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