

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 24 1975

DATE ENTERED APR 30 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Belle Aire

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Route 11; .1 mile west of Barnhardt Creek; .2 mile west of intersection of Route 11 and Route 684.

CITY, TOWN

Salem

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Virginia

XX VICINITY OF

CODE
51

Sixth (M. Caldwell Butler)

COUNTY

Roanoke

CODE

161

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING **XX**

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Richard Whitney

STREET & NUMBER

1320 Belle Aire Circle

CITY, TOWN

Roanoke

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Roanoke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Salem

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (see Continuation Sheet #1)

DATE

1958

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☒ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belle Aire is set on a wooded knoll above Lee Highway between Roanoke and Salem. The imposing, two-story, double-fronted, L-shaped house is built of brick laid in a variety of bonds. The main, or south, façade is three bays long and is an early example of all-stretcher bond. Stuccoed Doric pilasters mark the corners; fixed to the top of the pilasters are original metal downspouts with applied diamond ornaments. The first- and second-floor frontispieces, window frames, and many other details are adapted from Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (1830). Both frontispieces are similar to the one illustrated in Benjamin's Plate 28, "Design for a Front Door Case," but with the blocking course deleted and transom lights, more elaborately sculpted symmetrical moldings, and bull's-eye paterae added. The window lintels are derived from Plate 31, "Design for a Window," to which the builder, Benjamin Deyerle, added an additional symmetrically molded element with paterae. The principal feature of this facade is the two-story pedimented portico, which is supported against the house by colossal stuccoed pilasters and at the front by four fluted Doric columns at each level, those on the second floor being somewhat more delicately proportioned than those on the first.

The secondary (west) façade is laid in Flemish bond and has corner pilasters and window lintels similar to those on the south front. Here a one-story porch with paneled pilasters, a dentil cornice, and a low hipped roof has been closed in to create two small rooms off the back stair hall.

The ends and rear walls of the building are laid in four- and five-course American bond. Six-over-six sash are used throughout the house, and a full entablature is carried around the eaves of the low hipped roof which is covered with standing-seam sheet metal. There are three tall interior end chimneys.

The plan of Belle Aire is a common one, consisting of a single-pile, central-passage main block with an open-well stair in the passage. Set off from the main block by a secondary passage with a straight-run stair is the dining room in the ell. The principal stair consists of a plain molded banister and rectangular balusters scrolled around the newel which takes the form of a diminutive fluted Doric column. Paneled wainscoting, used throughout the house, is carried up both the stairs.

The east parlor mantel is adapted from Benjamin's Plate 51, "Chimney Piece," with a cornice and a symmetrically molded surround more elaborate than those Benjamin illustrates and with a single horizontal panel substituted for Benjamin's fret-work frieze. A simplified version of this mantel is used in the dining room. Bold architrave blocks reminiscent of an earlier style of mantel are added to emphasize the fluted Doric colonettes, but the frieze panel and molded surround of the parlor mantel are omitted.

In the west parlor is a mantel freely adapted from Plate 50, "Chimney Piece," of The Practical House Carpenter. Benjamin's frieze has been shortened to allow the insertion of an architrave element under it, and a central tablet and moldings similar to those used in Valley mantels of the 1820s and 1830s have been added.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia Code: 51

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 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1849 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Benjamin Deyerle

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Belle Aire, in Roanoke County between Salem and Roanoke, is an outstanding Greek Revival house which illustrates the popularity of builders' guides in the mid-nineteenth century as well as the uses to which an imaginative local craftsman could put them.

The house was built in 1849 by Benjamin Deyerle (1806-1883), who probably employed one Gustavus Sedon as his carpenter. Deyerle, like other builders of his time and region, was an entrepreneur of broad-ranging interests. In addition to being a contractor and brick mason, he kept a grist mill, a still, and a store. Belle Aire is the second of his known large houses, and like most of them was built in the Greek Revival style. Though his work shows at least a passing knowledge of the handbooks of Edward Shaw and Minard Lafever, Deyerle clearly relied most heavily on the publications of Asher Benjamin (1773-1845), a New England architect and popularizer of new styles. Many of Deyerle's embellishments can be traced directly to details in Benjamin's books, notably The Practical House Carpenter of 1830. In no case, however, does he merely copy Benjamin's design; he always adds some touch of his own--either a variant or an element from another handbook plate or, at times, some customary local element such as the tablets and moldings of the west parlor mantel at Belle Aire, which recall Valley work of the 1820s and 1830s.

Belle Aire was built for Madison Pitzer (1799-1861), a large landowner in the Salem area. In 1896 it was sold by his heirs to Mary L. Brown and remained in the possession of her family for about thirty years. A brief period of ownership by a bank was followed by the purchase of Belle Aire by Roger DuBose in 1935. DuBose sold it to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Richard S. Whitney in 1957.

DTU

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Barnes, Raymond, "Madison Pitzer Home 'Belair' (sic) One of Valley's Finest," Roanoke World-News, Roanoke, Va., March 23, 1963.

Benjamin, Asher. The Practical House Carpenter, 1830.

Cheek, Elizabeth, "Benjamin Deyerle, Builder, 1806-1883," unpublished undergraduate thesis, Hollins College, 1971.

Fulghum, Jim, "Belair Recalls Old Plantation Days," Salem Times Register, Salem, Va., 1970.

Willett, Leslie V., "Bell-Air," unpublished undergraduate paper, Hollins College, 1972.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 8 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 587090 4124360
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

September 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL X

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 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OCT 21 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4/30/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE 4-29-76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

PROPERTY Belle Air STATE Va.

WORKING NUMBER 1.23.74.125

TECH REVIEW
PHOTOS 2
MAPS 1

Roanoke

CONTROL REVIEW
OK
cm
1.25
74

HISTORIAN
Accept
W.R. Line
5/6/74

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN The map looks historic, too.
Accept
J.J.
4-11-74

ARCHEOLOGIST
Accept
Cole
7/17/74

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF
Accept
Cole
7/17/74

BRANCH CHIEF
Accept
7/17

KEEPER
Accept
7/17

National Register Write-up 9/5/74

Federal Register entry Sept. 3, 1974

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____
Entered JUL 18 1974

Property

Belle Aire

State

Va.

Working Number

11.24.75.2085

Ref # 75002034

TECHNICAL

Photos 1

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK pl 12.2.75

HISTORIAN

*Accept
E. Smith
1-13-76*

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

*ACCEPT
H. J. J. J.
1/7/76*

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory

Review

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

*Accept
Cole
4-26-76*

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

*H. J. J. J.
4.29.76*

National Register Write-up

Federal Register Entry

6-1-76

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered *APR 30 1976*

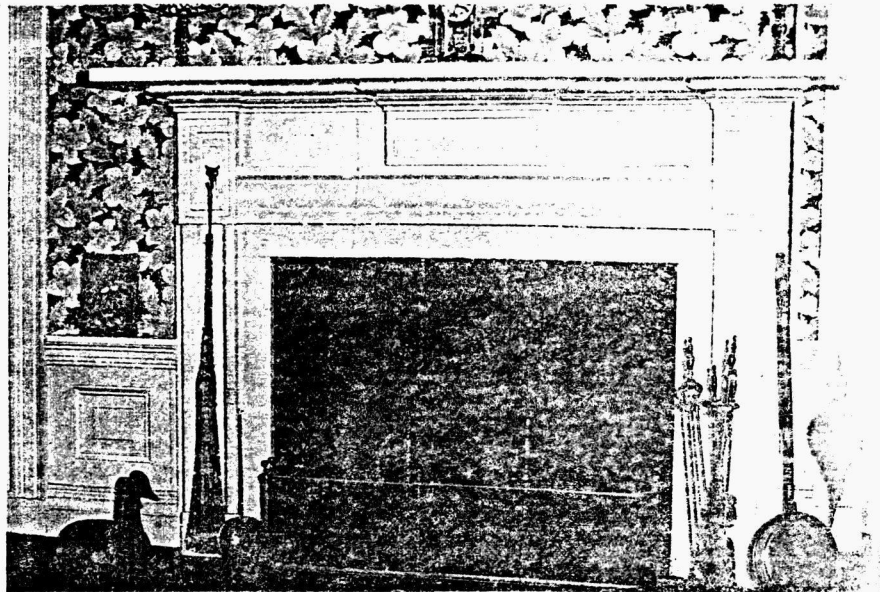
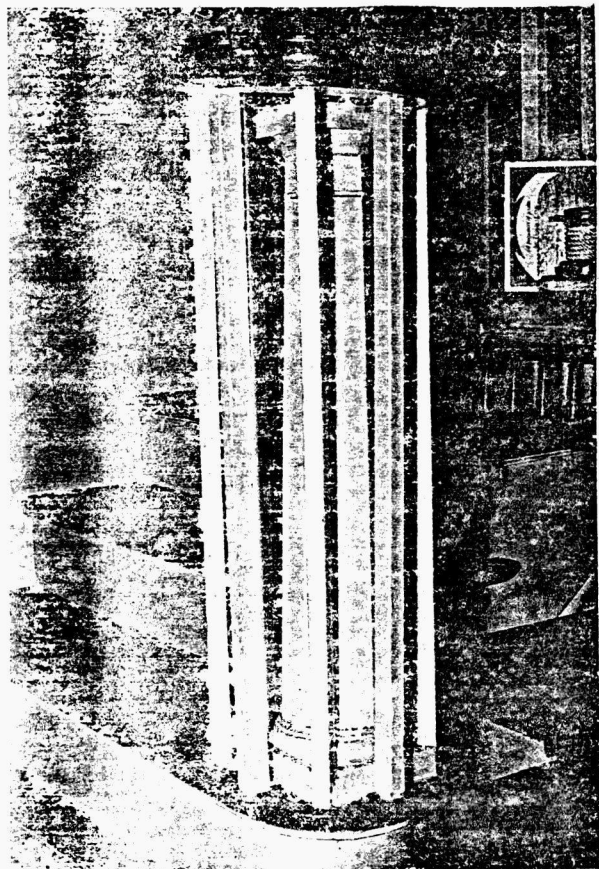
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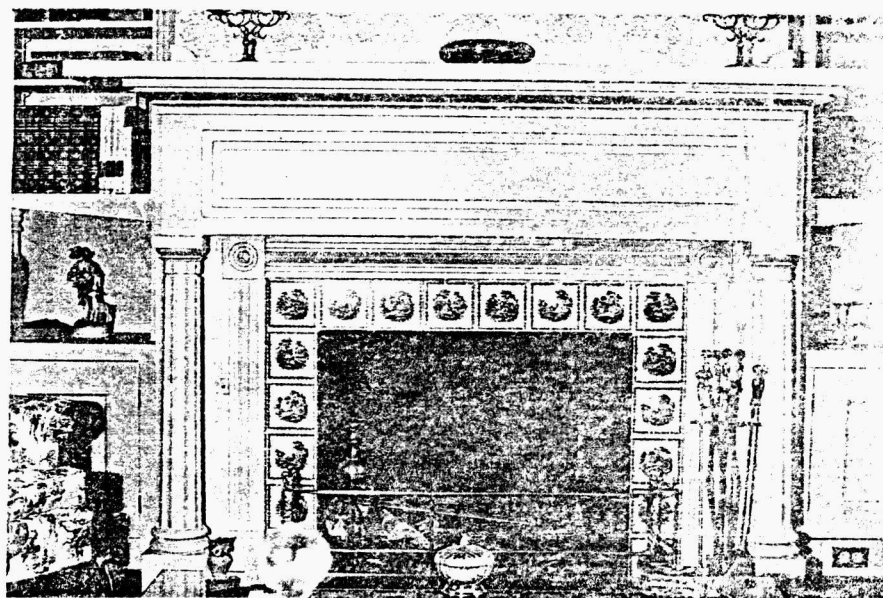
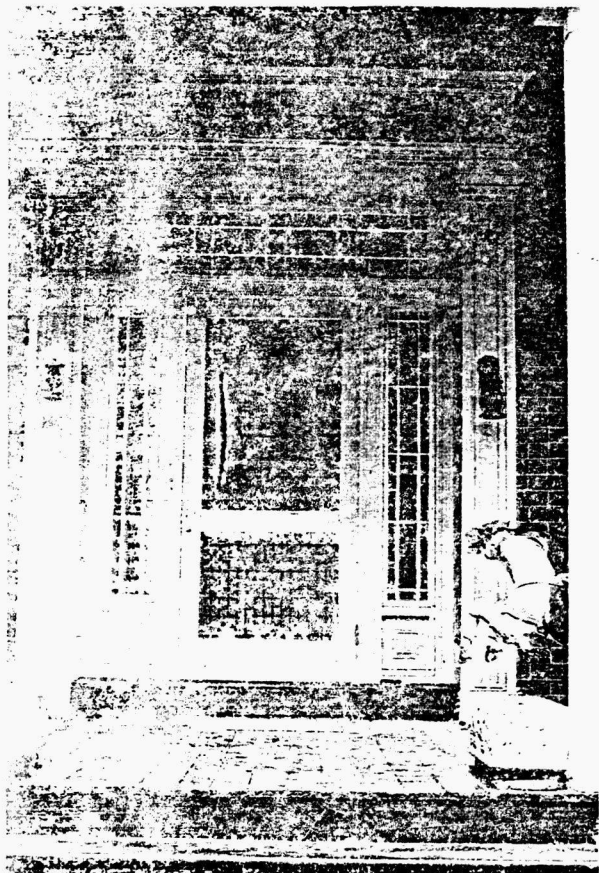
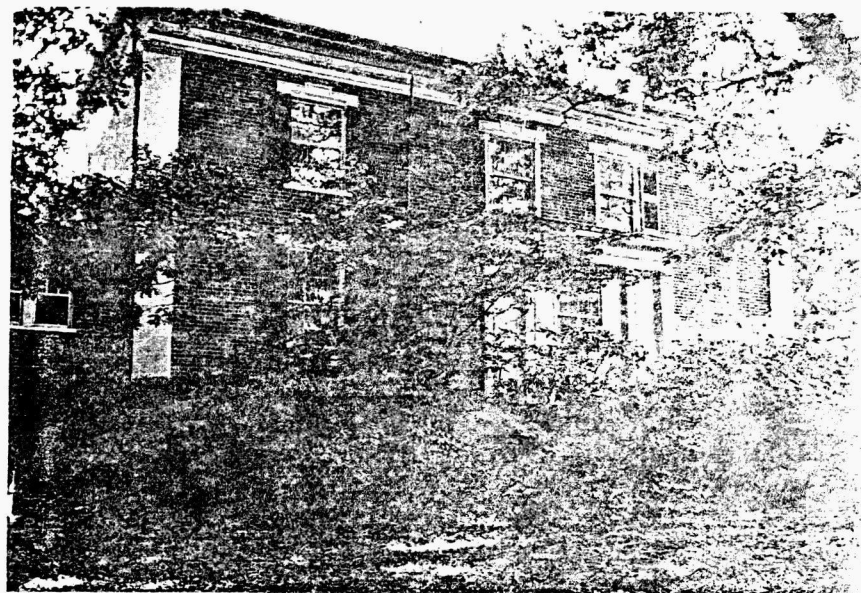
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
221 GOVERNOR STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

BELLE AIRE, ROANOKE COUNTY, Va, Date Entered ~~1976~~ April 30, 1976
EXTERIOR VIEW FROM SOUTH 1 of 1



DINING ROOM



PARLOR



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES --| ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Belle Aire

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Salem

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Roanoke

STATE

Virginia

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS 7½' quadrangle, Salem, Virginia

SCALE

1:24000

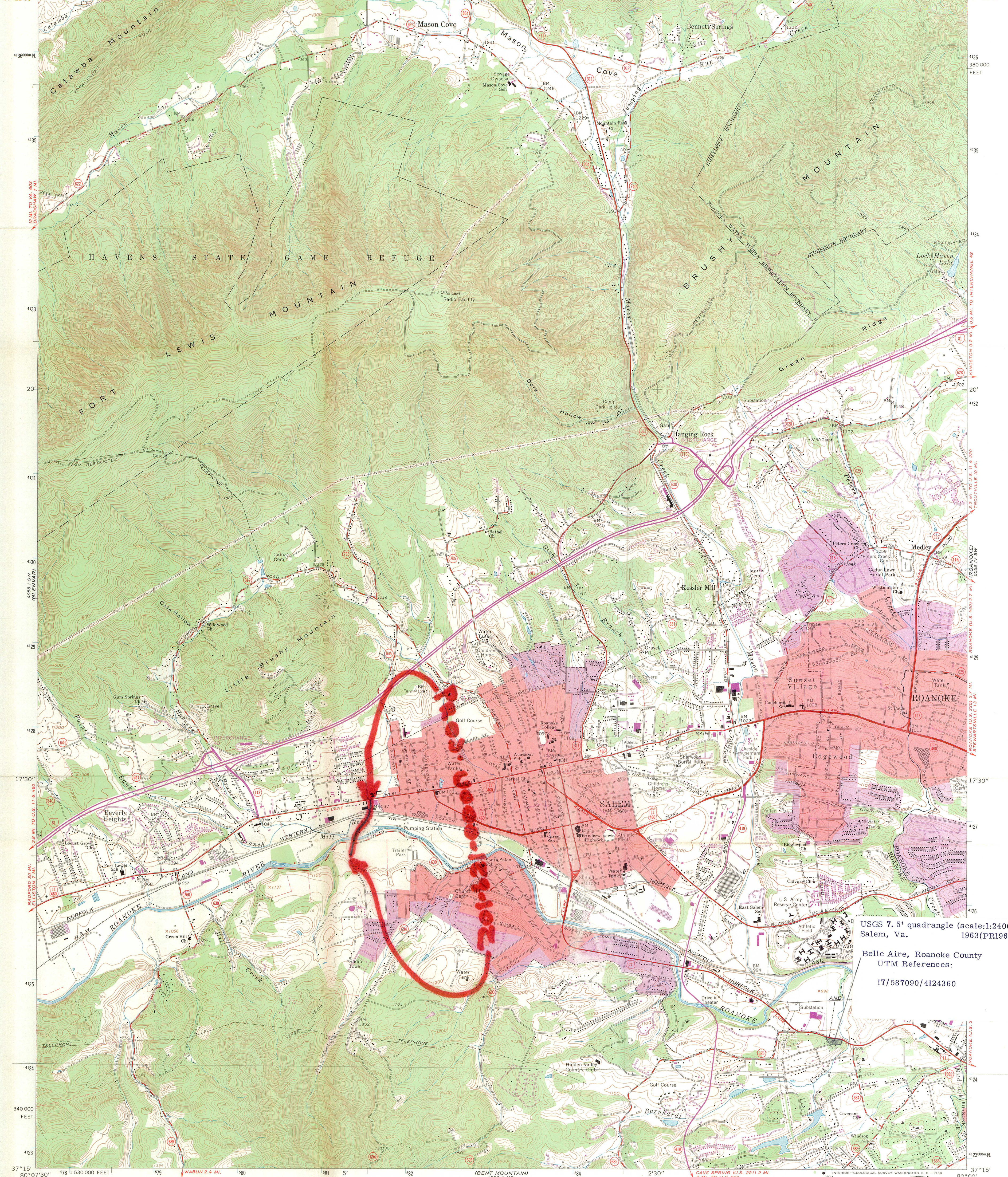
DATE

1963 (PR1968)

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES



TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT:

TO/FROM: *Marlene / Callette*

DATE: *1-23-79*

ADDRESS:

PHONE: *225-5431*

STAFF MEMBER:

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Entered 4-30-76

*Belle Rue, Roanoke Co., Va.
not listed in Federal Register.
Sold Marlene that it would
appear in March 6, Fed. Reg.*

HABS

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

Date Entered APR 30 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Burlington	Petersburg Vicinity Dinwiddie County
Belle Aire	Salem Vicinity Roanoke County
Sapony Church	McKenney Vicinity Dinwiddie County
Wilton	Richmond (city)

Also Notified

Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Jr.
Hon. William L. Scott
Hon. Robert W. Daniel, Jr.
Hon. M. Caldwell Butler
Hon. Thomas N. Downing

Regional Director, Mid-Atlantic Region

✓ PR:M Mott:coc 5/3/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Dr. Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219