

# Architectural And Historic Survey



## Identification

STREET ADDRESS: 1007 Rugby Road	HISTORIC NAME: Belvoir
MAP & PARCEL: 2-68	DATE / PERIOD: 1928
CENSUS TRACT AND BLOCK: 7-201	STYLE: Colonial Revival
PRESENT ZONING: R-1	HEIGHT (to cornice) OR STORIES: 1 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub> storey
ORIGINAL OWNER: F. W. Twyman	DIMENSIONS AND LAND AREA:
ORIGINAL USE: Residence	CONDITION: Good
PRESENT USE: Residence	SURVEYOR: Bibb
PRESENT OWNER: B. Allen and Sandra M. Benn	DATE OF SURVEY: Spring 1981
ADDRESS: 1007 Rugby Road	SOURCES: City Records
Charlottesville, VA 22903	Mrs. B. Allen Benn

## ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

This beautifully proportioned and perfectly symmetrical Georgian Revival house consists of a 1½-storey central pavillion with one-storey side pavillions connected by arcades. The design of the central pavillion is based on Gunston Hall, the 1755 home of George Mason in Fairfax County. It is five bays wide and, unlike Gunston Hall, is single pile. It is set three steps above the side pavillions. The slope of the land is such that the foundation is high at the front and low at the back. There is a partial basement. Foundation and wall construction are of cinderblock veneered with brick laid in Flemish bond with a stepped water table. The steep gable roof is covered with slate and has close verges and a boxed cornice with modillions and a plain frieze. The interior end chimneys are not capped. Windows are double-sash, 12-over-12 light, with wooden sills, symmetrically moulded trim, jack arches with stone keystones, and louvered shutters. There are two small 4-over-4 light windows with matching trim and shutters in each gable end. There are five gable-roofed weatherboarded dormers with 6-over-9 light windows on the facade and four on the rear elevation. The two basement windows at the east end of the facade are 8-light hinged sash with moulded surrounds. The one-storey Palladian portico covering the central bay of the facade is a slightly narrower version of the one at Gunston Hall. Four slender Tuscan columns support the round-arched pedimented gable roof with entablature. The floor and steps are of brick, and there is a wrought iron balustrade. The entrance door with six raised panels has 4-light sidelights over panels and a semi-circular louvered fan. A large, flat-roofed, one-storey portico covers the central bay of the rear elevation. It has four Tuscan columns, an entablature with triglyphs, and a paneled roof balustrade with a section of Colonial Revival balustrade in the center in front of a Palladian window in a large wall dormer which gives access to the roof of the portico from the stair landing. A frontispiece entrance is set under this portico. Tuscan pilasters support an entablature with fret band and a pediment. The door has six raised panels. Very narrow and somewhat shorter 6-over-6 light with windows flank the entrance. The two one-storey pavillions have interior end chimneys. The brickwork and roofs match those of the central pavillion. Windows are somewhat smaller, 6-over-6 light. The gable-roofed connecting arcades are three bays wide with circular headed double-sash windows. At the rear, there is a circular-headed door in each bay nearest the central pavillion. There is a garage in the basement of the south pavillion. Access is through a brick-walled sunken courtyard at the south end, completely screened by shrubbery. The interior of Belvoir is especially nicely detailed, with woodwork copied from both Gunston Hall and Brandon in Tidewater Virginia. The entrance hall has raised panel wainscot and pedimented doors with shouldered architraves. The three-flight open-well stair has a simple turned balustrade. The parlor wainscot has oval inset panels. Its mantel has coupled reeded columnettes matching the columns supporting round arches flanking the fireplace. The library is paneled in walnut.

## HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

F. W. Twyman purchased three lots in the subdivision of the Rugby estate in 1927 and 1928 (City DB 58-14, 62-347). Tax records show that the house was built in 1928. The architect was Stanhope Johnson, who also designed the Monticello Hotel. Tradition says that the craftsmen who did the woodwork spent a year and a half on the site. Landscape architect Charles Gillette designed extensive gardens, some of which were completed. Twyman died in 1938 (WB 4-321), and his wife in 1945 (WB 5-319). In recent years, the house has been occupied by their son Dr. James Twyman. B. Allen and Sandra M. Benn purchased the house from the Twyman estate in 1977 (DB 386-525). Additional Reference: City DB 394-327.

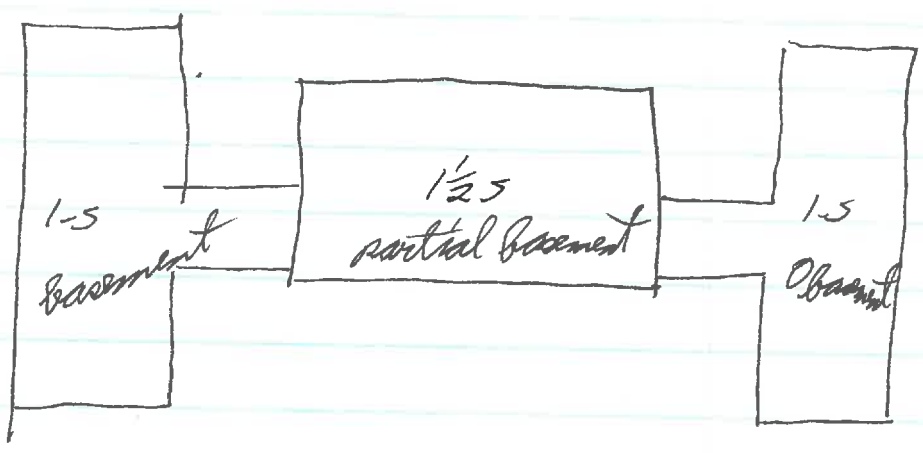
2-68 ✓

R-1

# Belvoir - 1007 Rugby

394-327 part to city 1978 plat 394-331  
 386-525 B. Allen & S. Andrea M. Benn 1977 \$205,000 58-17  
 WB 3-319 James B. Trayman & VMB, Tr 1945  
 WB 4-321 Sallie Baker " 1938  
 Frederick Wm " " "  
 see also 62-131

built 1928, sycamore const  
 1 & 1/2 story, 11 rooms, 4 baths, 1/2 basement  
 CB found, brick walls (3 day), slate gable roof  
 4 fireplaces, 6 stacks



5-1041

Benn

built 1928, whole

Stanhope Johnson, R-M lib, Monticello Hotel

Chas Billette landscape arch, not all done  
woodwork for ~~one of~~ Brandora & Gunston Hall

## Belvoir

386-525 Jan (est of Sallie B. Twyman) → Billie + Sandra M. Bean  
 7/26/1977 3 lots of ingets: Lots 1, 2, 3 on 1926 plat 58-17 & 1928 plat 62-151  
 Lot 1 - 58-14, 8/12/1927, Thos Dyx & Harriet B. Ross → F W Twyman  
 " 243 - 62-347, 9/6/1928, " " "  
 F W Twyman dec 1938 (WB4-321)  
 wife Sallie Baker " " 1945 (WB5-319)

## Tax

1928	<sup>2</sup> Dist	F W Twyman et al	Rugby Rd	4000 + 0 = 4000	for Thos & Ross
1929,30		" "	" "	" + 24,000 = 28,000	Bldg added
1931		" "	" "	6300 + " = 30,300	



central block

1 1/2-story, 5-bay, single gable  
roof has boxed cornice of modillions, plain frieze  
2 int end chimneys, not capped

on facade,

5 gable-roofed weatherboarded dormers w/ flush wooden siding on  
fronts, 6/9 windows, boxed cornice; 4 dormers rear

windows 12/12, wooden sills, <sup>(double-architrave)</sup> trim w/ corner blocks  
~~trim~~ corner blocks, lowered shutters, jack o'ches w/  
stone keystones

front entrance:

small portico

round-arched pedimented roof supported by 4 sm T-moran <sup>columns</sup>  
arch, plain frieze, boxed cornice (ie, entab)

brick steps & floor, wrought iron bal

ent door w/ 6 raised panels, 4-l sidelights over panels,  
semi-circular <sup>fanlight</sup> fan

rear entrance:

<sup>flat-roofed</sup>  
larger portico, still one-bay

4 large T-moran columns support entab w/ triglyphs

~~roof~~ balustrade paneled belvedere w/ 1 bay & 4 l. r. bal in center

door w/ 6 raised panels in frontpiece ent; pl pilasters support

[simple] entab &  $\Delta$  pediment w/ fret band on cornice <sup>below</sup>

brick steps & floor

<sup>slightly</sup>  
very narrow 6/6 windows flank rear ent

2 small 4/4 windows w/ matching trim & shutters  
w/ each gable end

basement windows, <sup>short</sup> 8-l hinged sash w/ wooden sills & moulded  
surrounds, iron grill (only 2, on facade)

Belvoir

interior

hall

central hall w/ 3-fl open-well stair, simple turned bal  
raised panel wainscot  
arch trim w/ shoulder

N room

walnut paneled lib, marble ~~work~~ fireplace  
& working fireplace + 2 other chim. stair of wings

hall

pedimented doors in ent hall

S room

~~two~~ inset oval panels in wainscot  
beaded arch trim

copied slender reeded columnettes at fireplace

matching column support flanking round arches of ~~front door~~  
+ window

dr - round arched corner cupboard  
chair rail only

central par 3 steps up

craftsmen on site 1 1/2 yrs doing woodwork; Mrs Tugman designed some

general

Flemish bond walls & found

✓ ~~stone~~ water table

✓ high found on front, but only partial basement;  
low at rear

massing completely symmetrical

steep gable roof, slate, close verge & weaves

# Albemarle Living

## An education in home design

By Roulhac Toledano  
Contributing Writer

The red brick house set behind the double iron gates at the corner of Rugby and Barracks Roads is a Charlottesville landmark.

The tall elegant chimneys, the multiple arched openings and the gracious entrance way epitomize the idea of Albemarle County and its country estates.

The house is called Belvoir and was built in 1928. It is the perfect example of how to learn about Classic Revival architecture in Virginia.

The economics and education of Virginians and real estate in Albemarle County in the first quarter of the 20th century until the Great Depression gave birth to a rebuilding of the past with architecture based on antique examples of the 18th and early 19th centuries. They called it Colonial Revival. It was the approved activity of gentlemen architects.

At the time, Lawrence Bottomley came down from New York City to do a significant amount of design in Albemarle, including the renovation of Windsor and Blue Ridge Farms, and Casa Marie. He also designed Rose Hill.

A native of Ivy, Waddy Wood made designs for the rebuilding

of Emmanuel Church in Ivy and he worked extensively in Washington. In 1935, besides doing restoration work at Monticello and advising Colonial Williamsburg, Fiske Kimball designed Shack Mountain. The University of Virginia called in Stanford White for what is now Old Cabell Hall and Carr's Hill after his work in the restoration and repair of the Rotunda.

But the Twyman family wanted Stanhope Johnson to design their new home on two acres north of UVA. Johnson came well recommended from Lynchburg, where he worked on a number of churches. In Charlottesville, he duplicated Poplar Forest at a house called Oak Forest near the Farmington Country Club, and he designed the Monticello Hotel.

In the fashion of the period before the WPA had financed photographs and measured drawings of historic America and before 18th century and early 19th century Virginia had been documented in publications, Johnson rode around Virginia with Mrs. Twyman and they selected both the general feeling she sought and the specific details she wanted.

Stanhope's Belvoir is Colonial Revival in scale and massing, and it is an aesthetic learning

See Belvoir, Page 13



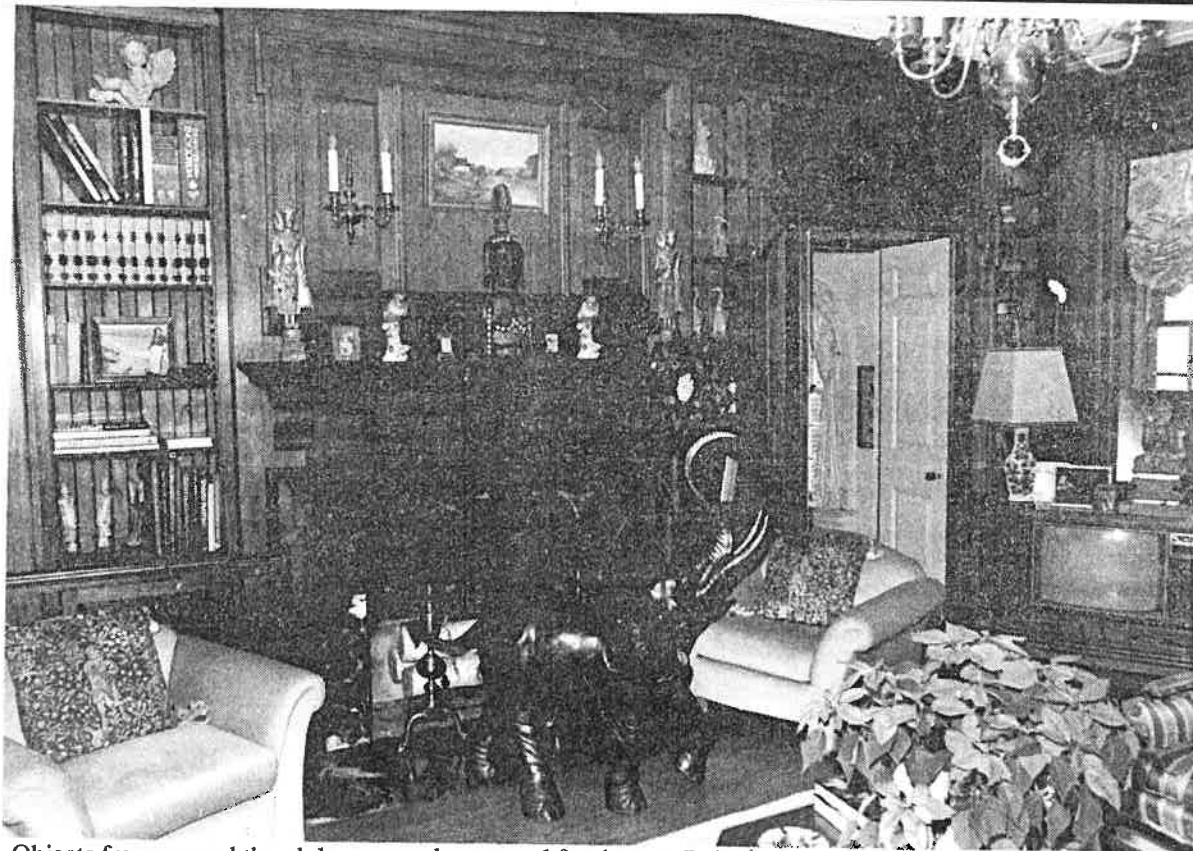
The grand manor home known as Belvoir is a Charlottesville landmark.

Photos by SYDNEY BURTNER

*Only the Best...*







Objects from around the globe accent the unusual furniture at Belvoir.

**"BELVOIR" from Page 12**

experience to the student of architecture. The front elevation recalls George Mason's Gunston Hall. The rear elevation was inspired by Woodlawn. The stairway harks back to Carter's Grove. The dining room, with its large dome, recalls the English Adams brother's work, and there is an Adams type ceiling in the living room. The library, with its walnut panelling, is more baroque, grander, heavier and redolent of the Georgian period.

Whatever the precedent or the inspiration, it was all carefully designed and beautifully executed by craftsmen who knew what they were doing.

In the years subsequent to its construction, there have been renovations and additions to the 1920s house. The kitchen wing, toward Rugby Road, was built with the main part of the house. The bedroom wing, toward Barracks Road, came in the 1930s, when Frederick Hartt, a knowledgeable art historian, purchased the house and had it renovated with a reorganization of the bedroom wing.

When Hungarian-born Eva Hanal Forsyth saw Belvoir, she knew she had found a place for

Forsyth grew up in a university town in Hungary, which became a part of Rumania after World War II.

"As a child in Hungary, I lived an enchanted life. Then the Russians came, and you know what happened"

In the 30 years prior to her move to Charlottesville, Eva Forsyth had lived a fulfilling and exciting life, full of creative activity and immensely hard work. But she "felt haunted by an inability to find what I needed. I searched and experimented; I moved eighteen times. It was wonderful, for everything was there in the United States for me to try out.

"But there came this recurring dream, my search for a home, a place where I would flourish. Then, I saw this house, and I knew I had found my place. Nothing was total and complete in this country for me until I saw Belvoir."

Eva Forsyth is the first to acknowledge that she has something a little exotic in her makeup. She is a baroque, Eastern European on one hand, but an admirer of the English appearance and order on the other.

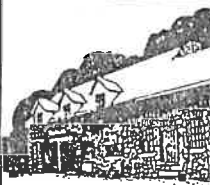
the house is the central hall with the Palladian arches," says Forsyth. This space has been left simple, to speak architecturally, without decorative embellishments of fabric and objects.

Forsyth is a woman with enormous creative energy. She works up to 14 hours a day in her bridal gown design firm. "It is a highly emotional business, and I enjoy coming home to the formal, English inspired organization of Belvoir."

There she relishes entertaining, presenting lots of food with wonderful sweets, in the baroque manner — Pouilly Fuisse and a raspberry mousse along with conversation in three languages.



But all this effort is not relaxing, and Mrs. Forsyth likes it that way. Just as her brides feel themselves shining in the beautiful gowns she designs for them, Forsyth revels in her discovery of Belvoir.

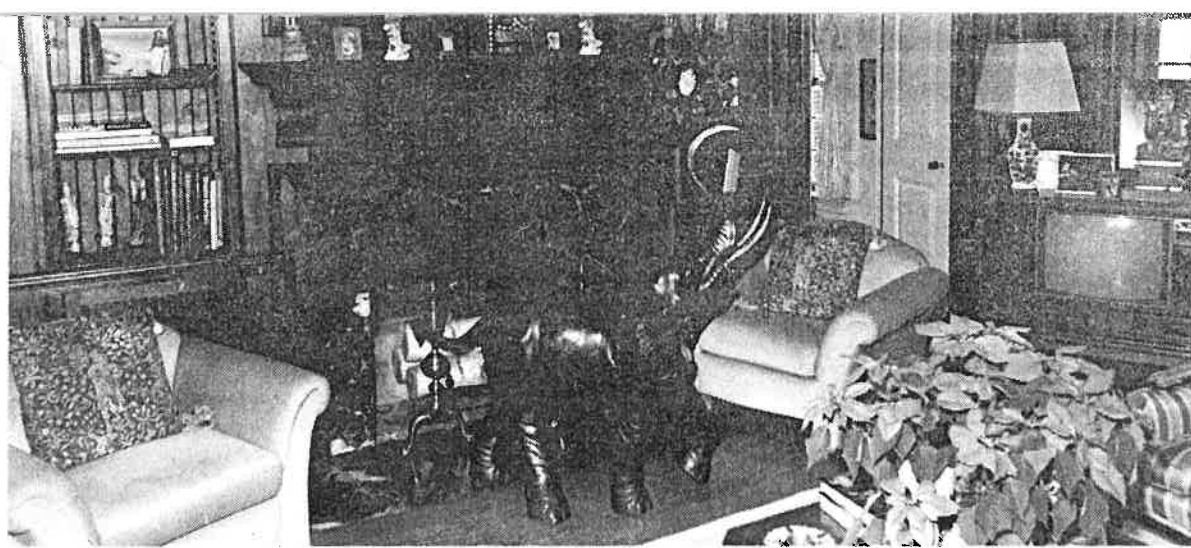
Just now she is preparing a fanciful extension of the gardens, originally laid out by Charles Gillette of Richmond. Never still and never satisfied, she is organizing an enlargement of the kitchen wing, so that she and her husband can enjoy more time in front of the kitchen fire-



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When Hungarian-born Eva Hanal Forsyth saw Belvoir, she knew she had found a place for herself in Virginia. Mrs. Forsyth is a dress designer, trained under the watchful eye of Spaniard Balenciaga, and she related to the fineness of the architectural details and to the evident technical accomplishments at Belvoir.

The sophistication of the red brick complex brought images of Westchester County to her mind, for she had been living and working in the New York area since 1957. But the Charlottesville area took her back even further, to her roots in Hun-

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Belvoir's spaces were perfect for both aspects of her personality. She enjoyed bringing to Belvoir her objects of art from Hong Kong, where she and her husband had lived for some time. These she uses as accents among unusual furniture, also found in her pilgrimage from Hungary to Paris, Hong Kong, a 250-acre farm in Connecticut and in New York City.

There is a 400 year-old Spanish desk in the library, handsome with its wrought iron stretchers and inlay recalling Moorish

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Belvoir is a 20th century reference to the 19th and 18th centuries. It serves too as a valid presentation of the 1920s thought about antiquity and early American architecture. It is also a comfortable home, beautifully embellished for privileged a late 20th century lifestyle. It is appropriate that each owner and each generation leave their stamp on the residence. Belvoir can absorb the changes and stands, a landmark to the dream that is Char-

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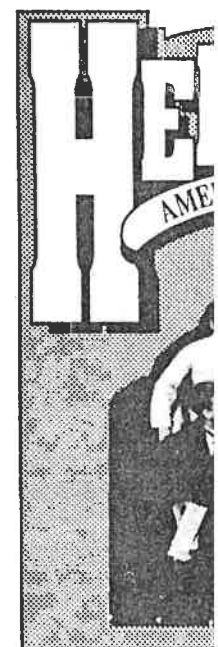
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*Poised beneath exquisite Palladian windows, a veranda gives a more intimate setting overlooking a rose garden based on an original landscape design by Charles Gillette of Richmond.*

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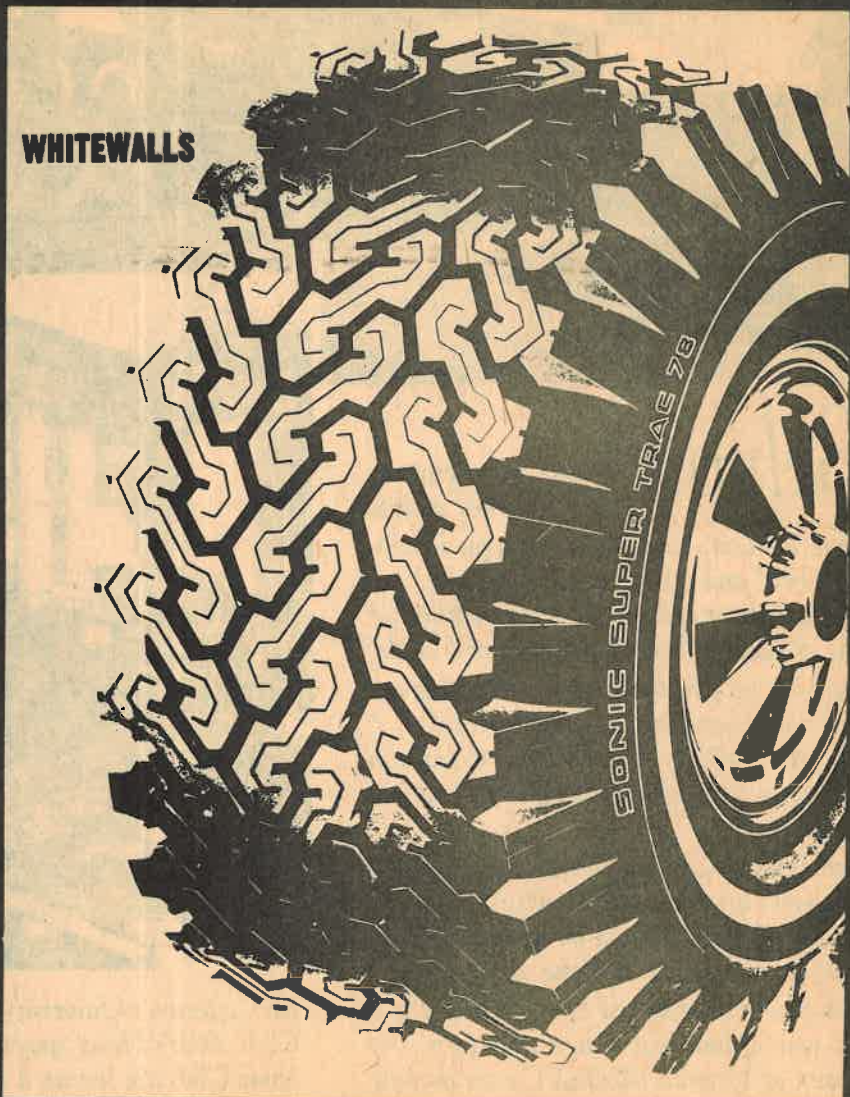
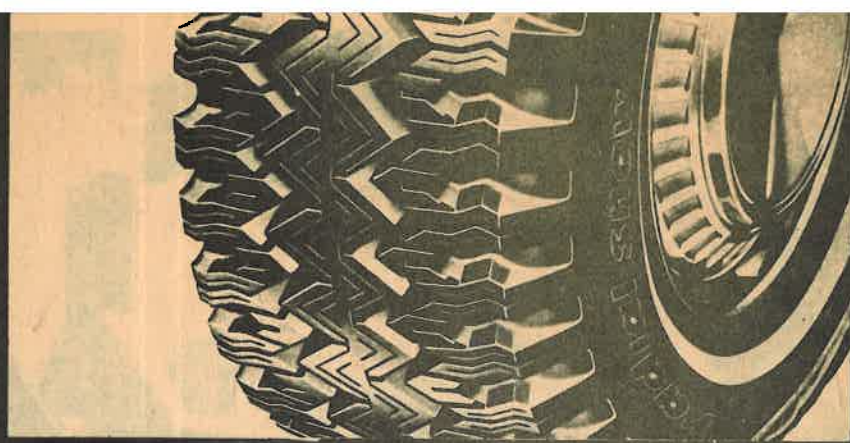
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# BELVOIR

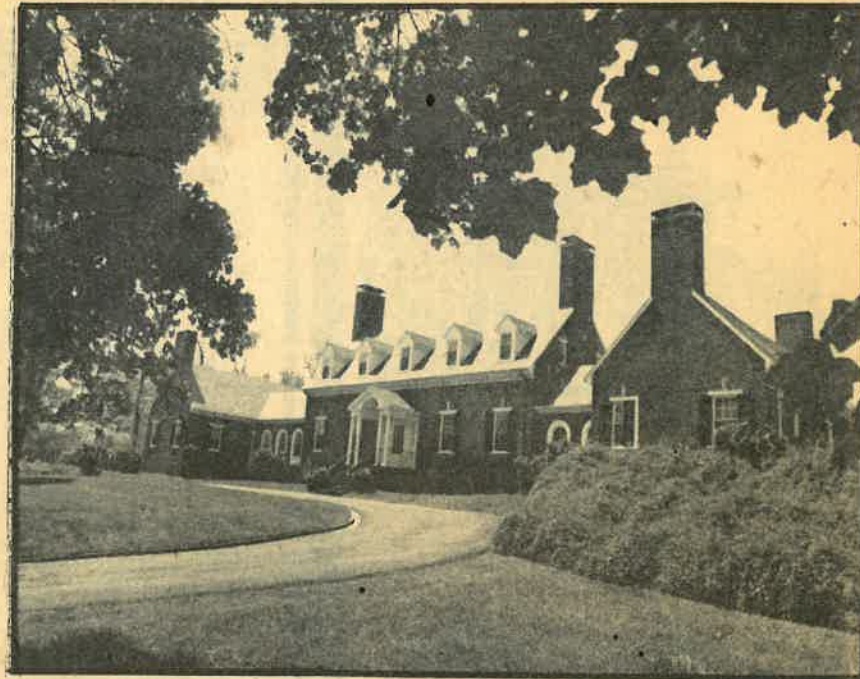
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*For additional information and brochure, call or write our exclusive listing associate, **SANDRA M. BENN**, or any of our associates listed below.*



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A perfect 2 bedroom main house and new 2 bedroom cottage on 5/4 elevated acres with magnificent, unspoiled Blue Ridge vista. A 10-15 minute drive from UVA., on Stony Point Rd. Everything inside and out in pristine condition. Detached double garage. Very long list of extras. One of a kind; rarely available. \$139,500. Call Art Keyser (eves.) 296-2635.

### COUNTRY COMFORT

Located west of town with exceptional mountain views, this old country store has been converted into a home with large country kitchen, bath, 2 bedrooms, living room, dining room, plus large unfinished area (the old store). Detached double garage and covered porches on three sides. This property has lots of possibilities and is well priced at \$43,500. Please call Art Keyser at 296-2635.

### HESSIAN HILLS

Large rooms with a flowing floor plan, distinguish this home on a level lot graced with tall trees. There are 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, a living room with interior fireplace, a dining room with a glass wall giving onto a screened porch an equipped eat-in kitchen and two panelled rooms in the basement. Price \$79,000. For information, call Alice Macinnis, 977-8666 or Bill Wortman, 823-4422.



### RED ACRES

An exceptional 47-acre in the heart of Farm just 7 miles from the classic brick residence slate roof is situated knoll, looking over a nature land and other Country estates. Farm and two other rest this superb property

### in plantations



Re



12th & W. Main

295-4112



For additional information or appointment to inspect contact:

*Montague, Miller & Co.*  
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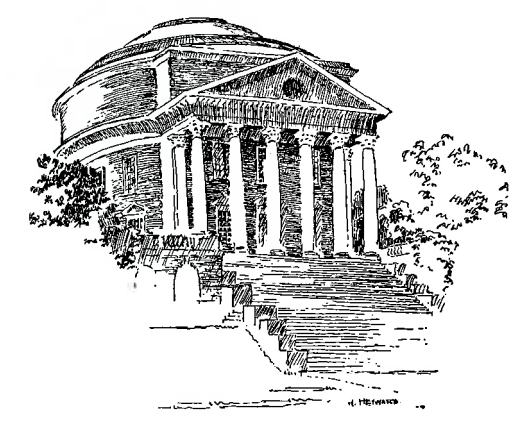
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# Belvoir



The Rotunda at the University of Virginia

*Classically designed by renowned architect Stanhope Johnson, Belvoir was built over half a century ago. Amid other distinguished homes Belvoir is on over an acre of land and less than a mile from the University Medical Center as well as educational, cultural and sports events at Mr. Jefferson's University.*

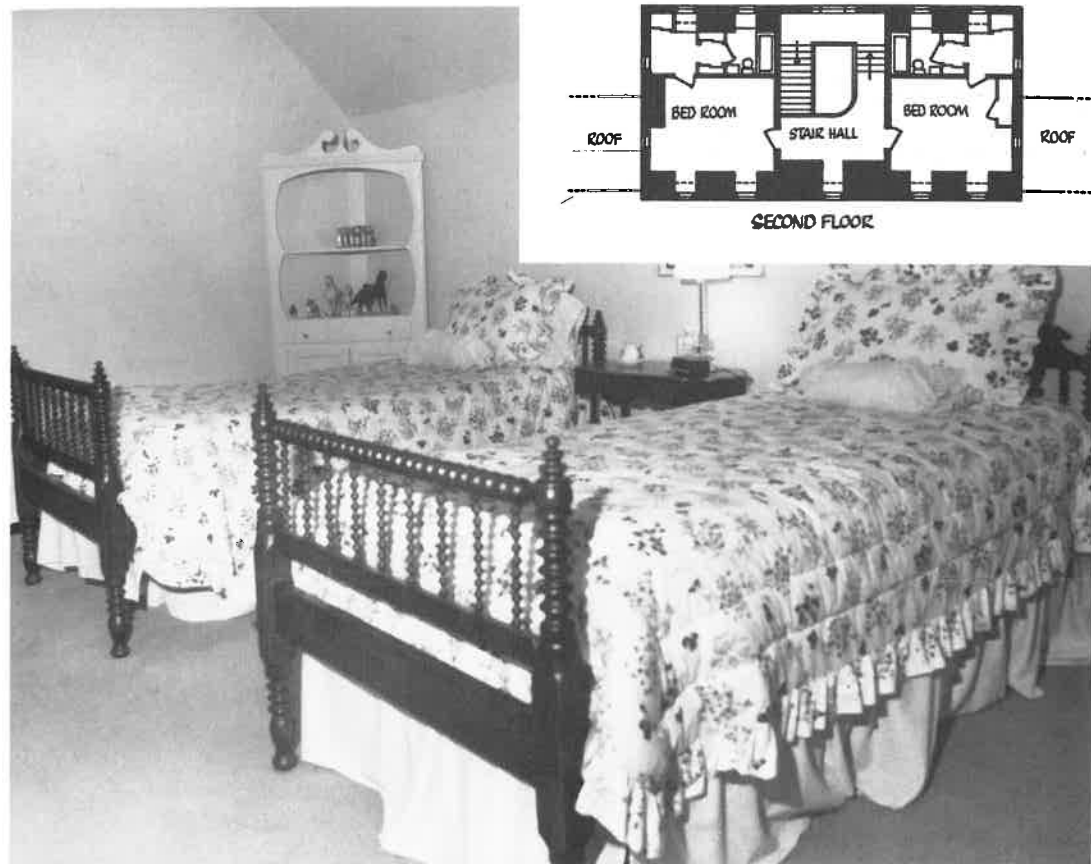


*Land surrounding the residence includes the circular driveway, side court and garden layout, all part of an original landscape design by Charles Gillette of Richmond.*

*Within the formal grounds are a wealth of flowering ornamentals, English boxwood, a perennial flower garden and banks of ivy and azaleas.*



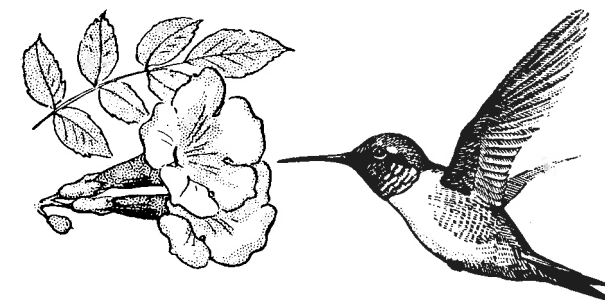
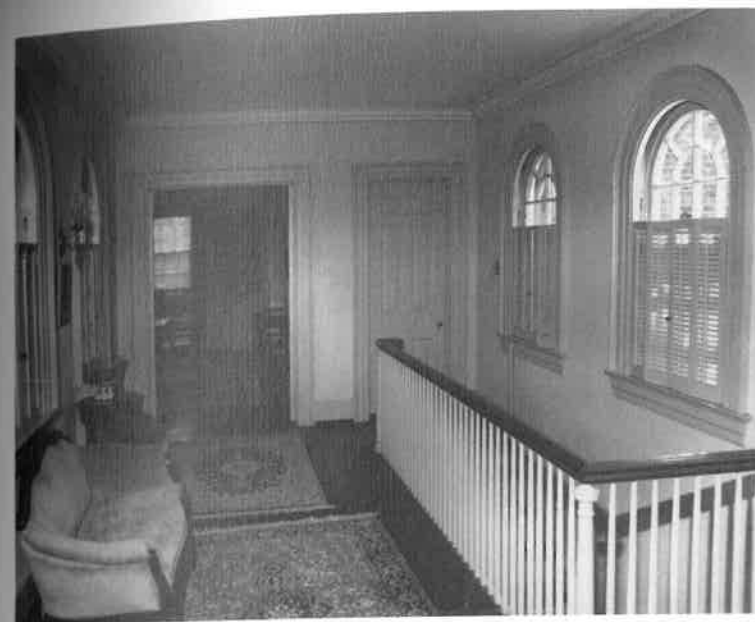




*Upstairs are two spacious bedrooms, each with a private tile bath and dressing room.*

*Downstairs, with a separate entrance from a side court, is an additional bedroom and bath, furnace room, and two storage rooms.*

*Belvoir is constructed of brick in Flemish bond with a poured concrete foundation, mostly copper guttering and downspouts and a slate shingle roof. Water, sewer and natural gas service are municipally supplied.*



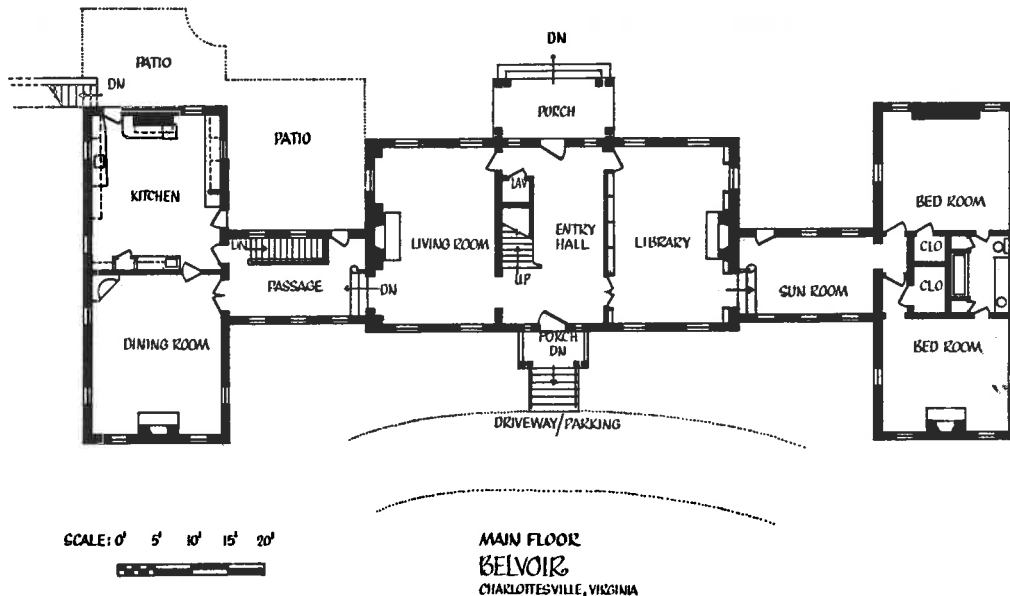
*The well proportioned rooms of the residence lend themselves to entertaining in the grand manner, providing for an easy flow of guests from the formal rooms to the terrace. A large well-equipped kitchen offers ample space for food preparation. For more intimate gatherings there is a veranda overlooking the rose garden.*



*Architect Stanhope Johnson incorporated into this town residence features from Gunston Hall and other famed Virginia residences.*



*The craftsmanship of artisans imbued with long lost old world skills is evident from the walnut panelled library to the carved shell corner cabinet in the dining room.*



for their historic associations. In this important company stands GUNSTON HALL. Begun by George Mason in 1755 it was finished by William Buckland who had been brought from England. Its fine woodwork, the preparation of its interior and the design of its portals caused Buckland to be called the "taste maker" of his period. From the outside the storey and a half brick house appears unassuming. In contrast, Gunston's interiors are among the most impressive of the Colonial period. The Chippendale dining room was the first in the Colonies in the "Chinese taste," while the Palladian drawing room has splendidly carved woodwork, perhaps unequaled in America.

The center of life and activity for a 5,000 acre plantation, the house was occupied by the Mason family until after the Civil War. The house was

patriot. After the Revolution, George Mason was a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. He refused to sign the Constitution because it did not provide for the abolition of slavery nor safeguard sufficiently the rights of the individual. However, on December 15, 1791, Mason saw a part of his dream realized when the first ten amendments to the constitution were adopted — the BILL OF RIGHTS. The next October George Mason died at GUNSTON HALL, having just had a last visit from his friend, Thomas Jefferson, who called Mason "the wisest man of his generation."

The magnificent twelve foot tall boxwood allée, planted by George Mason, is found on the river side of the house with the 18th century gardens which have been restored by the Garden Club of Virginia. The view from either of the twin summer houses



*The gardens have been restored using only plants and shrubs known in the 18th century and features the original boxwood hedge planted by George Mason.*

bought by Louis Hertle in 1912; Mrs. Hertle was a member of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America. Mr. Hertle left the house and 556 acres of grounds to the Commonwealth of Virginia with the provision that it be administered by a Board of Regents chosen from the different State Societies of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America and approved by the Governor of Virginia.

There is more to a visit to GUNSTON HALL than the discovery of a beautiful house and garden. It is also an introduction to the spirit of a great American



*From letters we have learned that George Mason sometimes kept caged mocking birds.*

# Gunston Hall Plantation

# Gunston Hall Plantation

Colonial Home and Gardens of George Mason

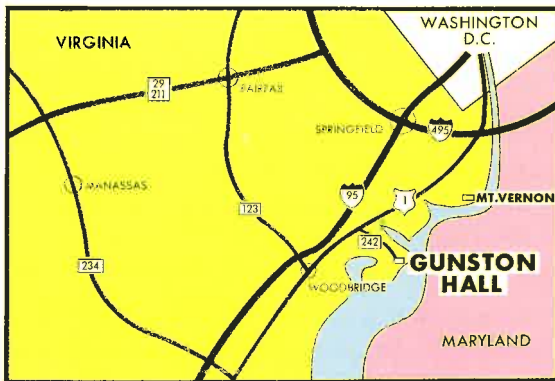


REPRODUCTION OF THE SEAL OF  
GEORGE AND ANN MASON

GUNSTON HALL is open to the public each day, except Christmas, from 9:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

ADMISSION to the House and Gardens: Adults \$2.00; children age 6 to 16, 50 cents; children under 6 admitted free; adult groups \$1.25; school tours 50 cents.

Located 18 miles south of Washington, on the Potomac River, it may be reached via U.S. 1, or Interstate 95, or the George Washington Parkway.



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OVERLOOKING THE POTOMAC RIVER  
NEAR MOUNT VERNON

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