

VLR-1/5/71 NRHP-5/6/71

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Chesterfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Bellona Arsenal

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Bellona Arsenal

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
.1 mi. NW of Rt. 673, 2 mi. NW of intersection with Rt. 147 (Midlothian vic.)

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Chesterfield CODE: 041

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <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:
Joseph H. McConnell Mr. Patteson Branch, President

STREET AND NUMBER:
Bellona Arsenal Kingsland Land Corporation

CITY OR TOWN:
Midlothian Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Chesterfield County Court House, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Chesterfield STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1937 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

The complex of structures at Bellona Arsenal including the ruins of Major John Clark's earlier foundry building just to the east are but a portion of the original buildings constructed during the second decade of the nineteenth century. The arsenal quadrangle originally consisted of eight buildings enclosed by stone walls: the three story main arsenal at the north end with its projecting pavilion and circular third story windows, two officers' quarters flanking the arsenal, four workshops in pairs on the east and on the west, and the three story barracks on the south end. Outside of the quadrangle and to the west stood the powder magazine, a low rectangular structure with walls as much as five and one half feet thick; the structure was itself surrounded by a stone wall to protect against possible explosions.

Today the powder magazine survives sans roof and three of the workshops remain, all else having been torn down about 1872. Of the three workshops, two match each other across the old quadrangle with the third, a slightly larger structure connected to the eastern one. The brick buildings have stone foundations, and are two stories with hipped roofs and interior end chimneys. The two smaller workshops are three bays wide with central entrances and segmental arched openings while the larger building is similar but has a five bay facade. The three buildings, before renovation was begun in 1942, were empty shells but have been converted into a residence.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

Major John Clarke, already an experienced armorer, established his Bellona Foundry in 1814. He chose a site near the Midlothian Coal Mines on the south side of James River. The river highway provided access to the pig iron furnaces of the Valley, as well as markets downstream. The coal mines were a part of the great Richmond coal basin, which was the near-monopoly supplier of American manufactures at the time, and of Virginia industry through 1865.

Bellona foundry was a major supplier of Government ordnance through the ante-bellum period. Together with The Tredegar, it gave the Old Dominion two of the five plants casting heavy cannon on the eve of Secession. Although outstripped by the Tredegar Works during the War, Bellona served the Confederacy well. Many eight-inch columbiads cast there were appropriated by the Virginia authorities in 1861; the foundry went back into production for the Confederate Government in 1862.

Major Clarke was instrumental in arranging for the location of a federal arsenal immediately to the west of his foundry. The Bellona Arsenal was receiving and storing Clarké's cannon from 1817. All other functions of the Arsenal -- specifically the repair of small arms--were discontinued in 1832. The Garrison was removed to Fort Monroe in 1833 and a single caretaker left. In 1837 the arsenal was declared surplus property, almost useless to the Government. From 1837 to 1842, Thomas Mann Randolph and a partner leased several of the buildings for use as a silkworm farm.

When Major Clarke died in 1844, the Foundry passed to his grandson, Dr. J. L. Archer. Archer lived, as a tenant of the Government, in one of the buildings of the adjacent Arsenal complex. In 1856 he purchased the entire arsenal property for \$2,650 -- little more than 1% of its construction cost. On January 1, 1863, Archer leased both arsenal and foundry to the Confederate States and remained on as Superintendent.

The arsenal property was sold in 1877, at which time only three workshops of the original eight buildings survived. The property had changed hands several times when, in 1942, Mr. M. C. Luck purchased and renovated the surviving buildings.

This fascinating complex of brick workshops and ruins is enhanced by its beautiful site overlooking the low plains of the James River valley.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bruce, Kathleen. Virginia Iron Manufacture in the Slave Era. New York, pp. 116-21, 192, 452 (map).
 Dew, Charles B. Ironmaker to the Confederacy. New Haven, Conn., 1966, pp. 47, 75, 86-7, 108, 177, 199.
 Gaines, William H., Jr. "Guns, Silkworms, and Pigs: Bellona Arsenal and Foundry," in Virginia Cavalcade, III (Autumn 1953): 32-37.

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		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 37° 33' 35"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 77° 37' 20"		Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	Degrees Minutes Seconds ° ' "	
NE	37° 33' 35"	77° 36' 46"				
SE	37° 32' 50"	77° 36' 46"				
SW	37° 32' 50"	77° 37' 20"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 100 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December 18, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>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:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Chesterfield	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D. C. Code: 11

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale:1:24,000)
Bon Air, Va. 1964

Bellona Arsenal

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 33' 35"	77° 37' 20"
NE	37° 33' 35"	77° 36' 46"
SE	37° 32' 50"	77° 36' 46"
SW	37° 32' 50"	77° 37' 20"

