

VLR-5/13/69 NRHP-11/12/69

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
Belmead/Saint Emma's Industrial and Agricultural School

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Belmead

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .4 mi. NW of northwestern end of Rt. 663, .5 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 663 and Rt. 600. .2 mi. NW of Deep Creek

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Powhatan CODE: 145

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Saint Emma's Industrial and Agricultural School

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Powhatan STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:
Powhatan County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Powhatan STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 439 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #72-49

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belmead is a two-story, stuccoed brick residence with a gable roof and a three-story central cross gable. A square tower disguises the north end of the cross gable and uses corner piers, crenellations, belt courses, ground level Tudor arched openings, and diamond-paned casement windows on its upper two levels to create a medieval flavor. The south tower has a carriage entrance with Tudor arches and corner piers similar to the north tower but substitutes an oriel bay and a steep cross gable on the upper levels for variety. The roofline and facade of the building proper also use these features but add clusters of circular and polygonal shaped chimney stacks as well as stepped gable ends. The original basic form of the structure would have been almost symmetrical had it not been for a two-story wing on the west and a porch, now destroyed, on the east. The kitchen outbuilding on the west has been incorporated into an extensive two-and three-story addition built by the school.

The interior plan centers on a square hall with cross halls, running north-south and west. Access to most rooms is through tall double doors with Tudor arches and many rooms have coffered ceilings. Marble mantels repeat the Tudor arch again with compound piers and leaf clusters. The interior has been adapted for use by the school for the faculty, but the changes for the most part have been superficial and have not involved the destruction of original trim.

Belmead, together with Staunton Hill, represents the only complete expression of the Gothic Villa in Virginia. Evolved essentially as a Northern style, it was adapted by A. J. Davis into a less forbidding and more open design to make it acceptable for Southern living.

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) 1845

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Political <input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>	Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	_____
Art <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	_____
Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture <input type="checkbox"/>	Theater <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Communications <input type="checkbox"/>	Literature <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>		_____
	Music <input type="checkbox"/>		_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

One of the few remaining Gothic-style residences in Virginia, Belmead was designed by the nationally significant Gothic Revival architect, Alexander Jackson Davis. The house was begun circa 1845 for Philip St. George Cocke and took several years to complete. According to Roger Hale Newton in Town and Davis, Architects, the design of Belmead "echoed the Paulding-Merritt-Gould manor on the Hudson, and also borrowed freely from Pugin's Examples (published 1838)." Having captured the essence of the Gothic Revival rural romanticism, Belmead followed the general trend toward eclecticism and away from the classicism of the white-pillared mansions. Its imposing Gothic grandeur recalls that of Staunton Hill, probably the only other example of a major Virginia plantation house in this style.

Philip St. George Cocke (1809-1861) was the third son of General John Hartwell Cocke of Breemo, Fluvanna County. After a brief military career, Cocke returned to Virginia and became a noted and progressive agronomist, serving as president of the Virginia Agricultural Society from 1853 to 1856. He also served on the board of the Virginia Military Institute, and contributed much to its support. During the War Between the States, he was commissioned as a Brigadier General in the Confederate Army and was in command of the military district along the south bank of the Potomac.

Belmead's architectural significance has long tended to overshadow its importance as a site associated with the education of southern Negroes. Some years after the War Between the States, Belmead was sold by the Cocke family and passed through several hands until it was bought in the 1890's by Colonel Edward de Vaux Morrell and his wife Louise (Drexel) Morrell of Philadelphia for \$28,000. Mrs. Morrell was the half-sister of Mother Katherine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. In 1897 the Morrells conveyed Belmead to the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored People, naming the school St. Emma's Industrial and Agricultural Institute in honor of Mrs. Morrell's mother Emma Bouvier and her patron saint, Saint Emma. In 1942 Eli Lescot, President of Haiti, sent his son Max to be educated at Saint Emma's. Belmead still serves as the central portion of this Catholic military school for Negroes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Powhatan	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69.11.45.0058	11/12/69

(Number all entries)

3. Goochland, Virginia, 7½', quadrangle, 1:24000, 1943 (U.S.G.S.)
Lakeside Village, Virginia, 15' quadrangle, 1:62500, 1960. (U.S.G.S.)



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(Number all entries)

Belmead
Statement of Significance

Belmead/Saint Emma's Industrial and
Agricultural School

Belmead, built for Philip St. George Cocke ca. 1845 on a secluded rural site in Powhatan County, Virginia, is the work of the nationally famous architect, Alexander Jackson Davis. This house and Staunton Hill in Charlotte County are the two most complete examples in Virginia of fully developed Gothic Revival Country houses. Belmead possesses all the necessary ingredients to be an outstanding example of the style. It has towers, battlements, oriel windows, cluster chimneys and a romantic hill top site. However, the whole is less than the sum of the parts. It gives a curiously unresolved, unfinished impression that suggests that those who actually built it were working in an unfamiliar style that they did not fully understand. Belmead presently serves as the administration building of a military preparatory school.

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Belmead property description:

The property includes the principal school buildings and a large open field immediately to the east. It is bounded on the east by a private school road (about 1100 feet); in the south by a private school road (about 1800 feet); on the west by a private school road (about 1000 feet); and on the north by a wooden rail fence (about 900 feet) and a private school road (about 500 feet).

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lancaster, Robert A., Historic Virginia Homes and Churches, Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.
 Newton, Roger Hale, Town and Davis, Architects, New York: Columbia University Press, 1942.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 38' 30"	78° 00' 58"		37° 37' 14"	77° 59' 33"	
NE	37° 38' 30"	77° 57' 30"				
SE	37° 36' 15"	77° 57' 30"				
SW	37° 36' 15"	78° 00' 58"				

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
 June 2, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
 Richmond

STATE
 Virginia

CODE
 45

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

Name: Edw. P. Alexander by John

Title: Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 10-7-69

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Conrad Allen Christian
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

NOV 12 1969

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William F. Swartz
 Keeper of The National Register

OCT 28 1969

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)
 Goochland, Va. (1945); Powhatan, Va. (1943)
 U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (Scale: 1:62,500)
 Lakeside Village, Va. (1960)

Belmead

Latitude		Longitude	
NW	37° 38' 30"	78° 00' 30"	
NE	37° 38' 30"	77° 58' 30"	
SE	37° 36' 30"	77° 57' 30"	
SW	37° 36' 30"	78° 00' 30"	