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Form 10-336
 (Oct. 1972)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

1. NAME
 COMMON: Belvoir Mansion Ruins and the Fairfax Grave Site
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Belvoir

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
 STATE: Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY: Fairfax CODE 059

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. AGENCY
 Commandant
 REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) Federal Government
 CITY OR TOWN: Fort Belvoir
 STREET AND NUMBER: US Army Engineering School
 STATE: Virginia CODE 001

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Fairfax STATE: Virginia CODE 001

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
 TITLE OF SURVEY: N/A
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: Virginia CODE 001

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" 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

The site is presently under archeological excavation. Brick foundations and drains have been exposed at the main house and three buildings. Upon completion of the archeological project the site will be developed into a park providing protection and preservation for the remaining ruins. This park will be open to the general public.

Belvoir was described by George Washington as one of the most beautiful estates on the river.

The following newspaper notice published in the Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg, 9 July, 1774, may best describe Belvoir in its original appearance:

The beautiful seat of the honorable George William Fairfax, esquire, [redacted], in Fairfax County, [redacted]. The Mansion house is of brick two stories high, with four convenient rooms and a passage on the second, and a servants' hall and cellars below: convenient offices, stables and coach house, adjoining, as also a large and well furnished garden, stored with great variety of valuable fruits: in good order. Appertaining to the tract on which these improvements are, and which contains nearly 2,000 acres (surrounded in a manner by navigable water) are several valuable fisheries, and a good deal of cleared land in different parts, which may be let together, or separately, as shall be found most convenient. The terms may be known of Colonel Washington, who lives near the premises, or of me, in Berkeley County.

Francis Willis, junior

The Fairfax Grave Site near the mansion ruins is marked by a stone memorial surrounded by a wrought iron fence and a gravel walkway. The grave site is in excellent condition. The stone memorial was erected by Mr. Fairfax Harrison, a descendent of the Fairfax family.

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3. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>archeology</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>history</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Belvoir was built by Colonel William Fairfax between 1736-1741 and for thirty-two years was the seat of one of the most distinguished families in Virginia. Colonel William was land agent for his first cousin Lord Thomas Fairfax, Proprietor of the Northern Neck; Collector of Customs for the South Potomac; and President of the Virginia Council.

Here at Belvoir George Washington's half brother Lawrence married Colonel William's eldest daughter Anne, Major John Carlyle (builder of the Carlyle House in Alexandria) married Sarah, and George Washington's first cousin Warner Washington married Colonel William's youngest daughter Hannah. Here, Lord Thomas Fairfax met sixteen year old George Washington and formed a friendship which was to last thirty-three years.

Upon the death of Colonel William Fairfax in 1757, Belvoir was inherited by the eldest son, George William Fairfax. It was in the company of George William that George Washington began his first frontier surveying experience, departing from Belvoir in March 1748.

George William inherited the family ancestral estates in England and in August 1773 he and his wife set sail for England, never to return. Subsequently, Belvoir was rented to Reverend Andrew Morton, destroyed by fire in 1783, and further demolished by mortar bombs and cannon shot fired from British ships during the Battle of Belvoir in September 1814.

The Fairfax memorial marks the graves of Colonel William Fairfax who built Belvoir Mansion, his wife Deborah Clarke Fairfax, and bears inscriptions to the memory of the two young sons of the Fairfax's who were killed in early colonial wars.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files at Fort Belvoir Museum, Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
 Historic Preservation for Fairfax County, Virginia, Division of Planning,
 Fairfax County, Virginia.
 Waterman, Thomas Tileston, The Mansions of Virginia, 1706-1776. New York:
 Bonanza Books, 1945.
 Russell, Edward B., "Belvoir Manor," Historical Society of Fairfax County,
Virginia, Inc., Vol. 9 (1964-1965).

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **10 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
none			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mr E. B. Russell (curator)		DATE: 21 Jun 73
BUSINESS ADDRESS: U.S. Army Engineer Museum		
STREET AND NUMBER: Bldg 1000 16th St. & Belvoir Rd.		PHONE: 664-6104
CITY OR TOWN: Fort Belvoir	STATE VA 22060	CODE 001

12. CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

<p>State Liaison Officer recommendation:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> None</p> <p>_____ <i>State Liaison Officer Signature</i></p> <p>In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifi- ing that the State Liaison Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Re- view Board and to evaluate its significance. The recom- mended level of significance is <input type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local</p> <p>_____ <i>Federal Representative Signature</i> _____ <i>Date</i></p> <p>_____ <i>Title</i></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST: _____</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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