

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-10/15/66 NHL-12/17/60

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

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

1. NAME

COMMON:
GUNSTON HALL

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
On Route 242 east of Woodbridge

CITY OR TOWN:
Gunston Hall

STATE: Virginia 22191 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"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input 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 type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Commonwealth of Virginia

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia 23219 CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fairfax Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Fairfax STATE: Virginia 22030 CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
NAIPI

DATE OF SURVEY: 1930-31 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

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Fairfax

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DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Gunston Hall, an architectural gem overlooking the Potomac River 15 miles south of Alexandria, is a fitting monument to George Mason, constitutionalist. Mason (1725-92) is most noted for the various constitutional papers he wrote during the Revolutionary and immediate post-Revolutionary periods, including the "Fairfax Resolves" of 1774, relating to the constitutional position of the colonies and the mother country; the "Virginia Declaration of Rights" in 1776, which furnished at least a part of the inspiration for the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Bill of Rights; and the "Objections to the Proposed Constitution" in 1788, setting forth the basis of his opposition to the adoption of the Federal Constitution. Though Mason's fight against ratification of the Constitution failed in Virginia, most of his objections finally proved valid. Almost as important as his public writings was his influence upon his younger colleagues, many of whom became leaders in Virginia and national politics.

Mason built Gunston Hall during the years 1755-58, employing William Buckland, a skilled craftsman from Oxfordshire, to do the interior wood carving. The house is comparatively small and plain, but with elaborate projecting porches on both the land and river sides. The interior, surprisingly spacious, is notable for the quality of its ornamentation. Outstanding are the Palladian drawing room, with a great variety of intricately carved wood and brocade-covered walls, and the Chinese Chippendale room, almost as elaborately decorated. The grounds are featured by a boxwood allee, 12 feet high and 250 feet long, surrounded by formal gardens, all originally planted by Mason.

b. BOUNDARIES: As is stated in Deed Book B-11, Page 388, Fairfax County Courthouse: "Gunston Hall consists of 555.672 acres. Four tracts of land, one 418 acres upon which is located the Gunston Hall House; one of 42.95 acres; one of 50 acres; and one of 104 acres--a total of 614.95 acres, less a tract of 59.278 acres, together with a 15 foot outlet."

Beginning at the junction of State Routes 242 and 600 (near Shiloh Church and Cemetery), proceed south for approximately 700 feet; thence in a southwesterly direction for approximately 700 feet; thence south for approximately 2,000 feet; thence east for approximately 4,600 feet; thence northeast for approximately 1200 feet to the water line of Gunston Cove; thence north along the water line of Gunston Cove for approximately 400 feet; thence west for approximately 1,200 feet; thence in a northerly direction for approximately 2,600 feet; thence west for approximately 3,150 feet to point of beginning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. 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) 1755-58

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" 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

This structure, a colonial architectural gem, is a living monument to George Mason, noted for his constitutional papers of basic importance in American history, including the "Virginia Declaration of Rights" of 1776, which was in part an inspiration for the Declaration of Independence and the Federal Bill of Rights. Owned by the Commonwealth of Virginia and administered by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

K. M. Howland, Life of George Mason, 1725-1792 (2 vols., New York, 1892); Hugh B. Grigsby, The History of the Virginia Federal Convention of 1788 (Vols. IX and X, New Series, of the Collections of the Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, 1890-91); Max Farrand, ed., The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787 (4 vols., New Haven, 1911-37); Helen Hill, George Mason, Constitutionalist (Cambridge, 1938).

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			LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	38°	40'	10"	77°	10'	09"
NE	38°	39'	57"	77°	09'	05"
SE	38°	39'	28"	77°	09'	03"
SW	38°	39'	30"	77°	10'	25"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Frank S. Melvin

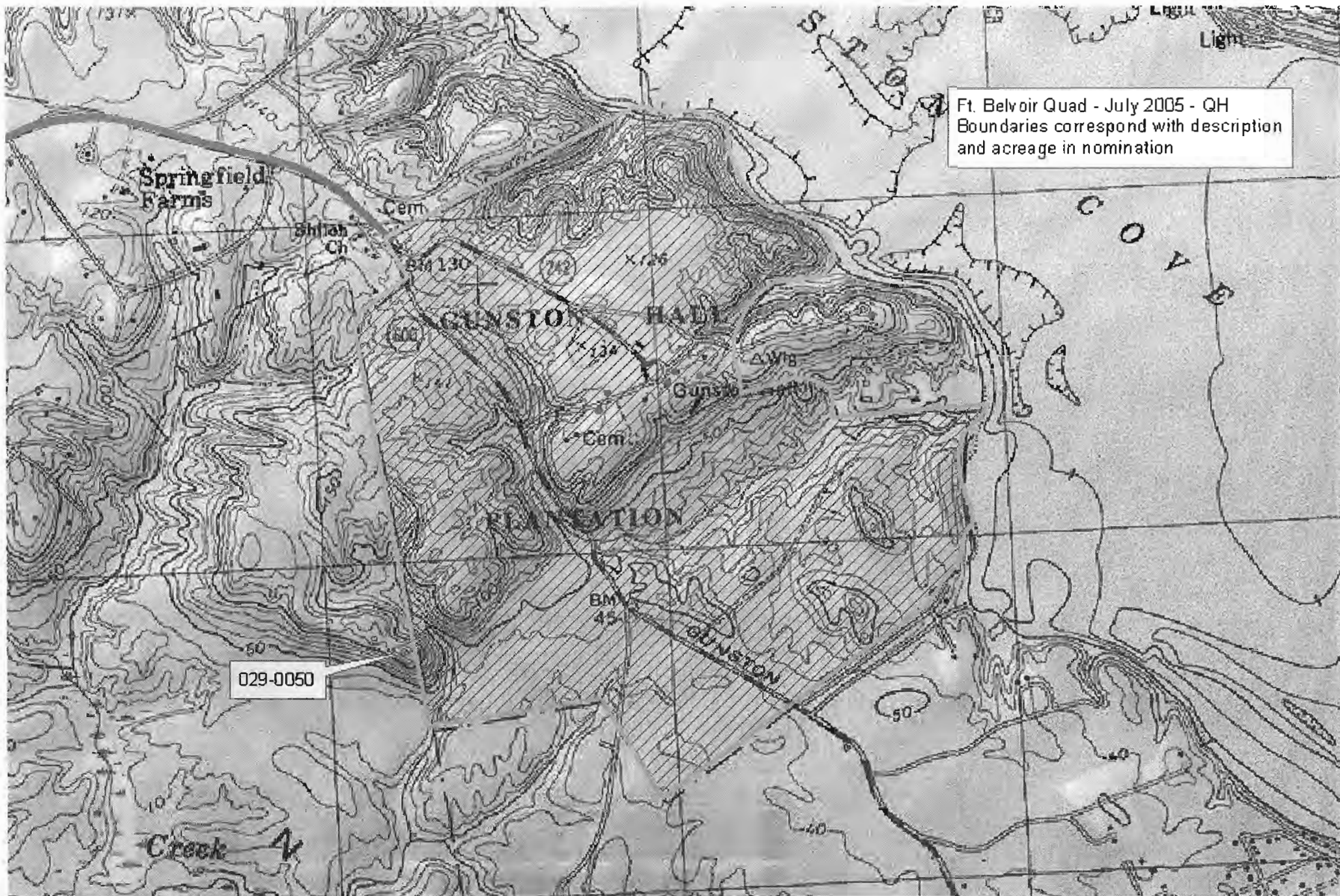
ORGANIZATION: **Virginia State Office, National Park Service** DATE: **6/30/72**

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 10008

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia 23240** 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 type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Chief, 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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Ft. Belvoir Quad - July 2005 - QH
Boundaries correspond with description
and acreage in nomination

029-0050