

1. STATE Virginia COUNTY Prince William TOWN OR VICINITY Minnieville STREET NO.	2. NAME Bel Air <small>SEE SPACE BELOW FOR MAP OR DIRECTIONS</small>	HABS PRIORITY 1 2 3																		
3. HABS SURVEY NO. AIA 5. TO BE FILLED IN BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:25%;">INDEX NO.</td> <td style="width:25%;">NEGATIVE FILE</td> <td style="width:25%;">PUBLISHED PHOTOS</td> <td style="width:25%;">PUBLISHED DWGS.</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </table>	INDEX NO.	NEGATIVE FILE	PUBLISHED PHOTOS	PUBLISHED DWGS.					4. ORIGINAL OWNER Colonel Ewe II PRESENT OWNER William E.S. Flory DATE OR PERIOD 1740 STYLE Georgian ARCHITECT unknown BUILDER unknown ORIGINAL USE residence PRESENT USE residence CONSTRUCTION brick NO. OF STORIES 1&1/2 NOTABLE FEATURES English basement-flemish bond- three dormers across front and back-on the interior there is superb woodwork-in the main											
INDEX NO.	NEGATIVE FILE	PUBLISHED PHOTOS	PUBLISHED DWGS.																	
6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE & DESCRIPTION Colonel Ewe's daughter married Dr. Craik of Alexandria in this house. Parson Weems owned this house at a later <small>CONTINUE IN SPACE BELOW</small>																				
7. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE (OTHER) <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">IN DANGER</td> <td style="text-align: center;">PRESERVE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">REPAIR</td> <td style="text-align: center;">RESTORE</td> <td style="text-align: center;">RECONSTRUCT</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">EXTERIOR</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">INTERIOR</td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </table>				IN DANGER	PRESERVE	REPAIR	RESTORE	RECONSTRUCT	EXTERIOR		X				INTERIOR		X			
	IN DANGER	PRESERVE	REPAIR	RESTORE	RECONSTRUCT															
EXTERIOR		X																		
INTERIOR		X																		
8. VAL. TO <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:25%;">NATION</td> <td style="width:25%;"></td> <td style="width:25%;">QUALITY</td> <td style="width:25%;">VERY HIGH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>STATE</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>HIGH</td> </tr> <tr> <td>COMMUNITY</td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> <td></td> <td>NOTABLE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>OTHER</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>MENTION</td> </tr> </table>		NATION		QUALITY	VERY HIGH	STATE			HIGH	COMMUNITY	X		NOTABLE	OTHER			MENTION	9. POSSIBLE USE <p style="text-align: center;">residence</p>		
NATION		QUALITY	VERY HIGH																	
STATE			HIGH																	
COMMUNITY	X		NOTABLE																	
OTHER			MENTION																	
10. NEIGHBORHOOD CONDITIONS ZONED rural CLASS		11. AVAILABLE FILES <table border="1" style="width:100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width:25%;">MEASURED DRAWINGS</td> <td style="width:25%;">yes</td> <td style="width:25%;">OLD PHOTOS OTHER</td> <td style="width:25%;">yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FIELD REPORTS</td> <td></td> <td>RESEARCH REPORTS</td> <td>wpa yes</td> </tr> </table>	MEASURED DRAWINGS	yes	OLD PHOTOS OTHER	yes	FIELD REPORTS		RESEARCH REPORTS	wpa yes										
MEASURED DRAWINGS	yes	OLD PHOTOS OTHER	yes																	
FIELD REPORTS		RESEARCH REPORTS	wpa yes																	
12. OPEN TO PUBLIC no FEE CONTROL BY		13. REFERENCES: AUTHOR, TITLE AND PAGES The Bethlehem Good Housekeeping Club- Manassas-Prince William, Its People & its Places-WPA- page 104-105 DATE 1941																		
14. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER W.B. Morton III 213 S. Pitt Street Alexandria, Virginia DATE OF RECORD Aug. 13, '59		15. HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE & DESCRIPTION <small>CONTINUE IN SPACE BELOW</small>																		

CONTINUE ADDITIONAL DATA, PHOTOGRAPHS, COMMENTS, SKETCH OR MAP IN SPACE BELOW



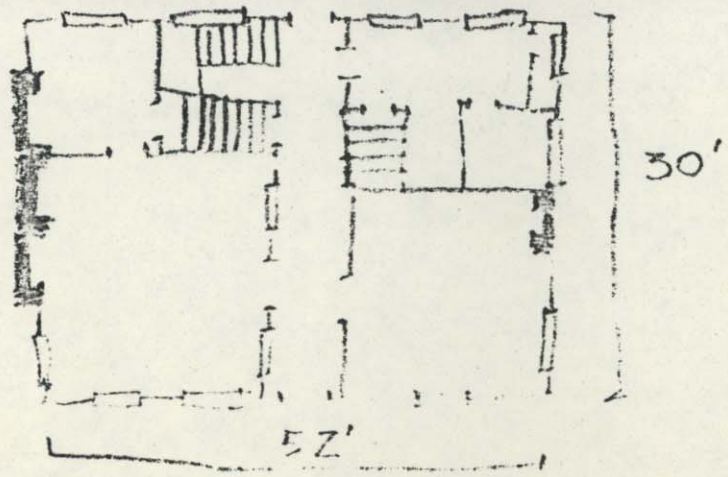
notable features cont'd-drawing room there is an extremely fine mantle and over mantle with dog ear motif supported by consoles-the cornice here and in the front hall is the greek meander and wall of troy motif. The partition between the main drawing room and the hall is of removeable paneling with two ~~xxx~~ windows. When the baseboard is removed the panels kick out on dowels.

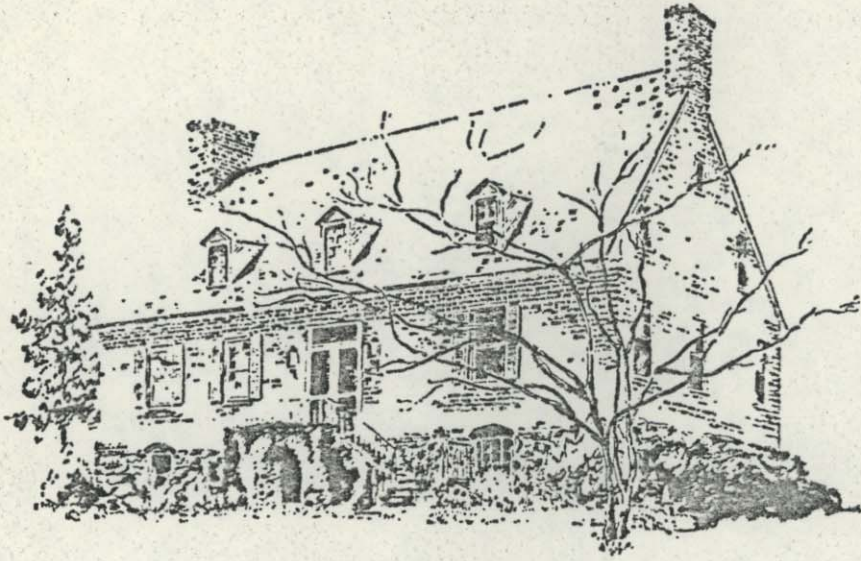
LOCATION

PHOTOGRAPHS

~~State~~ County Route 640 at Minnieville, gates on left, one mile to house on private road

historic signifigance cont'd-period and is buried in the Bel Air graveyard.





BEL AIR • Prince William County, Virginia

Bel Air

In 1808 or 1809, Weems moved his family to Bel Air, after taking over the house, in part, in satisfaction of loans to his mother-in-law. He purchased the remainder of the property in 1823 upon her death. He died on May 23, 1825, at Beaufort, South Carolina. His remains were later removed to the family cemetery at Bel Air.

This two and one-half story country house of 14 rooms was built in the traditional style on the central-hall plan. The main floor and the upper dormered story were constructed in 1740 by Major Charles Ewell, who was identified with business and other enterprises in Dumfries and Occoquan when these towns were important market places and ports. It is believed that the stone walls of the ground floor were erected at an earlier date and that Major Ewell possibly replaced a wooden structure at the upper levels.

The house measures 38 by 51 feet and faces southeast. Walls vary in thickness from three feet to one foot. Interesting architectural features are: 1) the pre-Georgian front with its unbalanced window placement, a style prevalent in Virginia before 1700; 2) the high elevation of the ground

floor; 3) the mammoth 20-foot outside chimney on the southwest side; 4) the carriage entrance on the northwest side; 5) the movable partition in the central hall which permitted conversion of the drawing room into a great hall for state occasions; 6) the open staircase with its two landings off the central hall; 7) the very small dormer windows; 8) the large cooking fireplace on the ground floor.

Actual use to which the rooms were put varied from time to time. The large dining room on the ground floor, evidently used as a primary living room originally, was called the "wool room" by the Ewells who delicately withdrew their living arrangements to the upper levels, thus converting the ground floor to menial uses. A keep, a secondary kitchen, laundry room, and wine cellar or "dungeon" complete the arrangement of rooms on the ground floor. The large drawing room on the main floor, sometimes called the "state dining room," is dominated by an architectural fireplace; the faded red paint on the woodwork matches the original color found under six coats of paint. The small study or sitting room to the right of the drawing room is known as the Washington Guest

Chamber; the Colonel and his bride were overnight guests on their honeymoon journey to Mount Vernon. The library across the hall was a family sitting room. The office at the end of the hall was used as a family dining room. The small bedroom above the stairs on the upper floor was Parson Weems' study; it is said that he selected this remotest room as his own to secure a sanctuary from his mother-in-law. The master bedroom and two other bedrooms are on the top floor, also. A fifth bedroom has been converted to baths and closets to meet modern living requirements. A full-length attic spans the building.

The first restoration of the house was undertaken around 1875, following a period of disuse

during and after the Civil War. Only minor structural alterations were made both at this time and during the restoration begun in 1949. Additions, mainly decorative, in 1875 and 1926, have been removed. The house had no authorized occupancy for a period of approximately 18 years preceding its purchase in 1948 by the present owners. The coming of highways and such modern conveniences as telephones and electricity has made possible the transformation of this "charming colonial derelict," as it was described by one author, into a modern dwelling, which, nevertheless, retains its integrity as a substantial pre-revolutionary building.

BEL AIRE

See Scrapbook, Fr. William Co. (in Fr. Geo) item #2,4,5,6