

VLR-6/17/75 NRHP-7/17/75

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Arlington
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Ball-Sellers House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5620 South Third Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Arlington

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Tenth (Joseph L. Fisher)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Arlington CODE: 013

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<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: Donald Orth, President

OWNER'S NAME:  
The Arlington Historical Society, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 402

CITY OR TOWN:  
Arlington

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Arlington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Arlington

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1975  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Arlington

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)					
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input 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 Ball-Sellers House stands at 5620 South Third Street on an open lot amidst a late-nineteenth-century development in the Glencarlyn section of Arlington County. Presently consisting of a one-story log structure and a two-story frame wing, it has had a complex structural history.

The log section is probably the original house and dates from the mid- to late eighteenth century. It is a single-cell structure with opposed front and rear doors, a single window opening on the front, and another on the east gable end, which presumably gave access to a no-longer extant wing. The exterior is covered with "German" or novelty siding, so it is not possible to determine the type of corner timbering used. A later porch roof sweeps close to the ground across the length of the front of the log section. The cellar framing of this section indicates that there was a chimney with a seven-foot fireplace opening at the west end.

Soon after the log house was built, a frame lean-to ell was added to the original building. Like the interior of the log section, it is plastered roughly and retains portions of double-beaded chairboard. Two early vertical-beaded-board doors lead into the log section, and from the log section into the lean-to. The latter has a handsome early latch. Architrave door frames complete the interior trim. The ceiling of the ell is plastered, but that of the main room has roughly hewn exposed joists. Access to the loft is obtained through a hole in the southeast corner of the main room, where the marks of former stair framing can be seen.

The loft is the most notable feature of the Ball-Sellers House, for it contains a rare surviving clapboard roof, protected by a later roof built around it but independent of it, thus preserving the original almost intact. It consists of riven oak clapboards, about four feet long, attached to roughly split rafters with collars which were raised at an early date to allow more headroom. The undersides of the clapboards and the rafters are whitewashed. There survive portions of the light lathing used to steady the rafters while the clapboards were being attached and sections of the whitewashed clay daubing used to caulk the angle where the roof meets the loft floor.

Another early wing, attached to the east end of the log section, is visible in an early-twentieth-century photograph, but has since been removed.

At the west end of the log section, a frame wing was attached in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. This was taken down and replaced by the present plain, two-story wing in 1885. Two mantels from the demolished wing were reused in the new one--a plain Greek Revival mantel on the first floor and a Federal mantel with an architrave surround and an unsupported molded mantel shelf with dentil work. Some six-panel, raised-panel doors were also reused.

In the yard are a well head and a small log barn. The latter is now covered with novelty siding.

(see continuation sheet #1)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Arlington	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

The Ball-Sellers House has recently been given to the Arlington Historical Society, which is renovating the later portion for use as a residence. The log section and its lean-to are to serve as a museum.

DTU

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 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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	losophy	_____
<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

The Ball-Sellers House in the Glencarlyn section of Arlington County is remarkable for its clapboard roof which is a rare survival in Virginia. Associated with two of the original families of the present Arlington County, the house was built on a farm which became one of the earliest planned commuter suburbs of Washington, D. C. The modest structure is probably the oldest house in Arlington County.

The property on which the house stands was included in a grant by William Fairfax to John Ball, who received 166 acres of land on Four Mile Run in 1742. A long-time resident of Prince William (later Fairfax) County, Ball is believed to have built the original log section and its frame lean-to. When he died in 1766, he directed that his property be sold and that the proceeds be divided among his wife, Elizabeth, and his five daughters. The sale occurred in 1772, when William Carlin (1732-1820) purchased the farm for 100 pounds. However, Elizabeth Ball had elected to take her widow's dower rather than accept her husband's will, and so may have occupied the house until her death (around 1792).

William Carlin's will stated that the property should be sold in lots small enough for persons with little money to purchase them. The scheme proved to be impracticable, and finally the estate was divided into three lots, each sold to one of Carlin's three sons. Lot 1, the "Mansion House Tract," was acquired for \$874 in 1835 by James Harvey Carlin. After his death, the 94-acre tract was operated as a dairy farm by his son Andrew and his daughter Ann.

William W. Curtis and Samuel F. Burdett bought the Carlin farm in 1887, and it was they who developed it as a subdivision for "all men and women of moderate means or who receive stated salaries." Planned to take advantage of a railroad station which has made Carlin Springs (as the area was then known) a popular picnic area for Washingtonians since the 1870s, the development was named Glencarlyn in 1896.

At first the corporation retained possession of the old house. After several changes of ownership in the twentieth century, the property was given by Marian Sellers to the Arlington Historical Society in 1975.

The most notable architectural feature of the house is its clapboard roof, a form which has received little attention from architectural scholars in the past. Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century records occasionally mention (see continuation sheet #2)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
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(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

such roofs, and occasional fragmentary survivals have been noted by modern students who were unable until recently to recognize them as a form of roofing which was apparently not unusual in the seventeenth century, and on lesser buildings into the nineteenth century, but of which few examples are extant. Rarely has one survived in so complete a form as that of the Ball-Sellers House, which also retains many associated incidental features such as bracing laths, caulking, and gable-end weatherboarding.

DTU

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Carson, Cary, "The Virginia House in Maryland," Maryland Historical Magazine, 1974.

"County's Oldest House Given to Public," Northern Virginia Sun, February 25, 1975.

"Society Acquires Historical House," Arlington Globe, February 27, 1975.

Stetson, Charles W. Four Mile Run Land Grants. 1935.

Stoehr, Augusta, "Bringing Back the 1700s," Arlington Journal, March 20, 1975.

Webb, Anne, "Notes on the History of the Ball-Sellers House," ms. in Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

**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	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

UTM References:  
18/315600/4303560

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than one acre

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: June 1975

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name: <u>Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.</u> Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Title: _____</p> <p>Date: <u>JUN 17 1975</u></p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date: _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date: _____</p>

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

ANNANDALE QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

35° 11' N  
WASHINGTON WEST

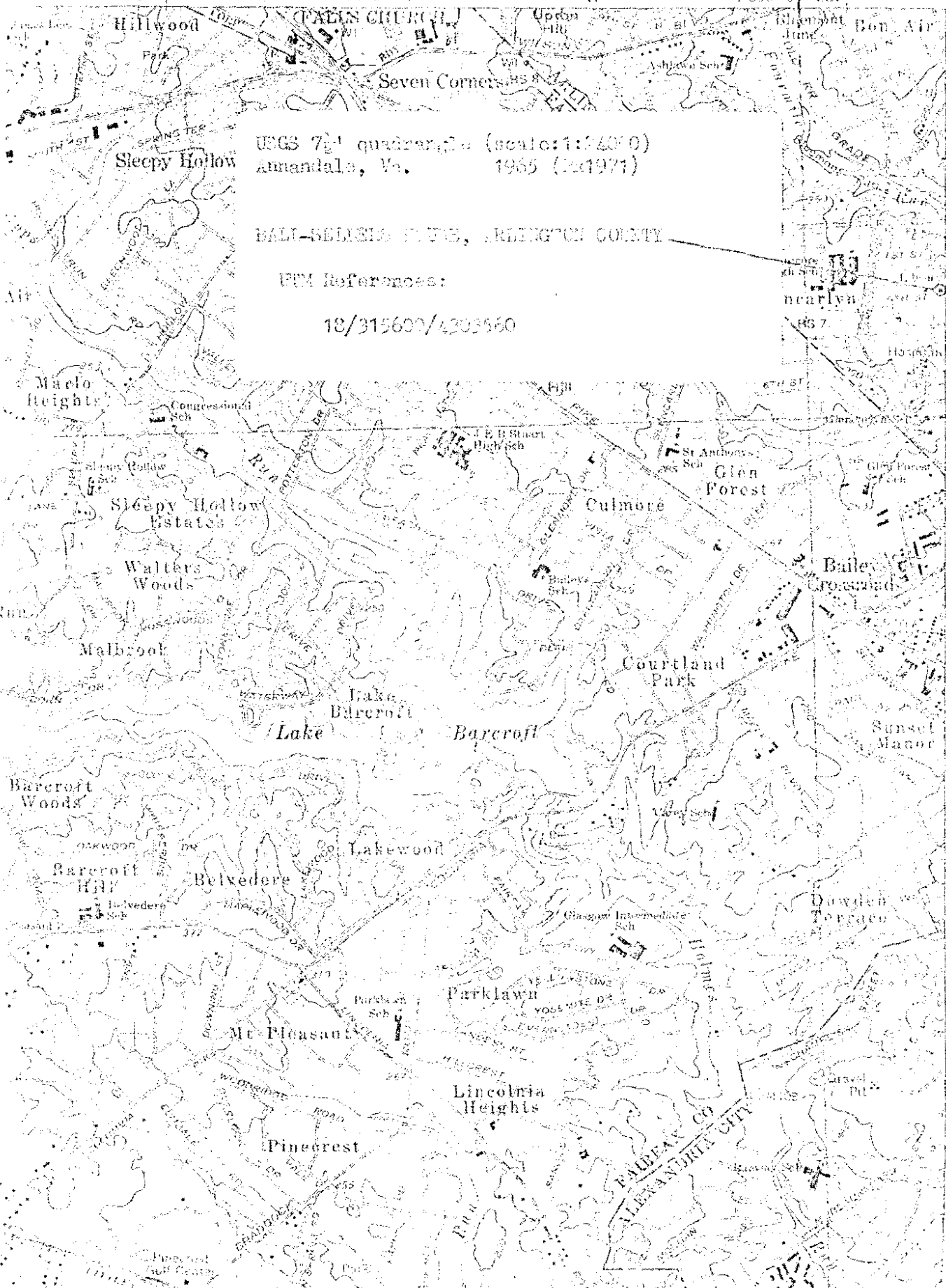
10'

914

2 390 00 FEET

77° 0' 30"

38° 52' 30"



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:50,000)  
Annandale, Va. 1965 (to 1971)

BALI-SERIEHS STATE, ARLINGTON COUNTY

UTM References:  
18/315600/4205560

440 000  
1000

902

496

507

490

FARMER CO  
LEWANTON CITY