

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name Belvidere

other names/site number Boyd House

## 2. Location

street & number NE end of SR 1329  not for publication

city or town Williamsboro  vicinity

state North Carolina code NC county Vance code 181 zip code 27536

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William S. P... 10-13-92  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

| I hereby certify that the property is:   | Signature of the Keeper | Date of Action |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register.<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.             | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register<br><input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet. | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.  | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.   | _____                   | _____          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain:) _____   | _____                   | _____          |

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 2            | 5               | buildings  |
| 0            | 0               | sites      |
| 0            | 0               | structures |
| 0            | 0               | objects    |
| 2            | 5               | Total      |

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 EDUCATION/schoolhouse  
 AGRICULTURE/processing  
 AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
 VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival  
 Italianate

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK  
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
 roof ASPHALT  
 other BRICK  
 METAL: Steel

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**

Ca. 1850

**Significant Dates**

Ca. 1850

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Holt, Jacob W.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

Belvidere  
Name of Property

Vance County, North Carolina  
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 15.79

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 117 734250 4039370  
Zone Easting Northing

2 117 734630 4039220

3 117 734340 4038890  
Zone Easting Northing

4 117 734080 4039020

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David R. Black/Architectural Historian

organization Black & Black, Preservation Consultants date 14 August 1992

street & number 620 Wills Forest Street telephone (919) 828-4616

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27605

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Lex K. and Kathryn A. Larson

street & number 2703 Spencer St. telephone

city or town Durham state NC zip code 27705

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

Built ca. 1850, Belvidere is a two-story, double-pile frame Greek Revival/Italianate plantation house in rural Vance County. The dwelling sits on a low rise in a 15.79-acre tract of land located on a peninsula extending into Kerr Lake, a man-made reservoir. An unpaved drive leads through tree-lined meadows from the end of State Road 1329 to the front yard of the house, which has scattered cedars, maples, firs, dogwoods, elms and other trees of various stages of maturity. At the southeast corner of the yard is a small frame dwelling contemporary with the main house and known as the Schoolhouse. To the east of the main house is a meadow, surrounded by woods, in which are located farm outbuildings dating from the turn of the century to the 1930s. Behind the house is a turn-of-the-century log smokehouse.

## (C) 1. Main House

The main house at Belvidere is a two-story, double-pile frame Greek Revival/Italianate style residence set on a slight elevation. The house is topped by a high-hipped, asphalt-shingled roof, the deep eaves of which on the front and side elevations have evenly-spaced, Italianate brackets. Projecting through the side planes of the roof are two partially-rebuilt brick chimneys. The foundation is of common bond brick enclosing a crawl space and partial basement.

At the four corners of the house are wide, fluted corner boards topped by pairs of small brackets. The three-bay front elevation has a symmetrical arrangement with a central doorway on each level flanked by six-over-six windows with three-part, mitred surrounds. On the first floor the double-leaved, one-panel doors have panelled sidelights and transoms separated by Italianate brackets. The door surround itself is a broad, three-part molded frame. At the second floor level is a narrow, half-glazed pair of double-leaf doors with flanking sidelights. These are framed with a three-part surround and flanked by fluted pilaster strips with pairs of small brackets at the top.

Across the front of the house on the first floor is a full-width porch with hipped roof, the eaves of which have brackets

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

similar to the main eaves. The porch has a high brick base with brick piers that support tapered, panelled square posts. Between the piers are simple square-section balustered railings. A central flight of granite steps leads up to the porch. Atop the center portion of the porch roof is a small, hipped deck with balustrade.

Documentary photographs show an earlier portico that covered slightly more than the central third of the front elevation. This structure had four fluted square posts with capitals resembling the stepped capitals used in Greek Doric pilaster strips. The frieze of this portico was filled with scroll-sawn brackets which appear to match the existing ones on the new porch. The earliest surviving photograph pictures a steeply-pitched, wood-shingled, hipped roof on the portico, but this appears to have been a replacement for a previous, flatter roof.

The side elevations of the house have identical, widely-spaced six-over-six windows, two to a level. On the west elevation a small, gable-roofed shelter was added, probably in the 1930s, to cover the basement steps.

Across the three-bay rear of the house is a one-story shed wing. Originally, this appears to have consisted of two shallow rooms on either side of, and opening into, a recessed porch, together with a third room at the northwest corner that was accessed from the main house. Probably during the 1930s, part of the porch was deepened and one of the shed rooms was expanded and converted into a kitchen. The two rooms which open onto the porch have six-raised-panel Georgian doors which may be reused from an earlier house. The two surviving original windows of the shed are small versions of the six-over-six windows on the main part of the house.

On the interior, the first floor has an unusual variant of the center hall plan. The center hall is terminated approximately half way through the house by a double doorway, the door on the left leading to an enclosed stair, the one on the right to the dining room. The dining room entrance has a two-stepped-panel door like the other rooms on the first floor, but

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

the stair door is louvered.

The front two rooms and the hallway have three-part door surrounds with molded plinth blocks. Windows in this section have the same surround, with the addition of a panel under the sash. The baseboards are high, with an elaborate top molding. In these two rooms are located the house's most ornate post and lintel mantels. The west parlor mantel has single Greek Doric colonnettes, while the east parlor mantel has two pairs of smaller Greek Doric colonnettes. Both mantels have horizontal fluted and pulvinated frieze panels.

The rear two rooms have symmetrically-molded trim with bull's-eye corner blocks. As in the front rooms, the windows have panels under them, and the baseboards are also high with elaborate caps. A doorway in the northwest room opens onto a short flight of stairs leading to a landing on the main staircase. The open area underneath the main stair was enclosed in the 1930s and now contains a bathroom. On the rear wall of the northwest room is a pair of half-glazed doors leading into the northwest shed room. The dining room in the northeast corner of the house has the simple post and lintel Greek Revival mantel of the northwest room, but on either side of the mantel are built-in china cabinets with glazed doors on the top half and panelled ones below.

On the second floor level the center hall is continuous from front to rear. All of the window and door surrounds have symmetrically-molded trim with bull's-eye corner blocks, and the room doors are two-panel like the ones below. The baseboards are high, but very simple. At the front of the hall is a double-leaf doorway with sidelights which opens onto the front porch upper deck. On either side of the hall are two rooms, each with the same symmetrically-molded trim as the hallway, two-panel doors and simple post and lintel mantels with fluted pilasters. A bathroom was created in a corner of the northwest bedroom in the 1930s.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

(C) 2. School House

Ca. 1850 rectangular, one-story, heavy timber frame house with gable roof sheathed in modern tin. Exterior end chimney of common bond brick with stepped shoulders. Weatherboarded exterior has central door openings on both sides with modern board and batten doors, single six-over-six window. One-room interior with Greek Revival mantel and enclosed attic stair. Walls are plastered with hand-split lath, ceiling has pole joists. Floored, unfinished attic. Probably originally constructed as overseer's house, but used as school house for children of family in late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

(NC) 3. Barn

Ca. 1930 one-and-a-half-story, pole-framed rectangular barn with vertical board siding, tin-sheathed gable roof.

(NC) 4. Pack House

Ca. 1910 two-story, German-sided frame tobacco pack house with tin-sheathed gable roof, shed-roofed extension on end. Large door openings centered on side elevations, one with five-horizontal-panel door. Five-panel door opening into shed wing. Stone foundation piers.

(NC) 5. Tenant House

Ca. 1930 one-story, German-sided frame tenant house with tin-sheathed, front gable roof. Shed-roofed porch across gable end with simple posts. Six-over-six windows, interior chimney and rear gabled wing.

(NC) 6. Chicken House

Small, ca. 1930, shed-roofed frame chicken house at rear of house lot.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

(NC) 7. Smoke House

Late-nineteenth century, saddle-notched log smoke house with tin-sheathed gable roof. Vertical corner boards and board and batten door.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

## Summary

Built ca. 1850 for planter William H. Boyd, Belvidere is a handsome, two-story frame Greek Revival/Italianate plantation seat. The house has been attributed through long-standing family tradition to Warrenton builder Jacob W. Holt, and a comparison between Belvidere and documented Holt houses clearly establishes the connection. Between 1840 and 1880, Holt and his substantial workshop carried out a large body of high-quality work in Warren County and the surrounding area, including at least twenty antebellum buildings in Warrenton and at least thirty others in adjacent counties. Until the late 1840s, Holt worked in a Greek Revival style derived from Asher Benjamin and Minard Lafever builders' guides. With the publication of William Ranlett's The Architect in 1849, however, he began to incorporate Italianate design elements into his buildings, and by the late 1850s he was producing a flamboyant and readily-recognizable personal idiom. Belvidere appears to represent a transitional period when Holt was beginning to introduce Italianate elements. Carefully preserved and largely unaltered, the house is a well-crafted and representative example of the production of Holt's workshop during the period. Except for a brief period in the 1930s, Belvidere was owned and occupied by members of the Boyd family until being sold to the current owners in 1986. Although most of the original acreage associated with the house has been separated from it or flooded by Kerr Lake, its 15.79-acre tract of woods and meadow, including a ca. 1850 schoolhouse and a selection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century farm outbuildings, provides an appropriate setting for the house.

## Historical Background

In the second half of the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth, the section of northern Granville and Warren counties around the Little Nutbush and Nutbush Creeks, known as the Nutbush community, attracted the county's most prosperous planters and most distinguished citizens. It contained the majority of the county's population, the bulk of its slaves, and was the center of its cultural and educational

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

life [Heritage and Homesteads, p. 38]. Many of the area's inhabitants had migrated from Hanover County, Virginia and adjacent Virginia counties, and there were extensive family ties [Henderson Daily Dispatch, 26 November 1949].

Around 1763, David Mitchell bought three tracts of land totalling 640 acres and started the Belvidere plantation. He sold the land in 1810 to John Rust Eaton of Bloomsbury, an adjoining plantation [Historic Vance County, p. 14]. By the 1840 census the plantation was occupied by Eaton's son James W. Eaton, listed in the census as aged 20 to 30, living with his young (15-20 year old) wife and twenty-four slaves, fourteen of whom were engaged in agriculture [U. S. Census, Granville County, 1840, p. 134].

On August 14, 1848, James W. Eaton sold an approximately 900 acre parcel of land, referred to in the deed as "the Belvadier (sic) tract," to Richard Boyd and his son William Henry Boyd of Warren County [Granville Deeds, Book 15, p. 71]. Richard Boyd (1771-1860) owned land south of the Roanoke River in both Virginia and North Carolina. About 1810 he built a home in Warren County, near what is now Macon. William Henry (1819-92) was the youngest child of Richard and Panthea Burwell Boyd (1781-1848). He attended Randolph-Macon College and later was a merchant at St. Tammany's Ferry, Virginia [Heritage History, p. 127].

In February of 1848, William married Susan Swepson Davis of Mecklenburg County, Virginia [Heritage History, p. 127]. The elder Boyd sold his interest in the Belvidere land to his son in November of 1848 (the deed is dated November 14, the day Panthea Boyd died) and, according to family tradition, the new house was begun [Granville Deeds, Book 15, p. 196 and Heritage History, p. 127]. Also according to family tradition, the new house included parts of a previous house on the site. Two six-panel Georgian doors leading into the rear shed rooms may date from the earlier dwelling.

Susan Boyd died in 1854 without having any children. In 1856 William Boyd married Sallie (Sarah) Virginia Daniel (1833-

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

1915) of Granville County. They had thirteen children between 1857 and 1876 [Heritage History, p. 126].

William H. Boyd died in 1892, leaving Belvidere to his wife Sallie (Sarah). A short obituary in the (Oxford) Public Ledger noted his passing:

It is learned that Col. "Buck" Boyd, one of the most prominent and popular citizens of Vance County, died at his home near Townsville Sunday night. He was seventy-two years of age. He was well-known in Granville [Public Ledger, 22 July 1892, p. 1].

The rank of Colonel appears to have been either a militia or courtesy title, since Boyd did not participate in the Civil War, either because of his age or because of the draft exclusion for the owners of plantations with substantial numbers of slaves. The 1850 slave schedules of the census show Boyd with fifteen slaves in 1850, while in 1860 he owned a total of thirty-one slaves, some possibly from his father's estate [U. S. Census, Slave Schedules, Granville County, 1850, 1860].

The agricultural census indicates that, in line with progressive farming theories of the times, William Boyd carried out diversified farming operations which produced substantial amounts of corn, oats, wheat, cotton and tobacco. He also had orchards with apple and peach trees, raised sheep, cattle and swine in significant numbers, and kept milch cows. Over thirty years of farming from 1850 to 1880, the census shows that approximately one-half to two-thirds of his land was in cultivation at one time, the rest being either fallow or in woodlands [U. S. Census, Agricultural Schedules, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880].

While Boyd's labors appear to have been devoted largely to agriculture, he apparently took part in public affairs and is listed in 1883 and 1884 directories as a magistrate for Townsville Township [Chataigne's 1883-84 North Carolina Directory and Branson's 1884 North Carolina Business Directory]. He is credited by one observer as being one of a handful of prominent

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

men who worked actively for the formation of Vance County in 1881 from parts of three adjacent counties [Historic Vance County, p. 3].

The thirteen Boyd children received all or part of their early education at a school operated by Boyd in a small frame house that stands near the main house. Probably originally an overseer's house, it was converted to school use and was served by teachers who lived nearby or who resided with the Boyds [Heritage History, p. 127].

When Sallie Boyd died in 1915, she bequeathed to her youngest son, John Early Boyd (1869-1935), the 158 acres that comprised the "home tract," provided that he pay off two \$550.00 notes secured by a deed of trust [Vance County Wills, Book B, p. 558]. The remainder of the Belvidere lands had been previously disbursed to several other Boyd children. John E. Boyd continued to farm the home tract until his death in 1935, though from 1903 to 1909 he managed a tobacco farm in Georgia and during the early years of World War I he ran a farm in Northampton County. Boyd married Sallie Hamilton Bullock (1866-1940) in 1902, and they had one son, John E. Boyd, Junior [Heritage History, p. 124].

John E. Boyd, Senior, died intestate, leaving the home place encumbered with a mortgage held by the Federal Land Bank of Columbia. When his widow and son were unable to meet the mortgage payments in 1936, the property was foreclosed upon and sold at public auction, the high bidder being the Land Bank [Vance Deeds, Book 188, p. 559]. Two months later the home place was purchased by George A. Harris and his wife Lucy Boyd Harris [Vance Deeds, Book 198, p. 36]. Mrs. Harris was the daughter of Nathaniel D. Boyd (1858-1930), the second child of William H. Boyd [Heritage History, p. 125].

The Harrises removed the original front portico and replaced it with a full-width porch with tapered square posts on brick piers. They also added bathrooms and had electricity and running water installed. While the Harrises lived in Henderson, the house was occupied by Mrs. Harris's mother and sisters [Historic Vance County, p. 14]. Later it was occupied by the family on a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

seasonal basis [Survey File].

When the Buggs Island Reservoir (later named Kerr Lake) was created in the late 1940s and early 1950s, a substantial portion of the home tract was acquired for the lake and its borders, leaving a narrow peninsula extending north into the lake [Vance County Maps, Map of Tract J-902, Buggs Island Reservoir]. In 1986 Lucy (Boyd) Harris Poulsen (the former Mrs. George Harris) sold a 15.79-acre portion of this remaining tract, including the house and outbuildings, to Lex K. and Kathryn Larson of Durham [Vance Deeds, Book 615, p. 811]. The Larsons are in the process of restoring the main house to its appearance ca. 1935.

Architectural Context

Boyd family tradition maintains that Belvidere was constructed in 1848 by Jacob Holt. Jacob W. Holt (1811-1880) was a Virginia-born carpenter and builder whose workshop was responsible for a large body of high-quality work in the northern piedmont area of North Carolina and the adjacent Virginia counties from the 1830s through the 1870s. Raised and trained in Prince Edward County, Virginia, by his late twenties Holt was an established builder with a large force of slaves and free workmen [Bishir, Jacob W. Holt, p. 449]. In the early 1840s he joined a migration of Prince Edward County craftsmen to Warrenton, North Carolina, then the county seat of the most prosperous county in the state [Bishir, Jacob W. Holt, p. 450].

By the late 1840s, Jacob Holt's carpentry shop was by far the largest in the building trade in the county and in North Carolina as a whole, consisting of forty-two slaves and seventeen free whites. He was joined by his brother Thomas in 1849, who took over supervision of some of Jacob's construction projects [Bishir, Jacob W. Holt, p. 450]. Although he had a broad practice in Warrenton, in the 1850s Jacob Holt reached out into Warren County and then to other counties. As many as twenty buildings in Warrenton and approximately thirty others in adjacent counties are definitively tied to or attributed to Holt and his workshop during the antebellum period [Bishir, Jacob W. Holt, p. 451].

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

During the 1840s Holt's domestic work consisted almost entirely of large, boxy, center-hall plan houses carried out in the popular Greek Revival style. He was particularly influenced by Asher Benjamin's builders' guides, the 1830 Practical House Carpenter and the 1835 Practice of Architecture, as well as Minard Lafever's 1829 The Young Builder's General Instructor. From these he borrowed numerous details for his productions, generally altering or simplifying them as needed and usually applying them to building forms which were in the vernacular tradition [Bishir, Jacob W. Holt, p. 453].

During the early 1850s Holt began to move toward including more eclectic and romantic elements in his architecture, especially those of the Italian Villa or Italianate style. A strong influence on his work during this period was William Ranlett's pattern book The Architect, Volume 1 of which was published in 1849, followed by Volume 2 in 1851. As with his earlier practice, Holt modified the detailing to meet the abilities of his workshop and did not hesitate to combine Greek Revival elements with the new Italianate designs.

Holt maintained a carpentry shop as well as lumber and brick kilns on his lot in Warrenton where he could turn out in large numbers the elements that he used in his houses [Bishir, Architects and Builders, p. 155]. As a result, although all of the houses are different, most contain selections from a common set of distinctive decorative features, updated over time, shuffled and reshuffled according to the tastes of the customer and the budget of the job. The handful of surviving contracts for Holt houses refer to other Holt houses in establishing a level of work and specific details [Bishir, Jacob W. Holt, p. 475].

Belvidere appears to represent a transitional stage in Holt's work about 1850 when he was moving from straight Greek Revival detailing to what would eventually become a flamboyant Italianate in the late 1850s, as typified by Pool Rock (National Register) in Vance County. Belvidere's interior woodwork is entirely Greek and mostly taken from Asher Benjamin. The mantels

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

in the front parlors are most likely derived from Plate 51 in The Practical House Carpenter. The west parlor mantel, as well, is an exact duplicate of a mantel found at Reedy Rill (National Register) in Warren County (ca. 1855), at the Sommerville-Graham House in Warrenton (ca. 1850), and at other houses in the Warrenton area attributed to Holt. There are many other similarities between Belvidere and other Holt houses in the interior trim and how it is arranged. For example, the china cabinets flanking a central mantel on the long dining room wall are duplicated at the Sommerville-Graham House, though with a different mantel design.

In a number of Holt houses there are a front and a rear stair, divided from each other by a louvered screen. At Reedy Rill, however, there is a single stair set in the rear half of the hall, with a double-doored archway separating the two sections. At Belvidere the stair is enclosed and the double-doored archway becomes two distinct doorways. Both stairs, however, use precisely the same newel and handrail design.

Only on the exterior of the house does the Italianate influence exert itself. The bracketted main cornice and the fluted corner boards and pilaster strips with pairs of small brackets at the top are motifs that Holt would use over and over in subsequent houses. The most likely source for these elements is Ranlett's "An Anglo-Italian Villa," Design II in Volume I of The Architect. A plate of details which accompanies the villa design pictures the distinctive double brackets precisely. Further, the portico with four square posts that originally graced the house is clearly taken from the Anglo-Italian Villa rendering. Versions of this portico appear in a number of Holt houses, including the William T. Alston House in Warrenton, the Powell House in Warren County, and, most clearly, Engleside, the John White House in Warrenton. In the case of Belvidere, the portico posts are fluted, but instead of paired brackets for a capital, they have Greek Doric pilaster caps.

At least two other houses attributed to Holt are located in the vicinity of Belvidere. In addition to Pool Rock, previously mentioned, there is Bloomsbury, just down the road from

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9 Page 13

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Belvidere  
Vance County, NC

Belvidere, built for the Eaton family about the same time. LaGrange (National Register) has a somewhat Holt-like exterior, but a relatively crude and atypical interior.

## Major Bibliographical References

Bishir, Catherine; Brown, Charlotte V.; Lounsbury, Carl R.; and Wood, Ernest H. III. Architects and Builders in North Carolina. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1990.

Bishir, Catherine W. "Jacob W. Holt, an American Builder." Winterthur Portfolio 16, no. 1 (Spring 1981): 1-32. Reprinted in Common Places: Readings in American Vernacular Architecture, edited by Dell Upton and John Vlach. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1986.

Blackburn, George T. II, Gen. Chairman. The Heritage of Vance County, North Carolina, Vol. 1. Winston-Salem: Vance County Historical Society and Hunter Publishing Company, 1984.

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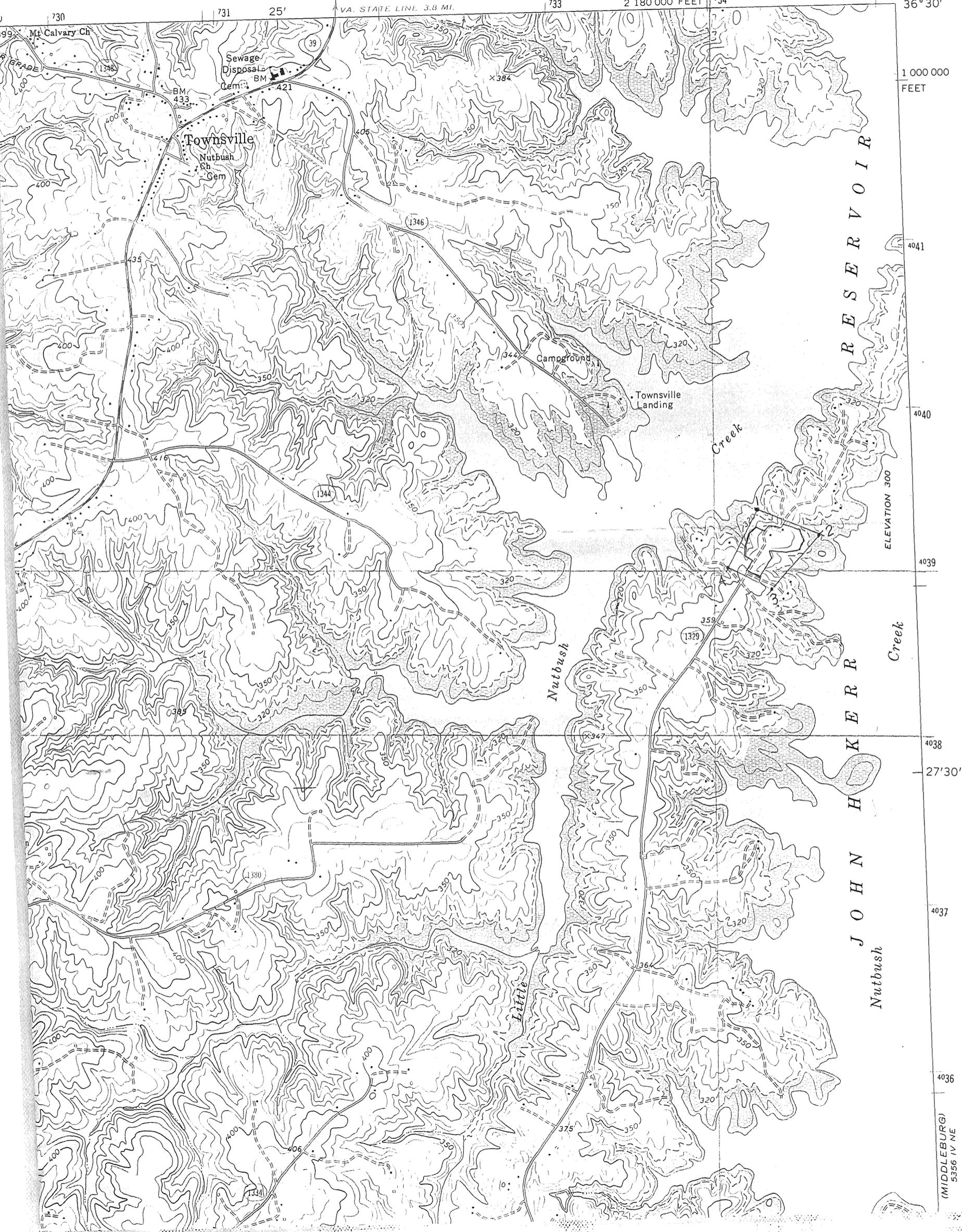
BELVIDERE PLANTATION  
1. - E 734250 N-4039370  
3. - E 734340 N-4038890  
TOWNSVILLE QUAD

VANCE CO. ZONE 17 1:24000  
2. - E 734630 N 4039220  
4. - E 734080 N 4039020

TOWNSVILLE QUADRANGLE  
NORTH CAROLINA-VANCE CO.  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

78° 22' 30"  
36° 30'

5357 III SE  
(JOHN H. KERR DAM)



(MIDDLEBURG)  
5356 IV NE

