

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Belvidere

AND/OR COMMON

Exum Newby House; Lamb House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER On N.C. 37, 0.1 miles west of Perquimans River

CITY, TOWN

Belvidere Township

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

1st

STATE

North Carolina

CODE

37

COUNTY

Perquimans

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. & Mrs. Robert W. Smith

STREET & NUMBER

Belvidere Plantation

CITY, TOWN

Belvidere

STATE

North Carolina 27919

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Perquimans County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Church Street

CITY, TOWN

Hertford

STATE

North Carolina 27944

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

September 11, 1940

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

Washington, D.C.

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Belvidere, located just west of the Perquimans River, is a five-bay, one-and-one-half-story eighteenth century frame dwelling notable for its unusual roof form--a hip on gambrel, believed to be unique in the state for its period. In many respects the front elevation presents an appearance similar to the Augustine Moore House in Yorktown, Virginia.

The frame house is covered with beaded weatherboards said not to be original; it sits on a foundation of brick piers. At either end rises a stout double-shouldered chimney of brick laid in Flemish bond, with smooth, paved shoulders and a band of mousetooth brick at the cap. Flues rise from each stack. The elevations are defined by cornerboards and by a molded watertable of wood. The front (south) facade features a richly molded cornice with undercut modillions, which terminates at either end at a graceful patternboard which tapers to reflect the angle of the gambrel (lower) slope of the roof.

The modillion cornice continues uninterrupted along the pedimented entrance porch which shelters the central entrance. The porch is carried on two pairs of slim, unfluted vernacular columns and is simply finished except for the cornice. The doorway consists of a double door, each leaf with six raised panels, beneath a ten-light transom. The entrance is set in a mitered, molded frame. Flanking the entrance are pairs of windows with nine-over-nine sash and molded sills. Five irregularly spaced shed dormers pierce the scallop-shingled lower gambrel roof; the center window has six-over-six sash, the others six-over-nine.

The side elevations, which are identical, have pairs of nine-over-nine sash at the first level and four-over-six at the second, in each case flanking the exterior chimney. At the rear, a long, sloped shed roof shelters back rooms and a porch. Window treatment in this section varies, having four-over-six, six-over-six, and six-over-nine sash.

In plan, Belvidere has a central passageway slightly off center to the east, with a room to either side. Smaller rooms occur in the shed area. A stair rises along the eastern wall of the passageway, turns with winders and then doubles back along the opposite wall. Typical of eighteenth century stairs in the area, it features a closed string, newel square-in-section with a molded cap, robust turned balusters, and a heavy molded handrail that neither ramps nor eases. A closet occurs under the stair.

The two front rooms and the center passageway feature flat-paneled wainscots with unusually long, broad panels. Doors feature six flat panels and are hung on HL hinges. Throughout the house, the chair rail, window and door moldings have characteristic late eighteenth century features. The fireplace in the west front room is framed by a marbled band. The mantel here is described as being of early nineteenth century origin. A simple shelf is supported by pilasters with applied vertical moldings creating panels, with simple molded caps. The mantel in the east room, however, is believed to be original, and is quite simple. A band of moldings outlines the rectangular opening, and another band occurs beneath the molded shelf.

The two shed rooms were subdivided in the early twentieth century to create four back rooms, and before the mid-century a porch addition was constructed at the rear.

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Originally the second floor had three chambers and a central passageway. Only the two end rooms are heated, and they have simple mantels. All three rooms and the passageway feature chair rails similar to the lower floor. A modern bathroom has been partitioned off the front of the second-story hall.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Belvidere is a well-preserved Georgian style plantation house distinguished by an unusual and dramatic hip-on-gambrel roof apparently unique for its period in the state. The house was built in the mid to late eighteenth century for Thomas Newby or his son Exum Newby, both of whom were substantial planters active in local Friends meetings--a denomination vital in the early development of the Albemarle.

Belvidere was evidently built in the mid to late eighteenth century for Thomas Newby (ca. 1725-1793). The traditional construction date is 1767, the year Newby added the last major tract constituting the plantation. (This tract was not the house site. The whole plantation eventually encompassed about 1,000 acres.) Newby was a prominent planter and merchant, with a store at Newbys Bridge, and was an overseer and an elder in Wells Monthly Meeting of Friends--and thus a leader in the Quaker denomination which dominated the Albemarle in the seventeenth and much of the eighteenth century.¹

At the time of his death in 1793, Newby was occupying a house on the southern end of the plantation. He apparently had given Belvidere to his son Exum, possibly about 1785, when the younger Newby returned from Virginia, where he had resided for a year after his marriage. Exum's possession of the property was confirmed in his father's 1792 will.² (The name Belvidere appeared before 1810 and later passed to the nearby village, post office, a famous academy and the township.) Exum Newby (ca. 1760-1812) was a leading landowner, operating saw and grist mills, a wharf and a shipyard in addition to his agricultural and mercantile pursuits. He was also an overseer of Piney Woods Friends Meeting, continuing the family prominence in Quaker affairs.

Possibly because of financial difficulties and illness, Exum Newby conveyed the property in 1810 to his sister-in-law Ann Scott of Nansemond County, Virginia.³ She also held interests in the land-speculations of the Lebanon estate. In 1817 she conveyed Belvidere to her sister Martha (Mrs. Exum) Newby (ca. 1765-1827).⁴ By a division in 1830,⁵ Belvidere became the property of Exum Newby's daughter Mary (1799-1837), who married Willis Lamb (1808-1887) in 1831. Lamb was later an overseer of Piney Woods Meeting. Lambs held Belvidere for a century. In 1878 John N. Lamb (only surviving child of Mary Newby Lamb) conveyed the property to his half-brother, Dr. Benjamin F. Lamb.⁶ Dr. Lamb's family occupied Belvidere only occasionally, leasing it to tenants in the intervals of their residence in the north and mid-west. The last of his children, Thyele M. and Benjamin C. Lamb, sold their interests in the 1930s.⁷

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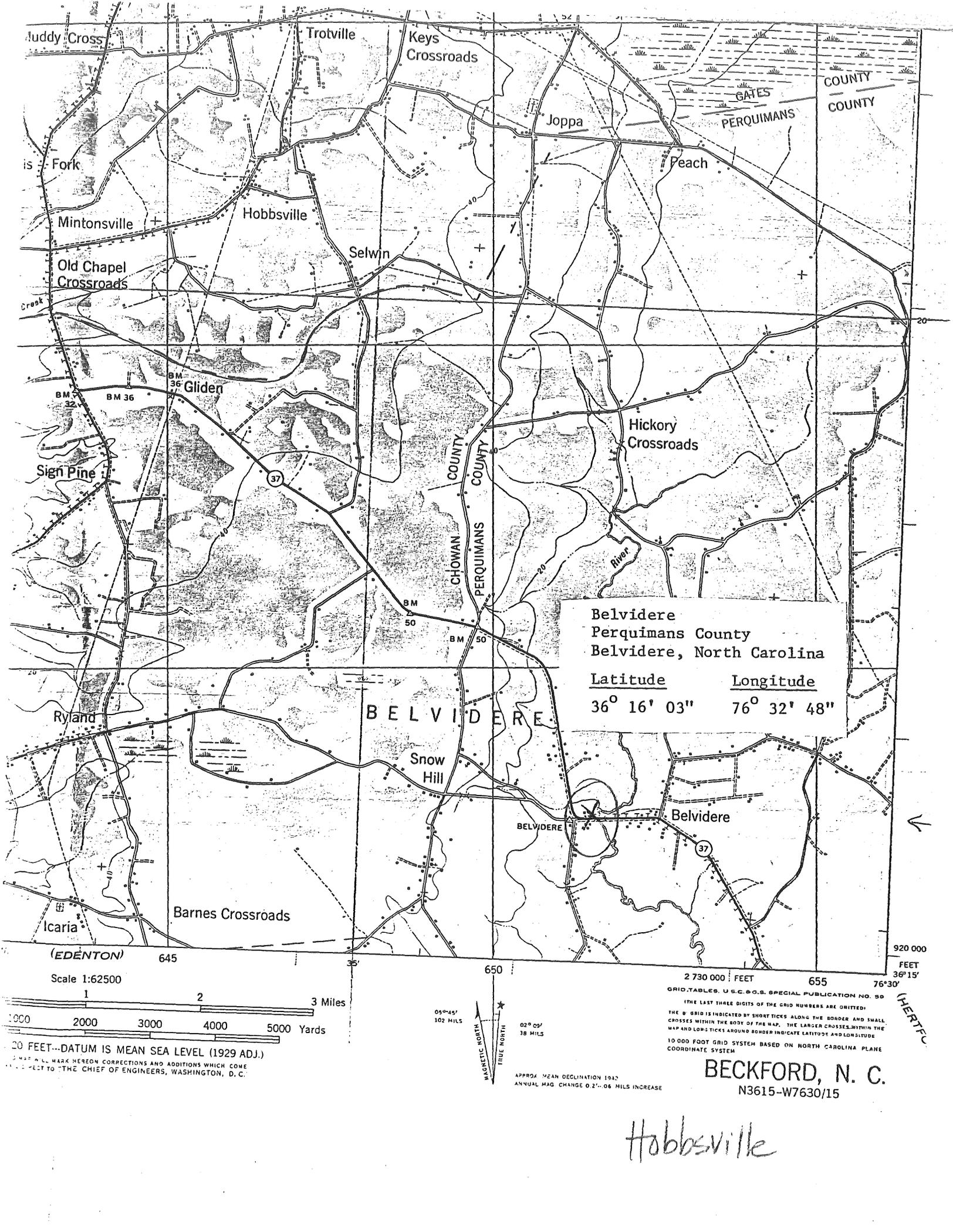
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In 1935 and 1936 Louis Weems Anderson (1895-1947), Perquimans County farm agent, acquired the property, adding modern improvements.⁸ At that time a number of old Newby family papers and important early Quaker records were found in the house. Anderson's widow sold Belvidere to Charles Henc in 1948.⁹ Henc sold it in 1955 to Lloyd A. Chenoweth,¹⁰ (Mrs. Chenoweth was a sister of the late novelist Inglis Fletcher.) The house was recently sold to Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Smith; Mr. Smith is the radio personality "Wolfman Jack", and Mrs. Smith is a descendant of the Lamb family who lived at Belvidere in the nineteenth century.



Belvidere
Perquimans County
Belvidere, North Carolina

Latitude	Longitude
36° 16' 03"	76° 32' 48"

BELVIDERE

920 000
FEET
36° 15'

2 730 000 FEET 655 76° 30'

GRID TABLES, U.S.C. & G.S. SPECIAL PUBLICATION NO. 50
(THE LAST THREE DIGITS OF THE GRID NUMBERS ARE OMITTED)
THE GRID IS INDICATED BY SHORT TICKS ALONG THE BORDER AND SMALL
CROSSES WITHIN THE BODY OF THE MAP. THE LARGER CROSSES WITHIN THE
MAP AND LONG TICKS AROUND BORDER INDICATE LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE
10 000 FOOT GRID SYSTEM BASED ON NORTH CAROLINA PLANE
COORDINATE SYSTEM

BECKFORD, N. C.
N3615-W7630/15

(EDENTON) 645 650 655
Scale 1:62500
0 1 2 3 Miles
1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 Yards

05° 45' 102 MILS
MAGNETIC NORTH
TRUE NORTH
02° 09' 38 MILS
APPROX MEAN DECLINATION 1940
ANNUAL MAG CHANGE 0 2"-06 MILS INCREASE

20 FEET--DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL (1929 ADJ.)
ALL MARK HEREON CORRECTIONS AND ADDITIONS WHICH COME
FROM THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Hobbsville

