

Beallair Time Line

- 1748 George Washington surveys the eastern panhandle region for Lord Fairfax
1770 John Crow buys land from Lord Fairfax and builds a wood house for his family
1775 Thomas Crow inherits property from his father
1791 Joseph Nourse buys the property from Thomas Crow
1790's North portion of manor house built
1801 Jefferson County formed from Berkeley County
1803 Thomas Beall buys property from Nourse
1807 George Corbin Washington marries Thomas Beall's daughter Elizabeth
1812 Lewis Washington born to Elizabeth and George Corbin Washington
1836 Lewis Washington marries Mary Barroll
1837 Winchester and Potomac Railroad (W&P) constructed just south of Beallair
1855 Lewis Washington completes Greek Revival expansion of manor house at cost of \$6,731
1859 John Brown's Raid on Harpers Ferry
1860 Lewis Washington marries Ella Bassett
1861 West Virginia secedes from Virginia
1871 Lewis Washington dies at Beallair
1877 Court orders sale of Beallair to pay debts
1979 Beallair added to National Register of Historic Places, under the spelling Beall-Air
1980 Don and Mary Jo Kennard buy Beallair
2004 Wormald Homes buys Beallair
2007 Yvonne and John Gagnon become the first residents of the Beallair community



A gazebo graces the village green and park near the historic manor house.

WORMALD

Live Where History Was Made.



- Historic Washington Plantation and Mansion.
- Gated Community with sweeping mountain views.
- Single Family and Villa homes, priced from the \$200s.
- Low-Maintenance with lawn care and snow removal services provided.



1.800.353.0068 www.beallair.com
Models Open 11-5 Daily.

Beallair

Beallair is one of seven homes in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia that are associated with the Washington family. Lewis Washington, George Washington's great grand-nephew, moved to Beallair after the death of his first wife. He made extensive improvements including adding the south portion of the manor house. After being taken hostage during the John Brown Raid, he served the Confederacy as a diplomat in France. After the war, Colonel Lewis Washington returned to Beallair, where he died in 1871.



Beallair as it looked during the Civil War

The estate passed through several owners until it was bought in 1980 by Don and Mary Jo Kennard. Over almost twenty years, they worked to restore Beallair to its mid-19th century elegance.



Thomas Beall, a leading landholder, was a friend of George Washington. Beall inherited land holdings from his grandfather Ninian Beall, a Scottish immigrant who rose from indentured service to become commander of the Maryland Militia. In 1803, Thomas Beall bought the Beallair property but did not reside here. An interesting footnote is that Thomas Beall lived in Georgetown and once owned the house that Jacqueline Kennedy lived in after leaving the White House in 1963.

In 1807, Beall's daughter Elizabeth married George Corbin Washington, grand-nephew of (President) George Washington. Their son Lewis W. Washington was living at Beallair by

1850, when he initiated an expansion of the manor house, in the Greek Revival style, which was popular at the time. The two distinct structures—18th century house with separate kitchen

(on the left in the photo below), and 19th century Greek Revival addition on the front—were unified with stucco veneer. Lewis Washington was made an honorary colonel by the state of Virginia.



One of Lewis Washington's prize possessions was General George Washington's dress sword, believed to have been given to him by Frederick the Great. The general willed his sword to his nephew John Augustine Washington. John passed it down to his son, George Corbin Washington, who passed it down to his son, Lewis Washington.



On October 16, 1859, John Brown and 18 men entered Harpers Ferry and captured the federal armory. After having secured a large cache of weapons, Brown ordered his men to obtain local hostages and bring them back to the armory. Their first stop was Beallair.

Col. Washington described his kidnapping: "They appeared at my chamber door about half past one in the morning. My name was called in an under tone, and supposing it to be by some friend who had possibly arrived late, and being familiar with the house, had been admitted in the rear by the servants, I opened the door in my night-shirt and slippers. I was in bed and asleep. As I opened the door there were four armed men with their guns drawn upon me just around me."

Despite being outnumbered, Washington was not intimidated. He told the raiders, "You are a very bold looking set of fellows, but I should doubt your courage; you have too many arms to take one man. I believe with a pop-gun I could take either of you in your shirt tail." Osborne Anderson, one of the few raiders to escape, gives a different account. He wrote "The Colonel cried heartily when he found he must submit."

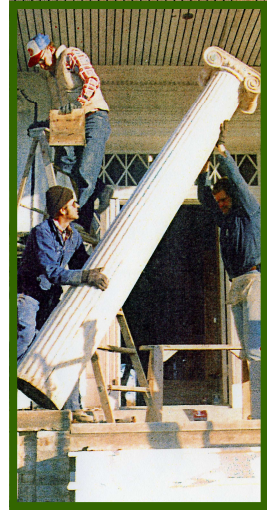
After taking a number of items, including the dress sword of Gen. Washington, the raiders took more hostages and returned to Harpers Ferry. When they got to the armory, Brown talked to the hostages. He told Washington, "My particular reason for taking you first was that, as the aide to the governor of Virginia, I knew you would endeavor to perform your duty, and perhaps you would have been a troublesome customer to me; and, apart from that, I wanted you particularly for the moral effect it would give our cause, having one of your name as a prisoner."

On October 18th, federal troops, under the command of Robert E. Lee, captured Brown and his men, and rescued the hostages. After the rescue, Lewis Washington told a friend that "I feel as hungry as a hound and as dry as a powder-horn." He was widely praised for his calmness and courage during the raid.

Col. Washington's second wife Ella, through her friendship with Gen. George Custer, was able to obtain a pardon for her husband for his support of the Confederacy. Despite Ella's dislike of Union soldiers, whom she called "devils," she admired Custer's spirit and gallantry.



Don and Mary Jo Kennard originally thought the restoration of the derelict Beallair would take six months. Unfortunately, this proved to be a bigger undertaking and eventually consumed 19 years. The Kennards actually lived in an adjoining building for a number of years. The gardens were also restored by Mary Jo. They enjoyed entertaining, and Congressman Charlie Wilson was a frequent guest. As a Texas state senator, Don was an advocate of environmental and historical conservation.



Mary Jo Kennard painted this picture of the willows around Flowing Springs Creek, which runs through the Beallair property just below the manor house.

Directions: From Route 340, go north on Old Country Club Road about 1.3 miles. Turn right at the Beallair gate and continue on Beallair Manor Dr to the mansion on the left.

Since Beallair is a gated community, the Manor House is not open to the public. Please call 1.800.353.0068 to arrange a visit.

For more information, please check our web site at www.BeallairEstate.Info.