

**Claremont**  
**Built between 1815 and 1819**  
**Paula S. Reed & Associates**  
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1814 – When “Thomas Beall of George” wrote his will in 1814, he was living in Washington, D.C. He left all of his estate to his wife (Nancy) for her lifetime. After her death all of his Washington, D. C. property and half of his Jefferson County property was to pass to his daughter Elizabeth (not Louisa) R. Washington and the other half of the Jefferson property was devised to his two grandsons, Thomas Beall Peter and Colin Peter. Beall appointed George C. Washington as his executor (JC DB 3/246).

1815 – Thomas Beall was assessed for one country house in Jefferson County valued at \$700 over the \$500 minimum (\$1,200).

1819 – Thomas Beall was deceased and his will was probated.

1820 – Beall must have died late enough in 1819 to still be included in the 1820 land tax. He was assessed for 1,196  $\frac{3}{4}$  acres on “Hall’s Run,” NE 4 miles from the courthouse in Charles Town, with a building value of \$5,150. He was noted as a resident of Maryland on the tax record.

Clearly, within the last five years something new and substantial had been constructed somewhere on Beall’s property. Since I do not know anything about his other house (Beallair?) I’m just guessing, but I’d bet that Claremont was the new house constructed in preparation for the division of the property.

See attached 1827 plat of the Division of Thomas Beall’s estate, called “Division of Belleair Estate” on the plat (JC DB 14/630). This shows that Beall owned at least nine buildings (one is on the adjoining page not included in this scan), including the two main houses, several smaller houses, and three buildings in Halltown.

1821 – Nancy Beall (of Maryland) was assessed for the whole Thomas Beall estate.

In 1823 her assessment went up to \$5,280 for buildings with the notation “Altered” but nothing more. This was likely something small.

1827 – Nancy Beall must have died and the estate was divided.

It appears that Elizabeth R. Washington was no longer living either because her half of the estate was given to George C. Washington (her husband) and Lewis Washington, probably her son. On the plat, this was the half (670 acres) of the estate on the left.

Thomas Beall Peter and Colin Peter were given 538 acres including the Claremont House on the hill, the buildings (including a tavern) in Halltown, and another smaller house. They also got a wooded parcel.

1828 – T.B. & C. Peter was assessed for 583 acres with a building value of \$4,080.

The G.C. & L. Washington parcel had a building value of \$1,200.

1829 – The Peter brothers were assessed for their parcel with a building value of \$5,000 with the notation “new frame barn and log house added to tavern house value \$920.”

In 1833 Thomas Beall Peter was noted as deceased and in 1835 Colin Peter sold 104 acres to Adam & Henry Moler.

1836 – Colin Peter was assessed for 391 acres with a building value of \$1,300.

John Peter (son of Thomas B. Peter?) was assessed for 1 acre in Halltown with a building value of \$200, probably the tavern.

1838 John Peter was shown as deceased.

1841 – Reassessment. Colin Peter was assessed for 391 acres with a building value of \$2,000.

1842 – Richard H. Ranson was assessed for 391 acres with \$2,000 buildings and 1 acre with \$100 building value “from Colin Peter and John Peter heirs.”