20000100 16

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT
MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: Baltimore Embroidery Co. 9621 Belair Rd. Survey Number: BA-907
Project: Demolition for a Wallgreens Store Agency: COE
Site visit by MHT Staff: X no ___ yes Name _____ Date _____

Eligibility recommended X Eligibility **not** recommended ___

Criteria: X A ___B ___C ___D Considerations: ___A ___B ___C ___D ___E ___F ___G ___None

Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map)

The Baltimore Embroidery Company was established by John Tanner and his wife Lina Barth in 1914. They constructed a one-story rectangular, brick building at the corner of Belair and Chapel roads that housed embroidery machinery and a storage room. The building is a simple industrial structure faced in stretcher bond brick and terminates in a gable roof sheathed in standing metal panels. The building lacks architectural ornamentation. The character defining design features of the structure are its segmental arch windows and double leaf doors. The front elevation, two by one bay entry vestibule and office was added to the building after the main structure was erected. A one by two, stucco addition, which houses the stock room and bathrooms, was also constructed after the main building.

The Baltimore Embroidery Company manufactured a variety of products during its eight decades of operation. It began as a lace factory. In the 1960s the company began manufacturing insignia for the US Armed Forces. When it closed in 1997 it was the oldest factory in Perry Hall. The Balt. Embroidery Company is the last industrial center remaining from the Germantown era along Belair Road. There are very few embroidery companies of this design and age remaining in the eastern US and there are none intact in eastern Ba. Co.

Documentation on the property/district is presented in: Survey BA-907, Review & Compliance Files

Prepared by: Kathryn Kuranda, Goodwin & Associates, Inc. & David Marks, Historian, Perry Hall Improvement Association

Patricia McCloskey April 25, 2000
Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services Date

NR program concurrence: X yes ___ no ___ not applicable

B Kurtz 4/27/00
Reviewer, NR program Date

Survey No. BA-907

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I. Geographic Region:

_____	Eastern Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil)
_____	Western Shore	(Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)
X	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)
_____	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)

II. Chronological/Developmental Periods:

_____	Paleo-Indian	10000-7500 B.C.
_____	Early Archaic	7500-6000 B.C.
_____	Middle Archaic	6000-4000 B.C.
_____	Late Archaic	4000-2000 B.C.
_____	Early Woodland	2000-500 B.C.
_____	Middle Woodland	500 B.C. - A.D. 900
_____	Late Woodland/Archaic	A.D. 900-1600
_____	Contact and Settlement	A.D. 1570-1750
_____	Rural Agrarian Intensification	A.D. 1680-1815
_____	Agricultural-Industrial Transition	A.D. 1815-1870
X	Industrial/Urban Dominance	A.D. 1870-1930
X	Modern Period	A.D. 1930-Present
_____	Unknown Period (___ prehistoric	___ historic)

III. Prehistoric Period Themes:

_____ Subsistence
_____ Settlement
_____ Political
_____ Demographic
_____ Religion
_____ Technology
_____ Environmental Adaption

IV. Historic Period Themes:

_____ Agriculture
_____ Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning
X Economic (Commercial and Industrial)
_____ Government/Law
_____ Military
_____ Religion
_____ Social/Educational/Cultural
_____ Transportation

V. Resource Type:

Category: Building

Historic Environment Rural

Historic Function(s) and Use(s): Industry/manufacturing facility

Known Design Source: None

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Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Baltimore Embroidery Company

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 9621 Belair Road ___ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ___ vicinity of 2nd congressional district

state Maryland county Baltimore County

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	X industrial	___ transportation
	X not applicable	X no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Ronald B. Tanner

street & number 4226 Chapel Road telephone no.: (410) 256-4375

city, town Baltimore state and zip code MD 21236

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber

street & number 400 Washington Avenue folio

city, town Towson state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title Currently identified on MHT inventory as #907--Baltimore County

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Baltimore County Landmarks Preservation Commission

city, town Towson state Maryland

7. Description

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Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

In the late Nineteenth Century, Lina Barth lived with her family in Heimishub St. Gallen, Switzerland, a small village renowned for its lacemaking industry. Here, she and her two brothers, Alfred and John, became employed in a local embroidery factory, learning lacemaking at a young age. When Lina Barth's mother died in 1892, her father brought the family to the United States, where they settled in Fairbury, Illinois. Lina Barth eventually married John Tanner, a stone mason from Austria, and the couple moved to Richmond.

In 1911, the Tanner family settled in Perry Hall, buying land at the intersection of Belair and Joppa Roads. Although they started a working farm, it was the embroidery business where Lina Barth realized her knowledge of lacemaking could have the greatest impact. In 1914, Lina Barth, her husband, and her brothers opened the Baltimore Embroidery Company, building a narrow brick factory at 9621 Belair Road. In 1921, the family built a white house next to the factory, and the structure became known throughout the community for its elegant architecture, long porches, and rock-faced exterior.

The factory's size belied the scale of activity within the Baltimore Embroidery Company. The owners installed two embroidery machines that were so mammoth they had legs planted firmly in eight feet of concrete below the building. Each machine had 1,021 needles in the front and a corresponding number of shuttles in the back. At one end of the machine was the pattern from which the design was threaded onto the material, which was stretched across the entire length of the machine between the shuttles and the needles. During the early years of the Baltimore Embroidery Company, a trained sticher was needed to delicately follow the pattern with a pantograph; later, this was done automatically. By 1997, this embroidery equipment cost $250,000 to purchase and $90,000 to install.

The Baltimore Embroidery Company manufactured a variety of products during its eight decades of operation. It began exclusively as a lace factory, then embroidered towel sets, scarves, pillow cases, and bedspreads. In the 1960s, the company began manufacturing insignia for the U.S. Armed Forces, and it was mass-producing U.S. Olympic emblems and National Basketball Association patches by the 1990s. When it closed in 1997, the Baltimore Embroidery Company was the oldest factory in Perry Hall.

This is one of the few industrial centers of this historical era in northeastern Baltimore County. Not only are there few embroidery companies in the eastern United States, but there are even fewer factories of this age and scale.

8. Significance

Survey No. BA-907

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
X 1900–	___ communications	X industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Summary Paragraph of Significance

The Baltimore Embroidery Company is the last industrial center remaining from the Germantown era along Belair Road, an early Baltimore County transportation corridor which had been converted from the Baltimore & Jerusalem Turnpike into a public road when the factory began. There are very few embroidery companies of this design and age remaining in the eastern United States, and there are none intact in eastern Baltimore County.

General Statement of Site History

This section will document the evolutionary history of the embroidery company site, from prehistoric times through the Germantown era.

Early Settlement

Perry Hall is uniquely situated at the junction of two geologic regions, the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. The Coastal Plain is low and flat, extending southeastward across the Chesapeake Bay and over the Eastern Shore. The Coastal Plain is characterized by a layer of unconsolidated settlements—gravel, sand, silt, and clay—that form a thick blanket ranging from 300 to 8,000 feet thick. This layer is interrupted by hard gneiss and schist rocks that protect the region's river valleys and stream channels. Northwestward from Perry Hall, the Coastal Plain thins away, and the land takes on the contours of the Piedmont, a rugged and older collection of narrow ridges and broad lowlands. The Piedmont encounters the Coastal Plain in a unique geologic region called the Fall Zone, named for the falls and rapids that occur along it. Perry Hall is located within the Fall Zone, and its geologic history includes elements of both the Piedmont and Coastal Plain. Uniquely positioned between two geologic regions, Perry Hall benefited from mineral assets found in both the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont. European settlement began only after the Gunpowder River Valley was recognized as a wealthy source of precious minerals.

Very little is known about the first European settlers of northeastern Baltimore County. Few explorers kept written records, so much of the region's history from 1608 to 1700 is based on local folklore, little of which can be thoroughly documented. For example, James Denton was allegedly one of the first Europeans to explore the Gunpowder Valley after the Smith expedition. According to a local legend, Denton roamed the Great Gunpowder Falls in 1665, discovering saltpetre along its banks. Saltpetre is an ingredient for gunpowder. Legend has it that when local Indians witnessed the power of gunpowder, they bartered with European settlers and planted it along the river, hoping the manmade chemical would grow.[1] This is supposedly how the Gunpowder River acquired its identity, which is one of the oldest place names in Maryland history.

William B. Marye speculates that settlement of northeastern Baltimore County probably began around 1658.[2] Part of Perry Hall was surveyed as early as 1669, when Henry Howard purchased 200 acres of land along the Great Gunpowder Falls. From 1669 through 1680, most of the land in northeastern Baltimore County was purchased and surveyed, although the settlement of Baltimore County occurred at a slower rate than the rest of Maryland. This was largely because of the complex and expensive nature of the land grant process.

On October 6, 1679, 1,000 acres were surveyed for John Welsh, who had settled in Anne Arundel County before 1677 and rose quickly in the colonial government and military. Welsh served as a justice of the peace, sheriff, and major in the militia. Major Welsh named his property "The Three Sisters," probably for three of the nine children he had from two wives.[3] The plot included much of modern-day Perry Hall. It extended in a rectangular fashion west of the Great Gunpowder Falls to Honeygo Run, and slightly south of present-day Belair Road to Cowenton Avenue. Welsh never occupied or improved the property, which was inherited by his four daughters. On January 10, 1763, James Paul Heath of Baltimore County sold the 1,000-acre property to the Nottingham Company, which owned the adjacent property along the Great Gunpowder Falls.[4] Land records indicate that Heath conveyed the property to James Russell, Walter Ewer, John Ewer, and John Buchanan, proprietors and partners in the Nottingham Forge.[5]

The site of the current embroidery company passed into the hands of George Lingan, one of the most important landowners in early Perry Hall history. He had settled in Calvert County by 1664, probably as an indentured servant, but quickly rose through the ranks of colonial government. Lingan served as the Calvert County sheriff, county justice, and member of the General Assembly.[6] By 1681, Lingan was wealthy enough to buy land in Baltimore County. On June 16 of that year, he had 1,000 acres surveyed north of "The Three Sisters."[1] Lingan's property extended from today's Belair Road north to the Great Gunpowder Falls. It subsequently became "Lingdan's Adventure," later dubbed "The Adventure." Upon Lingan's death in 1708, 400 acres were willed to Lingan's son-in-law Edward and daughter Katherine Boteler; 500 acres were willed to Lingan's son-in-law, Josias Wilson, and his wife Martha; and 100 acres were transferred to Henry Boteler and Lingan's daughter, Katherine.[7]

The 1,000 acres were collectively sold by Katherine Boteler's sons, Edward and Charles, to Thomas Sheradine of Baltimore County between 1738 and 1740. The tract later became the property of Corbin Lee, and upon his death, was purchased by Harry Dorsey Gough in 1774. Harry

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[1] William B. Marye's map gives this date as January 16, 1684, but Peter Wilson Coldham's Settlers of Maryland 1679-1700 notes that the acreage was surveyed in 1681.

Dorsey Gough subsequently renamed the plantation "Perry Hall" after a family estate in Staffordshire, Great Britain.

Charles G. Steffen notes that "without a critical mass of slaveholding planters, Baltimore could not develop the kind of cohesive class structure that was taking shape in tidewater counties. Justices, sheriffs, constables, jurymen, and an array of petty officials provided only a show of legitimacy and stability, so long as the county lacked a core of leading families whose claim to power and respectability was accepted throughout the community."[8] Thus, absentee landholding meant that the county never developed the gentry class that structured other Maryland counties. "The top rungs of society were occupied by small-time operators who lacked the economic base to transform themselves into a confident gentry class."[9] The county's growth was also limited by its reputation for danger and inaccessibility. As the Seventeenth Century opened, Baltimore County was still a virtual wilderness, its dense forests broken by the river valleys, occasional trails, and a few scattered farms. Settlers were reluctant to venture beyond the established and protected society of Southern Maryland. The county only developed after it invested in new improvements like roads, bridges, and fortifications against the Indians.

Immigration in Northeastern Baltimore County

In 1774, wealthy Baltimore merchant Harry Dorsey Gough instructed his London agents, James Russell and Hugh Hammersly, to convert some of his English estate to cash. Gough needed 3,500 pounds to pay for a major land purchase in six months. By January 16, 1775, Harry Dorsey Gough had purchased "The Adventure," a 1,000-acre estate that hugged the Great Gunpowder Falls in a near-perfect square.[10] The Gough family moved from their Anne Arundel County home to a new estate in northeastern Baltimore County. "The Adventure" included remants of properties once owned by Major Welsh and George Lingdan, and it included the site of the Baltimore Embroidery Company. Gough renamed the property "Perry Hall," after an English castle owned by his family, and completed the construction of a mansion that subsequently became Gough's country manor.

By 1852, "Perry Hall" was no longer a stately plantation; much of the estate was overgrown and uncultivated, and the grand Perry Hall Mansion, decimated by fire, never again captured the glory of its colonial days. Entrepreneurs like Meredith and Slifer valued "Perry Hall" as lucrative real estate, not an elegant country manor, and they knew the fortune that could be made by marketing "Perry Hall" to immigrants eager for land.

In a deed executed on May 25, 1852, William M. Meredith paid Harry Dorsey Gough Carroll $22,000 for 894 acres of the "Perry Hall" estate.[11] It is unlikely that Meredith, a Philadelphia investor, ever lived at Perry Hall Mansion, and on November 9, 1866, Meredith sold a half-interest in the estate to Eli Slifer, a prominent Pennsylvania manufacturer and politician. The 1876 tax ledger charged Eli Slifer and William Meredith's heirs for 883 acres, only 11 fewer acres than when Meredith bought the property in 1852.[12] This suggests that Meredith and Slifer rented the land to many immigrant families, and that most of the property was sold after Meredith's death in 1888.[2]

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[2] The 1852 and 1866 deeds use trees and other natural objects to describe boundaries, making it difficult to ascertain the dimensions of the *Perry Hall* estate.

Immigrants settled northeastern Baltimore County in waves. Between White Marsh Run and the Harford County line, they established six recognizable farming communities, moving outward as property was exhausted. The oldest village, Necker, began before 1840 when German immigrants settled near Buck's School House Road. The next village, Indian Rock, developed when a tollgate was built in 1875 near the contemporary intersection of Belair and Joppa Roads. Germantown grew simultaneously, extending along modern-day Belair Road from Forge Road to the Halbert House (the Perry Hall library). Three miles to the north, Kingsville, Mt. Vista, and Jerusalem developed in the 1890s. During the late Nineteenth Century, open land separated all of these villages. As property was developed in the Twentieth Century, "Germantown" absorbed "Indian Rock," and today the southernmost villages of Necker, Indian Rock, and Germantown are known collectively as "Perry Hall."[3]

Germantown and the Turnpike

The name "Germantown" no longer appears on any maps, buildings, or monuments, but it retains a special place in the folklore of northeastern Baltimore County. As the Nineteenth Century passed, "Perry Hall" still designated the crumbling estate that once dominated the region, but "Germantown" was the way most residents identified the growing community.

This name signified a major change in northeastern Baltimore County. After Harry Dorsey Gough Carroll sold "Perry Hall" in 1852, the remnants of that stately plantation were purchased by immigrant families, most of whom were from Germany. By the end of the Civil War, the community had a decidedly different character. New European immigrants established a strong Catholic and Lutheran presence, replacing Methodism as the guiding religious force in the community. There were also economic changes. No longer did a few large plantations and some scattered factories dominate the region. Instead, Germantown became the epicenter for a network of smaller farms and specialized businesses that flourished along a major transportation route, the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike. Just as the United States grappled with immigration and industry in the years after the Civil War, northeastern Baltimore County experienced changes that determined the community's character for the next century.

Germantown was clearly the dominant village in northeastern Baltimore County. Immigrants found the land flatter than in Necker, where Putty Hill sloped downward to meet White Marsh Run, so they quickly rented or bought sections of the Gough estate for farmland. Other events coincided with the dismemberment of the Gough plantation. The iron industry died out, allowing the region's few remaining slaves to cultivate their own farms along the Great Gunpowder Falls. The Maryland General Assembly designated Belair Road as the Baltimore & Jerusalem Turnpike, increasing accessibility from Baltimore to Harford County—and making Germantown, halfway in between, a logical place for taverns and hotels. General stores, blacksmith shops, and other institutions followed the population to Germantown.

As Baltimore and its satellite villages developed, county leaders realized the importance of investing in better roads. In the Eighteenth Century, the county's commercial activity was limited to just waterfront areas, but by the Civil War development had spread throughout the backcountry. Unfortunately, most major roads were rough footpaths that proved difficult for wagons and

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[3] See Villages of Northeast Baltimore County (Perry Hall: Baltimore County Savings Bank, 1989) for an excellent compendium of histories for the 22 villages that stretched along the Gunpowder River Valley.

carriages to traverse. For example, a trip from Towson's Hampton Mansion to Baltimore might take between seven and nine hours. To reach Philadelphia from Baltimore, stagecoach passengers spent as many as five days on the road

In 1791, the Maryland General Assembly appointed commissioners to develop Philadelphia, Harford, and Belair Roads as public highways. These routes joined Frederick, Reisterstown, and York Roads as Baltimore County's first turnpikes. Turnpikes were funded by a new property tax and a special toll collected from travelers at various points on each road. With this added revenue, the county invested in major improvements to the backcountry footpaths. Muddy roads were covered with stone and gravel to improve drainage and hasten travel. To lower the costs of building a new transportation system, the county used prisoners on their work crews.

Despite cost-effective labor, county planners underestimated the tremendous costs of building the public turnpike system. With the road system nearing bankruptcy, Baltimore County's leaders turned to private ownership of the turnpikes. Beginning in 1796, the Maryland General Assembly incorporated twenty turnpike companies, although the state and county governments subscribed to thousands of dollars of stock in the corporations. While turnpike companies ran as private enterprises, government funds supplied an important initial investment in their operation.

The Maryland General Assembly incorporated the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike Company in 1867, replacing an organization started eight years earlier, the Baltimore and Little Gunpowder Falls Turnpike Company. Planners believed that a private turnpike company could most efficiently regulate traffic and collect funds for the improvement of the northeastern corridor. Residents in Fullerton and Germantown experienced the benefits of the turnpike before their neighbors to the north. The company only improved the western eight miles of the turnpike from the city line to Perry Hall Mansion, and by 1886 the eastern section was so impassable that several travelers appeared before the county's grand jury to have the turnpike company indicted for maintaining a nuisance. The company's representative testified that the remainder of the road could not be improved because of insufficient funds. Some of the complainants were subsequently elected to the company's board of directors, and because of their influence, the turnpike was finished and the bridge over Little Gunpowder Falls opened in 1886.[13]

The Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike immediately changed the character of the land immediately surrounding the road. Where farmhouses and open fields once hugged the country route, new businesses began sprouting up to support travelers along the turnpike. Located midway between Baltimore and Harford Counties, Germantown was an ideal place for inns, taverns, and other establishments used by travelers. These businesses developed side-by-side with the sawmills, blacksmith shops, and general stores used by local families.

From a historical perspective, no other era was more important to Perry Hall's development than the half-century when the community was called Germantown. By the Twentieth Century, northeastern Baltimore County was a prosperous region of small family farms, all connected to a growing city by the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike. The turnpike, in fact, had perhaps the greatest impact on the community's development. Not only did it increase farmers' access to Baltimore, but the improved road accelerated travel between Baltimore and Harford County. New businesses sprouted up to serve these tourists, and Germantown became an important link in the regional economy.

While agriculture and commerce transformed northeastern Baltimore County from 1850 to 1900, perhaps Germantown's greatest legacy was the family structure it provided to a disorganized region. Familiar names settled along the turnpike—Butt, Huber, Kahl, Rye, Schaefer. Over the next century, as Germantown developed into suburban "Perry Hall," these families provided critical community leadership.

The immigrant families who settled in northeastern Baltimore County epitomized the values of frugality, hard work, and self-sufficiency typically assigned to German culture. These were humble, poor families, determined to eek out a living on their tiny parcels of land. They had few luxuries, conserving their money and wasting little food. Their efficiency was evident in every aspect of their lives, from farming to funeral arrangements.

Germantown's farmers raised crops that did not require much space to grow—carrots, beets, celery, radishes, onions, and parsley. These vegetables were called "stoop crops" because farmers needed to crawl along the ground to weed and harvest. Some farmers planted a few acres of wheat, barley, rye, and oats, although Germantown never became a major grain-growing community. Grain was harvested with cradles, gathered into bundles, tied, and hauled to the barn for threshing.

After the crops were gathered, cleaned, and bunched, farmers hauled them to Baltimore's markets, the most prominent of which was Belair Market. Here, a Germantown family rented an outside stall where they sold produce from the back of their wagon. This was a long day's work. On Saturdays, for example, a farmer might leave Germantown two or three hours before dawn, stay in Baltimore until after sunset, and arrive back in Germantown well past midnight. On Tuesdays and Fridays, market days ended in the afternoon.[14]

Farmers deposited their profits in the local bank, which was the Germantown Building and Loan Association beginning in 1879, then the Perry Hall Building and Loan Association after 1895. They made consistent deposits; for example, if sales were slow at Belair Market, they deposited the same amount as they might after a good week. The family simply needed to survive on a little bit less that week.[15]

Germantown's families lived off the fruit and vegetables they raised for the markets. They supplemented this diet with meat from rabbits, squirrels, foxes, and quail, all of which were plentiful in the decades before northeastern Baltimore County was developed. On the first day of the hunting season, hunters bagged up to 30 rabbits and 10 quail every day. With rabbits selling for up to 50 cents at the markets, they almost became extinct in the region, forcing Baltimore County's commissioners to pass a law against shooting rabbits for sale. Families also enjoyed herring and carp caught from the Great Gunpowder Falls, often salting them for winter use.

During the winter, families cut ice from the frozen Great Gunpowder Falls, hauling it back to underground shelters where vegetables were preserved. In a deep enough cave, the ice preserved food in the summer months, but if farmers did not have ice storage facilities, they kept the food cold by placing it in spring houses or simply on the floor. Farmers also slaughtered their livestock during the winter months. The first Monday in December was the day when hogs were butchered, hung on racks, and cooled overnight to let the animal heat escape. On Tuesday, the slaughtered hogs were cut into bacon and hams, then set into brine for curing. Many farmers also killed a cow, steer, and several turkeys, and they put excess eggs in a waterglass for winter use.[16]

When entrepreneurs opened several taverns along the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike to accommodate travelers, they also gave local men a place to stop after a long day in the fields or at the markets. With little money to spare, Germantown's husbands found the taverns a brief respite from the difficulties of family and farm life. Women were expected to mind the children, not join their husbands in the saloons.

While Baltimoreans enjoyed the latest fads in entertainment—musical comedies, vaudeville, and eventually motion pictures—families in Germantown found simple, inexpensive ways to entertain themselves. During the spring and summer, families gathered on the large front porches of their farmhouses, enjoying pastries brought by mothers throughout the neighborhood. While their husbands discussed crop yields or the latest in county politics, children played games or danced to music—often leading to marriage between the revelers.[17]

After a wedding, the parents of the groom gave the newlyweds a small plot of land to start their own farm. This parcel was usually about 35 acres in size, and it was purchased using savings from weekly deposits at the building and loan association. The farmland was not considered a giveaway, but was instead viewed as a reward for the years that the newlyweds spent as children harvesting the crops.[18]

Many couples had eight or nine children, all of which were expected to harvest crops and complete chores around the farm. Despite advancements in medicine and technology, the mortality rate was still high at the end of the Nineteenth Century, and many couples expected at least one or two children to die before adulthood.

Industrialization and Agricultural Diversification in the Twentieth Century

The poor state of transportation in northeastern Baltimore County retarded the region's growth. While Essex and Dundalk had streetcar service into Baltimore, Perry Hall relied on the turnpike, with its bumpy surface and unreliable maintenance. Once highly regarded by farmers and out-of-town travelers, the turnpike became increasingly unpopular. Although farmers had complained about high tolls as early as the 1860s, their protests gained widespread appeal as turnpike companies increased prices to eliminate deficits. Residents reacted violently to the higher tolls, complaining that the turnpikes were more difficult to use than public roads, which did not require fees. They saw streetcars making city travel easier and safer, while country residents endured inaccessible and dangerous turnpikes. After the election of Governor Austin Crothers on a theme that included the end of the turnpike system, the State Roads Commission assumed control over all turnpikes, ending the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike in northeastern Baltimore County.[19]

The State Roads Commission's first construction budget outraged many Baltimore Counteans, who expected immediate improvements to the old turnpike system. Instead, the budget thinned $5 million throughout Maryland, allocating enough money to improve only one or two miles of each of the abandoned turnpikes. The State Roads Commission reserved most of its funding for the most ambitious transportation project ever completed at that time—a road connecting New York with Washington, D.C. This later became known as U.S. Route 1, and it happened to cross through Perry Hall along the abandoned Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike. When finished, the new highway united the old Frederick Turnpike with the Baltimore and Jerusalem Turnpike, which was increasingly called "Belair Road" by the early Twentieth Century.

Improvements made Belair Road safer and more accessible, although it was still a one-lane country road with uneven patches of slag, stone, and other materials. For travelers, the ride along Belair Road remained bumpy and uncomfortable.

Although imperfect, the road did increase the volume of traffic passing through Perry Hall. The trickle of wagons moving between Baltimore and northeastern Maryland slowly grew, and as Belair Road matured, the complexion of traffic changed. Wagons still carried produce from Perry Hall's family farms into the city, although the horsedrawn carriages soon contended with automobiles and trucks. In 1915, MacMahon Brothers started a bus route from Overlea to Bel Air, making three round trips every day. This bus service was sold in 1918 to Maxwell, Watson & Graham, Inc., which later extended it into downtown Baltimore.[20]

In 1933, Baltimore County received a $5 million grant from the federal government that partially funded improvements along Belair Road—an amount equal to the entire State Roads Commission budget 25 years earlier.[21] Perry Hall resident David DeGruchy owned a blacktopping business that rolled slag over Belair Road, and he stored his trucks where the Perry Hall Auto Body was later built on Joppa Road.[22] Part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal program, the Belair Road project employed thousands of residents during the Great Depression, and it made U.S. Route 1 the prominent northeastern highway until Interstate-95 opened in 1963.

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[1] Kelly-Coffin, Seana. "The Gunpowder" in *The Northeast Times Booster*. October 20, 1993. p. 15.
[2] Marye, William B. Perry Hall's Earliest Settlers. Towson: Baltimore County Historical Society, 1988.
[3] Additional ownership on the descent of ownership of these tracts may be found in Robert Barnes' Baltimore County Deed Abstracts (1659-1750). Westminster: Family Line Publications, 1996.
[4] Ibid.
[5] Ibid., p. 11.
[6] Papenfuse, Edward C., et al. Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1985. Pp. 533-534.
[7] Additional ownership on the descent of ownership of these tracts may be found in Robert Barnes' Baltimore County Deed Abstracts (1659-1750). Westminster: Family Line Publications, 1996.
[8] Steffen, p. 13.
[9] Ibid.
[10] McGrain, John W. and Louise K. Lantz. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Towson: Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning, 1978. p. 4.
[11] Bevan, p. 44.
[12] McGrain, John W. and Louise K. Lantz. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. Towson: Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning, 1978.
[13] Ibid.
[14] "The Perry Hall Area in Earlier Times," in An Invitation to Memory: Perry Hall, So Called Since 1775. Perry Hall: Perry Hall Improvement Association, Inc. 1970. p. 15.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Ibid., p. 16.
[17] Butt, William J. "Germantown." Villages of Northeast Baltimore County. Perry Hall: Baltimore County Savings Bank, 1989. p. 22.
[18] Ibid.
[19] Brooks, p. 151.
[20] "Transportation," in An Invitation to Memory: Perry Hall, So Called Since 1775. Perry Hall: Perry Hall Improvement Association, Inc. 1970. p. 13.
[21] Brooks, p. 364.
[22] Interview with William J. Butt, May 23, 1998.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. BA-907

Lacey, Matilda, ed. An Invitation to Memory: Perry Hall, So Called Since 1775. Perry Hall: Perry Hall Improvement Association, 1970.

Villages of Northeastern Baltimore County. Baltimore: Northeast Baltimore County Historical District Committee, 1990.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property .5 (estimated)

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David Marks, Historian

organization Perry Hall Improvement Association date September 15, 1998

street & number P.O. Box 63 telephone (410) 256-2604

city or town Perry Hall state Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
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Annapolis, Maryland 21401
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PS-2746