

BA 992

MARYLAND LINE HOTEL

1823-1833

MARYLAND LINE

PRIVATE

This brick roadside inn was probably built by John Walker on land inherited by Jesse Lowe in 1824. Dr. Ephraim Bell bought 67 acres on the west side of the York Turnpike in 1833 and paid enough to acquire valuable improvements as well as ground assessed at \$10 per acre. That same year, the tax ledger charged Bell with \$700 worth of improvements. The hotel was leased to various tenant operators and it was mentioned as Smith's Tavern in an advertisement of 1843; the 1850 Sidney map showed the tavern of J. Smith. George Welkirk was operator listed in the 1866 State business directory. Judge Thomas G. Rutledge purchased the late Dr. Bell's hotel in 1877 and soon sold to John F. Rutledge. Franklin A. Hake became owner in 1882, William H. Hendrix in 1902. It was only listed as a dwelling in the 1918 tax ledger. This is a vernacular style brick structure of two stories plus attic, with a full-width porch that wraps around the south end. Main facade is five bays wide, providing two front entrances. There are square inside end-chimneys. A frame wing is tacked on at the rear.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC MARYLAND LINE HOTEL

AND/OR COMMON

Same Mrs. Stewart's House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

21,520 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Maryland Line

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE

Maryland 21105

COUNTY

Baltimore County

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. C. Wilbur (Elsie G.) Stewart

Telephone #: Not listed

STREET & NUMBER

21,520 York Road

CITY, TOWN

Maryland Line

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21105

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

County Courts Building

Liber #: CWB JR. 994

Folio #: 448

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Baltimore County Historic Sites Survey
Maryland Historical Trust

MHT No. BA 992

DATE

On-going since 1964

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland 21401

7 DESCRIPTION

MARYLAND LINE HOTEL

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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	*Store wing removed.	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Maryland Line Hotel is a brick building of two stories plus attic, gable-roofed, with a full width porch that wraps around the south end. Like most turnpike hotels, the Maryland Line's porch deck is barely a step above grade. A postcard or photograph of c. 1906 shows that the main block was substantially the way it is today but, on the south end, there was then a one-story store building, with a high parapet and a slanting shed roof; the now extinct store had been frame and clapboard and looked like a frontier town structure with its south end wall completely blank except for a small square loft window of four lights. The latticework still found on the porch between supporting posts was in the 1906 photo shown to extend southward across the entire facade of the wooden store annex.

The hotel of today is five bays wide, with two doors facing the porch. Five windows open onto the porch from the main facade. All windows at both stories are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types, all with louvered shutters. The porch doors are solid and paneled.

Lacking as it does a central design or balance, the hotel is vernacular in style, although a few changes might make it barely Federal.

The porch roof, both front and south-end sections, is held up by ten sturdy square wooden posts. The deck is wood, about a foot above grade in places. Porch railings with square balusters are only used at the ends, where there is a slight drop to the ground. Around on the side, there is just enough elevation to require low lattice panels between porch deck and the ground. The porch roofing is hipped at the corner where its two shed-roofed surfaces meet.

A latticework decoration about two feet deep runs between the tops of the porch posts just under the porch roof soffits. This screen or grill was in place in the photo of 1906 and seems to serve as a sun-screen today—the hotel being perched on the ridge followed by the road—but the original purpose may have been to provide privacy to the patrons of the barroom.

The gable ends of the hotel are two bays deep. A window and a door open onto the porch at the south end; two windows open onto the porch roof at second-story level. These three windows are 6-over-6 double-hung sash types.

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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

J. Thomas Scharf in his 1881 history credited Dr. Ephraim Bell with the building of the Maryland Line Hotel in 1806, but the doctor did not acquire the property until 1833. (1) Dr. Bell purchased 67-1/2 acres of Lawson's Pleasant Hills from Dr. John Walker and wife who were heirs of Jesse Lowe. The Lowe tract had been divided among various family members in 1824 and at a public sale of October 29, 1825, the trustee reported that he had "set up advertisements in the neighborhood." The records do not mention newspaper advertisements before the sale, and none were found in the Baltimore American. (2)

Dr. Bell paid \$1,153 for the place, about \$16 per acre, and since it was assessed at \$10, there were probably some valuable buildings on the grounds. (3) In fact, in the 1833 tax lists, Dr. Bell was shown in possession of \$700 worth of improvements on 67 acres. (4) This 67-acre tract, when platted out from the verbal description, turns out to be entirely on the westside of the York Road, where the hotel still stands.

If the Lowe family were prior owners of the hotel, the earliest likely date for building a hotel would have been 1810 when the pay road was completed. Prior to that, one of the two routes to York struck Maryland Line (or New Market) from the southeast, but a turnpike would have fed twice as much traffic through the village. Very few, if any, small town lots can be identified in the assessor's field books of 1818 and 1823. (5)

The 1850 map by J. C. Sidney showed a large rectangular opposite Dr. Bell's dwelling marked "Tavern/J. Smith." (6) An 1843 advertisement in the Baltimore Sun had announced an auction to be held at Smith's Tavern.

The 1866 State directory listed two hotels at New Market: Elizabeth Green's and George Welkirk's. (7) Miss Green was shown living on the opposite side of the street in the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

MARYLAND LINE HOTEL

Baltimore City Deeds, Baltimore County Deeds, Tax Lists.
Various State Directories. No reliable published matter.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.34

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Adjusting for lot sold off on the south:
S18E 153.2 feet on westside of York Road
S73-1/2W 368.0 feet
N20W 158.0 feet
N69-1/4E 372.9 feet to westside of York Road (Beginning).
See also property plat, separate sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

STATE NONE COUNTY NONE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John W. McGrain, Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Baltimore County Office of Planning and Zoning

DATE

April 11, 1980

STREET & NUMBER

401 Bosley Avenue

TELEPHONE

494-3495

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland 21204

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
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

The main block is fitted with two square brick inside end chimneys with slightly corbeled caps.

There is a frame wing tacked onto the rear of the main block and it is a shed-roofed combination of screened porch, breezeway, and vertical board-and-batten tool shed. This one-story wing is equipped with a fairly tall chimney of rectangular cross-section. The north gable end of the house is two bays deep.

Roofing material is rubberized tile. Roof eaves overhang moderately at the ends and also along the front and rear walls. Foundation is stone.

1877 atlas, suggesting that Welkirk could have been tenant operator of the hotel owned by Dr. Bell.

The 1877 atlas map showed T. G. Rutledge as owner of the hotel. He had purchased it in that year from the heirs of Dr. Bell: Mrs. John B. Hurst and Mrs. Thomas DeFord. (8) Shortly thereafter, T. G. Rutledge, a judge and a prominent citizen, sold to John F. Rutledge. (9) Only Miss Green's hotel was listed in the 1878 State business directory and only George F. Leitz in 1880. (10)

The structure was still shown as a hotel in 1898 and 1915 Bromley atlases.

John Rutledge sold in 1882 to Frederick A. Hake, calling the property "the Maryland Line Hotel Lot." (11) The executors of Frederick A. Hake sold to William H. Hendrix in 1902. Hendrix was listed as a school teacher in a 1915 directory and the lot, by that time 1-3/4 acres, was not listed as a hotel in the 1918 tax ledger which recorded:

Dwelling	20 x 26		
	22 x 36	2 stories	\$787
Outbuildings			50. (12)

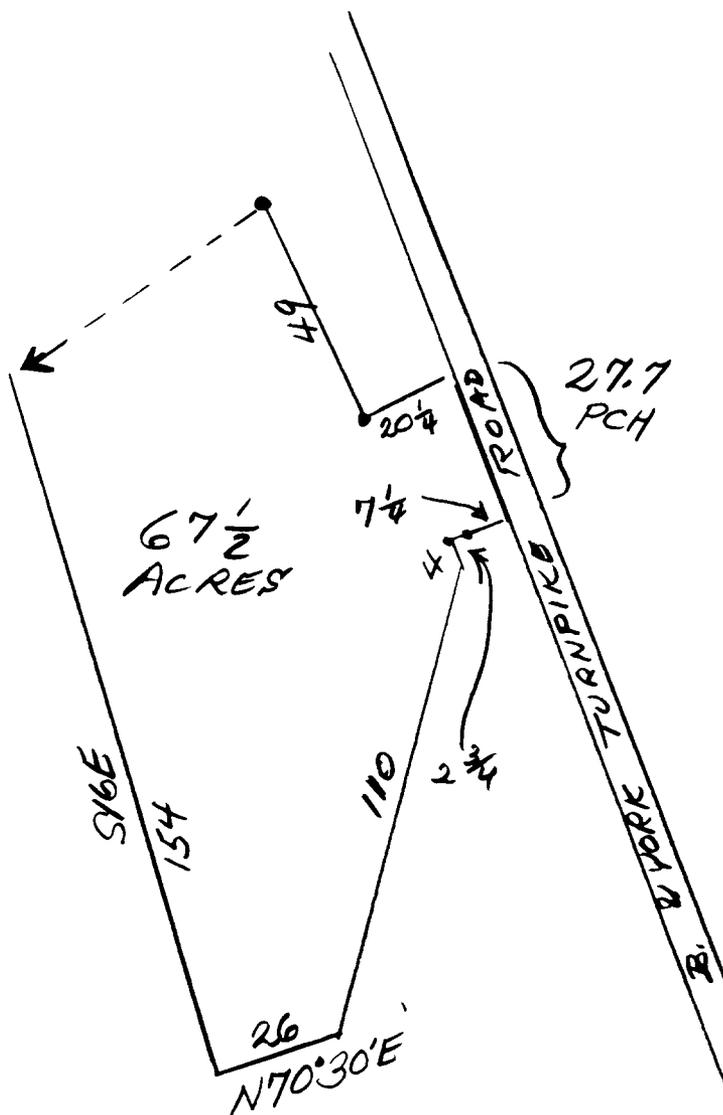
Hendrix deeded to Blanche O. Hendrix in 1927. (13) Blanche O. Hendrix conveyed to C. Wilbur Stewart and wife in 1937. (14) The deeds of both 1927 and 1937 called the York Road the "Susquehanna Trail," a name assigned by the State Roads Commission in the 1920s in honor of the Indian tribe of that name. The road happens to follow the watershed line between two stream systems as it passes through the town, and may conceivably have been marked out on the highest ground by the original population.

NOTES:

1. J. Thomas Scharf, History of Baltimore City and County (Philadelphia, 1881), p. 873.
2. Baltimore City Deeds, WG 191:69.
3. Baltimore City Deeds, TK 227:404.
4. Assessor's Field Book, Old District 5, 1833 (Hall of Records #8244).
5. Assessor's Fields Books, Old District 5, 1818 and 1823 (Hall of Records, #8237 and #8241).
6. J. C. Sidney, A Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland (Baltimore, 1850). Baltimore Sun, February 22, 1843.
7. The Maryland State Directory (New York, 1866), p. 121.
8. Baltimore County Deeds, JB 103:98.
9. B.C. Deeds, JB 103:212.
10. J. Frank Lewis & Co., Maryland Business Directory (Baltimore, 1878, 1880), pp. 532, and 512, respectively.
11. B.C. Deeds, WMI 133:390.
12. Tax Ledger, District 7, 1918, f. 558.
13. B.C. Deeds, CWC 651:206.
14. B.C. Deeds, CWB JR. 994:448.

This plat drawn from Baltimore City Deeds, TK 227:404 (of 1833) demonstrates that all the land acquired under that deed by Dr. Ephraim Bell lay on the west side of the Baltimore and York Town Turnpike Road.

Distances shown in PERCHES
Scale= 40 perches to the inch



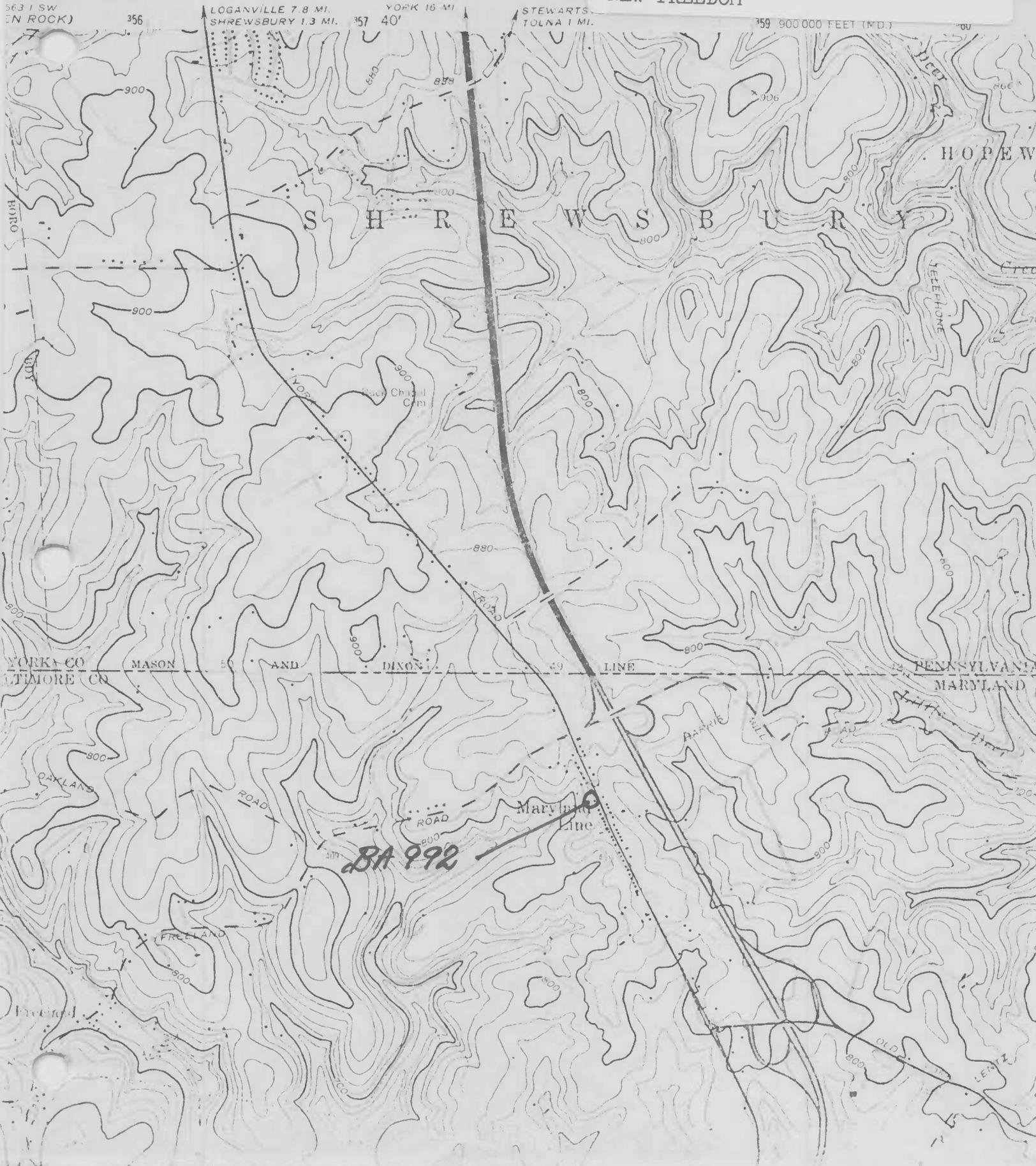
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
ENGINEERS

563 (SW
EN ROCK)

Maryland Line Hotel BA-992

U.S.G.S. 7.5-minute Quad

NEW FREEDOM



YORK CO MASON AND DIXON LINE PENNSYLVANIA
BALTIMORE CO MARYLAND

BA 992

Maryland Line



Formerly Maryland Line Hotel. MD

Photo
1906

?

Still
Standing

12

18

85' - f
40' - W

5-0-20

MARYLAND LINE HOTEL BA 992
Baltimore County, Maryland
Photogr. unknown, c1902 (gift)
Neg. by Andrew Clemens (COPIED)
Main. fac. & south end; store



MARYLAND LINE HOTEL BA 992
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, Oct 1979
Neg. located at MHT
Main (e) facade, south facade



MARYLAND LINE HOTEL BA 992
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, Oct 1979
Neg. located at MHT
South gable end



MARYLAND LINE HOTEL BA 992
Baltimore County, Maryland
J. McGrain, Oct 1979
Neg. located at MHT
Main fac., south gable end