HA-1262

Stier House
1903 Churchville Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

The Stier house was built like most houses in Harford County--piece by piece over a long period of time. What makes this house special is the way in which all the different parts were incorporated into an excellent example of late 19th century residential architecture. With the addition of such accessories as a new roof, porches, bay windows, carved woodwork and stained glass, the entire house was transformed. The remodeling was done so skillfully that few traces of the previous structures were left. Of the many houses whose design depends more on evolution than conscious design, the Stier house represents one of the best.

Mary and John Cole, who built the Dibb House at 1737 Churchville Road, were responsible for the present configuration of the house. They purchased it in 1898 from Sarah Jeffrey, Mary Cole's mother, and the house has remained in the same family since then.

Form No 10-300 REV. (9/77)

HA- 1262
MAGI # 1312625604

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

AND/OR COMMON Stier house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1903 Churchville Road — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Bel Air — X VICINITY OF — CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT First

STATE Maryland — CODE 24 — COUNTY Harford — CODE 025

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	X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Lois Stier

STREET & NUMBER 1903 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN Bel Air — __ VICINITY OF — STATE Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Main Street

CITY, TOWN Bel Air — STATE Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE — __FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN — STATE

7. DESCRIPTION

(original portion was perhaps moved in the middle of the 19th century)

HA-1262

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	__ORIGINAL SITE
X GDDD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPDSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stier house, located on the south side of Churchville Road(Maryland Route 22) west of Shucks Road in Harford County, Maryland, is a Victorian 2½-story frame house that encloses at least three other building stages. The 1898 re-modeling supercedes the others stylistically, providing an overall ornamental unity; however, the structure itself has many disparate elements. The entire structure, set on a stone foundation, is rectangular in shape with three distinct parts (n.b. the exterior organization, does not necessarily coincide with the stages of construction). The five bay by two bay north section has a gable roof with cross gable and one dormer and an interior brick chimney on the rear. The south section consists of two elements: on the east is a gable-roofed one bay by two bay wing with an interior brick chimney at the south end; on the west is a flat-roofed two bay by two bay section. All windows have 1/1 sash, and several have a border of square colored glass panes around the top lights. The gable bargeborads have carved fretwork. The house is now covered with aluminum siding.

The north (front) facade of the north section is spanned by a one-story, flat-roofed porch on the first story; in the second story is a central oriel window with a pagoda roof, surmounted by a porch in the gable. The first floor porch, which continues around the east end, has a gable over the east bay, an architrave of turned spindles, carved brackets, and turned posts. On the first story, the central bay contains a floor-length, three-light window, flanked on each side by windows with colored glass borders (all windows have louvered shutters); both outer bays contain doors. The main entrance s in the east bay: the door has a glass transom and one light with a colored glass border over two wooden panels. The five-panel door in the west bay was originally a window. On the second story, the oriel window, flanked by a window on each side, contains two windows, both with colored glass borders. A window in the third story leads onto the porch with a fret railing.

The east end of the north section is a demi-bay, with a chamfered corner in the north containing one window in each story. Besides these, there is a window in the gable, and two windows in each story, which are aligned but unbalanced within the section. The front porch extends across the first story, which has a door in the south bay and a window in the north. In the second story, the window in the south bay has a colored glass border.

The west end of the north section has a 2½-story projecting, three-sided bay topped by a gable that echoes the gable end of the house. The north slope of this roof continues from the north slope of the main roof. On either side this gable is supported by large brackets. There are three windows in this projecting bay on the first and second stories and a single window in the gable. To the south of this projection, but still in the west end wall of the north section, there is a window on each floor. The first story window is square with one light with a colored glass border.

The gable-roofed wing to the southeast has a two-story, three-sided bay window with a second story porch on the east side. The bay window has two-light basement windows and carved brackets over the first story side windows. The second story bay is narrower than the first story one, and the porch is decorated like the front porch with scroll rackets and a railing with square balusters.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

A one-story porch with square posts stretches across the south ends of both the southwest and the southeast sections. The south end of the southeast section has a door in the west bay, flanked on the east by a window in the first story; there are two windows with metal awnings in the second story.

The adjoining southwest wing has a flat roof and a three-sided second story with a window in each side. In the first story is a four-panel door in the east bay,flanked on the west by a window. The west facade on the southwest section has two windows in the first story and one in the north bay of the second story. Over the first story south bay is a roof cornice.

The interior plan also has many disparate elements (see sketch). The only consistency is the trim, with corner blocks and two bands of reeding flanking a central ovolo, which can be found throughout the house. The north section has a stair hall on the east, flanked by two rooms on the west. In the hall, the two-run staircase with a landing is against the east wall, and there is a large arch, now blocked up, in the west wall. At the south end of the hall is a door to the southeast section, and in the north corner of the east wall is an exterior door. Under the stairs is a closet. The closed-string staircase has turned balusters and a barrel-shaped post with a square base and a square cap ornamented with raised bull's eyes on each side and topped by a round ball.

The room immediately to the west of the hall has a door to the southwest section in the south wall. In the west wall is a fireplace in a projecting chimney breast, flanked on the north by a door to the west room. The door has scroll brackets. The mantel is painted slate with simple incised designs.

The west room, now a kitchen with a bathroom in the southwest corner, has a fireplace in the projecting chimney breast in the east wall. The mantel, like the one in the central room, is painted slate with incised designs. The original wide floorboards extend from the inner edge of the west bay window in the kitchen (now under linoleum) to the hearth line in the center room.

The second floor plan is different from the first with an additional room in the northeast corner and a long room south of the two west rooms. The south room shows a hand-hewn log post in each corner of the south wall and a hand-hewn roof plate along the ceiling. The original wide floor boards extend from the west wall to the hall and have cut nails. In the north rooms, the wide floor boards extend to the northeast room (except for the central oriel window, which has new flooring), and the bulge of the roof plate is visible along the north wall. Old wide floor boards laid east-west instead of north-south, as the others are, cover the west part of the northeast room.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

Although the attic has the same roof with rafters butted together throughout, in the north section between the west bay window and the west wall of the hall, the attic floor is raised on hand-hewn timbers.

In the basement, the north section has a crawl space underneath it, with stone walls and log joists that are uniform from the east wall to the west wall. There is a slight jog in the south wall of the foundation where the west wall of the hall is. The crawl space is accessbile through the basement north wall of the southeast section.

The southeast wing has one room on each floor. The living room has a door and step to the southwest section in the middle of the west wall. In the south wall is a fireplace in a projecting chimney breast, flanked on the west by a door. The mantel is painted slate. On the west side of the chimney breast is a cupboard with molded trim.

The basement of the southeast section is divided into two parts with a section under the bay window separated by a stone wall with a window. The southeast section is separated from the basement under the southwest section by a stone wall with a doorway in the south end.

The southwest section has a kitchen in the south and a stair hall in the north on the first floor. The kitchen with a beaded board wainscot has two doors in the north wall: a four-panel door to the stair hall in the east corner and a five-panel door to the west room of the north section in the west corner. There is a door to the basement under the stairs.

On the second floor, the plan is similar, with a bathroom on the east side of the bedroom. In the bedroom is a window covered by a door with molded trim in the east corner of the north wall. There is a beam running east-west in the second floor ceiling that coincides with an east-west line in the kitchen floor. In the basement, there are full log beams under the north part of this section and regular sawn beams in the south part (the same as those in the southeast room of the basement).

Southeast of the house is a frame ice house. Set on a stone foundation with a gable roof, it is above ground and originally had sawdust insulation. In the south facade is an entrance with a Dutch door, which is not original, and in the gable is an opening covered by a hinged shutter, which was origninally reached by a ladder and used to fetch the ice. In the west end is a six-light window, which was added later and in the gable of the north end is an original six-light window.

There is little conclusive evidence about the sequence of construction of the house. All that is certain is that the second story of the north section has a braced frame with hand-hewn timbers (there are no clues to the construction of the first story);

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

the north portion of the southwest section is older than the rest of the section; the living room in the southeast section is older than the bay in its east wall.

What appears to have happened (refer to attached floor plan) is that the north section was built first in one or more stages. Since the two rooms and hall share floor joists and a foundation, but the roof plates and beams do not extend over the hall, either the hall was present originally as a one-story addition, or the house consisting of two rooms (#1)-either one or two stories-was moved to the site,[1] and the hall portion (#2) was added when the new foundation was laid.

The southwest section began as a porch (#3-perhaps two stories) approximately half the width of the present room, as indicated by the log joists in the basement. It was enlarged and enclosed (#4), or enclosed and another porch was added to it, which in turn was enclosed when the south porch was added in 1898. The second story of this section was enlarged after the first story, viz. the roof cornice over the south bay on the west side.

The basement construction of the second story suggests the southeast section was also built in at least two parts: first the room (#5) and then the bay in the east wall. In 1898 a new roof was put on, porches and bay windows were added, and new exterior and interior ornament was installed throughout, concealing most of the older complex.

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[1]The only other clue to the history of the house is on the Herrick map of 1858: there was no building on or near this property at that time. The north section of the house may not have been built until after 1858, but there is an equal chance that it was built earlier and moved to this site after 1858.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

HA-1262

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	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Stier house was built like many houses in Harford County--piece by piece, over a long period of time. What makes this house special is the way in which all the different parts were incorporated into an excellent example of late 19th century residential architecutre. With the addition of such accessories as a new roof, porches, bay windows, carved woodwork, and stained glass, the entire house was transformed. The remodeling was done so skillfully that few traces of the previous structures are left. Of the many houses whose design depends more on evolution than conscious design, the Stier house represents the most successful adaptations.

Mary and John Cole are responsible for the present house. They bought it in 1898 from Sarah Jeffery, Mary Cole's mother, for $600[1] and remodeled it in the current fashion. (The year before, they had built a true Victorian mansion--the Dibb house at 1737 Churchville Road--but preferred the location of this house.) Except for that deed transfer, however, the record of ownership does little to amplify the sequence of construction of the Stier house.

The house has been in the same family since 1883, when Sarah Jeffery bought it from Stevenson Archer for $965.[2] She sold it to her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and John Cole in 1898, then Celia Harward Preston, Mary Cole's neice, bought it in 1916 for $3886.[3] She made no apparent changes and bequeathed it to her daughter and son-in-law, Lois and Joseph Stier, in 1949.[4]

Before 1883 the ownership of the house changed hands frequently: Stevenson Archer owned the house less than a year after he bought it from Elizabeth Harward in 1883 for $965[5]--the same price he sold it to Sarah Jeffery for. Elizabeth Harward obtained the property in 1875 for $825[6] in a public sale of James F. Colder's (or Calder's) property, who could not pay his mortgage.[7] On the 1878 Martenet's map, a house on or near this property is listed as belonging to G. Harwood--who could have been related to Elizabeth Harward, since her name was also spelled Harwood in deeds. Jeremiah Y. and Alice L. Maynadier sold the property to James F. Colder in 1869 for $700[8]. The increase in selling price when the property passed from Colder to Harward in 1875 and again when it passed from Harward to Archer in 1883 may indicate that improvements were made under both owners. In 1865 Alice L. Fendall (Maynadier) bought the property in a parcel of 127 acres for $9600 from heirs of Henry Woolsey: Jason M., William, Catherine, Sophia, Elizabeth, and Rebecca Woolsey.[9]

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

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[1]Harford County Deed W.S.F. 93/483.

[2]Harford County Deed A.L.J. 48/226.

[3]Harford County Deed J.A.R. 155/64.

[4]Harford County Deed 331/482.

[5]Harford County Deed A.L.J. 48/225.

[6]Harford County Deed A.L.J. 32/1.

[7]Equity Records A.L.J. 21/99-107.

[8]Harford County Deed A.L.J. 22/265.

[9]Harford County Deed W.H.D. 16/35.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

NA-1262

Land, Probate, and Equity Records of Harford County.
Martenet's Map of Harford County, Maryland, Simon J. Martenet, Baltimore, 1878.
"A Map of Harford County, Maryland" 1858, pub. by Jennings and Herrick.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.985 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME _____ QUADRANGLE SCALE _____

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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: Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION: Historic District Commission — DATE: 12/19/78

STREET & NUMBER: 45 South Main Street — TELEPHONE: 301-879-2000, Ext. 207

CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air — STATE: Maryland 21014

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ____ STATE ____ LOCAL ____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE — DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

HA-1262

Form No 10-300a
(Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

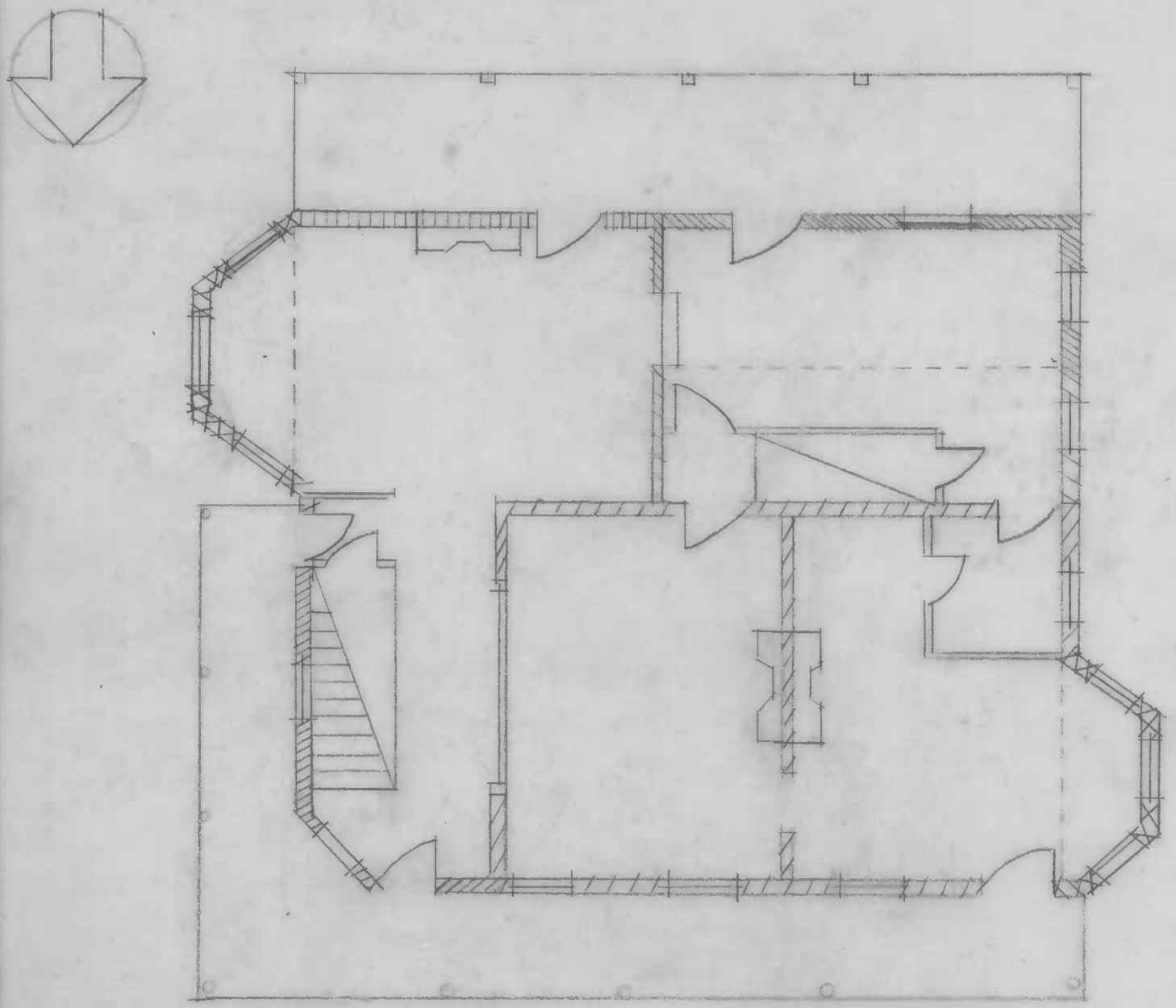
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

(VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION)

Beginning for the same at a piece of iron pipe heretofore set on or in the south side of Rt. 22 and at the end of the North 13° West 237.4 feet line of the Kissinger lot, and thence leaving the road and bounding the Kissinger lot, reversely South 13° East 237.4 feet to a piece of iron pipe set at the beginning of said line; and thence leaving the Kissinger lot and bounding on the part to be conveyed to W. Edgar Preston, Jr. and wife, South 80° West 159.4 feet to a piece of iron pipe, and thence still bounding on part to be conveyed to Preston, North 17° West 128.8 feet to post in southeast corner of that lot of land conveyed by W. Edgar Preston, Sr. to W. Edgar Preston, Jr. and wife, September 27, 1947, (Liber GCB 301, 42), and thence bounding on said lot as the magnet points North 10° West 110 feet to a piece of iron pipe set on south side of road, and thence continuing the same line North 17° West 16.7 feet more to the middle of road, thence bounding thereon North 80° East 175.5 feet to northwest corner of lot laid out for Laura A. Kissinger and husband, and thence leaving road and bounding on Kissinger lot South 13° East 17.9 feet to place of beginning.

Harford
PROSPECT
THOMAS
MILL
RUN
BM 454
ROAD
Oak Grove Ch
Mt Zion Ch
Mt Carmel Ch
Fountain Green
Cem
HA-12621
Stier house
Moores Mill
MILL
HEIGHE
RD
Gaging Sta
Sewage Disposal
MC PHAIL
Bynum
Race Track
SCHUCKS
Bel Air Quad

STIER HOUSE



1
2
3
4
5
1898

HA-1262

Dibb House HA-
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Southeast

Dibb House HA-
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
North

Dibb House HA-
Bel Air, Md. 21014

Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Northwest

HA-1262

Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Northwest Elevation

HA-1262
Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Southwest Elevation

Stier House HA-1262
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Ice House/Southeast elevation of house

HA-1262
Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Stairhall/arch in
west wall

HA-1262

Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Kitchen: 1st floor
west room

HA-1262

Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Stairhall