

HA-1363

1877

Smallsbeck-Jones House  
45 E. Broadway  
Bel Air  
private

In outward form, the Smallsbeck-Jones house is typical of the front gable Victorian houses built in Town, but it has an unusual center hall plan. The foyer leads to a semi-enclosed staircase, also unusual in Bel Air. It is an example of the versatility of this favorite house style.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Smallsbeck-Jones House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Brix House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
45 E. Broadway 1st  
CITY, TOWN  
Bel Air \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
STATE  
Maryland COUNTY  
Harford

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Marie Brix Ford Telephone #: 838-3488  
STREET & NUMBER  
45 E. Broadway  
CITY, TOWN  
Bel Air \_\_\_\_\_ VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE, zip code  
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

Liber #: 178  
Folio #: 333

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

NA-1363

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE                                         |
|------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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    |                                             |                                                   |

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two and a half story three bay aluminum sided house is at 45 E. Broadway in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. While it resembles many other houses built in the last quarter of the 19th century around Town, it is in some ways atypical. First, the typical aspects: the front gable with the round-headed window, the shutter flanked flat 2/2 double hung sash windows in the second story in front with first floor front windows being 2/4, the entrance composed of a two pane transom over a 2 pane over two panel door, the kitchen ell to the back, the front porch of chamfered posts with carved brackets. The atypical elements include 1/1 window in the front gable, shed roofed porch (rather than hipped), and the entrance in the middle bay of the front elevation rather than in one of the side bays. The scale of the house is also somewhat larger than the other houses of this type in Town, probably because of its interior lay-out which we will address shortly.

The rear windows of the main block and the ell are 6/6. Two small 4/4 windows occupy the side and back gables. Changes made by the Fords include the addition of an east side porch on the main block, echoing the front porch but without the brackets, and the enclosure of the existing east side porch on the ell. There is a separate entrance to the second story in the kitchen shed. A flight of wooden steps rises parallel to the rear (south) elevation of the two story kitchen shed addition. It gives onto a porch atop the enclosed side porch (east). There are plain wooden hand rails and a balustrade. The door is in the east elevation of the addition. While she was teaching and before she married, Miss Brix rented rooms on the second floor to other teachers. The entrance to the cellar is, like the one at 5 S. Hickory, in a small gable-roofed projection just south of the outside staircase to the second floor. The cellar was dug long after the house was built.

The interior of the house has a floor plan unusual in this type of house in Bel Air. Most of them have a side hall plan with the staircase up the outside wall of the hall. This one has a center hall plan of sorts. On entering one finds a small vestibule with doors to right and left and the semi-enclosed staircase straight ahead. To the left (west) is a small chamber, formerly a parlor, now a bedroom because Mr. Ford cannot climb steps. To the left (east) is the living room which has a door leading to the side porch in the southeast corner of the room. Behind the staircase (south) is the dining room which is the first room in the ell. This room has the only fireplace in the house against the south wall. It has a classically simple wooden mantel with plain square engaged colonettes, a plain frieze and mantel shelf. Doors to the east lead to the two small rooms made when the porch was enclosed. The northernmost is a bedroom and the southernmost is a bathroom. The kitchen is south of the dining room. It accommodates the old furnace which is vented through the chimney inside the west elevation of the kitchen.

The dining room once had nine doors in and into it. Besides the ones to living room, parlor, side porch and kitchen, two doors in the west elevation led outside. A back staircase occupied the northwest corner of the room. Two doors one to the stairs and one to the closet underneath, made up the nine doors. The present owners removed the staircase and closed the exits to the west. The presence of the staircase in that room, by the way, suggests that the dining room was once the kitchen and that the kitchen was added later. If that be so, then the

**CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY**

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

| PERIOD                                        | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |                                                 |                                                 |                                              |
|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING     | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE                | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input checked="" 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                      1877                      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This Victorian house with the center gable in front is one of the earliest houses in Bel Air in a style that was to become very widespread - almost the house style in Bel Air in the last quarter of the 19th century for rich and poor alike. It is the only one built in that style to have a partial center hall plan. The staircase is enclosed on two sides. The others have a side hall plan.

The house was probably built by Andrew Smallsbeck in February 1877 on land he bought from Dr. Munnikhuisen (34/310). Judging from the price (\$2000) Harvey Jones paid for this and three other lots on Broadway, one of them with a tiny house on it, when he bought them from Smallsbeck in October of the same year (36/2), this house must have been built between February and October. The Jones family lived there the rest of their lives. Mrs. Jones executor, Harry S. Carver, sold the property to John L. G. Lee in 1911 and bought it back for himself the same day (134/258). Carver paid \$2800. In 1915 Carver sold it to Daniel H. Carroll of P. and his wife Grace in 1915 for \$3500 (150/298). In 1922 they sold it to Ethel Clinton Smith (178/333). Miss Smith left it to the present owner, her niece Marie Brix Ford. Mrs. Ford was the French teacher at Bel Air High School for many years. She also originated the physical education program at the High School, at that time in the old building on Gordon Street. For several years she had mixed P.E. classes until they got too large. Then the school segregated the classes by sex and hired another instructor to teach the girls. Miss Brix, or Mlle. Brix, for she was born in France, continued as the boys' P.E. teacher until she insisted that the school hire a man teacher. When they did she picked up English classes and taught both English and French. She retired in the early 1970's after teaching for over 20 years and married Mr. Ford.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Interview with Marie Brix Ford, 3 October 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #539 in the Town of Bel Air.

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

| STATE | COUNTY |
|-------|--------|
| STATE | COUNTY |

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

5 October 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

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

fireplace was added later, too. The 1904 Sanborn Map shows the house with the kitchen addition in place.

The second story has three bedrooms, a bath, and a kitchen over the first story kitchen.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST<br>21 STATE CIRCLE<br>SHAW HOUSE<br>ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401<br><br>HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET<br>Individual Structure Survey Form                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1363<br><br>NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:<br><br>UTM REFERENCES:<br>Zone/Easting/Northing<br><br>U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:<br><br>PRESENT FORMAL NAME:<br>Brix House |
| COUNTY: Harford<br>TOWN: Bel Air                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:<br>Smallsbeck House                                                                                                                                |
| LOCATION:<br><br>45 E. Broadway                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | PRESENT USE: private residence<br>ORIGINAL USE: same<br>ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:                                                                                              |
| COMMON NAME:<br>House                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:                                                                                                                                                      |
| FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| OWNER: Marie Brix Ford<br>ADDRESS: 45 E. Broadway<br>Bel Air                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:<br>Excellent( ) Good(X)<br>Fair( ) Poor( )                                                                                              |
| ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:<br>Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(X)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | THEME: Architecture<br>STYLE: Vernacular                                                                                                                                 |
| LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:<br>Local(X) State( ) National( )                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | DATE BUILT:<br>1877                                                                                                                                                      |
| GENERAL DESCRIPTION:<br>Structural System<br>1. Foundation: Stone( )Brick( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )<br>2. Wall Structure<br>A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( )Balloon( )<br>B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( )Stone( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )<br>C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:<br>3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( )Board and Batten( )Wood Shingle( )Shiplap( )<br>Novelty( )Stucco( )Sheet Metal( )Aluminum(X)Asphalt Shingle( )<br>Brick Veneer( )Stone Veneer( )<br>Bonding Pattern: Other:<br>4. Roof Structure<br>A. Truss: Wood( )Iron( )Steel( )Concrete( )<br>B. Other:<br>5. Roof Covering: Slate( )Wood Shingle( )Asphalt Shingle( )Sheet Metal(X)<br>Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other:<br>6. Engineering Structure:<br>7. Other:<br>Appendages: Porches(X) Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers( )Chimneys(X)Sheds( )Ells(X)<br>Wings( ) Other:<br>Roof Style: Gable( )Hip( )Shed( )Flat( )Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( )<br>Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front( )<br>Other:<br>Number of Stories: <u>2½</u><br>Number of Bays: <u>3</u> Entrance Location: <u>E. Broadway</u><br>Approximate Dimensions: <u>40' x 40'</u><br>inc. porches |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| THREAT TO STRUCTURE:<br>No Threat(X)Zoning( )Roads( )<br>Development( )Deterioration( )<br>Alteration( )Other:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | LOCAL ATTITUDES:<br>Positive( )Negative( )<br>Mixed( ) Other:                                                                                                            |

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

porch: shed roof on chamfered posts, dec. brackets - W side access  
 windows 2/2 ex 1st front 2/4 shutters  
 front gable round arch 1/1  
 corbelled chimneys  
 entrance 2 pane transom 2 over 2 panel (sq) door  
 only one fireplace in dr. mantel plain colonettes & plain frieze  
 orig staircase  
 plain woodwork  
 upstairs 3 br bath & kitchen

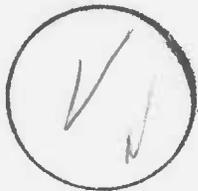
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

they put side porch on & enclosed side porch in back

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



X acme  
 E. Broadway  
 W. Main

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( ) Woodland( ) Scattered Buildings( )  
 Moderately Built Up( ) Densely Built Up( )  
 Residential( ) Commercial(✓)  
 Agricultural( ) Industrial( )  
 Roadside Strip Development( )  
 Other:

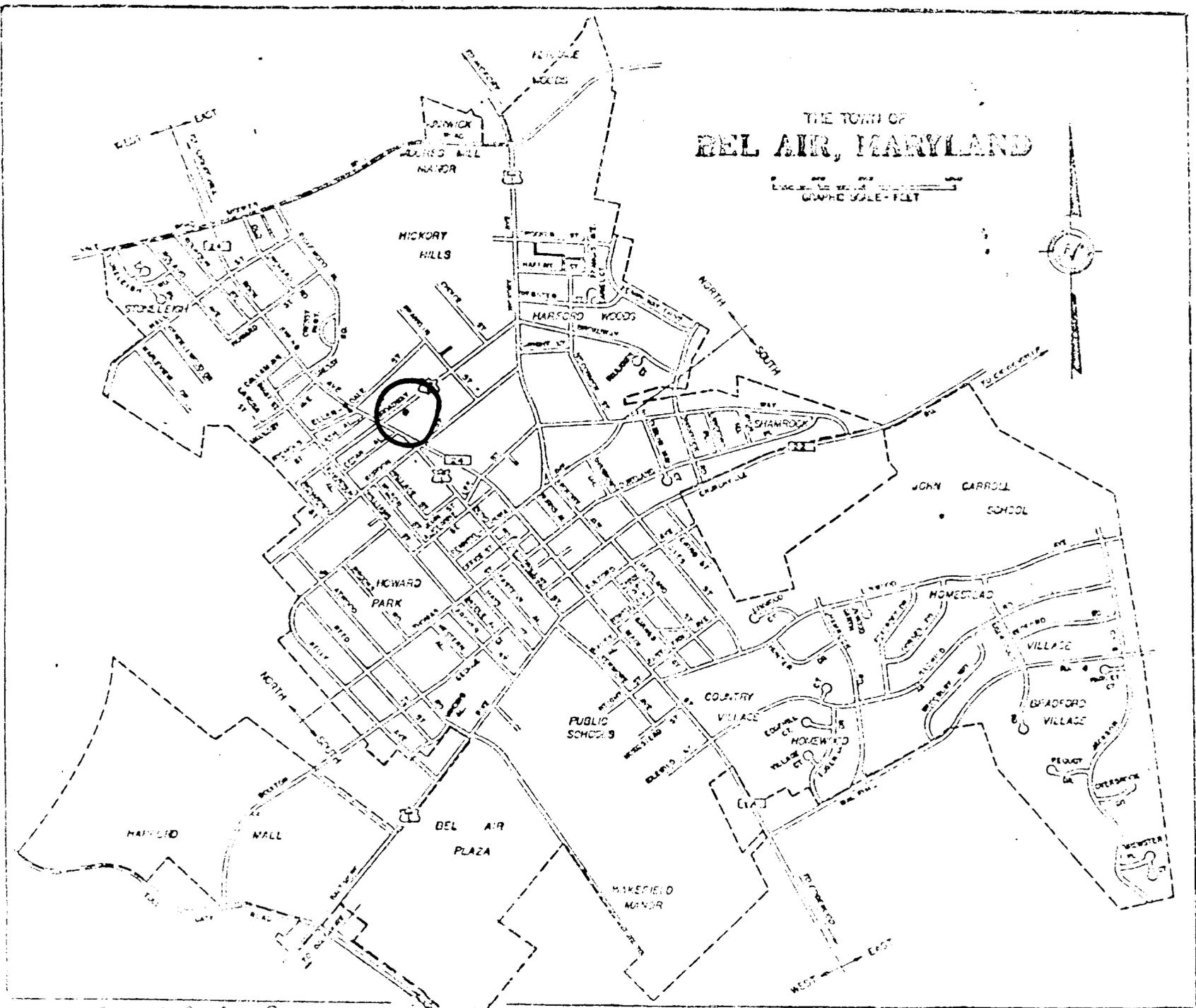
Marilynn Larew

RECORDED BY:  
 Town of Bel Air

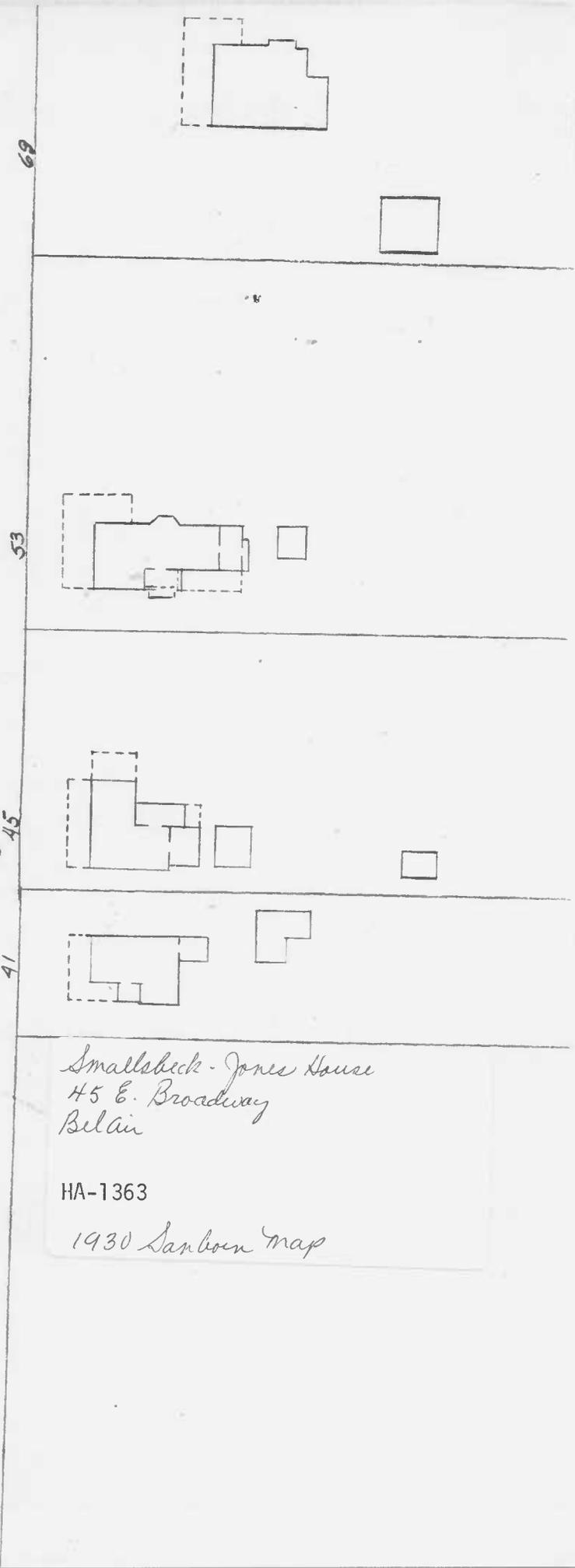
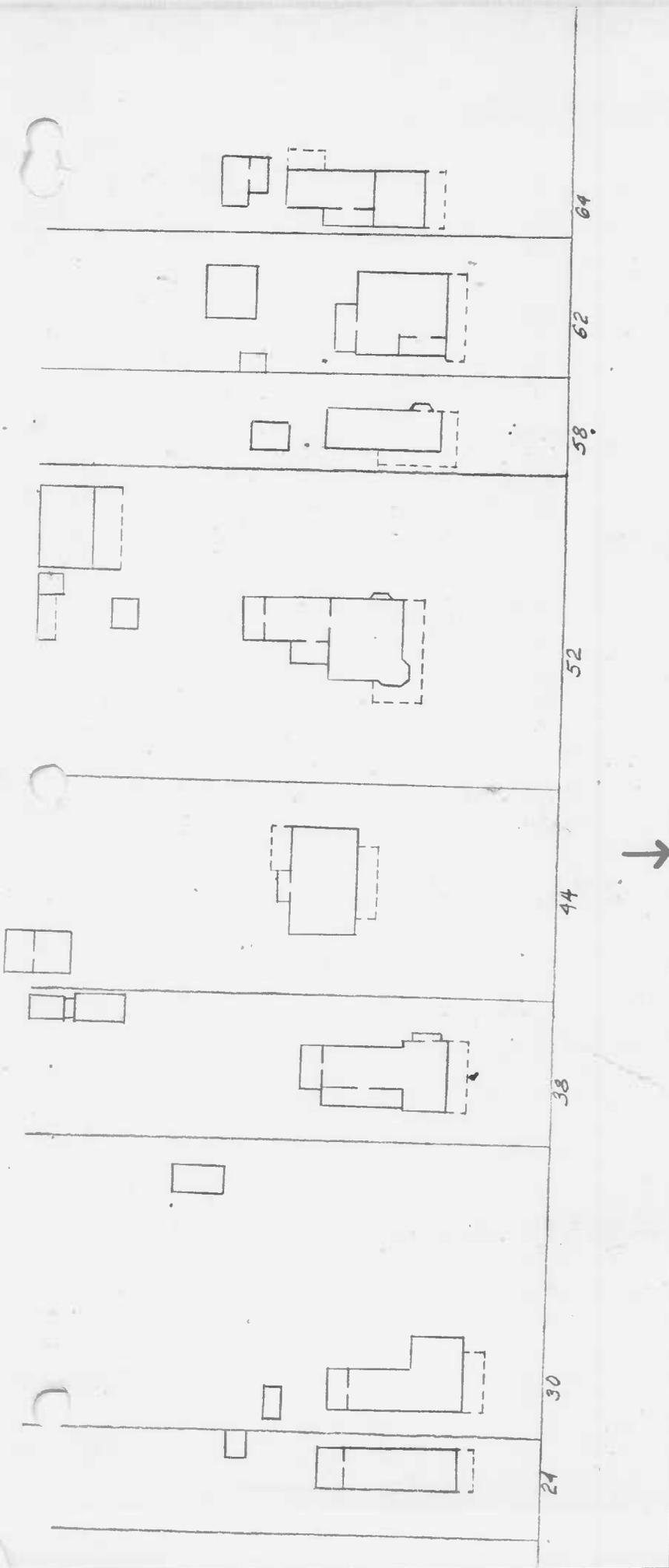
ORGANIZATION:  
 3 October 1979

DATE RECORDED:





HA-1363    Smallbeck - Jones - Brax House  
 -145 E Broadway



*Smallbeck-Jones House  
45 E. Broadway  
Bel Air*

HA-1363

*1930 Sanborn map*







