

HA-1395

1868

33 Courtland Street  
Bel Air  
public

This elegant neo-classical building was built shortly after the Civil War by Mrs. Barbara Ferry Dunnigan for use as a hotel and restaurant, a use that continued for the rest of the century. Subsequently it was the office of the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the banking firm of Smith, Webster, Inc., and the Harford County School Board. Today it houses the office of the County Extension Service.

Particularly noteworthy are the neo-classical trim, a 20th century addition, and an 1879 classical wooden mantel in the southeast chamber.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mrs. Dunnigan's Hotel and Restaurant

AND/OR COMMON

County Extension Office

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

33 Courtland Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" 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

Harford County

Thomas Dick,

Bldg. Inspector

Telephone #: 838-6000

STREET & NUMBER

County Office Building, Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 246

Folio #: 285

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_ FEDERAL    \_\_\_ STATE    \_\_\_ COUNTY    \_\_\_ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

NA-1315

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The County Extension Building is on the southwest corner of Courtland and Bond Streets in the Town of Bel Air, Maryland. It is a three story frame building on a stuccoed stone basement with a slate gable roof and two corbel capped inside end chimneys, one on the east elevation, and one in the west elevation of the 1879 addition. The present fenestration and the applied decoration on the facade are the result of a 1906 remodeling which gives the building, probably built around 1868, a Classical Revival look. The original building was a three bay by two bay structure in ship-lap siding. Two two story additions to the rear have been made, the first, a one room addition to the southeast by Barbara Ferry Dunnigan in 1879, and the second, a vault in the basement and first story topped by a room and bath in the second story by the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company in 1906.

The three stories of the facade each have a different window treatment. In the basement each end bay has a pair of double-hung 6/6 windows set in wooden surrounds. The entry which begins in the middle bay of the basement and continues into the first story is set in a wooden frame which supports an entablature topped by a round arched transom with a carved console in the place of a keystone. The transom has a round pane in the center, flanked by 2/4 square panes which accommodate themselves to the curve of the arch. A large, single pane window with a transom matching that over the entry flanks the entry on each side. The second floor windows in the front elevation are double, double hung 6/1, set in wooden surrounds. A flight of three concrete and 6 wooden steps rise to the recessed doorway. Double doors with a single glass pane above and two wooden panels below are topped by two horizontal panes in the transom. The Bond Street elevation also has three different window treatments. The basement, or first, level has a four bay arrangement, window, door, window, door. The windows are double-hung 6/6 like those in the facade. The two doors have nine window panes in the top over wooden panels. When Mrs. Dunnigan owned the building there was a liquor store in the basement, which probably accounts for the double access to the first level. The windows in the top two stories are similar in design, the differences being attributable to size. The two first floor windows are double-hung, 2/2, with a 4/4 transom topped by a thin entablature, all in wooden surrounds. The second story windows are double hung, 6/2, without entablature. The second story window in the vault (1906) addition in this elevation matches the other two second story windows, but the windows in the rear, or south, elevation are simple 6/6. Apparently only the two elevations visible from the streets were modified in the 1906 remodeling.

The interior is a center hall plan with the two first floor rooms on the Bond Street (west) side being about two feet wider than those on the east. An open string staircase with decorative brackets rises along the west side of the hall. The newel post is square and paneled with no finial.

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
<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 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 1868 - 69 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Mrs. Barbara Ferry Dunnigan

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

When this hotel was built shortly after the Civil War, Bel Air was still the small southern courthouse town shown on the 1858 map. Among the most important businesses were the inns or hotels which sheltered the visitors on court days. Around 1870 these were clustered around the courthouse: Prigg's (Stagmer's) at the northwest corner of Main and Courtland, Granger's across Main Street, Bel Air House on Main across from the courthouse, and the old Eagle Hotel on Bond across from the foot of Office Street. Mrs. Ferry's hotel at the corner of Bond and Courtland completed this encirclement of the courthouse. When she built the house on ground leased from Stump, Archer, and Archer, she was a 35 year old widow. In 1869 she married Bernard (Barney) Dunnigan (marriage license 1/136), who kept the tavern and liquor store at the hotel until local option made selling liquor illegal. It is not known precisely when Mrs. Dunnigan ceased to keep the hotel. In 1906 when she lost the property because of a defaulted mortgage, she was not living with her husband, but with her son, Edward Ferry, in Philadelphia.

In 1906 the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company bought the building. The remodeling that took place then is probably responsible for the neo-classical facade as it is certainly responsible for the vault addition to the rear. The insurance company used the building as its offices until 1921 when they traded buildings with Smith-Webster, Inc., a banking and canning brokerage firm, Smith-Webster moving to 33 Courtland and the insurance company moving to 18 Office Street. Smith-Webster was already in financial trouble; they lost the property on a defaulted mortgage to Stevenson A. Williams in 1923 (the mortgage 175/223, 1921). Williams sold it to John A. Robinson for \$10,500 nine months later. Robinson sold it to the county in 1937. Since the county acquired it, it has housed the County School Board and, currently, the County Extension Agent's Office.

This sturdy and elegant frame building has suffered less than the rest of the old hotels around the courthouse. Bel Air House and the Eagle Hotel are gone, Stagmers is an apartment house, and Grover's is now Courtland Hardware. It provides an elegant and domestic anchor for the west end of Courtland Street, despite its long use as offices.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Occupies parcel 841 in the Town of Bel Air. 50' (Courtland) x 71' (Bond Street).

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew

20 October 1978

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET &amp; 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

When Mrs. Dunnigan owned the building, there was a restaurant in the hotel. These first floor rooms were restaurant and tavern. She added an ell to the rear in 1879 to provide a parlor for the hotel guests. This room has the only remaining fireplace, the mantel being a plain beveled shelf supported on each side by a composite column on a square base, all in wood. County staff members report that the two rooms on the east side were once one long room with a fireplace in the middle of the wall. This was probably the restaurant. All these rooms are offices now.

The second floor has one long room on the west, with a smaller room hall and half bath in the 1906 addition. The long room was probably a dormitory with several beds. On the east side are two rooms, the rear having a door to the east to the next building. In the north end of the center half is an enclosed stairway to the attic. All the woodwork in the second story seems original; the door handles are Victorian, oval knobs in oval plates. These rooms are now county offices. The attic is divided into two rooms, probably once cheaper hotel rooms or servants quarters, but now used mostly for storage.

The basement level has two offices, the vault and a furnace room. The eastern two rooms were once one and may have been the restaurant kitchen, because of the large chimney breast still visible. The vault is masonry with an arched ceiling and a barred slit window in the west side. The vault is by the York Safe and Lock Company of York, Pennsylvania, but the lock was made by Sargent and Greenleaf of Rochester, New York.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST  
 21 STATE CIRCLE  
 SHAW HOUSE  
 ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER:	HA-1395
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
UTM REFERENCES:	Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:	County Extension Office
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:	Mrs. Dunnigan's Hotel & Restaurant
PRESENT USE:	County Offices
ORIGINAL USE:	Hotel & Restaurant
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:	Excellent (X) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Poor: ( )
THEME:	Architecture
STYLE:	as remodeled Classical Revival
DATE BUILT:	1867 - 68

COUNTY:	Harford
TOWN:	Bel Air
LOCATION:	Courtland and Bond
COMMON NAME:	County Extension Office
FUNCTIONAL TYPE:	Office
OWNER:	Harford County
ADDRESS:	Bel Air, Maryland 21014
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	Yes (X) No ( ) Restricted ( )
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:	Local (X) State ( ) National ( )

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone ( ) Brick (X) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
- Wall Structure with Stucco
  - Wood Frame: Post and Beam ( ) Balloon ( )
  - Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick ( ) Stone ( ) Concrete ( ) Concrete Block ( )
  - Iron ( ) D. Steel ( ) E. Other:
- Wall Covering: Clapboard (X) Board and Batten ( ) Wood Shingle ( ) Shiplap ( )  
 Novelty ( ) Stucco ( ) Sheet Metal ( ) Aluminum ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( )  
 Brick Veneer ( ) Stone Veneer ( ) End posts beaded  
 Bonding Pattern: Other:
- Roof Structure
  - Truss: Wood (X) Iron ( ) Steel ( ) Concrete ( )
  - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate (X) Wood Shingle ( ) Asphalt Shingle ( ) Sheet Metal ( )  
 Built Up ( ) Rolled ( ) Tile ( ) Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches ( ) Towers ( ) Cupolas ( ) Dormers ( ) Chimneys (X) Sheds ( ) Ells (X)  
 Wings ( ) Other:

Roof Style: Gable (X) Hip ( ) Shed ( ) Flat ( ) Mansard ( ) Gambrel ( ) Jerkinhead ( )  
 Saw Tooth ( ) With Monitor ( ) With Bellcast ( ) With Parapet ( ) With False Front ( )  
 Other:

Number of Stories: 3 (2 + raised basement)

Number of Bays: 3 (Courtland) x 2 (Bond)\*

Approximate Dimensions: 36' x 48.2'  
 \*plus 2 rear additions

Entrance Location: Main entrance on Courtland - Basement entrance on Bond

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat (X) Zoning ( ) Roads ( )
Development ( ) Deterioration ( )
Alteration ( ) Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive (X) Negative ( )
Mixed ( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION: Windows 6/1 in 2nd story Courtland elevation; 6/2 Bond St. second story Bond St. 1st (wooden) floor windows 8 pane transom, and 2/2; basement level 6/6 Courtland; 1st story decorative transom, solid large pane; basement level 6/2. Near foundation on Courtland is original survey stone: 3 concrete steps up to building, 6 wooden steps up to recessed entrance - 2 pane transom, double doors with long glass panes upper, 2 panels lower. 1st floor hall = open string stair, decorative brackets, square newel post with recessed panels, vase turned balusters 3 to the step. Newel post on second floor landing matches 1st floor one. Last room on left fireplace, wooden mantel - plain beveled shelf supported by composite column on sq. base. Second floor (photo interior woodwork) Original doors - door to 2nd floor Ranneberger Bldg. Door handles, oval knob in oval plate - 2 rooms in attic - lathing shows through plaster arched ventilator in Bond St. gable - Asphalt tile on floor ex. wood in attic. Fireplace removed (paneled over).

~~REMARKS~~ In front east room - Basement floor vault in S. end - dates to insurance co. period masonry vault arched ceiling, slit window with iron bars in west wall - combination on door. Inside door painted in red and gold "York Safe and Lock Co., York, Pa." Lock says Sargent & Greenleaf, Rochester, N.Y. in E. wall large chimney breast centered W.

~~STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE~~ Partition in center of it - Kitchen fireplace? See photo of rear elevation for vault Insurance Co. put in chimneys seem to match. The Insurance Co. must have put that 2nd floor bathroom in - no tub so doesn't date from Hotel days, but woodwork matches - also the room next to it on the W. - three steps down to that room from next forward west room.

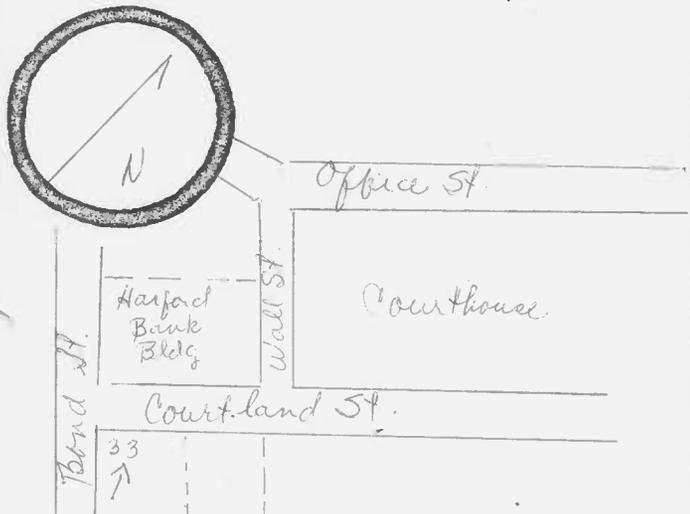
\*\*\*\*\*

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Built as hotel and restaurant, the building has always been used as a commercial structure. It has had various offices, a liquor store, a provision store, the Insurance Company, a canners brokerage and the School Board located there before becoming the County Extension Office.

REFERENCES: Harford Democrat

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

M. Larew  
RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

19 October 1978

DATE RECORDED:

33 COURTLAND

Owner: Harford County

- 246/285      1 July 1937  
John A. Robinson, widower  
              to  
County Commission  
41.1 x 71 corner of Courtland & Bond
- 186/1        10 October 1923  
Stevenson A. Williams & Ariel w  
              to  
John A. Robinson  
\$10,500
- 181/240     25 January 1923  
Thomas H. Robinson, assignee of Mortgage from  
Smith-Webster 1921 (the mtg. 175/223)  
              to  
Stevenson A. Williams  
at Public Auction
- 173/182     5 May 1921  
Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
              to  
Smith-Webster
- 117/154     13 January 1906  
Stevenson A. Williams, Trustee  
Richard Dallam & Josephine, w and  
Joseph Hanway and Sara, w  
              to  
Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Co.  
  
Williams was Trustee in Jarrettsville  
  
Building Assoc. vs Barbara Dunnigan et al  
(Equity Docket P/8)  
Williams sold the property at auction to  
Dallam and Hanway for \$2,750  
They sold it to the Insurance Co. & join  
in giving title
- 45/410      24 June 1882  
Hannah Van Bibber \*see below  
              to  
Barbara Dunnigan  
\$2,062.50  
92 ft. on Courtland (includes 29,31 & 33 Courtland)

20/411

5 August 1868

Herman Stump, Jr. Trustee for self, Henry  
W. Archer and Stevenson Archer  
lease to

Barbara Ferry (Dunnigan)

\* Hannah Van Bibber was the daughter of  
Stevenson Archer. By 26/246 1871, Stump,  
Archer and Archer divided their jointly held lands.  
Stevenson Archer got this piece, the Ranneberger  
Bldg. (31 Courtland) lot and the Aegis lot.  
By this 99 year lease (\$123.75 p.a.) Ferry promised  
to keep the improvements insured. The lease speaks  
of buildings.

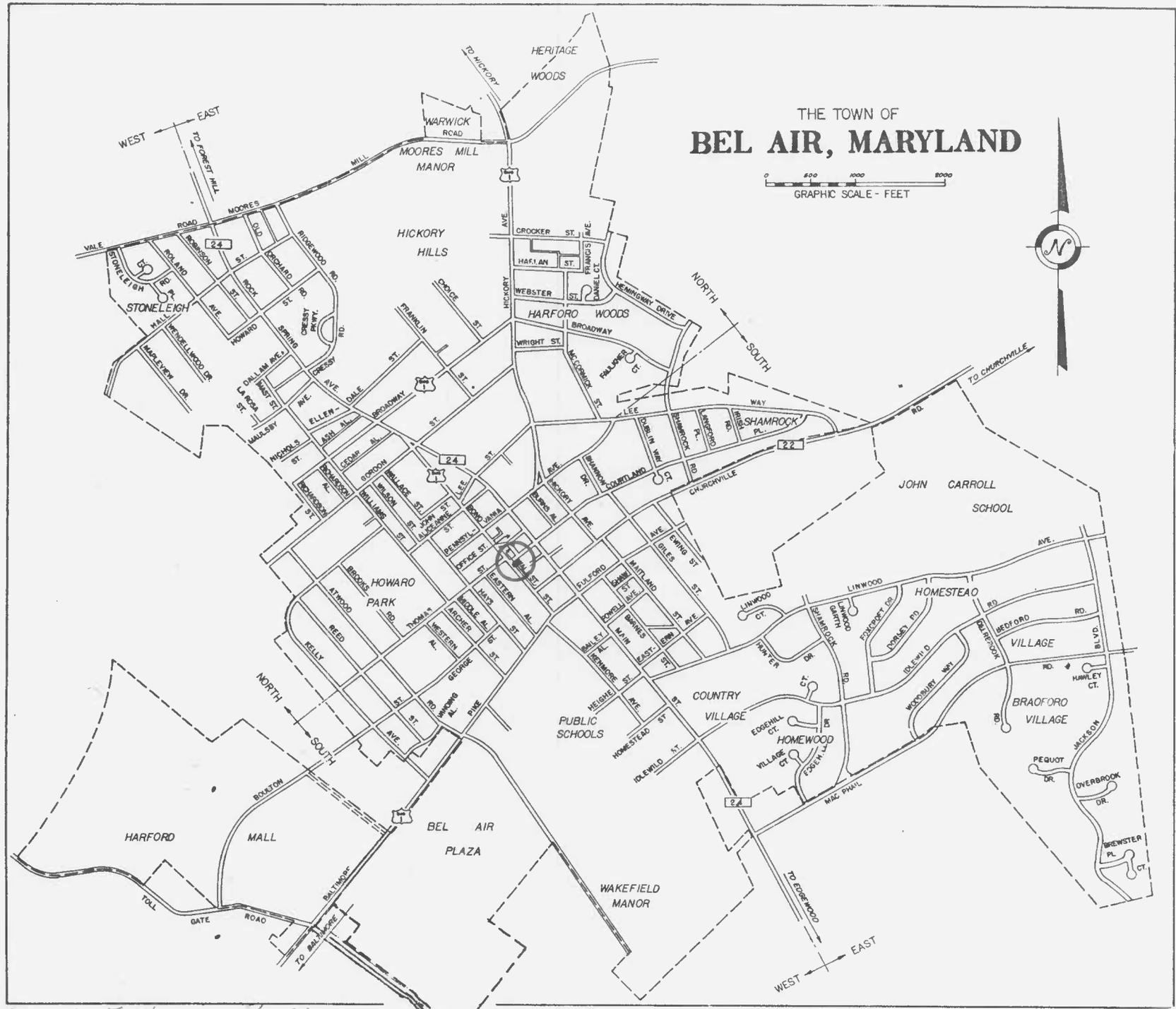
19/217

14 October 1867

Henry Farnandes, Trustee, Ann and Martha Robinson  
to

Herman Stump, Trustee (& Archer & Archer)

See 31 Courtland for explanation of this sale;  
it was the whole of #33 in Bel Air plat; the only  
improvement was on the corner of Main and Courtland =  
The Misses Robinson's Store



MA-1395

*The County Extension Building  
Courtland and Bond Streets*









COUNTY EXTENSION OFFICE

33 COURTLAND, BEL AIR

WEST ELEVATION, SHOWING ADDITIONS

M. LARREW, 1978

HA-1395







44-1395

Mrs. Dunnigan's Hotel + Restaurant  
33 Courtland, Bel Air

n + w elev

M. Larew, 1979



HA-1395

73



73

HA-1395

THIS PHOTOGRAPH

By: W. Robert Wallis

Fountain Green Road

Bel Air, Md.



78

County Agent Building

HA-1395

THIS PHOTOGRAPH  
By: W. Robert Wallis  
Fountain Green Road  
Bel Air, Md