Start Here

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HA-1397

AND

HA-1398

HA-1397 & HA-1398 1887

Bruns Livery Stable
13-19 E. Ellendale
Bel Air
private

These two board and batten buildings are Bel Air's only reminder of a once flourishing transportation industry - the livery stable. Bruns Livery Stable had a particularly good site near the railroad station. Both buildings have been altered, but they still show the uncluttered utilitarian design common to barns and stables.

HA-1397 (#13)
1313974611

HA-1398 (#19)
1313984611

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bruns Livery Stable

AND/OR COMMON
Bel Air Auction

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
13-19 E. Ellendale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
X BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X 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	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. William McComas

Telephone #: 838-7515

STREET & NUMBER
538 Rock Spring

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 951
Folio #: 1002

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

HR-1338

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	X ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

These two board and batten buildings are at 13-19 E. Ellendale in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. They are stained red.

Building #1 is two and a half stories tall with a gable roof and two shed-roofed additions on the east side. The front is vaguely three bay with a pair of glass and frame doors in the middle of the front (north) elevation. A tall plain chimney stack rises toward the eaves on the north end of the west elevation. A large 12 pane window lights the second story middle bay, flanked at some distance by a 6 pane window. The rear (south) elevation has a pair of sliding barn doors on the first story.

Inside, the ground floor is one large room with ancient plush theater seats around two sides of an auction platform. The second story has four small rooms in front (north) and one large room in the rear.

Building #2 is a long, shed-roofed building with a garage door in front and sliding barn doors in the rear. It is one large room inside.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-1577
NA-1578

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
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1887 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These two red stained board and batten buildings are unique in Bel Air: the only commercial stable buildings remaining. As they near the century mark they are healthy and useful as the home of Bel Air's Acution Gallery. They have an austere and unadorned geometric beauty. The railroad and the railroad station they were built to serve have gone with society's changed transportation needs. The horses and buggies that they once sheltered are gone, too, in a previous transportation change, but these large, functional buildings remain as the very home of changing needs, for the cast off items of one family or one generation are brought here to be sold to new families in the weekly auction.

Henry B. Bruns built these stables and the store to the west in 1887 on land purchased from Charles L. Dallam (58/195), 59/423). The situation was very close to the new railroad. Bruns called them an "exchange stables" which suggests a "rent-a-buggy" service - you could leave a rented rig there and it would find its way back to where you rented it.

Bruns' heirs sold the property to David Crystal of Baltimore City in 1920 for $2000 (17/75). Crystal mortgaged the property that year and defaulted on the mortgage in 1925. The Permanent Building Association of Harford County, the lending Institution, bought the property at auction in 1925 for $1500 (195/231). Crystal seems to have bet wrong on the survival of horse-drawn transportation.

The next week the McComas Brothers bought the property (195/242). The 1930 Sanborn Map shows the larger building was used for equipment and truck parking and the smaller building as a beverage warehouse. After the deaths of Emory and Stanley McComas, the property was conveyed to William McComas, one of Stanley's sons (1941, 267/1). In 1974 McComas conveyed it to his wife, Lee Anna (951/1002), the present owner. William McComas is now dead.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NA-397
NA-1398

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat
1930 Sanborn Map

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #285 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

DATE
13 November 1979

ORGANIZATION
Town of Bel Air

TELEPHONE
838-8700

STREET & NUMBER
39 Hickory Avenue

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

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1397 (#13)
HA-1398 (#19)

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
Bel Air Auction Galleries

COUNTY: Harford
TOWN: Bel Air

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
Bruns Livery Stable

LOCATION:
13-19 E. Ellendale

PRESENT USE: auction gallery & storage
ORIGINAL USE: stable
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

COMMON NAME:
Bel Air Auction

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

FUNCTIONAL TYPE:

OWNER: Mrs. William McComas
ADDRESS: 538 Rock Spring
Bel Air, Md.

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent( ) Good(X)
Fair( ) Poor( )

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes(X) No( ) Restricted( )

THEME: Architecture
STYLE: Vernacular

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local(X) State( ) National( )

DATE BUILT:
1887

GENERAL DESCRIPTION: two bldgs.
Structural System
1. Foundation: Stone( )Brick( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
2. Wall Structure
   A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( )Balloon( )
   B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( )Stone( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
   C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( )Board and Batten(X)Wood Shingle( )Shiplap( )
   Novelty( )Stucco( )Sheet Metal( )Aluminum( )Asphalt Shingle( )
   Brick Veneer( )Stone Veneer( )
   Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
   A. Truss: Wood( )Iron( )Steel( )Concrete( )
   B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate( )Wood Shingle( )Asphalt Shingle( )Sheet Metal(X)
   Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches( )Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers( )Chimneys(X)Sheds( )Ells( )
Wings( ) Other:
Roof Style: Gable(X)Hip( )Shed(X)Flat( )Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( )
Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front( )
Other:
Number of Stories: 2½/1
Number of Bays: 3/1 Entrance Location: Ellendale
Approximate Dimensions: 35' x 75'/ 35' x 60'

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

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

HA-1397
HA-1398

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

(1) one large room downstairs w/ theater seats
one large room & 4 small ones upstairs

(2) one large room

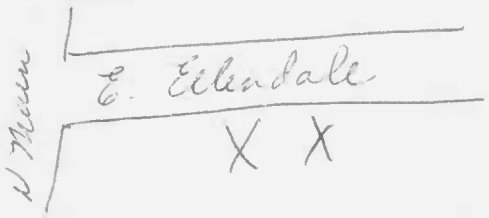
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Bruns Livery Stable 1887

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



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

Marilynn Larew
RECORDED BY:
Town of Bel Air
ORGANIZATION:
10 November 1979
DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: Bruns Livery

951/1002

11 June 1974
William A. McComas, Sr. & Lee Anna K. McComas, wife
to
Lee Anna K. McComas

365/571

20 November 1951
William S. James
to
William McComas & Lee Anna

365/569

20 November 1951
William McComas & Lee Anna
to
William S. Jones

267/1

11 June 1941
Mary McComas
to
William S. Jones

195/242

21 November 1925
The Permanent Building Association of Harford County
to
Emory A. McComas & M. Stanley McComas

195/231

17 November 1925
Thomas H. Robinson, Attorney
to
The Permanent Bldg. Association
defaulted mortgage of David Crystal, 1920, 170/53
$1500

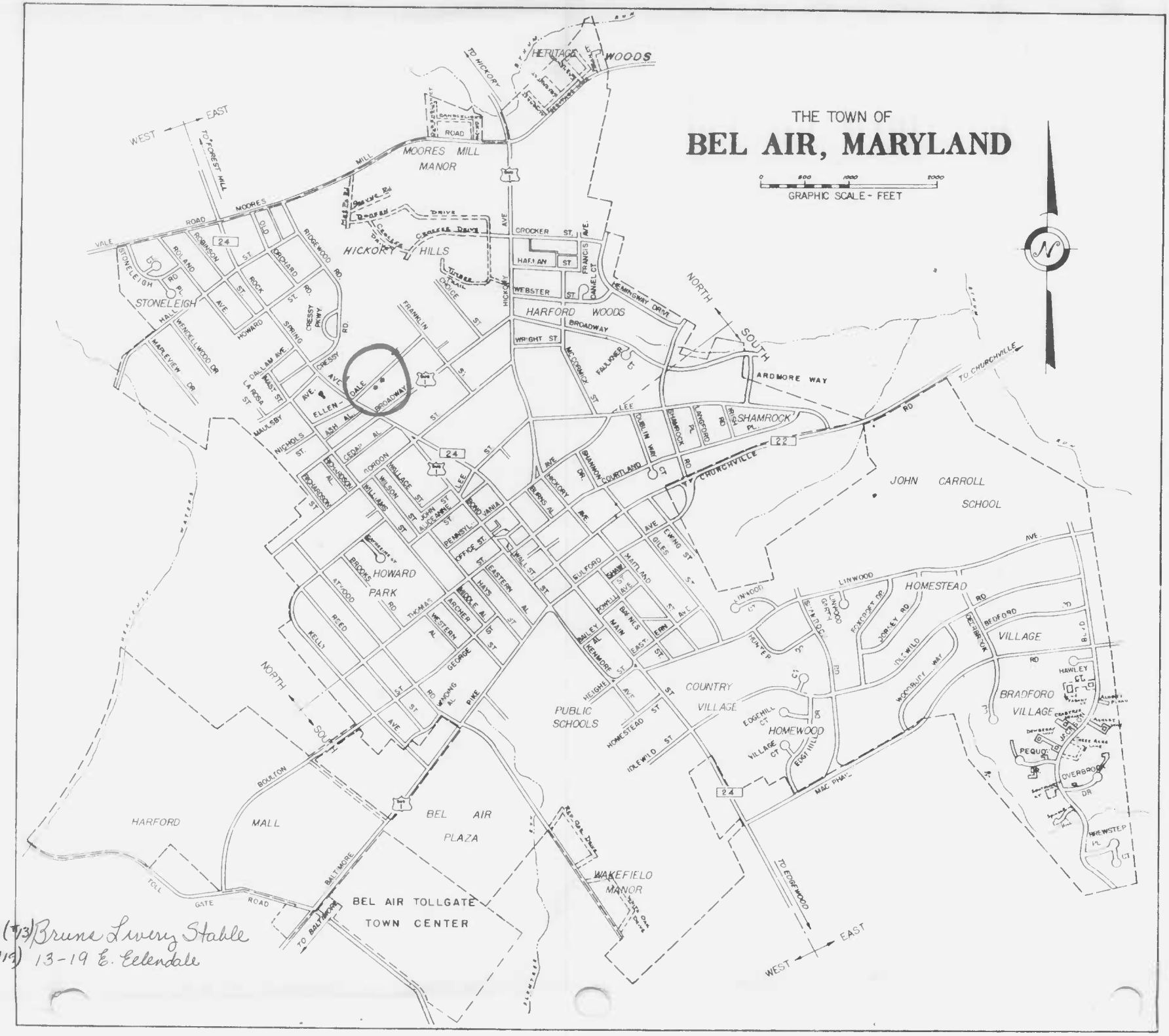
171/75

16 June 1920
J. Bernard Bruns & Helen of Somerset Co., Pa., Francis J. Bruns & Mary
to
David Crystal of Baltimore City
$2000

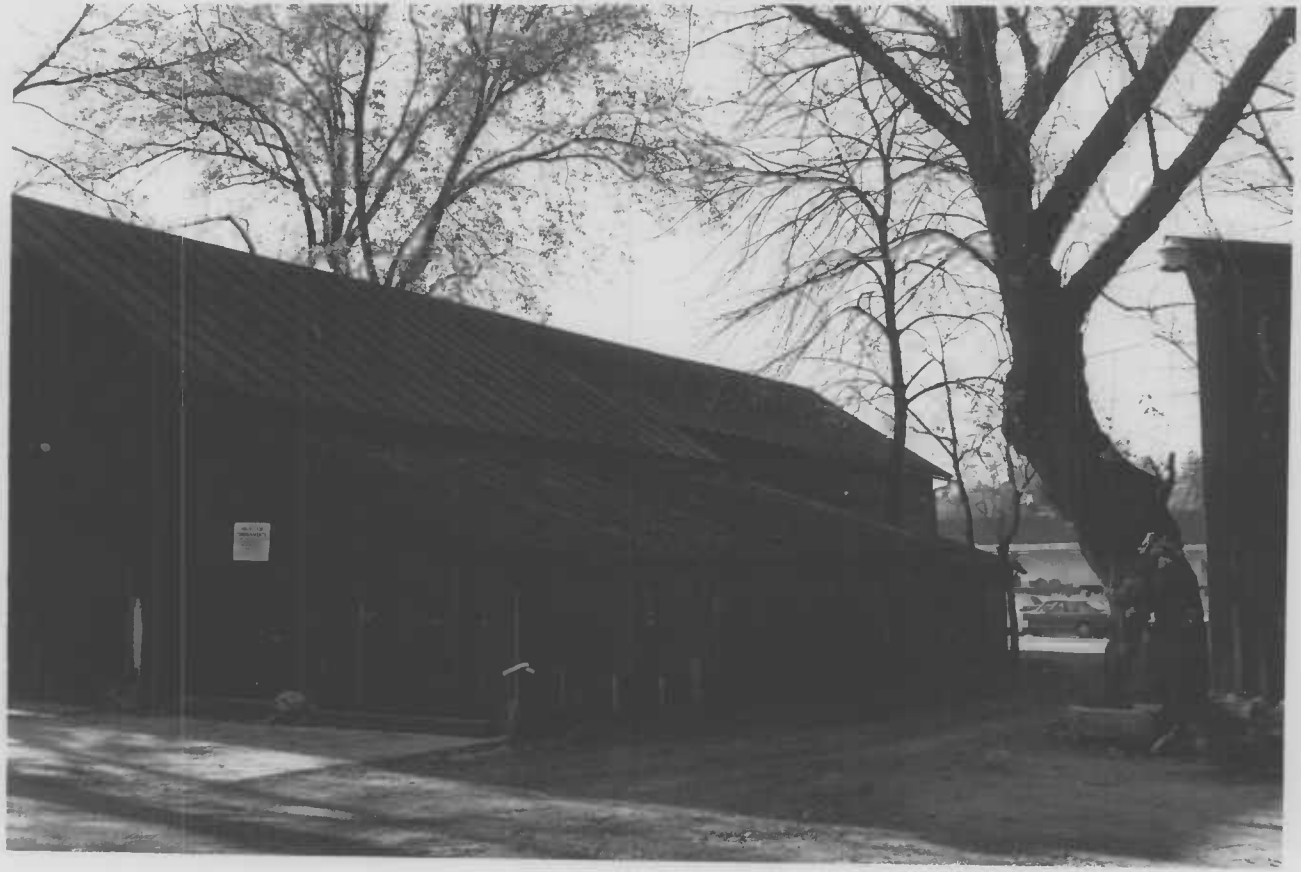
HA-1397 (#13)
HA-1398 (#19)

160/339

26 August 1918
Thomas H. Robinson, trustee
to
J. Bernard Bruns & Francis J. Bruns
$2000
the estate of Henry Bruns sued by the
Second National Bank
1. 59/423 Sept 1887, Charles L. Dallam
   to Henry Bruns
2. 58/195 March 1887, Charles L. Dallam
   to Henry Bruns


THE TOWN OF
BEL AIR, MARYLAND
GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET
WEST
EAST
NORTH
SOUTH
HERITAGE WOODS
MOORES MILL MANOR
HICKORY HILLS
STONELEIGH
HARFORD WOODS
HOWARD PARK
JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL
HOMESTEAD
VILLAGE
BRADFORD VILLAGE
COUNTRY VILLAGE
HOMEWOOD
PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HARFORD MALL
BEL AIR PLAZA
BEL AIR TOLLGATE TOWN CENTER
WAKEFIELD MANOR
TO CHURCHVILLE
TO FOREST HILL
TO HICKORY
TO BALTIMORE
TO EDGEWOOD
TOLL GATE ROAD
BALTIMORE
BOULTON
MOORES MILL ROAD
CROCKER ST.
HAFLAN ST.
WEBSTER ST.
WRIGHT ST.
BROADWAY
HEMINGWAY DRIVE
ARDMORE WAY
SHAMROCK
CHURCHVILLE RD
LINWOOD
BEDFORD RD
MAC PHAIL
HA-1397 (#13) Bruns Livery Stable
HA-1398 (#19) 13-19 E. Ellendale

HA-1397 Bruns Livery Stable, 13 E Ellendale, Bel Air
s elev
M Lareis, 1977



HA-1397 Bruns Livery Stable, 13 E. Ellendale, Bel Air
S + W elev
M. Larew, 1979

BEL AIR AUCTION GALLERIES INC.
COUNTRY AUCTION
EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT 7 PM

HA-1397 Bruns Livery Stable, 13 E Ellendale, Bel Air
n + w elev
M Larew, 1979

HA-1398 Bruns Livery Stable, 19 E Ellendale, Belair
N+W elev
M Larew, 1979

HA-1398 Bruns Livery Stable, 19 E Ellendale, Bel Air
w & s elev
M. Larew, 1979

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HA-1397

AND

HA-1398