

HA-1438

1902-1903

First Presbyterian Manse  
Main & Broadway  
Bel Air  
private

The Presbyterian Manse is Bel Air's only pre-World War I example of the shingle style and it remains the best. The house is firmly shaped with a good stone first story. The arches at the northeast corner are obscured by the post-1904 porch and shrubbery. They originally gave a firm and stylish entry to the recessed porch which leads to the front door. The rippled shingles of the second story provide a sharp textural contrast to the stone work below and serve to emphasize the squareness of the building and offer a horizontal movement to a facade that might otherwise be too rigidly vertical. The hip-roofed central dormer offers a very definite stop to the upward movement of the facade. On the north elevation a rectangular bay window floats between the first and second stories. It lights the stair landing.

This is the second manse to house Bel Air's Presbyterian ministers; the first was the Van Bibber House, 303 S. Main Street.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

First Presbyterian Manse

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

N. Main & E. Broadway

1st

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER: Manse

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church Telephone #: 838-5778

STREET & NUMBER

N. Main & E. Broadway

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

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

HA-1438

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<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	porch	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This elegant shingle and stone two and a half story house is at the southwest corner of North Main and East Broadway in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. An intriguing vernacular combination of Shingle Style and Classical Revival, the house has a first story of coursed stone and a second story of rippled wood shingle. Much of the detailing and the shape of the structure are tightly Classical rather than rambling in the Shingle Style. The hipped roof is broken by a hipped roof dormer on each face, the one in the rear (west) pushed slightly off center by the tall slender chimney stack. The front (east) dormer is a major decorative feature with a modillioned cornice and triple 1/1 double hung sash windows. The other dormers have single 1/1 windows. A narrow molded cornice with a shallow frieze below ties the house tightly together. A wooden water table separates first and second stories. The windows are all 1/1, paired in the second story front (east), in flat wooden surrounds with a thin molding on top. The first story windows are shuttered, with flat stone arches, three of them occupying the south bay in front. The south elevation also shows a group of three. In the center of the north elevation between the first and second stories is a rectangular hipped roof shingle bay window with cornice and molded strip along the bottom. It has a pair of windows in wide surround and is supported by solid curved wooden brackets.

A hipped roof porch occupies the north bay of the front (east) elevation. A cornice like the one under the roof line tops slender doric columns, and a balustrade of slender vase-shaped turned balusters runs back to the stone work on the north and south sides. The porch had a semi-circular portion on the north side in 1904. Behind this porch is another porch recessed and leading to the entrance. A pair of stone arches define this porch on the east and north sides. The entrance has a single pane narrow transom and narrow molded wood strips surrounding a door with three round headed glass panes over two panels and a large X panel.

The rear of the house (west) shows a single story porch (south) and enclosed portion (north) with a deck railing of square posts with round flat finials and plain balusters. The back door is in the middle. The interior of the Manse was unavailable.

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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1902-03	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This elegant house is unique in Bel Air. Built in 1902-03 to be the Manse of the First Presbyterian Church, it has the skin of a Shingle Style house with a coursed stone first story and a rippled wood shingle second story. The arched openings behind the front porch leading to the deeply recessed front door also speak of Shingle Style, but the shape of the house, its hipped roof and dormers are elements of the Vernacular Classical Revival houses building or to be built in Town after World War I.

When the Presbyterian congregation was formed in 1852, the first Manse was the Van Bibber House (HA-224). Like many other Protestant congregations, the Bel Air Presbyterians decided to sell their Manse and give their Minister a housing allowance. Accordingly, in 1883 the trustees of the Church sold the Manse to their Minister, Ebenezer D. Finney, and gave him instead an allowance of \$100 a year in its place. Reverend Finney was Pastor of the church for a quarter of a century. At the turn of the century, the Rev. S. S. Greenwell was pastor, and the church trustees decided to build a Manse next to the church. While the house is complex enough to suggest the design of an architect, the church records do not supply even the name of the contractor. Neither do the newspapers of the day, usually a fertile source of building information. The cost is recorded, however: \$7,226.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Centennial Book of the First Presbyterian Church  
Bel Air Centennial Book  
1904, 1930 Sanborn Maps

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies the north part of parcel #478 in the Town of Bel Air, 220' on Main Street

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

STATE	COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

30 October 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel Air, Maryland 21014

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-1438
	NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
	UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
	U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
	PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Presbyterian Manse
COUNTY: Harford	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Same
TOWN: Bel Air	
LOCATION: N. Main & E. Broadway Bel Air, Maryland 21014	PRESENT USE: Manse
	ORIGINAL USE: Same
COMMON NAME: Presbyterian Manse	ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Private Residence	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
OWNER: Trustees of the First ADDRESS: Presbyterian Ch. N. Main & E. Broadway	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent(X) Good( ) Fair( ) Poor( )
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(X)	THEME: Architecture
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(X) State( ) National( )	STYLE: Vernacular
DATE BUILT: 1902-03	
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: 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(X)Concrete( )Concrete Block( ) C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other: 1st 2nd 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( )Board and Batten( )Wood Shingle(X)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( ) Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches( )Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers(X)Chimneys(X)Sheds( )Ells( ) Wings( ) Other: Roof Style: Gable( )Hip( )Shed( )Flat( )Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( ) Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front( ) Other: Number of Stories: <u>2½</u> Number of Bays: <u>2</u> Entrance Location: <u>N. Main</u> Approximate Dimensions: <u>27' x 45'</u>	
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat(X)Zoning( )Roads( ) Development( )Deterioration( ) Alteration( )Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive( )Negative( ) Mixed( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Front hipped dormer with modallioned cornice, 3 1/1 windows  
N. side corbell-capped chimney flanked by hipped dormers  
w single 1/1 window  
windows 1/1, paired in front/front stone arches  
front porch N. bay E. elev. carved on doric posts w  
vase turned balusters  
N elev-bay window w hip roof, 2 1/1 windows on  
brackets 2nd story

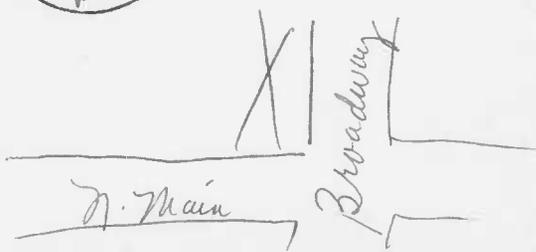
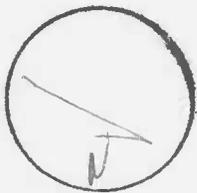
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Presbyterian Manse #2  
#1 = Van Bibber House

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

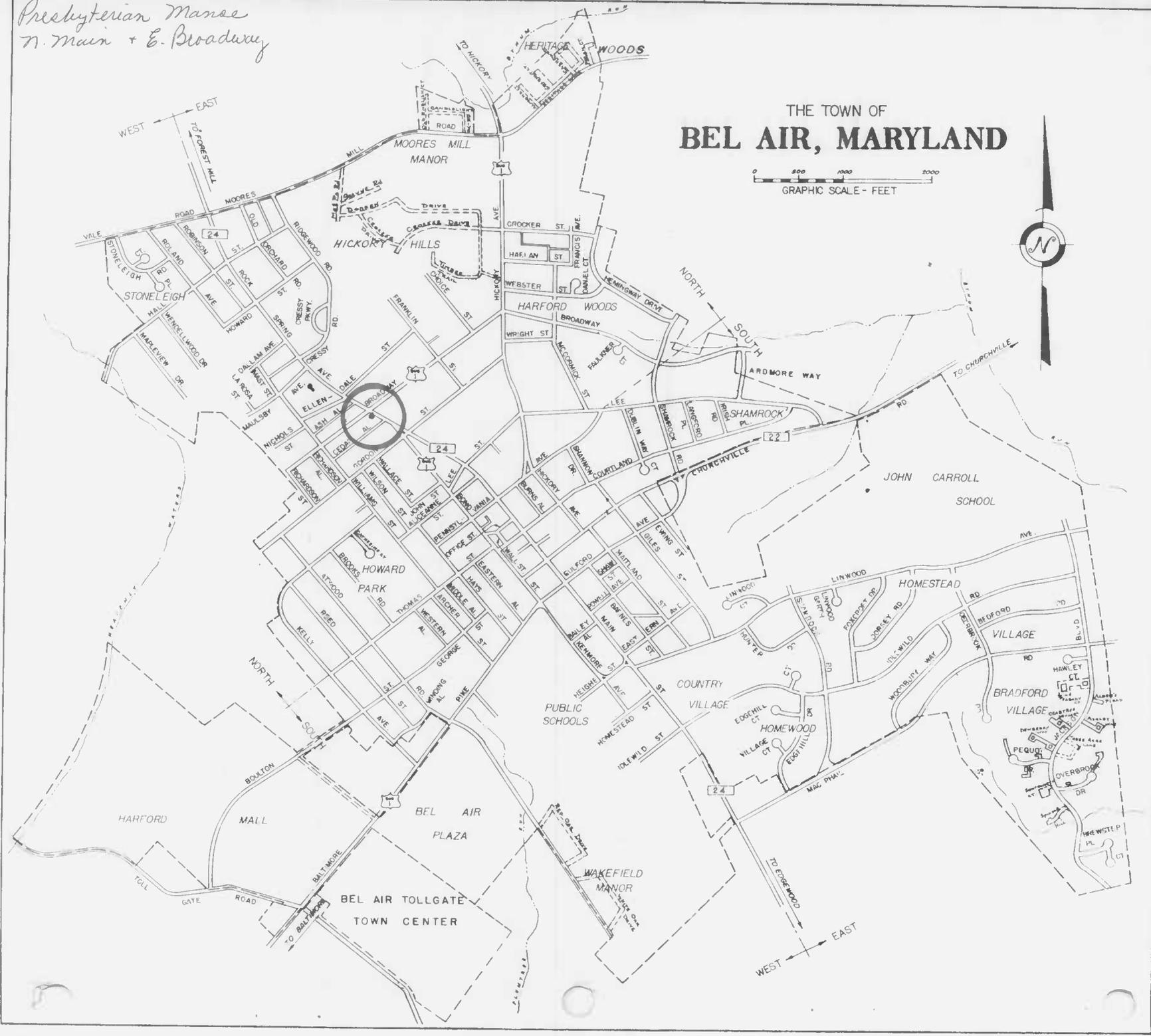
Open Lane( )Woodland( )Scattered Buildings( )  
Moderately Built Up( )Densely Built Up( )  
Residential(X)Commercial(X)  
Agricultural( )Industrial( )  
Roadside Strip Development( )  
Other:

M. Larew  
RECORDED BY:  
Town of Bel Air  
ORGANIZATION:  
22 October 1979  
DATE RECORDED:

AA-1438

Presbyterian Manse  
N. Main + E. Broadway

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND





Traced from  
1930 Sanborn Map

First Presbyterian Manse  
N. Main + E. Broadway  
Bel Air, Md.

HA-1438

Scale = 1" = 50'

























44-1438

Presbyterian Mission, & Mission to the ...

Bell Air

s + e elev

M. L. Linn, 1979