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HA-1443

AND

HA-1444

HA-1443 (#411)
1314434711
HA-1444 (#414)
1314443711

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
McComas Bros. Lumber & Building Supplies

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
411-414 N. Main Street

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	X YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. William McComas

Telephone #: 838-4072

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 #: 365
Folio #: 571

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

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

Bel Air Auto Parts. This two story building with four octagonal portholes in the second story of its facade is at 411 N. Main Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The three bay by four bay building has aluminum siding simulating board and batten on the front and shiplap on the other three sides. Its broad gable roof is masked in front by a false front topped by a broad classical molded cornice. Another cornice strip is below that. The portholes have been added since 1965, as has the small shingle pent roof over the two shop windows and the double glass and aluminum doors. Other windows are 6/6. An outside stove chimney rises in the middle of the rear (east) elevation.

Pioneer Cleaners. This building is just north of the one described above. It is also 2 storied with a steeper sloped gable roof with a stepped false front sided in aluminum. Three diamond-shaped windows decorate the facade above the 12 pane show windows and the recessed doorway. The rear bay of this building is slightly taller than the rest of the building.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HP-1443
HP-1444

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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
__1800-1899	__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1907 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

These two buildings between Ellendale and where the railroad station used to be are typical of early 20th century detached commercial structures. They are what remains of the structures of the McComas Brothers Lumber and Building Supplies Company, founded in 1907 by Emory and M. Stanley McComas. The site is that of Edward Ferry and Benjamin Minnick's Lumber Yard, built in 1886. Minnick sold out soon later, and Edward Ferry ran the lumber and coal yard until he sold it in 1897 to Frank Keen and David Hanway who operated under the name of Hanway & Keen.

The 1904 Sanborn Map shows a small two story office north of Ellendale. North of that, south of the railroad tracks were a long, narrow warehouse, and behind that, the coal yards. Across Main Street were other lumber sheds and a two story building for "hay, grain & agricultural import's".

Ferry leased the land in 1886. In 1889 he transferred it to his mother, Mrs. Barbara Dunnigan. At the turn of the century when their financial woes came to a head in a rash of lawsuits, it was sold. In 1906 it was owned by canner Joseph Deckman. That year he sold it to the McComas Brothers for $4,025 (117/304). They acquired the property across the street in 1912.

In 1907 they built the present buildings. The 1930 Map shows both new buildings and four lumber sheds (no longer there) along Ellendale. Emory and M. Stanley McComas both died suddenly in 1937, and Alexander and William McComas, sons of Stanley, took over the family business. Alex died in 1950. William carried on until February, 1965, when the business closed its doors. The property is still owned by William's widow. The north building is occupied by Pioneer Cleaners. The south building houses the Bel Air Auto Parts.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

HR-1943
HR-1944

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1904, 1930 Sanborn Map
The Aegis, February 25, 1965

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #271 in the Town of Bel Air, 300' on Ellendale.

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

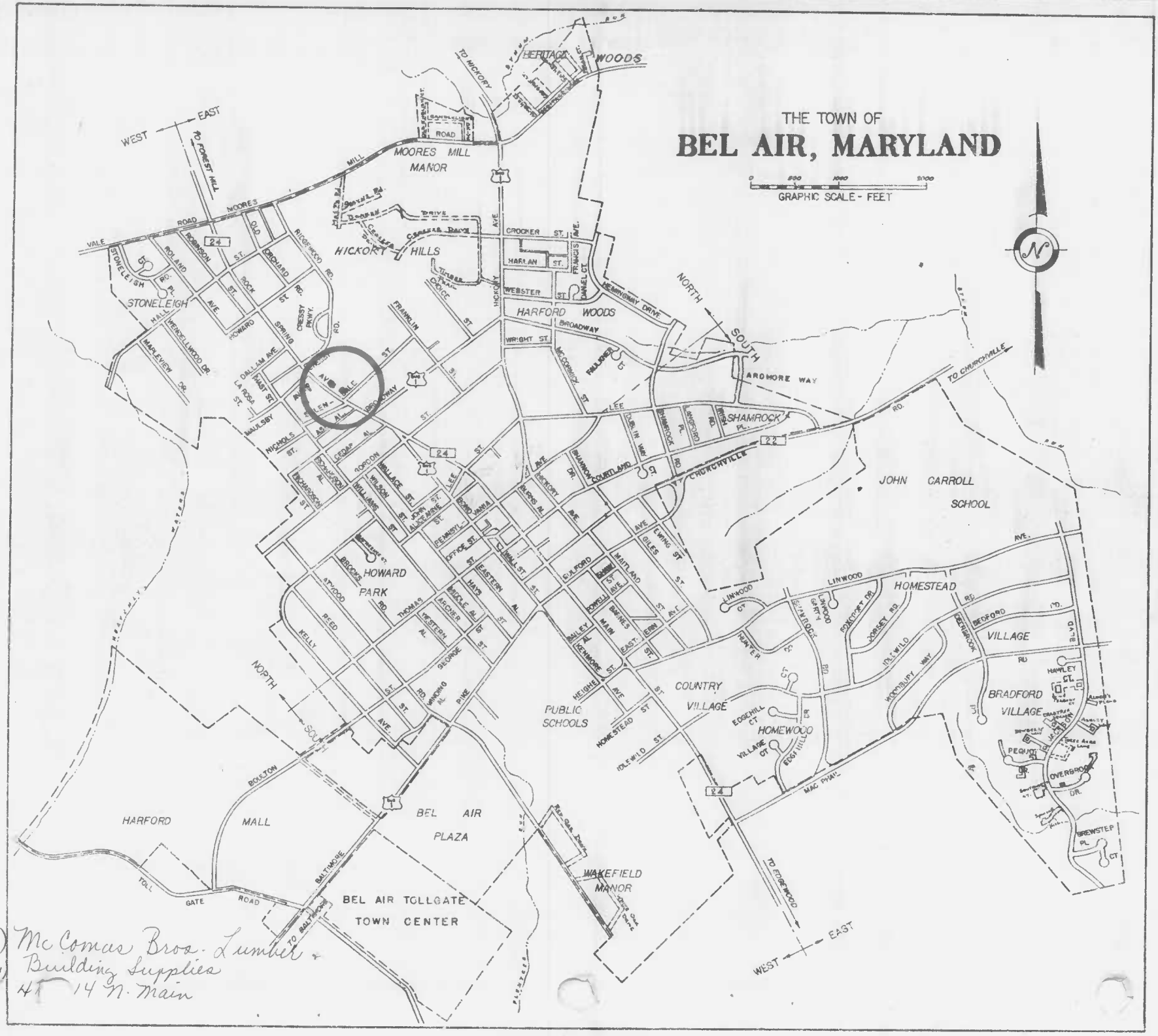
11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian
DATE
3 December 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



HA-1443 (#411) McComas Bros. Lumber
HA-1444 (#414) Building Supplies
414 N. Main

BEL AIR AUTO PARTS
CHAMPION
VALVOLINE
FORD

H A-1443 McComas Bros Lumber #1, 411 N. Main Bel Air
N & W elev
M. Larew, 1979

HA-1444 McComas Bros Lumber #2, 414 N. Main Bel Air
N+W elev
M. Larew. 1979

HA-1443 McComas Bros Lumber, 411 N. Main, Belair
S+E elev
M. Larew, 1979

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