Start Here

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And
Copy for Multiple Numbers

HA-1470

through

HA-1473

HA-1470-1473 1886; 1891

Reckord Mill
432 Rock Spring
Bel Air
private

This mill complex is full of significance both for architectural and economic history in Bel Air. The original Reckord buildings, the four story mill to the south and the three story office to the north, with their fine slate mansard roofs broken by pedimented dormers are in the very fashionable Second Empire (after the reign of French Emperor Napoleon III) style. It is a curious fact that while this style, also known as "General Grant", was most often used for governmental buildings like the Philadelphia City Hall and the Executive Office Building in Washington, Bel Air's only really good examples are industrial. Modern as modern could be, when the Reckords built it, the operation was a merchant flour mill operated by a 60 hp. steam engine. The two story gable roofed warehouse now on the west end of the lot used to be north of the office where the gas station is. It was built in 1891 and was formerly connected to the office at the second story by an elevated walk. It was moved to its present location in 1958. The shed south of it next to where the railroad tracks were is of undetermined date.

Bel Air has always been an administrative and service Town; aside from several carriage works, the Reckord Mill was the only industry in Town from the 19th century to World War II. The premises are occupied today by the Bel Air Farm Supply, and the mill still grinds specialty feeds. Although the steam engine has been replaced much of the old wooden duct work is still in use.

HA-1470 (mill)
1314704614
HA-1471 (office)
1314714611
HA-1472 (shed)
1314724611
HA-1473
1314734611

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Reckord Mill

AND/OR COMMON
Bel Air Farm Supply

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
432 Rockspring Avenue

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	X OTHER: mill

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
H. Smith Walter

Telephone #: 838-6111

STREET & NUMBER
432 Rock Spring Avenue

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

__ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

Liber #: 499
Folio #: 323

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse

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	X MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		Warehouse moved 1958

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mill complex of the Bel Air Farm Supply Company is at 432 Rockspring Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It consists of four buildings - the Mill and grain elevator, the office, and two warehouses. A filling station is also on the lot but does not contribute to the significance of the site. The Mill and office are Second Empire style; the warehouse is vernacular.

The office building, the north structure, is two stories plus mansard, two bays by four, covered with aluminum siding, with a shed porch supported by square posts on the first story front (east) elevation. The slate mansard roof is broken by dormers with triangular pediments. The dormer windows (and the others) are 6/6 double hung sash with plain surrounds painted plum. There is a wide braketed overhang between the top floor and the mansard. The first story facade has been paneled in vertical siding. Its three bays are door, window, door. A new (1979) single story two bay by two bay section has been added to the west elevation of this building. It has a gable roof with ridge running east and west and sliding aluminum framed windows. The entrance to the office is in the east bay of this addition. The other three doors, two in the east elevation and one just east of the new door. The addition houses office and counter space. The ground floor of the old section is given over to display counters. The enclosed staircase to the second story is in the southeast corner of the south wall. The other two stories are used for storage; apparently they always were.

The mill is a three story plus mansard aluminum-sided structure with a grain elevator (1½ stories taller) against the west elevation. The elevator has a gable roof with east-west ridge. Behind that is a two story gable-roofed loading dock; it is not sided and shows its vertical boards. To the south is another two story loading shed. Its shed slopes down to the south. The front portion (east) is aluminum-sided, while the back (west) portion is not. This shed is partially on the old railroad right-of-way and was built after the tracks were taken up in 1959.

The windows, roof, and gables of the mill are similar to those of the office, but the street (east) elevation has no windows, and the dormers on the south side have been removed. The grain elevator has no windows save for one in each gable (east and west). The loading dock behind the elevator is open on the north side, has three windows on the west and sliding doors on the south. The south shed (which is attached to the south side of the loading dock so that the sheds form an L around the west and south sides) is open to the east and has five 6 pane windows, a loading door, and another 6 pane window (from east to west).

In the interior of the mill the braces and rafter supports are pegged. The mill now grinds and mixes feed rather than grinding flour. Its steam-powered engine has been replaced by an electric one. Mixers have been added, and some of the chutes have been replaced, but the old layout remains.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	__POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1886, 1891 (warehouse) BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The three buildings, formerly Reckord's Mill and now Bel Air Farm Supply, represent what remains of Bel Air's only 19th Century industry. With the exception of this flour mill, Bel Air was a service and administrative town in the 19th century. The office building and Mill also have the only well preserved mansard roofs in Town. The Mill building (the south building) was built in 1886 on land leased from Mary Dallam in Dallam's Addition to Bel Air, (57/339). The mill was open for business early in November of that year. It represents the coming of automation to the Town. The machinery was powered by a [illegible] horsepower steam engine made by the Taylor Manufacturing Company of Chambersburg, Pa.; it had the capacity to grind 100 barrels of flour in 24 hours, and the entire operation was run by one miller and two assistants, with the grain never being touched between sack and barrel. The mill was 40' x 60'. The grain storage facility to the west of the mill was built later, as was the shed on the south side.

It is possible that the north office building was built at the same time as the mill, but the newspapers made no reference to it. Probably it was built later. Certainly it and the grain storage facility were in place by 1904 because they appear on the insurance map of that year. The single story addition to the back (west) was built this year (1979).

The two story warehouse in the southwestern corner of the lot was formerly on the northeastern corner. It was built in 1891 and by 1904 was connected to the office by an elevated walk. It was moved to its present location in 1958 to make way for the filling station Mr. Walter built on the corner of Maulsby and Rockspring.

Several sheds and warehouses on the property in 1904 no longer exist.

The mill stayed in the Reckord family until 1958 when Milton A. Reckord sold it to H. Smith Walter (499/323). It was managed by others, however, since Milton Reckord was Adjutant of the Maryland National Guard after World War I. Mr. Walter leased the mill in 1953 and purchased it in 1958. Today the mill grinds feed. There is a new electric engine and many of the chutes have been replaced, but the layout is essentially that used nearly 100 years ago.

The exterior of the buildings is also largely unchanged. The dormers on the south side of the mill have been removed. The ground floor facade of the office has been modernized and a porch on the north side has been removed since 1904. The only other change is the aluminum siding which was placed on the mill in 1974 and on the office in 1975.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

These buildings occupy parcel #245 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 2 August 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.

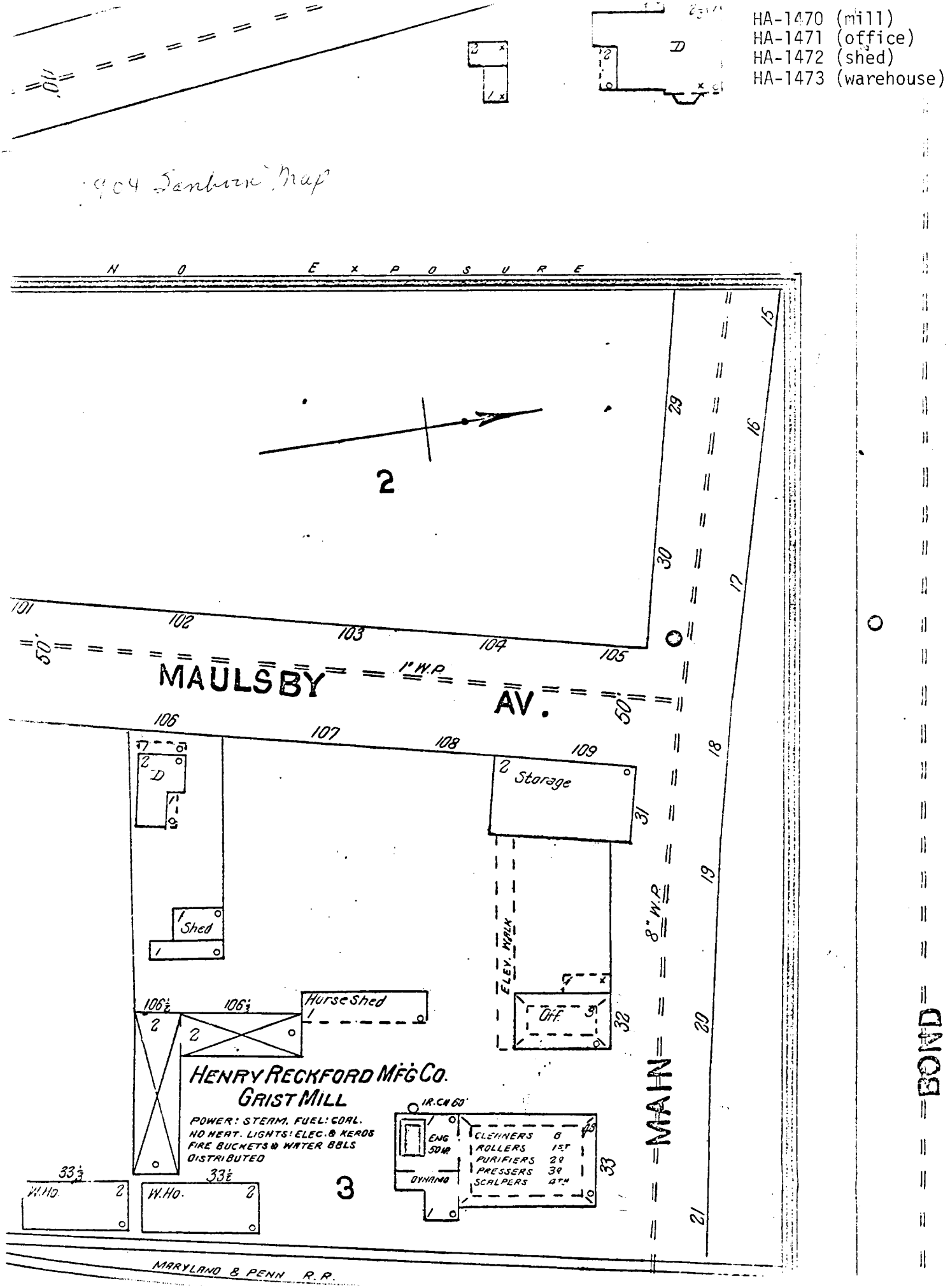
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Two warehouses occupy the southeast portion of the lot. The southernmost is a simple 1½ story vertical-sided structure with a gable roof (east-west ridge) and a further shed on the south side. A concrete loading dock with steps down the north side is across the east elevation. The large open door is just north of center. The second warehouse, which is aluminum-sided and two stories, with a slate gable roof (north-south ridge) was moved to its present location in 1953 from the north-east corner of the lot where its ridge ran east and west. The filling station is now on that location. The windows of the 5 bay structure are 6/6 double hung sash. A concrete loading dock crosses the front (east) of this building, too. The loading door is in the second bay from the north. This building is used for feed sack storage. Around back are large storage bins for grain.

This complex has been serving Harford County farmers for nearly 100 years.

HA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office)
HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse)

1904 Sanborn Map



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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: ~~HA-1470 (mill)~~ ~~HA-1473~~ HA-1471 (office) (warehouse) ~~HA-1472 (shed)~~

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

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

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
Bel Air Farm Supply

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
Reckord Manufacturing Co.

PRESENT USE: feed mill & hrdw. Store

ORIGINAL USE: flour mill

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

COUNTY: Harford

TOWN: Bel Air

LOCATION: 432 Rockspring Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

COMMON NAME:
Bel Air Farm Supply

FUNCTIONAL TYPE:

OWNER: H. Smith Walter
ADDRESS: 432 Rockspring Ave.
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

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

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

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

THEME: Architecture

STYLE: second Empire/warehouse - /vernacular

DATE BUILT:
1886;1891 (warehouse)

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( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )
   C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( )Board and Batten( )Wood Shingle( )Shiplap( )
   Novelty( )Stucco( )Sheet Metal( )Aluminum(X)Asphalt Shingle( )
   Brick Veneer( )Stone Veneer( )
   Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
   A. Truss: Wood( )Iron( )Steel( )Concrete( )
   B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate(X)Wood Shingle( )Asphalt Shingle( )Sheet Metal( )
   Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other: mill structure to rear S. bldg.

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

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

Number of Stories: N 2 & mansard; S 3 + mansard

Number of Bays: 2 (office)

Entrance Location: between the two bldgs.

Approximate Dimensions: 40 x 85 (mill)
20 x 40 (office)
32 x 60 (warehouse)

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

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

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

HA-1470, 1471, 1472, 1473

bracketed overhang both bldgs. under mansard
windows 6/6 in plain surr
S. bldg S. elev dormers removed/N. bldg 1st story altered
addition to N. bldg.
interior timbers pegged

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

N. warehouse, 2 story alum side, gable roof ridge line N - S
windows 6/6 plain
S. warehouse vertical siding, gable roof ridge E-W

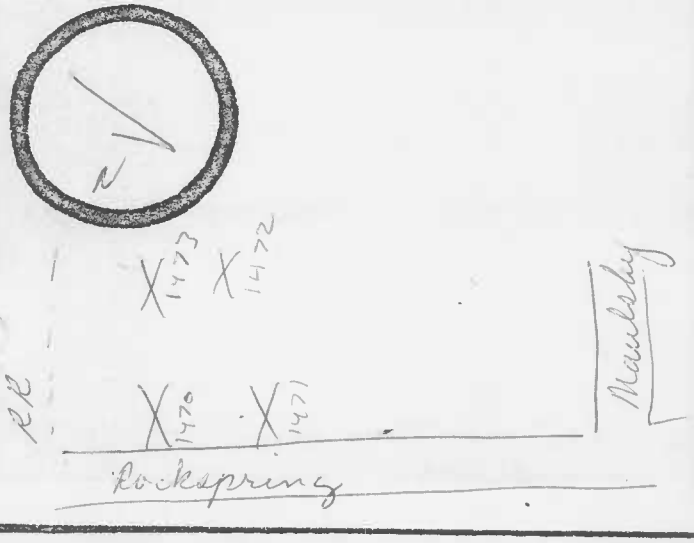
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

back of N. bldg. just this year filling station
Walters started 1953 1958
back bldg. Rogers & Livesey feed store; moved from corner of
Maulsby & Rockspring. c. 1958
grain storage in back portion
machinery new - most chutes new siding '74 mill
'75 ofs

Carl Keen, Mgr. Nancy Keen in office

REFERENCES: Interview Mr. & Mrs. Carl Keen, 30 July 79

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



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

RECORDED BY: M. Larew

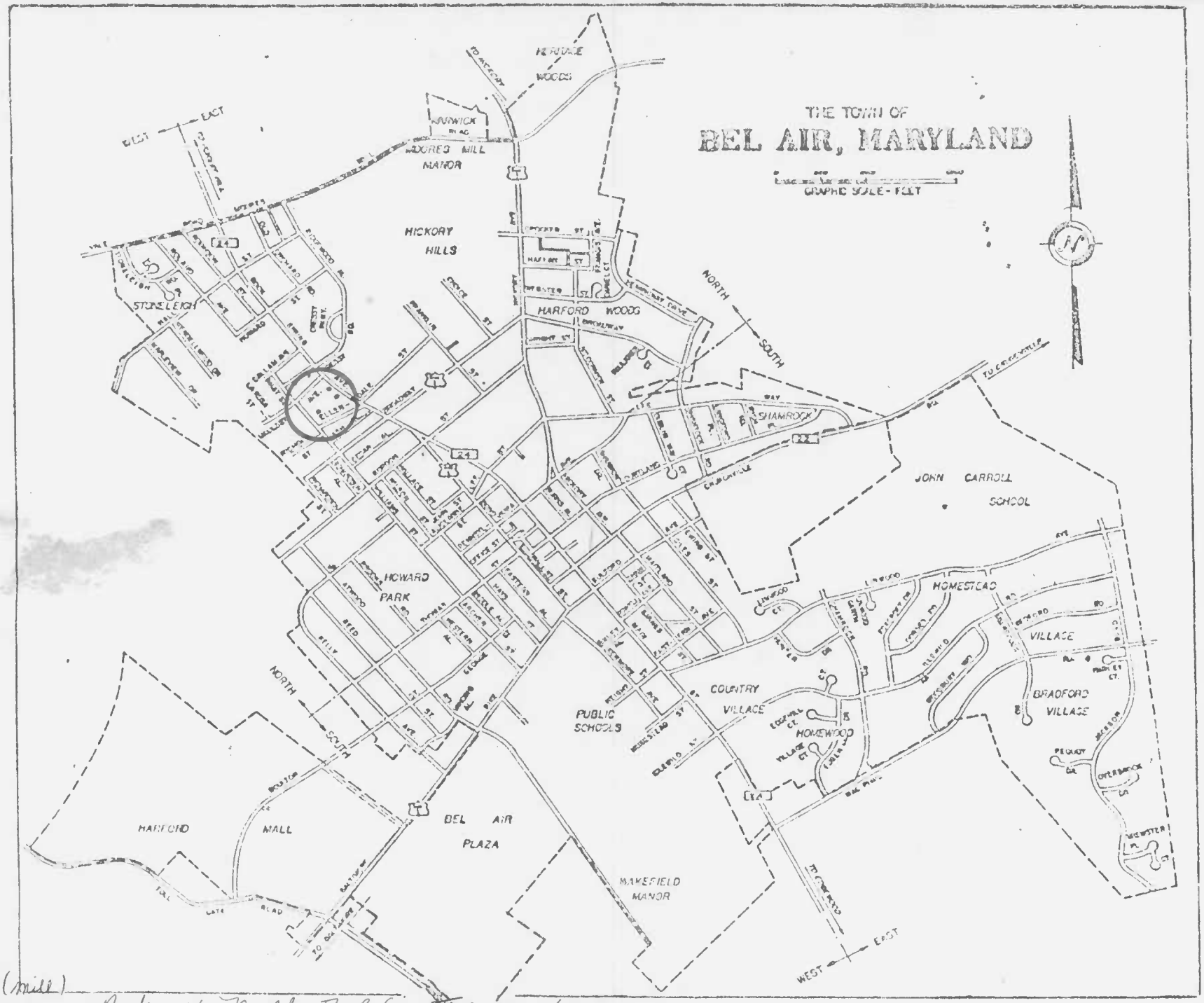
ORGANIZATION: Town of Bel Air

DATE RECORDED: 30 July 1979

HA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office)
HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse)

TITLE: RECKORD MILL

499/323	6 March 1958 Milton A. Reckord, widower, of Baltimore County to H. Smith Walter and Alma, wife two parcels between the old railroad right of way and Maulsby Street on the west side of Rockspring Avenue parcel 1 is lots #1 and 2 in Dallam's Addition #2 a piece from the center line of the railroad and the south line of lot #1
68/66	Lot #2 of Dallam's Addition the fee June 3, 1890 Mary C. Dallam to Henry Reckord Manufacturing Co.
81/182	Lot #1 of Dallam's Addition fee June 23, 1894 Mary C. Dallam to Reckord Manufacturing Co. reversion of the lease
57/339	7 September 1886 Mary C. Dallam to Henry Reckord and Sons lease and confirmation of lease of the property (lot #1) leased to Caleb J. Moore and J. Wilson Moore
49/31	May 25, 1883 Mary C. Dallam to Caleb J. Moore and J. Wilson Moore The Moores to build in 9 months



AA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office) Rickard's Mill - Bel Air Farm Supply
HA-1472 (shed) 132 Rockspring Ave.
HA-1473 (warehouse)

HA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office)
HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse)

Rickard Mill. Bel Air Farm Supply
432 Rockspring Ave, Bel Air
L to R Office, n & w elev
Mill, n. elev

M. Larew, 1979

BEL A
FARM SU

HA.1470 (mill) Reckord Mill - Bel Air Farm Supply
HA-1471 (office) 432 Rockspring Lane, Bel Air
HA-1472 (old) L to R - S. warehouse & portion of N. warehouse
HA-1473 (warehouse)

looking west

M. Larew, 1979

HA-1470 (mill) Reckord Mill - Bel Air Farm Supply
HA-1471 (office) 432 Rockspring Ave, Bel Air
HA-1472 (old)
HA-1473 (warehouse) front (east) elev. of office
M. Larew, 1979

AMOCO
BEL AIR FARM SUPPLY
WAYNE
FEEDS

HA-1470 (mill) Rickard Mill - Belair Farm Supply
NA-1471 (office) 432 Rockspring Ave, Belair
NA-1472 (office)
NA-1473 (warehouse) S. elev of the mill
M. Larew, 1979

HA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office)
HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse)

Rickard Mill - Bel Air Farm Supply
432 Rockspring Ave, Bel Air
front (east) elev. of mill
M. Larew, 1979

HA-1470 (mill) Reckord Mill - Bel Air Farm Supply
HA-1471 (office) 432 Rockspring Ave, Bel Air
HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse) N. elev. of the Mill
M. Larew, 1979

HA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office)
HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse

HA - 1470 (mill)
HA - 1471 (office)
HA - 1472 (shed)
HA - 1473 (warehouse)

HA - 1470 (mill)
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HA - 1470 (mill)
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HA - 1472 (shed)
HA - 1473 (warehouse)

R
BEL AIR
FARM SUPPLY
R

HA-1470 (mill) Reckord Mill - Bel Air Farm Supply
HA-1471 (office) 432 Rockspring Ave, Bel Air
HA-1472 (elev)
HA-1473 (warehouse) N. warehouse looking west
M. Larew, 1979

AMOCO
BEL AIR FARM SUPPLY
WAYNE
FEEDS

HA - 1470 (mill)
HA - 1471 (office)
HA - 1472 (shed)
HA - 1473 (warehouse)

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HA-1470 (mill)
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HA-1472 (shed)
HA-1473 (warehouse)

BEL AIR
FARM SUPPLY

HA-1470 (mill)
HA-1471 (office)
HA-1472 (shed)
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HA-1470

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HA-1473