The Bush Hotel
4014 Old Philadelphia Road
Abingdon, Maryland 21009

Although it may not be the only structural survivor, the Bush Hotel is the most well-known and visible vestige of the town of Bush or Harford Town. The original form and proportions of the hotel are still apparent despite the severe alterations, and indicate a late 18th or very early 19th century date. Bush was the first county seat in Harford County after it was divided from Baltimore County in 1773. Located on the main highway between the north and the south (the Post Road), Bush also provided a stopping-place for stagecoach travelers and a meeting place for statesmen. It is most famous as the site where the Bush Declaration—heralded as the first declaration of independence—was signed by 34 local citizens on March 22, 1775. This building served as a hotel from at least 1856 and probably prior to that.
INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
HISTORIC
The Bush Hotel
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
4014 Old Philadelphia Road
CITY, TOWN
Abingdon
STATE
Maryland

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY
DISTRICT
BUILDING(S)
STRUCTURE
SITE
OBJECT
OWNERSHIP
PUBLIC
PRIVATE
COMMON
BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
IN PROCESS
BEING CONSIDERED
STATUS
OCCUPIED
UNOCCUPIED
WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
YES RESTRICTED
YES UNRESTRICTED
NO
PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE
COMMERCIAL
GOVERNMENT
INDUSTRIAL
MILITARY
MUNICIPAL
MUSEUM
PARK
EDUCATIONAL
PRIVATE
RELIGIOUS
RECREATION
SCIENTIFIC
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME
Sidney J. (Jr.) and Evelyn D. Formanek
STREET & NUMBER
4014 Old Philadelphia Road
CITY, TOWN
Abingdon
STATE, zip code
Maryland 21009

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC.
Harford County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
40 South 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
The Bush Hotel is a two-story structure measuring approximately 20 by 42 feet of stuccoed brick facing southeast (hereinafter referred to as South) oriented to the old Post Road, the principal street of the eighteenth century county seat, Harford Town or Bush. The gable-roofed structure is expressed as five bays on its south facade and three on its north; on the south front the bay west of center in the first story and east of center in the second is void of a window opening; on the north facade, the center bay in the second story is void of a window opening and the door in the first story is close to the easterly bay. The center window in the second story of the south and the west window in the north facade have been reduced in size. Sash are 2/2 with horizontal panes, ca. 1960 replacements of earlier 2/2 sash, the latter themselves replacements of the originals. The west end chimney is flush with the west end wall of the structure while the east end chimney projects partially from the east end wall; sloping shoulders immediately above the second story fireplace reduce the north-south dimension of that chimney. Most windows appear to retain earlier heavy frames, covered with plain boards to receive louvred blinds, now removed. The transom above the south front door appears original with four 8 inch by 10 inch lights.

Cornices are of plain wood and a wide shed-roofed dormer was added about 1960 to the north roof slope to increase third story headroom. A pair of small windows flanking each end chimney lights the attic story.

Doors through the west end wall in both stories, south of the chimney, open to porches added about 1960; these doors opened into a west wing addition, now removed.

A brick wall dividing the interior into two principal spaces extends through the structure immediately west of the south front door. The open staircase rises immediately opposite the door to an intermediate landing against the north wall; from the landing it divides and rises east and west in two short flights to those respective rooms of the second story. An enclosed staircase extends to the attic immediately above the lower flight of the principal stair and one extends to the cellar beneath the same. Each of the four rooms has a fireplace but the one in the west room of the first story has been closed. The west chimney serves a large fireplace in the basement, probably designed for cooking. Exterior entrances to the basement are through the north and south walls close to the west end but the latter one has been eliminated.

First floor joists, exposed in the basement, are original as is part of a hewn oak mortised-and-tenoned doorframe in the brick partition in the basement. The beaded baseboards of the upper flights of the staircase appear original, suggesting that the stair arrangement is original. An unmoulded six-panel door in the second story, probably not in its original location, is early and the outline of removed chair rail is visible in the southwest corner in the second story.

In short, original work includes the basic form, including exterior walls and window locations, the chimneys, at least the roof shape, the basic plan, first floor joists, some window frames, a transom, some baseboard associated with the stair and a door. All other surfaces were refinished in the renovations of ca. 1960 and all other remaining early details were removed at that time.

Several photographs are preserved of the building prior to the ca. 1960 renovations:
1. from the southwest, ca. 1950-55
2. 3. from the southwest and northeast, October 1956
4. from the southeast, Feb. 1957

(See Continuation Sheet #1.)
Although it may not be the only structural survivor, the Bush Hotel is the most well-known and visible vestige of the town of Bush or Harford Town. The original form and proportions of the hotel are still apparent despite the severe alterations, and indicate a late 18th or very early 19th century date. A large stone external chimney on the house immediately west of the hotel and the corner chimney and general form of the house immediately north of the hotel suggest that they too may date from the time of Bush Town.

The role of this specific building in the town of Bush has remained an enigma. Bush was the first county seat in Harford County after it was divided from Baltimore County in 1773. Located on the main highway between the north and the south (the Post Road), Bush also provided a stopping-place for stagecoach travelers and a meeting place for statesmen. It is perhaps most famous as the site where the Bush Declaration—heralded as the first declaration of independence—was signed by 34 local citizens on March 22, 1775.

The configuration of the town can only be guessed. It is thought that a courthouse was never built (the county seat was removed to Bel Air in 1782), but that public meetings were held in one of the two taverns. One source states that in 1800, Bush had 130 inhabitants, two taverns, two stores, cooper, wheelwright and blacksmith shops, a merchant mill, and a tanyard.

Most sources agree that there were two taverns in Bush from the time of the Revolution until at least 1830. Names of the innkeepers in chronological order are listed as: Joseph Stiles, Abraham Andrews, John H. Barney, Gabriel Van Horn, Peryrin (?) Nowland, Nowland's widow, Jacob Miller, David Maulsby. However, none of those names can be matched to this structure, and its history can only be taken back to 1835.

The Ozmons, who purchased the property in 1856, definitely ran a hotel here. In 1876, it was purchased by William F. Pannell, who owned Harford Furnace from 1861 until 1867 and, subsequently, much property in the area. The 1878 Martenet's Map refers to it as "the Bush Hotel," and it has been known as such since then.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will & Equity records of Harford County
C. Milton Wright's unpublished notes on Bush
C. Milton Wright's Our Harford Heritage, 1967
1858 Jennings & Herrick Map
1878 Martenet's Map

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 0.65 Ac

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STATE</th>
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FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
James T. Wollon, AIA; Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION
Historic District Commission

DATE
12/75; 9/79

STREET & NUMBER
45 South Main Street

TELEPHONE
838-6000 X207

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
Demolished in the ca. 1960 renovation was a west wing, about 20 by 24 feet in size, nearly three full stories in height with a roof coincidental with the original to the east. Its first floor was at grade and ceiling heights appear to have been considerably lower. Of three bays in length, of stuccoes masonry (probably brick) construction with a flush chimney in the west gable end, only the first story had an opening in the central bay—a door—and that bay was void of openings above. The third story windows, half in the masonry wall and half above it in dormers, were rare early examples of a window form popularized in the twentieth century revivals of early American architecture. The corbeled brick cornice together with the wing's general form suggests that it dated from the first half of the nineteenth century.

A two-bay, two-story frame structure extended north of the now-demolished west wing; it was removed prior to the October 1956 photograph. Its gabled roof ridge was aligned approximately with the west end wall of the west wing and it appears to have been separate from the west wind by a foot or two. A window in both storys faced south through its gable end and a door opened into the first story from each bay on its west facade. Second story windows of the west facade were very small. An internal chimney was at its north end. Standing seam tin covered its roof.

A one-story shed-roofed porch extended across the south front of the original portion of this structure, removed in the ca. 1960 alterations. Louvred blinds with movable louvres in their lower panels, were hung at most windows and standing-seam tin covered all roofs. The stucco was scored in imitation of coursed ashlar.

North of the structure are four low stone walls describing a rectangle approximately 12 by 14 1/2 feet, with a door opening approximately centered in the southerly wall. Although a private cemetery has been suggested as the reason for these walls, they probably represent the ruins of a meat house.
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<td>604</td>
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<td>122</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>6/20/1907</td>
<td>James J.W. Taylor and Emma L. Taylor</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>170</td>
<td>12/22/1884</td>
<td>A. Henry Strasburgh, Executor of William F. Pannell's Last Will and Testament</td>
<td>James A. Cunningham</td>
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ALJ  33  434  6/5/1876  Grantor: Henry Ozmon and Ann Ozmon
       Grantee: William F. Pannell

WHD  16  63   4/26/1865  Grantor: Charles D. Bouldin, trustee
       Grantee: Ann Ozmon

ALJ  22  407  8/9/1869  Mortgage: Henry and Ann Ozman

ALJ  7  284  4/7/1856  Grantor: John McGaw of Robert and Mary B. McGaw
       Grantee: Henry Ozmon
       Acreage: % acre, comprising the house, garden, and small stable

HDG  37  412 11/26/1851  Grantor: Albert Constable, representing Thomas C.
       Hanson, died seized and possessed
       Grantee: John McGaw
       Acreage: % acre
INVENTORY NO.  HA-867          ELECTION DISTRICT

DATE:  11/79               TAX MAP NO.  

REMODELING: Drastic, moderate, minor  PARCEL NO.  

NAME OF PROPERTY:  Bush Hotel

LOCATION OF PROPERTY:  4014 Philadelphia Road, Abingdon

DIRECTION DWELLING FACES:  South

NAME OF OWNER:  Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Formanak

ADDRESS:  4014 Philadelphia Road, Abingdon, Maryland 21009

STORIES:  1[ ] 2[ ] 3[ ] 4[ ] 5[ ] 6[ ] BAYS:

WINGS, ADDITIONS:

third story on north facade

WALL CONSTRUCTION:

[   ] FRAME: Bevel, clapboard, weatherboard, wood shingles, board & batten(type?)
[   ] BRICK: Bond type- common, English, Flemish. Sketch variants. stuccoed
[   ] STONE: Bond type- rubble, ashlar (random or regular), quoins-plain, rusticated
[   ] LOG

WALL FEATURES:  BELT COURSE, PILASTERS, OTHERS

FOUNDATIONS:  HIGH, LOW, BRICK, STONE

WATER TABLE:  NONE, PLAIN, BEVELED, MOULDED BRICK

WINDOWS, TRIM, SHUTTERS:  1/1[ ] 2/2[ ] 6/6[ ] 9/6[ ] 9/9[ ] other[ ]
  altered
  pegged[ ] nailed[ ] wide[ ] narrow[ ]
  original[ ] replaced[ ]

ENTRANCE, DOORS:  LOCATION:  center bay south facade

HARDWARE:  original[ ] replaced[ ]

FAN LIGHT, TRANSOM, SIDE LIGHTS, PLAIN

CORNICE, BARGE, EAVES:

boxed
original[ ] replaced[ ]

ROOF:  GABLE FRONT, GABLE FLANK, HIP, MANSARD, FLAT, DORMERS

MATERIAL:  wood shingles, slate, tin, asphalt  original[ ] replaced[ ]

PORCHES:  SHAPE OF ROOF - shed[ ] hip[ ] gable[ ]

CHIMNEYS:

stuccoed  NUMBER 2  BRICK[x]  STONE[ ]  CORBELED[ ]  original[ ] replaced[ ]

ARCHES:

COMMENTS:
1. NAME

COMMON: Buck Lotte House

AND/OR HISTORIC: George Washington Inn

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Philadelphia Road (Md.)

CITY OR TOWN: Bush

STATE: Md.

CODE: County: Harford

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)
- [ ] District
- [ ] Site
- [ ] Object

Ownership
- [ ] Public
- [ ] Private
- [ ] Both

PUBLIC ACQUISITION:
- [ ] In Process
- [ ] Being Considered

STATUS
- [ ] Occupied

ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
- [ ] Yes
- [ ] Restricted
- [ ] No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)
- [ ] Agricultural
- [ ] Commercial
- [ ] Educational
- [ ] Entertainment
- [ ] Government
- [ ] Industrial
- [ ] Military
- [ ] Museum
- [ ] Religious
- [ ] Scientific
- [ ] Transportation
- [ ] Private Residence
- [ ] Park
- [ ] Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME: Robert Buck Lotte

STREET AND NUMBER: 4012 Philadelphia Road

CITY OR TOWN: Abingdon

STATE: Md.

CODE: 20609

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY, OR OFFICE
- [ ] Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER: 40 S. Main St.

CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air

STATE: Maryland

CODE: 21014

ACREAGE

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:
Once a coach house, this stone masonry building has been altered several times into different size houses. In the last 20 years a large frame wing running north along the west wall was removed.

Stone staircoed, oblong, 2 stories (2½ at rear) the house has 5 very unevenly spaced and spaced openings by 2. Facing south, the A roof ridge line runs east-west, with two large chimneys at the ends, both closed off at the top and sealed off indoors. A portico shelters the front door, center south wall, and a two-story porch is at the west end wall.
This is the only remaining building of the pre-revolutionary town of Bush, Md. Formerly a coach-house, belonging to the Bush Tavern, it has since been made into a dwelling house.

No maps or plans of Bush town or Harford Town are known, but it is thought to have consisted of thirty or forty dwellings, a printmill, tan yard, several inns and stores, with spacious quarters for hostile accommodations for court officials, citizens, and stagecoach travelers, according to C. Nathan Lewis.
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wright, C. Milton; Our Harvest Heritage p. 59-67.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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

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11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

ORGANIZATION:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

DATE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

- National [ ]
- State [ ]
- Local [ ]

Name: __________________________

Title: __________________________

Date: __________________________

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: __________________________

ATTEST:

________________________________

Keeper of The National Register

Date: __________________________
of government a place of active participation in the rebellion against the
Mother Country. The fires of discontent that were beginning to kindle
throughout the colonies were uppermost in the thoughts and actions of
Harford’s citizens and especially in many of the distinguished men chosen
to lead our new county in its government and its contacts with other
similar divisions of our struggling nation.

When a convention was called at Annapolis on June 22, 1774,
Harford was represented by Richard Dallam, John Love, Thomas Bond,
Benedict Hall, and Jacob Bond. At this convention it was declared that the
Acts of Parliament were cruel and oppressive invasions of the people’s
rights, and that the Stamp Act and other offensive laws should be repealed.

Our leaders had already anticipated the actions of the Annapolis
Convention, and as early as June 11, 1774 a large meeting of citizens,
presided over by Aquila Hall, was held at Bush and Resolutions to be sent
to the Annapolis Convention were passed. The Resolutions were as
follows:

1. RESOLVED, It is the opinion of the meeting that the town of Boston
is now suffering in the common cause of America, and that it is the duty of
every colony to unite in the most effectual constitutional means to obtain a
repeal of the late Act of Parliament for blocking up the harbor of Boston.

2. RESOLVED, That therefore we will join in an association with the
other counties of this Province, on oath, not to export to, or import from Great
Britain, any kind of produce or merchandise after such a day as the committee
of the several counties at their general meeting shall fix, until the repeal of the
Boston Port Act.

3. RESOLVED, That we will deal with none of the West India Islands,
colony, colonies, person or persons whatsoever residing therein, who shall not
enter in similar resolves with the majority of the colonies within such time as
the general committees of this province shall agree, but hold him or them as an
enemy or enemies to American liberty.

4. RESOLVED, That we join in an association with the other colonies
to send relief to the poor and distressed inhabitants of Boston, to enable them
to persevere in defense of the common cause.

5. RESOLVED, That the merchants ought not to advance the price
of their goods, but sell them as they intended, had not these resolves been
entered into.

6. RESOLVED, That the gentlemen of the law ought to bring no suit
for recovery of any debt due from any inhabitants of Great Britain, in this or
any other colony, until the said act be repealed; except in such cases where the
debtor is guilty of a willful delay in payment, having ability to pay, or is about
to abscond or remove his effects, or is wasting his substance, or shall refuse to
settle his account by giving bond on interest, which fact or facts are to be made
appear to some neighboring magistrate and certified under his hand.

7. RESOLVED, That the following gentlemen, viz.: Rev. William West,
Messrs. Aquila Hall, Richard Dallam, Thomas Bond (son of Thomas), John
Love, Capt. John Paca, Benedict Edward Hall, Benjamin Runsey, Nathaniel
Giles, and Jacob Bond be a committee to meet the committees of other counties
in this province, to consult and agree on the most effectual means to preserve
our constitutional rights and liberties, and promote that union and harmony
between Great Britain and her colonies, on which their preservation depends;
and that the same gentlemen, together with the following, Capt. John
Matthews, Capt. William Smith, Dr. John Archer, William Younge, Abraham
Whitaker, William Webb, Amos Garrett, George Bradford, John Runsey,
Jeremiah Sheredine, William Smithson, William Bond (son of Joshua), Isaac
Webster, and Alexander Cowan, be a committee of correspondence and on any
emergency to call a general meeting, and that any six of them have power to act.

Signed per order,
Joseph Butler, Cl. Com.

During the next few months, the citizens of the colonies continued
their opposition to Great Britain and in public meetings denounced the
oppressive Acts. In March, 1775, Patrick Henry made his famous speech
Bush Tavern
Bush, Md.
Natalie Shivers
June, 1979
South

HA- 867