

HA-1127
BAYOU HOTEL
Havre de Grace, Md.

c. 1917

The Bayou Hotel is a three and a half story, eleven bay by five bay random rubble building with a U-shape plan. Now deserted and fire damaged on the interior, it was built c. 1917 as a hotel. It is built in the rustic yet classical style typical of the early 20th century. From the back of the hotel there is a magnificent view of the Chesapeake Bay. The two story tower on the north wing was added in 1953 by the Franciscan Sisters.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

HA-1127

1311274731

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bayou Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Commerce Street at Market Street

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

6

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Havre de Grace

Telephone #: 939-1800

STREET & NUMBER

121 N. Union Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Havre de Grace

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21078

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County

Liber #:

Folio #:

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
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bayou Hotel is a three and a half story, eleven bay by five bay random rubble building with a U-shape plan. Now deserted and fire damaged on the interior, it was built in c. 1917 as a hotel. From the back of the hotel there is a magnificent view of the Chesapeake Bay, at the point where the Susquehanna River flows into it. In order to avoid confusion, the street entrance of the hotel, facing west on Commerce St., will be referred to as the facade in this report. The field stone from which the structure was built came from Harford County; they are dark grey and reddish brown in color. A belt course, consisting of a raised band of rubble stone, divides the first and second story. A full basement, originally containing the hotel's kitchen, is under the building.

A Colonial Revival portecochere with a deck above it shelters the entrance and extends across the driveway. It is supported by four posts resting on brick piers. Across the five recessed bays of the east elevation is a one story, five bay enclosed porch, having fluted applied-columns between the bays. The railing around the top of the porch is the same as on the portecochere. Rubble stone balconies are found on the second floor of all elevations; they have brick coping and are supported by large stone or cement brackets.

Windows are arranged asymmetrically on the facade. On the first story they have 1/1 light, double hung sash with the upper sash divided into small squares. The window openings are Tudor arches having 1/1 light double hung sash with an arched upper sash divided into small squares; and some are divided into two or three parts by wide mullions. Flanking the entrance are two rectangular windows with the same sash arrangement as the arched windows have. Flanking the entrance are two rectangular windows, having the same sash as the arched windows. Rectangular windows of various sizes are on the second and third floors. All of the windows have brick sills and splayed rubble stone lintels. Windows on the other elevations are consistent with those on the facade.

The building is entered through a large Tudor arch in the center bay. Within the arched opening are double glass doors framed with wood. The doors are flanked by five-light sidelights and a ten-light transom. In the second bay from the south wall is a door set within a smaller Tudor arch. The doorway in the tenth bay is also arched and has the same sidelights and transom as the entrance; but, it has a panel door with twelve lights in the upper half. The below grade entrance to the basement, reached by stairs, is also on the facade. Other entrances are found on the rear of the building.

The U-shaped plan of the building is evident on the east side. In 1953 the Franciscan Sisters, who owned the building, added a two story tower to the northwing. The rubble stone walls of the tower are pierced by pointed arc containing boarded up windows.

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		local history

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1918 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Bayou Hotel Building is a deserted three and a half story, eleven bay by five bay hotel, built of rubble stone in rustice yet classical style, typical of the early twentieth century.

The hotel was in its hey day in the 1920's when it was run by a colorful and well known Baltimore restaurateur named Pink West. West's management and cuisine as well as the superb location of the building-overlooking the upper Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna flats, were the chief reasons for its success. Sportsmen came by train from New York, Philadelphia etc., to hunt ducks, canvansbacks in particular, on the fertile flats and to attend the race meets at the "avre de Grace track.

Closed in 1934, the hotel was a home for Franciscan Sisters and apartments before it was given to the City in the summer of 1976.

Since the interior of the building is considerably fire damaged, the City of Havre de Grace owns a versatile building for adaptive commercial re-habilitation, to include a restaurant. Rich in historical associations for many of the town's residents. The building should be given a chance to regain some of it's old glamour.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Historic Sites Surveyor - Marion Morton

May 19, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

21 State Circle

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

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

Description cont.

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The building has a hipped roof that is covered with asphalt shingles, bracketed eaves, and a molded fascia board. Five dormers rise from the front of the roof, three Palladian style dormers. Five dormers, three of them Palladian style and two with segmental pediments, rise from the front of the roof. All of them have multi-paned sash. On the east elevation, above the third floor of the recessed center section, is a clapboard dormer addition containing five 2/2 light sash windows, under a flat bracketed roof. In addition, the rear of the main roof has three shed dormers.

Cutbuildings: North of the main building is a one story brick building which once enclosed an indoor swimming pool. There are no other outbuildings. The building is situated within what must have at one time been well-tended gardens with a lawn on three sides and a magnificent view of the water.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION APPLICATION—PART 1

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received. Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at anytime during the year.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. Name of property: The Bayou Hotel Property
Address of property: Commerce and Giles Streets
City Havre de Grace County Harford State Maryland Zip Code 21078
Name of historic district in which property is located:
Havre de Grace

Check here if request is for:

- certification (structure contributes to significance of the district)
- decertification (structure does not contribute to significance of the district)
- easement qualification (for donation of easement on structure or land for conservation purposes).

2. Description of Physical Appearance:

(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)

Irregular shaped, four-story solid masonry hotel structure, containing approximately 35,000 sq. ft. of gross floor area. The interior floor, ceilings and roof are wood frame and the pitched roof is shingled with asbestos simulated tile shingles. The (over)

3. Statement of Significance:

(use reverse side if necessary)

The Bayou Hotel was built around 1918. The rustic style, utilizing fieldstone from Harford County, is typical of institutions, schools, and country clubs built during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Its location overlooking the upper Chesapeake Bay and the Susquehanna flats assisted the hotel in attracting hunters (over)

Date of construction (if known): 1918 Original site Moved Date of alterations (if known): _____

4. Name and Mailing Address of Owner:

Name Havre de Grace Ventures Limited Partnership
Street 1827 Belle Haven Drive
City Landover State Maryland Zip Code 20785
Telephone number (during day): Area Code 301/773-9333

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.

Signature [Signature] Date 8/17/83

Social Security Number or Taxpayer Identification Number _____ Applied For _____

For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of a Registered Historic District and contributes does not contribute to the character of the district.

The structure appears does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and will likely will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).

The structure is located in a district which appears does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and will likely will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60), and appears does not appear to contribute to the character of said district or will likely will not be recommended for certification as substantially meeting National Register criteria.

Signature [Signature] Date 8-24-83
State Historic Preservation Officer

(ITEM #2, continued)

majority of the windows contain arch-type wood frames. The basic structural system, as well as the exterior masonry are in sound condition.

(ITEM #3, continued) who came from New York, Philadelphia, Delaware and Baltimore to hunt ducks on the flats and racing enthusiasts who came to attend meets in the Havre de Grace Track. The hotel was also convenient for travelers crossing the Susquehanna River on the old double-decker bridge, as well as for railroad travelers.

The hotel was originally run by a well-known Baltimore restaurateur, Pink West. During its finest period in the 1920's, the hotel was known for its fine seafood cuisine as well as its gracious facilities, which included a large lobby, 60 rooms and baths, a spacious dining room overlooking the Bay, plus three small dining rooms, a roof garden and sun parlor, an indoor swimming pool, and a beach area.

The Depression apparently ruined the business of the hotel, which closed in 1934 when Pink West left. The building was then purchased by the Franciscan Sisters and was used as a home for aged ladies, named St. Francis Villa. In 1953, when the Order vacated the building, it was purchased by Dr. Charles Foley, who converted it into apartments. In 1976, Dr. Foley sold part of the property to the county/state and donated the remainder, including the Bayou Hotel Building, to the City of Havre de Grace.

The City acquired the property with the idea of saving the area between Tydings Island and Concord Point from future commercial development. While the structure sat vacant after 1976, several fires were set by vandals, causing thousands of dollars of damage to the interior of the structure. In August 1978, a public hearing was held to discuss a proposed City Charter amendment to allow sale of the property without public referendum. The hearing provided a podium for expression of the strong citizen interest in retaining ownership of the Bayou Hotel building.

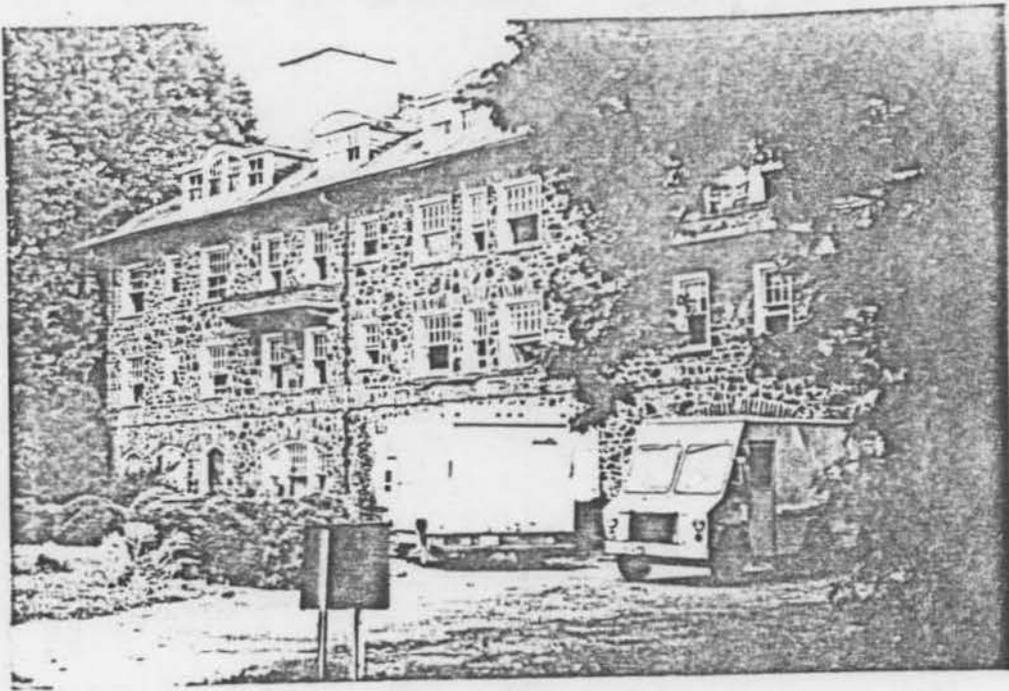
The Bayou Hotel was sold in July of 1983, to Havre de Grace Ventures Limited Partnership for the purpose of restoring it to its original grandeur and using its basic architectural style to provide luxurious rental units.



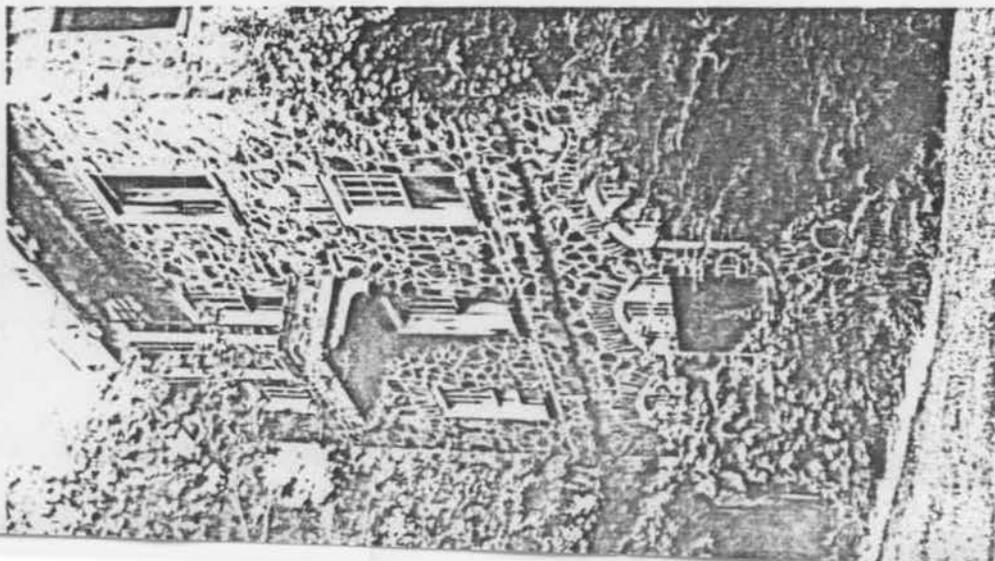
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SE 4/ H de G 15' QUAD.

1953
photo revised 1970



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NA-1127



Bayou Hotel HA-1127
Commerce + Market Sts.
Houma de Grace
North Facade

marion merton, for the Maryland
5/1977 Historical Trust



Bayou Hotel HA-1127
Commerce + Market Sts.
Havre de Grace

South Tower

Marion Morton
5/1977