

SUMMARY

HA-1234

Belle Grade
1500 McDermott Road
Pylesville, MD 21134

"Belle Grade," probably built by Martin Low in the third quarter of the 19th century, is a splendid example of the rural imagination at work. The Tudor Arch motif repeated on every window lintel and forming an arcade across the porch represents the height of decorative fancy in this generally modest, introverted region. The brick construction of "Belle Grade" is also relatively unusual, giving the house obvious pretension.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Belle Grade

2 LOCATION North side of MdDermott Rd.

STREET & NUMBER
1500 McDermott Road

CITY, TOWN
Pylesville

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Charles Herrman, Jr. and Glenn H. Arrants, Jr. Telephone #: 836-1256

STREET & NUMBER
1500 McDermott Road

CITY, TOWN
Pylesville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 21134

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 953
Folio #: 1088

STREET & NUMBER
40 South Main Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
MD 21014

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two-story, el-shaped brick house is located on McDermott Road in the Fourth District, close to the Mason/Dixon Line.

Set on a raised stone foundation, the 40'4" X 44' 3 1/2" house faces south and the el is flush with the west end. It has a slate gable roof with a boxed cornice, gable returns, and interior end brick chimneys. Windows have 6/6 sash and Tudor arch entablatures. This motif is echoed in the one-story, shed-roofed porch spanning the south side. The south facade is laid in all stretcher bond; the ends are laid in 6-stretcher bond. Diamond-shaped iron ties are in the east and west ends of the south unit.

The principal facade has a central entrance, flanked by two windows on each side, with windows in the second story in each of the five bays. The entrance has a frame with panelled jambs, sidelights and tripartite transom. The porch, reached by steps on the west, is set on piers of cut stone and has square posts and a railing with graduated horizontal rails. Paired posts inflect the center entrance bay.

The ends of the south unit are similar with two windows in each story, including two two-light gable windows. The east end has a basement entrance in the south bay, flanked on the north by a three-light window.

The north side is covered by the two-story el and a one-story, shed-roofed frame extension.

The one and one-half story brick ell has a one-story shed-roofed extension of similar construction on the east side. The entrance in the south bay of the west side has a hip-roofed portico with Tudor arches and there is one dormer in the west flank of the roof.

The south section interior has a center hall with two rooms on the east and one on the west. Windows and doors have crossette trim and the mantel in the west room has a Tudor arch opening surround.

The second floor has four bedrooms with six-light door transoms. The bedrooms on the south have crossette trim; those on the north have plain trim and closets where there were once niches for iron stoves.

The attic has two finished rooms and hewn rafters.

The cellar with pegged joists contains three rooms: the northeast room has a large slate tub; the southeast room has a brick fireplace in each wall. Both of the latter two rooms have cobblestone floors and plastered walls.

The ell contains two and one-half rooms (the southeast room extends into the frame wing). The room on the west has a brick fireplace in the north end, flanked on the west by an enclosed winder staircase.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-1234

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dating from the middle of the 19th century, "Belle Grade" was probably built by Martin Low(e), who purchased an unspecified acreage of the tracts "Wild Cats Den" and "Bellgrade" from Abraham Street in 1848.¹ The 1858 Jennings & Herrick Map does not show a house here (although that particular map is not always a reliable source); a house belonging to Martin Low is listed on the 1878 Martenet's Map.

Martin Low died in 1889, leaving his wife, Rachel, and five children: Isaac F., Jeremiah S., Ellsworth, Laura M., and Mary A.D. Low. The 64-acre property was sold in 1940 to James & Helen Smith for \$3500.²

The house is a splendid example of the rural imagination at work. The Tudor arch motif repeated on every window lintel and forming an arcade across the porch represents the height of decorative fancy in this generally modest, introverted region. Here, ornament--if present at all--is concentrated on the interior mantels and staircase. Exteriors are generally monotonously plain, relying on massing and materials for effect. The Tudor arch motif, however, was relatively popular for interior details. The Maurice Horsey house (HA-1248), for instance, which also dates from the third quarter of the 19th century, displays this design on interior window and door entablatures and mantelpieces. The brick construction of "Belle Grade" is also remarkable in the region where wood and stone were the common building materials: the house was obviously the residence of a prosperous family who wanted to make their residence distinct from all others in the area.

1. Liber HDG 33, Folio 525
2. Liber GCB 261, Folio 419

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Land, Will, & equity records of Harford County
1878 Martenet's Map

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Susan M. Deeney, Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor	DATE	4/78, 12/79
ORGANIZATION	Historic District Commission		
STREET & NUMBER	45 South Main Street	TELEPHONE	838-6000 X207
CITY OR TOWN	Bel Air,	STATE	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

BELLE GRADE

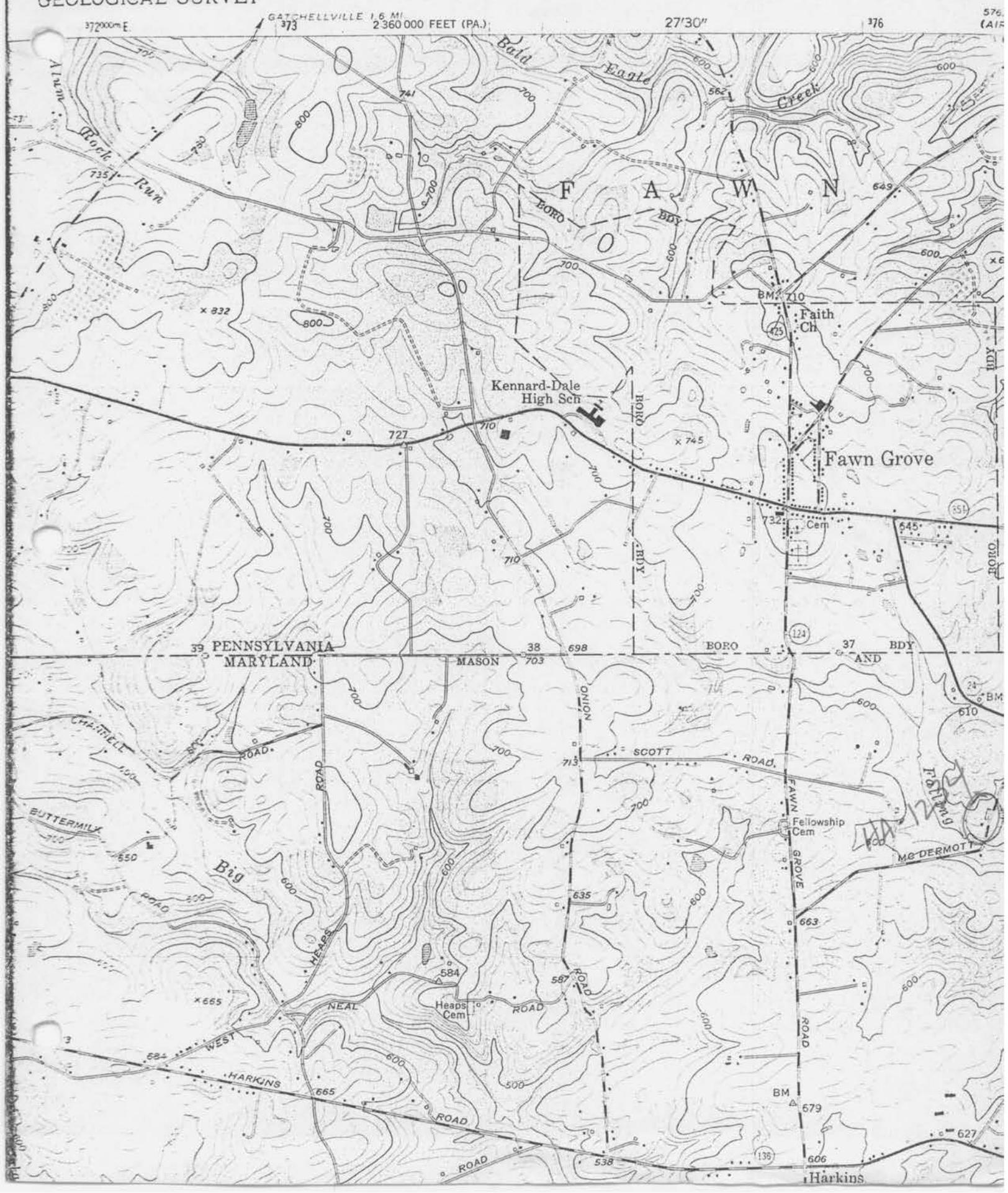
Title Search

HA-1234

1. 953/1088 July 11, 1974 Grantor: Susan Wysong Gardiner,
Eugene Hayes Gardiner, Mary
Eugenia Gardiner, Ann Gardiner Costoro
Grantee: Charles C. Herman, Jr. & Glenn Hampton
Arrants, Jr.
Acreage: 33 Acres
2. HDC 952/880 June 18, 1974 Grantor: Eugene Hayes Gardiner, Rep. of estate
of Mary Ellen Gardiner
Grantee: Eugene Hayes Gardiner, Mary Eugenia
Gardiner, Ann Gardiner Costoro
Acreage: 1.) 98 Acres "Wildcat's Den", "Bell-
Grade"
2.) 111½ Acres "Wildcat Den", "Belle
Grace", "Triangle", "Addition to
Triangle", "McSwains Rejoicement",
"Gordon's Discovery"
3. GRG 742/522 May 23, 1967 Grantor: Edna R. Smith, et al, Exec. of Will of
James T. Smith, late of York County,
Pennsylvania (d. October, 1966) Will
TLA 28/486
Grantee: Eugene Hayes Gardiner, Susan Wysong
Gardiner, Mary Ellen Smith Gardiner
Sum: \$121,000
Acreage: 1.) 98 Acres - 3 parcels:
GCB 261/419
GCB 280/173
GCB 289/54
2.) 111½ Acres
4. GCB 261/419 September 5, 1940 Grantor: John A. Robinson, Trust.
Grantee: James T. Smith & wife, Helen M. Smith
Sum: \$3500
Acreage: 64 Acres "Wildcat's Den" "Bellgrade"
5. Equity Records
GCB 146/262 April 8, 1940 Mary A. D. Lowe vs. Ella Lowe, et al
Settlement of Martin Low's Estate
6. HDG 33/525 January 13, 1848 Grantor: Abraham T. Street
Grantee: Martin Low
Sum: \$590
Acreage: "Wild Cats Den" "Bellgrade"

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Fawn Grove
USGS Quadrangle Map





Belle Grade HA-1234
Pylesville, Maryland 21134
Susan M. Deeney
4/78
South



Belle Grade HA-1234
Pylesville, Maryland 21134
Susan M. Deeney
4/78
Southeast