

HA-1242

1886

Masonic Temple
Wall Street
Bel Air
Public

This imposing Queen Anne structure was one of Bel Air's earliest architect-designed buildings. Designed by Jackson Gott of Baltimore and built by Bel Air's Master Builder Jacob Bull, the massive building had a restaurant on the Bond Street side and offices on the Wall Street side. The Town Hall on the second story served until well into the 20th century as Bel Air's Civic Center with facilities for plays, dances, and concerts. The third floor was the lodge hall for the Mt. Ararat Lodge #44 of the Masons. It has a notable timbered ceiling. Very soon it will be demolished to make way for a courthouse addition.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME
 HISTORIC
 The Masonic Lodge
 AND/OR COMMON
 same

2 LOCATION
 STREET & NUMBER
 Wall Street 1st
 CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
 Bel Air VICINITY OF
 STATE COUNTY
 Maryland Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" 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 contact: Thomas Dick
 Harford County Bldg. Inspector Telephone #: 838-6000
 STREET & NUMBER
 Main Street
 CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
 Bel Air VICINITY OF Maryland 2

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse
 STREET & NUMBER
 Main Street
 CITY, TOWN STATE
 Bel Air Maryland

Liber #: 931
Folio #: 846

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 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

The Masonic Lodge is at the corner of Office and Bond Streets in the Town of Bel Air, Maryland. This massive Victorian Norman structure, built in 1886-87, is the second lodge building to occupy the site. The first, built around 1827, was a two story frame structure with a church downstairs and a lodge room upstairs.

The present structure is three stories on Wall Street and four stories on Bond Street to accommodate the slope of the site. Constructed of brick in common bond, with a slate hipped roof, the building is rectangular with projecting bays topped by gables at three corners giving it a slight H-shape. The projection on the northeast corner is a tower with its own conical roof. The Office Street, or north, elevation is, in comparison to the other two elevations, almost static since it is flat. The east (Wall Street) and west (Bond Street) elevations are quite similar, with advancing and retreating planes provided by the embayment. The three rectangular end bays project four feet and the middle three bays are delineated by slightly projecting pilaster strips of brick work broken only by a double string course of one brick course each in the first and second stories (Wall Street side; the second and third stories on the Bond Street side). The fourth projection is the tower which carries the staircase. The fenestration in each level is balanced, but the treatment is different, a common element in late Victorian, Beaux Arts, and Neo-Classical design. The ground level on Bond Street has been "renovated" with the addition of panelling and a shed porch, which obliterated the original design. This part of the building is occupied by a bar. Otherwise the fenestration is the same on each level around the building with the exception of the tower. On the first level on Wall Street there is a window and door in each bay. The windows are double-hung, 1/1, set in wooden surrounds with stone sills and shallow brick carved arches on top. The doors with glass panes in the top and a single pane transom are set in openings similar to the windows. On the Bond Street side, this level has a pair of windows rather than a window and door combination. On the next level each of the center bays has a large composite arched window composed of three double-hung 1/1 windows topped by an arched transom of many small panes. The three projecting end bays have two windows which differ from the lower level only in having flat arches at the top. Similar flat arched windows occur in the third level on Wall Street and the corresponding fourth level on Bond Street. The gable topping the projecting bays has three small connected double-hung 1/1 windows. Shed dormers pierce the hipped roof, three on the Wall Street side centered in the three middle bays, two on the Bond Street side centered over the pilaster strips which divide the bays and one each on the north and south sides. A plain chimney tops the southern most pilaster strip on the Wall Street elevation, another one rises just inside the northern roof edge (this elevation is otherwise obscured by the Harford National Bank Building built right against it), and a third chimney rises in the gable

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
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 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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1886 ~~1800-1899~~ ARCHITECT: Jackson Gott
 Builder: Jacob E. Bull

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Old Masonic Lodge is Bel Air's most monumental nineteenth century building. With its neighbor, the Harford National Bank Building, it anchors the eastern end of the courthouse square providing continuity between the two blocks of commercial structures on Office and Courtland Streets and completing the square in an attractive and humane nineteenth century scale. Bel Air's architectural taste was, in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, restrained as to style and scale. Few buildings were architect designed; most were the work of local builders like Jacob Bull and John Lingan. While the Odd Fellows Hall (the Old Presbyterian Church) may be architect-designed, the Masonic Lodge is the second building in town that we know is architect-designed. It is by Jackson Gott, a Baltimore architect. Gott (1829-1909) was born at the house of his grandfather, William Cook near Lake Roland. In his youth he was apprenticed to a Master-builder and worked at that trade while studying architecture. After setting up his own office in 1870, Gott designed numerous public and private buildings, among which are the Johnston Buildings, 17, 19, 21, 23 S. Howard, the Ward Building, Baltimore and Charles Streets, the Quarantine Hospital Building at Curtis Creek, the Gaither Buildings 269-271 West Baltimore Street, all in Baltimore; Masonic Temples in Salisbury and Richmond, Virginia; two Methodist Churches and the Peninsula Hospital in Salisbury, the State Library in Annapolis; the Bank of W. B. Thomas and several buildings on the Campus of the Western Memorial College in Westminster. Among the private buildings are the marble residence of Professor G. A. Liebig on St. Paul Street in Baltimore and Governor Jackson's residence in Salisbury.

Gott's Masonic Lodge and George Archer's First Presbyterian Church (1882) and his Harford National Bank building (1889) next to the Masonic Lodge represent the arrival of architect-designed buildings in Bel Air. This new interest in style is a reflection of the way Bel Air was opened to outside influences by the coming of the railroad as well as an indication of the burst of building activity in the Town in the 1880's. The Norman style of the building is a style that was popular in Baltimore, and around the nation, in the 1870's, followed almost immediately by the Richardsonian movement into "creative eclecticism" in the 1880's. The Masonic Lodge is an example of what might be called Norman eclectic and with its neighbor, the Richardson Romanesque bank building, exemplifies in a solid but graceful way the architectural trends of the era. The brooding mass of the lodge, its corner tower with its conical roof and the shed dormers of the main block all speak of Norman. The strong upward movement of the elevations' bays and pilaster strips and the gables topping the bays speak of Gothic, as do the advance and retreat of the bays and the delicate string courses

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat
The Aegis
 Edward Schultz, History of Free Masonry in Maryland
 2nd volumn Baltimore, 1885.
 Henry F. Withey and Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary
of American Architects Deceased. Los Angeles, 1956.
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel 831 in the Town of Bel Air.
 60' (Office Street) x 91.1' (Wall Street).

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

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	
M. Larew	23 October 1978
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Town of Bel Air	838-8700
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
39 Hickory Avenue	
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Bel Air	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

of the southwest projecting bay. All three chimneys are different, and the last one looks like a ventilator for the ground floor bar.

The tower which forms the fourth end projection carries the entry to the upper two floors, a pair of double eight panel doors topped by a single pane transom with "Mt. Ararat Lodge #44 F & AM, Meetings 1st and 3rd Tuesdays" painted on it. The tower windows are all double-hung 1/1 with stone sills and lintels. They are narrow slits on the first floor flanking the door, wider in the second level, and shorter on the third. A pair of square, single panes light the staircase between the second and third floors. At the level of the dormers five double-hung 1/1 windows are evenly spaced around the top portion of the tower, which is the only portion of the building to have wooden shingles. Between the brick work and the shingles is a wooden cornice with dentil band. The conical roof of the tower is crowned with a crocket.

To tie the building together and offset the strong verticality of the design are double string courses at the top of the windows on the first level all around, at the spring of the arch in the second level in the central bays and on the tower, at the top of the second level windows in the projecting portions and at the same level on the central bays, but not on the pilaster strips or the tower, and at sill level on the top floor on the projecting bays and the tower but not on the pilaster strips. For good measure the tower has its own double-string course at sill level on the second level.

Each level of the building had a different use. The first level on Bond Street has always had a bar-restaurant in it. The next level, the first on Wall Street, has four office suites with entrances on Wall Street and running straight back to the Bond Street side. The walls between the offices are thick brick load bearing walls. A wide slightly curving opening staircase approaches the next level from the door in the tower. This level was an assembly room. Cast iron columns with Ionic capitals foot on the load bearing walls in the lower level and support the ceiling. Subsequent to the construction of the building a shallow stage was built in the south end of the room. It is framed by paneled pilasters whose Ionic capitals echo the cast iron columns. The stage is boarded up now. Flanking the stage are two tiny rooms used as dressing rooms. Original twelve panel doors still guard the entrance. Insulation bags are currently being stored on this level. On the top floor was the lodge room, a large room with a fine timbered ceiling. A raised platform at the north and south ends of the room are the only reminders of the rituals once performed there.

This building is unused except for a couple of the offices and the bar. One of the proposals for a new Harford County Courthouse involves demolishing this building and the bank building next door, although there is nothing wrong with the building except the roof. The whole structure presents a melancholy appearance today from lack of maintenance. The top floor has been invaded by pigeons and their droppings and corpses litter the floor.

tying the whole together. Withal, the regularity and balance of the structure as a whole are more reminiscent of classical forms than of the deliberate asymmetry of the Gothic mode, yet on the Wall Street side (east) the entrance tower introduces a kind of balanced irregularity to that elevation. Walking around the building, one gets a kaleidoscopic impression, that of constantly changing and moving surfaces, always moving yet always in balance. The fenestration provides a satisfying balance between the upward thrust of the slits in the tower and the rectangular windows and the solid downward thrust of the arched composite windows in the middle story. The effect is of upward aspiration solidly held in this world, an excellent symbolism for a building designed to accommodate offices, a Town Hall, and the Mystic-cum-this-worldly Masonic Lodge.

The building has served Bel Air in a variety of ways for nearly a hundred years. It's lodge, Mt. Ararat, #44, is one of the oldest in Maryland. Mt. Ararat #44 is the lineal descendent of the old Joppa Lodge #1 which was chartered from England by Lord Blaney in 1765. In 1794 the group was chartered as Belle Air Lodge #14 by the Grand Lodge of Maryland. This lodge became inactive in 1796 or 1797 and was reorganized as the Mt. Ararat Lodge #44 with its home in Cecil County. Early members include William Whiteford, Robert Ramsey, St. Clair Street, John McKenny, John Kean, Thomas McKennon, John Street, Stevenson Archer, George Macomber and John Saunders. Around 1820 the lodge was at Dublin. Richard Dallam, Israel Maulsby, Morgan Richardson, Richard McGaw, Erastus Wright, Stevenson Archer, and Samuel Bradford are listed on the rolls from this period. It is quite clear that the county elite belonged to the lodge.

In 1827 the justices of the Harford County Levy Court, at that time the governing body of the county, sold 4200 square feet off the west end of the county lot to the trustees of the Masonic Lodge (John McKenny, Israel D. Maulsby, James Pannell, and Samuel Bradford) for \$1 current money. An act of the Maryland General Assembly was required to allow the sale. The Masons proposed to build a two-story building on the site, the first story to be used as a place of worship (there being no other in town), and the second story to be a lodge room. Previously the religious needs of the townspeople had been met by itinerants who preached with some regularity in the courtroom at the courthouse.

By 1829 the lodge was settled in Bel Air and was building a home for the lodge and a church, but the Grand Lodge still held meetings at Abingdon and Havre de Grace as well. The Grand Lodge lent Mt. Ararat banners and "other furniture" for the dedication of the new hall June 24, 1833. The following year they were authorized to hold meetings at Slate Ridge.

Itinerants continued to serve the people in the Union Church of the Masonic Lodge until the 1850's. In 1854 the trustees of the lodge (A. L. Jarrett, William H. Dallam, William S. Richardson, and Charles Bond) leased the first floor of their lodge to the Methodist Protestant Church for 20 years for one cent annual rent. This was one of three organized congregations in town. The Methodist Episcopal congregation had finally built a church on their lot in 1856. The Presbyterians organized in 1852 and built their church on Pennsylvania that year. The second story of the first Masonic Lodge Building served as the lodge meeting room.

In 1886 the old building was felt to be too small and plans were made for a grand new building. Jackson Gott, a Baltimore architect, was hired to do the design and three of Bel Air's prominent contractors worked on

the project. The old building was demolished by John Lingan. Stone masons Dunnigan and Dunnigan did the foundation using stone taken from the old building. Jacob Bull, Bel Air's most prominent builder-architect did the rest of the work. The building was expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000.

A Grand Bazaar to benefit the new lodge was held in June of 1886 by the wives and daughters of the lodge members. Local and Baltimore merchants were talked into donating dozens of door prizes, and the ladies had tables with fancy work and baked goods. Masons from all over the state came on a specially chartered train. The whole County supported the endeavor which netted \$3,400, a truly remarkable sum for that date.

In September 1886 a cornerstone of Harford granite was laid. The cornerstone contained the proceedings of the Grand Lodge (1885-86), the by-laws and subscription list of the Bel Air Lodge, an account of the Grand Bazaar, a Bible, coins, and copies of the county and Baltimore newspapers. Again masons from all over the state attended, this time in full regalia.

A November article in the Harford Democrat relates that 243,000 bricks were used in the building: 40,000 from Baltimore, 30,000 from Mr. Culp at Cambria, and the remaining number from Mr. Warner's Bel Air Brick Yard.

The first of a long series of social events was held in the new building in July 1887. The Harford Cotillion Club held its dance in the third floor Masonic Hall because the second floor Town Hall was still being painted. In September the stores and offices were ready for occupancy. Joseph Coale had his meat market in the ground floor (Bond Street side), and the restaurant on that level was operated by George Lyle, long-time Bel Air restranteur whose previous restaurant had been in the north end of the Holden Building on Courtland Street and then on Office Street near Main. The offices on the first level on Wall Street were occupied (from south to north) by the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company, O.S. Lee, Harlan and Webster, Archer and Van Bibber, and Allen Hoffman. Hoffman was a canning broker; all the others were lawyers.

The first lodge meeting in the new building was held on the sixth of September, 1887. Late in 1888 the new Second National Bank opened its doors in George Van Bibber's office because its headquarters at 30 Office Street had not been completely renovated. In 1895 the Bel Air Exchange of the Harford Telephone Company had one of the offices, possibly the one O.S. Lee vacated when he bought #20 Office Street.

The second floor Town Hall became the "Civic Center" of Bel Air, hosting many balls and cotillions, school graduations, amateur and strolling professional theater productions, concerts, lectures (temperance and other) and meetings too large to be held in the courtroom at the courthouse across the street. In the mid - 1890's the local belles organized a drill team under the command of the daughter of Captain Richard Boldin, one of Bel Air's Union Civil War veterans. They performed a flag drill in the Town Hall to universal acclaim. The Town Hall in the Masonic Lodge was the nearest thing Bel Air had to a universal meeting hall.

With the combination of lodge hall, meeting room, lawyers offices and the insurance company all in one building, the Masonic Lodge was second only to the courthouse as a focal point for Bel Air.

Industries of Maryland

Baltimore, 1882.

Illustrated Baltimore, New York, 1890

Footnote for Masonic Temple Description

A photograph taken in 1909 reveals several alterations to the building since then. The two chimneys on the east--or Wall Street--side had tall stacks with two rows of four vertical slits, corbelled caps, and stove pipes. The fire escapes and basement entrance were also added later to this side. The Office Street facade had an entrance in the first story east bay with a side flight of steps from the east.

MASONIC LODGE TITLE

Owner: Harford County

931/846

16 July 1973
Trustees of the Masonic Hall & Church
to
Harford County

11/77

3 September 1827
Justices of the Levy Court for \$1 current money
to
Trustees of the Ancient York Masons or Mt. Ararat
Lodge #44, Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons: John
McKenney, Israel D. Maulsby, James Pannell, and
Samuel Bradford.

An act of the general assembly gives permission
to the county to sell part of the Courthouse
lot to the Masons to build a lodge and building
for a Church
(This is the previous bldg.)

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1242
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
PRESENT USE: 1 office/1 bar/rest closed
ORIGINAL USE: offices/rest./lodge hall
ARCHITECT/ ENGINEER : Jackson Gott of Baltimore
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: Jacob Bull
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent () Good (X) Fair () Poor: ()
THEME: Architecture
STYLE: Victorian Norman
DATE BUILT: 1886 - 87

COUNTY: Harford
TOWN: Bel Air
LOCATION: Wall Street between Office and Courtland
COMMON NAME: The Masonic Lodge
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Meeting House
OWNER: Harford County
ADDRESS:
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes () No () Restricted (X)
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (X) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone(X) Brick() Concrete() Concrete Block()
- Wall Structure
 - Wood Frame: Post and Beam() Balloon()
 - ~~XXXX~~ Bearing Masonry: Brick(X) Stone() Concrete() Concrete Block()
 - Iron() D. Steel() E. Other: interior brick load bearing walls in first floor
- Wall Covering: Clapboard() Board and Batten() Wood Shingle() Shiplap() Novelty() Stucco() Sheet Metal() Aluminum() Asphalt Shingle() Brick Veneer() Stone Veneer() Bonding Pattern: common bond Other:
- Roof Structure
 - Truss: Wood(X) Iron() Steel() Concrete()
 - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate(X) Wood Shingle() Asphalt Shingle() Sheet Metal() Built Up() Rolled() Tile() Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

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

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

Number of Stories: 3 plus basement on Bond St.

Number of Bays: 5 x 3 Entrance Location: Corner of Wall and Office Sts. in the Tower

Approximate Dimensions: 75' x 50'

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat() Zoning() Roads() Development() Deterioration() Alteration () Other: <u>possible demolition for new Courthouse</u>

LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive() Negative() Mixed(X) Other:
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ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Dormers were stained glass - Masons took them
3rd floor trussing system
2nd floor rented - stage is newer
heavy wood framing between floors - rest on bearing walls
partition walls brick 1st floor. Six cast iron pillars

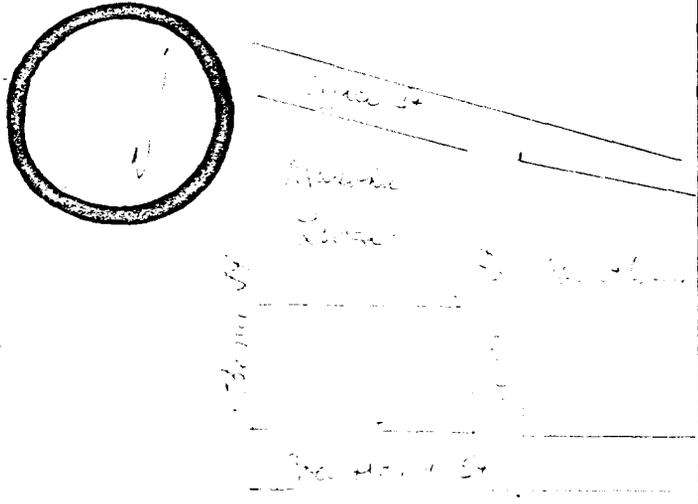
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Second building on site. Besides providing office space for lawyers, the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Commercial and Savings Bank, Johnson Credit, and others, this building was the town social and cultural center. The Town Hall on the second floor was the scene of balls, military functions, lectures, concerts, plays, bazaars, and meetings. The lodge room on the third floor was the home of Mt. Ararat Lodge for nearly a century. The building is a distinctive Victorian structure. The timbered ceiling in the lodge room is particularly worthy of note as are the cast iron columns on the second floor.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

RECORDED BY: M. Larew

ORGANIZATION: Town of Bel Air

DATE RECORDED: 15 November 1978

8 Masonic Lodge

1850-99 architecture
1900

Richmond
Westminster

HA-1242

dates: 1886 architect: Jackson Gott
builder: Jacob E. Bull

~~This~~ The Old Masonic Lodge is Bel Air's most monumental nineteenth century building. With its neighbor, the Harford National Bank Building, it ~~forms~~ ^{anchors} the eastern end of the Courthouse Square providing ^{continuity} ~~the link~~ between the two blocks of ~~office~~ ~~buildings~~ and commercial structures on Office and Courtland Streets, and completing the square ~~in~~ ^{as} an attractive and humane nineteenth century scale. Bel Air's architectural taste was, in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, restrained as to style and scale. Few buildings were architect designed; most were the work of local ~~builders~~ builders like Jacob Bull and John Langan. While the Odd Fellows Hall (the Old Presbyterian Church) may be architect-designed, the Masonic Lodge is the ~~first~~ ^{second} building in town that we know is architect-designed. It is by Jackson Gott, a Baltimore architect. Gott (1829-1909) was born at his ~~grandfather's~~ the house of his grandfather, William Cook near Lake Roland. In his youth he was apprenticed to a master-builder and worked at that trade while studying architecture. After setting up his own office, Gott designed numerous public and private buildings, the most notable of

8 Masonic Lodge

which are the Johnson Building on North Howard in Baltimore, the Masonic Temple and ~~Temple~~ Peninsula Hospital in Salisbury, the early buildings of the Western Memorial College in Westminster, the buildings of the Crown Cork and Seal Company in Highlandtown, and the Maryland Penitentiary (1893), again in Baltimore.

~~The~~ ^{and} ~~the~~ Gatt's Masonic Lodge ^{and} ~~along with~~ George Archer's First Presbyterian Church (1882) and his Harford National Bank building ⁽¹⁸⁸⁹⁾ next to the Masonic Lodge, represent the arrival of architect-designed buildings in Bel Air. This new interest in style is a reflection of the way Bel Air was opened to outside influences by the coming of the railroad as well as an indication of the burst of building activity in the Town in the 1880's. The Norman ~~Gothic~~ style of the building is a style that was ^{popular} ~~popular~~ in Baltimore, and around the nation, in the 1870's, followed almost immediately by the Richardsonian movement into "creative eclecticism" in the 1880's. The Masonic Lodge is an example of what might be called Norman eclectic and with its neighbor, the Richardson Romanesque bank building, exemplifies in a solid but graceful way the architectural trends of ~~the~~ the era. The brooding mass of the lodge, its corner tower with its conical roof and the shed dormers all speak of

#8 The Masonic Lodge

Norman. The strong upward movement of the elevations' bays and pilaster strips and the gables topping the bays speak of Gothic, as ~~do~~ the advance and retreat of the bays and the ~~strong~~ delicate string courses ~~topping~~ tying ^(sp) the whole together. Withal, the regularity and balance of the structure as a whole are more reminiscent of classical forms than of the deliberate asymmetry of the Gothic mode, yet ~~from~~ ^{on} the Wall Street side (east) the entrance tower introduces a kind of ~~regular, yet~~ balanced irregularity to that elevation. Walking around the building, one gets a ~~solid~~ kaleidoscopic impression, that of constantly changing and moving surfaces, always moving yet always in balance. The fenestration provides a satisfying balance between the upward thrust of the slits in the tower and the rectangular windows and the solid downward thrust of the arched composite windows in the middle of story. The effect is of upward aspiration solidly held in this world, an excellent symbolism for a building designed to accommodate offices, a Town Hall, and the Mptic-cum-~~was~~ this-worldly Masonic Lodge.

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8 The Masonic Lodge

4
HA-1242

In 1827 the justices of the Hayford County Levy Court, at that time the governing body of the county, sold 4200 square feet off the ~~the~~ west end of the county lot to the Trustees of the Masonic Lodge (John McKenney, Israel D. Maulsby, James Pannell, and Samuel Bradford) for \$1 current money. ~~This required~~ An act of the ~~the~~ Maryland General Assembly was required to allow the sale. The Masons proposed to build a two-story building on the site, the first story to be used as a place of worship (there being no other in town), and the second story to be a lodge room. Previously the religious needs of the townspeople had been met by itinerants who preached with some regularity in the courtroom at the court house. Itinerants continued to serve the people in the ^{union church of the} Masonic Lodge until ~~1854~~ ^{the 1850's}.

In ¹⁸⁵⁴ ~~1854~~ the Trustees of the lodge (A. L. Garrett, William H. Dalton, William S. Richardson, and Charles Bond) leased the first floor of their lodge to the Methodist Protestant Church for ^{20 years} one cent annual rent. This was the ~~first~~ ^{second} ~~one of three~~ organized congregation in town. The Methodist Episcopal congregation finally built a church on their lot in 1856. The Presbyterians organized in 1852 and built their church on Pennsylvania ~~avenue~~ that year. The second story served as the lodge meeting room. In 1886 the old building was felt to be too

small ~~and the Methodists' lease was~~ and plans were made for a grand new building. Jackson Gott, a Baltimore architect was hired to do the design and ~~both~~ ^{three} of Bel Air's prominent contractors worked on the project. ~~Jacob Bull~~ The old building was demolished by John Lingan. Stone masons Dunningan and Dunningan did the foundation using stone taken from the old building. Jacob Bull, Bel Air's most prominent builder-architect did the rest of the work. The building ^{was expected to} cost in the neighborhood of \$15,000.

A Grand Bazaar to benefit the new lodge was held in June of 1886 by the wives and daughters of the lodge members. Local and Baltimore merchants were talked into donating dozens of door prizes, & the ladies had tables with fancy work and baked goods. Masons from all over the state came on a specially chartered train. The whole County supported the endeavor which netted \$3,400, a truly remarkable sum for that date.

In September 1886 ~~the~~ ^a cornerstone of Hayford granite was laid. The cornerstone contained the proceedings of the Grand Lodge (1885-86), ^{the} by-laws and subscription list of the Bel Air Lodge, an account of the Grand Bazaar, coins, and copies of the County and Baltimore newspapers. Again masons from all over the state attended, this time in full regalia. A November article in the Hayford Democrat relates that 243,000 bricks were used in the building: 40,000

from Baltimore, 30,000 from Mr. Culp at Cambria, and the remaining number from Mr. Warner's Bel Air Buck Yard.

In July 1887 the first of a long series of social events was held ~~at~~ in the new building. The Harford Cotillion Club held its dance in the third floor Masonic Hall because the second floor Town Hall was ~~not~~ still being painted. In September the stores and offices were ready for occupancy. Joseph Coale had his meat market on the ground floor (Bond Street side), and the restaurant on that level was owned by George Lyle, long-time Bel Air restaurateur whose previous restaurant had been in the north end of the Holden Building on Courtland Street and then on Office Street near Main. The offices on the first level on Wall Street were occupied (from south to north) by the Harford ~~the~~ Mutual Fire Insurance Company, O. S. Lee, Hodan and Webster, Archer and Van Bibber, and Allen Hoffman. Hoffman was a canning broker; all the others were lawyers.

The first lodge meeting ^{in the new building} was held ~~at~~ on the sixth of September 1887. Late in 1888 the new Second National Bank opened its doors in George Van Bibber's office because ~~it~~ its ~~new~~ headquarters at 30 Office Street had not been completely renovated.

of "The Trustees of the Masonic Hall and Church." This body still holds title to the property.

The Lodge met for the first time on June 5, 1830, in the building standing on the site now occupied by the Temple. On June 24, 1833, the new Masonic Hall was dedicated with the most elaborate Masonic program ever presented in Bel Air.

About 1881, when it was decided to move the church from the hall, the Trustees entered into a spirited discussion as to what should be done with the lower portion of the building in the way of alterations. Nothing definite was determined until, on March 16, 1885, it was agreed that, if possible, a three story building be erected. Such a structure was designed by Mr. Jackson Gott, Mr. Jacob Bull, a member of Mt. Ararat Lodge, being the builder. This is the present Temple.

The cornerstone of the building was laid on September 3, 1886, and it seems likely that the temple was first occupied by the Lodge on August 2, 1887. Since then it has been altered somewhat to meet changing conditions, but the general appearance of the exterior has not been disturbed.

It is interesting to note that one of the old cornerstones of the County lot may still be seen in the north end of the building. This stone is still used by surveyors as a starting point in determining all nearby property lines.

The cost (small by comparison with that of such a building today) was less than twenty five thousand dollars. The building was substantially built as its present condition shows.

In anticipation of the celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary, a two day celebration was held. A buffet

luncheon was served by Harry D. Hanaway of Kenmore Inn. On Sunday services were conducted, drawing hundreds of guests.

In 1949 a similar celebration was observed.

The present officers are: Harold R. Smith, Worshipful Master; J. Edmund Scotten, Senior Warden; Preston Magness, Junior Warden; Charles S. Sewell, P. M. Secretary; Clarence Waltman, P. M. Treasurer; Norman Abets, Senior Deacon; Garland Green, Junior Deacon; Willard P. Archer, Senior Steward; W. A. Trego, Junior Steward; H. C. Henderson, Tyler; E. Bernard Givens, P. M. Chaplain.

In the year 1809, the Grand Master of Maryland, John Crawford, M.D., issued a dispensation to certain brethren to form a lodge in Slate Ridge, Harford County.

The charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of Maryland and contains the names of many ancestors of present day Harford County citizens.

Due to the fact that no suitable place was found in Slate Ridge, the meetings were held for a few months at Ramsey's Tavern, about three miles over the line in Pennsylvania. As most of the members lived in Harford County, Mt. Ararat Lodge was moved to George McCausland's Tavern, Dublin, Maryland, about February 5, 1810. Records of this period were lost so it is not definitely known when the lodge moved to Bel Air. It is known, however, that it was in Dublin in 1820.



KENMORE INN

ONE OF HARFORD COUNTY'S HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

FOR RESERVATIONS PHONE 99

BEL AIR

MARYLAND

ROOMS WITH PRIVATE BATHS

and Office of the Register of Wills.

The Courtroom was downstairs and had brick flooring. Two immense fireplaces stoked by hickory, cord-length sticks provided a cheery and informal atmosphere. Within the railing where the judge and jury sat, was an elevated floor. Towering above this, and dominating the room was the judge's pulpit-like seat.

A unique staircase was also a noteworthy feature of this unusual building. Mounting to the second floor where the county offices were, the steps started from the outside and slanted upward towards the south. Inasmuch as these steps were uncovered they provided a point of vantage from which political speakers addressed potential voters. Both juries, the grand jury and the petit jury, were upstairs and it was necessary for them to use this outside staircase in going to and from their respective rooms.

committee to go to Annapolis to secure passage of an act authorizing the erection of a new courthouse. So imperative was this need, the committee set out on the morning following the fire before all of the flames had been completely extinguished.

The emergency trip was an unprecedented success and on February 25, 1858, an Act was passed authorizing the erection of a new Courthouse for Bel Air. Commissioners were appointed, namely: Stevenson Archer, Henry S. Harlan, A. Lingan Jarrett, James McCormick and William H. Dallam. They were empowered to contract for, and superintend the construction of the new building. They were further authorized to borrow money and to issue bonds to the amount of twenty thousand dollars. It is to the credit of the Commission that the building was completed at a cost within the prescribed amount and that a surplus was



MASONIC TEMPLE

Staley

On the night of February 19, 1858, the courthouse was destroyed by fire. Amazingly, however, the valuable records contained in the offices in the wings as well as these offices themselves, were preserved from the holocaust which leveled all of the other buildings including the County Commissioner's Office.

Advantageously, the Legislature was in session at the time the fire took place and immediately arranged for a

returned to the County Commissioners. (The courthouse built by the commission above named is the present court building at Bel Air.)

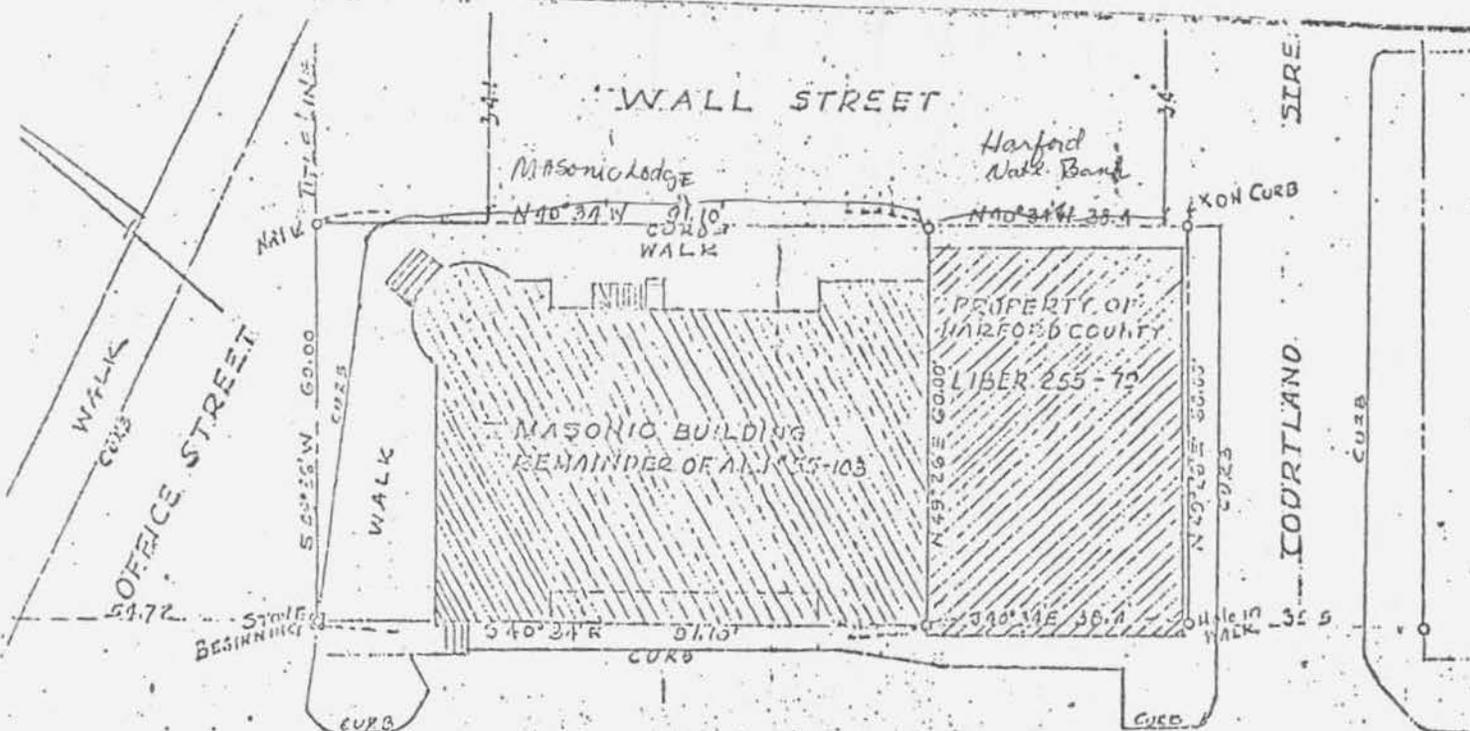
In the interval pending the completion of the new courthouse in 1858-59, the Masonic Temple, site of the present Masonic Temple and Union Church, was for court sessions.

MASONIC TEMPLE

By an act of Legislature in 1826, and upon petition of many citizens of Harford County, a portion of the County lot in the center of Bel Air was granted to the trustees of Mt. Ararat Lodge for the erection of a building to be used for the purpose of public worship and as a Masonic Hall. Messers John McKenney, Israel D. Maulsby, James Pennell and Samuel Bradford were trustees, being given the title

Due to increased pages the Indices have been moved to the following pages.

Classified Section	411
Advertisers Index	422
General Information	426



RECEIVED FOR RECORD
 RECORD IN LIBER 255-70
 NO. 931 JUL 16 1972
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JUL 16 11 10 AM '72
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 CLERK

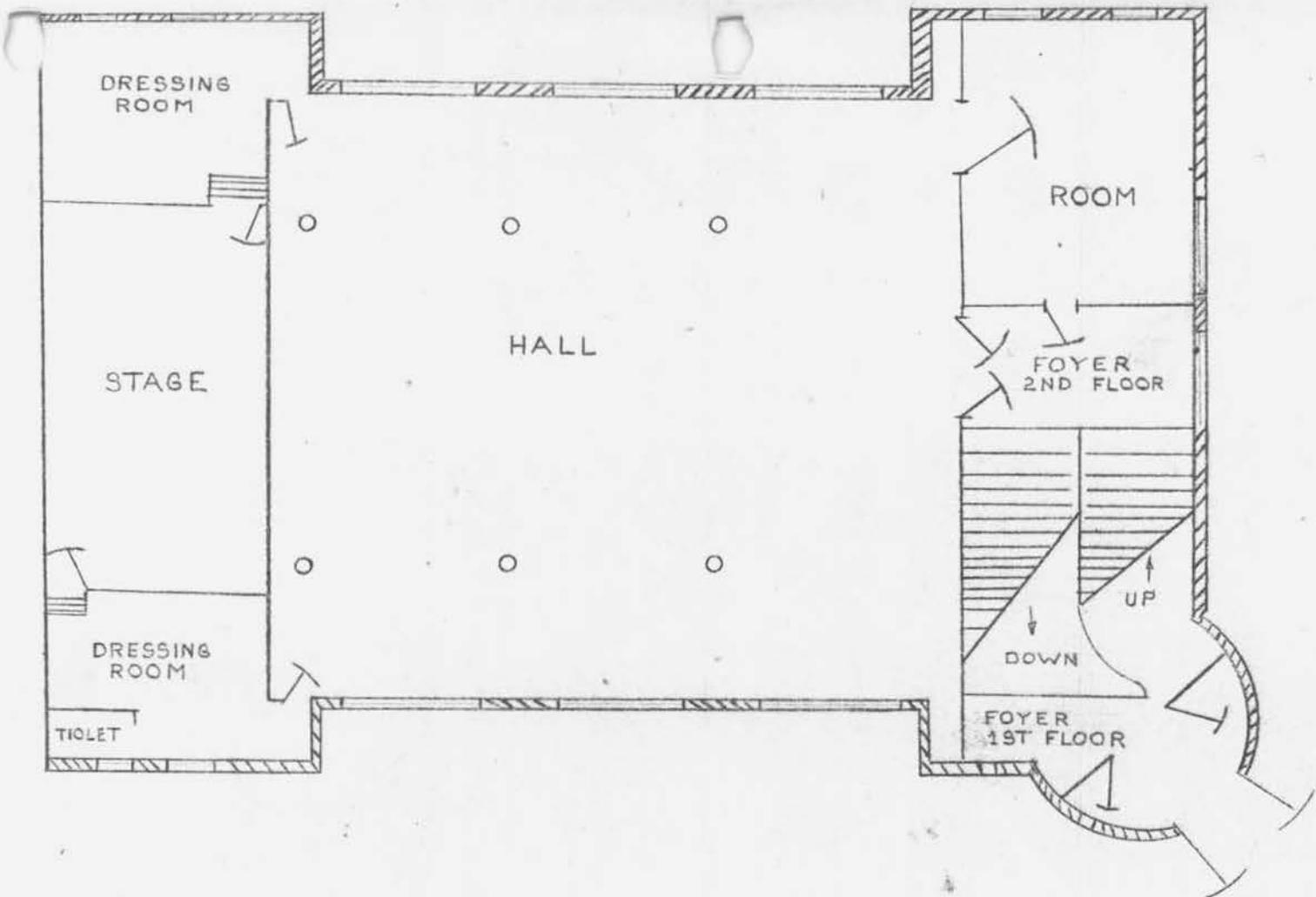
BOOK 931 PAGE 850



Glen C. Deaton
 Registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor No. 424,
 County Surveyor for Harford County.

GLEN C. DEATON ENGINEER & SURVEYOR DELAIR, MD.	
BY CURB	PLAT SHOWS TOWN LINES
TRACED	OF THE LOT OF THE TRUSTEES, ET AL.
CHECKED	THE MASONIC HALL AND CHURCH
DATE 11-20-72	DELAIR, MARYLAND
SCALE 1"=20'	PLAT NO. 255-70

HA-1242

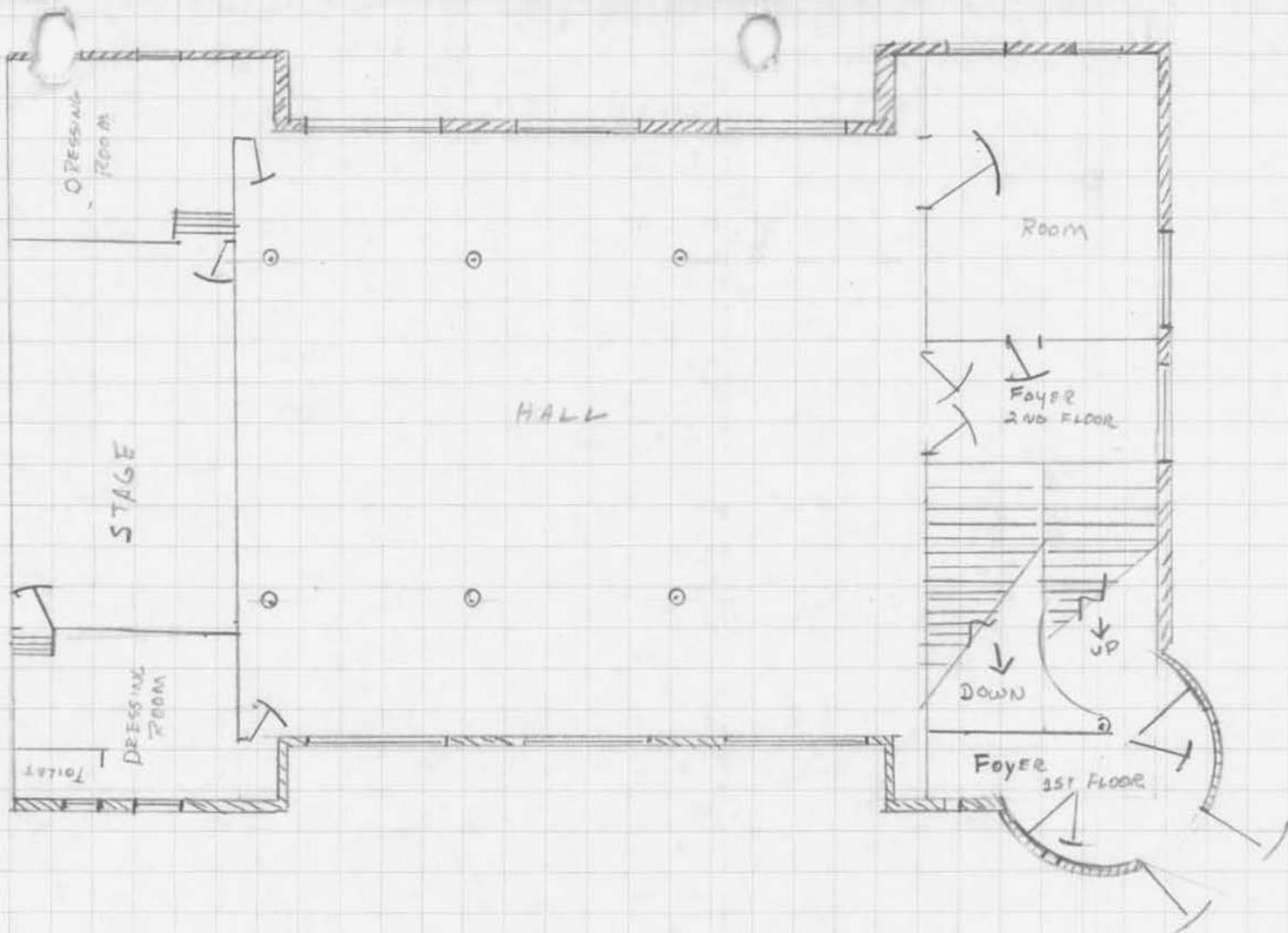


NA-1242

DRAWN BY: MARILYNN LAREW
 TRACED BY: G. CUNO

MASONIC LODGE
 WALL STREET
 BEL AIR, MARYLAND

SCALE: 3 in = 32
 N



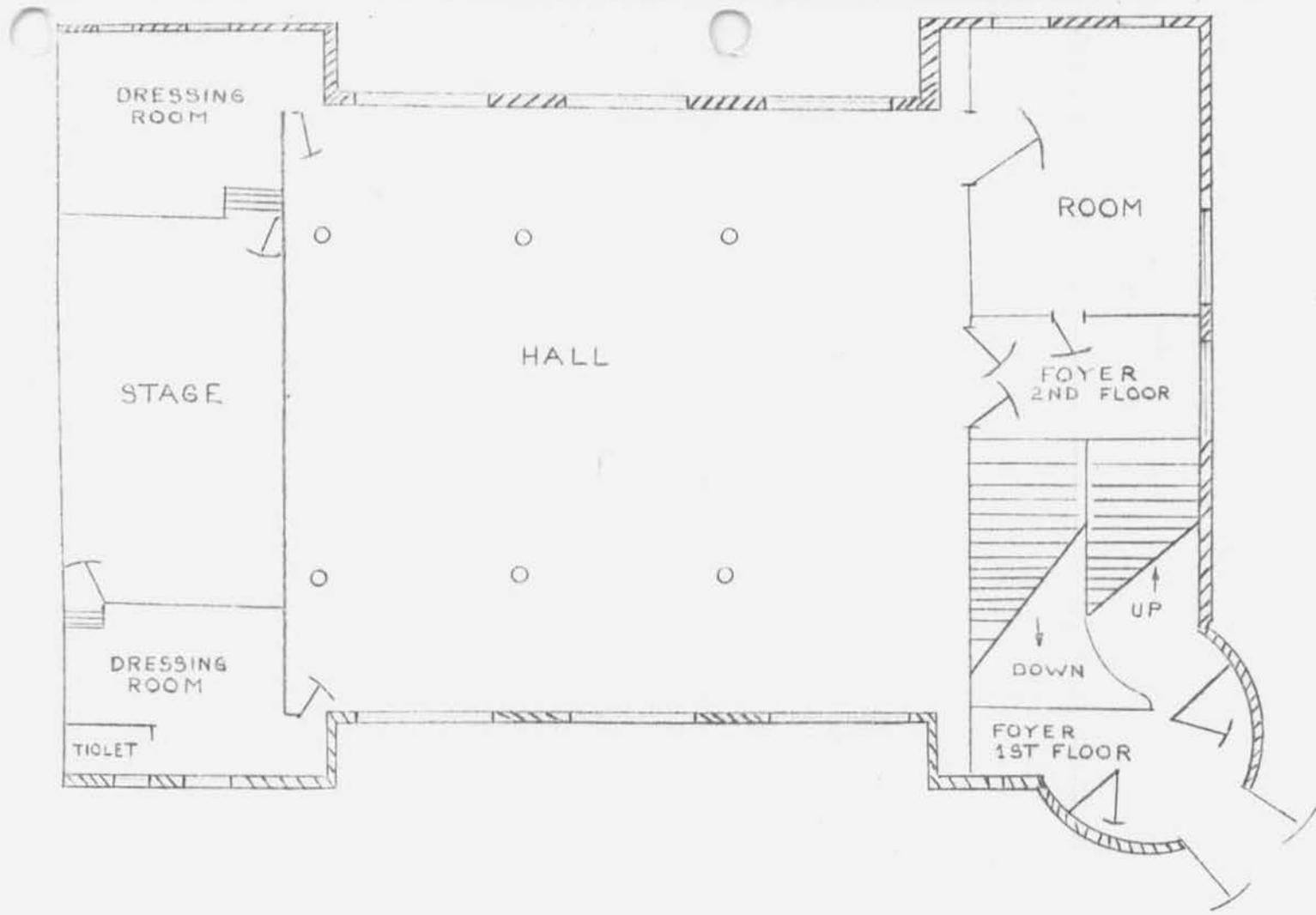
MARILYN LAREW

MASONIC LODGE
 WALL STREET
 BEL AIR, MARYLAND

HA-1242

SCALE 3" = 32'

↓ N

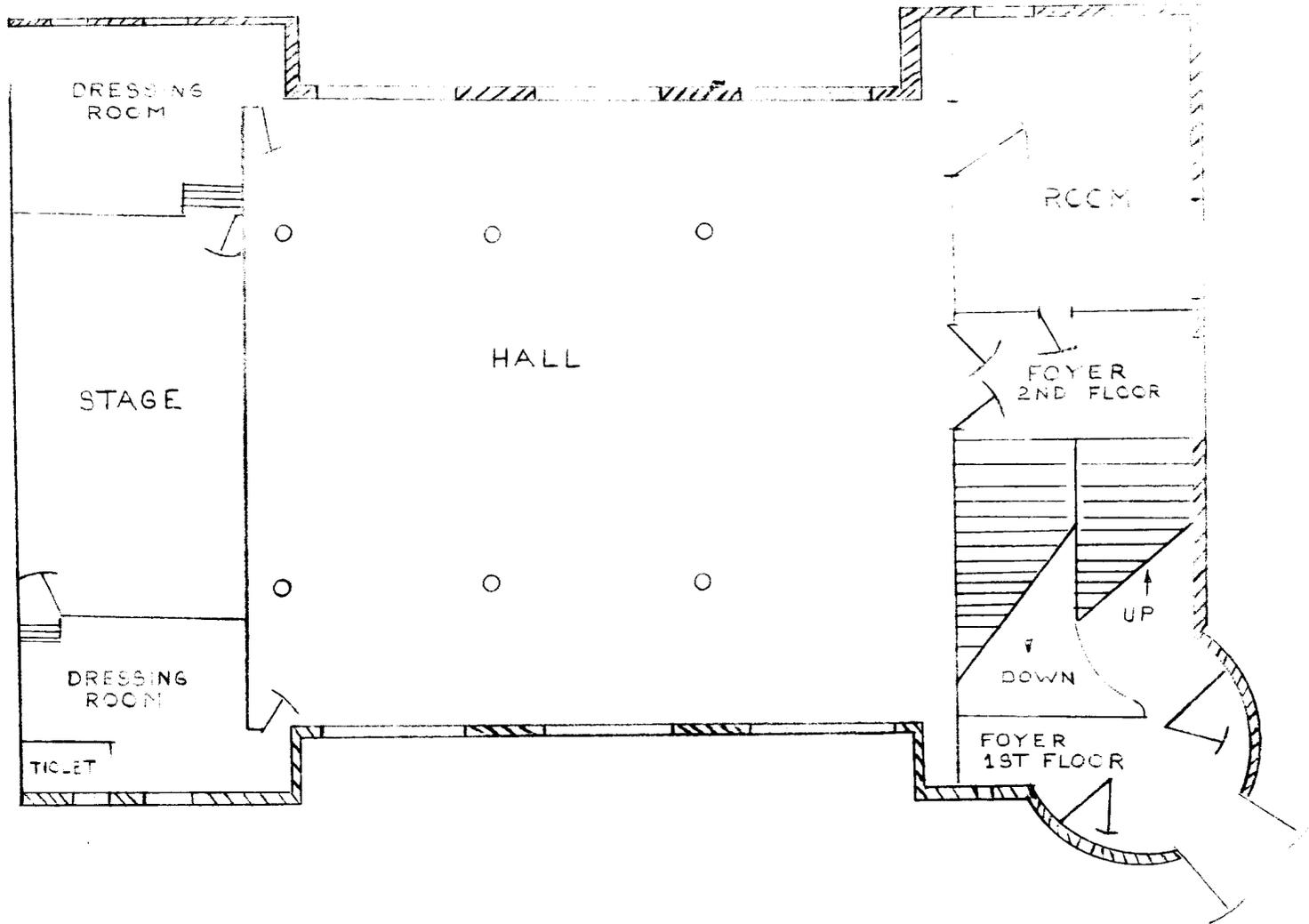


AN-1242

DRAWN BY: MARILYNN LAREW
 TRACED BY: G. CUNG

MASONIC LODGE
 WALL STREET.
 BEL AIR MARYLAND

SCALE: 3 in = 32 ft
 ↓ N



DRAWN BY: MARILYNN LAREW
 TRACED BY: G. CUNG

MASONIC LODGE
 WALL STREET
 BEL AIR MARYLAND

SCALE: 3 in = 32 ft
 N



NORTH ELEVATION



DRAWN BY: PHILIP W. MCKEOWN, JR. 1912
 OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING PROFESSIONALS
 LIMITED BY STATE LICENSE, LIABILITY OF THE FIRM
 WALL STREET
 BEL AIR
 THE MASONIC LODGE
 MARFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
 NO. 57
 HISTORIC-AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 6 OF 8 SHEETS
 DRAWN FOR THE MARFORD HISTORICAL TRUST AND MARFORD COUNTY

HA-1242



EAST ELEVATION



DRAWN BY PHILIP W. MCKENNA 1978
 ARCHITECTURAL FIRM OF ARCHITECTS
 THE MASONIC LODGE
 BEL AIR
 WALL STREET
 HARTFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
 DRAWN BY HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 5 OF 8 SHEETS

HA-1242



WEST ELEVATION

MODERN ADDITIONAL STRUCTURE

SCALE IN FEET
 0 1 2 3
 METERS 1:40

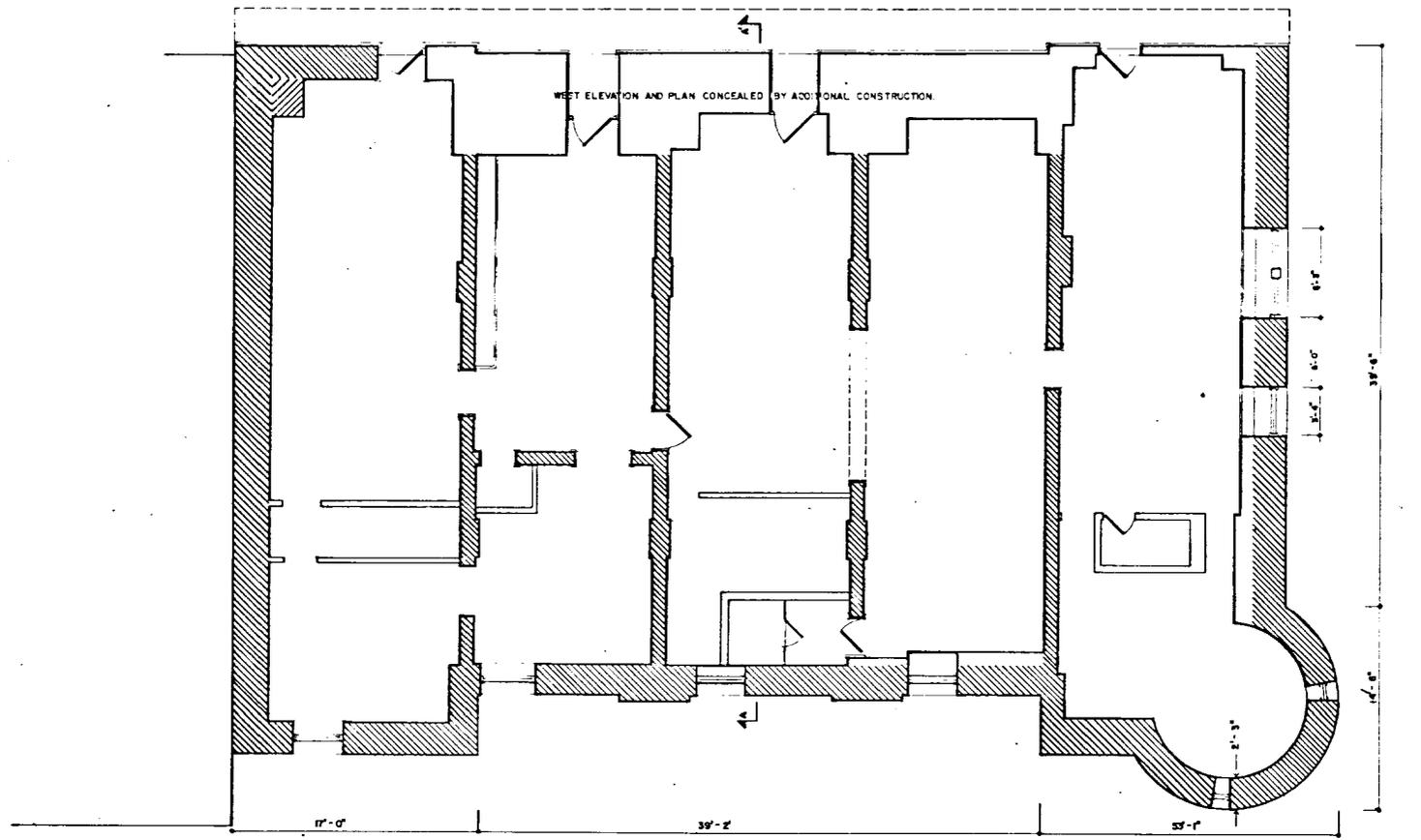
DEPT. OF THE HISTORIC MONUMENTS TRUST and Harford County
 PUBLIC WORKS
 11/17
 MARYLAND COUNTY, MARYLAND

THE MASONIC LODGE
 BEL AIR

WALL STREET

DRAWN BY: PHILIP W. MOORE 0173
 OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 DIVISION OF HISTORIC AND ARTS SERVICES
 DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF BALTIMORE

NA-1242

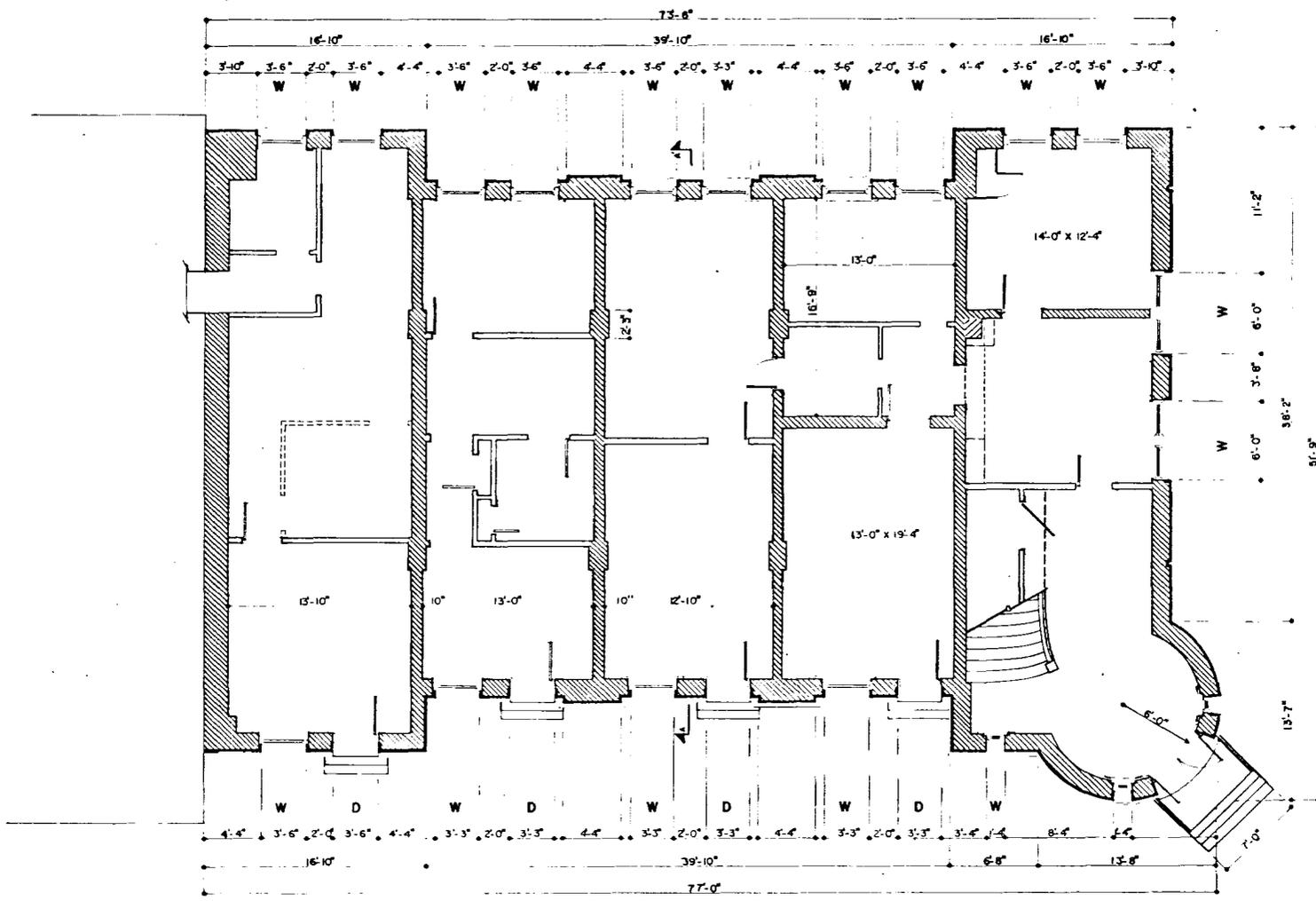


BASEMENT PLAN



DRAWN BY: PHILIP W. MCCREMIN JR.
 CHECKED BY: PHILIP W. MCCREMIN JR.
 DATE: 10/1/88
 PROJECT: THE MASONIC LODGE
 ADDRESS: WALL STREET
 CITY: BELL AIR
 COUNTY: WILMINGTON COUNTY, MARYLAND
 SHEET NO. 1 OF 8 SHEETS
 DRAWING NO. HA-1242

HA-1242



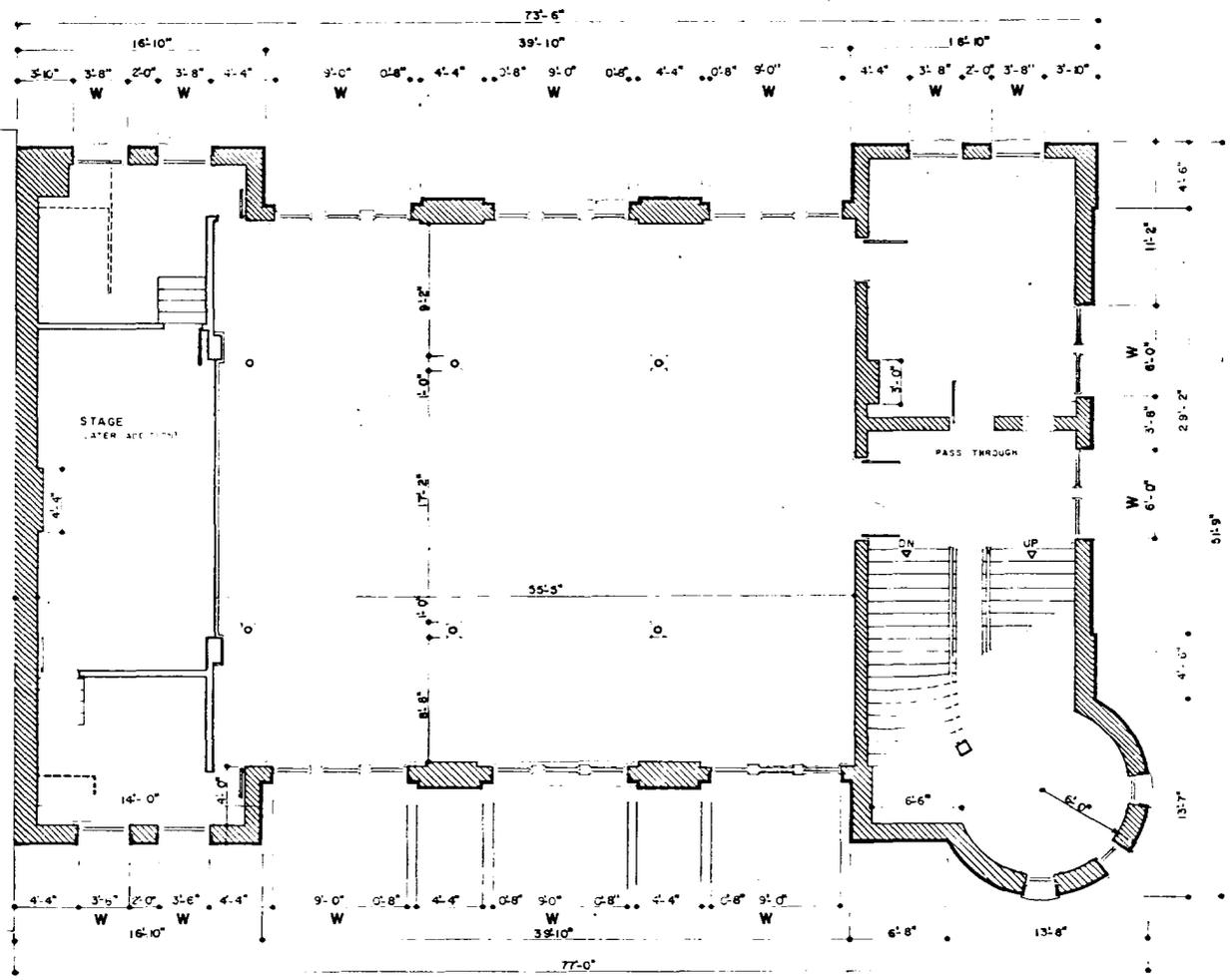
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

DRAWN BY: PHILIP W. MCKEWIN 1878
 OFFICE OF ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS
 1000 NORTH CALIFORNIA STREET, BALTIMORE, MARYLAND
 (FOR LIST OF CONSULTANTS OF THE ARCHITECT)

DATE OF LOCATION OF STRUCTURE
THE MASONIC LODGE
 BEL AIR

DRAWN FOR THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST AND HARFORD COUNTY
 HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 2 OF 2 SHEETS
 #11-27
 MARYFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND

HR-1242



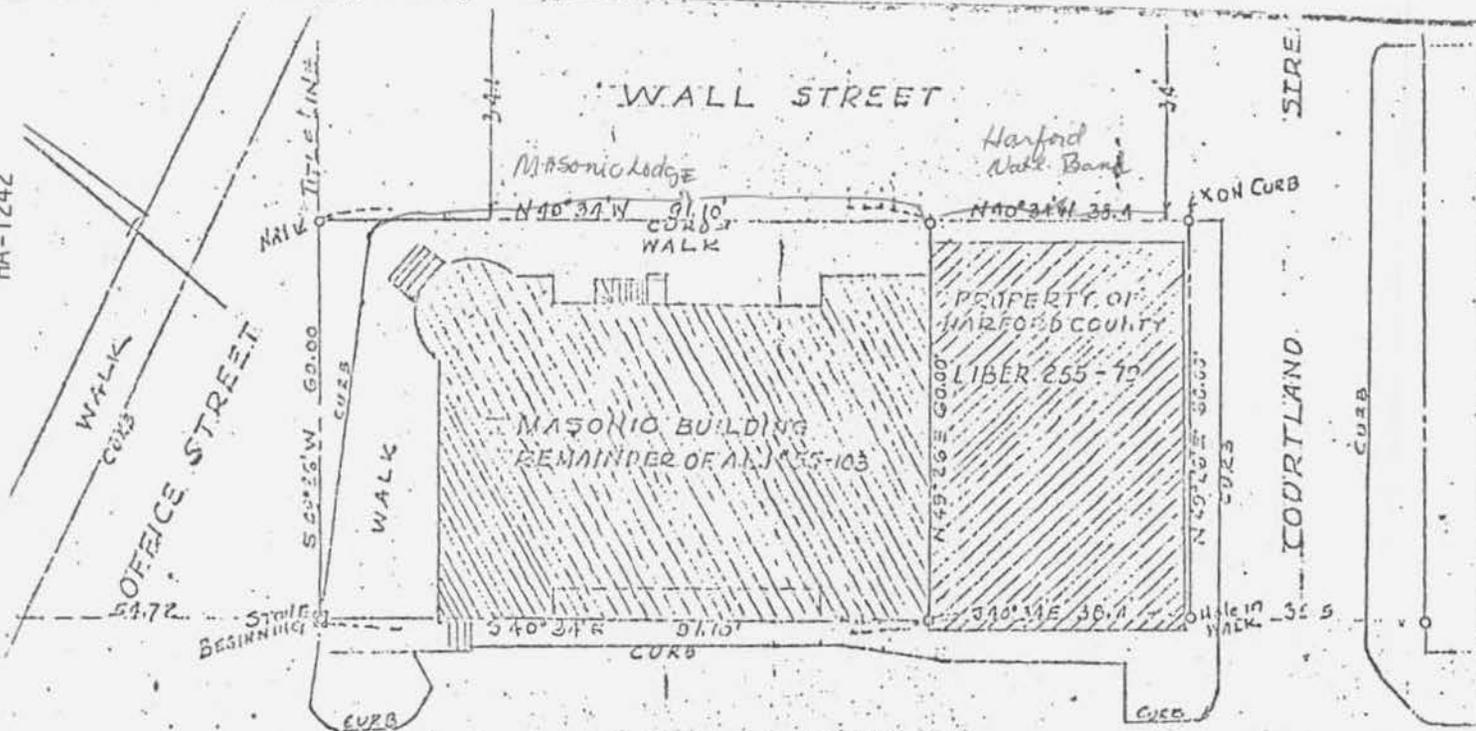
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



DRAWING BY PHILLIP W. MCELMH (DTS)
 OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 THE MASONIC LODGE
 BEL AIR
 WALL STREET
 MANFORD COUNTY, MARYLAND
 HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET NO. 40 OF 47
 UNIT 5 OF 8 SHEETS
 DRAWN FOR THE MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST AND NEFFORD COMPANY

NA-1242

HA-1242



Glen C. Deaton
 Registered Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor No. 424,
 County Surveyor for Harford County.

BOND STREET

GLEN C. DEATON ENGINEER & SURVEYOR BELAIR, MD.	
DRAWN BY	G.C.D.
TRACED BY	PLAT SHOWING THE COURTLAND...
CHECKED BY	OF THE LOT OF THE MASONIC BLDG. CO.
DATE	THE MASONIC HALL AND CHURCH
	BELAIR, MARYLAND
SCALE 1"=20'	
PLAT NO. 124-72	

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 RECORD IN LIBER 255-70
 NO. 124-72

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 H. DOUGLAS WILCOAT,
 CLERK

BOOK 931 PAGE 650



MASONIC LODGE - OFFICE & BOND SYS., BEL AIR

W. ELEVATION

M. LAREDO, 1979

HA - 1242



MASONIC LODGE - OFFICE & BOND STS., BEL AIR

E. ELEVATION

M. LAREW, 1979

HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR
ENTRANCE TOWER - NORTH ELEVATION
W. HAD EW, 1977
HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

MAIN STAIRCASE

M. LAREW, 1978

HA-1242



MT. ARARAT MASONIC LODGE, WALL ST, 3RD FLOOR

DETAIL of ENTRANCE TOWER, NE CORNER

M. H. AREW, 1978

HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

2ND FLOOR MEETING ROOM

PILASTER & COLUMN

M. L. AREW, 1918

HA-1242



Mt. ARARAT MASONIC LODGE, WALL ST., 3RD AVE

SECOND FLOOR DETAIL: WINDOWS & CAST IRON
Column

M. L. ARBON, 1978

HA-1242

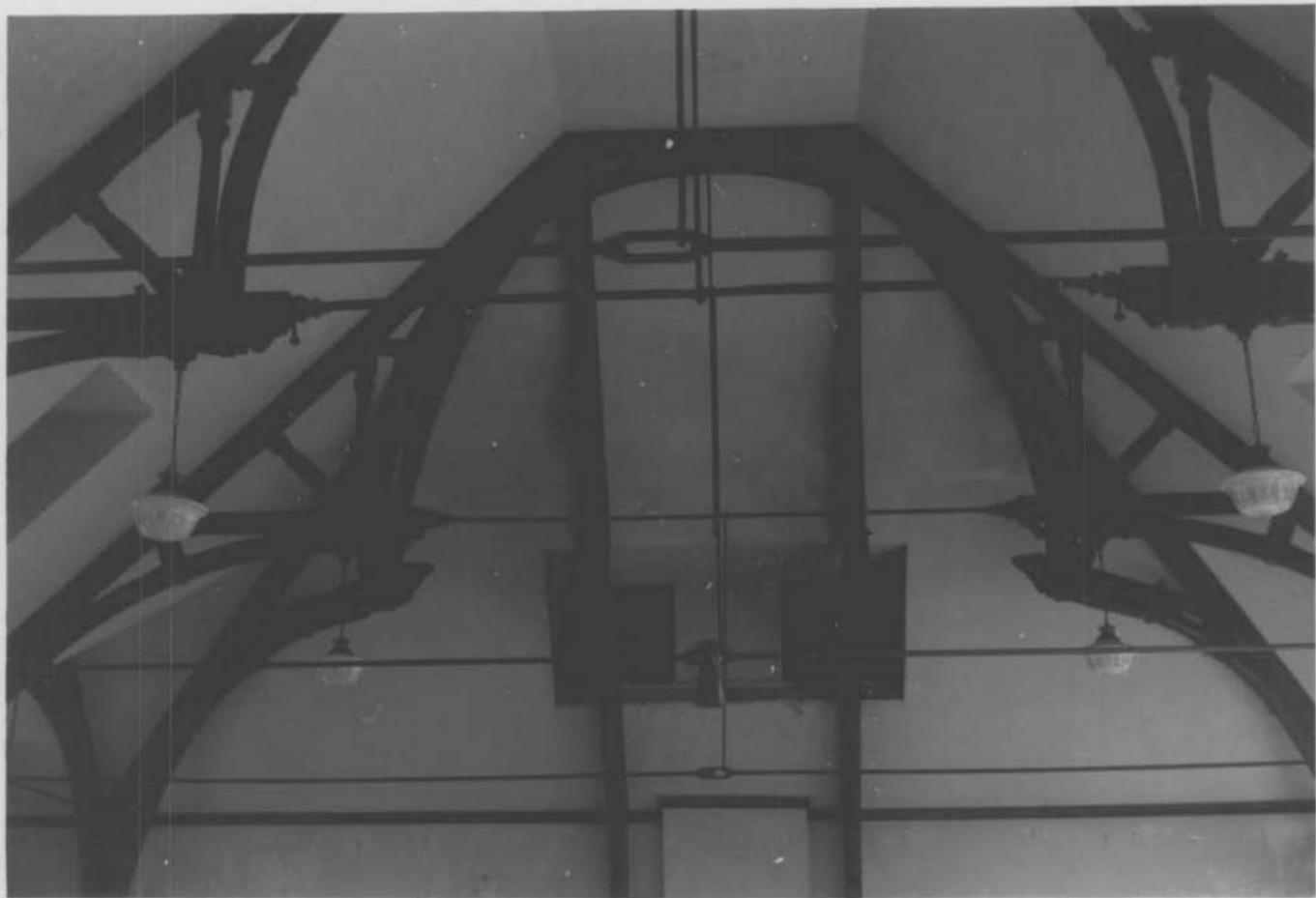


MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

BOND ST. (WEST) ELEVATION

M. LARREW, 1978

HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

3RD FLOOR MEETING ROOM TIMBERED ROOF

M. LARSEN, 1978

HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

2nd FLOOR CEILING

M. L. AREW, 1978

HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

2nd FLOOR, STAGE & PILASTERS, COLUMNS

M. L. AREW, 1978

HA-1242



MASONIC LODGE, BEL AIR

NE CORNER

M. LARSEN, 1978