

HA-1262

Stier House
1903 Churchville Road
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

The Stier house was built like most houses in Harford County-- piece by piece over a long period of time. What makes this house special is the way in which all the different parts were incorporated into an excellent example of late 19th century residential architecture. With the addition of such accessories as a new roof, porches, bay windows, carved woodwork and stained glass, the entire house was transformed. The remodeling was done so skillfully that few traces of the previous structures were left. Of the many houses whose design depends more on evolution than conscious design, the Stier house represents one of the best.

Mary and John Cole, who built the Dibb House at 1737 Churchville Road, were responsible for the present configuration of the house. They purchased it in 1898 from Sarah Jeffrey, Mary Cole's mother, and the house has remained in the same family since then.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Stier house

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 1903 Churchville Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Bel Air

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE Maryland

CODE
24

COUNTY Harford CODE
025

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY		OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<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 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"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<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"/> 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 Mrs. Lois Stier

STREET & NUMBER
1903 Churchville Road

CITY, TOWN Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Main Street

CITY, TOWN Bel Air

STATE Maryland 21014

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

(original portion was perhaps moved in the middle of the 19th century)

HA-1262

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE	DATE
<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED			

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Stier house, located on the south side of Churchville Road (Maryland Route 22) west of Shucks Road in Harford County, Maryland, is a Victorian 2½-story frame house that encloses at least three other building stages. The 1898 re-modeling supercedes the others stylistically, providing an overall ornamental unity; however, the structure itself has many disparate elements. The entire structure, set on a stone foundation, is rectangular in shape with three distinct parts (n.b. the exterior organization, does not necessarily coincide with the stages of construction). The five bay by two bay north section has a gable roof with cross gable and one dormer and an interior brick chimney on the rear. The south section consists of two elements: on the east is a gable-roofed one bay by two bay wing with an interior brick chimney at the south end; on the west is a flat-roofed two bay by two bay section. All windows have 1/1 sash, and several have a border of square colored glass panes around the top lights. The gable bargeboards have carved fretwork. The house is now covered with aluminum siding.

The north (front) facade of the north section is spanned by a one-story, flat-roofed porch on the first story; in the second story is a central oriel window with a pagoda roof, surmounted by a porch in the gable. The first floor porch, which continues around the east end, has a gable over the east bay, an architrave of turned spindles, carved brackets, and turned posts. On the first story, the central bay contains a floor-length, three-light window, flanked on each side by windows with colored glass borders (all windows have louvered shutters); both outer bays contain doors. The main entrance is in the east bay: the door has a glass transom and one light with a colored glass border over two wooden panels. The five-panel door in the west bay was originally a window. On the second story, the oriel window, flanked by a window on each side, contains two windows, both with colored glass borders. A window in the third story leads onto the porch with a fret railing.

The east end of the north section is a demi-bay, with a chamfered corner in the north containing one window in each story. Besides these, there is a window in the gable, and two windows in each story, which are aligned but unbalanced within the section. The front porch extends across the first story, which has a door in the south bay and a window in the north. In the second story, the window in the south bay has a colored glass border.

The west end of the north section has a 2½-story projecting, three-sided bay topped by a gable that echoes the gable end of the house. The north slope of this roof continues from the north slope of the main roof. On either side this gable is supported by large brackets. There are three windows in this projecting bay on the first and second stories and a single window in the gable. To the south of this projection, but still in the west end wall of the north section, there is a window on each floor. The first story window is square with one light with a colored glass border.

The gable-roofed wing to the southeast has a two-story, three-sided bay window with a second story porch on the east side. The bay window has two-light basement windows and carved brackets over the first story side windows. The second story bay is narrower than the first story one, and the porch is decorated like the front porch with scroll brackets and a railing with square balusters.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #1.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Stier house
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

A one-story porch with square posts stretches across the south ends of both the southwest and the southeast sections. The south end of the southeast section has a door in the west bay, flanked on the east by a window in the first story; there are two windows with metal awnings in the second story.

The adjoining southwest wing has a flat roof and a three-sided second story with a window in each side. In the first story is a four-panel door in the east bay, flanked on the west by a window. The west facade on the southwest section has two windows in the first story and one in the north bay of the second story. Over the first story south bay is a roof cornice.

The interior plan also has many disparate elements (see sketch). The only consistency is the trim, with corner blocks and two bands of reeding flanking a central ovolo, which can be found throughout the house. The north section has a stair hall on the east, flanked by two rooms on the west. In the hall, the two-run staircase with a landing is against the east wall, and there is a large arch, now blocked up, in the west wall. At the south end of the hall is a door to the southeast section, and in the north corner of the east wall is an exterior door. Under the stairs is a closet. The closed-string staircase has turned balusters and a barrel-shaped post with a square base and a square cap ornamented with raised bull's eyes on each side and topped by a round ball.

The room immediately to the west of the hall has a door to the southwest section in the south wall. In the west wall is a fireplace in a projecting chimney breast, flanked on the north by a door to the west room. The door has scroll brackets. The mantel is painted slate with simple incised designs.

The west room, now a kitchen with a bathroom in the southwest corner, has a fireplace in the projecting chimney breast in the east wall. The mantel, like the one in the central room, is painted slate with incised designs. The original wide floorboards extend from the inner edge of the west bay window in the kitchen (now under linoleum) to the hearth line in the center room.

The second floor plan is different from the first with an additional room in the northeast corner and a long room south of the two west rooms. The south room shows a hand-hewn log post in each corner of the south wall and a hand-hewn roof plate along the ceiling. The original wide floor boards extend from the west wall to the hall and have cut nails. In the north rooms, the wide floor boards extend to the northeast room (except for the central oriel window, which has new flooring), and the bulge of the roof plate is visible along the north wall. Old wide floor boards laid east-west instead of north-south, as the others are, cover the west part of the northeast room.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #2.

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Stier house
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

Although the attic has the same roof with rafters butted together throughout, in the north section between the west bay window and the west wall of the hall, the attic floor is raised on hand-hewn timbers.

In the basement, the north section has a crawl space underneath it, with stone walls and log joists that are uniform from the east wall to the west wall. There is a slight jog in the south wall of the foundation where the west wall of the hall is. The crawl space is accessible through the basement north wall of the southeast section.

The southeast wing has one room on each floor. The living room has a door and step to the southwest section in the middle of the west wall. In the south wall is a fireplace in a projecting chimney breast, flanked on the west by a door. The mantel is painted slate. On the west side of the chimney breast is a cupboard with molded trim.

The basement of the southeast section is divided into two parts with a section under the bay window separated by a stone wall with a window. The southeast section is separated from the basement under the southwest section by a stone wall with a doorway in the south end.

The southwest section has a kitchen in the south and a stair hall in the north on the first floor. The kitchen with a beaded board wainscot has two doors in the north wall: a four-panel door to the stair hall in the east corner and a five-panel door to the west room of the north section in the west corner. There is a door to the basement under the stairs.

On the second floor, the plan is similar, with a bathroom on the east side of the bedroom. In the bedroom is a window covered by a door with molded trim in the east corner of the north wall. There is a beam running east-west in the second floor ceiling that coincides with an east-west line in the kitchen floor. In the basement, there are full log beams under the north part of this section and regular sawn beams in the south part (the same as those in the southeast room of the basement).

Southeast of the house is a frame ice house. Set on a stone foundation with a gable roof, it is above ground and originally had sawdust insulation. In the south facade is an entrance with a Dutch door, which is not original, and in the gable is an opening covered by a hinged shutter, which was originally reached by a ladder and used to fetch the ice. In the west end is a six-light window, which was added later and in the gable of the north end is an original six-light window.

There is little conclusive evidence about the sequence of construction of the house. All that is certain is that the second story of the north section has a braced frame with hand-hewn timbers (there are no clues to the construction of the first story);

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #3.

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Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

(DESCRIPTION CONTINUED)

the north portion of the southwest section is older than the rest of the section; the living room in the southeast section is older than the bay in its east wall.

What appears to have happened (refer to attached floor plan) is that the north section was built first in one or more stages. Since the two rooms and hall share floor joists and a foundation, but the roof plates and beams do not extend over the hall, either the hall was present originally as a one-story addition, or the house consisting of two rooms (#1)-either one or two stories-was moved to the site,¹ and the hall portion (#2) was added when the new foundation was laid.

The southwest section began as a porch (#3-perhaps two stories) approximately half the width of the present room, as indicated by the log joists in the basement. It was enlarged and enclosed (#4), or enclosed and another porch was added to it, which in turn was enclosed when the south porch was added in 1898. The second story of this section was enlarged after the first story, viz. the roof cornice over the south bay on the west side.

The basement construction of the second story suggests the southeast section was also built in at least two parts: first the room (#5) and then the bay in the east wall. In 1898 a new roof was put on, porches and bay windows were added, and new exterior and interior ornament was installed throughout, concealing most of the older complex.

¹The only other clue to the history of the house is on the Herrick map of 1858: there was no building on or near this property at that time. The north section of the house may not have been built until after 1858, but there is an equal chance that it was built earlier and moved to this site after 1858.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-1262

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

The Stier house was built like many houses in Harford County--piece by piece, over a long period of time. What makes this house special is the way in which all the different parts were incorporated into an excellent example of late 19th century residential architecture. With the addition of such accessories as a new roof, porches, bay windows, carved woodwork, and stained glass, the entire house was transformed. The remodeling was done so skillfully that few traces of the previous structures are left. Of the many houses whose design depends more on evolution than conscious design, the Stier house represents the most successful adaptations.

Mary and John Cole are responsible for the present house. They bought it in 1898 from Sarah Jeffery, Mary Cole's mother, for \$600¹ and remodeled it in the current fashion. (The year before, they had built a true Victorian mansion--the Dibb house at 1737 Churchville Road--but preferred the location of this house.) Except for that deed transfer, however, the record of ownership does little to amplify the sequence of construction of the Stier house.

The house has been in the same family since 1883, when Sarah Jeffery bought it from Stevenson Archer for \$965.² She sold it to her daughter and son-in-law, Mary and John Cole in 1898, then Celia Harward Preston, Mary Cole's niece, bought it in 1916 for \$3886.³ She made no apparent changes and bequeathed it to her daughter and son-in-law, Lois and Joseph Stier, in 1949.⁴

Before 1883 the ownership of the house changed hands frequently: Stevenson Archer owned the house less than a year after he bought it from Elizabeth Harward in 1883 for \$965⁵--the same price he sold it to Sarah Jeffery for. Elizabeth Harward obtained the property in 1875 for \$825⁶ in a public sale of James F. Colder's (or Calder's) property, who could not pay his mortgage. On the 1878 Martenet's map, a house on or near this property is listed as belonging to G. Harwood--who could have been related to Elizabeth Harward, since her name was also spelled Harwood in deeds. Jeremiah Y. and Alice L. Maynadier sold the property to James F. Colder in 1869 for \$700⁷. The increase in selling price when the property passed from Colder to Harward in 1875 and again when it passed from Harward to Archer in 1883 may indicate that improvements were made under both owners. In 1865 Alice L. Fendall (Maynadier) bought the property in a parcel of 127 acres for \$9600 from heirs of Henry Woolsey: Jason M., William, Catherine, Sophia, Elizabeth, and Rebecca Woolsey.

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #4.

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The Stier house
Harford County

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE CONTINUED)

-
- ¹Harford County Deed W.S.F. 93/483.
 - ²Harford County Deed A.L.J. 48/226.
 - ³Harford County Deed J.A.R. 155/64.
 - ⁴Harford County Deed 331/482.
 - ⁵Harford County Deed A.L.J. 48/225.
 - ⁶Harford County Deed A.L.J. 32/1.
 - ⁷Equity Records A.L.J. 21/99-107.
 - ⁸Harford County Deed A.L.J. 22/265.
 - ⁹Harford County Deed W.H.D. 16/35.

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Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 5

(VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION)

Beginning for the same at a piece of iron pipe heretofore set on or in the south side of Rt. 22 and at the end of the North 13° West 237.4 feet line of the Kissinger lot, and thence leaving the road and bounding the Kissinger lot, reversely South 13° East 237.4 feet to a piece of iron pipe set at the beginning of said line; and thence leaving the Kissinger lot and bounding on the part to be conveyed to W. Edgar Preston, Jr. and wife, South 80° West 159.4 feet to a piece of iron pipe, and thence still bounding on part to be conveyed to Preston, North 17° West 128.8 feet to post in southeast corner of that lot of land conveyed by W. Edgar Preston, Sr. to W. Edgar Preston, Jr. and wife, September 27, 1947, (Liber GCB 301, 42), and thence bounding on said lot as the magnet points North 10° West 110 feet to a piece of iron pipe set on south side of road, and thence continuing the same line North 17° West 16.7 feet more to the middle of road, thence bounding thereon North 80° East 175.5 feet to northwest corner of lot laid out for Laura A. Kissinger and husband, and thence leaving road and bounding on Kissinger lot South 13° East 17.9 feet to place of beginning.



Harford

Stier house

HA-12621

be quad

PROSPECT

McPHAIL

Mt Zion Ch

Fountain Green

Mt Carmel Ch

Gaging Sta

Gaging Sta
Byrd Picnic

Sewage Disposal

MC PHAIL

Race Track

Loores Mill

Grove Ch

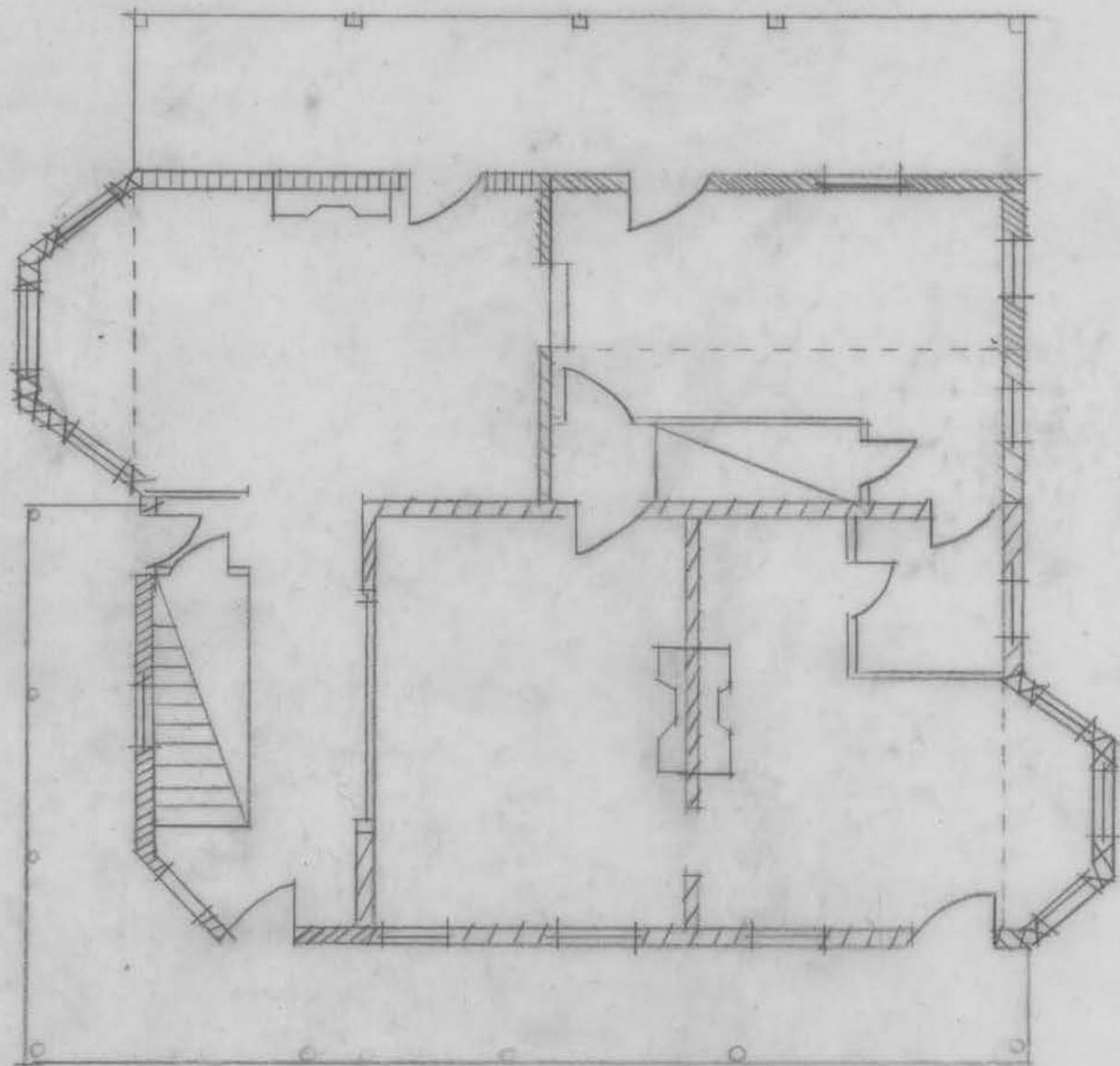
Schuler

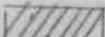
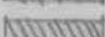
ANR

SCHULER

ROAD

STIER HOUSE



-  1
-  2
-  3
-  4
-  5
-  1898

HA-1262



Dibb House HA-
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Southeast



Dibb House HA-
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
North



Dibb House HA-
Bel Air, Md. 21014

Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Northwest



HA-1262

Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Northwest Elevation



HA-1262

Stier House

Bel Air, Md. 21014

Natalie W. Shivers

December, 1978

Southwest Elevation



Stier House HA-1262

Bel Air, Md. 21014

Natalie W. Shivers

December, 1978

Ice House/Southeast elevation of house



HA-1262

Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Stairhall/arch in
west wall



HA-1262

Stier House

Bel Air, Md. 21014

Natalie W. Shivers

December, 1978

Kitchen: 1st floor
west room



HA-1262

Stier House
Bel Air, Md. 21014
Natalie W. Shivers
December, 1978
Stairhall