

HA-1389

Before 1878

Oliver Brown House  
25 W. Churchville Road  
Bel Air  
private

This small shotgun house was probably built by Isaac Amos for a servant. The house appears on the 1878 Map, and he owned the whole lot then. The house is in deplorable condition and is scheduled for demolition by the Town of Bel Air.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Oliver Brown House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

25 W. Churchville Road

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

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

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mrs. Oliver Brown c/o James Maxfield

Telephone #: 838-2074

STREET & NUMBER

213 Bynum Road

CITY, TOWN

Forest Hill

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21050

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 137

Folio #: 117

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**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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-bay, two story shot-gun house is at 25 W. Churchville Rd. in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is in ruins and will soon be demolished. It has a flat roof which slopes back slightly to the south for two bays. A single story shed addition (added between 1904 and 1930) and a ruinous shed porch complete the building. The windows are 6/6 double-hung sash in plain surrounds. Some of them are flanked by gap-toothed wooden louvered shutters. A hip-roofed porch carried on stock turned posts shades the first story of the front (north) elevation. Parts of a plain balustrade remain. The entrance is in the west bay of the front (north) elevation.

This little house resembles others around town: a pair on the south side of Alice Anne Street and the group on Maulsby Avenue. Always working class (probably black) housing, it has been allowed to deteriorate until it is now a threat to public safety.

**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 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	Before 1878	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small, rotting shot-gun house has been on the site for around 100 years. It was probably built by Isaac Amos for a servant. He had purchased the larger lot, #13 in the original plat of Bel Air, from the estate of N.W.S. Hays, brother to merchant Thomas Hays, in 1867 (18/319). His house and hardware store occupied the northeast corner of the lot until 1901. In 1901 Harry Hanway purchased the lot from the Amos' estates (102/125) and built the present 200 S. Main St. In 1909 he sold the western 127 feet on Port Deposit Road (W. Churchville) to Joseph Deckman (127/409). Deckman got into financial difficulties in 1911 and sold many of his holdings including this lot. It went back to Hanway (134/48). The following year Hanway sold 46' (Churchville) x 100' (Bond) including portions of both roads to Oliver and Sarah (Sally) Brown (137/117). The Browns have owned it since. Mr. Brown is dead. Mrs. Brown is 102 years old and in a nursing home, a ward of the state.

The house is terribly deteriorated and will be demolished as soon as the Town can acquire it by condemnation.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Sanborn Maps 1904, 1930

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies the corner of W. Churchville and Bond Sts.  
in the Town of Bel Air. 46' x 100' including portions of both streets.

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

STREET &amp; NUMBER

39 Hickory Ave.

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air21 August 1979

DATE

838-8700

TELEPHONE

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET  
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1389

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:  
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:  
Oliver Brown House

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:

PRESENT USE: private residence

ORIGINAL USE:

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:

Excellent ( ) Good ( )  
Fair ( ) Poor: (X)

THEME: Architecture

STYLE: Vernacular

DATE BUILT: before 1878

COUNTY: Harford

TOWN: Bel Air

LOCATION: 25 W. Churchville Rd.  
Corner Churchville & Bond

COMMON NAME: Oliver Brown House

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence

OWNER: Mrs. Oliver Brown c/o James  
ADDRESS: Maxfield  
213 Bynum Rd./Forest Hill, Md. 21050

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:  
Yes ( ) No (X) Restricted ( )

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
Local (X) State ( ) National ( )

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone(X) Brick( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( )
2. Wall Structure
  - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( ) Balloon( )
  - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( ) Stone( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( )
  - C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( ) Board and Batten( ) Wood Shingle( ) Shiplap( )  
Novelty( ) Stucco( ) Sheet Metal( ) Aluminum( ) Asphalt Shingle(X)  
Brick Veneer( ) Stone Veneer( )  
Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
  - A. Truss: Wood( ) Iron( ) Steel( ) Concrete( )
  - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate( ) Wood Shingle( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Sheet Metal( )  
Built Up( ) Rolled( ) Tile( ) Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

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

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

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 2 x 2 plus shed

Approximate Dimensions: 12' x 45'

Entrance Location: W. Churchville

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:

No Threat( ) Zoning( ) Roads( )  
Development( ) Deterioration(X)  
Alteration (X) Other: Town condemnation

LOCAL ATTITUDES:

Positive( ) Negative( )  
Mixed( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

HA-1389

Very bad condition  
windows 6/6 w/rotting shutters  
entry west bay  
porch = hip roof on stock turned posts, parts of  
plain balustrade.  
shed kitchen with rotting shed porch behind (south)

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

workingman's housing

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:

M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

20 August 1979

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: OLIVER BROWN HOUSE

- 137/117                    13 April 1912  
 Harry D. Hanway & Hazel, wife  
                               to  
 Oliver R. Brown  
 22 x 78 or 46 x 100 including portions  
 of Bond and Port Deposit (Churchville Rd.)
- 134/48                    1 May 1911  
 Joseph T. Deckman & Florida, wife  
                               to  
 Harry D. Hanway
- 127/409                   13 December 1909  
 Harry D. Hanway & Hazel, wife  
                               to  
 Joseph Deckman  
 96' on Bond x 127' on Port Deposit
- 102/125                   2 April 1901  
 William O. Davis, trustee  
                               to  
 Harry D. Hanway  
 \$4500  
 Lot #13 on the Original Plat of Bel Air,  
 Davis was a complaintant in Davis vs.  
 Smith (equity 57/61). Isaac Amos, owner  
 of the lot, had mortgaged it to Amos Spencer  
 for \$300. Amos's store was on the northeast  
 corner of the lot. He died March 4, 1899,  
 and Mrs. Amos died in January 1901. Neither  
 estate was sufficient to pay the debts, so  
 the property was sued to sale.
- 18/319                    8 April 1867  
 Stevenson Archer, trustee, Jane Archer, wife,  
 and Nathan Dean  
                               to  
 Isaac Amos  
 Lot #13 had been the property of N.W.S.  
 Hays, brother to merchant Thomas Hays.

NA-1389.

BEL AIR, H. Co.  
Gen. file

ABOS SEP 20 1979



**SCHEDULED FOR DEMOLITION**—The Fire Marshal has determined this home at the intersection of Bond street and Churchville road in Bel Air is a safety hazard and should be razed.

*Bel Air*

# Fire Marshal Condemns House, Will Be Razed

## *Future Use Of Lot Is Uncertain*

The Town of Bel Air has condemned an old house at the busy intersection of Churchville road and Bond street.

The Fire Marshal's office has

inspected the site and declared it a hazard. Town Administrator William N. McFaul said this week.

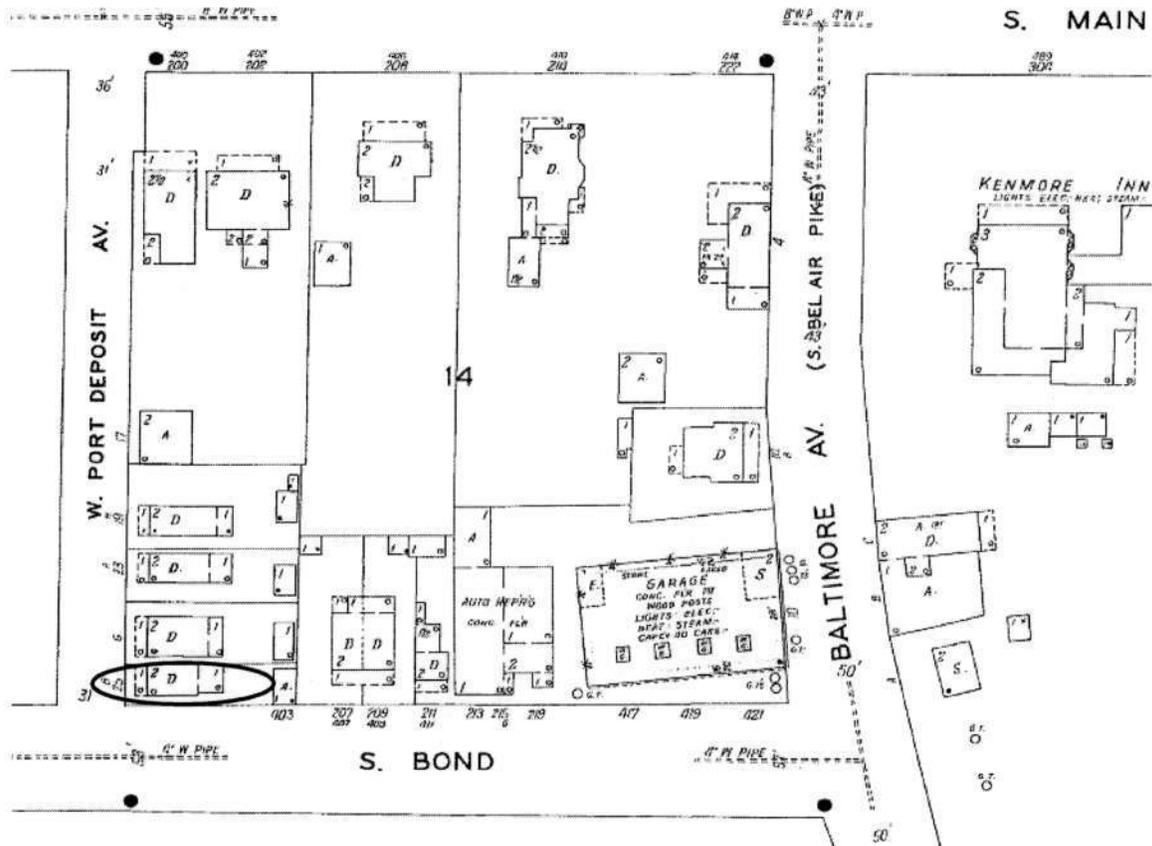
He said the now-vacant house will be razed in the near future.

Plans for the small lot are unknown. "We might be able to use it for parking," the Town Administrator suggested, "but I think it is going to be too small."

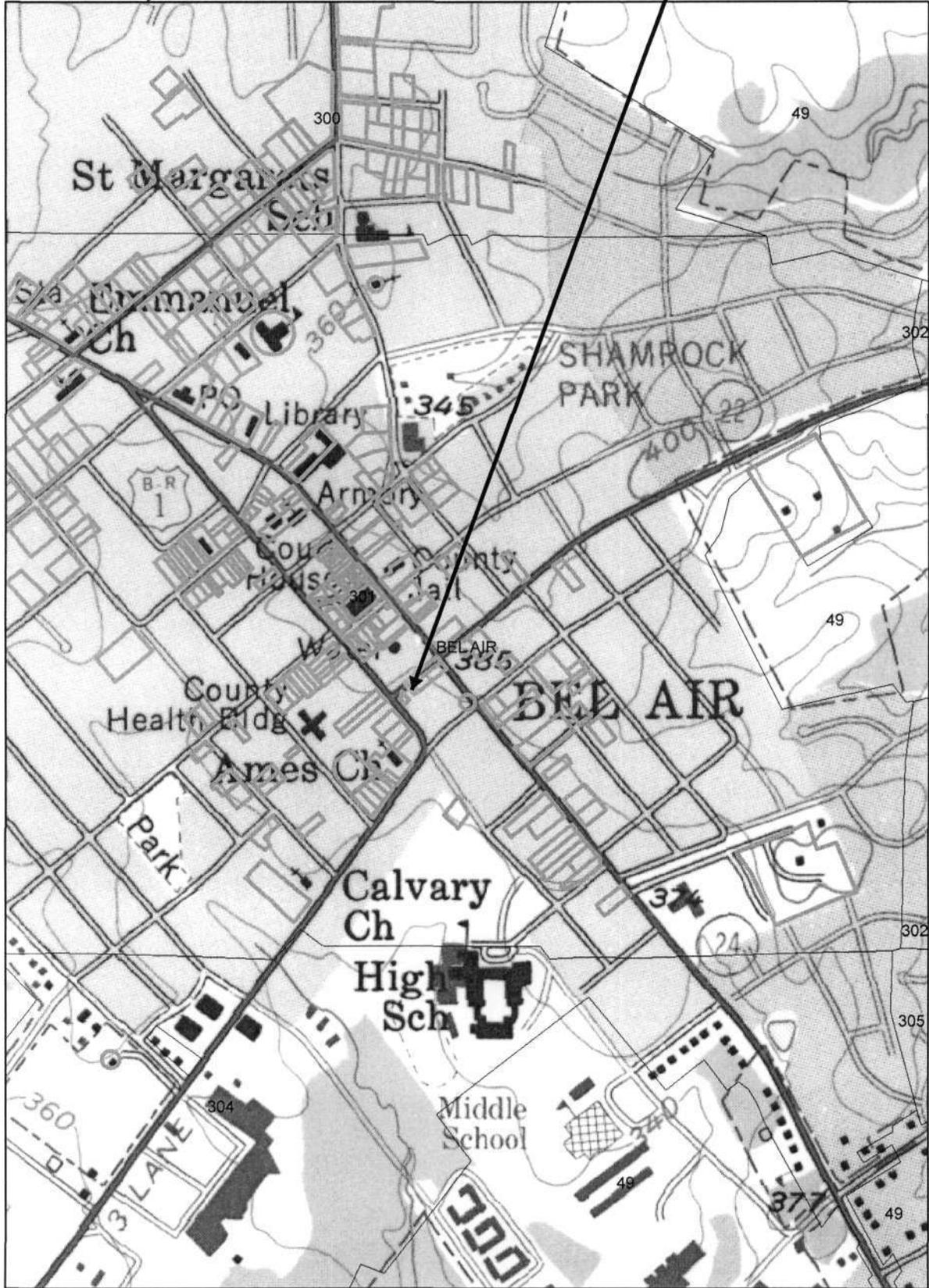
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HA-1389  
Oliver Brown House  
25 W. Churchville Rd.  
Bel Air  
Sanborn Bel Air Aug. 1930  
Harford County



HA-1389  
Oliver Brown House  
Churchville Road  
Bel Air  
Bel Air Quad  
Harford County





HA-1389

Oliver Brown House, 25 W. Churchville, Bel Air  
N+W elev  
M. Larew, 1979