

HA-14104

1911-1912

Evans-Greer House
210 Hall Street
Bel Air
private

This large and handsome stone Colonial Revival house was designed by architect Charles McDowell for John Evans, cashier of the Harford National Bank. It was the centerpiece of a 14 acre country estate. It is an extraordinarily formal and imposing house for what were then the Bel Air suburbs. The front and side porches, now in bad shape, were particularly fine as was the Paladian window over the front entrance.

ADDENDA (May 1990)

Evans-Greer House
210 Hall Street
HA-1414

Paragraph 1

1) Change Line 2 to read: "Constructed of stone rubble with Roman stone quoins, window lintels and sills, and a **composition shingle** roof . . . "

2) Change Line 5 to read: "Three classical dormers pierce the roof plane front and back. Five of these gable-roofed dormers with **aluminum-clad** sides, a full pediment and fluted pilasters have 8/1 double-hung sash windows."

3) Change Line 11 to read: "A thin modillioned cornice on the front and rear elevations is called for in the plans, **but was either never executed or has been removed.**" Delete the next sentence referring to the surveyor's inability to get close to the house.

Paragraph 2

1) Change Line 10 to read: "Exceptions are the two ground floor windows in the front elevation which have a pair of 10 pane casements topped by a **1-pane transom and the second story center window in the west (rear) elevation which is a repeat of the triplet in the dormer above it.**"

Paragraph 3

1) Make the following changes beginning on Line 5 and make it a new paragraph: "The rear elevation is the most complex of the four. As it was built the elevation was three bays with the strong triplet windows in the center bay of the second and third stories and a 4/1 window (n) and a gable hooded rear door (s) on the first story. **Today, some of these windows have been changed to casement windows.** A single story hipped-roof ell was built in the north bay of this elevation. It had one bay on the north and one 6/1 window and a 4 panel door on the west. **Today, the ell has been raised to a full two-stories. The ell features a greenhouse window on the first floor, north elevation.** A shed roof sun porch (mentioned in the plans as "future") was added to the rear of the house some years ago. **Other changes to the rear included a frame addition with two bow windows on its west elevation. Today, the west elevation features a one-story, vinyl-weatherboarded rear addition which appears to serve as a sun room. This room has triple windows flush with the building's surface. Above the sun room is a second-story deck.**"

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Evans-Greer House
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
210 Hall Street

1st

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Richard F. Lawson

Telephone #: 879-8851

STREET & NUMBER
210 Hall Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 967
Folio #: 107

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE
Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This elegant two and a half story Georgian Revival house is at 210 Hall Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. Constructed of stone rubble with Roman stone quoins, window lintels and sills, and a slate roof, the house has exquisite balance and proportions. Two massive stone chimneys rise astride the roof ridge in the south and north bays. Three classical dormers pierce the roof plane front and back. Five of these gable-roofed dormers with shingle sides, a full pediment and fluted pilasters have 6/1 double-hung sash windows. The sixth, in the middle bay of the rear elevation, is much larger and has three windows, a middle 6/1 and flanking narrow 4/1. It lights the landing of the staircase leading to the third floor. The north and south gables have staggered wooden shingles and a pair 6/1 windows. A thin modillioned cornice on the front and rear elevations is called for in the plans. The surveyor could not get close enough to the house to see if the modillion is there. The pictures show a cornice on all three elevations visible.

The front (east) elevation has three bays. The center and most important elevation shows a Palladian window set in a Roman stone segmental arch with plaster above and below. The main entrance is directly under the Palladian window. An 8 pane transom tops a pair of 4 panel doors. The single story front porch with deck is carried on two pairs of wooden Doric columns (or should be - they have been removed, possibly for repairs). The deck balustrade has vase turned balusters. The rest of the windows have Roman stone lintels and sills, and there is a Roman stone water course above the slightly raised stone foundation, according to the plans. The water course is obscured by foundation planting. Major windows are 8/1. Exceptions are the two ground floor windows in the front elevation which have a pair of 10 pane casements topped by a transom which looks like one pane in the picture but is supposed to be 4 pane in the plan, and the second story center window in the west (rear) elevation which is a repeat of the triplet in the dormer above it. Hung low, it lights the stair landing.

The north side elevation is regularly three bayed. The south elevation has a three bay single story porch carried on clusters of Doric columns. It has a balustrade around the deck which matches the one on the front porch. The middle bay of this elevation has a door on each level composed of a pair of 10 pane casements and 4 pane transoms. The rear elevation is the most complex of the four. It shows considerable movement. As it was built the elevation was three bay with the strong triplet windows in the center bay of the second and third stories and a 4/1 window (n) and a gable hooded rear door (s) on the first story. A single story hipped-roofed ell was built in the north bay of this elevation. It had one bay on the north and one 6/1 window and a 4 panel door on the west. This ell is the kitchen. A shed roof sun porch (mentioned in the plans as "future") has been added to the sun porch and a single frame addition with two bow windows on its west elevation has been added to the southern two bays of the first story rear.

One cannot be sure the house was built according to the plans. The only exterior element changed was the center dormer on the rear which was designed to have a lunette in the gable. One cannot be sure about the modillion on the cornice. The description of the interior that follows is based on the linen working floor plans which were probably final. The livingroom-diningroom fireplaces and chimney stack have been changed from the original corner fireplaces to center fireplaces. (The change is sketched in red pencil on the blue print.) Nothing can be said

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

NA-1414

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1911-1912 Contractor: Albert Webber
~~XXXXXXXX~~ ARCHITECT Charles McDowell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This elegant Georgian Revival house-clearly a "gentleman's seat" - was built by John Evans as 14 acres he leased from Richard Dallam in Dallam's Second Addition (117/114), 1905). It was designed by architect Charles McDowell of Port Deposit, Maryland. The contractor was Albert Webber. It was apparently built in 1911-1912, because the Aegis for July 19, 1912, announces that John Evans had moved into his new house. John Evans was the cashier of the Harford National Bank in Bel Air; he also sold insurance. The house is unusual in Bel Air for several reasons. Bel Air citizens built frame houses, no matter how rich and prominent they were. In 1912 they were still building Queen Anne houses. Only two houses were built of brick, after the turn of the 20th century. Stone was not used for some reason. This house was built in the then extremely fashionable Georgian Revival style and is more closely related to the Kelly Mansion built west of Bel Air by Dr. Howard Kelly, one of the Big Four at Johns Hopkins Medical School, than it is to the rest of Bel Air architecture. The restrained but sumptuous elegance of the house was set off by plantings by Andorra Nurseries of Chestnut Hill, PA. This Classically beautiful home was to be the center of a 14 acre estate in what was then a suburb of Bel Air. It was complete with barn-garage, kitchen gardens to the west and a paddock to the northwest. All but about 2½ acres have since been developed and a one and a half story gate-house which with classical, gothic, and Greek revival elements has been built by the rear drive. The present owner refused to allow the surveyor to visit the premises, and photographing from the street was complicated by an attack on the surveyor by the family dogs. It amounted to "snap and leave", preventing any view of the barn. By a fortuitous stroke of good luck, a mass of architect's drawings was salvaged from the attic of the soon to be demolished Harford National Bank Building. They proved to be plans for three separate houses drawn for Mr. Evans, including McDowell's plans for the house actually built, plans of a house he like in Pennsylvania, and plans for a Georgian Revival house by Alfred Cookman Leach of Baltimore. Evans must have spent several thousand dollars before the cellar was dug. Indeed, it appears that expenditures for the estate seriously strained Evans' exchequer, especially if he lived in the baronial style the plans suggest. In 1922 the Harford Bank and others sued Evans (equity 121/182). According to the pleadings, the bank held \$30,000 worth of Evans' notes, a large sum for the times and one that suggests less than conservative lending policies on the part of that institution, one of the two Bel Air banks not to survive the Great Depression. It is extraordinarily bad policy to let the man who was the chief paid officer of the bank borrow that much. (The president of the bank was its chief executive but was not a paid or full-time employee.) In March 1922, Stevenson A. Williams, the court-appointed trustee, sold the premises, the lease, and the fee simple to

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #16 in the Town of Bel Air, 2.61A.

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

STATE	COUNTY	"
STATE	COUNTY	"

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

24 November 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

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

about woodwork. According to the plans it was to be elaborately classical, but the plans are not labeled, and one cannot be sure to which set of architect's plans they belong.

The house has a full, slightly raised basement. The whole house has a balanced center hall plan. On entering the hall, the viewer sees the double-run staircase at the rear rising along the north wall. It appears to have a square newel. To the right (north) is the parlor with a large fireplace in the west wall. To the left (south) is the livingroom with a fireplace in the west wall. Behind (west of) the parlor is the "den" with no fireplace, apparently. Behind the livingroom is the diningroom with a fireplace in the east wall. West of the main block in the ell is a service passage and the kitchen and pantry. There are also two porches, one from the service passage and one from the kitchen. On this plan the west two-thirds of the south porch is marked "future conservatory". The service stair appears to rise, enclosed, to the north of the main staircase.

The second floor has a central hall off of which open five bedrooms and a bath. The southeast and northeast chambers have fireplaces. The southeast and southwest chambers have built-in closets (unusual). The third floor has four chambers, a center hall and a large store room.

This house was probably the most commodious, sophisticated, and expensive house built in the vicinity up to that time (with the exception of the Kelly mansion).

Frederick W. Eckels of Baltimore City (176/475). Eckels sold it all to Grover C. Greer and his wife Annie in 1935 (237/47). After living there for 34 years, Mr. Greer sold it to the present owner, Richard F. Lawson in 1969 (833/531).

Mr. Lawson claims to be redecorating. Even from the street it is clear that the house needs work. The front porch pillars have been removed and the rest of the woodwork is in bad shape. Still, it is a handsome house, outside Bel Air's architectural experience, and one that had little influence, seemingly, in Bel Air's architectural future which ran to bungalows, Neo-classical frame boxes, and ultimately, ranchers.

TITLE: 210 Hall

967/107 10 February 1975
Miyoko A. Lawson
 to
Richard F. Lawson, Her husband
quit-claim to 3 parcels. this is #1

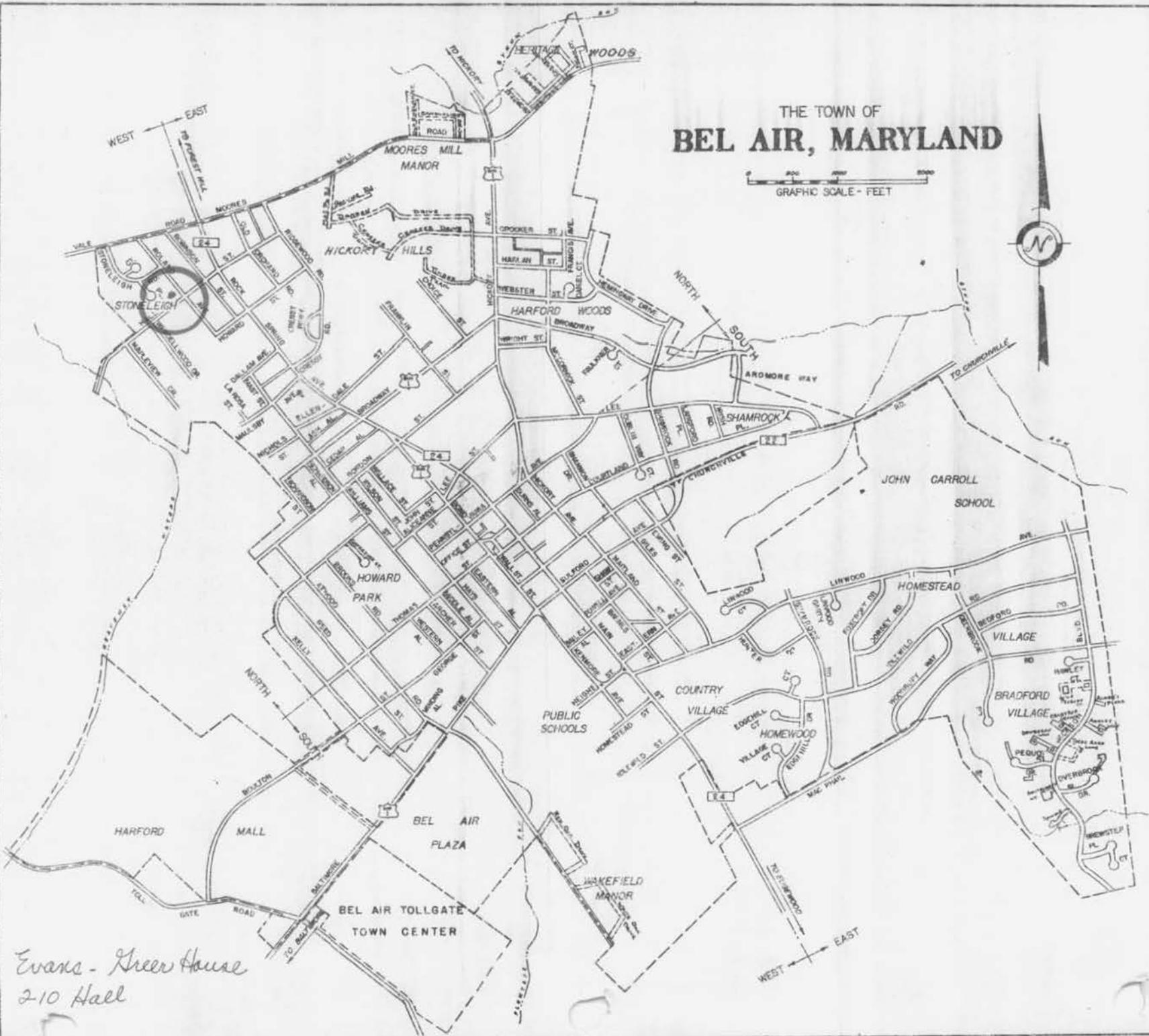
833/531 15 December 1969
Grover C. Greer, widower
 to
Richard F. Lawson & Miyoko

237/47 23 April 1935
Frederick W. Eckels et al
 to
Grover C. Green & Annie
S. A. Williams was Trustee in Harford
Bank of Bel Air vs John A. Evans et al
1922 Williams sold the property to Eckels
(176/475, March 16, 1922)

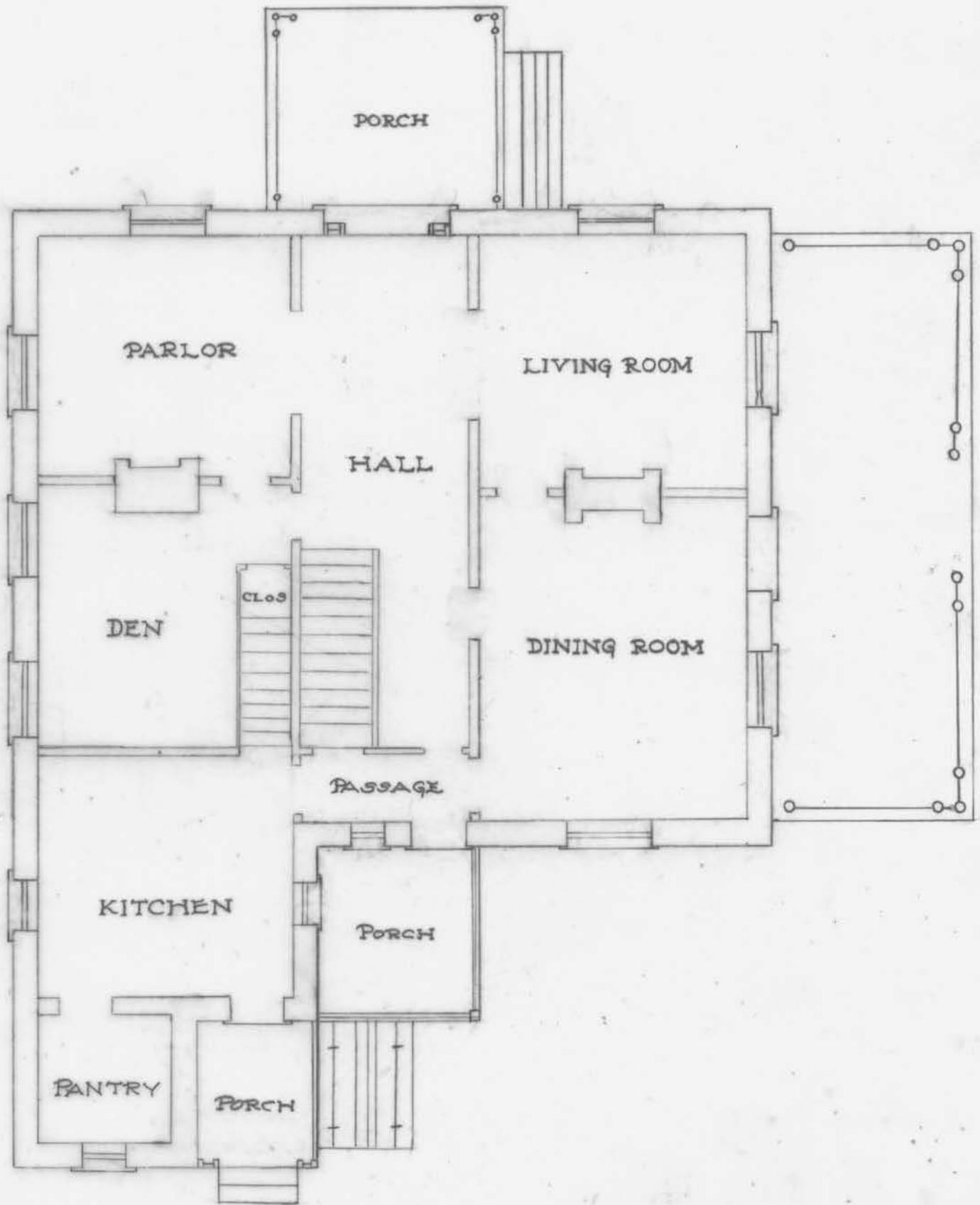
the lease
117/114 21 July 1905
Richard Dallam & Josephine
 to
John A. Evans
14 acres

the fee simple
176/475 16 March 1922
S. A. Williams, Trustee
 to
Frederick W. Eckels of Baltimore City
Mary W. Nelson conveyed the property
to Charles A. Hollingsworth, executor
of the will of Lois P. Hollingsworth,
February 28, 1908, subject to the lease to
John Evans. Hollingsworth died and S. A.
Williams became the new Trustee to convey
to Eckels

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND



HA-1414
Evans - Greer House
210 Hall





HA-1414

Evans-Creer House, 210 Hall St., Bel Air
w + s elev + rear gate posts
M. Lorent, 1979



HA-1414

Evans-Green House, 210 Hall St, Bellair
front gate posts, looking N.
M. Larew, 1979



HA- 1414

Evans-Dreer House, 210 Hall St, Bel Air
gate house, looking w
M. Larew, 1979



HA-1414

Evans-Green House, 210 Hall St, Bel Air
s + e elev

M. Larew, 1979