

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FORM**

NR Eligible: yes
no

Property Name: First Presbyterian Church Inventory Number: HA-1437
 Address: 224 North Main Street City: Bel Air Zip Code: 21014
 County: Harford USGS Topographic Map: Bel Air
 Owner: First Presbyterian Church of Bel Air Is the property being evaluated a district? yes
 Tax Parcel Number: 479 Tax Map Number: 301 Tax Account ID Number: 008592
 Project: MD-924 Bel Air Streetscape Project Agency: SHA
 Site visit by MHT staff: no yes Name: _____ Date: _____
 Is the property located within a historic district? yes no

If the property is within a district District Inventory Number: _____
 NR-listed district yes Eligible district yes Name of District: _____
 Preparer's Recommendation: Contributing resource yes no Non-contributing but eligible in another context yes

If the property is not within a district (or the property is a district) Preparer's Recommendation: Eligible yes no

Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None

Documentation on the property/district is presented in:
 MIHP Form

Description of Property and Eligibility Determination: *(Use continuation sheet if necessary and attach map and photo)*

Facing northeast, the First Presbyterian Church is located on the west side of the street near the intersection of North Main Street and Broadway. The manse (HA-1438) sits on the north edge of the property. A service road runs parallel to the south elevation of the church and leads to rear of the building.

This Gothic Revival church has a cruciform plan and is constructed of coursed stone. It is capped with a steeply-pitched cross gable roof of alternating rows of fish scale and square-but slate shingles. The front (east) elevation is flanked by a bell tower on the north and an entrance vestibule on the south. The buttressed bell tower has a broached spire with slender gable-roofed dormers containing louvered panels on each of its eight sides. The spire is topped with a weathervane. An entrance with a pointed arch is located on the north side of the tower. The vestibule on the south side of the front elevation is angled between the arms created by the cross-like shape of the church. It has a gabled roof that rises to a steep pitch over the pointed-arched doorway.

The north, east, and south elevations contain single, narrow pointed-arched windows with stone stills and flushed smooth stone lintels. The stained glass windows are composed of three lancets topped with a circular light. A rose window is located in the west gable.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended Eligibility not recommended
 Criteria: A B C D Considerations: A B C D E F G None
 MHT Comments

Jim Ta... ✓
 Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

8/2/2005
 Date

...
 Reviewer, NR Program

8/2/05
 Date

Several additions are located on the rear of the building. Abutting the original church is a stone gable-roofed addition constructed in 1894. The addition originally held the Sunday school. It was enlarged in 1929 to include offices, nursery, meeting rooms, and a kitchen. This hipped-roof addition was expanded in 1951. An education wing was added west of the church in 1967 and further additions were made in 2003.

The interior of the church was renovated after a 1936 fire and was restored to the original plans. The chancel, originally located in the western arm of the church, is now located in the eastern arm and is separated by an altar rail. A pipe organ, located in the chancel, obscures the window on the east wall. The pews of the church curve toward the center aisle. The exposed rafter ceiling exhibits large trusses located in each arm of the cross-like plan with center pendants. The western wall of the church is open and leads to the rear additions. It was removed in 1960 to double the seating capacity of the sanctuary. At this time, the chancel was reoriented to the east, the choir loft was removed, and the organ was installed.

This Gothic Revival church, built in 1881, was one of the first architect-designed buildings to be erected in Bel Air. The church was designed by Bel Air architect George Archer, who also designed the Harford National Bank (HA-1243) and the First National Bank (HA-1462). The Smith Brothers of Baltimore served as the builder. A fire on March 11, 1936 gutted the interior of the church and it was reconstructed to Archer's original plans. Even as a 1936 reconstruction, the wooden truss ceiling is the finest example in Bel Air.

The Presbyterian congregation is the second oldest congregation in Bel Air, the Methodist congregation being the first. The Presbyterian congregation was established in 1852 and built its first church on Pennsylvania Avenue (HA-238) in the same year. By the 1870s, the congregation had grown considerably and decided to construct a new, larger church on Main Street. The church property has been expanded several times throughout its history to house the continuously growing congregation.

Platted in 1780, the town of Bel Air originally consisted of forty-two lots, laid out on either side of Main Street. Despite its inland location, Bel Air was selected as the county seat in 1882. The Bel Air Courthouse, constructed in 1888, became the anchor of South Main Street, spurring development along the thoroughfare. Gradually, Main Street became concentrated with commercial buildings and served as the center of commerce for the area. Although cross street names along Main Street have changed over time, the original alignment of Main Street and its intersections remain identical to the late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth century town plans. Main Street continues to function as the commercial district of Bel Air.

The First Presbyterian Church property, home to the second oldest congregation in Bel Air, is significant to the context of religious development of the community of Bel Air since its first establishment in 1852. Therefore it is eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the First Presbyterian Church is not eligible under Criterion B. With its Gothic Revival architecture, the church embodies late-nineteen-century ecclesiastic architecture. As one of the first architect-designed structures in Bel Air it also possesses high artistic value. The interior reconfiguration and its subsequent additions do not detract from its original context or design. Therefore, the church is eligible under Criterion C. The First Presbyterian Church was not evaluated under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been determined that the First Presbyterian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

The recommended National Register boundary for the First Presbyterian Church at 224 N. Main Street is tax parcel 479 on tax parcel map 301. The National Register Boundary extends to the existing sidewalk on Main Street. Justification for this is that

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST REVIEW

Eligibility recommended _____ Eligibility not recommended _____

Criteria: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D Considerations: ___ A ___ B ___ C ___ D ___ E ___ F ___ G ___ None

MHT Comments

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Date

Reviewer, NR Program

Date

NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

First Presbyterian Church

Inventory Number: HA-1437

Page 3

the sidewalk is part of the streetscape of the commercial core rather than the historic context of this property.

Prepared by: EHT Traceries

Date Prepared: 3/15/2005

First Presbyterian Church (HA-1437)
224 North Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland
Surveyed by EHT Tracerics, Inc.
March 15, 2005

ADDENDUM

The property at 224 North Main Street was surveyed by staff from EHT Tracerics, Inc. in March 2005 in response to a request made by the Maryland State Highway Administration for purposes relating to the MD-924 Streetscape Project.

Section 4: Owner

First Presbyterian Church
224 North Main Street
Bel Air
Maryland
Harford County

Section 7: Description

Facing northeast, the First Presbyterian Church is located on the west side of the street near the intersection of North Main Street and Broadway. The manse (HA-1438) sits on the north edge of the property. A service road runs parallel to the south elevation of the church and leads to rear of the building.

This Gothic Revival church has a cruciform plan and is constructed of coursed stone. It is capped with a steeply-pitched cross gable roof of alternating rows of fish scale and square-butt slate shingles. The front (east) elevation is flanked by a bell tower on the north and an entrance vestibule on the south. The buttressed bell tower has a broached spire with slender gable-roofed dormers containing louvered panels on each of its eight sides. The spire is topped with a weathervane. An entrance with a pointed arch is located on the north side of the tower. The vestibule on the south side of the front elevation is angled between the arms created by the cross-like shape of the church. It has a gabled roof that rises to a steep pitch over the pointed-arched doorway.

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Several additions are located on the rear of the building. Abutting the original church is a stone gable-roofed addition constructed in 1894. The addition originally held the Sunday school. It was enlarged in 1929 to include offices, nursery, meeting rooms, and a kitchen. This hipped-roof addition was expanded in 1951. An education wing was added west of the church in 1967 and further additions were made in 2003.

ADDENDUM

First Presbyterian Church (HA-1437)
224 North Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland
Surveyed by EHT Tracerics, Inc.
March 15, 2005

The interior of the church was renovated after a 1936 fire and was restored to the original plans. The chancel, originally located in the western arm of the church, is now located in the eastern arm and is separated by an altar rail. A pipe organ, located in the chancel, obscures the window on the east wall. The pews of the church curve toward the center aisle. The exposed rafter ceiling exhibits large trusses located in each arm of the cross-like plan with center pendants. The western wall of the church is open and leads to the rear additions. It was removed in 1960 to double the seating capacity of the sanctuary. At this time, the chancel was reoriented to the east, the choir loft was removed, and the organ was installed.

Section 8: Significance

This Gothic Revival church, built in 1881, was one of the first architect-designed buildings to be erected in Bel Air. The church was designed by Bel Air architect George Archer, who also designed the Harford National Bank (HA-1243) and the First National Bank (HA-1462). The Smith Brothers of Baltimore served as the builder. A fire on March 11, 1936 gutted the interior of the church and it was reconstructed to Archer's original plans. Even as a 1936 reconstruction, the wooden truss ceiling is the finest example in Bel Air.

The Presbyterian congregation is the second oldest congregation in Bel Air, the Methodist congregation being the first. The Presbyterian congregation was established in 1852 and built its first church on Pennsylvania Avenue (HA-238) in the same year. By the 1870s, the congregation had grown considerably and decided to construct a new, larger church on Main Street. The church property has been expanded several times throughout its history to house the continuously growing congregation.

Platted in 1780, the town of Bel Air originally consisted of forty-two lots, laid out on either side of Main Street. Despite its inland location, Bel Air was selected as the county seat in 1882. The Bel Air Courthouse, constructed in 1888, became the anchor of South Main Street, spurring development along the thoroughfare. Gradually, Main Street became concentrated with commercial buildings and served as the center of commerce for the area. Although cross street names along Main Street have changed over time, the original alignment of Main Street and its intersections remain identical to the late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth century town plans. Main Street continues to function as the commercial district of Bel Air.

The First Presbyterian Church property, home to the second oldest congregation in Bel Air, is significant to the context of religious development of the community of Bel Air since its first establishment in 1852. Therefore it is eligible under Criterion A. The property is not associated with any person or group of persons of outstanding importance to the community, state, or nation. Therefore, the First Presbyterian Church is not

ADDENDUM

First Presbyterian Church (HA-1437)
224 North Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland
Surveyed by EHT Tracerics, Inc.
March 15, 2005

eligible under Criterion B. With its Gothic Revival architecture, the church embodies late-nineteen-century ecclesiastic architecture. As one of the first architect-designed structures in Bel Air it also possesses high artistic value. The interior reconfiguration and its subsequent additions do not detract from its original context or design. Therefore, the church is eligible under Criterion C. The First Presbyterian Church was not evaluated under Criterion D. Therefore, it has been determined that the First Presbyterian Church is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

The manse (HA-1438) and the church create a religious context and represent the religious development of the town of Bel Air. However, it has been determined that the Presbyterian Manse at North Main Street and Broadway is not individually eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, or C. Therefore, the Bel Air Presbyterian church and manse are recommended eligible as a property containing two contributing resources under Criterion A.

Section 10: Geographical Data

The recommended National Register boundary for the First Presbyterian Church at 224 N. Main Street is tax parcel 479 on tax parcel map 301. The National Register Boundary extends to the existing sidewalk on Main Street. Justification for this is that the sidewalk is part of the streetscape of the commercial core rather than the historic context of this property.

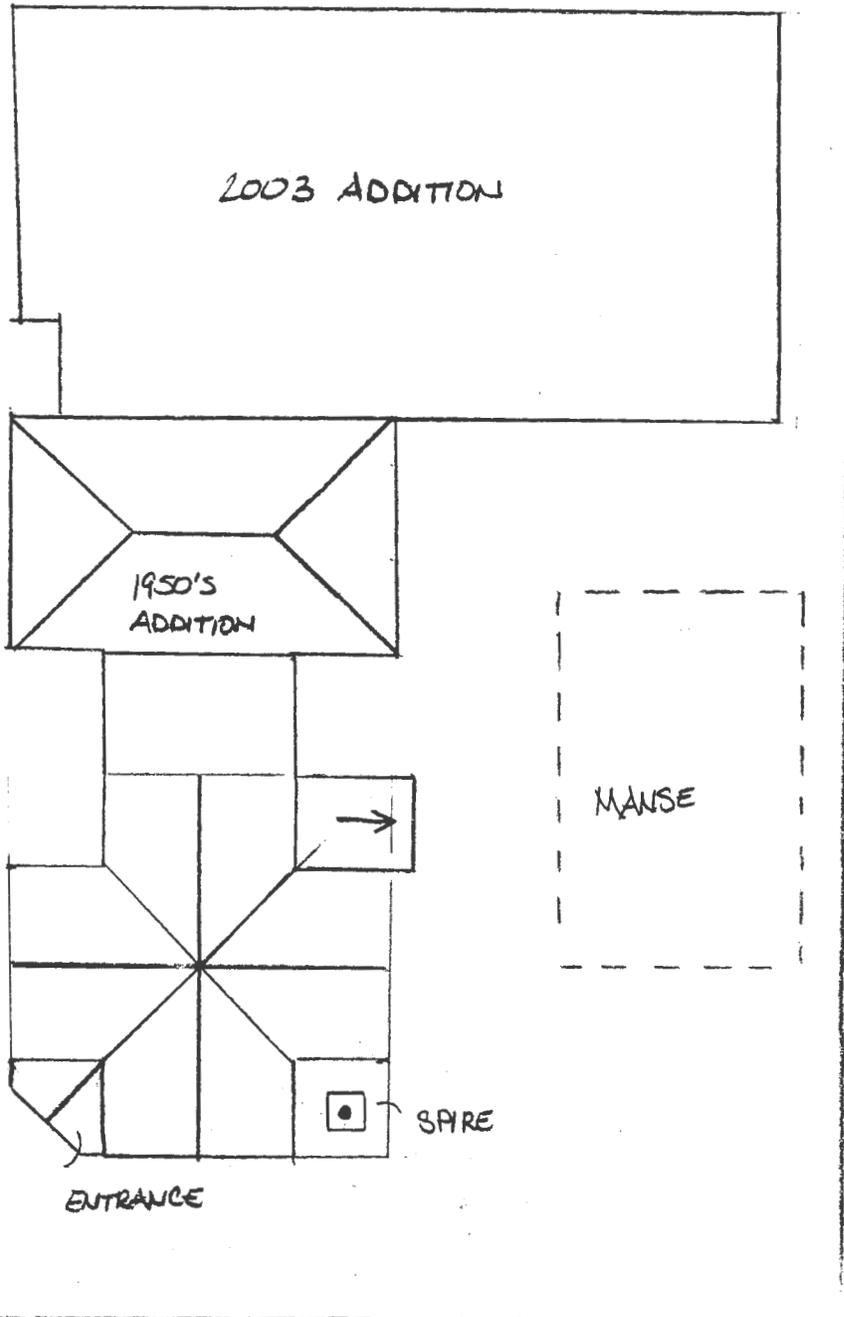
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

HA-1437

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

BEL AIR

HARFORD COUNTY

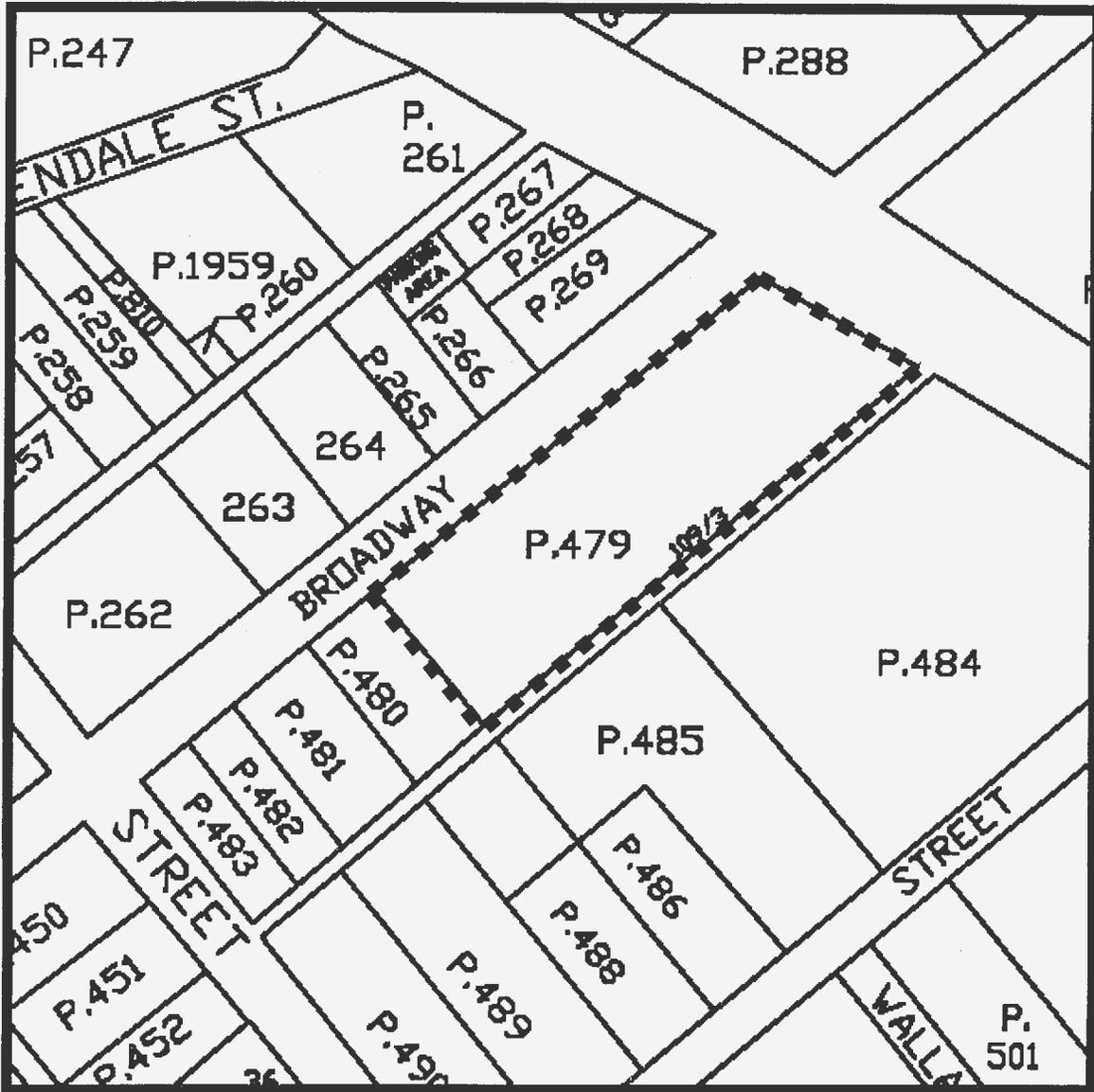


N. MAIN ST.

BROADWAY



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



National Register Eligible Boundary
 First Presbyterian Church (HA-1437)
 First Presbyterian Manse (HA-1438)
 Harford County, MD: Bel Air

The National Register Boundary extends to the existing sidewalk on Main Street. Justification for this is that the sidewalk is part of the streetscape of the commercial core rather than the historic context of this property.



HA-1437
First Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD
EHT Traceries, Inc.
3/2005
MD SHPO
Southeast corner
Photo 1 of 11



HA-1437

First Presbyterian Church

124 North Main Street

Harford County, MD

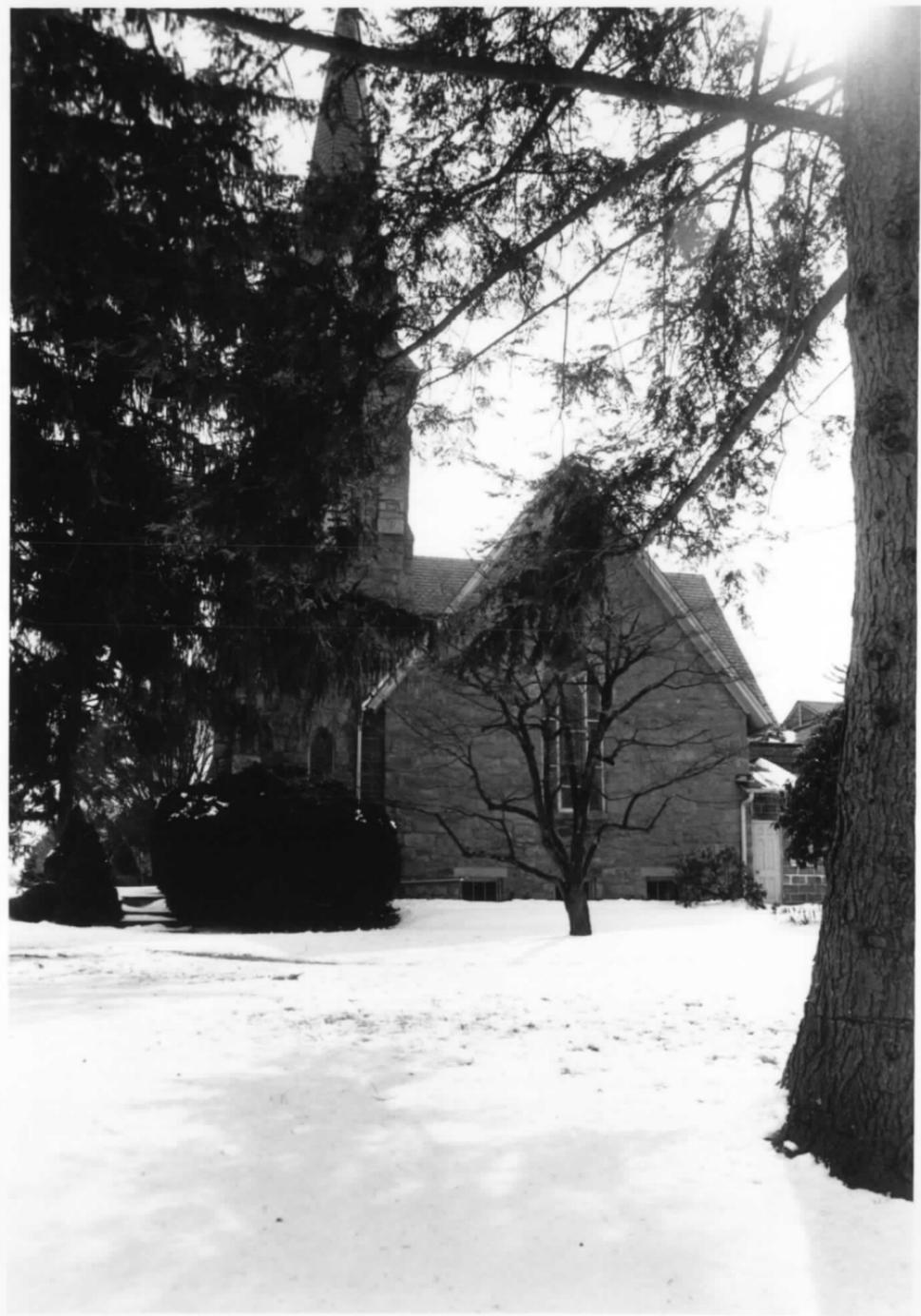
EHT Tracerics, Inc

3/2005

MD SHP3

Detail of front elevation

Photo 2 of 11



HA-1437
First Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD
EHT Traceries, Inc.
3/2005
MD SHPO
North elevation
Photo 3 of 11



HA-1437

First Presbyterian Church

124 North Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc

3/2005

MD SHPO

North elevation, looking southwest

Photo 4 of 11



HA-1437

First Presbyterian Church

124 North Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc.

3/2005

MD SHPO

North elevation, looking southeast

Photo 5 of 11



HA-1437
FIRST Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD
EHT Traccies, Inc
3/2075
MD SHPO
North elevation (addition)
Photo 6 of 11



HA-1437
First Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD
EHT Traceries, Inc.
3/28/75
MD SHPO
South Levation
Photo 7 of 11



HA-1437
First Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD
EAT Traccies, Inc

3/2075

MD SHPO

Detail of east wall
Photo 8 of 11



HA-1437
First Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD
EHT Traverries, Inc
3/2005
MD SHPO
Detail of east wall
Photo 9 of 11



HA-1437
First Presbyterian Church
124 North Main Street
Harford County, MD

EHT Traverries, Inc.

3/2005

MD SHPO

Detail of southeast corner

Photo 10 of 11



HA-1437

First Presbyterian Church

124 North Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc

3/2005

MD SHPS

Northeast corner

Photo 11 of 11

HA-1437

1881; 1936

First Presbyterian Church
Main Street & Broadway
Bel Air
private

Designed by Bel Air favorite architect, George Archer, the First Presbyterian Church is yet another treatment of the Gothic Revival, the style the 19th century regarded as "the only proper style" for a Christian church. Cruciform, with four steeply pitched gables, a north entrance tower with a broached spire, an entrance porch tucked between the east and south arms, and a small rose window in the west gable, this church is a building at once elegant and cosy, a reverent expression of faith. In comparison to the Emmanuel Episcopal Church diagonally across the intersection, this church seems quintessentially Gothic, while the other has an almost Romanesque earth-bound quality relieved only by the aspiration of the perpendicular windows and the somewhat stubby bell tower. Both are urbane, however, in comparison to the carpenter gothic of Ames Methodist Church or of St. Margaret's Chapel. The church has been added to at various times. It burned in 1936 and was rebuilt using the original blueprints as a guide. The timber truss roof is particularly interesting.

This is the second church built by this congregation. The other is the Greek Revival temple on E. Pennsylvania Avenue.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

First Presbyterian Church

AND/OR COMMON

First Presbyterian Church

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street and Broadway

1st

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

___STRUCTURE

___SITE

___OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___PUBLIC

PRIVATE

___BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___IN PROCESS

___BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

___UNOCCUPIED

___WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

___YES: UNRESTRICTED

___NO

PRESENT USE

___AGRICULTURE

___COMMERCIAL

___EDUCATIONAL

___ENTERTAINMENT

___GOVERNMENT

___INDUSTRIAL

___MILITARY

___MUSEUM

___PARK

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

___SCIENTIFIC

___TRANSPORTATION

___OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Trustees of the First Presbyterian Church

Telephone #: 838-5778

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street and Broadway

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 #: 42

Folio #: 59

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This cross-shaped Gothic Revival Church of coursed stone is one door south of the southwest corner of North Main and West Broadway in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It was originally in the shape of a Greek cross, but it has grown in a westerly direction as time passed, as the photos of the north and south sides show. The steeply sloped roof is of slate, in alternating rows of fish scale and rectangular slates. The front (east) arm of the cross is flanked on the north by a buttressed bell tower with an attenuated broached spire having slender gable roofed dormers with louvers in four of its eight faces. The spire is topped by a weather vane. There is a pointed arched entrance in the east side of the tower. It has a smooth stone drip mold reaching halfway down the surround and a recessed pair of double panelled oak doors. Another entrance is tucked in between the east and south arms of the cross. It has its own roof which rises to a steep point over the door which is, like its twin in the bell tower, recessed in a pointed-arch surround with a smooth drip mold.

North, east, and south elevations have single pointed arch windows with smooth flush drip mold. The stained glass windows are composed of three lancets topped by a circle. The west elevation, partially obscured by a lower addition, has a small rose window in the gable. The windows in the sides of the cross away from the street are narrower single lancets, one to each side.

Behind the original block (to the west) is a T-shaped addition, also of coursed stone and having a longitudinal gable roof with a hipped roof on the T. The stone work is courser than that of the original building. Like the main building, the T has pointed-arch window and door surrounds with drip molds, also of courser construction. The doors are panelled oak. The windows, while of stained glass, are double hung sash.

Behind (west of) the T is another three bay addition of plastered, cinder block. This addition is hip-roofed and vaguely colonial in style, since two round-headed ventilator dormers break the south slope of the roof. A gable roofed porch on double plain square posts shelters the door in the middle bay of the south elevation. The north elevation has two porches, both with hipped roofs on square posts with balustrades at the sides since they are four steps off the ground. One shelters a door in the west face of the T. The other is in the middle bay of the addition. All windows are four pane casements given are ecclesiastical (and Gothic) look with leaded glass.

Steps to the basement level go down parallel to the north elevation just west of the porch. Two stove chimneys rise, one in the north arm of the T and the other just west of the south arm of the T.

The interior of the sanctuary has been recently remodelled (see #8) and since the church burned in 1936, this is not the original interior anyway, but the Church was rebuilt to the original plans, so it must

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
<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		

SPECIFIC DATES 1881; 1936 Architect: George Archer
 BUILDER/ ~~ARCHITECT~~: Smith Bros. of Baltimore

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This charming stone Gothic Revival Church was one of the first architect designed buildings in Bel Air. Indeed, after the 1858 section of the courthouse, it was the first designed by an architect rather than a master builder. It was designed by Bel Air's favorite architect, Harford Countian George Archer, who also designed the Harford National and the First National Bank Buildings. The structure burned on March 11, 1936, with only the stone walls left. The church promptly rebuilt using the original Archer plans. The wooden truss ceiling, while a 1936 copy, is the finest in Town and will be the only one in Town after the old Masonic Temple is demolished to make way for the courthouse addition.

The original church, a Greek Cross structure, was constructed in 1881 by Smith Brothers of Baltimore (formerly of Harford) at a cost of \$6,255. The foundation walls, done in the fall of 1880, had to be rebuilt the following spring. Joshua Wann was superintendent of works.

When the building was restored in 1936, it cost \$33,000, over five times the original cost.

In 1894 the lecture room to the west of the original sanctuary was built, also in stone, at a cost of \$2000. In 1929 a T was built across the back of the lecture room, and this was extended in 1953. In 1960 the wall between the sanctuary and the lecture room was removed and replaced by a folding curtain to double the seating capacity of the sanctuary. At that time the chancel which had been in the west arm of the cross was reoriented. The choir loft was removed and a new organ installed in the chancel. The choir is now behind the relocated pulpit.

In 1967 a new, separate, education building was constructed west of the church.

The Presbyterian congregation is, after the Methodists, the oldest in Bel Air. Itinerant preachers served the area for years, either preaching in the courthouse or in the Union Church in the first Masonic Lodge. In 1852 the Presbyterians organized a congregation led by Mrs. Sophia McHenry, the daughter-in-law of the James McHenry after whom Ft. McHenry was named. Also on the committee were Margaret Bull, mother of Jacob Bull, Bel Air's Master Builder, the Robinson girls who ran a shop at what is now Main and Courtland, James Fulton, and E. Hall Richardson and his mother, Catherine. This small group built their first church on Pennsylvania Avenue. This Greek Temple building, on the National Register of Historic Places, grew to be too small by the late 1870's and, under the leadership of E. Hall Richardson, decided to build the present structure. The former church is now the Odd Fellows Lodge.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat
 First Presbyterian Church 1852-1952

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies the south part of parcel #478 in the Town of Bel Air, 220' on Main Street

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

30 May 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

be reasonably similar. The sanctuary is in the Greek cross with the chancel in the east arm (originally it was in the west arm under the rose window). A recent carved Gothic reredos is against the west wall. The organ pipes obscure the window. The choir and organ are behind the altar rail. The pews curve from a center aisle. They have trefoils at the end.

A fine timber ceiling has large trusses in each arm of the cross with center pendants. Lights depend from the pendants.

At the back of the original church (west) is a curtain wall which opens to enlarge the seating capacity of the sanctuary. This portion of the T was the original Sunday School, called the Lecture Room. It was built in 1894 of stone. In 1929 the T was added. It includes offices, nursery, meeting rooms, and kitchen.

Behind the church to the west is a new, free standing education building built in 1967.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401 HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form	SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1437
	NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
	UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
	U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
	PRESENT FORMAL NAME: First Presbyterian Church
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Presbyterian Church
LOCATION: Main & Broadway	PRESENT USE: Church ORIGINAL USE: Church
COPY NAME: First Presbyterian Church	ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: George Archer
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: church	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: Smith Brothers
OWNER: Trustees of Presbyterian Church ADDRESS: Main & Broadway Bel Air	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent(x) Good() Fair() Poor()
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes() No() Restricted(x)	THEME: Architecture STYLE: Gothic Revival
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(x) State() National()	DATE BUILT: 1881; 1936 rebuilt
GENERAL DESCRIPTION: Structural System 1. Foundation: Stone()Brick()Concrete()Concrete Block() 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam()Balloon() coursed B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick()Stone(x)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() Brick Veneer()Stone Veneer() Bonding Pattern: Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood(x)Iron()Steel()Concrete() B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate(x)Wood Shingle()Asphalt Shingle()Sheet Metal() Built Up()Rolled()Tile()Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches()Towers(x)Cupolas()Dormers()Chimneys(x)Sheds()Ells(x) Wings() Other: Roof Style: Gable(x)Hip()Shed()Flat()Mansard()Gambrel()Jerkinhead() Saw Tooth()With Monitor()With Bellcast()With Parapet()With False Front() Other: Number of Stories: <u>1</u> Number of Bays: <u>3</u> Entrance Location: <u>N. Main</u> Approximate Dimensions: <u>50' x 175'</u> inc. offices	
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat(x)Zoning()Roads() Development()Deterioration() Alteration()Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive(x)Negative() Mixed() Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Interior: cross shape & W altar to E fine timbered ceiling - one large truss in each arm of cross with center pendant - 2 have lamps from them crossing timbers. Center aisle curving pews W trefoil trefoils in timber ends, too

Exterior: 2 entries S one in angle of cross oak Gothic pointed door in similar stone surround halfway down

N door in bell tower recessed

slate patterned buttress on tower windows

west rose window

"T" has diff coursing, hip & asphalt shingle & pointed arch 4/4 windows

last addition = plaster W leaded casements, hip roof

porchs on sq. posts (3)

in gable roof

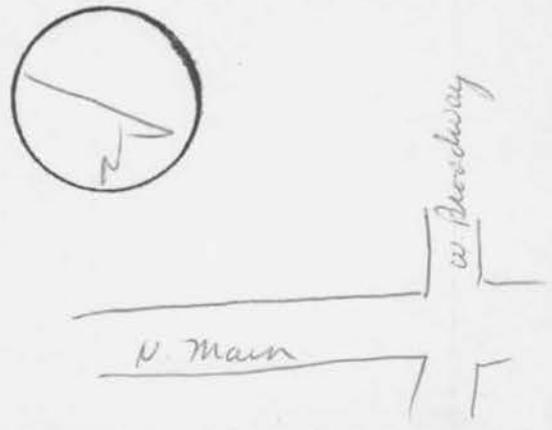
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

1. used Masonic Lodge church
2. 1852 church org, led by Mrs. Sophia McHenry (daughter-in-law of James McHenry (Sec of War) - lived at Moumouth until d. 1874 Jacob Bull's mother Margaret; the Robinson girls, James Fulton & E. Hall Richardson & his mother Catherine
3. new church: 1882 George Archer, Arch; Smith Brothers Builders \$8,000
4. 1894 - Sunday school bldg \$2,000
5. church burned March 11, 1936 - restored W a "few minor interior changes" \$33,000
6. 1929 T built across back of lecture room

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

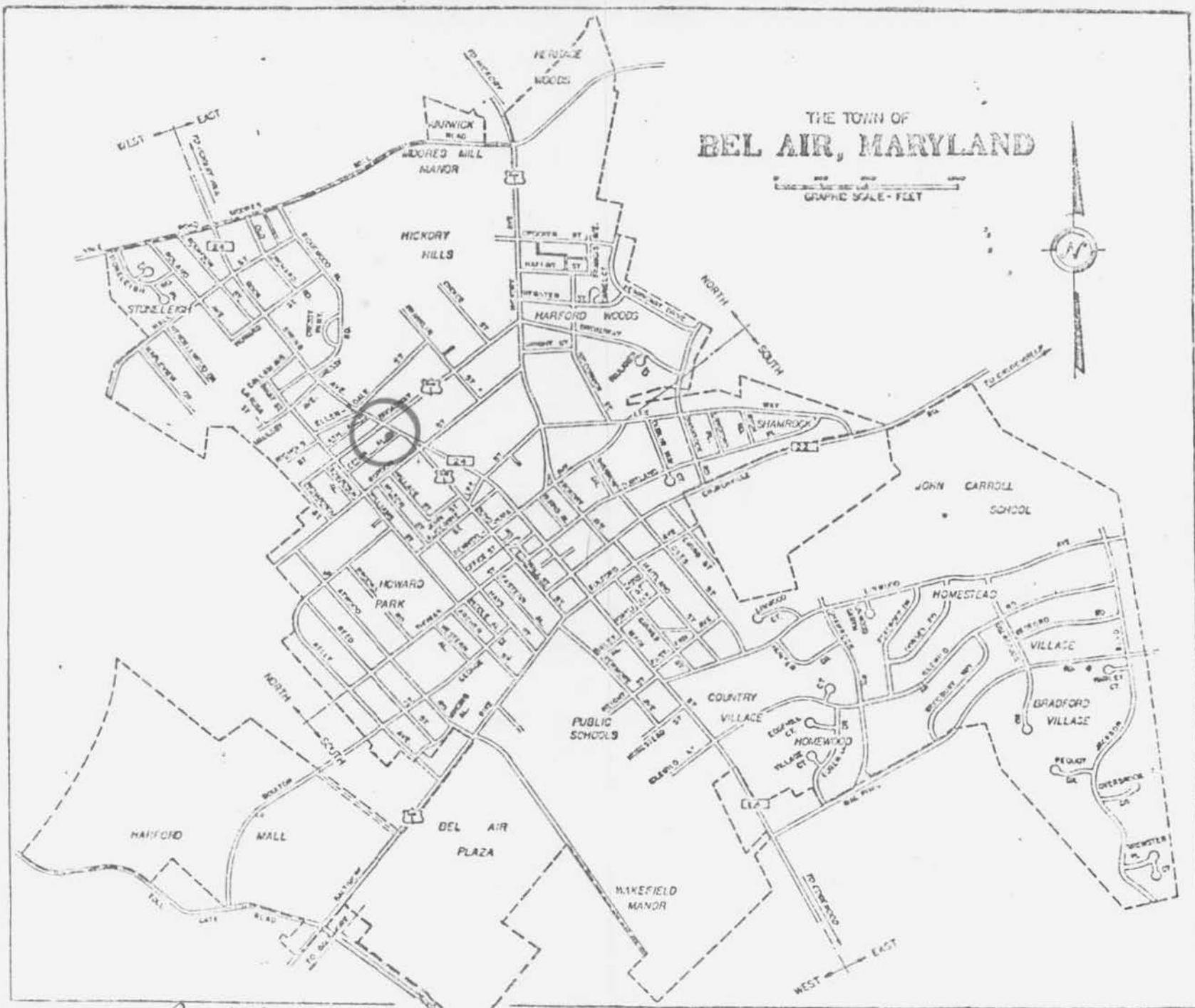
- Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
- Moderately Built Up()Densely Built Up()
- Residential(X)Commercial(X)
- Agricultural()Industrial()
- Roadside Strip Development()
- Other:

Marilynn Larew

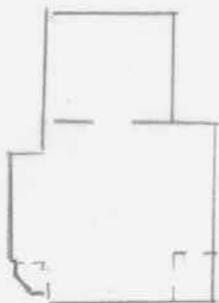
RECORDED BY:
Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:
3 October 1979

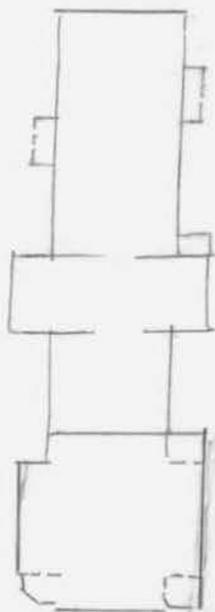
DATE RECORDED:



HA-1437 First Presbyterian Church
in + Broadway



1904



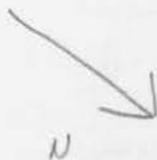
1930

TRACED
FROM
SANBORN MAPS

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
MAIN + BROADWAY
BEL AIR

HA-1437

SCALE 1" = 50'





HA-1437

1st Presbyterian Church, N. Main & E. Broadway
Bel air

s. elev., looking e.

M. Farver, 1979



HA-1437

1st Presbyterian Church, W. Main & E. Broadway

Bel air

s + e elev of sanctuary



H.A. 1437

1st Presbyterian Church, W. Main & E. Broadway
Bellevue

w. s. elev., back bldg

Mr. Larson, 1939

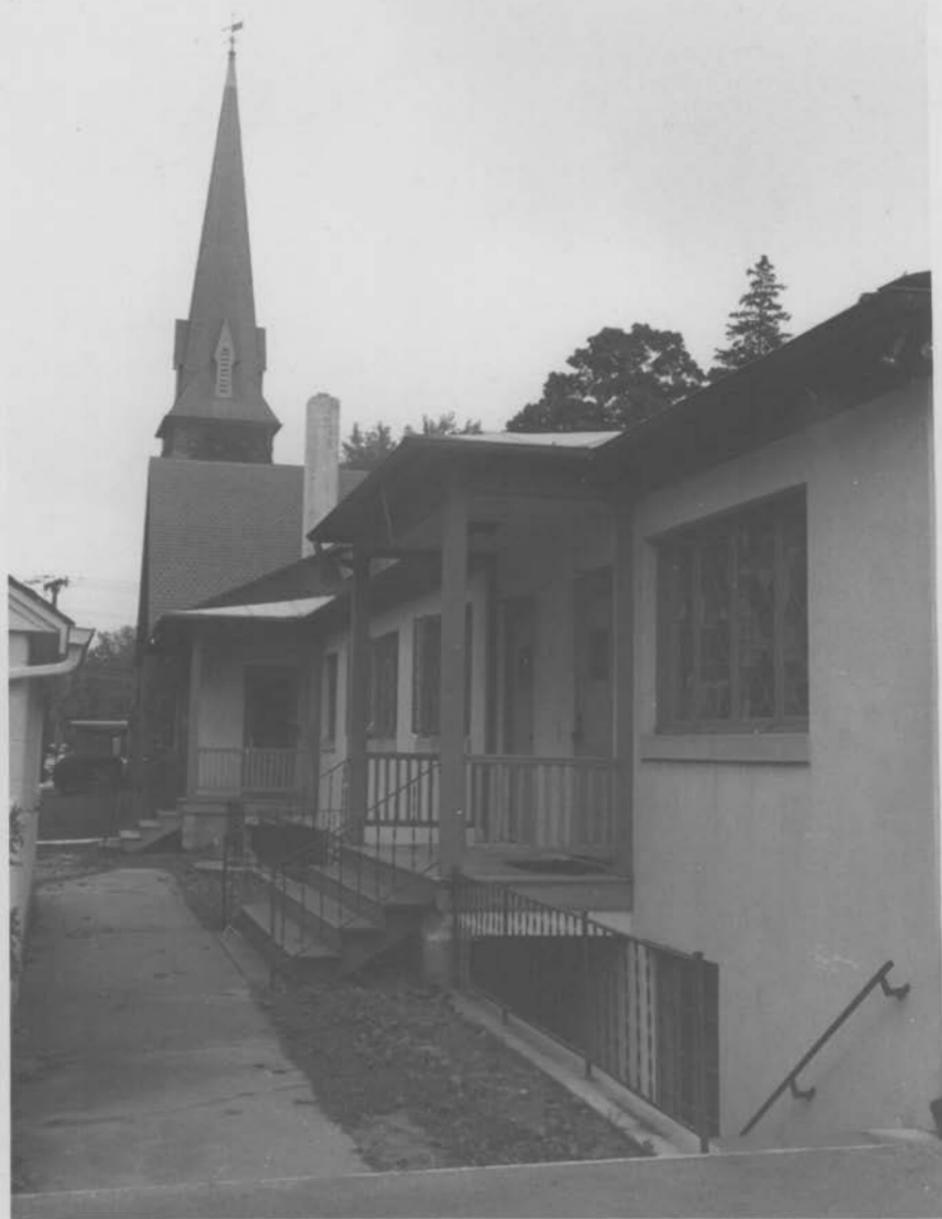


AA-1437

1st Presbyterian Church, 11. 7th Ave & E. Broadway
Bellevue

along the s. elev. looking w

M. Farver, 1979



DA-1437

1st Presbyterian Church, W. Main St. - Looking
Bel air

N. elev of back building, looking e.
Mr. Larew, 1979

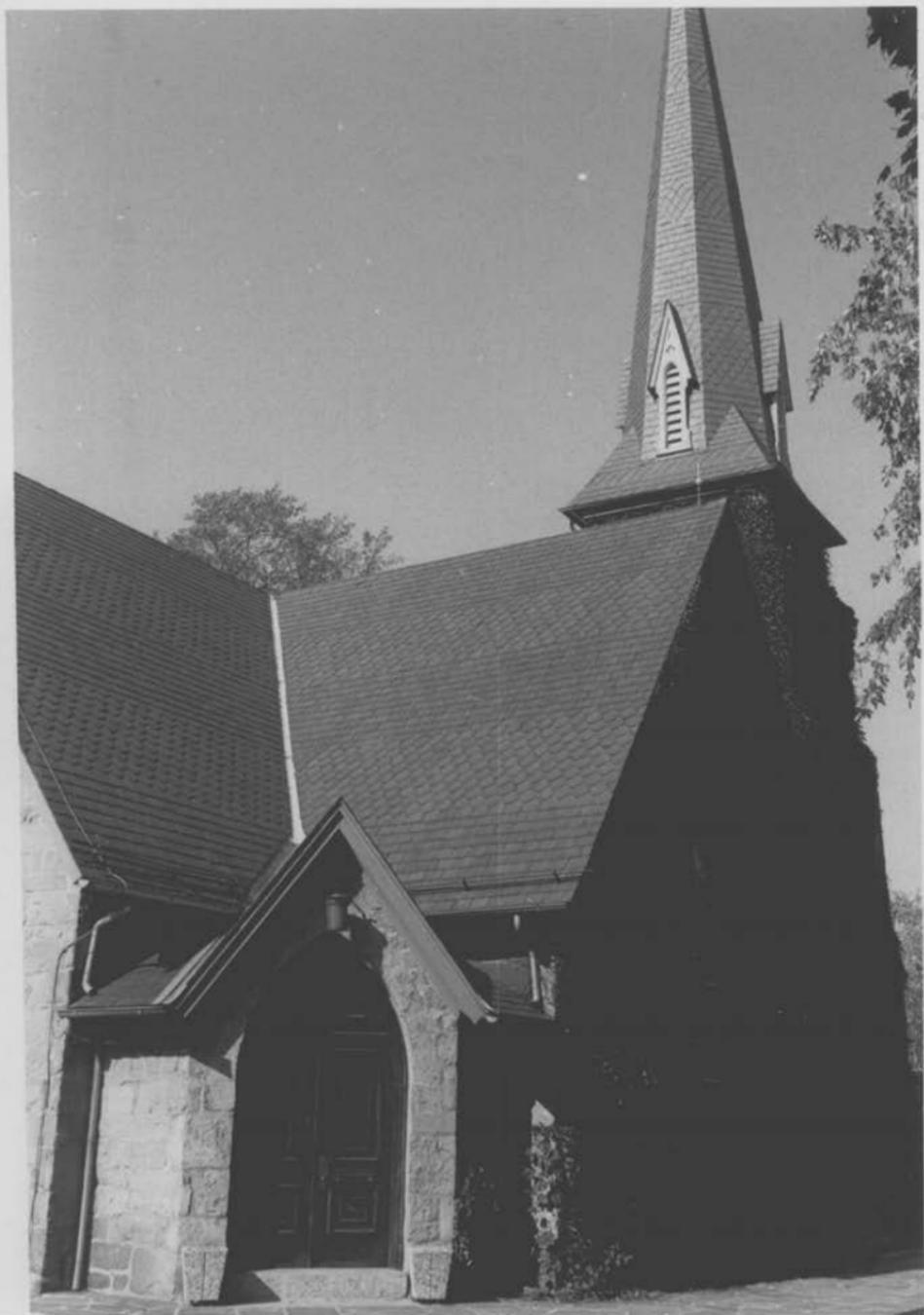


HA-1437

1st Presbyterian Church, N. Main & E. Broad Ave.,
Bellevue

Portion of s. elev., w. of crossing

M. Larew, 1979



QA-1437 1st Presbyterian Church, Mass - Broadway, NW
entrance looking NW
M. Larue, 1979



HA-1437

1st Presbyterian Church, N. Main + E. Broadway
Bel Air

tower entrance (e. elev.) + n. elev.

M. Lane, 1979