

HA-1441

1888

Theodore Saunders Cafe  
317 N. Main  
Bel Air  
Private

Even today this building with the deep bracketed cornice shows its origin as a storefront. Barber Theodore Saunders built it in 1888 and opened a cafe there. He advertized a "ladies entrance", the first such mention of that genteel invention. The site should have been a good one, it was scarcely a block from the railroad station and right around the corner from Broadway, but the cafe did not prosper. Perhaps even the "ladies entrance" could not disguise an unsavory reputation. Saunders went back to barbering on Main Street near the Courthouse and shortly thereafter was up before the court for running a speakeasy. In 1904 the north half of the store had a grocery store in it.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Theodore Saunders Cafe  
AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
317 N. Main 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 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 type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED                 | <input 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                   | <b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>                   | <b>ACCESSIBLE</b>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT                 | <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"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED          | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION        |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER rental |

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Florence E. Ward Telephone #:  
STREET & NUMBER  
113 E. Aspenwood Way  
CITY, TOWN STATE zip code  
Baltimore VICINITY OF Maryland 21234

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Harford County Courthouse Liber #: 1052  
Folio #: 766  
STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Bel Air Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

16-1491

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" 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 four bay, two story, flat roofed double storefront altered to residential uses is at 317 N. Main Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It was originally one store, but by 1904 it had been divided in two. It has decorative cornices supported on carved brackets between the first and second stories and atop the little false front. Windows are 2/2 except in front where they are 1/1. They are in regular flat wooden surrounds except for those on the second story front. Those surrounds are slightly pointed at top. A pair of windows in the first story shows where the shop windows used to be. Between the two entrances in the center bay front (west) is a larger bracket to the cornice. These doors are single pane over three panel. Another pair of doors on the south elevation is shaded by a hipped roof porch on slender doric columns. The back of the building shows irregular additions, a wooden staircase to a second story hooded doorway in the second bay from the south. Next to that to the north is a shed roof single story with a second story room on top. The shed roofed portion was a single story porch in 1904. Behind this is a shed roofed porch.

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 1888 BUILDER/~~ARCHITECT~~ XXXXXXXX John F. Lingan

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This double building was built in 1888 by contractor John F. Lingan for Theodore Saunders at a cost of around \$1200. Saunders was a barber; in 1874 he had his shop at the corner of Office and Bond Streets. In 1876 he opened a restaurant next door. In 1888 he bought this lot near the railroad station from Charles L. Dallam for \$800 (62/227). According to the Harford Democrat for June 22, 1888, he planned to have an ice cream parlor in the summer and an oyster bar in the winter, but by the time the building was finished in December it was a cafe with a ladies' entrance, the first in Town, probably the side porch. The building probably was single-fronted. In 1889 John F. Lingan sued for the \$1093.32 due him (equity 60/437), and by 1897 the property was sold to Georgianna Jones and Lydia E. Bauer for \$1850 (91/88). It is not clear what happened; this is a good location near the railroad station and the residential districts of Broadway and Rock Spring. Perhaps the ladies did not fancy Saunders' cafe, and the location is too far from the Courthouse to attract that crowd. In 1903 the owners sold to David Hanway and Harry S. Carver (109/121). By 1904 the building had been divided in two. The north portion housed a grocery store. The south portion was vacant.

In 1909 Hanway sold his share to Carver (127/122). He received \$200 and Carver assumed the \$1100 mortgage. Two months later he sold it to John Evans (127/161), who sold it two months later to Frederick J. Gorrell (127/298). In 1912, his wife dead, Gorrell sold the property to his daughter-in-law Lenora (Leonora) (139/186). She assumed the \$1500 mortgage. Mrs. Gorrell died in 1964 and left the property to Florence E. Ward (will 35/382) who is the present owner (by 1052/766).

The house has obviously been altered from a double storefront by enclosing the shop windows. It is now divided into three apartments.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Harford Democrat  
1904, 1930 Sanborn Map

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #284 in the Town of Bel Air, 83' x 155'

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 October 1979

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

|  |   |
|--|---|
| MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST<br>21 STATE CIRCLE<br>SHAW HOUSE<br>ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401<br><br>HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET<br>Individual Structure Survey Form   | SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1441  |
|  | NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:   |
|  | UTM REFERENCES:<br>Zone/Easting/Northing                                    |
|  | U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:   |
|  | PRESENT FORMAL NAME:<br>House   |
| COUNTY: Harford  | ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:<br>Theodore Sounders Cafe                             |
| TOWN: Bel Air  |   |
| LOCATION:<br><br>317 N. Main   | PRESENT USE: rental apartments  |
| COMMON NAME:<br>House  | ORIGINAL USE: cafe  |
| FUNCTIONAL TYPE: commercial  | ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:   |
| OWNER: Florence E. Ward<br>ADDRESS: 113 E. Aspenwood Way<br>Baltimore, Md. 21234   | BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:<br>John F. Lingan                                       |
| ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:<br>Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(X)   | PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:<br>Excellent( ) Good( )<br>Fair(X) Poor( ) |
| LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:<br>Local(X) State( ) National( )  | THEME: Architecture   |
| GENERAL DESCRIPTION:<br>Structural System  | STYLE: Vernacular   |
| 1. Foundation: Stone(X)Brick( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )<br>2. Wall Structure<br>A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( )Balloon( )<br>B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( )Stone( )Concrete( )Concrete Block( )<br>C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other:<br>3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( )Board and Batten( )Wood Shingle( )Shiplap( )<br>Novelty( )Stucco( )Sheet Metal( )Aluminum( )Asphalt Shingle(X)<br>Brick Veneer( )Stone Veneer( )<br>Bonding Pattern: Other:<br>4. Roof Structure<br>A. Truss: Wood( )Iron( )Steel( )Concrete( )<br>B. Other:<br>5. Roof Covering: Slate( )Wood Shingle( )Asphalt Shingle( )Sheet Metal( )<br>Built Up( )Rolled( )Tile( )Other:<br>6. Engineering Structure:<br>7. Other:<br>Appendages: Porches( )Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers( )Chimneys( )Sheds( )Ells( )<br>Wings( ) Other:<br>Roof Style: Gable( )Hip( )Shed( )Flat(X)Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( )<br>Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front(X)<br>Other:<br>Number of Stories: 2<br>Number of Bays: 4<br>Approximate Dimensions: 32' x 36' | DATE BUILT: 1888  |
| THREAT TO STRUCTURE:<br>No Threat( )Zoning( )Roads( )<br>Development(x)Deterioration(x)<br>Alteration( )Other:   | LOCAL ATTITUDES:<br>Positive( )Negative( )<br>Mixed( ) Other:               |
|  | Entrance Location: N. Main  |

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

decorative cornice with carved brackets top & 1st story  
front windows 1/1 (top story pointed wooden surround; 1st  
story double 1/1, flat arch) - side s & back 2/2  
3 major entrances: two in center bays front, divided by large  
decorative bracket. door = single pane over 3 panel  
S side = hip roof on doric posts, 2 doors back bays  
rear irregular wooden flight of stairs to 2nd story  
shed roof porch on N bays over door in middle

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Theo Saunders Cafe 1888, 1st ladies' entrance  
then 2 stores  
now 3 apartments

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



Ellendale

N. Main

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:  
22 October 1979

DATE RECORDED:

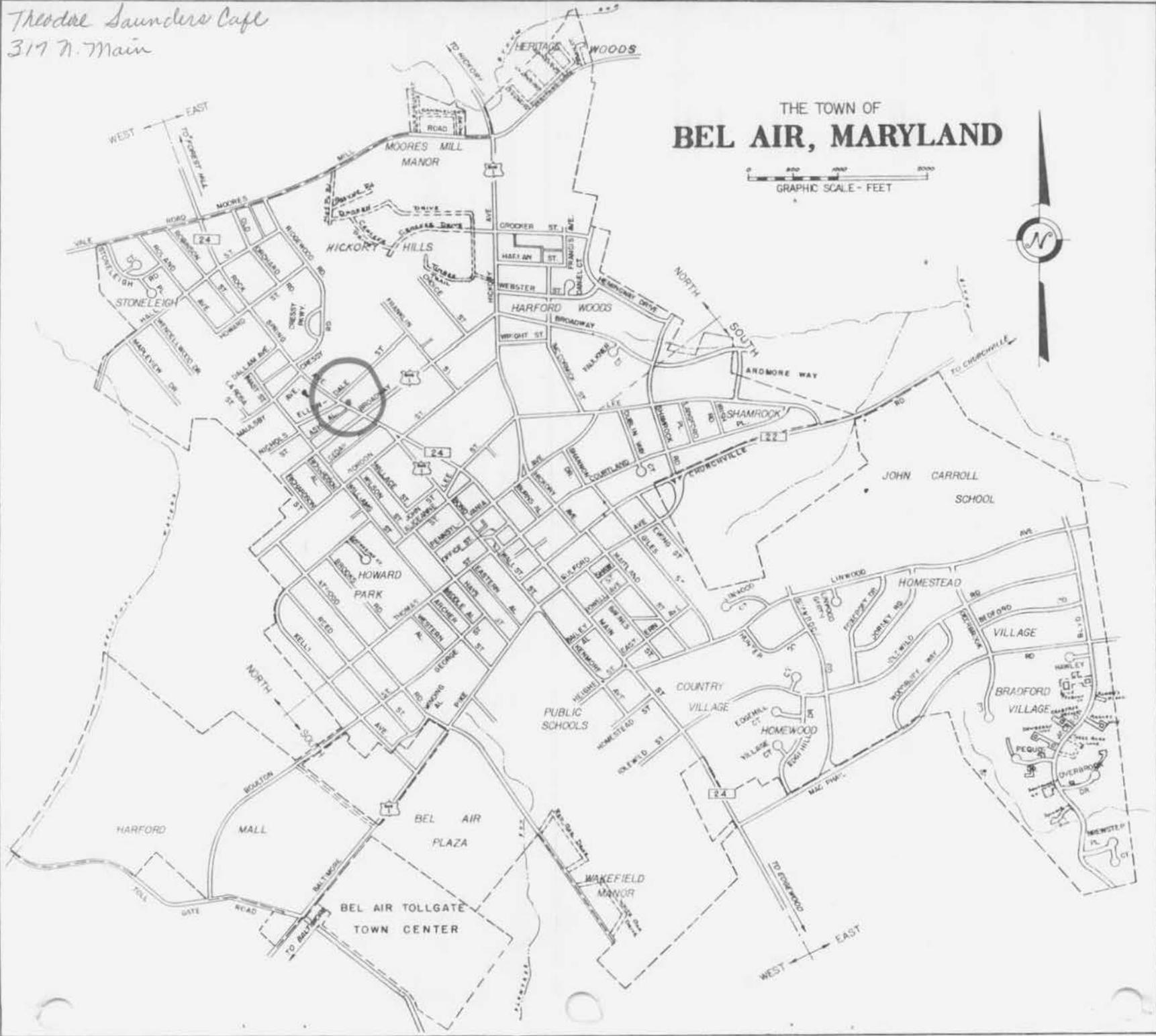




HA-1441

Theodore Saunders Cafe  
317 N. Main

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND





HA-1441 Theodore Saunders Cafe, 317 N. Main, Bell  
ville  
M. Lacey, 1979



HA-1441

Theodore Saunders Cafe. 317 N. Main, Bellair  
e + n side

M. Larso, 1979