

HA-1451

1867

Herman's Store
34 S. Main
Bel Air
Private

This is the handsomest 19th century storefront in Town, or perhaps just the handsomest storefront in Town, with its serene brick walls, a good modillioned cornice at the top and another middle cornice with excellent brackets on the Office Street side, and unique casement windows each with its little wrought iron balcony. There has been a store on this corner since Bel Air was Bel Air. This one was built by William Herman. The angled entrance and plate glass windows date to the 1890's. The first floor is currently occupied by the Harford Democrat's Bel Air office. The Dean Insurance Agency is upstairs.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Herman's Store

AND/OR COMMON

34 Main Street

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

34 Main Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

— VICINITY OF

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 type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

E. A. Chriss, Trustee

Telephone #: 752-4567

STREET & NUMBER

Garrett Bldg. 237 E. Redwood

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21202

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Court House

Liber #: 542

Folio #: 325

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

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

Number 34 Main Street is at the N.W. corner of Main and Office Streets in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. This two story painted brick store with a hip roof built in 1867, is an example of the restraint Bel Air's architectural taste. The only Victorian elements in this otherwise classical building are the arched detailing of the second story windows, the chastily carved brackets which support the classical cornice between the first and second stories, the bracketed top cornice and the entry recessed in a diagonal in antis porch supported by a cast-iron post.

The structure was built as a store and has always housed either a store or a restaurant. The first floor is entirely show-window in the south elevation. Three steps with curved wrought-iron railings lead to a double door at the north end of the Main Street side. Double plate-glass windows occupy most of the rest of the elevation. Those window frames are probably original but the plate glass is not because plate glass shop windows arrived in Bel Air in 1890. The main entry is at the corner and has a door with a large glass area and a single pane transom, flanked by windows and transoms of matching size. The cornice with a dentil-band is supported by mildly Italinete brackets on the Office Street side but not on the Main Street side.

The second story has three windows on the Office Street side and four on the Main Street side. They are rectangular, set in a wooden frame, and have double casements with three long narrow panes with three small panes at top and bottom in each casement. The transoms have wooden arches set inside the frame with eight small panes to the side and a kind of squinch window in each corner. Each window has its wrought iron balcony for decoration. The upper boxed cornice is built out from the building and is supported by beaded but otherwise plain brackets.

The interior of the first story is one large room save for the enclosed basement steps in the north end. The pressed tin ceiling is in very good condition and the tin cornice remains except in two or three places. It is not in such good condition.

The second story is one big room which houses an insurance agency; access is by a staircase in the next building. Originally there were two frame two story stores next to 34 Main. They burned in 1946 and were replaced by the present brick structure whose decorative detailing carry both cornices along to tie the buildings together. Probably the entry at the northeast corner of the Main Street elevation once led to a staircase to the offices or apartment upstairs in number 34. The door now opens on the Main room in the first floor.

One can still see the charred beams left by the fire in the basement along with the wooden food lockers lined with cork that belonged to Warren's Restaurant.

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 checked="" 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 1867

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The corner of Main and Office Streets may have been the site of Bel Air's first store. In December 1789, Acquila Scott sold a lot 74'3" x 28', part of original lot 8 in the Town Plat, to Samuel Durham for £31 current money, possibly \$100 in the new U.S. currency. By 1791 when Durham sold it to John Reardon for £12.10s there was already a storehouse on it. Reardon died in 1819 and left it to his heirs, his son Dr. James Reardon, and granddaughters Caroline Dance and Sophia and Frances Richardson. Caroline was the wife of Jesse D. Dance, a Bel Air dentist. The Richardson girls were daughters of a Reardon girl who probably married the Robert Richardson who rented the store from c. 1814 to c. 1824. Dr. James practiced medicine at Magnolia and later in Baltimore where he was also physician to the Maryland Penitentiary. He and his wife Elizabeth Birckhead Reardon moved to California during the Gold Rush when both were advanced in years. They were living in Yuba County in the gold fields North of Sacramento in 1861 when they sold their share in the property to N.W.S. Hays, brother of Thomas Hays, for cancellation of a \$758.24 debt. The remaining heirs sold their share to Stevenson Archer in 1867 for \$975. The Hays portion and the Archer portion were sold to William Herman (1827 - 1880) in 1867 and he built the present building which housed his store. Herman died intestate in 1880 leaving a widow, Margaret, and eight children. Margaret ran the store until 1883. She married William Gibson in 1887, signing her share over to the children. She then bought back a 3/8th share. She died in 1889 leaving only Herman's children as her heirs. By that time the shares were so complex that Lea Hildebrand, one of the heirs, sued (Equity 47/60, et seq.) to have the property sold and the proceeds distributed.

The property was sold in 1894 to Josephine Whitaker, a widow, who rented it until she sold it to Ruskin and Hattie Warren, the proprietors of Warren's Restaurant or the "Korner Konfectionery", in 1920. The restaurant was long famous among travelling salesmen for its home-made cheesecake. The property suffered damage around 1946 when a fire started in the restaurant kitchen located in the adjacent wooden building on Main Street. Both wooden buildings were destroyed as was the frame building next door on Office Street. The Main floors of number 34 must not have suffered much in view of the good condition of the tin ceiling of the first floor room, but the damage is still visible in the basement.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

E. F. Cordell, The Medical Annals of Md., 1799-1899.
Baltimore 1903 p. 545
Harford Democrat. Aegis. L. Allison Wilmer et al, History & Roster of Maryland Volunteers, War of 1861-65. Baltimore, 1898.
Harford County Newspapers.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property occupies parcel 821 in the Town of Bel Air,
28' (Office Street) x 38'

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

STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew

28 December 1978

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

During the Great Depression the Warrens defaulted on their mortgage, and ownership of the property passed to the Jarrettsville Building Association in April 1934. The Association sold it to A. Benson Grove and his wife, Helen, in 1940, and they sold it to Aristides and Arainth (Oraithe) Chilimidos in December 1941. Mr. Chilimidos died in 1955 and four years later his widow placed the property in trust for her daughter, Agatha McVey.

During the almost two centuries of Bel Air's existence a commercial enterprise has occupied the corner of Main and Office Streets. Of the owners only William Herman and the Warrens operated their own businesses; most often the building was leased. A partial list of storekeepers is appended.

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1451
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Herman's Store
PRESENT USE: Offices
ORIGINAL USE: Store
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Poor: ()
THEME: Architecture
STYLE: Victorian
DATE BUILT: 1867

COUNTY: Harford
TOWN: Bel Air
LOCATION: 34 Main Street
COMMON NAME:
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: Commercial
OWNER: E.A. Chriss, Trustee for Agatha ADDRESS: McVey - Garrett Bldg.-237 E. Redwood-Balto. Md. 21202 (752-4567)
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes () No () Restricted (X)
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local (X) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

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

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

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

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 3 (office) x 4 (main) Entrance Location: corner of Main
 Approximate Dimensions: 22' x 38' and Office St.

THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat(X) Zoning() Roads() Development() Deterioration() Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive() Negative() Mixed() Other:
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ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

one big room on each floor
pressed metal ceiling in fair condition

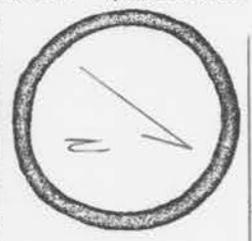
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Site of an early Bel Air store, probably the first.
Has always been either store or restaurant.
Significant for its restrained elegance. Certainly the best of the
remaining stores from the 19th century.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



Courthouse

Office St.

34

Main St.

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:
29 December 1978

DATE RECORDED:

34 MAIN STREET

- 542/325 30 December 1959
Oraithe Chilimidos to Evan A. Chriss,
Trustee: Trust for daughter Agatha
McVey (Trust 542/318)
- 269/400 12 December 1941
A. Benson Grove and Helen (w) to Aristides
Chilimidos and Arainth (w)
Aristides d. 22 October 1955
- 259/464 7 May 1940
Jarrettsville Bldg. Assoc. to Grove
- 230/161 19 April 1934
Philip Close, Atty. to Jarrettsville Bldg. Assoc.
default mort. 219/118 (1931)
Ruskin B. Warren and w et al
prop. known as "Korner Konfectionery" or
Warren's Restaurant
- 169/251 27 April 1920
Josephine Whittaker, widow, to Ruskin B.
Warren and Hattie, (w) \$16,900.
subject to lease Western Union to 1923
- 81/238 5 July 1894
George L. van Bibber and S. Williams Trustees in
case of Lea Hildebrand et al vs. Henry S. Herman
et al (1891) *
to Josephine M. Whitaker, w of Octavian M.
Whitaker \$5000
- 19/227 30 September 1867
Stevenson Archer and Jane, w, to William Herman
for \$700, portion
- 19/228 27 July 1867
Stevenson Archer, Trustee, in Otho Scott vs
Maria Hays et al to William Herman
portion (NCW Hays')

18/228 23 February 1867
 Jesse D. Dance and Caroline, w
 Sophia M. Richardson, and Frances N. Richardson
 (heirs of John Reardon)
 to Stevenson Archer \$975

12/361 10 September 1861
 James Reardon and Elizabeth, w of Yuba County, Calif.
 to NWS Hays for debt \$758.24
 store on it
 (heir of John Reardon)

w/346 Samuel Durham to John Reardon 1791
 L12.10s current there's a bldg. on it

K/397 2 December 1789
 Aquila Scott of James to
 Samuel Durham L31 part of #8
 74'3" x 28

Equity 1891
 47/60 Lea Hildebrand et al vs. Henry S. Herman

This case, filed in 1889, concerned the property at
 the corner of Main and Office Sts. which had been
 owned by William Herman (by 19/226 and 19/227). Herman
 was dead. His heirs were his widow, Margaret, since
 remarried, and eight children. Lea, the wife of Robt.
 L. Hildebrand, was one of the children.

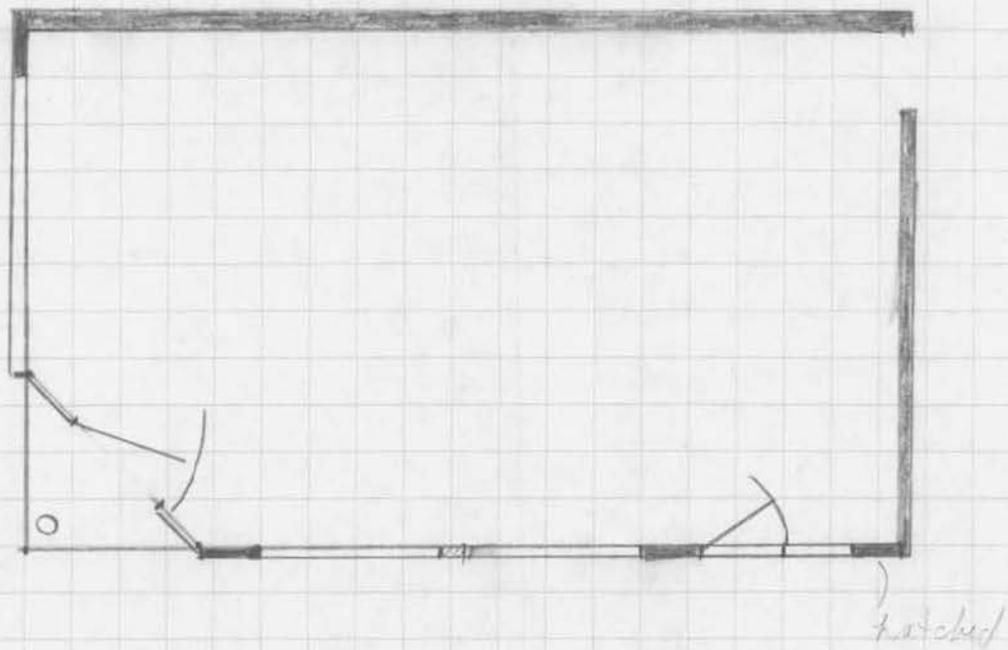
The suit was to force sale and division of the
 proceeds. On the lot at the time were one two
 story brick store and two frame stores. The lot
 was improved when Herman bought it. He paid \$700
 for Archer's 1/2. In 1883 one of the children sold
 his share in two lots to his mother (1/8 of 1/12
 2/3) for \$800. When the trustees sold it to Mrs.
 Whitaker in 1894, they got \$5000. It seems probable
 that the two story brick building described is the
 one now on the site.

Partial List of Occupants of 34 Main StreetOld Building

c. 1814	Robert Richardson, General merchandise
1825	Little (or Lytle) and Wann, general merchandise
1833	William Furrey, butcher
?	George W. & Larkin Davis
1834	McCormick & Martin
1838	Samuel Richardson
1855	N. B. Holland, dry goods

Present Building

1867	William Herman, dry goods
1868	Thomas Armstrong, tailor, upstairs
1883	Steele Brothers, dry goods
1886	Masons rent upstairs while the new Lodge Bldg. constructed
1886	Richard Bouldin, dry goods
1920	Warren's Restaurent or "Korner Konfectionary"
1920-23	also Western Union
c. 1960	Clark's Stationery; American Finance upstairs
Present	<u>Harford Democrat's</u> Bel Air Office, Dean Insurance Agency Upstairs



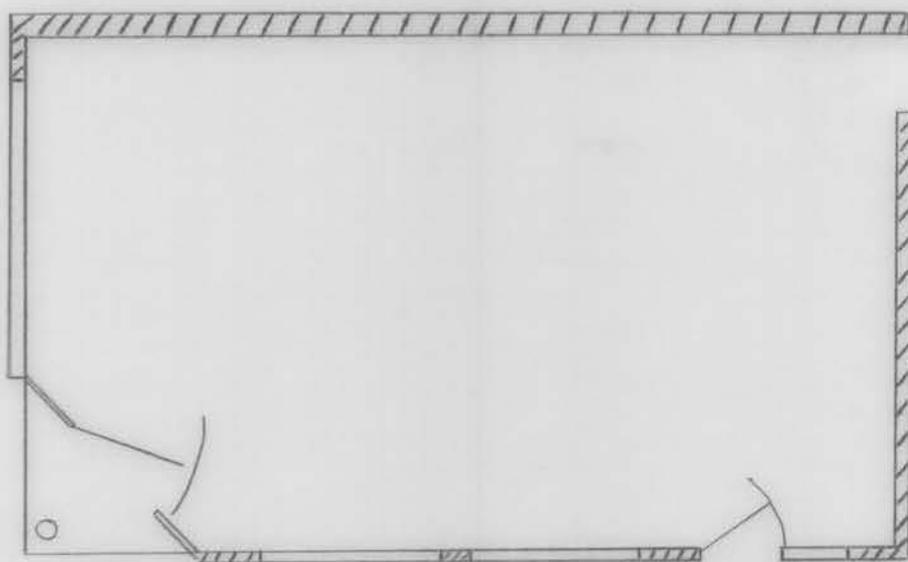
MARILYNN LAREW

34 MAIN ST.
BEL AIR, MD

HA-1451

SCALE 1" = 2'





DRAWN BY: MARELYNN LAREW

34 MAIN STREET

SCALE: 1 in. = 2 ft.

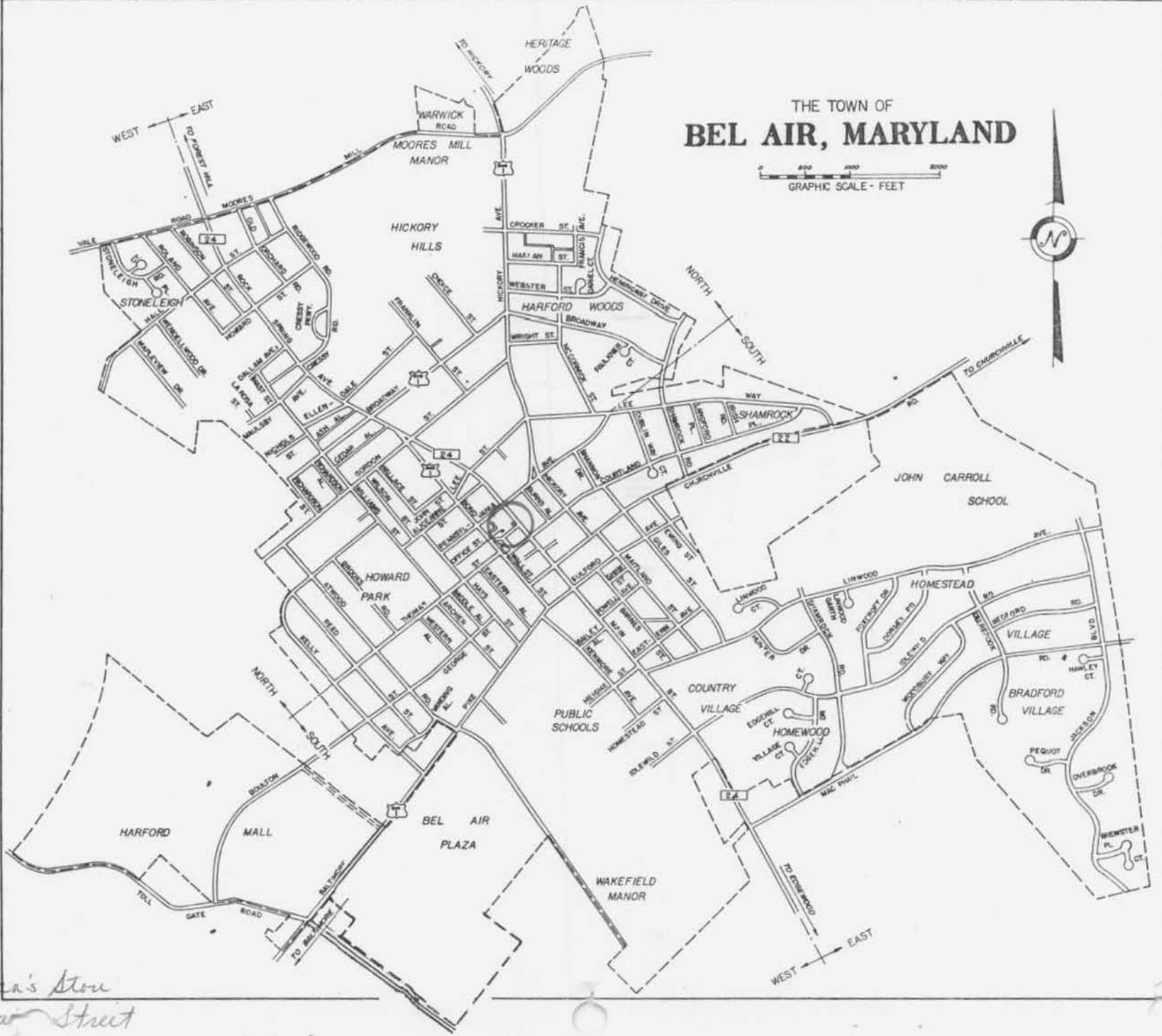
TRACED BY: G. CUNG

BEL AIR, MARYLAND



HA-1451

THE TOWN OF
BEL AIR, MARYLAND



HA-1451
Sherman's Store
34 Main Street



CORNICE & BRACKET DETAILS

34 MAIN ST.

500TH ELEVATION

BEL AIR

M. LAUREW, 1978

HA-1451



W
CE
D-G
H

CORNICE & BRACKET DETAILS,
WROUGHT IRON BALCONIES +
CAST IRON POST

34 MAIN ST
BEL AIR

SOUTH ELEVATION

M. LAREW, 1978

HA - 1451



CASH

LOANS

WESTERN UNION

UP to \$1500

AMERICAN
LOANS
FINANCE CORP.

CLARK'S
COURT SQUARE
STATIONERY

OFFICE SUPPLIES

STATIONERY

GIFTS

TOYS

SEE MY ADVERTISE
SATURDAY MAR. 10
THE NOMADS
ED COLE

CLARK'S
STATIONERY
OFFICE

14

HA-1451

THIS PHOTOGRAPH

By: W. Robert Wallis

Fourain Green Road

Bel Air, Md.



Clark's (Front) & jacket

HA - 1451

THIS PHOTOGRAPH
By: W. Robert Wallis
Fourain Green Road
Bel Air, Md.



HA-1451



HA-1451



HA-1451



HA-1451



CORNER BUILDING: 34 Main St., BEL AIR

M. LAREW, 1979

HA-1451