

HA-1460

c. 1835

Dallam-Lee House
443 Moores Mill Road
Bel Air
private

This well preserved Jacksonian house off Moores Mill Road is typical of dozens of houses that once dotted the Harford landscape. Nothing showy, just good solid comfort that is able to withstand 164 years of use. The original section of the house, the north three bays, has a living room and dining room with original classical mantelpieces and a vestigial hall with the staircase to the second story. The design of the house is an exact duplicate of the 1825 Graham-Crocker house, 30 N. Main Street, which is not to say that it was copied from it; the two houses, this one a farm house, show the similarity-indeed, the congruity - of country and village architecture at the time.

The house was built by John Dallam Lee and his wife Hannah, around 1835. It was the childhood home of Bel Air attorney Otho Scott Lee. In the 1870's it was the home of John Dallam.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Dallam-Lee House
AND/OR COMMON
Gross House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
443 Moores Mill Road 1st
CITY, TOWN
Bel Air CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
STATE VICINITY OF
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 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 checked="" 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
Sidney Milton Price Telephone #: 838-8460
STREET & NUMBER
443 Moores Mill Road
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code
Bel Air VICINITY OF Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Harford County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
Main Street
CITY, TOWN STATE
Bel Air Maryland

Liber #: 740
Folio #: 178

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
DATE
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN STATE
STATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

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 two story, three bay house with a two story, one bay wing on the south is at 443 Moores Mill Road in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The house has clapboards under the modern asphalt shingles. The gable roof of the main block is broken halfway down the slopes by two inside end chimneys on the south. The molded barge boards on the gable ends (north and south) terminate in short returns. A similar return is seen on the south gable of the wing, but the verges of the rake are plain. The windows in the house, even those in the gables are 6/6 double-hung sash except for two in the first story of the west elevation of the wing and one around the corner on the south elevation. These are 9 pane windows. The windows of the main block have thin wooden lintels and sills in the nature of half-round, while those in the wing are set in flat wooden surrounds. Major windows have shutters.

The main entrance is in the north bay of the east elevation, a four pane transom over the original door with two vertical panels and original hardware. The front porch has a hip roof with molded cornice carried on chamfered posts on small blocks. A filet at the shoulder is topped by another short chamfered section. A two rail balustrade protects the porch, since the lot falls away to the front and the porch is high on brick piers with lattice work in between.

The south wing is along the north bay of the south elevation of the main block. On the front (east) elevation of the wing is a shed-roofed rectangular bay with two windows in front.

On the rear (west) elevation of the house, there is a shed-roofed hood supported on large brackets with a free-form cut out. The hood is over the door to the dining room in the north bay. Another door, to the kitchen, is in the middle of the west elevation of the wing. An observation of the roof-line of the wing suggests that a one bay section with a shed roof has been added subsequent to the wing's addition. A shed-roofed "dog-house" on the south elevation of the wing leads to the basement.

The main block has two rooms: in front, the parlor, to the rear, the dining room, with a north hall containing an open-string staircase with square balusters and a slender turned newel. The staircase looks 20th century. Both parlor and dining room have identical simple mantels to the fireplaces on the south wall. Square engaged colonettes on blocks lead to a plain frieze and support a plain shelf. The opening is square. The quarter round molding on the over-mantel is recent. The wing on the south end houses kitchen and pantry. The second story has four bedrooms, bath and a large closet. The two bedrooms in the main block have three pane transoms over their doors. The back hall (in the wing) has tongue and groove wainscotting. According to the family, an outside staircase was along the south elevation of the house before the wing was added. The attic has two rooms and a storage room.

The woodwork throughout the house is entirely plain. The doors, however, are five panel and seem to be early if not original.

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 c. 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This charming house is a typical Jacksonian era farmhouse. It is in almost miraculous condition. Its resemblance to the Graham-Crocker house (30 N. Main) is obvious; they were built within 8 or 10 years of one another and their floor plans are exact duplicates if one disregards the additions over time to both buildings. While this house was not in Town until the 1930's, since it is now it displaces the Fulton-Young House (6 S. Main) as the fourth oldest house in Town. It also stands as an example of the similarity - indeed, the congruence - of country and village architecture in the pre-Civil War era.

The house was probably built around 1835 by William and Charlotte Cherry on land she received from Philip Henderson, owner of "Major's Choice" (remnants of which remain in the Reedy Farm on the east side of Hickory south of Moores Mill Road). The Cherrys mortgaged the land to Otho Scott in 1835 for \$200. This probably represents the building of the main block of the structure. Cherry died and Scott sued the heirs for his money. Scott's law partner, Henry D. Farnandis, was the court appointed trustee for the sale of the property. He sold it to James M. McCormick, then the owner of "Major's Choice". He transferred it to Hannah Lee in 1847, and in 1862 Farnandis conveyed the property to her (13/76). Hannah Bryarly Lee was the wife of Richard Dallam Lee and the mother of Otho Scott Lee (1840 - 1918). Lee was studying law with Henry Archer when the Civil War came. He went to his mother's home in Winchester, Va., where he enlisted in the First Virginia Cavalry commanded by J.E.B. Stuart and later by Fitzhugh Lee. He served from First Bull Run to Appomattox and must have come close to home during the Gettysburg Campaign. In November 1865 he was admitted to the Harford County Bar and was a prominent lawyer and entrepreneur in Bel Air until his death in 1918.

This house appears on the 1858 Map as the property of Mrs. Lee. She sold the property in 1866 to Benjamin P. Moore, Jr., for \$4000 (17/80). The farm included 82 3/4 a. and was known at the time as "Woodstock". She probably went to live with her son who was married the next year. Moore was a Bel Air merchant. He bought the Jarrett Buildings (109-115 S. Main) from A. Lingan Jarrett in 1868 after having joined Charles Norris in his dry goods store in 1867. In 1875 he lived in Baltimore City and sold his property, the store to his partner, and the house to John S. Dallam for \$5000 (32/236). He may have left Town as early as 1872, for in that year he signed a formal agreement to sell the house to Dallam. This is a way of keeping the financing in his hands. When Dallam finished paying the agreed-upon price, Moore conveyed.

The house appears on the 1878 Map as the property John Dallam. Dallam (1815-1898) was the son of Richard Dallam (1789-1870) who was a veteran of the War of 1812 and a brother of William Dallam (1825-1883) Major in the 7th Maryland

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Portraits in the Courthouse
1858 & 1878 Maps
Biographical Dictionary of Harford & Cecil Counties
Harford Democrat

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #200 in the Town of Bel Air.

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

6 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

838-8700

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

Volunteers, USA, (Civil War) who was Clerk of the Harford County Court and former deputy Collector of the Port of Baltimore. John Dallam was Sheriff of Harford County (1853), three times a County Commissioner, a Mason, and a founding director of the Harford Mutual Fire Insurance Company. He kept the Dallam House or Bel Air House, an inn on the site of the present Red Fox Restaurant in 1848. He and his wife had five children: Miss Laura, Mrs. George Ewing, Frederick, a Baltimore lawyer, Jerrerson, a Harford lawyer, and Charles, a Bel Air real estate agent.

When Dallam died in 1898, he left the property to his wife Amanda (will 12/220). She left it to her daughter Laura (will 12/221). Laura sold it to her brother Charles in 1900 for \$1000 (100/119). Charles sold it to Benjamin Bissell in 1902 for \$3200 (108/12). Bissell probably went bankrupt in 1904. He gave a deed of trust to John L. G. Lee. Lee sold the property to Harry Carver for \$3000 (115/184) and bought it back the same day (115/185). Lee was the son of Otho Scott Lee, whose home place this house had been. Lee sold it early the next year to William H. Poling for \$3500 (1905, 115/236). Poling sold it in 1909 to Josiah H. Dean for \$3600 (127/144). Dean mortgaged it for \$3000 (1909, 128/126). He sold it to Thomas R. Kelley in 1916 (153/235), and Kelley sold it to Benton H. Gross in 1920 for \$4500 and the assumption of the mortgage (169/288). Gross sold 5½ a. of the land, including the house, to Felix Irwin and Frank Immerman in 1966 (705/549). They sold it the next year to Sidney M. Price, the present owner (740/178). The house is currently up for sale.

TITLE: 443 Moores Mill Road

740/178 27 March 1967
Felix M. Irwin, Jr., & Melva, Frank R.
Immerman & Ruthie
 to
Sidney Milton Price & Cathy

705/549 1 April 1966
Benton H. Gross & Lucile
 to
Irwin & Immerman
5½ a. ±

169/288 8 May 1920
Thomas R. Kelley & Maud
 to
Benton H. Gross & Lucile
the larger lot
\$4500 & assumption of \$3000 mortgage (1909, 128/126)

153/235 1 July 1916
Josiah H. Dean & Kate
 to
Thomas R. Kelley & Maud
assume \$3000 mtg.

127/144 29 June 1909
William H. Poling
 to
Josiah H. Dean
\$3600

115/236 27 May 1905
John L. G. Lee
 to
William H. Poling
\$3500

115/185 24 December 1904
Harry S. Carver

to
John L. G. Lee

115/184 24 December 1904
John L. G. Lee, trustee
to
Harry Carver
Lee had a deed of trust from Benjamin
Bissell, 1904 (probably bankruptcy)
\$3000

108/12 6 December 1902
Charles L. Dallam & Isabel
to
Benjamin Bissell

100/119 7 July 1900
Laura A. Dallam
to
Charles L. Dallam
\$1000
part of the land devised to Laura Dallam
by her mother Amanda M. Dallam (1898,
will 12/221). Devised to Amanda by husband
John Dallam (1890, will 12/220)
farm of 56 a₊

32/236 6 September 1875
Benjamin P. Moore
to
John S. Dallam
\$5000
Moore had an 1872 agreement to sell to Dallam

17/80 12 March 1866
Hannah Lee
to
Benjamin P. Moore, Jr.
\$4000
82-3/4 a - "Woodstock" - part of Major's Choice

13/76

25 April 1862

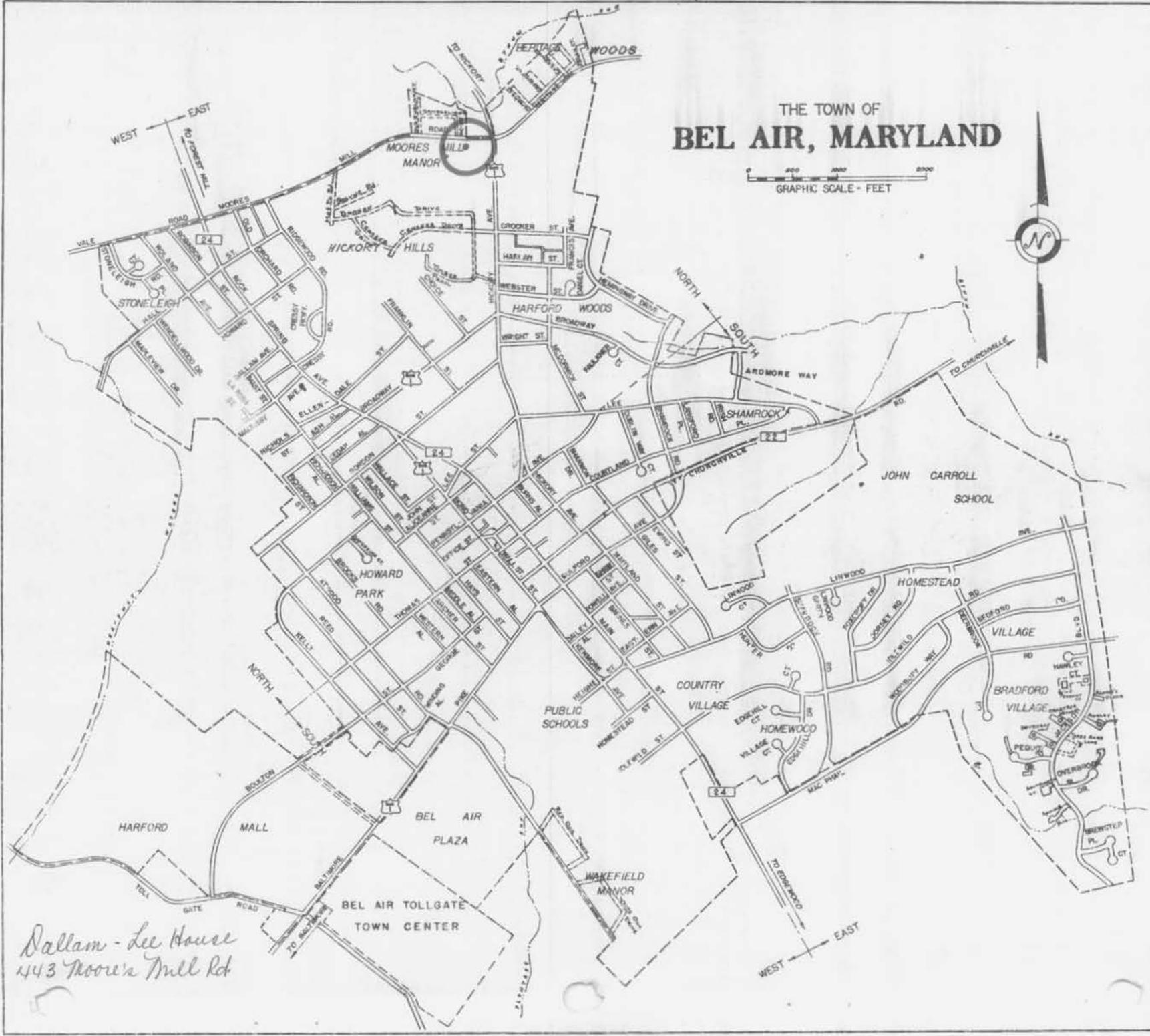
Henry D. Farnandis, Trustee

to

Hannah Lee

Farnandis was trustee in Otho Scott vs. Charlotte Cherry et al. He sold it to James M. McCormick who transferred it to Hannah Lee August 9, 1847. The courtcase (equity 6/289) was against the heirs of William Cherry who mortgaged the land to Otho Scott July 13, 1835 for \$200. Charlotte was his widow. She had received the land from Philip Henderson, owner of Major's Choice.

THE TOWN OF
BEL AIR, MARYLAND



HA-1460

Dallam - Lee House
143 Moore's Mill Rd



HA-1466 Dallam - Lee House, 443 Moores Mill Rd, Bel Air
e elev
Dr. Lewis, 1979



4A-1460 Wallam-Lee House, 443 Moore Mill Rd. Bel Air
w+s elev
M. Lantz, 1979



42 1960

Hallam - 1st Quarry, 1/3 N. of Hallam Mill Pt. on
E. n. fireplace looking S.

M. L. Lant, 1979



HA-1460

Dallam-Low House, 443 Marine Mill Rd
Bel Air

n. elev corner

M. Lantz, 1979