

HA-1496

c. 1885

Toscani Law Office
217 Thomas
Bel Air
Private

Originally, this house was a two bay gable-roofed shotgun house. It has been extended two bays to the west. It now houses law offices.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

Toscani Law Office

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

217 Thomas St.

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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: law office

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Edward Toscani, et al

Telephone #: 835-4696

STREET & NUMBER

217 Thomas 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 #: 1065

Folio #: 368

STREET & NUMBER

Main St.

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

HA-1496

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	c. 1917	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story L-shaped house with asphalt siding is at 217 Thomas Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. When first built it was a two bay shotgun style structure presenting its gable to the street. Around the First World War a two bay addition gave it the present L-shape; the original house is the present ell. The gable roof has a T-shape; the ridge line of the ell runs north-south, while that of the present main block runs east-west at right angles to it. The windows in the gable is 1/1 double-hung sash; the front (north) windows are 6/1, and those in the east and west sides are 6/6. The first story front has two doors and three windows: window, door, window, door and window.

The shed porch on the front (north) elevation is carried on Doric columns and has a plain balustrade, betraying its 20th century origin. A single bay, single story shed addition is at the west end of the new block. About a foot over it is the porch entrance to the second story apartment approached by a single run wooden stair.

A plain capped chimney rises in the middle of the north-south ridge (the original building).

The interior was much modified when Toscani and his partners turned it into offices. The staircase in the 20th century block rises against the south wall of the reception room in the western end. It and its square newel appear original to that block.

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. 1885

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is a good example of a variety of things: the simple workingman's housing built in the Hays Addition in the last quarter of the 19th century, the manner in which it could be expanded, and the utility of these old buildings as offices as the commercial area around them expands.

This house was built on lots 42 and 43 in the Hays Addition. The land was bought by Daniel Carroll in 1885. The lot now includes #44 which was part of the remaining lands of the Bel Air Land Company purchased by Alex S. Bell in 1918 (162/99). William Webster purchased the house in 1917 and lot #44 in 1920.

It is now divided into lawyers' offices and a second story apartment.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #1249 in the Town of Bel Air, 50' x 150'

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

26 June 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory

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

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER:	HA-1496
NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:	
UTM REFERENCES:	Zone/Easting/Northing
U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:	
PRESENT FORMAL NAME:	Toscani Law office
ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:	House
PRESENT USE:	offices/apartment
ORIGINAL USE:	house
ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:	
BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:	
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:	Excellent (X) Good () Fair () Poor: ()
THEME:	Architecture
STYLE:	Vernacular
DATE BUILT:	c. 1885

COUNTY:	Harford
TOWN:	Bel Air
LOCATION:	217 Thomas St. Bel Air, Md.
COMMON NAME:	Toscani Office
FUNCTIONAL TYPE:	
OWNER:	Edward Toscani et al 1065/368
ADDRESS:	217 Thomas St. p. 1249 Bel Air, Md. 50' x 150'
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	Yes () No () Restricted (X)
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:	Local (X) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

- Foundation: Stone () 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 (X) Brick Veneer () Stone Veneer () Bonding Pattern: Other:
- Roof Structure
 - Truss: Wood () Iron () Steel () Concrete ()
 - Other:
- Roof Covering: Slate () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle (X) Sheet Metal () Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:
- Engineering Structure:
- Other:

Appendages: Porches (X) Towers () Cupolas () Dormers () Chimneys (X) Sheds (X) Hills () Wings () Other: outside stairs/back

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: 2-1/2

Number of Bays: 4

Entrance Location: Thomas St.

Approximate Dimensions: 45' x 45' (inc. ell)

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

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive () Negative ()
Mixed () Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Gable front east 2 bays 1/1 in gable other windows
 6/1 - gable end west 6/6/shed porch, doric columns, plain balustrade
 shed addition (1 bay) (1 story) back wooden staircase single run to
 back 2nd story - floor of that a foot above shed addition
 plain cap chimney 2 bay side
 east 2 bays oldest - west addition 20th century was shotgun.
 2nd floor apt. 1st story E to W

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Alex Bell sold it to Wm. Webster 3/29/20 (lot 44)
 Lot 42 & 43 Joshua W. McCall to Georgeanna Jones
 4/1/12 the Websters got it in 1917
 Expanded workingman's housing.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



Webster Alley

Arch

Thomas

Wm.

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

M. Larew
 RECORDED BY:
 Town of Bel Air
 ORGANIZATION:
 20 June 1979
 DATE RECORDED:



HA-1496

Toscani Law Offices, 217 Thomas St., Bel Air
n+w elev
M. Larew, 1979