Survey No. HA-1760

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Earle and Mosena Burkins house #1 (preferred)

and/or common Norman House

2. Location

street & number 723 Roland Avenue ___ not for publication

city, town Bel Air ___ vicinity of congressional district 1st

state Maryland county Harford

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	___ not applicable	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Philip and Cynthia Norman

street & number 723 Roland Avenue telephone no.: 301-592-7710

city, town Bel Air state and zip code Maryland 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1533

street & number Main Street folio 819

city, town Bel Air state

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

repository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1760

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	x original site
x good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

8. Significance

Survey No. NA-1760

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
x 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates **Builder/Architect**

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B __C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state __local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1760

Larew, Marilynn M. BEL AIR: The Town Through Its Buildings, The Town of Bel Air and the Maryland Historical Trust, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____ **Quadrangle scale** _____

UTM **References** do NOT complete UTM references

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

This property occupies Parcel 48 in the Town of Bel Air.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth Lampl

organization Robinson & Associates **date** 5/16/90

street & number 1710 Connecticut Avenue **telephone** 202-234-2333

city or town Washington **state** DC

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
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

PS-2746

NA-1760

Earle and Mosena Burkins House
723 Roland Avenue
#
Item 7, Description

This house, presumably a 1 1/2-story Cape Cod cottage or "minimal traditional"[1] dwelling when it was built in 1941, has been significantly altered by the addition of a large shed dormer to the front of the house. Minimal traditional houses were built between 1935 and 1950 and can be seen in great number in the large tract-housing developments of the period. These predominantly one-story houses characteristically feature low roof pitches with close roof eaves and rake, front-facing gables, and a large chimney. The addition at 723 Roland Avenue, the face of which is flush with the original first-floor face of the house, alters this appearance and creates instead the feeling of a two-story dwelling.

The house is reached by a central, brick-paved walkway and three brick steps with low, scrolled brick sides. There are small foundation plantings along the facade.

The house is clad in vinyl and is three bays wide with a one-story, screened-in porch in the rightmost bay. The building's foundation is concrete. The side-gable roof is composition roll (composition roofing made to simulate shingles).

There is an end-wall brick chimney on the southeast elevation.

The front wooden door features recessed panels and is concealed behind an aluminum screen door. Windows on the first floor have 6/6 sash. On the second floor, they have 1/1 sash. The window frames are aluminum. The front door and second-floor windows have louvered shutters.

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[1] Virginia and Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses, New York: Alfred P. Knopf, 1986, p. 478.

Earle and Mosena Burkins House
723 Roland Avenue
#

Item 8, Significance (continuation sheet)

This altered house was constructed in 1941 by Earle and Mosena Burkins.[1] Although the house appears to have been a Cape Cod cottage before the alterations, it also may have been a "minimal traditional" house such as those found at 727 and 731 Roland Avenue, also built by the Burkinses.

Henry Webster purchased the land in 1931 (221/351). Earle and Mosena Burkins and Nathan and Ann Corbin bought the property from Webster that same year (223/472). The Burkins became full owners in 1937 (246/214). They transferred the property to Thomas P. Dawson and Alice M. Kuhlken in 1958 (515/334). In 1969, Claude L.R. Viar purchased the house (831/47). The current owners are Philip and Cynthia Norman, who bought the property in 1989 (1533/819).

This house was built in a section of town subdivided in 1885 as "Dallam's Second Addition." Dallam's Second Addition included the two square blocks north of Mary Dallam's home, Tulip Hill (located at the corner of Rock Spring Road and Howard Street). The new subdivision was bounded by Vale Road on the north and Howard Street on the south. Several Late Victorian homes were built in this area between 1885 and 1912.

Little to no building activity occurred in this subdivision during the third and fourth decades of the 20th century. In 1930, the town of Bel Air incorporated the addition into its limits.

Changes were made to Dallam's Second Addition beginning in the 1930s. The northern segment of Dallam's Second Addition, the area bounded by Hall Street on the south, Vale Road on the north, Roland Street on the west, and Rock Spring Avenue on the east was platted and renamed the "Rock Spring Addition." The 1931 plat for this addition shows only two houses standing in the area, a large house at the northeast corner of Roland and Hall (703 Roland Avenue) and its barn (no longer extant), located behind the house on Robinson Street. The alley between Rock Spring and Roland Avenues in the southern segment of Dallam's Second Addition corresponds to Robinson Street in the Rock Spring Addition. Lots in the renamed Rock Spring Addition were 25 feet across. The intent of the subdivider in creating such narrow lots is unclear.

In September 1940, the plat of one-half of the Rock Spring Addition, the block between Hall Street, Vale Road, Roland Avenue and Robinson Street, was further revised. The 1940 plat for this area reveals larger lots and a new lot numbering system, perhaps indicating that the 25-foot lots did not sell well. The basic 1940 configuration still exists today: the average lots on the northeast side of Roland Avenue are 60 feet across, while those on Robinson Street are 55.63

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[1] The date of construction is from the Harford County Tax Assessors Office. The Burkins purchased the land at 723, 727, 731, 739, and 743 Roland Avenue in June 1937 (246/214) and presumably built the houses thereon in the years which followed.

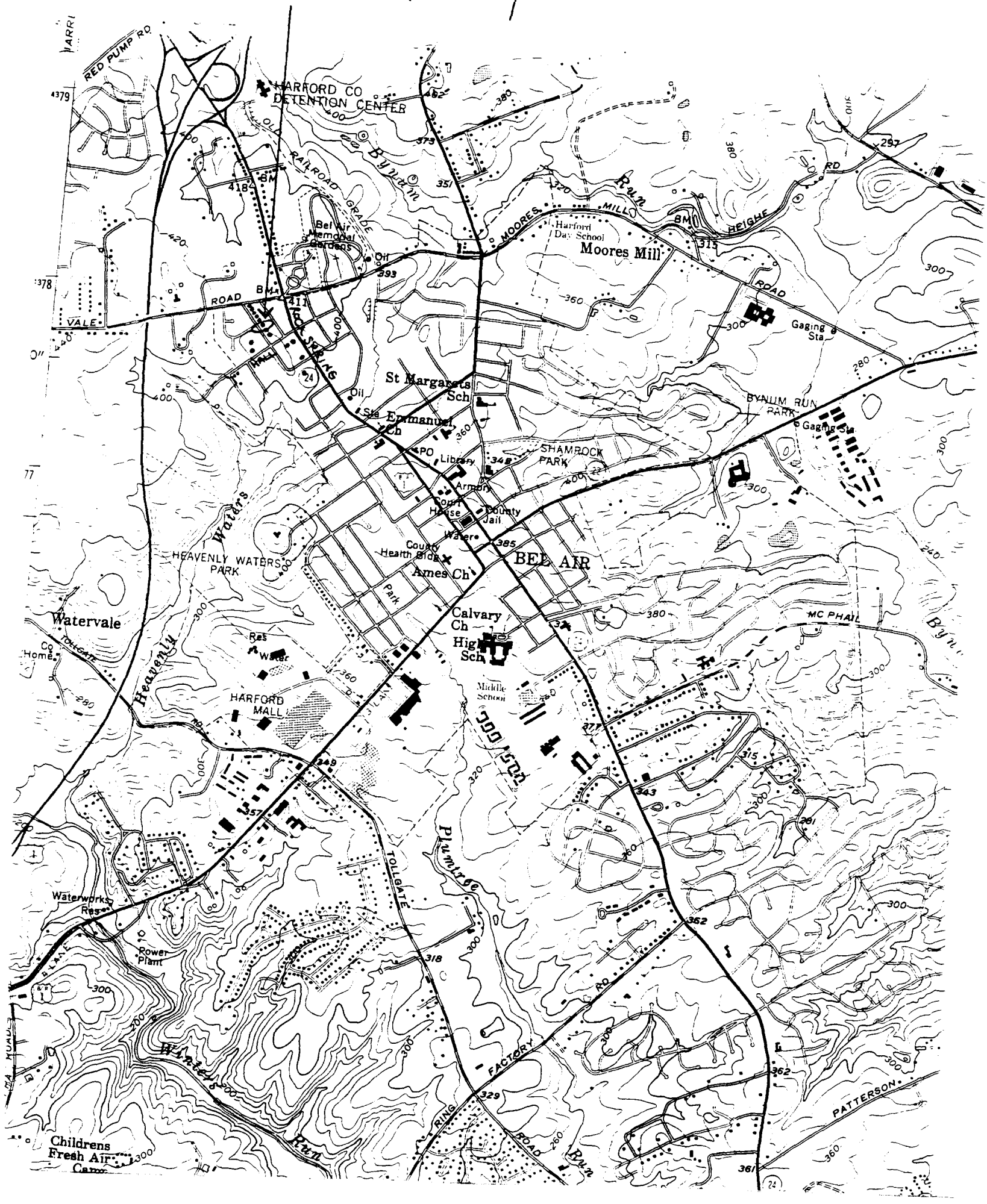
northeast side of Roland Avenue are 60 feet across, while those on Robinson Street are 55.63
Earle and Mosena Burkins House
723 Roland Avenue
#

Item 8, Significance (continuation sheet 2)

feet across. Lots 15 and 16 of Roland Avenue are 92.86 feet across. Robinson Street, like Roland Avenue, contains houses built in the 1940s and 1950s, with additional homes constructed as recently as the 1980s.

The majority of houses are in the "minimal traditional," and Cape Cod styles. At this time, these houses have no apparent architectural significance.

#HA-1760
Bel Air, MD Quad



Earle and Mossna Burkins House #1
HA-1160
723 Roland Avenue
Julie Mueller
5/1/90
Facing northeast

Earle and Mosena Burkin's House #1
HA-1760
723 Roland Avenue
Julie Mueller
5/1/90
Facing east