

HA-1797  
Between 1915 and 1933  
Bel Air  
Private

The Magness House, 35 W. Broadway, faces north on a narrow tree-shaded lot in Richardson's Addition in a block that is mostly commercial. Looking rather like half a 4-square, it is a tidy, 3 bay, 1 1/2 story, hipped-roof clapboard house with its door slightly off center in the middle bay. Its hipped dormer with 2 four-pane windows and the paired 3/1 double-hung sash windows elsewhere mark it as a child of the 1920s or 1930s, although its exact date is uncertain.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. West Broadway is a street of small working-man's houses and commercial establishments on the north edge of the addition. This cottage, built between 1915 and 1933, is the most stylish of the two blocks of houses. With its hip roof and 3/1 windows, it was more likely built after 1920 than before. Ramsey Magness bought the lot from the Richardson heirs in 1915. He may have built it.

HA-1797  
Magness House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

x 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

\_\_\_ 12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community  
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust  
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF  
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. SA-1797

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Magness House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 35 W. Broadway n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air \_\_\_\_\_ vicinity of \_\_\_\_\_ congressional district 3rd

state MD \_\_\_\_\_ 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	<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Joseph Foster

street & number 48 W. Gordon St. telephone no.: 879-7323

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 823

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 481

city, town Bel Air state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

# 7. Description

Survey No. RA-1771

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

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

Contributing resource count: one.

The Magness House, 35 W. Broadway, faces north on a narrow tree-shaded lot in a block that is mostly commercial. Looking rather like half a 4-square, it is a tidy, 3 bay, 1 1/2 story, hipped-roof clapboard house with its door slightly off center in the middle bay. Its hipped dormer with 2 four-pane windows and the paired 3/1 double-hung sash windows elsewhere mark it as a child of the 1920s or 1930s, although its exact date is uncertain.

The roof ~~forms~~ overhang forms the front porch, now screened, and a shed addition in the rear completes this simple little house.

Mr. Foster declined to have the interior visited, but said the house has three bedrooms; the rear bedroom and an extension of the kitchen seem to be the only alterations, done during the ownership of the Chilcoats.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. A-1791

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates betw. 1915 and 1933 Builder/Architect unknown

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.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition, begun at the same time, are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. West Broadway is a street of small working-man's houses and commercial establishments on the north edge of the addition. This cottage, built between 1915 and 1933, is the most stylish of the two blocks of houses. With its hip roof and 3/1 windows, it was more likely built after 1920 than before. Ramsey Magness bought the lot from the Richardson heirs in 1915. He may have built it. Ramsey sold the property to Albert H. Magness in December 1933. From the style, it is also possible that Albert Magness built it. Albert Magness was president of Standard Equipment Co., a metal fabricating firm on the Emmorton Road.

John Stanley Chilcoat, owner between 1944 and 1955, worked for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. Chilcoat sold it to Joseph T. Foster, partner in Dean & Foster Furniture Company and Funeral Home. Dean & Foster was at 13 N. Main St. [HA-1427]. Mr. Foster built the house at 48 W. Gordon St. [HA-1789] in 1932. He bought this house in 1955. His son, Joseph W. Foster, lived here after he got married and before he exchanged houses with his parents in 1960 and moved into 48 W. Gordon. The elder Foster had been ill, and he and his wife preferred the small house all on one level. Joseph W. Foster and his sister, Mildred Elizabeth, inherited from their father, and Joseph W. got this house and the house on Gordon St. from the division. It is a rental.

The Chilcoats added to the back of the house, extending the kitchen and adding a bedroom. The house now has 3 bedrooms.



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Magness House  
35 W. Broadway  
Bel Air, MD 21014

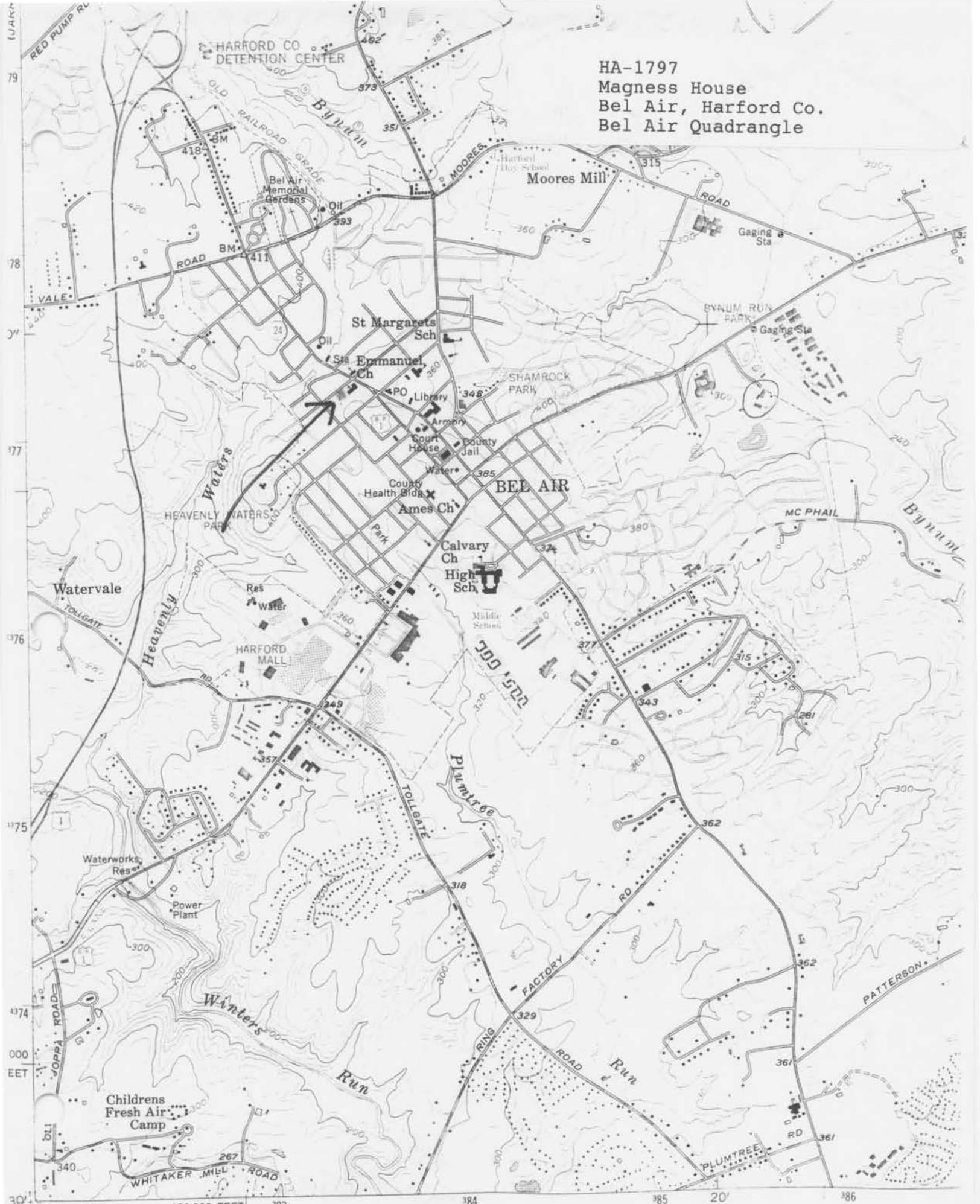
owner: Mrs. Joseph W. Foster

- 823/481            26 Aug 1969  
Zero, Inc.  
to  
Joseph William Foster and Jeanne A. and Mildred  
Elizabeth Foster, unmarried  
Various parcels, the property of Joseph T. Foster,  
Sophia B., his wife, having died earlier. He devised  
the properties to son Joseph William and daughter  
Mildred Elizabeth, will 29/579. Part of parcel 4 is 35  
W.Broadway. This deed and the two following are to  
divide the property.
- 823/486            26 Aug 1969  
Zero, Inc.  
to  
Joseph W. Foster and Jeanne A.  
all of the above except a part of parcel 4, recorded  
below
- 823/484            26 Aug 1969  
Zero, Inc.  
to  
Joseph W. Foster and Jeanne, and Mildred Elizabeth  
Foster  
lots 9 and 10 of block A in Richardson's Addition
- 433/195            15 Apr 1955  
John Stanley Chilcoat and Marie E.  
to  
Joseph T. Foster and Sophia B.  
lots 9-13 of block A in Richardson's Addition  
  
Title splits into 9 and 10 and 11-13. We follow 9 and  
10 (35 W. Broadway).
- 284/61            5 June 1944  
Albert H. Magness and Helen E.  
to  
J. Stanley Chilcoat and Marie E.
- 227/402            13 Dec 1933  
Ramsey L. Magness and Sadie H.  
to  
Albert H. Magness and Helen E.

150/68

25 May 1915  
Henrietta Rouse et al  
to  
Ramsey L. Magness  
Rouse et al own Richardson's Addition.

HA-1797  
Magness House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle





LA 77  
100-100-100-100  
HARDY CO. N.C.  
100-100-100  
100-100-100  
100-100-100  
100-100-100

35 W. BROADWAY



35 W. BROADWAY  
BEL AIR



42-1701  
11-2-50 4955  
28-1-50 51-1-50  
11-2-50

35 W. BROADWAY  
BEL AIR