

HA-1838  
1921  
Bel Air  
Private

The French House, 333 Williams St., faces west on a large, shady lot at the corner of W. Broadway in Richardson's Addition. It is a very simple 2 story, gable-roofed clapboard house, 2 bays square, with a center chimney at the peak of the roof, a bit larger than the other houses in this end of Richardson's Addition. Its only ornament is a hipped front porch carried on 4 simple round columns. The square balustrade is recent. Although it was built in 1921, the windows are an old-fashioned 2/2 double-hung sash. There is a side porch in the east bay of the south elevation.

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. This 2 bay square house is in the north end of Richardson's Addition, an area of mostly working-man's houses. It is a bit bigger than its neighbors, built in the vernacular style popular all over town before and after. It was built in 1921 for Harry French and his wife, probably by the McComas Brothers, since the 1922 mortgage, defaulted in 1925, was to them. They owned the lumberyard on N. Main St. near the now demolished train station [HA-1443, HA-1443] and often built houses on their own account or for others, sometimes just giving credit for materials.

HA-1838  
French 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. 54-1030

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic French House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 333 Williams St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air vicinity of 3rd congressional district

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 Mr. 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 613

street & number Bel Air folio 609

city, town Bel Air state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town Bel Air state MD

## 7. Description

Survey No. A-130

<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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	<input type="checkbox"/> <del>ALtered</del>		

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

Contributing resource count: one

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Mr. Foster declined to have the interior visited. It is said to have living room, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms and a bath.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1443

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** 1921 **Builder/Architect** McComas Bros.

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. This 2 bay square house is in the north end of Richardson's Addition, an area of mostly working-man's houses. It is a bit bigger than its neighbors, built in the vernacular style popular all over town before and after. It was built in 1921 for Harry French and his wife, probably by the McComas Brothers, since the 1922 mortgage, defaulted in 1925, was to them. They owned the lumberyard on N. Main St. near the now demolished train station [HA-1443, HA-1443] and often built houses on their own account or for others, sometimes just giving credit for materials.

The defaulted mortgage was for \$2400. John Robinson, the assignee, sold the house to the McComases for \$3000. The McComases held it as a rental. Mary McComas, widow of Emory McComas, acquired the house in 1941 as part of the property division on the deaths of both brothers. She sold it to Joseph W. Foster, proprietor of Foster Funeral Home across the street, in 1963. It continues as a rental.



HA-1838  
French House  
333 Williams St.  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Joseph William Foster

613/609            12 Mar 1963  
Mary B. McComas, widow  
to  
Joseph William Foster and Jeanne  
lots 16 and 17 block A, Richardson's Addition  
parcel 2 in 265/205

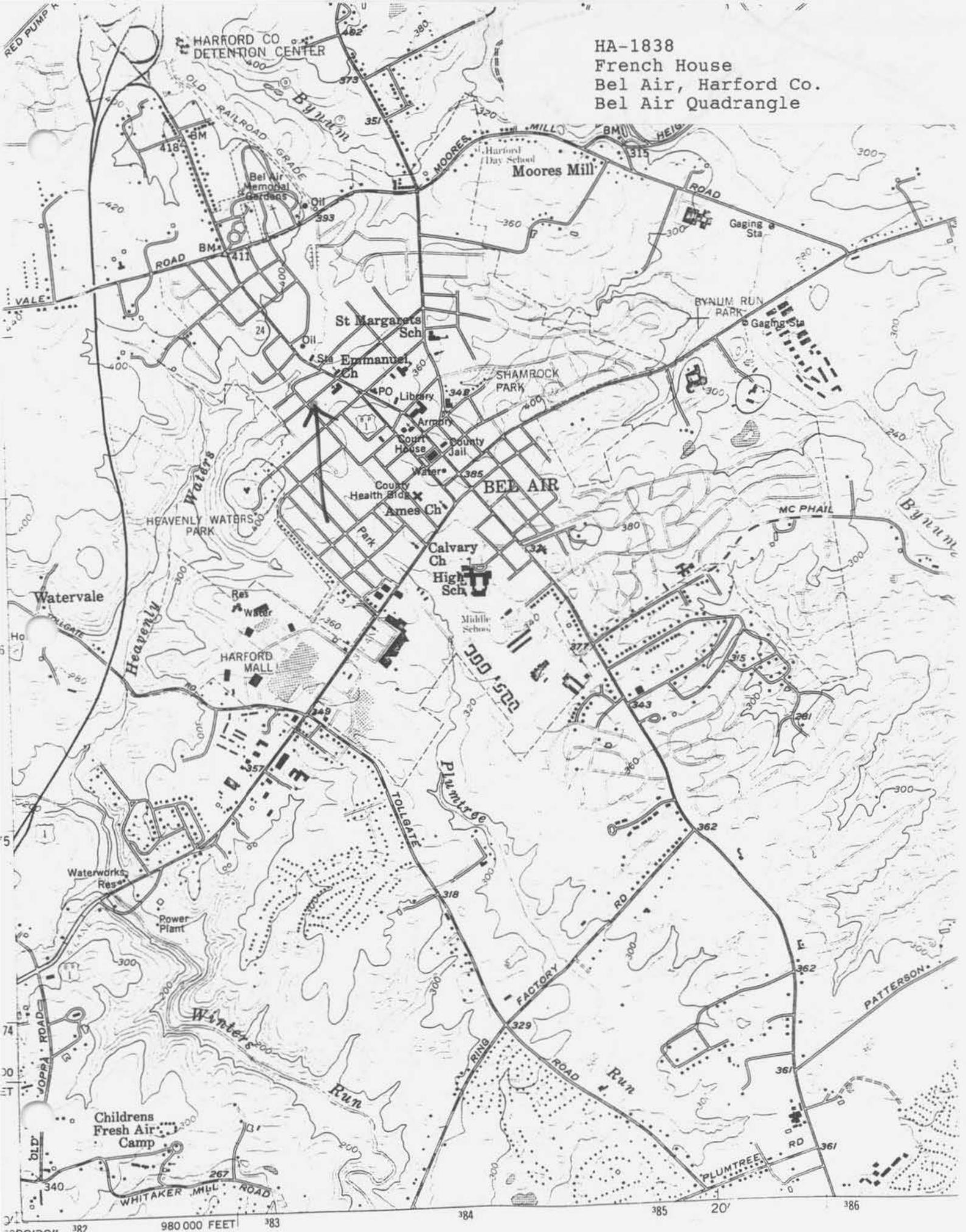
265/205            10 Apr 1941  
Mary B. McComas, trustee  
to  
self  
Mrs. McComas is trustee to sell real estate in the law  
suit Equity Docket 3/29, the division of property  
between the heirs of M. Stanley and Emory A. McComas,  
both deceased. Mary is the widow of Emory A.

195/282            4 Dec 1925  
John A. Robinson, assignee  
to  
M. Stanley and Emory McComas  
\$3000  
defaulted mortgage Harry R. French and Lucille to the  
McComases 8 Feb 1922 for \$2400

176/98            3 Nov 1921  
C. Clyde Spencer and Estelle M.  
to  
Harry R. French and Lucille A.  
lots 16 and 17 block A, Richardson's Addition

150/254            25 May 1915  
Henrietta Rouse et al  
to  
C. C. Spencer  
\$240  
The Rouses and Miss Richardson own Richardson's  
Addition

HA-1838  
French House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle





HA-1938

F: 11 11

W: 11 11

T: 11 11

F: 11 11

T: 11 11

F: 11 11

T: 11 11

F: 11 11

T: 11 11

333 WILLIAMS ST.

BEL AIR



U.S. AIR FORCE  
F. W. ...  
...

3400  
F. W. ...

333 WILLIAMS ST.  
BEL AIR