

HA-5

## Sophia's Dairy

### **Architectural Survey File**

This is the architectural survey file for this MIHP record. The survey file is organized reverse-chronological (that is, with the latest material on top). It contains all MIHP inventory forms, National Register nomination forms, determinations of eligibility (DOE) forms, and accompanying documentation such as photographs and maps.

Users should be aware that additional undigitized material about this property may be found in on-site architectural reports, copies of HABS/HAER or other documentation, drawings, and the “vertical files” at the MHT Library in Crownsville. The vertical files may include newspaper clippings, field notes, draft versions of forms and architectural reports, photographs, maps, and drawings. Researchers who need a thorough understanding of this property should plan to visit the MHT Library as part of their research project; look at the MHT web site ([mht.maryland.gov](http://mht.maryland.gov)) for details about how to make an appointment.

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***Last Updated: 02-18-2004***

Maryland HA-5

Harford

FOR NPS USE ONLY

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

## 1. NAME

COMMON:

Sophia's Dairy

AND/OR HISTORIC:

## 2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Lane runs north of U. S. 40 about 0.6 mile east of Belcamp Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Belcamp, near Aberdeen

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

COUNTY:

Harford

CODE

025

## 3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

## 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Bata Shoe Company

STREET AND NUMBER:

Route 40 at Belcamp Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Belcamp, near Aberdeen

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

## 5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Clerk of the Circuit Court

STREET AND NUMBER:

Harford County Courthouse, 40 South Main Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Bel Air

STATE:

Maryland

CODE

24

## 6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:

1969

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

STATE:

D.C.

CODE

11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY:

Harford

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION			
CONDITION	(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair
	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)		(Check One)
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE			
<p>This large center-hall brick house faces south in a grove of locust and poplar trees overlooking the Bush River about two miles southwest of Aberdeen.</p> <p>The severely plain exterior of Sophia's Dairy is in vivid contrast to the elegantly finished rooms inside and the spectacular staircase in the hall.</p> <p>Flemish bond brickwork rises two stories high from a lighted stone basement. Oblong, 64' by 45', 7 bays by 2 (with 6 by 2 upstairs), the house faces south. A low stone wing running east, formerly a separate coach-house now connected to the house, serves as a garden workroom for the present owner. The gable roof ridgeline runs east-west over a plain cornice and trim eaves. About six feet in from either end wall are two chimneys rising from back-to-back fireplaces on both floors. Unshuttered windows have 6 lights over 6.</p> <p>Indoors there are two large rooms on either side of the hall. The wainscoted hall, 16' by 45', is amply lighted by windows on either side of the front and back doors and by light descending through the wide stairwell from two windows in each end of the hall above.</p> <p>The most extraordinary feature of Sophia's Dairy is the double stair which extends upward on the west wall from both ends of the hall. It continues east in one short flight, then separates and parallels the lower flight to the second story hall. The step ends have handsome scrolled fretwork, and the balusters are turned. At the base of the stair the handrail terminates in a volute, as does the lower step. Raised panel dado extends around the room and up the stairs, as well as on the stair soffit.</p> <p>Fluted pilasters support Doric frieze with modillion cornice above the parlor fireplace. Between the pilasters is a plain panel with crossetted trim above a mantel shelf which in turn is supported on crossetted trim around the fireplace. The dining room on the opposite side of the hall has a similar overmantel, but it lacks the Doric frieze. In its place is a dentil cornice. The mantel appears to be a subsequent addition of the Federal period. Flanking the fireplace is a glazed china cabinet and a door to the back hall, both flanked by fluted pilasters. The aforesaid rooms have paneled dado and window seats and jambs and crossetted trim around the windows and doors. The rear (north) rooms have been slightly altered for use as a bedroom and bath, and a kitchen. Raised paneling on the fireplace wall and other architectural features are undisturbed in the kitchen.</p>			

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- ☐ Pre-Columbian      ☐ 16th Century      ☒ 18th Century      ☐ 20th Century  
☐ 15th Century      ☐ 17th Century      ☐ 19th Century

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

1768

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-        | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | losophy                                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              |  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-        |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This fine Georgian center-hall house was built in 1768 by the third generation of the Hall family to own this land, Sophia White Hall and her husband Aquilla Hall. First cousins, their grandfather John Hall of Cranberry added this tract in 1718 to earlier patents amounting to 1500 or more acres along the Bush River first acquired in 1673. In 1731 when his daughter Sophia married Col. Thomas White, lawyer and surveyor for Charles Carroll, John Hall gave her 150 acres.

Thomas and Sophia White lived on this tract in a house on the Bush River that is now destroyed. Col. White was born in England in 1704, came to America at the age of fifteen, and became a lawyer and an expert in land titles. This was his first land holding, but by 1777 he owned 7,772 acres. In 1745, however, his wife died, and he moved to Philadelphia, and married two years later for the second time. A son by that marriage, William White became the first Episcopal Bishop in America, and a daughter Mary married Robert Morris, signer of the Declaration, and financier of the American Revolution.<sup>2</sup>

Sophia White II the only child of the first marriage to marry and leave descendants, married her cousin Aquilla Hall. They built the present house in 1768. Quoting from family papers Preston reports that the house was built using "the hands of five redemptionists, two of whom were masons, two carpenters, and one a laborer, who worked with imported bricks and who, when their work was finished, received freedom as their reward."<sup>3</sup>

Aquilla Hall, born in 1727, was sheriff of Baltimore County in 1762, and a member of the House of Delegates in 1763. In 1773 he was one of seven Commissioners of the newly formed Harford County. He owned the house at Bush in which the first court of the County was held. His name appears

<sup>1</sup> C. Milton Wright, Our Harford Heritage, (By the Author, 1966) p. 30-31.

<sup>2</sup> Walter W. Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: Press of the Sun Book Office, 1901.) p. 205.

<sup>3</sup> Walter Preston, History of Harford County, (Baltimore: Press of the Sun Book Office, 1901.) p. 205.

(see continuation sheet)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Harford	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

NA-5

(Number all entries)

Sophia's Dairy

No. 8. Significance continued

first among the twenty-two signers of the Bush Declaration, believed to be the first Declaration of Independence in the country, signed 22 March 1775, fourteen months prior to the signing of the world-famous document prepared by Jefferson in Philadelphia. He was appointed Colonel of the militia by the State Convention of 1776. He was a Lord Justice of the Court at Bush in 1779, the last year of his life.

After several transfers inside the Hall-White-Wainwright family, the farm was acquired by the Bata Shoe Company, originally a Czech firm that re-located here to avoid Nazi appropriation in 1934. Bata planned a large city for their workers on this land, but found instead that American workers expect to commute long distances to work. However, the Dairy house was carefully restored for their executive, Victor Schmidt, whose widow lives in the house today.

## 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Earle, Swepson. The Chesapeake Bay Country. Baltimore: Thomsen-Ellis Company, 1934

Forman, Henry Chadlee. Early Manor and Plantation Houses of Maryland. Easton, Maryland: By the Author, 1934

Preston, Walter W. History of Harford County. Baltimore: Press of the Sun Book Office, 1901.

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. By the Author, 1966.

## 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	39°	28'	25"		76°	14'	10"	
NE	39°	28'	29"		76°	14'	01"	
SE	39°	28'	22"		76°	13'	56"	
SW	39°	28'	16"		76°	14'	05"	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

*16 acres*

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

## 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Jean S. Ewing

ORGANIZATION

Maryland Historical Trust

STREET AND NUMBER:

2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN:

Annapolis

STATE

Maryland

CODE

24

DATE

April 18, 1973

## 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

## NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name

Orlando Ridout IV

Title State Preservation Officer

for Maryland

Date April 18, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation


Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. STATE <b>Maryland</b> COUNTY <b>Harford County</b> TOWN <b>Belcamp</b> VICINITY STREET NO. <b>Belcamp</b>  ORIGINAL OWNER <b>Acquila Hall</b> ORIGINAL USE <b>Dwelling</b> PRESENT OWNER PRESENT USE WALL CONSTRUCTION <b>Stone foundation</b> NO. OF STORIES <b>2 and brick</b>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <b>HA - 5</b>  2. NAME <b>Sophia's Dairy</b>  DATE OR PERIOD <b>1768</b> STYLE <b>Georgian</b> ARCHITECT BUILDER <b>Acquila Hall</b>  3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <span style="float: right;">OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u></span>  <p>Sophia's Dairy is a 6 bay brick mansion built near the Bush River in Harford County. The house is 2 stories with high attic and two large square central chimneys. The roof is "A" shaped. It sits on a stone basement and there is a molded water-table. The brick is laid in Flemish bond on all sides. Above the windows of the first floor are flat arches of gauged brick. The arches of the second floor consist of a string of headers laid vertically. All of the windows have 6 over 6 sash. There is a square "date brick" in the west gable which reads "1768" with "A H" beneath. The door is centered in each facade and there is no window above. Each is a double door with fluted pilasters. The cap of each pilaster has a strapwork design similar to a snowflake. There is a semi-circular transom above each door. Over the south entrance is a pedimented portico. To the east of the dwelling is a one-story stone wing which houses the garage, green house, etc. The overall appearance is extremely severe and extremely large. The interior is noted for its fine woodwork, and especially for the double staircase which rises from the central hall.</p> <p>The house is situated close to the Baltimore &amp; Ohio Railroad tracks.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(continued on reverse side)</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE <span style="float: right;">Exterior</span> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <span>Endangered</span> <span>Interior</span> </div>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)  		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  <b>Forman, Henry Chandler</b> <b>Early Manor and Plantation Houses</b> <b>of Maryland, 1934 - page 128</b>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER  <b>Michael O. Bourne</b> <b>Maryland Historical Trust</b> DATE OF RECORD <b>March 11, 1968</b>	

The house was built by Aquila Hall and named for his wife, Sophia. Robert Morris, the "Financier of the Revolution" married Sophia's sister, and they visited the Dairy many times. When the Continental Congress moved to Baltimore during the Revolution - when the British threatened to take over Philadelphia - Mrs. Morris and her family stayed at the Dairy.



# MARYLAND

PERRYMAN

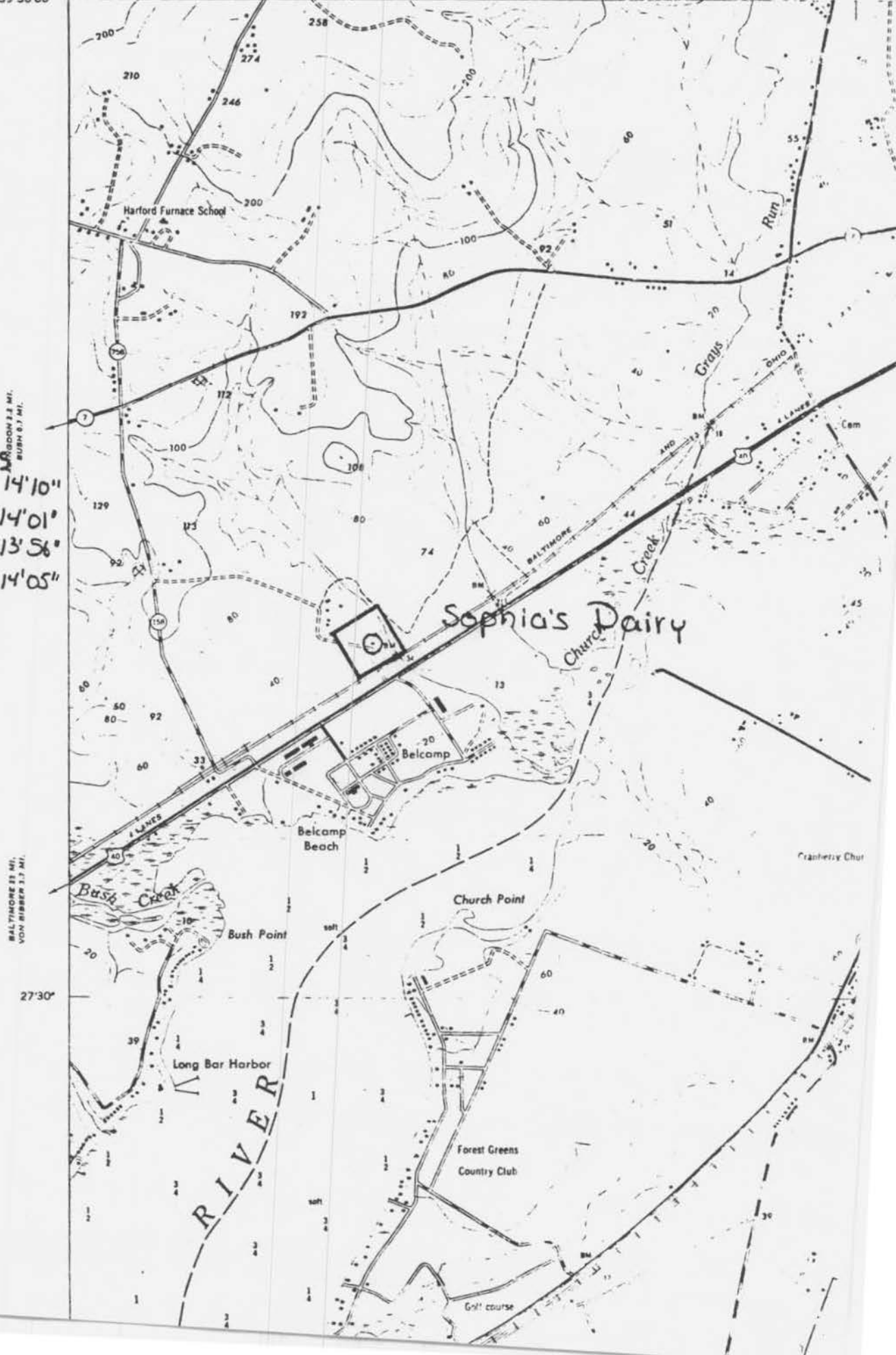
76°15'00"  
39°30'00"

CARBINE 7 MI  
17°10"

lat  
W 39°28'25"  
E 39°28'29"  
E 39°28'22"  
W 39°28'16"

long  
76°14'10"  
76°14'01"  
76°13'56"  
76°14'05"

HA-5



BALTIMORE 23 MI.  
VON RIBBER 2.7 MI.

27°30'

Crabtree Chur



2-1-73

3-1-67

Sophia's Diary " from southeast 182 1/73



HA-5

K