

HA-870

1819; c.1850

Smithson-Webster House
"Bald Hill"
2950 Sandy Hook Road
Sandy Hook vicinity
Private

The Smithson-Webster House is significant for its association with the Smithson family and David Hopkins, the client and craftsman responsible for the D. H. Springhouse (HA-44), a National Register site, which was built as an outbuilding of the Smithson farm. The house also shows vestiges of Hopkins' high quality workmanship in the carved front steps and the large mounting block.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC Smithson-Webster House; "Bald Hill"
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
2950 Sandy Hook Road

CITY, TOWN
Sandy Hook

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

2nd

STATE
Maryland

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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME William and Rebecca Muth

Telephone #: 838-2170

STREET & NUMBER
2950 Sandy Hook Road

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
MD 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 902
Folio #: 907

STREET & NUMBER
20 W. Courtland Street

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

STATE
MD

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Maryland Historical Trust Historic Sites Inventory

DATE
c. 1970 (mounting block only) FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN
Annapolis

STATE
MD

7 DESCRIPTION

HA-870

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Smithson-Webster House is a two-story frame house with a one-story porch built about 1850 which is located on the west side of Sandy Hook Road between Deer Creek and the Sandy Hook-Allibone-Walters Mill Road intersection at Sandy Hook, Harford County, Maryland. The site includes a stone mounting block in the front yard and a one-story frame tenant house about 40 yards northeast of the house. The main elevation faces southeast.

The main elevation has three bays with a center entrance. The shed porch has scroll-sawn brackets. The l/l modern sash is flanked by louvred shutters. Brick interior chimneys rise from each gable end. At the rear or west side of the house is a two-story wing placed perpendicularly to the main section. A two-story open porch is located on the north side of the wing. A bulkhead cellar entrance projects from the north gable end of the main section. The roof is slate and the foundation is stone. The exterior is covered in buff-colored aluminum siding.

About 20 feet from the front porch of the house is a stone mounting block built by David Hopkins for William Smithson in 1819. The structure consists of cut stone blocks laid to form two perpendicular flights of four steps each, with an approximately 40-inch square top. The top stone is carved with the date 1819 and flanked by the initials "D.H." The front porch of the house is reached via two stone blocks, the upper of which has carved scroll ends. This is undoubtedly also the work of Hopkins.

The mounting block's date has led some to the assumption that the house was built around 1819 also. However, the form and details of the house are more typical of the mid-19th century. In addition, the title search shows the property passed from the Smithson family to Henry Webster in 1850. It is possible that there was a previous house built by William Smithson between 1813 and 1819 which was incorporated in the existing house by Webster. The original house may also have burned or been demolished and later rebuilt when Webster acquired the property. In any case, there is no clearly visible evidence of an earlier house except for the carved stone steps and the mounting block.

The tenant house stands about 40 yards northeast of the main house and faces south. It is a one-story frame building with a three-bay elevation and a center entrance. A small entry porch with a metal roof shelters the door. A rear wing was possibly used as an icehouse, as evidenced by a below-grade open space under the rear wing which has apparently never been used as a cellar. The exterior is german siding and the roof is composition sheet material. The tenant house appears to be a late 19th century building. It is now used for hay storage.

South of the house and currently separately owned is the frame and stone barn. It has had several additions and alterations which have almost completely changed its traditional appearance. The present owner of the Smithson-Webster House says a carved stone bearing a date of 1816 or 1819 is located in the stone foundation, but this was not confirmed in the current survey.

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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1819; c. 1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Smithson-Webster House is significant for its association with the Smithson family and David Hopkins, the client and craftsman responsible for the D. H. Springhouse (HA-44), a National Register site, which was built as an outbuilding of the Smithson farm. The house also shows vestiges of Hopkins' high quality workmanship in the carved front steps and the large mounting block.

The farm was formed from parts of the tracts "Wheeler's Second Addition", "Green's Disappointment", and "Deer Park". William Smithson was the nephew of the William Smithson who signed the Bush Declaration in 1775. Smithson bought 247 acres from Benjamin Quinlan in 1813. In 1831, he added 23.5 acres from "Deer Park" to form a 270.5-acre farm which remained intact until the 1950's. Under the Webster ownership, the farm was called "Bald Hill".

Note: Survey No. HA-870 was originally assigned only to the Mounting Block. All information on the mounting block is incorporated in this form and expanded to include the main house and tenant house.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Janet L. Davis, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Harford County Department of Planning & Zoning

DATE

June 1983

STREET & NUMBER

45 S. Main St.

TELEPHONE

(301) 838-6000 ext 207

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

MD

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.

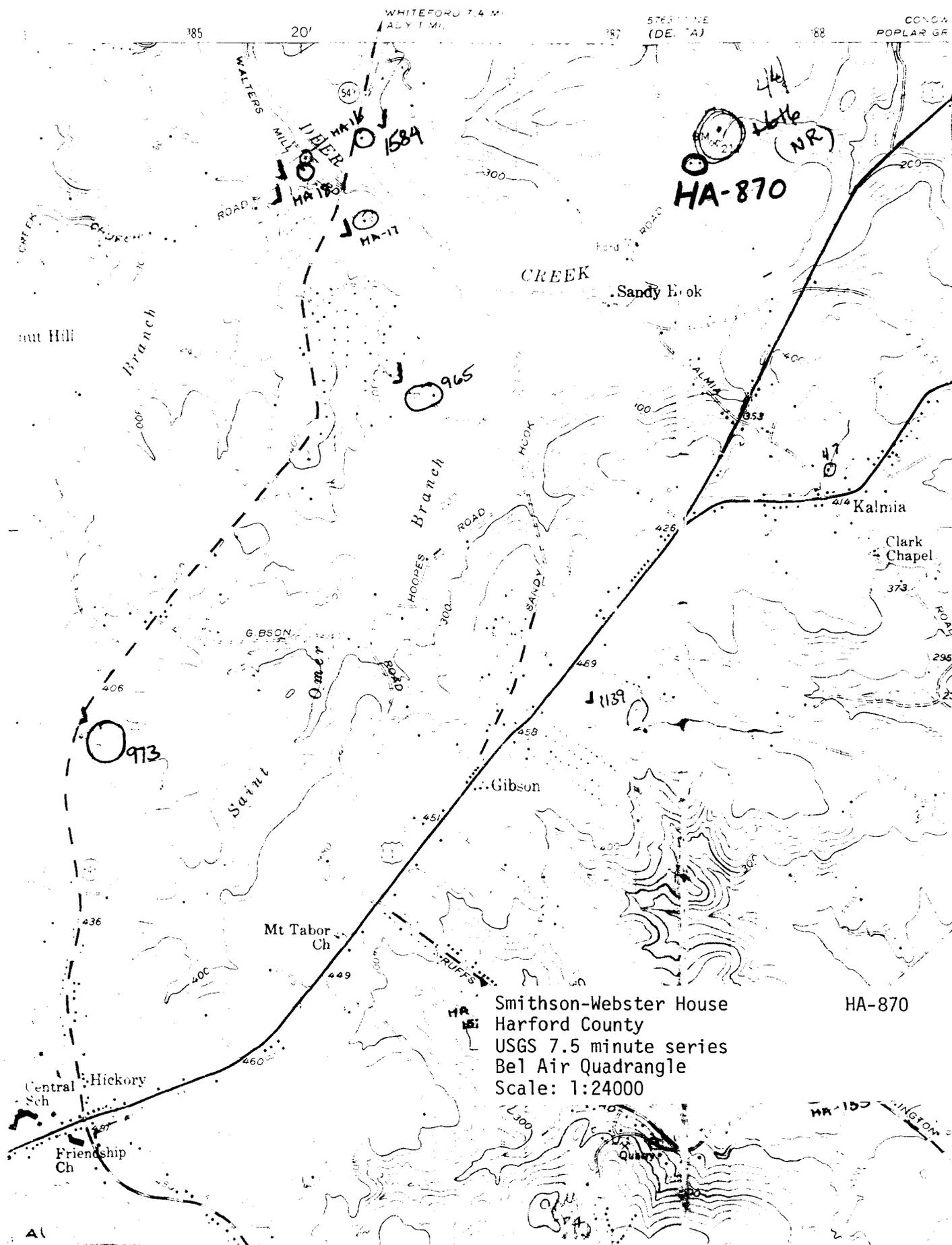
RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

Smithson-Webster House
HA-870
Chain of Title (Partial)

902/907	28 July 1972	Grantor: Coy D. & Eleanor G. Tharpe Grantee: E. L. Dinning III & J. B. Dinning (co-partners of Harford Talc Co.)
431/28	1 March 1955	Grantor: Paul B. & Katherine Harlan Grantee: Coy D. & Eleanor Tharpe et al. Acres: 271.25
251/35	26 February 1938	Grantor: James & Roxie Booher Grantee: Paul B. & Katherine Harlan Acres: 270.5
195/198	3 November 1925	Grantor: Charles C. & Ada Lee Vaughn Grantee: James Booher Acres: 270.5, part of the "Bald Hill" tract
195/172	23 October 1925	Grantor: Charles H. McNabb, assignee Grantee: Charles C. Vaughn & Ruskin B. Warren Acres: 270.5 for \$9,100 (McNabb assigned property upon default of mortgage by Harry S. Carver)
169/487	18 September 1920	Grantor: Edwin H. Webster, trustee Grantee: Harry S. Carver Acres: 270.5 for \$18,500
9/116	20 August 1857	Grantor: Henry Webster Grantee: John W. Webster Acres: 270.5 for \$2,500 "Bald Hill" including parts of "Wheeler's Addition" and "Deer Park"
36/122	16 May 1850	Grantor: Henry Farnandis, trustee Grantee: Henry Webster Acres: 270.5 for \$4,000 (Settlement of equity case: Otho Scott vs Margaret Smithson et al.)
14/43	17 February 1831	Grantor: Samuel Brown Grantee: William Smithson Acres: 23.5 from "Deer Park"
HD X/414	27 November 1813	Grantor: Benjamin Quinlan Grantee: William Smithson Acres: 247 for \$3,954.25, including parts of "Green's Disappointment" and "Wheeler's Second Addition" (Quinlan purchased the land from the trustees of the estate of Thomas Wheeler.)



Smithson-Webster House HA-870
 Jennings & Herrick, Map of Harford County,
 1858



Smithson-Webster House
Harford County
USGS 7.5 minute series
Bel Air Quadrangle
Scale: 1:24000

HA-870

HA-1584 KINGFORD



Smithson-Webster House

HA-870

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

June 1983

East elevation

1/4



Smithson-Webster House
Harford County
Photo: Janet Davis
June 1983
North elevation
2/4

HA-870



Smithson-Webster House

HA-870

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1982

Mounting block, detail of date inscription

4/4



Smithson-Webster House

HA-870

Harford County

Photo: Janet Davis

September 1982

Mounting block, view from north

3/4