

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Maryland HA-5
COUNTY:	Harford
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

**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	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress								
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) _____ _____								
<table border="0"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Comments</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td>_____</td> </tr> </table>				<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____										
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted	_____										
<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted	_____										
<input type="checkbox"/> No	_____										

**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:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Maryland

COUNTY: Harford

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent    Good    Fair    Deteriorated    Ruins    Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered    Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved    Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian:	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 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/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

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  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Maryland	
COUNTY Harford	
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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			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	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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Jean S. Ewing

ORGANIZATION: Maryland Historical Trust DATE: April 18, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 2525 Riva Road

CITY OR TOWN: Annapolis STATE: Maryland CODE: 24

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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  
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 \_\_\_\_\_

MARYLAND

PERRYMAN

76°15'00"  
39°30'00"

CARRING 1 MI  
17' 40"

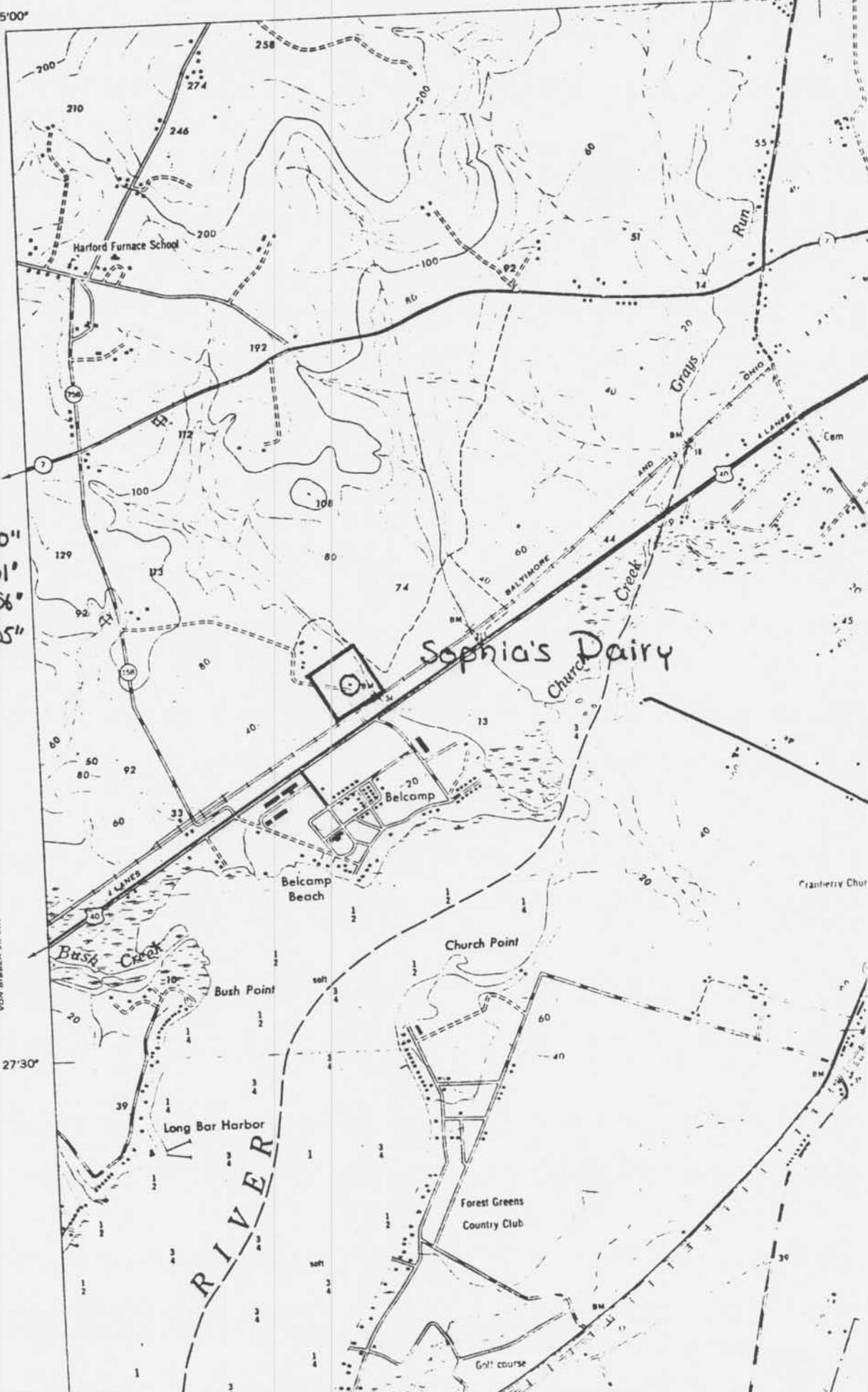
lat  
 W 39°28'25"  
 E 39°28'29"  
 E 39°28'22"  
 W 39°28'16"

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

HA-5

BALTIMORE 13 MI.  
VON BIEBER 3.7 MI.

27°30'





HA-5

2-1-73

11-67

"Sophia's Dairy" from southeast

882 1/73



HA-5

K