

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

| | |
|------------------|----------|
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| RECEIVED | HA - 225 |
| DATE ENTERED | |

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Hays House

AND OR COMMON
Hays House, headquarters of the Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
324 South Kenmore Avenue

CITY TOWN
Bel Air

-- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

STATE VICINITY OF COUNTY CODE
Maryland 24 Harford 025

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 checked="" 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 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 type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Land: Bd. of County Commissioners of Harford Co. (now County Council)
Building: Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 391

CITY TOWN STATE
Bel Air VICINITY OF Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Courthouse of Harford County

STREET & NUMBER
40 South Main Street

CITY TOWN STATE
Bel Air Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY TOWN STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

NK-205

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| EXCELLENT | DETERIORATED | __ UNALTERED | __ ORIGINAL SITE |
| <u>X</u> GOOD | __ RUINS | <u>X</u> ALTERED | <u>X</u> MOVED DATE 1960 |
| FAIR | UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Hays House is a frame, one and one-half storey house with a gambrel roof, four unequal bays in length. The street facade faces northeast, hereinafter called east.

Exterior measurements are approximately as follows:

northerly three bays: 18 1/2 x 26 feet
southerly bay: 18 1/2 x 14 1/2 feet

The dimensions of the northerly three bays probably correspond to those recorded for this property in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records, assuming an error, not unknown in those records: 15 by 26 feet. The southerly bay appears to be an addition to the northerly bays: main sills have joints at the south edge of the partition between the two sections; moulding profiles in the southerly bay are slightly different from those in the northerly bays. However, the differences are very slight and the form of the addition is identical to that of the original, indicating the addition to be very early. Ownership history indicates the original structure has erected in 1788, and history further suggests that the south addition came in 1811, both dates being acceptable respectively for the two sections.

As the house was moved in 1960, it stands on a modern concrete-block foundation; the original was of stone. A two-storey, stone south wing, added later in the 19th century, was not moved.

Exterior entrances are approximately centered in the east and west facades. The east door has eight panels, partially-raised, with loose echinus mouldings; the west door has six similar panels. Both doors are hung on cast-iron butt hinges. Driven pintels inside indicate earlier doors hung on strap hinges. A five-light transom, with 8" x 10" glass, is above the east door. Architraves with applied ovolo backband surround each door.

North of the doors are two windows in each facade and south of the doors is a single window in each facade. Sash are 6/6, the large glass size indicating their 19th century date. If the sash were 9/9, panes would be 8" x 10". Windows are trimmed with an architrave with applied ovolo backband. Louvred blinds at each window are hung on heavy cast-iron hinges; louvres are thick, their beveled edges flush with stiles and rails on their exposed face when open, projecting beyond and extending over the stiles on their reverse side.

A small, four-light casement in the south gable end east of the chimney lights the attic within the upper slope of the gambrel roof.

Weatherboards of the east facade are beaded and they extend unbroken across the entire facade, indicating a date from the period of the south addition. They appear to be fastened with wrought nails. Weatherboards of the north end are riven, each about four feet long,

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NUMBER 1)

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Hays House, Headquarters of the Historical Society of Harford Co., Inc.
Hays House

Harford County
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

#7 - DESCRIPTION Continued

cupboard closed with a pair of paneled doors above and a pair below the chair rail. A six-paneled door in the wall east of the chimney formerly gave access to the later stone wing, not moved with the house. A sloping soffit above the door indicates the few steps formerly down from the second floor into the second floor of the now-missing stone wing.

Original pine flooring remains throughout and most of the plaster is, likewise, original.

In the second storey, the north room is slightly smaller than its counterpart below due to the wider hall accommodating the staircase. It has an irregularly-shaped plastered chimney, trapped to follow the flues within; the fireplace has a simple architrave surround. Doors are like their counterparts below but architraves are of one plane. Chair rail surrounds the several spaces. A room above the easterly portion of the hall (extending a few feet over the north room to correspond to the wider hall) has been reduced in the 20th century by a few feet to create a narrow hall for private access to the south room. The mantel in the south room is an architrave surround supporting a plain frieze with plain pilaster blocks, bed-moulding and shelf. East of the south chimney is a narrow, enclosed winding staircase to the attic, beneath which is a closet, formerly the stairs down into the later stone south wing, now no longer standing.

In the attic, the straight sawn rafters are half-lapped and pegged at their ridge. They appear uniform above both sections of the house, but a joint in the flooring suggests the addition.

In the cellar, both sections have log joists. The cellar dates from the 1960 move, void of historical detail.

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | | | |

SPECIFIC DATES **1788, 1811**

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The HAYS HOUSE is a typical late 18th century dwelling of a moderately prosperous citizen; its small early 19th century addition almost exactly extended the original form and detailing. The house has been little altered since, although it was moved in 1960 one block from its original site on lots 39 and 41, South Main Street. Now it is the headquarters of the Historical Society of Harford County, Inc.

The HAYS HOUSE is one of two remaining houses in Bel Air recorded the 1798 Federal Direct Tax assessment. Its owner was listed as Elizabeth Gibson (who was the widow of Thomas Gibson). The occupant (tenant) of the house was Josias Smith and the house was recorded as 26 by 15 feet. A wooden meat house was the only recorded outbuilding, 10 by 8 feet.

At a very early date, an additional 14 1/2 feet were added to form the present structure. Later in the 19th century, before 1861, a two storey stone wing was added, which stood until the earlier frame portion was moved in 1960.

The Town of Bel Air was laid out in 1780 on the lands of Aquilla Scott. In a deed recorded April 3, 1788 (JLG-H-f.264), John Bull purchased for £54/8 "two lots in the Town of Belle Air together with all the commodities, hereditaments, and emoluments thereunto or anywise appertaining," being lots 39 and 41. On September 23, 1789 (JLG-K-f.419), Bull sold this property to Frederick Yeiser, a merchant of Baltimore Town. The selling price was £150 and the deed states "to have and to hold the aforesaid parcel of land and the premises thereon" which is a variation from the earlier deed. It seems logical to conjecture that John Bull had made some major improvements on this property during the year 1788-89, probably the original portion of the subject structure.

In 1794 Yeiser sold the property to Thomas Gibson (JLG-M-f.1); in 1809 (HD-U-f.158) it was purchased by John Churchman Bond, in 1810 (HD-V-f.289) by Arnold Richardson. At a sheriff's sale 14 August 1811, Thomas A. Hays was the successful bidder; his deed was recorded April 12, 1813 (HD-X-F252). He lived in the house until his death in 1861, at which time it passed to his daughter, Pamelie H. Hays (CWB-7-f.752). In 1875 it was acquired by her sister, Elizabeth A. Jacobs, wife of James M. Jacobs, by their father's will and it remained in the Jacobs family (see deeds WSF-80-f.83, HTB-14-f.96, JAR-145-f.175, JA-15-f.90, JA-16-f.97, DGW-178-f.268, DGW-178-f.269) until 1957 when it was acquired

(See continuation Sheet No.3)

77-805

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Federal Direct Tax Assessment of 1798 for Harford County, Maryland.

Land and Probate Records of Harford County.

Wright, C. Milton. Our Harford Heritage. Baltimore: Frenzy-Bray Printing Co., 1967.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 100 by 110 feet

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| A | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

| | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| B | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| D | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> | <input type="text"/> |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME - TITLE

James Thomas Wollon, Jr., A.I.A., President

ORGANIZATION

Historical Society of Harford Co., Inc.

DATE

October 5, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 391

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland 21014

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

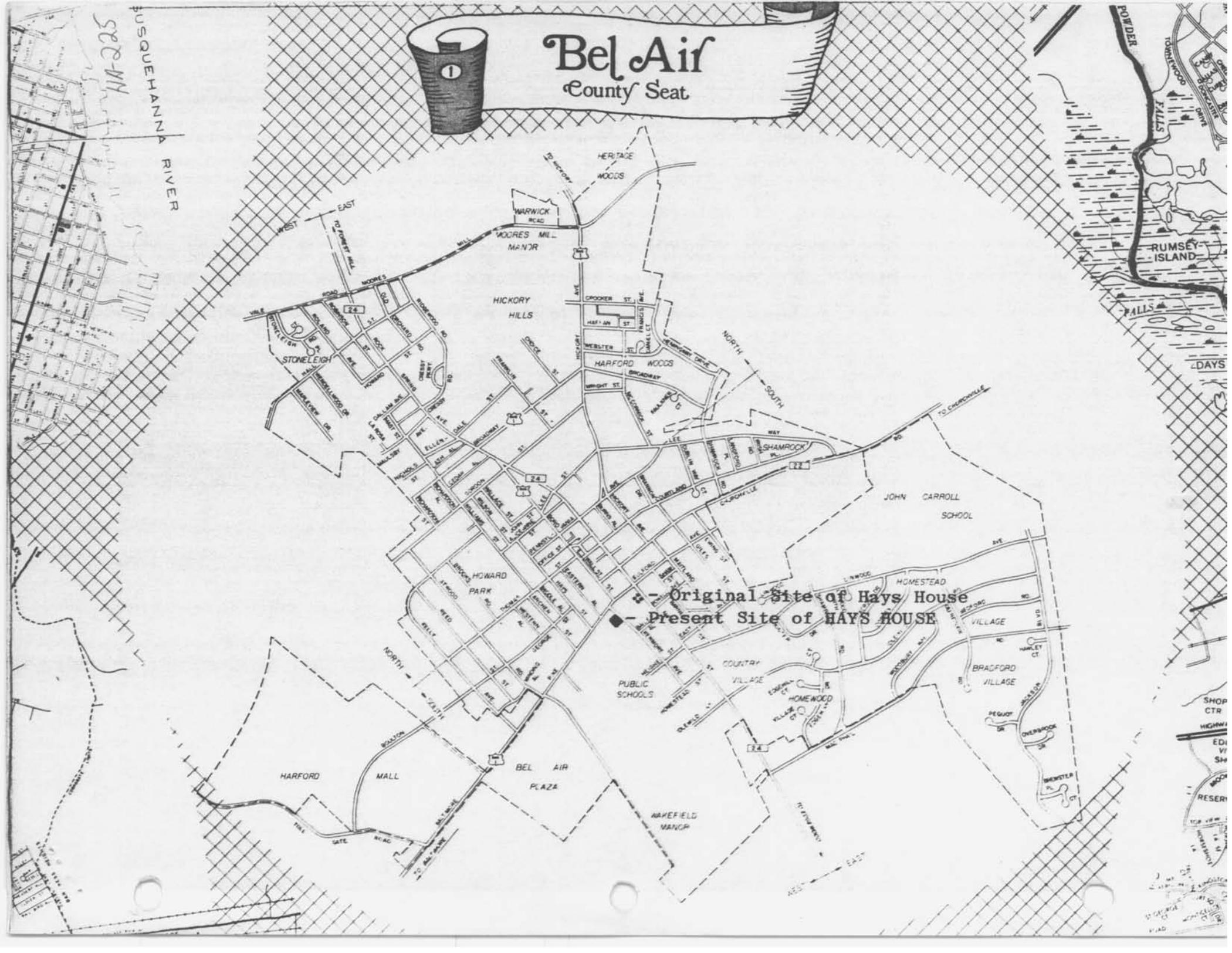
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Bel Air

County Seat



Original Site of Hays House
Present Site of HAYS HOUSE

SEC 22

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

POWDER

JOHN CARROLL

FALLS

RUMSEY ISLAND

FALLS

DAYS

JOHN CARROLL SCHOOL

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

HARFORD MALL

BEL AIR PLAZA

WAKEFIELD MANOR

BRACFORD VILLAGE

COUNTRY VILLAGE

PEQUOT

OVERBROOK

SHOP CTR

HIGHWAY

EDU VI SH

RESER

TOP VIEW

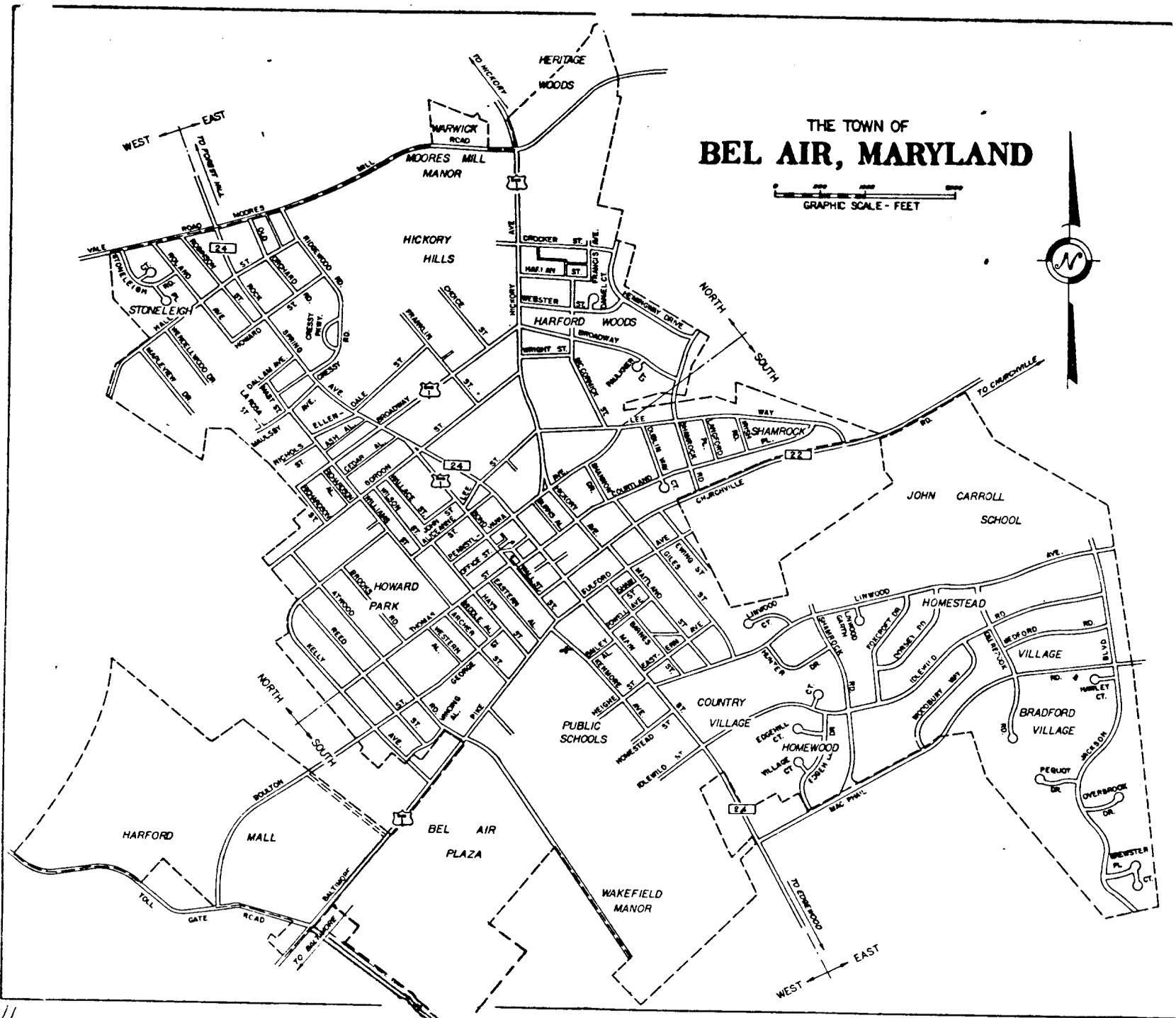
WATERWAY

ST GEORGE

ROAD

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



4A-225

*Hay House
324 South Kenmore Ave.*