HA 229
HA 230

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Liriodendron

and or common Kelly Estate

2. Location

street & number 501 and 502 West Gordon Street ___ not for publication

city, town Bel Air ___ vicinity of congressional district First

state Maryland code 24 county Harford code 025

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	X public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name See continuation sheet (public and private)

street & number

city, town ___ vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse

street & number 40 South Main Street

city, town Bel Air state Maryland 21014

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title MHT Historic Sites Inventory has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust

city, town Annapolis state Maryland

HA 327 330

NPS-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Liriodendron ITEM NUMBER 4 PAGE 1

Owner of Property

Harford County
Department of Parks and Recreation
45 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014 (Tel. (301) 879-2000, x233)

Mr. and Mrs. F. H. Kelly
502 W. Gordon Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014 (Tel. (301) 838-5850)

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Graybeal
501 W. Gordon Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014 (Tel. (301) 838-6040)

Condition		Check one	Check one
X excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on the west edge of Bel Air, Harford County, at the end of West Gordon Street, the Liriodendron estate comprises: a circa 1898 Georgian Revival mansion, Liriodendron; a circa 1835 classical influenced house, the Graybeal-Kelly house; a circa 1835 bank barn; a circa 1898 carriage house; a circa 1850 board-and-batten cottage; and five other outbuildings including a corn crib, a smokehouse, two ice houses, and a shed.

The estate is concentrated on 48.2 acres of gently sloping open land with large trees (many poplars--hence the name Liriodendron, the Latin name for tulip poplars), and ringed by dense woodland on three sides, with the town of Bel Air bordering to the south and west. Historical relationships between the structures are delineated by the topography: Liriodendron, erected as a summer residence for Dr. Howard Kelly in 1898, crowns the highest point of the site whereas the older farmhouse, circa 1835, is set in a slight valley to the southwest (the farm was originally laid out to the south) and the barn, which is contemporary to the farmhouse, is located on the same elevation to the east. The 1898 carriage house abuts the barn's east side. The other buildings, including the circa 1850 cottage, are clustered in the southeast portion of the estate. The ice-houses are located adjacent to their respective households--one to the north of Liriodendron, the foundations of the other (the actual structure has been moved to the other side of the house) to the west of the Graybeal-Kelly house.

Liriodendron Mansion, 502 West Gordon Street

The 1898 Liriodendron mansion, reminiscent of Newport, Rhode Island houses in its dramatic grandeur and setting, was designed by the Baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Nolting in the Georgian Revival style. Set on a raised stone foundation and constructed of stuccoed brick with a low-pitched hipped roof, the house is two and a half stories and T-shaped with the service wing constituting the stem of the T on the east. At the southeast juncture of the two sections is a one-room adjunct containing the servants' pantry.

The seven-bay by two-bay main block faces west (for descriptive purposes). Spanned by a verandah along the west facade, it has a 3 bay wide central pedimented gable and is flanked by semi-elliptical pavilions. In this section are two interior end chimneys and two chimneys on either side of the central gable. The five-bay by three-bay service wing has two interior chimneys in both the north and south ends and three-bay jerkinhead dormers in each side. The main section, typically, is more highly ornamented than the service wing with corner quoins, chimneys with string courses and dentilled caps, and crossette window trim. The tripartite modillioned cornice encircles the whole house and the drainpipes have egg-and-dart trim. The ornament of the cornice is ceramic. Except for the casement windows in the basement, all windows have six lights over three vertical lights; those in the service wing have louvered shutters.

See continuation sheet 2

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On the front or western elevation, the three-bay wide projecting central pavilion is flanked on each side by two windows in both stories. The pavilion is set off by two-story ionic quarter-columns at both ends and flanking the central entrance; in the gable is a huge cartouche. Pedimented windows are on either side of the entrance, which has a rounded broken pediment and a glass casement door. In the second story center bay is a tripartite window. Reached by flights of steps at either end, the verandah has a balustrade flanked by scrolled acanthus brackets, a canopy of wisteria vines, and a terrazzo mosaic floor.

The interior plan of the main section consists of a central hall flanked by a parlor on the north and dining room on the south. The east section has four rooms straddling a core containing the main stairway atrium on the west and the servants' stair on the east. The staircase with landings is in a three-story atrium with a sky light. All rooms, except the service pantry, have fireplaces. Altogether there are 13 fireplaces in the house.

Each room is treated individually, although the scope and style of ornament are consistent throughout the first floor. A description of the living hall illustrates the type and variety of ornament on the interior. The hall has a fireplace flanked by arched openings in the north wall, a central arched opening with paneled doors in the south, and an arched opening to the stairhall on the east. An egg-and-dart cornice and a shoulder-height molded rail encircle the room; the main entrance has crossette trim. The fireplace likewise has an egg-and-dart cornice, with bead-and-reel bed molding, an architrave with a central cartouche, decorated with carved fruits, urns, and garlands. The Virginia Freestone opening (replaced) has a foliate surround; the hearth of Italian marble is original. The overmantel with pilasters, recessed panels, and foliated trim continues the formal naturalistic themes.

The second floor has seven bedrooms arranged around the central atrium, which is surrounded by an ionic-collumed arcade.

Graybeal-Kelly House, 501 West Gordon Street

Until the "Liriodendron" Mansion was constructed, the ca. 1835 brick Graybeal-Kelly house served as the manor house for the farm. Two and one-half stories and laid in five-stretcher bond, this Georgian-style house is grand in its own right. Five bays wide and two rooms deep, with symmetrically arranged facades, this gable-roofed house with two interior end double chimneys has a new one-room addition on the west end. Dormer windows--three on the south side and two on the north--

See continuation sheet 3

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have gable roofs, gable returns, and 6/6 sash windows with segmental arches. Windows in the main stories also have 6/6 sash, as well as flat brick arches, with louvered shutters on the windows in the sides; the basement and gables have louvered openings. Both the north and south sides have central entrances with windows in each of the other five bays on both stories.

The interior has a standard center hall plan with a dog-leg staircase in the northwest portion of the hall. Each of the four first floor rooms has a fireplace in its exterior wall. Windows and doors have molded trim with rondels, with the former having splayed paneled jambs and paneled spandrels. The doors have a double cross design. the windows in the southwest room have drawers underneath the sill which appear to be original. The northwest room of the basement has a fireplace and what appears to have been warming shelves.

The two-story brick smokehouse, adjacent to the west end of the house, has entrances in both stories of the east end.

The board-and-batten icehouse, now located next to the tennis court east of the house, has a hipped roof, scalloped bargeboard, and cupola.

Other Outbuildings

The ca. 1835 bank barn is three stories with a flared gable roof, central gabled extension to the north and forebay (of a slightly later date) to the south. The ground story is stone and opens to the south; windows at this level have brick jack arches. The structure with hand-hewn posts and rafters has mortise-and-tenon and pegged joints.

Abutting the east end of the barn, the 1898 carriage shed, also three stories, is frame covered with German siding, and has a slate gable roof with two eyebrow dormers in the north slope. Like the barn, it is set on a stone foundation, which opens to the south, while the second level opens to the north.

Located south of the latter two buildings, the frame corn crib on stilts has a gable roof and central cross gable with a scalloped barge board and carved brackets.

East of the corn crib is a one-story, gable-roofed, board-and-batten tenant (or farmer's) house with a gable roof. Set on a raised stone foundation, the house is L-shaped and faces south. The south section is one bay wide and one bay deep.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	X science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates c. 1898, c. 1835 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

Liriodendron is a turn-of-the-century summer estate which was developed around a Georgian Revival mansion erected about 1898 for a prominent Baltimore doctor, Howard Atwood Kelly. It is significant for the complex of buildings set among gently sloping hills (with the mansion house on the highest point) and trees (many of which are Tulip Poplars for which Liriodendron is the Latin name) and for its association with Dr. Kelly, a pioneer in the fields of gynecology, radiotherapy, electrosurgery, and herpetology. In addition to the Georgian Revival mansion which was designed by the baltimore architectural firm of Wyatt and Nolting, is an excellent example of its style, and is still occupied by the Kelly family, the complex also contains three excellent and well preserved examples of mid-nineteenth century farm buildings: a circa 1835 classical influenced brick house, the Graybeal-Kelly house: a frame barn contemporary to the Graybeal-Kelly house; and a circa 1850 frame house with board-and-batten siding. These buildings were a part of the farm that was developed by Kelly into the summer estate. Another significant point is that the mansion house, now owned by Harford County, will be annexed into a large county park which lies to the west and north and will become a community center. Much of the county park was originally a part of the Kelly tract.

HISTORY

The estate is best known as the summer residence of Dr. Howard A. Kelly, often referred to as the "father of gynecology" and one of a group of doctors popularly referred to as the "Big Four" of Johns Hopkins Hospital. The "Big Four" was a name given to the first heads of clinic services at Johns Hopkins: William Osler, William Halsted, William Welch, and Howard Kelly. A portrait of them together by John Singer Sargent is the origin of the name "Big Four" and the image as the dons of medicine. The portrait now hangs in Hopkins' Welch Medical Library.

Howard Kelly (1858-1943) was something of a maverick in the medical profession, making significant contributions in several areas. He was a leading world authority in operative medical gynecology and abdominal surgery, the veriform appendix, the uterus. He was a pioneer in radiotherapy, obtaining America's radium from Madame Curie and, in conjunction with Dr. Curtis Burnham, initiating the treatment for cancer widely used today. The Kelly Hospital was the first to use teleoradium apparatus and establish a large radon plant. Kelly also helped Grant E. Ward develop the techniques of another unchartered field, electrosurgery, and won many prizes for his research in herpetology (the study of reptiles). A prolific writer in all fields, Kelly authored 575 books and articles.

See continuation sheet 4

In 1897 Kelly purchased this farm and commissioned the prominent Baltimore architectural firm, Wyatt and Nolting, to design his summer house. Wyatt and Nolting also designed many significant buildings in Baltimore, including the Courthouse, the Keyser Building (corner of Redwood and Calvert Streets), and the original Country Club in Roland Park. With another partner, Joseph Evant Sperry, J.B. Noel Wyatt designed a terrace of rowhouses in the 1000 block of North Calvert Street and the Mercantile Safe Deposit and Trust Company (corner of Calvert and Redwood Streets).

The scale and splendor of the Wyatt and Nolting Liriodendron Mansion make it more appropriate for Newort Rhode Island, than Bel Air, Maryland, where few houses were built of any recognizable style, and certainly none of this scope.

The Graybeal-Kelly house dates from the 1830s and architecturally is also a rare type in the area. Its brick construction, symmetrical arrangement, and center hall plan are almost as anomalous in the Bel Air area as the English Palladian design of the later house.

The barn, contemporary to the Graybeal-Kelly House, is unique in its size (three levels) and craftsmanship and the bank barn type has disappeared entirely from the Bel Air area. In January 1980, the Historic Americal Buildings Survey (HABS), recorded the barn, which is in extremely dilapidated condition.

The estate itself has been extremely significant in Bel Air's development and will continue to be an important natural resource for the area as part of Harford County's Heavenly Waters Park. Prior to its purchase by Howard Kelly, the farm belonged to several of Bel Air's most illustrious citizens. Ninety-two acres came from the estate of Buckler Bond (d. 1823), one of the region's most prosperous farmers and a member of a prominent Bel Air family, and 103 acres from the estate of Thomas Hays (b. 1780, d. 1861), who owned 4,000 acres in Harford County, including 15 of the 42 lots in Bel Air.

Then, as the Kelly's summer estate, the area around the buildings was formally landscaped by the Philadelphia firm, J. Kift & Son, whose design is still apparent with most of the original plantings extant. West Gordon Street, now divided into residential lots, was the original carriage drive for Liriodendron, and is still lined with the different species of maple trees planted by Howard Kelly to exhibit a variety of colors in the autumn. Inside the stone gateposts,

See continuation sheet 5

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the open areas planted with bushes and ringed by evergreens are intact, as is the scheme of the drives around the estate. A privet hedge outlined the residential section of the estate, and a pyrus japonica hedge outlined the vegetable garden. At one time there were at least four greenhouses on the estate--none still standing. The gardener lived in the Graybeal-Kelly House and the greenhouses were located to its west. The main farming portion was sold in the 1950s for a development, leaving the residential and farm building complex, and most of the woodland which serves as a buffer between rapidly-suburbanizing Bel Air and the estate.

In 1961, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Graybeal purchased the Graybeal-Kelly house and a five-acre lot. In 1972, Harford County purchased the remaining 103 acres to incorporate into the county's Heaveny Waters Park. The county is planning to preserve the buildings and to use them as an historical and cultural resource center for the area.

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10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

From north gatepost at end of West Gordon Street marking the entrance to the Kelly property:

1. N 41° 17'02"W 800' (following line of 242A parcel reserved for Kelly)
2. S 43°17'48"W 1430' (following line of property)
3. From that point 1600' in a southeasterly direction on a line that intersects with the pipe at the west end of the S 52°47'31" E 1091.25' line of the whole tract
4. From the point at the end of 1600' N 42°E 840'
5. N 40°79'05" W 190'
6. N 49°29'36"E 139.99'
7. N 40°15'25"W 30,28' to an iron pipe set at a pt. of a curve end.
8. Northwesterly by a line curving to the right, with a radius of 118.32' for an arc distance of 139.34' said curve being substended by a chord bearing N 06°31'10" W 131.43' to an iron pipe now set in the northerly right of way line of Catherine St.
9. Binding thereon N 27°13'15" E 225' with a line curving to the right with a radius of 129.00' for an arc distance of 49.40', said curve being substended by a chord bearing N 38°21'20" E 49.10' to a concrete monument at the easterly corner of the 2.50 acre parcel to be retained by F. Kelly
10. N 40°57'06" W 435.17' to south gatepost of drive.

Containing approximately 48.2 acres

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the site include all buildings associated with the estate, the landscaped area immediately surrounding the buildings,

See continuation sheet 7

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10. Geographical Data

and approximately 300 feet of the woodland to the north, west, and south that represents the portion of the natural landscape that can be seen from the Liriodendron Mansion set at the highest point of the site and serves as an important visual buffer between rapidly suburbanizing Bel Air and the estate.

HA-229 Z36

Land and Will Records, Harford County Courthouse, Bel Air, Md.
Harford Democrat, February 4, 1898
Sun Papers, February 21, 1933 and November 15, 1959
TeLinds, Richard W., "Howard A. Kelly: A Portrait", Johns Hopkins Univ. Mag.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 48.2

Quadrangle name ~~Bel Air~~ Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A			
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet 6

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 Natalie Shivers, Historic Sites Surveyor

organization Harford County Historic District Comm~~ate~~ Rev. March 1980

street & number 45 South Main Street telephone (301) 879-2000 x 207

city or town Bel Air state Maryland

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER date

For HCRS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835

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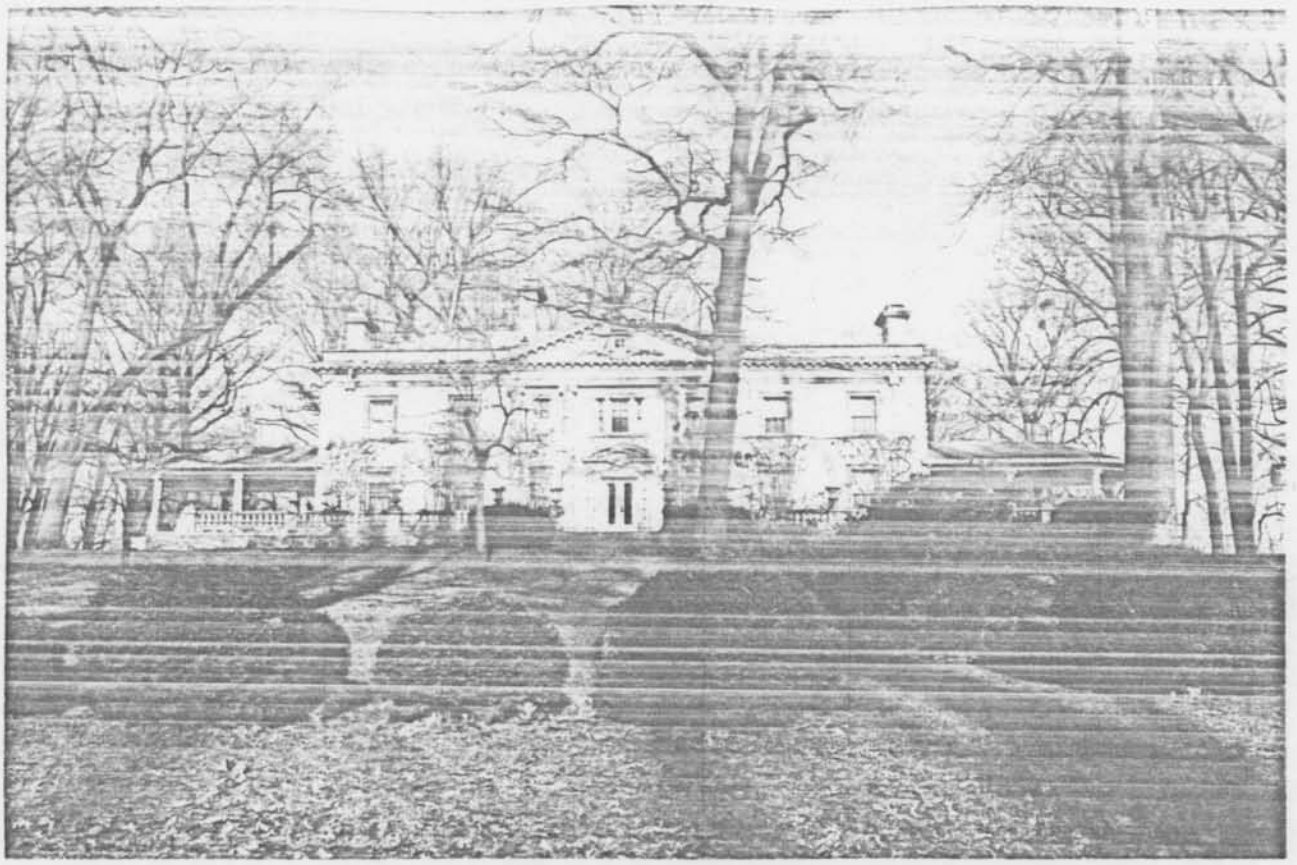
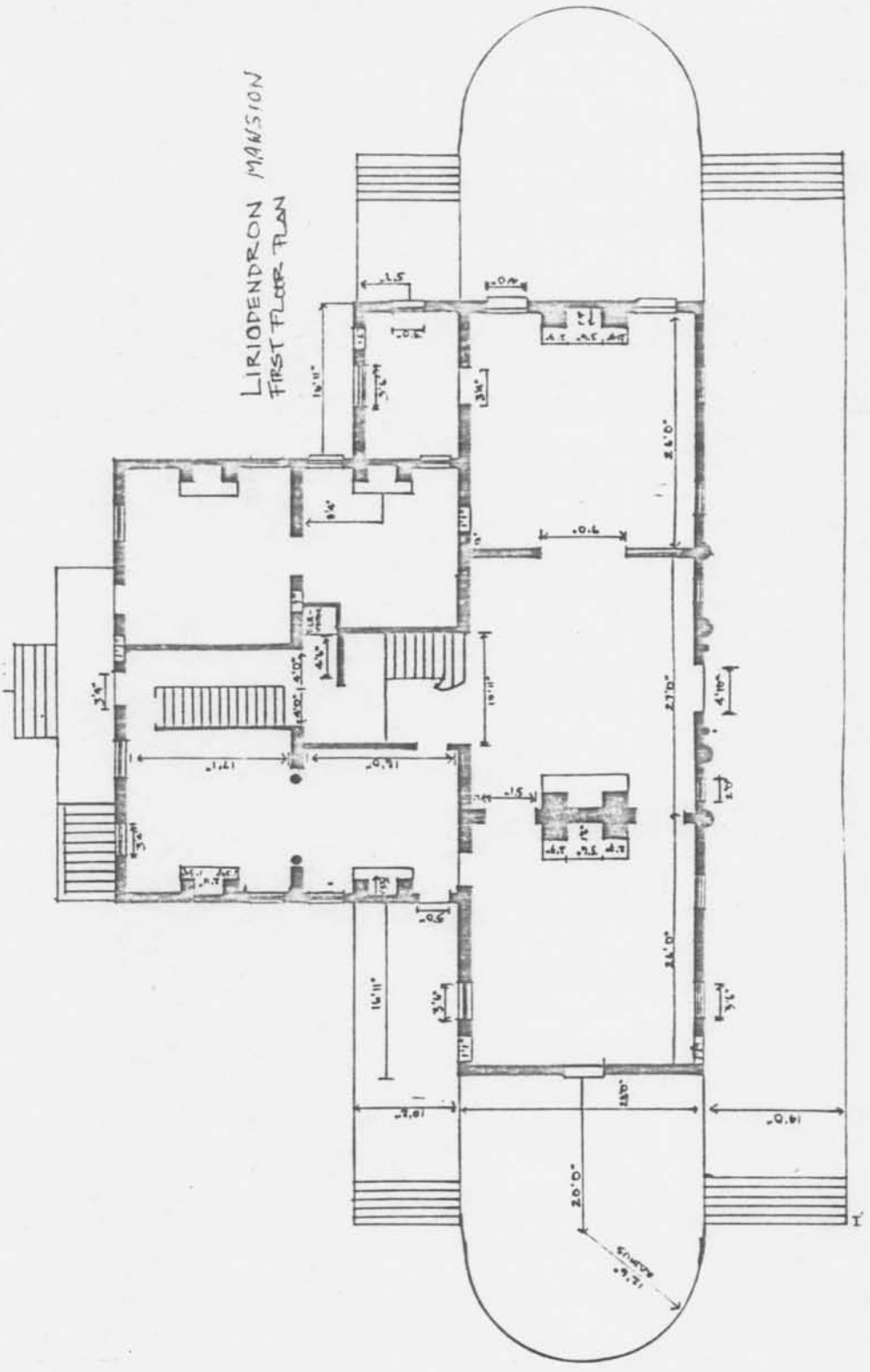


Liriodendron Mansion

NA-229, 230

Graybeal - Kelly House

Tenant House



Liriodendron
Bel Air
Harford County
Maryland

HA-229 230

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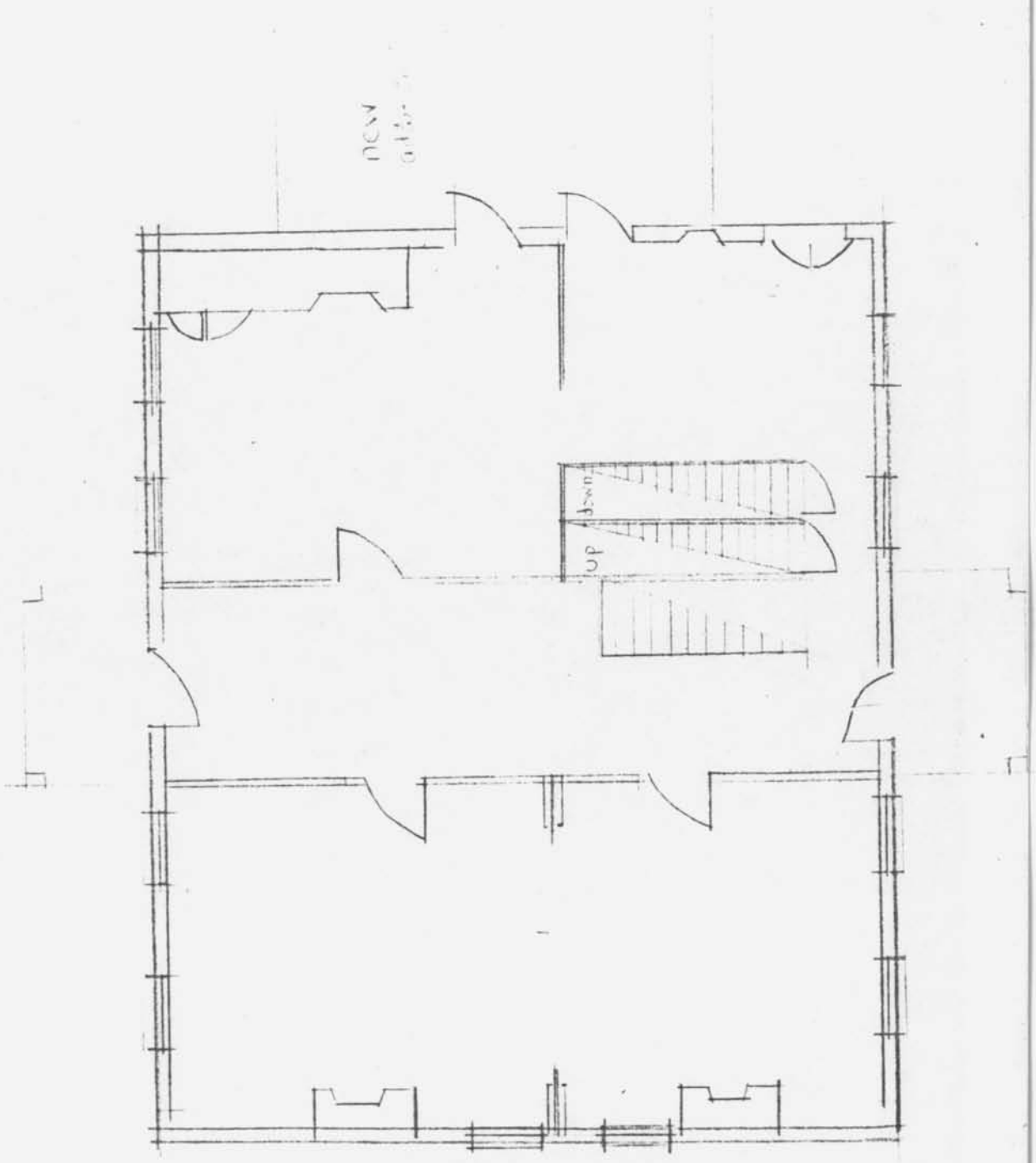
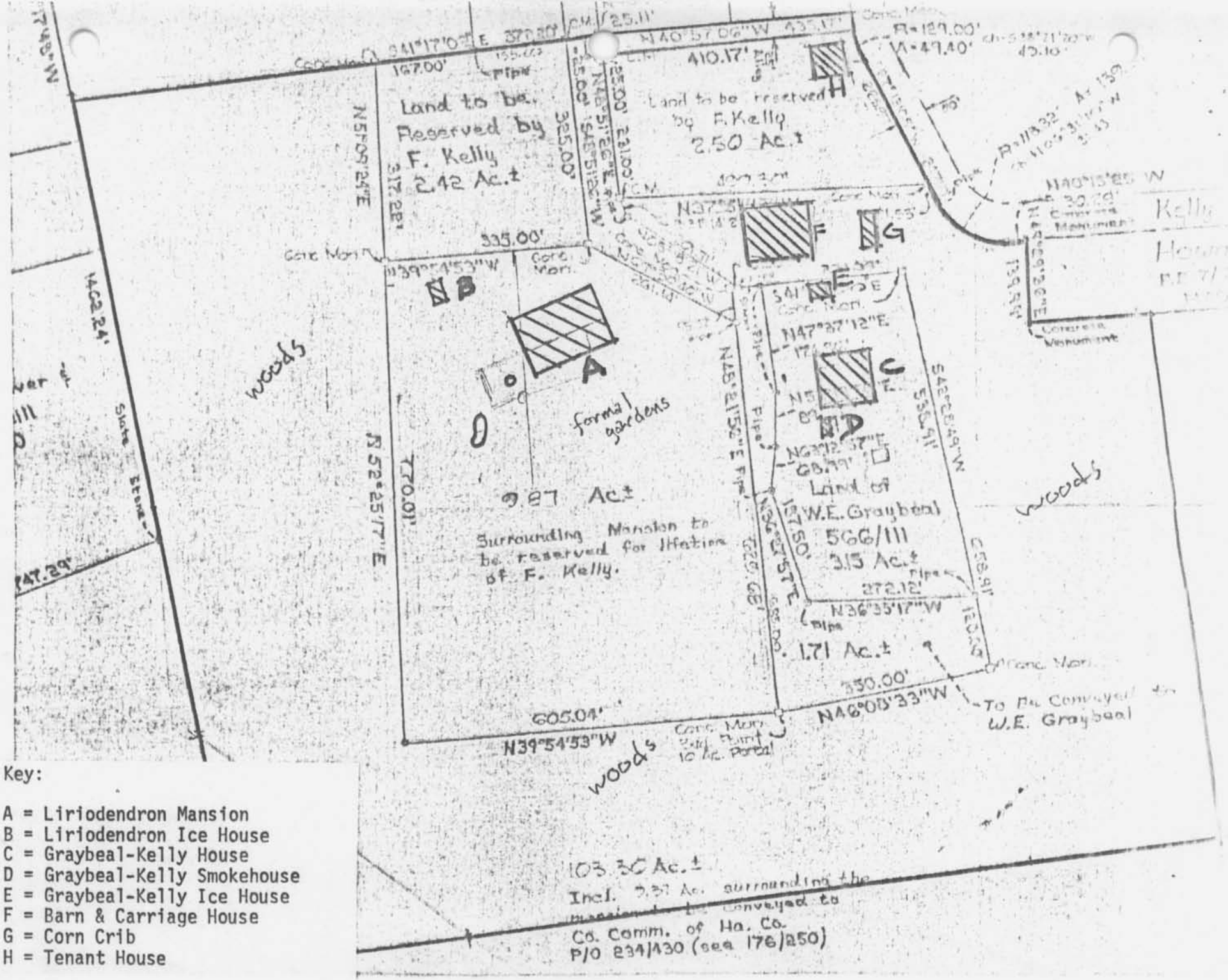
Liriodendron

Graybeal-Kelly House

Harford County, Maryland

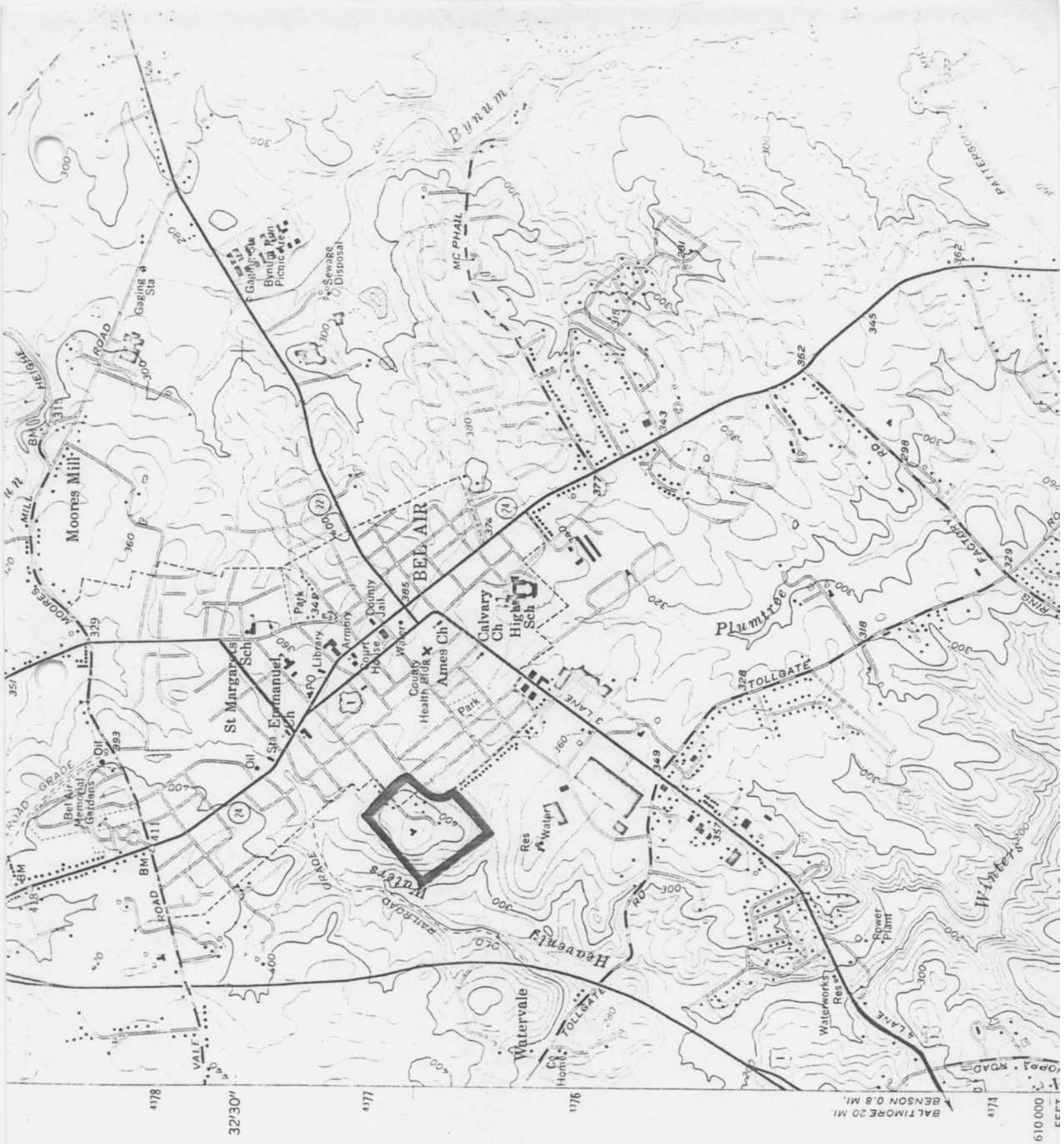




Key:

A = Liriodendron Mansion
B = Liriodendron Ice House
C = Graybeal-Kelly House
D = Graybeal-Kelly Smokehouse
E = Graybeal-Kelly Ice House
F = Barn & Carriage House
G = Corn Crib
H = Tenant House

NN-229,230



Liriodendron
Harford Co.

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Bel Air Quad