

**RESOLUTION NO. 1190-22**

**A RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH A HISTORIC SITE  
FOR THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND**

**WHEREAS**, Section 4-504 of Ordinance No. 664, entitled Historic Preservation Designation, stipulates that the Historic Preservation Commission is empowered to recommend designation of such sites, structures, or districts; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Commission has made full and proper study of the Bel Air Academy (owned by LFSJAS-23-24 LLC) depicted in the staff report and inventory attached as "Exhibit A", hereto and located at 24 East Pennsylvania Avenue, Bel Air, Maryland 21014, on a lot described as follows:

ALL that lot of ground situate in the County of Harford, State of Maryland and described as follows:

BEGINNING FOR THE SAME at a cross cut in the concrete walk on the north side of Pennsylvania Avenue, said point of beginning also being the southwest corner of that parcel of land which by Deed dated May 8, 1974, was conveyed by George A. Chinaris and Helen C. Stone to Stockton Todd Holden and Ann H. Holden, his wife, and recorded among the land records of Harford County in Liber HDC No. 949, folio 867, thence binding along the north side of said Pennsylvania Avenue and as surveyed by Glen C. Deaton for Robert N. Turner and Anita Turner, his wife, dated May 1, 1974, South 49 degrees 45' West 64.00 feet to a cross cut in the concrete walk at the southeast corner of that parcel of land which by Deed dated November 5, 1951, was conveyed by Nathan P. Corbin and Ida M. Corbin, his wife, and Mosena W. Burkins to the Town of Bel Air and recorded among the Land Records aforesaid in Liber GRG No. 365, folio 349, thence binding along the second or northerly 148.50 foot line of said conveyance North 39 degrees 45' West 150.00 feet, thence binding along a lot owned by the Town of Bel Air and used as a parking lot North 51 degrees 04' 35" East 59.14 feet to a pipe, said pipe located North 42 degrees 03' 50" West 39.00 feet from the beginning of the fourth or North 41 degrees 50" West 74.00 foot line of that parcel which by Deed dated February 17, 1956, was conveyed by James A. Wheeler and Melissa E. Wheeler, his wife, to John Henry Reed and Edna D. Reed, his wife, and recorded among the Land Records aforesaid in Liber GRG No. 454, folio 291, thence binding reversely on said fourth line South 42 degrees 03' 50" East 39.00 feet to a pipe situated at the beginning thereof, thence binding reversely along the first or North 41 degrees 50' West

109.41 foot line of said Todd conveyance, South 42 degrees 03' 50" East 109.68 feet to the place of beginning. Containing 0.21 of an acre, more or less.

The improvements thereon being known as No. 24 E. Pennsylvania Avenue.

BEING the same and all the land conveyed by and described in a Deed dated October 14, 2016 from 24 Penn Central LLC, unto LFSJAS-23-24, LLC and recorded among the Land Records of Harford County in Liber No. 12061, folio 00374.

**WHEREAS**, the Historic Preservation Commission has found the subject property has architectural value and a significant environmental setting and, therefore, determines preservation of the Bel Air Academy is of significant value to the education, cultural, economic and general welfare of the inhabitants of Bel Air.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners, that the above property be designated a Historic Site.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Resolution shall take effect on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2022.

PASSED AND APPROVED:

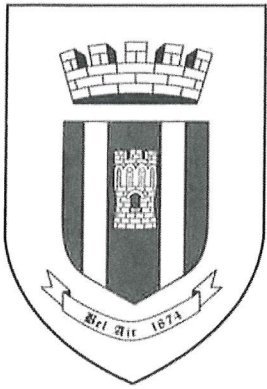
AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kevin M. Bianca, Chair  
Board of Town Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael L. Krantz, Town Clerk



# TOWN OF BEL AIR

## EXHIBIT A

### DEPARTMENTS OF PLANNING AND PUBLIC WORKS

705 E. CHURCHVILLE ROAD  
BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014  
[www.belairmd.org](http://www.belairmd.org)

PLANNING 410-879-9500  
PUBLIC WORKS 410-879-9507  
FAX 410-838-0775

### BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Kevin M. Bianca  
Mary F. Chance  
Paula S. Etting  
Erin S. Hughes  
Donna L. Kahoe

### DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

Kevin L. Small

### DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS

Stephen D. Kline

June 24, 2022

LFSJAS-23-24 LLC

24 E. Pennsylvania Ave  
Bel Air, MD 21014

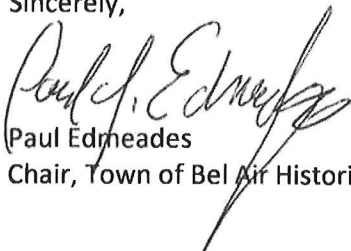
RE: Local Historic Designation Request for HA-237 (Bel Air Academy)

Dear Ms. Stevenson,

The Town of Bel Air Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) held its regularly scheduled meeting on June 23, 2022. The HPC recommended approval of your request to have the property located at 24 E. Pennsylvania Ave (Bel Air Academy) receive local historic designation. This recommendation will be forwarded to the Town Board of Commissioners for its decision on the request. The Town Board meeting will be held at Town Hall on Monday, July 18, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Please contact Laura M. Bianca-Pruett with the Town Planning Department if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Paul Edmeades  
Chair, Town of Bel Air Historic Preservation Commission

cc: Kevin Small, Director of Planning  
Historic Preservation Commission  
Jesse Bane, Town Administrator  
Town of Bel Air Board of Commissioners  
File





**HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
STAFF REPORT**

**Town of Bel Air**

**Prepared By:** Laura M. Bianca-Pruett

**Date:** June 16, 2022

**Meeting Date:** June 23, 2022

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**General Information**

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**Applicant:** LFSJAS-23-24 LLC

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**Status of Applicant:** Owner

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**Location:** 24 East Pennsylvania Avenue

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**Historic Status:** HA-237 (Bel Air Academy)

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**Property/Building Size:** 0.21 acres (4,424 square foot building)

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**Requested Action:** Local Historic Designation Request

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**Zoning:** B2A (Central Business Gateway)

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**Existing Land Use:** Commercial

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**Surrounding Zoning & Land Use:** Surrounding properties are zoned B2A (Central Business Gateway). Two properties nearby on North Main Street have been historically designated.

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**Applicable Regulations:** Chapter 165, Article V (Historic Resource Conservation Regulations) and Chapter 246, Sections 1 thru 12 (Historic Preservation)

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**Comprehensive Plan:** The existing Master Plan shows the property as Commercial

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**Public Utilities & Services:** Public Utilities are currently provided to the property

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Transportation:                    The site is accessed from E Pennsylvania (Town)

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## Analysis

The applicant has requested local historic designation for their property because they are looking to start exterior repair work later this summer.

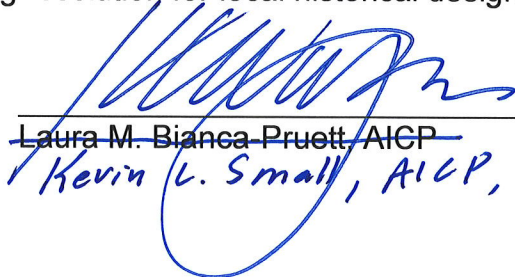
Built in 1814, the Bel Air Academy is one of the oldest buildings standing in the Town of Bel Air and has architectural and cultural historical significance. It was a semi-state-chartered college preparatory private school for boys until it merged with the Bel Air Graded School in 1888. While most classes moved to East Gordon Street in 1888, some classes were held on the Pennsylvania Avenue site until 1900. It was later converted into a private residence and today is used as commercial offices.

The land and building were originally owned by Thomas Hays, and in his 1814 tax return describes "the walls for a stone still house 23 feet by 30 feet two stories high". This building was completed and donated for the use of the school. The two-story northeast ell was added in 1900.

Many prominent Harford County men were educated at the school, including Gov. Augustus Bradford, Judge Henry D. Harlan, Judge James D. Watters, Dr. John M. T. Finney, Mayor James H. Preston, Col. Otho S. Lee, Judge William H. Harlan, Judge William P. Maulsby, Attorney General Thomas H. Robinson, the Rev. William P. Finny, and Dr. William S. Archer. John Wilkes Booth also attended the Bel Air Academy and according to author Stanley Kimmel, was described by his headmaster as an "indifferent student" who was "not deficient in intelligence but disinclined to take advantage of the educational opportunities offered him. Each day he rode back and forth from farm to school, taking more interest in what happened along the way than in reaching his classes on time."

## Recommendation

No conditions are recommended before issuing resolution for local historical designation

  
~~Laura M. Bianca Pruett, AICP~~  
Kevin L. Small, AICP, RLA

## Attachments

HPC Application  
Photos

cc:            Property Owners  
              Kevin Small, Director of Planning  
              File



# LOCAL HISTORIC DESIGNATION REQUEST

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION  
TOWN OF BEL AIR

LFS TAS 23-24 LLC

LAWRENCE F. STEVENSON

I (We), JOYCE A. STEVENSON request that my

property located at 24 E. PENNSYLVANIA AVE be reviewed by the Bel Air Historic Preservation Commission and considered for Local Historic Designation by the Bel Air Board of Town Commissioners.

I (We) understand that the review process is as follows:

1. A zoning notice will be posted in front of my building or home.
2. The Historic Preservation Commission will hold a public hearing, following which a recommendation will be forwarded to the Town Board of Commissioners for a final review.
3. A meeting will then be held before the Board of Town Commissioners to finalize designation.

Lawrence F. Stevenson Joyce A. Stevenson  
 Property Owner(s) Signature Date 5/24/22

1301 VERMONT Road, BEL AIR, MD 21014

Address

443-417-8382

Phone

joyce.stevenson3@yahoo.com

Email

HA-237

## Bel Air Academy

### **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.

All material is property of the Maryland Historical Trust.

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

HA-237

1814

Bel Air Academy  
24 E. Pennsylvania Avenue  
Bel Air  
Private

This four bay plastered stone rubble building, now a private residence, was built in 1814 for the Bel Air Academy. The schoolroom door was in the west bay of the facade, and the exterior was entirely unadorned save for the bell cupola astride the roof ridge. The Academy was a state-chartered private college preparatory school from 1814 until it merged with the Bel Air Graded School in 1888, and many of Harford County's most prominent men received a classical education in its two rooms. The building continued to house the primary grades until 1900 when it was sold to J. Robert Ayers who remodeled it as a private residence.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**  
 HISTORIC Bel Air Academy  
 AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**  
 STREET & NUMBER 24 E. Pennsylvania Avenue 1st  
 CITY TOWN Bel Air CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
 STATE Maryland VICINITY OF 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 Robert N. Turner Telephone #: 838-6406  
 STREET & NUMBER 24 E. Pennsylvania Avenue  
 CITY TOWN Bel Air VICINITY OF STATE, zip code Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Harford County Courthouse Liber #: 723  
 STREET & NUMBER Main Street Folio #: 50  
 CITY TOWN Bel Air STATE Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY TOWN \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_  
 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

# 7 DESCRIPTION

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Bel Air Academy, now the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner, is at 24 E. Pennsylvania Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The main block of the building is a two and one half story plastered stone rubble structure, four bays wide with a slate gable roof and two gable roofed, shingle sided dormers. An inside end chimney rises in each gable end. There are no windows in the gable ends save for one in each gable to light the attic. The shutters have been permanently nailed shut over these windows. The present entry is in the second bay from the west. The windows are 6/6 double hung sash framed by louvered shutters. The rear (north elevation) shows two dormers in the roof, three windows in the second story, and two windows and the former back door, which was made into a window in 1945 when that end of the hall was converted into a bathroom. The lintel of this last window suggests that the back door was cut through in 1900 when the school building was converted into a residence. The two story frame ell at the northeast corner was added at that time. In 1900 there was a porch around the L-shaped back, which accounts for the door in the west elevation of the ell. The front (south) elevation has an entrance into what was once the kitchen. The remaining portion of the back porch was enclosed and is now the kitchen. It has a pair of 9 pane casement windows in the north and west elevations and a door in the south part of the west elevation.

An old newspaper photograph shows the structure when it was a school. The major changes are the removal of the bell tower from the roof and the addition of dormers as well as the moving of the entrance one bay to the east, the addition of the porch, and of shutters to the front windows. The interior was one big room downstairs and one one up. The chimneys served stoves, not fireplaces. The staircase was probably in the northwest corner.

The interior of the present building has two rooms of different sizes with the hall between them on the ground floor. The single run, closed-string staircase rises in the east side of the hall. The north end of the hall was enclosed to make a bathroom in 1945. It has turned balusters and the fat, late 19th century newel post so common in Bel Air. The windows are set deep in the walls. They and their deep sills and the aprons appear to be original. The door surrounds (c-1900) come so close to matching that only a close inspection reveals the difference. The west chamber (the bed-sitting room) has a wide hall door with French doors. This change was made in 1945 to accommodate a wheelchair. A fireplace with knotty pine mantel, over-mantel, and cupboards in the northwest end of the room were also added in 1945. The chimney breast projects into the east chamber in the east wall, but there never was a fireplace there. There are long narrow chimney cupboards in both ends, however. The back (north) window has been blocked in the east room by the enclosure of the porch. The ground floor room in the ell was formerly the kitchen. It is wainscotted in tongue and groove boards taken from an old built in cupboard. Against

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

the north wall, covering where the old cookstove went, is a cupboard and the door to the corkscrew back staircase. These are made of the same tongue and groove material. Parallel to this room is the new kitchen, made by enclosing part of the old back porch.

The second story has its hall running along the back (north) side of the house, lighted by the three back windows. The west chamber in the second story is a bit oddly shaped because of the intrusion of the enclosed attic staircase in the east end of the room. The second bedroom (the east one) in the old school block is more conventionally shaped. A third bedroom and a bath are in the second story of the ell. The back staircase comes up the north wall of that bedroom.

With the exception of the window surrounds and aprons, all of the interior woodwork, the stairs, and the disposition of the rooms dates from 1900 or later. The chimney cupboards in the east chamber may be original.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

1814

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 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                      1814

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This charming "colonial" building is one of the most significant of the remaining early 19th century buildings in Bel Air. From its construction in 1814 until the turn of the 20th century it was the home of the Bel Air Academy. The academy system was a semi-state-supported education system which provided schools with classical curricula which prepared students for college entrance. From 1814 to 1858 several academies were established in Harford County. The state provided an enabling act, and the local communities provided finance and a Board of Trustees. The Bel Air Academy (Harford County Academy) was incorporated in 1811. The academy opened in 1814 in this building on property owned by merchant Thomas Hays. Hays's 1814 tax return shows "the walls for a stone still house 23 feet by 30 feet two stories high" on Scotts Improvement. It is possible that this building was completed and donated for the use of the school. Hays conveyed title to the property to the Academy in 1839 (23/136). The consideration was \$1.00.

The first headmaster was the Rev. Reuben H. Davis, a Presbyterian Minister. He married Mary Archer Hays, a sister of Thomas Hays. The classical curriculum was supplemented by an English department which included grammar, geography, bookkeeping, history and science as well as reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Many prominent Harford County men were educated at the school: Gov. Augustus Bradford, Judge Henry D. Harlan, Judge James D. Watters, Dr. John M. T. Finney, Mayor James H. Preston, Col. Otho S. Lee, Judge William H. Harlan, Judge William P. Maulsby, Attorney General Thomas H. Robinson, the Rev. William P. Finny, and Dr. William S. Archer. As well, men prominent in Maryland education taught at the school.

The Academy was united with the Graded School in 1888, and classes were held in the brick building on Gordon Street. C. Milton Wright, long time Harford County Superintendent of Schools and local historian, was the principal. Some classes may also have been held at the old building because it was not sold until 1900 after a law suit (equity 70/157, 1897) over debts resulting from work done by Joseph Gorrell on the building in 1859.

Robert Ayres bought the building in 1900 for \$425. It was probably in bad shape if an old newspaper picture is any indication. Mr. Ayres planned to turn the building into a private residence. According to a story handed down in the family of the present owners, Mr. Ayres had a job that took him away from home a lot. Another source says he was a sea captain. At any rate, Ayres intended to have the door where it was in the west bay and turn the large downstairs room into two rooms, a parlor

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

and a dining room. The second story would have been a repeat -- two bedrooms. The ell on the northeast side was to be a kitchen. Mrs. Ayres, however, had other plans. She had always wanted a center hall plan house and the fact that her house lacked one bay in width to make a symmetrical center hall plan bothered her not a whit. As soon as her husband left town she altered the plans. The door was shifted one bay to the east, and a new staircase was built. The result was an off-center hall plan with the west chamber being smaller than the east. Mr. Ayres was so annoyed, it is said, that he refused to move into the house. Whatever the truth of the legend, the hall is off center, and Mr. Ayres sold the property to George Yarish 18 months later for \$660.70 provided Yarish assumed the mortgage (102/473). Mrs. Yarish was related to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Turner, so the house has been in the family since 1901, although it has gone through several conveyances since then. Mrs. Katherine Thorn Turner's name entered the title for the first time in 1946 (309/315). She brought an invalid sister back to Bel Air from Baltimore after World War II. At that time the west chamber was altered to make it a bed-sitting room. The hall door was replaced by a wide entry with French doors to accommodate a wheelchair and a small bathroom was made by partitioning off the north end of the hall and closing off the back door. The old front porch which ran the length of the south elevation was replaced by the present small entrance porch at the same time. Subsequently the Robert Turners turned the old kitchen in the ell into a dining room and enclosed part of the old back porch as a new kitchen. The ell has recently been covered in aluminum siding.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

C. Milton Wright. Our Harford Heritage.  
Harford Democrat  
Interview with Mrs. Robert Turner, 18 May 1979.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #859 in the Town of Bel Air, 65' x 150'.

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

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

27 April 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

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

Bel Air Academy

723/50            13 September 1966  
Zero, Inc.  
          to  
Katherine Turner, widow  
a life interest with power to sell, convey,  
mortgage, or lease, but not to will. At her  
death the property is to go to Robert N.  
Turner and Anita, his wife. (Robert Turner  
is the present owner.)

723/48            13 September 1966  
Katherine T. Turner, widow  
          to  
Zero, Inc.  
Straw

582/144           1 September 1961  
H. Elizabeth Esley  
          to  
Katherine T. Turner, widow  
Straw

582/142           1 September 1961  
Katherine T. Turner, widow, & Agnes D. Thorn,  
unmarried  
          to  
H. Elizabeth Esley  
Straw

501/365           19 April 1958  
H. Elizabeth Esley  
          to  
Katherine T. Turner, widow, & Agnes D. Thorn,  
unmarried  
Straw

501/363           19 April 1958  
Katherine T. Turner, widow  
          to  
H. Elizabeth Esley  
Straw

406/3            2 December 1953  
The Gralan Corporation  
                 to  
Katherine T. Turner, widow

406/1            2 December 1953  
Katherine T. Turner  
                 to  
The Gralan Corporation

309/315          30 September 1946  
Leo B. Lathroum & Mary, wife, of Baltimore City  
                 to  
Anna C. Plock, Katherine Thorn Turner, and  
Agnes D. Thorn

309/314          30 September 1946  
Anna C. Plock, widow  
                 to  
Leo B. Lathroum & Mary, wife

198/431          8 June 1926  
Evelyn Yarish, widow, Frances Yarish, Charles  
and Helen Yarish and George Leo Yarish  
                 to  
Anna C. Plock  
The property of George H. Yarish, deceased.

102/473          6 December 1901  
J. Robert Ayres and Sadie J. Ayres  
                 to  
George Yarish  
\$660.70  
Yarish to assume the mortgage (1901, 103/452)

100/131          14 July 1900  
Thomas H. Robinson, Trustee  
                 to  
J. Robert Ayres at private sale  
\$425  
Robinson was trustee for the sale of the property  
in an equity suit (1897, equity 70/157) Daniel  
Scott and Anne G. Winchester vs Harford Academy.  
Scott and Winchester were the heirs of Otho Scott  
(d. 1864) who had a lien against the Harford  
Academy assigned to him by paying the debt. The  
debt was owed by the Academy to Joseph Gorrell

a contractor who had done some work on the Academy and had furnished the materials (to the tune of \$802.06) in 1859. When the Academy didn't pay Gorrell sued in 1860. Scott paid Gorrell, and the lien was assigned to him. Scott died in 1864. His heirs revived the suit in 1884. This suit was dated 1897, and the sale was dated January 3, 1898. It was confirmed by the court and this is the deed.

23/136

26 December 1839

Thomas Hays

to

The Harford Academy

\$1

It is not clear why the conveyance was made in 1839 since the school was built and went into operation in 1814.

1302274  
SHEET

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 COUNTY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Bel Air Academy  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: \_\_\_\_\_

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: North side of Pennsylvania Avenue between Main St  
 CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air and Hickory Ave.  
 STATE: Maryland CODE: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY: Harford CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input type="checkbox"/>			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	_____
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	_____	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNERS NAME: Mr & Mrs Robert Turner  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 24 East Pennsylvania Ave  
 CITY OR TOWN: Bel Air STATE: Md CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: CLERK OF DISTRICT COURT  
 STREET AND NUMBER: HARFORD COUNTY COURTHOUSE 40 S. MAIN ST.  
 CITY OR TOWN: BEL AIR STATE: MARYLAND CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE OF SURVEY: \_\_\_\_\_ Federal  State  County  Local   
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY OR TOWN: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_  
 DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed 

INTEGRITY

(Check One)

Altered  Unaltered 

(Check One)

Moved  Original Site 

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Stone shooed building, 2 1/2 stories.  
 Two windows one a door downstairs, four  
 windows spaced irregularly upstairs. One room  
 deep, the house faces south, the ridge line  
 running east-west, with a ~~ridge~~ frame ~~line~~  
 running north ~~west~~ along the east wall.

Peaked dormers have windows that are  
~~two~~ two lights over ~~two~~, while windows elsewhere  
 are four over four.

lintel eaves on the slate roof are clearly  
 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |                                       |   |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|
| Aboriginal <input type="checkbox"/>     | Education <input type="checkbox"/>    | Political <input type="checkbox"/>                | Urban Planning <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| Prehistoric <input type="checkbox"/>    | Engineering <input type="checkbox"/>  | Religion/Phi-<br>losophy <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 type="checkbox"/>                | _____                                    |
| Art <input type="checkbox"/>            | Landscape <input type="checkbox"/>    | Social/Human-<br>itarian <input type="checkbox"/> | _____                                    |
| Commerce <input type="checkbox"/>       | Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> | Theater <input type="checkbox"/>                  | _____                                    |
| Communications <input type="checkbox"/> | Literature <input type="checkbox"/>   | Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>           | _____                                    |
| Conservation <input type="checkbox"/>   | Military <input type="checkbox"/>     |   |  |
|   | Music <input type="checkbox"/>        |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Now a ~~multi~~ family house, this was Deloria's first high school building, a semi-private school built in 1814 and used until 1883 as an academy.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Longley, C. Milton Our Halifax Heritage, 255-57  
40 2, -5, -7, -11, -14, -23.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

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 HISTORIC TRUST** DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

STREET AND NUMBER: **12 STATE CIRCLE**

CITY OR TOWN: **ANNAPOLIS** STATE: **MARYLAND** CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

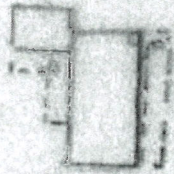
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

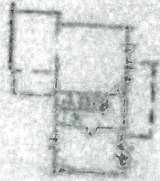
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS





1904



present

Traced by  
M. L. REED

Bel Air Academy  
24 E. Penn. Ave.  
Bel Air, MD  
HA 237

SCALE 1" = 50'

Date	Enrollment	No. Teachers	Cost
1880	856	16	\$ 3,746
1890	1160	22	6,560
1900	1370	25	7,754
1910	1030	22	5,840
1920	1030	22	13,300
1930	707	22	20,206
1940	915	26	32,700
1945	970	29	64,300

(To Be Continued)

HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
FILES 1945-49

## ACADEMIES

(No. 8 In Series)

About 1800 many men among the statesmen, professional and religious leaders all along the eastern seaboard began to feel the necessity of schools where youth could be better trained to discharge the duties of both public and private life.

Hundreds of such schools were established during the first half of the 19th century, some of which existed for a short period, but many became the real vital sources of education of that day and remained so for almost a century.

Many of these Academies are the forerunners of our present High Schools, others like West Nottingham continue to this day as Preparatory Schools, while many have developed into institutions of higher learning like Washington College, Hood College and Washington and Lee University.

As early as 1798, the General Assembly of Maryland passed an Act of Incorporation for an Academy to be located in Baltimore or Harford county, and appropriated \$800 per year for same. The trustees named in the Act are familiar Harford and Baltimore county names:—Charles Ridgley, Harry D. Gough, Thomas Cockey, John Tolley Worthington, Patrick Allison, Dr. John Carroll, Dr. John Archer, Jaffe Jarrett, Nicholas Day McComas, James Bond, Jacob Hall, and Dr. Thomas H. Birkhead,

They were given power to erect an Academy, receive donations of land or money, but not more than 50 acres or more than 2000 pounds. We do not know whether or not this Academy was on Harford soil, but several of the trustees, including Dr. Archer, Mr. Gough, Mr. Bond and Mr. Hall were Harford residents.

Academies established in Harford county, most of which were incorporated by Act of Legislature, were as follows:—Harford County Academy (Bel Air) 1811; Abingdon, 1829; Little Creek, 1834; Cokesbury, 1834; Darlington, 1835; Havre de Grace, 1858; and Bethel, about 1855.

Each of the above will be treated in this and future articles.

### Harford County Academy (Bel Air)

The Bel Air Academy, which was incorporated by Act of Legislature in 1811, was the first, and was evidently meant to serve the whole county as its name implies. In the preamble to the Act we find the following:

"Whereas, the establishment of Seminaries for the education of youth, has been an essential benefit to society, by bringing forward a succession of able and virtuous characters, qualified to discharge the various duties of public and private life,

Therefore, be it resolved, that there be erected and established at or near Belle Air, in Harford county, an Academy for the liberal education of youth in such sciences and branches of learning as the trustees and professors shall think useful and expedient for the benefit of the institution."

### Trustees Named And Duties Defined

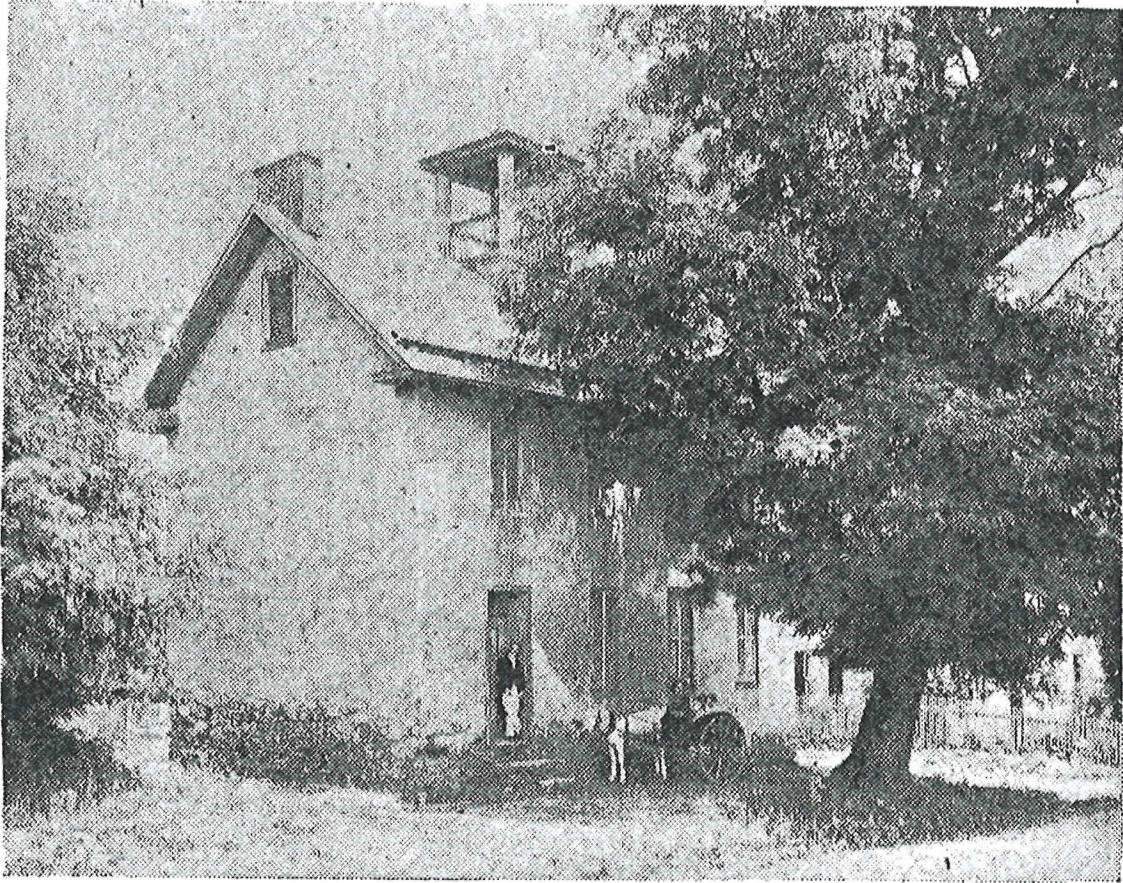
The fifteen trustees named in the Act of Incorporation in 1811 were: Thomas Hope, David Streett, Joshua Rutledge, John Moores, William Smith, (of Samuel), Henry Dorsey, Dr. Hugh Whiteford, John Streett, John Forwood, William Wilson, Matthew Hawkins, James Weatherall, Elijah Davis, John Tolley and Paca Smith.

The Board was a self perpetuating body as shown by the following:—"In case of vacancy or refusal for two years to serve, they shall proceed to elect by ballot other sensible and discreet persons of said county to the vacancy."

goods, chattels, monies or effects, by gift, grant, bargain, sale, conveyance, devise or bequest the total not to exceed \$5,000."

Meetings were held twice each year for the purpose of appointing professors and teachers, and electing a president, secretary and treasurer, and for making rules and regulations for the government of the Academy.

Even though the incorporation was in 1811, the trustees did not receive the state appropriation and open the school until 1815. This was probably due to the fact that the War of 1812, prevented the construction of the building.



**Old Bel Air Academy**

The building as shown above was built in 1814, and is still standing. It was erected upon a rectangular lot, with 60 feet frontage on what is now Pennsylvania avenue, opposite the present property of the Odd Fellow's Lodge, which was built for the Presbyterian Church about 1854.

It is two stories high, with its stone walls well constructed and approximately two feet thick. An inspection of the attic shows that the frame was largely put together with wooden pins and nails of hammered wrought iron. When built, it consisted of one classroom on each floor, with the entrance and a smaller laboratory room at the West end toward Richardson's Pharmacy. The stairway with a landing was from a small hall just inside the door.

Information received from some elderly men who attended there, indicates that much of the material and labor was donated, and that slave labor was largely used in its construction.

For some reason, no actual deed was executed for the property until December 26, 1839, when the transfer was recorded from Thomas A. Hays to "The Harford County Academy". It is most probable that some sort of contract did previously exist, and the deed not made until encumbrance's were met.

The property was held by the self perpetuating Board until 1900, when suit was entered presumably for indebtedness, by Daniel Scott and Anne Winchester vs. The Academy Trustees. Mr. Thomas H. Robinson was appointed by the Judge of the Circuit Court to dispose of the property, and the transfer at private sale to Mr. J. Robert Ayres was ratified by the Court. It is now owned by Mrs. Anna C. Plock and is used as a dwelling.

**Minister First Teacher**

ADDRESS: 24 East Pennsylvania Ave.

Bel Air Academy

(79)

STYLE:

- QUEEN ANNE
- 20th CENTURY UTILITARIAN
- ECLECTIC - UNIDENTIFIED
- VERNACULAR
- NEO-CLASSICAL
- ROMANESQUE
- COLONIAL
- BEAUX ARTS
- COLONIAL REVIVAL
- 19th CENTURY STOREFRONT
- JACKSONIAN
- GOTHIC REVIVAL
- TENANT (SHOTGUN HOUSE)
- GREEK TEMPLE
- VICTORIAN

HA-237  
Pg. 104

(Check Appropriate Style)

CONDITION:

- Excellent  unaltered  original site
- Good  altered  moved
- Fair  (specify significant alterations)
- deteriorated  ruins (specify significant features)

(Check All Appropriate Responses)

COMMENTS:

1900 remodeled with dormers and front porch added  
Large frame structure recently added to rear.

Form prepared by:

Jane C. Welch

Date:

Jan. 15, 1986





