

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUL 3 1978
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 *was this*
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

STATE
Maryland

VICINITY OF
First

COUNTY
Harford

CODE
24

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
First

CODE
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"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<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
Bel Air

STATE
Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Courthouse of Harford County

STREET & NUMBER
40 South Main Street

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

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1960</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> 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)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input 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)

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 .025 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3,8,4	1,7,0	4,3,7,6	5,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		
C					

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #5.

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

John N Pearce 6/27/78

TITLE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Carol D. Shell

DATE

1-3-80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST

Anna Jane Saxe

DATE

1/3/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Regional Coordinator

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

#7 - DESCRIPTION Continued

laid uniformly with joints aligned vertically in alternating courses, as though in imitation of common-bond brickwork. They are fastened with wrought nails. The west facade weatherboarding is plain, fastened with cut nails, with no indication of the addition. Finally, the weatherboarding of the south end was added in 1960, copying that of the east front. The east cornice includes bed-moulding, soffit, beaded fascia and crown, all characteristic of the 18th and very early 19th centuries. The cyma-recta bed-moulding of the west facade indicates a mid-19th century replacement with the weatherboards.

Three dormers are on either side of the house, their shed roofs being short extensions of the upper slope of the gambrel. Each has 6/6 sash.

An interior brick chimney rises above each gable end. The south chimney projects slightly beyond the weatherboarding in the first storey and is covered with stucco.

Internally, a central hall is flanked by a single room on either side. The hall and the northerly room comprise the original house. An open staircase rises to the second floor in the west end of the hall; it rises straight against the south wall of the hall, then turns to the north with winders, arriving at the second floor after another short, straight run. The moulded handrail, void of easements, is supported by square newels and square balusters which terminate on a closed stringer. Fully-raised paneling encloses a stair to the cellar. Two-plane architraves have ovolo backbands; interior doors have six fully-raised panels with ovolo profiles on stiles and rails; chair railing surround both spaces, coincidental with window sills. The south mantel consists of reverse-tapered, paneled pilasters (their narrower dimension being at the bottom) supporting a carved architrave, a frieze with fluted blocks above the pilasters and moulded shelf, the latter with carved mouldings.

The detailing of the south room is similar but architraves are of a single plane; chair railing surrounds the room at window-sill height; door panels are surrounded with an ovolo-with-fillet profile on stiles and rails; the architrave surround of the mantel supports a plain frieze and shelf. The chimney is west of center and the recess to its west is filled with an original, straight shelved

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET NO. 2)

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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.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Hays House, Headquarters of the Historical Society of Harford Co., Ir
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 4

(SIGNIFICANCE, continued)

This relocated house is one of the only two standing houses in Bel Air which are identified on the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. The owner of the other house just died, the property is owned by a local businessman and its commercial site is extremely valuable. Its preservation is severely threatened at this time. The next oldest house in Bel Air is a traditional one of circa 1830; it, too, is on a very valuable commercial site and it is presently for sale, its owners having just died. It, too, is very much threatened. Hence, the Hays House is a very valuable resource in the community.

Its present site is exactly one block behind its original, and its present orientation to the street is similar to its original. Last but not least the street of its present location has, within the past year, been made a one-way thoroughfare for Maryland Route 24. Before, Main Street, the original Hays House address, was Maryland Route 24, the main north-south thoroughfare through Bel Air. Thus, it is now on as important a street as it was on.

The 1960 cellar has no architectural or historical significance. It is of concrete block, purely utilitarian.

Thomas A. Hays, its first owner-of-long-standing was a major property owner in Bel Air, the cartographer of the earliest known map of the town, circa 1818, made to keep track of his property, the donor of land for the First Presbyterian Church (now the I.O.O.F., also on the National Register). A later owner, Frank Hays Jacobs, was an important attorney in the community earlier in this century. The property is now owned by the Historical Society of Harford County.

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Hays House
Harford County
Maryland

CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 5

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

BEGINNING for the same at an iron pipe set in the southwest side of Kenmore Avenue, being the end of the South 48°13' East 86.18 feet line of the lot conveyed by William D. Read and wife, to Peter J. Schafer and wife, by deed dated July 17, 1941, and recorded among the Land Records of Harford County in Liber G.C.B. No. 267 folio 267, and running thence binding on the southwest side of Kenmore Avenue, here laid out 50 feet wide, South 48°13' East 110.00 feet to an iron pipe, thence leaving Kenmore Avenue and running for new dividing lines, through and across the land of the Board of Education of Harford County, south 35°09' West 100.00 feet to an iron pipe, thence, north 48°13' west 110.00 feet to an iron pipe in the outline of the lot of the said Peter J. Schafer and wife, thence binding on said lot, North 35°09' East 100.00 feet to the beginning, containing 10,926 square feet, more or less, or 0.250 of an acre, more or less, as surveyed June 6, 1961 by Glen C. Deaton, Surveyor. (Harford County deed GRG578/142.)

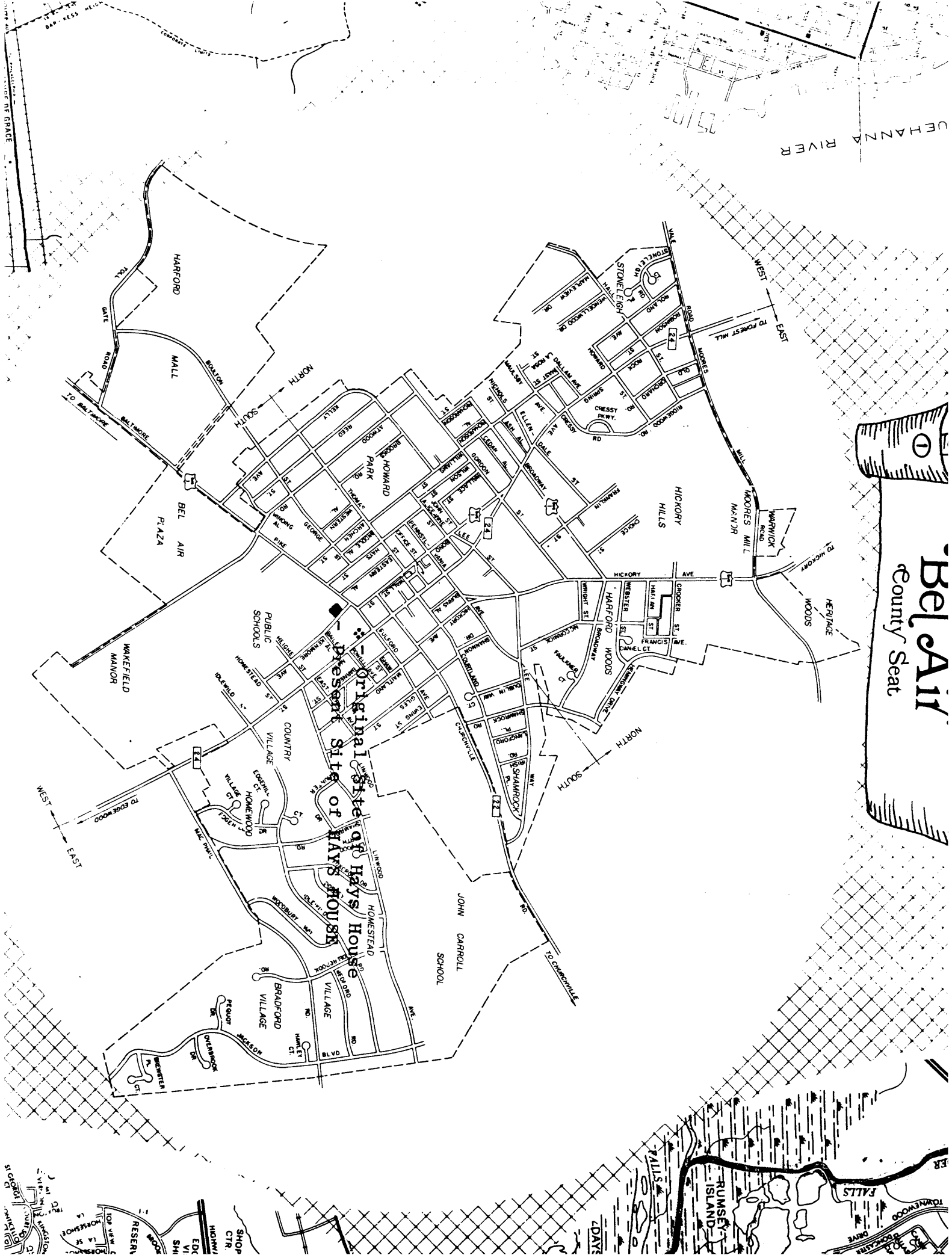
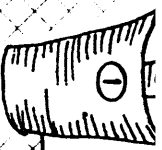
NOTE ABOUT PHOTOGRAPHS

The enclosed circa 1959 photographs of the Hays house do not show the stone foundation the frame house sat on on its original site. The house has always been close to grade, and the Historical Society has no photographs which show those stone foundations.

UEHANNA RIVER

Bel Air

County Seat



Original Site of Hays House
Present Site of Hays House

