

HA-1430

1891

Romer's Photography Studio
111 N. Main
Bel Air
private

This slightly L-shaped Victorian house has an interesting arrangement of shingles to decorate its front gable. It was built in 1891 as a photography studio and residence by B. F. Romer. The side porch has excellent scroll brackets to its porch posts. This side porch occurs on several buildings built as both storefronts and residences to delineate the domestic entrance. Of particular interest are the large patch in the back roof over the double 3/3 windows. This shows where the skylight was for Romer's studio.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Romer's Photography Studio

AND/OR COMMON

Strawberry-Basket

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

111 N. Main

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Helen Harrison

Telephone #: 838-7245

STREET & NUMBER

108 Idlewild 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 #: 558

Folio #: 32

STREET & NUMBER

Main St.

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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 two and a half story, three bay ship-lap sided shop and residence called "The Strawberry Basket" is at 111 N. Main Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The building is L-shaped, with a single bay projection on the south side and a shed (south) and gable (north) roofed single story addition in the rear (east). A hipped roofed porch shades the first story on the same side, terminating in the ell. Carved brackets adorn the three stock posts and the pilaster strip where the porch joins the main block in the south elevation. The slate gable roof of the front block has its ridge running east and west. It meets the north-south gable roof of the ell at right angles. The front (west) gable is decorated with alternating rows of plain and fish scale shingles. The gable window is a 1/1 round-headed double-hung sash window. The windows in the main block and ell are 2/2 double-hung sash in plain surrounds, save for the plate glass show windows in the first floor front. These windows are of unequal size, the south being the wider. The shop entrance is recessed and slightly north of center. The windows of the rear (east) elevation are different. The one in the single story addition is compound: center picture window flanked by six pane casements. The large upstairs window has a pair of 3/3 double hung sash windows. These windows and the patch in the roof directly above them show where the sky light and studio window were. Mr. Romer used that room for his photography studio.

Besides the shop door there were two other entrances: a side door at the east end of the south elevation on the porch (now blocked) and a kitchen door in the east elevation. This entry has a gable roofed hood over a 9 pane, two panel door.

Two chimneys break the roof line: a center chimney with a corbelled cap at the juncture of the gable roof lines in the main block, and an inside end chimney with a plain cap in the gable of the back (east) addition.

The first floor interior is almost entirely given over to display rooms. When the Harrisons had their paint store there, only the front room was for display. The next east room was a living room. The staircase goes up the north wall of this room. Behind it, the north room was the kitchen (now a work room) and the south room was the dining room. On the second floor, the two front rooms are display rooms and the room by the stairwell is a storage room. They were all three bedrooms while the Harrisons lived there. The bath at the east end of the second floor remains. That and the storage room were Mr. Romer's studio.

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 1891

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This late Victorian store and residence was built by B.F. Romer as an art gallery, photography studio, and residence in 1891 shortly after he obtained a 99 year lease from Elizabeth Lee (70/7). His photography studio had been in the house on the lot since 1888. That building was demolished for the present structure. The patch in the east side of the roof shows where the skylight was in the back room of the second story. That was Romer's studio. At that time the building was probably two rooms down and three up. The studio part is now a bathroom.

After Mrs. Lee died, her executors, S. A. Williams and Mary E. Byarley, sold the fee to John Byarley (90/100). Byarley's heirs sold it to Kate Young, wife of jeweler and watchmaker John Young. Young had purchased the building and lease for \$600 in April 1894 from the Permanent Building Association after Romer defaulted on the mortgage. Young's shop and residence were in the building until his death. The Youngs' added the single story kitchen and dining room addition to the back. Several businesses including a beauty shop operated there until George Harrison, Sr., bought it in 1947. Harrison's Paint Store was in the ground floor front room. Behind that were living room, dining room, and kitchen. Upstairs were three bedrooms and a bath.

After George Harrison, Jr., built the new building at Lee and N. Main, for the Paint Store, Mrs. George Harrison, Jr., had her Wood and Wicker store in the old building. The antique and craft shop called "The Strawberry Basket" has been in the old building for seven years. All of the ground floor except the kitchen is now used as show rooms. Upstairs the front two rooms are show rooms. The third former bedroom is for storage and the bath remains a bath.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies the north portion of parcel #591 in the Town of Bel Air

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 Historian3 August 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel AirMaryland

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

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
21 STATE CIRCLE
SHAW HOUSE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1430

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
The Strawberry Basket

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
Romer's Photography Studio

PRESENT USE: Antique & Craft Shop
ORIGINAL USE: Photo Studio

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
Excellent () Good ()
Fair (X) Poor: ()

THEME: Architecture

STYLE: Vernacular

DATE BUILT:
1891

COUNTY: Harford

TOWN: Bel Air

LOCATION: 111 N. Main
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

COMMON NAME: The Strawberry Basket

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: commercial

OWNER: Mrs. Helen Harrison
ADDRESS: 108 Idlewild Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:
Yes (X) No () Restricted ()

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Local (X) State () National ()

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone(X) Brick() Concrete() Concrete Block()
2. Wall Structure
 - A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam() Balloon()
 - B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick() Stone() Concrete() Concrete Block()
 - C. Iron() D. Steel() E. Other:
3. Wall Covering: Clapboard() Board and Batten() Wood Shingle() Shiplap(X)
Novelty() Stucco() Sheet Metal() Aluminum() Asphalt Shingle()
Brick Veneer() Stone Veneer()
Bonding Pattern: Other:
4. Roof Structure
 - A. Truss: Wood() Iron() Steel() Concrete()
 - B. Other:
5. Roof Covering: Slate(X) Wood Shingle() Asphalt Shingle() Sheet Metal()
Built Up() Rolled() Tile() Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

Appendages: Porches(X) Towers() Cupolas() Dormers(X) Chimneys(X) Sheds() Ells()
Wings () Other:

Roof Style: Gable(X) Hip() Shed() Flat() Mansard() Gambrel() Jerkinhead()
Saw Tooth() With Monitor() With Bellcast() With Parapet() With False Front()
Other:

Number of Stories: 2½

Number of Bays: 3

Approximate Dimensions: 25' x 55'

Entrance Location: N. Main St.

THREAT TO STRUCTURE:
No Threat(X) Zoning() Roads()
Development() Deterioration()
Alteration () Other:

LOCAL ATTITUDES:
Positive() Negative()
Mixed() Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Front gable decorative shingles; 1/1 round arch window
Main block windows 2/2; 1st story front 2 plate glass
show windows, recessed door
hip roof porch S. elev. turned stock posts, carved brackets
rear: shed (S) and gable (N) roof single story addition
window (S) picture window flanked by 9 pane casements
door (N) gable roof hood over door 9 pane over 2 panel
2nd story main block 2 6/6 windows & patch in roof where studio
window was

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

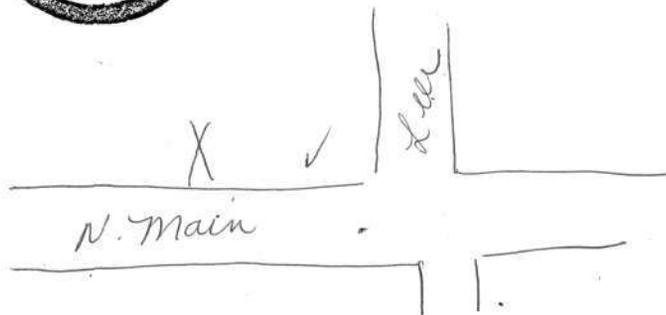
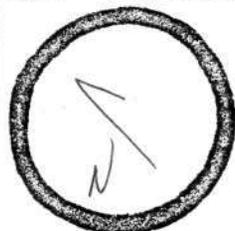
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Romers Photo Studio 1891
Young's Jewelry c. 1892
Harrisons Paint 1947

REFERENCES:

Interview with Mrs. Helen Harrison, 1 August 1979

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane()Woodland()Scattered Buildings()
Moderately Built Up()Densely Built Up()
Residential(X)Commercial(X)
Agricultural()Industrial()
Roadside Strip Development()
Other:

M. Larew
RECORDED BY:
Town of Bel Air
ORGANIZATION:
3 August 1979
DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: STRAWBERRY BASKET

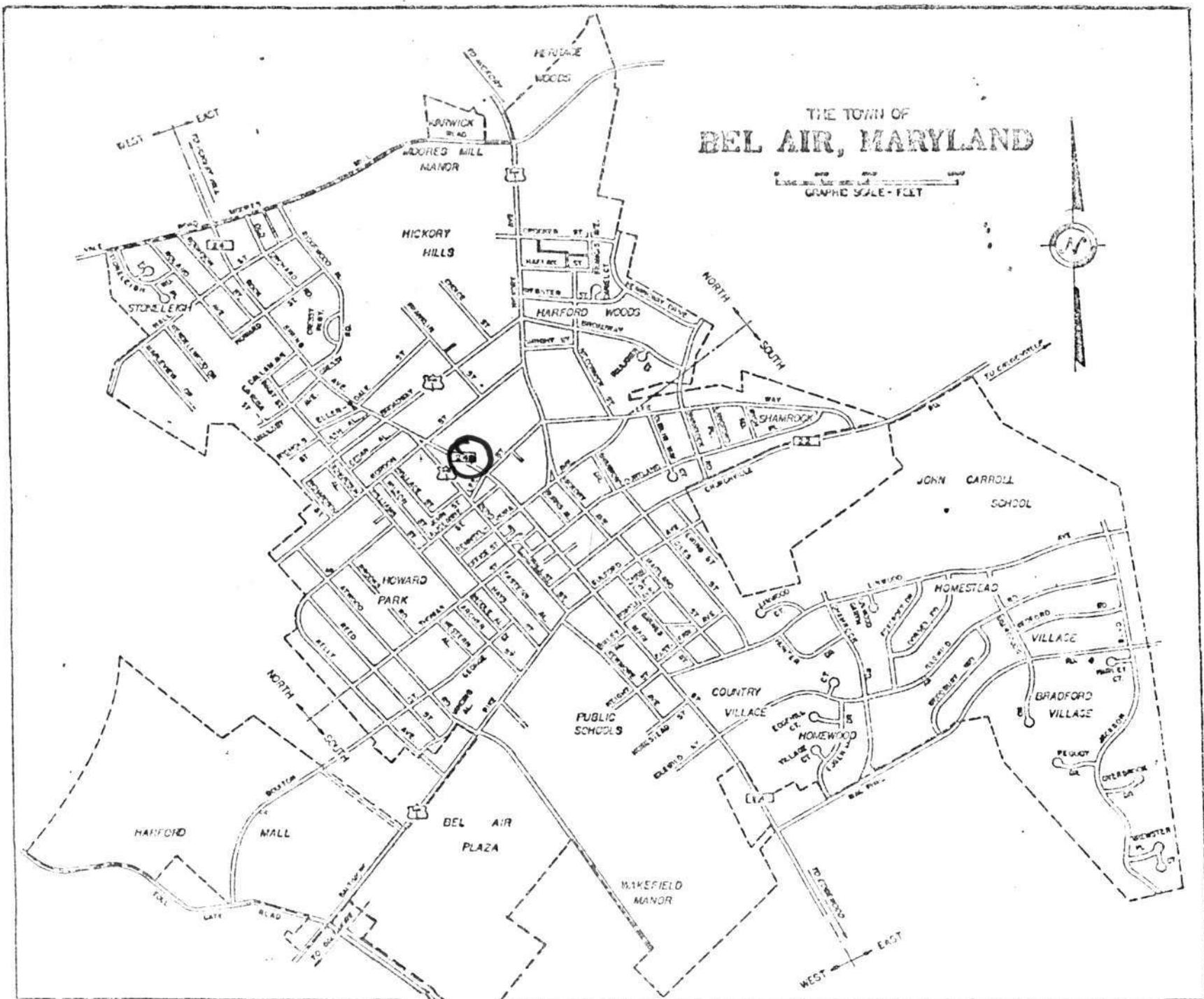
305/385 14 May 1947
Walter B. Young and Ethel, wife
 to
George F. Harrison, Sr., & Helen, wife

223/497 3 August 1932
Kate E. Young, widow
 to
Walter B. Young & Ethel, wife
reserves a life estate

115/446 7 September 1905
The heirs of John Byarley (Maria Byarley,
Bettie B. Spencer, and Kate Byarley of
Winchester, Va.)
 to
Kate E. Young, wife of John Young
Young already had the lease. Mrs. Lee's
executors sold the fee to John Byarley.
These are his heirs.

 The original lease

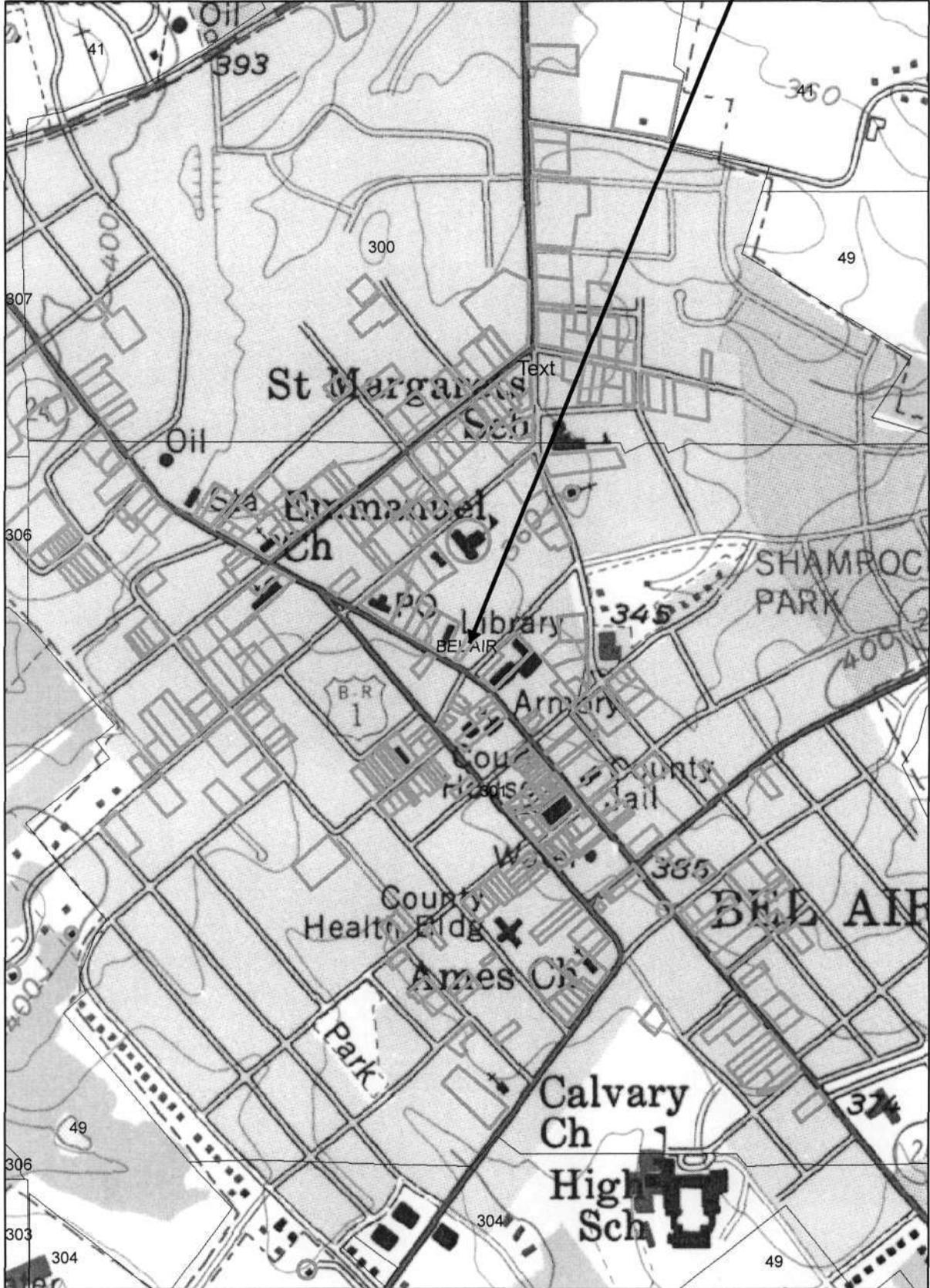
70/7 1 January 1891
Elizabeth G. Lee
 to
Byron S. Romer
\$40 per annum
\$666.66-2/3 reversion price



HA- 1430

Romer Photography Studio - The Strawberry Basket
111 N. Main St

HA-1430
Romer's Photography Studio (Strawberry Basket)
N. Main Street
Bel Air
Bel Air Quad
Harford County





THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

DON FLOWERS

44-1430

Strawberry Basket, 111 N. Main, Belair
w + s elev

M. Larew, 1979



THE STRAWBERRY BASKET

Antiques

Fl...

HA-1430

Strawberry Basket, 111 N. Main, Bellin

n + w. elev

M. Larew, 1979



Strawberry
Basket
Est. Apr. 74

Antiques
Folk Art
Reproductions

018 035

1974

HA-1430

Strawberry Basket, 111 N. Main, Belair
e. elev

M. Larus, 1979

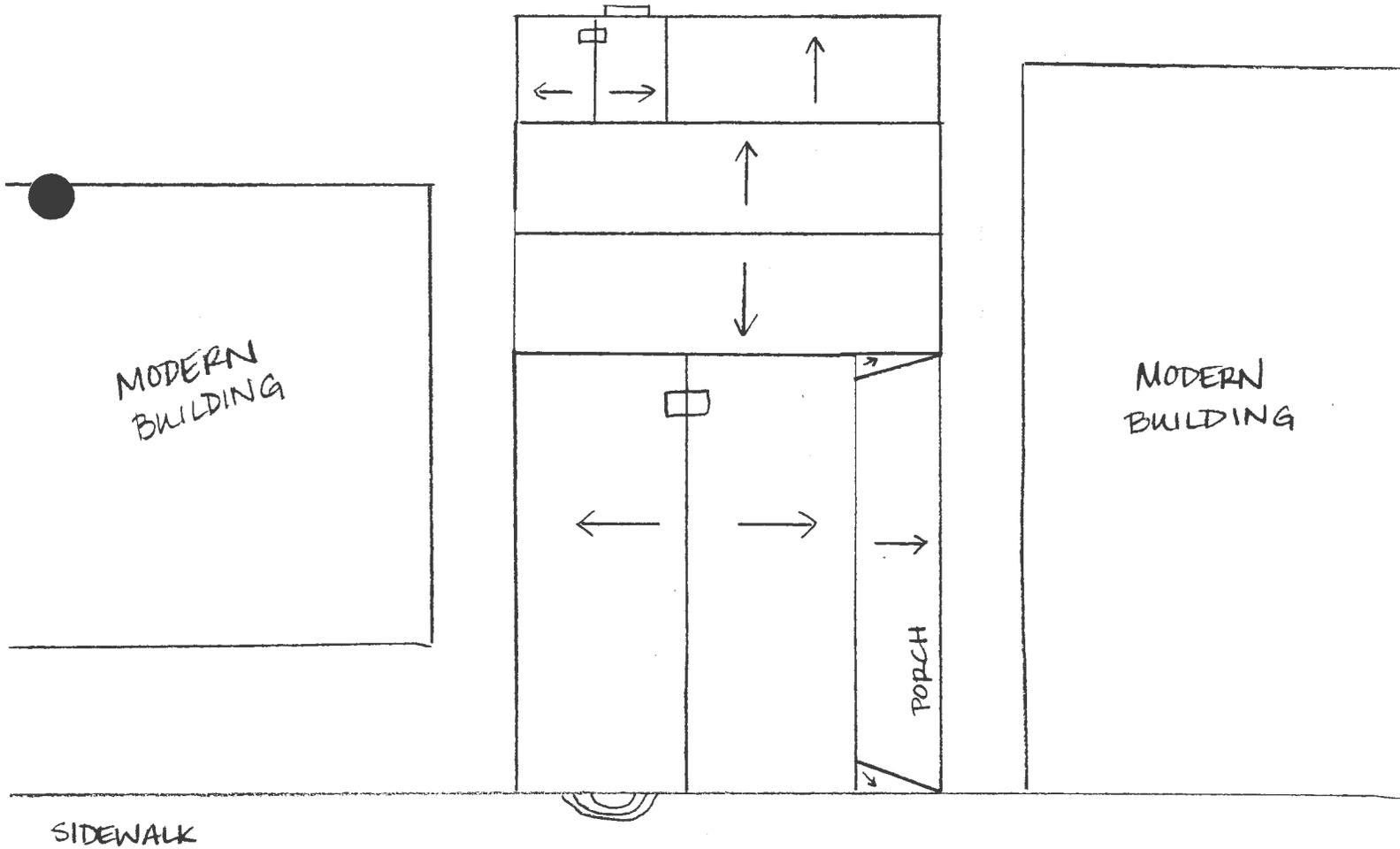
RESOURCE SKETCH MAP

HA-1430

ROMER'S PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

BEL AIR

HARFORD COUNTY



SIDEWALK

S. MAIN STREET



NOT TO SCALE

TRACERIES 2005





HA-1430

Romer's Photography Studio

107 N. Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc.

March 2005

MD SHPO

107 N. Main Street, facade

Photo 1 of 4



HA-1430

Romer's Photography Studio

107 N. Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc.

March 2005

MD SHPO

107 N. Main Street, facade and south elevation

Photo 2 of 4



HA-1430

Romer's Photography Studio

107 N. Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc.

March 2005

MP SHPO

107 N. Main Street, north and west elevations

Photo 3 of 4



HA-1430

Romer's Photography Studio

107 N. Main Street

Harford County, MD

EHT Traceries, Inc.

March 2005

MD SHPO

107 N. Main Street, rear (east) elevation

Photo 4 of 4