

HA-1461

1871

Preston Gilbert's Law Office
6-8 Office Street
Bel Air
private

This three bay two story frame office building is typical of the structures built for offices and shops in Town in the 1870's and 1880's. It relies on its bracketed cornice and window shutters for decoration. Bel Air never indulged in the excesses of Victorian architecture, and this building is a good example of the reserved yet elegant style preferred in Town.

Preston Gilbert, an attorney and Bel Air's first Mayor, built the building. It housed a dentist's office for many years. Today it has a business service on the first floor and an apartment upstairs.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Preston Gilbert's Law Office

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

6 - 8 Office Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input checked="" 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 | PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Dr. Frederick L. Hodus

Telephone #: 838-6221

STREET & NUMBER

335 Kenmore Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Court House

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

Liber #: 635

Folio #: 601

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

HA-1461

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

Preston Gilbert's Law Office is at 6 - 8 Office Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is a two-story frame building covered in shiplap siding, 22' x 28'. Built as a store house with a law office upstairs, the building is currently vacant downstairs, the most recent tenant being Dr. Corbin, a dentist. Upstairs (#8) is a four-room apartment occupied for the last eight years by Mr. and Mrs. Grover. The building is painted beige with cocoa trim.

This simple Victorian structure is a three-bay building whose only trim is the bracketed cornice and louvered shutters at the upstairs windows. The windows in the second story are double-hung 2/2. The three bays in the first story are occupied by the entry doors to #6 and #8, paneled below, with three longitudinal panes in the top part, the whole topped by a single paned transom. The doors flank the large 3 paned show window, partly altered by the enclosure of the bottom half.

The first floor interior has two rooms to the east with a small bath and storage room to the west. Farther to the west is the entry to the second floor apartment, which includes a hall leading to a bathroom and the cellar door. The open string single run staircase rises along the west wall. The stairway has a square newel post without finial and plain balusters. The apartment includes a hall at the top of the stairs, living room, kitchen-pantry, dining room, and bedroom.

There is a half-cellar under the entry hall to #8.

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 checked="" 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 1879 BUILDER/ ~~ARCHITECT~~ Preston Gilbert

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This small Victorian store building, unornamented save for its bracketed cornice and shutters, is a well preserved example of the store buildings constructed in Bel Air shortly after the Civil War. Other examples occur in the same block of Main Street. These stores always have apartments or offices on the second floor.

A. Preston Gilbert (1840-1893) was a graduate of Dickenson College. He read law with Henry Farnandis and was admitted to the bar in 1864. He married Mollie Bouldin, daughter of Charles D. Bouldin, editor of the Harford Republican. They had four children: Harriet Maulsby, Preston, Martha Susan, and Douglas Bouldin. Gilbert specialized in conveyances and collections. He died in 1893 at the age of 53 after an operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

The inventory in Gilbert's estate shows the furnishings a country town lawyer had in his office.

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| desk | \$10 |
| bookcase | 5 |
| safe | 10 |
| sofa | 4 |
| stove | 5 |
| 4 chairs | 1 |
| old table & bookcase | 1 |
| law books | 40 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$76 |

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harford Democrat, August 18, 1893, obituary

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel 823 in the Town of Bel Air
22' (Office Street) x 83'

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

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

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M. Larew

29 December 1978

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

838-8700
TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

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

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
 Individual Structure Survey Form

| | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| SURVEY NUMBER: | HA-1461 |
| NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER: | |
| UTM REFERENCES: | Zone/Easting/Northing |
| U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP: | |
| PRESENT FORMAL NAME: | |
| ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: | Preston Gilbert's Law Office |
| PRESENT USE: | 1st fl. vacant/flat 2nd fl. |
| ORIGINAL USE: | law off. (2nd) store (1st) |
| ARCHITECT/ENGINEER: | |
| BUILDER/CONTRACTOR: | |
| PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: | Excellent () Good (X) Fair () Poor: () |
| THEME: | Architecture |
| STYLE: | Victorian |
| DATE BUILT: | 1879 |

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| COUNTY: | Harford |
| TOWN: | Bel Air |
| LOCATION: | 6 - 8 Office Street Bel Air, Maryland |
| COMMON NAME: | Dr. Corbin's Office |
| FUNCTIONAL TYPE: | Commercial |
| OWNER: | Dr. Frederick L. Hodus |
| ADDRESS: | 335 Kenmore Avenue Bel Air, Maryland |
| ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: | Yes () No () Restricted (X) |
| LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: | Local (X) State () National () |

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

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

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

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

Number of Stories: 2

Number of Bays: 3

Approximate Dimensions: _____

Entrance Location: Office Street

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

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

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

#8 entry to upstairs apt. Cellar under #8 - Square newel post, plain balusters. #6 formerly Dr. Corbin's office (dentist) linolium on floors - glass in top of rear door translucent, also the one in 2nd entrance - partitions may be original but probably not.

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Built as office and store space during Bel Air's post Civil War expansion.

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



Preston
Gilbert's
Office

| | | |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------|
| First National Bank | 6-9 | 34. Main |
|---------------------------|-----|-------------|

Obbice St

MAN 51

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

M. Larew

RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION:

29 December 1978

DATE RECORDED:

TITLE
6 - 8 Office Street
Owner F. L. Hodous

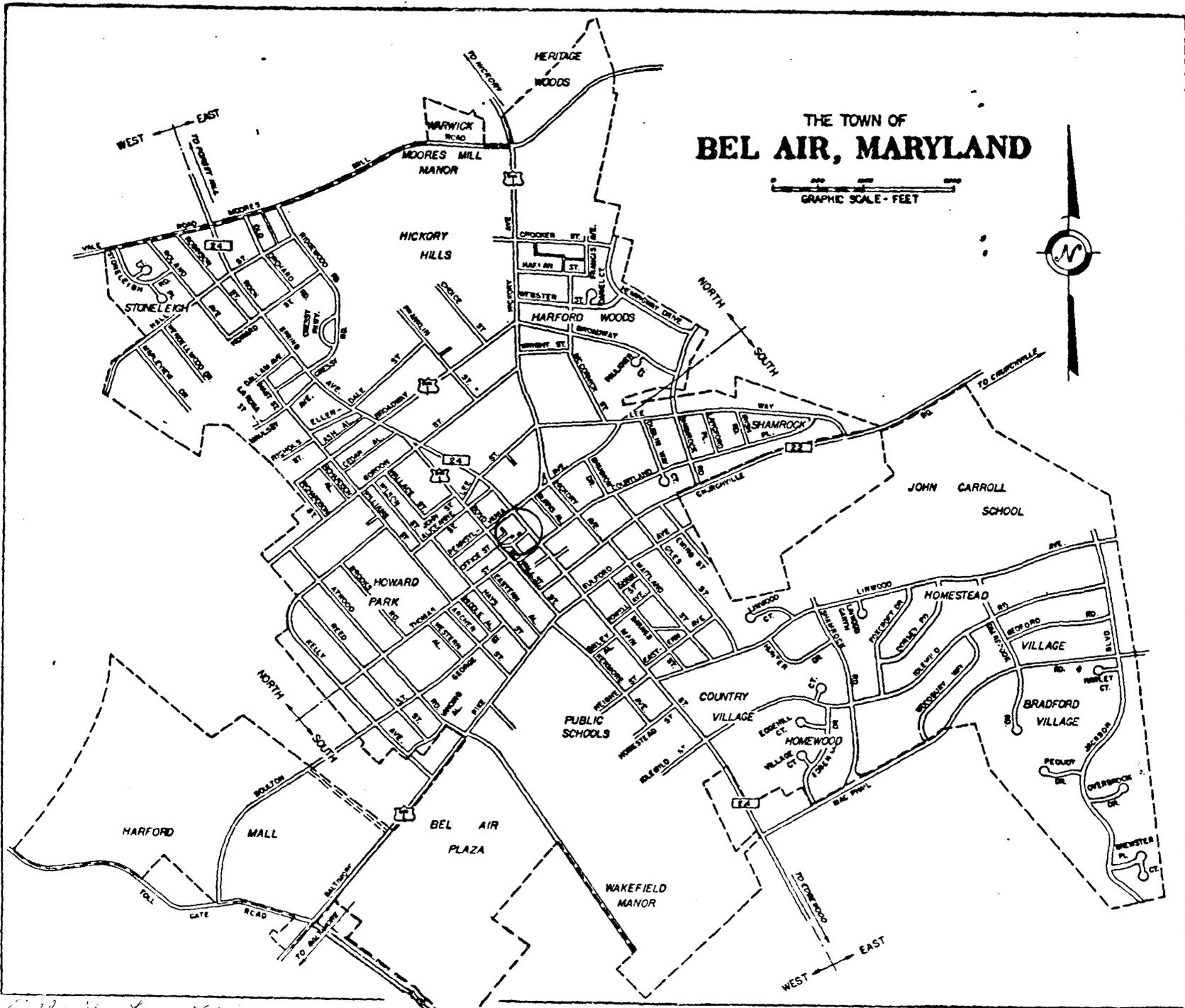
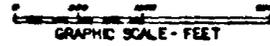
635/601 3 December 1963
Elizabeth F. Hopkins, widow
 to
Frederick L. Hodous and Joan, w.
22' x 83'

171/226 26 October 1920
Noble L. Mitchell, Trustee for the sale of
property of A. Preston Gilbert, deceased
(will 1893 JMM 11/353) to Dr. Hopkins

39/136 27 March 1879
Stevenson Archer, Trustee in Jacobs vs.
Jacobs (1876)
 to
A. Preston Gilbert \$500
lot 22' x 82'3"

The land was part of that left by Thomas Hays to his daughter Pamela, the property to pass to his daughter Elizabeth Jacobs and her issue if Pamela died without issue. The suit was between Elizabeth and her husband James M. Jacobs and their adult children Georgia and Alice Jacobs on the first part and Elizabeth's and James's minor children Lucy, Eva, Rosa, and Frank Hays Jacob on the second part for the purpose of forcing sale of the property to invest the proceeds in "some safe security". Richard T. Martin was appointed guardian to answer for the children and Stevenson Archer was appointed trustee for the sale of the property. The town property included most of the land bounded by Main Street, Office Street, Bond Street, and Pennsylvania Street. Excepted were the store lot at Office and Main, the Richard Bouldin store lot on Office and Bond, and James Fulton's Property on Main and Pennsylvania.

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND



HA-1461

*Preston Gilchrist's Law Office
6 Office St.
Bel Air*



A. PRESTON GILBERT LAW OFFICE, 6-8 OFFICE ST., BEL AIR

REAR (NORTH) ELEVATION

M. LAZEW, 1978

HA-1461





HA-1461



2, 4, 6, 8 Oppa St.

8-10-78

HA-1461