

HA-1467

Between 1880 & 1887

John Keith House
30 E. Pennsylvania Avenue
Bel Air
private

This three bay gable-roofed house is typical of the simple homes built by artisans in the 19th century. Originally it was adorned only by the scroll porch brackets. It was the home and shop of John Keith, a Bel Air bootmaker. It has recently been remodeled and now houses Todd Holden's Photographic Studio.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

John Keith House

AND/OR COMMON

Holden Studios

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

30 E. Pennsylvania Avenue

1st

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

COUNTY

Maryland

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 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 type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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

Todd Holden

Telephone #: 838-6820

STREET & NUMBER

30 E. Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

STATE, zip code

Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

Maryland 21014

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 949

Folio #: 867

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

78-1467

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<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

This two-story aluminum-sided L-shaped house with a gable roof is at 30 East Pennsylvania Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. Originally a single pile house with a front porch, the house has been expanded at least twice, first with the addition of a two-story ell to the north containing a kitchen downstairs and a room and a bath upstairs. This addition had a shed porch on the east elevation. This porch has been enclosed. The gable roof of the ell shows that the bay to the west was added to the back later. It contains one room down and a sunporch up.

Old pictures show the former porch to be a wide Victorian veranda with posts and decorative brackets. The entry is in the center of the three bays. The windows in the main block are 6/6 double hung sash flanked by louvered shutters on the front (south) and east. The windows in the ell, with the exception of those in the sunporch, are 4/4 double hung sash. The sunporch windows are modern aluminum sliding panels. The western half of the front porch has been enclosed and shows 6/6 double hung windows, too, two on the west side and four on the south side. The rest of the porch, tiled floor, brick wall and wrought iron posts, is also recent. The Holdens are planning to remove most of the brick and enclose the east half of the porch in glass to provide a showcase for their photography. An inside end chimney with a corbelled cap rises in the eastern gable end.

The interior is more or less a double pile now with a center hall plan. The open string single run staircase has the fat turned newel one finds in so many Bel Air buildings. Two turned balusters stand on each step. The first room to the west was the parlor. It was extended by the enclosure of half the porch. The room to the east was originally dining room and kitchen; the paneling covers the stovepipe hole in the east end. The room behind the parlor is now Mr. Holden's office. The kitchen is behind the dining room, which is used as a salesroom. Upstairs there are three bedrooms, the sunporch and, at the north end of the hall, a bathroom with a claw-footed tub and tongue and groove paneling. Along the southeast side of the hall is an enclosed staircase to the attic. All the woodwork in the house is quite plain.

Mr. Holden uses the basement for his darkroom.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
<u>Date between 1880 and 1887</u>	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house, recently rehabilitated from a degenerating rooming house to a photographic studio, is an excellent example of the kind of simple house built by a skilled workman in the 1880's. In its original shape without the ell it was a single pile with center hall plan (two rooms down and two rooms up). While the title shows that the property had been leased and then sold to Mary Anderson (Keith) by 1865, the 1878 map shows no building on the lot. The house could have been built any time from 1840 or so on. The first mention of it in the documents occurs in the Harford Democrat of August 5, 1887, which announces that John Keith had moved his boot shop from Office Street (where he had moved the previous year) to his residence on Hickory opposite the Old Presbyterian Church. The house may have been built earlier, however, because Keith lost his house on Bond Street late in 1880 when it was sold for the Phoenix Building Association, probably on a defaulted mortgage. Probably this house was built as soon as he recovered financially. The property stayed in the Keith family until 1906 when it was sold to C. Robie Grafton for \$2,405.00 after Mrs. Keith's death (117/335). Grafton probably rented it and probably added the ell, since he got \$4000.00 for it six years later when he sold it to James A. Wheeler (1912, 137/170). The Wheelers lived there for nearly thirty years. After Mrs. Wheeler's death, Wheeler sold it to the Chinaris family in 1942 (275/131). It remained in that family for another thirty years, finally falling to be a cheap rooming house. In 1974 Todd Holden and his wife Ann bought it and rehabilitated it (949/867).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #858 in the Town of Bel Air,
74' x 110' irregular

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

30 April 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory

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

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1467

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

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

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:

COUNTY: Harford
TOWN: Bel Air
LOCATION: 30 E Penna ave

COMMON NAME:
Halden's Studio

FUNCTIONAL TYPE: former residential

OWNER: Tom Halden
ADDRESS: 30 E Penna ave
Bel Air

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

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

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Structural System

1. Foundation: Stone () 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 ()
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 () Wood Shingle () Asphalt Shingle () Sheet Metal ()
Built Up () Rolled () Tile () Other:
6. Engineering Structure:
7. Other:

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

Roof Style: Gable () Hip () Shed () Flat () 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: 35' x 40'

Entrance Location: Pa av

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

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

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Porch buck w wrought iron posts dates from before Halden's as does splay aluminum siding upstairs woodwork plain they did the sun porch window & claw foot bathtub bathroom wall tongue & groove to halfway up up stairs 2 rooms orig hall 1 room (Kit and) bath sun porch attic downstairs 2 room center hall E dining + Kit (steel pipe hole) + W parlor in addit kit E paneled - walls deteriorated carpet ex. orig pine (chestnut?) floor in parlor staircase open string - that newel post. 2 balusters to step

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

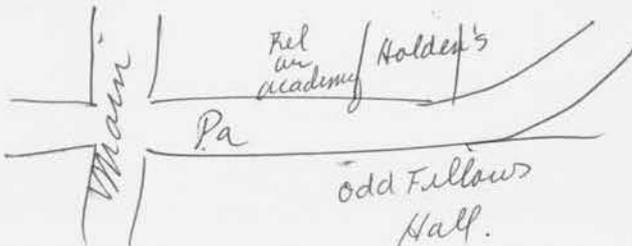
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

House + shop of John Keith, bootmaker - orig 2 down, 2 up - good ex. of mechanic's house - now Halden's Studio - well handled adaptive reuse

REFERENCES:

Harf Demo.

MAP: (Indicate North In Circle)



SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

M. Larew

RECORDED BY: Town of Bel Air

ORGANIZATION: April 1979

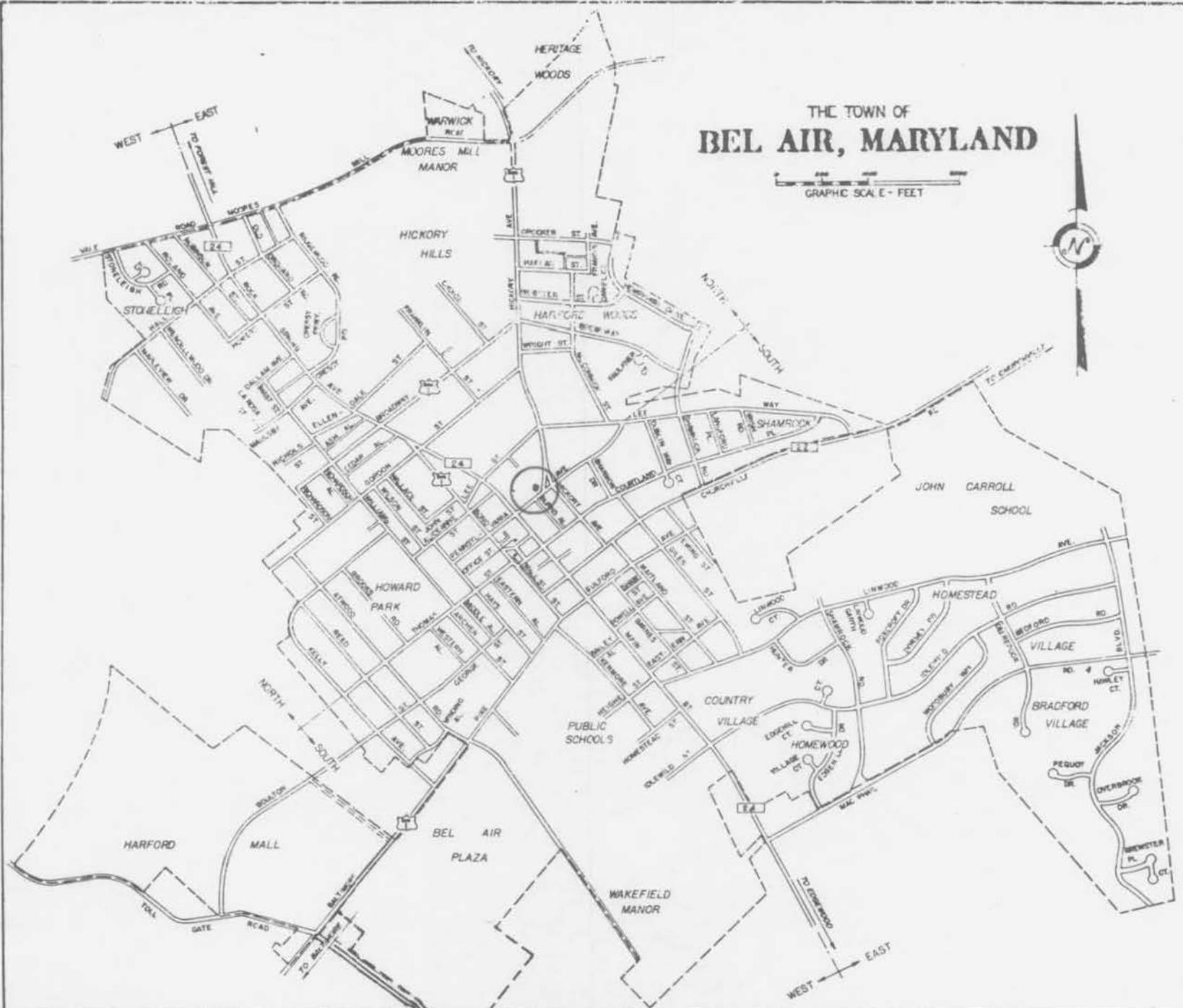
DATE RECORDED:

TITLE: HOLDEN STUDIOS
30 E. Pennsylvania

- 949/867 8 May 1974
George A. Chinaris & Helen C. Stone
(formerly Helen George Chinaris)
to
Stockton Todd Holden and Ann, wife
part of the land in the estate of George
Chinaris (will 1963, 27/81)
- 275/131 1 October 1942
James A. Wheeler, widower
to
George Chinaris and Edith, wife
- 137/170 8 May 1912
C. Robie Grafton and Annie May, wife
to
James A. Wheeler and Lillian, wife
\$4000
- 117/335 26 April 1906
Henry W. Archer, Trustee, et al
to
C. Robie Grafton and Annie May, wife
\$2405
- Mary Keith died in (will 13/48) leaving
the property to be sold. After a series of
deaths the property was finally sold for the
benefit of the heirs.
- 16/264 31 October 1865
Charles Lee and Elizabeth, wife, and
William Anderson
to
Mary Anderson (Keith)
\$800
Anderson owned the lease (1858, 10/194) from
Lee to Maurice O'Rourk - rent \$30 per annum.
It had passed from O'Rourk to Michael Black
(1859, 11/169) and from Black to Anderson
(12/231).

THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1467
Holden Studey, 30 E. Pennsylvania ave,
Bel Air



HA-1467

Keith House - Holden Studios

30 E. Penna

Bel Air

s. + e. elev

M. Larew, 1979



HA-1467 Keith House - Holden Studers
30 E. Penna

Belair

n. elev.

M. Larew, 1979



PA 1467 KALAMAZOO UNIVERSITY
30 E. PENNS. AVE, BELL
MICH. STATE

1943-44

PHOTO 6. 1945

1945-46 - 1946-47