

HA-1785
1926
Bel Air
Private

The German House, 151 Williams St., faces west on a lot in Richardson's Addition in a block of mixed houses whose styles range from front-gable Victorian to brick rancher. Built in 1926 or 1927, this simple 2 bay, 2 story, gable-roofed structure is devoid of ornament except for its porch, shed dormer, and black shutters. Compact yet roomy, it contains 6 rooms and a bath.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This pleasant 2 story house was built in 1926 for Grace German by the McComas Brothers, proprietors of the lumber yard [HA-1443 and 1444] near the now demolished train station. It is a type of vernacular house built widely in all sections of town both before and after. Miss German lived there until her death in 1948.

HA-1785
German House
Bel Air, Harford Co.

FRAMEWORK FOR IDENTIFYING COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization:

3. Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

x 11. Industrial/Urban Dominance 1870-1930

12. Modern Period 1930 - present

Prehistoric/Historic Period Theme:

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community
Planning

Resource Type:

Category: Architecture

Historic Environment: Urban

Historic Function and Use: Private Residence

Known Design Source: unknown

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HM-1735

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic German House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 151 Williams St. n/a not for publication

city, town Bel Air _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 3rd

state MD 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mr. and Mrs. Webster Bell

street & number 151 Williams St. telephone no.: 838-8758

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 688

street & number _____ folio 59

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

late _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ local _____

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1785

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 of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing resource count: one

The German House, 151 Williams St., faces west in a block of mixed houses whose styles range from front-gable Victorian to brick rancher. Built in 1926 or 1927, this simple 2 bay, 2 story, gable-roofed structure is devoid of ornament except for its porch, shed dormer, and black shutters. Compact yet roomy, it contains 6 rooms and a bath.

Now covered in aluminum siding, the house sports a shed-roofed front porch carried on 4 simple round posts. The shed-roofed screened porch on the back (east), south of the gable-roofed basement entry, is the only exterior alteration. Three 4 pane casement windows in the dormer and 6/1 double hung sash windows complete the exterior.

The center entrance leads to the living room, which with the dining room, occupies the front of the block. A closed string, straight run staircase rises along the rear (east) wall of the living room, and a wide, doorless opening between living room and dining room allows visual connection between the rooms. A brick fireplace with wooden mantel shelf on the north wall of the living room and entirely plain woodwork complete the interior decoration. A den (north) and kitchen (south) lie to the east. Sheet wood paneling in the living room and dining room was installed by the Bells.

Mr. Bell is bed-ridden, so the second floor was not visited. It contains two bedrooms and a bath.

8. - Significance

Survey No. HA-1785

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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1926 **Builder/Architect** McComas Brothers

check: Applicable Criteria: A B C D
and/or
Applicable Exception: A B C D E F G

Level of Significance: national state local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

Building began west of Main St. in Richardson's Addition in the 1880s; it and the Hayes Addition begun at the same time are the oldest extensions of the town. It is a mix of styles from Victorian to brick rancher, and a mix of classes as well, with working-man's housing along the north and south edges and middle class homes through the center. This pleasant 2 story house was built in 1926 for Grace German by the McComas Brothers, proprietors of the lumber yard [HA-1443 and 1444] near the now demolished train station. It is a type of vernacular house built widely in all sections of town both before and after. Miss German lived there until her death in 1948.

Gus Edwards, the owner from 1953 to 1965, worked at Aberdeen Proving Ground.

The screened porch on the rear (east) elevation and the sheet wood panels in the living room and dining room, put there by the present owners, are the only alterations. The only elements of 1920s styles in the house are the closed string staircase and the wide, doorless opening between the living room and the dining room which allows visual connection between the two rooms.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1785

Site visit, 30 Apr 1993
Harford County Land Records

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Bel Air

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 515 in the Town of Bel Air, 50' [Williams St.] x 150'.

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	<u>Dr. Marilyn M. Larew</u>
organization	
date	<u>5-27-93</u>
street & number	<u>RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd.</u>
telephone	<u>717-993-3557</u>
city or town	<u>New Park</u>
state	<u>PA 17352</u>

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.

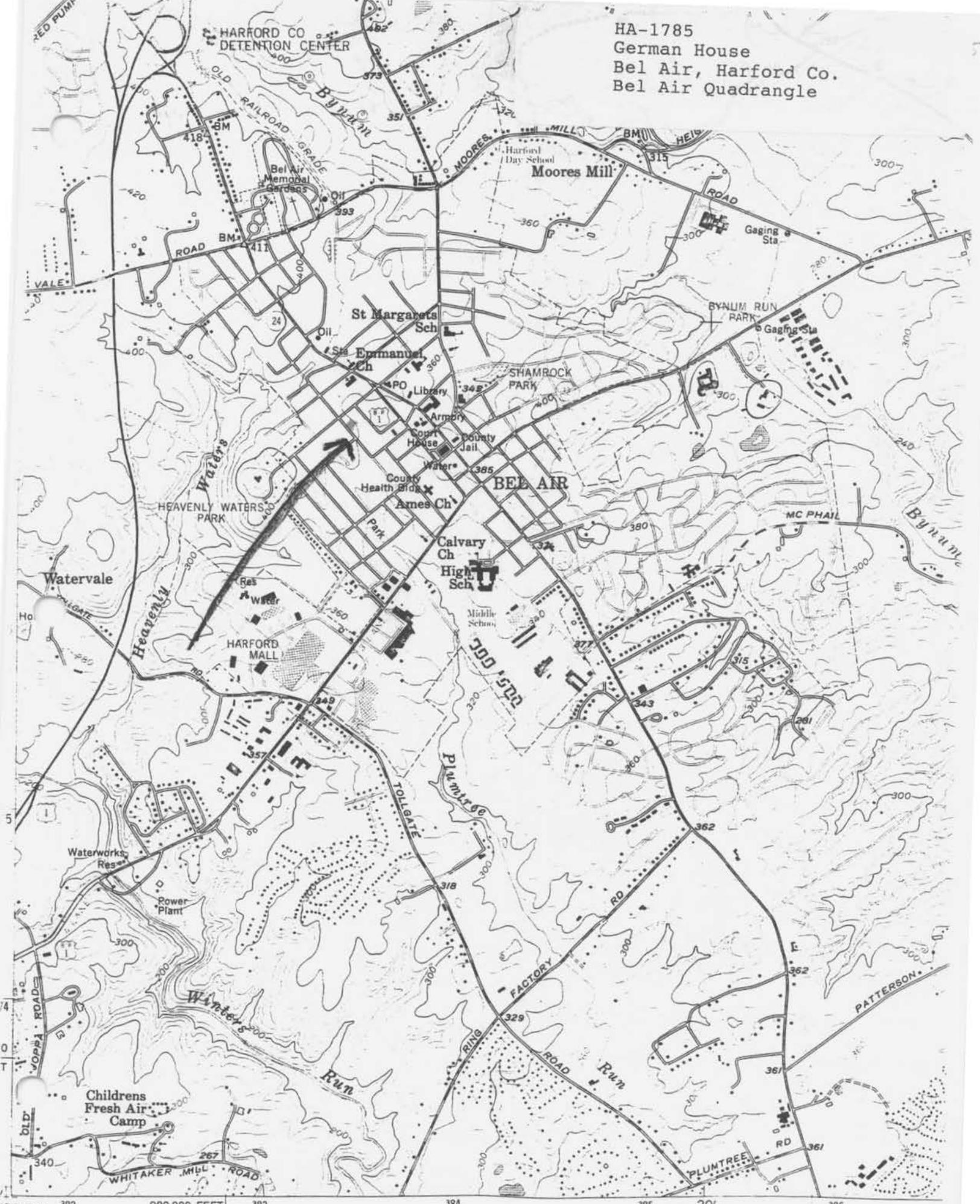
return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHOL
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021
514.7600

HA-1785

145/118 19 Apr 1914
Rouse, Rouse, & Richardson
to
Walter B. McComas & Mabel R., wife
1/2 of lot 69 in Richardson's Addition

HA-1785
German House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle



22'30" 382 980 000 FEET 383 384 385 20' 386



124-1795
GERMAN HOUSE
WARD CONYERS
M. LADWIN

593
SH 70
1145

151 WILLIAMS ST
BEL AIR