

HA-1798  
1931  
Bel Air  
Private

The Keithley House, 104 W. Broadway in Richardson's Addition, faces south. Now the largest in a row of 4 twentieth century working-man's houses, the Keithley house is a 3 bay, front gable, stucco cottage. The large (1960s) aluminum-sided gable addition to the roof makes it essentially a 2 story structure with 5 bedrooms.

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 cottage, in a row of working-man's cottages, was built by contractor Harry Orsburn between 1931 and 1934 when jeweler Edmund Keithley and his wife Pearl bought it. It was originally a one story, 3 bedroom cottage, larger than it's neighbors but not much different. As late as the early 1930s, housing was being built in Bel Air, at least in this neighborhood, without indoor plumbing. [See HA-1799 and HA-1801, the third and fourth houses in the block.] The Keithleys took the middle bedroom, which was the smallest, to make a bathroom.

HA-1798  
Keithley 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:

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. SM-1798

Magi No.

DOE   yes   no

**1. Name** (indicate preferred name)

historic Keithley House

and/or common

**2. Location**

street & number 104 W. Broadway n/a not for publication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 type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name Mrs. Pearl W. Keithley

street & number 104 W. Broadway telephone no.: 836-8659

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 230

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ folio 297

city, town Bel Air state MD

**6. Representation in Existing** Historical Surveys

title \_\_\_\_\_

date \_\_\_\_\_  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records \_\_\_\_\_

city, town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_

## 7. Description

Survey No. HA-1790

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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 Keithley House, 104 W. Broadway, faces south. Now the largest in a row of 4 twentieth century working-man's houses, the Keithley house is a 3 bay, front gable, stucco cottage. The large (1960s) aluminum-sided gable addition to the roof makes it essentially a 2 story structure with 5 bedrooms.

The slightly hipped porch roof is carried on 4 plain round posts. Windows are 1/1 replacements. A small rear (north) shed-roofed porch carried on plain square wooden posts connected with a square post balustrade leads to the kitchen. To the west is a small stove chimney.

The entry in the center front (south) bay leads directly to a long living room on the east comprising what was once living room and dining room. On the west are bedroom, bath, and bedroom. A door from the enlarged living room leads to a small hall which opens to the bathroom on the west and the rather steep, single run interior staircase to the second floor on the south. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and bath and a large cedar-lined closet. Entirely plain woodwork and an 1960s brick fireplace in the northeast corner of the living room complete this simple but roomy house.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1798

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 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** c. 1931 **Builder/Architect** Harry Orsburn

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 cottage, in a row of working-man's cottages, was built by contractor Harry Orsburn between 1931 and 1934 when jeweler Edmund Keithley and his wife Pearl bought it. It was originally a one story, 3 bedroom cottage, larger than its neighbors but not much different. As late as the early 1930s, housing was being built in Bel Air, at least in this neighborhood, without indoor plumbing. [See HA-1799 and HA-1801, the third and fourth houses in the block.]

The Keithleys took the middle bedroom, which was the smallest, to make a bathroom. In 1960 they raised the roof and added 3 bedrooms and a bath for their growing family. They also tucked a brick fireplace in the northeast corner of the enlarged living room. Their alterations make it virtually a 2 story house.

The Keithleys opened their jewelry store on 8 April 1929 at 24 Office St., now part of HA-1464. In 1947 they moved to North Main St. Mr. Keithley was a specialist in chain-driven watches.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1798

Harford County Land Records  
Site visit and interview, 4 May 1993

# 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 253 in the Town of Bel Air, 12,000 sq. ft.

## 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 Dr. Marilyn M. Larew

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 5-27-93

street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557

city or town New Park state PA 17352

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

MDHS  
DHCP/DHCE  
100 COMMUNITY PLAC.  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023  
514-7600

HA-1798  
Keithley House  
104 W. Broadway  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Pearl W. Keithley

230/297            29 May 1934  
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.  
to  
Edmund M. Keithley and Pearl W.  
lots 1, 2, 3 in block D of Richardson's Addition

227/125           6 July 1933  
Anna E. Schillenger, unmarried  
to  
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.

227/124           6 July 1933  
Hilda McCrone, widow  
to  
Anna E. Schillinger

223/218           3 May 1932  
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.  
to  
Hilda McCrone

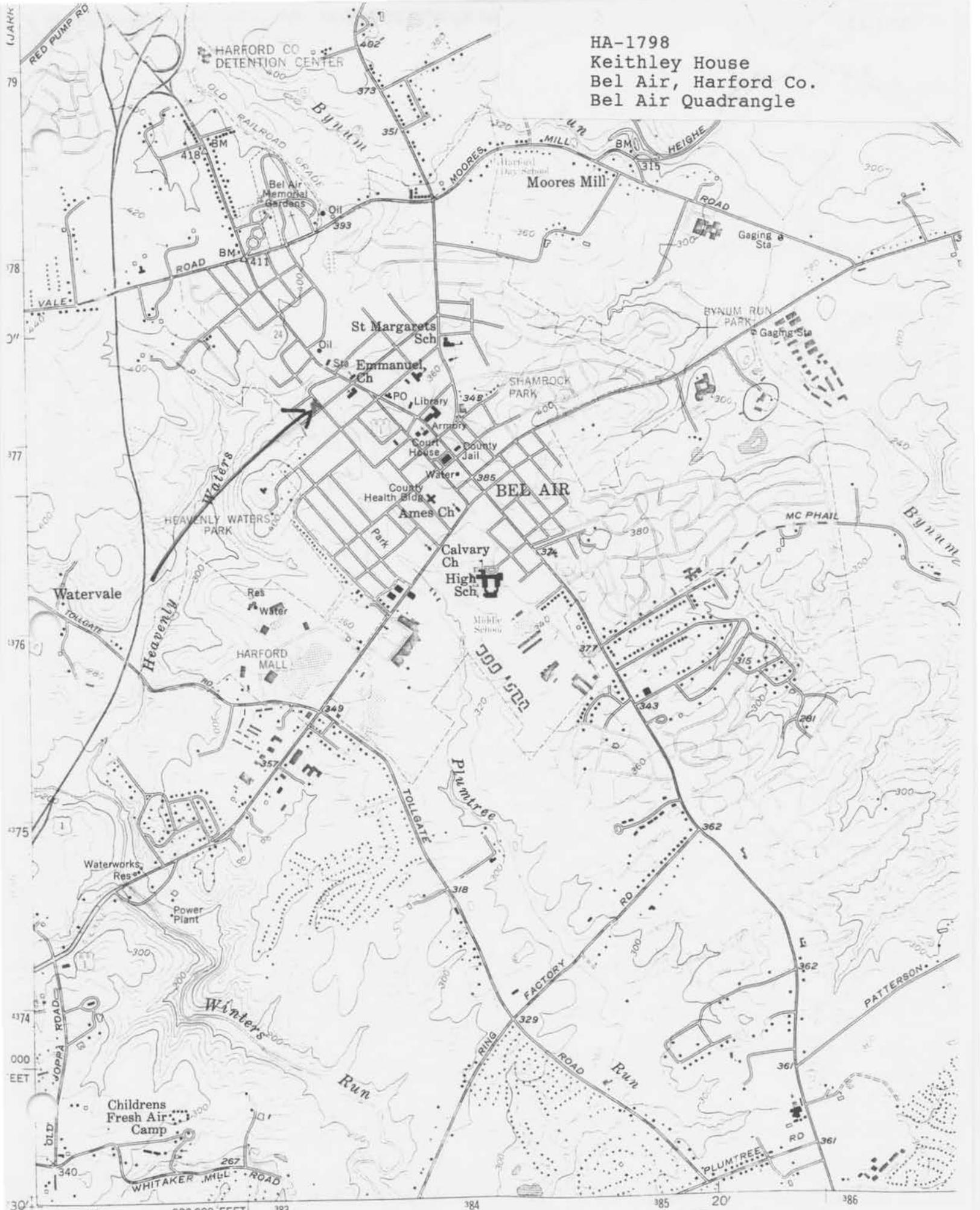
222/389           3 May 1932  
mortgage  
Hilda McCrone  
from  
Hannah T. Brooks  
\$2000  
mortgage speaks of crops growing which shall pass to  
Brooks in case of default  
these Orsburn, Schillinger and McCrone transactions  
look like a defaulted mortgage

221/17            20 June 1931  
John Wesley Thomas, unmarried  
to  
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.

213/277           27 Sept 1929  
Adam G. Walbeck (aka A.G.) and Cora A.  
to  
John Wesley Thomas

158/263           25 May 1915  
Henrietta G. Rouse et al  
to  
Adam G. Walbeck  
Rouse et al owned Richardson's Addition

HA-1798  
Keithley House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle





26 - 72

26 - 72

26 - 72

26 - 72

26 - 72

26 - 72

26 - 72

26 - 72

104 W. BROADWAY  
BEL AIR



L.A. 1000  
21-2274 House  
W. 1000 Cont'd  
1000 5000  
1000  
1000  
1000  
1000

104 W. BROADWAY  
BEL AIR