

HA-1834
1925
Bel Air
Private

The Warren House, 321 S. Main St., faces west on a large open lot in a block in Fulford Park which is rapidly going commercial. It is a 5 bay, 2 story brick Colonial Revival house. Severely symmetrical and contained, the white Georgian round arched windows of the first story flank a formal entrance with fan and side lights protected by a gabled stoop supported on slender columns. The first story trim urges the eye upward, through the 4/1 double-hung sash windows and wide bracketed cornice to rest in the hipped roof with its central eyebrow dormer. Exterior brick chimneys centered on the north and south elevations add to the containment of the house block. The south sun room with its round arched windows set back from the plane of the facade does not disturb the impression of tightly controlled space. The matching porch on the north is not original. The rear elevation shows the same rigid formality as the facade, with doubled windows flanking the entrance, and single windows in the second story flanking the triple window that lights the spacious stair landing. The interior is equally symmetrical, and the wide sweep of the staircase is particularly notable.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Fulford Park was subdivided by Oliver T. Wallace of Wilmington, North Carolina. The local agent was W. M. Nicholls. It was named for the Fulford family whose land it once was. The Warren House was built in 1925 for Ruskin Warren who owned the Korner Konfectionary restaurant at 34 S. Main St. [HA-1451]. A handsome brick Colonial Revival house, it is surely the most distinguished house built in Town between the World Wars. Brick was an uncommon building material for residences until after 1945, and people in Town did not often build in the revival styles so popular in the nation at the time. Its sharp, contained lines and crisp white Georgian details mark it as an unusual house for Bel Air in any period.

HA-1834
Warren 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. MA-1984

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Warren House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 321 S. Main 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 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 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 Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

street & number P.O. Box 1176 telephone no.: 272-4000

city, town Aberdeen state and zip code MD 21001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1430

street & number Bel Air folio 807

city, town Bel Air state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date federal state county local

repository for survey records

city, town Bel Air state MD

7. Description

Survey No. HA-1834

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 Warren House, 321 S. Main St., faces west on a large open lot in a block in Fulford Park which is rapidly going commercial. Built in 1925, it is a 5 bay, 2 story brick Colonial Revival house of unusual distinction among the houses built between the World Wars in Town. Severely symmetrical and contained, the white Georgian round arched windows of the first story flank a formal entrance with fan and side lights protected by a gabled stoop supported on slender columns. The first story trim urges the eye upward, through the 4/1 double-hung sash windows and wide bracketed cornice to rest in the hipped roof with its central eyebrow dormer. Exterior brick chimneys centered on the north and south elevations add to the containment of the house block. The south sun room with its round arched windows set back from the plane of the facade does not disturb the impression of tightly controlled space. The matching porch on the north is not original. It was installed, along with the porte-cochere, to accommodate the drive in window of the credit union that now occupies the building. The rear elevation shows the same rigid formality as the facade, with doubled windows flanking the entrance, and single windows in the second story flanking the triple window that lights the spacious stair landing.

The interior is equally symmetrical. The entry leads to a wide center hall and the wide open-string staircase with a tapered round newel in natural color surrounded by the tapered white balusters of the turnout easement. The staircase sweeps up along the south wall to a wide landing, lighted by triple windows and big enough for a grouping of furniture before dog-legging to the second floor. Off the hall to the north and south are rooms of equal size, now used as banking rooms. Originally the south room was the living room and to the north were the dining room (front) and kitchen (rear). The dark, rough brick of the fireplace, which reaches to the ceiling on the south wall, is a bit of a visual shock in such a Georgian atmosphere. It is repeated in the sun porch. The north room has no fireplace, despite the chimney on that side of the house. A short service hall under the stairs houses a bathroom and a storage closet.

Upstairs there were originally 4 bedrooms and a bath. The south two rooms have been preserved, but to the north, the space has been thrown together into one large room, divided by screens into cubby holes. The rooms serve as offices. The woodwork has been preserved or copied. There is a dropped ceiling.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1834

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 1925 **Builder/Architect** unknown

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.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Fulford Park was subdivided by Oliver T. Wallace of Wilmington, North Carolina. The local agent was W. M. Nicholls. It was named for the Fulford family whose land it once was. The Warren House was built in 1925 for Ruskin Warren who owned the Korner Konfectionary restaurant at 34 S. Main St. [HA-1451]. A handsome brick Colonial Revival house, it is surely the most distinguished house built in Town between the World Wars. Brick was an uncommon building material for residences until after 1945, and people in Town did not often build in the revival styles so popular in the nation at the time. Its sharp, contained lines and crisp white Georgian details mark it as an unusual house for Bel Air in any period.

Warren mortgaged the property in May 1929, possibly as the result of margin calls for stock market investments. Afterwards, the restaurant trade probably suffered from the collapse of the national economy. At any rate, Ruskin defaulted on the mortgage, and the property was sold to Glasgow Archer, Sr. in 1936. The Archers had lived since 1919 at 200 S. Main St. [HA-222], a home they sold early in World War II. The Warren House stayed in the Archer family until 1982. It is currently the Bel Air office of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union.

Before the bank moved its offices there, the house was altered. A north porch and porte cochere were added in the style of the south sun room for the bank's drive-in window. The rooms on each side of the hall were turned into banking rooms, with the loss of the dining room and kitchen on the north side. Upstairs the two bedrooms to the north were thrown together into one big room and a dropped ceiling was installed. The southern room structure was retained. The woodwork in the house was either retained or copied. The renovation was relatively sensitive to the fabric of the house, but it does not work well as a bank. There are traffic flow and security problems with the banking being carried out in two rooms separated by the wide center hall. The bank is considering another site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. AA-1034

Harford County Land Records.
Site visit, 29 April 1993.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage 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 510 in the Town of Bel Air, 87/90' x 150'.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Dr. Marilyn M. Larew</u>	date	<u>7-15-93</u>
organization		telephone	<u>717-993-3557</u>
street & number	<u>RD 1, Box 219</u>	state	<u>PA 17352</u>
city or town	<u>New Park</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/DEC
100 COMMUNITY PLAZA
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-0000

HA-1834
Warren House
321 S. Main St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

- 1429/779 1 Oct 1987
Charles Center of Harford Co.
to
Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union
\$1,750,000
lots 4-13 block A, Fulford Park
- 1171/426 20 Aug 1982
S. Main St. Joint Venture
to
Charles Center of Harford Co.
\$160,000
- 1166/296 29 June 1982
Dorothea Lee Archer Woelper and Elizabeth Reed Sheehan,
personal representatives of estate of Cornelia Lee
Archer
to
S. Main St. Joint Venture
\$137,000
Cornelia Archer d. 24 Aug 1980, will JGM 39/13
- 541/199 20 Nov 1959
Elizabeth R. Archer, widow
to
Cornelia Lee Archer
Glasgow Archer Sr. d. 11 Apr 1953
- 242/369 4 Nov 1936
Michael W. Fahey and Citizens National Bank of Havre de
Grace
to
J. Glasgow Archer Sr., and Elizabeth R.
defaulted mortgage for \$15,000 by Ruskin B. Warren and
Hattie, 3 May 1929 to the bank above 212/358
the bank bought it in 16 Sept 1936 for \$12,000 Fahey
was their attorney.
- 206/102 6 Sept 1927
William M. Nichols and Marguerite
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
to
Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie M.
confirmatory deed for lots 6-13

- 181/22 6 Nov 1922
William Nichols
to
Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie
lots 6-11
with restrictions

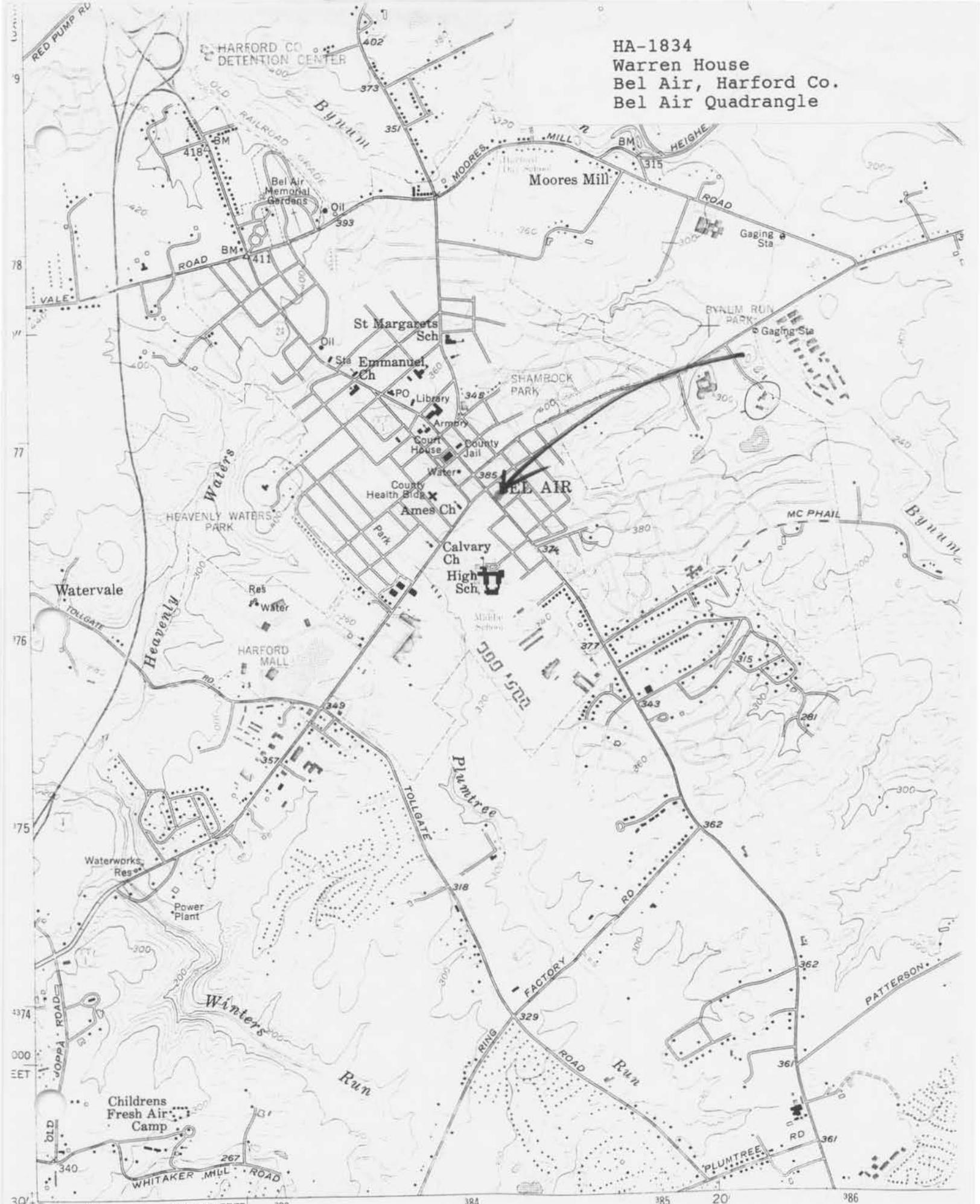
- 183/196 5 July 1923
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
to
Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie
lots 4 and 5, 12 and 13 block A, Fulford Park
\$625 and assume mortgage

the mortgage

- 180/183 9 Nov 1922
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
to
Fireside Permanent Bldg. Assoc. of Harford Co.
\$950

- 181/7 6 Nov 1922
William Nichols
to
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
lots 4, 5, 12, 13 block A, Fulford Park
Nichols subdivided Fulford Park

HA-1834
Warren House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle





4/2-1279

10-24-2012

2-21-2012

3-11-2012

4-11-2012

5-11-2012

6-11-2012

7-11-2012

8-11-2012

9-11-2012

10-11-2012

11-11-2012

12-11-2012

1-11-2013

2-11-2013

3-11-2013

4-11-2013

5-11-2013

6-11-2013

7-11-2013

321 S. MAIN ST
BEL AIR



214-734
11482 10 1 700
* RT 2A
6/14
3-11-20
1117 10 1 100
2-23

321 S MAIN ST
BEL AIR



HA-1830

MAR 20 1952

UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

1952

321

S. MAIN ST

BEL AIR

321 S. MAIN ST

BEL AIR