

HA-1403

Between 1890 & 1910

Worthington Tenant House  
211-213 Franklin Street  
Bel Air  
private

This double tenant house was built around the turn of the 20th century by John Worthington. Its front dormers and elegant scroll porch brackets give it a touch of style.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Worthington Tenant House

AND/OR COMMON

Ruff House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

211-213 Franklin

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

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 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	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input 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**

NAME

John Ruff

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

213 Franklin

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

\_\_\_ VICINITY OF

STATE zip code  
Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 614

Folio #: 254

STREET & NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE  
Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

\_\_\_FEDERAL \_\_\_STATE \_\_\_COUNTY \_\_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

**CONDITION**

- EXCELLENT
- GOOD
- FAIR
- DETERIORATED
- RUINS
- UNEXPOSED

**CHECK ONE**

- UNALTERED
- ALTERED

**CHECK ONE**

- ORIGINAL SITE
- MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This two and a half story double tenant house is at 211-213 Franklin Street in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is sided in asphalt shingle and is four bays wide. Two gable roofed dormers break the gable roof. They have 2/2 windows and are centered between the first and second and the third and fourth bays. All of the windows are 2/2 double-hung sash. A tin covered shed roofed porch in the center of the front (west) elevation shades the two entrances. It is carried on three square posts that have scroll brackets. A balustrade separates the porch into halves. The entrances are side by side in the center of the front elevation. A thin two pane transom tops a panelled door in each case. A single story shed kitchen addition, slightly wider and deeper than the front porch occupies the center bays of the rear (east) elevation.

The interior is composed of livingroom, dining room, and kitchen, down, and two bedrooms and bath, up.

**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 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      Between 1890 & 1910      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This well kept double house and the one to the south are unique on the east side of Bel Air; double houses are uncommon in Town although there are a few in AliceAnne Street and one elegant one on Rock Spring Avenue in Dallam's second addition. It was built by John Worthington, editor of The Aegis, probably between 1890 and 1910. He owned it in 1920 when it was assessed at \$1167.

It is now owned by John Ruff who lives in the southern portion.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

1920 Tax List for Bel Air  
1930 Sanborn Map  
Interview with Mr. Ruff, 28 September 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #572 in the Town of Bel Air.

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

STATE COUNTY

STATE COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn Larew, Architectural Historian

5 October 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

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-1403 NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER: UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP: PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Ruff House
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Worthington Tenant House
LOCATION: 211-213 Franklin	PRESENT USE: private residence & apt. ORIGINAL USE: rental ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
COMMON NAME: Ruff House	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: private residence	
OWNER: John Ruff ADDRESS: 213 Franklin St. Bel Air	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE: Excellent( ) Good(x) Fair( ) Poor( )
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(x)	THEME: Architecture STYLE: Vernacular
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(x) State( ) National( )	DATE BUILT: 1890 - 1910
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(x) 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(x) Sheet Metal( ) Built Up( ) Rolled( ) Tile( ) Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches(x) Towers( ) Cupolas( ) Dormers(x) Chimneys( ) Sheds( ) Ells( ) Wings( ) Other: Roof Style: Gable(x) Hip( ) Shed( ) Flat( ) Mansard( ) Gambrel( ) Jerkinhead( ) Saw Tooth( ) With Monitor( ) With Bellcast( ) With Parapet( ) With False Front( ) Other: Number of Stories: <u>2</u> Number of Bays: <u>2</u> Entrance Location: <u>Franklin</u> Approximate Dimensions: <u>35' x 35'</u>	
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat(x) Zoning( ) Roads( ) Development( ) Deterioration( ) Alteration( ) Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive( ) Negative( ) Mixed( ) Other:

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

2/2 windows inc. gable roofed dormers  
shed roof porch, plain posts, decorative brackets  
entrances: then 2 pane transom over panel door

RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Worthington built it  
double house

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



X ✓  
Franklin  
E. Gordon

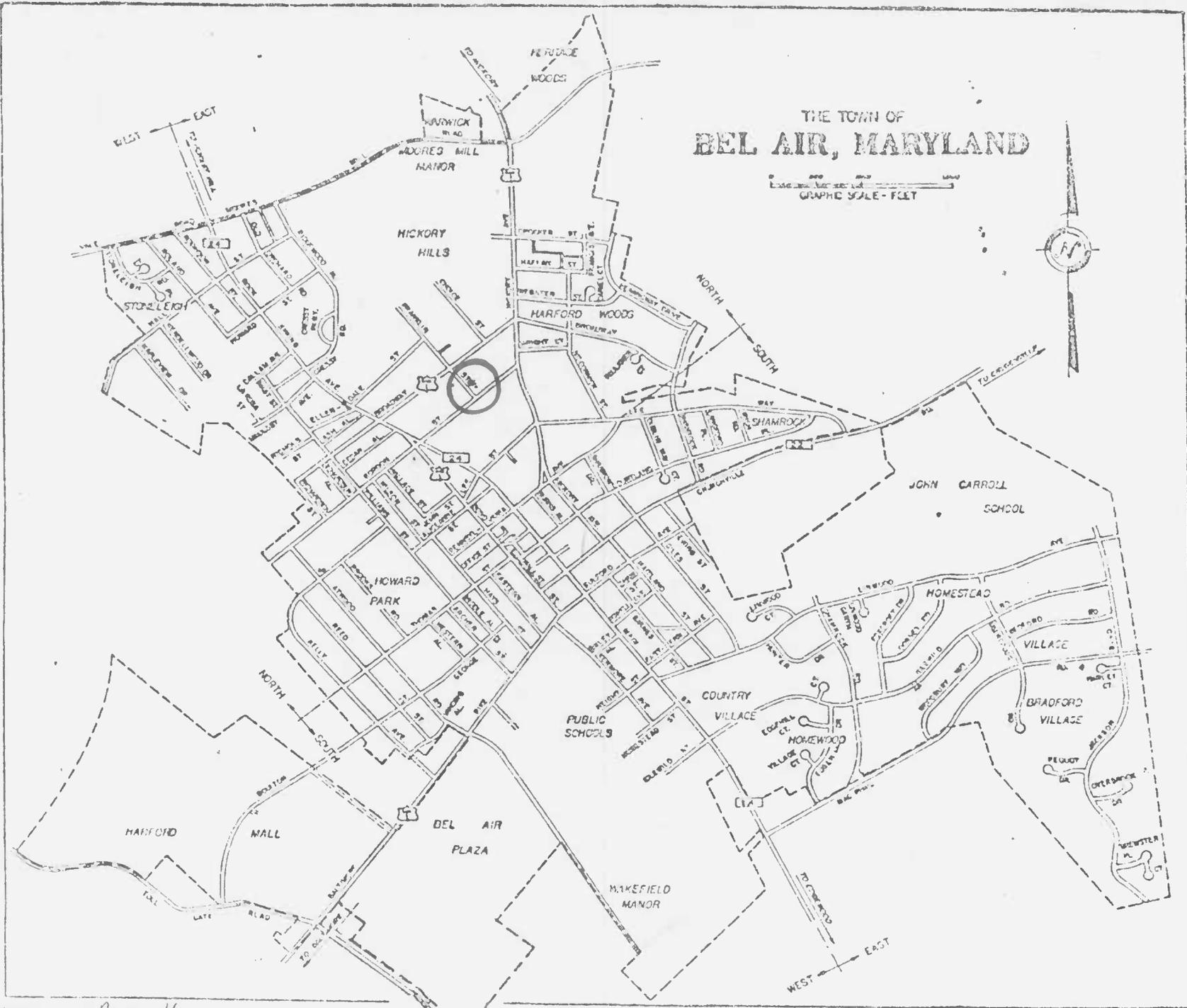
SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

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

Marilynn Larew  
RECORDED BY:  
Town of Bel Air  
ORGANIZATION:  
28 September 1979  
DATE RECORDED:

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND

GRAPHIC SCALE - FEET



HA-1403

Ruff House

211-213 Franklin



44-1403 Worthington Tenant House, 211-213 Franklin  
Belair  
Newell  
Mr. Lenz, 1979