HA-1436 1898

Heuer-Corbin House
211 N. Main
Bel Air
private

This is one of Jacob Bull's latest houses. It is a slightly different exploration of the Queen Anne style, shaped rather like the earlier Doxen House, 314 N. Hickory (1887) and its near twin, the Rebecca Evans House, 612 Rock Spring (1886), but the whole treatment is promouncedly more horizontal than either. It is also more decorated with the carved gable barge boards and stained glass windows in the center bay on all three stories. The mantels and the woodwork are also more clearly of the Queen Anne style rather than mid-Victorian, but the Queen Anne is even then slipping into a neo-classical metaphor, a transition clearly seen in the dining room mantel which has a mirrored Victorian over mantel and an Adamesque mantel.

HA-1436
1314365604

# MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC
Heuer House

AND/OR COMMON
Corbin House

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
211 N. Main

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
1st

CITY, TOWN
Bel Air

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY
Harford

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | __AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| __SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | X YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER |

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mrs. Ida Corbin

Telephone #: 838-7380

STREET & NUMBER
211 N. Main

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 #: 295
Folio #: 58

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

NR-1436

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| X GOOD | __RUINS | X ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| __FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This two and a half story, three bay house is at 211 N. Main in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. It is now sided in aluminum up to the gables which retain their original shingles, some of them fish scale shaped. A transitional vernacular design, the house has elements of Queen Anne squared off and formalized toward the Classical Revival. The gables, including the projecting front (west) one, have scalloped barge boards and semicircular ventillators. The windows are 2/1 double-hung sash including those in the north and south gables. The projecting front gable has a Paladian window with a round headed center window and slender side windows. The side windows are of diamond shaped colored glass as are the small panes decorating the center window. Two gable roofed dormers pierce the roof in front. Round-headed 2/1 windows are in shaped and carved surrounds.

On the second floor the center projecting bay now forms a small porch with a shed aluminum awning for a roof, carried on turned posts with a plain horizontal balustrade. Access to this little porch is through a door that has widely separated diamond pane colored glass side lights. The flanking windows on the second story front (west) elevation are paired.

The front porch resembles that on the Robinson House (112 E. Broadway). Its hipped roof and narrow cornice are supported on three chamfered posts with slim brackets on each side. Single posts flank the center. The main entrance is in the center bay of the west elevation, behind another aluminum awning. A large oak panelled door is surrounded by transom and sidelights of the diamond pane colored glass. Mrs. Corbin believe the house is unique in Bel Air for having stained glass at all three levels. To be sure, stained glass of any kind is rare in Bel Air's domestic structures.

The south elevation has a two story hexagonal bay window in its last bay (the back parlor, now a bedroom). This was added after 1904, probably by Mr. Corbin. The north elevation has a small projecting room on the east bay. Mr. Corbin added this to use as an office. There is also a wooden staircase perpendicular to the wall plane. It provides access to the second story.

The interior has the dark oak woodwork of the 19th century, moulded with corner blocks carved in a "door bell" design. The house has a modified center hall plan, the hall going thru to the kitchen area and the enclosed back staircase. To the south of the hall are double parlors. To the north the dining room and kitchen with the little office off the kitchen. Double doors lead to the dining room and the front parlor. Each of the rooms (except the kitchen) has a fireplace at an angle in the corner. All of them have colored tile surrounds & hearths, green in the dining room and dusty rose in the two parlors. In the front parlor it is the north east corner. The mantel has a bracketed shelf, a mirrored over mantel and colonettes running from blocks on the hearth all the way up to support the shelf over the mirror. In the back parlor (now a bedroom) the mantel is similar but has applied decoration on the frieze. The fireplace is in the north east corner. In the dining room (now the sitting room) the fireplace is in the southeast corner. Its decorations verge on the classical. The turned colonettes which support the shelf have carving on the shoulders. The frieze has horizontal gauge work under an applied neo-Adamesque decoration of vase and garlands. The over mantel is composed of mirror and turned colonettes supporting a shelf over the mirror. In the kitchen is the original coal

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NR-1136

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | X ARCHITECTURE | __EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| X 1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1898 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jacob Bull

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This complex house, designed in what the Aegis called the "composite" style, may be the last house designed by Jacob Bull, Bel Air's Master Builder. It was certainly one of the last, for the Harford Democrat announced in its July 1, 1898 issue that Bull was building the "cottage" (for around $3,000). Bull died in July 1899. The house is truly "composite" - and unusual in Bel Air. It has double sliding doors between the parlor and hall and between the dining room and hall. The three downstairs fireplaces are at angles in the rooms. They have full mirrored over-mantels in the Victorian manner, but the decoration on the mantel in the former dining room, now a sitting room, has neo-Adam decoration, showing the transition in Bull's thinking to the Classical Revival. The transitional quality of the house's design is nowhere more evident than in the front staircase with its open string design with decorative brackets, its slender, vase shaped balusters, and its fat Victorian turned newel. From the outside the house looks like a Queen Anne building moulded and disciplined by a classical metaphor.

The house is unique in Bel Air in having stained glass windows on all three levels of the front (west) elevation.

This is the second house to be built on this lot. John F. Lingan, Bel Air's other major carpenter, bought this lot from Charles W. Lee and his wife Elizabeth for $200 in 1875 (31/155). He lost the property in 1898 to a defaulted mortgage (1892, 76/339). It was sold to William W. Heuer in July and recorded in October after the Equity Court approved the sale (94/381). Heuer was a plumber and sheet iron man who had built a "new glass-fronted shop near Porst's Meat Market on Bond Street" in 1890. That may be one of the shops recently demolished on the west side of Bond Street between Pennsylvania and AliceAnne (8 N. Bond).

Heuer bought a lot on North Main Street across from the Episcopalian Church and moved the Lingan house to it to make way for his grand new residence. Unfortunately the Lingan house was demolished last year (1978) with no notice to the surveyor, so it went unrecorded. If memory serves it was a simple three bay L-shaped house with a front-gable like so many others in Town.

Heuer may have lived for some years in the Lingan house. According to Miss Mary Harris Hall he rented his new house out until it was paid for. The Democrat said Mr. Harris was going to move into it. (Miss Hall is the niece of Mr. Harris.) Harris had built a house on Broadway for his family by 1904, so by that time Heuer had presumably moved into his house. There was a $2760 mortgage on it in 1914. Mr. Heuer transferred the house to his wife Catharine that year, and the deed 145/93) mentioned the mortgage.

Mrs. Heuer died in 1926, and the heirs sold the house, then in lamentable condition, to Nathan Corbin (201/306). Mr. Corbin had arrived in Bel Air in 1915

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

NR-1736

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #552 in the Town of Bel Air, 275' on Main Street

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 | 28 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

burning cook stove. The flues of all the fireplaces and the kitchen stove lead to the large corbelled center chimney.

The staircase rises against the north wall of the hall just behind the double doors to the dining room. It has the configuration of the Queen A-ne style, a tight dog-leg, but it has an open string with decorative brackets, slender turned vase shaped balusters and a fat turned newel with a large square block under the finial.

The second story has three bedrooms, a kitchen, and a bath. The woodwork is moulded but without the corner blocks. The third story has two bedrooms and a long hall used as bath, kitchen, and laundry room.

and established his ice and coal company on Ellendale. According to Mrs. Ida Corbin, his first task after buying the house was to put a roof on it. He made other changes, including adding the two story bay window on the back parlor (the east bay of the south elevation) and the small room on the first story of the north elevation which he used as an office. Mr. Corbin is dead. The present owner is his second wife, Ida. She rents rooms in the house today.

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

HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET
Individual Structure Survey Form

SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1436

NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:

UTM REFERENCES:
Zone/Easting/Northing

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

PRESENT FORMAL NAME:
Corbin House

COUNTY: Harford
TOWN: Bel Air

ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME:
Heuer House

LOCATION:
211 N. Main Street

PRESENT USE:

ORIGINAL USE:

ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
Jacob Bull

COMMON NAME:
Corbin House

BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:

FUNCTIONAL TYPE:

OWNER: Mrs. Ida Corbin
ADDRESS: 211 N. Main
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:
1898

GENERAL DESCRIPTION:
Structural System
1. Foundation: Stone(X)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(X)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(X)Towers( )Cupolas( )Dormers(X)Chimneys( )Sheds( )Ells( )
Wings( ) Other:

Roof Style: Gable( )Hip( )Shed( )Flat( )Mansard( )Gambrel( )Jerkinhead( )
Saw Tooth( )With Monitor( )With Bellcast( )With Parapet( )With False Front( )
Other:

Number of Stories: 2½
Number of Bays: 3
Approximate Dimensions: 45' x 30'

Entrance Location: North Main

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

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

HA-1436

ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

interior: woodwork molded w/ door bell corner blocks
sliding doors w 7 panels
s. chamber corner mantel w/ bracket shelves mirror over-mantel
colonettes all way up
parlor similar but applied decoration on frieze
staircase: open string with dec. brackets slender turned balusters
enclosed back stair turned newel with sq. block
2nd story 3 br kit & bath/ 2 work doesn't have the corner blocks
3rd story - 3 br & long hall used as kit & laundry & bath
sidelights & transom stained glass
Exterior: windows 2/1

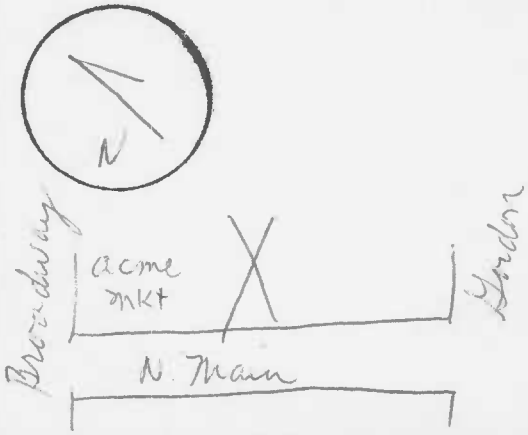
RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Late Jacob Bull house - "composite" style

REFERENCES:

MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)




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

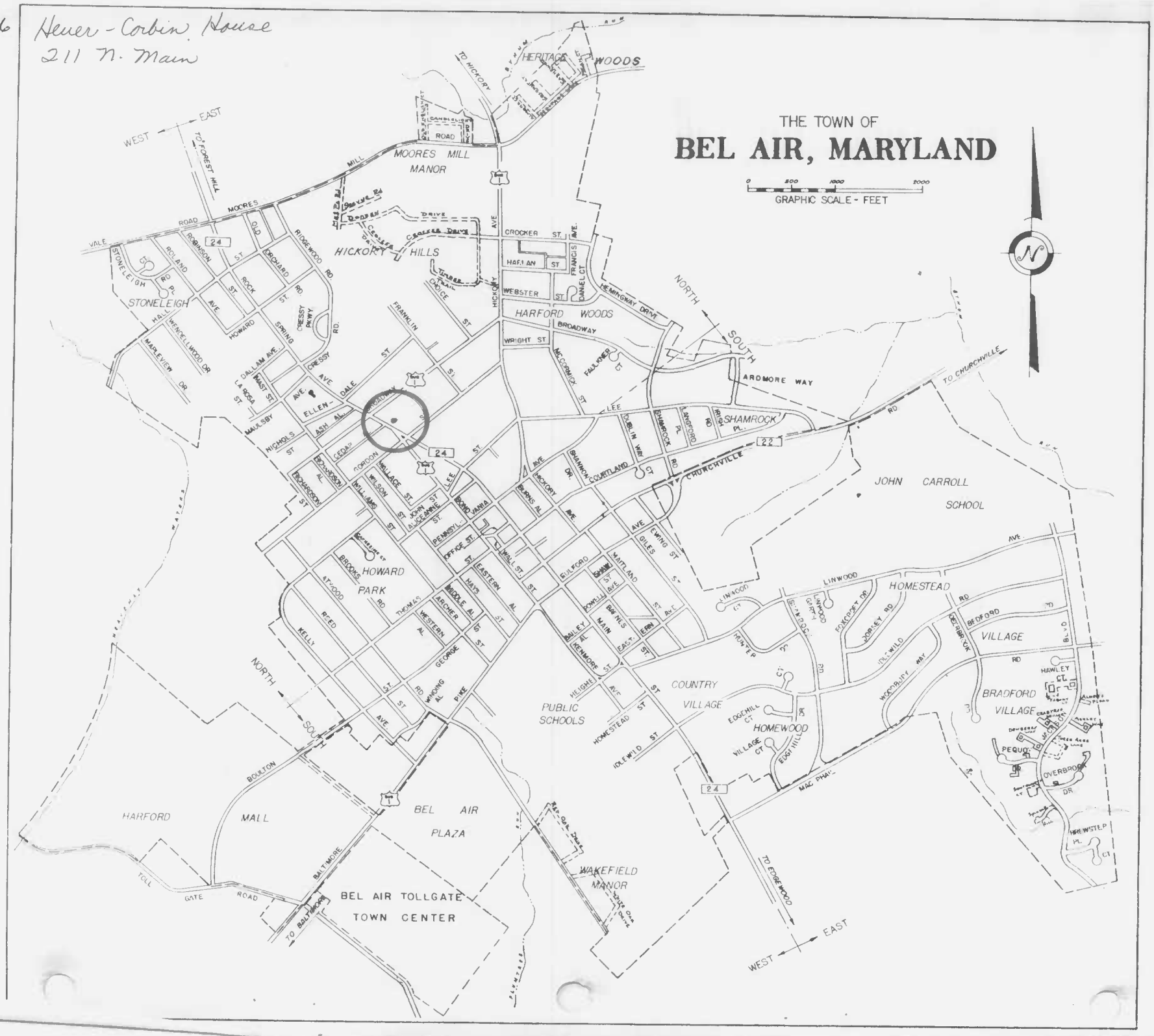
RECORDED BY: Marilynn Larew
ORGANIZATION: Town of Bel Air
DATE RECORDED: 22 October 1979

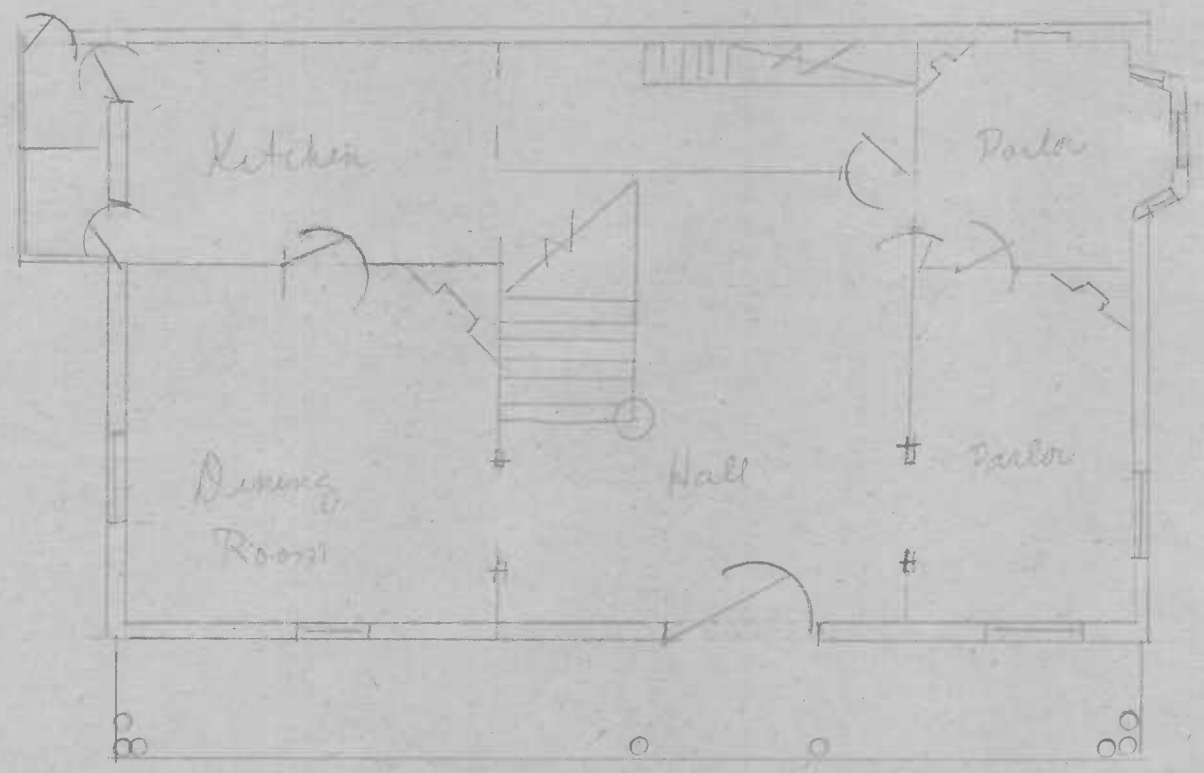
TITLE: 211 N. Main Street

| | |
|---|---|
| 295/58 | 5 April 1946<br>J. Glasgow Archer, Jr. & Mary<br>to<br>Nathan P. Corbin & Ida<br>"the residence of Corbin" |
| 295/57 | 5 April 1946<br>Nathan P. Corbin & Ida<br>to<br>Glasgow Archer, Jr.<br>Elizabeth Corbin now dead |
| 201/306 | 29 November 1926<br>P. Eleanor Heuer, Margarite H. Stephens &<br>Charles, Katherine H. Stifler & F. Royston,<br>& Elsie E. Heuer<br>to<br>Nathan Corbin & Ann Elizabeth<br>the grantors are heirs of Catherine R. Heuer<br>who died 3 August 1926 |
| 145/93 | 18 February 1914<br>William W. Heuer<br>to<br>Catherine R. Heuer, his wife<br>agrees to pay the mortgage of $2760 |
| 941/381 | 20 October 1898<br>Willard G. Rouse, attorney<br>to<br>William W. Heuer<br>mortgage from John F. Lingan to John G.<br>Rouse (1892, 76/339) defaulted |
| 31/155 | 4 January 1875<br>Charles W. Lee & Elizabeth<br>to<br>John F. Lingan<br>$200 |

HA-1436

Heuer-Corbin House
211 N. Main






M. Larew

Hener - Corkin House
211 N. Main
Bel Air

HA-1436

Not to Scale

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HA 1436 Heuer-Corbin House, 5 N. N. Main Bel Air
w. elev
M. Lauw, 1979

HA-1436 Heuer-Corbin House, 211 N. Main, Bel Air
N + W elev
M Larew, 1979

HA-1436

Heuer-Corbin House, 211 N. Main, Bel Air
S. elev

M. Larew, 1979