

HA-1474

1911

Keen-Mitchell House  
508 Rock Spring  
Bel Air  
private

This 1911 house is late for a Victorian design. It has a cruciform gable roof and a basically rectangular shape, broken only by the two story bay window on the south. Like its neighbor the Bradford-Hanna-Doxen house, it has a two story front bay window bisected by the front porch.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC  
Keen-Mitchell House  
AND/OR COMMON  
Cochran House

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
508 Rock Spring Road 1st  
CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Bel Air VICINITY OF  
STATE COUNTY  
Maryland 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Charles L. Cochran Telephone #: 838-3716  
STREET & NUMBER  
508 Rock Spring Road  
CITY, TOWN STATE, zip code  
Bel Air VICINITY OF Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.  
Harford County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Main Street  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
Bel Air Maryland

Liber #: 282  
Folio #: 442

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
DATE  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
CITY, TOWN STATE  
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

**7 DESCRIPTION**

NA-1979

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" 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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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

This two and a half story, four bay house is at 508 Rock Spring Avenue in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The house is shabby now, sided in asphalt tile. It has a cruciform gable roof. The front (east) elevation shows one bay (north) which has the entrance, a large single pane transom over a single pane frosted glass over three panel door. Next to that (south) is a shallow two story hexagonal bay window bisected by the front porch. The porch is L-shaped, reaching across the front and around one bay to the south. Its hip roof is carried on square posts. There is a solid balustrade.

The north elevation is two bays wide with a gable in the middle. The south elevation is similar but has a two-story hexagonal bay window topped by that center gable. The rear elevation is two bays wide with a door between them on the second story. A two bay shed roof addition is on this elevation, the north half enclosed (a pantry) and the south half a porch with solid balustrade below and lath lattice above. All the windows, even those in the gables, are 1/1. Some of them have shutters.

The house has a north side hall alongside the living room and dining room to the south. The kitchen occupies the whole width of the house to the west. The woodwork is molded with "door-bell" corner blocks, and a pair of 5 panel sliding doors separates living room from dining room. A closed-string, dog-leg staircase rises along the north wall of the hall. It has turned balusters and a panelled newel.

There are three bedrooms and a bath on the second floor and two rooms on the attic level.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
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      1911

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This 20th century Victorian survival, now in rather bad shape, was probably built by N. Nelson Keen in 1911 on land he bought that year from J. H. C. Watts (134/91). In 1924 he moved to Montclair, New Jersey and sold the property to Estelle Archer Mitchell (189/55). Mrs. Mitchell was the daughter of Stevenson Archer and the wife of Noble L. Mitchell, a prominent Bel Air attorney. Mrs. Mitchell's heirs sold it to the present owner, Charles L. Cochran, in 1944 (28/442).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

This property occupies parcel #168 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

M. Larew, Architectural Historian

12 December 1979

ORGANIZATION

Town of Bel Air

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

39 Hickory Avenue

TELEPHONE

838-8700

CITY OR TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

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

TITLE: 508 Rock Spring

282/442

22 April 1944

Anna M. Hays, widow, et al  
toCharles L. Cochran & Hazel  
parts of #7, 8, 9 in Dallam's Addition  
Estelle Archer Mitchell died. Will  
20/221 left it to grantors.

189/55

15 May 1924

N. Nelson Keen & Charlotte of  
Montclair, NJ  
to

Estelle Archer Mitchell

134/91

1 June 1911

J. H. C. Watts & Mary Dorsey Watts  
to

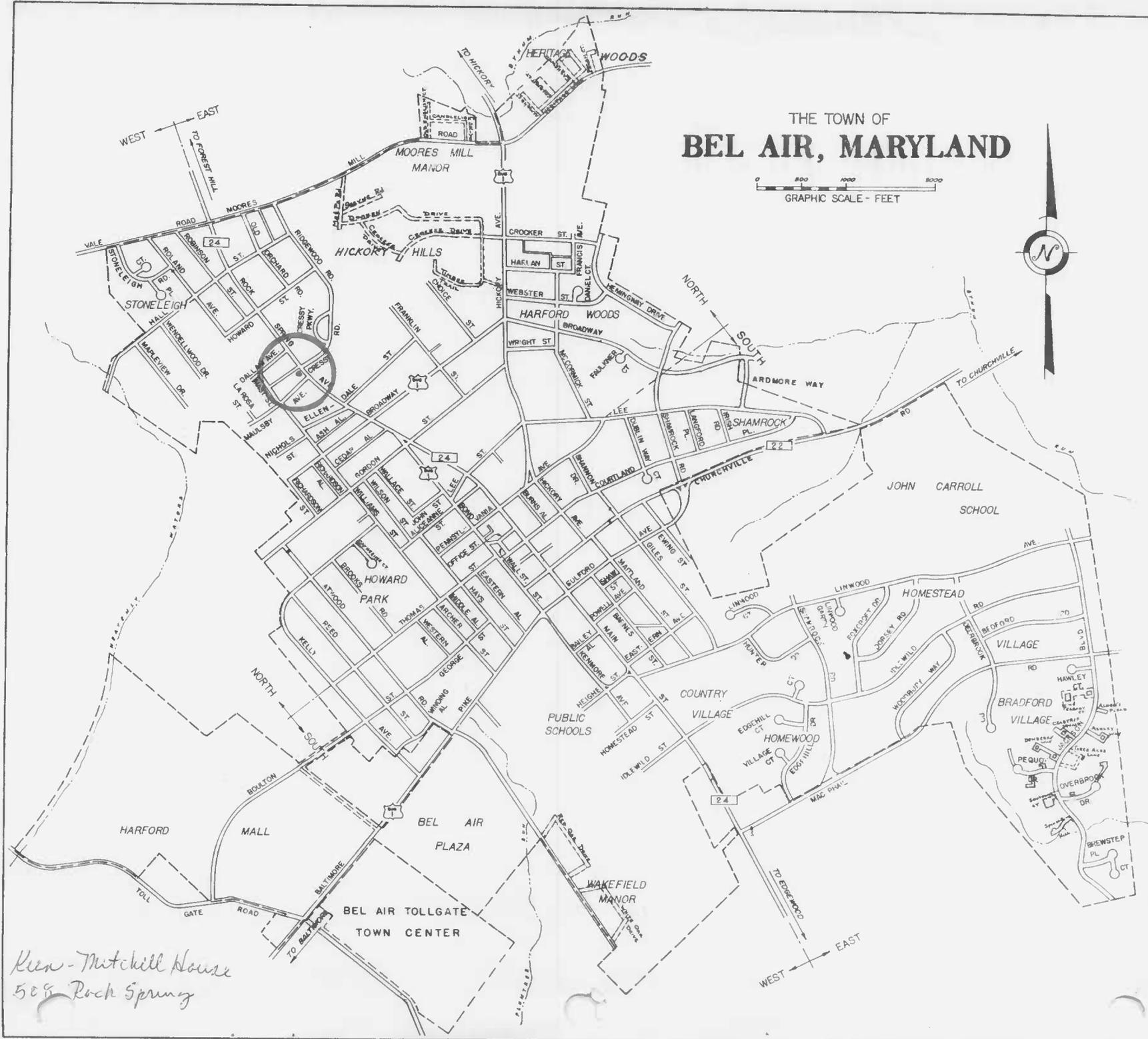
N. Nelson Keen

104/497

18 September 1902

Jacob A. Doxen, trustee  
toJ. H. C. Watts  
\$1200 all of #7, 8, 9, 10 in  
Dallam's Addition

# THE TOWN OF BEL AIR, MARYLAND



NA-1474 Keen-Mitchell House  
508 Rock Spring







HA-1474

Keen-Mitchell House, 509 Rock Spring, Bel Air  
w + s elev

M. Lorus, 1979



