

HA-1787

1941

Bel Air  
Private

The Wheeler House, 26 W. Gordon St., faces south, set deeply back from the street on a large lot among trees and shrubs, approached by a winding stone walk. Looking rather like a Cape Cod, the house, built in Richardson's Addition in 1941, is a 3 bay, 1 1/2 story, gable-roofed structure, stone down, with clapboard up in the rear (north) and in the gables. Three gabled dormers break the roof line in front. The rear 3 dormers, also gabled, are set in the clapboard. The main block, with a deep white cornice, is linked by a stone hyphen to the east to a large gable-roofed clapboard garage whose axis is at right angles to that of the main block. The east bay of the main block is recessed, with a screened porch flush with the plane of the stone segment there. This is a more complicated house than was usually built at this time in town, if the hyphen and garage are original. The size of the garage argues against this. Stone was not a common building material in town at that time.

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. The Wheeler House was built by Edward Wheeler, owner of Wheeler's Lumber Yard on the next street over, W. Broadway, probably in 1941. Its stone main block looks from the front rather like a Cape Cod, except for the screened porch on the east side of the facade. The stone hyphen and clapboard garage may be original, in which case it was a very complex house to be built in town in 1941. The size of the garage, however, argues for addition at a later date. Around the same time Edward Robinson built a clapboard house in Ingleside that looks from the front like a Cape Cod [HA-1805]. That one has a front ell. Genuine Cape Cods would be built in town after 1945. In any case, stone construction was unusual in Bel Air before 1945.

HA-1787  
Wheeler 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. 00-0717

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Wheeler House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 28 W. Gordon 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 checked="" 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 Harford Mutual Insurance Co.

street & number 200 N. Main St. telephone no.: 838-4000

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1110

street & number folio 1032

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. RA-1707

<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 type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date of move _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	unknown		

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 Wheeler House, 26 W. Gordon St., faces south, set deeply back from the street on a large lot among trees and shrubs, approached by a winding stone walk. Looking rather like a Cape Cod, the house, built in 1941, is a 3 bay, 1 1/2 story, gable-roofed structure, stone down, with clapboard up in the rear (north) and in the gables. Three gabled dormers break the roof line in front. The rear 3 dormers, also gabled, are set in the clapboard. The main block, with a deep white cornice, is linked by a stone hyphen to the east to a large gable-roofed clapboard garage whose axis is at right angles to that of the main block. The east bay of the main block is recessed, with a screened porch flush with the plane of the stone segment there. This is a more complicated house than was usually built at this time in town, if the hyphen and garage are original. The size of the garage argues against this. Stone was not a common building material in town at that time.

Stone exterior chimneys rise in the gable ends of the main block. The rear (north) elevation of the main block has a center door flanked by large 1/1 windows with 4 pane side lights. The rest of the windows are 6/6 double-hung sash, including the one in the gable of the north facing garage. Entry is in the southeast bay of the main block, inside the screened porch. The roof is in red asphalt shingles.

The interior was not accessible. A kitchen seems to occupy the hyphen, which has a narrow white cornice, 2 windows down, and a gabled dormer up.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1787

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 c. 1941 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.

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. The Wheeler House was built by Edward Wheeler, owner of Wheeler's Lumber Yard on the next street over, W. Broadway, probably in 1941. Its stone main block looks from the front rather like a Cape Cod, except for the screened porch on the east side of the facade. The stone hyphen and clapboard garage may be original, in which case it was a very complex house to be built in town in 1941. The size of the garage, however, argues for addition at a later date. Around the same time Edward Robinson built a clapboard house in Ingleside that looks from the front like a Cape Cod [HA-1805]. That one has a front ell. Genuine Cape Cods would be built in town after 1945. In any case, stone construction was unusual in Bel Air before 1945.

In 1956 Wheeler sold both this house and the lumber yard to Melvin Kefauver. The Kefauvers may have added the hyphen and garage. Kefauver sold it to Harford Mutual Insurance Company in 1961, apparently as the insurance company was building its new headquarters on the lot to the east facing Main St. The Kefauvers may have continued to live there, for they acquired it back in 1970, and then finally sold it to Harford Mutual again in 1979. The insurance company still owns it. Gary Clark, proprietor of the Georgetown North restaurant on Main St. [HA-1447] is the current occupant.



HA-1787  
Wheeler House  
26 West Gordon St.  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Harford Mutual Insurance Company

1110/1032            3 Dec 1979  
Donald K. Mitrovich and Barbara L.  
to  
Harford Mutual  
\$95,000

843/134            30 Mar 1970  
Harford Mutual  
to  
Donald K. Mitrovich and Barbara L.  
plat in 577/323 shows frame and stone house and frame  
house on alley

577/320            1 Sept 1961  
Melvin E. Kefauver and Helen M.  
Henry Edward Wheeler, mortgagee  
to  
Harford Mutual

526/465            1 Jan 1959  
Kefauver Lumber Co., Inc.  
to  
Melvin E. Kefauver (Pres. of the co,) and Helen M.  
assume \$65,000 mortgage 6 Dec 1956, 473/23

473/20            6 Dec 1956  
Henry Edward Wheeler and Lucille B.  
to  
Kefauver Lumber Co.  
two parcels on Broadway and this parcel on West Gordon

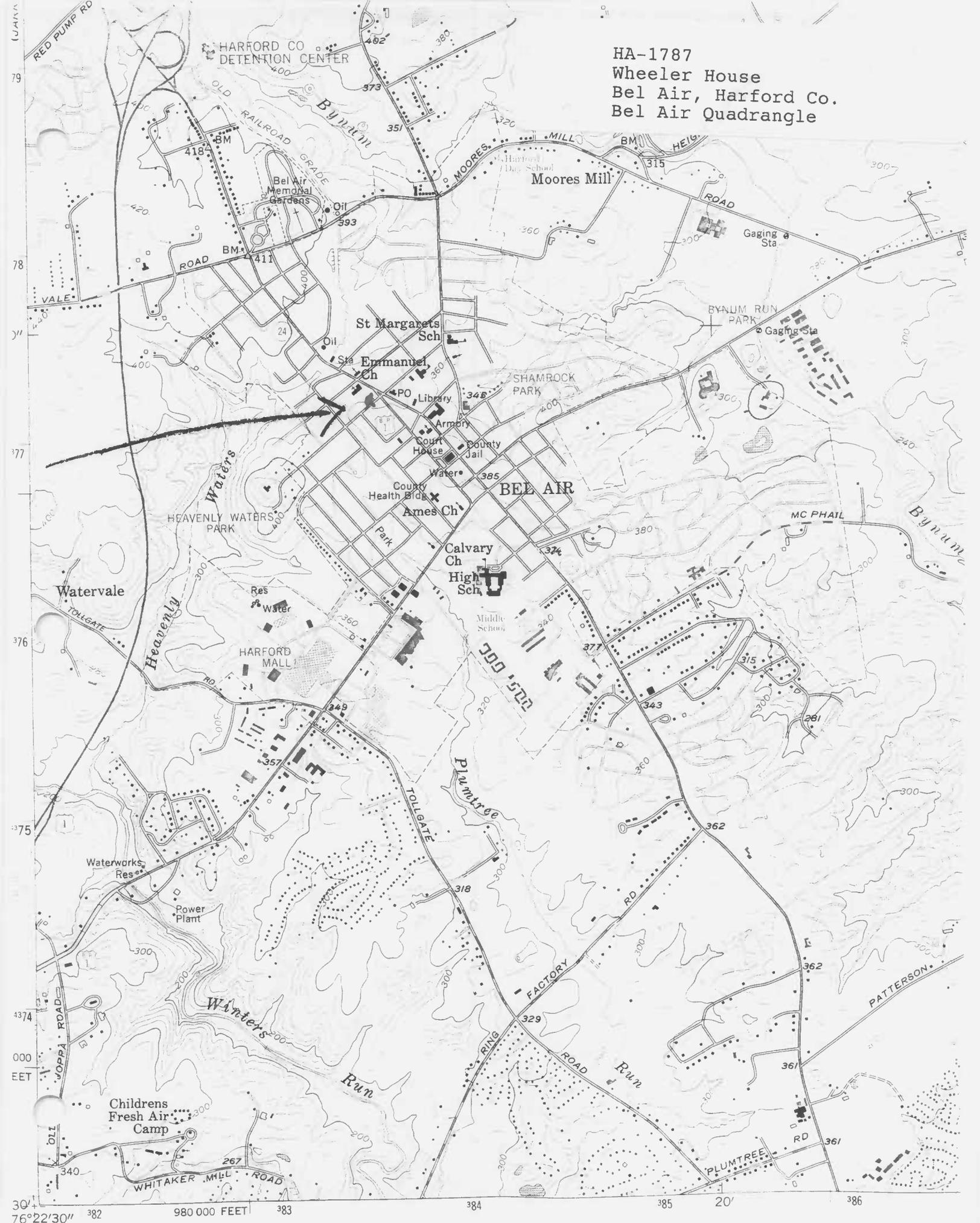
263/432, 433      8 Jan 1941  
to and from Leo Sullivan to get Lucille on

239/111            12 Nov 1935  
Germantown Permanent Bldg. Assoc. #2 of Balto. County  
to  
H. Edward Wheeler

203/135            7 Apr 1927  
defaulted mortgage, 182/84  
property sold to Germantown

- 182/84      the mortgage  
              16 Mar 1923  
              Joseph A. Kraft and Elsie M.  
              to  
              Germantown Permanent Bldg. Assoc.  
              \$16,000  
              this is the whole nw side of the unit block of W.  
              Gordon
- 181/304      16 Mar 1923  
              Harvey K. Miller and Sallie E.  
              to  
              Joseph A. Kraft and Elsie M.  
              the land as above
- 181/306      27 Feb 1923  
              William E. Robinson and Minnie  
              John L.G. Lee and Caroline H.  
              to  
              Harvey K. Miller and Sallie R.
- 176/143      15 Oct 1921  
              defaulted mortgage dated 1 Mar 1915 C. Chapman Rouse et  
              al to William S. Archer, 148/217. James J. Archer, the  
              assignee, sold the land to Frank H. Jacobs (148/217), who  
              assigned it to James J. Archer (see Equity docket V/89).  
              Archer died. Robert Archer, trustee. Jacobs has sold  
              the land to William E. Robinson and John L.G. Lee, and  
              Jacobs and wife, Elizabeth, join in the deed to Robinson  
              and Lee. C. Chapman Rouse, Henrietta Rouse, his wife,  
              and Mary Richardson, his sister-in-law (the et al) own  
              the land. It is part of the Richardson home place.

HA-1787  
Wheeler House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle





26 W. GORDON ST  
BEL AIR



62  
67  
68  
69  
70  
71  
72

26 W. GORDON ST  
BEL AIR