

HA-1790  
1931  
Bel Air  
Private

The Little House, 55 W. Gordon St., faces south on a tree-shaded lot in Richardson's Addition in a block of houses built in the 1930s and 1940s. The L-shaped, white clapboard house with slate gable roof and an exterior stone chimney (east) was the first of its kind to be built in Bel Air. Inside it has a wide center hall, large living and dining rooms, kitchen, family room, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths.

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. Built in 1931 by Dr. Main Little, a Bel Air dentist, this house was the first in the Indian Hill part of Richardson's Addition, a parcel of land surrounding the Richardson home place which was not developed until the heirs sold the old house. Its L-shape was a departure from the four-squares and bungalows built between the world wars, and its pleasing appearance and spacious, airy interior were later much copied.

HA-1790  
Little 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. SA-1700

Magi No.

DOE  yes  no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Little House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street & number 54 W. Gordon St. n/a not for publication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 <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> museum</span>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> park</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> religious</span>
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> scientific</span>
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> transportation</span>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input type="checkbox"/> other:</span>

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Judge and Mrs. Cypert O. Whitfill

street & number 54 W. Gordon St. telephone no.: 893-1694

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 1651

street & number folio 766

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. A-1720

<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 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 Little House, 55 W. Gordon St., faces south on a tree-shaded lot in a block of houses built in the 1930s and 1940s. The L-shaped, white clapboard house with slate gable roof and an exterior stone chimney (east) was the first of its kind to be built in Bel Air. With its wide center hall, large living and dining rooms, 3 bedrooms and 2 baths, the house is distinctive and comfortable, and its shape would become popular in town.

The shed-roofed front porch crosses the 3 eastern bays of the facade, tucked into the join between the main block and the front gabled ell. Fenestration is idiosyncratic. The facade has 4 bays (including the entrance) on the first floor and 3 on the second. The rear (north) elevation is equally idiosyncratic, with a hipped dormer in the center of the roof, 3 bays in the second story, the middle window set lower than the flankers, and a gabled single story addition projecting from the middle bay of the first story. Most windows are 8/8 double hung sash. The kitchen and west gable have casements. All except the casements are flanked by black shutters. On the first story of the west elevation, a side door placed between the 2 bays leads to the kitchen. While the exterior of the house sounds odd it actually forms a coherent and pleasing whole.

The spacious and airy interior has a southern feeling, probably because of the wide center hall which runs the length of the house to the addition. A bracketed, open-run, dog-leg staircase with turned stock newel and round tapered balusters rises along its east wall. To the right, the living room occupies that whole side of the block. The massive field-stone chimney breast with its stone mantel shelf rises to the ceiling on the east wall. Flanking the north window, a pair of Williamsburg influenced cupboards with paneled doors below and shelves above, end in round arches. The dining room occupies the ell and half of the main block to the west. The recently renovated kitchen lies behind, to the north. Double 3 paneled doors lead from the hall to the living room and dining room; their surrounds have a slight profile at the edge, as does the rest of the woodwork. The family room has mahogany paneling, a 1950s horizontal stone fireplace, slate floor, and a massive, multipaned window taking up most of the north wall. A full bath with shower is tucked in where the hall meets the addition.

On the second floor are 3 bedrooms and 2 baths with original tile and fixtures; those of the hall bath are lavender, surely the first colored fixtures in town. The bath to the master bedroom has the same fixtures in white. The 3rd level is divided into 2 rooms with unfinished floor and doors without hardware. There is a cedar lined closet at the head of the stairs.

The foundation is poured concrete, which was unusual in town then.

# 8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1790

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 1931 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. Built in 1931 by Dr. Main Little, a Bel Air dentist, this house was the first in the Indian Hill part of Richardson's Addition, a parcel of land surrounding the Richardson home place which was not developed until the heirs sold the old house. Its L-shape was a departure from the four-squares and bungalows built between the world wars, and its pleasing appearance and spacious, airy interior were later much copied.

The bottom basement step bears the date 10-14-31, which may be the date the staircase was completed.

The house remained in the Little family until 1990, when Cybert O. Whitfill and his wife Marsha bought it. Whitfill is a Harford County Circuit Court Judge.

Alterations to the house by the Littles include the bath and family room addition and the Williamsburg influenced living room cupboards. Judging from the shape of the cupboards and the family room fireplace, as well as the bath fixtures, the changes were made sometime in the 1950s, along with renovations to the kitchen. The kitchen cupboards and the tile that was on the floor suggest that period. Before they moved in, the Whitfills renovated the kitchen, taking out a breakfast nook between the dining room and taking up the tile and refinishing the hardwood floors. Flagstones on the family room floor and on a small patio to the west by the kitchen door are said to have been part of the Bel Air sidewalks which were replaced by cement.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. PA-1799

Harford County Land Records  
Site visit, 27 April 1993

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name Bel Air

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A              
 Zone Easting Northing

B              
 Zone Easting Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 490 in the Town of Bel Air, 87' (West Gordon) x 277'.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Marilyn M. Larew

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 6-2-93

street & number RD 1 Box 219 New Park Rd. telephone 717-993-3557

city or town New Park state PA 17352

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/DHCL  
100 COMMUNITY PLACE  
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2021  
571-7400

HA-1790  
Little House  
55 W. Gordon St.  
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Cybert O. Whitfill

- 1608/321            5 Feb 1990  
Lyda S. Little by Anne L. Schnell, her attorney  
to  
Cybert O. Whitfill and Marsha George Whitfill (formerly  
Marsha J. George)  
\$182,000
- 1274/1027           17 June 1985  
Lyda S. Little, widow  
to  
Anne L. Schnell, her daughter  
retains a life interest  
3 parcels which, with purchases from Joseph T. Foster  
and a sale to him, makes this property the NW half of  
lots 1-11 of Indian Hill, plat in plat book 2/27, 4 Mar  
1931. Originally part of the Richardson family estate.  
  
title to parcel 1
- 218/507            16 June 1931  
Joseph T. Foster and Sophia B.  
to  
Main Little and Lyda S.  
NW half of lots 1-6.
- 218/506            4 June 1931  
Germantown Permanent Building Assoc. #2 of Baltimore  
County  
to  
Joseph T. Foster and Sophia B.  
lots 1-6 in Indian Hill
- 203/135            7 Apr 1927  
Frederick J. Schlosstein, attorney, of Baltimore City  
to  
Germantown Permanent Building Assoc.  
defaulted mortgage
- 182/84            16 Mar 1923  
Joseph A. Kraft and Elsie W.  
mortgage to  
Germantown  
\$16,000  
the whole half block facing on the west side Bond St.,  
the north side of Gordon, the east side of William  
St., and thence to Cedar Alley, returning to Bond St.

- 181/304            16 Mar 1923  
Harvey K. Miller and Sallie E.  
to  
Joseph A. Kraft and Elsie M.  
land as above
- 181/306            27 Feb 1923  
William E. Robinson and Minnie  
John L.G. Lee and Caroline H.  
to  
Harvey K. Miller
- 176/143            15 Oct 1921  
Robert Archer, trustee  
Frank Jacobs and wife  
to  
William E. Robinson and John L.G. Lee  
defaulted mortgage 148/217, C. Chapman Rouse et al to  
William S. Archer, 1 Mar 1915. James J. Archer, assignee  
of mortgage sold it to Frank Jacobs, sale ratified by  
the court. Archer died before conveying deed. Robert  
Archer was appointed trustee to convey land. Meanwhile,  
Jacobs sold it to Robinson and Lee. The Rouses and Mary  
Richardson owned the land originally, Mrs. Rouse being  
Henrietta Richardson Rouse.
- title to parcel 2
- 296/381            15 June 1946  
the Fosters  
to  
the Littles  
NW half of lot 7
- 239/131            25 Nov 1935  
Germantown  
to  
the Fosters  
lot 7  
the rest of the title as in 203/135 et seq in parcel 1
- title to parcel 3
- 296/380            15 May 1946  
the Littles  
to  
the Fosters  
NE half of lots 8-11, leaving the Littles the NE half

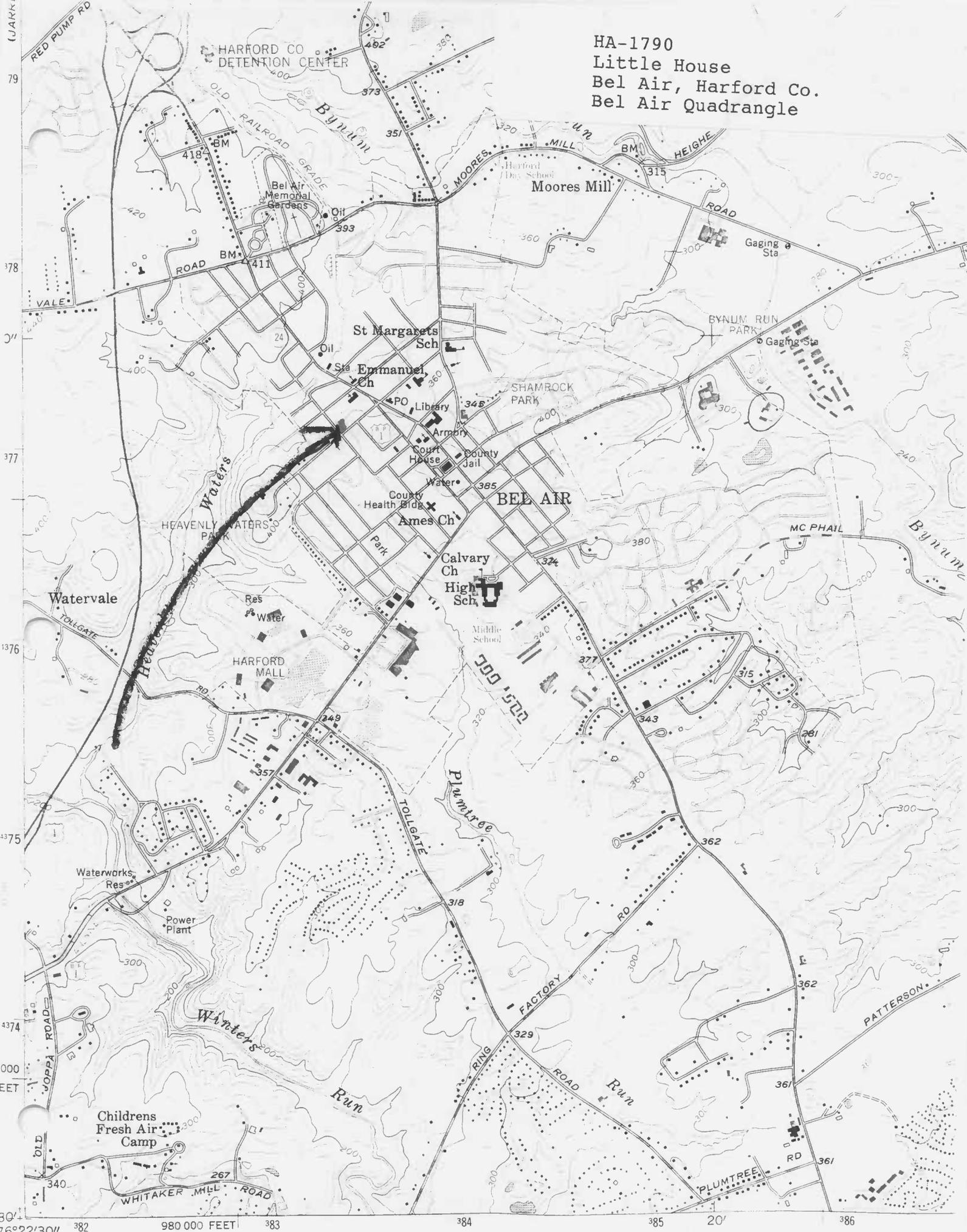
284/374            7 Aug 1944  
D. Paul McNabb, unmarried  
to  
Main Little and Lyda S.  
lots 8-11 and 25-27

284/373            7 Aug 1944  
Main E. Little and Lyda S.  
Elva Irene Little, unmarried  
to  
D. Paul McNabb  
lots 8-11 and 25-27

242/398            30 Mar 1936  
Germantown Permanent Bldg. Assoc.  
to  
Main E. Little and Elva Irene Little  
lots 8-11 and 27-27

the rest of the title goes back to 203/135 et seq as  
in parcels 1 and 2.

HA-1790  
Little House  
Bel Air, Harford Co.  
Bel Air Quadrangle





HA-100  
LACROIX, MD  
55 W. GORDON ST.  
BEL AIR



55 W. GORDON ST.  
BEL AIR



55 W. GORDON ST.  
BEL AIR



2000  
2000  
2000

M. J. ARTHUR

772

400

NEWELL C

11

55 W. GORDON ST.  
BEL AIR