

HA-1798
1931
Bel Air
Private

The Keithley House, 104 W. Broadway in Richardson's Addition, faces south. Now the largest in a row of 4 twentieth century working-man's houses, the Keithley house is a 3 bay, front gable, stucco cottage. The large (1960s) aluminum-sided gable addition to the roof makes it essentially a 2 story structure with 5 bedrooms.

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. This cottage, in a row of working-man's cottages, was built by contractor Harry Orsburn between 1931 and 1934 when jeweler Edmund Keithley and his wife Pearl bought it. It was originally a one story, 3 bedroom cottage, larger than it's neighbors but not much different. As late as the early 1930s, housing was being built in Bel Air, at least in this neighborhood, without indoor plumbing. [See HA-1799 and HA-1801, the third and fourth houses in the block.] The Keithleys took the middle bedroom, which was the smallest, to make a bathroom.

HA-1798
Keithley 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. MA-1798

Magi No.

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Keithley House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 104 W. Broadway n/a not for publication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 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<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 Mrs. Pearl W. Keithley

street & number 104 W. Broadway telephone no.: 836-8659

city, town Bel Air state and zip code MD 21014

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Harford County Courthouse liber 230

street & number _____ folio 297

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. AA-1796

Condition		Check one	Check one
<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 Keithley House, 104 W. Broadway, faces south. Now the largest in a row of 4 twentieth century working-man's houses, the Keithley house is a 3 bay, front gable, stucco cottage. The large (1960s) aluminum-sided gable addition to the roof makes it essentially a 2 story structure with 5 bedrooms.

The slightly hipped porch roof is carried on 4 plain round posts. Windows are 1/1 replacements. A small rear (north) shed-roofed porch carried on plain square wooden posts connected with a square post balustrade leads to the kitchen. To the west is a small stove chimney.

The entry in the center front (south) bay leads directly to a long living room on the east comprising what was once living room and dining room. On the west are bedroom, bath, and bedroom. A door from the enlarged living room leads to a small hall which opens to the bathroom on the west and the rather steep, single run interior staircase to the second floor on the south. Upstairs are 3 bedrooms and bath and a large cedar-lined closet. Entirely plain woodwork and an 1960s brick fireplace in the northeast corner of the living room complete this simple but roomy house.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1798

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 c. 1931 **Builder/Architect** Harry Orsburn

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.

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This cottage, in a row of working-man's cottages, was built by contractor Harry Orsburn between 1931 and 1934 when jeweler Edmund Keithley and his wife Pearl bought it. It was originally a one story, 3 bedroom cottage, larger than its neighbors but not much different. As late as the early 1930s, housing was being built in Bel Air, at least in this neighborhood, without indoor plumbing. [See HA-1799 and HA-1801, the third and fourth houses in the block.]

The Keithleys took the middle bedroom, which was the smallest, to make a bathroom. In 1960 they raised the roof and added 3 bedrooms and a bath for their growing family. They also tucked a brick fireplace in the northeast corner of the enlarged living room. Their alterations make it virtually a 2 story house.

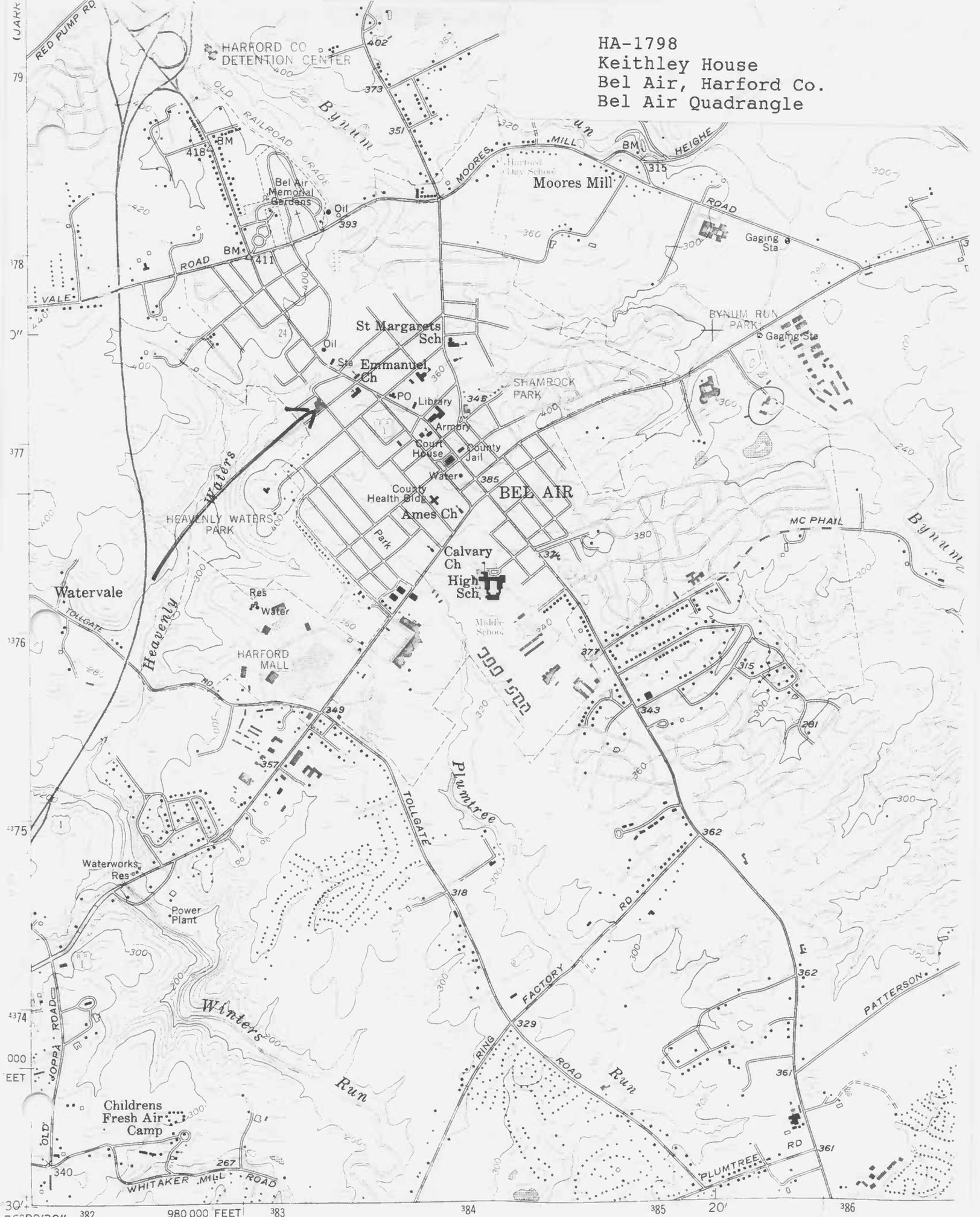
The Keithleys opened their jewelry store on 8 April 1929 at 24 Office St., now part of HA-1464. In 1947 they moved to North Main St. Mr. Keithley was a specialist in chain-driven watches.

HA-1798
Keithley House
104 W. Broadway
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Pearl W. Keithley

- 230/297 29 May 1934
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.
to
Edmund M. Keithley and Pearl W.
lots 1, 2, 3 in block D of Richardson's Addition
- 227/125 6 July 1933
Anna E. Schillenger, unmarried
to
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.
- 227/124 6 July 1933
Hilda McCrone, widow
to
Anna E. Schillinger
- 223/218 3 May 1932
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.
to
Hilda McCrone
- 222/389 3 May 1932
mortgage
Hilda McCrone
from
Hannah T. Brooks
\$2000
mortgage speaks of crops growing which shall pass to
Brooks in case of default
these Orsburn, Schillinger and McCrone transactions
look like a defaulted mortgage
- 221/17 20 June 1931
John Wesley Thomas, unmarried
to
Harry W. Orsburn and Fern A.
- 213/277 27 Sept 1929
Adam G. Walbeck (aka A.G.) and Cora A.
to
John Wesley Thomas
- 158/263 25 May 1915
Henrietta G. Rouse et al
to
Adam G. Walbeck
Rouse et al owned Richardson's Addition

HA-1798
Keithley House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle





104 W. BROADWAY
BEL AIR



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