HA-1834
1925
Bel Air
Private

The Warren House, 321 S. Main St., faces west on a large open lot in a block in Fulford Park which is rapidly going commercial. It is a 5 bay, 2 story brick Colonial Revival house. Severely symmetrical and contained, the white Georgian round arched windows of the first story flank a formal entrance with fan and side lights protected by a gabled stoop supported on slender columns. The first story trim urges the eye upward, through the 4/1 double-hung sash windows and wide bracketed cornice to rest in the hipped roof with its central eyebrow dormer. Exterior brick chimneys centered on the north and south elevations add to the containment of the house block. The south sun room with its round arched windows set back from the plane of the facade does not disturb the impression of tightly controlled space. The matching porch on the north is not original. The rear elevation shows the same rigid formality as the facade, with doubled windows flanking the entrance, and single windows in the second story flanking the triple window that lights the spacious stair landing. The interior is equally symmetrical, and the wide sweep of the staircase is particularly notable.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Fulford Park was subdivided by Oliver T. Wallace of Wilmington, North Carolina. The local agent was W. M. Nicholls. It was named for the Fulford family whose land it once was. The Warren House was built in 1925 for Ruskin Warren who owned the Korner Konfectionary restaurant at 34 S. Main St. [HA-1451]. A handsome brick Colonial Revival house, it is surely the most distinguished house built in Town between the World Wars. Brick was an uncommon building material for residences until after 1945, and people in Town did not often build in the revival styles so popular in the nation at the time. Its sharp, contained lines and crisp white Georgian details mark it as an unusual house for Bel Air in any period.

HA-1834
Warren 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:

_x_ 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 INVENTORY OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. HA-1334

Magi No.

DOE ___yes ___no

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic: Warren House

and/or common:

2. Location

street & number: 321 S. Main 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	
___ district	___ public	x occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	x commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	x not applicable	x no	___ military	___ other:

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

name: Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

street & number: P.O. Box 1176 — telephone no.: 272-4000

city, town: Aberdeen — state and zip code: MD 21001

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Harford County Courthouse — liber: 1430

street & number: — folio: 807

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. HA-1634

Condition		Check one	Check one
x excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	x original site
___ good	___ ruins	x altered	___ moved date of move _____
___ fair	___ 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 Warren House, 321 S. Main St., faces west on a large open lot in a block in Fulford Park which is rapidly going commercial. Built in 1925, it is a 5 bay, 2 story brick Colonial Revival house of unusual distinction among the houses built between the World Wars in Town. Severely symmetrical and contained, the white Georgian round arched windows of the first story flank a formal entrance with fan and side lights protected by a gabled stoop supported on slender columns. The first story trim urges the eye upward, through the 4/1 double-hung sash windows and wide bracketed cornice to rest in the hipped roof with its central eyebrow dormer. Exterior brick chimneys centered on the north and south elevations add to the containment of the house block. The south sun room with its round arched windows set back from the plane of the facade does not disturb the impression of tightly controlled space. The matching porch on the north is not original. It was installed, along with the porte-cochere, to accommodate the drive in window of the credit union that now occupies the building. The rear elevation shows the same rigid formality as the facade, with doubled windows flanking the entrance, and single windows in the second story flanking the triple window that lights the spacious stair landing.

The interior is equally symmetrical. The entry leads to a wide center hall and the wide open-string staircase with a tapered round newel in natural color surrounded by the tapered white balusters of the turnout easement. The staircase sweeps up along the south wall to a wide landing, lighted by triple windows and big enough for a grouping of furniture before dog-legging to the second floor. Off the hall to the north and south are rooms of equal size, now used as banking rooms. Originally the south room was the living room and to the north were the dining room (front) and kitchen (rear). The dark, rough brick of the fireplace, which reaches to the ceiling on the south wall, is a bit of a visual shock in such a Georgian atmosphere. It is repeated in the sun porch. The north room has no fireplace, despite the chimney on that side of the house. A short service hall under the stairs houses a bathroom and a storage closet.

Upstairs there were originally 4 bedrooms and a bath. The south two rooms have been preserved, but to the north, the space has been thrown together into one large room, divided by screens into cubby holes. The rooms serve as offices. The woodwork has been preserved or copied. There is a dropped ceiling.

8. Significance

Survey No. HA-1834

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
___ 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
_x_ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1925 **Builder/Architect** unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: __A __B _x_C __D
and/or
Applicable Exception: __A __B __C __D __E __F __G

Level of Significance: __national __state _x_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The early 1920s saw three new additions to the Town of Bel Air: Fulford Park (1922), Ingleside (1923), and Kenmore (1924). In each case the lots were sold at auction. Fulford Park was subdivided by Oliver T. Wallace of Wilmington, North Carolina. The local agent was W. M. Nicholls. It was named for the Fulford family whose land it once was. The Warren House was built in 1925 for Ruskin Warren who owned the Korner Konfectionary restaurant at 34 S. Main St. [HA-1451]. A handsome brick Colonial Revival house, it is surely the most distinguished house built in Town between the World Wars. Brick was an uncommon building material for residences until after 1945, and people in Town did not often build in the revival styles so popular in the nation at the time. Its sharp, contained lines and crisp white Georgian details mark it as an unusual house for Bel Air in any period.

Warren mortgaged the property in May 1929, possibly as the result of margin calls for stock market investments. Afterwards, the restaurant trade probably suffered from the collapse of the national economy. At any rate, Ruskin defaulted on the mortgage, and the property was sold to Glasgow Archer, Sr. in 1936. The Archers had lived since 1919 at 200 S. Main St. [HA-222], a home they sold early in World War II. The Warren House stayed in the Archer family until 1982. It is currently the Bel Air office of the Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union.

Before the bank moved its offices there, the house was altered. A north porch and porte cochere were added in the style of the south sun room for the bank's drive-in window. The rooms on each side of the hall were turned into banking rooms, with the loss of the dining room and kitchen on the north side. Upstairs the two bedrooms to the north were thrown together into one big room and a dropped ceiling was installed. The southern room structure was retained. The woodwork in the house was either retained or copied. The renovation was relatively sensitive to the fabric of the house, but it does not work well as a bank. There are traffic flow and security problems with the banking being carried out in two rooms separated by the wide center hall. The bank is considering another site.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. HA-1034

Harford County Land Records.
Site visit, 29 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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A				B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel 510 in the Town of Bel Air, 87/90' x 150'.

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. Marilynn M. Larew

organization

date 7-15-93

street & number RD 1, Box 219

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

MARYL
DHCP/DH
100 COMMUNIT
CROWNSVILLE MD 21032-

PS-2746

HA-1834
Warren House
321 S. Main St.
Bel Air, MD 21014

owner: Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union

1429/779 1 Oct 1987
Charles Center of Harford Co.
to
Aberdeen Proving Ground Federal Credit Union
$1,750,000
lots 4-13 block A, Fulford Park

1171/426 20 Aug 1982
S. Main St. Joint Venture
to
Charles Center of Harford Co.
$160,000

1166/296 29 June 1982
Dorothea Lee Archer Woelper and Elizabeth Reed Sheehan, personal representatives of estate of Cornelia Lee Archer
to
S. Main St. Joint Venture
$137,000
Cornelia Archer d. 24 Aug 1980, will JGM 39/13

541/199 20 Nov 1959
Elizabeth R. Archer, widow
to
Cornelia Lee Archer
Glasgow Archer Sr. d. 11 Apr 1953

242/369 4 Nov 1936
Michael W. Fahey and Citizens National Bank of Havre de Grace
to
J. Glasgow Archer Sr., and Elizabeth R.
defaulted mortgage for $15,000 by Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie, 3 May 1929 to the bank above 212/358
the bank bought it in 16 Sept 1936 for $12,000 Fahey was their attorney.

206/102 6 Sept 1927
William M. Nichols and Marguerite
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
to
Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie M.
confirmatory deed for lots 6-13

HA-131

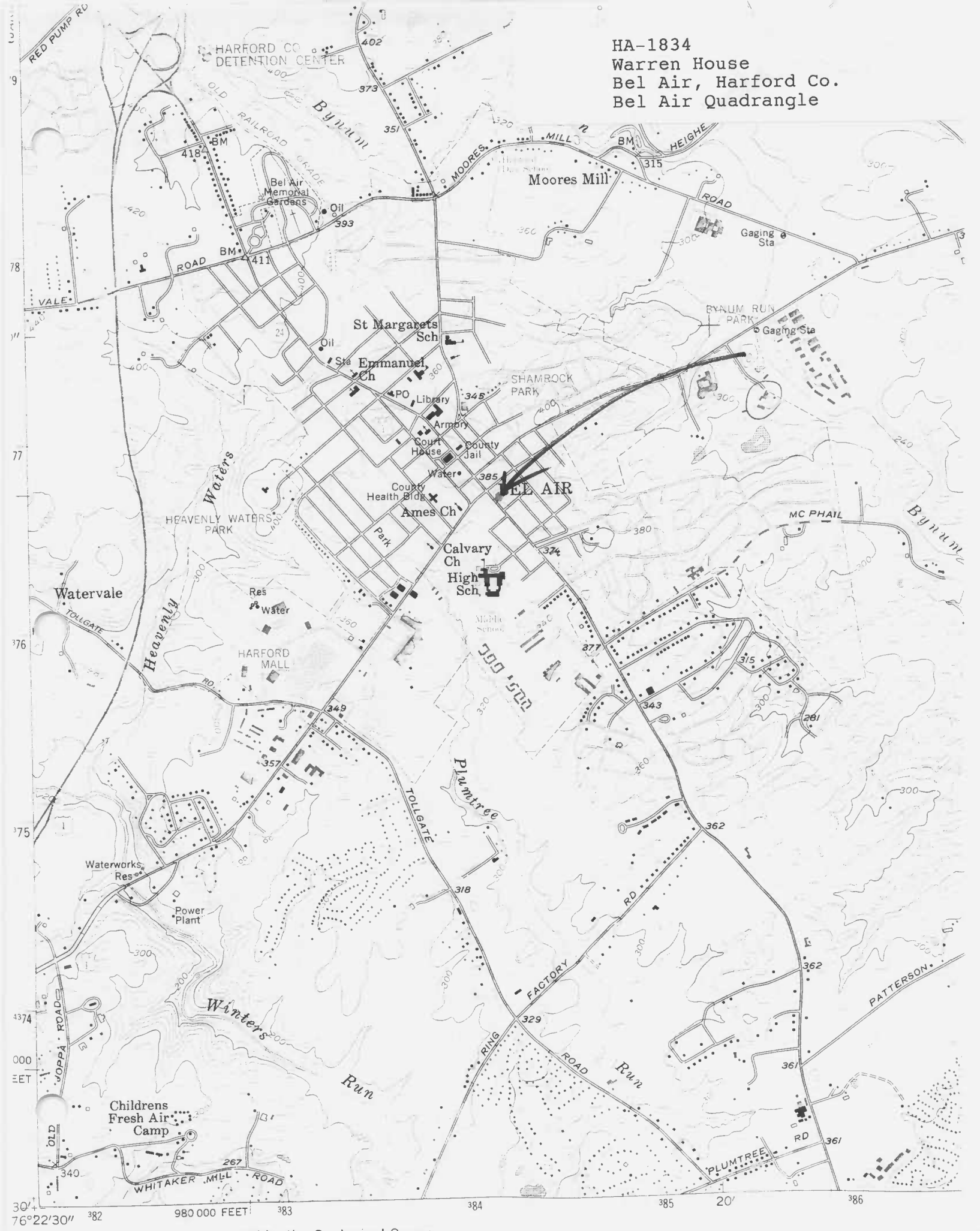
181/22 6 Nov 1922
William Nichols
to
Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie
lots 6-11
with restrictions

183/196 5 July 1923
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
to
Ruskin B. Warren and Hattie
lots 4 and 5, 12 and 13 block A, Fulford Park
$625 and assume mortgage

the mortgage
180/183 9 Nov 1922
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
to
Fireside Permanent Bldg. Assoc. of Harford Co.
$950

181/7 6 Nov 1922
William Nichols
to
Earle R. Burkins and Mosena
lots 4, 5, 12, 13 block A, Fulford Park
Nichols subdivided Fulford Park

HA-1834
Warren House
Bel Air, Harford Co.
Bel Air Quadrangle



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

321 S. MAIN ST
BEL AIR

321 S. MAIN ST
BEL AIR

Jeep

321 S. MAIN ST
BEL AIR