

Site M:26/10/35

Pumphrey's Funeral Home

300 West Montgomery Avenue

Built: c. 1900

Private/Restricted Access

This spacious building with its pillared monumental portico was built as a private residence for the Prescott family at the turn of the century, following a fire which destroyed an earlier structure on this site. In 1930 the third generation of the Pumphrey family of housejoiners and undertakers expanded the business and moved to this building, calling it Pumphrey's Colonial Funeral Home. Several renovations have not drastically altered this distinguished structure.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Pumphrey's Funeral Home

2. Location

street & number 300 West Montgomery Avenue not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state Maryland county Montgomery

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 checked="" 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

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

name RAP Leasing

street & number 300 West Montgomery Avenue telephone no. 762-3939

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County Land Records liber 5013

street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 484

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register - West Montgomery Ave. Historic District - 1974

Locally designated historic district - 1974

date M-NCPPC - 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland 20850

7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/10/35

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

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

This large scaled 3 bay by 5 bay frame house is situated at the southwest corner of Williams Street and West Montgomery Avenue. Set on a brick foundation and clad in broad clapboards, the 2 1/2 story main block has a hip roof covered with slate and intersected by gables on two sides. There is a central brick chimney.

The symmetrical three bay north facade is dominated by a central two story monumental portico in the Doric order. The dual pairs of columns frame the raised entry porch, which leads to the six panel door with 2 side lights and an elliptical fan light. Directly above, a decorative wrought iron balconet (not original) is affixed just below a second floor Palladian window. A suspended box-like lantern illuminates the entryway. On both the 1st and 2nd levels large one-over-one wood sash windows flank the portico. Two large roof dormers flank the pediment, which has a half-round louvered vent at its center.

The east facade has a central projecting gable end bay that has one rectangular attic light, a second floor window, and a mitred three sided bay on the first floor. A side entry porch on the northeast corner has two Doric columns and a slate roof.

A porch on the west side has been converted into a one story rectangular addition. An elaborate entrance to this is located on the north side. A five panel door is flanked by two engaged columns supporting a fan-lit pediment.

The south (rear) facade has a projecting gable end with two large modern nine-paned aluminum window units enclosing a former second floor porch. The remainder of the south facade has been altered to accommodate the activities of the business.

Across the paved rear yard is a two story rectangular gable roofed garage. Located at the southern edge of the property, it has three overhead doors and a pedimented entry on its first floor. Four second story windows are under a black asphalt shingled roof.

300 West Montgomery is presently used as a funeral home with small residential quarters. Despite alterations, the neo-classicism that originally distinguished this house has been maintained, and it stands in contrast to its eclectic Victorian neighbors.

8. Significance

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" 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)

_____ Kellogg house - 1889-1898 _____ 1889 Kellogg house - Edwin M. West
Specific dates _____ **Builder/Architect** _____
 _____ - c.1900

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.

The taste for Period styles of architecture gave rise to the popularity of the Georgian Revival style, in its pillared version often called "Southern Colonial". This style evoked an age of palatial and gracious homes; its image of serenity and dignity made it the preferred choice of undertaking establishments all over the country. In 1930 the third generation of the Pumphrey family of morticians in Rockville remodeled a turn-of-the-century house on West Montgomery Avenue. They renamed it "Pumphrey's Colonial Funeral Home" and continued the 80 year old family business in far more elegant surroundings than the original store front shop of the first Pumphrey, a house-joiner, coffin-maker and undertaker.

Capt. Augustus Kellogg (US Navy) and his family summered in Rockville in 1888 at Jennie Hodges' boarding house on Commerce Lane (now West Montgomery Avenue). During that stay he purchased property in the next block just west of the Williams home and hired local architect/builder Edwin M. West to build a house.¹ The "Kellogg Mansion" was one of the handsomest houses in town, filled with lovely furnishings and an extensive library. When the Kellogg family moved to Philadelphia in 1891 they sold the house to Judge John Vinson for \$6,300.² In 1898 the house was completely destroyed by fire.³

Judge Vinson sold the vacant lot to Mary Prescott for \$1,100 and a new house was built. From 1911 to 1915 the house was the rented quarters of the Montgomery Country Club until construction of their clubhouse on Williams Street. In 1929 Alexander Prescott and his wife, the former Edith Kellogg, were living in the house, but after her death in 1930 it was sold to William Reuben Pumphrey, Jr.,⁴ who remodeled it to its present conformation. It has remained virtually unchanged since that time, although adjoining parcels of land have been added to accommodate necessary garage and staff quarters.

On August 11, 1855, the Sentinel announced the opening of William E. Pumphrey's new business as housejoiner and coffin-maker at a "new shop in the north part of Rockville opposite the M. E. Church parsonage". His brother and then his son joined the business, but the few known examples of Pumphrey house construction are by the son William Reuben Pumphrey, Sr.⁵ William E. died in 1887, his son in 1929 at age 82. Grandson William R. Pumphrey, Jr. expanded the business; it was he who moved it to Montgomery

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Avenue. His wife Irene was a mortician in her own right, and from 1945- to 1965 she carried on the business after the death of her husband. The fourth generation of Pumphreys own businesses in Silver Spring and Bethesda. Robert A. Pumphrey acquired the Rockville Funeral Home after the death of his mother and in 1961 he undertook extensive interior renovations. In 1977 title passed to RAP Leasing, Inc. at which the "Colonial" was removed from the advertisement and it became simply Pumphrey's Funeral Home.⁶

1. Montgomery County Sentinel, July 13 and July 20, 1888.
2. Land Records, JA 27/398 (1891).
3. The fire was reported in the Sentinel February 2, 1898. Judge Vinson was not living there; it was rented by Mrs. C.A. Hill. The Tax Assessment for 1898 showed a value of \$500 with no improvement; earlier Tax Assessments had valued the house at \$4,000.
4. Land Records 498/210 (1930).
5. Known examples (extant) include 212 and 400 W. Montgomery Avenue, the 1909 remodeling of the Lamar House, 101 South Washington Street, and 104 South Washington Street.
6. Land Records, 5013/484 and Equity Case #17, 195 (1977).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. M: 26/10/35

Montgomery County Land, Tax and Equity Records
Montgomery County Sentinel: 1855, 1878, 1888-9, 1898
Genealogical info & family histories: Pumphrey, Prescott & Kellogg

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 27,432 square feet (plus adjoining 21,600 square feet)

Quadrangle name _____ Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Fronting on West Montgomery Avenue at corner of Williams St.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

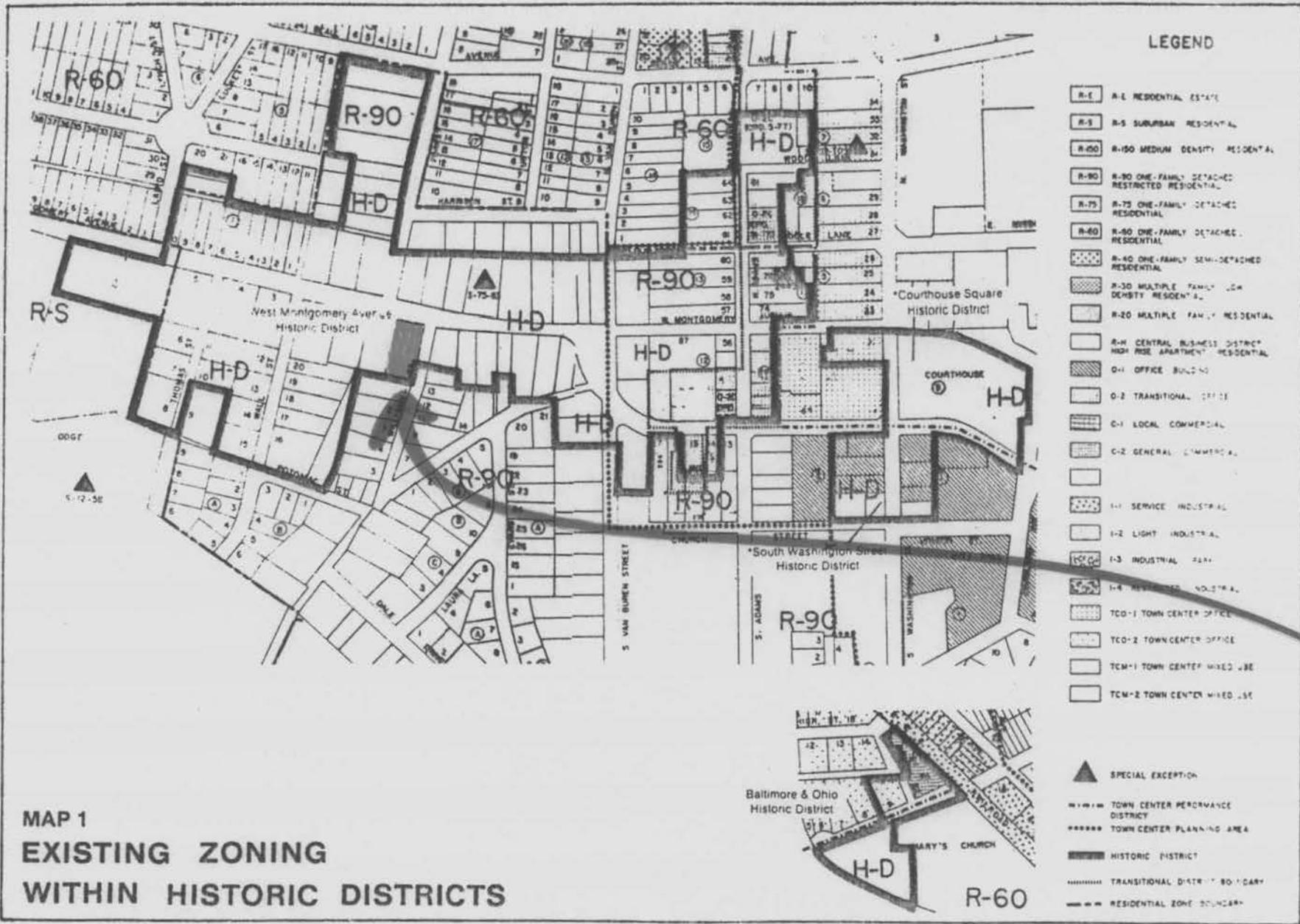
11. Form Prepared By

name/title	Anne W. Cissel/Glen Leiner, arch. desc.		
organization	Peerless Rockville	date	August 1984
street & number	P.O. Box 4262	telephone	762-0096
city or town	Rockville	state	Maryland 20850

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.

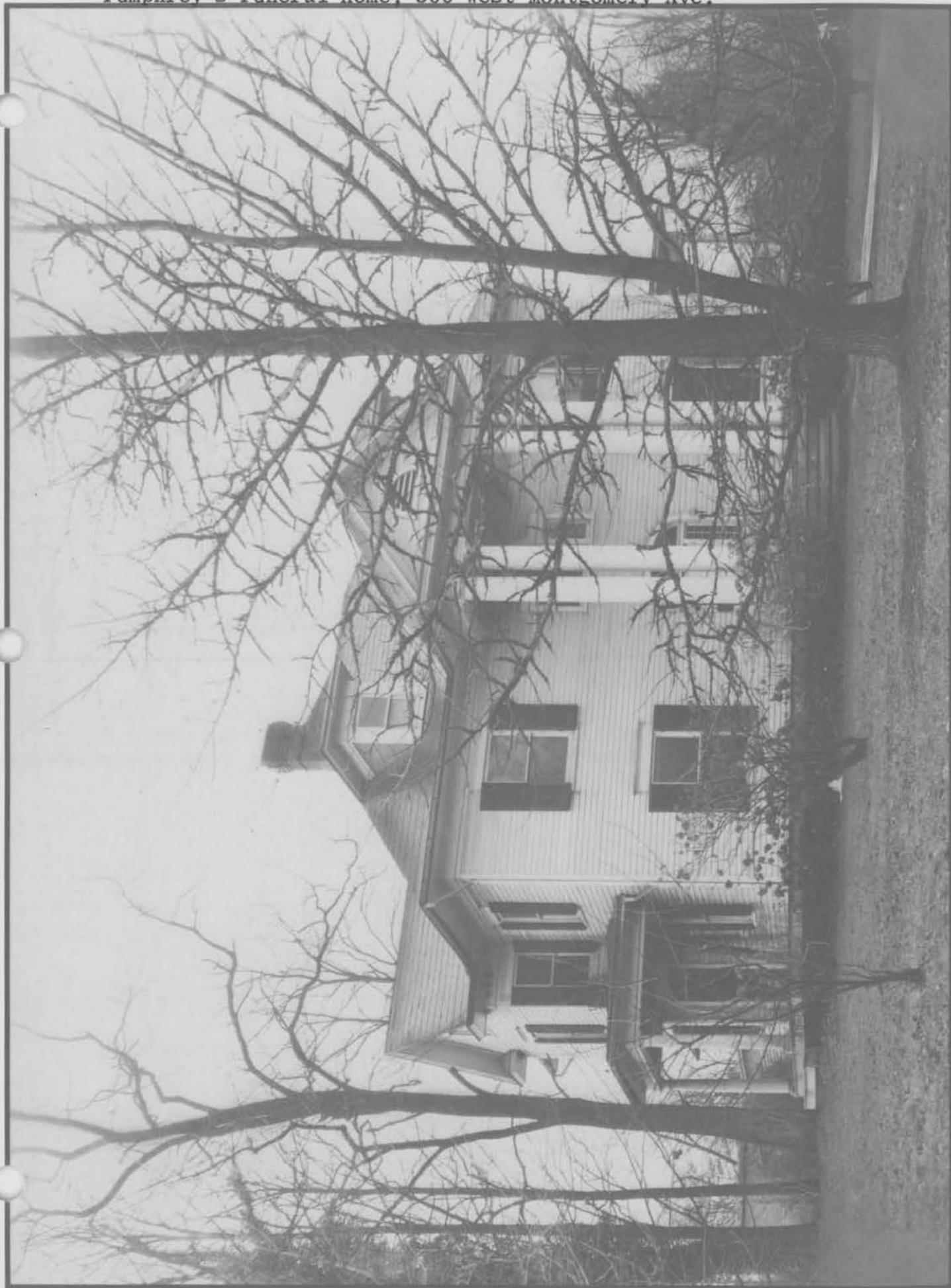
The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438



*Note: For discussion and planning purposes South Washington Street and the Courthouse Square district are considered independent Historic Districts even though they are shown on the existing zoning map as one district.

1930 photo. From 1984 Peerless Rockville calendar M: 26/10/35
Pumphrey's Funeral Home, 300 West Montgomery Ave.





101P-11

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PUMPHREY'S FUNERAL HOME
300 West Montgomery Ave.
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

RICHARD H. ANDREWS
1608 Farragut Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20851

AUGUST, 1984