

Site: M: 26/10/65

Frank Williams House

19 Williams Street

Built: 1927

Private

Marguerite Prescott Beard, the heiress to two fortunes, had spent some years abroad. In 1927 she commissioned this house, which draws on traditional French and English sources for the detailing of her Arts & Crafts house. The residence has been owned by the Frank Williams family for 50 years.

# Maryland Historical Trust

## State Historic Sites Inventory Form

### 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Beard House

and/or common The Frank Williams House

### 2. Location

street & number 19 Williams Street  not for publication

city, 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 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 Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Williams

street & number 19 Williams Street telephone no.: 762-2444

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

### 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Land Records liber 2179

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio 68

city, town Rockville state Maryland

### 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title None

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town Rockville state Maryland

# 7. Description

Survey No. 26/10/65

<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.

The Williams house faces east on a large lot near the intersection of Williams and Great Falls Road. Large deciduous trees and evergreens shade the house; shrubbery is planted near the house and the Williams Street frontage. A long cement sidewalk extends from Williams. There is a new garage at the northwest corner of the property. Access is from an alley that runs parallel to Williams.

This one-and-1/2-story house has a steeply pitched, broad gabled roof and a lower hipped roof wing at the northeastern corner. This forms a "T" shape with the longer extension facing Williams Street. There are two additions: one a small extension of the kitchen on the northwestern corner (c.1970), the other a glass-enclosed patio on the northeastern corner (c. 1940, 1970) The house sits on a brick foundation, is covered in stucco with a dark wood trim, and has a slate roof. Most of the windows are multi-paned casements. There are three chimneys.

Although constructed in 1927, the house may have been influenced by the earlier Arts and Crafts Movements in the U.S. and Great Britain. However, it is more likely that the builders attempted to create a unique house by borrowing from a number of sources, among them the early English countryside cottages from the Tudor and Jacobean periods. The window arrangement, stuccoed walls, steeply-pitched roof, front placement of a chimney with a triple-cap, and asymmetrical facade are elements of the eclectic borrowing. It is easy to imagine this house with a thatched roof in a pastoral setting.

The four-bay principal or east facade is asymmetrically arranged. At the northeastern corner a lower, hip-roofed wing projects to the east with a casement window and transom in the center and another one on the south side. This intersects with the longer side of the steeply-pitched gable-end section of the house. A half-stucco/half-brick chimney rises from this intersection. This interior chimney is partially covered on the lower half by the roof extending down to cover the exterior front door and brick porch. Three posts with braces support the roof extension. Above this is a wide gable dormer with casement window. This provides some balance to the three narrower gable dormers placed to its left; each of these dormers has a casement window. Two multi-paned casement windows with transoms break the stuccoed wall beneath the dormers. Overall, a pleasing mix of seemingly unrelated architectural elements is achieved on this facade.

The gable-end south facade has two bays. On the first floor are casement windows with transoms; the second floor has a casement window centered near the gable's pinnacle. The rear porch addition with four posts covering an open patio is visible on this facade.

Continued on attachment 7.1

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The Beard House  
Attachment 7.1

The west facade has a one-story porch addition from the southwestern corner. Two casement windows with transoms break the stuccoed wall on this facade. Dormers, similar to the front facade, highlight the steeply-pitched roof. An interior brick chimney is located at the extreme northwestern corner of the facade.

The north facade is altered by the addition at the northwestern corner. Large, multi-light windows are centrally located here. A semi-enclosed entryway joins the addition to the original north facade. Two casement windows with transoms further define the facade. A wide dormer, similar to the front facade, is located above these windows. There is an interior brick chimney with corbeling on the north side of the addition.

#### Interior

Much of the original interior is intact. The living room has exposed non-structural beams in dark wood. The walls are vertically panelled in the same wood. There is a built-in bookcase and mantle to match. The dining room has two corner cabinets with paned front. The kitchen has been remodeled and enlarged. Three bedrooms are on each floor. The stair has two landings with the rail finished in dark wood similar to the other interior features.

# 8. Significance

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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      1927                      Builder/Architect      Franklin H. Karn, Builder

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.

### Significance

This 1927 residence is an interesting example of the Arts and Crafts influence in architecture in Rockville. This unique house displays eclectic massing and Tudor /Jacobean detailing. It has been the home of the Frank Williams family for almost 50 years.

### History and Support

The land along this area of the Darnestown Road (now West Montgomery Avenue) had been owned by the Richard Williams family since 1868. In 1914, the family laid out ten building lots to front on their stable lane, named Williams Street. 1/ Two lots were sold to the Montgomery Country Club for the erection of its clubhouse. At the October 16, 1915, meeting of the Rockville Town Council, R.B.Peter and Dr. George Lewis applied to have: "...ash sidewalks and electric lights installed on Williams Street as far as the new clubhouse", but the subdivision was mostly undeveloped until after the first World War.

Lots 3, 4, and 5 were purchased by Marguerite Prescott Beard in 1920. 2/ Marguerite was the recent widow of William H. Beard and had inherited extensive landholdings, including a dairy farm west of Rockville. She and her family resided at 22 Wall Street directly behind (west of ) the subject property. In the first quarter of the 20th century members of both the Beard and Prescott families built or owned several houses along West Montgomery Avenue and Wall Street. 3/ In 1923 Marguerite built a small stucco and brick cottage on the northern portion of her Williams Street lot; two of her elderly relatives lived there.

On the site of later 19 Williams Street, the Beards laid out a tennis court. "Barney" Welsh, who achieved national ranking on the tennis circuit in later years, remembers the Beard Courts as his first glimpse of tennis, with the Prescotts, Beards, Cromwells and other young men of affluent Rockville families playing there. 4/

Continued on attachment 8.1

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Attachment 8.1

In 1927 the tennis court was replaced by this spacious and comfortable residence built by Franklin H. Karn. The subject house combines the sleek and smooth surface and lines of the stuccoed Arts & Crafts house with the stylized ornamentation evocative of more picturesque traditional English and French models. Mr. Karn used steeply pitched gable dormers, a massive chimney, and bands of small-paned windows to decorate what is essentially a modern streamlined house. The house also contained modern technological conveniences; The 1940 Deed of Trust mentions air-conditioning, gas ranges, linoleum and awnings. 5/

Frank and Emily Williams (no relation to the original land holders) came to Rockville in 1937 and opened an automobile dealership. After renting the Beard house for three years, they purchased lots 4,5, and part of 3, the land being "on the south side of the present hedge dividing the cottage lot from the Beard residence." 6/ Mr. and Mrs. Frank Williams, Jr. are the present owners of the house, devised to the Williams heirs by Mrs. Emily Williams in 1955. 7/

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Footnotes:

1. See Site Survey M:26/10/37 "Williams Farmhouse" and Montgomery County Plat Book 2, page 169.
2. Montgomery County Land Records, 298/216 (1920).
3. Tax Assessments, Plat Records and Real Estate Atlases ( 1917 & 1930).
4. "Welsh Rarebit" column of 1968 in the Montgomery County Sentinel.
5. Land Records 770/20.
6. Ibid., 852/384 (1941).
7. Montgomery County Wills EA 58 /130.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. <sup>M</sup>26/10/65

Montgomery County Will, Tax, Plat and Land Records; Montgomery County Historical Society newspapers and family files; Interviews with Mr. and Mrs. Williams and Barney Welsh.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property ~~29,932 square feet~~

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
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## Verbal boundary description and justification

Lot #4 , lot#5, and part lot #3 of Williams Subdivision as per Plat 2, page 169, fronting on west side of Williams Street.

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

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
-------	------	--------	------

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Steven M. Kay / Anne W. Cissel / Dwayne Jones

organization Peerless Rockville date August 1985

street & number P.O. Box 4262 telephone 762-0096

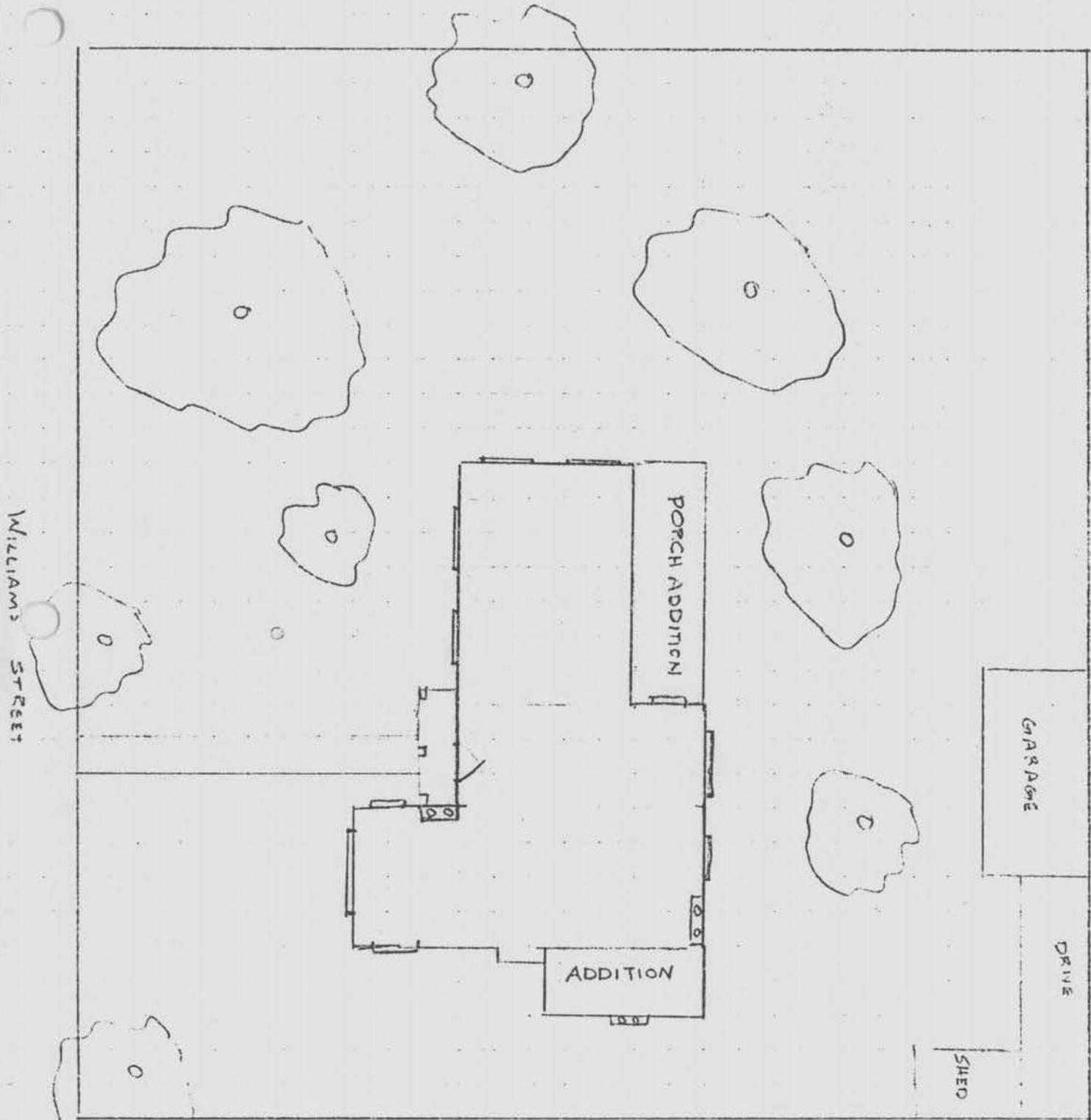
city or town Rockville state Maryland 20850

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

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19 Williams Street  
Attachment 7.2



WILLIAMS STREET

GARAGE

DRIVE

SHED

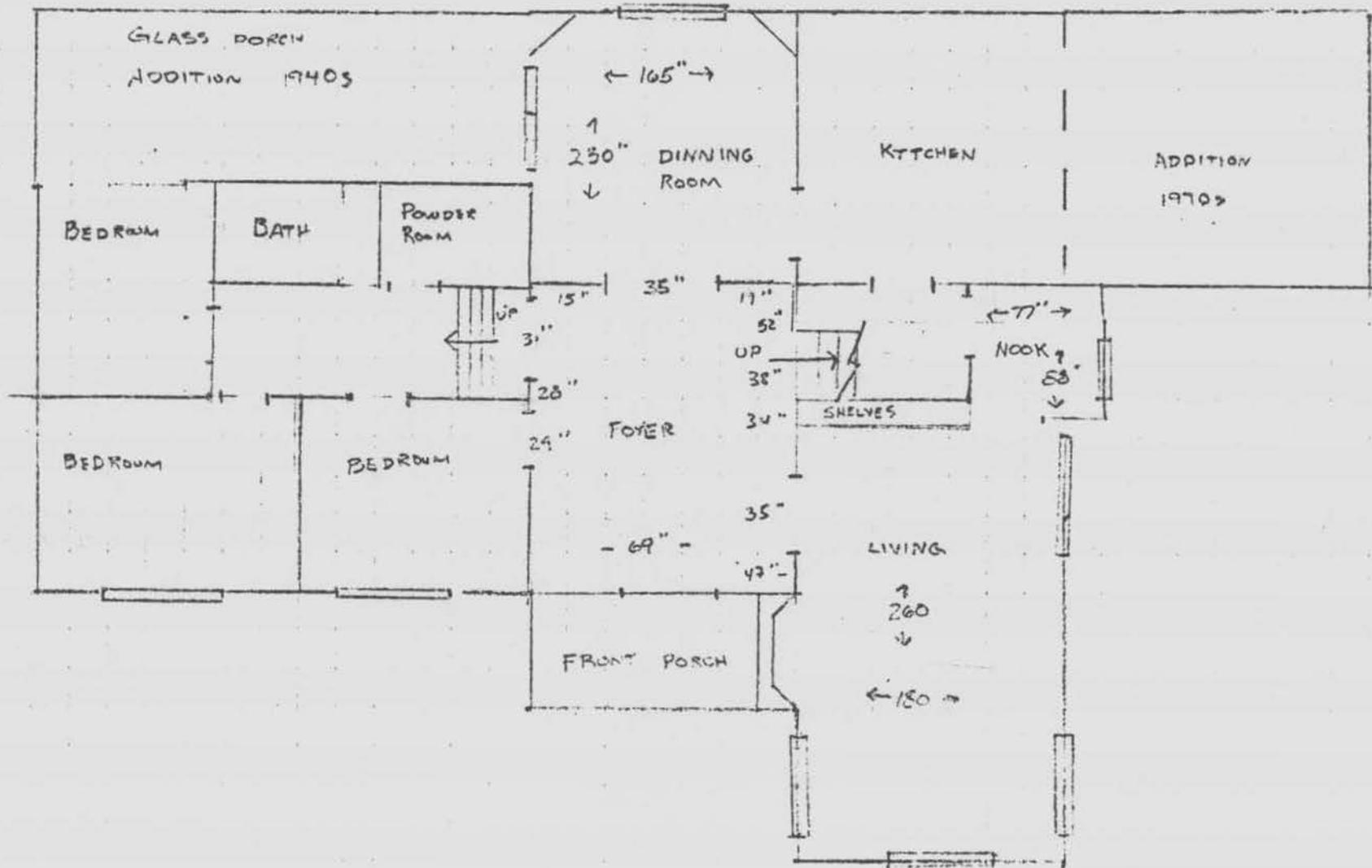
ADDITION

PORCH ADDITION

19 WILLIAMS ST

Steven Kay  
4/85

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Steven Kay  
4/8/65



RICHARD H. ANDREWS  
424-8282  
1608 FARRAGUT AVE.  
ROCKVILLE, MD 20851

OPPS-16-12

M: 26/10/65  
Williams House  
19 Williams St.  
Rockville  
8.85 E facade