

Site: M:26/10/83

Wire-Vitol House

Built: 1933

11 Wall Street

Builder: Frank Johnson

Private

The basic design of the Wire-Vitol House was taken from the Sears, Roebuck and Company plans for a modern Tudor-style cottage dwelling. The utilization of fine detailing and materials in its brick, stone, and slate construction by a local builder makes this 1933 home a fine example of the period cottage. The house was owned by the Wire family until 1968.

Maryland Historical Trust

State Historic Sites Inventory Form

DOE yes noNR: yes no(contributing element within West
Montgomery Street NR Historic District)

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Wire - Vitol House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 11 Wall Street not for publicationcity, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8state Maryland county Montgomery (RV Planning Area 4)

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 Mr. and Mrs. James Vitolstreet & number 11 Wall Street telephone no.: 762-7206city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery County land Records liber 3756street & number Montgomery County Courthouse folio 102city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places (1974)by City of Rockville Historic District (1974) federal state county localdepository for survey records City of Rockvillecity, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M: 26/10/83

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.

The subject house faces east on Wall Street. It sits on an ample rectangular lot shaded by mature trees and landscaped with hollies, shrubs and perennial plantings. The lot slopes to the rear, exposing the basement level. A two car garage is at the extreme northwestern corner of the lot accessed by a driveway near the north property line.

This 1933 brick and frame, 1-1/2 story Tudor period house is basically a broad L in shape with an open side porch and rear addition. Built on brick foundation, it has a steeply pitched slate side gable roof broken by multi-window stuccoed dormers front and rear, with a steeply gabled front entry extension. There is one wide multi-flue chimney with corbelled top on the south end of the main block between house and side porch.

This Sears & Roebuck style house was designed in the picturesque Tudor Cottage style of the 1930s using such details as overlapping steeply pitched high gable roofs, slightly flared eaves, stone tabs imitating quoins, recessed arch doorway, and granite sills. Its characteristic appearance is derived from its strong simple shapes outlined with boxed eaves and the contrast of brick, stucco, and stone trim. The windows, predominantly 6/6 unshuttered with granite sills and brick flat arch lintels, are used singly, paired, and in strips of three.

The three-bay east (front) facade has a three part massing formed from an open side porch on the left, central dormered section, and right front-gabled projecting entry section. The 1-1/2 story open side porch is formed of a high side-gable roof, enclosed and used for living space, supported by one-story brick piers set on a concrete slab. It is slightly diminished in height, length, and width to echo the center section. It is shaded by awnings and reached by one stone step. The roof peaks at the intersection of chimney and main block roof.

The one-bay center main block section has three-window strips centered on the first story and second story dormer. The dormer is shed roofed and stuccoed with a sheet copper roofing finishing the roof from bottom of dormer to eave in front.

The right bay entry has one narrow 4/4 window centered in the gable above the entryway arch, which is outlined and faced on the interior with fieldstone, leading to an arched wooden battened exterior door with four small lights. The doorway is flanked by two narrow 4/4 windows. Access is by a fieldstone walkway leading from Wall Street to three fieldstone steps, porch and stoop. An electric light fixture over the arch illuminates the door complex and porch.

continued on attachment 7.1

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The Wire-Vitol House
Attachment 7.1

The north facade has an irregular window placement. There is a rectangular attic ventilator centered in the gable peak, two 6/6 windows on the second story, not on the same plane, and three various-sized windows on the first floor: a small 4/4 on the left, a narrow 6-light window in the center, and larger 6/6 on the right, again on different planes. Three 4-light rectangular basement windows are in the foundation.

The west (rear) facade has an irregular massing created by the rear addition at the northwest corner. The main block of the house has a rear dormer, stuccoed as the front, with three irregularly spaced windows and two 6/6 windows evenly spaced on the remaining first story facade.

The recent rear one-story frame and lap siding addition has a composition shingle shed roof and an exposed brick basement with double wood battened doors. The north side has a pair of modern 6/6 wood framed windows. A centered three sided bay window on the west side, and a pair of exterior french doors centered and lit by an electric light fixture is on the south side. A flight of stairs leads from the ground up to the natural wood deck adjoining the addition.

The three bay south facade has a rectangular attic ventilator in the gable peak, one window, second story left bay, and paired windows on the first story, left bay. The side porch projects out from the second and third bays and is stuccoed on the end with one centered window. Two exterior french doors are located on either side of the fireplace in the center. There is one rectangular basement light in the left bay of the foundation.

Interior

The interior is a side-hall plan with the entry hall leading directly through to the kitchen and rear addition. The living area is to the side. A fireplace is situated at the south end of the living room with a single french door on each side opening into the exterior side porch. The stairway is on the right wall of the entry hall leading to three bedrooms and a bath on the second floor. A side door in the right front bedroom leads to a sitting room over the side porch.

See plans, attachments 7.2, 7.3

8. Significance

Survey No. M: 26/10/83

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1933 Builder/Architect Frank Johnson, 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

The Wire-Vitol house is an example of the popular period architectural designs of the 1930's. A modern, sophisticated building was decorated with detailing which evoked the more romantic picturesque images of past styles.

History and Support

In 1933 Paul and Minnie Gardner Wire purchased the vacant north half of lot #12 in "R.T. Veirs' Addition to Rockville". 1/ The Wires chose a Tudor Cottage design shown in the Sears, Roebuck and Co. catalogue as the style for their new home. Frank Johnson, a Washington D.C. contractor and an uncle of Mrs. Wire's, carried out the plans and construction. 2/ The multi-colored slate roof, a major focus of the design, was the product of Jack Warfield of Jack's Roofing Company. Construction was completed in September, 1933. 3/

The subject house is finely constructed of brick with compact massing and stone detailing. Stone tabs in imitation of quoining frame the recessed entry; granite sills are also used. The steep pitch and slope of the dominant entry gable are features consistent with the desired "Tudor cottage" look.

Following the death of Mrs. Wire, Paul Wire sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. James Vitol in 1968. Mrs. Vitol, nee' Mary Tyler, was raised in a house on South Adams Street that resembled the Wall Street property in its Tudoresque effect. 4/

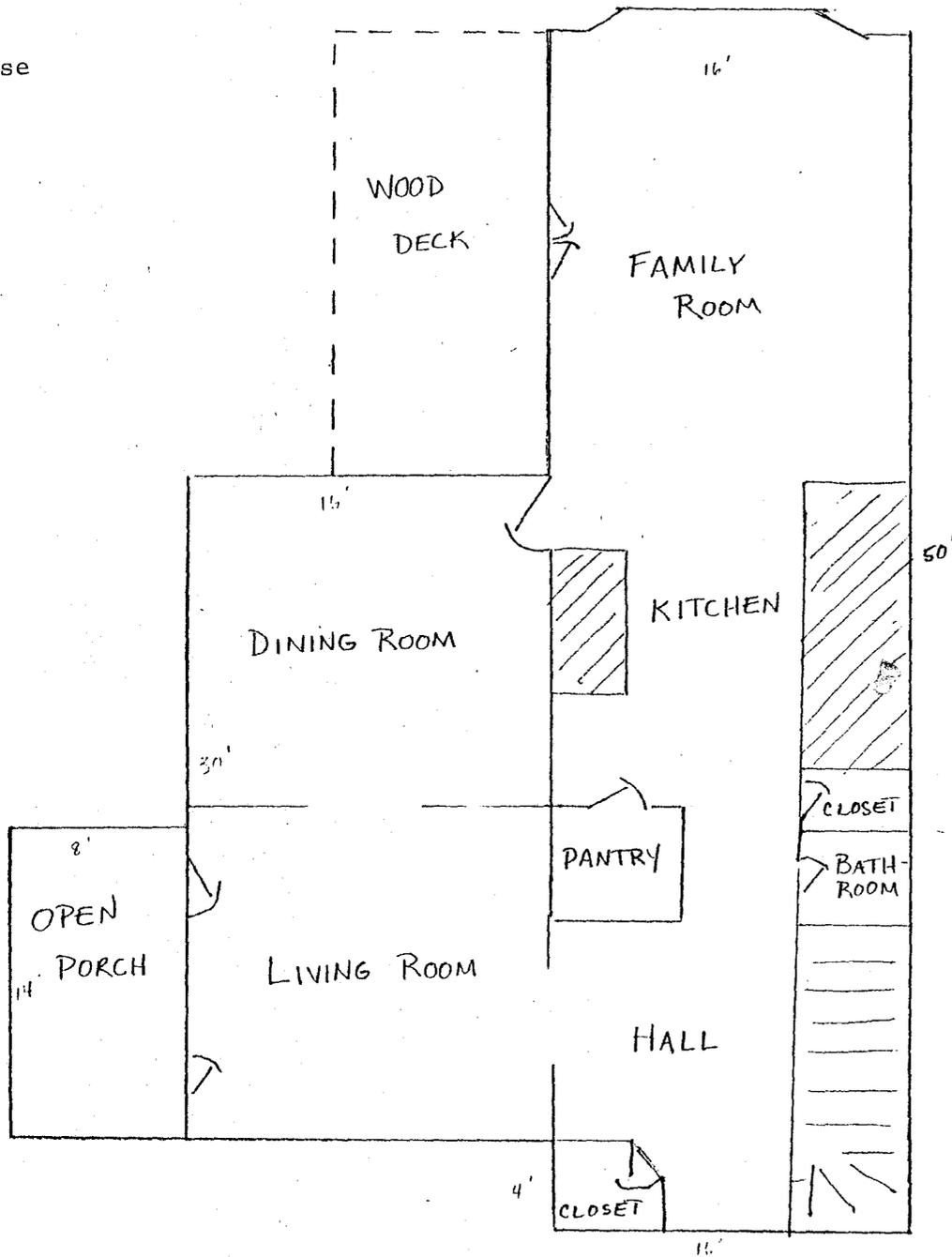
The Vitols have enlarged the house by adding a 20 X 16 foot room and deck at the rear. They have also replaced several courses of the slate roof with a pent-like section of copper roofing under the second floor band of windows. 5/

Continued on attachment 8.1

Footnotes:

1. Montgomery County Land Records 554/309 (1933) from Hugh Thompson to Paul Wire et ux.
2. The Sears Catalog offered as many as 100 designs of house plans which could be ordered as pre-fabricated houses. In Washington, D.C. models of some houses could be viewed at their exhibit center at 704 10th Street (1927 Sears catalog, p1091-92.)
3. Interviews with Paul Wire by Carolyn Brown, Anne Cissel.
4. Maryland Historical Trust Inventory Form M:26/22/2 "Frank Tyler House."
5. Interview with Mrs. Vitol and Rockville Historic District Commission Records, 1975-82.

M:26/10/83.
Wire-Vitol House
Attachment 7.2



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Not To Scale

By Carolyn Brown
May, 1985

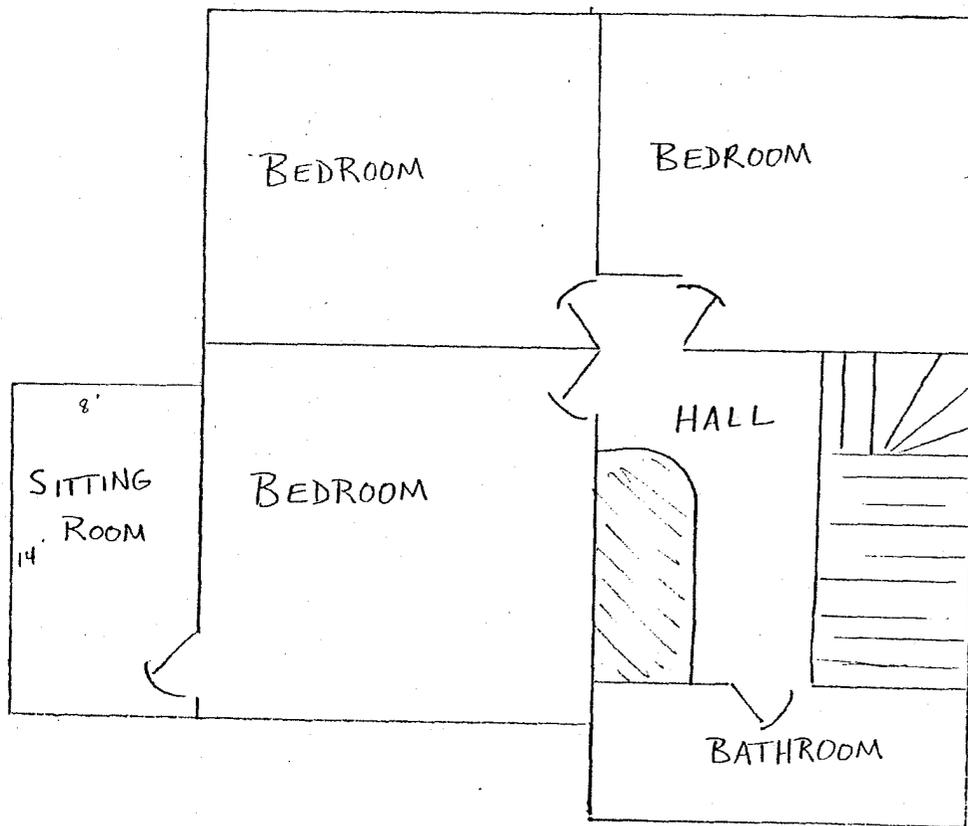
UNVERIFIED RESEARCH

11 Wall Street
Rockville, MD

M:26/10/83
Wire-Vitol House
Attachment 7.3

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
(Not to Scale)

Carolyn Brown
May, 1985



11 Wall Street
Rockville, MD

UNVERIFIED RESEARCH

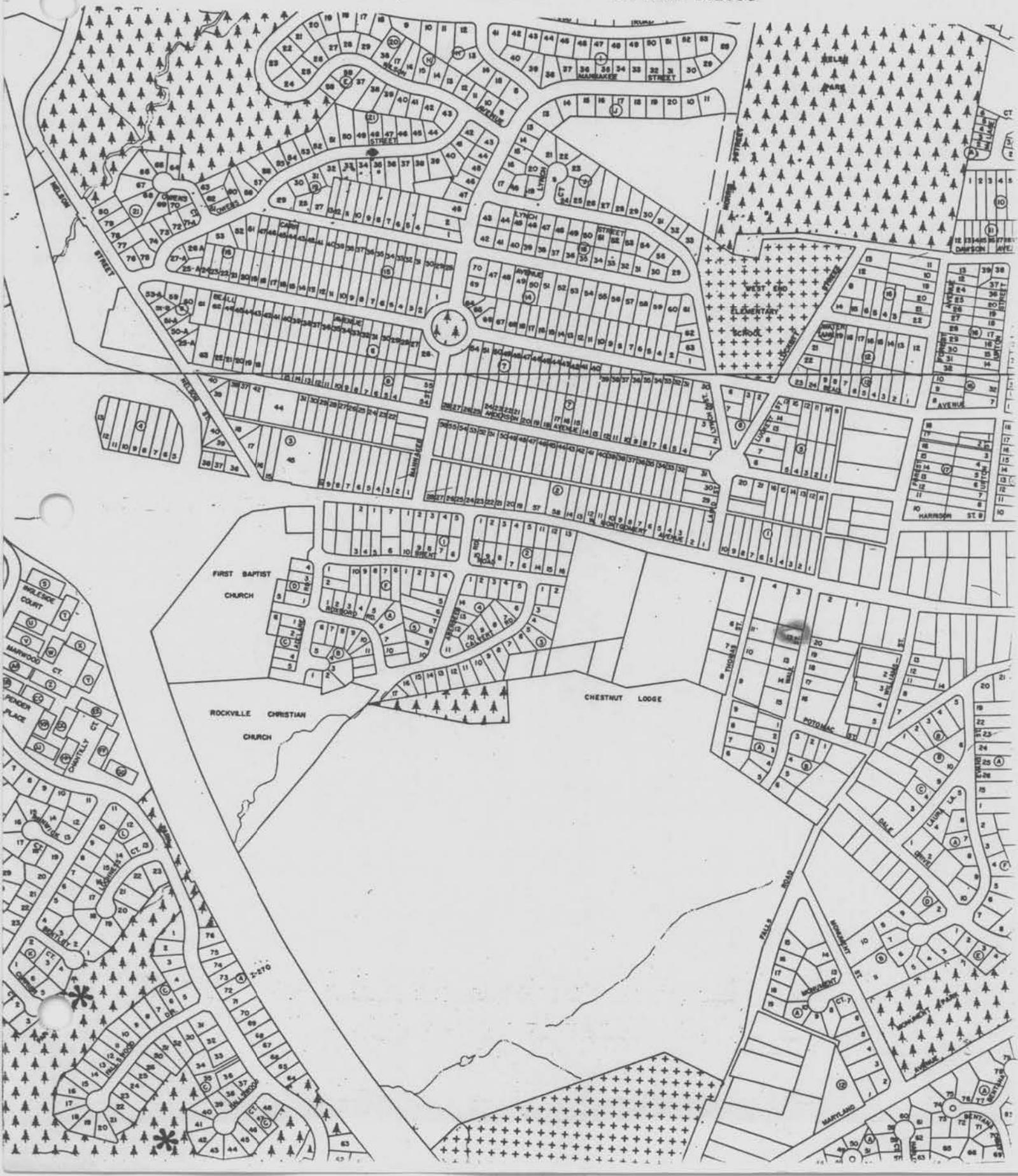
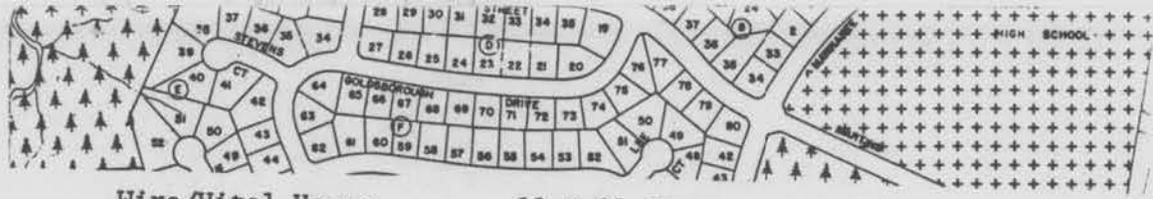
1982
City of Rockville
scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/10/83

4

Wire/Vitol House

11 Wall Street





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

M: 26/10/83
Wire/Vital House
11 Wall St
Rockville
4-86

1285 2506

11 Wall