

Site: M:26/10/87

The Brewer House

Built: 1913

309 Potomac Street

Architect: B.F. Meyers

Builder: Franklin H. Karn

Private

This 2-1/2 story frame American foursquare with Prairie-style features has always been owned by the Lloyd Brewer family. The seven-room house designed for Lloyd and Amelia Brewer features front and side dormers on a slate-shingled low-hipped roof, a full-width, Doric-columned front porch, a wide frieze, wood lap siding with vertical cornerboards, and bays on each side. The interior is noteworthy for its heavily grained, stained ash woodwork.

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic The Brewer House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 309 Potomac Street not for publication

city, town Rockville vicinity of congressional district 8

state 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 Charles Brewer

street & number 309 Potomac Street telephone no.: 762-2378

city, town Rockville state and zip code Maryland 20850

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Montgomery Co. Will Records liber

street & number Montgomery Co. Courthouse folio

city, town Rockville state Maryland

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title National Register of Historic Places (1974)

date City of Rockville Historic District (1974) federal state county local

depository for survey records City of Rockville

city, town Rockville state Maryland

7. Description

Survey No. M:26/10/87

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 south on Potomac Street, situated on a spacious lot shaded with mature trees, well landscaped with shrubs and evergreen trees. The other houses facing Potomac Street were constructed from 1935 to 1965 and are smaller in size and on smaller lots.

This 1913, three-bay by three-bay frame, 2-1/2 story rectangular American Foursquare has central front and side dormers on a slate shingled low-hipped roof. It has a full-width, Doric-columned front porch. The house is sheathed in wood lap siding finished with vertical cornerboards and a wide frieze and rests on a brick foundation. There is a brick exterior chimney on the east side and a brick interior chimney to the rear.

In plan, this house is an American Foursquare with bays on each side. In detail, it shows typical Prairie features such as strips of multi-pane windows in dormers and bay, paired windows, square pendant bay, wide eave overhang and frieze, and centered dormers on a low-hipped roof. Windows vary, with 6/1 predominating. Most windows have slightly projecting sills, prominent moulded drip caps and wooden louvered shutters.

The three-bay south (front) facade has a wide, hipped dormer with a strip of three nine-light casement windows centered in the roof. Two pairs of windows are evenly spaced on the second floor. The first floor has a wood exterior door with 12 lights in the west bay, and one window, longer than the rest, in each of the other two. Access is by five wide wood steps flanked by large square newels with plain stick-and-rail balustrade leading to and enclosing the porch. The composition low-hipped porch roof is supported in front by four Doric columns with square pilasters at the house juncture.

The east facade is irregular, broken by an exterior chimney and a one-story bay. A dormer with strip of three nine-light windows is centered on the roof. The second story has the chimney, south bay, then two windows, the second a 6/6 double sash smaller window roughly occupying the center of the facade, and one window in the north bay. The first story has two small eight-light casement windows flanking the chimney. A one-story flat roofed bay has windows on each side, with a strip of three smaller six light windows in the center. Two rectangular three-light basement windows are in the foundation.

continued on attachment 7.1

M:26/10/87
309 Potomac Street
Attachment 7.1

The north (rear) facade has a chimney on the roof slope; there is no dormer. A window is in the east bay, second story, and an exterior door opening onto the porch roof deck is in the center bay; the deck railing has been removed, along with the original stretched canvas porch roofing. There is a window in the east bay, first floor, and an exterior door in the west bay. A one-story porch, supported by two square columns and enclosed with a plain stick-and-rail balustrade covers the two west bays.

The three-bay west facade has a roof dormer. There is one window in each south bay, first and second stories and a pair of windows in the north bay, first story. A 1-1/2 story central square bay which begins at the house midpoint, extending to and roofed by the wide eaves has one window on the west side. There are two rectangular basement windows in the foundation.

Interior

The interior of the Brewer house is noteworthy for the handsome, heavily grained, stained ash woodwork throughout. The molding is simple but elegant. Columns delineating the separation between the entrance foyer and living room are similar to those in the Williams farmhouse at 236 West Montgomery Avenue. There are pocket doors between the living and dining rooms.

The dining room appears to be influenced by the Craftsman movement. Large beams divide the ceiling into squares, and the cornice molding, plate railing and thin vertical strips below are all of ash. The fireplaces in the dining and living rooms are trimmed in unfinished brick. The dining room furniture is original.

Floors downstairs are of hardwood. The ceilings are eight feet high. The paneled understair is of ash, with beautiful graining. The diamond-topped newel post is chamfered and paneled. The stairs to the attic are unusual in that they are unsupported, being held in place by the crossing of the side walls to which they are attached.

Landscaping

The Williams family planted their farm with surplus trees provided by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture in the 1870s; these included long needle pine, arborvitae, norway spruce, silver spruce, douglas fir, and other varieties. The c.75 foot douglas fir in the rear of this property was planted at that time. At one time the Brewers had a garden which utilized the entire back lot, beginning 60 feet from the porch and extending all the way to the back property line.

8. Significance

Survey No. M:26/10/87

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)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1913 Builder/Architect Franklin Karn(B) B.F.Meyers(A)

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 Brewer house is an American Foursquare with Prairie-style features. It has always been owned by the Lloyd Brewer family, for whom it was constructed in 1913.

History and Support

John Brewer (1850-1908) resided on the road to Baltimore and then near Seven Locks and Falls Roads before moving to 307 Great Falls Road in the 1890s. He had studied under Robert E. Lee at Washington College and practiced law briefly in St. Louis before returning to Rockville to farm.

In 1909, John Brewer's son, Lloyd A., married Amelia Alexander, who had come from Coleman, Texas in 1905 at the age of eighteen to study piano and voice in Washington DC. She rented a room in Mr. and Mrs. George Stone's house at 301 Great Falls Road and traveled to her lessons by train. She was in the midwest when the boy next door returned from a job in South America and asked her to marry him. They married in Carroll County, Arkansas on July 12, 1909. 1/

After their marriage, Lloyd and Amelia Brewer first rented a room in the Stones' house, then in 1911 leased the tiny house at 25 Wall Street at the rate of \$12 monthly. They purchased a lot for \$400 from the Walter Williams family, and proceeded to work with local architect Randolph Talbott to design a house. Talbott later drew plans for the Clubhouse on Williams Street and for his own residence on South Van Buren.

The Brewers were not pleased with Talbott's plans, and rejected them. They then contracted with B. F. Meyers, a Washington, D.C. architect who had designed the Alaska Building for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition in St. Louis, MO. Meyers designed a seven-room house with bath, porches, hot water heat, and windows and dormers popular at the time. Builder Frank Karn completed the house, which cost \$6000, in June 1913, with an interior trimmed in heavily grained, stained ash. 2/

continued on attachment 8.1

M:26/10/87
309 Potomac
Attachment 8.1

Mr. Brewer initially worked for a local lumber yard, then embarked on a career in investigative and financial reporting with Dun and Bradstreet. The Brewers had two sons, Lloyd A. Jr. and Charles, who took title to the property after their father's death in 1968 at the age of 85. Mrs. Brewer died in 1957, Lloyd A. Jr. in 1978. Charles Brewer still lives in the family home.

Although the Brewer house is virtually unaltered, the family has made a few changes. In 1936, the back stairway was blocked off to make a kitchen pantry. In addition, the Brewers walled off half of the first floor butler's pantry for a half-bath, installed a new oil furnace, and replaced the wood-burning kitchen stove with gas. The railing around the second-floor rear porch was removed about 1960, and in 1978 the furnace was changed to gas.

The Brewers sold off the land to the east of the house, formerly planted in potatoes, and the first of the three new homes was built in the early 1930s. Mr. Brewer retained a triangular piece adjacent to the house.

Footnotes:

1. Information on the Brewer family supplied by Charles Brewer in an interview, June 1986.
2. Original house plans in the possession of Charles Brewer.

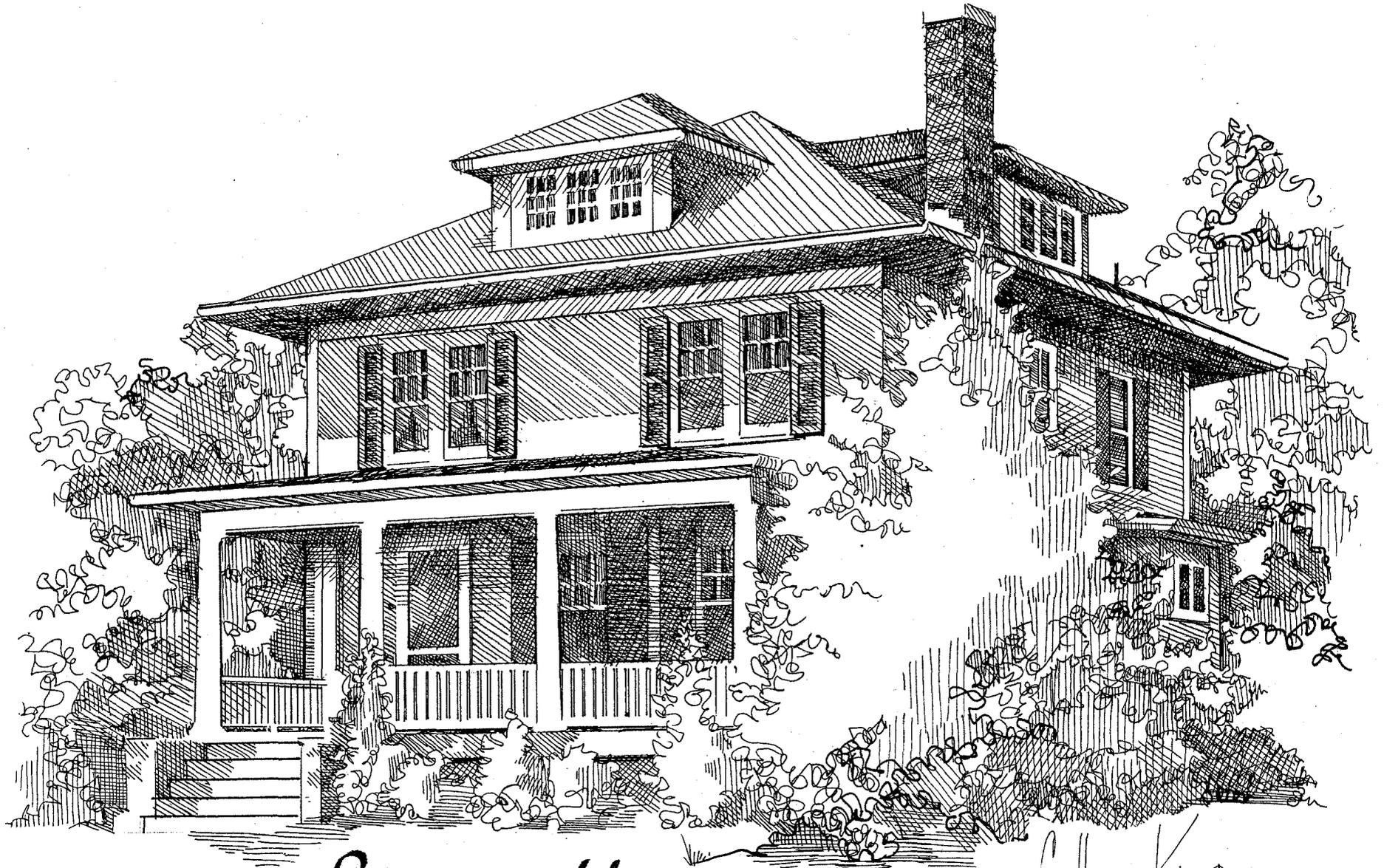
M:26/10/87

309 Potomac

Attachment 8.2

Drawing of Brewer House at 309 Potomac Street by Colleen King

March, 1984 Peerless Rockville Calendar



Brewer House

Colleen King

M:26/10/87
309 Potomac
Attachment 7.2

Plans for the Lloyd Brewer Residence, B.F. Myer, Architect



FRONT ELEVATION

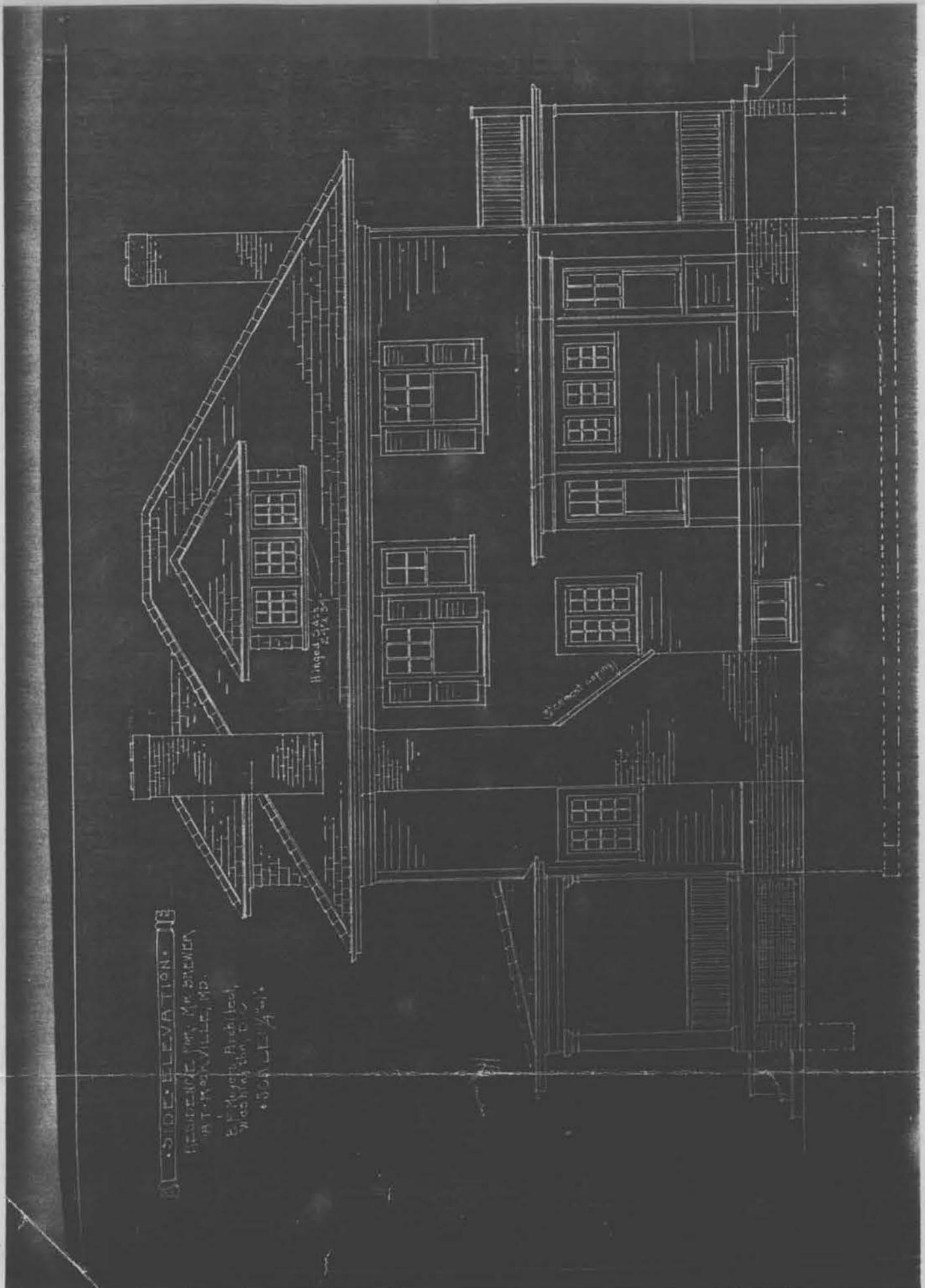
RESIDENCE FOR MR. BREWER
AT ROCKVILLE, MD.

B.F. Myer, Architect
Washington, D.C.

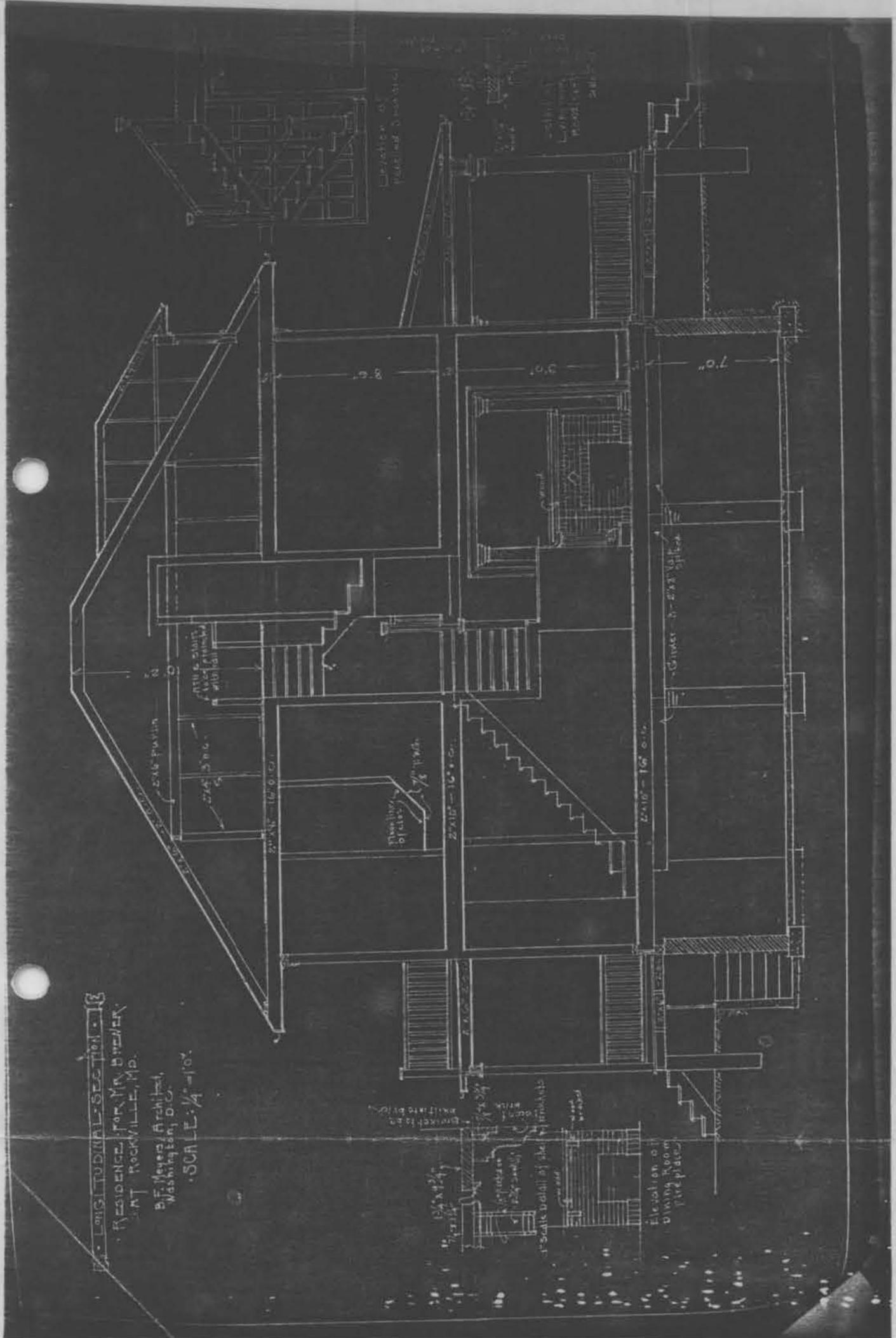
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'

M:26/10/87
309 Potomac
Attachment 7.4

Plans for the Lloyd Brewer Residence, B.F. Myer, Architect

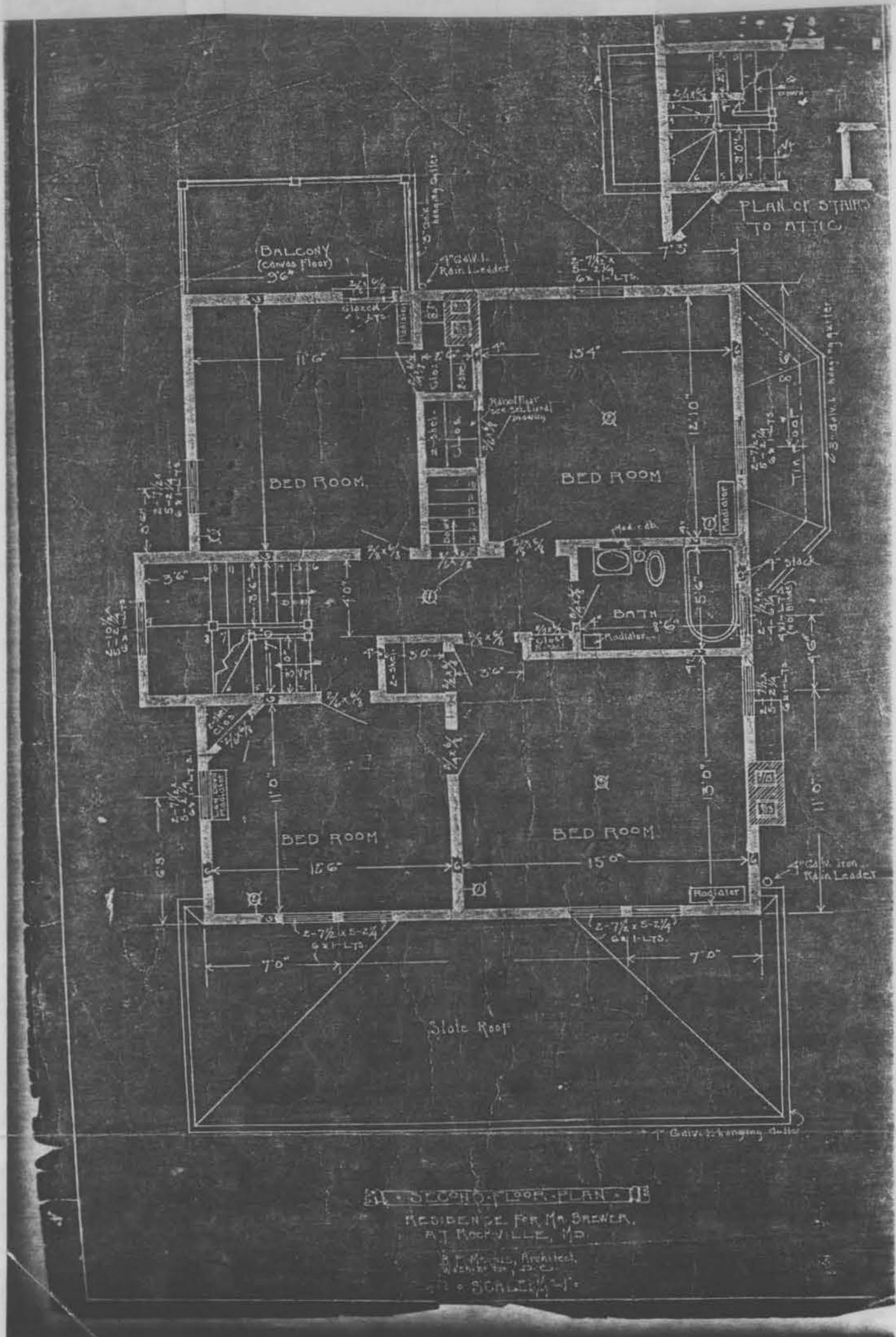


Plans for the Lloyd Brewer Residence, B.F. Myer, Architect



LONGITUDINAL SECTION - B
RESIDENCE FOR MR. BREWER
AT ROCKVILLE, MD.
B.F. Myer, Architect,
Washington, D.C.
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

Plans for the Lloyd Brewer Residence, B.F. Myer, Architect



1982

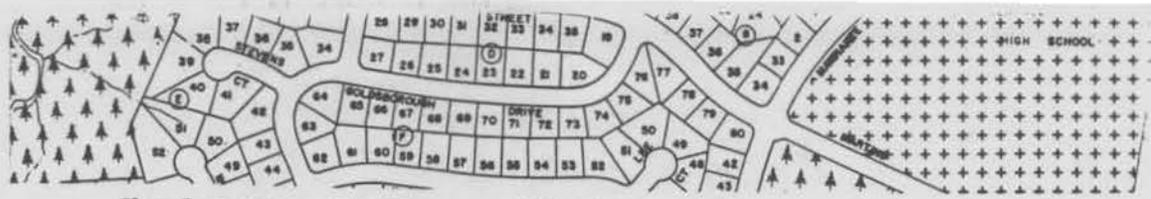
City of Rockville scale: 1" = 600'

M:26/10/87

4

Charles Brewer House

309 Potomac Street





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M: 26/10/87
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