

ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M: 26-10-9
(date entered 5-12-80)

1. Name: Almoney House
 2. Planning Area/Site Number: 26/10/9 3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: MAGI #1650252604
 (Assigned 11/80) Map 15
 F-13
 4. Address: 105 South Van Buren Street, Rockville

5. Classification Summary
 Category building Previous Survey Recording M-NCPPC
 Ownership private Title and Date: 1976 Inventory of
Public Acquisition N/A Historical Sites
 Status occupied
 Accessible no Federal State x County x Local
 Present use private residence

6. Date: 1889 7. Original Owner: Albert J. Almoney

8. Apparent Condition
 a. good b. altered c. original site

9. Description: This Queen Anne style, two-and-a-half story, six bays by seven bay, house has an irregular plan and faces east. It is a frame house now covered by grey aluminum siding. The east porch has a shed roof supported by five turned posts. There are single and paired windows, generally they are one-over-one double-hung. At the northeast corner of the east and north elevations there is a "Rockville Bay" window. On the south elevation there are two, two story bay windows. The house has a multiplaned roof with a total of six cross gables.

10. Significance: This house is significant as the home of Albert J. Almoney, local journalist and politician, and as a representative of the work of Rockville's master builder Edwin West.
 In January 1889, Elijah and Lydia Prettyman gave approximately one-third of an acre to their daughter Miriam, who had married Albert J. Almoney four years earlier. The Almonneys immediately contracted with Edwin M. West to build their new house. West was well known in Rockville as an architect/Contractor, and constructed many homes and churches in the area between 1880 and 1909. The architectural feature which became West's trademark -- the two-and-one-half story rectangular projecting bay with mitred and decorated first floor sides -- is included on this handsome Victorian house.
 Albert J. Almoney was editor of the Montgomery Advocate and in that capacity played an important role in bringing to Rockville such improvements as the "new" boulevard between Rockville and Washington, the new courthouse, Rockville's water supply and its electric light plant. He was also a prominent Democrat and chief clerk and parliamentarian for the Maryland House of Delegates from 1907-1930.
 During the more than 60 years the house remained in the Almoney family, major additions were made to it. It was sold out of the family in 1953 to Luther L. and Janet Terry, who also made a number of changes before selling it in 1968 to the present owners.

11. Researcher and date researched: Mead Karras-10/79 Candy Reed Arch. Description
 12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock 13. Date Compiled: 10/79 14. Designation Approval
 15. Acreage: 20,873 Sq. Ft.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 26/10/9
West Montgomery HD
MAGI #1650252604

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Almoney house

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

105 South Van Buren Street

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	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"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Jacques and Margaret Gelin

Telephone #: 762-7147

STREET & NUMBER

105 South Van Buren Street

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20850

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3763

Folio #: 264

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Rockville Historic District Comm.

DATE

(1974)

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

M.26-10-9

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This Queen Anne style house, two-and-a-half stories, six bays by seven bays has an irregular plan. Built on a quiet side street, near the heart of the city of Rockville, it faces east.

Built on brick foundations, this wooden frame house has grey aluminum siding. Between the first and second stories there is a slightly flared overhand. There is a wooden porch on the east (front) elevation with a shed roof supported by five turned posts. The east (front) door is glass and wooden paneled. There is a screened porch on the south elevation at the south west corner. Windows are irregularly arranged singly and in pairs. In general there are one-over-one double-hung windows flanked by black aluminum louvered shutters. There is a small three part semicircular eyebrow window on the east elevation set into the roof. At the east cross gable there is a sixteen-over-one double-hung window. The two first floor windows on the east elevation are unusually long and reach the porch floor. There is a single light beveled glass fixed window south of the east (front) door. At the northeast corner of the east and north elevations is a Rockville Bay window. On the south elevation there are two, two story bay windows.

The house has a multiplaned roof with six cross gables on the north, south, east and west elevations. The roof line on the south elevation is particularly complex because of the three gables which intersect and connect. All these gables have wooden shingles.

There are five operating fireplaces in the house.

Handwritten marks: a large 'X' and a 'B'.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

M:26-10-9

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input 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 1889 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Edwin M. West

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is significant as the home of Albert J. Almoney, local journalist and politician, and as a representative of the work of Rockville's master builder Edwin West.

In January 1889, Elijah and Lydia Prettyman gave approximately one-third of an acre to their daughter Miriam,¹ who had married Albert J. Almoney four years earlier. The Almoneys immediately contracted with Edwin M. West to build their new house.² West was well known in Rockville as an architect/contractor, and constructed many homes and churches in the area between 1880 and 1909. The architectural feature which became West's trademark -- the two-and-one-half story rectangular projecting bay with mitred and decorated first floor sides -- is included on this handsome Victorian house.

Albert J. Almoney was the son of Jarrett Almoney, who owned and operated the Montgomery House hotel in Rockville. Albert was educated at the Rockville Academy and St. John's College in Annapolis. He was well known and influential throughout the county and state. He was editor of the Montgomery Advocate and in that capacity played an important role in bringing to Rockville such improvements as the new "boulevard" between Rockville and Washington, the new courthouse, the water supply used by Rockville, and its electric light plant. He was also a prominent Democrat, being postmaster of Rockville under President Cleveland (1885-1889 and 1893-1897), a delegate to numerous county and state conventions, county chairman of the Democratic State Central Committee, and member of the State Central Committee, Secretary of the Maryland Senate, and chief clerk and parliamentarian for the Maryland House of Delegates from 1907-1930.³

Mariam and Albert J. Almoney had three children, Mary B., Andrew, and Lydia. When Miriam died in 1919, the property was inherited by Albert and her two daughters (Andrew died early). Lydia married J. Paul Brunett (who became clerk of the circuit court) and left the Almoney house. Mary never married, living there until after her father's death in 1939 she inherited his interest in the home.⁴

During the more than 60 years the house remained in their hands, the Almoney family made some major changes. (See attached floor plans) An apartment was added on the second floor at the rear, a major addition was made to the southeast corner of the house in 1901 (for Albert Almoney's sister Isobel), and the room-sized porch on the north side was added in the early 1930s. According to Lydia Almoney Brunett, this was the first house in Rockville to have inside water, steam heat, a telephone, and a radio.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY (Continued on Attachment Sheet A)

Almonee House

In 1953 Lydia and Mary sold the property to Luther L. and Janet Terry.⁵ Dr. Terry was Surgeon General of the United States under President Kennedy. They raised a large family in the house and sold it only after Dr. Terry accepted a position as vice president of the University of Pennsylvania. The Terrys made a number of changes, some when they first acquired the house and others at intervals over the years. They removed that part of the front porch consisting of pillars and a hipped roof jutting out from the middle over the stairs to which the sidewalk leads, and replaced it with a flat section. On the interior they added closets, paneling, a second floor bath, and remodeled the kitchen.

In 1968 the present owners purchased the house. Mr. Gelin is an attorney with the U.S. Justice Department. The Gelins have installed aluminum siding, screened the large side porch, and added a swimming pool in the back.

FOOTNOTES:

1. Land Records of Montgomery County, Md., TD 17/30 (1889).
2. Montgomery County Sentinel, January 4, 1889.
3. Portrait and Biographical Record (1898).
4. Montgomery County Will Records, HGC 23/473 (1939).
5. Land Records, Op. Cit., 1755/472 (1953).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Will & Land Records of Montgomery County, Maryland
Portrait and Biographical Record - Sixth Congressional District of Maryland,
 (1898)
 Montgomery County Sentinels
 Interview: Lydia Almoney Brunett, October 1979

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 20,873 square feet

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	COUNTY
STATE	COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Mead Karras	Candy Reed	Architectural Description
ORGANIZATION	Sugarloaf Regional Trails	DATE	October 1979
STREET & NUMBER	Box 87	TELEPHONE	926-4510
CITY OR TOWN	Dickerson	STATE	Maryland 20753

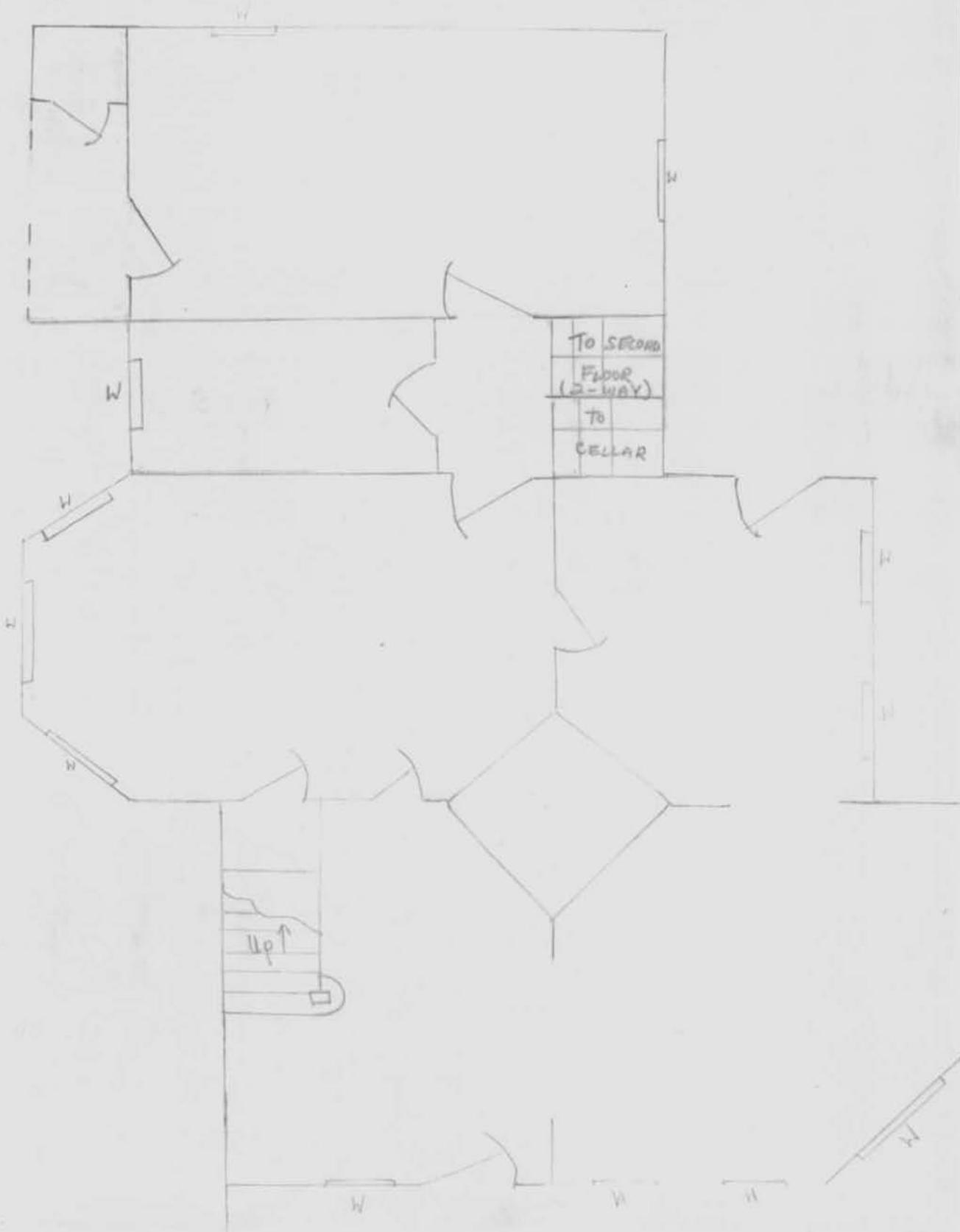
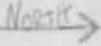
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

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
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438

Almonee House

FIRST FLOOR

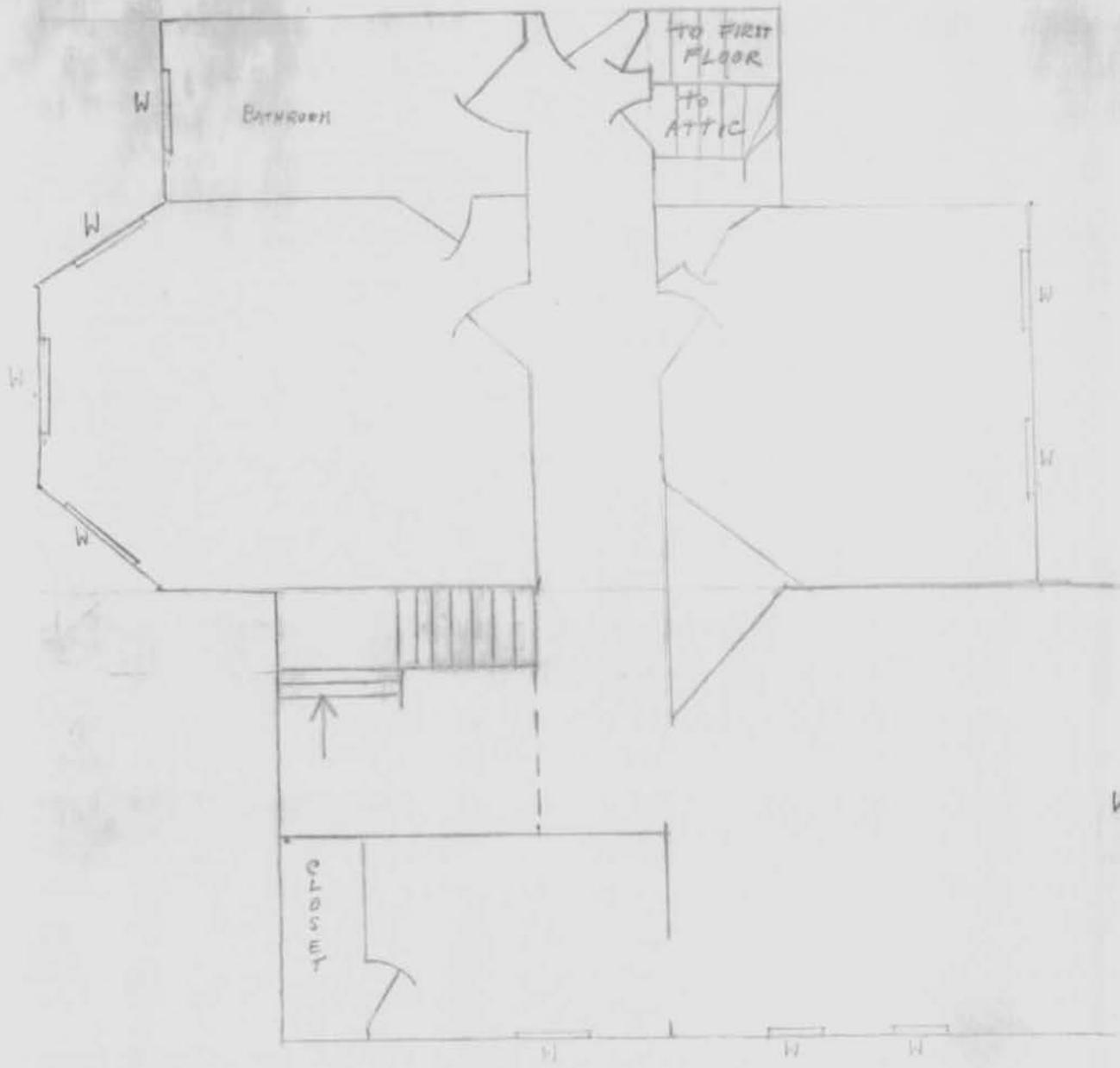
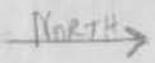


Porch ↓ (PORCH EXTENSION NOT SHOWN)

Almonee House

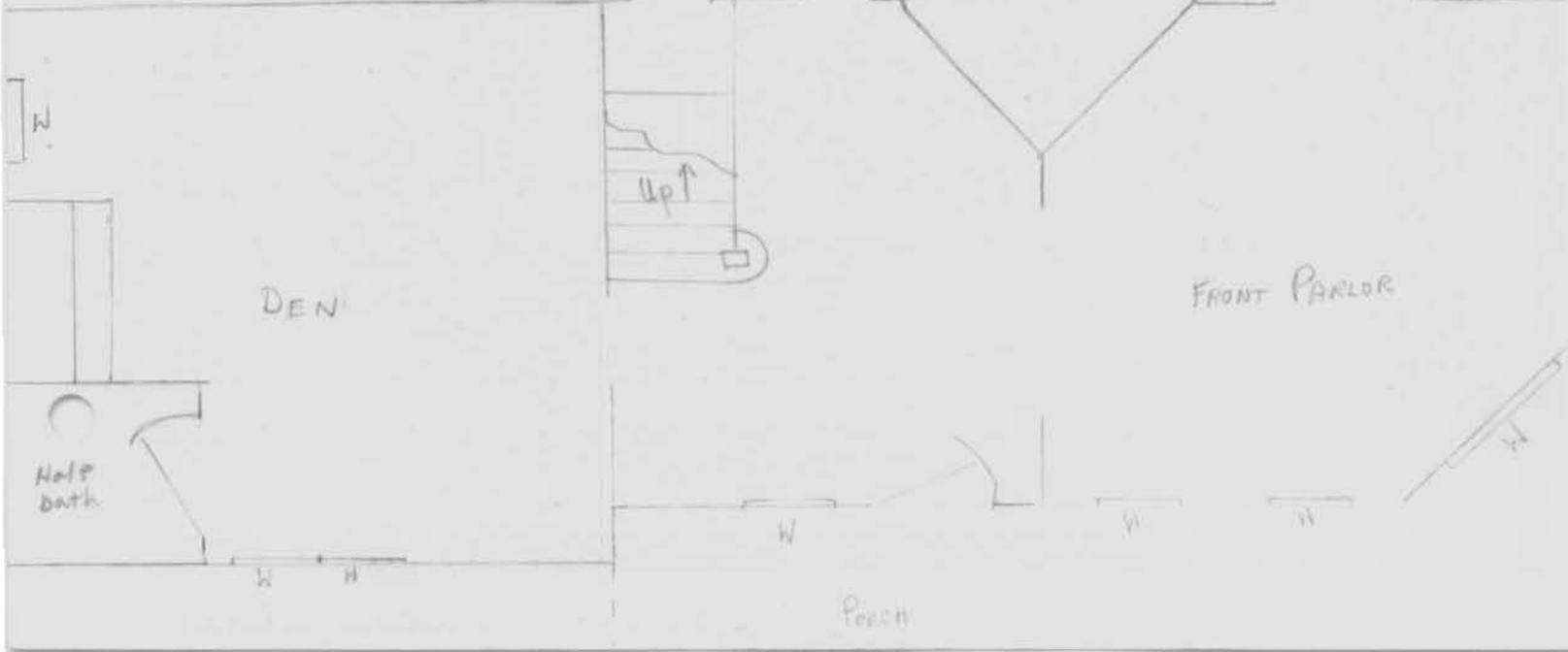
SECOND FLOOR

M: 26/10/9
West Montgomery HD



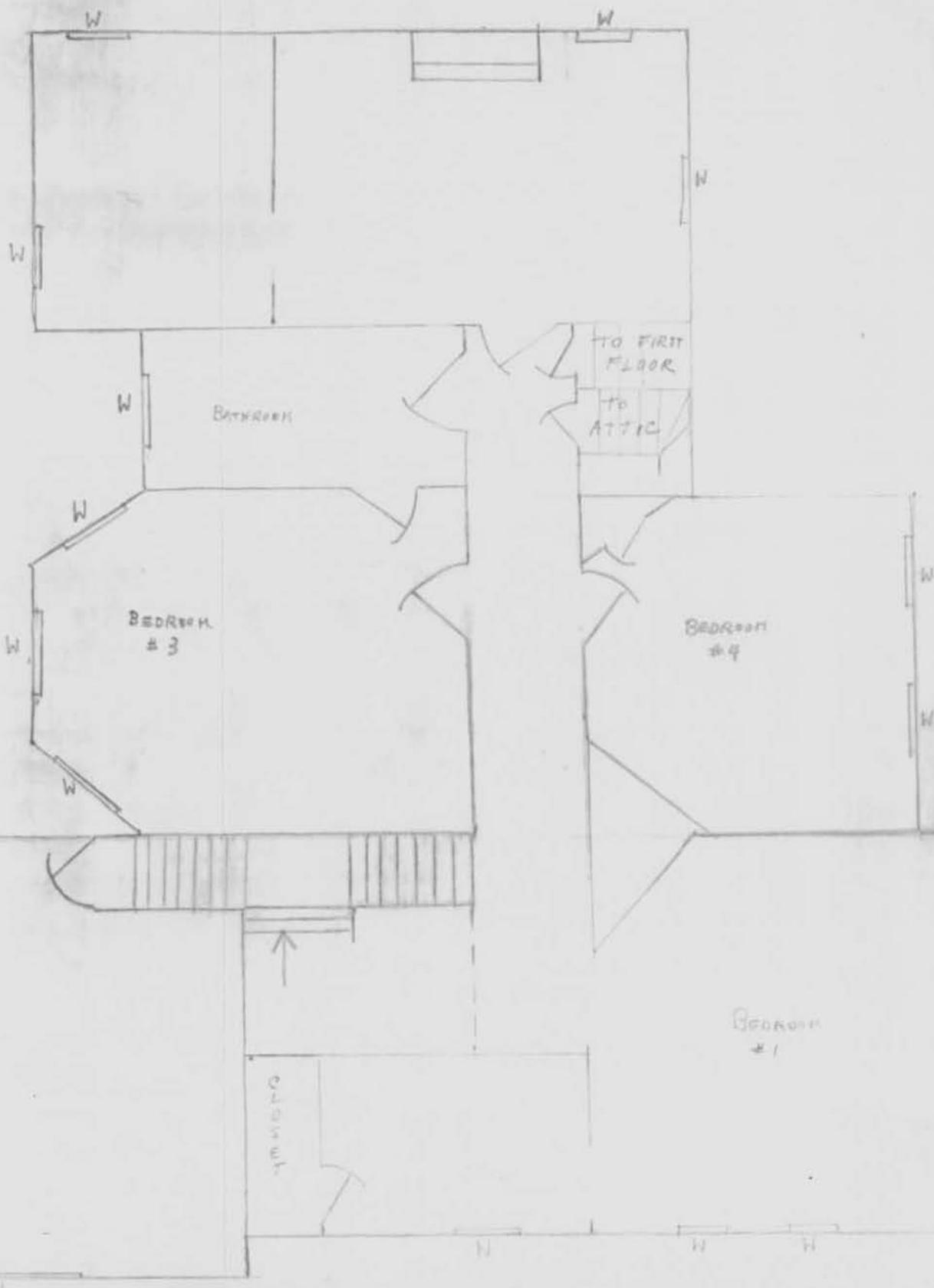
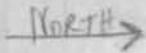
Almonee House

FIRST FLOOR



Almonee House

SECOND FLOOR



M: 26/10/19
West Montgomery H.D.

Almoneyn, Albert J.

"Uncle Albert" Sees Storm Ahead in Maryland Assembly



Post Staff Photo.

ALBERT J. (UNCLE ALBERT) ALMONEY,
for 31 years a familiar figure in the Maryland General Assembly, who predicts a stormy session ahead. He is 74.

Veteran Clerk of House Exiled From Session by Illness.

It looks like the special session of the General Assembly of Maryland, which convenes today, is going to be a stormy one.

"Uncle Albert" says so, and for 31 years he has been studying affairs of the General Assembly and lining disputes between law-

"Uncle Albert" is Albert J. Almoneyn, of Rockville, Md., who has served as an official of one or the other of the houses of the Assembly for 31 years. For a quarter of a century he has served as chief clerk and parliamentarian for the House of Delegates.

But this year "Uncle Albert" won't be there to whisper his counsel to the speaker of the House of Delegates when a whisper means so much to the presiding officer.

Parliamentarian on Sick Bed.

He served as secretary of the Senate and reading clerk for several sessions before his appointment as chief clerk of the House. He has been the counselor of every speaker of the House since the day nearly 30 years ago that he became chief clerk.

An expert on parliamentary law, Uncle Albert has often turned and faced the Speaker in the midst of tumult and informed that personage of some rule that would quell the uprising. His "Rap him down. He's out of order," on many occasions has cut short wrangles and debates.

Uncle Albert has not sufficiently recuperated from a recent operation to take his place in the House. He expects to be well enough to be present at the regular session, in spite of his 74 years. He is convalescing at his home in Rockville.

The liquor question is going to arouse much trouble, Uncle Albert thinks, since each county has its own ideas on how to control.

Favors Ritchie's Liquor Plan.

He declares Gov. Ritchie's plan is the best that he has heard.

Comfortably propped on pillows in his bed yesterday he told a Post representative that the present House is a pretty good body of men and one in which he has faith. He believes Republicans will not make trouble in the

session, that they will bow to the necessity of promoting the general good rather than play politics.

One reason there are not more men of great ability in the Legislature is the "paltry" pay they receive, he said.

Uncle Albert says the secret of his success is that he always "kept his mouth shut" and told what he had to say to the Speaker.

Attachment Sheet G
Almoneyn House

Born 1858
+ 74 at the time

1932 Post
Died 1939 April 81

Attachment Sheet B

Almone House

M: 26/10/19
West Montgomery H.D.



Almone House c. 1910

105 South Van Buren Street

Left to right: Miriam Almone, her youngest child
Lydia F., and her brother-in-law
Frank Almone.