

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0676659

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED APR 9 1979

DATE ENTERED

MAY 21 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

*William E. Coleman House*

AND/OR COMMON

*Nimrod Fee House*

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*500 Missouri Avenue*

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

*Deer Lodge*

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Montana*

CODE

*59722*

COUNTY

*Powell*

CODE

*077*

**CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

**PRESENT USE**

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

*Mrs. Lavada Fee*

STREET & NUMBER

*500 Missouri Avenue*

CITY, TOWN

*Deer Lodge*

VICINITY OF

STATE

*Montana*

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

*Powell County Court House*

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 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

The William Coleman house is located on the southeast corner of the junction of Missouri Avenue and Fifth Street, sharing the intersection with the William K. Kohrs Memorial Library (1902) on the north east corner, the Powell County Court-house on the northwest corner, and the Lutheran Church on the southwest corner. The Coleman house occupies a plot 120 x 96 feet and has no view restrictions except for ash, native elm, box elder and cut-leaf birch trees growing on the grounds. The east and south property lines are fenced with ornamental iron work. Originally a private residence, the Coleman house presently houses income producing apartments.

The Coleman house is a detached 2½ story Queen Anne structure with a steeply pitched gable roof. The form of the house is much less fragmented than earlier Queen Anne structures, and is generally rectangular. Its massing is interrupted only by the single story projecting verandah that wraps around the north and west side of the house, a two story bay (to the northwest) that dramatically interrupts the flow of the porch and is capped by a prominent pedimented gable, and two large brick pilastered chimneys placed diagonally across from each other on either side of the roof ridge. Compositionally, then, the building plays off sweeping horizontals against sporadic strong vertical features. The "L" shaped porch line emphasizes the first floor division; long narrow courses of Roman brick assert the second story living space; and the broad expanse of the uninterrupted roof ridge (the same height as the two story elevation below) marks the third horizontal zone. In opposition to this horizontal "repose", the two story projecting bay and pedimented dormer, the pronounced gable of the roof, and the strongly stated brick chimneys tie down the form vertically. The colors used then and now are earth tones--predominately the tan of the Roman brick and reddish-brown of the shingles and wood trim.

The superstructure rests on a 55 x 28 foot foundation. Footings were laid and a 24 inch thick native stone foundation was built. The foundation extends 4 feet below ground level and 4 feet above grade. Bases for a three-flue and two-flue chimney were provided. A brick firewall and center support bisects the basement from north to south. The quality of these supports is attested to by the fact that no window or door is out of plumb. Rough-sawn 2 x 12 inch floor joists are used on all floors. The wall construction utilizes a balloon frame of rough-sawn 2 x 4's--the longest studs running 24 ft lengths. The balloon frame is sheathed on the exterior with 2 x 6 inch tongue and groove boards, then faced with tan stretcher courses of Roman brick. On the interior, the studs received wood lath and lime plaster.

## SIGNIFICANT EXTERIOR QUEEN ANNE FEATURES

Noteworthy Queen Anne features in the Coleman house lie principally in the paneled chimneys (which assert themselves in an uninterrupted line from foundation to roofline), the steep and prominent gables (celebrating a myriad of Queen Anne motifs within the woodwork of the pediments)\*, the encircling porch (highlighted by spindled ornament), the projecting living room bay (set off by stained glass transoms), and handcrafted brick work contrasted with cut shingles.

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EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS

Paired, raised panelled golden oak doors with stained glass inserts mark the main entrance to the north of the house; it is placed off-center (in typical picturesque manner) at the top of the front porch steps. The original four sets of wooden steps have been replaced with colored concrete and wrought iron handrails. The original porch railing wooden spindles have been framed-in and covered with asbestos tile. The wooden spindle "screens" remain on the upper section of the porch, however, as do the turned columns and fan-brackets. The rear section of the porch, which is interrupted by the livingroom bay on the southwest side, has been replaced by an enclosed porch with an aluminum storm door added. Aluminum storm windows prevail throughout, to cut energy loss. The original wooden roof shingles have been replaced with a color-matching John Mansville rigid, lifetime, fire-resistant shingle. An enclosed stairway has been added to the south end of the house to reach the 2nd and 3rd floor rental spaces; these spaces were formerly reached through the 1st floor kitchen servants' stairway. An opening at the south 2nd floor level was necessary to accommodate the appended enclosed stairway. The original rear servants' stairs are intact and are still usable. One additional entry through the foundation has been made on the east side (north of center). It is covered and enclosed with a wrought iron fence and gate which is sensitive in design to the other wrought iron used on the property.

ALTERATIONS --GENERAL

The combination steam and warm air heating plant, which was found almost beyond repair, has been replaced by an efficient all steam low-pressure system. The large warm air ducts have been removed and the floor gratings replaced by matching oak flooring. The heating boiler has been relocated to make use of the inside chimney and to avoid possible brick damage caused by contact of cold brick with natural gas. The basement floor has been covered with concrete, creating usable living space. Most of the ceilings have been replastered, and 40 wall receptacles have been wired in -- there being just one original receptacle when restoration was begun in 1946. The wiring has been updated and properly fused. Five more full or half baths have been added to the single original one on the 2nd floor. The chimneys have been capped and lined.

SIGNIFICANT INTERIOR FEATURES

The double oak doors entered off the front porch mark the entry into the medieval "living hall". A vestibule provides a transitional space before entering the living hall circulation space; the vestibule is secured by a second set of golden oak doors, with large clear glass panels outlined by beveled edges. A stained glass transom is in-framed above the doors; an oak panel with a series of "Nesfield pies" intervenes

\* see more specific description in the "statement of stylistic significance in this form."

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between a terminating ogee cornice. Variations of this door format are maintained throughout the house. Brass fixtures are used throughout. The inside golden oak woodwork is found in abundance on all window and door jambs, stairwells, baseboards, and floors. The oak was milled, pre-cut and shipped to Deer Lodge from a millworks in Wisconsin. In addition there are at least 15 examples of multi-colored, lead camed stained glass windows; this interior ensemble attests to the Victorian desire to blend an array of sumptuous materials, textures and colors.

One is greeted by monumental oak stairwell in the living hall. A sculptural newel post surmounted by a carved Elizabethan acorn motif begins the run of panelled and spindled steps leading to the second floor sleeping chambers. The underside of the second run of steps utilizes raised paneled coffering. From this living hall circulation area, easy access is gained to the ample interior spaces distributed according to a free and open plan (see enclosed floor plans). Beneath the stairwell is a panelled door leading to the basement. Another single door leads off the hall (to the south) into the music room. But the major circulation flow is oriented through a six foot oak sliding double door into the parlor (or with-drawing room). Two adjoining double hung windows (sharing a single stained glass transom) provides a view out to the front porch. A carved oak mantel with imported brown tile insets frame a coal burning fireplace on the west wall of the parlor. A six foot sliding double door leads to the living room. This door has been completely removed. The livingroom space has a projecting polygonal bay which interrupts the porch lines on the exterior. Access to the porch, however, may be gained by either of two doors. The oak framed doors (on either side of the bay) use 75 small clear glass panes (each four inches square) set in brass cames. There is a frosted etched glass transom over each door. There are two narrow one-over-one windows on either side of a large fixed plate glass window that lets in sunlight on the west wall projecting bay. The large center window has a stained glass transom inset with clear bevelled glass. Two swinging oak doors lead to the dining room on the south wall; these have been removed and a single oak door has been installed.

The dining room (now a bedroom) has oak Wainscoting three feet high. The built-in 6 x 7 foot oak china closet has been moved to the south wall of the original music room which now serves as the dining space. The front porch originally continued along the west wall of the dining room, but was removed prior to 1946. The porch has been replaced, glazed and roofed.

As mentioned, the music room (located to the east of the living room) has been converted to a dining room. A doorway has been cut through the south wall to gain access to the kitchen.

The kitchen is still located off the servants' stairway (which has been straightened) to the south of the building and makes use of an original outside door on the south wall. The kitchen has been made all electric and has added space to the southwest for a pantry.

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The Kitchen ceiling has been lowered three feet but done in such a manner as to be reversable.

The master bedroom is located on the second floor immediately to the right of the living hall stairs. The stairwell is lit by one-over-one stained glass windows with central clear glass inserts. The bedroom extends across the north wall of the 2nd floor and steps out onto an open balcony now enclosed with glass. A half bath has been installed in the original clothes closet. The west wall has a fireplace of rosewood and imported blue tile. All of the woodwork on the 2nd floor is pine and is presently painted. The floors are of soft wood.

The center bedroom on the east side of the 2nd floor has had a door added on the south wall making the adjoining bathrooms more accessable. This second floor bathroom has been completely modernized.

The chamber on the southeast corner of the house was originally the maid's bedroom and was entered easily from the rear servants' stairs. This room presently serves as a kitchen.

The second floor west bedroom (likely serving Coleman's daughter and son-in-law), originally had a doorway adjoining the master bedroom. This door has been sealed and this room now functions as a 2nd floor living room.

The second floor southwest bedroom has been enlarged by removing the wall between it and the long hallway. A clothes closet has been moved from the south wall to the north wall. The maple floor border has been replaced and a lavatory added to this bedroom.

The attic space is now entered via an added enclosed stairway and has been converted into apartment space. It is heated by the basement steam plant, but is otherwise quite independent of the house. It originally had exposed ceiling rafters (until 1946) and probably served as a storage area. It has its own electrical circuits and fuses. Two non-original stained glass windows have been added.

Hence, while several changes have taken place within this structure to effectively re-use it as income property, the changes have been relatively minor in scope and generally reversable. The structure still largely functions in a domestic capacity and its immediately recognizable Queen Anne features have not been compromised by the changes initiated since 1946.

# 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/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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1892

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Ameryre and Thorie

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The William Coleman House in Deer Lodge, Montana portrays the general desire of successful businessmen of the last quarter of the nineteenth-century to construct a stately yet comfortable home. Such a structure as the Coleman house was intended to make a significant architectural statement which would acknowledge the owner's elevated station in life. The Coleman house, today as then, makes that architectural statement.

Constructed in 1892, by architects Ameryre and Thori, the Coleman House embodies the distinctive characteristics of the English manorial style (or Norman Shaw Queen Anne) ushered into this country in 1874 by H.H. Richardson's Watts Sherman House in Newport, Rhode Island. The ample interior spaces and dramatic exterior features speak equally to the Victorian concerns for leisure informality and social amenity. This functional dualism between comfort and social custom was enthusiastically exploited in Queen Anne structures, and contributes to making the style popular among prosperous bankers, businessmen and physicians in small towns across the country. William Coleman, a prosperous businessman, recognized the prestige element inherent in owning a large Queen Anne home in the center of town.

William Coleman was born at Germantown, Ohio, where he attended school until March, 1864. He then enlisted in the 131st Ohio infantry in the War Between the States, but was sent home after being wounded. After his recovery, he learned the trade of blacksmith, and started West in April, 1866; he arrived at Alder Gulch and Virginia City in July of that year. After prospecting for gold at several places in the territory, he spent some time at Bannack before moving on to Last Chance Gulch diggings at Helena, where he was among the first men to successfully work the main channel of the Creek. He remained in Helena until being injured in a mine accident, and upon recovering, sold his holdings in July, 1871 and came to Deer Lodge, Montana.

Once settled in Deer Lodge, William Coleman became an active member of the community. Among his many activities he was a member of the Deer Lodge Fire Department in 1875, and (with the aid of his son, Joseph) brought the first gravity water system to Deer Lodge. Mr. Coleman, while maintaining small mining interests such as grubstaking, was to realize his major economic success in the field of merchandizing. In October of 1871, he purchased a stock of goods and opened a general merchandise establishment under the name of William Coleman and Company. This building still remains on the main street of Deer Lodge. The store was later converted into a specialty business selling notions, jewelry,

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Specifications of Residence for William Coleman, Esq., DeerLodge, Montana, Ameryro and Thori, Architects, St. Paul, Minn. and West Superior, Wisconsin."  
History of Montana 1739-1885, "William Coleman", Beers & Co. Chicago, Ill., 1885

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .264 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Deer Lodge, MT UTC

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES 9 50 5 75

A 1, 2 3 6 4 8 7 9 5 1 3 2 9 5 7 1

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

*Lots 1, 2, 3, and No. 6 ft lot 4 Block 16 original Townsite*

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

*Nimrod Fee, owner/restorer 1946-76*

NAME / TITLE

*edited by Kingston Heath, State Architectural Historian*

ORGANIZATION

*State Historic Preservation*

DATE

*March 26, 1979*

STREET & NUMBER

*225 North Roberts*

TELEPHONE

*406-449-4584*

CITY OR TOWN

*Helena,*

STATE

*Montana*

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Kent Smith*

TITLE

*S.H.P.O.*

DATE

*4/2/79*

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*[Signature]*

DATE

*5-21-79*

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*William H. Britnam*

*5-16-79*

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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houseware, cosmetics, confections, select groceries. As the business grew, it required the services of a jeweler and watch maker; Joseph Mulcahy filled this position and later became Mr. Coleman's son-in-law.

In 1887, in pursuing his desire for a home, Mr. Coleman acquired lots 1 and 2 of block 16 in the original township of Deer Lodge from the E.L. Bonner Company. By 1891 this property was added to; Coleman purchased the adjoining lot 3 and the north 6 feet of lot 4 from Peter Lansing, a local resident. Later in 1891, he contracted with the firm Ameryro and Thori, architects of St. Paul and West Superior, Wisconsin, to build the home which now stands.

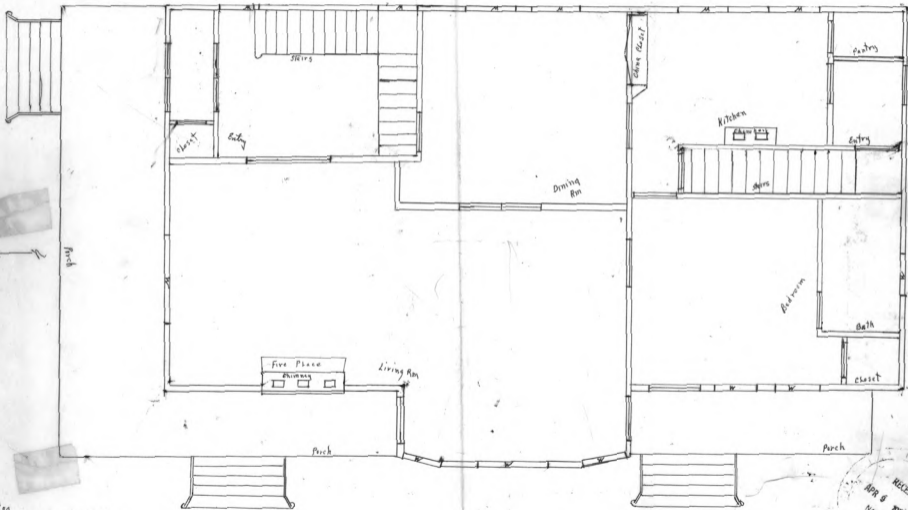
Mr. and Mrs. Coleman lived one block from the new home construction site and kept a close watch on the builders. No drawings or prints are available, but 20 pages of specifications referring to original material, costs and quality are preserved in the house. William and Lucy Coleman moved into the commodious structure with the Mulcahy's in 1892. Alice Mulcahy survived her parents and husband, and in July, 1946, sold the home to Nimrod Fee, who adapted the Coleman house to rental apartments and family living spaces. In 1974 the house became the property of the present owners, Mrs. Lavada Fee, wife, and Dennis Mellang, grandson.



Today, the Coleman house remains a fine example of a substantial, free standing Queen Anne domestic structure that, despite its adaptive re-use as an apartment complex, retains its stylistic integrity. A generous porch embraces the house in typical Victorian manner--underlining the period's concern for interacting with nature. This picturesque feature is defined compositionally by horizontal bands of lattice work below, and spindle "screens" above -- both popular Japanese references found in Queen Anne work. Other significant design features on the porch entry, alone, present a medley of exotic historical associations sought after as part of Victorian eclecticism: a Moorish horseshoe arch rises above the entry stairs, Jacobean pendant drops assert themselves at the crown of the arch, classical modillions lend support to a pediment which encloses Japanese-inspired sun rays and spindle pin wheel motifs.

Further elements place this structure firmly within the 19th century English manor house tradition. The separation of various structural layers by changes in texture, materials and color is maintained in the Coleman house, principally in the use of cut shingles and molded brick decorative accents. The concern for expressed craft technique (popularized by the English aesthetic movement) is demonstrated, here, particularly well in the medieval-style brick pilastered chimneys' decorative metal work surmounting the steeply pitched gothic roof, the abundance of stained glass, and the quality interior woodwork celebrated especially in the medieval living hall.

Hence the Coleman house maintains today, as in 1892, the distinctive characteristics of a substantial Queen Anne domestic structure. As the only well-preserved Victorian home left in Deer Lodge, and the surrounding area, the William Coleman House is suitably located on the same corner as the 1902 William K. Kohrs Memorial Library--also seeking National Register designation.

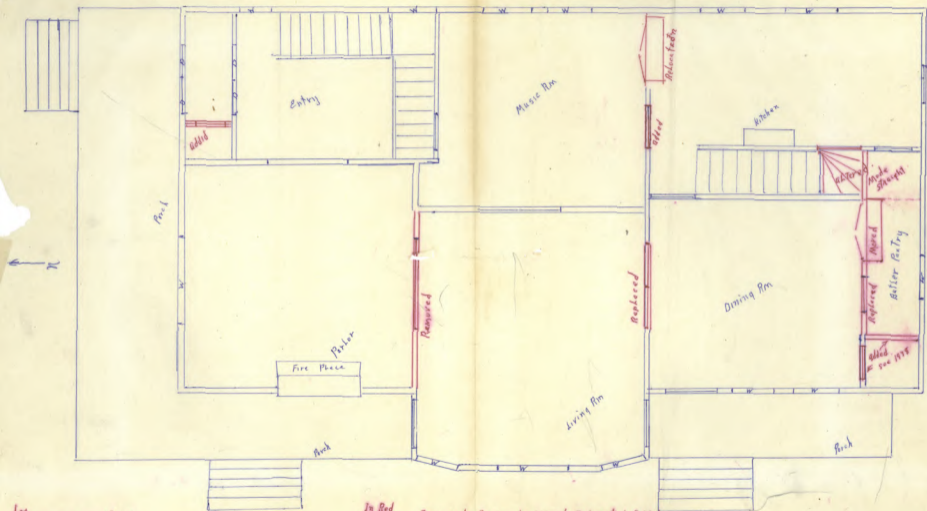




Scale App  $\frac{1}{2}$ " = 1'  
 Doors   
 Windows 



1979 1651 - 1000





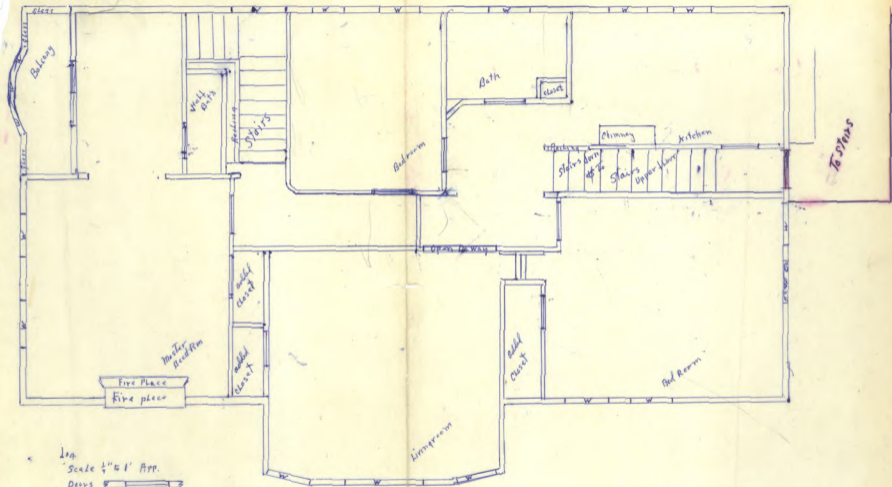
In Red Removed, Replaced - Altered - Reheated - Added  
See 1978 drawing



Scale Apr  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$

Doors   
Windows 

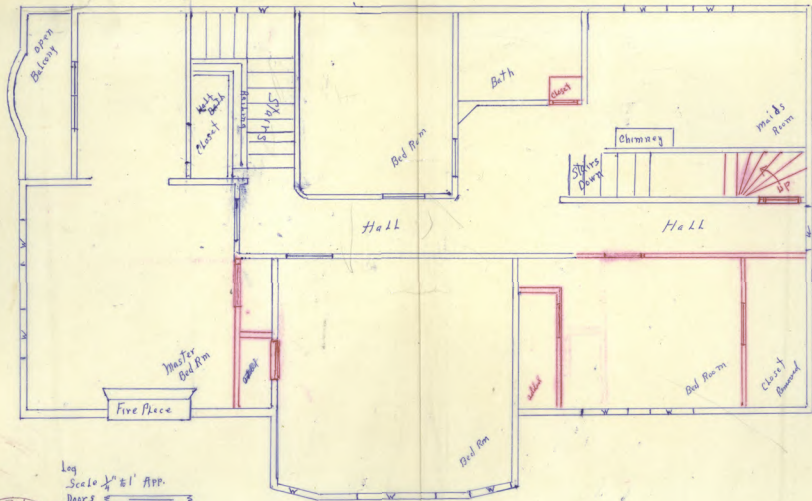
1892 - 1946



1st Floor B



Log  
 Scale  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'$  App.  
 Doors   
 Windows 

1978 2nd Floor Approx



Log  
 Scale  $\frac{1}{4}$ " = 1' APP.  
 Doors   
 Windows 

1892  
 1946

2nd Floor B.

Red - Removed - Replaced - Altered - Relocated - Added  
 See 1978 drawing

