

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form** 29

1. Name of Property

historic name Snyder, Benjamin H., House

other names/site number M-236

2. Location

street & number 1925 Douglas Grove Road not for publication N/A

city or town Martinsburg vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Berkeley code 003 zip code 25401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Susan M. Luce, DSHPO 12/9/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

Susan H. Bell
Signature of the Keeper

2/11/04
Date of Action

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>		sites
<u>1</u>		structures
<u>4</u>	<u>2</u>	objects
		Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC secondary structure
- LANDSCAPE/object
- RECREATION/CULTURE/commemorative marker

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/ secondary structure
- LANDSCAPE/object
- RECREATION/CULTURE/commemorative marker

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- LATE 19TH & EARLY 20TH C. AMERICAN
- MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation STONE/limestone
- walls STUCCO; CONCRETE; WOOD
- roof ASPHALT
- other CONCRETE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Refer to Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

c. 1925

Significant Dates

c. 1925

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Criteria Considerations

Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or a grave.

D a cemetery.

E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

F a commemorative property.

G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Snyder, Benjamin H., builder

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository:
Berkeley County (WV) Historic Landmark Commission

Snyder, Benjamin H., House
Name of Property

Berkeley County, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

U. S. G. S. Quad map: Martinsburg, West Virginia

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>18</u>	<u>2246960</u>	<u>4367840</u>	3		
2				4		

N/A See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description

(See Continuation Sheet)

Boundary Justification

(See Continuation Sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc. date March, 2003

street & number 9 Walnut Street telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white** photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Susan Goodman

street & number 1925 Douglas Grove Road telephone 304-262-4872

city or town Martinsburg state WV zip code 25401

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7. Description

The Benjamin Snyder House (Resource No. 1; Photos 1-14) is located the west side of Douglas Grove Road, in the Arden District of Berkeley County, on the west bank of Opequon Creek, approximately two miles southeast of Martinsburg, in West Virginia's eastern panhandle. The Snyder House is a c. 1925 1½-story Arts-and-Crafts-style Bungalow (Photos 1-6). The nominated parcel includes six resources, four of which contribute to the character of the nominated property: the house (Photos 1-6), a historic concrete block garage located immediately south of the house (Resource No. 2; Photos 5, 13), a retaining wall east of the house along Douglas Grove Road (Resource No. 3; Photos 1, 2, 5), and a commemorative marker on the west shore of Opequon Creek along Douglas Grove Road (Resource No. 6; Photo 15), memorializing an eighteenth-century ford spanning Opequon Creek. A modern garage (Resource No. 4) and a small modern shed (Resource No. 5; Photo 14) are non-contributing features. The Benjamin House retains unimpaired integrity in all of its qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The Benjamin Snyder House is of concrete construction, with weatherboard-finished wood frame gables and the balance of the surfaces finished in stucco. The house is capped with a laterally-oriented asphalt shingle-clad gable roof and three-bay shed dormers on both the facade (east elevation) and rear (west) elevation. The Snyder House rests on a raised foundation of coursed rock-faced limestone, above which is a water table of brick arranged in a soldier course (Photo 3). Typical of the Bungalow, the laterally-oriented gable roof sweeps forward beyond the plane of the house and shields a recessed arcaded front porch which extends across the facade. The porch is accessed by a masonry stair with brick sides and an aggregate cap finished in cobblestone. The porch is supported by slightly battered stucco piers resting on red brick bases which rise to the level of the porch floor; the piers define the porch into three bays on the facade and one bay each on the north and south elevation (Photos 1, 2). The porch balustrade consists of red brick arranged in a decorative pattern. All fenestration is flat-topped, with one-over-one sash, set singly and in groups, without notable ornament. Exterior step-shouldered brick chimneys rise along both gable-end elevations (Photos 3, 6), serving the furnace and interior fireplaces. The main entrance to the property is centered on the facade and a secondary entrance opens into a "mud room" near the south west corner of the house (Photo 6). The rear of the house may have originally contained an open porch along all or part of this elevation; this elevation, now completely enclosed, is penetrated by some small windows and a pair of two-over-two windows on the west wall. This modification is on a secondary elevation, may have occurred during the period of significance, and does not detract significantly from the ability of the property to faithfully

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reflect its appearance during the period of significance.

The interior of the Snyder House (Photos 7-12) contains a partially-finished basement, and four rooms each on the first and second story. A dining room and living room are along the front of the house; the kitchen is at the rear. Rising from the living room is an open straight-run stair (Photos 7, 8) with a modest balustrade and newel characteristic of the 1920s. The principal rooms have hard wood floors; the baseboards and door and window surrounds are of painted wood, typified by simply molded profiles. Two fireplaces are on the first story; the living room fireplace is centered in the room, while that of the dining room is in the northwest corner of the room. Mantles on both fireplaces are original and of unpainted red brick. The second story plan incorporates a central hall with a stair balustrade (Photos 11, 12), hardwood floors, trim matching that on the first story, simply-detailed bedrooms, and a bathroom.

The Snyder House occupies a tract of 0.8 acres in rural Berkeley County. The house is sited on a rise above the grade of Douglas Grove Road. A distinctive feature of the site is the retaining wall which extends across much of the west right-of-way of Douglas Grove Road (Photos 1, 2, 5). The wall is finished in rusticated concrete block and has a centered stair aligned with the steps leading to the front porch of the house. Immediately south of the house is a garage set deep into the bank along Douglas Grove Road and capped with a concrete roof which serves as a patio (Photo 13). The exposed portions of the east end walls of the garage are finished in cobblestones set into concrete. Immediately behind the house is a small prefabricated wood shed (Photo 6) and north of the garage/patio is a 1½-story modern garage (Photo 14). Both the small shed and the newer garage date from outside the period of significance of the property and are noncontributing features within the context of the nomination.

The nominated parcel extends to the shore of Opequon Creek. Along the east side of Douglas Grove Road, between the cartway and the creek, is an undated stylized obelisk of concrete which memorializes an eighteenth century ford which crossed the Opequon River (Photo 15). This contributing object includes a horseshoe motif at the top of its face, beneath which is a smooth-finished recessed area bearing the following inscription:

THIS TABLET MARKS THE SPOT WHERE THE OLD PACK HORSE FORD CROSSED
THE OPEQUON RIVER. THIS WAS THE FIRST ROAD BUILT IN THE COUNTY. BUILT
1727-1728. ABOUT FOUR HUNDRED YARDS NORTH OF THIS SPOT ON THE EAST
SIDE OF THE CREEK IS THE LOCATION OF THE JOHN EVANS FORT BUILT IN THE

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YEAR 1765-1766.

The following resources are contained within the nominated tract; numbers refer to the sketch map included with the nomination:

1. Benjamin Snyder House, residential

Description: 1½-story stucco-over-concrete Bungalow with laterally-oriented gable roof and recessed front porch, typical of the style

Date: c. 1925

1 contributing building

2. Garage & rooftop patio, residential dependency

Description: masonry garage built into a hillside, with a flat roof of concrete which serves as a patio

Date: c. 1925

1 contributing building

3. Retaining wall, landscape object

Description: masonry wall extending along Douglas Grove Road, finished in rock-faced concrete block

Date: c. 1925

1 contributing structure

4. Garage, residential dependency

Description: 1-story gable-end-oriented wood frame garage with a shed-roofed section on the north and an overhead door in the east gable end

Date: c. 1980

1 non-contributing building

5. Prefabricated wood shed, residential dependency

Description: single-story prefabricated wood shed, built outside the period of significance of the property

Date: c. 1990

1 non-contributing building

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6. Old Pack Horse Ford commemorative marker, commemorative object

Description: concrete obelisk commemorating site of an eighteenth-century crossing of Opequon Creek

Date: c. 1940

1 contributing object

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8. Significance

The 1925 Benjamin Snyder House (Berkeley County Historic Sites Survey No. M-236) meets National Register Criterion C and is significant on the local level for *architecture*, as a locally-distinctive example of the Bungalow, a style of design within the broader context of the Arts-and-Crafts movement which originated in Britain late in the nineteenth century and flourished in the United States with the rise of a variety of popular design modes including the Bungalow. The property's period of significance is c. 1925, corresponding to the approximate date of construction.

The Snyder House stands on Douglas Grove Road, which was originally part of the Packhorse Ford Road, a mid-eighteenth-century overland route extending from the Potomac River, southeast of Shepherdstown, westward through Berkeley County. This early thoroughfare is commemorated by a masonry obelisk which stands in front of the house along the creek bank. The road was also known as Strode Meeting House Road, since it led from the Strode Mansion House on the present site of the municipal airport, to Shepherdstown. The present name derives from an African-American settlement which developed southwest of the Newcomer Dam on Opequon Creek and became known as Douglas Grove.

From the time of its construction until the death of its original owner nearly forty years later, the nominated property was the home of Benjamin Harvey Snyder (1884-1964), a Berkeley County native who was a local concrete mason and worked for the Newton D. Baker Veterans' Hospital. His father, J. Walpher Snyder (1842-1922) was a miller by trade and had first married Laura Newcomer. Following Laura Snyder's death, in 1869 Walpher Snyder wed Lucy Louise Gorrell. Benjamin Snyder was born at the Newcomers Dam on Opequon Creek and grew up on the land owned by his parents, whereon he eventually built his house. At the age of twenty, in 1904, Ben Snyder wed Lottie Triggs. It is not known where they spent their early life together, but in 1918 the couple paid \$1,000 for a 16-acre tract along the Opequon Creek which by then had been subdivided by the Hart-Clothan Company. County tax records suggest that they erected their new home c. 1925. Snyder selected one of the most popular contemporary styles from the 1920s for his new home. In addition to its clear reference to a popular design mode, the property reflects the skill of its owner and the obvious pride which Snyder took in his own abilities. Although employed at the hospital, he was known as one who practiced the mason's craft; he finished his home in stucco, which he embellished with decorative brickwork. Not content with just building a comfortable stuccoed home, Snyder also erected a substantial retaining

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wall along Douglas Grove Road, which he finished in rusticated concrete block, and built a partly-underground garage with a concrete roof which doubled as patio. Benjamin Snyder was likely responsible for the concrete commemorative obelisk across the road from his house, but this fact has not been substantiated. Likewise, Snyder may have been responsible for the construction of other buildings in the area, but this has not been confirmed.

Benjamin Snyder lived here until his death in 1964. His widow sold the house in May of 1964, seven months before her death.

The National Register Criterion C significance of the Benjamin Snyder House is established by its position as a representative example of the Bungalow-style of design in eastern West Virginia. The Bungalow became a leading American house type in America during the years between the World Wars and is among the predominant Berkeley County house types of its era. Seen in town and country alike, Bungalows were constructed in large numbers across America during the 1920s and 1930s, with a few built as late as the mid-1940s. Some Bungalows were architect-designed, others were the product of anonymous builders, and still others were marketed through mail order catalogs such as those produced by national firms such as Sears and Roebuck, Montgomery Ward, and Aladdin, along with others disseminated by catalogs from regional and local vendors (Fig. 1). A specific correlation between these sources and the Snyder House has been investigated but has not been established.

Bungalows are minimally represented in the survey documents of the Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission. The majority of Berkeley County Bungalows are comparatively modestly-scaled and were built for the middle class. In general, they are simple and straightforward in design and boxlike in form, utilizing readily available building materials. Some Bungalows include subdued stylistic references to the Arts-and-Crafts movement, such as exposed rafter tails, vertical window muntins, and battered porch support posts. Typical alterations to many Berkeley County Bungalows include the replacement of historic wood windows, the application of non-historic (primarily vinyl) siding, and the enclosure of character-defining front porches. Such alterations have not been made to the Snyder House, which retains a high degree of integrity. The nominated property is restrained in its ornament, but clearly is a well-preserved, minimally-altered example of this popular style of design from the first half of the twentieth century, and, as described in the West Virginia Historic Property Inventory, possesses "uncommon architectural merit."

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As part of the Section 106 environmental review process for a federally-funded highway project, the eligibility of the Benjamin Snyder House for the National Register was determined by the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer in a September 19, 1996 opinion which was affirmed by the Keeper of the National Register on July 24, 1998.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission Historic Resource Survey. Martinsburg: Berkeley County Historic Landmarks Commission.

Land Records, Berkeley County, West Virginia.

Michael Baker, Jr., Inc. Section 106 environmental review of proposed relocation of West Virginia Highway 9. Pittsburgh: Michael Baker, Jr., Inc., 1996.

Lowe, Elizabeth Snyder. "The Roots and Branches of the Snyder Tree." HBP, Inc. 1997.

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10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Containing Berkeley County tax parcel A11/19.1, containing a total of 0.84 acres and described in Berkeley County Deed Book 686, Page 533.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundary of this nomination consists only of that area historically associated with the Benjamin Snyder House, including its historic garage, the retaining wall in front of the property and the commemorative marker along the road which is part of the parcel which extends eastward to the middle of Opequon Creek.

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Section Number Photo Log Page 10

PHOTOGRAPH LOG

All Photographs:

Snyder, Benjamin, House

Berkeley County, West Virginia

Photographer: David L. Taylor

Date: 2002

Negatives filed at: West Virginia SHPO
 Charleston, West Virginia

1. Benjamin Snyder House, facade, looking west, showing siting of house and the retaining wall along Douglas Grove Road
2. Northeast perspective, looking southwest, showing overall character of property, exterior finishes, porch, chimney on north elevation, etc.
3. Southeast perspective, looking northwest, showing stucco-finished exterior surfaces and wood frame gables, fenestration, porch, rubble stone foundation, etc.
4. Facade, detail, showing decorative brick steps leading to porch, northwest perspective, view northwest.
5. East perspective of site, looking west, showing underground garage with patio roof, retaining wall, main house, etc.
6. Southwest perspective, looking northeast, showing rear elevation and dormer and small noncontributing shed immediately behind the house
7. Interior, view of stair in livingroom, looking northwest
8. Interior, view from diningroom past main door and into livingroom, looking southeast
9. Livingroom, looking east, showing overall finishes, fireplace, etc.
10. Diningroom, looking northwest, showing corner fireplace, finishes, etc.
11. Second story, hallway, looking east, showing balustrade around stairwell, hard wood floors, finishes, volume, etc.
12. Second story hallway, looking west, showing finishes, volume, etc.
13. View of underground garage, showing retaining wall and rooftop patio, looking northwest.

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14. New garage, looking northeast, with house in background
15. Commemorative marker memorializing an eighteenth-century ford of the Opequon Creek, located across Douglas Grove Road east of the House, view looking east

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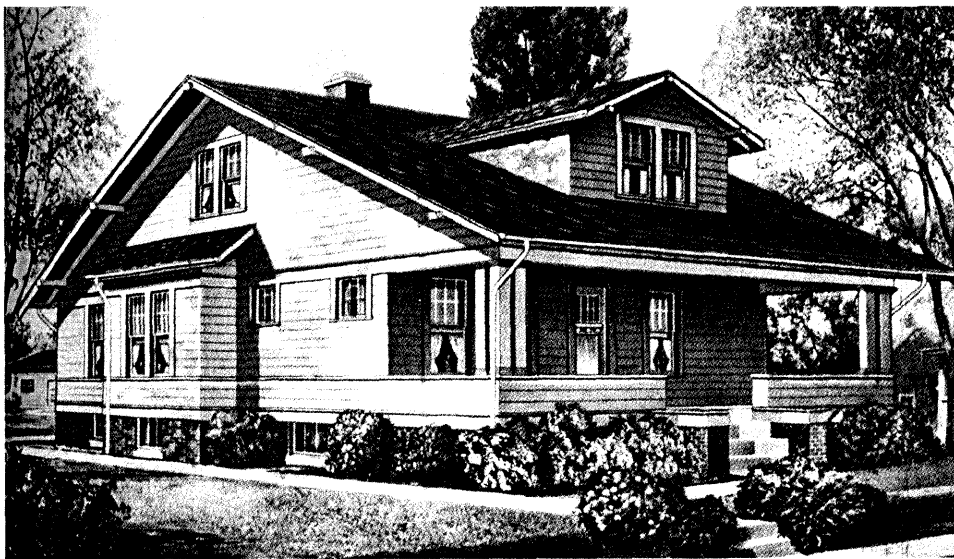


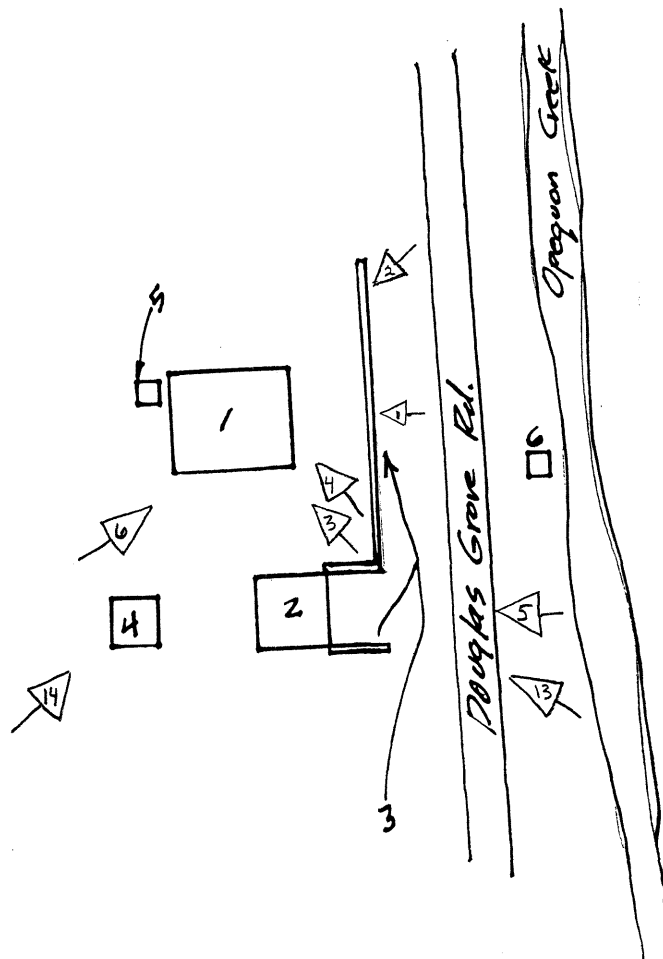
Fig. 1 Illustrated above are two mail-order catalog Bungalows similar in design to the Snyder House. The top property, marketed as “The Bison” model, appeared in the 1920 catalog advertising the “Better-Built Ready-Cut” Bennet Homes marketed by the Ray H. Bennet Lumber Company of North Tonawanda, New York. The lower illustration is of “The Sheridan,” and appeared in the 1925 catalog of “Honor Bilt” homes produced by Sears, Roebuck and Company.

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Sketch map

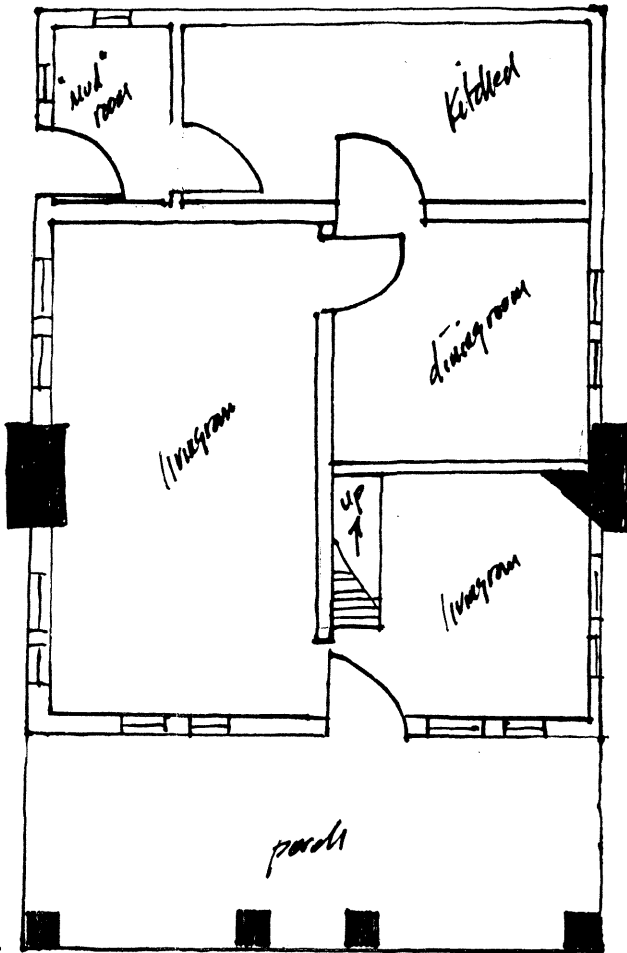
Not to scale

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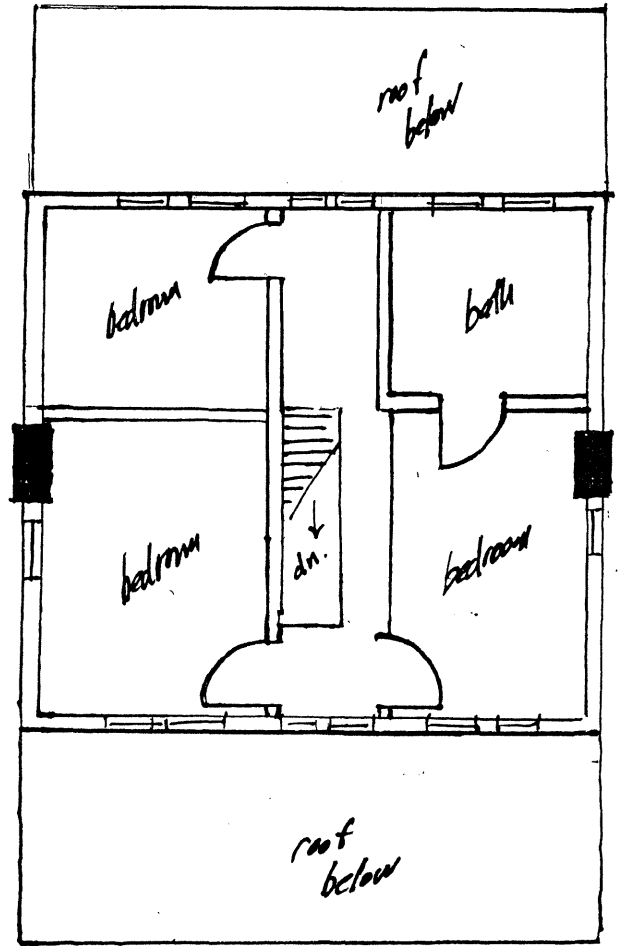
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First floor



Second floor

N →

Not to scale