

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Purcell-Killingsworth ~~Home~~ House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number Main Street (AL Hwy. 95) .3 miles N. of AL Hwy. 52 N/A not for publication

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of congressional district 2

state Alabama code 01 county Houston code 069

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>N/A</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Henry P. and Maude L. Killingsworth

street & number P. O. Box 297 Main Street

city, town Columbia N/A vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Houston County Courthouse Henry County Courthouse

street & number 100 N. Oates Street Court Square, Abbeville, AL

city, town Dothan state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Site Inventory Houston County has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date August, 1978 federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

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 Purcell-Killingworth House has been altered slightly from its original appearance. It is a two-story Queen Anne style building with a central octagonal turret. The house is rectangular in plan with a porch across the east side. A smaller porch or balcony is situated on the second floor to the right of the octagonal turret. At one time, four slender columns and two engaged columns of similar proportions gave support to the curved porch roof. These columns were connected by turned balusters. Sawtoothed gingerbread ornamented the porch frieze while cut-out brackets were used at the top of the columns where they connected with the porch cornice. Today these columns have been replaced with decorative iron columns which are mounted on brick bases. The original wooden porch floor has been removed in favor of poured concrete. In addition, concrete steps have been placed on the east side of the house directly in front of the entrance and the porch roof squared off. The original wooden steps entered the porch from the north, to the left or east of the front entrance. Massive newel posts flanked either side of the front porch steps. Three-inch wide beaded vertical panelling is found from the front entrance all the way around the porch. This panelling is met by a baseboard at the porch floor.

Three-inch wide weatherboards are used on the house. These boards are unique in that they have a rounded edge. Shutters once flanked all the windows, but they have been removed. Windows are six over nine around the base of the turret and are four over four around the third or last tier of the turret. The remaining windows are all six over six with the exception of a small four over four first floor window on the northeast side of the house. Bulls eye corner block molding is used at the top of the four windows around the turret base. The second and third tiers of the octagonal turret are accented with an imbricated shingle pattern. Rectangular panelling stretches around the base of the second turret tier. A finial crowns the apex of the turret. The roof on the main part of the house is slate while the turret is covered with composition shingles. Two truncated gables, on the northeast and southeast sides of the house add an unusual look to the hipped roof.

The porch at the rear of the house has been enclosed for use as a den. The ceiling has been covered with Celutex panels. A fireplace at the southwest corner of the house has been removed. It originally heated two rooms upstairs. A large bathroom on the first floor has been reduced in size for use as a bath, hall and storage room. A door formerly exited to the back porch from this room, but has been boarded over. The central hall which led to the back porch has also been reduced in width. A portion of this space is now used for a bath. The original kitchen is still being used as a kitchen although the fireplace in this room has been removed. A pass-through or serving window from the former dining room (now a guest bedroom) has been closed. The ceiling in the kitchen is three-inch wide beaded tongue and groove panelling. A wainscot with two-and-three-quarter inch wide beaded tongue and groove panelling is also found in the kitchen.

The other interior features of the house have been changed very little. The master bedroom on the first floor has a coal burning fireplace with an oak mantel. A closet is situated to the right of the fireplace. A dark panelled wainscot encircles the room. A transom with bulls eye corner block molding is above the pine door leading into the hall. The five and one-quarter inch pine floors have been treated with polyurethane. The ceiling is covered with white Celutex panels.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

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The downstairs guest bedroom also has a wainscot with beaded tongue and groove panelling. A nine-inch high baseboard is found in this room and other first floor rooms. The guest bedroom also has a Celutex panelled ceiling. The parlor or living room is accented with dark oak wainscot panelling. A hat and coat closet is situated under the stairwell. The front door is decorated with thirty panes of colored glass which surround a central glass panel. Above the door is a transom with colored glass panes.

The first floor octagonal parlor has three-inch wide pine tongue and groove panelling on the ceiling. The same type of panelling is used for the wainscot which is 37 1/2 inches high. The baseboard is thirteen inches high. This room was heated with a coal burning fireplace. The mantel is oak. Transoms are situated above all the windows in the room. The octagonal room on the second floor is now being used for storage. The third octagonal tier room is attic space.

By comparison with the first floor the upstairs area of the Purcell-Killingsworth House is very plain. Wainscoting is used in the central hall. Simple molding is used in stark contrast to the heavy elaborate molding found downstairs. Bulls eye corner block molding is used around the two pane transoms of the five hall doors. The door to the original upstairs bath has no transom. The bathroom window on the southwest side of the house has been reduced in size. In addition, a closet has been built in one corner of this bath. The upstairs ceiling is three-inch wide beaded tongue and groove panelling. The fireplace connecting the two upstairs bedrooms on the north side of the house has been removed and the space is being used as a closet.

Plain plaster walls are found upstairs while virtually all the rooms downstairs have wall paper. All wallpaper was applied after 1946 when the Killingsworths purchased the house. Cross and bible (four panel) doors are used throughout the house. The doors and mantels are all pine with the exceptions already noted. No original lighting fixtures remain in the house. Drop-cords were found in the house when the Killingsworths took possession. Almost all the original brass door knobs remain in the building. The house now has four working fireplaces. The ceilings downstairs are 13 feet 6 inches high while the ones upstairs are 10 feet high. The porch roof extends 10 feet 6 inches from the floor. The house sets on brick piers and has three to four feet of crawl space. The only outbuildings known to exist were a smokehouse and cow barn. Both have been torn down. At one time there were huge oak trees along the street, but they have been removed because of disease.

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1889-1890 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Purcell-Killingsworth House is significant for its associations with William Henry Purcell, (1845-1910) a leading businessman in Columbia and later a local politician. The house is also important as the finest residential structure in this small town. A good example of simplified Victorian tastes, it is one of only two residential structures in the area which are two stories high, and consequently, is an important feature in this town.

* * * * *

William Henry Purcell moved to Alabama from North Carolina shortly after the Civil War and settled on land purchased by his father, Malcolm, immediately preceding the war. Shortly thereafter, W. H. Purcell embarked upon a variety of careers that would mark him as one of Columbia's leading businessmen. During his 45 years in Columbia, he operated the principal river landing and its associated warehouse, and was involved in the planting, cotton, insurance, drayage and hotel business. Purcell served as a Columbia City Councilman in 1886 and as a Commissioner for neighboring Henry County from 1885 to 1888. In 1894 & again in 1898, Purcell was elected as a delegate to the Democratic County Executive Committee representing Beat 4. At the height of his business successes he decided to build a home suitable for his stage in life and large enough to accommodate his large family. The land on which the house was built was purchased from James H. and Mary L. Hooten on November 20th, 1883 for \$800. Construction began in late summer of 1889 and continued through the winter.

The house and property were owned by the Purcell Estate until sold to Henry P. and Maude L. Killingsworth on January 9, 1946. The house is also noted as the boyhood home of Bishop Clare Purcell(1884-1964). In 1938, he was elected a Bishop at the last General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South in Birmingham. He served the Charlotte, North Carolina area until 1948 and the Birmingham, Alabama area until he retired in 1956. In 1955 he was elected President of teh Council of Bishops, the highest place of recognition ever reached by a native born Alabama Methodist preacher.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Killingsworth, Maude, Personal Interview 6-26-81
2. Historic Site Survey, Houston County, 8, 1978
3. History of Methodism in Alabama and West Florida by Marion Elias Lazenby, 1960
4. Columbia Enterprise. Sept. 19, 1889, Oct. 24, 1889, Nov. 21, 1889, April 3, 1890

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 2

Quadrangle name Columbia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	6	6	7	9	7	8	0	3	4	6	3	8	7	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

Zone				Easting				Northing						

E

Zone				Easting				Northing						

F

Zone				Easting				Northing						

G

Zone				Easting				Northing						

H

Zone				Easting				Northing						

Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing at the Southeast corner of R. H. Walker's lot (formerly the J. C. Bryan lot) and running West along said Walker line 420 feet, thence South 210 feet, thence East 420 feet to Broad Street, thence 210 feet along said street to the starting point, containing two acres more or less.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

Historic Chattahoochee Commission

name/title Douglas Clare Purcell, and Ellen Mertins

organization ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION date October 20, 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621 or

city or town Montgomery state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

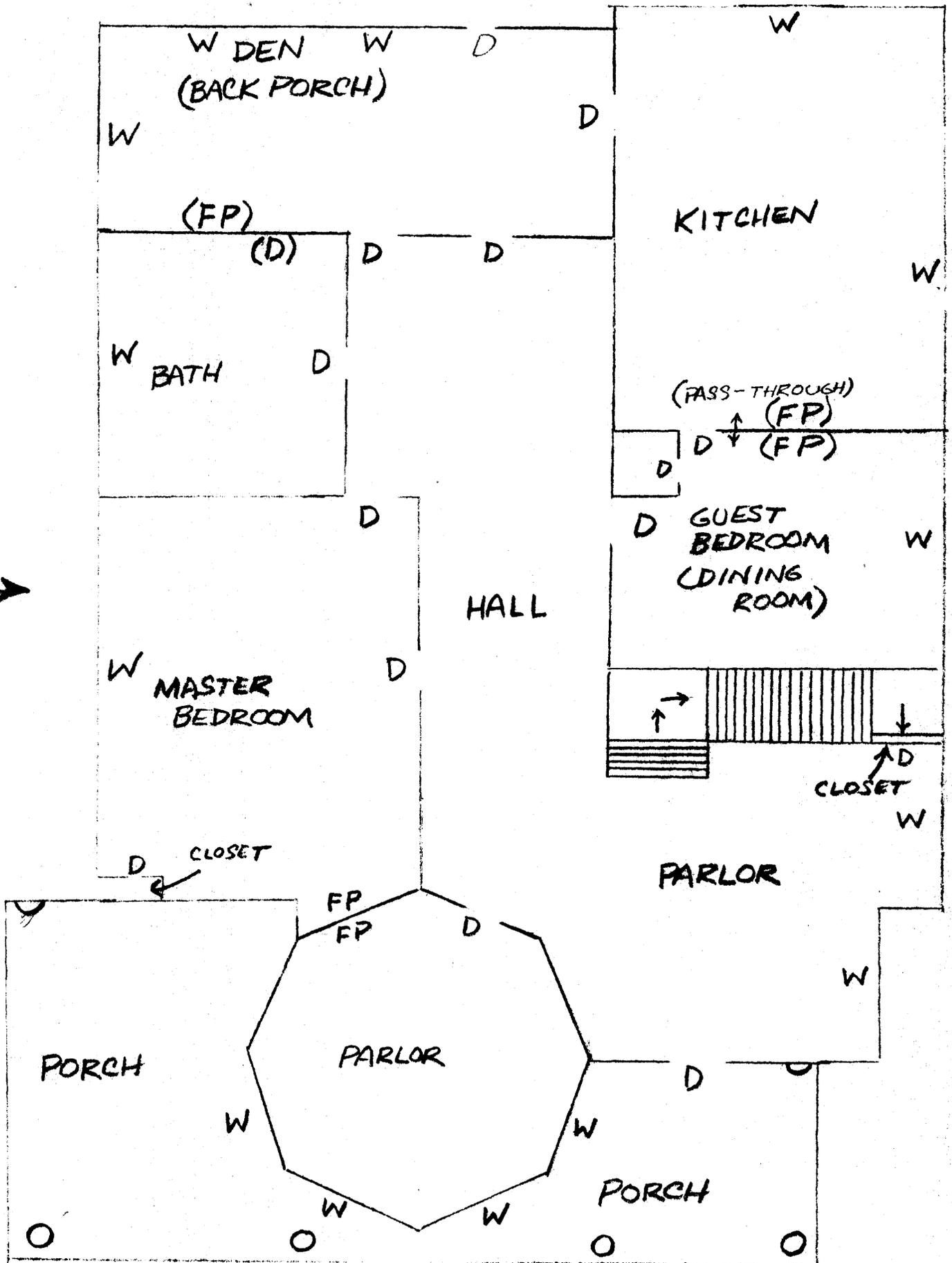
national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *Douglas Clare Purcell*

title State Historic Preservation Officer date November 10, 1982

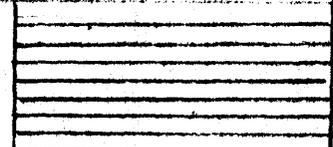
For HCRS use only I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u><i>William Byers</i></u> Keeper of the National Register	Entered in the National Register date <u><i>12/16/82</i></u>
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	



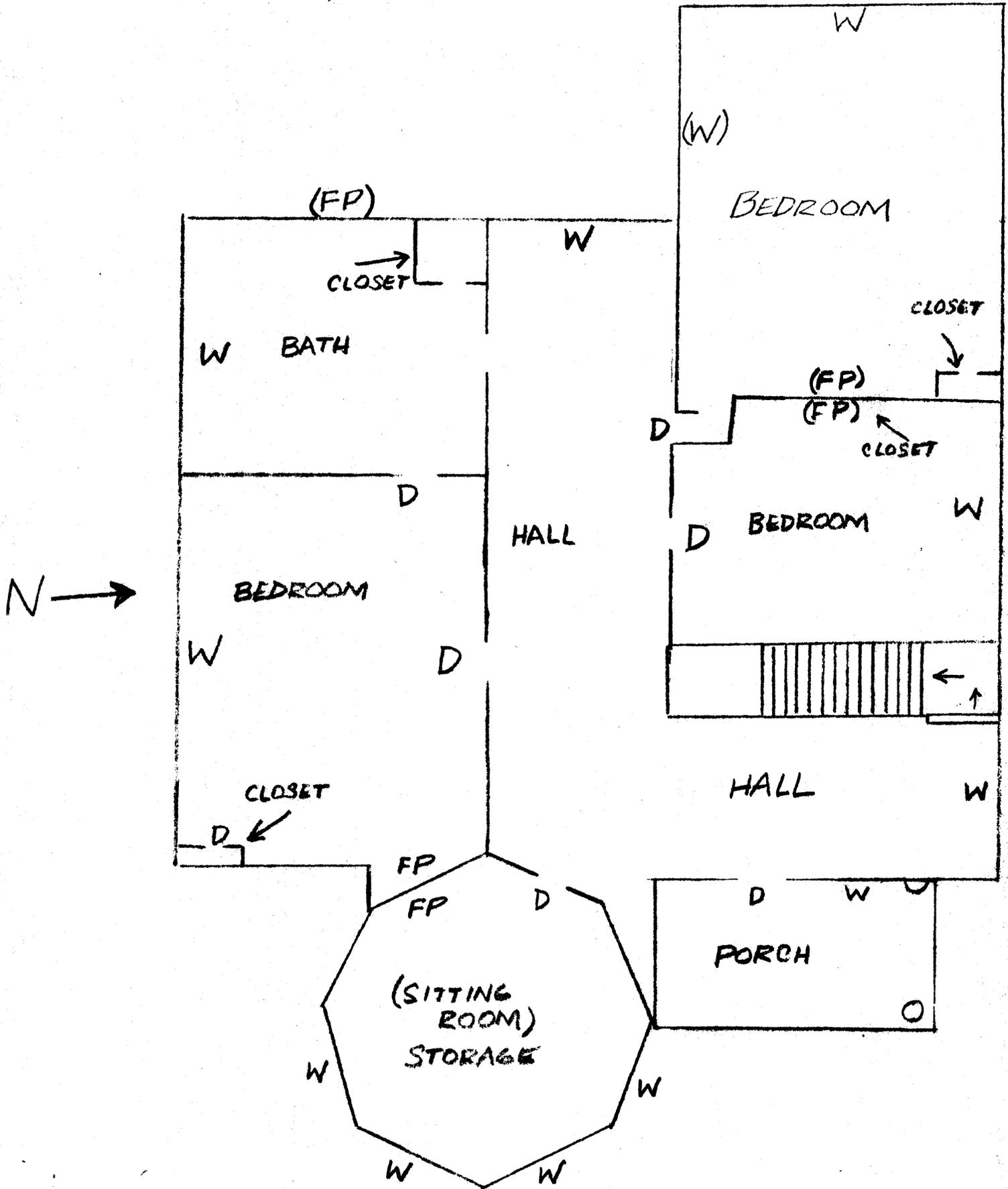
PURCELL-KILLINGSWORTH HOUSE

() = FORMERLY
D = DOOR
W = WINDOW
FP = FIREPLACE

FIRST FLOOR PLAN



NOT TO SCALE



PURCELL-KILLINGSWORTH HOUSE

() = FORMERLY
 D = DOOR
 W = WINDOW
 FP = FIREPLACE

SECOND FLOOR
 PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

