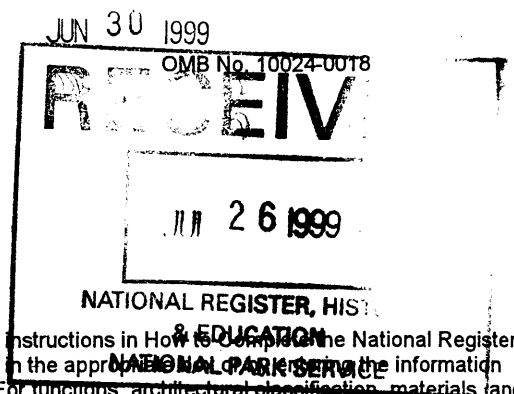


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box. Provide the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, work processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number 2323 Nebraska Street N/A  not for publication  
city or town Sioux City N/A  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Woodbury code 193 zip code 51104

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the national Historic Preservation Act, 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.)  
Patricia Williams 05/17/00 7-70-99  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
**STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA**  
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 certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is :  
 entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
Signature of the Keeper Linda McClelland Date of Action 9/7/99

Knott, Dr. Van Buren  
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

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

**Category of Property**

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	0	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**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVAL S

Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

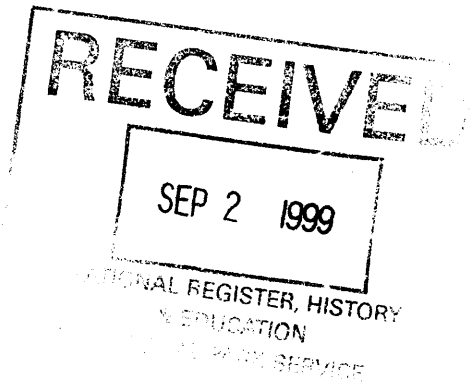
walls brick

roof asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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



Knott, Dr. Van Buren  
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA  
County and State

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark an "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.

**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 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.

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographic 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

**Architecture**

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**Period of Significance**

1903

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**Significant Dates**

1903

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**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

---

**Cultural Affiliation**

---



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**Architect/Builder**

Shaw, Howard Van Doren

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**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

---

Dr. Van Buren Knott  
Name of Property

Woodbury, IA  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property Less than one

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 14 E 713200 N 4710000

3 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

---

Molly Mullin Scherle

name/title

organization SiouxLandmark

date August 25, 1998

street & number 2311 Nebraska Street

telephone 712-258-4239

city or town Sioux City

state IA

zip code 51104

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**Additional Documentation**

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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**

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

name Richard and Leona Jacobs

street & number 2323 Nebraska

telephone unlisted

city or town Sioux City

state IA

zip code 51104

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
Woodbury County, IA

**7. Narrative Description**

The Knott mansion is located in a well-maintained neighborhood with several other historic homes in the Higmans Park Addition of Sioux City. This house is an excellent example of Colonial Revival architecture. It is also a well-known Sioux City landmark, as testified to by a scaled model of a dollhouse, which sits proudly in the entrance of the Morningside College Auditorium. There are few homes of this period, in Sioux City, with this style of architecture.

The Knott house is constructed of red brick and wood. The recessed grand entry sits in the center of the house and is trimmed with dentil moldings and columns. The front door is flanked with full-length vertical windows and stained glass/brass light fixtures. Above this entrance is a large Palladian window that brightens one of the five bedrooms on the second story. The corners of the house are featured with fluted pilasters. The hipped asphalt shingled roof has three pedimented dormers on the front, as well as one on the south and north ends of the house. The roofline and the overhangs feature extremely prominent dentil moldings. On the south side of house there is a large screened in porch that runs the depth of the house. The Doric columns that frame the porch also support the second story sleeping porch directly above. The front of the house is accented with a balustrade adorned with finials. The pattern in these balustrades is repeated in the decorative balustrades that trim the sleeping porch.

A semi-circular room that extends out from the brick structure sets off the back of the house. This room is only one story and is framed construction with white wood clapboard. The original exterior door to this room has been replaced with french doors. This room is the back entrance into the house. A circular drive pulls directly up to this door. The back of the house features a palladian style window on the second story, and a centered gable with a pedimented dormer off to each side.

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Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
Woodbury County, IA

A large pergola accents the brick patio adjacent to the screened porch. Another pergola sits in the far southwest corner of the property. From each position you have a view of the stunning gardens that frame this large corner lot.

**Interior Design**

Great care was taken to decorate and furnish this house. The Knott family hired Marshall Fields department store out of Chicago as the interior designers. The current owners have many of the original correspondence between the Chicago based decorators, architect Van Doren Shaw, and the Knott family detailing information over the construction of the house as well as the interior decoration. In the attached copies of some of these correspondences many things are addressed, such as the interior woodwork, light fixtures, wallpaper, rugs, drapes, and furniture. Included in this collection of original papers, are sketches of furniture and a glass lamp. (Copies attached)

The interior of the house features an impressive open three-story staircase, oak floors and the original woodwork, which has always been stained white. In a letter to the contractor, Shaw chastises him stating "I expect samples of the white wood stained and finished as specified from your painter by the first of the week; it must not be later. If these samples are not satisfactory I shall insist that another painter be engaged, if necessary one from Chicago, who understands the proper staining of wood." <sup>1</sup> Other features of the main floor include leaded french doors that lead into the semi-circular room. The formal living room has quarter sawn oak paneling from floor to ceiling, built in book shelves on the east and west ends of the room and a beamed ceiling. In the center of the south wall is a built in fireplace that sits in between two sets of french doors which lead to the screened porch. The dining room has a fireplace, a built in corner hutch, crown molding and a recessed window. The kitchen has been remodeled and updated over the years. Some of the things that have been done include new cabinets, counters, sink and flooring, as well as the removal of the butler's pantry to make the room larger and more open.

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Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
Woodbury County, IA

The second story has five bedrooms and two bathrooms. A pocket door leads into a suite of two bedrooms, and a bathroom. The front bedroom has a corner fireplace and each bedroom and the bathroom have a door leading to the sleeping porch. One other bedroom with in the house has a fireplace.

The third floor has two large bedrooms and the maid's quarters. The maid's room is generous in size with a private bathroom. These accommodations were in stark contrast to the one room above the garage, with no heat or plumbing, where the chauffeur/gardner lived.

In several places inside the house there are decorative plaster moldings. Some are garlands of fruit; others are lion's faces with garlands of fruit. From the kitchen you can take the servant's stairs up to the second and third floors. This wood is pine and until recently appeared to have never been varnished or painted.

**Secondary structure**

The two-car garage was built a couple of years after the house. According to the documentation between the architect and the homeowner they were unable to agree on where to place the garage. The architect planned for it to be attached to the house. This was not acceptable to Dr. Knott who wanted it detached behind the house. Architect Van Doren Shaw felt this would break up the gardens. Eventually it was built according to Knott's wishes. A large pergola extends the width between the house and garage tying the two together yet accenting the gardens. Some of the features of the structure are two grease pits, loft with finished woodwork, radiant heat and running water. The loft was the home for the Knott's chauffeur/gardener.

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Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
Woodbury County, IA

**Alterations**

Some of the few alterations that have been made to this home include; the removal of the butlers pantry, new cabinetry and general updating in the kitchen. Perminate siding was added to the exterior of the dormers. Some of the woodwork has been stripped down to the natural wood and finished.

**8. Statement of significance.**

Built in 1903 and designed by renowned Chicago architect Howard Van Doren Shaw, before he became a member of the American Institute of Architecture. This house is an outstanding local example of Colonial Revival architecture.

A prominent Sioux City physician, Dr. Van Buren Knott, commissioned this two and one-half story house. This grand house sits proudly on a large, beautifully landscaped corner lot with many stately shade trees and formal gardens.

**Dr. Van Buren Knott**

Family members claim that Dr. Van Buren Knott was a descendant of former President Martin Van Buren. Local City Directories indicate he was a Sioux City physician and the son of a prominent physician, Dr. John M. Knott. After an extensive search of local records, we have yet to find any further information about Dr. Van Buren Knott.

**Architect Howard Van Doren Shaw (1869-1926)**

Born in Chicago, Illinois, he was educated at the Harvard School for Boys in Kenwood, and was a graduate of Yale University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (MIT). He became a member of the American Institute of Architects in 1906 and was made a Fellow in 1907. Shaw became a renowned architect. Some of his accomplishments in include the following: The Church of the Disciples of Christ, the Pullman Trust and Savings Bank, South Plymouth Building, Orchestra Hall, The Goodman Memorial Theater, and the Quadrangle Club and Lake Forest, Chicago's Market Square.



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Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
Woodbury County, IA

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He also designed many residences in Chicago and elsewhere, as well as the model steel town of Indiana Harbor and the Market Square at Lake Forest, Illinois. According to Virginia A. Greene in her book *The Architecture of Howard Van Doren Shaw* he “ worked in many different styles, moving easily between classically derived Georgian, colonial, and neoclassical styles and the English vernacular and Tudor styles.” Also noted in her book was the fact that in 1926 the AIA bestowed its highest honor on Shaw: the Gold Medal for architectural achievement. He was near death when his wife relayed this news to him, and he reacted to it with the last word he ever spoke: “pleased.”<sup>3</sup>

In her Thesis presented for her Master’s Degree of Architectural History from the University of Virginia in December 1982, entitled “The Early Domestic Architecture of Howard Van Doren Shaw”, Julie L. Vosmik indicates the Shaw was closely associated with the American Institute of Architects (A.I.A.) and was elected to the organization in 1906 being made a Fellow the following year.

Research regarding other residences constructed in Iowa which were designed by Mr. Shaw found only a garden house on the estate of The Sinclair House (also known as Bruce more) in Cedar Rapids, Iowa constructed in 1911 and a house at 1047 Prairie, Davenport, Iowa built for G. W. French in 1913. No other known residences were found to be designed and built in Iowa.

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**Endnotes**

1. Original correspondence between the Knott family, Van Doren Shaw and Marshal Fields.
2. Carl Condit, *The Chicago School of Architecture: A History of Commercial and Public building In the Chicago Area, 1875-1925* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1973), p. 52.
3. Virginia A. Greene, *The Architecture of Howard Van Doren Shaw: (Chicago Review Press, 1998), p.35.*

**9. Bibliography**

Greene, Virginia A., *The Architecture of Howard Van Doren Shaw: (Chicago Review Press, 1998), p.35.*

Original correspondence between the Knott family, Van Buren Shaw and Marshal Fields Department Store, Chicago IL 1903 through 1908.

Sioux City, Iowa, *An Architectural View*, Sioux City Art Center Publication, First Edition, 1983.

Sioux City, Iowa, *City Directories, 1903-1913.*

The Society of Architectural Historians. *American Architects Biographies.*  
<http://www.sah.org>

Vosmik, Julie, "The Early Domestic Architecture of Howard Van Doren Shaw" A thesis Presented to the Faculty of the Division of Architectural History of the Scholl of Architecture, University of Virginia, Dec., 1982.

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Knott, Dr. Van Buren, House  
Woodbury County, IA

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Dr. Van Buren Knott House. Located on Lots 4, 5 & 6, Block 1 of Higmans Park Addition, Sioux City, Woodbury County, Iowa.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries of the Knott House include that portion historically associated with the property.

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**Photographs:**

Richard G. Jacobs took all photographs, on August 24<sup>th</sup> 1998. He has all negatives. All photographs depict the Dr. Van Buren Knott house, at 2323 Nebraska St., Sioux City, IA.

1. Front (east) façade, looking west.
2. Front (east) façade, looking northwest
3. Front (east) façade, looking southwest
4. North façade of garage, looking south
5. West façade, looking southeast
6. Center of wall in formal living room
7. Stairway of landing between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, showing landing railing, looking southeast.

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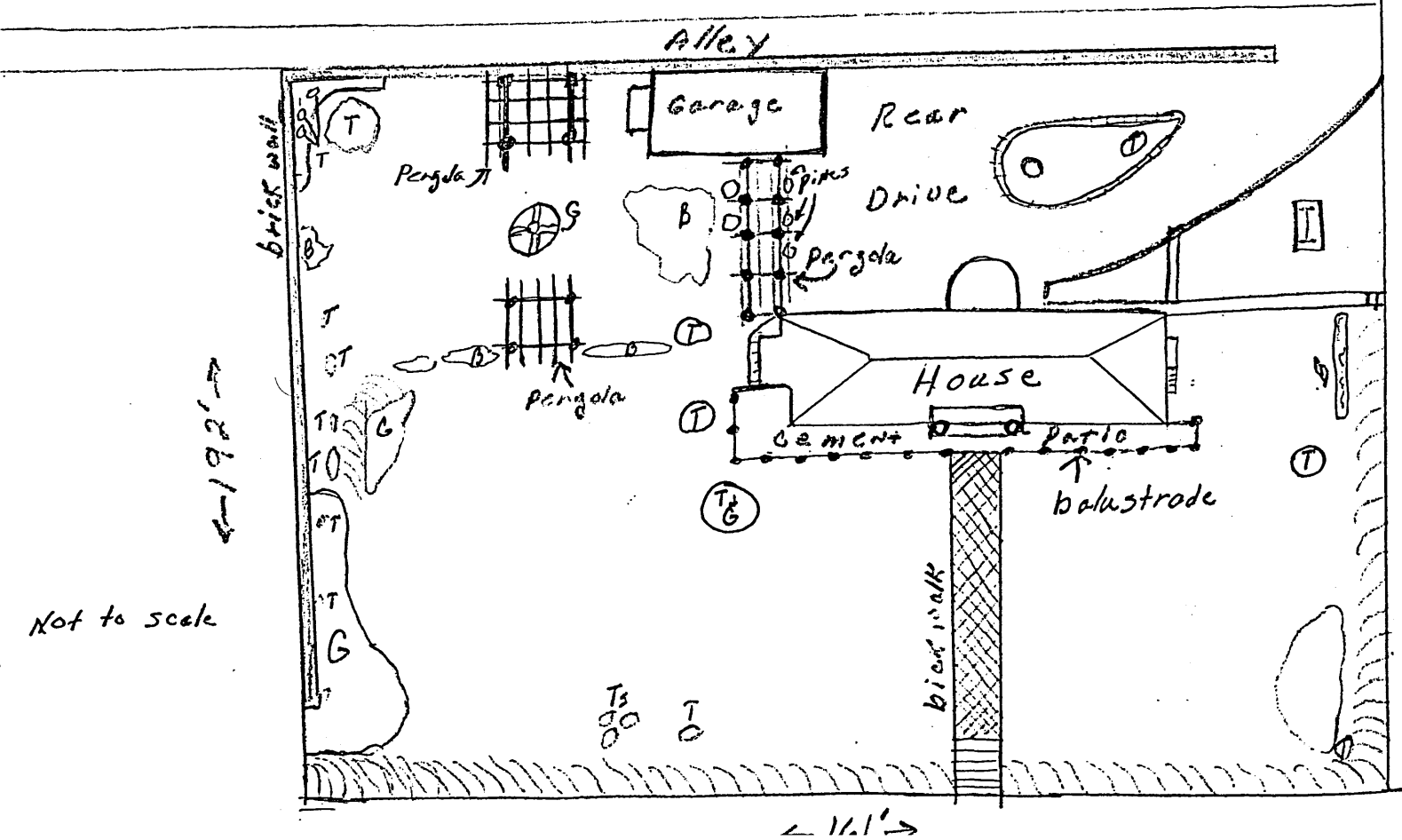
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Woodbury County, IA

SITE PLAN

source: current owner

- G - flower garden
- T - tree
- B - bush

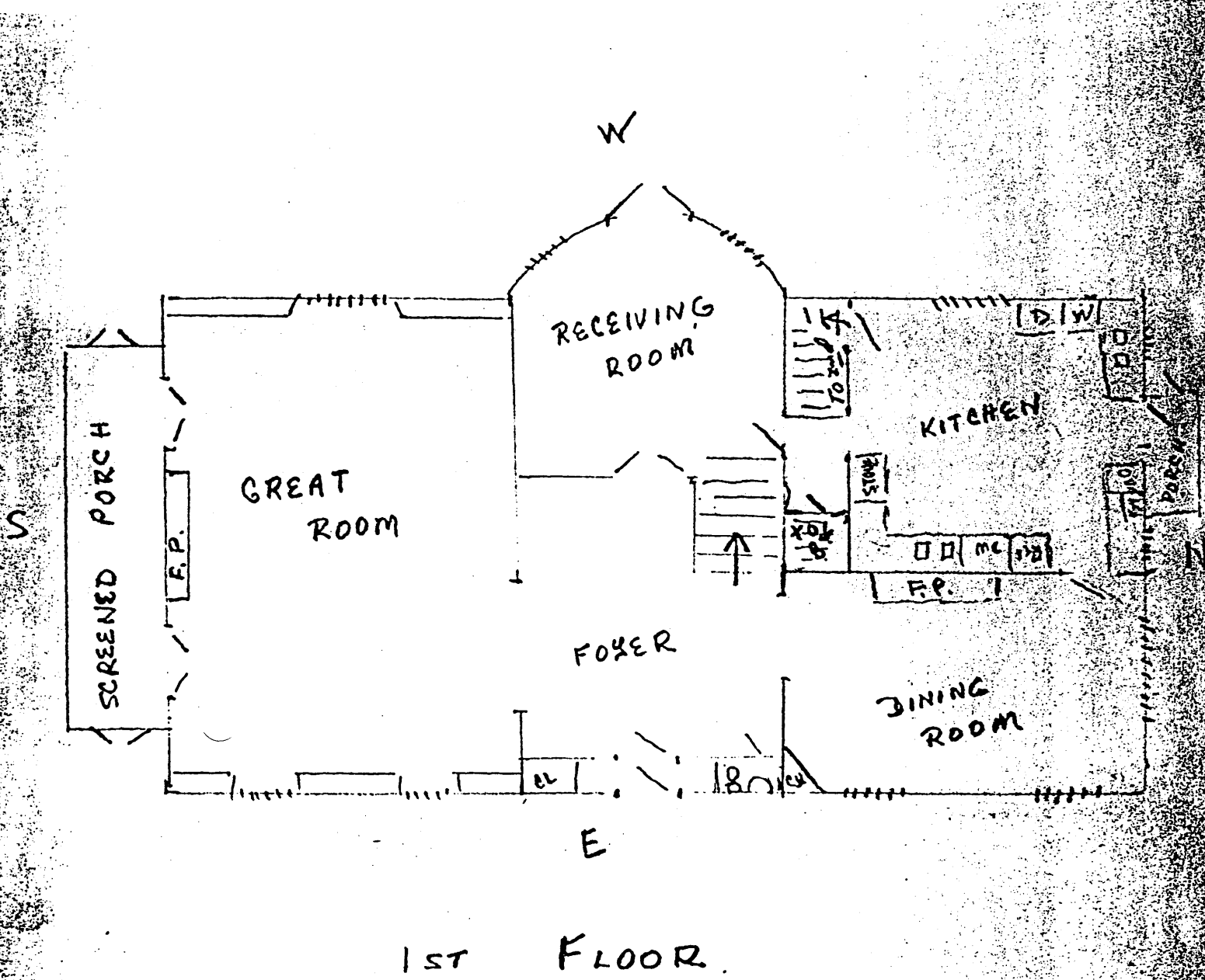


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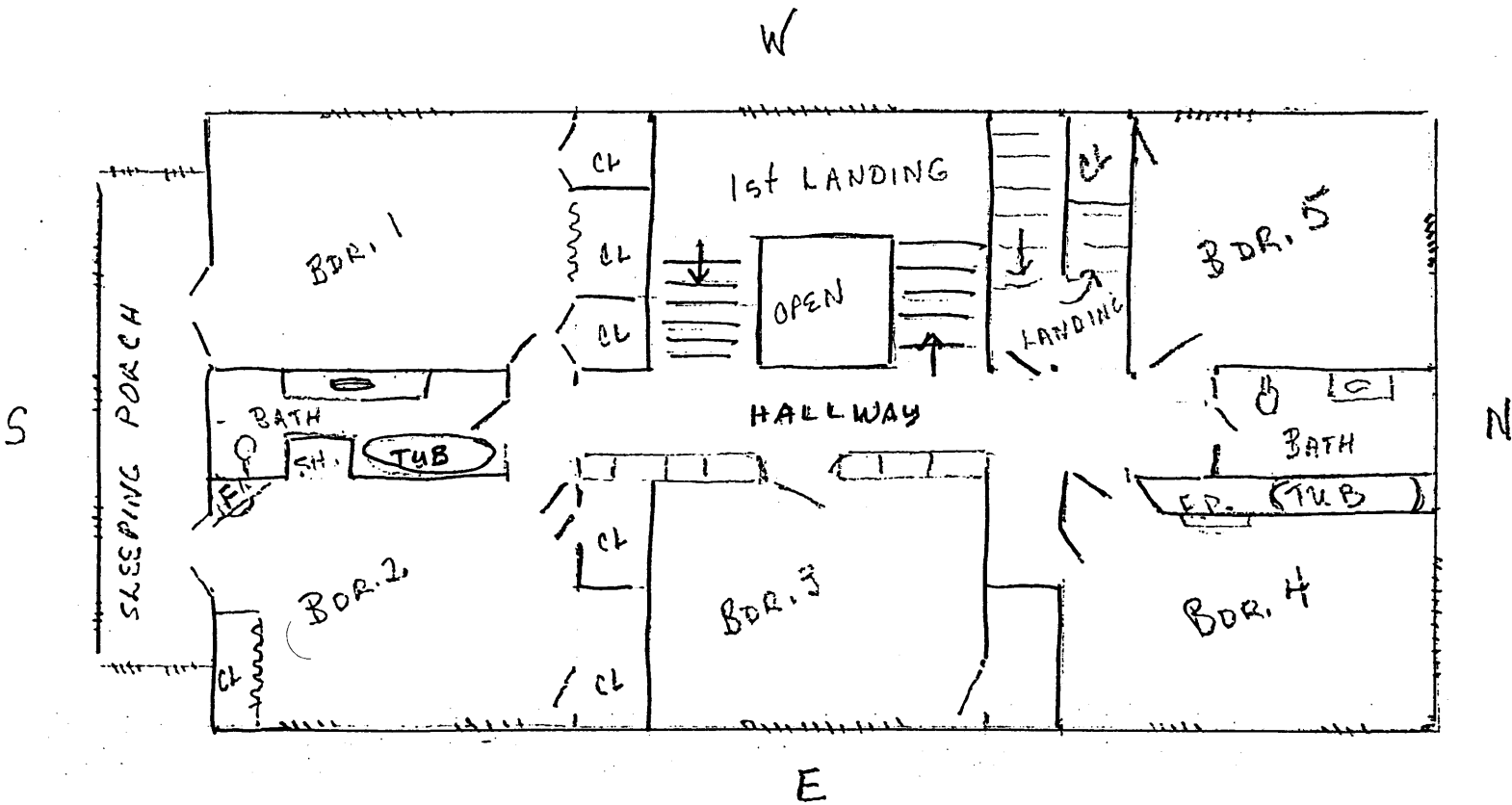


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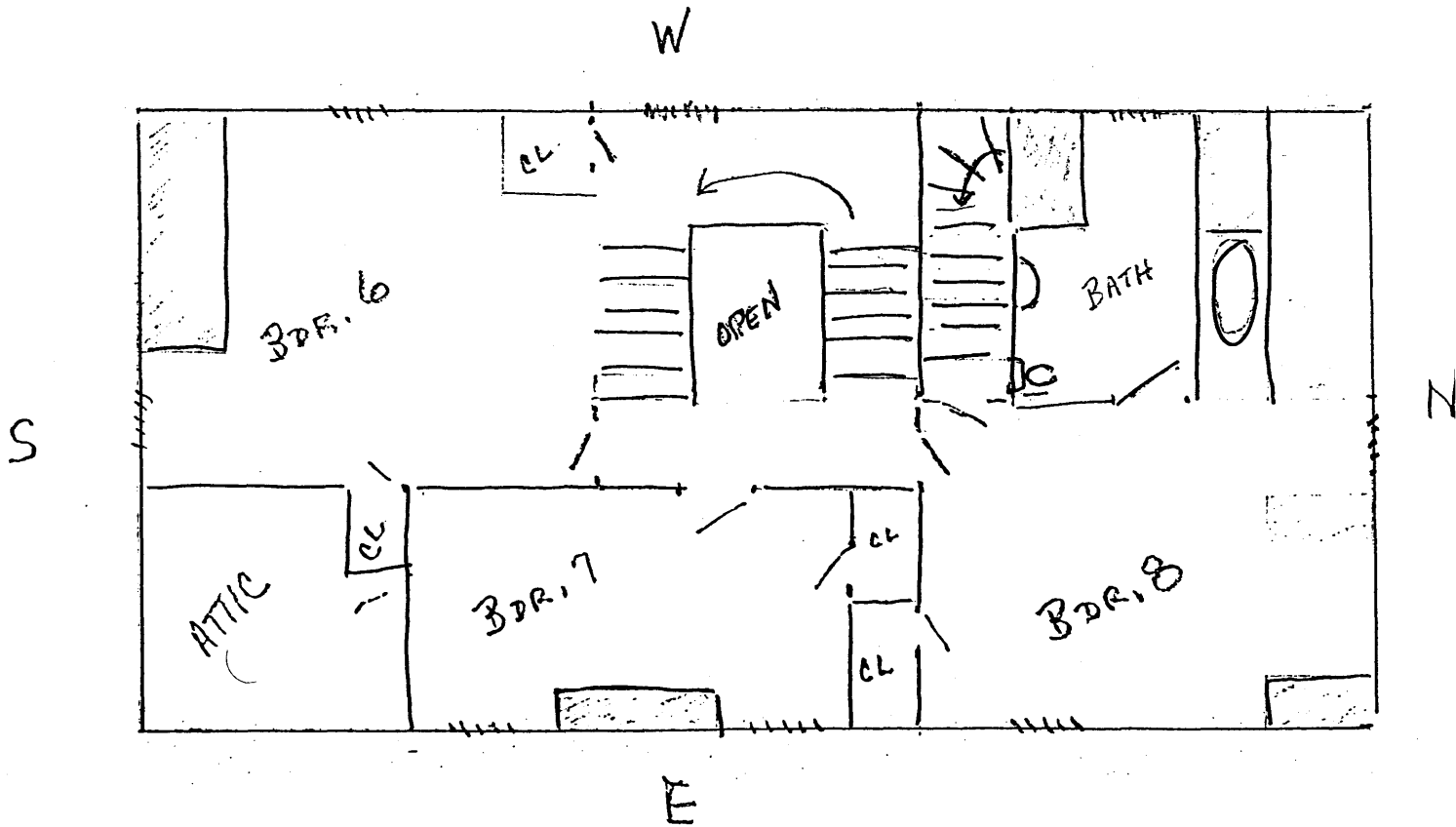
2ND FLOOR

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3RD. FLOOR