Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fleming, Thomas W., House

AND/OR COMMON

Clubhouse of the Woman's Club of Fairmont

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

300 First Street — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Fairmont — VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

First

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

049

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
__DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	XOCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
XBUILDING(S)	XPRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	__COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	__BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	__PRIVATE RESIDENCE
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	__YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		XNO	__MILITARY	XOTHER: Woman's Club Headquarters

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Woman's Club of Fairmont

STREET & NUMBER

300 First Street

CITY, TOWN

Fairmont — VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia 26554

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Adams Street

CITY, TOWN

Fairmont

STATE

West Virginia 26554

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
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	__UNALTERED	_X_ORIGINAL SITE
_X_GOOD	__RUINS	_X_ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Thomas W. Fleming House, since 1938 the Woman's Club of Fairmont Clubhouse, occupies the rear of a landscaped corner lot at 300 First Street in an old and fashionable neighborhood of Fairmont, Marion County, West Virginia. The Fleming House commands from its elevated site a panoramic view of the Monongahela Valley and East Fairmont.

The architect's choice of design elements for Mr. Fleming's substantial townhouse combined those of the American Neo-Colonial Revival and early twentieth century motifs that define Beaux Arts Classicism. French influence in the composition is apparent in an interesting geometry formed by the juxtaposition of rectangles with semicircles and ellipses.

Entrance to the property from First Street is provided by a semicircular driveway that meets the semicircular steps and rounded, glass-enclosed entrance solarium of the house. The solarium is centered at the front elevation and is flanked by gray stuccoed masonry walls whose windows are arranged in groups of three. Tripartite design elements, in addition to the three front bays, include three dormers with curvilinear broken pediments, and two, two-story bays with half-conical roofs at the side elevations that visually join the curving entrance solarium to frame the symmetrical mass of the entire house.

The Fleming House is a two and one-half story, U-shaped stucco masonry structure with a high-pitched truncated hip roof. Its rectangular central block is joined at the rear by two short wings. The side elevations feature two, two-story curving bays, the angle and space to the northeast of which is filled by an open one-story sunporch, one on each side of the house. These rectangular porches flank the central block of the house and join, via open promenades, the entrance solarium across the front of the house.

The interior of the house is reached through an ornate vestibule whose doorway is surmounted with a leaded semi-illiptical fanlight and flanked with leaded sidelights filled with elegant leaded and beveled glass. (The leaded glass door panel was recently replaced with plain plate glass.)

Light within the central first floor hallway emanates from the landing window of an expansive oaken stairway that rises in an open curvilinear well at the rear of the house. The space of the first floor hallway from which the stair rises is singular; it flows from room to room in the tradition of period houses, but provides an inviting presence in the hallway itself with an oaken inglenook. The principal lower room is the dining room, though its three counterparts, a library and two parlors, are also elegantly finished.

A spacious oval at the southeast corner of the main block forms the dining room. Its high ceilings are embellished with foliate relief plasterwork. The walls, covered with a pressed fabric (lincrusta) wainscoting, contain a fireplace opening with an intricately carved hardwood single-shelf mantelpiece, and a recessed, mirrored china cupboard with curving leaded glass doors. At the southeast end of the room five double-hung windows with stained glass transoms and curving glass sashes provide abundant lighting for the room.

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A library, gold drawing room, music room, game room, and kitchen comprise other first floor space. The seven second floor bedrooms opening onto the hallway that encircles the stairwell contain secondary entrances that allow for passage through each room without entering the outer hall. The third floor, now used for apartments, originally accommodated the household servants.

The Thomas W. Fleming House became the clubhouse of the Fairmont Woman's Club in 1938. The integrity of the building's fabric has been enhanced by their ownership. In addition to the considerable portion of the Fleming furniture that survives, plasterwork, wainscoting, stained glass, and lighting fixtures have been preserved. The only major alteration occured during the Club's early occupancy when a wall separating the gold drawing room and music room from the hallway was removed to provide ample space for meetings. A stained glass window at the stair landing, a leaded glass front door panel, and the original slate roof have been replaced over the years with substitutes.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

- __ PREHISTORIC
- __1400-1499
- __1500-1599
- __1600-1699
- __1700-1799
- __1800-1899
- X 1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	X COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
__COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	__TRANSPORTATION
__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
	__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1901

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas W. Fleming House is significant as one of the best preserved residences of the once fashionable neighborhood that was formed from lands adjacent to and in the vicinity of Fairmont Avenue in South Fairmont at the turn-of-the-century. Mr. Fleming was a partner in the Fairmont Development Company that opened up much of South Fairmont during an important boom period. As one of the leaders in the promotion of improvements for Fairmont, West Virginia, in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, Mr. Fleming's contributions were motivated and supported by both political and business interests. It seems not unusual therefore that Mr. Fleming would have chosen one of the finest sites in the city for the construction of his new house.

The house was erected c.1901 from plans incorporating both Neo-Colonial and French Beaux Arts modes at the rear of an expansive lot fronted with a sweeping lawn that provided an unobstructed view of a large section of the city. The rooms were elegantly furnished and detailed with fine plaster reliefs and carved and applied woodwork. A central hallway upon which the major rooms opened was designed with an impressive two-flight stair of oak. A stained glass window at its landing (now missing) was designed by Mrs. Annie Sweeney Fleming.

Thomas W. Fleming (1846-1937) was a descendant of a pioneer family that settled Fairmont. He spent his entire life in business ventures that helped Fairmont grow from a minor town into an important retail and industrial center in north-central West Virginia. Fleming served as Mayor of Fairmont for two terms in 1891-92 and was elected to the House of Delegates in 1905. He was one of the first to understand the significance of street cars and interurban lines in Fairmont. It was under his guidance as mayor that the first street in the city was paved, that being from the end of the South Side Bridge to Monroe Street. The first city waterworks was built under his administration from funds that he personally lent to the city. Mr. Fleming's wealth was secured in part from the development of coal and oil lands in Marion, Monongahila, Harrison, and Doddridge Counties.

Following Fleming's death in 1937, the family home passed to his heirs, and hence to the Fairmont Woman's Club who adapted the building for use as a clubhouse. Purchase of the residence from Allison Fleming in 1938 provided the organization with a permanent home.

The Fairmont Woman's Club was organized in the Fleming House in 1906, when Mrs. Jie Sweeny Fleming invited a number of local women to her home to formulate details. Mrs. Fleming, a member of a prominent Wheeling, West Virginia family, became the club's first president. The President of the Woman's Club, at the time the Fleming home became the Woman's Clubhouse in 1938, was Mrs. E. A. Grose.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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THOMAS W. FLEMING HOUSE, FAIRMONT, MARION COUNTY

The Thomas W. Fleming House represents a significant period in the history of Fairmont, a period of growth and maturity that is reflected in the style of a house and in the prominence of its first owner. Significantly, the community minded spirit of its first occupant is reflected in the work of the present owners who continue service to many community health, welfare, cultural, civic, and church organizations.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brochure of the Woman's Club of Fairmont, Mrs. Rex M. Smith, President. n.d.

Deed Book 343, p. 453, Marion County Courthouse, Fairmont, W.V.

Fairmont Times. July 5, 1937, p.1.; Sept. 11, 1938.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 city lot (157' x 120')

QUADRANGLE NAME Fairmont West, West Virginia QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	5 7 3 5 6 0	4 3 7 0 3 6 0	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The nominated property is located on a city lot on the southwest corner of First Street and Virginia Avenue in Fairmont, Marion County, West Virginia. The lot measures 157' x 120'.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Historic Preservation Unit DATE

West Virginia Department of Culture & History April 11, 1979

STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE

Capitol Complex 304-348-0240

CITY OR TOWN STATE

Charleston West Virginia 25305

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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 Clarence Morgan

TITLE DATE

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST: DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

GPO 921-803

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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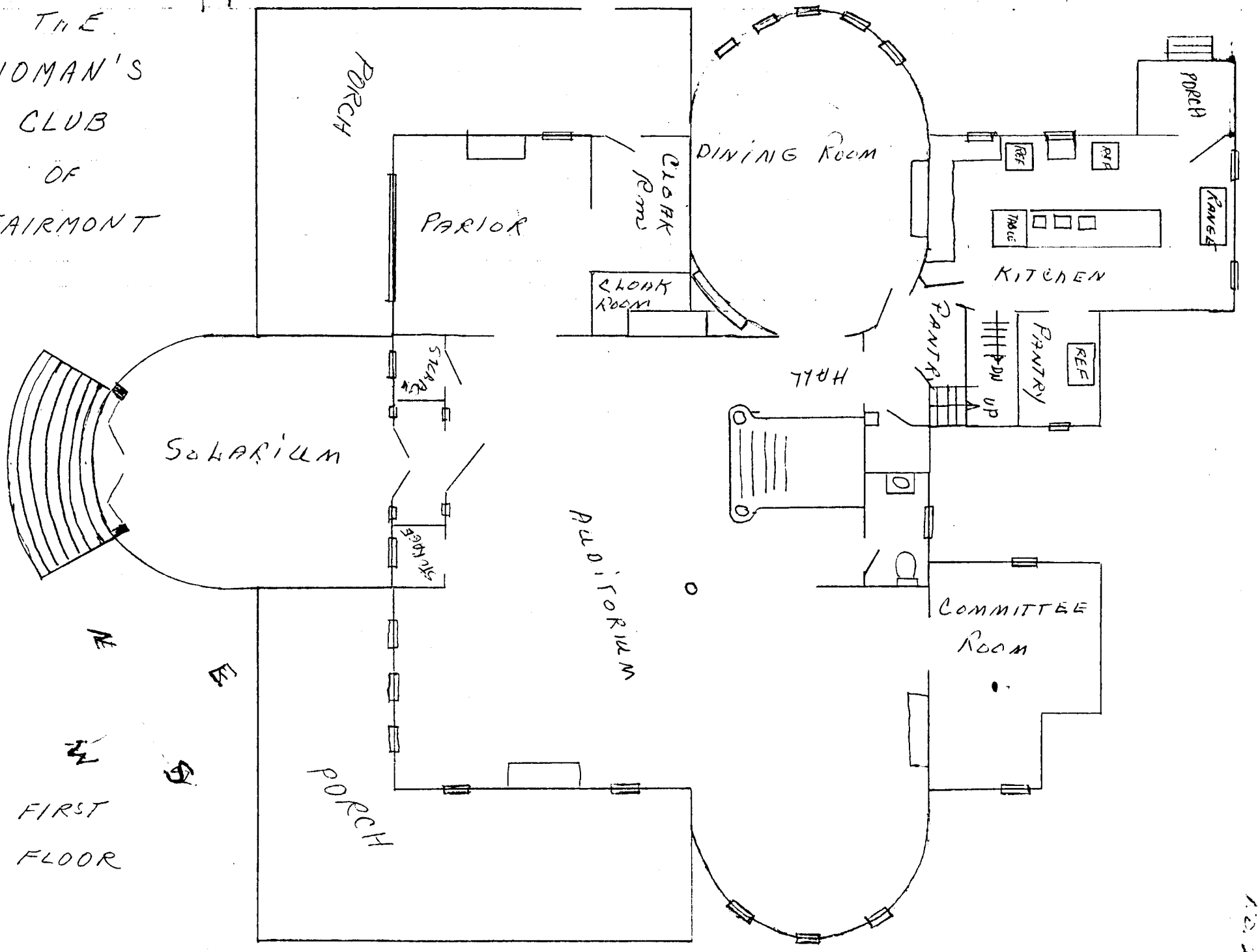
THOMAS W. FLEMING HOUSE, FAIRMONT, MARION COUTNY

Fleming Papers owned by Mrs. Thomas Wilshire, Fairmont, W. V.

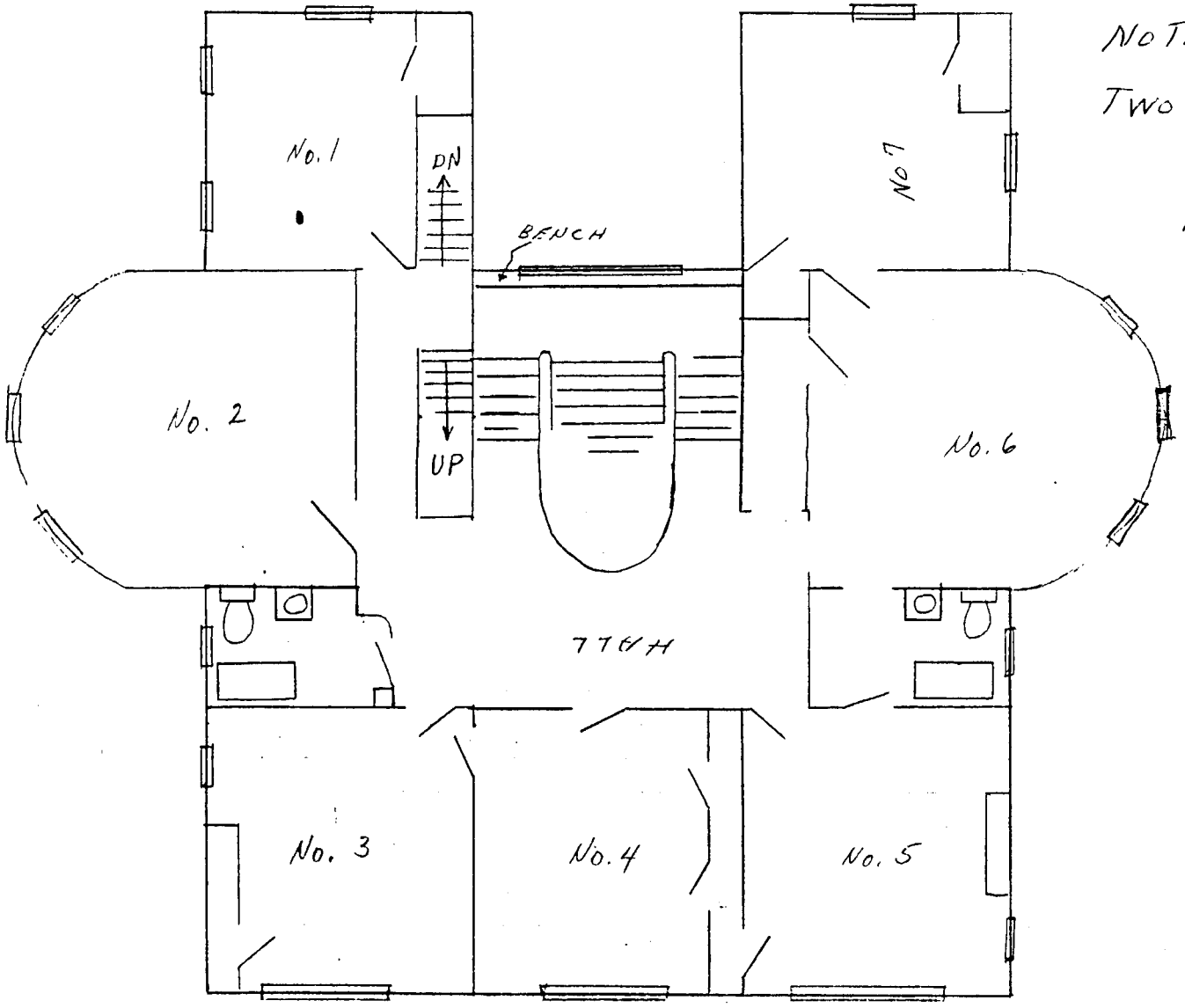
Interview of Mrs. Thomas Wilshire, great-granddaughter-in-law of Thomas W. Fleming, 3/12/79.

Scale - 2ft x 2ft per block

THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF FAIRMONT



FIRST FLOOR

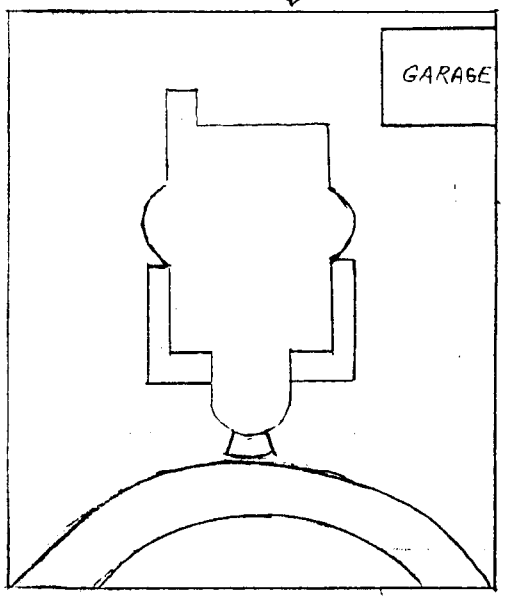


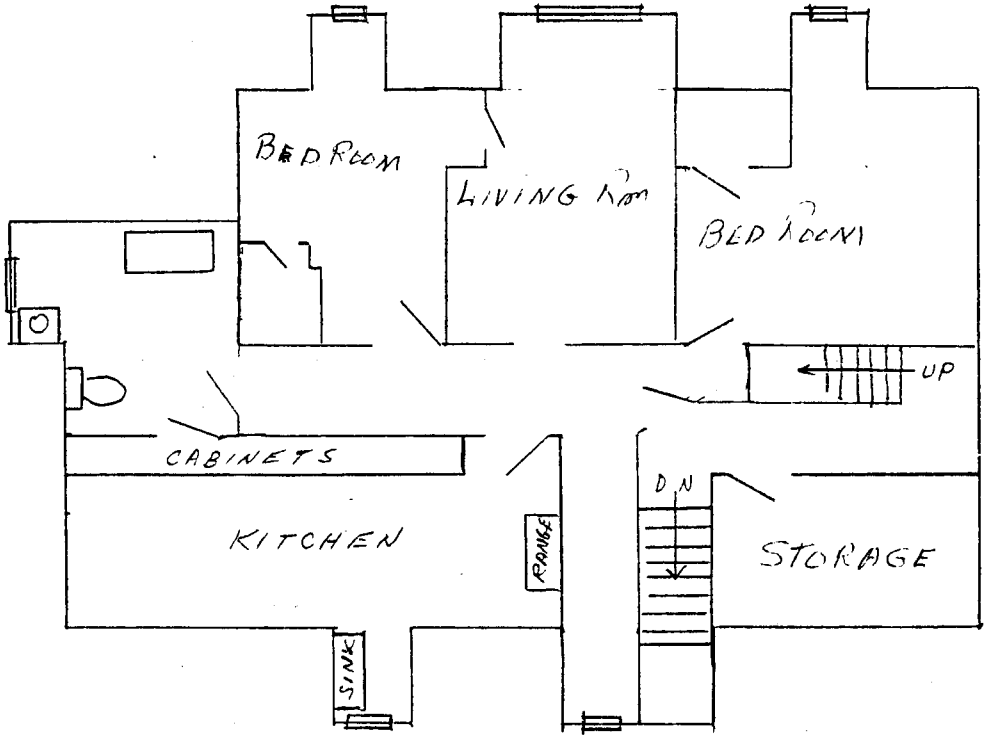
NOTE: RMS 6 AND 7 ARE TWO RM APARTMENT

RM 1-5 ARE BEDROOMS

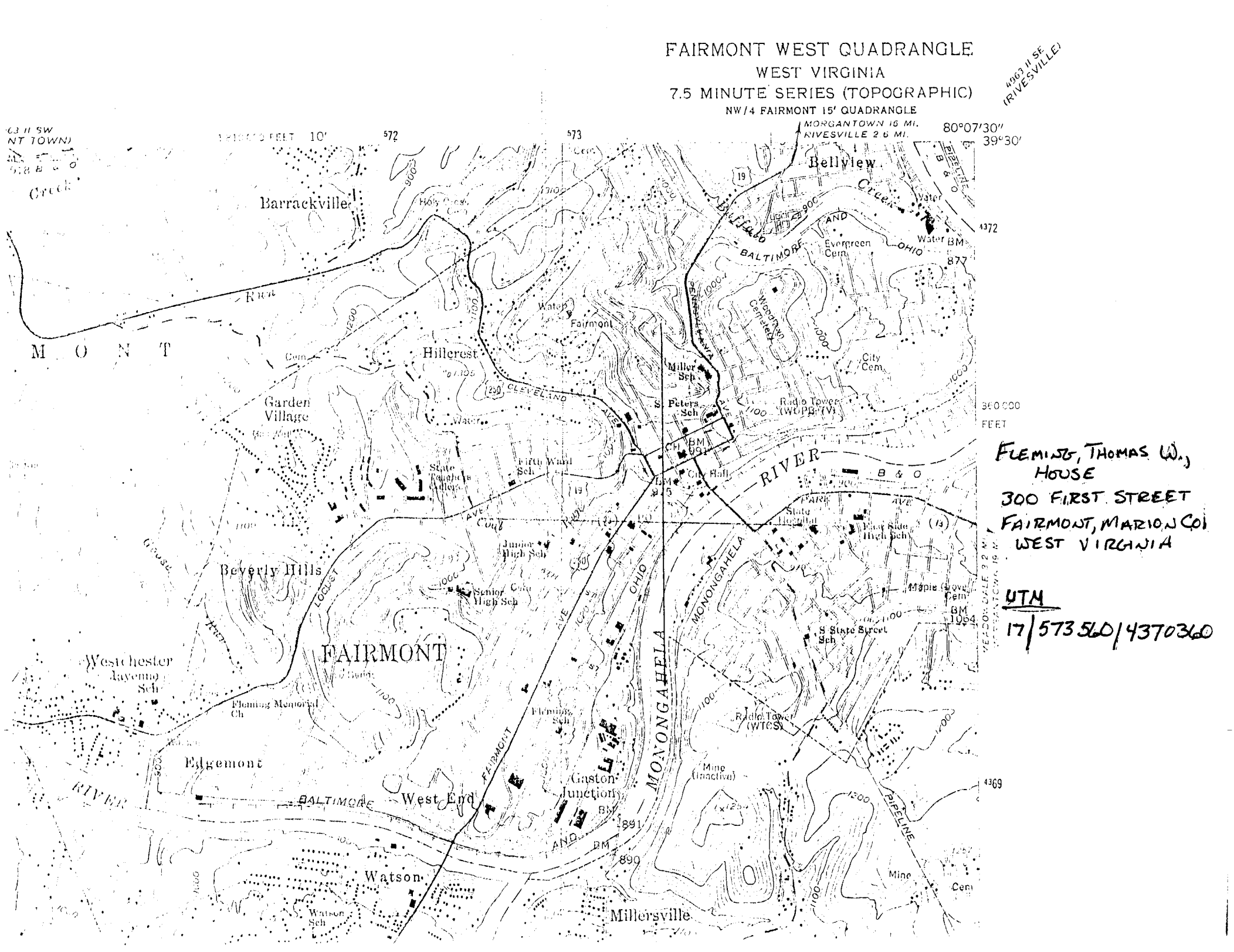
SECOND FLOOR

EXTERIOR OUTLINE





TH 2D FLOOR



FLEMING, THOMAS W., HOUSE
300 FIRST STREET
FAIRMONT, MARION CO.
WEST VIRGINIA

UTM
17/573560/4370360