

Source: "A Past to Preserve" by the Prince William County Historical Commission

Historic Name: Alten House

Date or Period: Late 19th Century

Original Use: Residence

This two-story, frame house probably began as a two-story, I-shaped house to which was added a one-and-a-half-story kitchen with a sleeping loft above it. More recently a one-story kitchen addition was made to the house's rear. The house has a central hall plan with an enclosed stair rising in a single flight along the south wall of the hall. At the top of the stair is a handmade, square-profile rail; square balusters; and a square post. The trim is medium-width architrave molding, dating to the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Interior features include a late-Victorian-style mantel, four-panel molded doors, and old, medium-wide pine and replacement oak floors. Probably built by George Trimmer, who owned a nearby sawmill, this house is an example of the earliest post-Civil War building tradition in Manassas. A simple, small, modest dwelling, the house is typical of the sorts of homes constructed by residents as they rebuilt after the destruction of the Civil War.

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