

## **154 South Almond Street**

154 South Almond Street was built by Peyton Grymes around 1850 as a tenant/rental home on his vast property and was leased to and subsequently owned by Alfred Thomson in 1863. The original structure was one over one with a center hall. Two later-added wings included the kitchen, family room, and sitting room to the east, and the den and porch to the southwest.

The property has survived the Civil War battle of Mine Run, fought on November 30, 1863, right here in town, evidenced by several bullets of the era found by various owners. A possible bullet hole was found on the newel post of the staircase. Mary Eliza Thomson, daughter of Alfred and Sarah Thomson, was married to Edwin McMurrin on January 6, 1869. It's possible that Mary etched the year "1866" on one of the original panes of glass remaining in the home.

Over the years the home has been through many owners and undergone vast renovations. At one time the home was divided into 5 apartments. It retains some of the beautiful architectural details including a floating staircase and some original woodwork and doors.

The current owners have renovated and completed many extensive repairs with the help of architectural engineers. A garage with a carriage house was added in 2023. The gardens have been renewed with extensive brick work around new plantings chosen for color, fragrance, and herbal benefits. A small kitchen garden is beyond the garage. A well was accidentally discovered during renovations as well. It is covered with a custom hand forged wrought iron grate covered with a floral pattern as homage to the hundreds of lily and tulip bulbs planted around it.

- *Ellen and Rich Burgujian, owners*