

Names:

Jones, Harvie P.
Pettus House
Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Thompson, J. R.,
Mrs.

Twickenham Historic
Preservation
District

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Sept 22, 1994

H.H. Homes 416 Randolph (23)
4A13

Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association
500 Gates Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

9 January 1989

Dear

The Madison County Commission will erect historic markers in 1989 at four additional houses in the Twickenham District. Yours is included on the list. I am sure that you have seen the signs which have been erected in front of many of our houses, and we hope that you will consent to have your house marked.

The name suggested for your house is Pettus. In accordance with the current research your home will be dated 1919 if you have documented evidence of a different date please contact us immediately for re-evaluation.

Please return the permission form below with any comments you may wish to make by ~~February 1, 1989~~.

Respectfully,

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA, Chairman
House Marking Committee

I hereby grant permission for the erection of a historic marker on the street side of my house. I understand I will be contacted personally prior to the actual erection of the marker to stake the exact location of the marker. I agree to the name(s) and date to be engraved on the marker, and will maintain the marker in good condition.

Sherry & J.R. Thompson
Owner
416 Randolph Ave
Address
Sept 19, 1994
Today's Date

COMMENTS:

Mail To: Harvie P. Jones, 104 Jefferson Street, Huntsville, AL

Thank you +
Dr. Roberts
ONLY

Names:

Jones, Harvie P.
Pettus House

Thompson, J. R.
Thompson, Sherry

Twickenham Historic
Preservation

District Association
historic markers

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

document

Dates:

Jan 9, 1989

Sept 19, 1994

Hts. 416 Randolph (23)
Homes 4A13

HISTORIC STRUCTURE DATA
Provided by Huntsville Planning Department
P.O. Box 308, Huntsville, AL 35804
Contact: Linda Bayer Allen, 205-532-7353

ADDRESS: 416 Randolph Avenue

HISTORIC DISTRICT: Twickenham Historic District

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: East 50' of Lot 8, Block 334, Old Town

DATE CONSTRUCTED: 1919

REMODELED: Unknown

ORIGINAL OWNER: W. E. Pettus

NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS: None found

DEED HISTORY:

1917 Deed of 27 July 1917, recorded in v.115, p.598
To: K. M. Johnson

1918 Deed of 4 March 1918, recorded in v.115, p.604
To: W. E. Pettus

1934 Deed of 3 April 1934, recorded in v. 141, p.152
To: Sophie E. Pettus

1973 Deed of 23 April 1973, recorded in v.477, p.380
To: Joe F. & Glenna Gayle Milberger

1993 Deed of 3 November 1993, recorded in v.823, p.166
To: James R. & Sherry K. Thompson

Names:

Allen, Linda Bayer
Historic Structure
Data

Johnson, K. M.
Milberger, Joe F. &
Glenna Gayle

Pettus, Sophie E.
Pettus, W. E.

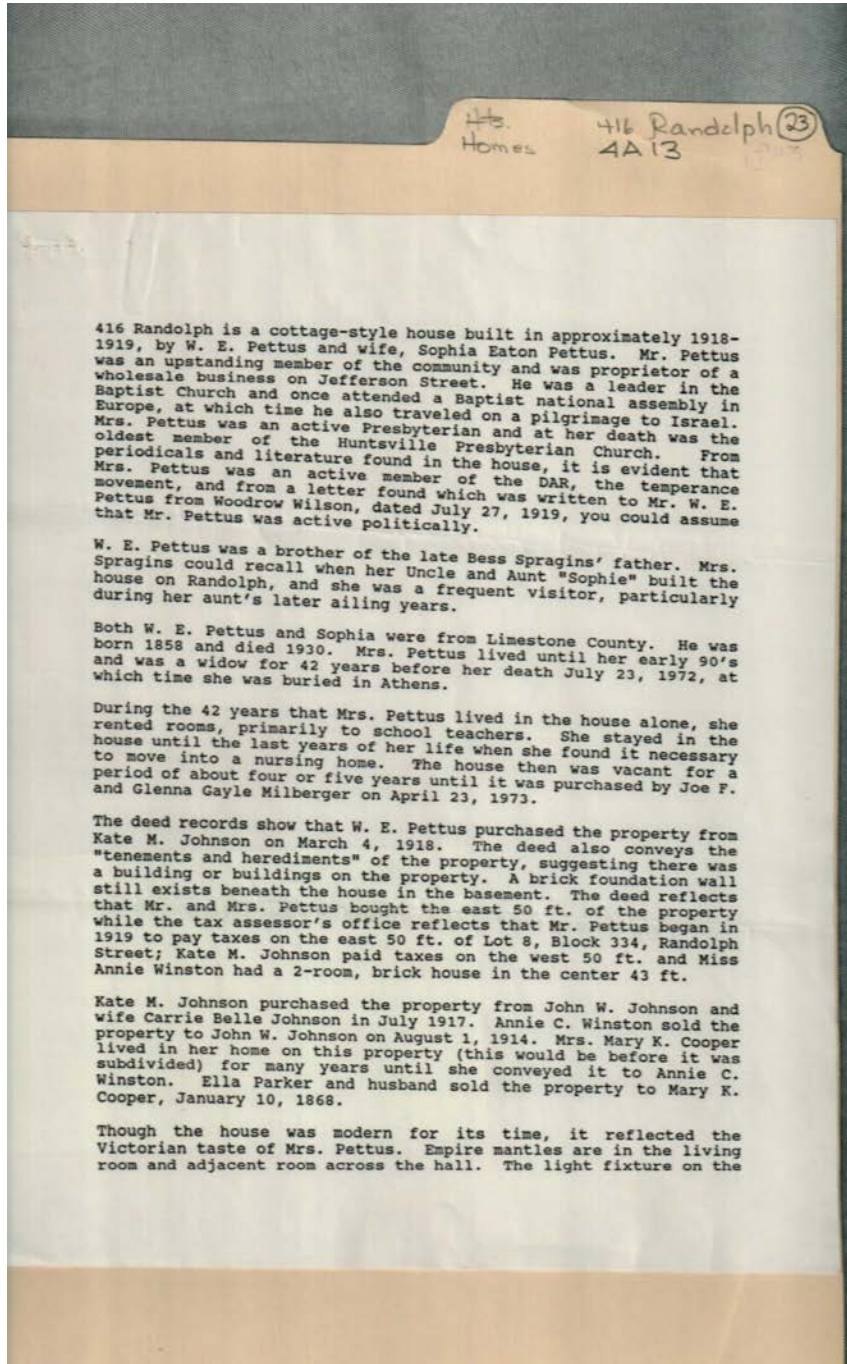
Thompson, James R.
& Sherry K.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

document



416 Randolph is a cottage-style house built in approximately 1918-1919, by W. E. Pettus and wife, Sophia Eaton Pettus. Mr. Pettus was an upstanding member of the community and was proprietor of a wholesale business on Jefferson Street. He was a leader in the Baptist Church and once attended a Baptist national assembly in Europe, at which time he also traveled on a pilgrimage to Israel. Mrs. Pettus was an active Presbyterian and at her death was the oldest member of the Huntsville Presbyterian Church. From periodicals and literature found in the house, it is evident that Mrs. Pettus was an active member of the DAR, the temperance movement, and from a letter found which was written to Mr. W. E. Pettus from Woodrow Wilson, dated July 27, 1919, you could assume that Mr. Pettus was active politically.

W. E. Pettus was a brother of the late Bess Spragins' father. Mrs. Spragins could recall when her Uncle and Aunt "Sophie" built the house on Randolph, and she was a frequent visitor, particularly during her aunt's later ailing years.

Both W. E. Pettus and Sophia were from Limestone County. He was born 1858 and died 1930. Mrs. Pettus lived until her early 90's and was a widow for 42 years before her death July 23, 1972, at which time she was buried in Athens.

During the 42 years that Mrs. Pettus lived in the house alone, she rented rooms, primarily to school teachers. She stayed in the house until the last years of her life when she found it necessary to move into a nursing home. The house then was vacant for a period of about four or five years until it was purchased by Joe F. and Glenna Gayle Milberger on April 23, 1973.

The deed records show that W. E. Pettus purchased the property from Kate M. Johnson on March 4, 1918. The deed also conveys the "tenements and hereditaments" of the property, suggesting there was a building or buildings on the property. A brick foundation wall still exists beneath the house in the basement. The deed reflects that Mr. and Mrs. Pettus bought the east 50 ft. of the property while the tax assessor's office reflects that Mr. Pettus began in 1919 to pay taxes on the east 50 ft. of Lot 8, Block 334, Randolph Street; Kate M. Johnson paid taxes on the west 50 ft. and Miss Annie Winston had a 2-room, brick house in the center 43 ft.

Kate M. Johnson purchased the property from John W. Johnson and wife Carrie Belle Johnson in July 1917. Annie C. Winston sold the property to John W. Johnson on August 1, 1914. Mrs. Mary K. Cooper lived in her home on this property (this would be before it was subdivided) for many years until she conveyed it to Annie C. Winston. Ella Parker and husband sold the property to Mary K. Cooper, January 10, 1868.

Though the house was modern for its time, it reflected the Victorian taste of Mrs. Pettus. Empire mantles are in the living room and adjacent room across the hall. The light fixture on the

Names:

Cooper, Mary K., Mrs.	Johnson, Kate M. Milberger, Joe F. & Glenna Gayle	Pettus, Sophie Eaton Pettus, W. E. Spragins, Bess Wilson, Woodrow	Winston, Annie C., Miss
Johnson, John W. & Carrie Belle	Parker, Ella		

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

document

Dates:

1917	1918	1919	1973
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Hts.
Homes

416 Randolph (23)
4A13

front porch, in the entrance hallway, and the brass light fixture in the parlor are the original fixtures. With exception of paint, which replaced wallpaper in many rooms, and the kitchen which was modernized, the house remains much the same as it was in 1918.

NOTE: Extensive renovation included replacement of ceilings downstairs, much replacement of plaster walls, added shower, renovation of and modernizing of bath, addition of downstairs half-bath, and rearrangement of downstairs bedroom.

Names:

Pettus House

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

document

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 13, Folder 23
416 Randolph (Pettus House), Jones and Herrin Architectural Notes, 1989 - Houses**

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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