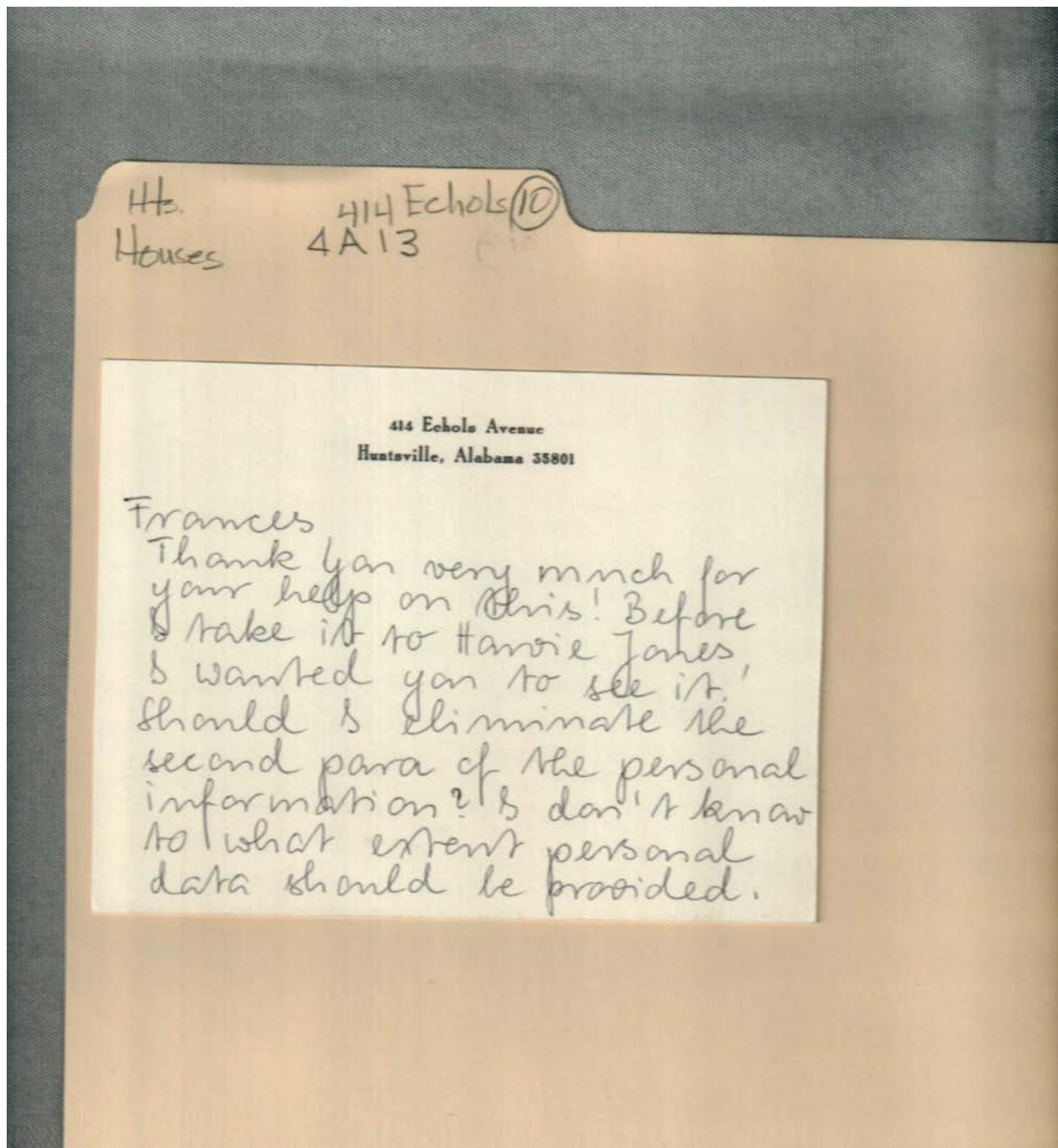


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 13, Folder 10

414 Echols (Dickson House), 1983 - Houses

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Dickson house, 414 Echols

Names:

Jones, Harvie

Roberts, Frances

Places:

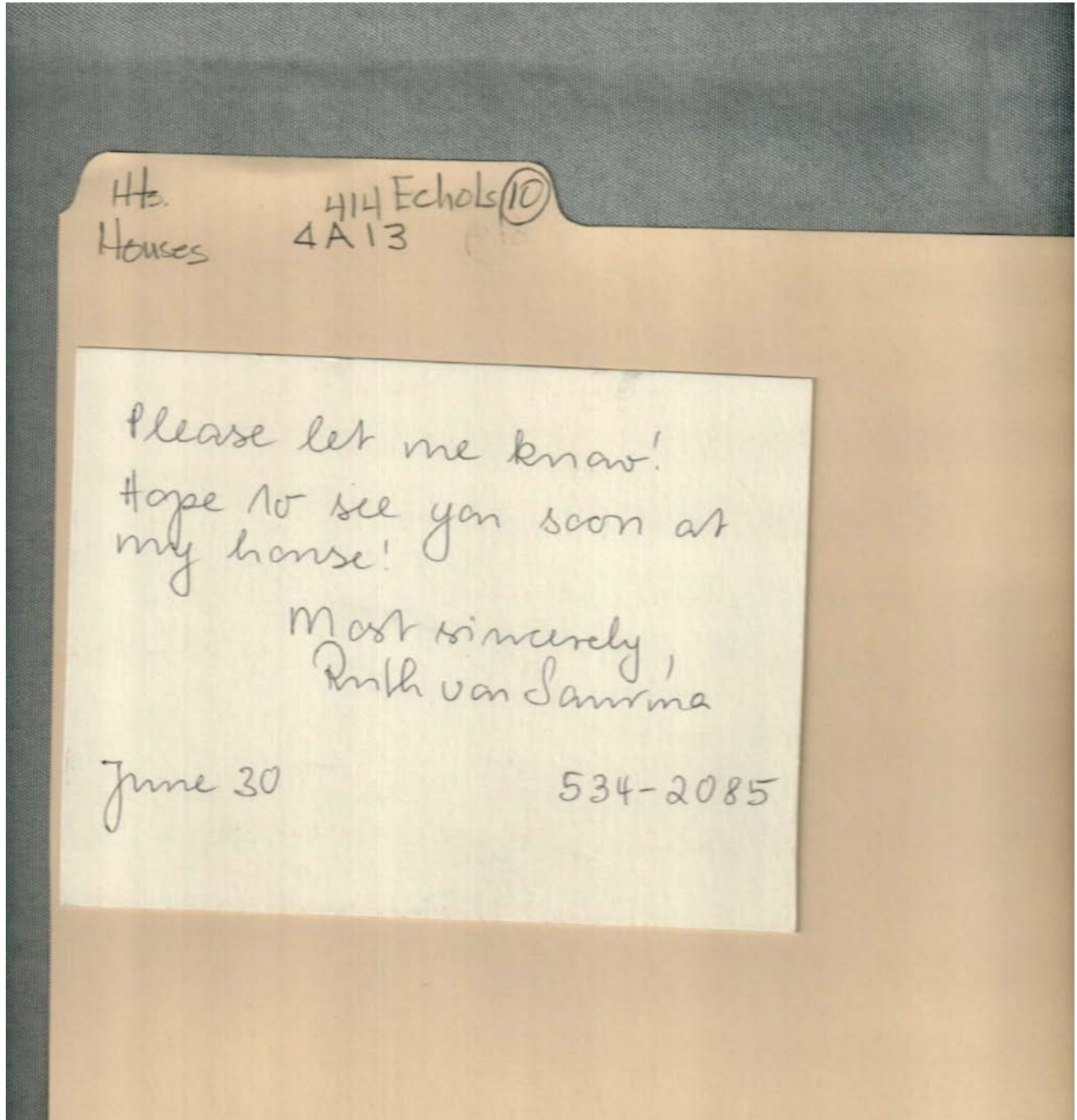
Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

June 30



Dickson house, 414 Echols

Names:

von Saurma, Ruth

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

June 30

Hts. Houses 414 Echols (10) 4A13

to Dr Roberts - Harvie Jones

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

ca. 1833 DICKSON HOUSE, HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA August 11, 1983
 LINCOLN STREET, MOVED TO 414 ECHOLS AVENUE IN 1981

DESCRIPTION:

Two-story, 5-room, four-bay, center-hall, gable-roofed, wood-frame, clapboarded, end-chimney Federal Period 3-room "Quarter-house" with two later Greek Revival balancing rooms added beside the stair-hall.

Originally a typical Federal Period "Quarter-House" consisting of one large room (about 17 x 19 feet) per floor (two floors) by a wide stair-hall, with a small (about 8 x 12 feet) room in the front part of the upper stair-hall. The 1861 map of Huntsville and the 1894 Sanborn map show three detached service buildings, one of which is labeled "Kitchen" on the 1894 map. None of these buildings survived to 1980.

Prior to the plotting of the 1861 map, the Federal Period "Quarter-House" was expanded by adding a two-story, two-room addition to the right of the stair-hall. These rooms were about 22 by 19 feet, considerably wider than the Federal Period room opposite. The facade wall of these wide Greek Revival rooms contained two windows per room whereas the narrower Federal Period facade had one window per room. The windows were spaced as evenly as possible along the facade in an attempt at regularity, which put the inner bay of Greek Revival windows almost in the corner of the rooms.

In the early 20th century a wide bracketed bungalow-style roof-eave was installed, the Greek Revival chimney was removed, and 3/1 bungalow style sashes were installed where the chimney had been. New rear rooms were added across the entire back of the house at this time, based on the bungalow sashes, framing and bungalow roof that were in this addition.

The 1861 map shows a small portico, gone by the mid-20th century or before (no photograph is known). This portico would have to have been of the Greek Revival period for it laps over onto the Greek Revival addition slightly. It is unknown whether a smaller Federal Period portico preceded it. In 1981 the entry was still flanked by wide wood pilasters capped by inverted ziggurat capitals. A 5-light transom of Federal Period detailing is over the pair of 2-panel early 19th century doors. No traces of the portico outline were seen because the front clapboarding had been replaced in the early 20th century remodeling, based on the wire nails used to attach the rotary-sawn front clapboarding. The north side of the house retained its original Federal Period beaded, sash-sawn clapboarding attached with cut-nails.

Page 1 of 3

Names:

Dickson House

Jones, Harvie

Roberts, Frances

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

description

history

Dates:

Aug 11, 1993

ca. 1833

Hts. Houses 414 Echols (10) 4A13

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The central Federal Period entry and stair-hall is unusually wide - about twelve feet. The original stair remains, and is typical of the period with newels of Tuscan colonettes, balusters of thin rectangular section, two to a step, thin end-scrolls of an ogee curve, and round-sectioned rails. Lathe-turned pendils decorate the projecting bottoms of the upper newels.

The Federal Period parlor mantel is light and simple with a backbanded architrave-pilaster design. The plain frieze is topped by a bed-mould cornice under the mantel-shelf. The mantel appears to be original. The upper Federal Period mantel was missing.

The two Federal Period doors at the ground level (parlor & rear) are of 8-panel configuration, which is uncommon. The second floor Federal Period doors are the more usual 6-panel design. The door panels are flat on one side and bevel-edged on the other, the usual condition, and show the jack-plane marks, exposed tenon-ends and pegs of early 19th century construction. The Federal Period frames are beaded and backbanded (typical). The Greek Revival frames are fluted pilasters over plinths, and have fluted architraves with bullesye corner-blocks, also typical of that period. One early rimlock remained, which was perhaps of the Greek Revival period since it had a white ceramic knob. These became popular by the 1850's.

The Greek Revival doors are four-panel, typical of the period. Federal Period and Greek Revival hinges are one-piece cast iron butt types, typical of the early 19th century.

Some original Federal Period 9/9 single-sliding sashes remained, identified by their characteristic muntin-bar profile

The Federal Period sash frames were of the type where the jamb and head casing member projected past the face of the clapboards to form a narrow edge-trim. The corner of the casing trim was (characteristically) beaded. There was no "face-trim". This type of narrow trim is frequent in Federal Period structures.

The two brick chimneys were exposed at each gable-end. The surviving Federal Period chimney had a characteristic shoulder design with two bricks projecting about an inch beyond the shaft sides at the bottom of the shoulder-corbels. The shaft base was corbeled out about 5 courses away from the gable wall.

Walls & ceilings were split-oak lath nailed to the wood frame and covered with plaster. Baseboards are top-beaded (typical). Floors are wide, 5/4 inch T & G heart pine set directly on the joists without a subfloor (typical).

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Names:

Dickson House

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

description

Hts. Houses 414 Echols (10) 4A13

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

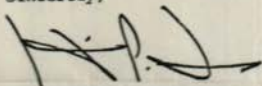
Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The framing consists of a heavy trabeated (post & beam) wood frame with mortise, tenon & peg connections. The connections are identified by chiseled roman numerals (typical) which attest that the heavy frames had to be fabricated on the ground and then lifted into place. The heavy framing members are pit-sawn whereas the lighter planking is sash-sawn (typical).

When in 1981 it became apparent that it would be impossible to restore the house on its original site, the Bernard Robertsons purchased the house on the previous owners' condition that it be removed. The house was then carefully dismantled (with the major components numbered) and re-erected at 414 Echols Avenue in the nearby Twickenham Historic District. The new site was too narrow to accommodate the full width of the house, so the wide Greek Revival rooms were reduced in width about 4 feet and changed from 2-bay to one-bay. This made the Federal Period and the Greek Revival rooms approximately the same width, the usual condition in a 5-bay house. A narrow addition was made to the rear similar to the one that existed on the original site to accommodate the kitchen, baths, etc.

Had this house not been relocated, it would now be lost. The house is in an appropriate setting in the National Register Twickenham Historic District which contains many other early 19th century structures. The Robertsons are to be commended for their great efforts, under extremely adverse conditions, to save this attractive early 19th century house in an appropriate setting and manner.

Sincerely,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/dc

Names:

Dickson House

Jones, Harvie P.

Robertson, Bernard

Places:

Huntsville, AL

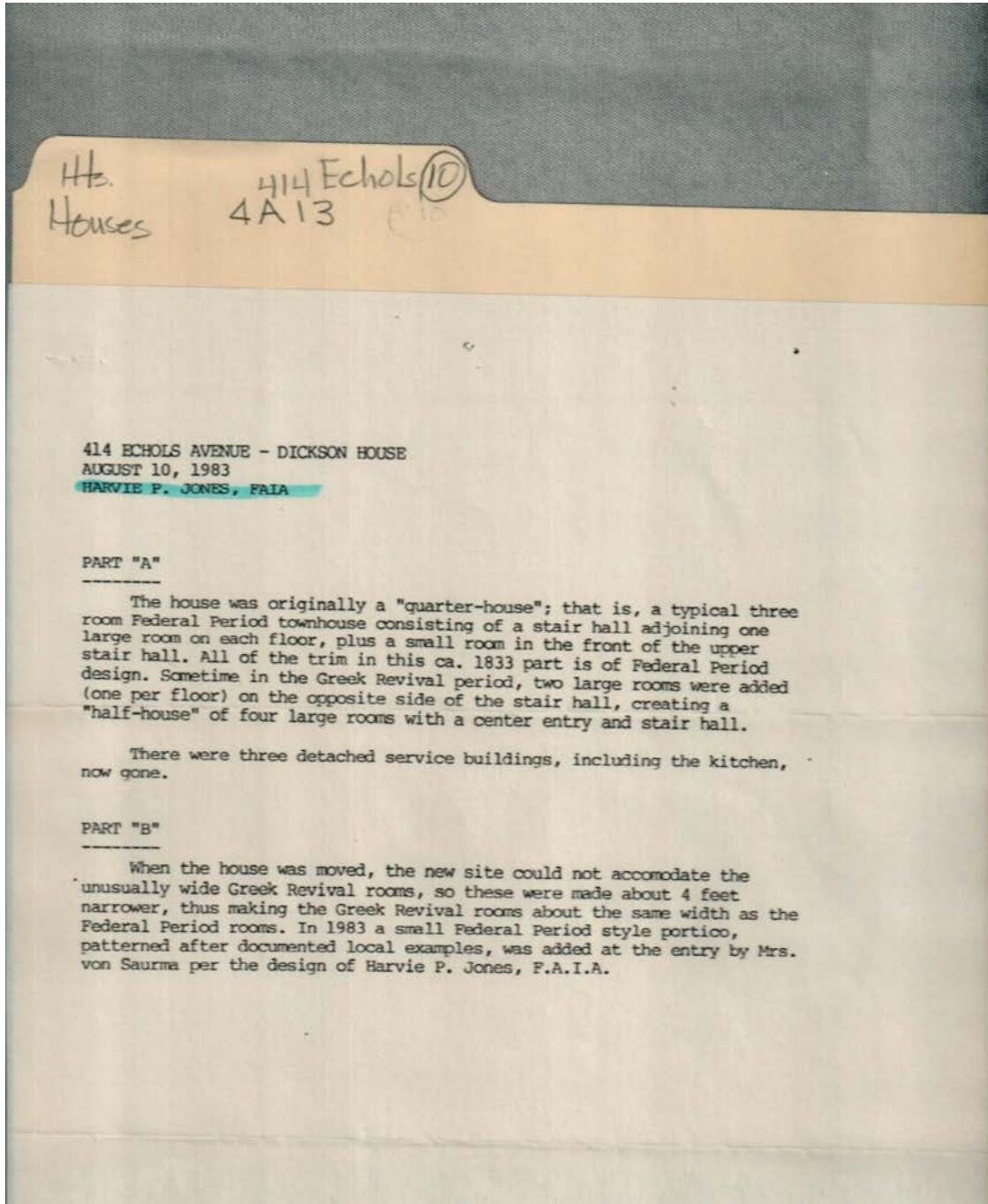
Types:

description

history

Dates:

1981



Names:

Dickson House, 414
Echols Ave.

Jones, Harvie P.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

history

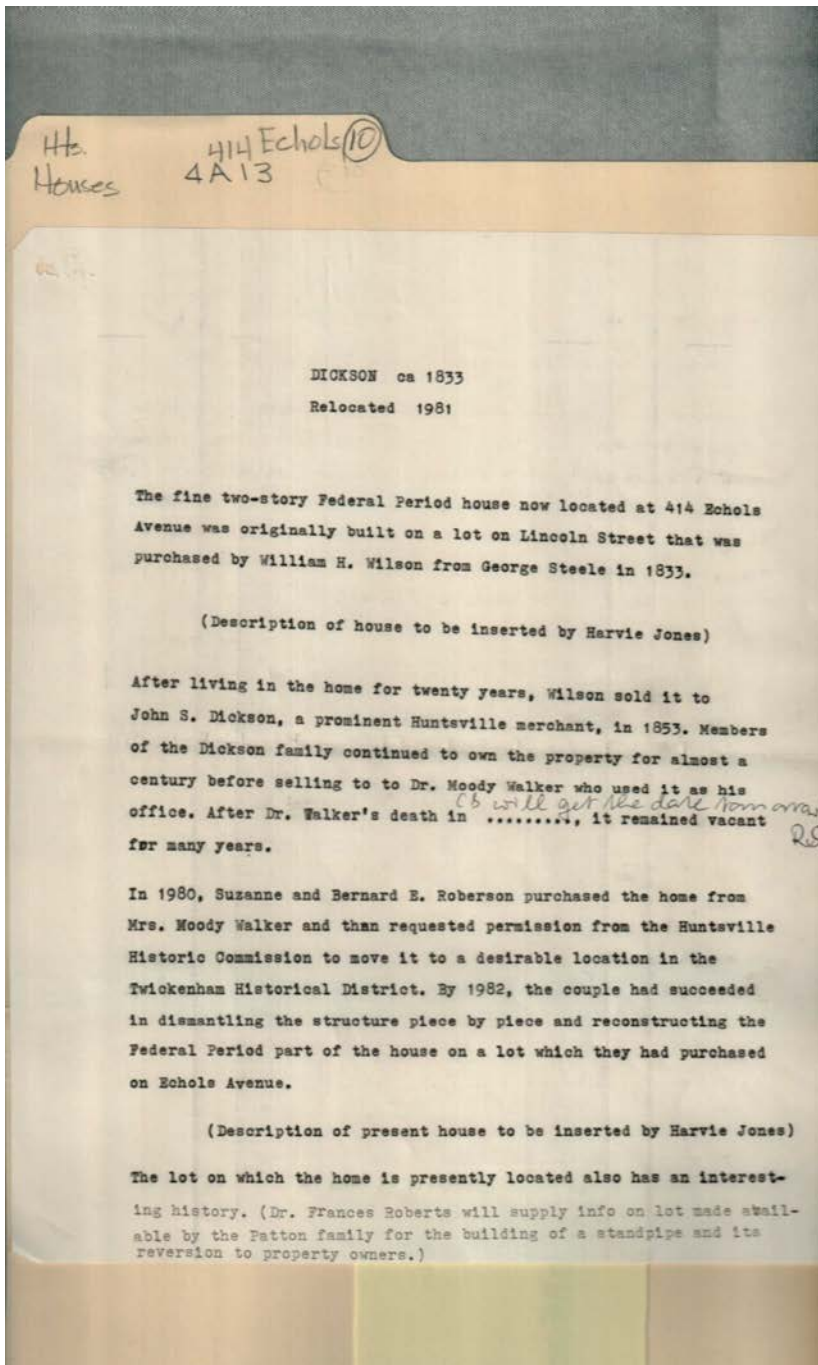
Dates:

Aug 10, 1983

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414 Echols (Dickson House), 1983 - Houses

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Names:

Dickson House
Dickson, John S.
Jones, Harvie P.

Roberson, Bernard E.
& Suzanne
Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Steele, George
Walker, Moody, Dr.
Wilson, William H.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

history

Dates:

1853

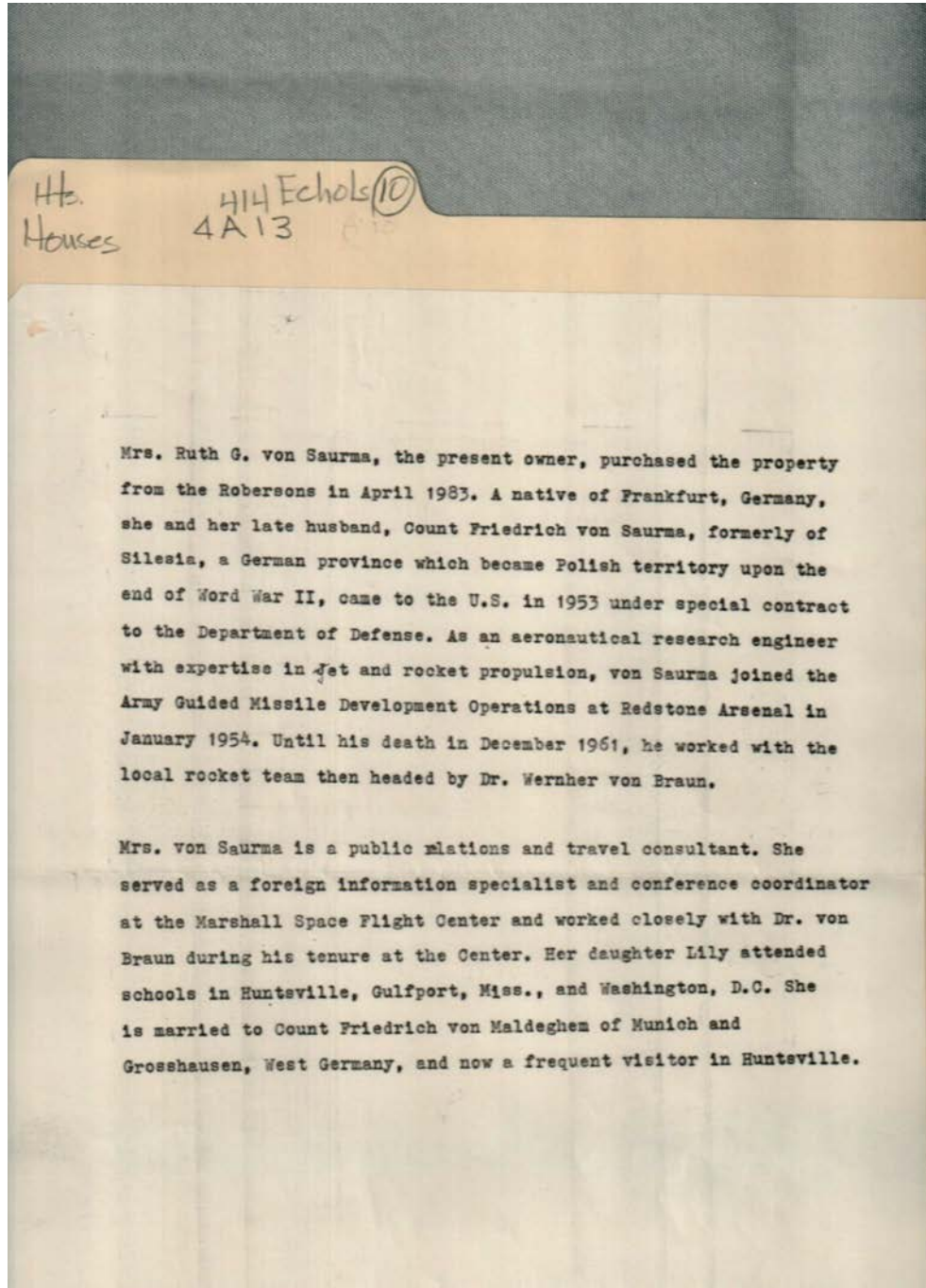
1980

ca. 1833

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 13, Folder 10

414 Echols (Dickson House), 1983 - Houses

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Names:

von Braun, Wernher,
Dr.

von Maldeghem,
Frederich. Count

von Saurma,
Friedrich, Count

von Saurma, Lily
von Saurma, Ruth G.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Munich, Germany

Silesia

Types:

history

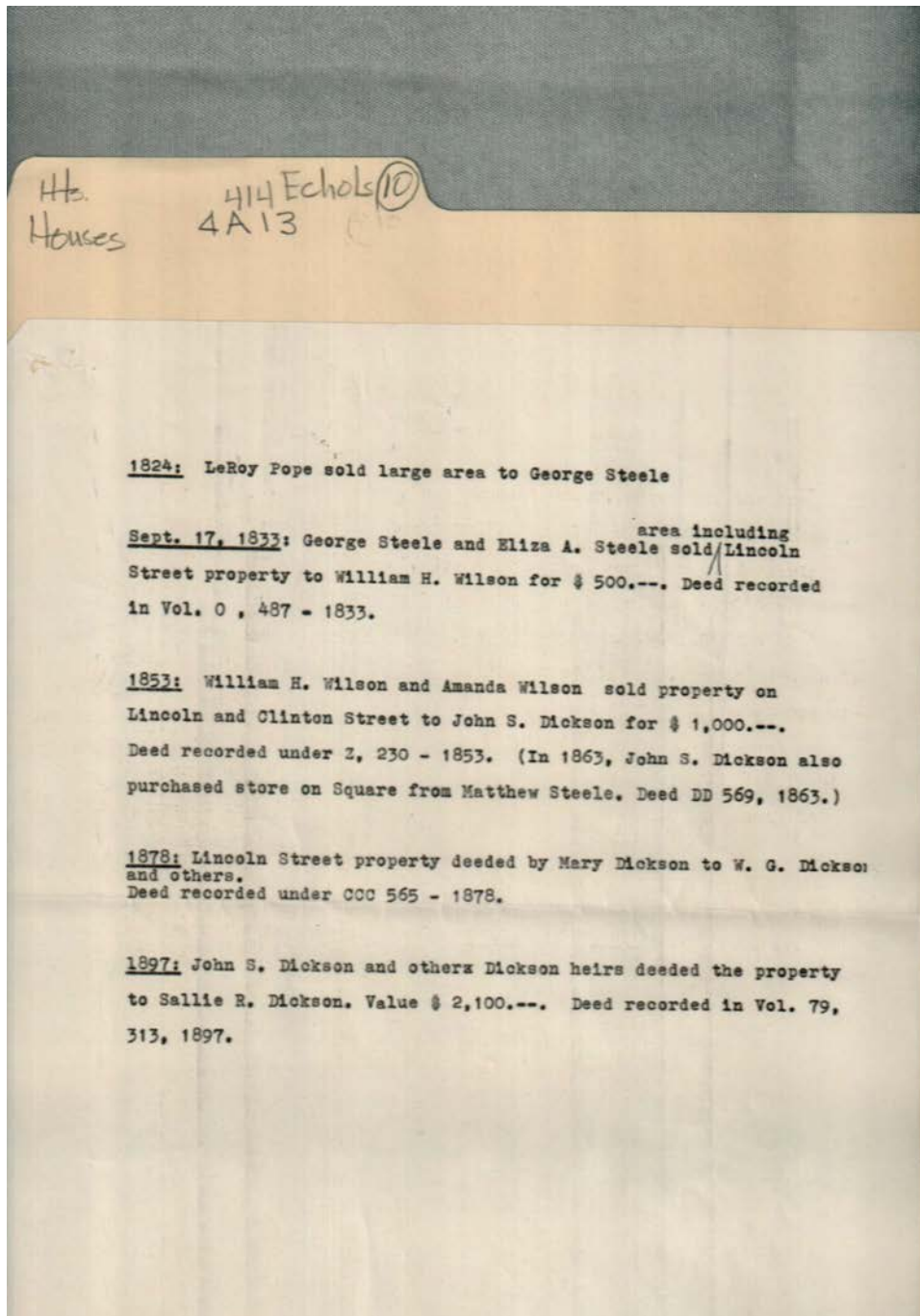
Dates:

1983

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 13, Folder 10

414 Echols (Dickson House), 1983 - Houses

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Hts.
Houses

414 Echols (10)
4A13

1824: LeRoy Pope sold large area to George Steele

Sept. 17, 1833: George Steele and Eliza A. Steele sold ^{area including} Lincoln Street property to William H. Wilson for \$ 500.--. Deed recorded in Vol. 0 , 487 - 1833.

1853: William H. Wilson and Amanda Wilson sold property on Lincoln and Clinton Street to John S. Dickson for \$ 1,000.--. Deed recorded under 2, 230 - 1853. (In 1863, John S. Dickson also purchased store on Square from Matthew Steele. Deed DD 569, 1863.)

1878: Lincoln Street property deeded by Mary Dickson to W. G. Dickson and others. Deed recorded under CCC 565 - 1878.

1897: John S. Dickson and otherx Dickson heirs deeded the property to Sallie R. Dickson. Value \$ 2,100.--. Deed recorded in Vol. 79, 313, 1897.

Names:

Dickson, John S.
Dickson, Mary
Dickson, Sallie R.

Dickson, W. G.
Pope, LeRoy
Steele, Eliza A.

Steele, George
Steele, Matthew
Wilson, Amanda

Wilson, William H.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

history

Dates:

1824
1833

1853
1863

1878
1897

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 13, Folder 10
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[Image 5](#) (r04a13-10-000-0005)

[Image 6](#) (r04a13-10-000-0006)

[Image 7](#) (r04a13-10-000-0007)

[Image 8](#) (r04a13-10-000-0008)

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Jones, Harvie [1](#), [3](#)

Munich, Germany [8](#)

Pope, LeRoy [9](#)

Roberson, Bernard E. & Suzanne [7](#)

Roberts, Frances, Dr. [7](#)

Roberts, Frances [1](#), [3](#)

Robertson, Bernard [5](#)

Silesia [8](#)

Steele, Eliza A. [9](#)

Steele, George [7](#), [9](#)

Steele, Matthew [9](#)

von Braun, Wernher, Dr. [8](#)

von Maldeghem, Frederich. Count [8](#)

von Saurma, Friedrich, Count [8](#)

von Saurma, Lily [8](#)

von Saurma, Ruth G. [8](#)

von Saurma, Ruth [2](#)

Walker, Moody, Dr. [7](#)

Wilson, Amanda [9](#)

Wilson, William H. [7](#), [9](#)

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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