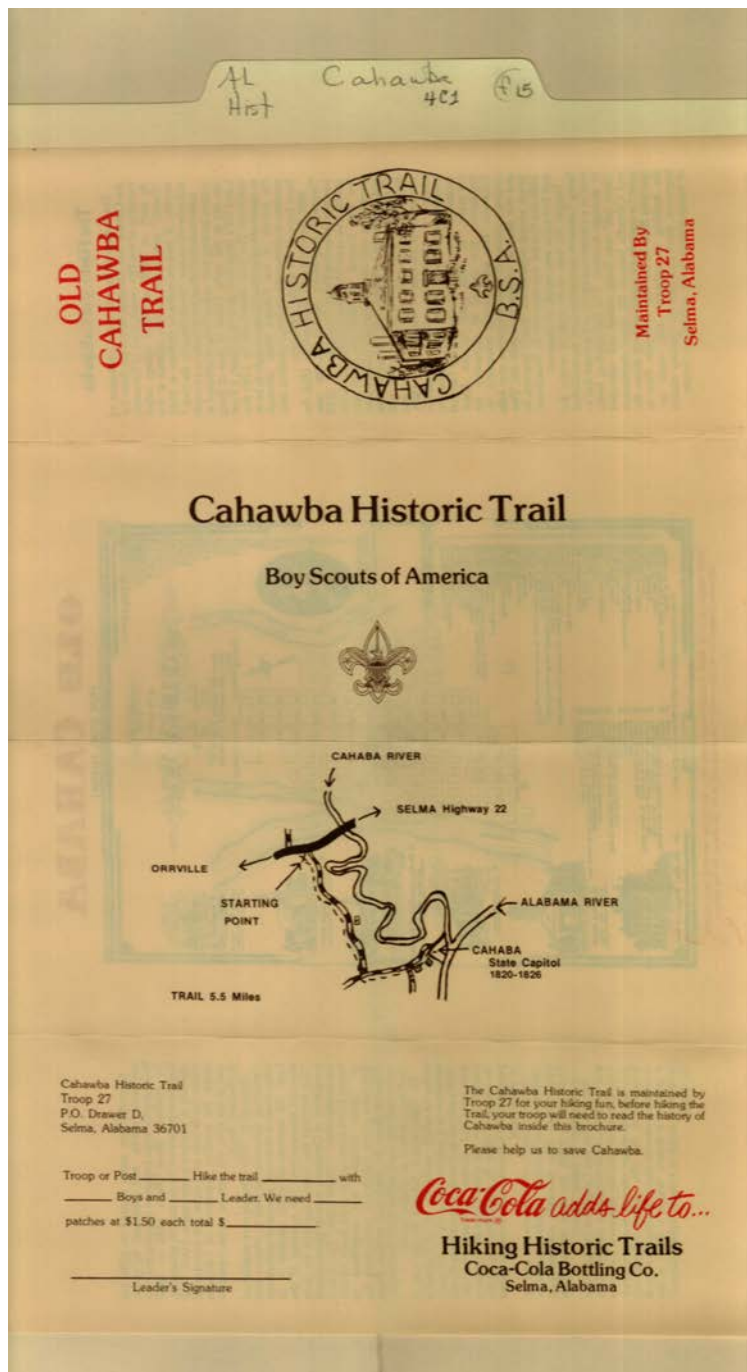


Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15  
Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

Image 1 r04c01-15-000-0065 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Boy Scouts of America

Cahawba Historic Trail

Coca Cola  
Old Cahawba Trail

**Places:**

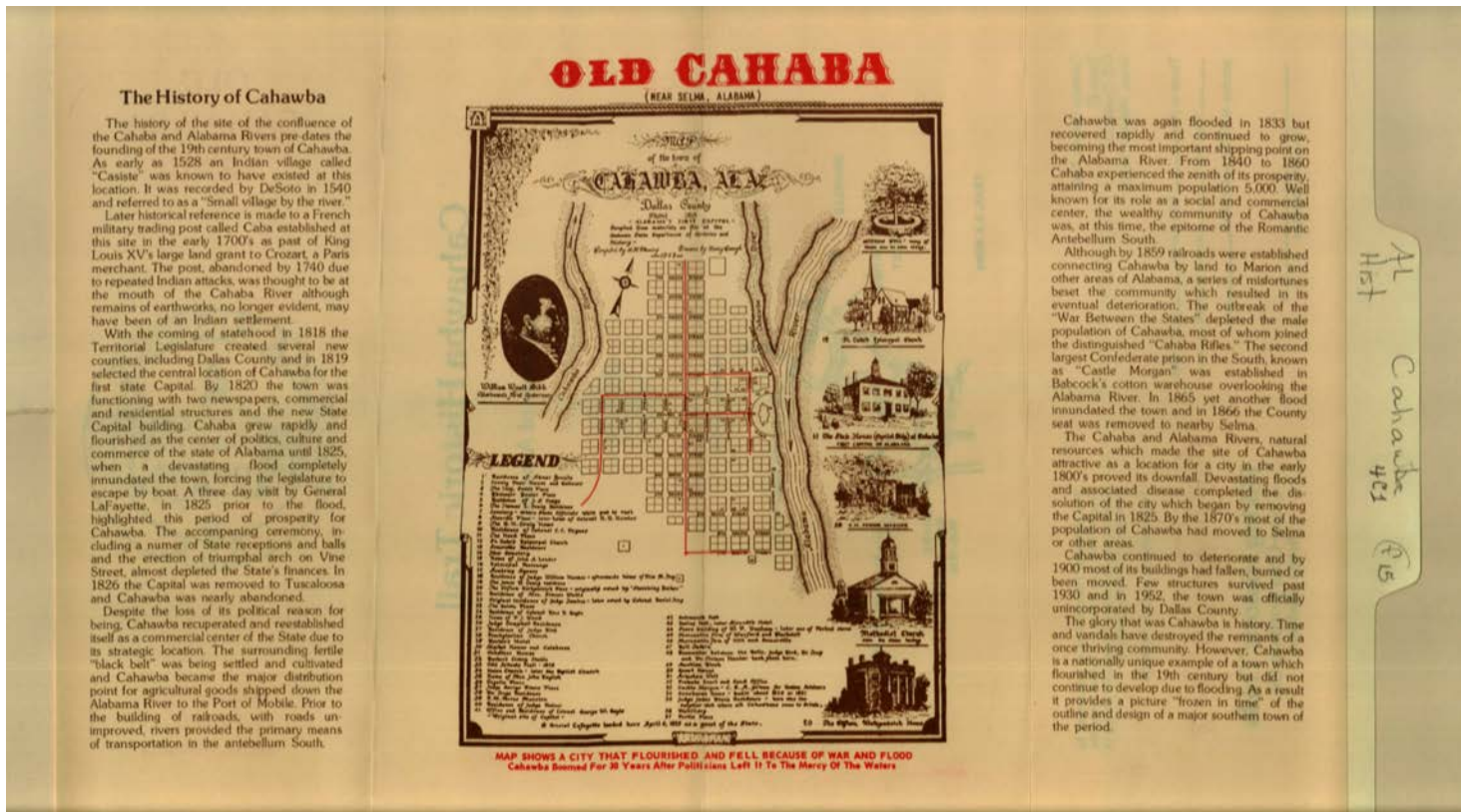
Selma, AL

**Types:**

advertisement

leaflet

map



**Names:**

Bibb, William Wyatt  
Cahaba  
Catawba, Alabama

Crough, Katty  
Crozzart,  
DeSoto,

Fleming, A. H.  
King Louis XV  
LaFayette, General

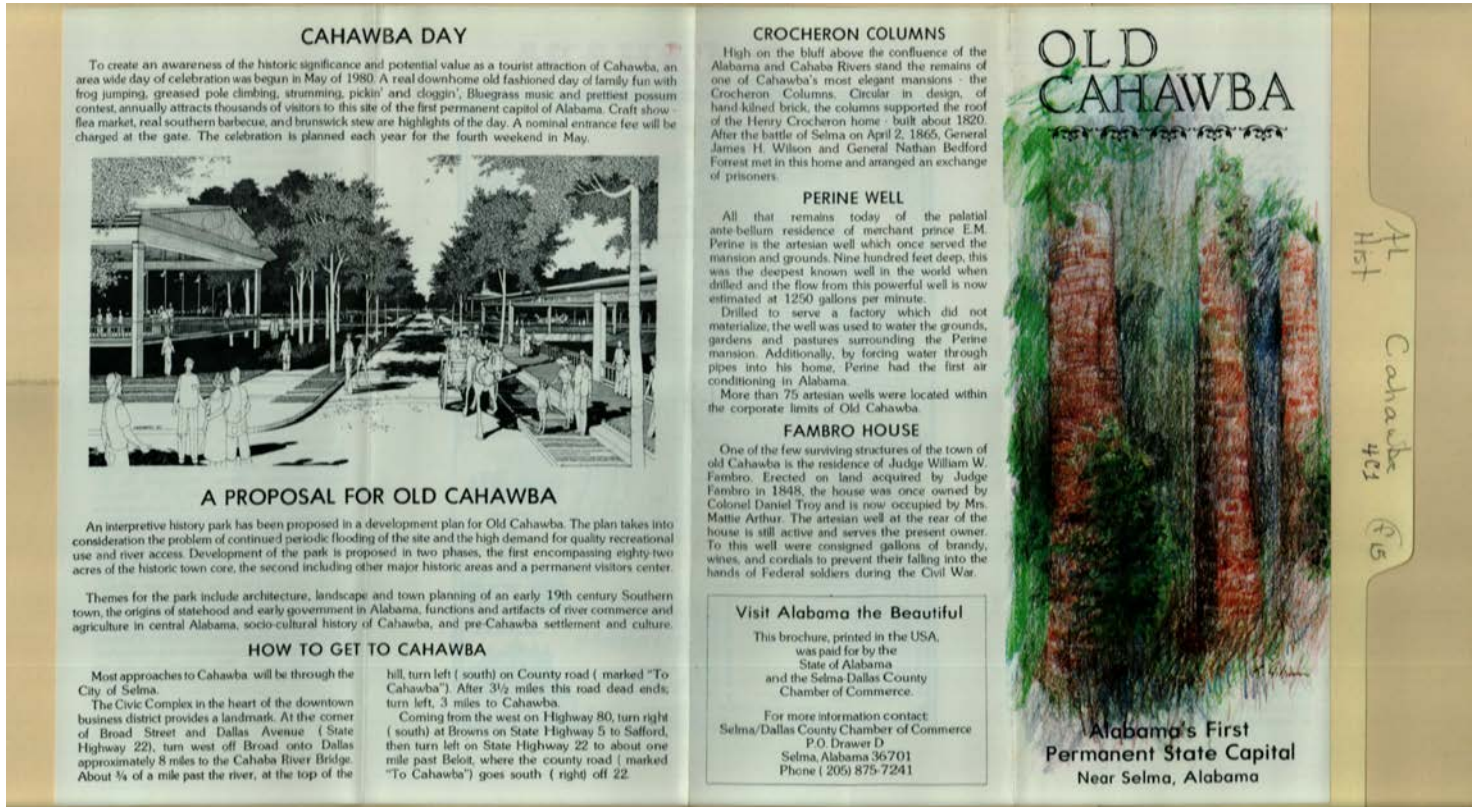
**Places:**

Selma, AL

**Types:**

leaflet

map



**Names:**

Arthur, Mattie, Mrs.  
Crocheron Columns  
Crocheron, Henry  
Fambro House

Fambro, William W.,  
Judge  
Forrest, Nathan  
Bedford, General

Old Cahawba  
Perine Well  
Perine, E. M.  
Troy, Daniel, Colonel

Wilson, James H.,  
General

**Places:**

Selma, AL

**Types:**

leaflet



### The History of Cahaba

The history of the site of the confluence of the Cahaba and Alabama Rivers pre-dates the founding of the 19th century town of Cahaba. As early as 1528 an Indian village called "Casiste" was known to have existed at this location. It was recorded by DeSoto in 1540 and referred to as a "Small village by the river."

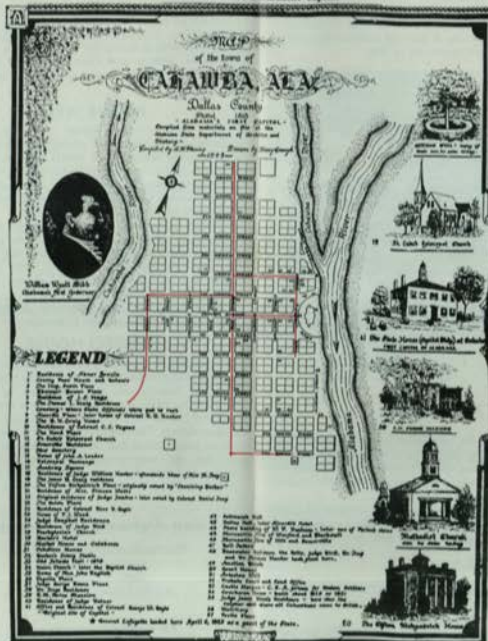
Later historical reference is made to a French military trading post called Caba established at this site in the early 1700's as part of King Louis XV's large land grant to Crozat, a Paris merchant. The post, abandoned by 1740 due to repeated Indian attacks, was thought to be at the mouth of the Cahaba River although remains of earthworks, no longer evident, may have been of an Indian settlement.

With the coming of statehood in 1818 the Territorial Legislature created several new counties, including Dallas County and in 1819 selected the central location of Cahaba for the first state Capital. By 1820 the town was functioning with two newspapers, commercial and residential structures and the new State Capitol building. Cahaba grew rapidly and flourished as the center of politics, culture and commerce of the state of Alabama until 1825, when a devastating flood completely inundated the town, forcing the legislature to escape by boat. A three day visit by General Lafayette, in 1825 prior to the flood, highlighted this period of prosperity for Cahaba. The accompanying ceremony, including a number of State receptions and balls and the erection of triumphal arch on Vine Street, almost depleted the State's finances. In 1826 the Capital was removed to Tuscaloosa and Cahaba was nearly abandoned.

Despite the loss of its political reason for being, Cahaba recuperated and reestablished itself as a commercial center of the State due to its strategic location. The surrounding fertile "black belt" was being settled and cultivated and Cahaba became the major distribution point for agricultural goods shipped down the Alabama River to the Port of Mobile. Prior to the building of railroads, with roads unimproved, rivers provided the primary means of transportation in the antebellum South.

## OLD CAHABA

Alabama's First Permanent Capital



Cahaba was again flooded in 1833 but recovered rapidly and continued to grow, becoming the most important shipping point on the Alabama River. From 1840 to 1860 Cahaba experienced the zenith of its prosperity, attaining a maximum population 5,000. Well known for its role as a social and commercial center, the wealthy community of Cahaba was, at this time, the epitome of the Romantic Antebellum South.

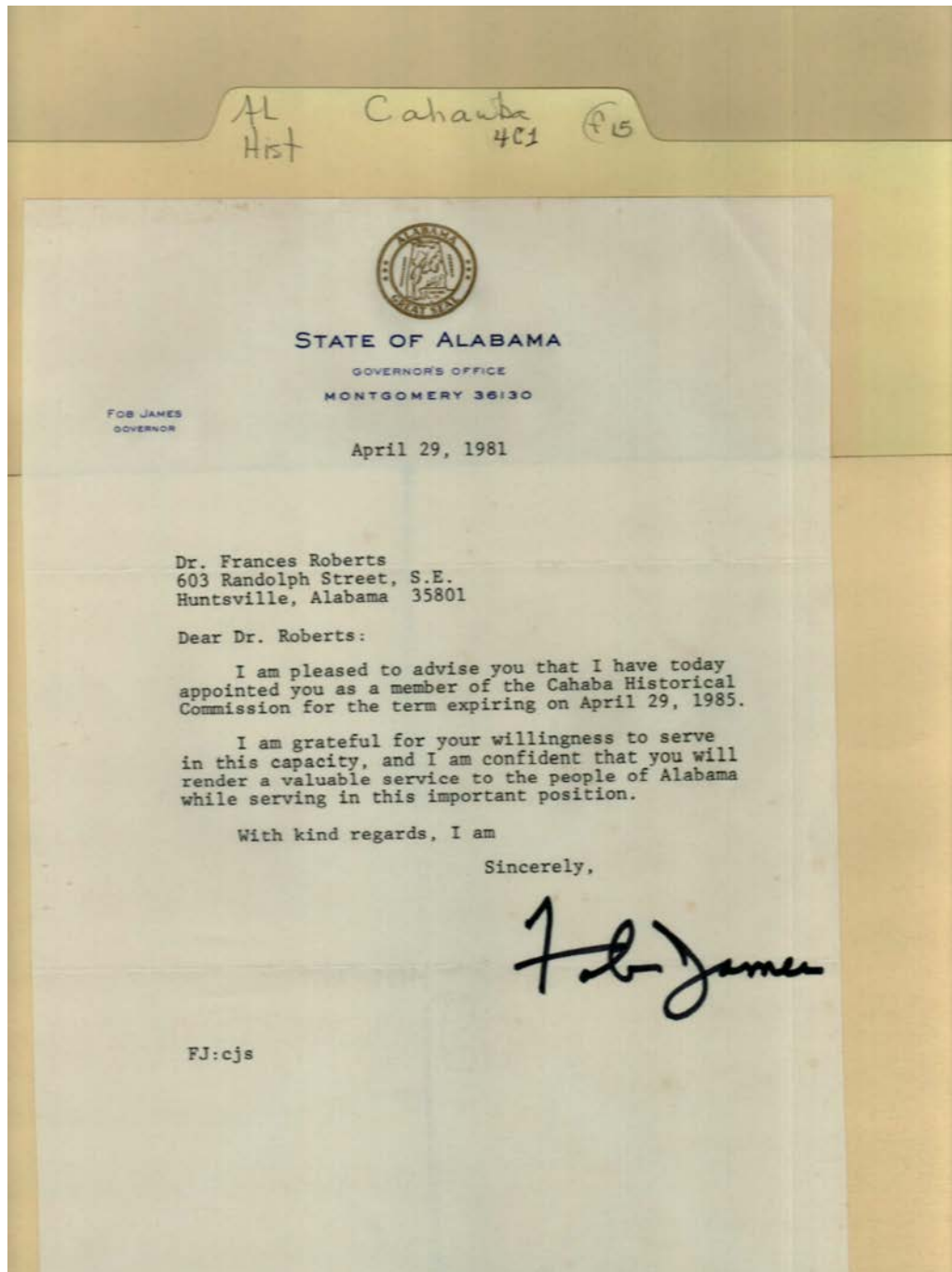
Although by 1859 railroads were established connecting Cahaba by land to Marion and other areas of Alabama, a series of misfortunes beset the community which resulted in its eventual deterioration. The outbreak of the "War Between the States" depleted the male population of Cahaba, most of whom joined the distinguished "Cahaba Rifles." The second largest Confederate prison in the South, known as "Castle Morgan" was established in Babcock's cotton warehouse overlooking the Alabama River. In 1865 yet another flood inundated the town and in 1866 the County seat was removed to nearby Selma.

The Cahaba and Alabama Rivers, natural resources which made the site of Cahaba attractive as a location for a city in the early 1800's proved its downfall. Devastating floods and associated disease completed the dissolution of the city which began by removing the Capital in 1825. By the 1870's most of the population of Cahaba had moved to Selma or other areas.

Cahaba continued to deteriorate and by 1900 most of its buildings had fallen, burned or been moved. Few structures survived past 1930 and in 1952, the town was officially incorporated by Dallas County.

The glory that was Cahaba is history. Time and vandals have destroyed the remnants of a once thriving community. However, Cahaba is a nationally unique example of a town which flourished in the 19th century but did not continue to develop due to flooding. As a result it provides a picture "frozen in time" of the outline and design of a major southern town of the period.

AL  
Hist  
Cahaba  
1967  
15



**Names:**

James, Fob, Governor

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

**Places:**

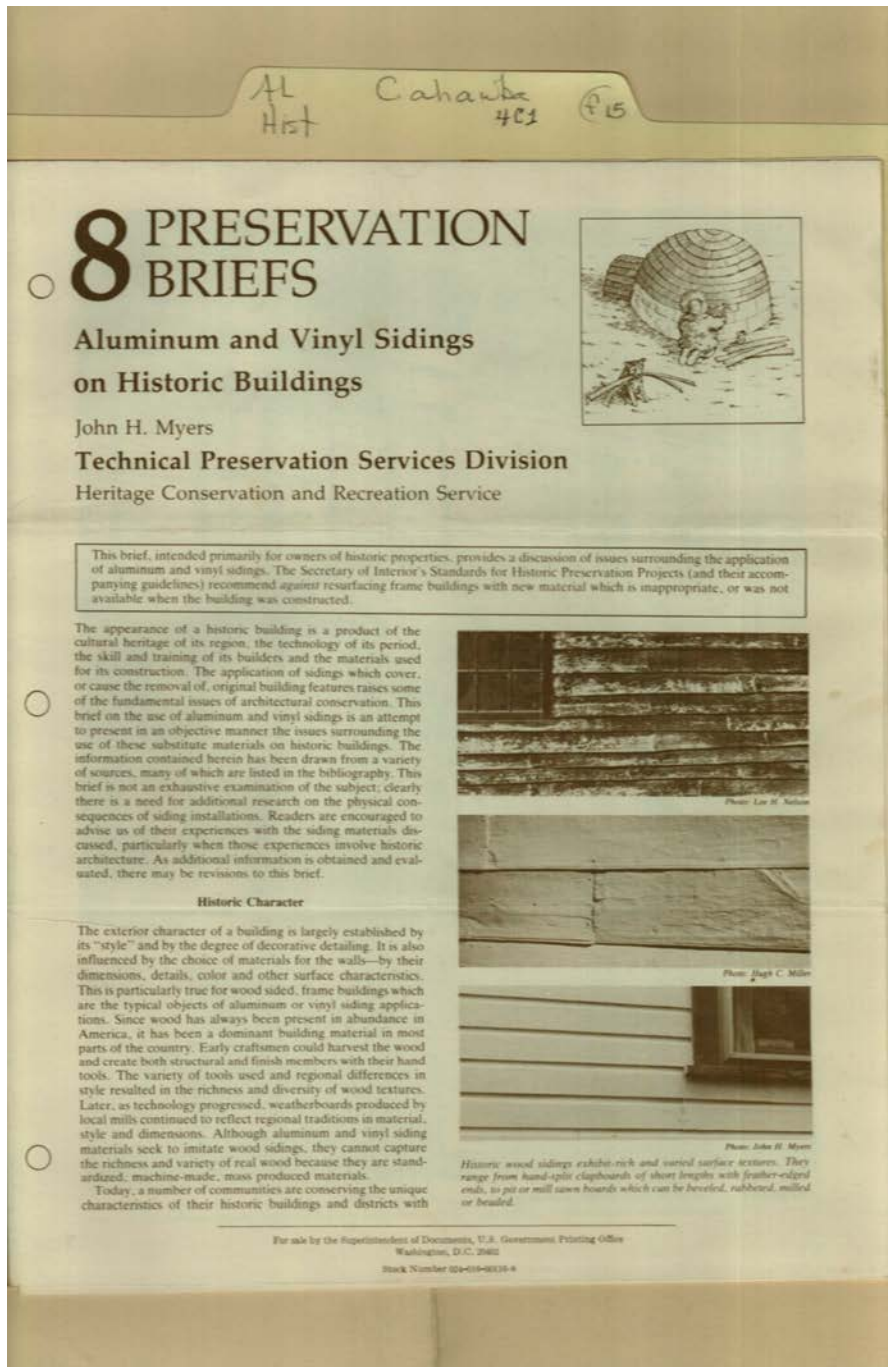
Montgomery, AL

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Apr 29, 1981



**Names:**

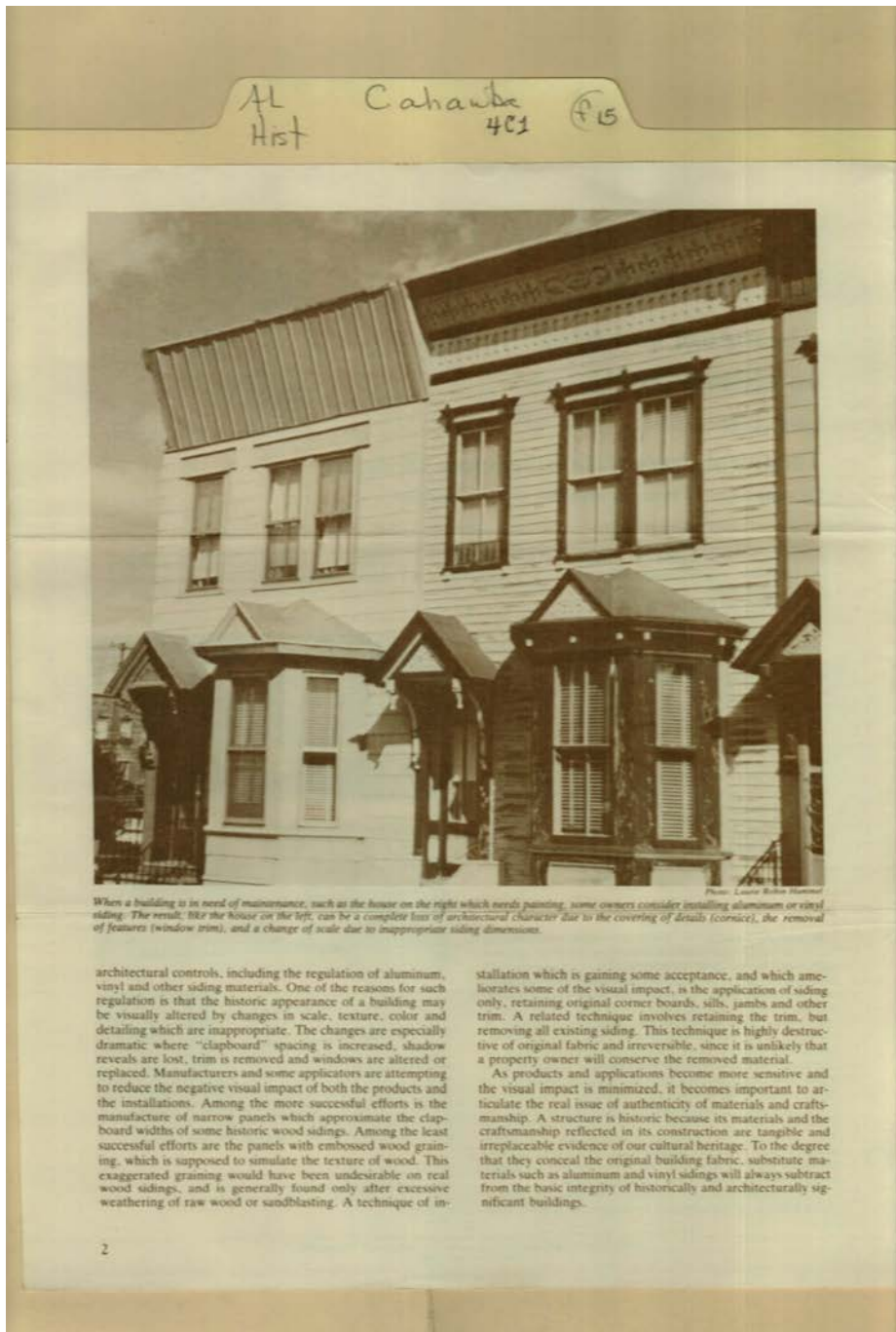
Aluminum Siding  
Myers, John H.

Sidings on Historic  
Buildings

Vinyl Siding

**Types:**

leaflet



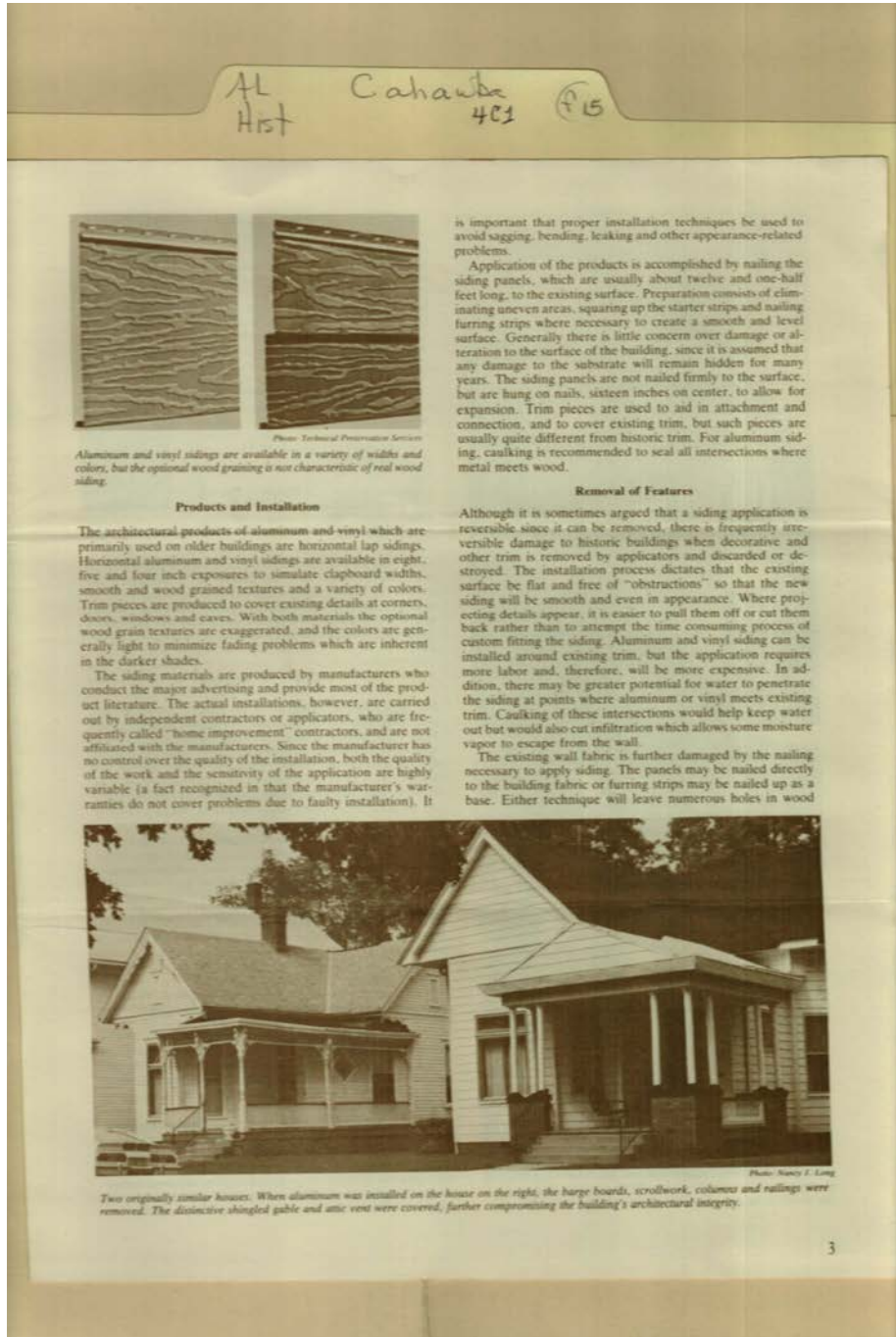
**Names:**

Sidings on Historic Buildings

**Types:**

photo





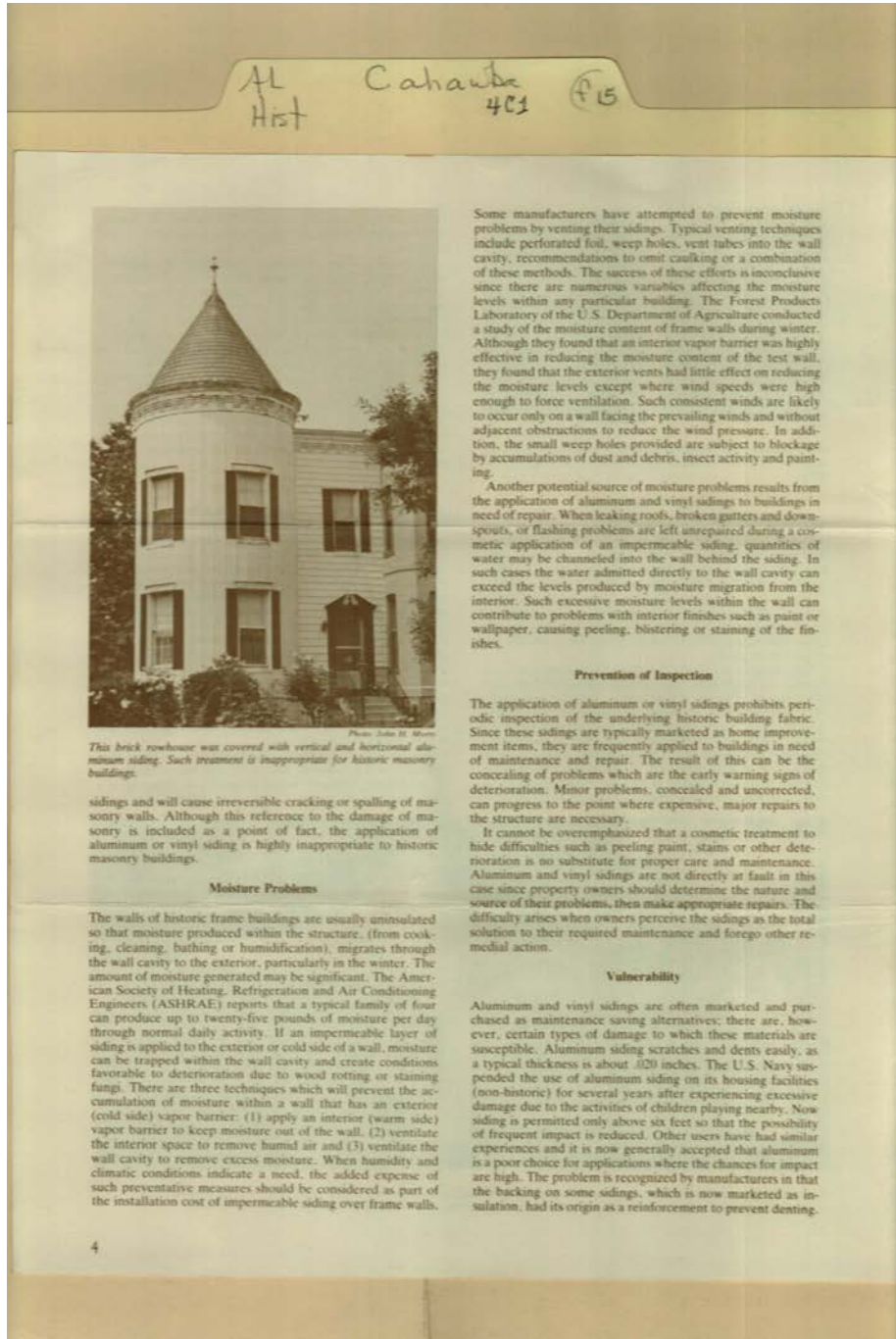
**Names:**

Sidings on Historic Buildings

**Types:**

photo



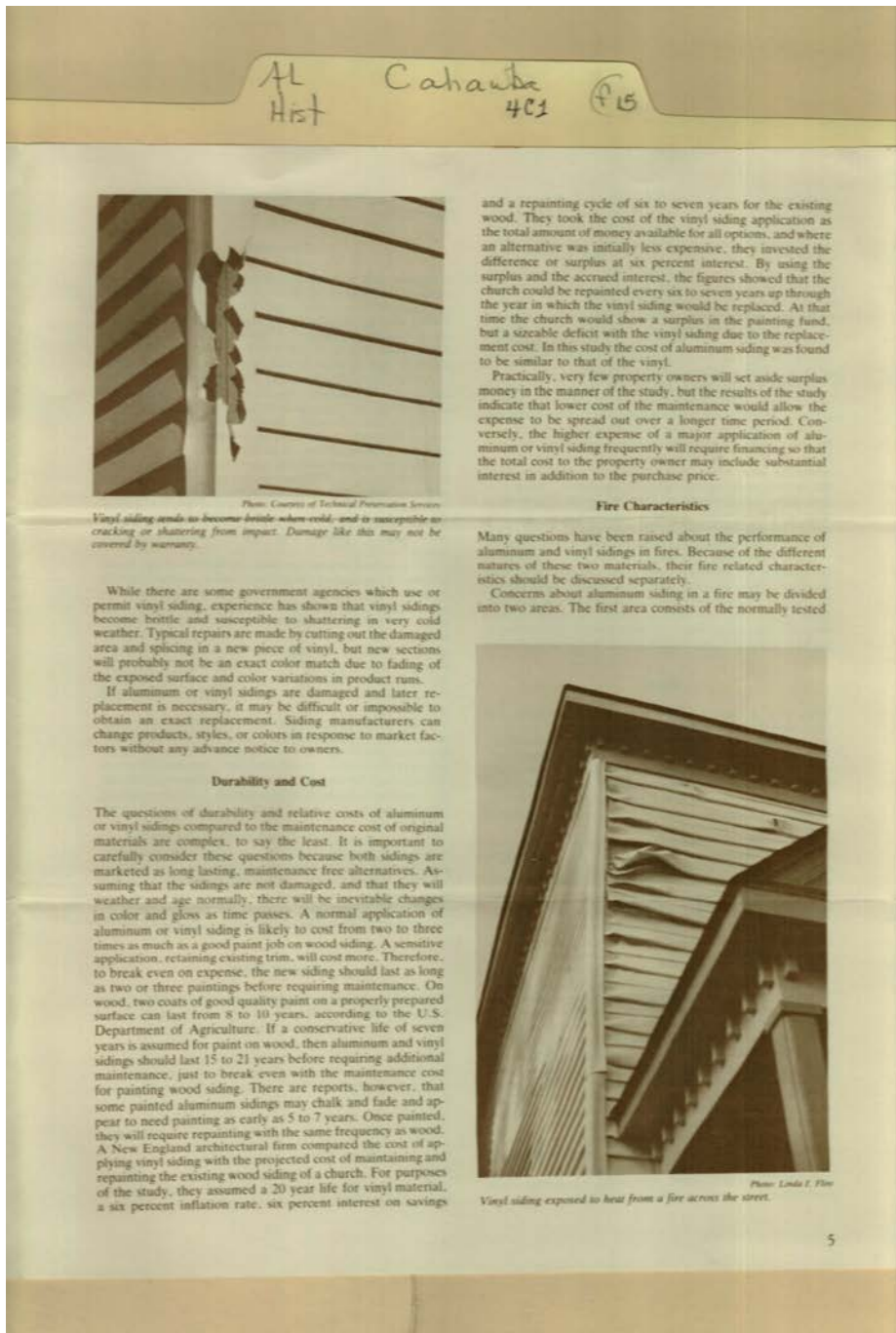


**Names:**

Sidings on Historic Buildings

**Types:**

photo

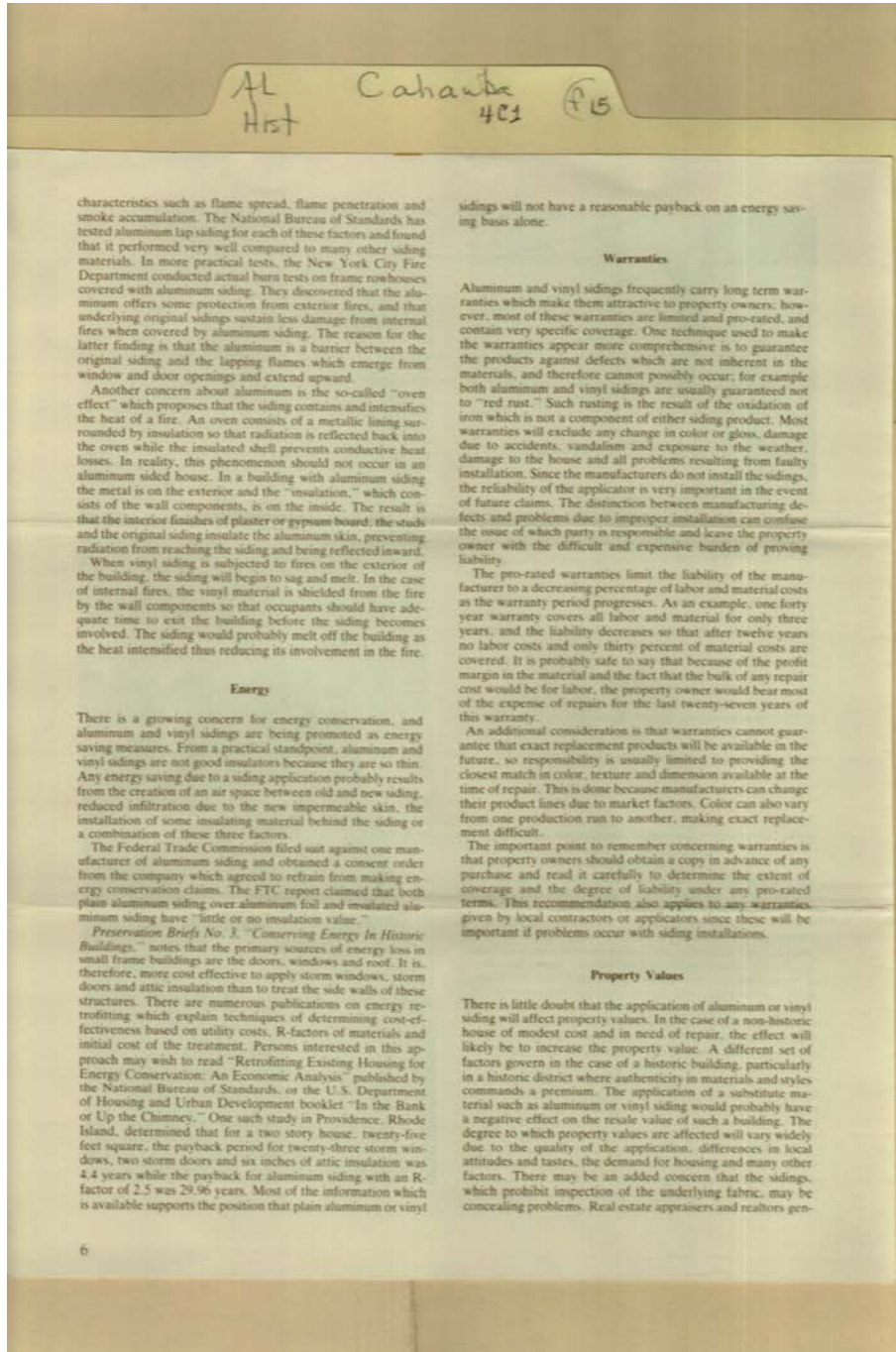


**Names:**

Sidings on Historic Buildings

**Types:**

photo



**Names:**

Sidings on Historic Buildings

**Types:**

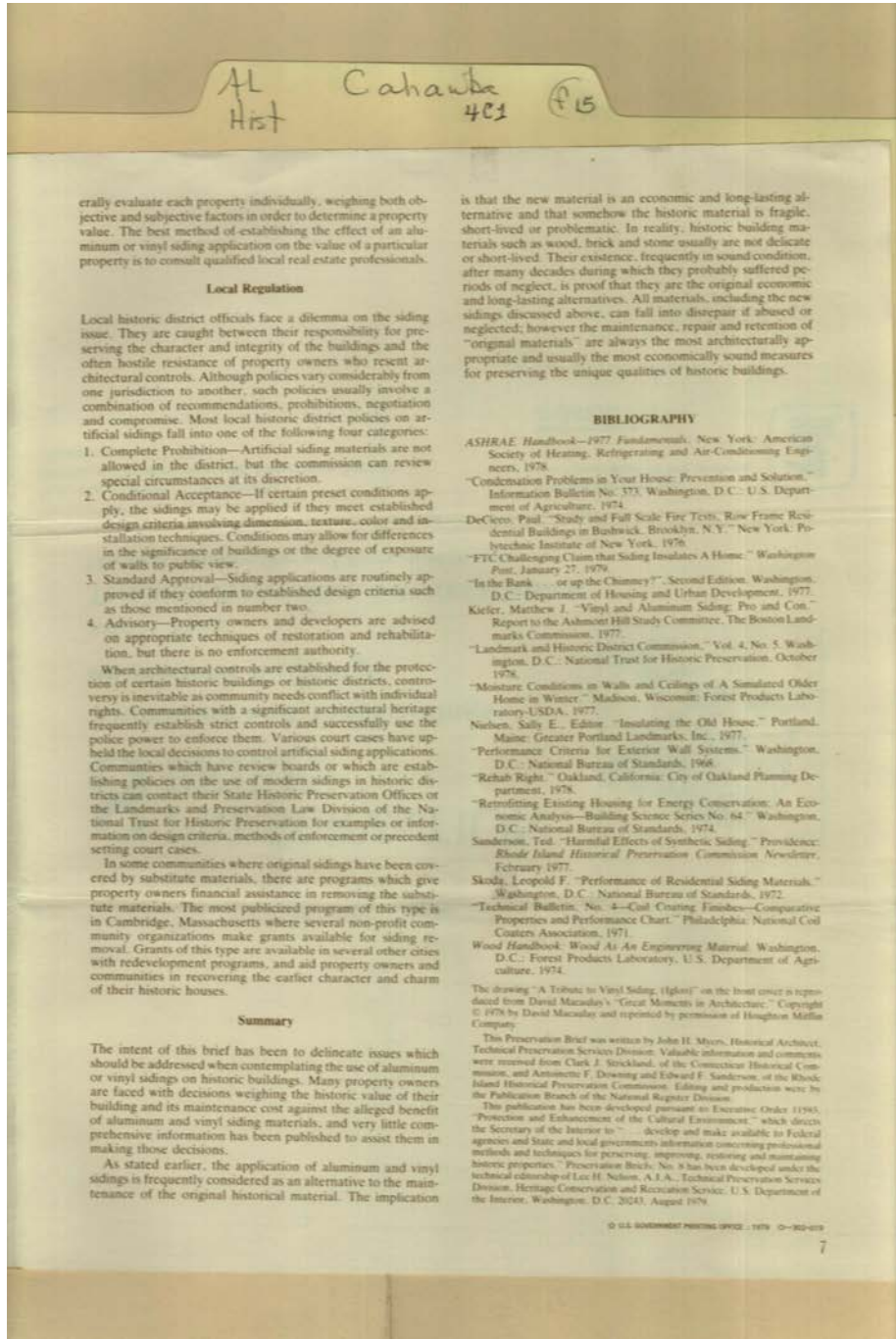
leaflet



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15

Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

Image 12 r04c01-15-000-0076 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



Names:

DeCicco, Paul  
Downing, Antoinette  
F.  
Kiefer, Matthew J.

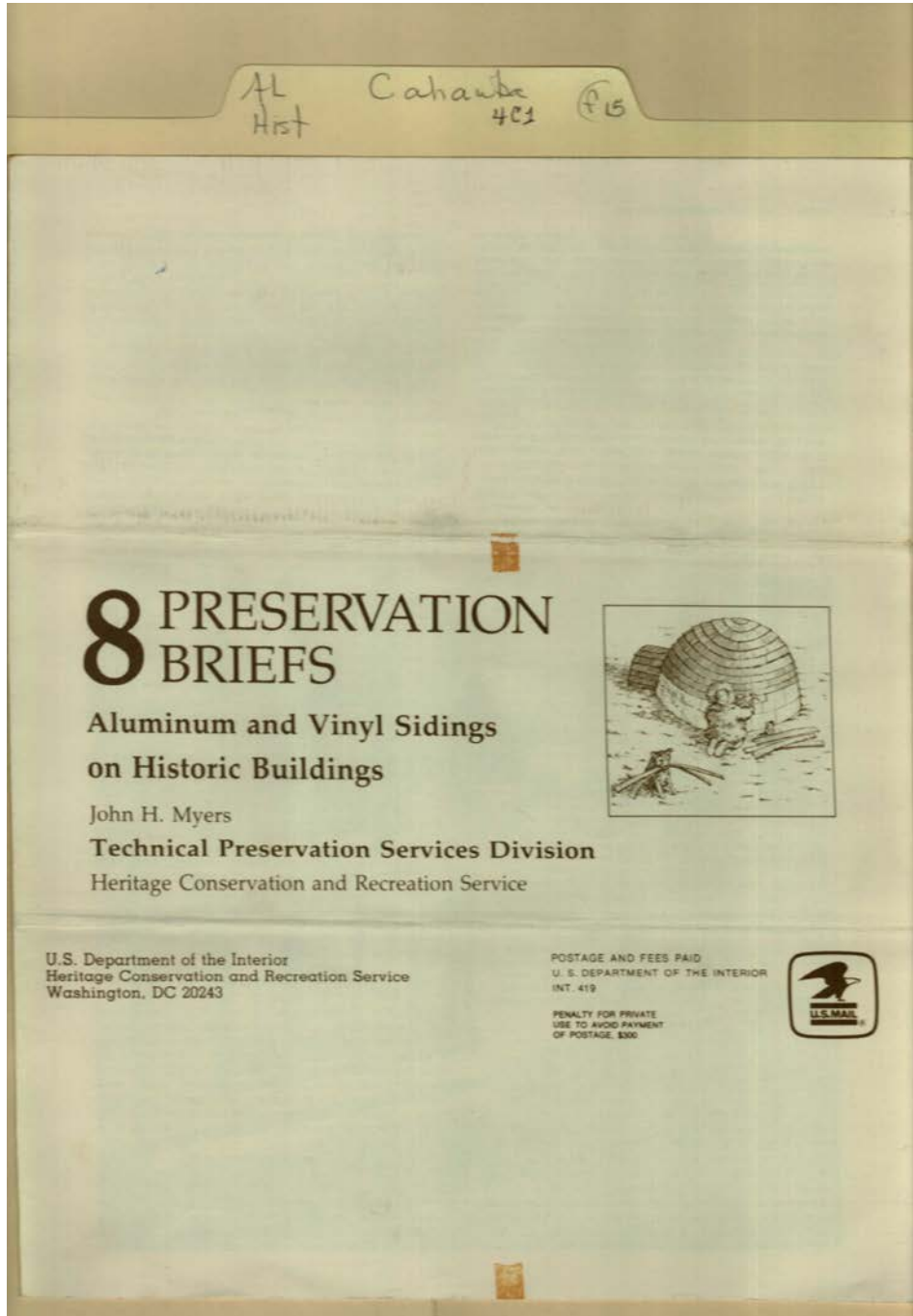
Macaulay, David  
Myers, John H.  
Nelson, Lee H.  
Nielsen, Sally E.

Sanderson, Edward F.  
Sanderson, Ted  
Sidings on Historic  
Buildings

Skoda, Leopold F.  
Strickland, Clark J.

Types:

leaflet



**Names:**

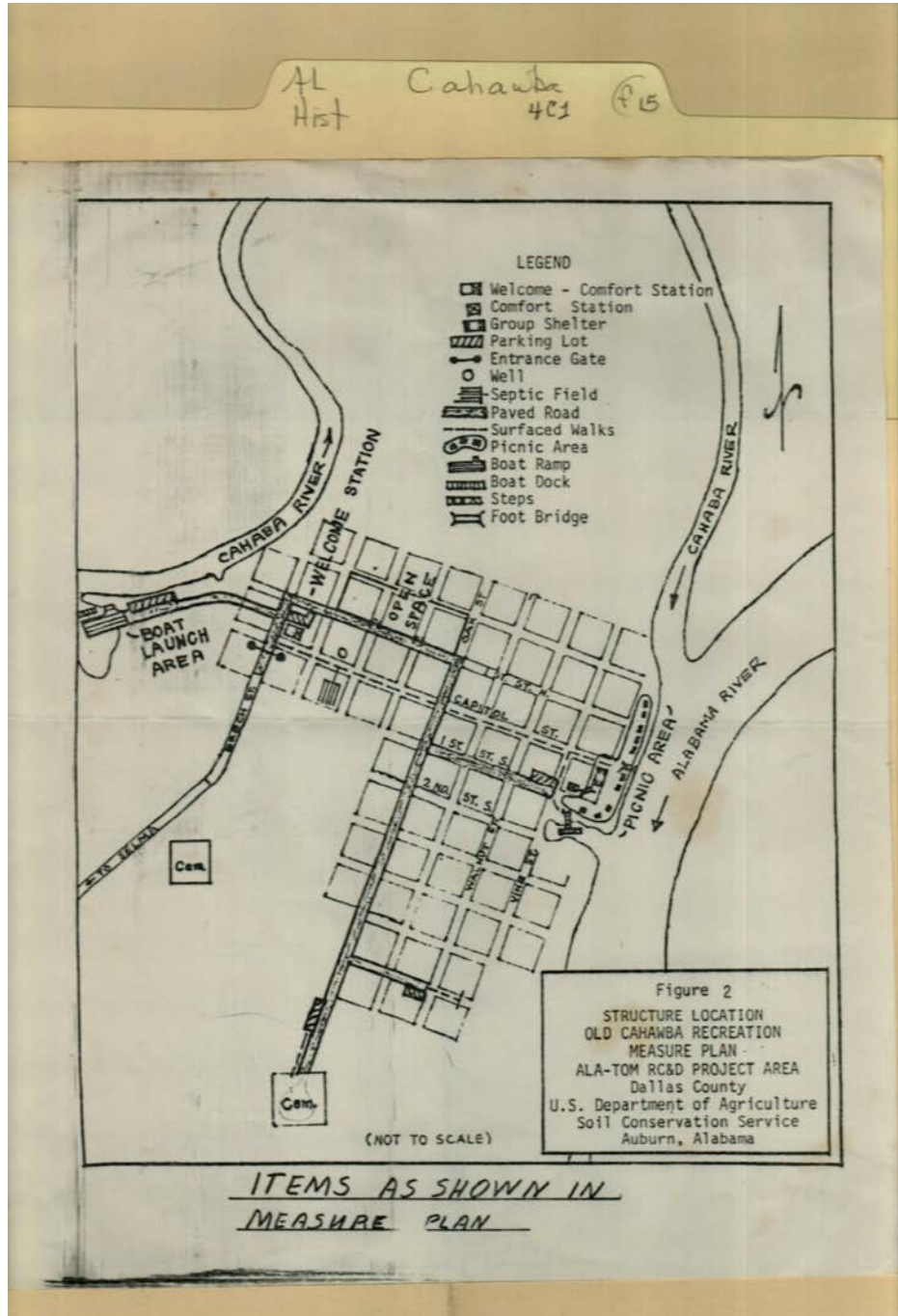
Aluminum Siding  
Myers, John H.

Sidings on Historic  
Buildings

Vinyl Siding

**Types:**

leaflet



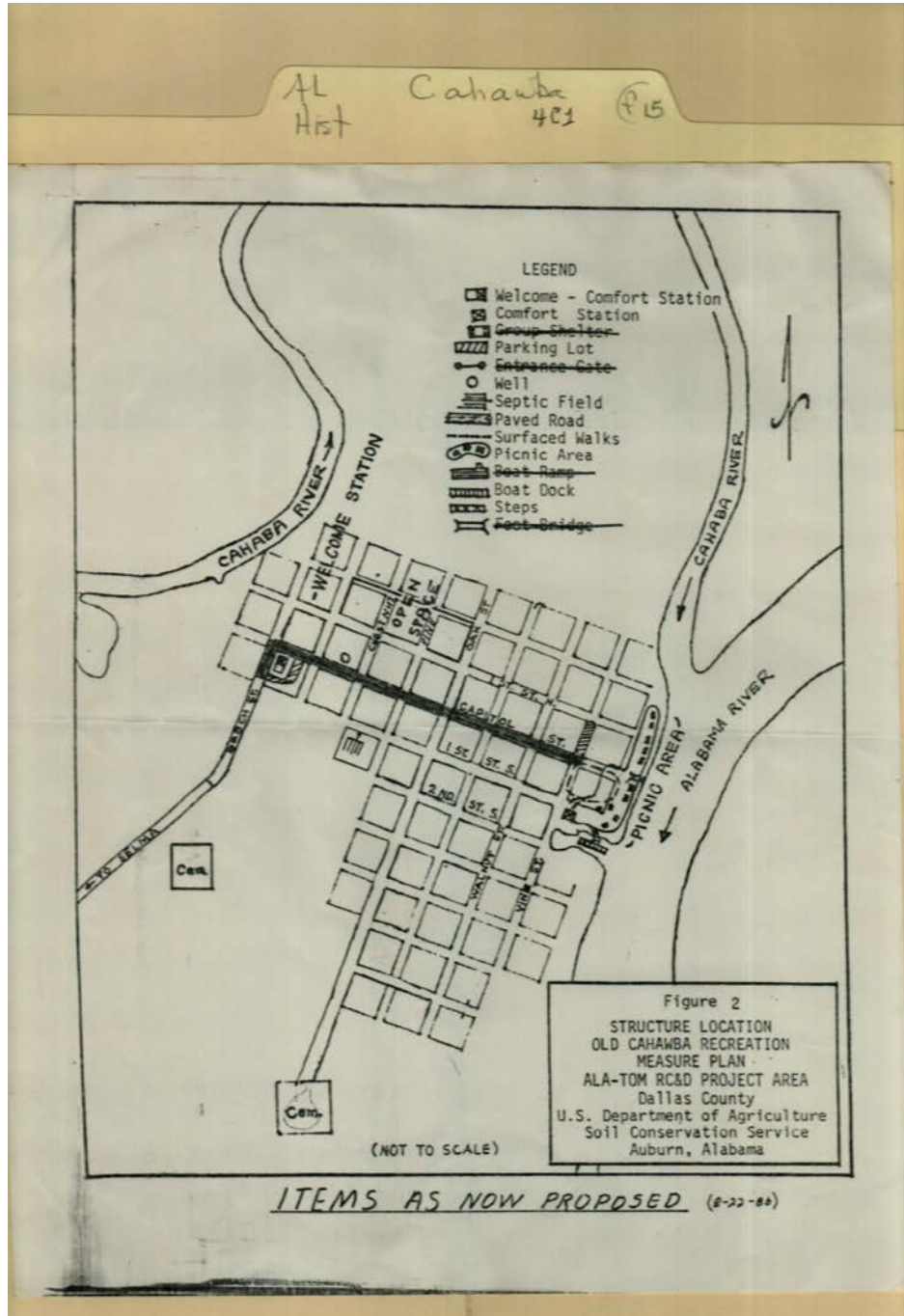
**Names:**

Old Cahawba  
Structures Location

**Types:**

map



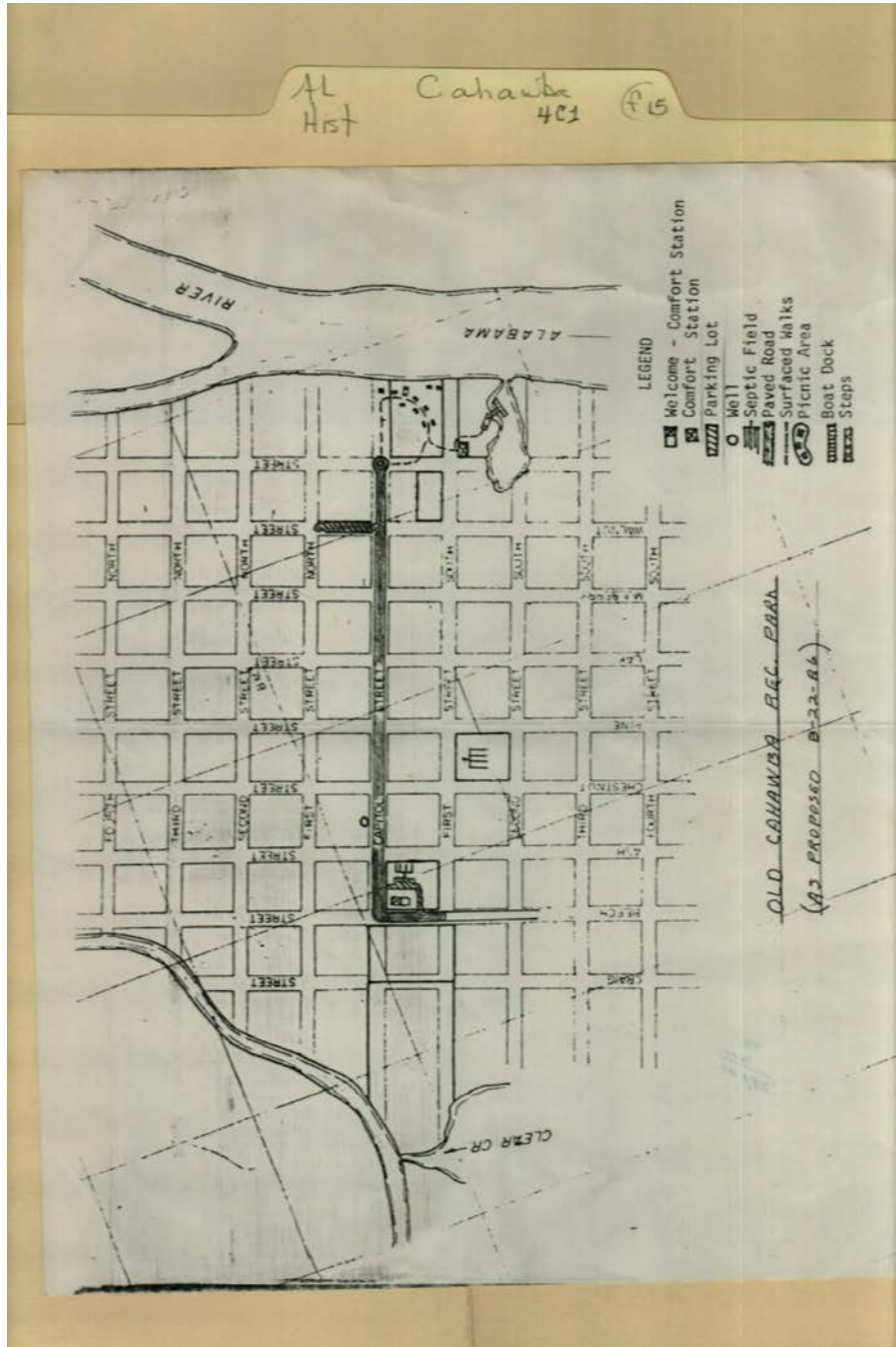


**Names:**

Old Cahawba proposed  
Structures Location

**Types:**

map



**Names:**

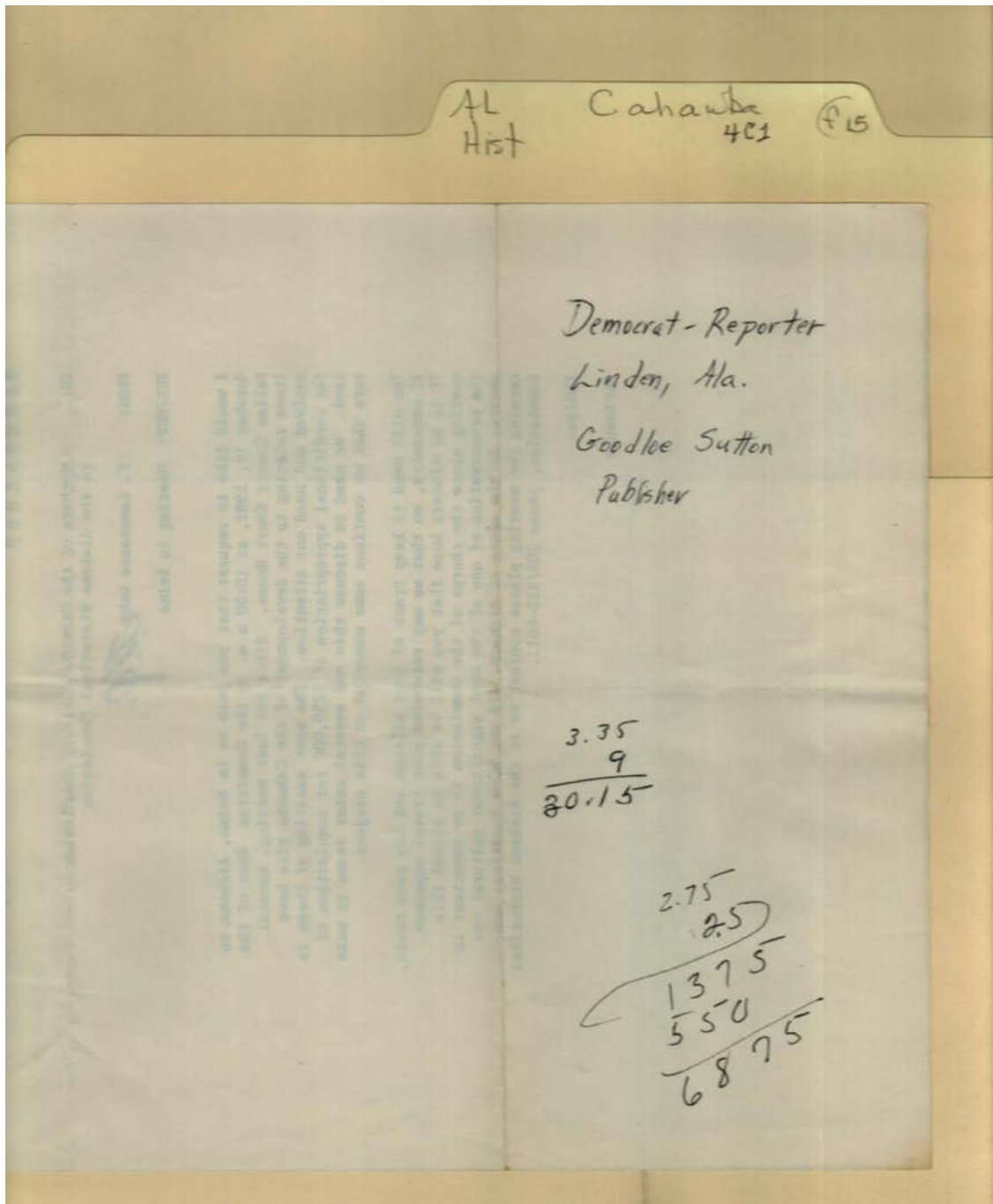
Old Cahawba  
Recreation Plan

**Types:**

map







**Names:**

Sutton, Goodloe

Democrat-Reporter

**Places:**

Linden, AL

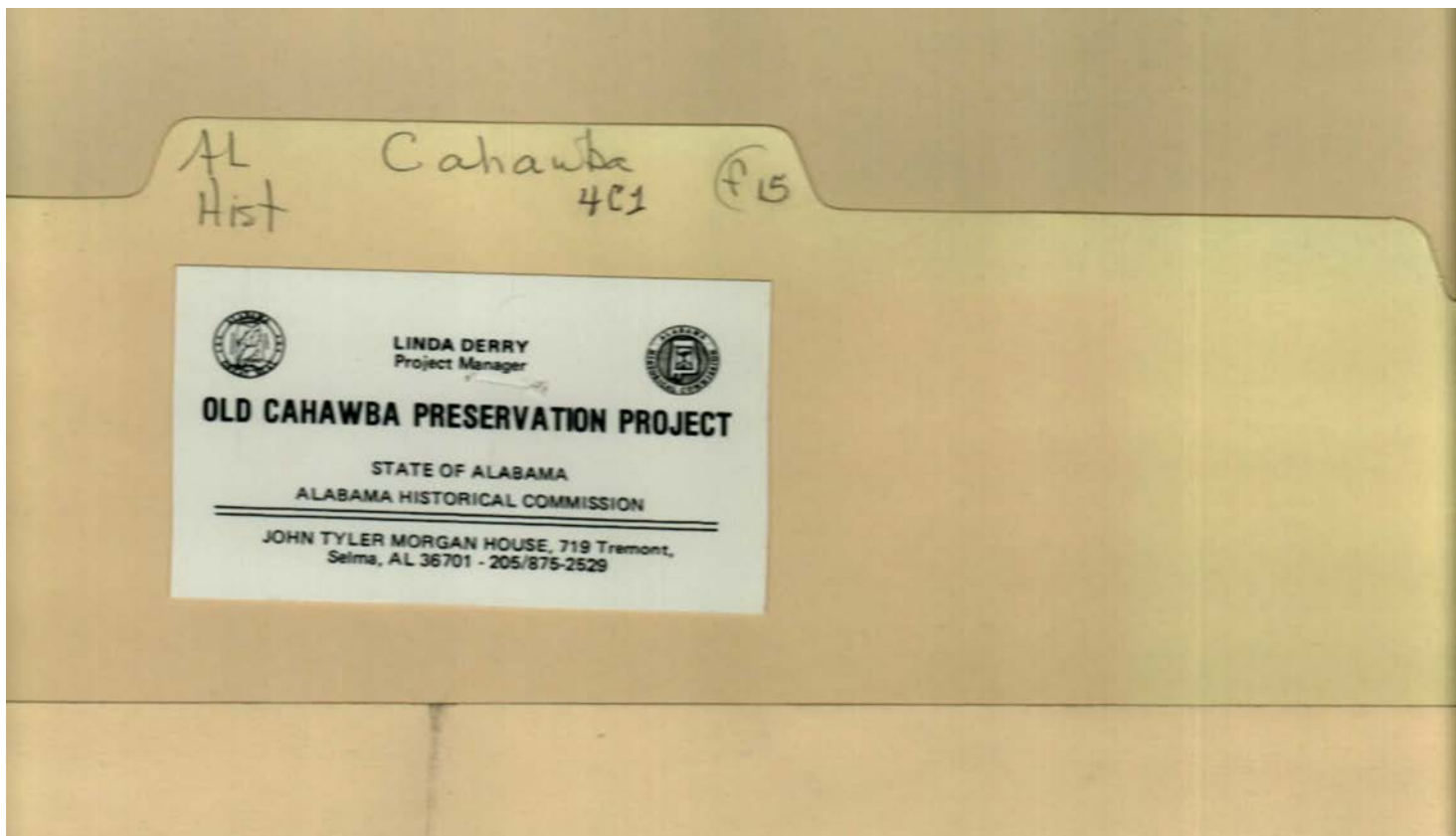
**Types:**

memo

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15

Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

Image 19 r04c01-15-000-0083 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Derry, Linda

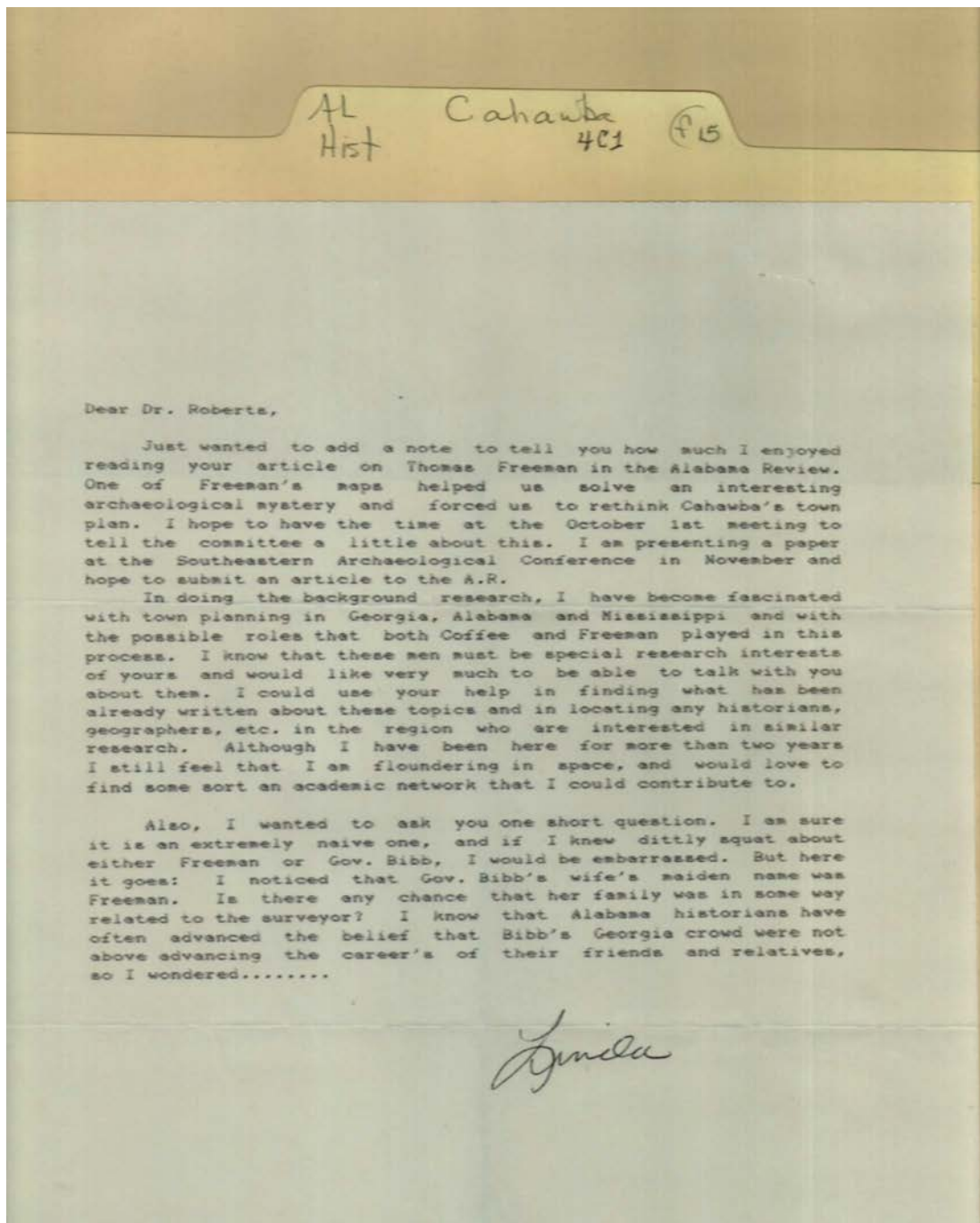
Old Cahawba  
Preservation Project

**Places:**

Selma, AL

**Types:**

card



**Names:**

, Linda  
Bibb, Governor

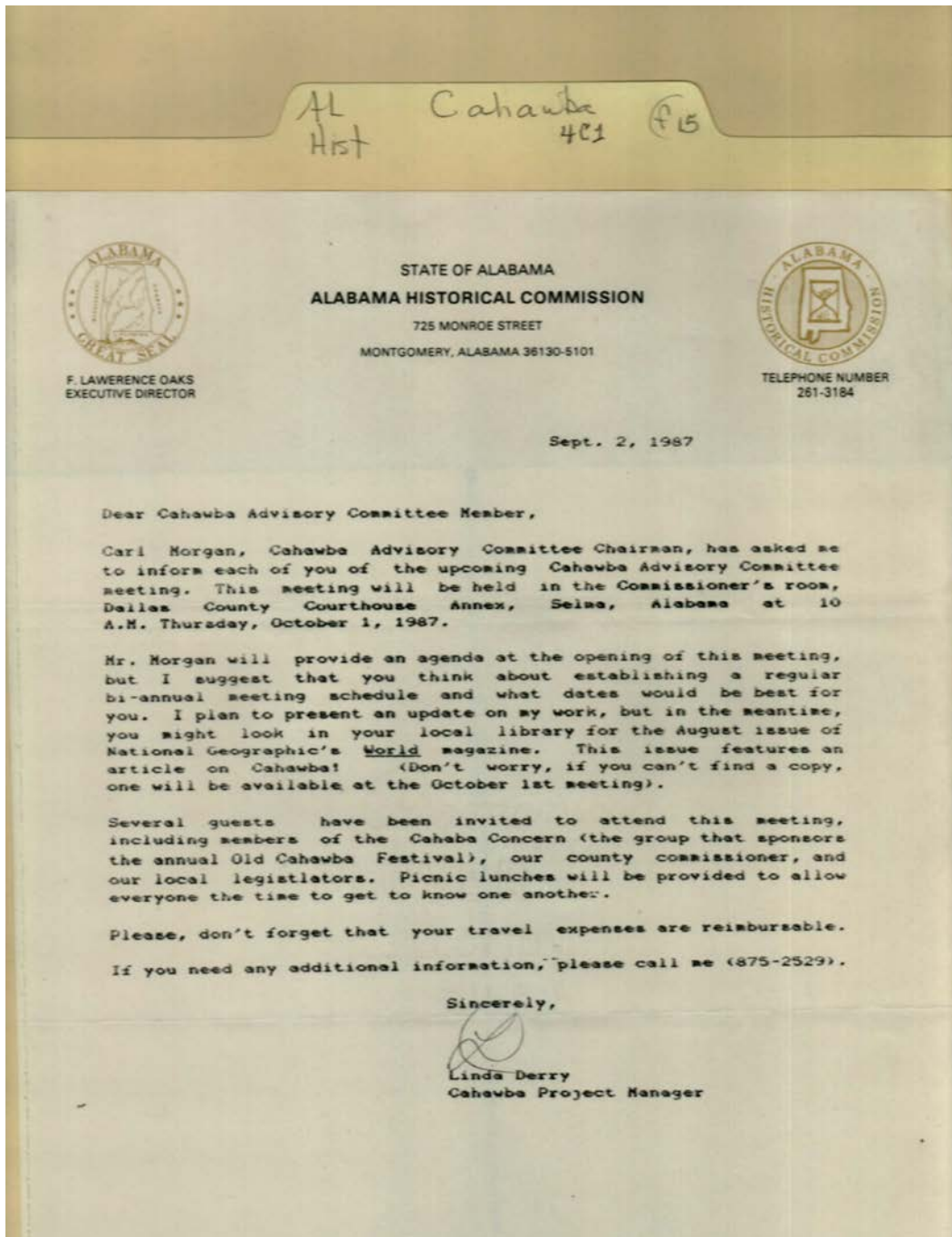
Coffee,  
Freeman, Thomas

Roberts, Dr.

**Types:**

correspondence





**Names:**

Derry, Linda

Morgan, Carl

Oaks, F. Lawrence

**Places:**

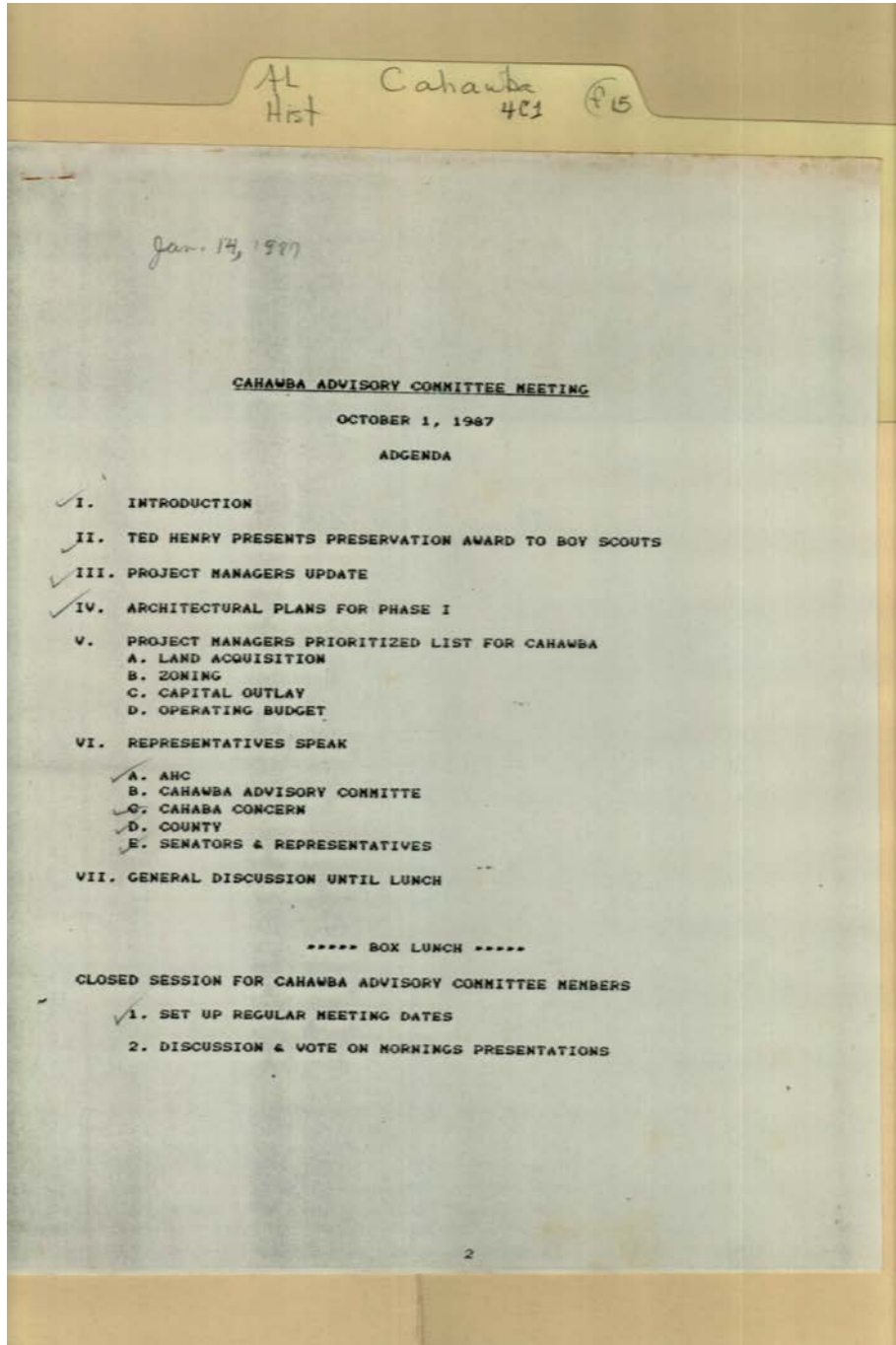
Montgomery, AL

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Sep 02, 1967



**Names:**

Cahawba Advisory  
Committee Meeting

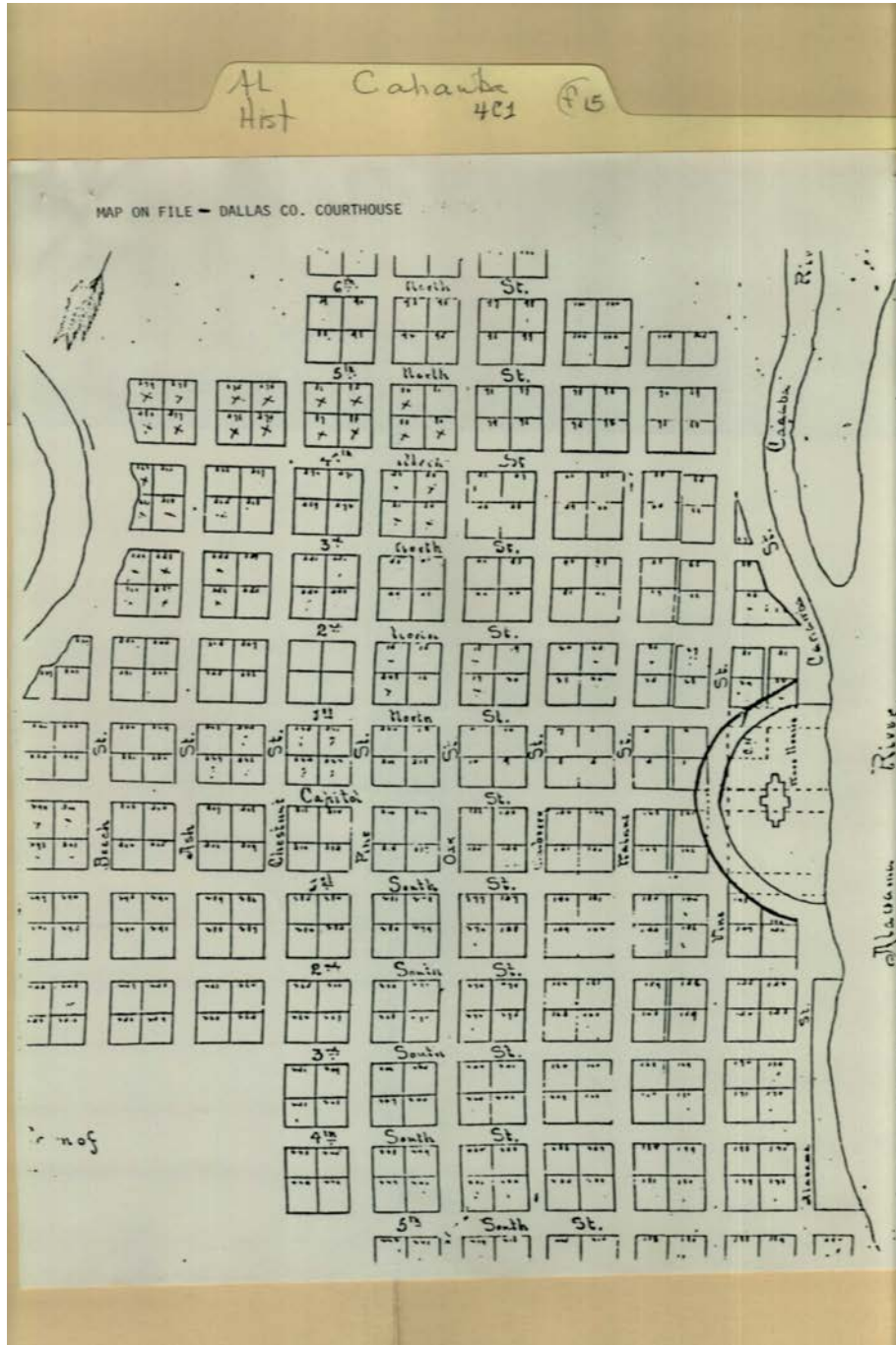
Henry, Ted

**Types:**

agenda

**Dates:**

Oct 01, 1967



**Names:**

Dallas Co., AL Map

**Places:**

Dallas Co., AL

**Types:**

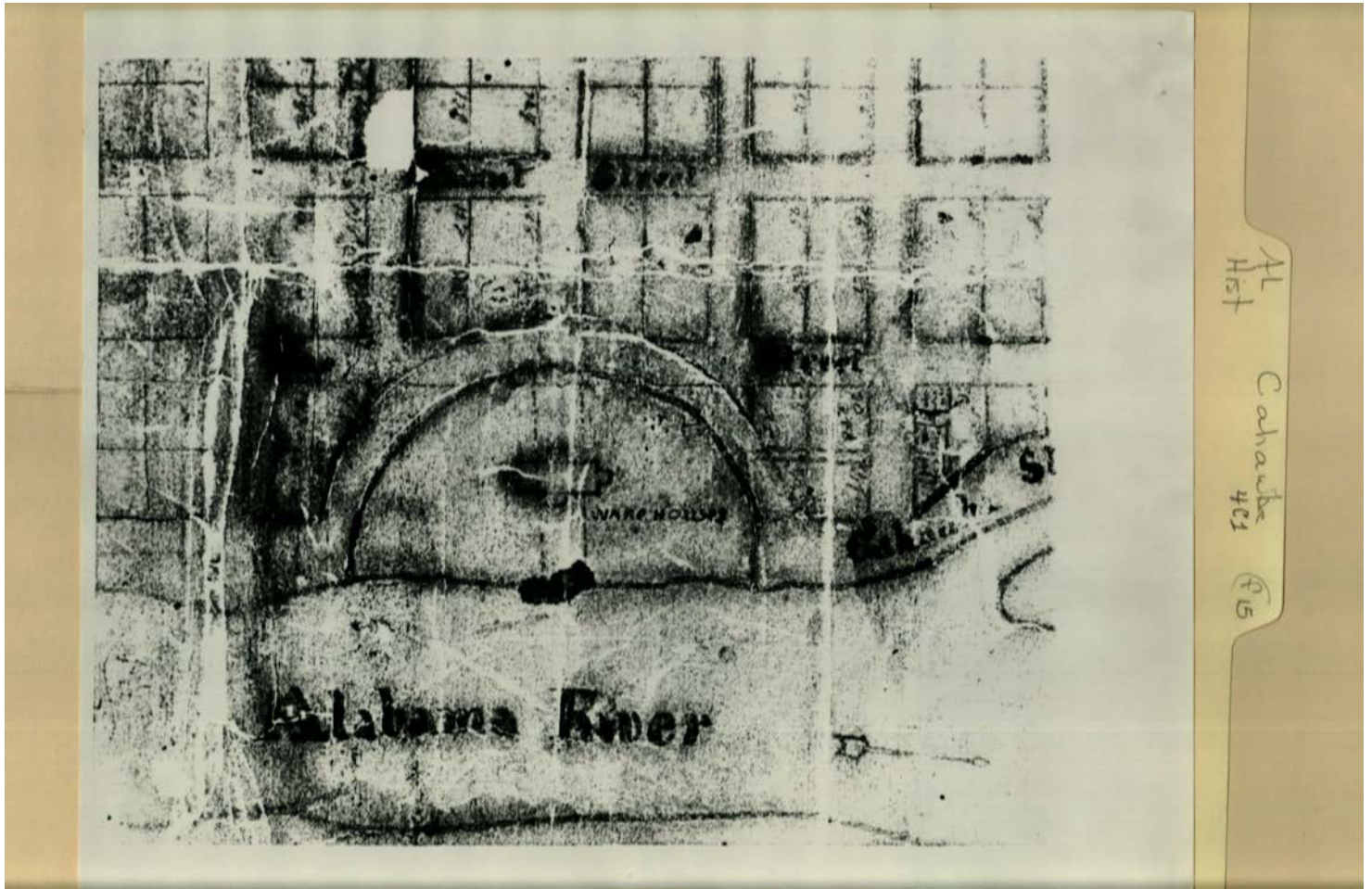
map



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15

Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

Image 24 r04c01-15-000-0088 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

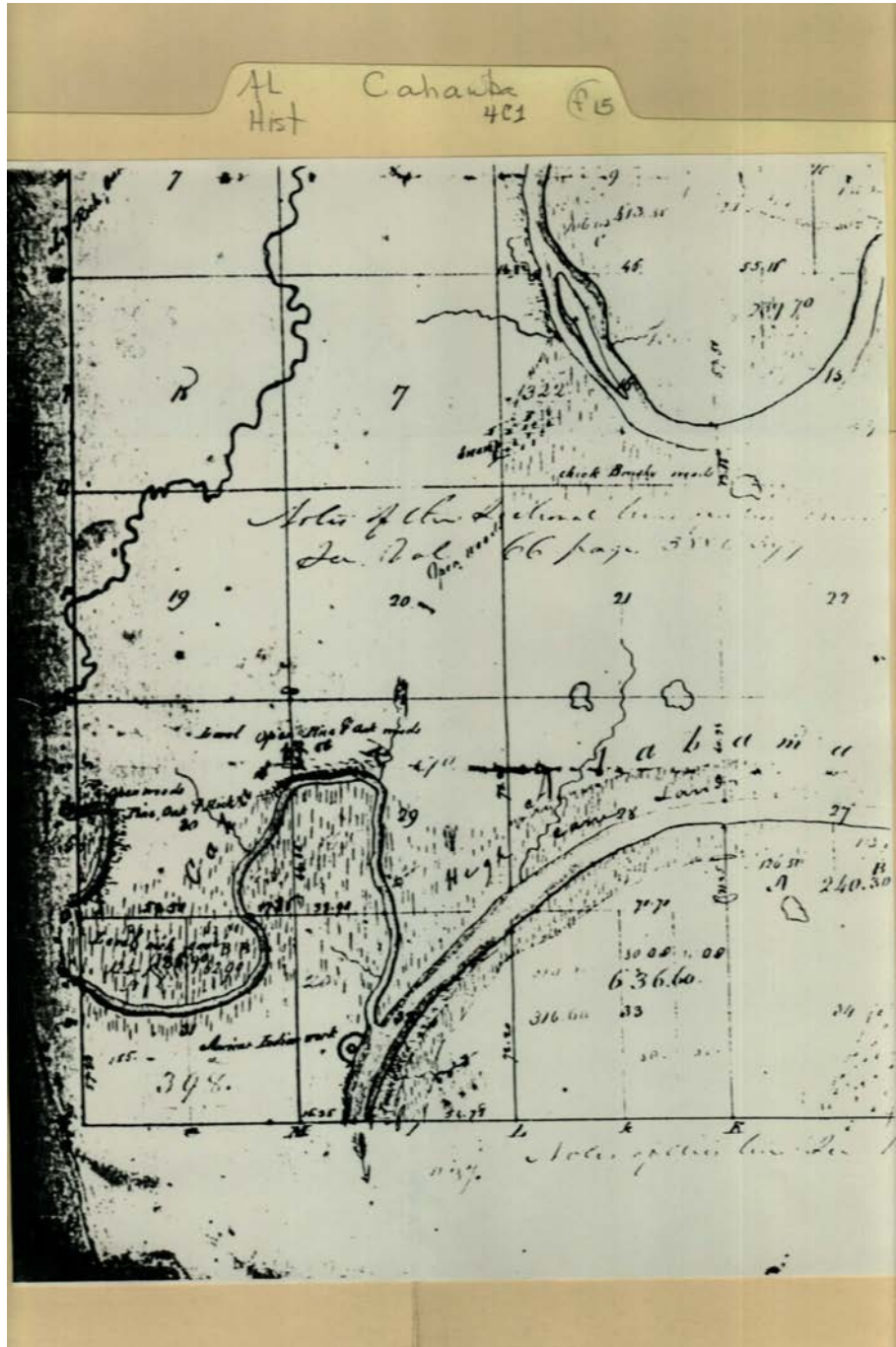


**Names:**

Alabama River

**Types:**

map



**Names:**

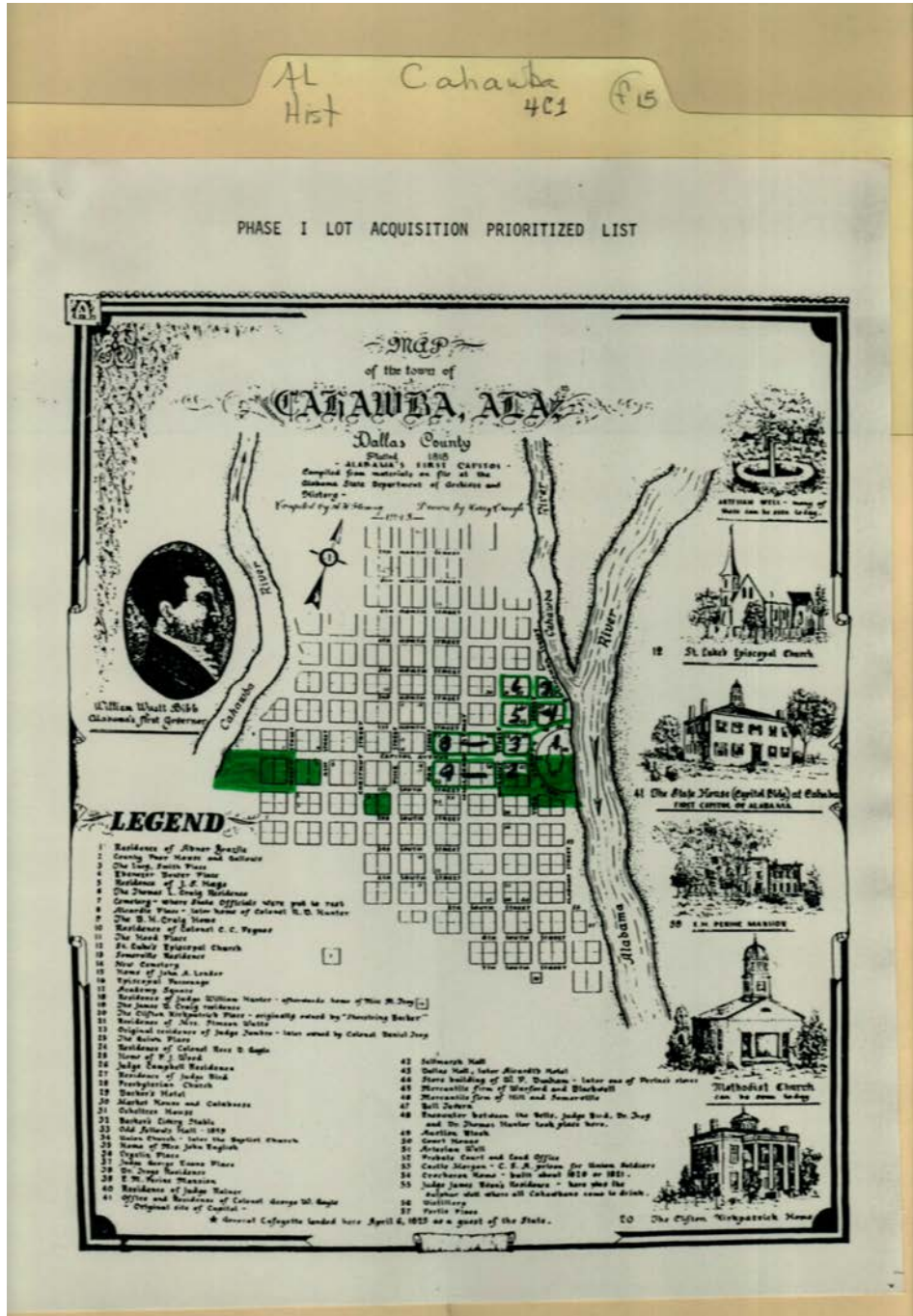
Cahaba River

**Types:**

map

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15  
 Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

Image 26 r04c01-15-000-0090 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

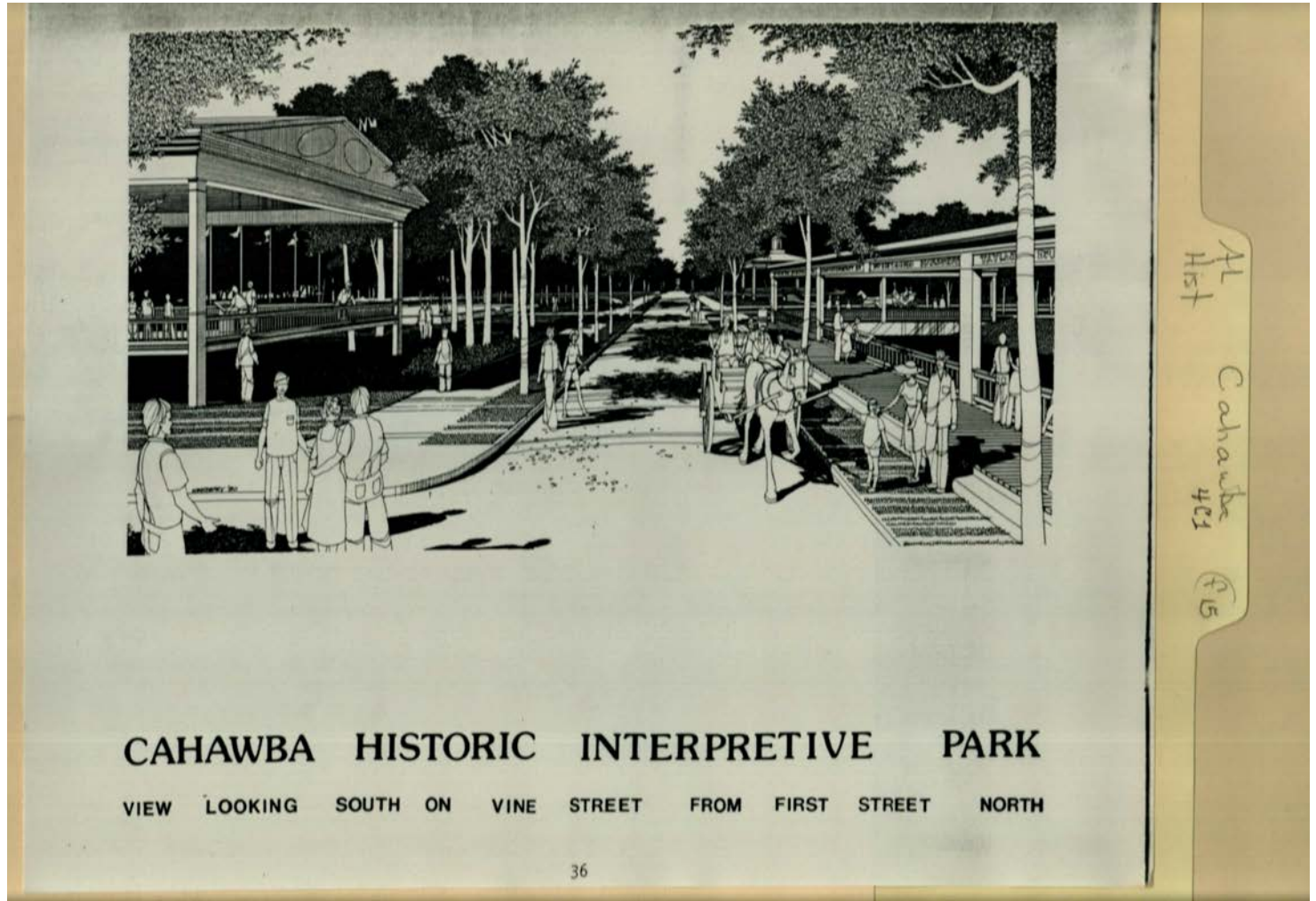
Bibb, William Wyatt

Old Cahawba,  
Alabama

**Types:**

map



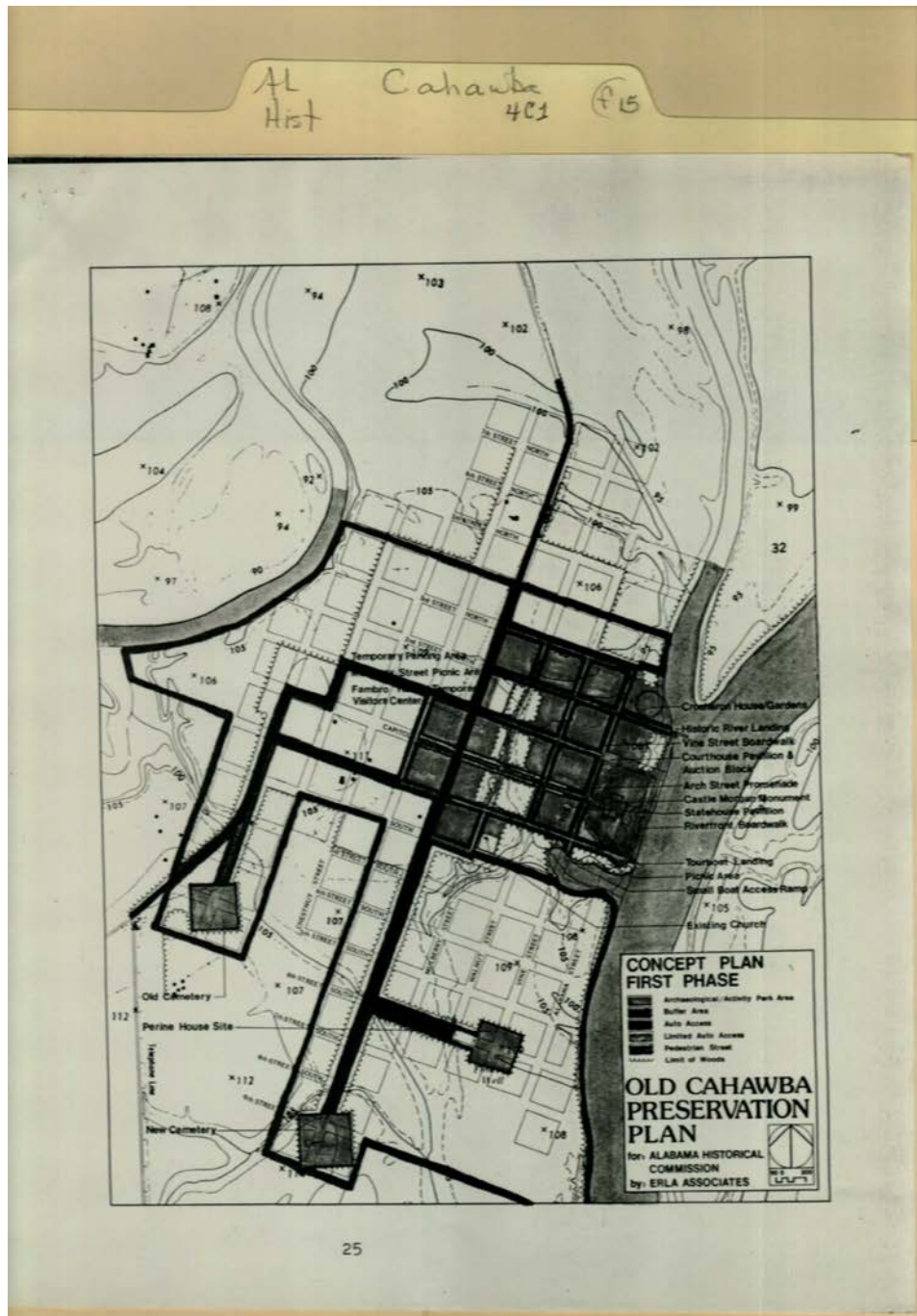


**Names:**

Cahawba Historic Interpretive Park proposal

**Types:**

drawing



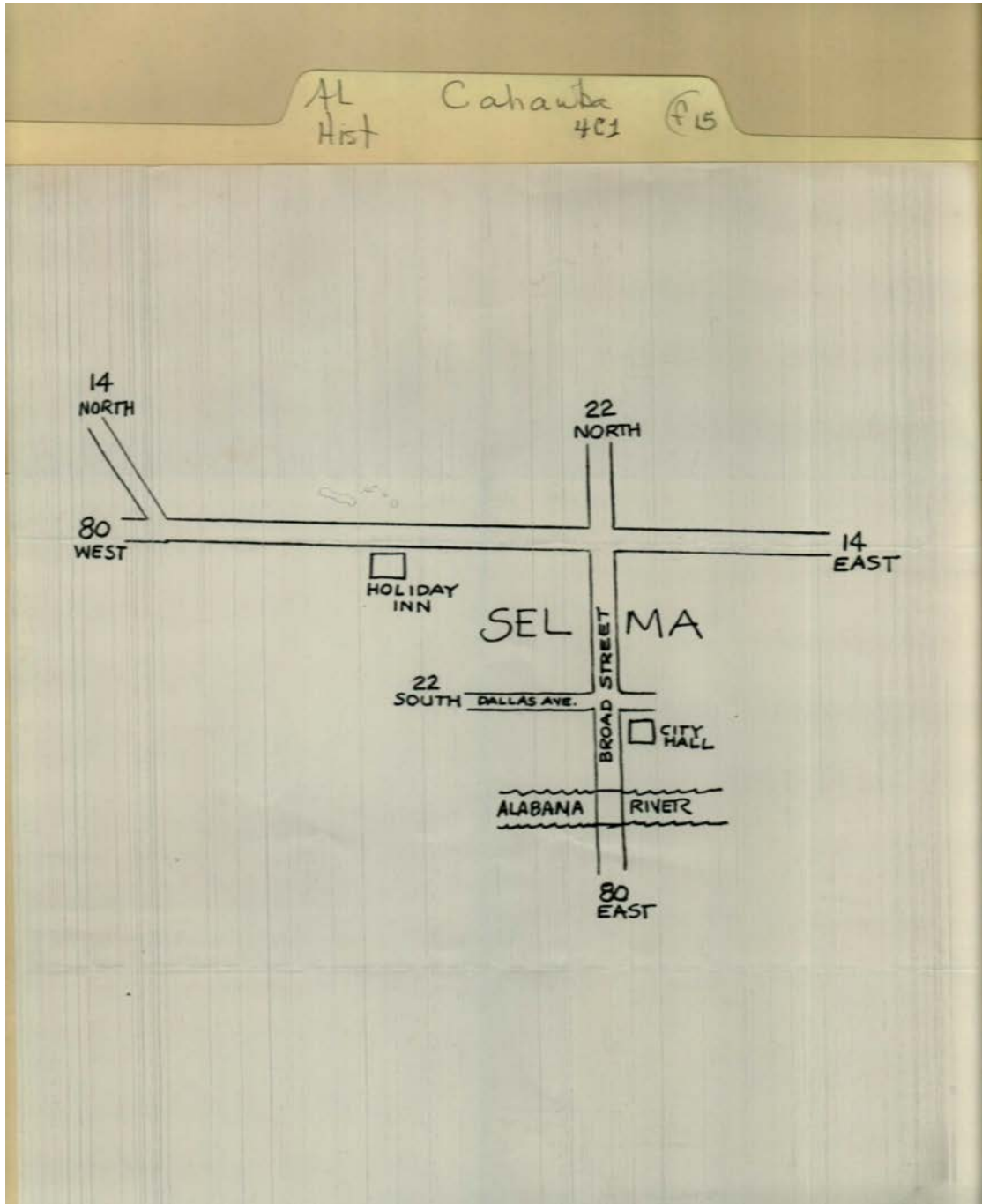
**Names:**

Cahawba Historic  
Interpretive Park

proposal

**Types:**

map



**Names:**

Selma Main Streets

**Types:**

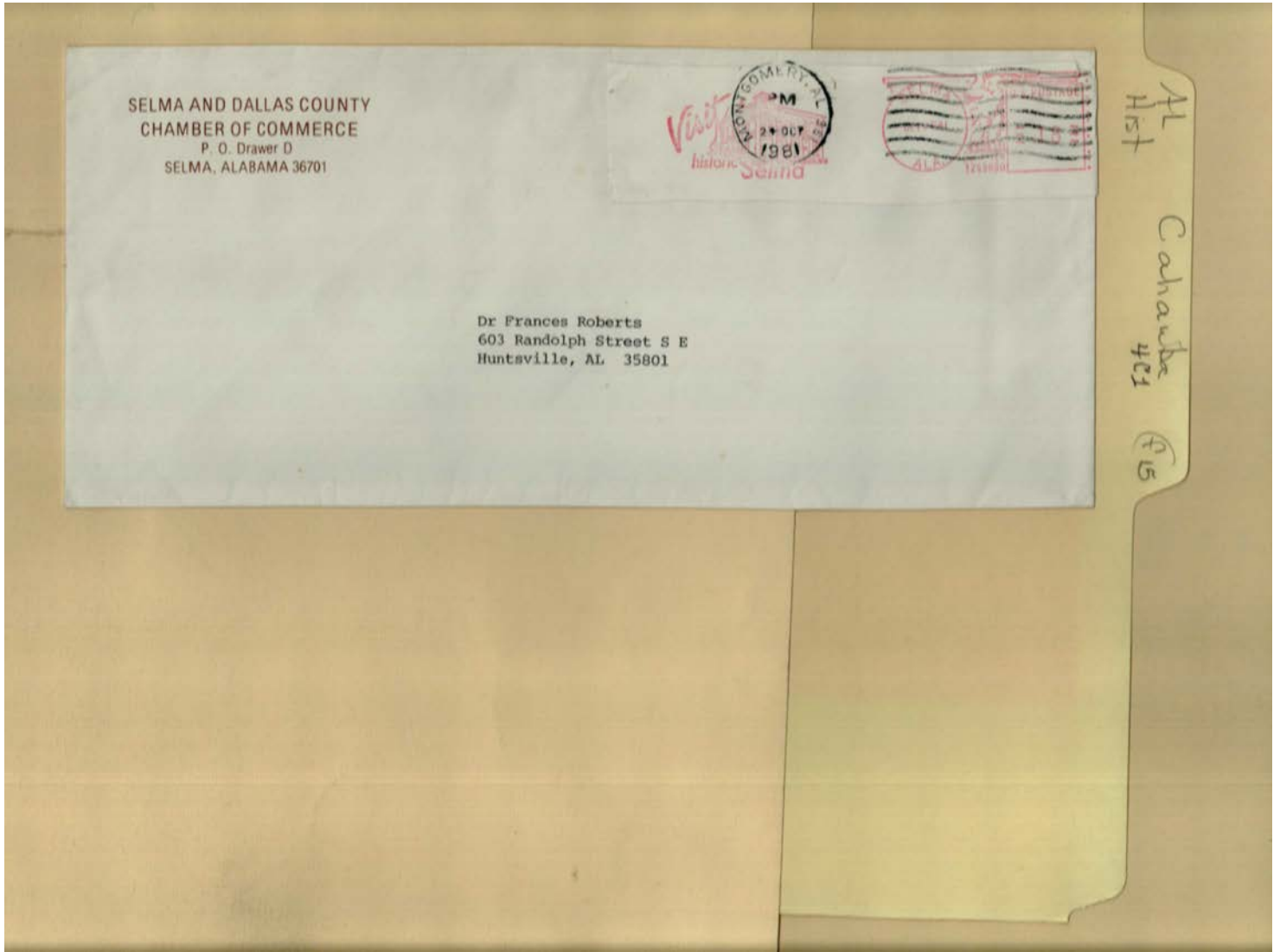
map



Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15

Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

Image 30 r04c01-15-000-0094 [Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)



**Names:**

Roberts, Frances, Dr.

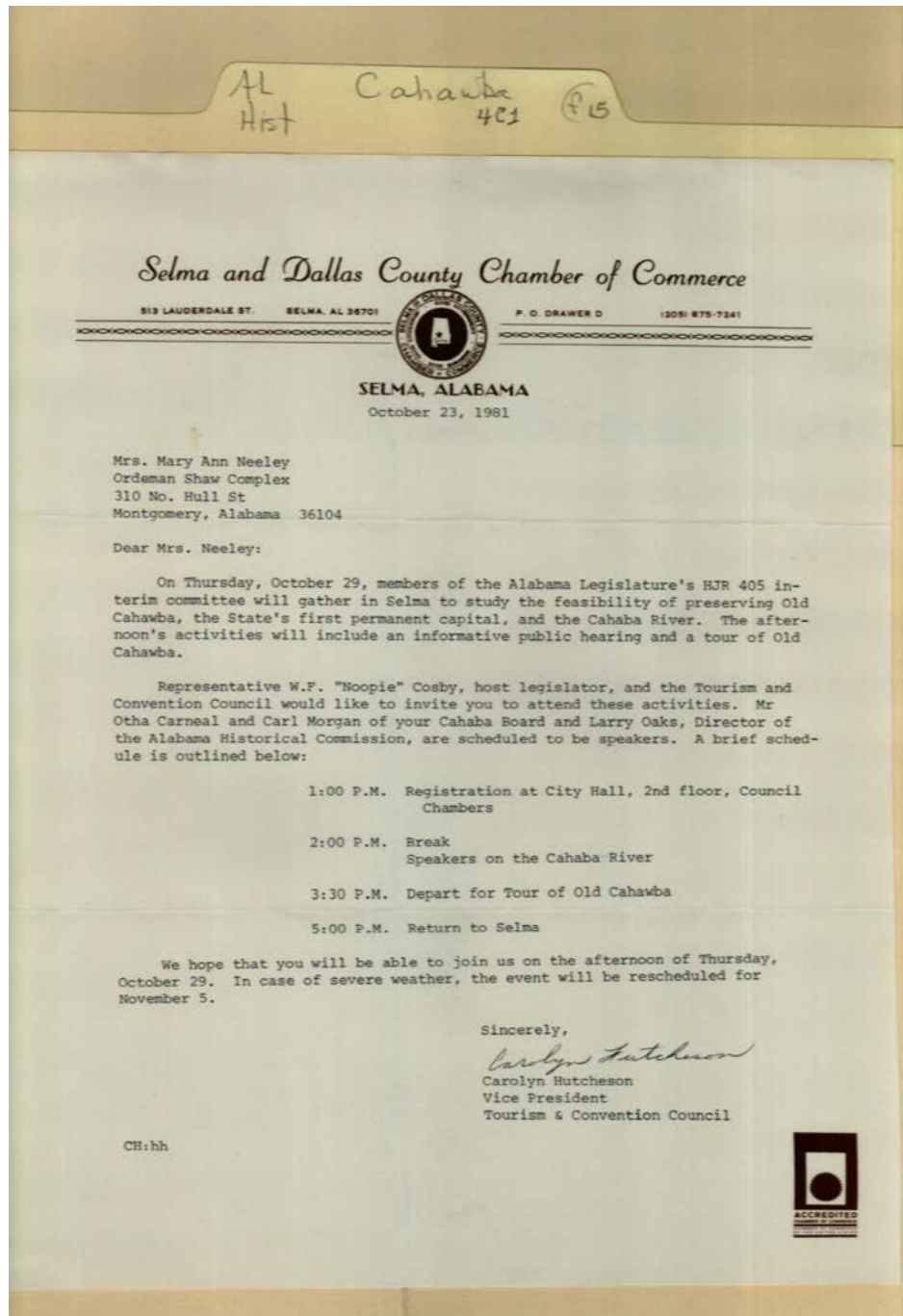
Selma Chamber of  
Commerce

**Types:**

envelope

**Dates:**

Oct 24, 1981



**Names:**

Carneal, Otha  
Cosby, W. F. Noopie

Hutcheson, Carolyn  
Morgan, Carl

Neeley, Mary Ann  
Oaks, Larry

Selma Chamber of  
Commerce

**Places:**

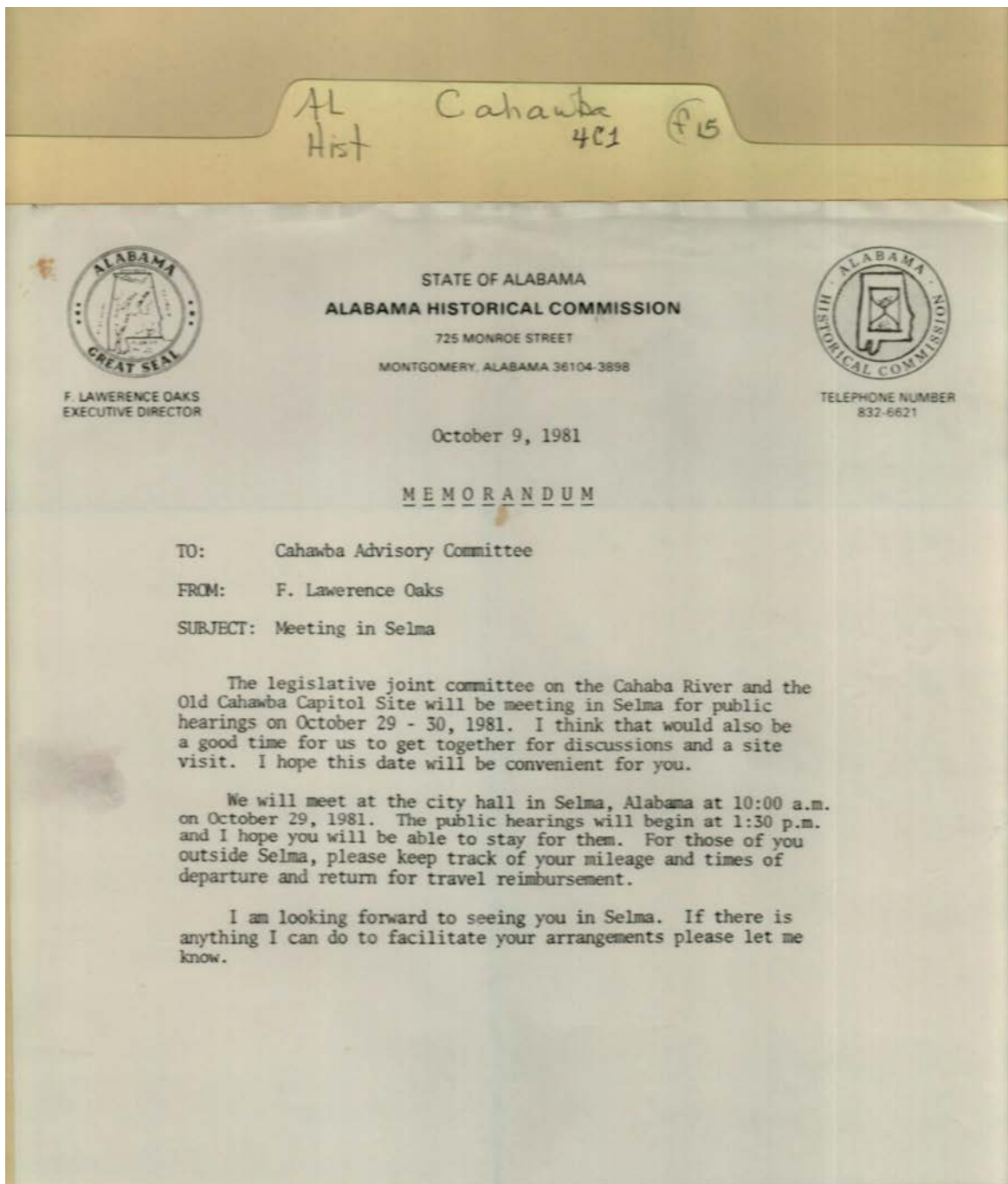
Selma, AL

**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Oct 23, 1981



**Names:**

Alabama Historical  
Commission

Oaks, F. Lawrence

**Places:**

Montgomery, AL

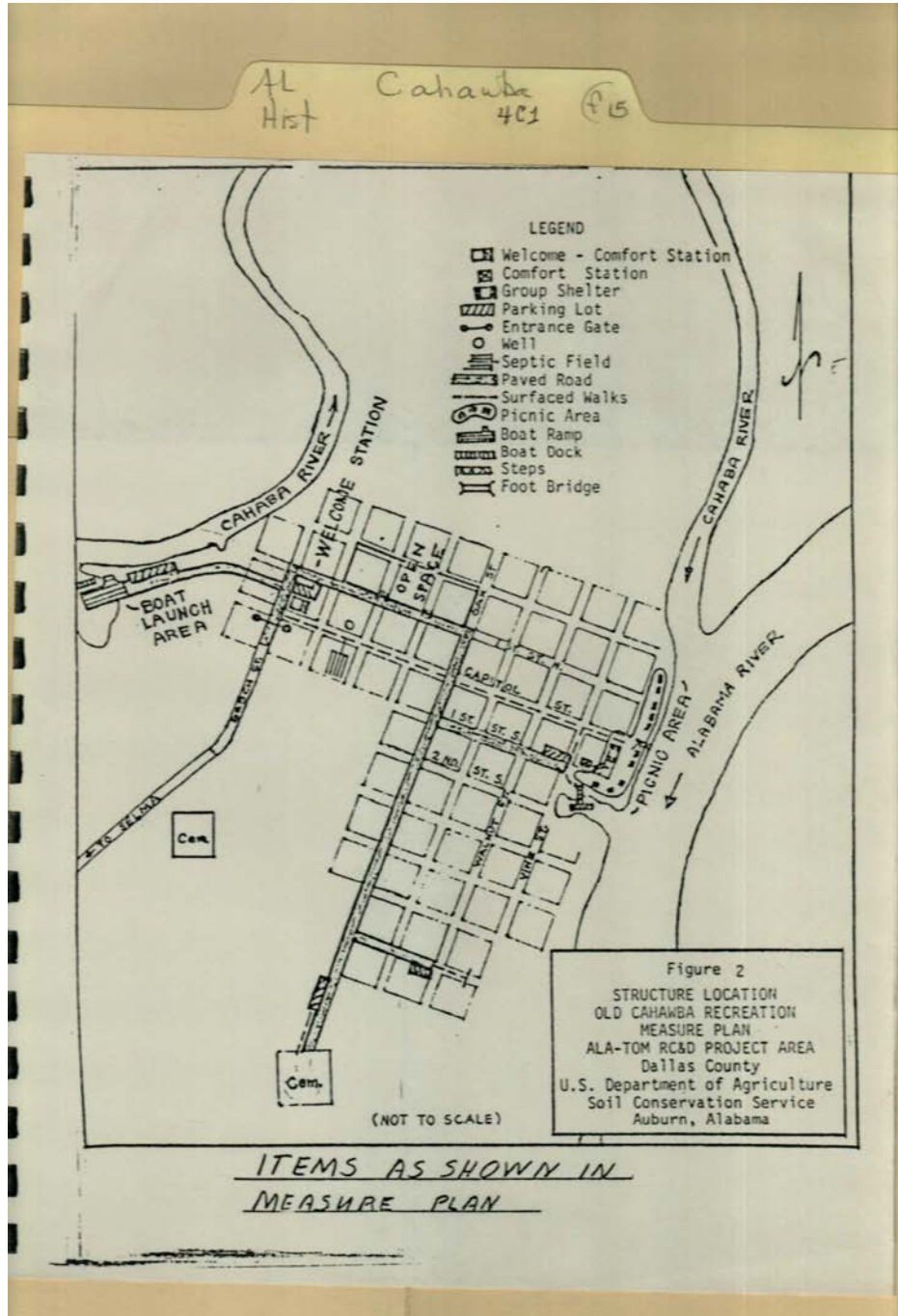
**Types:**

correspondence

**Dates:**

Oct 09, 1981



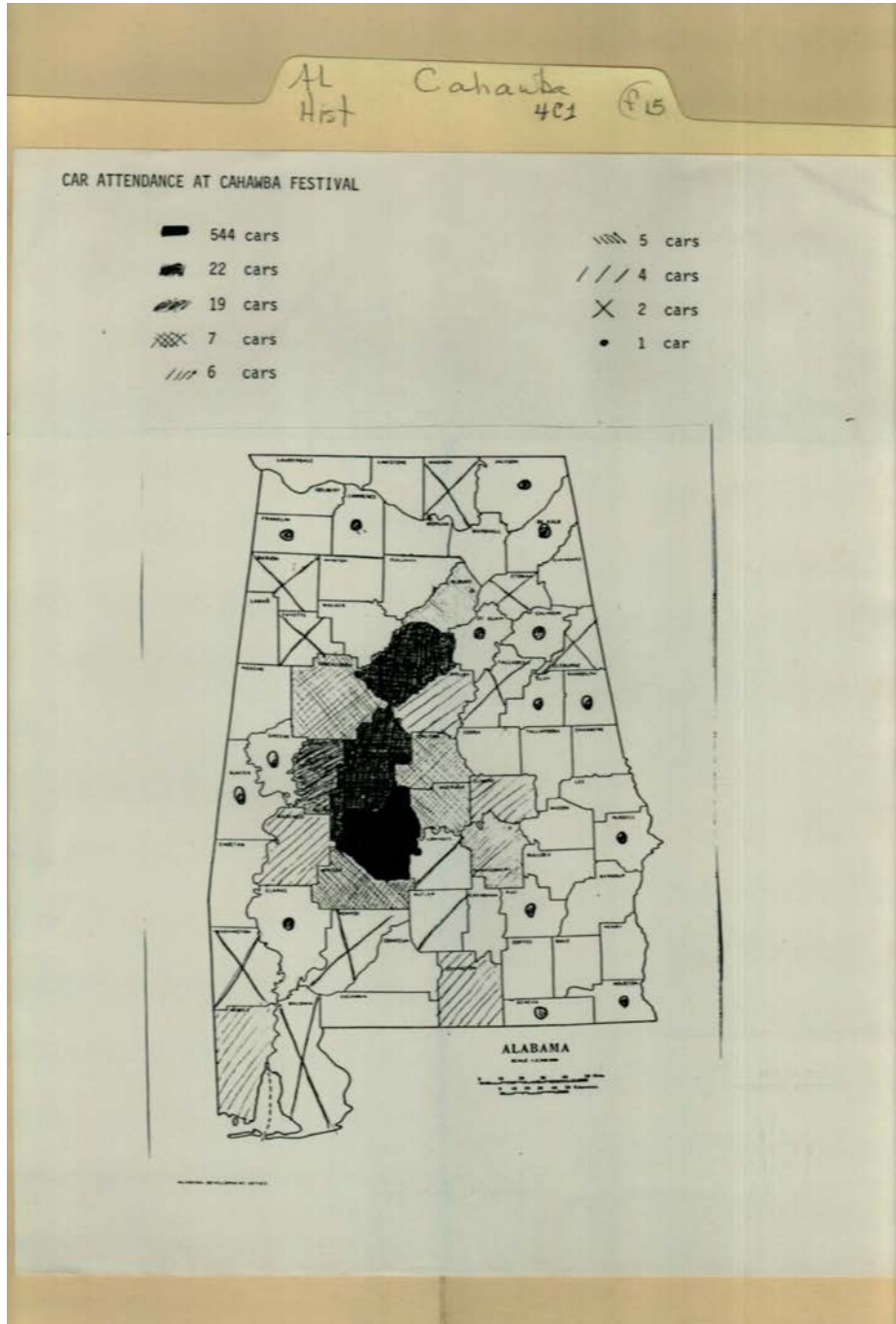


**Names:**

Old Cahawba  
Recreation Plan

**Types:**

map

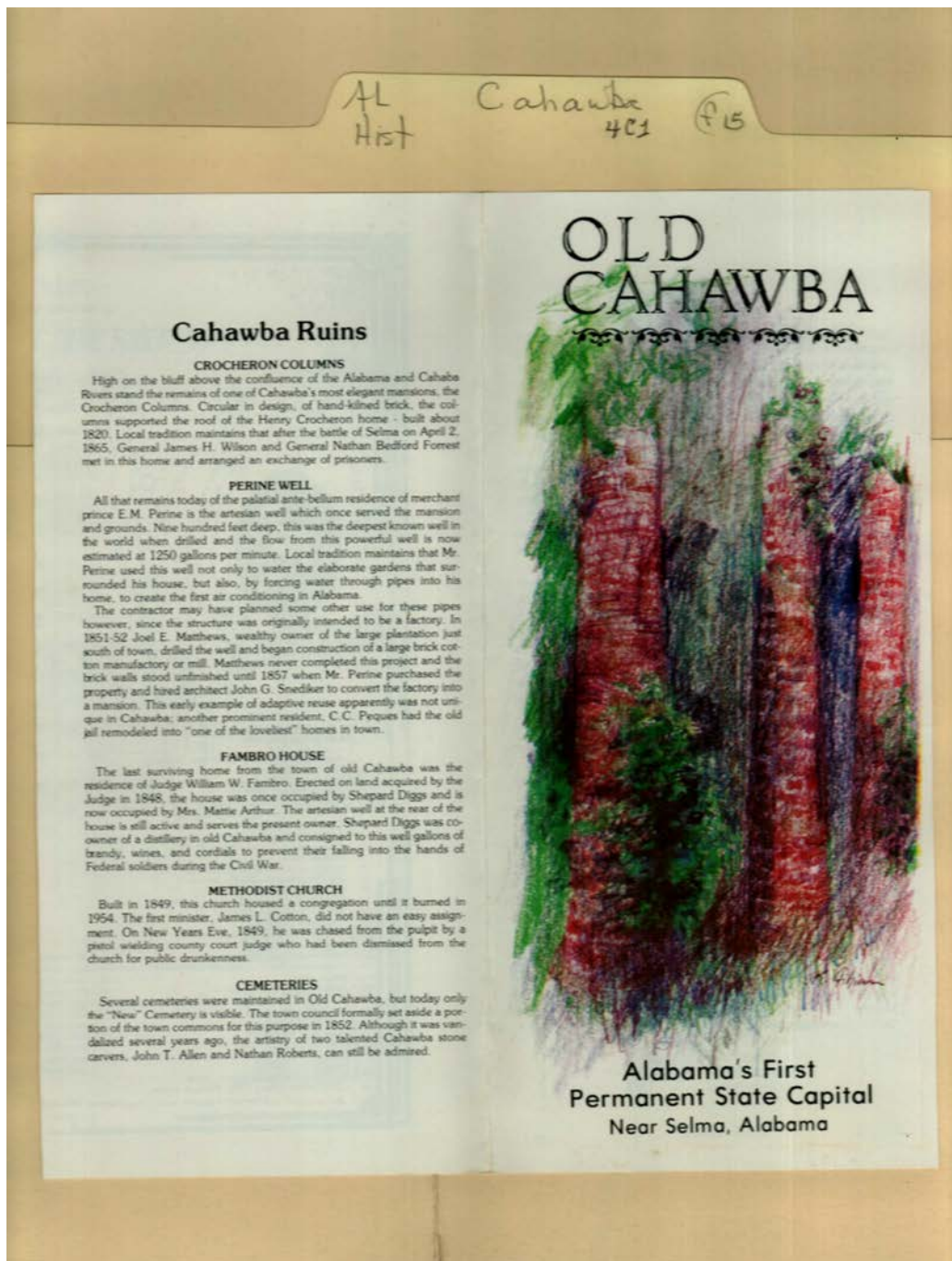


**Names:**

Cahawba Festival  
Attendance

**Types:**

map



**Names:**

Allen, John T.  
Arthur, Mattie, Mrs.  
Cahawba Ruins  
Cemeteries  
Cotton, James L.  
Crocheron Columns

Crocheron, Henry  
Diggs, Shepard  
Fambro House  
Fambro, William W.,  
Judge

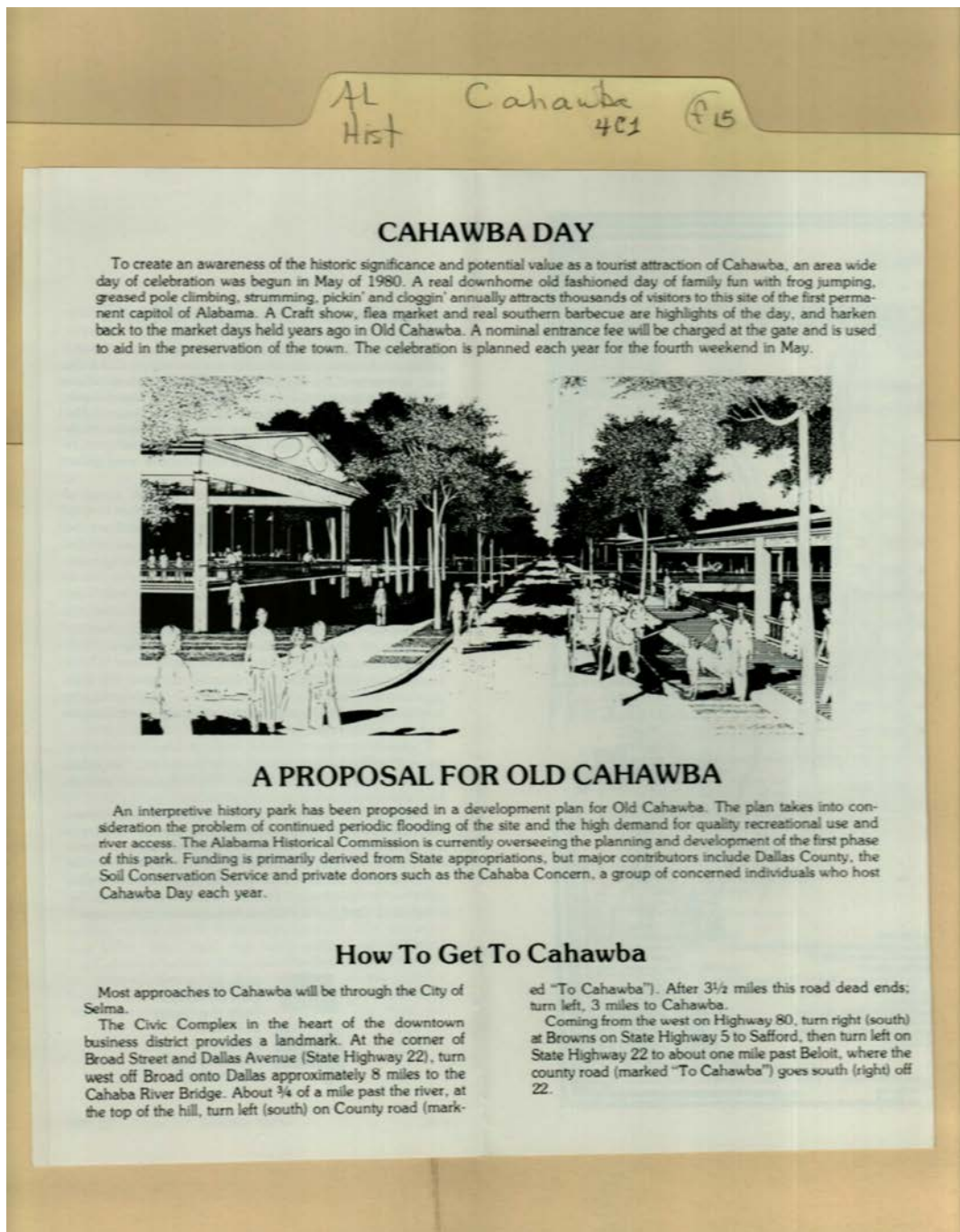
Forrest, Nathan  
Bedford, General  
Matthews, Joel E.  
Methodist Church  
Peques, C. C.  
Perine Well

Perine, E. M.  
Roberts, Nathan  
Snediker, John G.  
Wilson, James H.,  
General

**Types:**

leaflet





**Names:**

Old Cahawba

Proposal

**Types:**

leaflet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15  
Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

## Table of Contents

[Image 1](#) (r04c01-15-000-0065)

[Image 2](#) (r04c01-15-000-0066)

[Image 3](#) (r04c01-15-000-0067)

[Image 4](#) (r04c01-15-000-0068)

[Image 5](#) (r04c01-15-000-0069)

[Image 6](#) (r04c01-15-000-0070)

[Image 7](#) (r04c01-15-000-0071)

[Image 8](#) (r04c01-15-000-0072)

[Image 9](#) (r04c01-15-000-0073)

[Image 10](#) (r04c01-15-000-0074)

[Image 11](#) (r04c01-15-000-0075)

[Image 12](#) (r04c01-15-000-0076)

[Image 13](#) (r04c01-15-000-0077)

[Image 14](#) (r04c01-15-000-0078)

[Image 15](#) (r04c01-15-000-0079)

[Image 16](#) (r04c01-15-000-0080)

[Image 17](#) (r04c01-15-000-0081)

[Image 18](#) (r04c01-15-000-0082)

[Image 19](#) (r04c01-15-000-0083)

[Image 20](#) (r04c01-15-000-0084)

[Image 21](#) (r04c01-15-000-0085)

[Image 22](#) (r04c01-15-000-0086)

[Image 23](#) (r04c01-15-000-0087)

[Image 24](#) (r04c01-15-000-0088)

[Image 25](#) (r04c01-15-000-0089)

[Image 26](#) (r04c01-15-000-0090)

[Image 27](#) (r04c01-15-000-0091)

[Image 28](#) (r04c01-15-000-0092)

[Image 29](#) (r04c01-15-000-0093)

[Image 30](#) (r04c01-15-000-0094)

[Image 31](#) (r04c01-15-000-0095)

[Image 32](#) (r04c01-15-000-0096)

[Image 33](#) (r04c01-15-000-0097)

[Image 34](#) (r04c01-15-000-0098)

[Image 35](#) (r04c01-15-000-0099)

[Image 36](#) (r04c01-15-000-0101)

[Table of Contents](#)

[Name & Place Index](#)

[About the Collection](#)

**Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries C, Box 1, Folder 15**  
**Cahaba Booklets and Correspondence, 1967 - 1981**

[Contents](#) [Index](#) [About](#)

## **Name & Place Index**

, Linda [20](#)  
Alabama Historical Commission [32](#)  
Alabama River [24](#)  
Allen, John T. [35](#)  
Aluminum Siding [6](#), [13](#)  
Arthur, Mattie, Mrs. [3](#), [35](#)  
Bibb, Governor [20](#)  
Bibb, William Wyatt [2](#), [26](#)  
Boy Scouts of America [1](#)  
Cahaba River [25](#)  
Cahaba [2](#)  
Cahawba Advisory Committee Meeting [22](#)  
Cahawba Festival Attendance [34](#)  
Cahawba Historic Interpretive Park proposal [27](#), [28](#)  
Cahawba Historic Trail [1](#)  
Cahawba Ruins [35](#)  
Carneal, Otha [31](#)  
Catawba, Alabama [2](#)  
Cemeteries [35](#)  
Coca Cola [1](#)  
Coffee, [20](#)  
Cosby, W. F. Noopie [31](#)  
Cotton, James L. [35](#)  
Crocheron Columns [3](#), [35](#)  
Crocheron, Henry [3](#), [35](#)  
Crough, Katty [2](#)  
Crozart, [2](#)  
Dallas Co., AL Map [23](#)  
Dallas Co., AL [23](#)  
DeCicco, Paul [12](#)  
Democrat-Reporter [18](#)  
Derry, Linda [19](#), [21](#)  
DeSoto, [2](#)  
Diggs, Shepard [35](#)  
Downing, Antoinette F. [12](#)  
Fambro House [3](#), [35](#)  
Fambro, William W., Judge [3](#), [35](#)  
Fleming, A. H. [2](#)  
Forrest, Nathan Bedford, General [3](#), [35](#)  
Freeman, Thomas [20](#)  
Henry, Ted [22](#)  
Hutcheson, Carolyn [31](#)  
James, Fob, Governor [5](#)  
Kiefer, Matthew J. [12](#)  
King Louis XV [2](#)  
LaFayette, General [2](#)  
Linden, AL [18](#)  
Macaulay, David [12](#)  
Matthews, Joel E. [35](#)  
Methodist Church [35](#)  
Montgomery, AL [5](#), [17](#), [21](#), [32](#)  
Morgan, Carl [21](#), [31](#)  
Myers, John H. [6](#), [12](#), [13](#)  
Neeley, Mary Ann [31](#)  
Nelson, Lee H. [12](#)  
Nielsen, Sally E. [12](#)  
Oaks, F. Lawrence [17](#), [21](#), [32](#)  
Oaks, Larry [31](#)  
Old Cahawba Preservation Project [19](#)  
Old Cahawba Proposal [36](#)  
Old Cahawba Recreation Plan [16](#), [33](#)  
Old Cahawba Structures Location proposed [15](#)  
Old Cahawba Structures Location [14](#)  
Old Cahawba Trail [1](#)  
Old Cahawba, Alabama [26](#)  
Old Cahawba [3](#)  
Peques, C. C. [35](#)  
Perine Well [3](#), [35](#)  
Perine, E. M. [3](#), [35](#)  
Roberts, Dr. [20](#)  
Roberts, Frances, Dr. [5](#), [30](#)  
Roberts, Nathan [35](#)  
Sanderson, Edward F. [12](#)  
Sanderson, Ted [12](#)  
Selma Chamber of Commerce [30](#), [31](#)  
Selma Main Streets [29](#)  
Selma, AL [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [19](#), [31](#)  
Sidings on Historic Buildings [6](#), [7](#), [8](#), [9](#), [10](#), [11](#), [12](#), [13](#)  
Skoda, Leopold F. [12](#)  
Snediker, John G. [35](#)  
Strickland, Clark J. [12](#)  
Sutton, Goodloe [18](#)  
Troy, Daniel, Colonel [3](#)  
Vinyl Siding [6](#), [13](#)  
Wilson, James H., General [3](#), [35](#)



# 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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