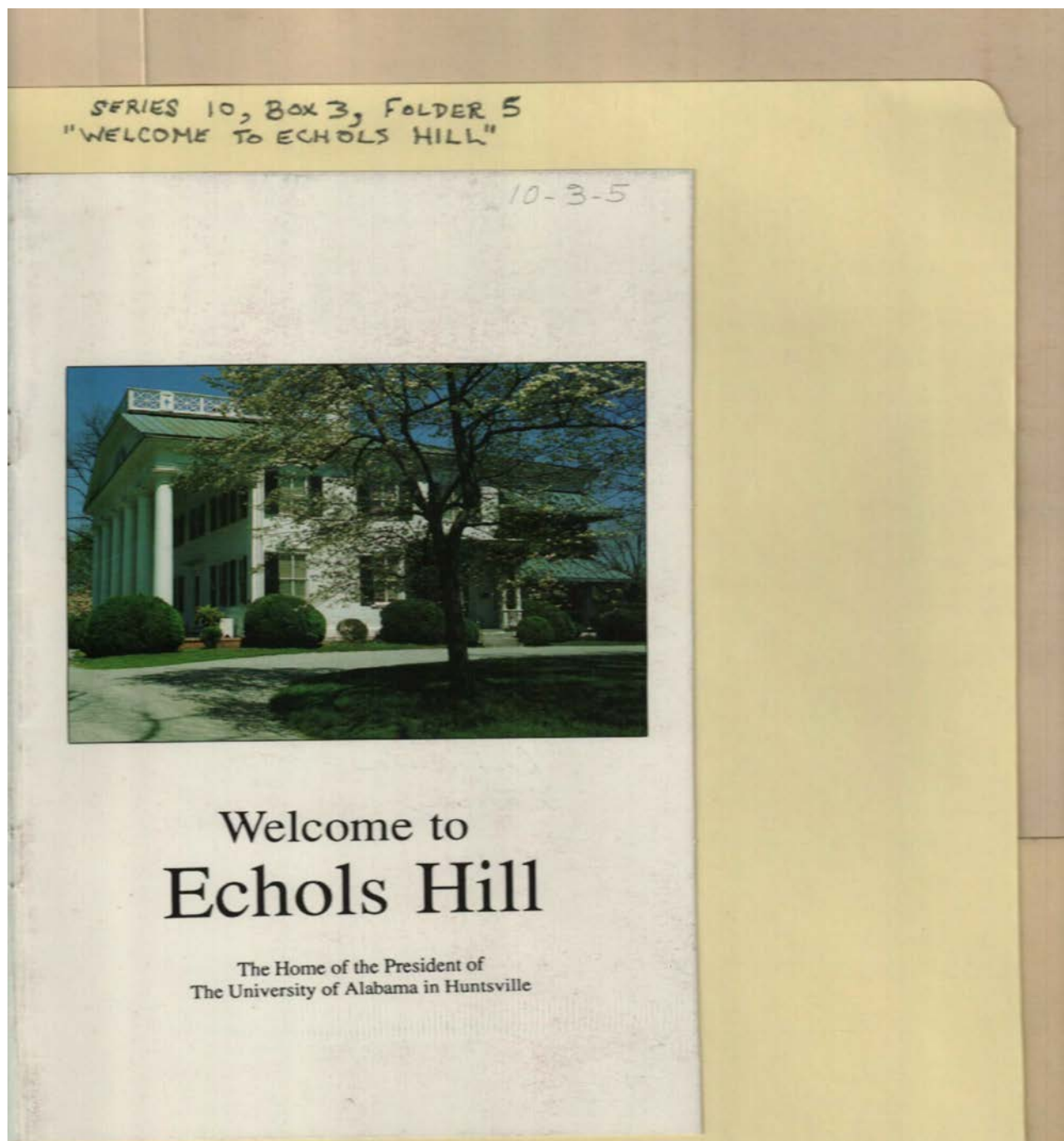


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Roberts, Frances C. and Jones, Harvey, "Welcome to Echols Hill" Booklet, 1990  
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**Names:**

Welcome to Echols  
Hill

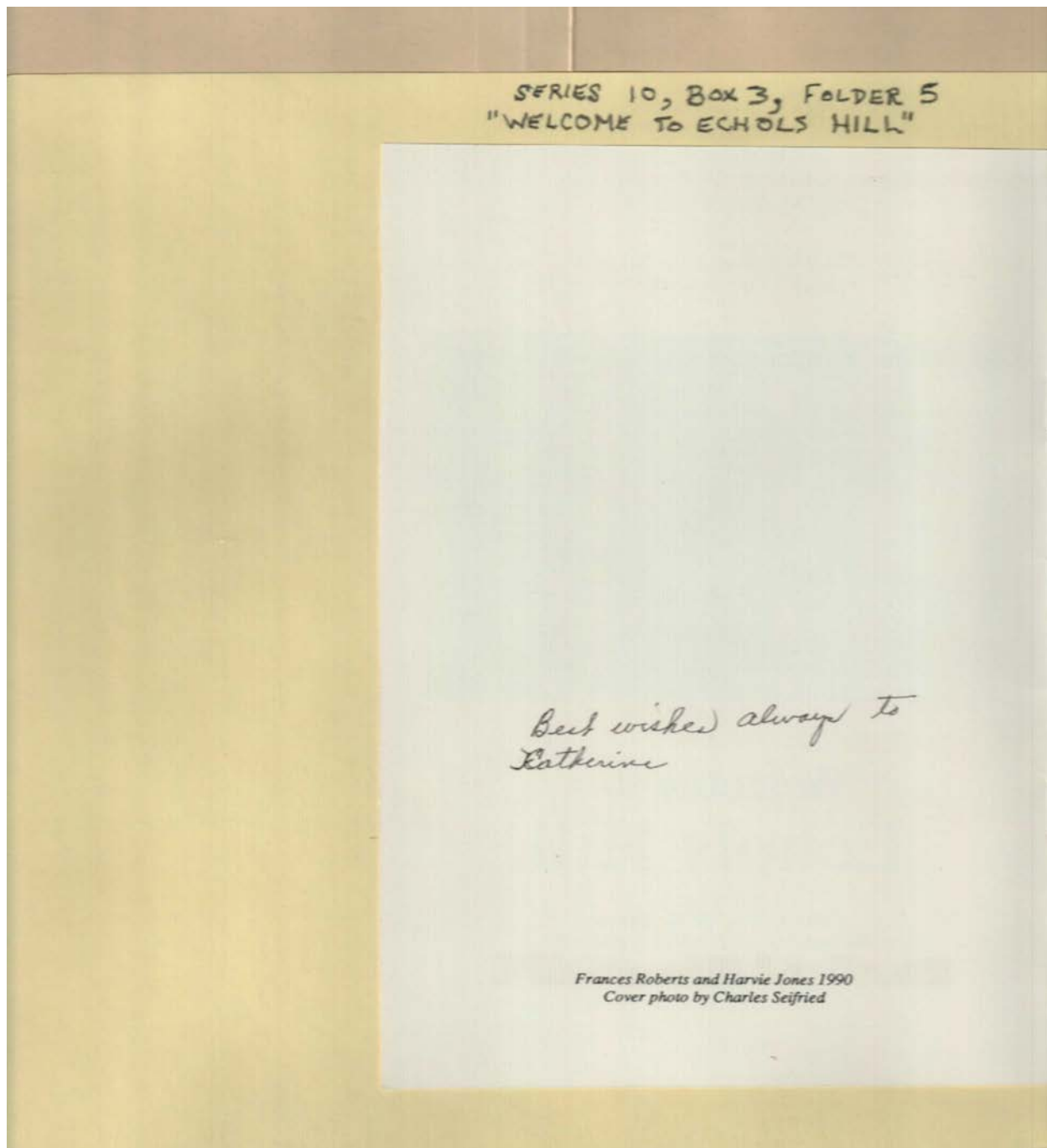
**Places:**

Huntsville, AL

**Types:**

booklet

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 10, Box 3, Folder 5  
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**Names:**

, Catherine

Jones, Harvie

Roberts, Frances

Seifried, Charles

**Types:**

booklet

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 5  
"WELCOME TO ECHOLS HILL"

#### History of Ownership



In 1808, several leaders from the Broad River area in Georgia decided to establish a new community in the Tennessee River Valley, a fertile area where a developing cotton economy was sure to flourish. One of these leaders, LeRoy Pope of Petersburg, Georgia, purchased a large tract at the federal land sales in Nashville, Tennessee, in August 1809 which included John Hunt's squatter settlement at "Big Spring" in Madison County. Through the influence of Pope and his associates, the site was chosen as the seat of county government on July 5, 1810, and named Twickenham. However, in 1811 the name was changed back to Huntsville by the Mississippi Territorial Legislature in honor of the town's first settler.

Because Pope was closely associated with the political, economic and cultural development of the town, he is remembered as the "Father of Huntsville." He served as Chief Justice of the Quorum, Madison County's first court, and as president of the Merchants and Planters Bank. He provided the town its main water supply and contributed to the building of several churches, schools, and a theater.

On the highest hill overlooking the developing community, Pope completed the construction of his permanent home during the spring of 1814. Materials for this two-story brick structure were brought from Tennessee by boat to Ditto's Landing on the Tennessee River and then transported by wagons to Huntsville.



**Names:**

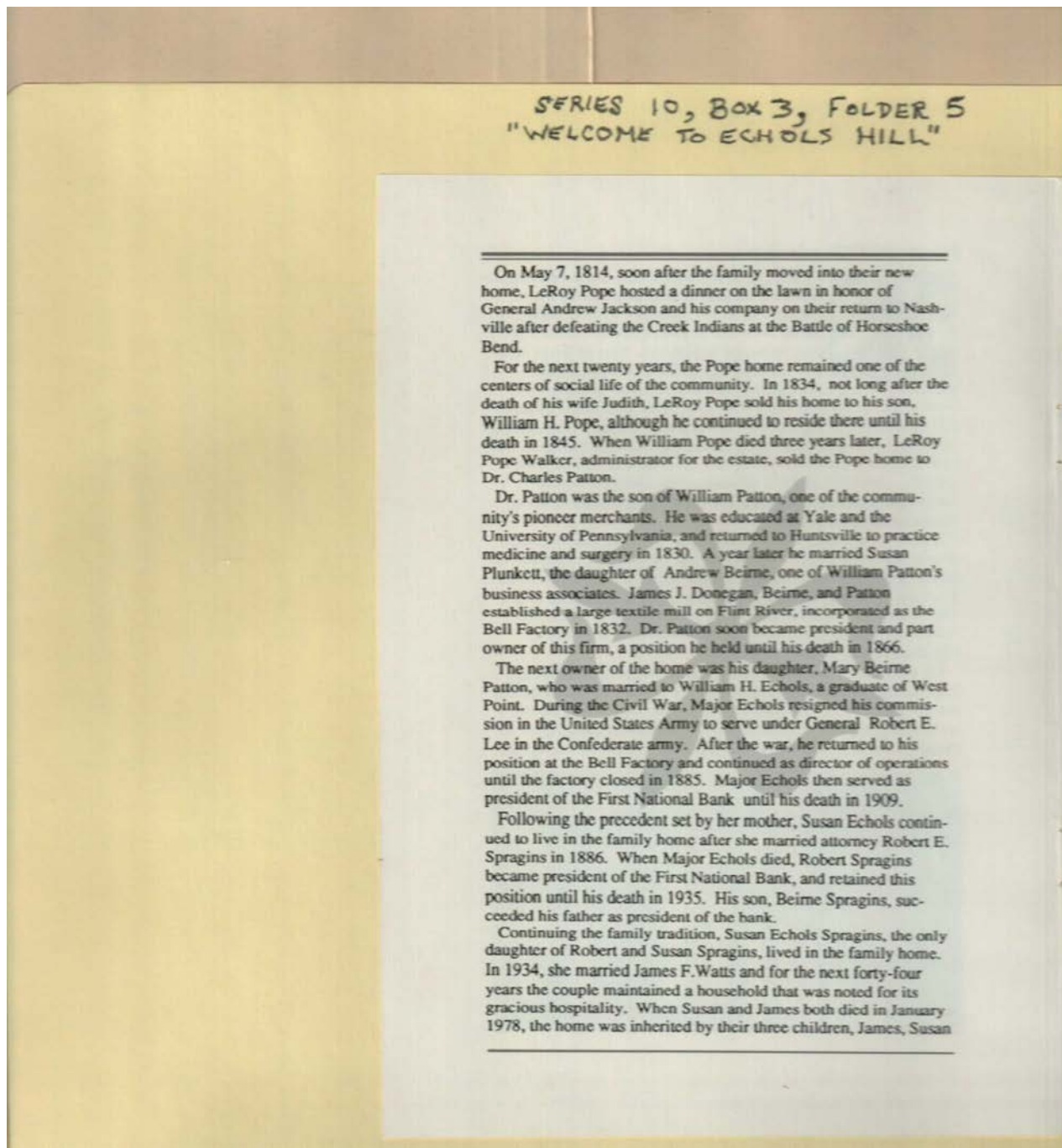
Ditto,

Hunt, John

Pope, LeRoy

**Types:**

booklet



**Names:**

Beirne, Andrew  
Bell Factory  
Donegan, James J.  
Echols, Susan  
Echols, William H.  
Jackson, Andrew,  
General

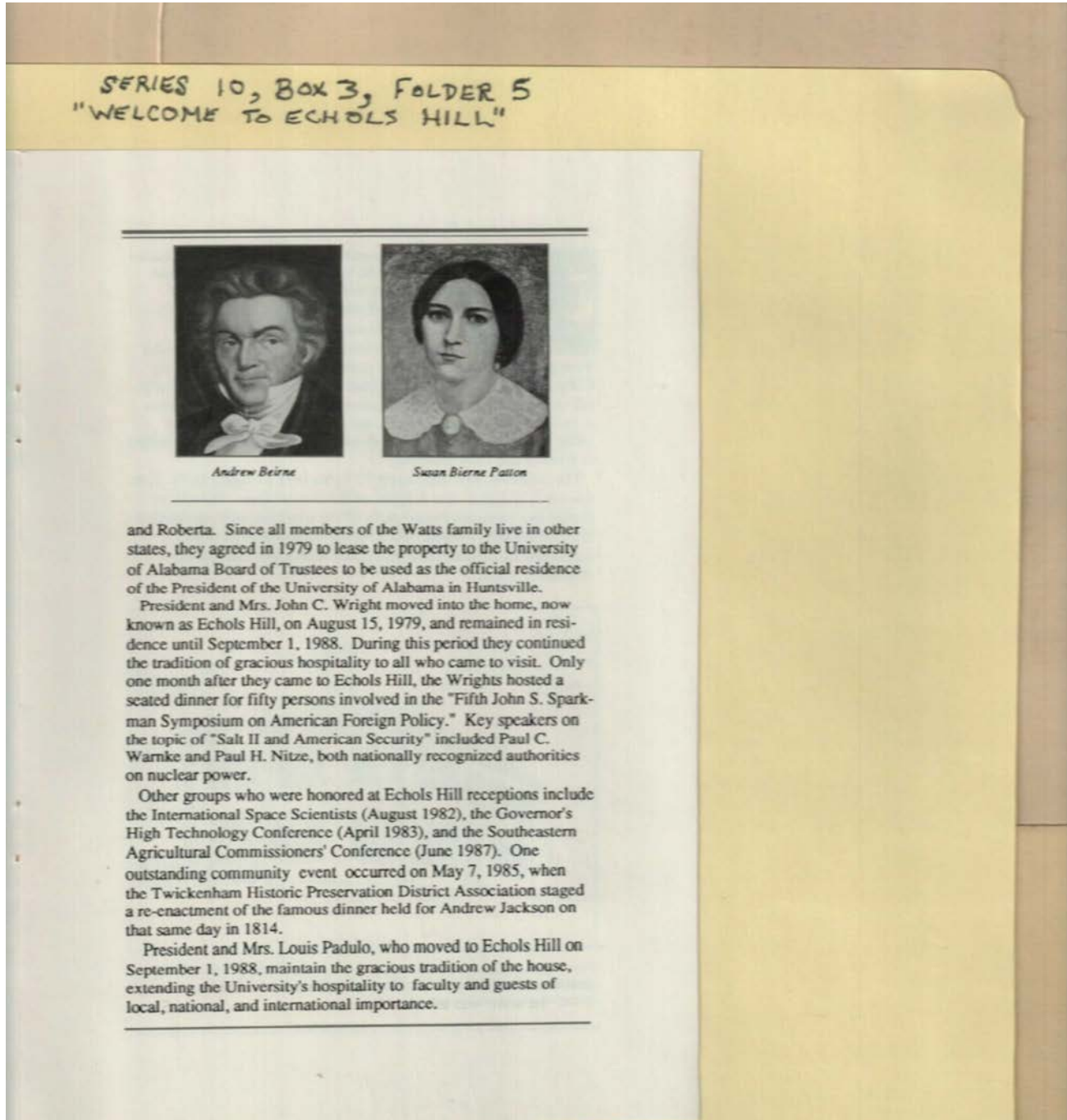
Lee, Robert E.,  
General  
Patton, Charles, Dr.  
Patton, Mary Beirne  
Patton, William  
Plunkett, Susan  
Pope, Judith

Pope, LeRoy  
Pope, William H.  
Spragins, Beirne  
Spragins, Robert  
Spragins, Robert E.  
Spragins, Susan

Spragins, Susan  
Echols  
Walker, LeRoy Pope  
Watts, James  
Watts, James F.  
Watts, Susan

**Types:**

booklet



**Names:**

Beirne, Andrew  
Jackson, Andrew  
Nitze, Paul H.

Padulo, President &  
Mrs.  
Patton, Susan Bierne

Sparkman, John S.  
Warnke, Paul C.  
Watts, Roberta

Wright, John C.,  
President & Mrs.

**Types:**

booklet

portrait

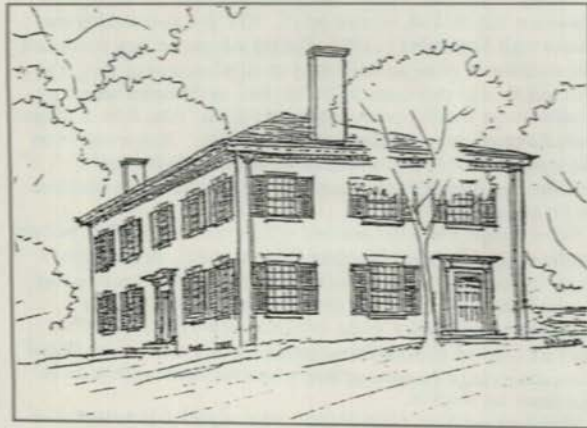
SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 5  
"WELCOME TO ECHOLS HILL"

#### Architectural Features



Because of the general affluence of all the families who owned the home, a number of structural changes have been made over the past 165 years. The original two-story house was of a rectangular hip-roofed design with Adam-influenced entries and mantles. The masterful front portico, added ca. 1850, is connected in such a way that its Classical Revival robustness blends with the delicacy of the original structure and at first glance does not appear to be an addition. A two-story wing was added to the north side of the home ca. 1920. The small Victorian porch on the south approach was added in front of the 1814 side entry.

The windows were originally 12 lights over 12 lights on the first floor and 12 lights over 8 lights on the second floor. Sometime during the Victorian Period most of the windows were up dated to the then popular 2 lights over 2 lights. Original 1814 sashes remain on the second floor east porch with wavy handblown "Cylinder" glass.



*The original federal-style LeRoy Pope home, built in 1814. The elaborate front portico, north wing and south porch were added by subsequent residents.*

**Names:**

LeRoy Pope Home

**Types:**

sketch

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 5  
"WELCOME TO ECHOLS HILL"



*The clean lines of Federal Period design are evident in the above mantel, the one original mantel remaining at Echols Hill.*

There is only one 1814 Federal Period mantel, which remains in the second floor southwest bedroom. The Italianate marble mantles in the dining room and in the parlor probably date from the later part of the nineteenth century. When the north wing was added in the early twentieth century, all but one of the other mantles were replaced by the then-fashionable Colonial Revival style. The arched double doors in the east wall of the parlor also date from the early twentieth century.

All of the outbuildings, including a kitchen and servants' quarters, appear to be as old as the original house. The kitchen area recently has been converted to a guest house that contains a sitting room, bedroom and bathroom.

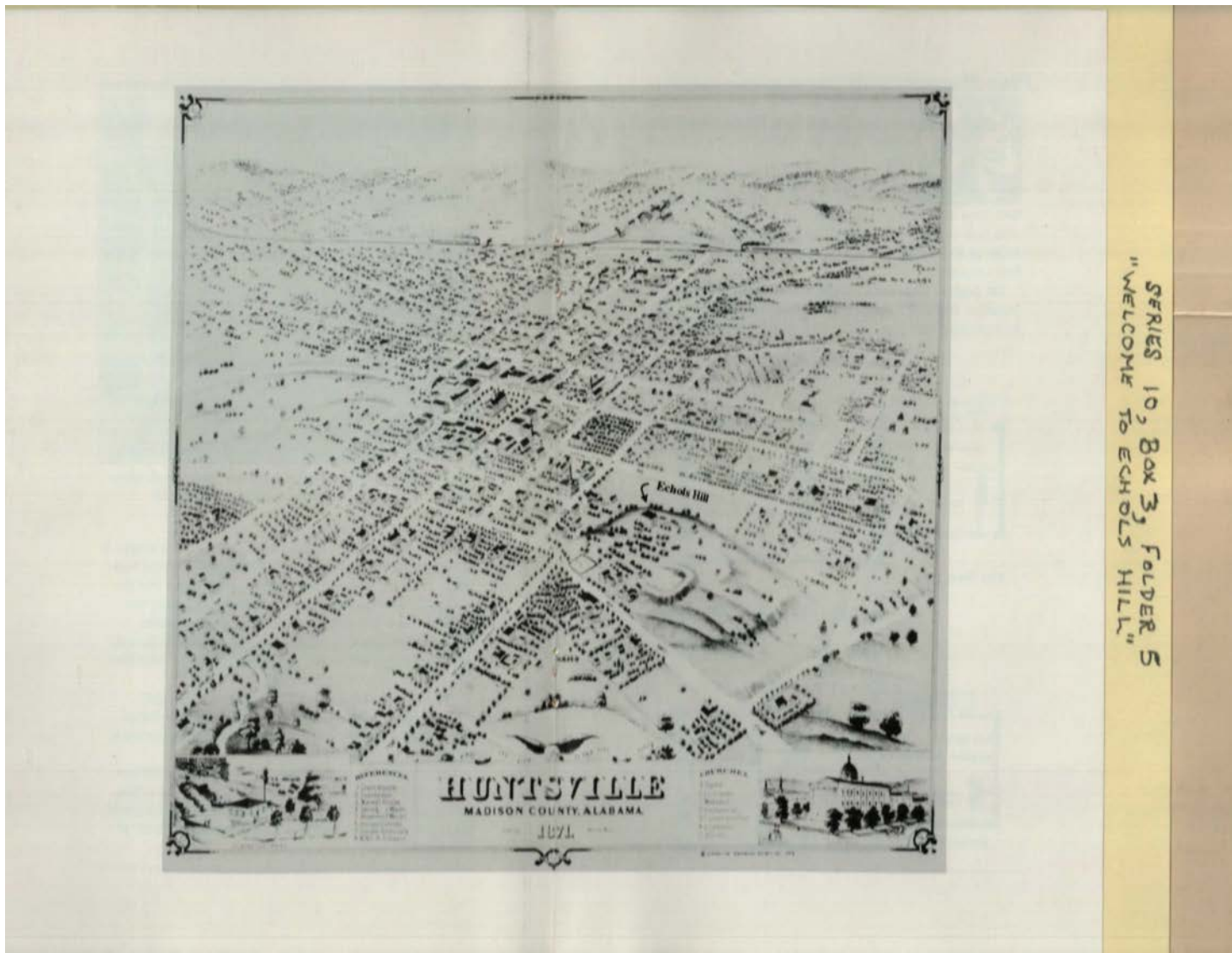
The house has grown and changed over the last two centuries, and can be viewed as a document of ways of living and architectural styles since 1814. It was not frozen at some moment in time, but is instead a "book" that the present generation can "read" to learn more about this country's past.

**Names:**

Original Mantel at  
Echols Hill

**Types:**

photograph



**Names:**  
Huntsville

**Types:**  
map

**Dates:**  
1871



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"WELCOME TO ECHOLS HILL"

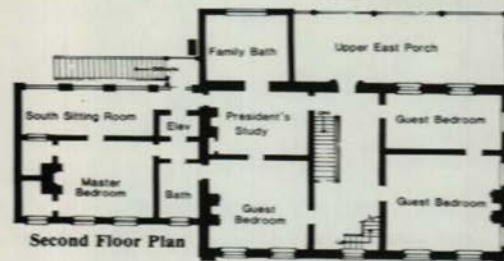
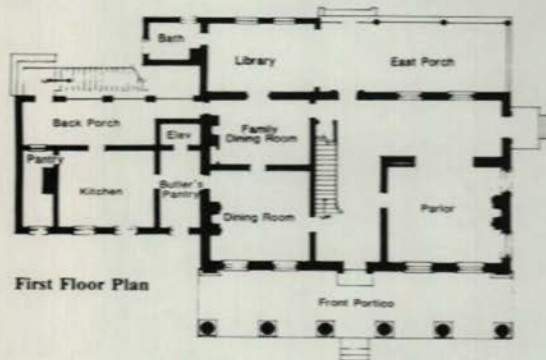
### Floor Plan and Furnishings



In planning the use of the home as an official residence, Dr. and Mrs. Wright retained the original floor plan with only a few modifications.

The downstairs has been developed as an entertainment area that will accommodate both large and small groups. Although the rooms are spacious with high ceilings and woodwork of excellent quality, they retain an air of simplicity and livability that makes a visitor feel welcome.

The original pine floors throughout the oldest part of the house are still sound and beautiful. The front stairway leading to the second floor is paneled with delicate reeding in the



**Names:**

Floor Plan

Wright, Dr. & Mrs.

**Types:**

booklet

plan

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 5  
"WELCOME TO ECHOLS HILL"



*The parlor, above, is furnished with antiques from the 19th and early 20th centuries. Below, the back wing of the parlor leads onto the east porch. The first floor of Echols Hill is used for official entertaining by the president of the university.*



Adam manner. The cherry stair rail, through it may not be original, has a beautiful inlaid newel post. The second floor contains three guest bedrooms, a master bedroom, a sitting room, and the president's study.

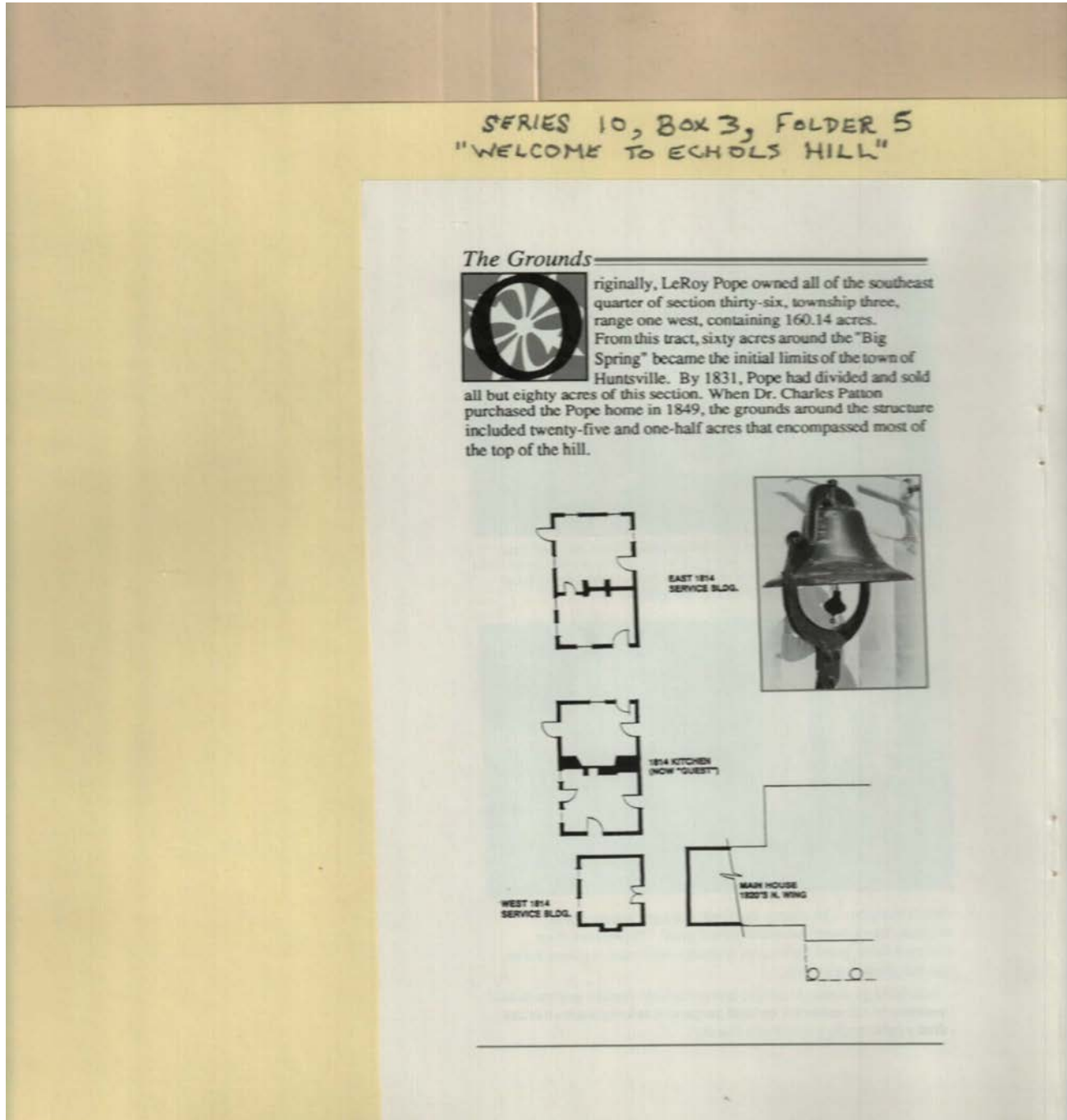
Furnishings throughout the home include family portraits and furniture of the owners, as well as pieces belonging to the university and to the president's family.

**Names:**

Views of Pope Home

**Types:**

photograph



**Names:**

Patton, Charles, Dr.

Pope, LeRoy

Property Plan

**Types:**

booklet

plan

SERIES 10, BOX 3, FOLDER 5  
"WELCOME TO ECHOLS HILL"



*This beautiful wrought iron gate leads from the front of the house to the back courtyard.*

During the Civil War, an eastern fortification was constructed on the property by the Union command. Throughout the conflict, troops were stationed in this area to insure continuous occupation of the town. The Patton home was requisitioned to house Federal officers.

In 1892 the Echols family deeded the right-of-way for Echols Avenue to the city, along with a lot to be used for a reservoir to increase the effectiveness of the water supply for an expanding community. The deed reads: In return for these considerations... "the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Huntsville, and their successors in office furnished the parties of the first part (Echols family), their heirs and assignees forever, at their said residence and stable lot, with a constant supply of water from said reservoir of Stand Pipe, free of charge, and lay one inch pipe to their said residence and stable lot for this purpose and keep them in order free of charge."

**Names:**

Echols,

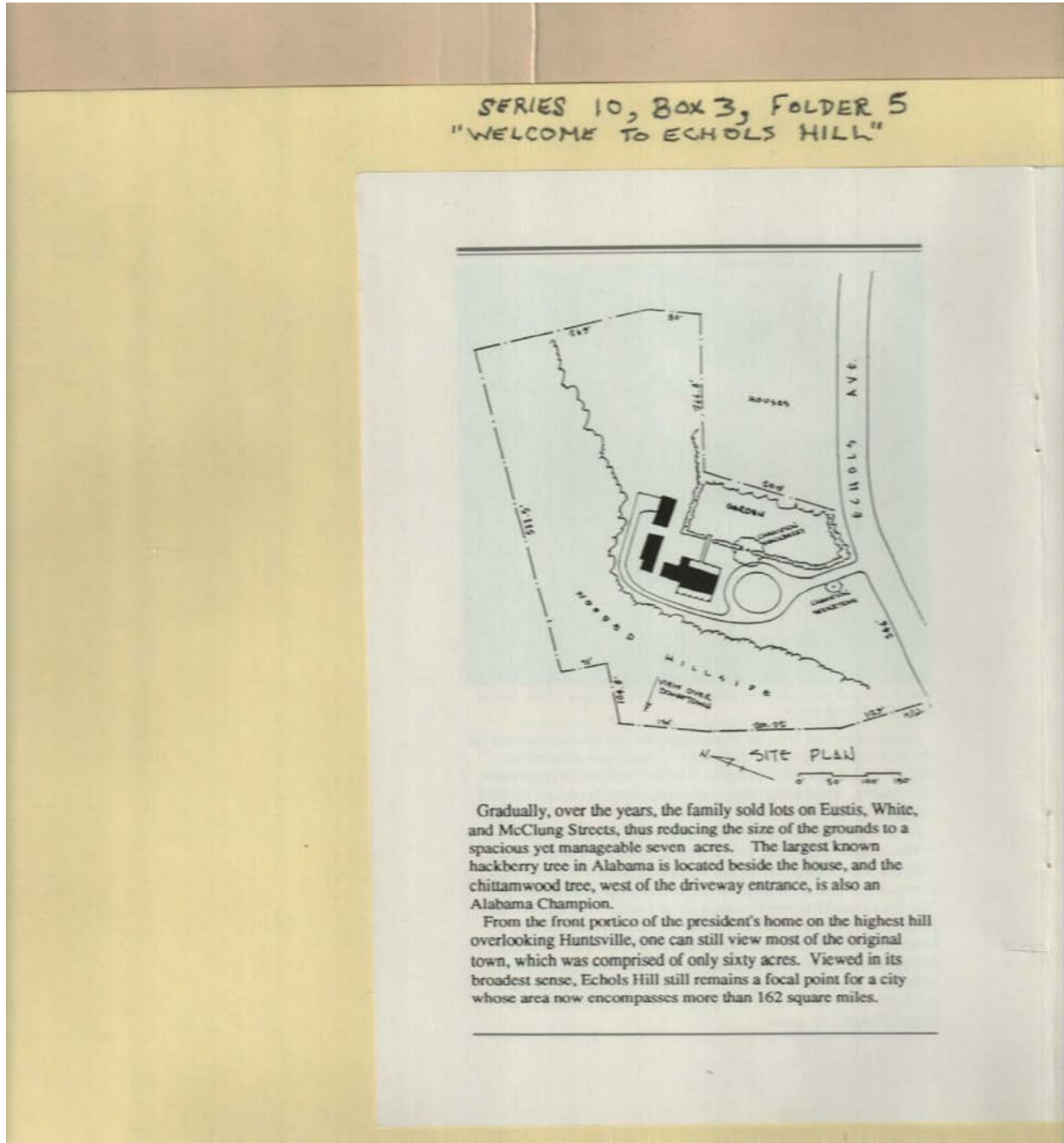
Gate, Wrought Iron

Patton,

**Types:**

booklet

photograph



**Names:**

Echols Hill Trees

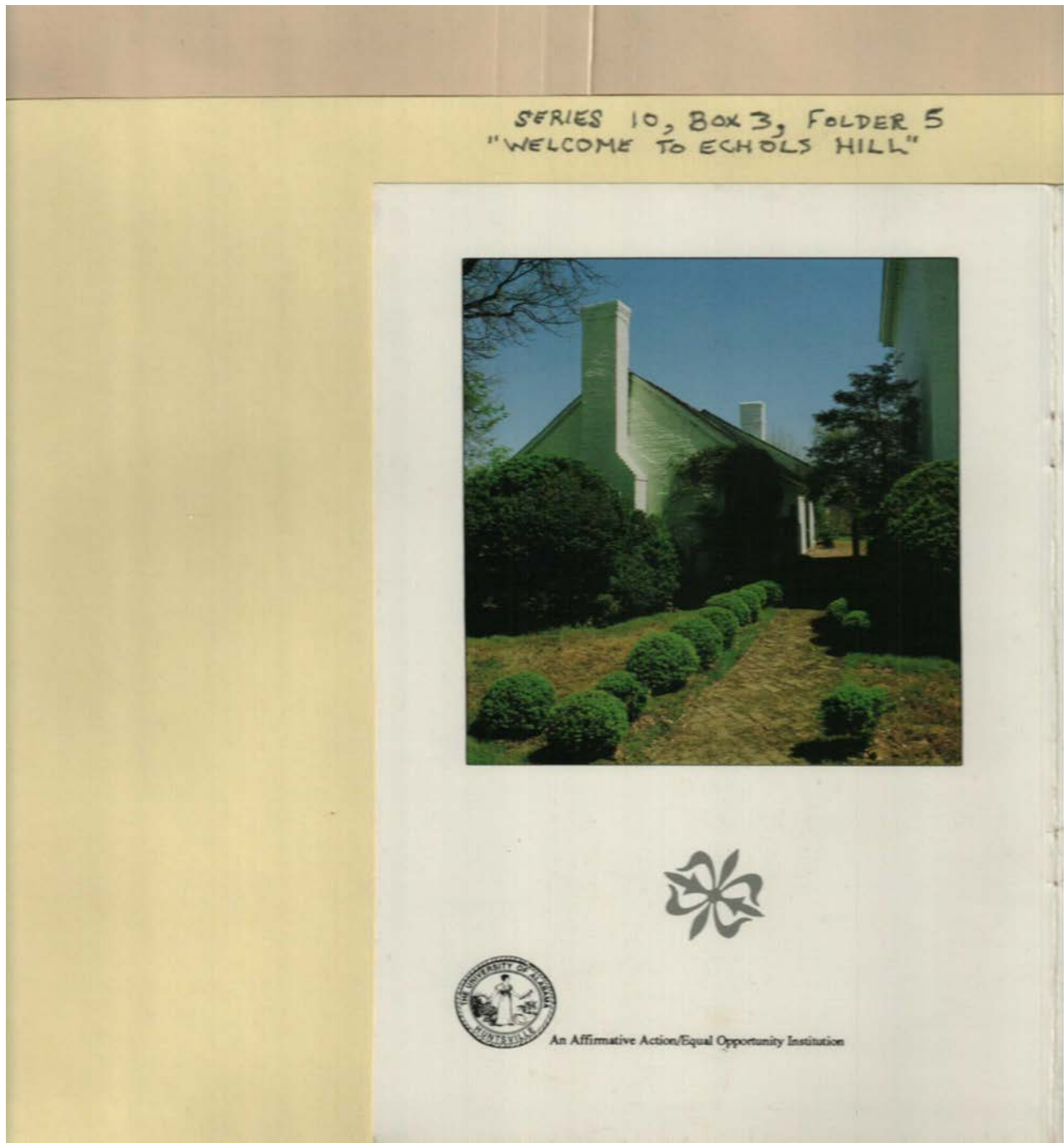
Property Plan

**Types:**

booklet

plan

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**Names:**  
Echols Hill

**Types:**  
photograph

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[Image 7](#) (r10\_03-05-000-0127)

[Image 8](#) (r10\_03-05-000-0128)

[Image 9](#) (r10\_03-05-000-0129)

[Image 10](#) (r10\_03-05-000-0130)

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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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**Provenance:** Gift of Johanna Shields on October 28, 2006.



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