

Note numerous nail-holes in deck-slabs
for wood shingles



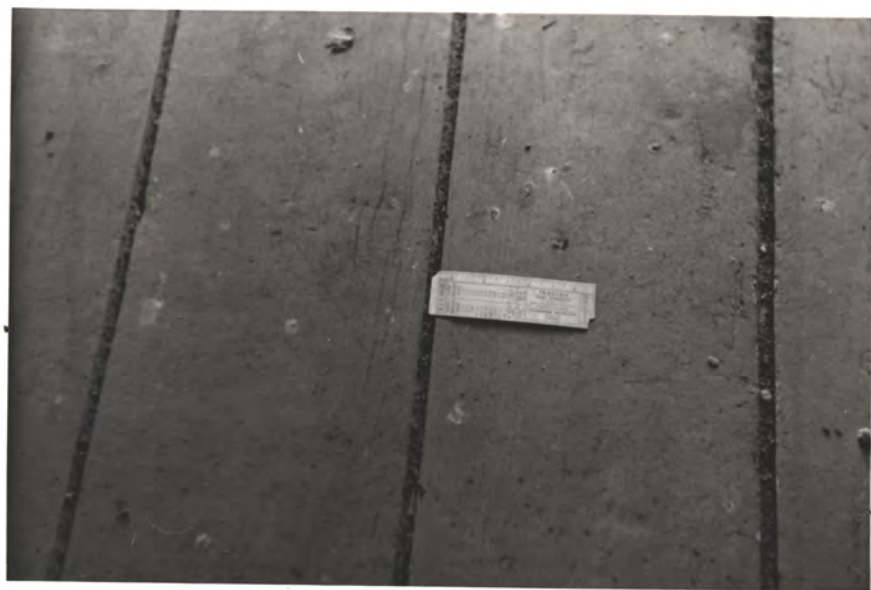
Rafter ridge. Note chiseled roman numerals (IIVX) used
in ground-fabrication of half-lap & pegged jts



banded fl.2 joists
 $\pm 2'$ o.c. + whitewash



West Chim - bricks = $\pm 3''$ h. w/ jt. (unusually large)
Inner bricks are firebox liner



fl.1. Ruler is $3\frac{1}{2}''$ l. BAs = $5/4''$ (no s/rbfl.) see photo
above

c. 1809 Cummins-Lewis-Nelson Hse
 N.E. Limestone Co. AL
 Photos fall of 1980 W.P. Jones

Sashes = 1980
 Clapboards = 1980
 Metal roof & wide eaves = 20th cent



c. 1809 Log Hse
 N.E. Limestone
 Co.

Was open ^{to} daylight

S. Wall



3 1/2"

Note wood phys. Purpose.

S.W. Corner



1 of 3

N.W. Corner

NS

S.E. Corner

AN

unsuccessful bid for governor—in 1831 and in 1847.
Children of Nicholas and Martha Hargrave Davis were:

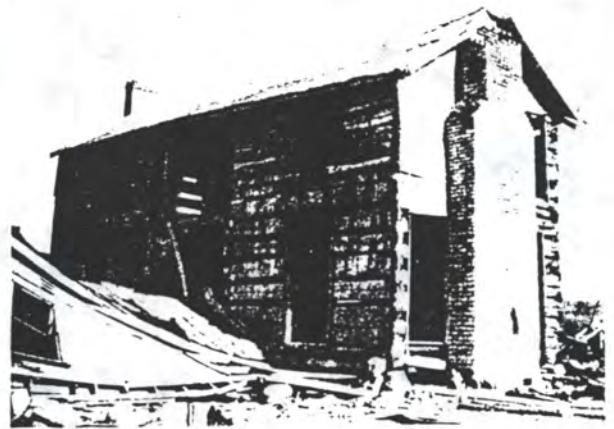
- I. Edwin Rodney md. Malvina Walker and was apparently dead by 1850, for Malvina and their son, Edwin, were living at Walnut Grove.
- II. Anne Bradley md. William Richardson (see *Richardson House*).
- III. Martha Nicholas md. George W. Lane on Oct. 23, 1834. Lane (1806-1864) was born in Cherokee County, Ga., to Jonathan and Elizabeth Colley Lane and was the brother James M. Lane (see *Lane-Gamble House*). After serving in the state legislature and as county and circuit judge, George W. Lane was appointed Federal district judge by Abraham Lincoln, much to the consternation of his southern neighbors; but he died before functioning in the office. George and Martha (Davis) Lane had: (1) Robert Wilson md. Mrs. Mattie Goode and died while serving as a member of Forrest's cavalry; (2) George Gale; (3) Martha Davis; (4) Nicholas; (5) Mary; (6) Kate md. Robert Townes and among their descendants are Halsey Townes of Birmingham and his brother, Harry, well-known character actor; (7) Belta Collier; (8) Mary Fearn md. Dr. Theo Westmoreland (see *Jones-Coman-Westmoreland House*); (9) Charles Paul md. Ella Abercrombie; (10) Hector Davis, md. Madge Mason (see *Grigsby-Bridgeforth House*) and became the first commissioner of agriculture to be elected by the people of Alabama.
- IV. Zebulon Pike md. Williametta Eason and had at least one child, Norah, born Oct. 20, 1878, in Huntsville. Zebulon Pike was mayor of Huntsville for several terms; and Norah was a teacher, writer, and Progressive Republican.
- V. Lawrence Ripley (see *Lawrence Ripley Davis House*).
- VI. Eliza md. Dr. Stith Malone (see *Stith Malone House*).
- VII. Nicholas Jr., "Nick," (Jan. 25, 1825-Nov. 3, 1874) md. Sophia Lowe, daughter of Gen. Bartley Lowe, one of Huntsville's most prominent citizens. After their marriage on Oct. 4, 1854, Nick and Sophie lived at "The Grove," built by Gen. Lowe and described as the most handsome house in the state at one time. The character of Nick Davis is vividly portrayed in the diaries of Thomas Hubbard Hobbs, one of his closest friends. Nick had need of Tom's stability; while Tom was drawn to the reckless young charmer, whose temperament he described as being either at the poles or at the equator. Nick and Sophie Davis had: (1) Lowe md. Lucy Meriwether, (2) Sophia md. Ben Lee Young, (3) William, and (4) Nicholas C.
- VIII. Dewitt Clinton md. Susan Lowe, sister of Sophia.
- IX. Virginia md. first N. J. Harris and secondly Judge Jesse P. Phillips.

When Martha (Hargrave) Davis died in 1853, Thomas Hobbs recorded that she was buried in the first metallic casket he had ever seen. It is believed that Nicholas Davis then lived with his daughter, Anne Richardson, until his death in 1856. "Walnut Grove" apparently burned not long after this, and none of the descendants with whom we have talked has any knowledge of it. Only the lonely monuments of Nicholas and Martha (Hargrave) Davis remain near the site of the house and by the side of the road which bears the name of Nick Davis. The plantation name of

"Fairview" is still appropriate for the broad fields which stretch to Capshaw Mountain in the distance.

CUMMINGS-LEWIS-NELSON (ca. 1809 ?)

"The Rev. John A. Millhouse, who has well withstood the winds of more winters than he is anxious to acknowledge, is confident that Levi Cummings settled at W. G. Lewis' present place in the limits of this county now on Limestone Creek in 1807, a year ahead of anybody. He describes Mr. C. as a daring, resolute man, who later refused to run when others fled from the supposed approach of hostile Indians, declaring that he would fight it out at his house."



Thus wrote R. A. McClellan in 1881 of the builder of this rustic building which stands only a short distance west of the old Indian boundary line. Cummings may have reasoned that he was building safely within the Madison County line and did not know its exact location. It is believed that the original portion of the house still stands; and if so, it is not only the oldest in the county, but the oldest known extant building in the state.

Although the structure underwent an extensive remodeling around 1875 and most of the original doors, windows, stairs, and hardware were removed, there are still evidences of its early erection. Double-beading ceiling beams (rarely used after 1820) and whitewashed interior logs are still exposed in places. Some of the original floor boards at the top of the stairs are eight inches wide, which were rarely, if ever, used in houses after 1820. We are endeavoring to obtain conclusive evidence of the date of building.

Levi Cummings (1776-1840) was born in Halifax County, Va., probably the son of Matthew Cummings, a Revolutionary veteran who moved to Anderson County, Ky. soon