

HARVIE P. JONES, FAIA  
ARCHITECT  
420 EUSTIS AVENUE, S.E.  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801  
(205) 534-6671

Jan. 23 '98

Dear Elize:

The photo of the 1896 Handley bldg. would be pre-1902 for it shows a recessed center panel on the Harrison's clerestories. The present clerestory goes across in one plane. This change was apparently made after the 1902 fire.

The streets are still dirt in the photo.

Lyons noticed that the apparent portrait-photo studio on the south end is still there, later raised up to match the rest of the building's ht. of cornice line.

In 1966 the Am. Nat. Bank lowered the main floor to eliminate the 2 steps going up to the north front entry (I remember these 2 steps, shown on the hist. photo). All the fl. framing under the front part is modern (1966)

Hj

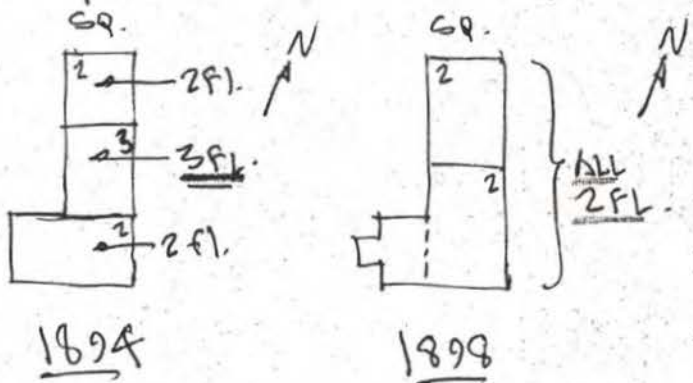
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Mar 3 '98

WHF - Re 1896 Handley Bldg.

Dear Diane -

Attached are the 1894 & 1898 Sanborn maps showing the 1896 Handley bldg.



If these are the same bldg, a drastic remodeling would have taken place to convert the 3 story part to two story.

Note that in 1898 the "photo gallery" occupies the entire 2nd fl., the first fl. front is "millinery" & the s. rear first fl. is offices. Could the off. have been Handley's? Ch. 1898 city dir. for 304 & 306 Franklin St.

When did Mrs Dyer's family get the bldg? If by ± 1920's, perhaps the name (Terry?) should also be on Dales.

*Jim*

↳ corresponds to c. 1904 photo

re-1896  
Hurdley Bldg.

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Sept 9 '98

Marc -

We have been able to spend a little time carefully studying the old photos of the attached sketch is what appears to be there. The dormitory as well as the door (one door, not 2) are recessed at the entry.

The vertical sections would be similar to the Nativity front details sent 8 Sept.

All wood exposed to weather must be all-heart Honduras mahogany (not finger-jts. either) of all end-grain & edge conditions must be backprimed (see typed note sent 8 Sept.)

Before any drawings, the existing dimensions must be verified at the site (vert & horiz.), in particular the exterior col. locations. The existing bearing condition under the fl. must be checked for soundness (must cut 2 holes in fl. to see.)

Need to see behind face trim above windows to verify orig. configuration of conditions. Ben Walker can help on this.

guy: Dimmitt  
Ellis  
Ben Walker  
file

H. Jones



1979 Nat. Regis. Nom.  
Linda Bayar Allen

36. 128 SOUTH SIDE SQUARE

Mrs. James M. Dyer  
1505 Glenwood Drive  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Lot 8, Block 44, Old Town  
16 538055 3842960

1896: Architect/Builder unknown  
1922 and 1963: Remodeled

DESCRIPTION

This building is a two-story, brick structure on a corner lot. Although it has been remodeled several times, it still retains the pressed metal cornice of sunburst patterns, the carved lintels, and a small iron balcony on the side street. The first floor facade has been remodeled with a large multipaned window and a Colonial Revival doorway. It now serves as a bank.

SIGNIFICANCE

This building is typical of the many commercial structures built about the turn of the century; it is of small scale and narrow proportions, constructed of brick, has an applied metal cornice, and decorated windows. It was constructed for Oscar Hundley who built two houses also included in this nomination. Its design owes more to the Italianate vogue than to the Commercial Brick style which was only just beginning to appear in Huntsville. The cornice is identical to that on the 1904 W. L. Halsey Warehouse.

Bought Dec. 97 by  
the Historic Huntsville  
Foundation

1979 photo - Linda Boyer Allen





The 1896 Hundley Building at 128 South Side (Court House) Square in Huntsville, Alabama, is listed in the 1979 Huntsville Multiple Resources downtown historic district. Historic photographs of the building date from 1904, c. 1900, the 1950's and 1960's, and other periods. In 1966 the Italianate commercial building was leased by the American National Bank. The bank altered the original shop-front and upper front sashes to a "colonial" version, as seen in the 1979 photograph.

The Historic Huntsville Foundation in 1984 bought the adjacent c. 1836-1900 Harrison Brothers Hardware store to preserve both the building and its interior, but also to preserve its use as a downtown early 20th century hardware store. Had this not been done, the Harrison building would probably have been gutted and remodeled as law offices. Harrison's is a major tourist destination in downtown Huntsville.

In early 1998 the 1896 Hundley building, adjoining Harrison's, was put on the market and it appeared likely that it would be purchased by a bail-bond company. As a result the Historic Huntsville Foundation purchased the building with these goals in mind:

1. Find tenants for the 1896 Hundley Building that would be a positive contribution to the well-being of downtown.
2. Restore the Italianate north front per the historic photos and the remaining traces at the site.
3. Provide for the first time a permanent office for the Historic Foundation.
4. Provide an information point for the thousands of tourists and visitors who come annually to Harrison Brothers Hardware.
5. Provide offices for the Downtown Redevelopment Authority.
6. Provide first floor space for perhaps a restaurant or tea-room that would be a complement to Harrison's and to the downtown area.
7. By connecting Harrison's second floor to the Hundley Building, allow use of Harrison's second floor by giving access to two upgraded fire stairs in the Hundley building and thus solve the fire-code prohibition of use of the Harrison's second floor, which has only narrow, open wood stairs.
8. Encourage downtown living by developing an apartment in part of the Hundley Building second floor.
9. Remove the 1966 dropped sheetrock ceiling in the first floor and restore either the c. 1920's stamped-metal ceiling or else the original painted beaded-board 1x4 tongue and groove ceiling, both of which remain (the extent and condition of the metal ceiling is not yet determined).

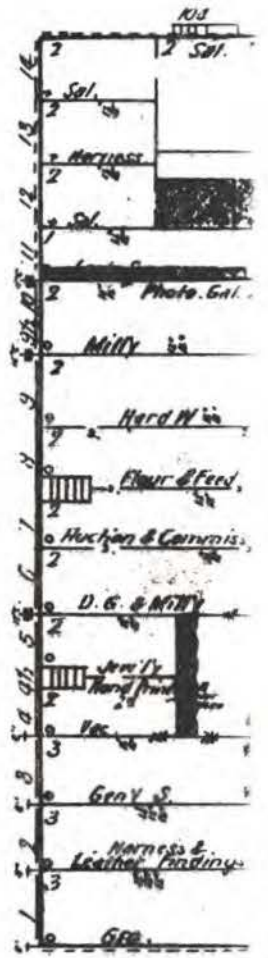
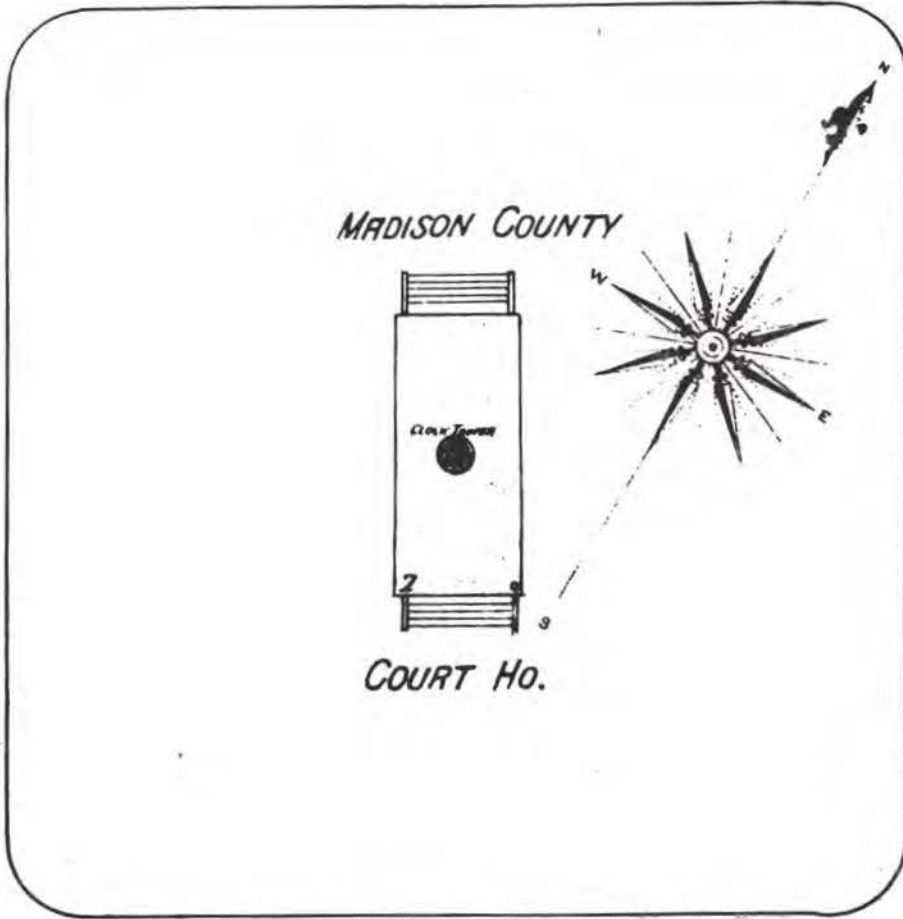
The Foundation feels that the restoration of the original 1896 facade would be a dramatic statement for downtown and for historic preservation, and would encourage others to consider preservation versus ad-hoc remodeling.

13 Mar 1998 by HPL/moo  
for grant applic. to AHC  
by HHF

EXCHANGE ROW

BANK ROW

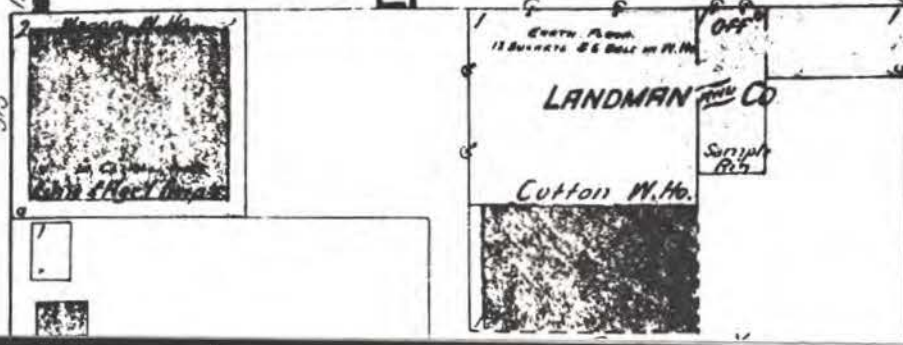
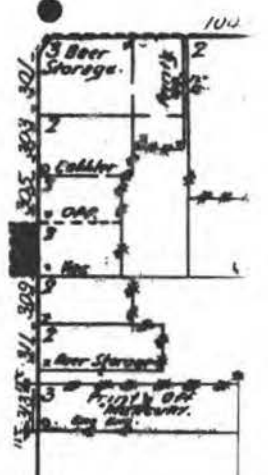
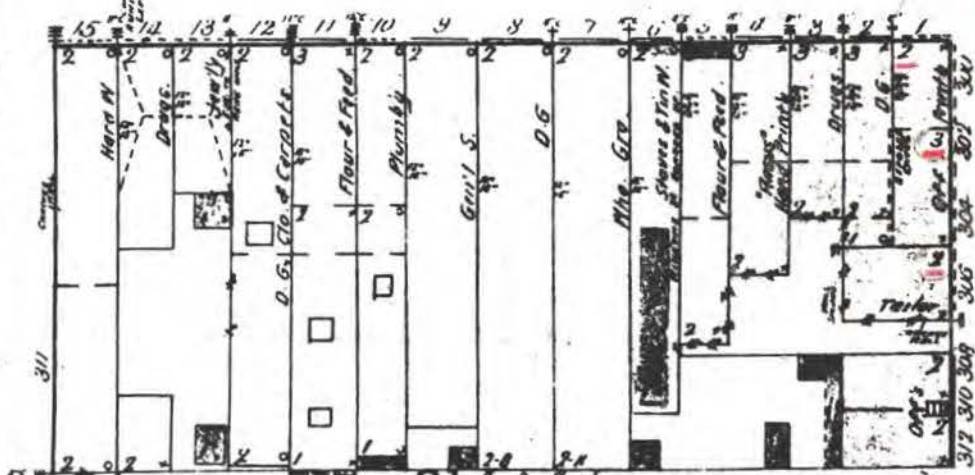
CHEAP SIDE ROW



COMMERCIAL ROW

MADISON

FRANKLIN



1894



1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14

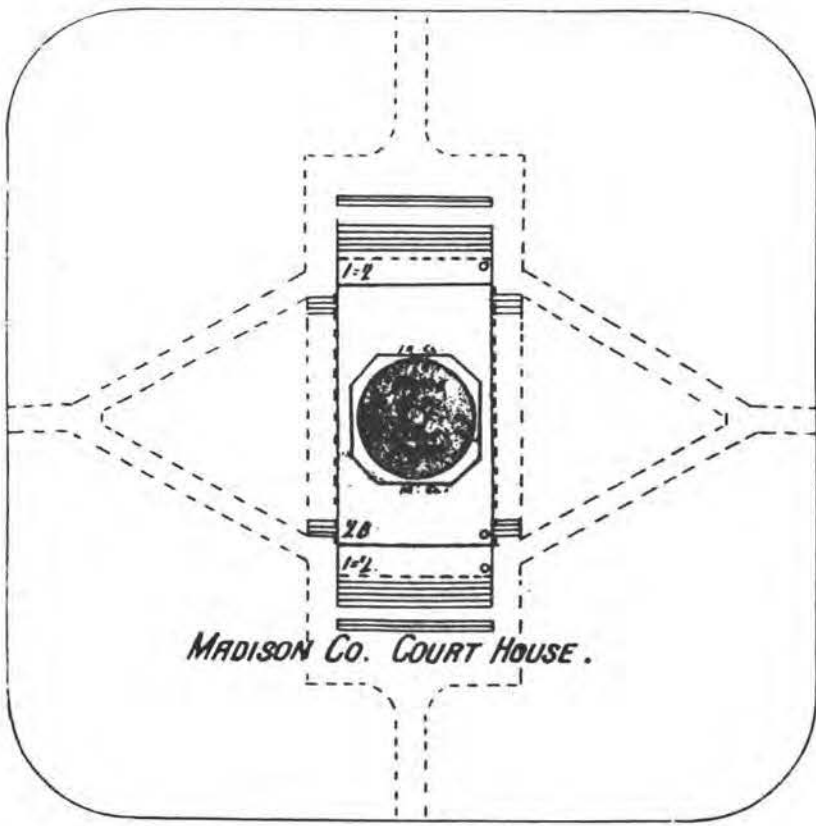
EXCHANGE ROW

4" RP

388

606

BANK ROW



CHEAP SIDE ROW

11

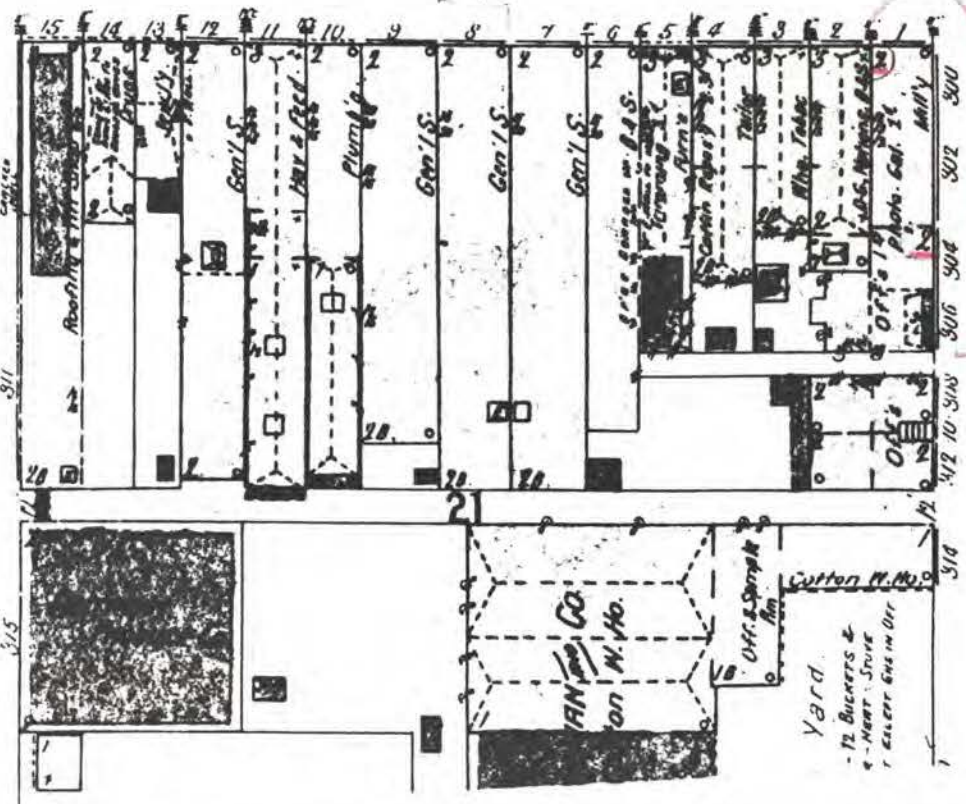
COMMERCIAL ROW

12" RP

388

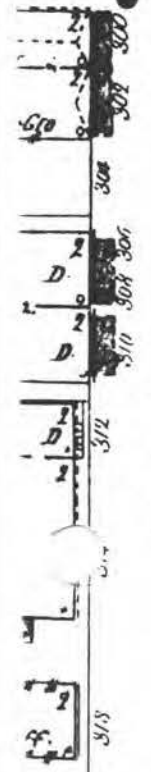
614

MADISON



FRANKLIN

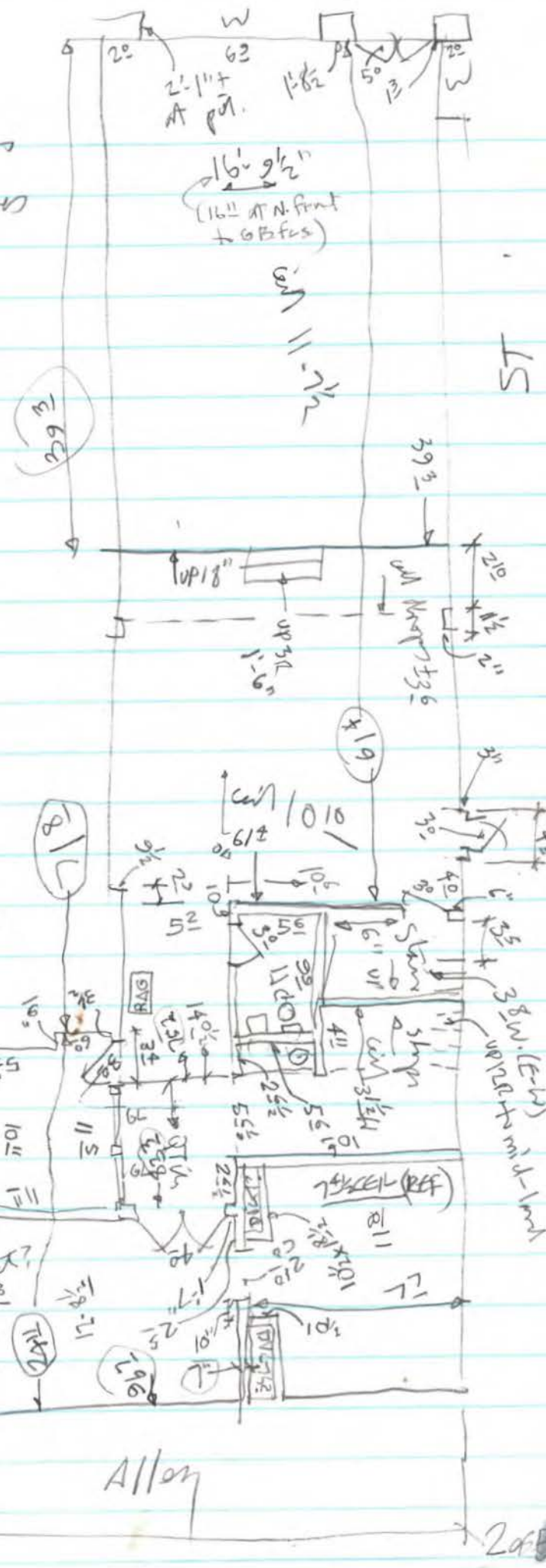
1898







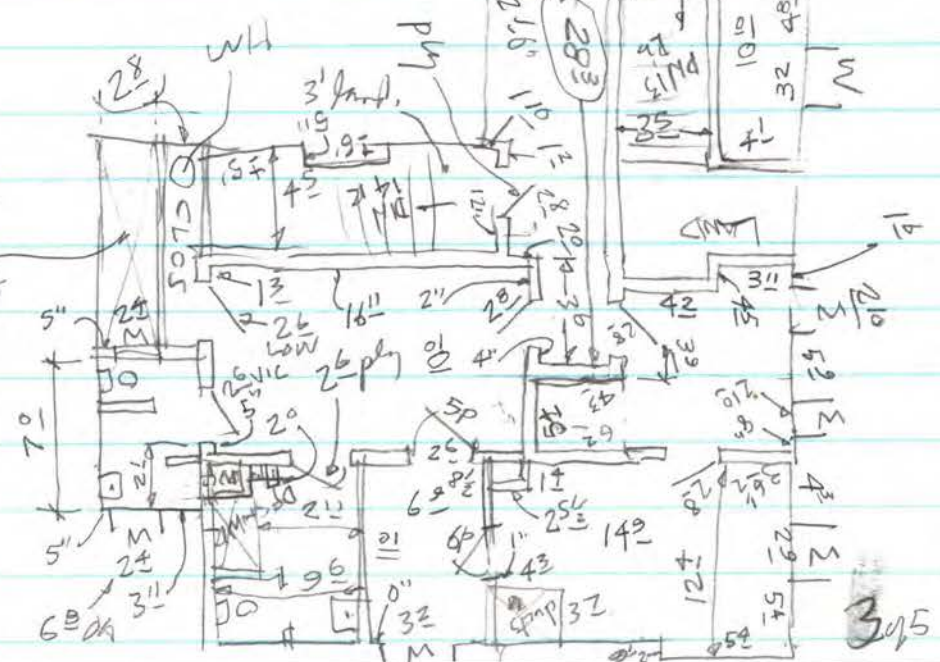
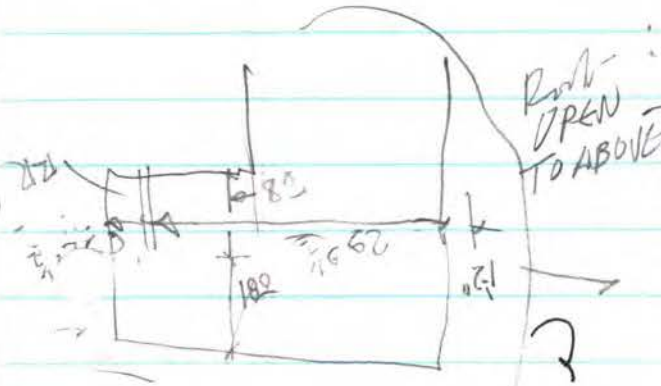
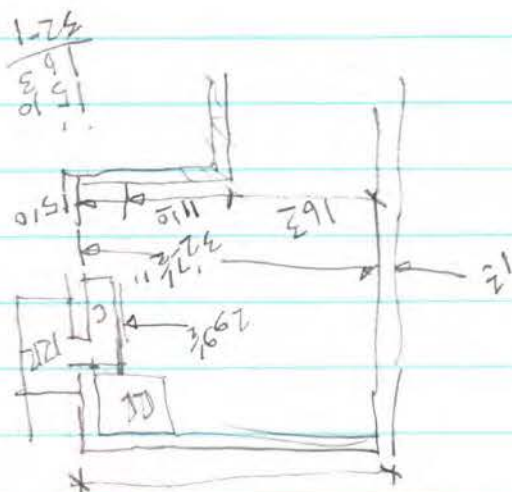
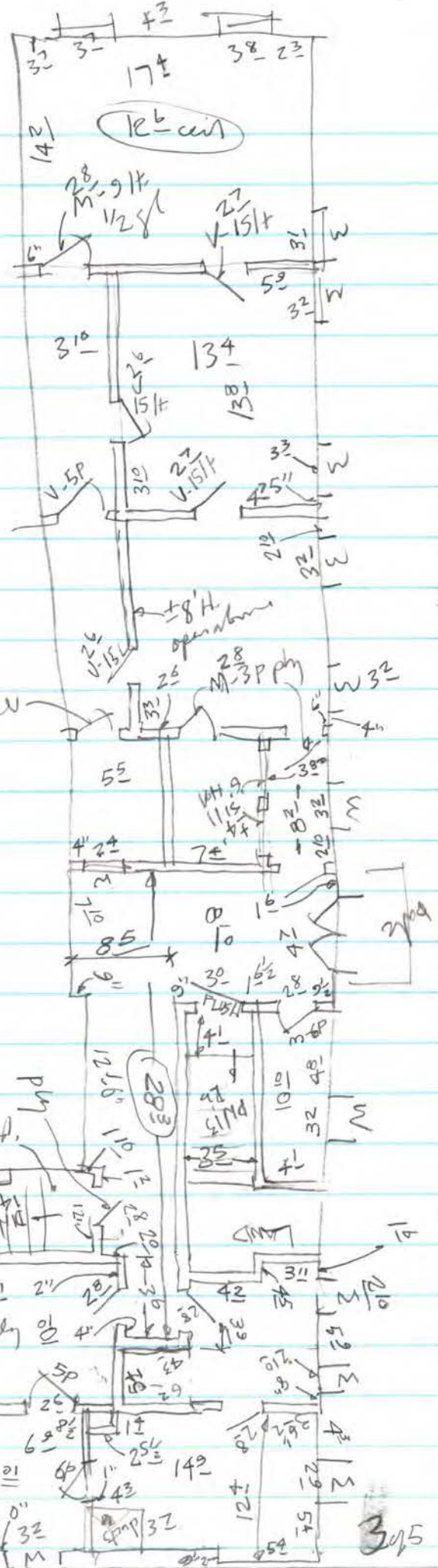
FL 1  
 - bldg by Harris  
 12 Dec '97 HJW



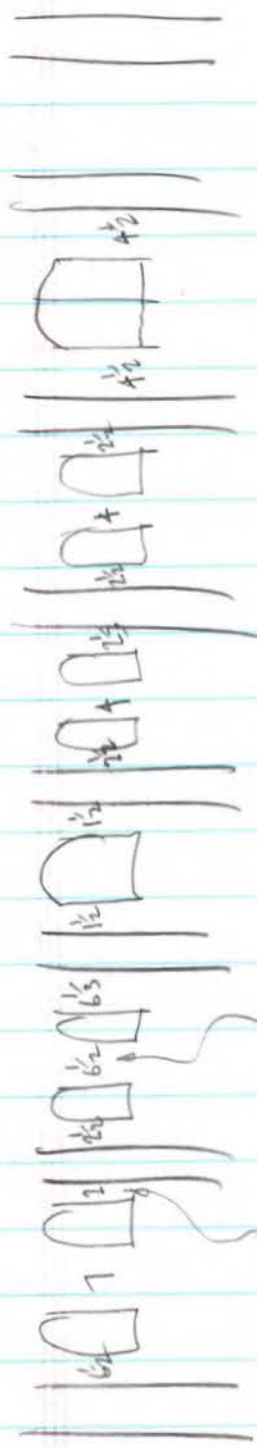


512  
68  
6

FL2 Dec 12 '97  
W  
blg systems



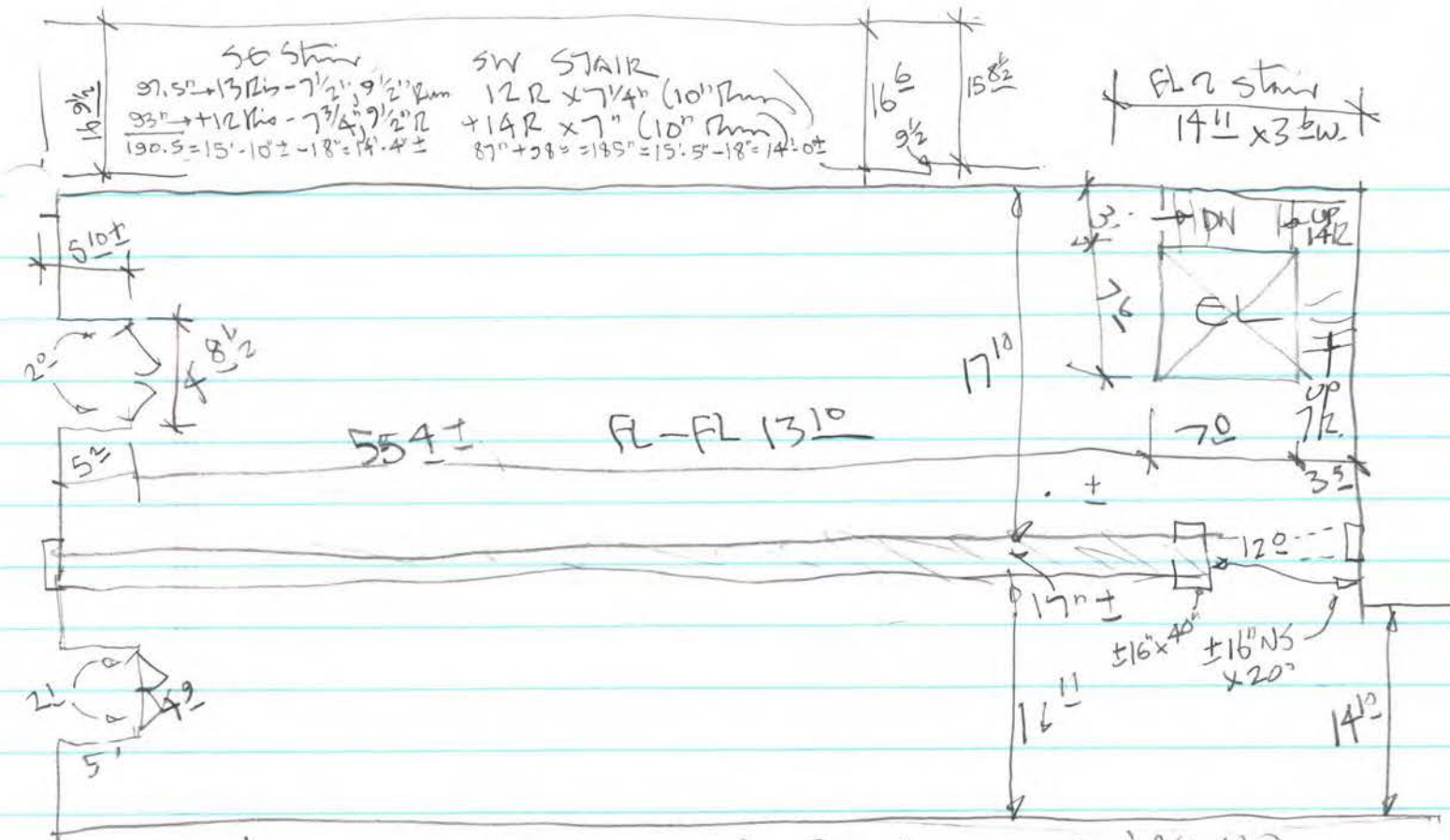
3 of 5



No's = 1/2 brick + 1/2

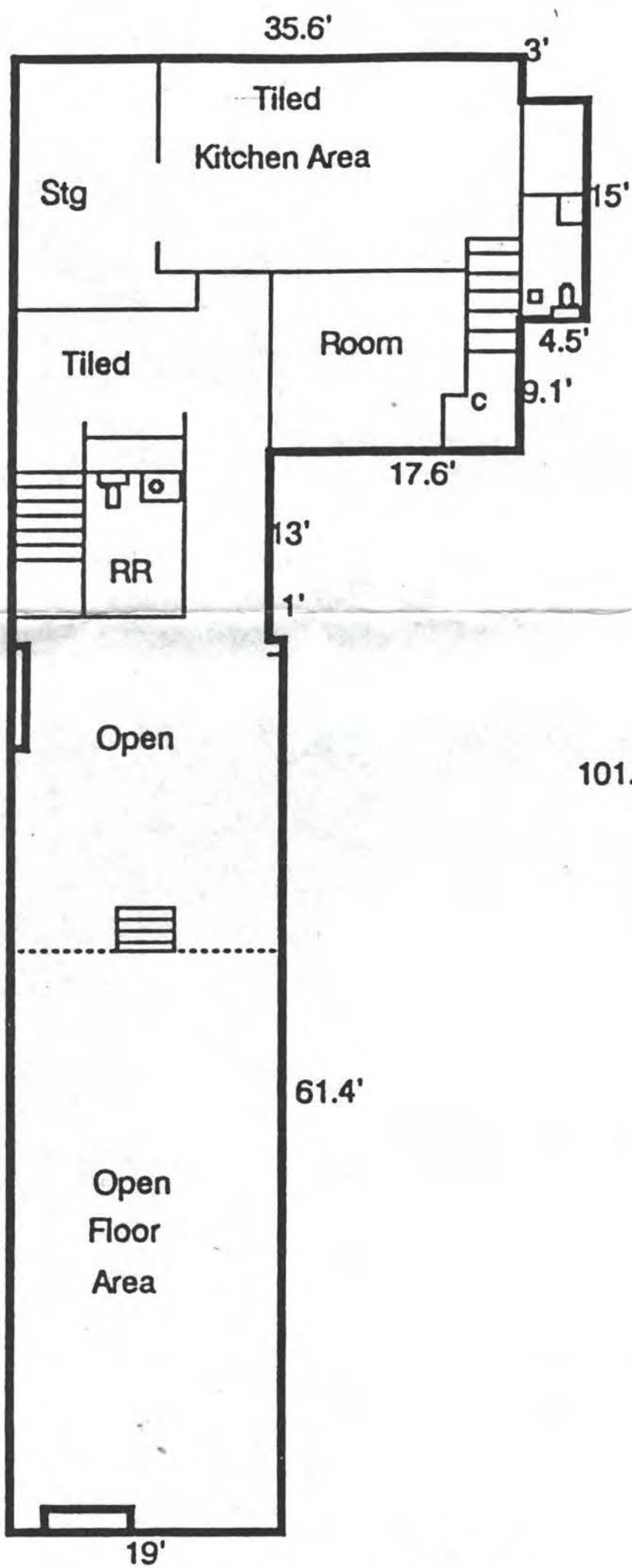
E W.M., FL. 2





N ↗ HARRISON BROS. 27 D<sub>2</sub>' 97 N<sub>2</sub>  
Fl. 1

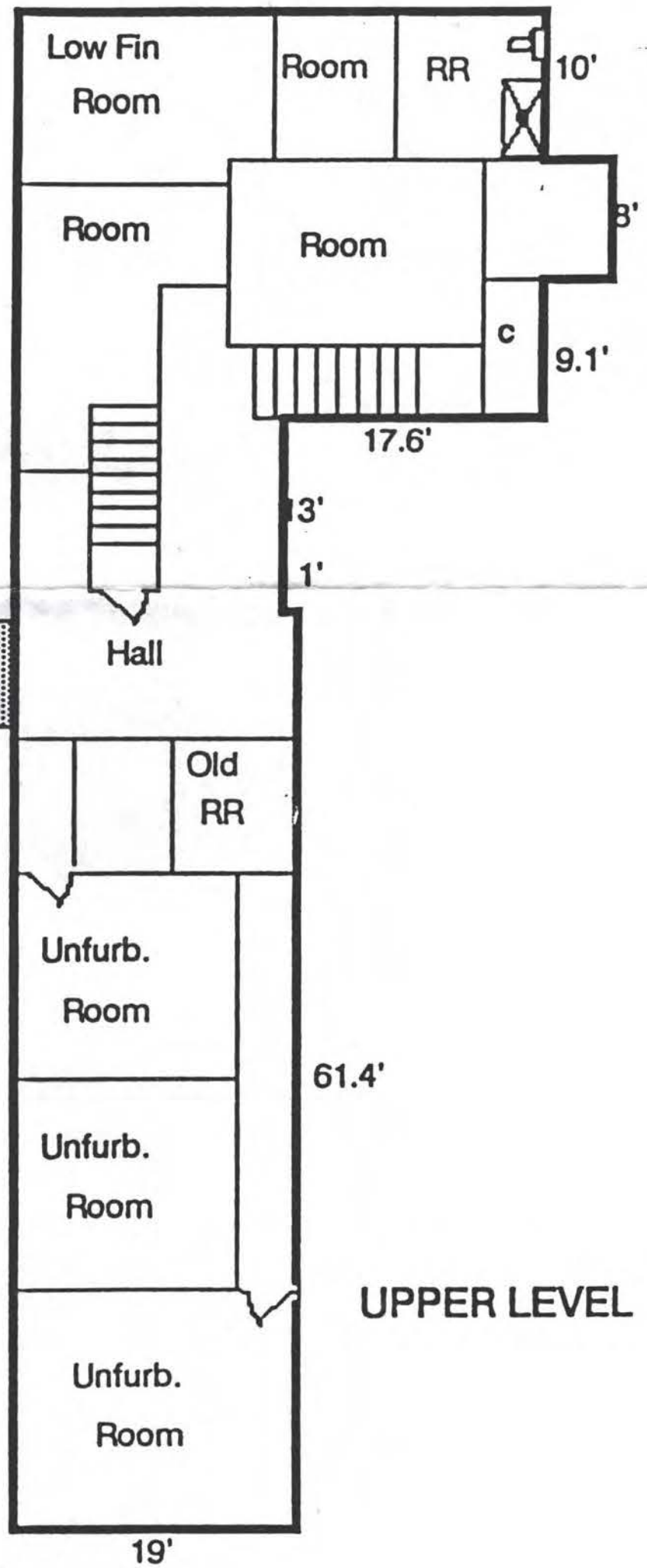
Rear



±2,400 sf

Front

35.6'

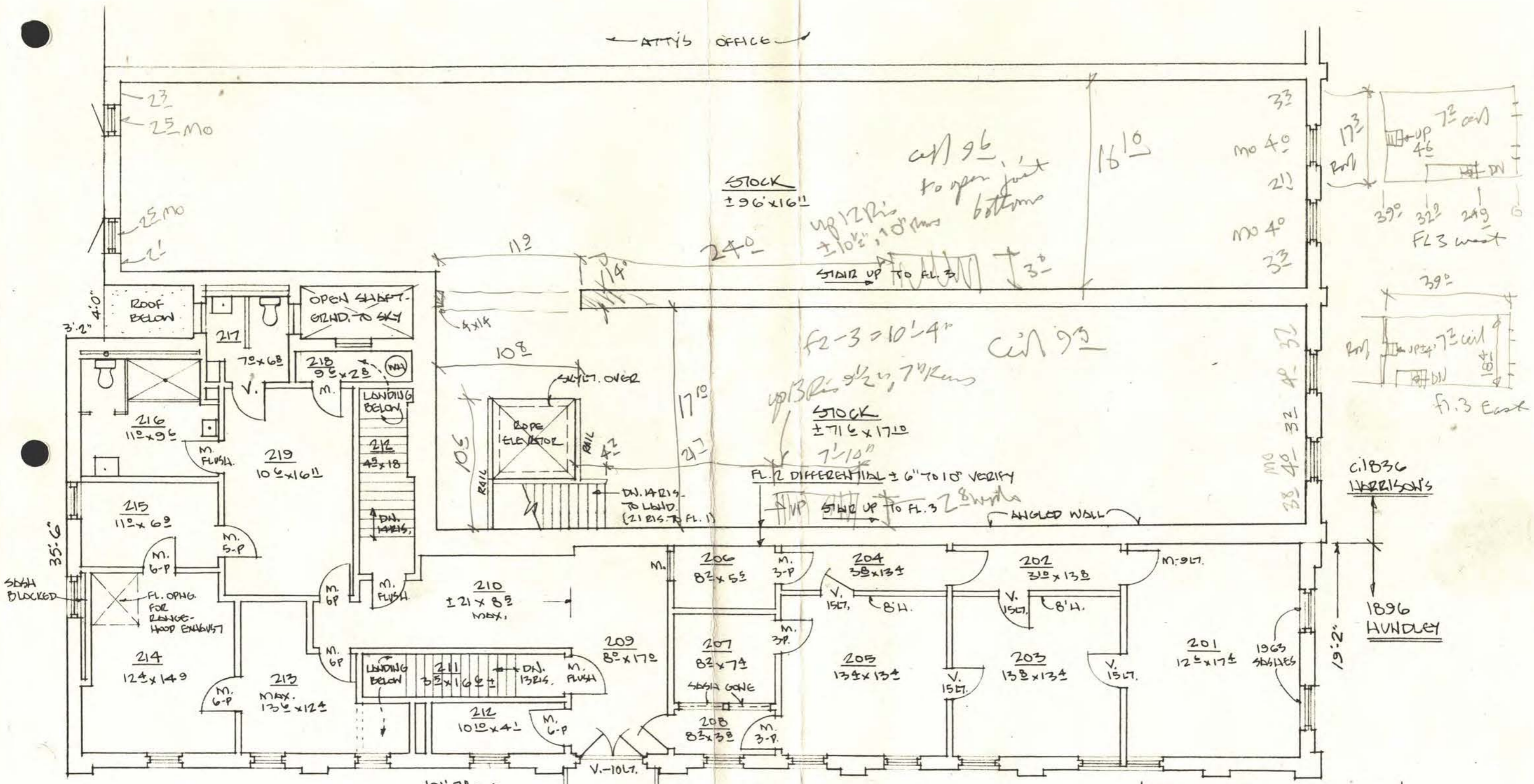


±2,400 sf

UPPER LEVEL



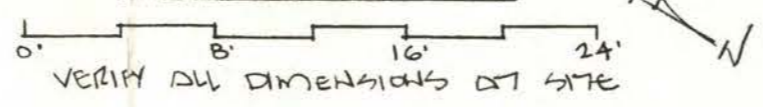
← ATTYS OFFICE →



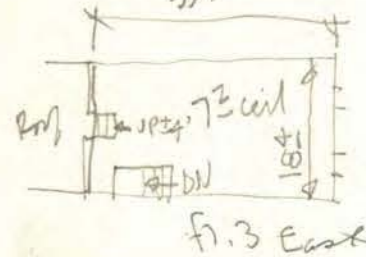
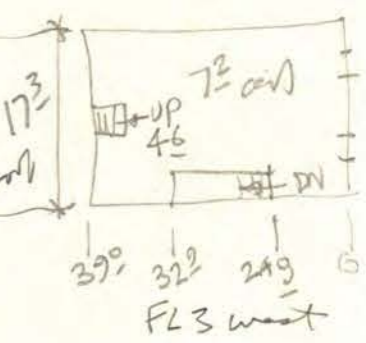
Field Notes  
Dec. 29 '97 HW

FL. 2 ORIGINAL CEIL. - 12' 6" ±

**FLOOR 2 PLAN**



C. 1836 HARRISON'S BLDG.  
± 1896 HUNDLEY BLDG.  
S. SIDE SQ. - HUNTSVILLE, AL.  
HIST. HVILLE FOUNDATION  
27 DEC. '97 H.P. JONES, P.A.I.B.



C. 1836  
HARRISON'S

1896  
HUNDLEY

INT. 15  
1963  
AT H. 2

ORIGINAL  
INT.  
AT H. 2

BALCONY  
(ORIGINAL)

101' 7" O.A.

SEAL  
BLOCKED

35'-6"

3'-2"

4'-0"

23

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

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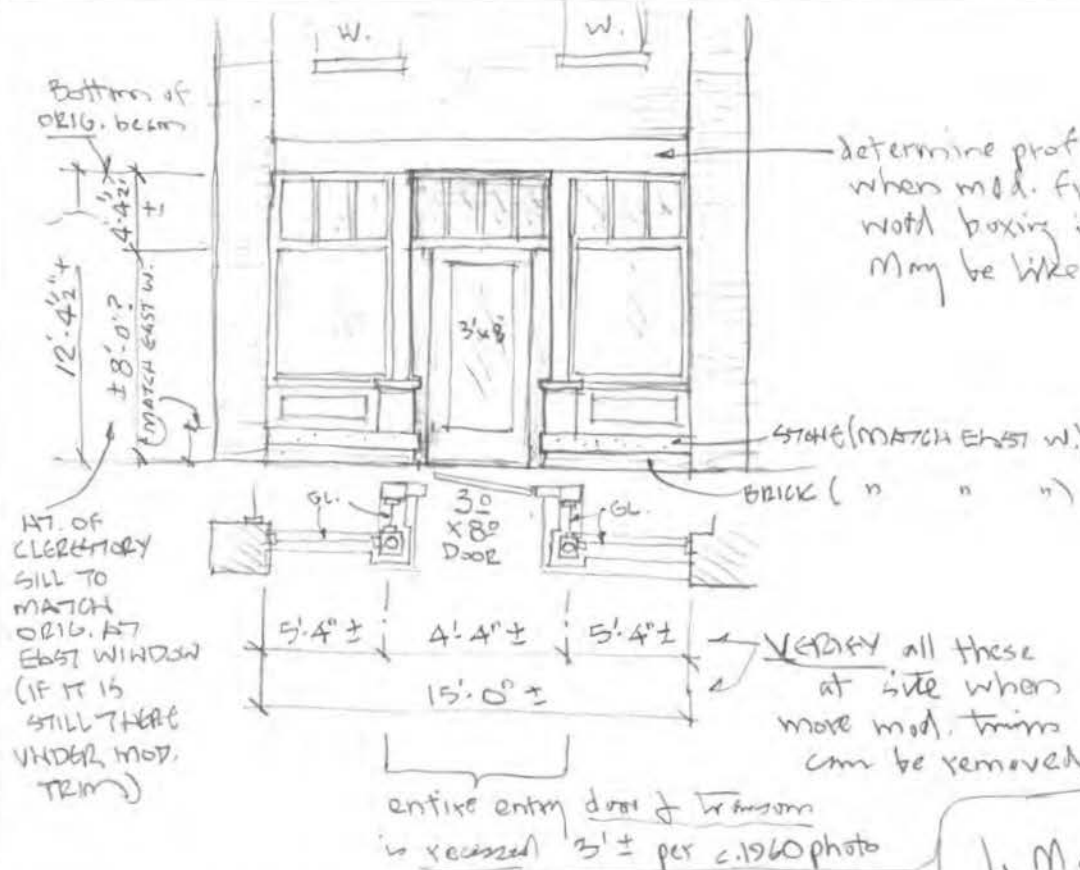
25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo

25 Mo



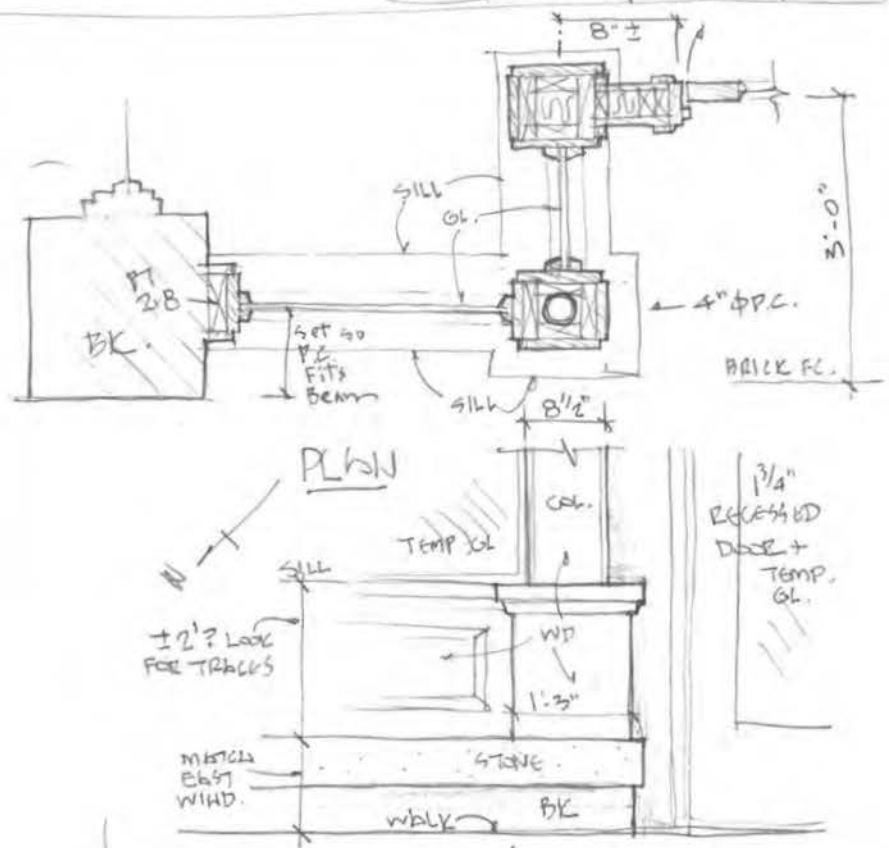
determine profile of this when mod. front w/old boxing is removed. May be like Harrison's (?)

Ht. of CLEARENCE SILL TO MATCH ORIG. HT EAST WINDOW (IF IT IS STILL THERE UNDER MOD. TRIM)

STONE (MATCH EAST W.)  
BRICK ( " " " )

VERIFY all these at site when more mod. trim can be removed

entire entry door & transom is recessed 3'± per c.1960 photo

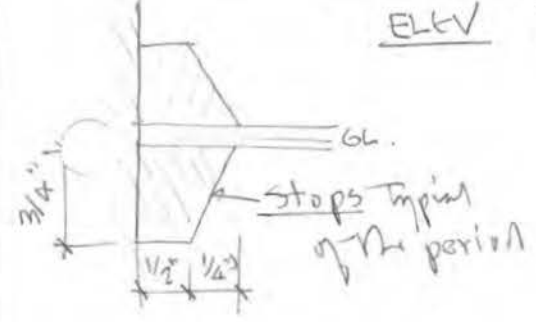


PLWN  
±2'± LOOK FOR TRACKS

3/4\"/>

ELCV

More - this offset appears on the c.1900 photo



stops typical of the period

1. More - in carefully studying the several old photos, it seems to be this, except the fl. has been lowered, of course.
2. Plans of glass must be reviewed by the Ol. Historical Commission in Mont. Contact is via Hist. Fndn.
3. I think plans must be bid. Verify. AHC rep. is due here ±15 Sept, to be confirmed. Bids can be limited to pre-qualif. contractors. I have a good list.
4. Use 4x4 painted hinges, ball-bearing w/ square corners on plates ±4\"/>

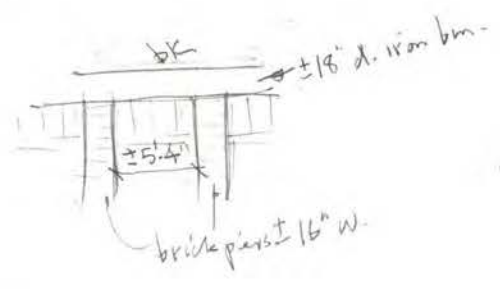








± 1966 steel col.  
 ↓ ± of 1896 entry



# Mr. Hundley, you would be proud

"The lumber for the new store house of Mr. Hundley on the corner of the Square has arrived and the construction will now proceed." — page 6 of *The Huntsville Mercury*, Aug. 12, 1896.

By MIKE MARSHALL  
Times Staff Writer

Well, Oscar R. Hundley, former U.S. district judge for the Northern District of Alabama, here's what has happened to your building at the corner of South Side Square and Franklin Street:

After your family sold it in 1930, nine years after your death, the place was turned into a Singer Sewing Machine store. Then Fleming-Thornton Real Estate

Company and The Equitable Life Assurance Society bought it in 1940.

Then the nameplate was shortened (thank goodness) to Thornton and Thornton Real Estate. Then the American National Bank was located there, next to Harrison Brothers Hardware.

More recently, the building was known as The Village Inn Restaurant. They made some nice cornbread and prepared plenty of tasty vegetables, but no one's cooking at 128 South Side Square anymore.

Now, Mr. Hundley, the Historic Huntsville Foundation has bought the place that cost you \$2,101 in 1896. Oh, how the price of real estate has soared.

Please see HUNDLEY on A8



Huntsville Times file

The Historic Huntsville Foundation plans to buy and restore the white building next to Harrison Brothers Hardware.

## Inside

A8 The Huntsville Times, Saturday, January 31, 1998

## Hundley

Continued from page A1

Mr. Hundley! The Historic Huntsville Foundation considers your old building one of the most valuable pieces of property in downtown Huntsville.

"Just a beautiful view of downtown," says Diane Ellis, the executive director of the Historic Huntsville Foundation. "It's a lovely place for a building."

But here's something that might surprise you, Mr. Hundley: People don't do much business in downtown Huntsville these days.

Oh, sure, there are lots of things happening at the courthouse, just like when you were city attorney, Mr. Hundley. In fact, things didn't change much after President Theodore Roosevelt named you a U.S. district judge and you moved to Birmingham in 1907.

But now ... now downtown Huntsville doesn't have as much appeal. Now folks flock to these newfangled malls, where several stores are located under *one* roof.

Diane Ellis is trying to change all that. She and lots of other people want to bring business back to downtown Huntsville.

That's one of the reasons she bought your old building, Mr. Hundley.

"We see this as a major preservation project," she says. "We're going to continue the revitalization of downtown."

"People want to see unique structures, and that's what we have in our downtown."

In Hundley's old building, for instance, there's an upstairs apartment. There's also room for offices. One day, the Historic Huntsville Foundation will move its office there.



Huntsville Times File

Here is an undated picture of Harrison Brothers Hardware. It is now owned by Historic Huntsville Foundation.

But, Mr. Hundley, here's the thing that would please you most about the recent sale of your building: Ellis wants to restore that Italianate architecture (~~long rounded windows on the facade~~) that you chose in 1896.

"We'll take it back to what it was," Ellis says. "It's a treasure."

Maybe that's asking a lot, trying to recapture that 1896 spirit. There have been so many changes, including the addition of a jazz club on the north side of the square and a tavern a couple of doors down from Hundley's old building.

Other than that, downtown Huntsville remains a maze of le-

gal offices. And anyone who's familiar with the legend Oscar R. Hundley knows that he was always comfortable in that environment.

Except for the time he switched political parties in 1896, about the time he built the building at 128 South Side Square. Ultimately, he alienated the entire Alabama delegation, according to documents provided by the Huntsville Historical Foundation.

In 1909, after twice failing to receive confirmation, he resigned as district judge and resumed his private law practice.

*Silly writing*



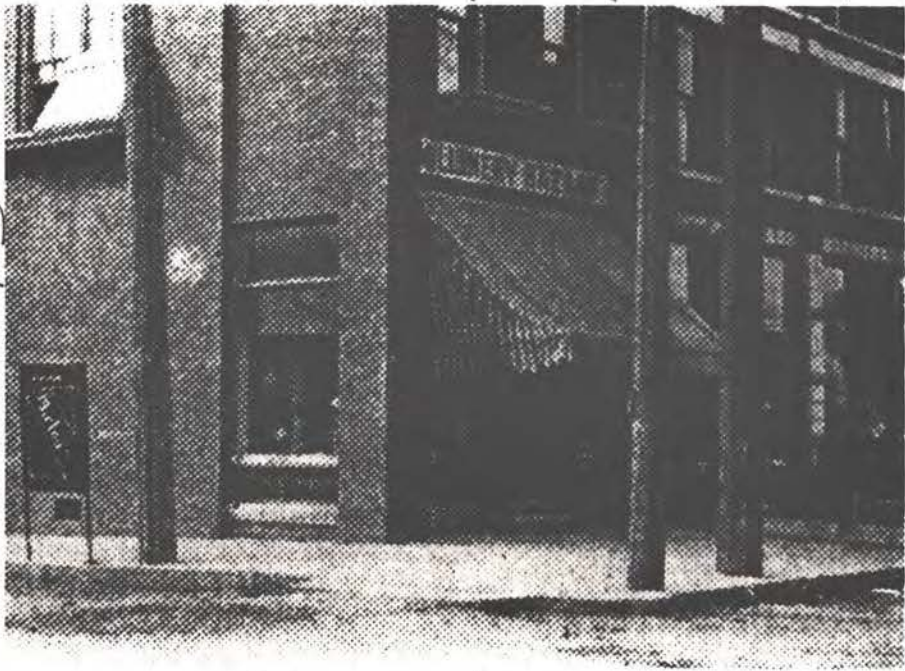


Harrison's

ledges apparently for exposing photo prints of Harrison's  
blue-print paper. This technique used by G.W. Jones Eng. in early 20th c.



Harrison's front is pre-1902 configuration (recessed entrance)  
→ N ← N  
c. 1900 (?) photo.  
Sts. are still dirt.



later raised

Large windows are on both the porch

"Photog." said to be Judd's studio (at base) & in 1900



H 4  
c. 1920's photo (based on census) - S.S. St. - Warrington, DC

Hindley bldg, 1896 )

↓  
1836 Dennis (1902 facade)





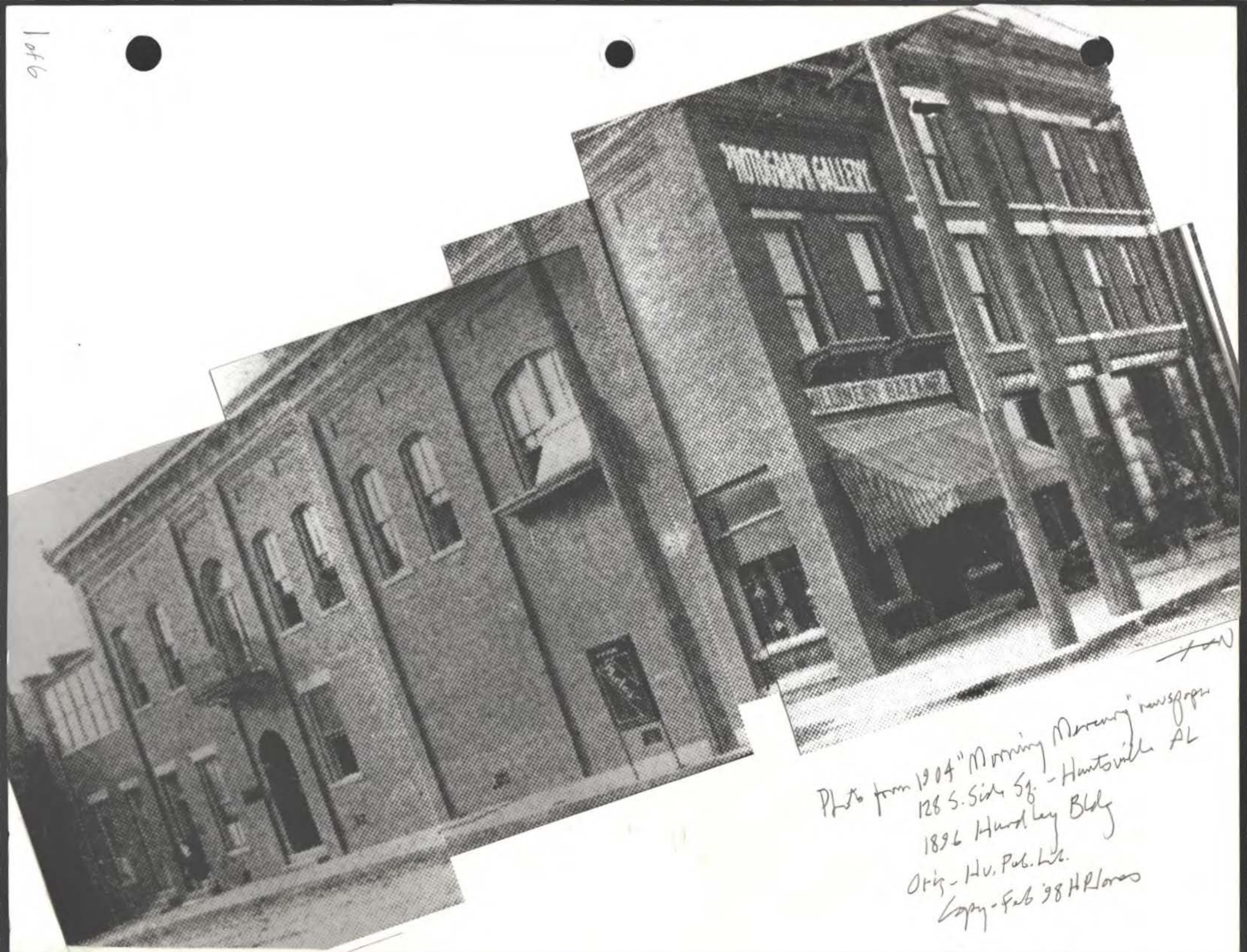


Photo from 1904 "Morning Mercury" newspaper  
 128 S. Side St. - Huntsville AL  
 1896 Handley Bldg  
 Orig - H.V. Pub. Co.  
 Copy - Feb '98 H.P. Lomas





← "Photograph Gallery" (may be Judd. Ok. City Directory of 1904)

← "Millinery Bazaar" (hat shop)

Harrison Bros.  
Hdms

XAN



1896 Hundley Bldg.  
128 S. Side Square  
Huntsville, AL  
photo 12/15/1904 from  
"The Morning Mercury"  
newspaper

2 story  
by mid  
20th c.  
Apparent  
photo  
studio  
(big  
windows)



4-

Harrison's



Harrison's front is pre-1902 configuration (see sketch in pre-stom)

← N →

c. 1900 (?) photo. Srs. are still dirt.

Large windows are probably the portrait photo studio

"Photog." shed to be Judd's studio (in back) & his apt. in front

ledges apparently for exposing photos + blue-print paper. This table rig used by G.W. Jones Eng. in early 20th c.

Harrison's



note 2 steps up. In 1963 the bank lowered the floor



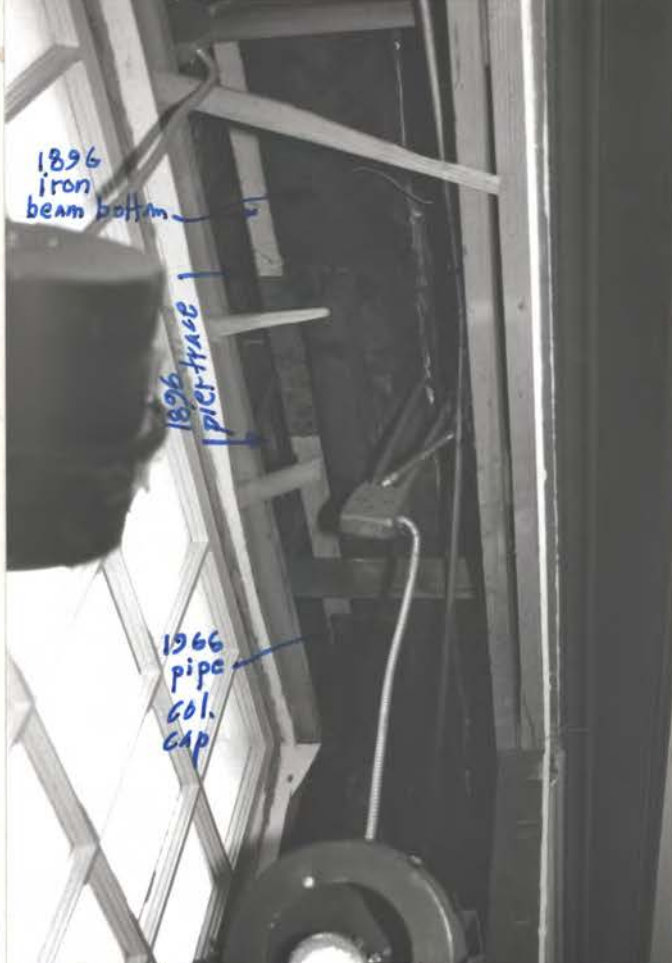
Original c. 1960 parade photo in Av. Lib "Parade" folder

← N →



1896 Hundley & Harrison's T.T. Terry





1896 iron beam bottom

1896 pier trace

1966 pipe col. cap

1963 steel beam bottom  
 1896 stl. brn.  
 c.1920 metal cornice  
 of coil

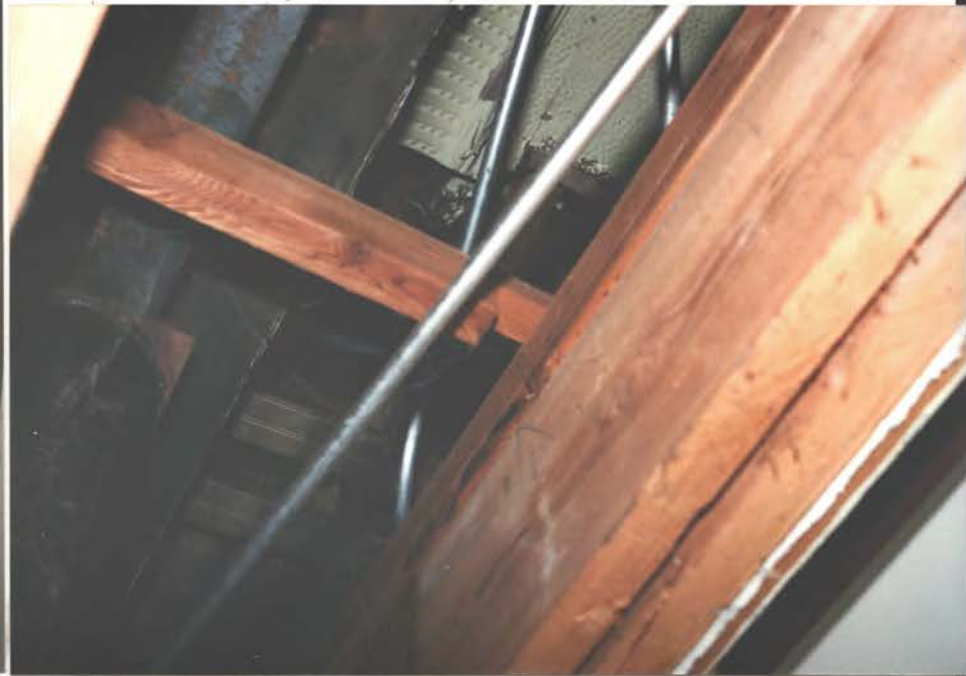


photo Feb '98 A), look up at bottom of 1896 iron linked beam above 1996 window-head (removed here) Orig. coil = 130" above 1966 coil = pth. bend - hd. + stamped metal under it

Mar '98 photos at front N. shop window head

1896 + 1963 steel beams  
 c.1920 metal cornice + coil



trace of 1996 support post (no paint on steel)

c.1960 panels





→ N  
Franklin St  
→

1896 Hundley Bldg. - S. Sille Sq., east bldg.  
undated photo - perhaps 1900



↑  
S. bay  
was  
1 story  
(2 story  
now)

Orig. in Av. Pub. Lib.  
Horit. Em.  
Copy Feb. '98  
Harvie P. Jones

→ N  
Franklin St.  
→

dirt st.

"Unde Matt"



W.W.II photo - see FN  
 "Buy War Bonds" sign  
 1896 Hundley bldg is at left



1896 Hundley Bldg  
 c. 1856 Harrison's (c. 1905 front)

Orig in  
 Av. Pub. Lib.  
 Copies Feb. 98  
 H.P. Jones

Parade - photo dated Jan. 15, 1960  
 Bldgs are on S. side of  
 Ct. Use. Str.



Bldgs. are on S. side  
 of Str. - H'ville FN



West side Str.



1856 Hundley Bldg

Early 1800's store  
demol. c. 1966 by  
L. Kranert Arch.



1955 photo (dated) of S. Side of Ct. 1256 St.  
Huntsville, A. - orig. in Ar. Pub. Lib. Herst. Rm

1896  
Hundley  
Bldg  
c. 1836  
Harrison's  
(c. 1903 front)



demol. c. 1966 by L. Kranert Arch. → Early 1800's store ("Spottswood Store")  
Vic. upper sashes  
20th c. shop glazing

↓ Harrison's

burned (Lanson) - front was mpy  
c.1978  
remnant of 3-bay  
Geo. Steel design

c.1820's  
Comm. bldg.  
↓ demol.  
c.1966



H 2 X

1955 photo - S. side of Square - Harrisonville, Mo.





↗ N  
 N.E. Corner  
 (Least wood cornice replaced metal cornice like on front in c. 1980 when storm blew down the metal cornice.)

1896+1922+1963  
 Hundley Bldg.  
 128 S. Side Square  
 Huntsville, AL  
 Ugly shopfront  
 & 10/10 stakes  
 installed 1963 by  
 "Dm. Nat. Bmk"  
 (was Italianate)  
 - Pres. had "been  
 to Williamsburg"  
 10/13 photos  
 Dec. '97 HJw



Bldg. bought Dec '97 by Historic Huntsville Foundation  
 Photos Dec. '97 HJw for raise plans & restor. of N. front (hopefully)



Harris's  
 N.E. Corner





East  
balcony



1963  
SNB



Note several windows & doors  
bricked-up in 1963 by bank  
↓





S. Rear  
parking lot not part of  
AHF property

SW



SW

E. Entry  
(door is 1963)

4



S. Rear

2



2





A<sup>H</sup>

Main N. Rm, Fl. 1  
(all is 1963 Am. Nat. Bldg)

A<sup>T</sup>



A<sup>N</sup>

5 of 13



Fl. 1 Hall  
to S. Rm

A<sup>N</sup>

9

Trim is  
1963

E. Entry

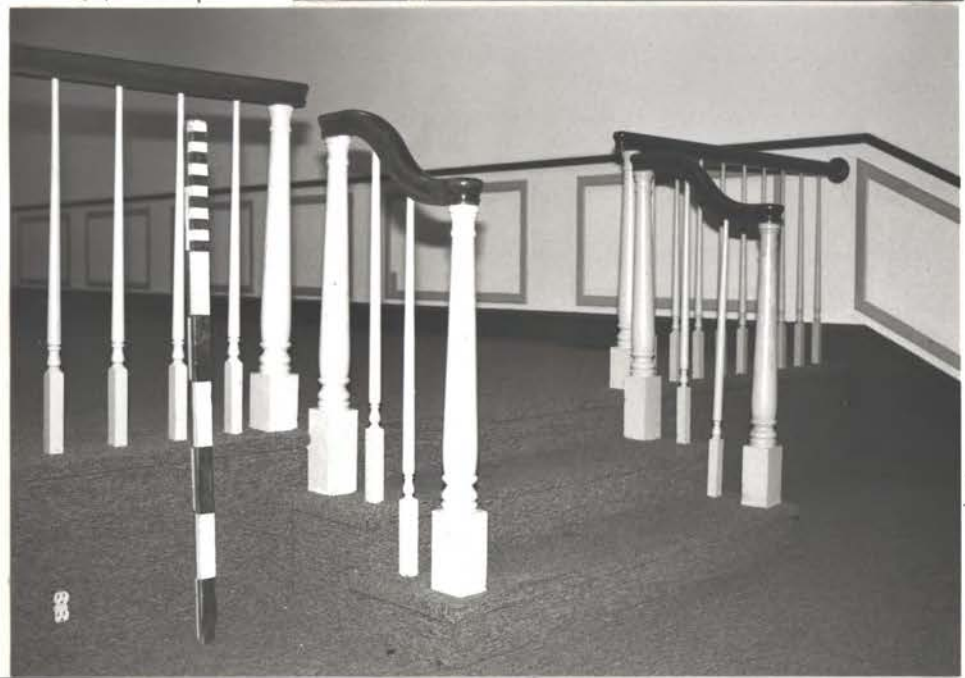
N

balustrade  
is 1963



Service area for  
1980's  
restaurant

N



N



N



7 of 13

Looking  
up  
from  
fl. 1

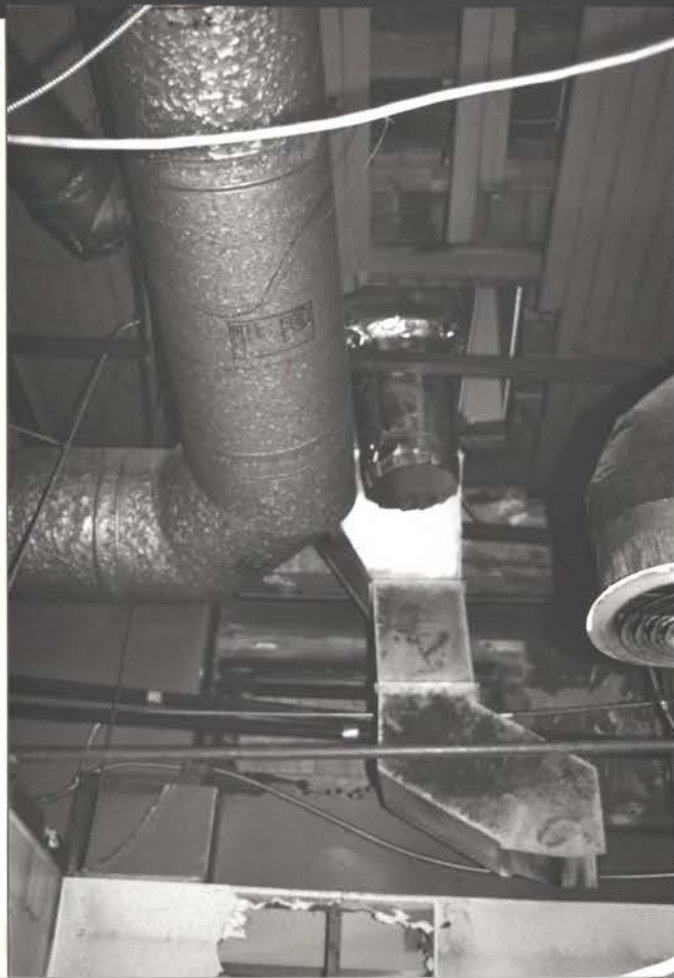


Main  
East  
Stair



Looking  
down from  
fl. 2

8



N  
N

1960's  
-80's  
ducts

1980's  
Furred  
gypsum  
wall



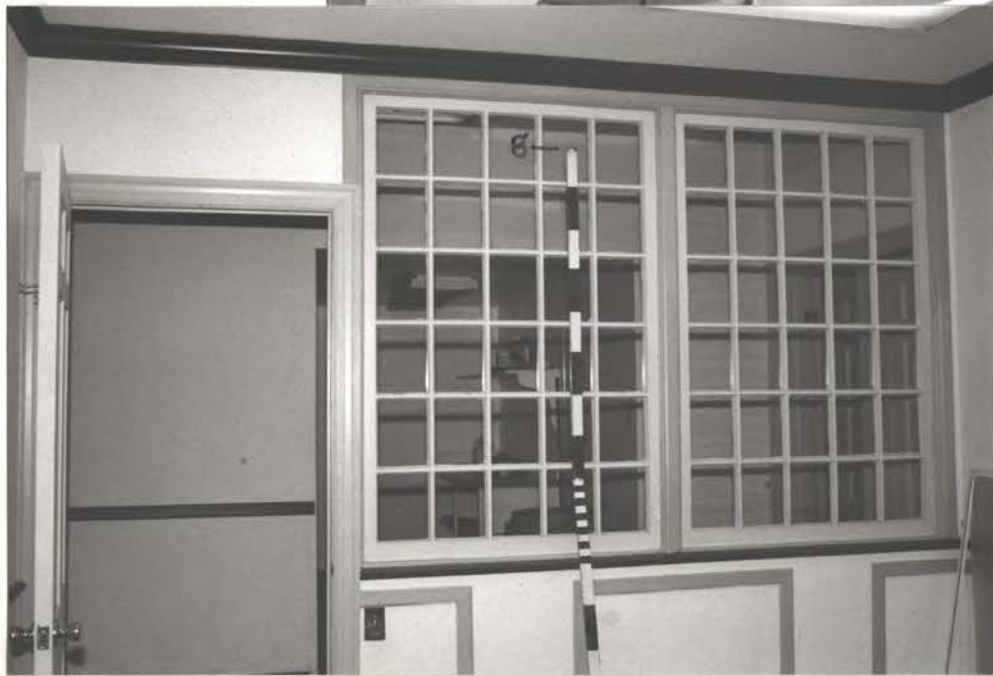
original  
board  
ceiling

1980's  
acous. tile  
ceiling

Rest S.W. Rm.  
(1980's Restaurant  
KIT.)

↑ 9' ht.

Fl. 1 year  
S.W. office (1963)



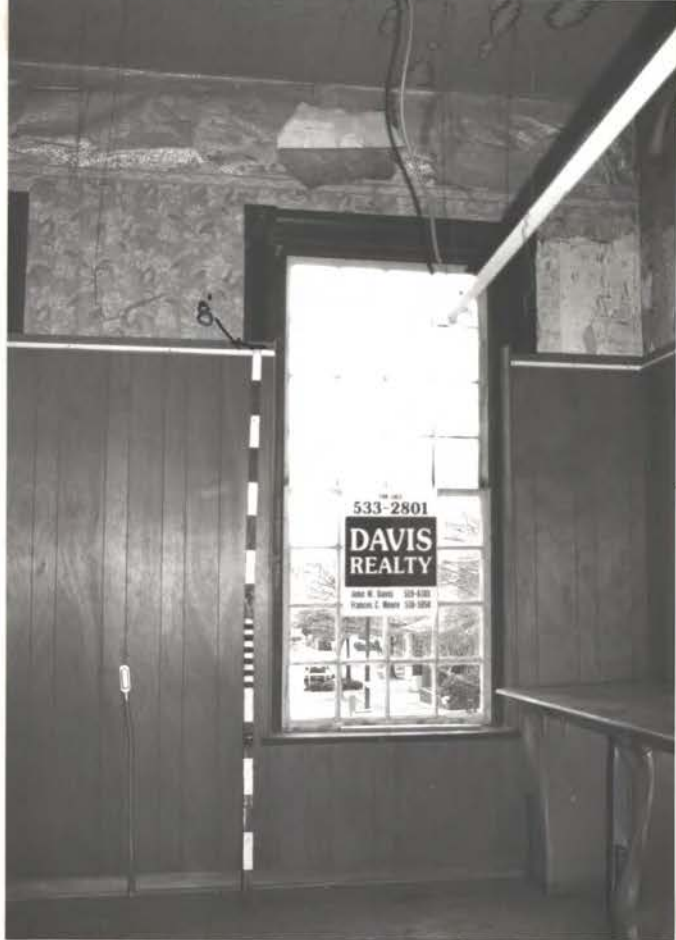
12

67



8-





original  
ceiling wti

1963  
phy.  
paneling



↙

FLOOR 2 N. FRONT RM.

↘



↑  
6  
↓

↙



↙

1896 trim, 2nd rm. from N. wall, Fl. 2

West hall, Fl. 2 N. part

9/13



FL. 2, 2nd rm. from N. wall



(N. rm. is thru door)





FL. 2, 3rd. rm. from  
W. wall



door to 1896 kit.



FL. 2, hall east of 1896 kit.



FL. 2, central hall, to balcony



S.W. hall, fl. 2  
↓ W



N. wall of fl. 2 cent. hall  
↓ N

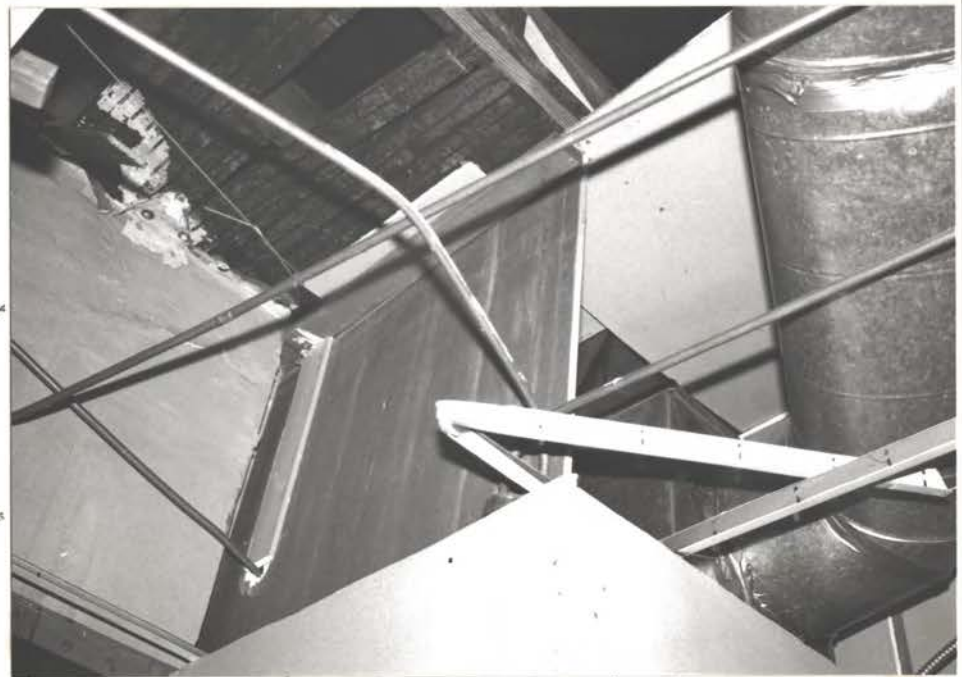


S.W. stairs, down from fl. 2  
→ S





N



FL. 2  
S.E.  
OFF.  
(1963)

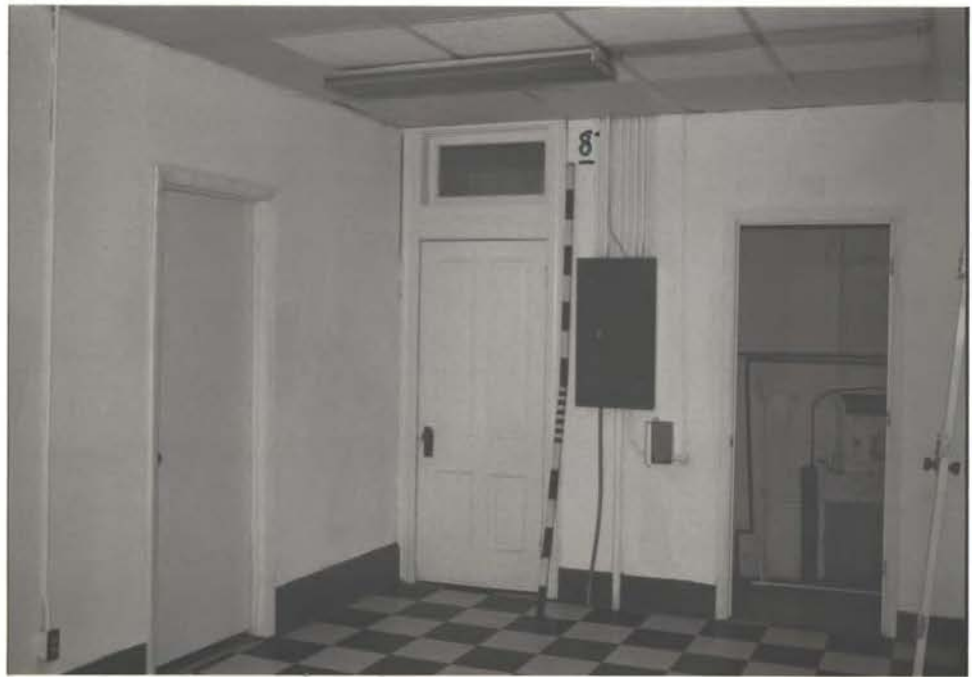
N

DUCT RASTER



8'

13 of 13



8'

FL. 2 S.W. RM.  
to rest rms (1963)

elect. tel.

N



1896 Hundley Bldg.  
 S.S. Sq. - Huntsville, AL  
 pencil notations on plaster at  
 fl. 2 west wall at N.W. hall  
 - Accounts of photographer  
 (several notations are payments  
 to "KODAK", other notes are  
 charges to various clients)  
 Sanborn map of hist. photo  
 show a sign for  
 "photography gallery" here  
 on fl. 2 at turn of 20th cent.  
 photos May 98 H Jones

86 May '98