



North front

Jeremiah Clemens 122 - W. Clinton at
Gallatin

1st fl. - Federal Period

2nd fl., porch & remodel - perhaps 1880's or 90's

Note brick change at fl. 2 (size, pattern
& texture)

photos c. 1980 W.P. James



After Russell Giskins



J. Clemens
1st fl.
FED. + N.C.

1978

← original Fed. opening →
Note brick in fill change

N →



Roof raised in
vic. remodel

Note no wood
← lintel over
sash frame
(frame is the
lintel)

2/2 sash in
vic. - would
have been
3/6
10x12 pines
in Fed. permit



fake
modern
blinds

Rear S.W. Serv. wing (Fed). Roof raised in Vic. remodeling
to be in proportion w/ Vic. 2nd fl. added at main level.
c. 1940 photos HP Jones





↑
W. CLINTON

←
COLLETTIN



1. Note small Fed. period windows at fl. 1, w/ vic. hoods & vic. 1/1 replacement sashes

2. Note fl. 1 (Fed.) brick is small & Flemish bond. fl. 2 (Vic.) brick is larger & running bond, & diff. color & texture. ∴ base was painted when the fl. 2 was added to hide this difference



3. fence = c. 1972-74, not properly done



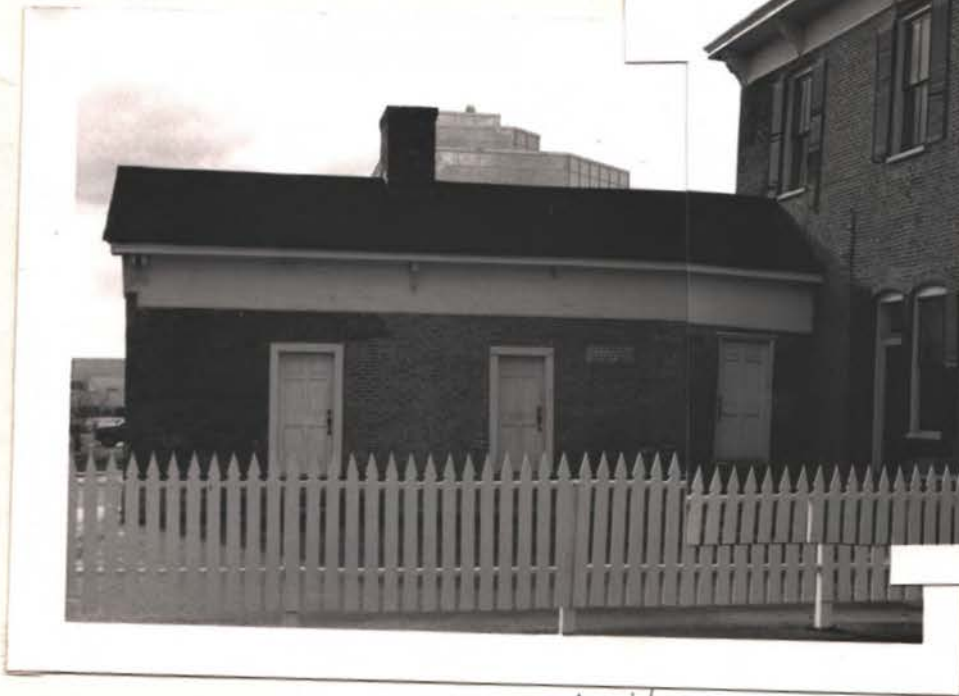
Jeremiah Clemens base - W. Clinton at Collettin Huntsville, AL.

Photos Dec. 1988 H.P. Jones, F.A.I.A.
Owner - Huntsville Util. Co. - Originally slated for demolition ("urban renewal") for a PARKING LOT. Could park 6 cars on the site. HD, Charles Younger of Martha Simmons, & Dr. Frances Roberts persuaded H.V. Ut. to keep base & renovate it for Util. Office, by HD showing them the low cost of doing this vs. demol. & building new office. Thorough renov. is typically 1/4 to 1/3 LESS than modest new const. / s.f.



1988 photos 123
J. Clemens H&S

↑ N



↑ N

75



N. ENTRY PORCH (ITALIANATE, VIC.)

N



FED. ENTRY



ORIG. FED. ENTRY OPNG

5248

N

N



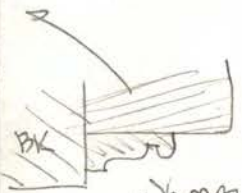
W. side, Ital. cornice

→ H STONE (not corr.) of entry porch = ± 4' x 10'
Probably late Vic ornament
w/ Ital. porch

1988 photo
WJ



Hoods - metal (Ital) - no rust.
Probably solid zinc.



James

(D)

"blinds" = c. 1975,
in appropriate scale, riveted
to wall backwards.
WJ replaced in 1988 w/ proper.

At added fl. 2, brick changes to
 common bond (from Flemish bond)
 in a larger size. Bricks must
 have been painted as soon as
 fl. 2 was added, to hide this.

Common bond no. 2 brick
 on E., S. & W. sides

N.E.
 corner

Flemish bond no. 1 brick
 on N. front only

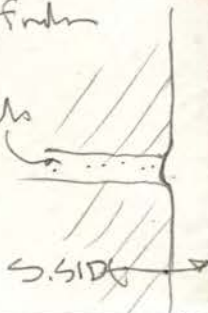


E. side



Vic. cast iron vent, west wall, front

Original st. profile
 typical of the
 Fed. period



S. side

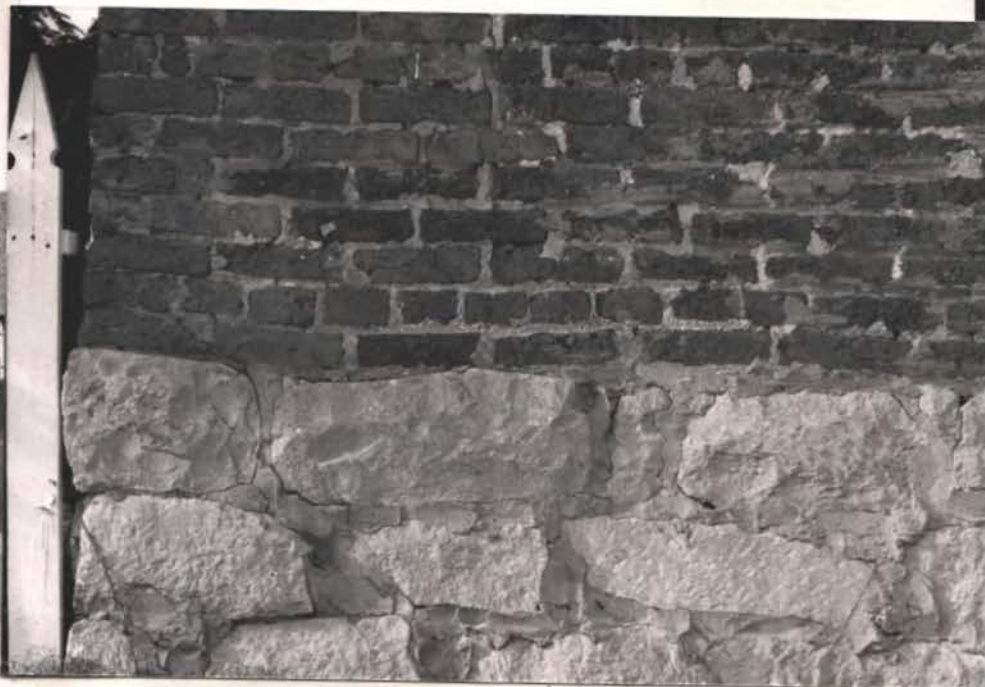
7048





S. WALL

Roof raised $\pm 2'-6"$ when the Italianate fl. 2 was added to the base, to make the Fed. S.W. Serv. wing in projection to the taller base.



S. WALL

limestone

SERV. WING



main wing ← SERV. WING

NET

19th photos AS

2/2 Vio. Sash in Fed. frame (Originally a 9/6 Fed. sash)





Serv. Wing E. Door. Fell froms, 1975 door → N



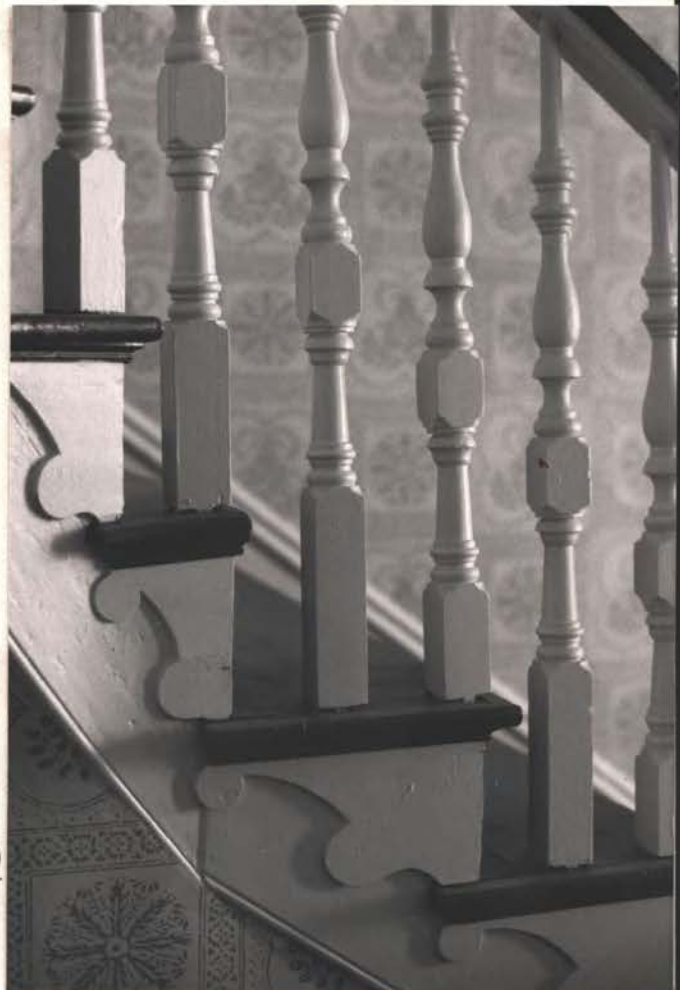
N. Entry (ItM.) ↗



9/1/48

↙ N

Italianate stair (has was one string before ItM. Fl. 2 was added)



↙ N



It a. Stairs

↙ N



← Door from entry into N.E. Rm



peg

FGD. ← → ITALIANATE
 Jamb casing face trim
 ← Entry, door to W.W. Rm., Fl. 1
 ↘ N
 Clamms Hse
 1986 photos
 HJ 10



Fed. niche (see Fed. mantel moved to fl. 2 N.W. rm)

FL. 1 N.E. RM

Arched niches are Fed. Mantel is Ital.

Exposed bricks = c. 1975 inappropriate



Ital. mantel ← FED Niche

c. 1975 hearth

The Fed. mantel now in the fl. 2 N.W. Ital. rm. was probably in this rm. before the Ital. fl. 2 was added.

1986 photos
H. Jones
(Clemens)

11/2/48



Ital. trim
extr. for
proportion

Fed.
Trim
& frame

N

FL. 1
N.E. RM



N. window, FL. 1 N.E. RM
Fed. bush removed,
enlarged on N. front only for Ital. proportion

c. 1975 framing
for insul.

Modified Fed. side window (E.) + c. 1975 over.
(to Fed. Ital. proportion) for insul

See ext. photos of side walls also



Only intact Fed. door facing trim left in hse.
Typical Fed. design & scale.
Joint-panelling = flush-beaded jts (filled w/paint)

FL. 1 S.W. RM - Ital. mantel, c. 1975 hearth & surround
& closet doors

Fed.
trim
(see pg. 7
left)



Italianate bark-horn stair

J. Clemens Idea
photo Dec. 88 HJW

door to
N. Entry
RM



S.F.C. of
door,
recessed
flat
pnls
+
Vic.
Lock



Fl. 2 SW RM



Revised
Fed door
originally
on Fl. 1,
moved
when Fl. 2
was added
N. to. of
door,
Flush
pnls. w/
bead:st

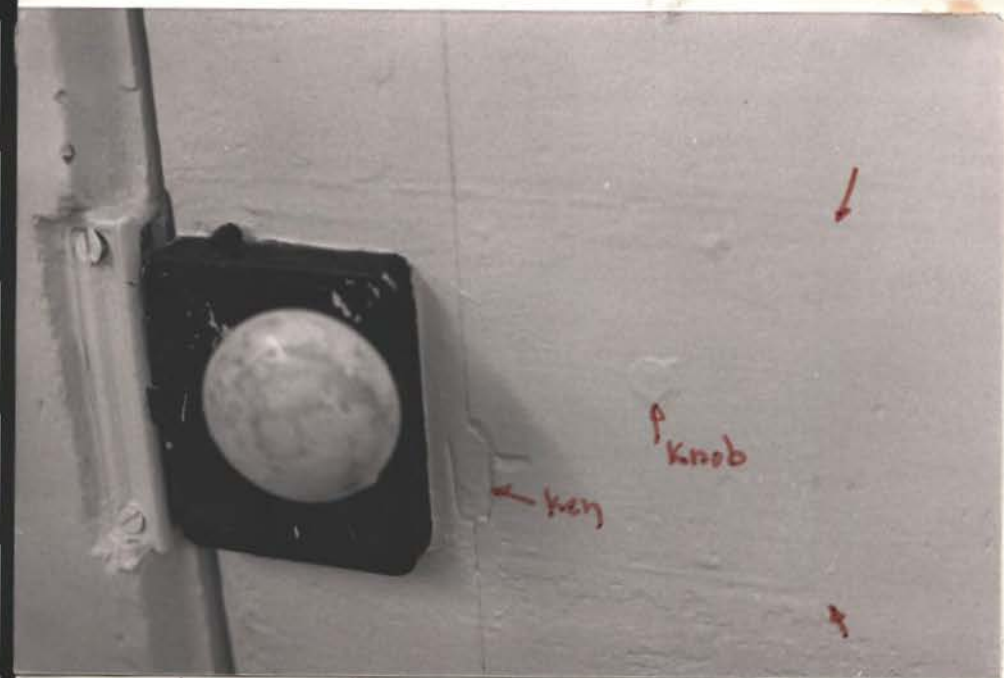
1988
photos
WJ
(Clamora)





N ←

Relocated (from Fed fl. 1) Fed. Door At fl. 2 N.W. Rm. (Via Lock)
 Int. frame, lock & hinges



↑ Knob

← lock

J. Clemens Idea
 Dec. 1988 photos H. Jones

N ←

brown marks = trace of original Fed. rimlock,
 apparently not "Carpenter" brand, based on the
 "Keeper" design (Keeper = Fed., lock = Via)



N₂

Relocated Fed. mantel (from fl. 1) in fl. 2 N.W. Rm.
 probably moved here when Ital. fl. 2 was added.
 Probably was originally in fl. 1 N.E. rm. where
 an Ital. mantel is now



N₂



N₂

c.1975 improper exposure of bricks
 surround. These were plastered,
 & beginning in c.1885 were cer. tiled



Fl. 2 N.E. Rm., Ital. mantel & clos. door
 c.1975 heath

Fl. 2 stairhall - door to N.W. Rm
 - Ital. & (Fed. door, relocated from fl. 1)



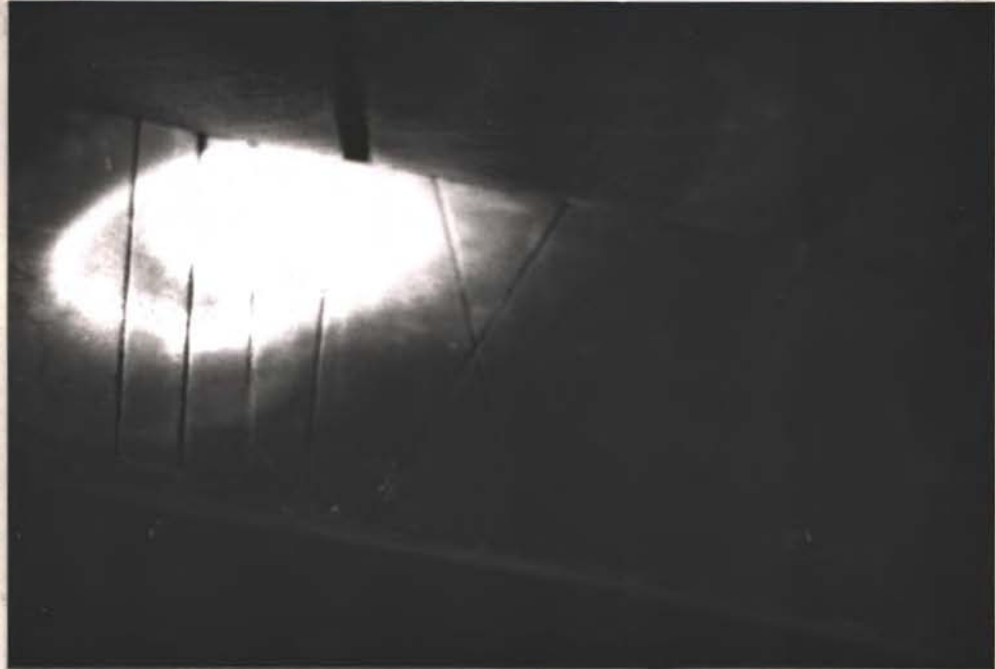
Ital. window, Fl. 2 N.E.

c.1980 acrylic storm
 sheet held in place
 by magnetic strips

* c.1975 furring
 for window
 (was not
 needed for
 a 13" thick
 brick wall)

17-248





ITBL. ATTIC

← orig key

← Roman numeral 24
(XXIIII)
upside down

← orig. bottom

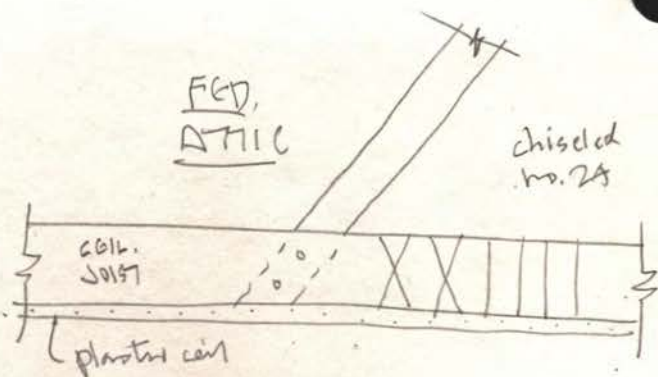
Reused Fed. car. joint, turned upside down
used as an Ital. rafter. No. XXIIII (24)
is at a Fed. connection point not used here.
Many "rafters" (originally joists) have
plaster-key traces, are pitch-sawn & heavy,
typical of Fed. period, not of Ital.
Ital. framing is rotary - same

BRICK COLORS
(Ital. period)

FED +
ITAL.
EXT.

TRIM COLORS

EXT. SHED
COLORS
(ITAL)



ORIG. LOC. of present
Fed. period reused rafter



← in appropriate 1975 fence not by JFH

← Proper blinds installed 1989
 Conc. slab NOT by JFH (was stone)



FED. (Fl. 1) + ITHL. (Fl. 2 + porch of south-front)
 JEROME CLEMENTS HSE, W. Clinton at Gallatin
 Huntsville, AL
 AFTER EXT. RESTOR. - James H. Harris Arch
 H. Jones
 in 1989

19248 photos Aug 1990 HP Jones

← N



← Ital., stamped zinc (no rust)

← accurate blinds - 1989 - J & H Arch - WS

Heart redwood, mortized & tenoned join. to
wide rail of stile

Using no CI hinges, blades slope down to brick



← Am South Bldg., c. 1992 (?)

May '93 photo

A Jones

look NNE

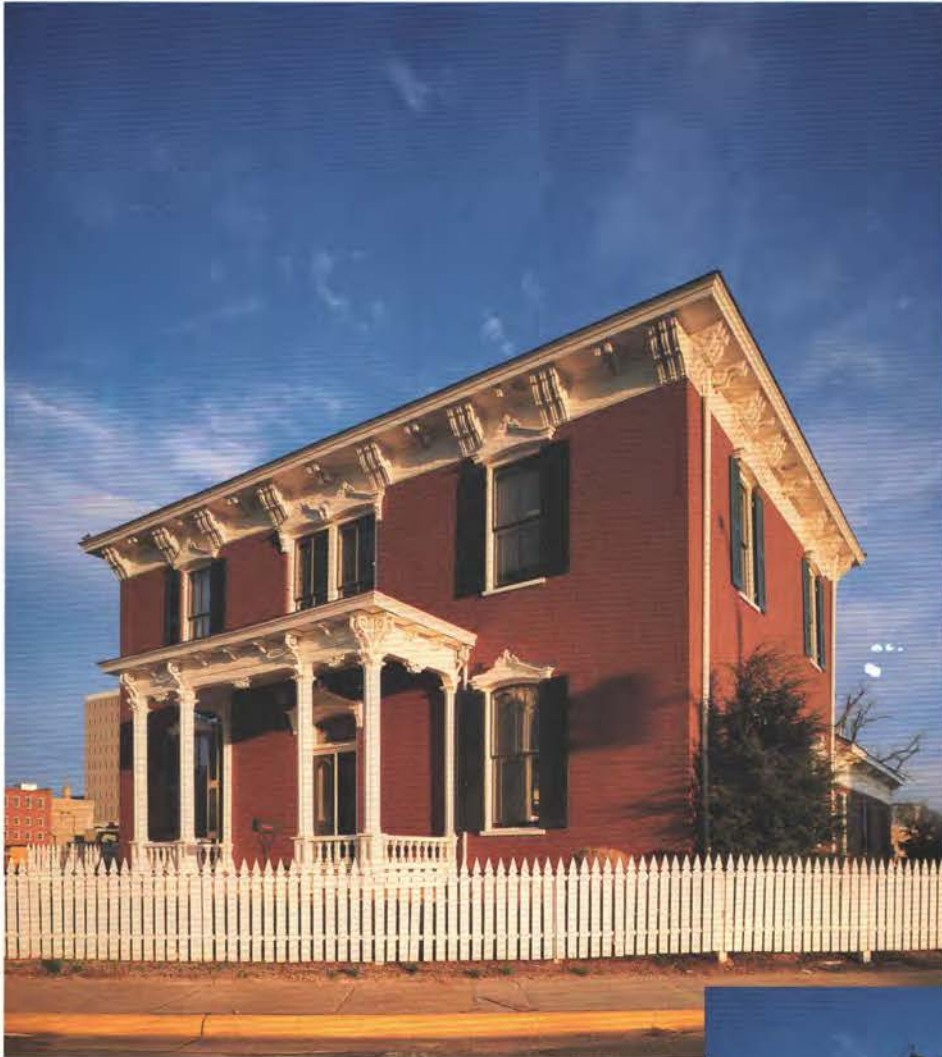
Gallatin St.



J. T. Schrimsher

SURVEY

Spring 1990



▲ *The Jeremiah Clemens House and The Huntsville Depot Museum both date back to pre-civil war days and played a role in the development of Huntsville's heritage.* ►

Preserving The Past

Huntsville's commitment to preserving its past continues with the revitalization of two city landmarks. The Huntsville Depot Museum just received an exterior facelift, and similar work was recently completed on the Jeremiah Clemens House. Both projects were lead by noted historical architect Harvey Jones, and J.T. Schrimsher was chosen to act as general contractor because of its experience and commitment to Huntsville's historic preservation.

Both buildings date back to the 1800's and hold a great deal of historical significance. Built in 1860, the Huntsville Railroad Depot was once the primary reason for union occupation of the city during the Civil War. The Memphis & Charleston Railroad, which passed through downtown Huntsville, was the only east/west rail system in the south at the time and became the primary source of travel for troops heading to



Preserving The Past *continued...*

battle and for transporting supplies. The Huntsville Depot now serves the city as a museum.

The Jeremiah Clemens House is another landmark which breathes Huntsville's heritage. The first floor was built sometime prior to 1831 with the second floor added years later. Jeremiah Clemens was a noted politician and is identified throughout his lifetime with this family home. Clemens served as a Colonel in the Mexican War and was a U.S. Senator from Alabama. But his most noted political actions date back to his leadership against Alabama's secession from the union in 1861. He later became a member of the peace movement to stop the Civil War and reunite Alabama with the union. He died only weeks after peace was declared.

Both buildings had been slated for demolition in years past, but community action eventually halted all attempts to tear them down. The Clemens House is now used by Huntsville Utilities for administrative offices.



▲ *The building's arched entrance way invites clients into an open lobby area.* ►



Law Firm Makes Unique Move

The law firm of Morris, Smith, Siniard, Cloud and Fees moved into its new office building this spring in downtown Huntsville. The fast track project came together with the team of Samples Properties, J.T.S., and the architectural firm of Crow, Overbeek, Neville, Peters and Associates. The building was designed to be unique while maintaining the architectural integrity of the downtown area.

The premier feature is its arched entrance which gives way to an open lobby. Attorney Charles Smith comments, "We're extremely pleased with our new facility. J.T.S. did a very professional job and we were always able to work through any potential problems ... That's because of the good communication between us all."

The 13,500 square foot building is only partially occupied by partner Morris, Smith, Siniard, Cloud & Fees. The first floor is still available for lease through joint owner Samples Properties.



◀The picture is complete at Valhalla. ▼

Teamwork Builds Success

J. T. Schrimsher's relationship with the McDonnell Douglas Corporation continues with the completion of Phase II and plans for Phase III underway. J.T. Schrimsher began working with McDonnell Douglas in 1985 when the team of Samples Properties, J.T.S., and architects Crow, Overbeek, Neville, Peters & Associates were selected to develop facilities for the aerospace firm over a five year period. "It's been a wonderful relationship since the beginning," comments Frank Savage, Senior Manager of Contracts for McDonnell Douglas. "We've had excellent communication between the developer, contractor and architect which is the key to avoiding problems. The team has done a bang up job!"

Upon completion of Phase II, McDonnell Douglas will occupy nearly 140,000 square feet of office space in Cumming's Research Park. Preliminary plans are currently underway to begin a third building which will bring the total square footage to over 200,000 square feet.



A New Look For Valhalla

It's something Ralph Stubblefield Sr. has thought about doing for the past ten years---Now, on his family's immaculately manicured cemetery grounds stands a funeral home which finally completes the picture. "We felt this type of building would enhance the grounds and the grounds would enhance the building," comments Stubblefield's son and business partner, Ralph Jr. Father and son run the Valhalla Memory Gardens and Funeral Home. Both wanted to set the

pace in North Alabama by offering all funeral services at the same location.

J.T. Schrimsher worked with Birmingham Architect George Phillippi on the project, which was completed six weeks ahead of schedule. "We feel very fortunate to have worked with such a good team," Stubblefield continues. "There's no question that this is a quality building...We're proud of our operation and what it offers the community."



▲The McDonnell Douglas Corporation expands its Huntsville presence in Cumming's Research Park.



◀ J.T.S. Properties Broker Donna Lamb (right) makes final arrangements with Donna Sorge of Capitol Futures and Titan Systems Vice President Johnny Allen as Titan moves into its new Park Place home.

J.T.S. Properties Division...

The past few months have brought some new names to the Huntsville area--and to space managed by J.T.S. Properties -- as well as the expansion of some long time friends. Titan Systems found a new home for its Huntsville group in Cumming's Research Park West. The engineering firm is now located in Park Place office building, which was developed by Capitol Futures, Inc., and built by J.T. Schrimsher. J.T.S. Properties Broker Donna Lamb helped place Titan Sys-

tems in this new 3-story facility. Approximately 25,000 square feet is still available for lease.

Expansion of the Better Business Bureau of North Alabama at 501 Church Street was recently completed because of a unique opportunity awarded to this bureau. In January, it was selected as a central service bureau for the consumer autoline program and now handles such cases from both Alabama and Mississippi. The Autoline Program is a quick and impartial way for consumers to get as-

sistance with a car problem without going to court.

December saw the opening of a second PIP Printing location in Huntsville conveniently located downtown on Clinton Avenue, and B & G Tires recently opened its doors at 1320 Fletcher Street.

J.T.S. Properties welcomes its newest tenants: ■ Allied Bonding ■ Atlantic Envelope ■ Bama Acoustical ■ Gold Lion Credit & Fidelity ■ O'Barr Electric ■ Peck Plumbing Company ■ Ross Melvin ■ Summa Technology.

J.T. SCHRIMSHER Construction Co., Inc.

Post Office Box 41, Huntsville, Alabama 35804-0041

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bankrupt
about 1991

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Life

Monday, July 15, 1991

'Adventures of Mark Twain's cousin'

Huntsville's Jeremiah Clemens was noteworthy in his own right

By YVETTE HOLT
For The Times

Jeremiah Clemens was a soldier, a politician and an author. He never achieved the fame of his cousin, but the lifelong 19th-century Huntsville resident did quite well in his own right, thank you.

His first cousin, Samuel Clemens, a.k.a. Mark Twain, is one of the most celebrated American authors of the 19th century, having written such classics as "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer," "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" and "Life on the Mississippi."

Although no document is available to prove any correspondence existed between the two men, their genealogy names James Clemens as the grandfather of Jeremiah and Samuel. Both descended from the Virginia Clemenses who came from England in 1664.

Dr. Frances Roberts, former University of Alabama in Huntsville English professor says, "I've never found any connection between the two other than they were first cousins."

Contributing to the lack of a close relationship between the two may have been the 21-year difference in their ages.

Born in 1814

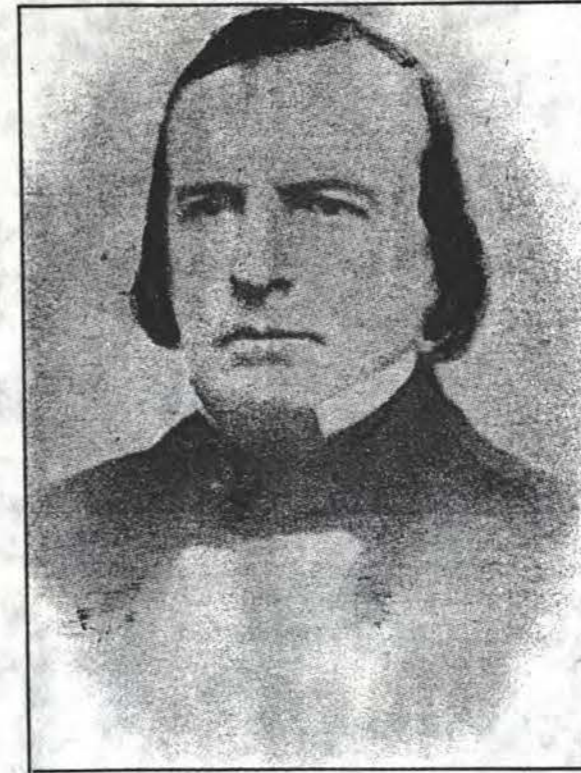
James Clemens Jr., Jeremiah's father, settled in Kentucky but migrated in 1812 to the Tennessee Valley, where he met and married the sister of the Honorable Archie E. Mills and former Madison County Sheriff John F. Mills. Jeremiah was born Dec. 28, 1814.

Samuel's father, John Marshall Clemens, reared his family in Florida, Mo., where Samuel was born on Nov. 30, 1835.

Jeremiah enjoyed the benefits of belonging to a wealthy family. He attended LaGrange College in Franklin County and was one of



Samuel Clemens, left, perhaps better known as Mark Twain, was 21 years younger than his first cousin Jeremiah Clemens, right, possibly explaining why they weren't very close.



the first students to attend the University of Alabama when it opened in 1831. After graduation, he enrolled in the School of Law at Transylvania University in Lexington, Ky. He returned to Huntsville in 1834 and was admitted to the bar. He began practicing law before age 20.

Soon events of his life began to pick up speed. In 1834, he joined the U.S. Army as a private to aid in the fight with the Cherokees, but he came home after a short tour of duty. He married Mary L. Read, daughter of John Read, a Huntsville merchant on Dec. 4, 1834. They had one daughter, Mary Read Clemens.

As his talents as a lawyer gained recognition, he was appointed by President Andrew Jackson on March 1, 1837 as Federal Attorney

for the Middle and Northern Districts of Alabama. He held this office until 1839. He resigned that position and was elected to the state House of Representatives from Madison County. One of Clemens' main fights at the House was the frauds and irregularities he saw in the Bank of the State of Alabama. He met much opposition, and it took a lot of his time and energy during his term in the state Legislature from 1840-42.

After much debate, litigation and frustration for Clemens, the bank question and debate was pushed aside. Through his persistent questioning of issues that more experienced legislators had avoided, he gained respect and recognition as a strong speaker.

The *Southern Advocate* said, "He is a powerful man of his age and

destined to become distinguished in his state."

In the spring of 1842, he resigned his seat in the House and gathered a group of men who would later be named the "Alabama Volunteers" to aid in the war between Mexico and Texas.

He became captain of these 58 volunteers, which became a part of a battalion consisting of one company from St. Louis, one from Natchez, Miss., and one from Tuscaloosa. However, they got little support from Texas President Sam Houston. These volunteers did not see active service until the later part of 1842 when they were active for five months at Corpus Christi and Le Pauticlan.

He re-entered the military in 1847 to fight in the Mexican War. His prior service led him to be-

come the major of the Thirteenth Infantry. In July 1848, he was appointed colonel of the New England Regiment. He ended his military service a few months later.

After returning to Huntsville in 1849, Clemens became a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He was elected after much opposition and question of his support of the Whig Party. He was accused of corrupt bargaining for the Senate position. He denied the charges.

He emerged from these difficulties as a strong character of the South. The press described him as "A young man with a fine person and a frank, cordial, soldier-like address. He is endowed with fine talents which have been improved and heightened by careful cultivation and a classical education."

Not secessionist

During his years as a senator and his years approaching the Civil War, he did not favor secession.

"I think that the idea of secession broke the hearts of men like Clemens who fought so hard to preserve the Union," says Dr. Eleanor Hutchens, UAH professor emerita. "They just didn't want to see it fall apart."

On Dec. 6, 1852, Clemens entered the last session of his congressional career. Around this time he began to cultivate his passion for writing historical romance novels. Though none ever reached the same grandeur as Twain's works, Clemens did publish four novels before his death. "Bernard Lile," "Mustang Gray," "The Rivals" and "Tobias Wilson" were all published between 1856 and 1865.

He contracted pneumonia during the winter of 1864-65 while in Philadelphia to see a Dr. Pancoast, who was an eye specialist. Clemens was concerned that he would become blind since his father had lost his sight later in life.

Clemens died on May 21, 1865 at age 50. He is buried in Maple Hill Cemetery.

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

CLEMENS HOUSE EXTERIOR PAINT HISTORY
BASED ON SCRAPINGS AT THE SITE
FEBRUARY 7, 1989 HARVIE P. JONES, FAIA

HBJ

1. When only the 1800's Federal Period one-story house existed, the bricks were painted near-white prior to the second floor being added. The evidence for this is that the paint color directly on the first floor bricks is a thick off-white, but this off-white does not occur at the second floor bricks except as occasional post-1973 drips from painting the trim. See note 2 for second floor.
2. When the late 1800's Italianate second floor was added the bricks at both floors were painted a red-brown color approximately the color of the bricks. Traces of this remains directly on the bricks at the second floor, and directly over the early 1800's white paint at the first floor.
3. Six to seven layers of brick-paint can be discerned under a 30-power microscope at chips from the first floor brick paint, where the most-intact layers remain. Most of the layers are reddish-brown, but one layer near the center is a pale color, perhaps gray-green. The top layer is a burgundy, which was present in 1955, and was removed in 1973, when the bricks were sandblasted.
4. The window frames and the porch columns at the first floor appear to be consistently a creamy off-white, like Glidden 70-33. It is therefore assumed that all the exterior trim was this color except for the blinds, sashes, and doors.
5. The Victorian window sashes at the first floor are black (over a white primer), but the paint is thin and the sashes appear to perhaps be stripped, and several are 1973 replicas. Black was frequently used on sashes around the turn of the century. It is not clear what the color in the Italianate period might have been.
6. The remaining cast-iron blind hinges were originally painted a black-green similar to "Martin Senour Market Square Tavern Dark Green W85-0620. Typically the blinds would have been the same color, and this is assumed. Various shades of very dark greens for blinds were almost universal in the 19th century based on the considerable number investigated by the writer.

cc: Huntsville Utilities (Gail Weber)
File
HJ

Members of the American Institute of Architects
104 Jefferson Street Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Telephone 205/539-0764

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

12-6-88

Mr. Gail A. Weber, Personnel Director
Huntsville Utilities
P.O. Box 2048
Huntsville, Al. 35804

Re: Jeremiah Clemens Historic House

Dear Mr. Weber:

Following is a summary of our tour and discussion of the Clemens Historic House and grounds of 30 Nov., 1988:

1. Historical Background:

The Clemens House is of significant historical importance. It is, based on architectural mouldings etc., more than 160 years old. It was the house of Jeremiah Clemens, an important political figure in the 1861 Secession Convention of the Alabama Legislature, and a U.S. Senator in the 1850's. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C.

Houses of this age and importance are rare and deserve careful preservation both for their rarity and for their ability to inform us about our predecessors and their times. This house is doubly interesting because it is a combination of a Federal Period (early 1800's) house and an extensive Italianate (latter 1800's) remodeling. As it stands it is a fine example of Italianate architecture superimposed on a Federal Period house.

The brickwork shows that the house was originally one-story. The brick up to the second floor is small, laid with tight joints with No.1 brick in Flemish bond (alternating headers and stretchers in each course) on the "public" sides (north and west). At the second floor the bricks are larger, No. 2 quality, and laid in common bond (every seventh course is headers). Undoubtedly, since the bricks at the first and second floors do not match, the brick was always painted after the house was made two story, apparently after a new owner bought the house in 1874. This paint was removed in the early 1970's by sandblasting, a technique no longer generally used due to the pitting of the brick surface that usually results if the bricks are soft, as they are here. For historical accuracy, therefore, Huntsville Utilities should consider painting the brickwork after proper tuck-pointing is completed. A dark color would be appropriate,

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2A 042

of a shade used in the 1870's. Jones & Herrin has chips of such colors.

The evidence in the attic indicates strongly that the second floor was added at the time of the Italianate remodeling rather than before. The ceiling joists are thin, about 2-1/4x10 inches, and are rotary-sawn, both indications of post-Civil War technology. The ceiling plaster-lath wood strips are also rotary sawn. Before the Civil War the lath would have been hand-split white oak and the ceiling joists would have been pit-sawn or sash-sawn, with some axe-hewn faces, and would have been more square in section, typically about 3"x6". The present rafters are obviously the reused Federal Period ceiling joists: about 3"x6", faces showing pit-saw or sash-saw marks, and some axe-hewn faces. In addition, lath and plaster traces are evident on many rafters, showing that they were once ceiling joists. Many of the reused rafters have empty mortise-cuts on their sides for Federal Period rafter-braces. They also have chiseled Roman numerals at joints (some now upside down), another Federal Period practice not used in Italianate technology. Apparently few of the Federal Period rafters were reused. They would typically be about 3"x5". A few were seen.

Interior survivals of the Federal Period are the two attractive wood-trimmed arches in the first floor N.E. room, the mantel (apparently moved in the 1870's remodeling) that is now in the second floor N.W. room, most door jambs at the first floor (but not the face trim), and several doors moved to the second floor, apparently in the 1870's remodeling. The Federal Period elements can be identified by their delicacy and small scale. The Italianate moulds, doors, trims and mantels are bold and heavy in scale. The Italianate mantels (first floor N.E., S.E. and S.W. rooms) are likewise bold and heavy, and have an arched architrave. The surviving Federal Period mantel, by contrast, has delicate flared cornice moulds and elaboration of its surfaces with small applied moulding patterns. No arch is found on the Federal Period mantel, unlike the Italianate mantels.

The stair balustrade is Italianate. If the house was made two-story in circa 1874, then the staircase would also date from this period. There are inconclusive indications (stair scrolls, apron, and tread bed-mould) that the staircase could be older than the balustrade. It is possible that the second floor was added prior to 1870, then remodeled after 1870 to the Italianate style. Some doors and one mantel upstairs are Federal, but they were probably moved up when the remodeling took place. The mantel design indicates it probably was originally in the first floor N.E. room where the two similarly-styled elegant Federal Period arched niches remain. The probable date of the stair (and thus the second floor) could be determined by looking at the sawmarks on the stair framing beneath the stair. No

access door leads there, and it would be very desirable to make an opening under there to check this out. The 1871 Bird's Eye View of Huntsville seems to indicate the house might be two story (gabled) at that date, but the drawing is not detailed enough to say for sure. The attic framing evidence described above indicates that the second floor dates from after the Civil War. It is recommended that a small panel be installed to give an inspection opening into the walled-in space under the stair for this and for maintenance purposes.

At the rear service wing, the extremely wide wood frieze and gable trim show that the roof of this building was raised almost 3 feet to make it more in proportion to the Italianate remodeling. Other service buildings shown on the 1861 and 1871 maps were gone by the 1970's.

The interior of the house has been remodeled in a utilitarian fashion. It is recommended that more of a preservation approach be adopted, to include:

Avoid altering historic elements such as doors, mantels, hearths, stairs, mouldings, ceiling heights and finishes etc. Some hearths have been raised. Historically they should be laid flush with the floor in a particular brick pattern typical of the 19th century. Ceilings should be at their original height and without the inappropriate modern "crown mould".

The Clemens House is not just an "old house", but one of historic importance, beauty, and continued usefulness without any need to compromise on either usefulness or historical integrity. More detailed recommendations can be drawn up for use in both this phase of work and in future phases. Please let us know if you desire these detailed recommendations for your consideration.

2. Exterior Repairs and Renovations:

Following is a list of items that definitely need repairs and renovation:

A. Repair or removal of the concealed gutters at the main roof. These were common on 19th century houses and they invariably leak. Most have been abandoned decades ago. Leaks from these have rotted decking, soffits, joist ends, mouldings and brackets to an unknown degree.

Two methods used successfully by Jones & Herrin to correct this problem are:

(1) Install "Philadelphia gutters" in a way that gutter leaks cannot penetrate the roof (see a recent example at the c.1840 Rogers "Coca-Cola" house).

(2) Roof-over the gutters with a 3 in 12 slope shingled roof and let the water spill on grade.

Both methods necessitate re-roofing the house. The shingles on the service building are curling and are near the end of their life, perhaps because there is no attic ventilation at the service wing, and perhaps because in the expensive-petroleum 1970's many shingle companies used excessive fillers in shingles, which shortened their life. To strip the old roof and re-roof with 25 year type composition shingles would cost about \$6,000. To also use method (1) or (2) and do rot-repairs and attic ventilation might add another \$4,000 to \$6,000, or \$10,000 to \$12,000 total for all roof work. See paragraph 2-D for porch roof work.

B. Brick: The rear walls and some others have been inappropriately "repointed" with hard, gray, brittle Portland cement mortar, inappropriately smeared over the brick faces. Portland cement mortar has no resilience in temperature changes, unlike lime mortar. Therefore in hot weather the old soft bricks can be spalled by the hard mortar compressing them. The brick appearance has also been made unattractive by the smears.

Options at recently repointed areas:

(1) Experiment with removing the hard mortar from the brick faces and joints, and properly tuck-point with mostly-lime mortar.

(2) Leave the hard mortar, and stain or paint all the brick surfaces to camouflage the smears and gamble on possible spalling of the old bricks. Paint is historically appropriate (see section 1, 3rd paragraph).

In either case the original exposed mortar joints need proper tuck-pointing with mostly-lime mortar.

There are approximately 5,800 s.f. of masonry walls. If the average cost of cleaning, repointing and staining was \$.80 p.s.f., the masonry costs would be about \$3,500 assuming 3/4 of the 5,800 s.f. of masonry had to be repointed.

C. Window Blinds:

The present white-pine "ranch-house" blinds have not lasted, for white pine has poor rot-resistance. These blinds are also not properly detailed or mounted. It is recommended that properly-proportioned blinds of painted heart redwood and thru-mortise construction be installed, and hung on cast-iron hinges in a manner suitable to the period of the house. Some examples of this can be seen (recently installed) at the Gene Montgomery residence (c.1824 George Steele house) at 519 Randolph Avenue and the Peter Lowe residence (c.1834 Leroy Pope Walker house) at 413 McClung Avenue. These blinds were fabricated and installed by Jaynes Millwork of Florence, Alabama who are very knowledgeable of this type of detailing. With details furnished by Jones & Herrin, other good millwork firms could furnish them also.

D. Exterior Trim, Windows, Doors and Frames, Entry Porch:

Exterior trim should be checked for deterioration due to roof leaks, trim gaps etc. Repairs should be in painted heart redwood where the member is exposed to weathering. Item "A" should stop the deterioration at the roof cornice. There is a leak in the 1970's metal front porch roofing which is causing damage at the east cornice, and this leak needs to be corrected prior to repairs.

Paint should be scraped, spot-primed and repainted. Consider removing the paint where it is caked to extreme thickness, using hot-air blowers (not torches) designed for this purpose and with proper precautions against lead vapors and fire.

The porch column bases are tight to the concrete floor, causing rot at the bases. The trim and column bottoms should be kept up off the concrete about 3/8", per detail to be furnished by Jones & Herrin.

The original soffits at the main roof cornice were originally double-beaded T & G boards. These were either replaced or covered with plywood at some point, which has partly deteriorated. The soffits should be restored with the original detail, for that material is readily available.

Some window-glass putty is out, or cracked. Re-glazing should be done as needed, and the sashes checked for deterioration and repaired if needed with painted heart redwood or mahogany for rot resistance.

The service wing doors which are exposed directly to weather should be checked and repaired or replaced as needed. All these are 1970's doors, and show some open-joints.

E. Fence:

The 1970's picket fence was built with 1x4 pickets which are out of proportion (too wide) for 19th century fences, which had pickets about 2-5/8" wide, spaced about 1-1/2" apart. It would be desirable to replace these with properly proportioned treated-wood (painted) pickets.

F. Planting:

It is recommended that a landscape architect be engaged to work with Jones & Herrin to improve the landscaping at the house site and at the two adjacent parking lots. The house site needs at least four trees to soften the war-zone look it presently has. The installation of six tree-and-shrub islands along the parking lot street-edges would help the appearance of entire area with no loss of parking (use six "dead" triangles of parking area by the streets which cannot accommodate cars). This would be a good-faith approach toward partially meeting the landscaping requirements imposed by the city of Huntsville on new commercial parking lots. See attached site plan sketches.

G. Interior:

All of the inside faces of the exterior brick walls have been furred on the inside with 2x4 stud walls, insulation and gypsum board. This has altered the room proportions and the appearance of the door and window trim. The plaster ceilings have been replaced with gypsum board with a lumpy-spray finish and edged with modern small "crown mould". The furred walls may be too extensive to be removed and restored, although this would be desirable. The gypsum board ceilings would be better if they were smoothed and painted, and the crown mould removed. The house originally had a wallpaper-border frieze instead of a wall-cornice. Pieces of this frieze can still be seen above the 1970's dropped ceiling at the second-floor south rooms.

The original wood floors are covered with plywood and carpet, which is probably best for its present utilitarian use. If the use of the house is upgraded in the future the plywood and carpet should be removed and original wood floors exposed.

The raised brick and modern ceramic tile hearths are inappropriate and should be removed and replaced with flush brick hearths in an 1870's design furnished by Jones & Herrin. The missing mantel in the

first floor N.W. room should be replicated from the N.E. mantel and put back.

H. Insulation:

The main attic has about 6 inches of blown cellulose insulation. There are sizeable sections with no insulation, which should be filled. The cellulose should be checked for fire-resistiveness.

No under-floor insulation was seen, but there is a very low crawl space and it may not be practicable to install it.

The service wing attic and under-floor insulation was not accessible or checked, and it should be, per the first paragraph in section "H". The service attic has no ventilation. Ventilation eave-strips should be inconspicuously added per the detail furnished by Jones & Herrin. This has probably shortened the life of the shingles by 10 years.

Interior sheet-acrylic storm windows are in place, which is the best type to least alter the appearance of a historic building.

Door weatherstripping needs repair or replacement.

I. Miscellaneous:

Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical systems should be checked. Is termite protection in force?

J. Construction/Restoration Phase:

The most cost-effective and technically best way to do restoration work is to negotiate with a general contractor and selected masonry, millwork and carpentry subcontractors who are experienced in this very different type of work and not "cost-afraid" of it, or who would underbid it and then not perform well. "Cost plus a fixed fee" is the most cost-effective way, because there are many unknowns which, if fixed bids are required, contractors must guess at, and consequently guess high, or not bid at all.

In the negotiation method, few architectural specifications or details are needed. In bidding, these must be much more extensive, the general paperwork load is more, and handling uncovered damage is more cumbersome and expensive. This increases the architectural costs without bettering the construction, and is another reason why the negotiation method is the first choice, as long a reputable and experienced restoration contractor is used. We can (and have) worked under either method.

If laws require bidding, then it should be limited to contractors and major subs who can show experience and competence in this field. This "pre-qualification" is legal per Alabama laws and we have used the technique several times on City of Huntsville work. In addition the specifications should state that all defects not visible during bidding shall be a change order, to reduce bidding guesswork to a minimum. This technique was used on the 1860 Huntsville Depot, and change orders totalled only 6%, little more than for ordinary new construction.

K. Long-Term Considerations:

This National Register house should at some point be devoted to a higher use than utilitarian office and drafting space. At that point it should be properly restored to the Italianate configuration.

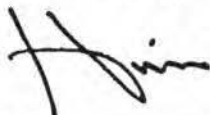
A proper maintenance and preservation program should be set up now to avoid future loss of historic elements and deterioration. Jones & Herrin can assist in this if desired. We are currently setting up such a program for the 1860 Church of the Nativity.

L. Possible Costs:

Cost will vary depending on the items selected for repair and restoration, the degree of rot, etc. found and the market. Jones & Herrin are currently doing several similar projects: 1814 Leroy Pope House ("Echols Hill" - UAH), 1840 Rogers House (Coca Cola) and the 1850 Otey House (Atnip Realty). In comparing the extent and cost of these projects it appears that the current budget of \$100,000 for the Clemens House will be enough to do a significant part of the exterior work, landscaping and perhaps some of the interior work described above.

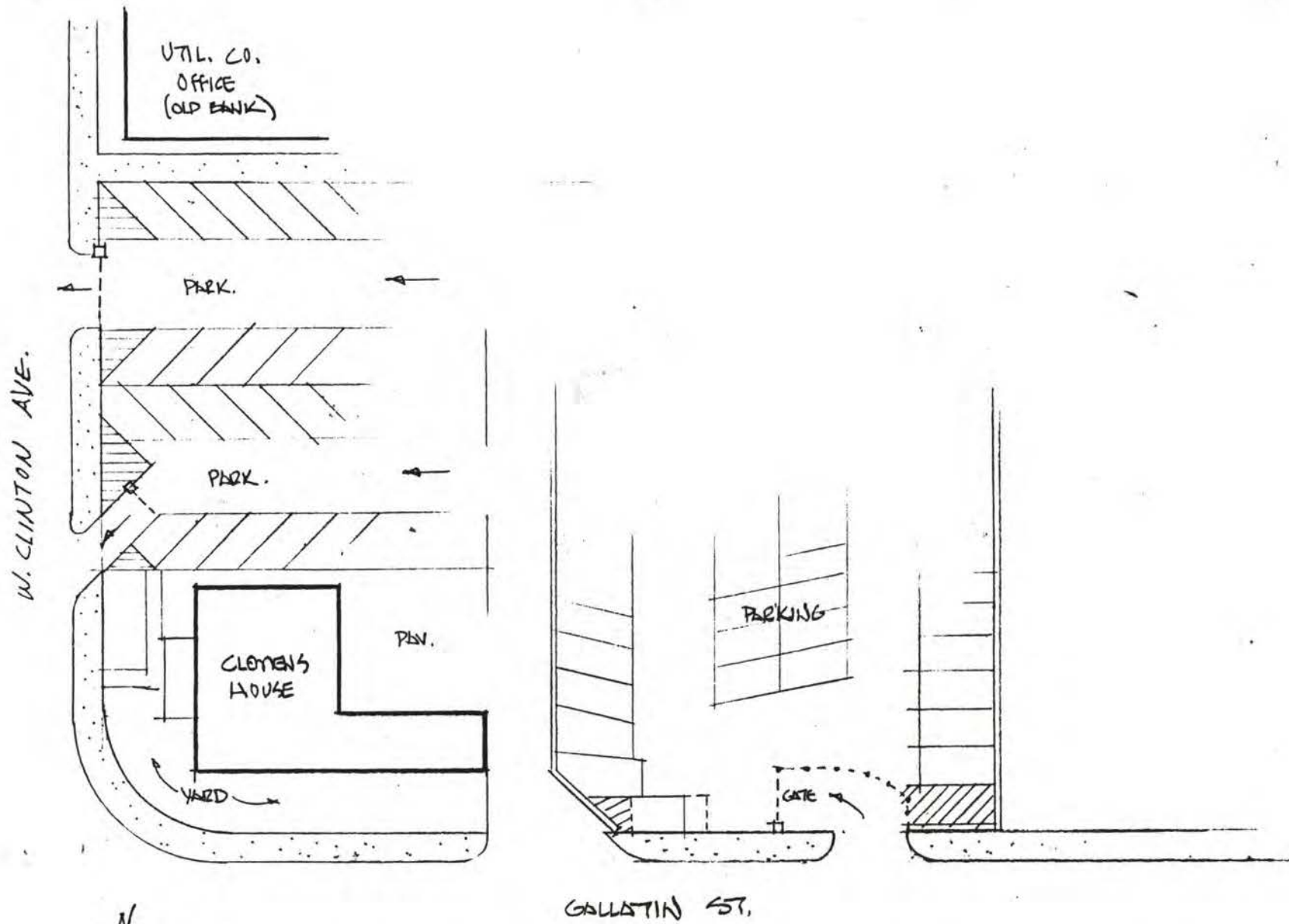
Please let us know how you would like to proceed.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

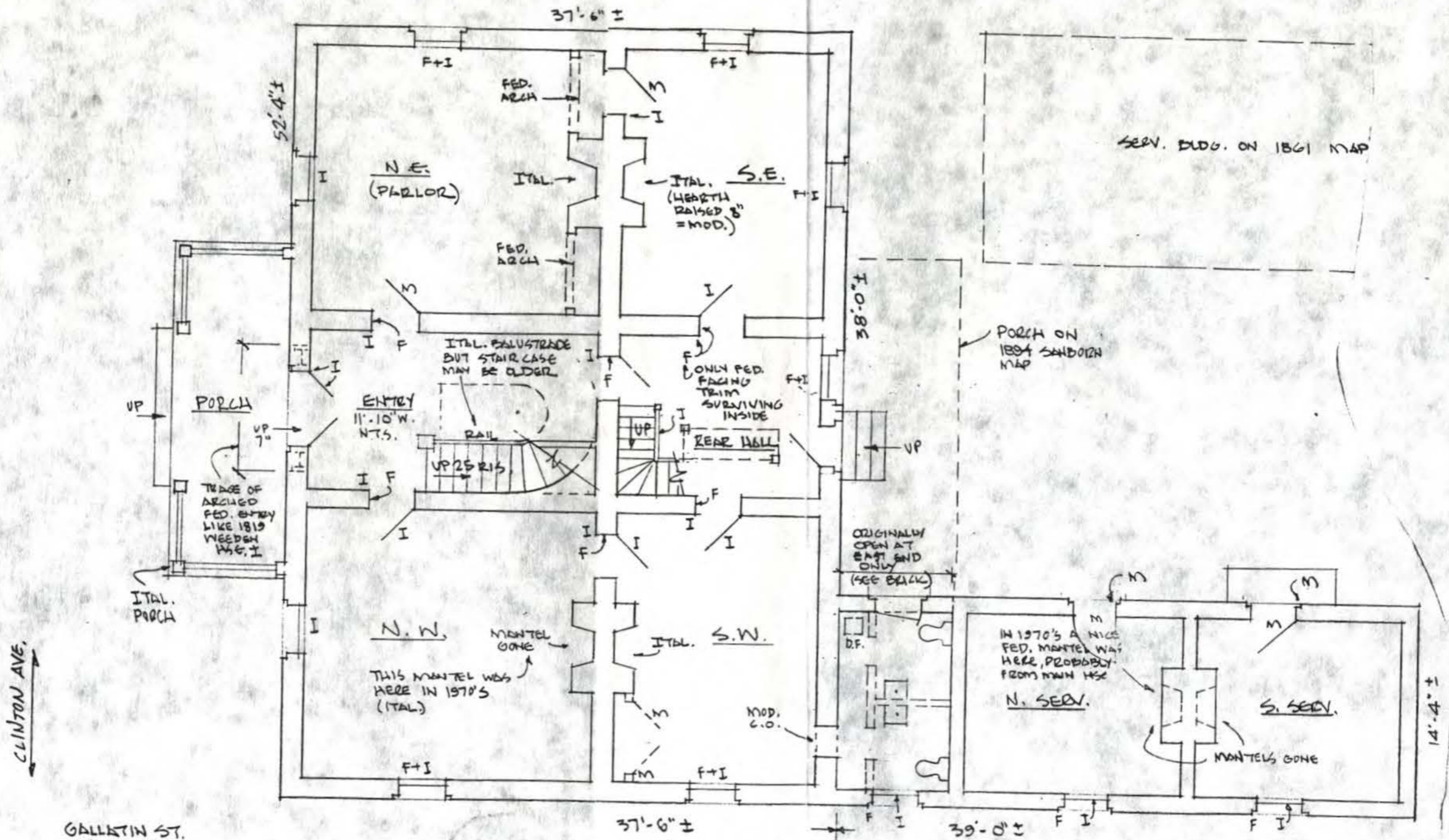
840063



PARTIAL SITE PLAN SKETCH - EXISTING CONDITIONS
 INV. UTILITIES - CLEMENS HOUSE VICINITY
 5 DEC. 1988 NO SCALE
 // = DEAD AREA OF PAVING (CAR WON'T FIT)

JONES & HERRIN
 Architecture/Interior Design
 104 Jefferson Street Huntsville, AL 35801

CENTRAL CHIMNEYS = MOST UNUSUAL FOR FED. PERIOD.



**JEREMIAH CLEMENS HOUSE
FIRST FLOOR PLAN**

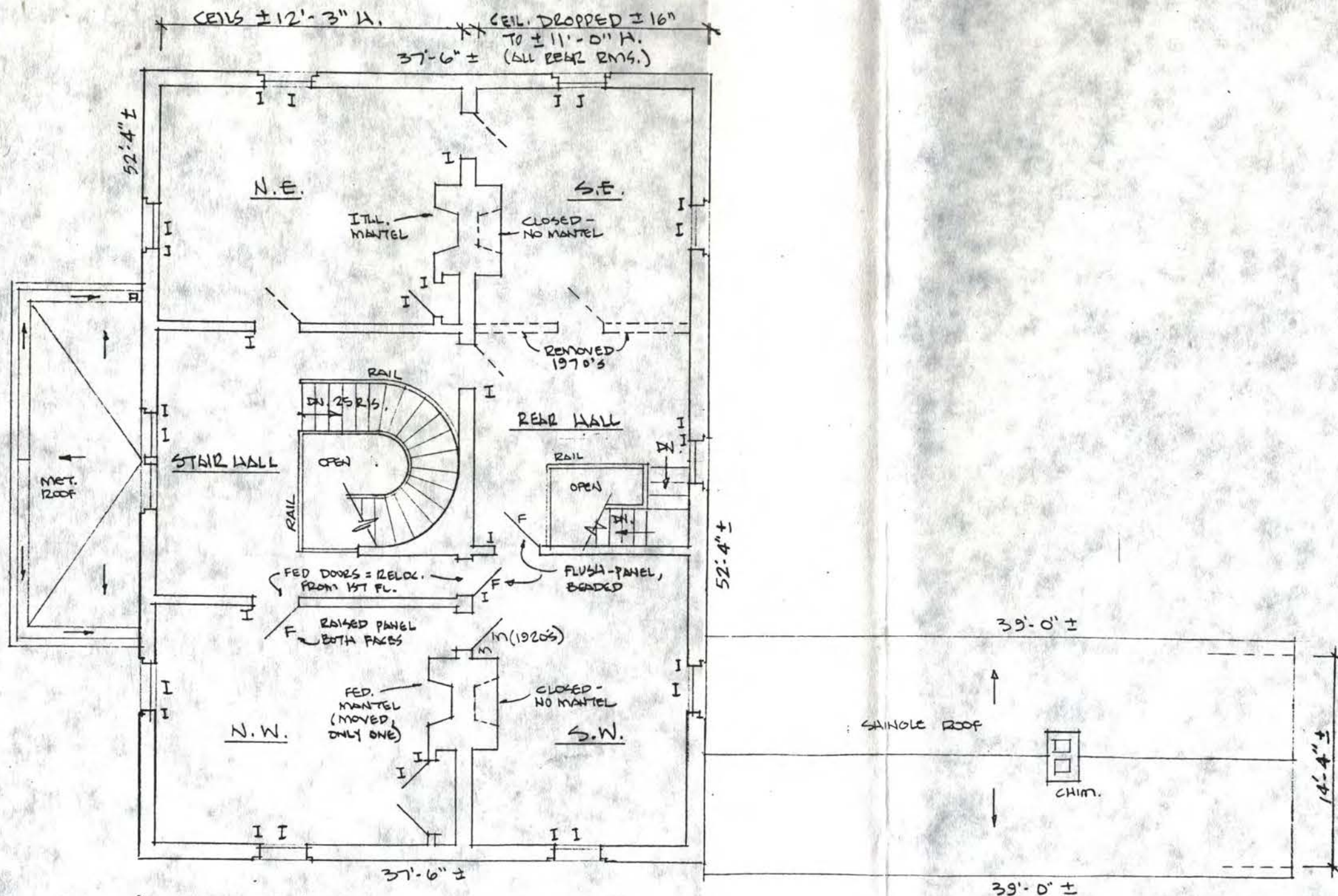
APPROX. 1/8" = 1' VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AT SITE

(ORIGINALLY 1-FL. FED., w/ ITALIANATE REMOD. + 1970'S REMOD.)

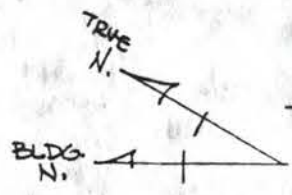
- F = FEDERAL PERIOD ELEMENT (EARLY 19TH CENT.)
- I = ITALIANATE ELEMENT (LATTER 19TH CENT.)
- M = MODERN ELEMENT (C. 1920'S TO C. 1980)

DOOR & WINDOW CASINGS THIS FL. = FED. EXCEPT AT FRONT (N.) WALL
 DOOR & WINDOW FACE TRIM " " = ITALIANATE (EXCEPT FED. AT BACK HALL, E. DOOR)
 FED. ARCHES AT N.E. RIM. = MOST UNUSUAL, VERY NICE.
 SEVERAL FED. DOORS + 1 MANTEL UPSTAIRS (MOVED AT TIME OF ITAL. REMOD., APPARENTLY)
 FLOORS = CARPET ON PLY. ON ORIG. WD.
 CEILS = LOWERED GYP. BO. + 1970'S WPA7 CROWN-MOULD
 WALLS = GYP. BO. (1970'S) ON 2x4 FURRIQ =

drawn A Jones 1988



JEREMIAH CLEMENS HOUSE
 SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 (SECOND FL. ADDED TO ORIG. 1ST FL.)
 APPROX. 1/8" = 1' VERIFY ALL DIMENSIONS AT SITE



drawn HP Jones 1988

34048

1001.

MEMPHIS & CHARL. ON RR

J. R. Young & Co Foundry & Machine Shop

1st Ward

R. S. Spraggins

W. R. Rixon

Clemens Estate

John Rixon

R. S. Spraggins

W. Thompson

O. D. Sledge

W. Nichols

Dr. H. Binford

J. H. Huddle

J. CLEMENS

STREET

ARMS STREET

STREET

CHURCH STREET

STREET

HOLMES

JEFFERSON

CLINTON

RANDOLPH

COUNTY FOUR



35

ROAD

EXPLANATION LINE

CUT-OFF

BLUE SPRING BRANCH

J. G. Scott

J. G. Scott

ALLEY

ALLEY

ALLEY

LIBERTY STREET

MILL STREET

GALLATIN STREET

W. CLINTON

MAR. 1894
HUNTSVILLE
ALA.

Sanborn Map

S. GALLATIN

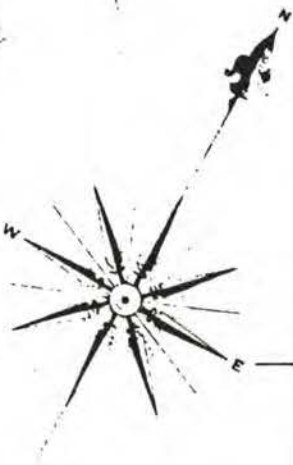
S. MILLER

15

SPRING

SPRING

Stomach Disorders H.S.



13

A.D. RODGERS, LIVERY

HUNTSVILLE ICE FAC. &
BOTT'L'G Co.

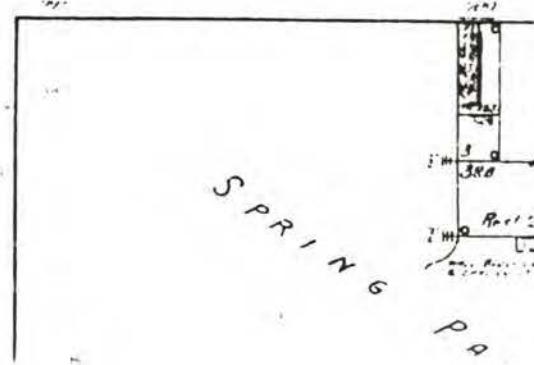
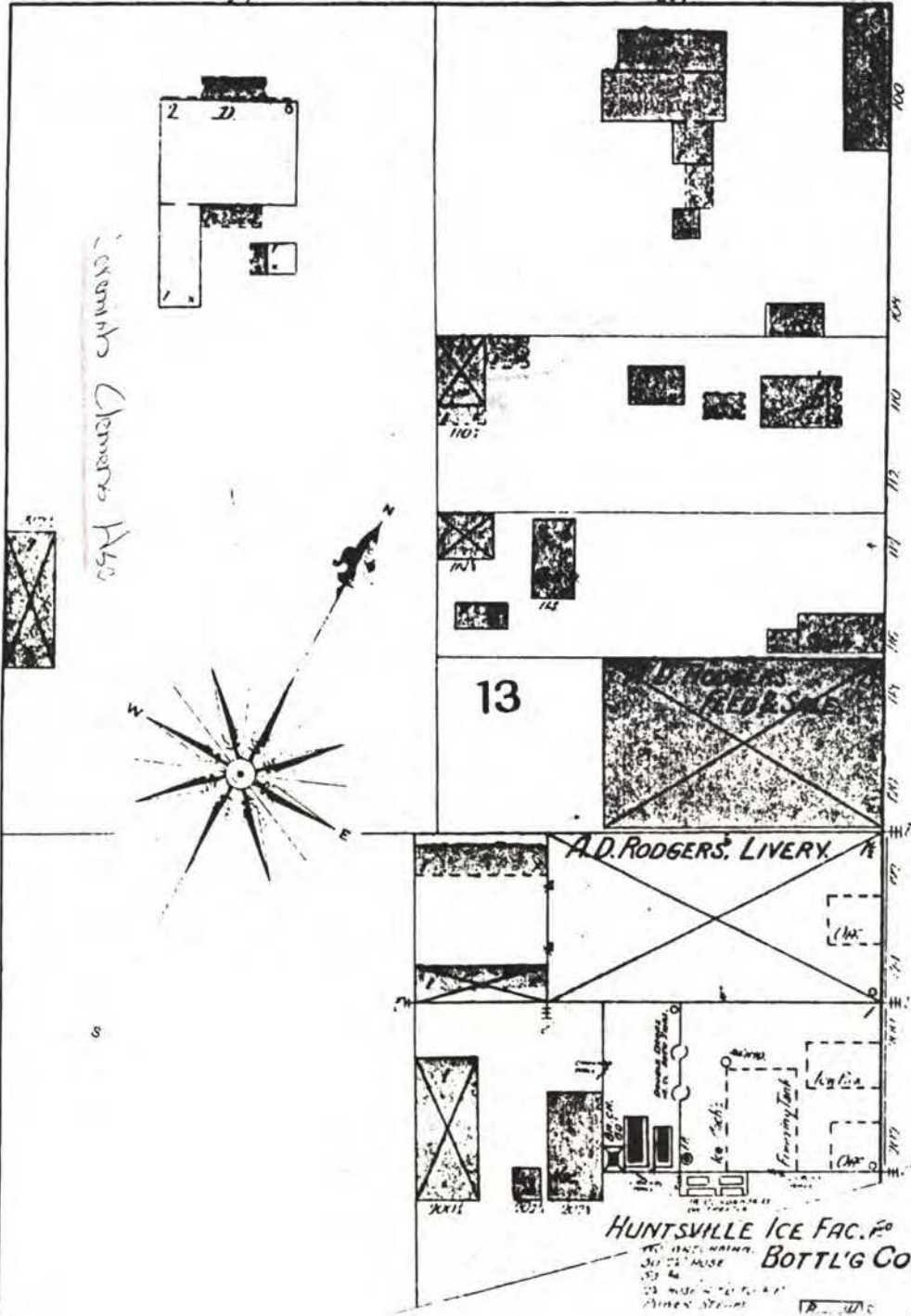
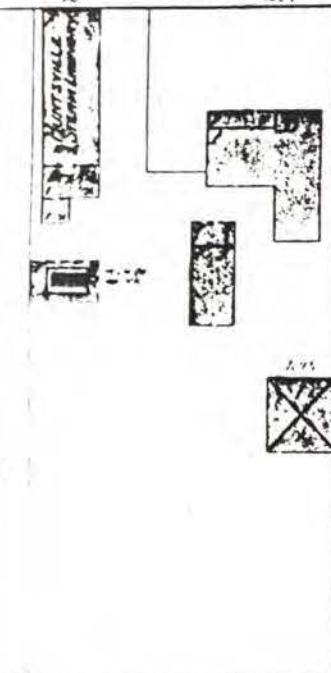
37248

25

29

31

66



Clemens Home

HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES



Clinton Avenue and Gallatin Street

LOCATED at the corner of Gallatin Street and Clinton Avenue, the Clemens home was the residence of Jeremiah Clemens, a leader of the opponents to secession in the Alabama Convention of 1861. He was later an outspoken advocate of peace during the latter months of the Civil War.

Although the house as it presently stands is a fine example of mid-nineteenth century architecture, courthouse records and several architectural elements suggest that the house may have been built in the 1830's, with major remodeling in the 1850-1875 period.

The property was purchased in 1838, by James Clemens, who emigrated from Kentucky in 1812. His son Jeremiah was born in 1814. Jeremiah Clemens, who was educated as a lawyer, was appointed as the U.S. Attorney for the northern district of Alabama in 1838, and he represented Madison County in the State Legislature for five years.

In 1849 he was elected to the U. S. Senate and served through the 31st and 32nd Congresses. Returning to Alabama, he opposed immediate secession, and during the Federal occupation of Huntsville his Unionist sympathies grew. Traveling to Philadelphia he conducted a pamphlet campaign advocating the re-election of Lincoln. He returned to Huntsville before the

end of the Civil War and died a few weeks after peace was declared.

The Clemens house is a two-story brick structure with a one-story service wing attached to the southwest corner. The metal hipped roof features an overhanging cornice. The house has three interior chimneys, two in the main section and one in the service wing. The latter has an Adamesque mantel.

In the center of the facade is a small wooden portico supported by four slender wooden columns. The stone slabs at the entry porch appear to be the remnants of an earlier, smaller stoop. The windows are double hung and have decorative lintels similar to the one above the entrance. These lintels are apparently of high lead or tin content as there is no rusting.

On the first floor are two twenty-by-twenty-foot rooms on either side of an entrance hall, and fifteen-by-twenty-foot rear rooms. The main stairway is located on the right of the front hall.

After the death of Jeremiah Clemens, the house was tied up in estate until 1874, when it was purchased by Duncan Sherman and Company. The property then passed through several hands until it was sold by the James Williams family to Huntsville Utilities in the mid-1970's. It currently serves as the location of their Energy Department.

Written when the brick was painted for a detailed exam. Painted brick disguised the fact that the 2nd fl. was added - HJ

JONES AND HERRIN, ARCHITECTS, A. I. A.
215 RANDOLPH AVE. S.E. HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35891 PHONE 339-0766

HARVIE P. JONES

WILLIAM W. HERRIN, JR.

By Harvie Jones
in 1973

JEREMIAH CLEMENS HOME
written 1973

Lot No. 82, where the two-story, brick house, known as the Clemens home stands, was first sold by LeRoy Pope to Philip A. Foote, a local merchant, for \$300 on May 18, 1817. Foote then sold the property to James Price in 1818. A year later, Clayton Tolbert, a local innkeeper, purchased the lot for \$1200. He appears to have built the house on the lot, for the deed, which transfers the property to Preston Yeatman in 1831 for \$3600, states that the property included "the house where Clayton Tolbert resides." In 1838, Yeatman sold the property to James Clemens, a local merchant, who had been in business in Huntsville since 1812. The sale price was listed as \$3600, the same amount Preston Yeatman had paid in 1831.

Clemens retained the property until his death in 1858, when it became part of a long, drawn-out settlement of his estate. Jeremiah Clemens, his son who was quite prominent in state and local affairs, lived here until his death in 1865.

Jeremiah Clemens was a colonel in the Mexican War, an editor of a Memphis newspaper, an author of several books, a U.S. Senator from Alabama, a leader against secession in 1861 in the state convention, a general in the Alabama Militia, and finally a member of the peace movement to stop the Civil War and to reunite the state of Alabama with the Union. Needless to say, he was not very popular with the people of Huntsville when he died in May of 1865. When the Clemens estate was finally settled in 1874, the Clemens Homestead was sold to Duncan Sherman & Company. The property then passed through several hands until it was purchased as a home by Dr. Milton C. Baldrige, a prominent physician. After his death, it was purchased by Cyrus F. Suggs in 1907. After Suggs' death, it was purchased from his widow by Charles L. Hackworth in 1920. The widow of Charles Hackworth married James A. Williams, and the property remained in the hands of the Williams family until it was recently sold to the Housing Authority. The house has been modified through the years by its various owners.*

HJ
Stimms
Dr. A. R. B.
HJ

A brief examination of the house does not provide any definite architectural evidence of an 1825-1835 construction date; but there are, so far, a number of items that could support a construction date of 1825-1835 with a major remodeling in 1855-1875. A more thorough examination of the framing will help to establish the construction date more firmly.

ps Fed 1st fl., Ital. 2nd fl. 1989 HJ

Items Supporting "Federal" Period Construction (1825-1835) and
"Victorian" Remodeling (1855-1875):

1. Stone foundation wall is exposed 1 foot to 2 feet high (rough ashlar limestone). This was common in the Federal period, but not in the mid-1800's.
2. Service wing roof has been raised about 2 feet from the original roof line, apparently at the time of the major remodeling, to harmonize visually with the remodeled main house.
3. Service wing has one "Adamesque" mantle, which was typical of the Federal period. This refined mantle would not have been in a servant's room, but it was common to shift mantles around at the time of a remodeling. Two of the mantles in the main house (parlor and dining room) are cast iron, which would mean they were probably installed after the 1850's. gone in 1988 MS
4. All fireplaces were built to burn wood and were later made smaller to burn coal. The present Victorian mantles appear too narrow to fit the "wood" firebox openings.
5. Second-floor flooring is 6" to 8" wide pine, which was standard in the 1820's but was probably unobtainable that wide after the 1850's.
6. Two "back bedroom" doors are in a beaded-edge, six-panel design, which was common in the 1820's and 1830's but completely atypical of the 1860's and 1870's.
7. Entry door sill is of heavy, 8" square wood, which was typical of the Federal period, but stone would be more likely in the 1870's.
8. Stone slabs at the entry porch appear to be the remnant of an earlier, small (4' x 7') stoop, which would have been normal in the Federal period.

None of these is conclusive evidence of Federal period construction; but they are strong indications of the possibility, particularly when coupled with the property's history. The only element which would weigh against this is the interior positioning of the chimneys, which is atypical of the Federal period but common in the Victorian period.

The Jeremiah Clemens house, as it stands, is a fine example of mid-nineteenth-century architecture. Even if it is proved

that it is a remodeled Federal period residence, it would be historically proper to restore it in its present form for several reasons:

1. Most of the Federal details, mantles, etc. are gone.
2. Most of the mid-1800 details are still there.
3. Genuine mid-1800 details and materials are preferable to speculative, re-created, early 1800 details.
4. While many of us are not yet able to see the beauty that is in Victorian architecture, it is nevertheless there; and in a few more years, at most, it will become evident to all.

Every period of architecture is held in low esteem by the following several generations. In the 1800's, for example, Federal style buildings were generally considered to be plain, boxy, and ugly. This is a fine house and should not be lost.

Technically, the house appears to be in good condition. It is in better condition than was the Lowery house on Adams prior to restoration. Based on two similar restorations, the Jerry Stapp law offices and the Public Systems Building (Bill King), the restoration could be accomplished for 3/4 to equal the cost of equivalent technical quality but otherwise "plain box contemporary" new office space with low ceilings, etc.

Thus, the opportunity exists to restore this historic residence for distinctive offices at somewhat less cost than a "standard" new building. Both of the above-mentioned projects were done for about 3/4 "standard" new costs. Therefore, it also makes sense to consider the restoration from a purely economic standpoint.

The building will add flavor the city, be a good public-relations tool for Huntsville Utilities, and may be cheaper to do than new construction.

*The historical account of the Jeremiah Clemens home was written by Dr. Frances Roberts.

Alabama

COUNTY:

Madison

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON:

Glemens House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

SAME

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Clinton Avenue, West

CITY OR TOWN:

Huntsville

STATE

Alabama

CODE

COUNTY:

Madison

CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work In progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious | City Utilities will | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | restore for offices. | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Huntsville Utilities

STREET AND NUMBER:

112 Gallatin Street, S. W.

CITY OR TOWN:

Huntsville

STATE:

Alabama

CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:

Madison County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Courthouse Square

CITY OR TOWN:

Huntsville

STATE

Alabama

CODE

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:

- Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE

STATE

COUNTY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Slightly	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Two-story, brick building with Italianate detailing.

House appears to have had very few if any changes or alterations. Service wing may have been constructed at an early date. Since Ital. add. removed

The Jeremiah Clemens house, as it stands, is a fine example of mid-nineteenth-century architecture. Detailing, exterior and interior, supports such dating of construction.

Mantels in two of the main rooms are cast iron, typical of the 1850's local styling, as is the woodwork, doors, flooring, etc. in almost all of the house.

Chimneys are positioned in the interior of the house frames.

The house is as good an example of this period in American architectural design as can be found in this area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

 Aboriginal Education Political Urban Planning Prehistoric Engineering Religion/Phi- Other (Specify) Historic Industry

losophy

 Agriculture Invention Science Architecture Landscape Sculpture Art

Architecture

 Social/Human- Commerce Literature

itorian

 Communications Military Theater Conservation Music Transportation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

before 1831

Courthouse records show that a residence existed on the site where the Clemens house now stands. In Deed Book N, p. 586, a transfer of title from Talbot to Preston Yeatman recites "said Talbot lately resided." However, there is no other historical or architectural evidence that he resided in the existing house. Yeatman sold to James Clemens in 1838 for \$3600.00. Local price structure of that day would support the contention that more than undeveloped land had changed hands. The property remained in the Clemens family until after the Civil War.

James Clemens had migrated from Kentucky in 1812 and married into the prominent Mills family. This well-to-do and cultured family produced soldier, novelist, politician Jeremiah Clemens who was the leader of the opponents to secession in the Alabama Convention in 1861 and later a leader of the Peace Movement. Jeremiah is identified throughout his life with this house.

Educated as a lawyer, he was appointed federal district attorney, volunteered against the Cherokee Indians and later joined the Texas revolutionists, served in Mexico as the chief of the supply depot there, was elected as a Democrat to the U.S. Senate, published four historical novels, edited a Memphis newspaper, and so on.

The Journal of the Convention of 1861 records the events that led up to his most famous statement; "I am a son of Alabama; her destiny is mine; her enemies are mine...calmly and deliberately I walk with you into revolution."

During the Federal occupation of Huntsville his Unionist sympathies grew. Traveling to Philadelphia he conducted a pamphlet campaign and advocated the reelection of Lincoln. He returned to Huntsville before the end of the war and died a few weeks after peace was declared.

The house passed through several owners before it became the home for many years of J.A. Williams, from whose widow the Huntsville Utilities purchased it for restoration as offices.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

by
Martha
Simms

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 4, New York, Scribner's, 1943.

Malcolm C. McMillan, The Alabama Confederate Reader. University of Alabama Press, 1963.

Thomas McAdory Owen, History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago, 1921.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	• • •	• • •		34° 43' 49.948"	86° 35' 14.797"	
NE	• • •	• • •				
SE	• • •	• • •				
SW	• • •	• • •				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: LESS THAN 1/2 ACRE

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Mrs. Leroy A. Simms, Secretary

ORGANIZATION: Twickenham Historic Preservation District Association DATE: 10/1/1973

STREET AND NUMBER: One Cruse Alley

CITY OR TOWN: Huntsville STATE: Alabama CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

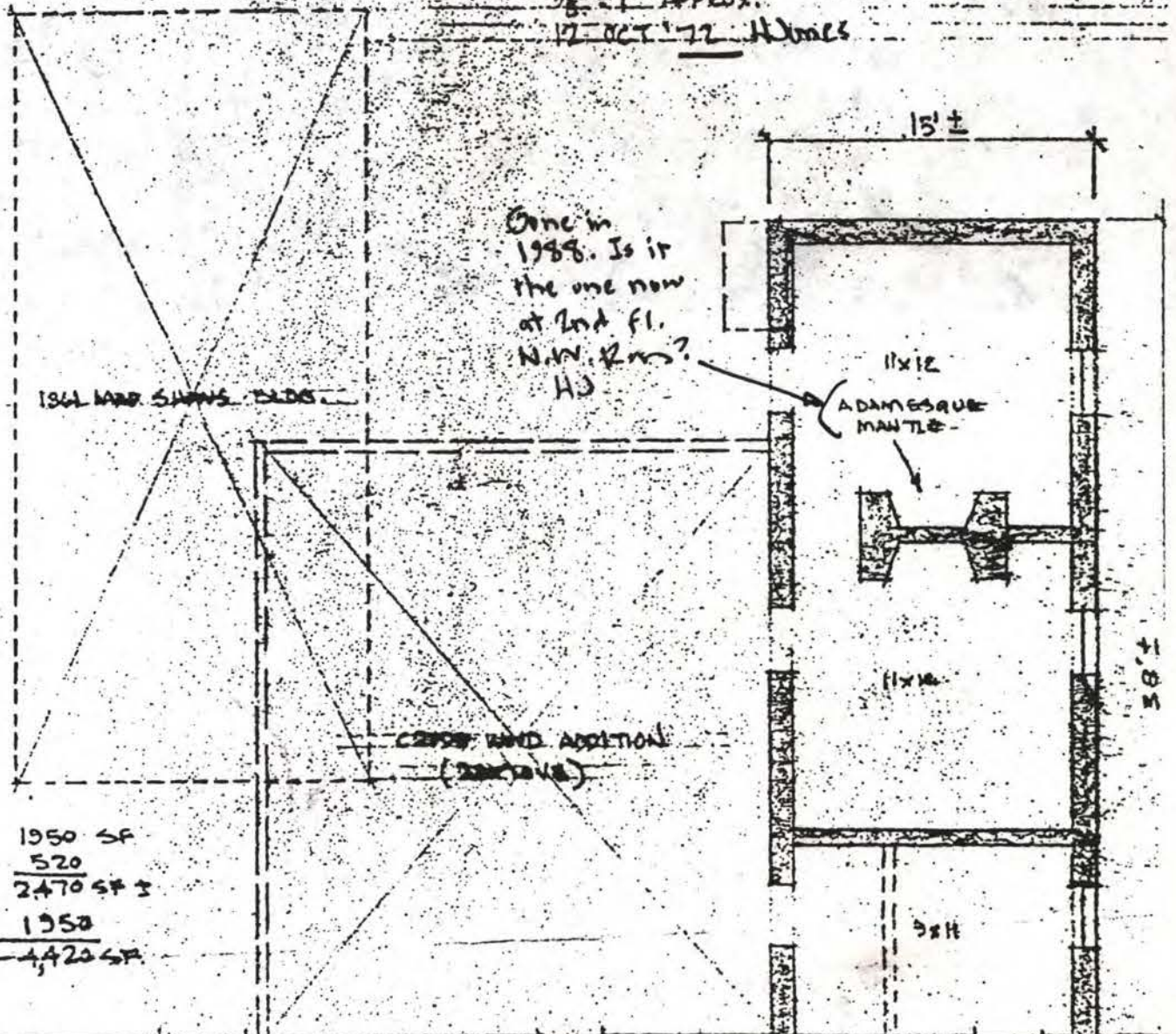
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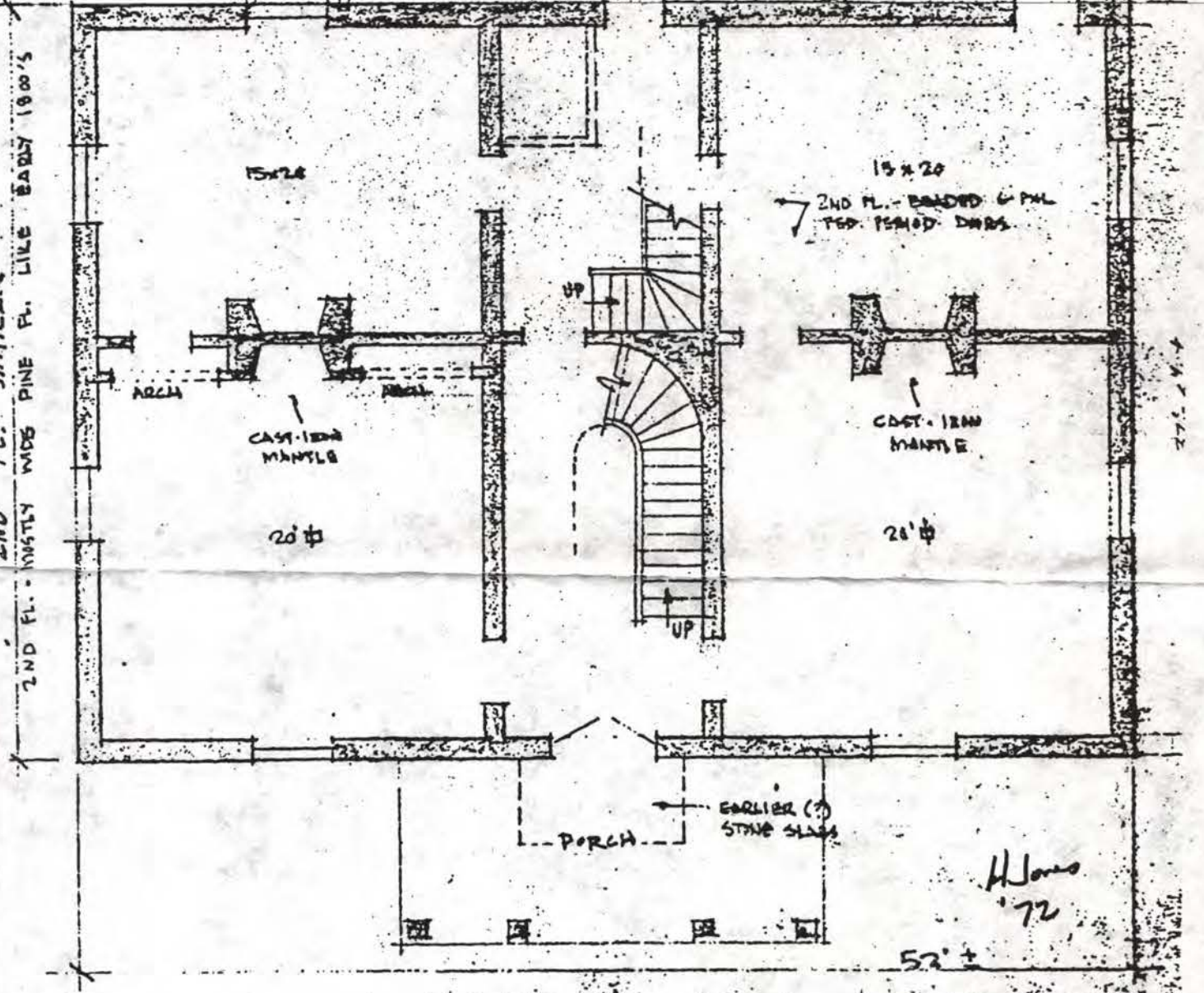
JONES AND HERRIN ARCHITECTS, P.A.
 215 RANDOLPH AVE.
 MEMPHIS, TENN.

SKETCH PLAN - DIMENSIONS APPROXIMATE
 JEREMIAH CLEMENS HOUSE
 PROBABLY BUILT 1825 - 1835
 PROBABLY REMODELED 1855 - 1875
 1/8" = 1' APPROX.
 17 OCT '72 H Jones



1ST FL. 1950 SF
 520
 2470 SF ±
 2ND FL. 1950
 TOTAL - 4420 SF

2ND FL. SIMILAR



53' ±

JONES AND HERRIN, ARCHITECTS, A. I. A.

215 RANDOLPH AVE. S.E.

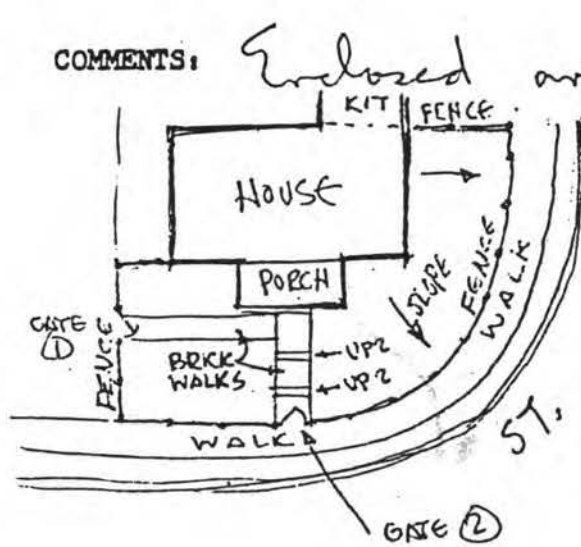
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

PHONE 580-0766

TO: Wayne Miller

DATE: 28 June '74

RE: Clemens House



Enclosed are fence & gate details (2 sets)
 slope picket fence in a straight grade to fit yard slope
 slope yard in a straight grade from the conc. walk up to the foundation line

Recommend we ask Harvilee Harbarger, landscape arch. to help (free) on planting, since she is familiar w/ plants & designs used in the 19th century. Plants should be put in in Nov. or Dec.

Enclosed is a reconstructed detail of the Newel Post at the 1st fl., based on the one remaining at the 2nd fl. The house is looking good! Hope this helps.

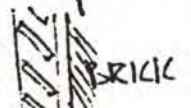
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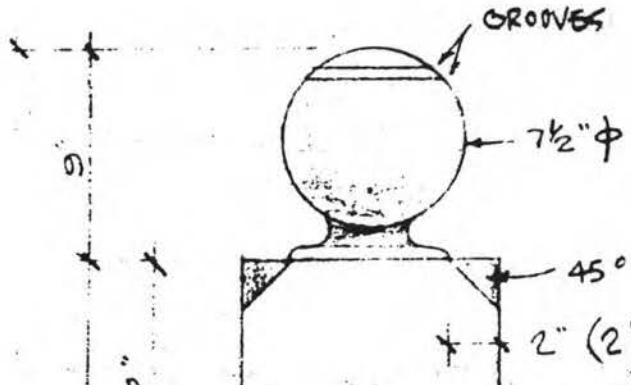
file

BY:



Install blinds so blades slope down toward the brick when open →
 (important)





HUNTSVILLE UTILITIES
 JEREMIAH CLEMENTS HSE.
 1ST FL. NEWEL POST
 (WOOD TO MATCH EXIST., IF POSSIBLE)
 1 1/2" = 11'-0" 28 JUNE '74

45°
 1 3/8" (1 7/8" ON DIAGONAL)
 was not used.
 Inappropriate fence
 built.
 See photos

JONES & HERRIN, ARCH. A.I.A.
 HJ

48 248

3/4" TH