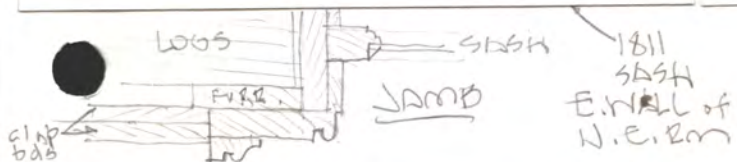




NOTE - beaded 1811 claps
(usual for 1800-1830±)



1811
SASH
E. WALL of
N.E. RM

Looking N.W. (rear) - see photo below
NOTE casual spacing of 1811 claps
(typical of 1800-1830±)



Vic. 851 ON FED. S.E. 200
1811 "SUNNYSIDE" (HAMPTON HSE)
Meridianville
photos June 1979
Harvie & Lynn Jones
burned by owner
(Mrs Wilke) 20 Oct. 1981
lot 16

Vic. 2 1/2 SASH

sash in photo at / above left

SUNNYSIDE
1811 Hampton



Note
Chim-
stack
stands
+6" clear
of gable
= typical
of wood
hse
1800-1860

GABLE AT 2-574. SECT., E. WALL
NOTE CASUAL SPACING OF CLAPBDS
= TYPICAL 1800-1830±



N.E. corner, N. Wall.
Log wall w/ split lath inside + plast. kerns.
Beaded clapbd. Mod. metal corner patch



S.W. Chim. base



log. int. partn. + lath + plaster, 1811 Chair rail



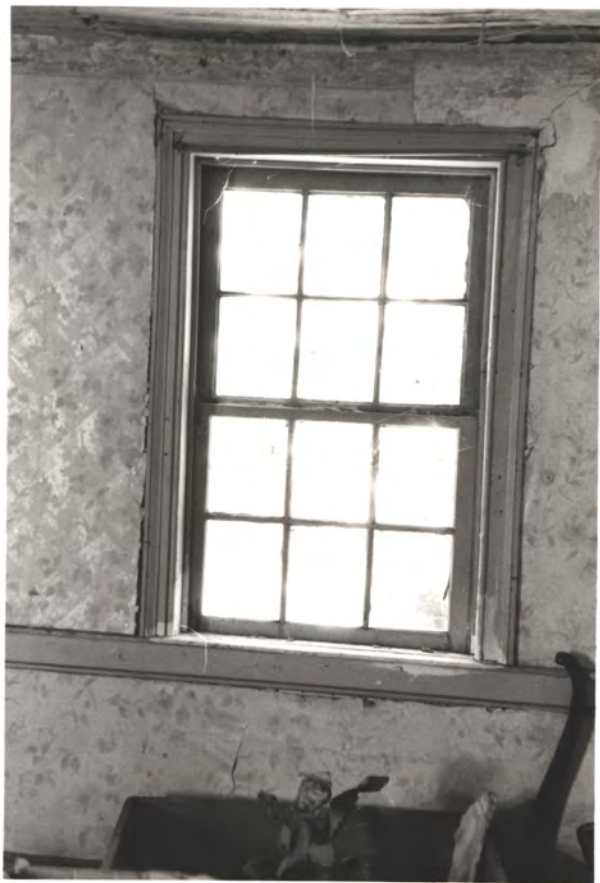
N. FRONT DOOR (GREEK REVIVAL)
MAY POSSIBLY IMPROVED 1835-1835



N. ENTRY SIDING.



S. WALL OF N.W. RM, FL. 1 (logs, split lath, plaster)



FL. 2 SASH (1811 Type) N.E. RM, N. SASH

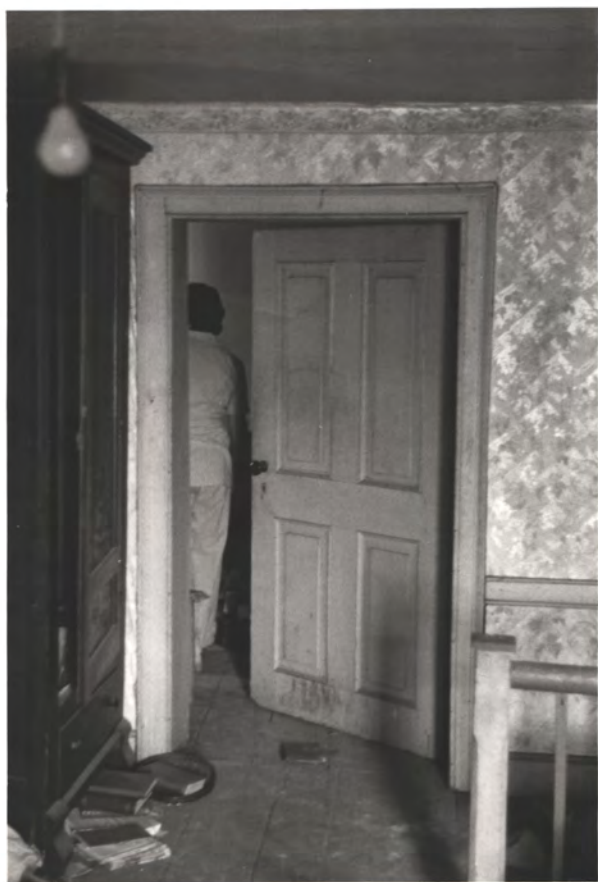
3 of 6



Fl. 1 (Fwh) Hbth - door to S.W. Bm.



Fl. 1 H.E. Bm, door to hall → N



N
N

FL. 2
CELLS
less than
8'



FL. 2 N.W. Bm. Lynn Jones

FL. 2 N.W. Bm, door to center hall



FL. 2 N.W. RM., W. WALL

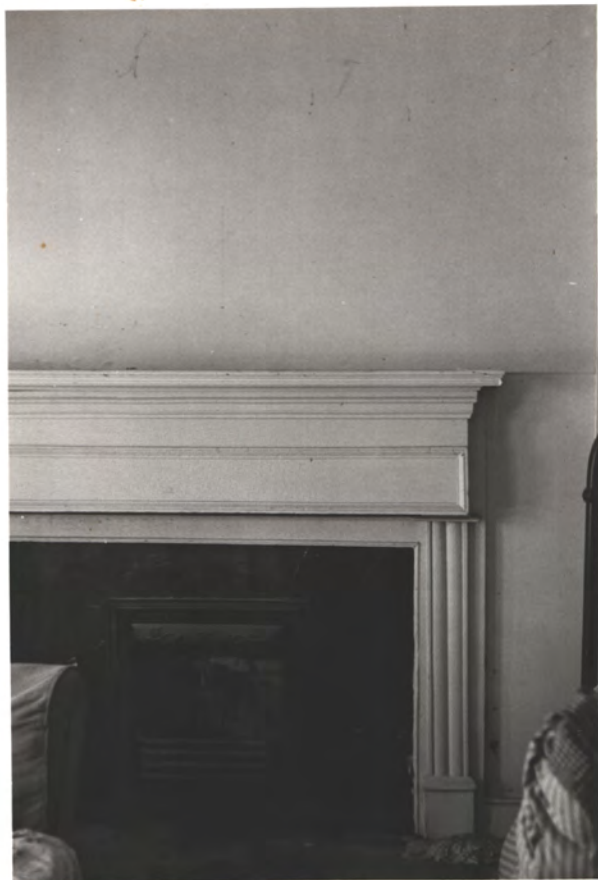


FL. 2 N.E. RM., E. WALL

5016



FL. 2 N.E. RM., E. WALL
NOTE $\pm 8^{\circ}$ NORTH BRICKS, HALF-BOND



FL. I N.E. MANTEL



FL. I N.W. MANTEL



VIC. OF 20714. C. BOTNEY-SAWN
POUCH RAFTERS

ENDS OF $\pm 3" \times 5"$ PIT-SAWN OR
S6S4-SAWN 1811 RAFTERS
NO APPARENT TRACE OF
BOX-CORNICE BUT MAY HAVE
BEEN REMOVED (?)



SEEN. BLDG. S. WALL

OKIT,



TO
WHT

SEEN. BLDG. N. WALL
UNDER LATER PORCH



SEEN. BLDG. W. WALL



SEEN. BLDG. S. WALL - APPARENTLY NO
BOX-CORNICE EVER (?)



CRANE, w/ POT HOOK



KIT. FIREPLACE
in serv. bldg

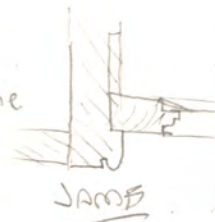
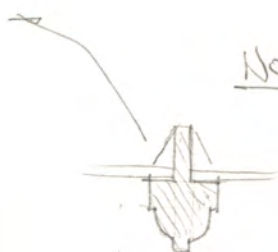
±4'-6" w., w/ 90° SIDES TO KEEP
HEAT IN F.P.
(TYPICAL COOK. F.P.)



← KIT., S.E. Corner

Do not understand the angled crane-arm
= not seen elsewhere. Perhaps it
rotates on a pivot up in the throat (?)
No time to examine.

NOTE narrow trimless frame
= not too unusual



TYPICAL FED. PERIOD

MOUNTAINS

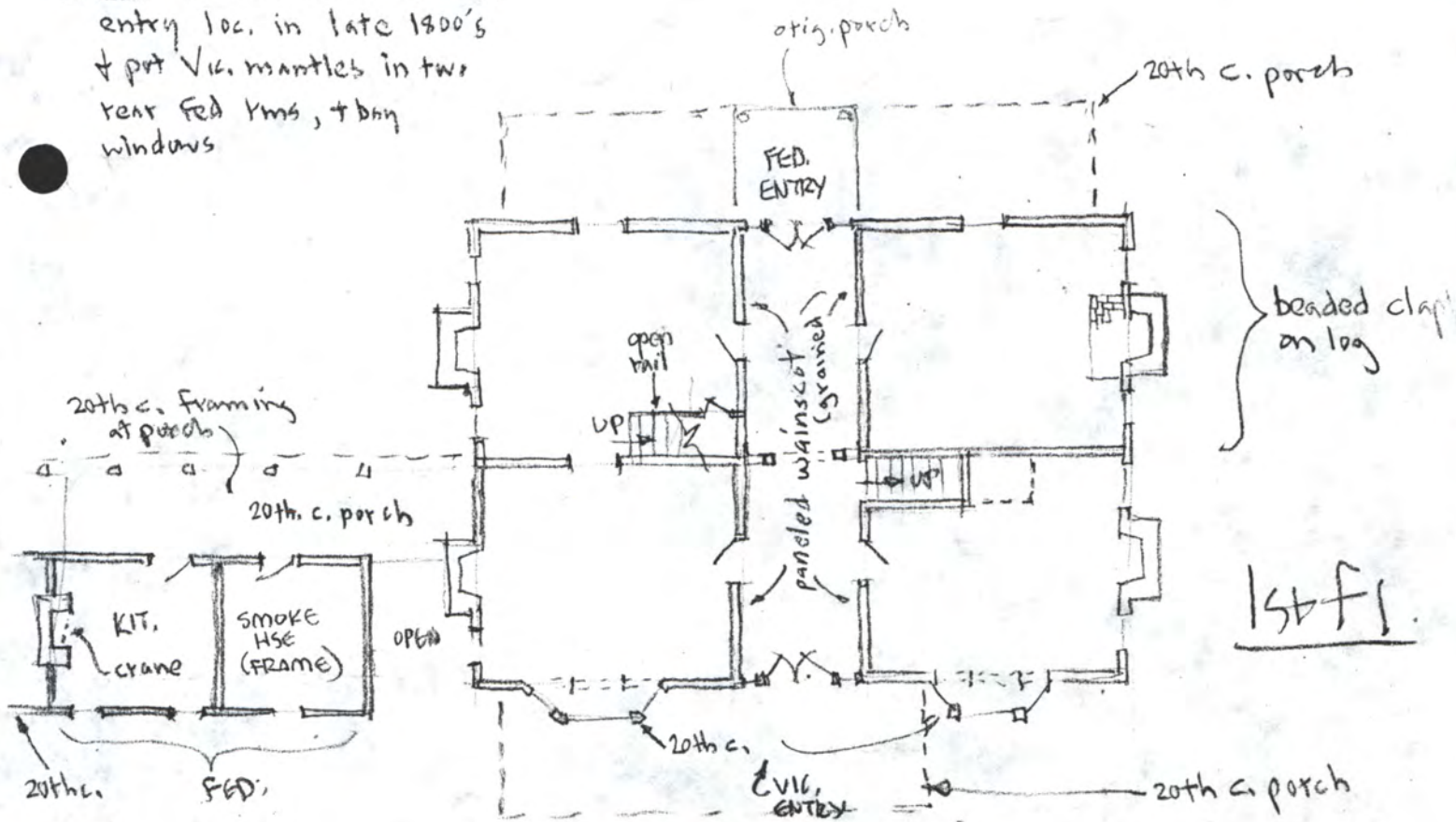
± 10x12" OL.

Top sash fixed, bottom
sash slides on it
(no parting-beads)

NOTE pit-sawn (hand-sawn) planks.
Most unusual for planks.

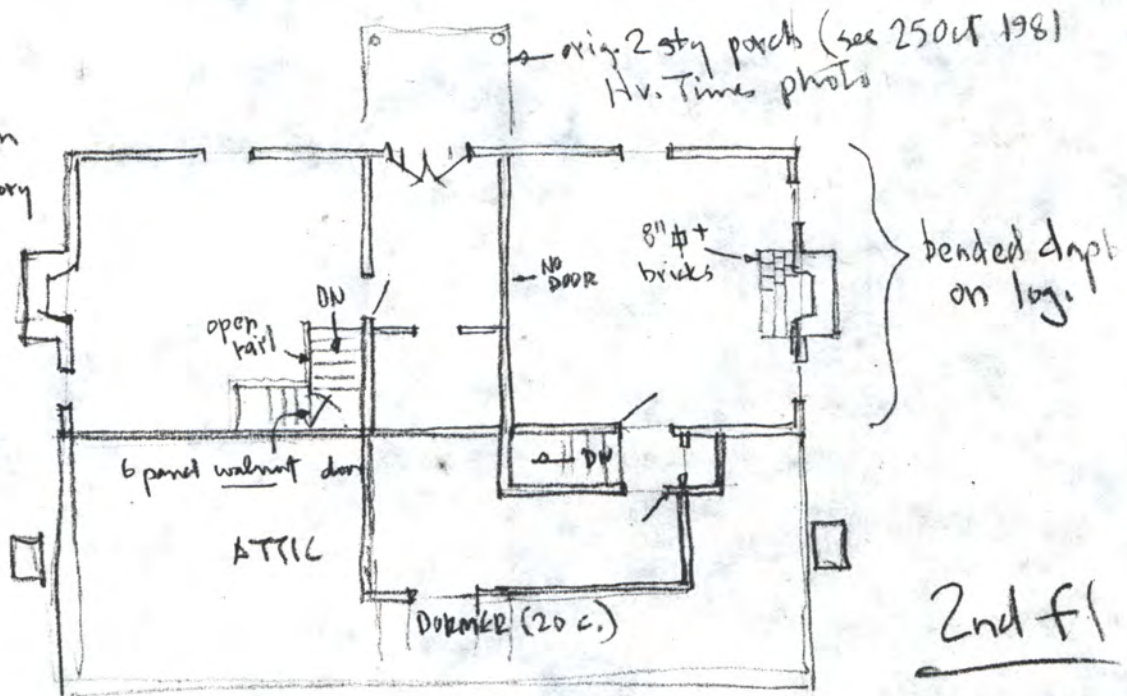
Typically are sash-sawn (machine-sawn)

Note - owner reversed hse.
 entry loc. in late 1800's
 + put V.C. mantles in two
 rear Fed rms, + bay
 windows



COLORS

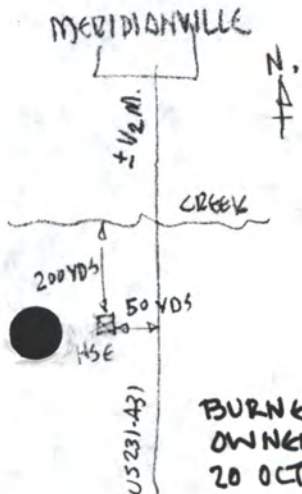
Mantels - blackish-brown
 Most int. trim of doors = ivory
 (originally)
 Clapbd - white
 Plaster - whitewashed
 Floors - pine 5/4 x 6" to 10"±



No passage between 2 BR's
 (also true of
 Cozier Hse (New Market)
 Gamble Hse (Limestone Co.)
 + others in Fed. period)

"SUNNYSIDE"

FED. PERIOD
 said to be ca. 1811
 Doors = 4 + 2 panel except 1 - 6 panel



BURNED BY
 OWNER
 20 OCT. '81

H. Jones
 June '79

The owners of this house say that it was built about 1811. Dr. Manning patented the land August 23, 1809. In 1818 Dr. Manning sold this property to John Mosely and Arthur F. Hopkins at which time a house was standing on the land. In the ensuing years the property changed hands several times. During the Civil War it was owned by the Josiah D. Battle family. Josiah, himself, died prior to the War. Dr. John Hampton married Tommie Battle, daughter of Josiah, and in 1881 became the occupant. Members of the Hampton family still own the house, and lived in it until very recent years.

The original house was 34 feet long and 18 feet in depth. It was two stories high. The logs were fastened by wooden-pegs. According to an article by Mr. Pat Jones in the Huntsville Times in 1933, the house was probably weather-boarded between 1839 and 1847. At the same time two rooms at the back were added. There are two stairways in the house, one on either side. One stairway led upstairs to the room used by the boys and the other stairway led to the upstairs room used by the girls. There was no doorway connecting these upstairs rooms.

As was customary in those days, the log kitchen was separate from the house. This kitchen was still standing in 1933. Also to the rear of the home were the slave cabins leading toward the spring. The old spring house is still standing with the post that supported the windmill.

The plantation was called "Sunnyside"

Early County Home Still Stands in Rural Area

July 6, 1971

By JANE PARKS
Times Staff Writer

Amidst dense undergrowth and stately old trees stands Sunnyside, possibly the oldest two-story plantation home in Madison County. Virginia creeper crawls up the porch and winds its way up the now-crumbling chimneys of the 160-year-old house.

Historical records on the old place began in 1809 when Dr. James Manning, a wealthy Georgia physician, bought the section of land on which the residence stands.

Dr. Manning had been traveling a trail from Tennessee to Huntsville when he stopped to rest beside a spring that had at one time been an Indian camp. Liking what he saw, Manning, rode into Huntsville and patented the land.

The spring remains the water supply of present-day owners.

The next year Dr. Manning contracted with Woody Loyd to build a two-story log house on the place. Plans included 12 18-light windows and six eight-light windows. The doctor was to supply hinges, nails and plank for the floors, plus supplying laborers and having all hauling done. Carpenter Loyd was to make doors, sashes and window shutters for the lower story and "finish it in a plain, neat workmanship manner."

Logs in the 1811 structure are chinked with both rocks and mortar and have remained intact, fastened only by wooden pegs.

Portholes of narrow upright slits in the logs were once used to ward off Indian parties and are still in evidence

and were added even later.

Several federal raids were made during the War Between the States. Mrs. Tommie Battle, wife of the owner at that time, made a well-concealed hiding place among the rafters by cutting a small door at the back of a closet on the second floor. There she hid the family's food, a most valued possession at the time.

The house, still owned by members of the family, is located in rural Madison County, but owners said they had in the past been bothered by curiosity seekers and asked that neither their identity nor the location of the house be revealed.

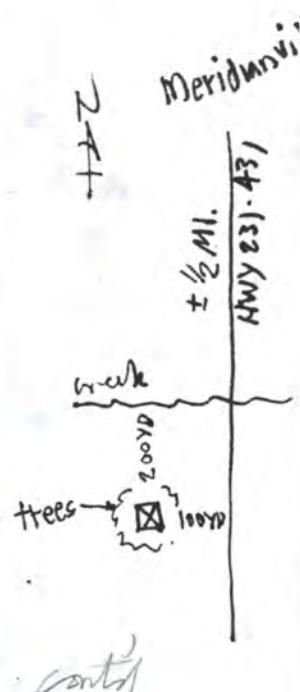
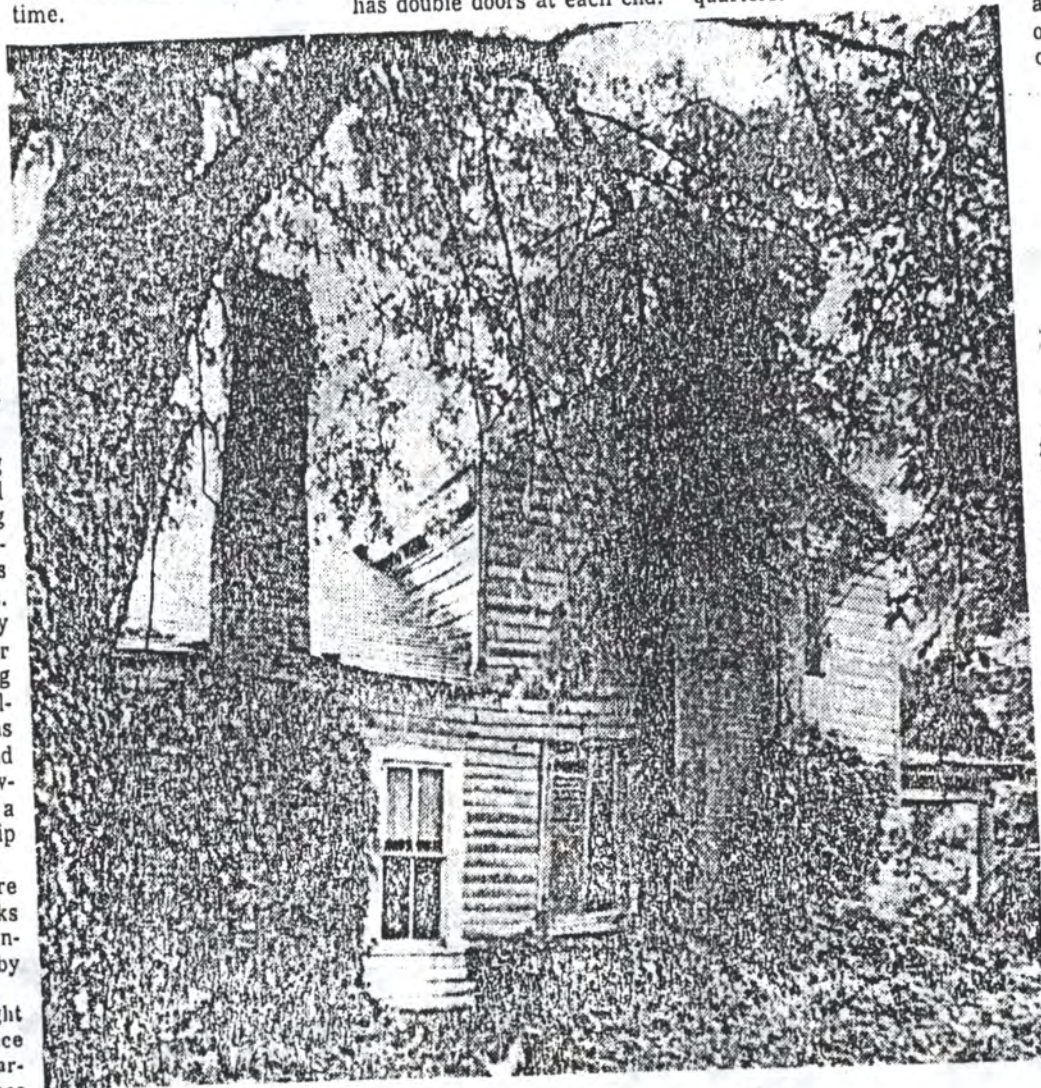
One of the most attractive features of the home is its wide hallway. It runs the length of the downstairs and has double doors at each end.

Original wooden bars used to bolt the doors are still intact.

The home has been enlarged twice. The first addition included two rooms and a porch connected to the rear of the house. Later three cabins were placed side by side to the east of the dwelling, adding rooms for cooking, storage and servants' quarters.

A small opening at the bottom of a door leading to the porch of the three-room area was designed for the convenience of family cats.

Remaining in the house are a cherry bedroom suite, family portraits, chairs and a sofa of carved cherrywood and much family memorabilia. A hand-painted cloth shade imported from France over a hundred years ago is one of three still hanging at one of the parlor windows.

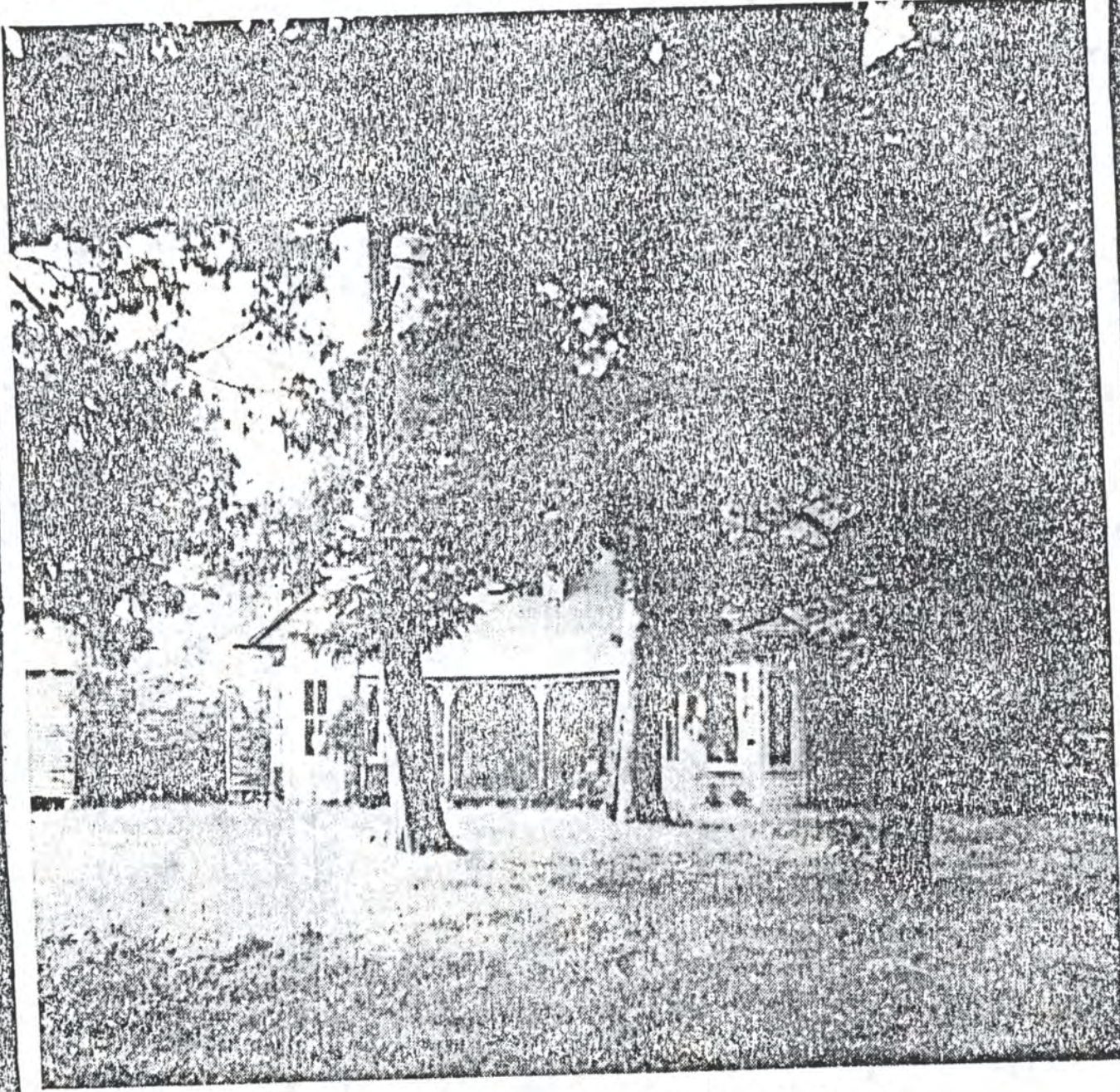


105
session of the present family
since 1839. Logs were covered
with weatherboarding in the
early 1840's and a larger ve-

July 6, 1977

(Times Photos by Jim Tuten)

Two Chimneys Have Withstood Battle of the Years



Frontal View Shows How House Has Been Enlarged

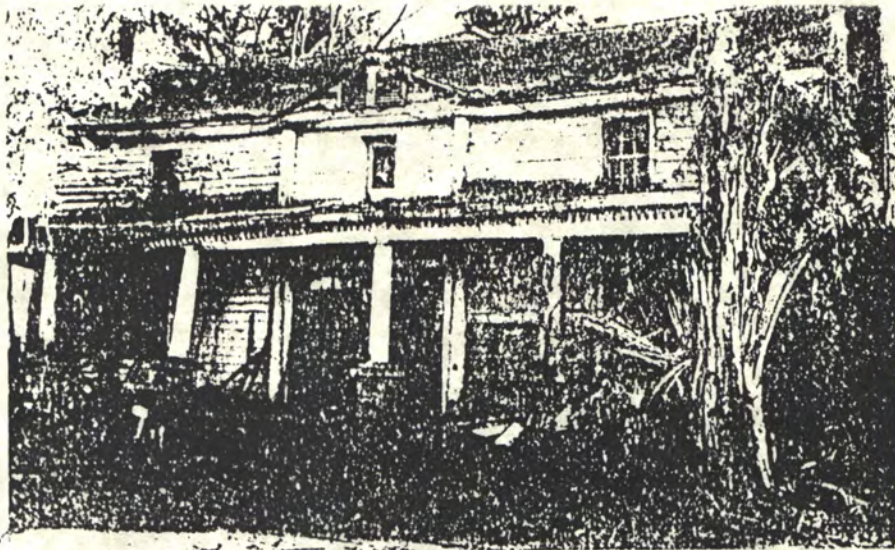
20 OCT '81 HV. TIMES



Practice Fire Razes Old House

Huntsville firefighters practiced their techniques on this old farmhouse north of the city Monday afternoon in what was called a "controlled burn" for training purposes. The structure was a log building

originally constructed in 1811, a training officer said, and it was burned at the request of the owners. (Times Photo by Dave Dieter)



(Times Photo by Dave Dieter)

HAMPTON HOUSE, BUILT IN 1811. JUST BEFORE FIRE
Pioneers Once Battled Indians From Its Confines

Gone Forever

County's Oldest Home Is Burned; Owners Say They Had No Choice

By SUSAN STILL, Times Staff Writer

A piece of Madison County history burned to the ground last week.

In a practice fire staged by the Huntsville fire department, a 170-year-old Meridianville homestead — the oldest, documented house built by English settlers in Alabama — was reduced to ashes.

The owners, who have requested anonymity, asked for the demolition because they were concerned for the safety of those who roamed uninvited through the house's decaying floors and sagging roof.

But local historians, caught unaware of the owners' intention to destroy it, said the home could have been restored.

Through the special projects office of the Madison County Commission, the home could have been moved and reconstructed elsewhere — saving history for the next generation and creating a tax break for the home owners.

But no one in a position to help knew the Hampton Home was to be burned until they heard about it in the news.

And no one told the Hampton heirs about the plans for Sharon Johnston Park Pioneer Village, where pieces a dozen old homesteads have been relocated, awaiting the funds for reconstruction.

"They'll be sick when they find out they lost a \$25,000 tax break," said one official. "But we never dreamed that that family — for all the history it has — would have done something like burn that house down."

"Maybe if you write something about it, and mention what the commission is doing, we can prevent a future tragedy," the official said.

Officially known in local history books as the Hampton Log Home, the initial structure was built in 1811 by Dr. James Manning, a transplanted New Jerseyan who came to Madison County from Georgia with Leroy Pope.

Mistakenly called "Sunnyside" by some historical writers, the homestead's present owners say its true name was "Green Lawn" after "the great, big 20-acre green lawn that surrounded the house."

According to historical researcher Pat Jones, portholes in the home's log walls were used to fight with raiding Indians. Court records, some of the earliest kept by county officials, were once stored there.

"The dwelling probably is the oldest in the county still standing and occupied," Jones wrote in a 1933 *Huntsville Times* article. "Through this nearly century and a quarter, the logs of its construction have remained intact, fastened only by wooden pegs."

"Several prominent families — the Mannings, the Lewises, the HARRISES, the HORTONS, the TALLIAFERROS, the WYCHES, the BATTLES and the HAMPTONS — have for a time called this their home," Jones wrote further. "Slave cabins have been razed at its edges and trees have been felled within its shadow, but the

building has withstood the test unshaken."

The first home at the site, west of Memorial Parkway and one-half mile south of Meridianville, was begun in 1810. In September of that year, the nearly constructed home burned to the ground.

Construction on the second home started in 1811. The new two-story home, built to the original's specifications, was 34 feet long and 18 feet wide, with "12 eighteen-light windows and six eight-light windows."

Seven of these windows, as well as some of the home's fireplace mantles, doors and other woodwork, were removed from the house before it was burned last week.

In 1818, the house was sold for \$10,834 to state legislator Arthur F. Hopkins and John Mosely, an Indian fighter who headed a soldier company under Andrew Jackson. The pair owned the house two weeks before they sold it to William Lewis who, within the year, sold it to William B. Harris.

Harris sold the house to Rhoda Horton in 1821, who sold it to Lewis Talliaferro. The Talliaferro family lived in the home until 1839, when it was sold to physician John F. Wyche, a descendent of the present owners.

Wyche's friendship with a bachelor named Jimmy Jones accounted for the construction of two additional rooms to the house. It was during the Wyche ownership that the home's logs were boarded over with poplar siding.

In 1847, Wyche sold the house to Josiah D. Battle for \$10,000. Battle's daughter, Tommie, married John P. Hampton who donated the land for Meridianville's first public school.

Cousin of the famed Confederate Cavalry leader Wade Hampton, John became the occupant of the home in 1881. It is his heirs who gave the orders to burn down the historic structure.

The house was remodeled in 1903, and some Hampton family member inhabited it until 1949. After 1949, it was "only used in the summertime when relatives came to visit," according to the family.

Vandals in the house created constant problems for the owners. Trunks and chests stored in the house have been broken into and their contents strewn about by the intruders.

As the home became more unsafe by neglect and age, "it had ceased to be safe leaving it up," said one family member. "Burning it down was the safest thing we could do."

"The historians around here tell us we could have restored it, we could have sold it to somebody who wanted to do that," she said. "But that's my family home you're talking about and I couldn't bear to see it leave the family. And what's the use in our restoring it if we did not plan to live in it?"

"We weren't happy about what we did. It was a part of the family, it hurt to see it go," she said. "But what were our other choices?"



Paladian 2-tier portico
Apparent original
N. front

25057
1981

not too logical



(Times Photo by Dave Dieter)

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15416

Contd
on 5/16

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Contin. of
Sh. 15

16 of 16