

WIDOWS WALK N/O RAIL - SEE 1864 "H&P 605"



N  
N



1848 McDOWELL HSE.  
517 Adams St., H'ville  
Randy Schrimsher, Owner  
photos Sept. 1986 HP Jones, FAIA  
OWNED BY CHASE FAMILY IN EARLY 20TH. C.

1838

COLS. PROBABLY 20TH C., PER "OLIMPS INTO ANTEBELLUM HOUSE"  
HOUSE SAID TO HAVE BEEN "BUILT BACKWARDS"  
IN 1848, COLS. ADDED BY H. CHASE IN C. 1925

ELABORATE SNIPPED-METAL  
LEADER-HEADS  
PROBABLY 0216, BASED  
ON SEVERAL OTHERS EXTANT



N 41



↑↑



photo below

↑



Location 1A. at NE corner of porch

↑

Dec 86 McDowell Hse



↑

2A



N ← probable original sheet metal  
leaded-head

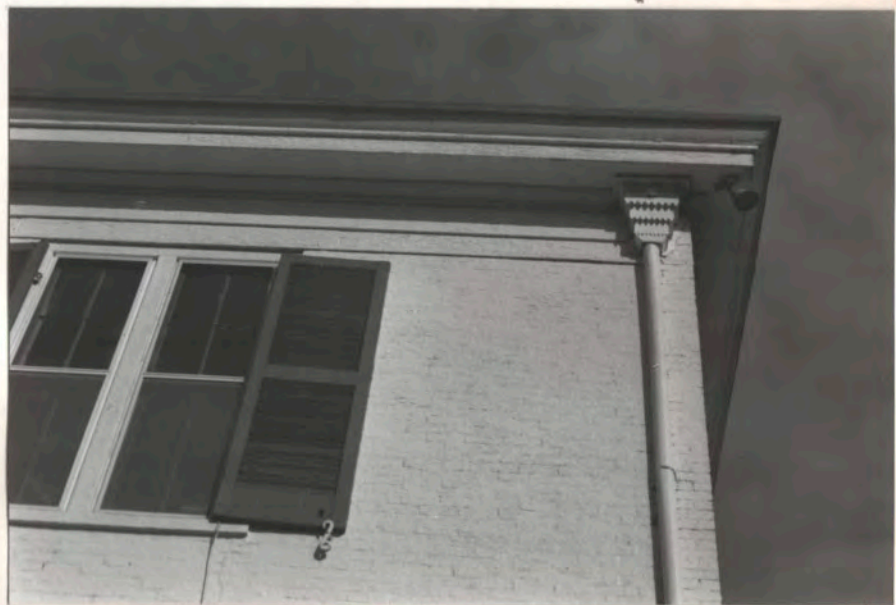


N ←  
Cols = 20th c. (1920's)

probable original  
sheet-metal leaded head



N ←  
South col. at portico



N ←  
SW. corner



1910's 2nd fl. for  
2ND FL. DELISTGE.

N ←

APPEARS  
1920's (1ST FL)

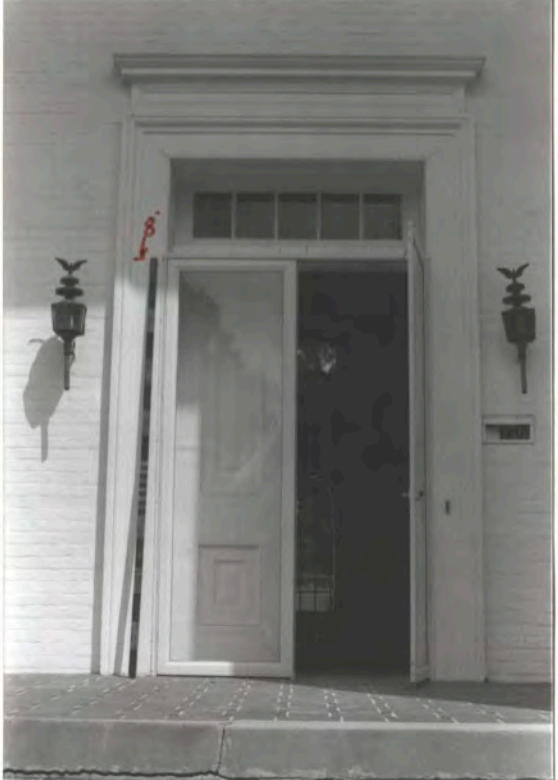
TROUGH  
CAN  
ENCL.

BASINENT  
STAIR

DEL. WINDOWS,  
POSSIBLY 1920's

4

3438 - McDownm Sept '86



F



F

FRONT  
S.W. RM.  
WINDOWS

WASHER W/TS,  
ON PELLAPS  
ORIG.  
HOLDBACK



F



1ST FL LOOKS 1920'S ±  
 2ND FL. PROBABLY LATER (ENCL'S. OF DECK)

TRASH CAN ENCL.

BASEMENT  
 STAIR  
 (OPEN)

N →

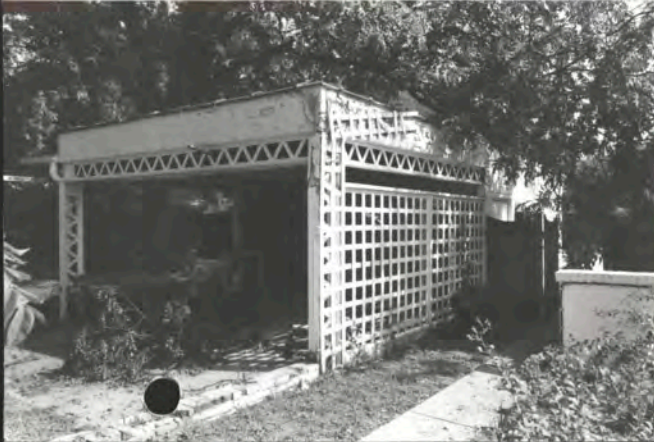
1876 N Downy  
 S 6 3/4



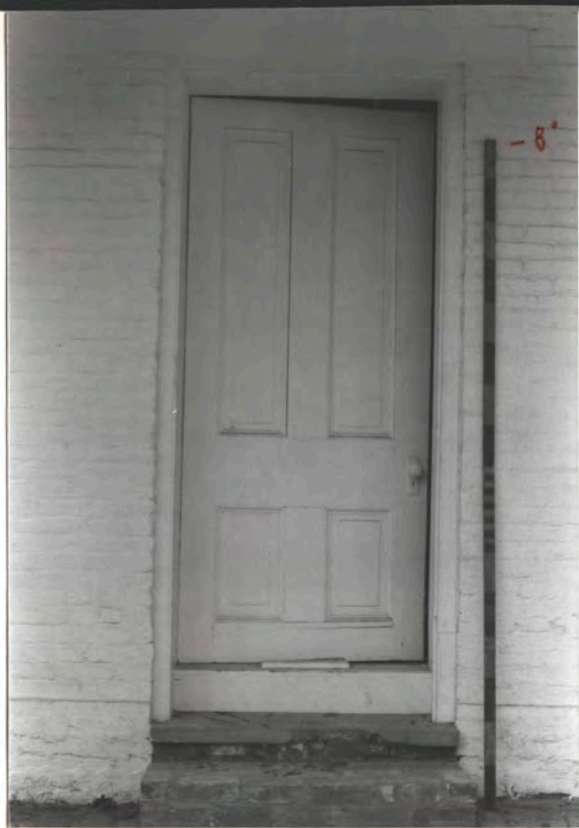
DIORS LOOK 20TH. C.,  
OPNG. MAY BE ADER(?)

20TH. C. STRUCTURE  
NOT ON 1861 MAP

N

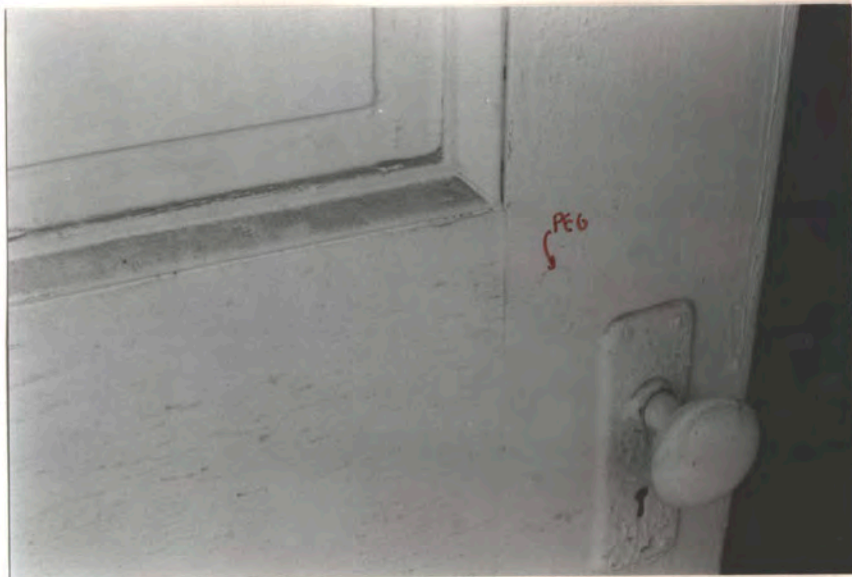






McDonnell

7  
of 38



SMALL 1ST FL. OF SEEV. WING (SEE PG. 8)

N  
↑

NOTE  
TENDONS,  
PEGS,  
RINGS





WINDOWS  
ON PG. 7

AN

DOOR ON  
PG. 7

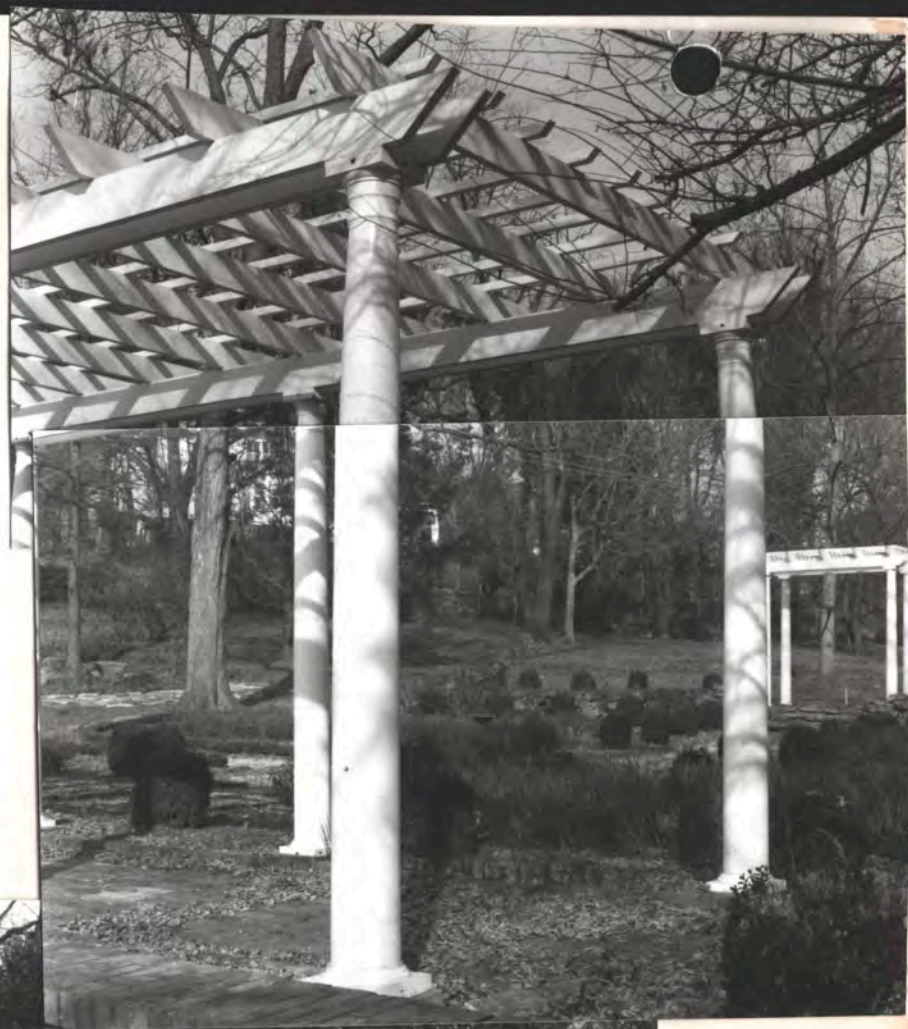
20TH C.  
BLDG.

↑ 2ND FL ENCLOSED IN 20TH C.

20TH C.  
AGEING  
→ POOL  
(CHASE)

U.S. SAID ± 20 YRS OLD  
By Bennett 1927 in record.





Arbor - looks  
c. 1960-70

N → ↙ POOL





Oct '87  
P.S. - is c. 1920's.  
Rail made up of  
several pcs.  
+ paint is  
behind ends  
HJ



Balustrade at Serv. Bldg East Stair  
Traces of this are on Gallery also, but  
there is thick paint under the traces.

See P.S. → Date of this balustrade?  
Might be mid or latter 19th c.  
(No) → See "Harpers" view (may not be accurate)  
photo Jan '87 HJ

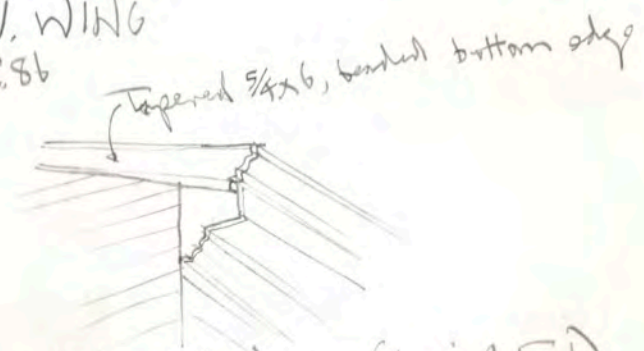
GA - Dec. 1986



N →  
Sew. Wing  
West end  
(20th c. work is  
demol.)

← eave  
extended  
later

SEW. WING  
in Dec. 86



Probable original eave (typical Fed.)

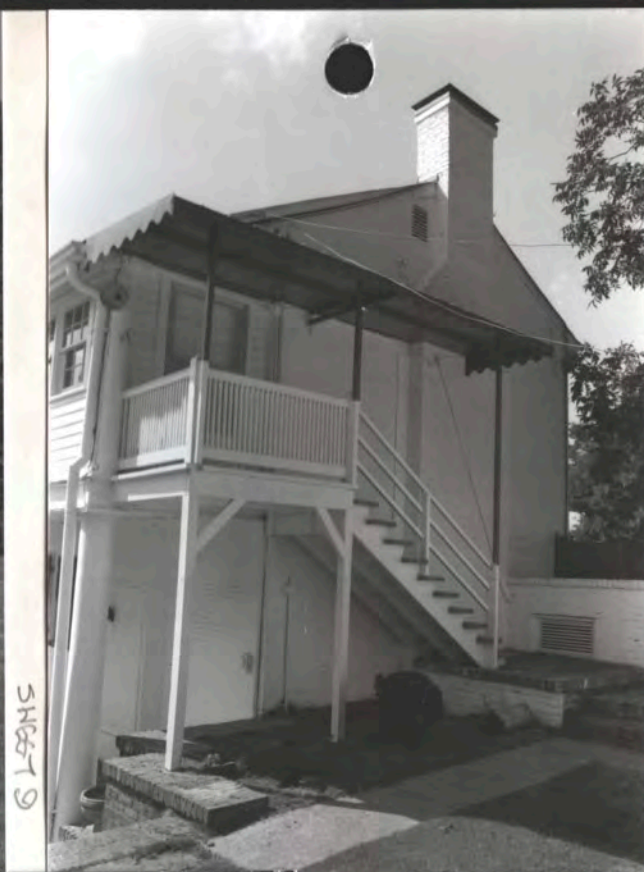




W. H. M. & D. M. M.  
Adm. & S. S.

Dec 8 1880  
S. S.

Gallery at S. W. M. of  
S. W. Wing, later enclosed  
at 2nd fl.



SHOT 9



Shot 38  
M. D. Smith





FOUNDATION  
VENT (TYPICAL OF  
1800-1860)  
S. WALL



SHEET 10

SASH-BLIND  
S. WALL AT  
S.E. 12M.

← LATEE WASHER  
WT. TIED TO  
OLD HOLDBACK  
W/ WIRE



N ←



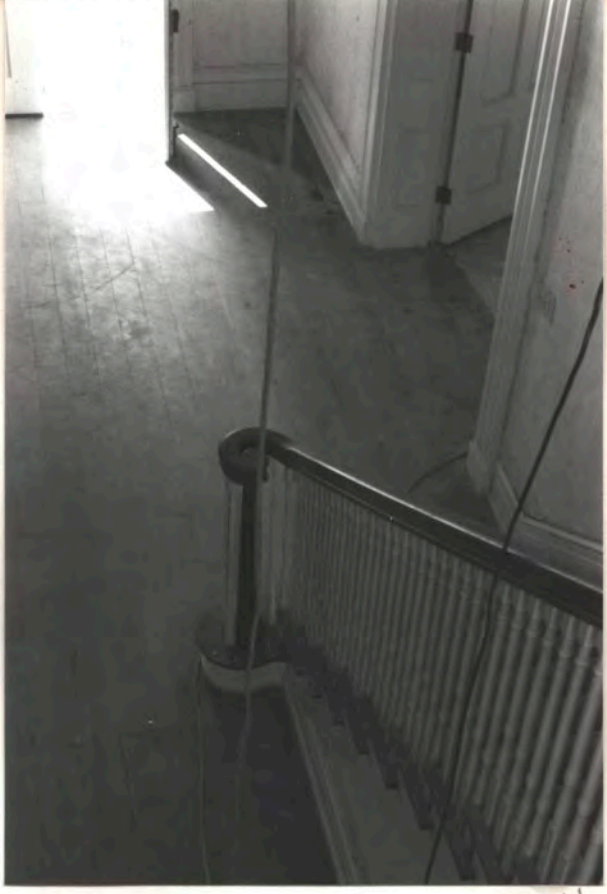
1920's

### ENTRY

BALUSTRADE = c.1920'S  
ARCH PROBABLY c.1920'S  
HENRY CHASE IS SAID TO HAVE  
REBUILT STAIR IN c.1925  
SEE "GLIMPSES INTO  
ANTEBELLUM HOMES OF HV."

N ←





ENTRY + STAIR BALUSTRADE IS C. 1920'S "COLONIAL REVIVAL"  
STAIRCASE SAID C. 1925 BY HENRY CHASE

↑ N

→ N



↑ N

→ N

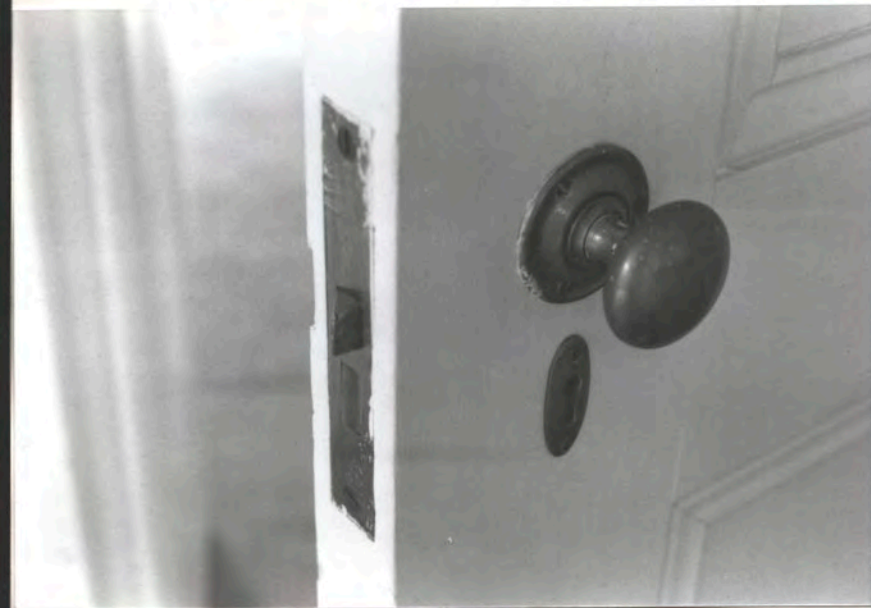


1920's  
TRANSOM  
PANELS  
= ORIG.

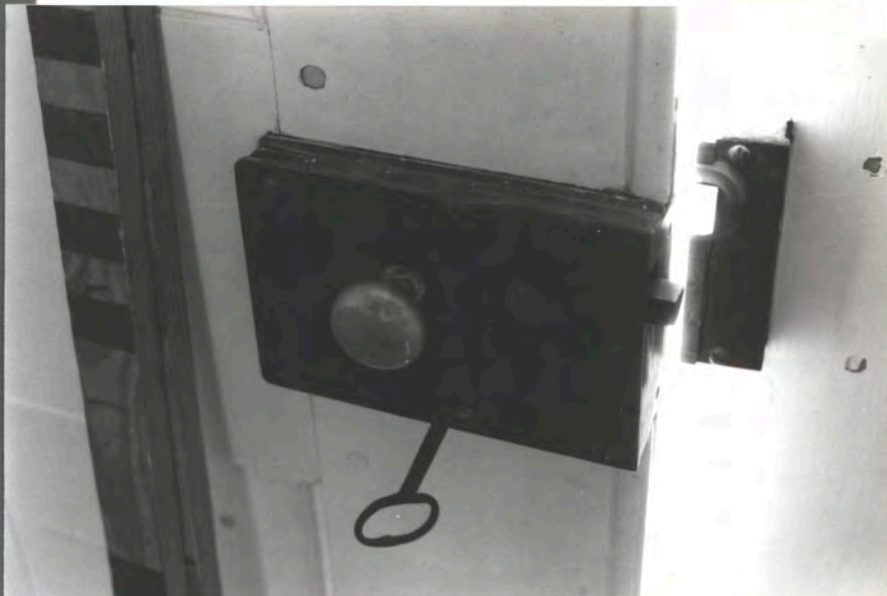


ENTRY HALL - S.W. DOOR  
= TYPICAL DOOR = 1848 FRAME, c. 1920's DOOR + LOCK + HINGES.  
ORIG. DOORS WERE 4-PNL. TO MATCH JAMB PANELS. 2ND FL = SAME.

TO  
S.W. RM



1301/138 - McDowell 1848



LATCH-BAR HOLDER (2x4 BD. BAR)

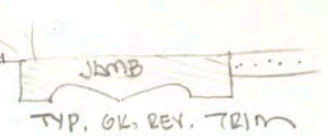
1848 "CARPENTER" LOCK, ORIG. KNOB



ENTRY HARDWARE

↑  
EXT. KNOB  
LOOKS  
20TH.C.

JAMB AT PLINTH  
← ONE-PC. CAST IRON HINGE  
1848 TYPE, TYPICAL



TYP. OR. REV. TRIM



1848 "CARPENTER" BRAND LOCK (ENGLISH)



HEAD-BOLT (APPEARS V.I.C.)



BOLTS TRADEMARK,  $\pm 5/8"$   $\phi$   
ENTRY HARDWARE  
(ONLY ORIGINAL IN ENTIRE HSE)



FOOT-BOLT - 1848 APPEAR.

31920's



→ N



6-PNL. DOORS ARE C. 1920'S  
WOULD HAVE BEEN 4-PNL.  
ORIGINALLY, TO MATCH  
CAMP - CASING PANELS

KST FL. N.W. RM

← S.W. RM.  
← ENTRY HALL  
→



→



1ST FL. N.W. RM.  
 (MANTEL REMOVED BY R.S.)  
 MARBLE FIREPLACE SURROUND,  
 + CAST-IRON.



FIREBRICK IS MOD.



NW

1ST FL. N.E.  
 (KIT. - 2TH. C.)



E "LINK" RMS



NE

1920's



N

S.W. RM., 1ST FL.

N



N

GRAY-TAN  
MARBLE MANTEL  
PROBABLY LATE 19TH C.  
ITALIAN (MADE FOR COAL - GRATE)  
+ CAST IRON COAL GRATE

N



1920's

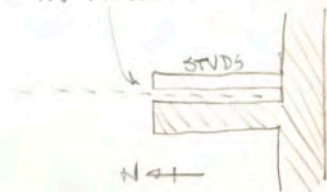


N ←

1848  
FRAME,  
c. 1920's  
DOORS

S.W. RM., LOOKING INTO S.E. RM. - 1ST FL

DRIB.  
DOOR POCKETS  
ARE CONCEALED  
IN WALLS



(MOVED)



5/4 DENSE PINE FL  
TYPICAL



→ N



LOOKING INTO S.W. RM

AM wall-carrie  
appears 1920's  
"Colonial Revival"  
(photos)

→ N



1ST FL. S.E. + S.W. RMs

→ N



N ←

1ST FL. S.E. RM.



← MAIN USE

"LINK" BMS - 1ST FL. - 20TH, C.

↗ N

↑ 2ND WING



↑ MAIN USE

22

↖ N



↙ N

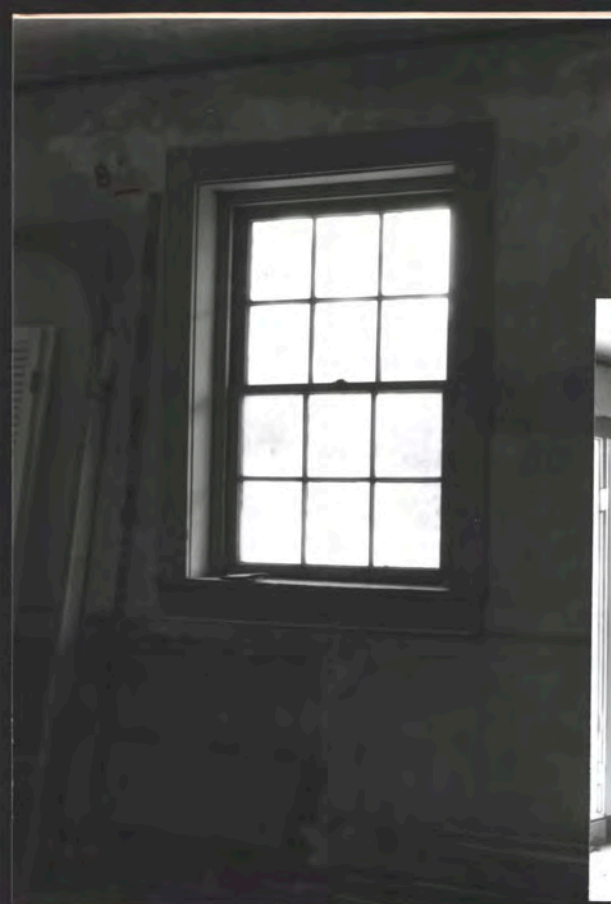
↑ MAIN USE

23 of 38 - 1842 Meadow



"LINK" RM., 1ST FL.  
(20TH. C.)

24



NOTE HEARTH  
LOBBEL  
AT  
LEVL. ↓



↖ N

→ N

SERV. WING, 1ST FL., E. RM.



↖ N

↑  
NO CHIM.

↖ N

garage  
doors probably 1920's



→ N

SERV. WING, 1ST FL, E. RM (NOW GAR.)

→ N



SASH MUNTIN  
Typical 1840's type



StAIR+WINDOW = 20TH C. - probably 1925 (CHASE) N4



NOTE OLD ATTIC STAIR TRACKS (WALL + CEIL.)



N4

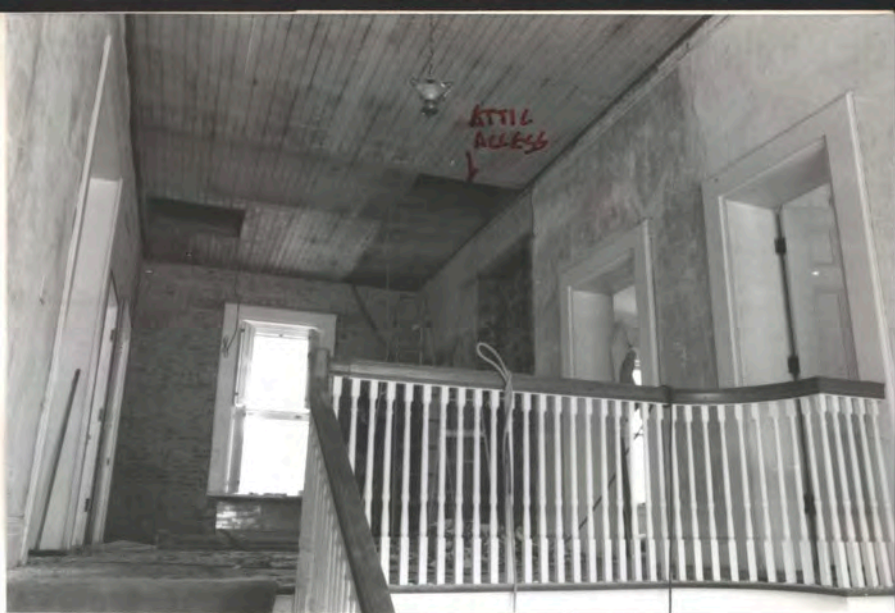
N4



WOOD CELL.  
= VIC. of Jett

THESE DOORS ARE  
C. 1925 (CHASE).  
BRICKED TALL  
OPENINGS ARE  
ORIG. DOOR LOC.

C. 1925 STAIR



7



→ N  
STAIR  
(2nd fl.)

→ N  
2ND FL. S.E.  
Looking into  
S.W. Rm  
Dec. 1986 →



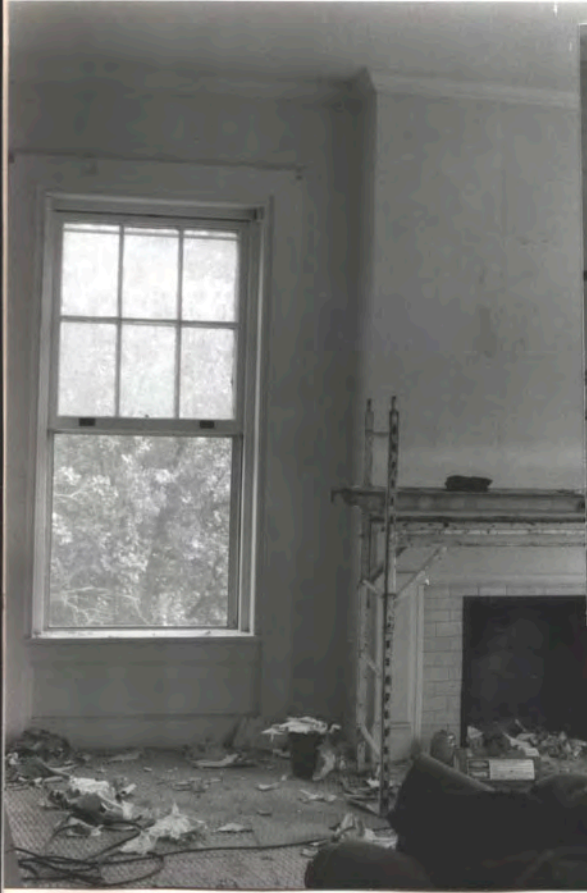
27 of 38



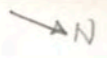
— UP TO WIDON'S WALK



ATTIC ROOM



SW. 2ND FL.



Ceiling cracks ± 32" x 96" or  
apparently a gyp. bld., c. 1920's or 60's  
Crown = modern





Modern

Ceiling has cracks  
 $\pm 32" \times 96"$  a/c  
 apparently a gyp tile  
 of some sort  
 ~ 1920's or 60's



↙ N

N.W. 2ND FL.

↑ Troy Brewer  
 (J&H Co-op)

↘ N

29 of 38 - 1848 McDowell House

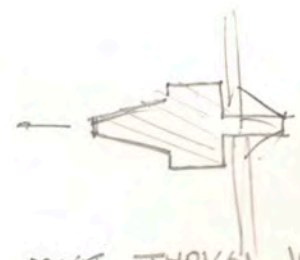


N ←



N ←

S.E. 2ND FL.



MOST-TYPICAL 1935-60  
SASH MUNTIN  
PROFILE

N ←

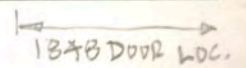
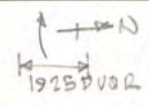
ATTIC ACCESS



WBE FRONT →

RECESS UNDER →  
FOR RADIATOR  
(TILED)

2ND FL. HALL



2ND FL. N.E. RM.





N ←  
"LINK" RM. - MOD. - CONNECTS MAIN HSE W/ SERV. WING  
AT 2ND FL.

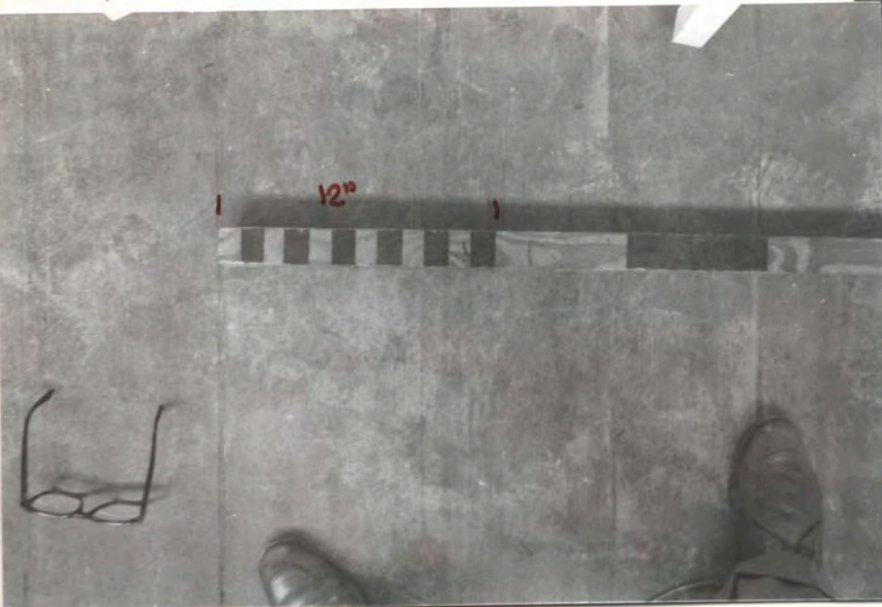


N ← → N  
SERV. BLDG. GALLERY - ORIGINALLY OPEN

V.G. OR LATER  
DBL-BEADED ED.  
CELL. →

GALLERY FL. - APPEARS TO  
BE HEART CEDAR  
(FORMERLY EXPOSED TO WEATHER)

N  
↑



GALLERY (NOW ENCLOSED - MOD) ↑ MOD. DOORS → N



MOD. DOORS

N  
↙

N  
↘

33 - 1448 McDowell





MOD. GYP. BO. CEIL.

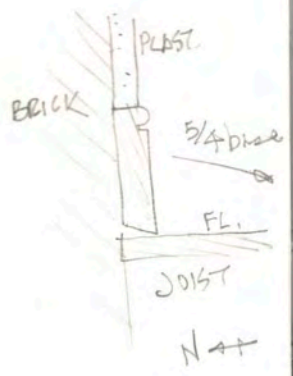
MOD. CLOS.



N ←

N ←

SEV. WING, 2ND FL., E. RM.



↑  
MANTEL



MOD.  
CLOSET →



SEBY WING  
2ND FL.  
CENTRE RM.

→ N

← MANTEL GONE



DENSE 5/4 PINE FL.



N →

→ N

SEELYE WING  
2ND FL.  
CENTER  
ROOM



← N

N ←



N

SEEN. WING, 2ND FL, WEST RM.

N



Note  
nails for  
wood  
shingles  
in  
slab-bld.  
deck

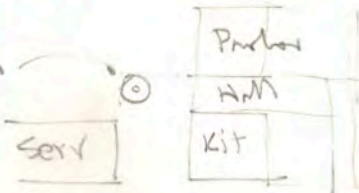
N

Roof framing, 2nd fl. east room  
Jan: 87



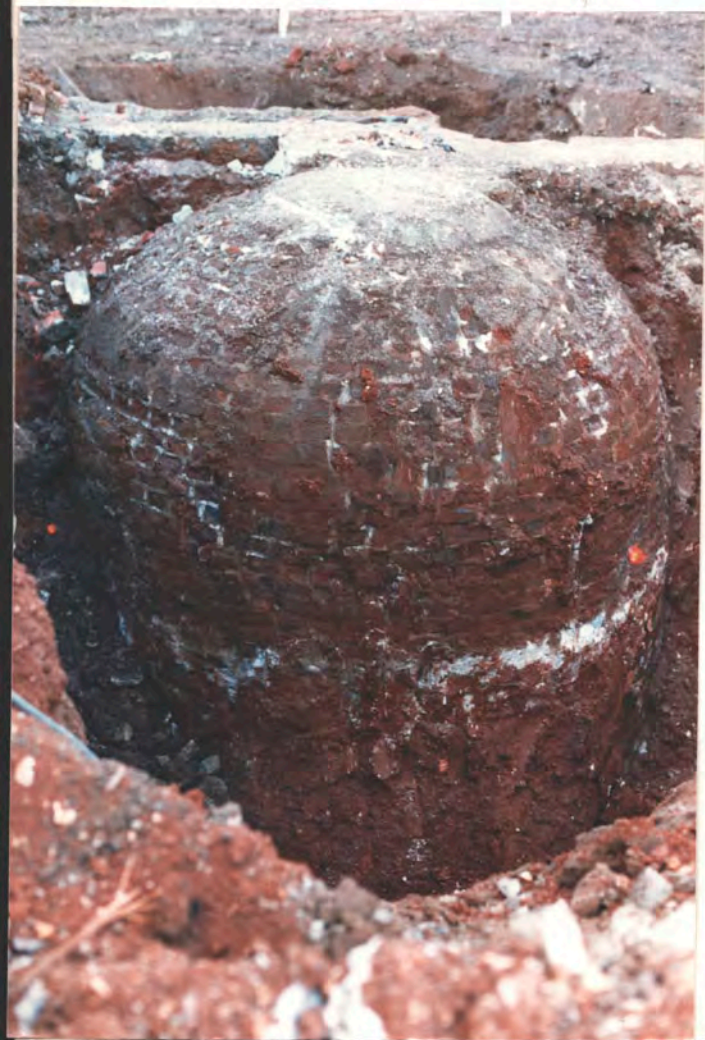
XAN

2 photos 9 Feb '87 - Cistern  
 McD onell Hse ±8'-9" Ø

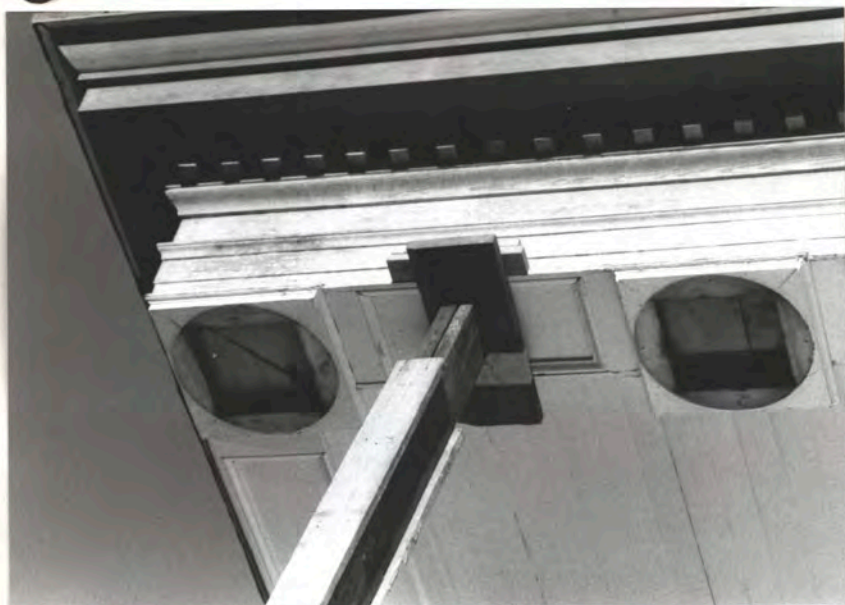


Was left in-place  
 in gravel space under  
 row and m. for AD reasons.

not



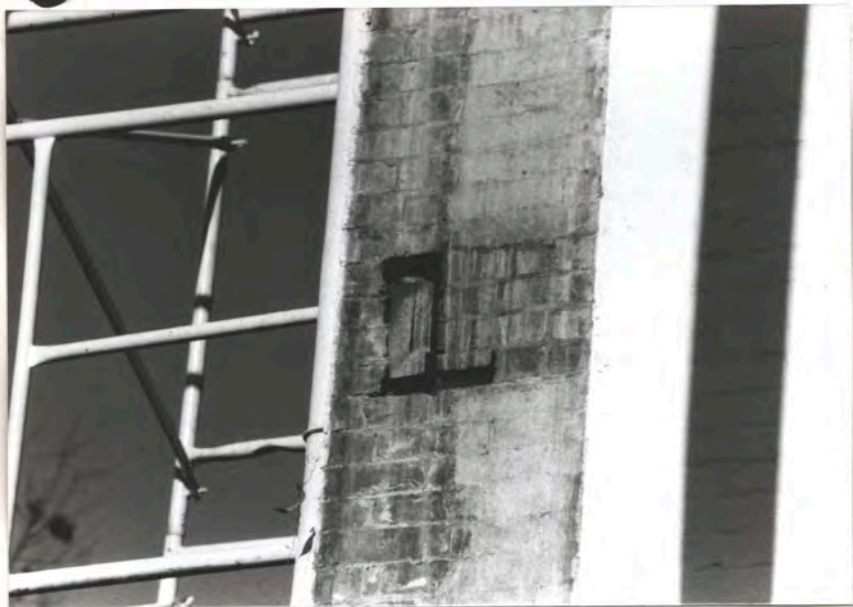
XAN



N ← Note previous painted, finished wood architrave inside the present one (present = probably 1920's)



↳ Cols. take dn. to rebuild sunken porch fl.  
N ←



N ← Previous 2nd fl porch beam-pocket at N.E. corner of porch, was concealed behind 1920's pilaster



N ← trace of previous porch col.

1848 McDowell Hse  
Adams St.  
photos Feb '88 H.Jones  
during restor. + add'n by J.H. Arch



H ←

↑ S.W. corner of porch



H ←

S.W. corner of hse.  
Sheet-metal leader-head  
may be original - design very similar  
to Leroy Pope Hse & others

entry doors



← 1920's cer. tile  
was over wood  
porch of a previous  
period (original?)

FRONT  
PORCH  
REMOVED

H ←

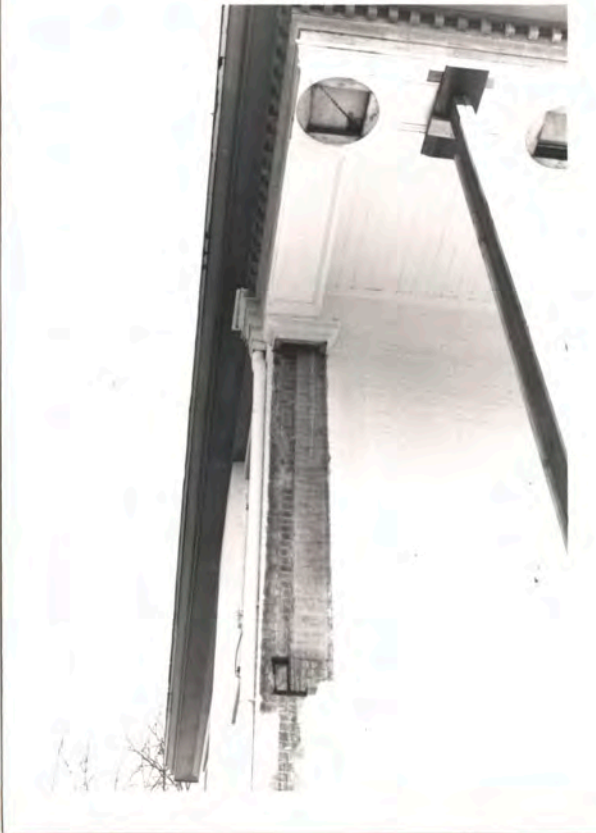
→ newly bricked-up found.  
Vant under entry, similar to ones at S. wall, indicates wood porch  
H: originally = typical for 1846.

2 of 2 - Feb 88

1846 McDowell Ave - Adams St - under restn. 1972

Note previous ->  
painted  
architrave  
up inside  
the 1920's  
architrave!

JH, Arch.  
Spring 1988, MR Jones



24



c.1920's  
cols.  
(staved  
constn)  
↘

24





← 4 1/2 →

← 1987-88 ADD. J&H, H&C →



JH

← ADD 1987-88 J&H →

photos fall 1988



← 88-1981 ADDN →

← 1 1/2 →

\* HFC 1987 GAR. - J&H \*



# JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

June 12, 1991

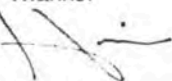
Randy Schrimsher  
J.T. Schrimsher Construction Co.  
P.O. Box 41  
Huntsville, Al. 35804-0041

Dear Randy:

If convenient I'd like the opportunity of going by the 1848 McDowell house to look and take some snapshots to document the changes made since I took the working photos in 1986. I have about 40 large notebooks of annotated photographs of historic buildings that I have documented in mounted photos, notes and drawings this way. About 14 of those buildings are already gone. I have willed this collection to the Huntsville Library Heritage Room. It will be the only detailed record of many historic buildings in the future.

Please let me know if this is ok. I'd prefer a Saturday or Sunday but any day is ok. I would only need about 30 minutes inside and it doesn't matter if everything is "in place" since it's the building details I'm interested in.

Thanks!



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA  
HPJ/am

cc: HJ

*Note - R.S. sold the house (just completed)  
for a rumored \$1.75 million in  
June 1991 to a Mr. Probst  
dressed in - chain "magnum", originally from HSV.  
HJ*

## McDowell-Chase-Falt Home



517 Adams Avenue

ON a lot purchased from LeRoy Pope, the house was built in 1848 by William McDowell, a cotton merchant in Mobile. He was married to Priscilla Withers, a sister of Mrs. Clement C. Clay.

After having the plans drawn for the building of the house and purchasing the materials with which to build it, Mr. McDowell went to Europe. He left his plans with his overseer, who was to have the building erected by slave labor. The bricks were hand made and the timber was all hand drawn and planed. The house contained three large rooms about 20 feet square with ceilings about 12 feet high.

The overseer, an uneducated man, misread the plans and built the house with the front side facing the rear of McClung Hill. When the owner returned after an absence of two years, the building was well under way. He had suffered financial reverses and could not change the building. The upstairs was not finished in keeping with the downstairs because of lack of funds, and the owner had to be satisfied with the odd recessed porch for his front entrance.

In 1862 Gen. O. M. Mitchel, the first Federal general to reach Huntsville, chose this home for his headquarters. Tents for the soldiers were placed around the house and Gen. Mitchel occupied the main house. In 1864 Gen. John A. Logan and staff also occupied this home as headquarters although he lived next door in the Watkins home.

After the Civil War the home was deeded to Mrs. Frances J. LeVert and later became the residence of her daughter, the wife of Capt. Daniel Coleman. Later ownership passed to Mrs. Nellie Parrit Shreve.

Mr. Henry Chase purchased the property in 1925. In making the necessary changes, Mr. and Mrs. Chase tried to keep the style of the home

as nearly as possible within the period in which it was built. Tall columns were erected on the front. Nine windows were added to the back and side. A sun parlor was built between the main house and kitchen. The old kitchen with its large fireplace and bake oven is used for storage.

The major change in the interior was made in the hallway. The partition and the old stairs were torn out and replaced with wide steps and a landing the width of the hall. Several closets were added.

The house contains the original floors. Among the historic features of the home are three crystal chandeliers from Venice. The marble mantels are also from Italy. Some of Howard Weeden's paintings adorn the walls.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Falt inherited the home from Henry Chase and have resided there since 1961.

H.A.B.S. 1935

## Powell Home

THE Pynchon home was built soon after 1835 by Mrs. Susan Clarke, widow of William Clarke, who was once a captain in the Richmond Blues, famous Virginia militia.

Located at 518 Adams Street, the site for the home was purchased from James J. Pleasants around 1835. According to Pat Jones in his "Historic Homes of Huntsville" published in The Huntsville Times, Mrs. Clarke built only a part of the home standing now, perhaps the two lower rooms on the south side, with a one-story addition extending to the north.

Mrs. Pamalia Bibb, wife of Thomas Bibb, second governor of Alabama, purchased the home from Mrs. Clarke. After the death of Mrs. Bibb, the

ASUW "Clings into Ante Bellum  
Homes of Huntsville" 2, 1976



#### THE McDOWELL HOME

ALTHOUGH justly renowned for the historic events which have transpired within its walls, the McDowell house on Adams Street is particularly unique for the fact it was built in reverse of its original plans. William McDowell, a Mobile cotton merchant, was the builder; however, after approving the plans and purchasing the materials he departed for a lengthy visit to Europe. The overseer, to whom the responsibility for actual construction was entrusted, lacked the qualifications of a housebuilder and misread the plans. Utilizing slave labor which produced the hand-made brick and hand-drawn timber, he erected the three original large rooms with the front side facing McClung Hill rather than Adams Street. Upon his return after a two-year absence, McDowell found the construction had progressed to a point where rebuilding was impracticable. Further distressed by financial reverses, he was unable to complete the second floor in keeping with the main rooms below and was subsequently forced to compromise on the finished appearance of the entrance.

During the Civil War the house was used by occupying Federal forces. In 1862, following the first occupation of Huntsville, General Ormsby Mitchel chose it as his headquarters and within these walls one of the minor dramas of the war was scheduled to end, for had the Andrews Raid been successful, its leader was instructed to report to Mitchel at Huntsville. However, as history has amply recorded, due to the courageous action of a Confederate train conductor, the attempt to isolate Chattanooga's communication lines was an utter failure.

A petulant man, Mitchel was angered by the townspeople's unwillingness to accept him and his staff within their social life. When Confederate guerrilla bands became a nuisance to his supply and communication lines he retaliated by arresting a group of prominent citizens, demanding that they sign a statement to the effect they abhorred partisan warfare and approved of execution for offenders. The group adamantly refused to sign the document despite the prolonged harassment of Mitchel's command, and were eventually released. Four years after the war the house was acquired by Mrs. Frances J. Le Vert, in whose family it was to remain for many years.

Mr. Henry Chase purchased the property in 1925 and is credited with many major improvements, which include the addition of columns to the entry and revamping of the stairway. Upon the death of Mr. Chase the home passed into the hands of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Falt, its present owners.

# • OLD STARS IN ALABAMA

*Who was Ormsby Mitchel and what did he do to make himself the object of so much hatred on the one hand and admiration on the other?*

*By Kay Cornelius*

AS THE SUN ROSE over the crest of Monte Sano on the morning of April 11, 1862, Huntsvillians awoke to a sight they could scarcely believe. During the night, General Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel (called "Old Stars" by his troops) had swept into Huntsville with the vanguard of the Third Division of the Army of the Ohio. Having marched south from Tennessee—further into Confederate territory than any other Federal troops had penetrated—Mitchel had quickly taken charge of the sleeping city and wasted little time in sending a dispatch to Washington:

*After a forced march of incredible difficulty, leaving Fayetteville yesterday at 12 noon, my advanced guard, consisting of Turchin's brigade, Kennett's cavalry, and Simonson's battery, entered Huntsville this morning at six o'clock. The city was taken completely by surprise, no one having considered the march practicable in the time. We have captured about 200 prisoners, 15 locomotives, a large amount of passenger, box, and platform cars, the telegraphic apparatus and offices, and two Southern mails. We have at length succeeded in cutting the great artery of railway intercommunication between the Southern states.*

Mitchell also wasted no time in incurring the wrath of the four thousand Huntsvillians he now ruled under martial law. Armed soldiers freely roamed the streets, making searches and seizures of guns and "contraband" without warning. On the orders of General Mitchel, several prominent secessionists were arrested, some of whom were sent to Northern prisons. Other civilians were arrested and detained for showing "disre-

spect" to Union soldiers. Some of the troops, particularly those under the command of the Russian-born Col. John Basil Turchin, sacked Athens, Alabama, and committed numerous outrages, despite Mitchel's repeated orders against such behavior. Huntsvillians, nevertheless, blamed the general.

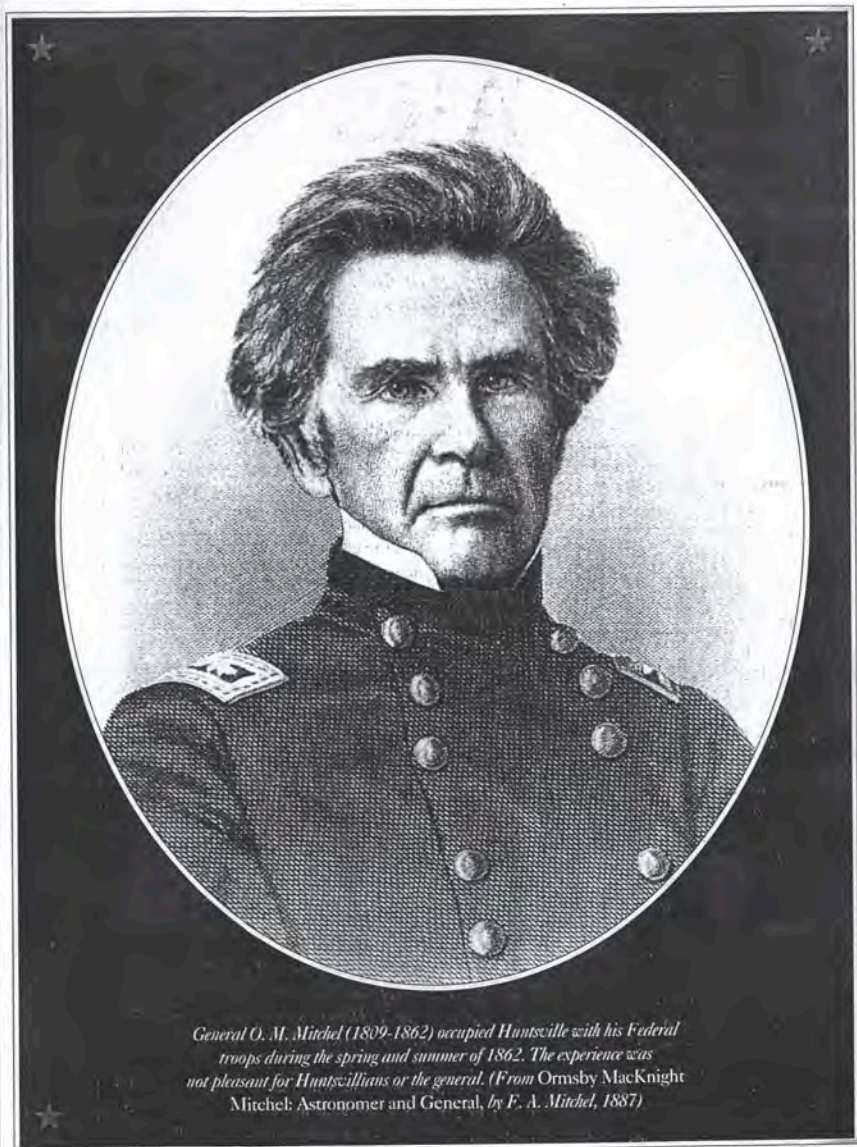
One extreme opinion of Mitchel was later penned by J. Withers Clay, son of an early Alabama governor, and appeared in his *Huntsville Weekly Democrat*:

*No man ever had more winning ways to excite people's hatred than [Mitchel]. We have not space to do justice to his vices—virtues he showed none, in his dealing with the people of North Alabama. He was . . . a military coxcomb, without skill, theoretical or practical—proud, vain, vindictive, vile, barbarous, who made war on non-combatants, unarmed men, women and children, and was, of course, a coward, who skulked from the presence of armed men.*

A far different assessment was made by one of Ormsby Mitchell's biographers, the Reverend P. C. Headley, who said of the man:

*Professor Mitchel, the astronomer and lecturer, was widely popular in the time of peace. He was justly admired for genius, and a character as bright, pure, and uniform, as the globes of light whose marches and motions he enthusiastically watched.*

Biased rhetoric aside, who was Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel, and what did he do to make himself the object of so much hatred on the one hand and admiration on the other?



*General O. M. Mitchel (1809-1862) occupied Huntsville with his Federal troops during the spring and summer of 1862. The experience was not pleasant for Huntsvillians or the general. (From Ormsby MacKnight Mitchel: Astronomer and General, by F. A. Mitchel, 1887)*

**T**HE MAN WHO WAS known as "Old Stars" was born in Union County, Kentucky, in 1809. His parents, of Scots-Irish descent, had moved there from Virginia not long before his birth. Mitchel's father owned slaves to work his land, but he was said to have deplored the economic necessity that made slave-labor necessary. When Ormsby was two or three years old, the family moved again, this time to the banks of the Ohio, then a heavily forested area still inhabited by Indians.

Following the death of his father in 1821—an event that plunged the family into poverty—Ormsby went to work. While clerking in a store in Xenia, Ohio, for four dollars a month, young Mitchel learned there was a possibility that he could obtain a free education from the United States Military Academy. Acting on his own, he applied for the appointment and passed the necessary examinations.

In June 1825, Ormsby Mitchel entered West Point at the age of fifteen. Mitchel later said that he arrived at West Point with his knapsack on his back and a quarter in his pocket, and he was always grateful to the United States for the opportunity it offered him to receive an education. His West Point classmates included Robert Lee and Jefferson Davis, the latter a good friend with whom he often took nature walks.

Mitchel applied himself to his studies and graduated with honors in 1829, after which he accepted an appointment as assistant instructor of natural philosophy and mathematics. It was during this period at West Point that Mitchel developed what would become his life-long interest in astronomy.

During this same period he met Louisa Trask, a young widow who lived nearby, and began a cautious, on-and-off courtship that continued by mail when he was posted to St. Augustine. Mitchel found the assignment boring, and as soon as his two years were up, he resigned his commission, returned to New York, and married Louisa. Together they moved to Ohio, where he worked as a civil engineer, railroad engineer, and lawyer, none of which held his interest long.

In 1836 he was elected professor of mathematics, philosophy, and astronomy at Cincinnati College. There he started a pioneering civil engineering program, but his main interest was astronomy, a then fledgling science in the United States. In 1842 his passion for astronomy led Mitchel to undertake the daunting task of building and furnishing an observatory. He involved himself in every aspect of the project. To raise funds, he gave lectures on "Popular Astronomy," appearances which attracted large and enthusiastic crowds. He even traveled to Germany to purchase the twelve-inch objective lens telescope which is still in use in the Cincinnati Observatory today.

*"I determined to make every individual feel that there was a terrible pressure of war upon him, which would . . . grind him to powder, if he did not give up his rebellion."*

For several years, until the completion of the fifteen-inch-lens telescope at Harvard in the late 1840s, the Cincinnati telescope was the largest in the United States.

Mitchel apparently made no effort to participate in the Mexican War (1846), preferring instead to concentrate on his work. During the next decades his reputation as an astronomer grew. He made several contributions to the field of astronomy, including his invention of a device called a "declinometer," used to fix the position and number of stars. He wrote numerous books and monographs, including *Planetary and Stellar Worlds* and *The Astronomy of the Bible*, and he founded *The Sideral Messenger*, a scholarly journal devoted to astronomical science.

In 1848 Mitchel, now one of the leading astronomers of his time, delivered a course of six lectures on astronomy in New York. He must have been a dynamic speaker, for he is said to have packed in throngs night after night to hear "the impassioned eloquence of thoughts that breathe and words that burn." At the

time, the poet Walt Whitman was working for a New York City newspaper. Whitman, who was much interested in the art of oratory, was known to attend all kinds of lectures, and it is tempting to speculate that Mitchel may have had the dubious honor of being the inspiration for Whitman's poem "When I Heard the Learn'd Astronomer."

In 1850 Mitchel was elected into the Royal Astronomical Society of England. The next year he received an honorary Master of Arts degree from Harvard University, and in 1853 he was invited to membership in the American Philosophical Society. In 1856, when a devastating fire closed Cincinnati College, Mitchel accepted a post in New York as head of the Dudley Observatory in Albany.

*This period etching depicts the first Federal occupation of Huntsville (April to August, 1862). Union General Ormsby Mitchel's troops faced little opposition, "there being only a few wounded and sick Confederate soldiers in the town," reported one eyewitness. (From Harper's Weekly)*



*Mitchel wrote Buell: "General, we must now either be permitted to go into the field and meet the foe, or we must degenerate backwards."*

**W**HEN THE CIVIL WAR broke out, Mitchel wrote back to Ohio for his army books, resigned his post at the observatory, and prepared himself to enter the war when called upon.

Personally, he was incensed to think that any part of the country that he held so dear could ever think of severing itself from the Union, and it was that sentiment, rather than the issue of slavery, which ignited his patriotic fervor. In a speech to a war rally in New York's Union Square, described by *Harper's Weekly* as "probably the most thrilling [speech] that was delivered that day," Mitchel said:

*When the rebels come to their senses, we will welcome them with open arms; but until that time, while they are trailing our glorious banner in the dust, when they scorn it, condemn it, curse it, and trample it under foot, I must smite, and in God's name I will smite, and as long as I have strength I will do it. . . ready, God help me, to do my duty. . . I only ask to be permitted to act; and in God's name, give me something to do!*

Eventually, Mitchel received his commission as brigadier general of volunteers of the Department of Ohio, but he was not pleased by the task ahead. In a letter from Albany in August of 1861, Mitchel wrote:

*I am in no degree disposed to congratulate myself in this appointment. It came too late—and after the opportunity had passed to crush out this dreadful rebellion almost at a blow—now I fear we must have a long and bloody war, hampered as the army has been and will be by political intrigue.*

While Mitchel was on his way to report for his first duty, his wife, in delicate health for some time, suffered a fatal stroke. No doubt grieving for her, Mitchel seems to have thrown his considerable energies into preparing his Ohio volunteers to fight. The welfare of his five children, however, two of whom were still living at home, was never far from his thoughts. In a letter to a friend he wrote, "You have no idea how deeply I feel for my two homeless daughters." His sons, Edwin W. (Ned) and Frank (who became his father's biographer)

eventually joined his command, and Mitchel sent for the two young girls as soon as he could do so.

By the fall of 1861, Mitchel's prediction of a long and bloody war seemed to be all too accurate as it became clear that both sides had dug in for a prolonged conflict. Smarting from the Union defeat at Bull Run, President Lincoln chose George McClellan to organize an offensive against the Rebels who were poised on Washington's doorstep. The general had a grand plan to mount a three-pronged assault into the South, one part of which was to secure Kentucky and Tennessee for the Union. But McClellan seemed unwilling or unable to put the plan into effect.

Ormsby Mitchel, on the other hand, was anxious to act. When the secretary of war visited his unit on an inspection tour of Ohio volunteers, Mitchel made his sentiments clear: "I solicit permission to march at the head of these troops upon Cumberland Gap, and push through, if possible, to Knoxville and liberate East Tennessee." Mitchel's plan, which he also put in writing, found favor with President Lincoln. As a consequence, Mitchel was assigned to duty in the Department of the Cumberland, under the command of Brig. Gen. William T. Sherman, their mission being "to take possession of the Cumberland Gap, and ultimately seize the East Tennessee and Virginia Railroad and attack and drive the Rebels from that region."

Both General Sherman and Brig. Gen. George Thomas, commander of the camp where Mitchel would have been posted, saw the appointment as an invasion of their territory. Sherman, unwilling for a general officer from another department to conduct a campaign within the boundaries of his own department, refused to issue the necessary orders for the operation. Thomas, meanwhile, remained angry at the prospect of having Mitchel take over his troops. After two weeks of correspondence among the generals and the War Department, Mitchel's orders were canceled, and he was ordered back to Cincinnati. He tried to resign his commission because, as he wrote a friend, "[it was] the only thing I could do to preserve my self respect. I had solemnly promised my troops to be with them and to lead them in a fight." Both President Lincoln and the



*The house at 517 Adams Street, known locally as the "backwards house," was used as headquarters by General Mitchel during his occupation of Huntsville in 1862. According to legend, the prospective owner went to Europe on business and left his building plans in the hands of an uneducated overseer, who constructed the house facing the wrong way. Today, the house—now much enlarged—still faces the street from a recessed rear porch. Photograph c. 1934. (Courtesy Huntsville Public Library)*

secretary of war appealed to Mitchel to keep his commission, and he relented, accepting command of the Third Division of the Army of the Ohio under Brig. Gen. Don Carlos Buell.

Like Mitchel, the younger Buell had Ohio ties and was a West Point graduate. Unlike Mitchel, Buell had seen action in the Seminole and Mexican wars and was serving as adjutant general of the Department of the Pacific in California when the Civil War began. From the start, the two did not get along. Mitchel proposed several offensive operations which Buell rejected, citing lack of support from Maj. Gen. Henry W. Halleck. For months, Mitchel drilled his men and fretted that the war was proceeding without them. Then, in Janu-

ary 1862, he wrote Buell: "General, we must now either be permitted to go into the field and meet the foe, or we must degenerate backwards." In reply, Buell told Mitchel there would be a "grand movement" soon.

The movement turned out to be the very campaign that Mitchel had proposed months earlier: an advance through the Cumberland Gap to take Knoxville. That operation, however, was abandoned due to logistical problems, and a modified plan was instituted. The new plan, approved by General McClellan, called for Buell's Army of the Ohio to take Nashville, outflank the Confederate defenders of East Tennessee, and sever one of the arteries supplying the Confederates in Virginia. To that end, the Third Division, Mitchel commanding, pushed forward rapidly to Bowling Green, Kentucky, where they found fortifications abandoned and bridges burned. When they reached Nashville, the mayor surrendered the city. Mitchel hoped to move on the retreating Confederates, but Buell refused, leaving Mitchel, once again, furious and exasperated.

Spring found General Mitchel waiting impatiently at his headquarters near Murfreesboro, Tennessee, for permission to move out. In a letter to a family member dated April 2, Mitchel wrote:

*"In God's name," said Mitchel,  
"give me something to do!"*

*I hope to be placed in command of the entire railroad to Chattanooga, and then my troubles will be over, for with a clear field and no one to depend on except myself, I ask no odds of anyone. . . . I have but one trouble, and that is my dependence on others, who are too slow. The entire war has moved too slowly.*

In other letters written during this period, Mitchel complained of the treatment the Federal soldiers endured at the hands of the inhabitants of the Southern towns through which they passed. "Mimicry, ridicule, and curses were the salutations. . . . No clearer evidence of a bad cause could be given. The consciousness of a righteous and worthy enterprise will lift those engaged in it to rational and decent conduct."

Mitchel quoted a letter, source unknown, purported to be from a Southern female, in which the writer supposedly had penned these lines about Federal troops to "Dear Aunt":

*There is an hereafter. . . . I pray to go to perdition ere my soul could rest in heaven with the fiendish Joe. Heaven would not be the place described to us if it were filled with spirits so foul, so hellish. . . . Words are too weak, too trite, too feeble to convey even the slightest idea of feeling with which our refined, elegant, high-toned, principled, chivalrous people look on such an officast, degenerate set.*

Such incidents only strengthened Mitchel's belief that the South was in a state of treasonous rebellion. To that end, he regarded each Southerner as his personal enemy: "I determined to make every individual feel that there was a terrible pressure of war upon him, which would finally destroy him and grind him to powder, if he did not give up his rebellion."

**I**T WAS WITH THIS resolution firmly in place that Mitchel moved toward Huntsville with the prize of the Memphis and Charleston Railroad. Earlier in the year, four thousand Confederates had been stationed in Huntsville awaiting supplies and equipment, but by April 11, the day Mitchel moved, only a few were left to guard the railroad headquarters. Mitchel's troops overcame the Confederates

easily and commandeered the railroad's rolling stock. Mitchel also took as prisoners nearly two hundred Confederates who had been wounded in the Battle of Shiloh and were on their way to military hospitals in Chattanooga.

General Mitchel granted a number of Huntsville ladies permission to tend the captured men, including Mrs. William D. Chadick, the wife of a Cumberland Presbyterian minister, known during the war as "the fighting parson" because he rode with Confederate General Joe Wheeler. Mrs. Chadick, who began keeping a diary the day the occupation started and continued until the war ended, recorded on Saturday, April 12 that "sentinels [were] on every corner." She also noted that soldiers were searching homes and asking servants

to disclose the location of arms and concealed Confederate soldiers.

In one of his first dealings with Huntsville citizens, General Mitchel told the mayor, Robert Coltart, to furnish breakfast for five thousand of his weary Federal troops or else see them take it from private homes. Mitchel also secured suitable housing for his officers and staff. Although the families who were thus displaced endured hardship as a result, the fact that Huntsville served as the officers' home base protected these buildings from the kind of damage that occurred elsewhere in the South.

For his headquarters, General Mitchel chose a house built circa 1848 and locally known as the "backwards house." Its owner is said to have left the plans with an

*Memphis & Charleston Railroad Roundhouse and shops during the Federal occupation of the city. The locomotives are marked United States Military Railroad. (Courtesy Huntsville Public Library)*

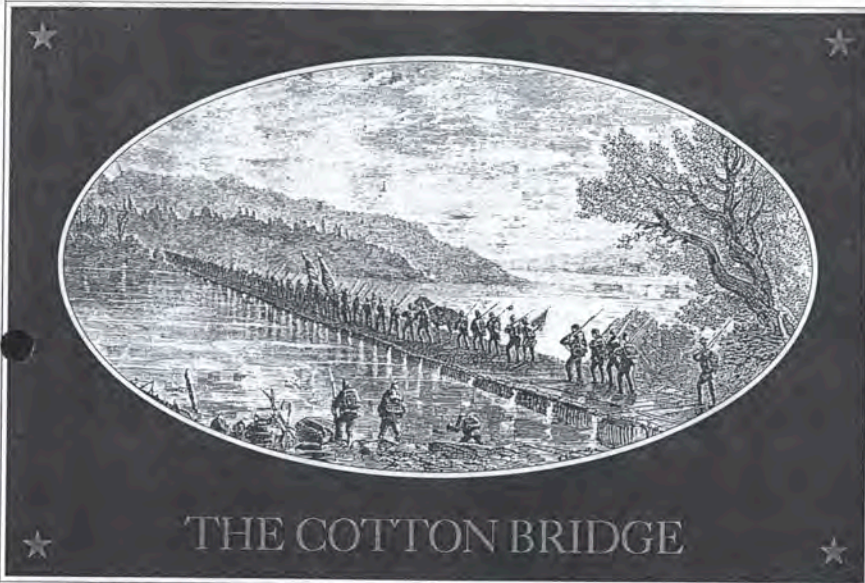
uneducated overseer and gone to Europe for several months. When he returned, he found that the house had been built backwards, with the front facing Bradley Street (now McClung), rather than Adams Street. Later, General Mitchel moved his family into the Lawson Clay house, a two-story Federal-style residence.

General Mitchel had no desire to spend his war in Huntsville. He sent troops to the west to occupy Athens and Decatur and to secure the Tennessee River bridge there. Some of his soldiers eventually reached as



far as Tusculumbia, seventy miles from Huntsville. Determined to reach Chattanooga, Mitchel also sent troops to the east, but at Bridgeport his men were routed with heavy casualties. In a tour de force that would later backfire, General Mitchel used five hundred bales of cotton abandoned by the Confederates to fashion a pontoon bridge across the Tennessee River at Stevenson. He then retrieved the cotton and sold it in Huntsville for "thirty thousand dollars," using Federal wagons to deliver it to Northern buyers.

Despite these setbacks, General Mitchel did not waver in his resolve to march on Chattanooga. Official records reveal that on April 17 he appealed directly to Secretary of War Stanton for more men, complaining that Buell had not answered his request. On April 19, Buell wrote Mitchel, rebuking him, in effect, for occupying Tusculumbia and urging him to destroy the Tennessee River bridges beyond Stevenson and at Decatur. Of course, both men knew that moving the large numbers of men necessary for an assault on Chattanooga



THE COTTON BRIDGE

ONE OF THE MOST often-told stories of General Mitchel's ingenuity concerns the cotton bridge, which he ordered built across the Tennessee River. At Mitchel's direction, five hundred bales of cotton abandoned by the Confederates were transported from Decatur to Stevenson, where the river's "deep current rolled along in a channel some three hundred yards wide," reported P. C. Headley.

Using the cotton bales as pontoons, Mitchel's men joined a bridge: "Three thousand men, horses, and cannon, moved upon the pathway over the water, till

the last foot and wheel [struck] the solid earth beyond. . . . Napoleon himself would have been proud of it," Headley reported.

Mitchel then had the cotton transported by rail to Huntsville, where he sold it for thirty thousand dollars, using Federal wagons to deliver it to Northern buyers. With the money, he bought supplies for his men. Was not this a "shrewd and capital way of making the rebels pay the expenses of the Third Division?" asked Headley.

(From *The Astronomer and Soldier: The Illustrated Story Life of General Mitchel*, by P. C. Headley, 1870)

*"I have but one trouble, and that is my dependence on others, who are too slow."*

would be all but impossible without bridges, but Buell wanted to deny the Confederates use of them. On April 19, Mitchel wrote Salmon P. Chase, the secretary of the treasury, to whom he had appealed for funds, that he had spared the bridges in hopes of marching to Chattanooga and Knoxville, but had been ordered to burn them; he said he would do so. On April 19, Stanton ordered Mitchel to report to him daily, an action which must have infuriated the general. One can imagine the righteous satisfaction Mitchel felt when, on April 24, he was able to report that the bridges had not been destroyed, "due to heavy rains and high waters."

**F**RUSTRATED IN HIS immediate attempts to take more ground, General Mitchel turned his attention to the problems of simply keeping what had already been gained. Guerrillas operated throughout Madison and Jackson counties, firing into the Federal trains and cutting the telegraph wires. Mitchel told the townspeople that they must "denounce this murderous [guerrilla] warfare, or sign a pledge to have nothing to do with it, and give intelligence of any attack intended by them known to you." As might be expected, the townspeople ignored the general's warning. Mitchel also made locals angry by using slaves as lookouts along the Tennessee River. Because their white masters considered them property, Mitchel reasoned, they were legitimate contraband, to be used as the Union saw fit. However, most of the slaves who streamed into Huntsville were promptly returned to their owners.

One of the banes of Mitchel's existence was the Rebel Colonel John Hunt Morgan, who had been born in Huntsville and whose raids against the invading Federal army in Tennessee and Kentucky were becoming legendary. On May 1, 1862, at Pulaski, Tennessee, Morgan captured General Mitchel's son, Ned, who had joined his father in February as his adjutant. Coincidentally, Morgan's younger brother had been brought, ill, into Huntsville some three weeks earlier and had become a prisoner of the Federals. In a letter to a friend dated May 4, Mitchel wrote:

*My adventures with Col. Morgan are most wonderful and this last one in the capture of Ned is only made the more stranger by the fact that I captured Morgan's younger brother in Huntsville some three weeks since, who is a Lieutenant and aide-de-camp to the Rebel General Crittenden. So a fair exchange is no robbery.*

In the same letter, Mitchel mentions his concern that the story of Ned's capture would be alarming to his sisters and adds, "would that this terrible war were ended and that I might return . . . to my poor stricken family."

Apparently thinking that Huntsville was secure enough to assure their safety, Mitchel sent for his daughters and younger son, who arrived on June 16. Their presence caused much local resentment, especially when the possessions of several townspeople were taken for use by the Yankee general's family. According to Mrs. Chadick, the Lawson Clay home was furnished for the Mitchels with furniture from the hotel and "statuary and pictures" from the Calhoun place. In her memoir, *A Belle of the Fifties*, Huntsvillian Virginia Clay recounts that after she and her family had fled to Richmond, many of their belongings were taken for the Federals' use. Friends reported seeing Mitchel's daughter about town dressed in Clay's green riding habit and riding her mare, Jenny Lind. Reportedly, a girl named Alice Spence, filled with righteous indignation at the sight, called out to the general's daughter, "Hey! Get off 'Ginie Clay's mare! Git-off-'Ginie Clay's ma-are!" The general's daughter galloped away in anger, and that afternoon Alice's brother was arrested and kept in custody for several months as a guarantee for his sister's behavior.

Another diarist of the time, Rowena Webster, a young girl who had been sent to Huntsville from Nashville to get her away from the Yankees, only to have them follow her there, recorded her own encounter with General Mitchel. Miss Webster, accompanied by two of her friends, was brought before the general because one of his captains had seen her playing with hoops wrapped in red, white, and blue—but also displaying a small Confederate flag on her sleeve.



*"Till the day he left Huntsville," Mitchel's son wrote, "he was in a state of disquietude. He was so far into enemy territory [and] the country about him was so hostile."*

According to her diary, she told the general that she was a Rebel, and he said, "Don't you know that I could send you to Fort LaFayette [a place of imprisonment for Rebel civilians] in five minutes?" She replied that such a movement would be very rapid traveling. A "lurking smile" passed over his face, and then General Mitchel told the girls to go home and behave themselves.

Not all of Mitchel's problems were that minor. Mrs. Chadick records that smallpox broke out among the Federal troops and that guerrillas continued to harass his men. On June 21, she wrote of an incident in neighboring Jackson County in which a Federal train was fired on, killing ten Federal soldiers and wounding several others. In response, General Mitchel sent a detachment of men with orders to burn every house near the railroad between Huntsville and Stevenson. A Confederate displaying a flag of truce met Mitchel's men and told them that the Rebels held fifty Yankee prisoners. For every house that the Federals burned, he said, one man would hang. According to Mrs. Chadick, Mitchel quickly countermanded his orders.

Facing continued criticism from Buell and resenting the necessity of defending his every action to the War Department, Mitchel frequently lost his temper. Of the situation in which the general found himself, his son wrote "... till the day he left Huntsville, he was in a state of disquietude. He was so far into the enemy's territory [and] the country about him was so hostile." Mitchel's other biographer, the Reverend Headley, reports an incident in which a junior officer who had kept Mitchel waiting expressed surprise that being only slightly late would occasion such anger from his commander. Mitchel, the astronomer, told the man, "Sir, I have been in the habit of computing the value of the hundredth part of a second."

**N**EAR THE END of June, Buell came to Huntsville and conferred with Mitchel for three days, but Mitchel still could not secure Buell's permission to advance. Frustrated with his inability to obtain reinforcements to march on Chattanooga and facing deteriorating relations with General

Buell, Mitchel once more attempted to resign his commission. In early July, he was called to Washington. Mrs. Chadick recorded in her diary on July 1: "It is rumored that Gen. Buell did not approve of the course [Mitchel] had pursued toward the citizens here and his management of things generally and that [Mitchel] had resigned and gone to Washington to be court-martialed. Wonder if it's true."

At least in part, it was. In Washington, Mitchel was asked to explain the "cotton transactions" made under his command. Perhaps Mitchel's explanation that he had used the cotton money to support his troops because Washington had failed to help him satisfied his superiors. In any case, instead of being court-martialed or allowed to resign his commission, Mitchel was promoted to major general.

Had President Lincoln had his way, Mitchel would have been assigned to lead an expedition down the Mississippi River to capture Vicksburg, but, before the appointment was made, Lincoln accorded all operational decisions to General Halleck, who did not like Mitchel. Indeed, when Mitchel sought an interview with Halleck, the general kept him waiting for over a week, and when Halleck did see him, spent the entire interview discussing his hay fever. "When the enemy are thundering at the gates, Hay Fever!" Mitchel wrote a friend in disgust.

When Halleck refused to sign the order giving Mitchel the Vicksburg expedition command, Mitchel, exasperated, returned to his old home in New York for the rest of the summer. Finally, on September 1, Halleck recalled Mitchel and gave him command of the 10th Army Corps of the Department of the South. Undoubtedly Mitchel was pleased by the prospect of a new command, if not by its location in the swamplands of South Carolina.

Traveling by government transport on the steamship *Arago*, Mitchel reached his headquarters at Hilton Head on September 15 and immediately began to plan an attack on James Island. The thought of having a free hand to operate must have pleased him. Excitedly, he told troops at Fort Pulaski, where the Forty-eighth New York was stationed:

*I have been in the field, and I understand it perfectly. I have fought the enemy through four hundred miles of territory, and never knew what it was to be checked or turned back.*

The speech was met with loud cheers, but General Mitchel never had the opportunity to lead the men into battle. On September 20, Mitchel wrote Halleck that there were several cases of yellow fever, but "the medical director does not anticipate at present that the disease will spread." On October 26, 1862, Mitchel himself contracted yellow fever and grew increasingly ill. Four days later he died, at the age of fifty-three.

"Had he lived by a month or two longer," his son Frank later wrote, "when General McClellan and General Pope had both been relieved in Virginia, when generals were successively being tried in the east and had successively failed and there seemed no one to take their places. . . perhaps those in the government who had confidence in him might have triumphed. . . Whether he would have been successful, or have gone down with those who preceded General Grant, no man knows."

Ironically, six days before Mitchel's death his old nemesis, Gen. Don Carlos Buell, was relieved of his command for failing to prevent the escape of Bragg's Confederates from Kentucky. Before the war ended, Buell resigned his commission.

**O**NE CAN ONLY speculate about how the course of the war might have been changed had "Old Stars" been given his way early on and had General Buell followed Mitchel's advice. Gen. U.S. Grant, in his memoirs, had no problem making the assessment:

*If [Buell] had been sent directly to Chattanooga as rapidly as he could march . . . he could have arrived with but little fighting, and would have saved much loss of life, which was afterwards incurred in gaining Chattanooga.*



*The east side of Huntsville's public square housed Federal tents during the Union occupation. (Courtesy Huntsville Public Library)*

At least one nineteenth-century historian, Whitelaw Reid, writing in 1868, believed Mitchel, although "comparatively untried," showed signs of "brilliant promise." "Two years before Sherman he showed how armies might depend on single lines of railroad through great tracts of the enemy's country for supplies," and "how Rebels should be made to support the war." Reid continued:

*Eighteen months before Rosecrans he fastened upon the strategic point of the whole central half of the Southern States. Almost three years before Sherman he showed how the shell of the Confederacy might be pierced. . . . But he never fought a battle, never confronted a respectable antagonist, and never commanded a considerable army. Yet what he did do so won the confidence of his troops and the admiration of the country, that his death was deplored as a public calamity, and he was mourned as a great general.*

Except, of course, in the Alabama town he was forced to occupy. J. Withers Clay reported that "No tears were shed for his reported demise, but fears were generally expressed that it was not so."

In Huntsville "Old Stars" is no longer thought of as Satan incarnate, if he is thought of at all. The pace of life is faster now, and few of the non-native Huntsvillians who pass the white brick house on Adams Street with its

"McDowell House - 1848" sign know the story of the troubled man who briefly occupied it.

History, the final judge of man's feeble marks on time, may have relegated Gen. Ormsby M. Mitchel to a footnote at the bottom of a minor page about the Civil War, but for those to whom the past still lives, "Old Stars" represents an interesting enigma. As an astronomer, Mitchel made contributions to science that are undeniable. As a general whose aggressive plans and strategies were thwarted at every turn by the military bureaucracy, Mitchel showed great promise, albeit a

promise marred on occasion by errors in judgment. His aggressiveness was mistaken for blind ambition, and his messages to the War Department were taken as attempts to curry favor outside the established chain of command.

Mitchel's premature death in a South Carolina backwater, barely noted in the town he had occupied so recently and so boldly, not only robbed the United States of one of its most prominent astronomers, but it also took from the Federal forces a complex man who might have become one of the Union's best generals.

## MAJOR PAULINE CUSHMAN, UNION SPY

**I**N EARLY 1862, Gen. O. M. Mitchel expelled the actress Pauline Cushman and several other seemingly ardent secessionists from Nashville. Cushman, born in New Orleans and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan, gained her reputation as a staunch supporter of the South when she toasted the Confederacy on stage. She was in reality a Union spy, and Mitchel's action helped her secure the Confederate trust she needed to penetrate Rebel lines.

Cushman, aided by her beauty and a soft Creole accent, began identifying Southern sympathizers while claiming she was in search of her Rebel officer brother. She approached her last assignment, to visit the camps of Gen. Braxton Bragg's forces, with some trepidation, for Bragg was known as one of the most spy-conscious generals. Though she gained many invitations to accompany Confederate officers along their lines and thus obtained useful military intelligence for the




*Actress Pauline Cushman (1833-1893) launched her espionage career when she toasted the Confederacy from the stage.*

*(From The Life of Pauline Cushman: The Celebrated Union Spy and Scout, by F. L. Sarmiento, 1868)*

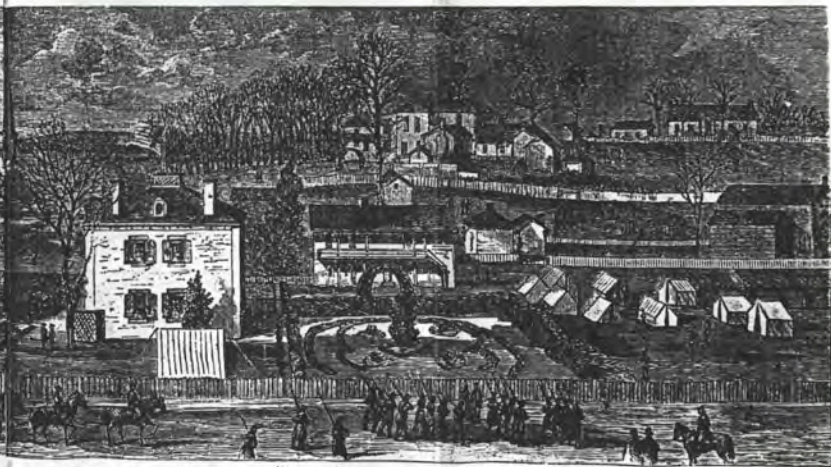
Union army, she was eventually captured in an unsuccessful attempt to go behind Union lines. She was incarcerated in Shelbyville, Tennessee, and her notes were discovered, providing the Confederates with irrefutable proof of her treasonous aims. General Bragg sentenced her to death, declaring "you'll be hanged, that's all."

Stricken by ill health, Cushman avoided a speedy execution and was left behind when the Federals advanced on Shelbyville. As a tribute to her war efforts, the Union spy was named an honorary major and was often saluted as "Miss Major Cushman."

In spite of her valuable services, Cushman did not receive a pension. Long forgotten by the public, she became a drug addict and committed suicide in 1893. In a belated gesture of appreciation, veterans of the Grand Army of the Republic gave her a full military funeral in the veterans' section of the San Francisco city cemetery. 

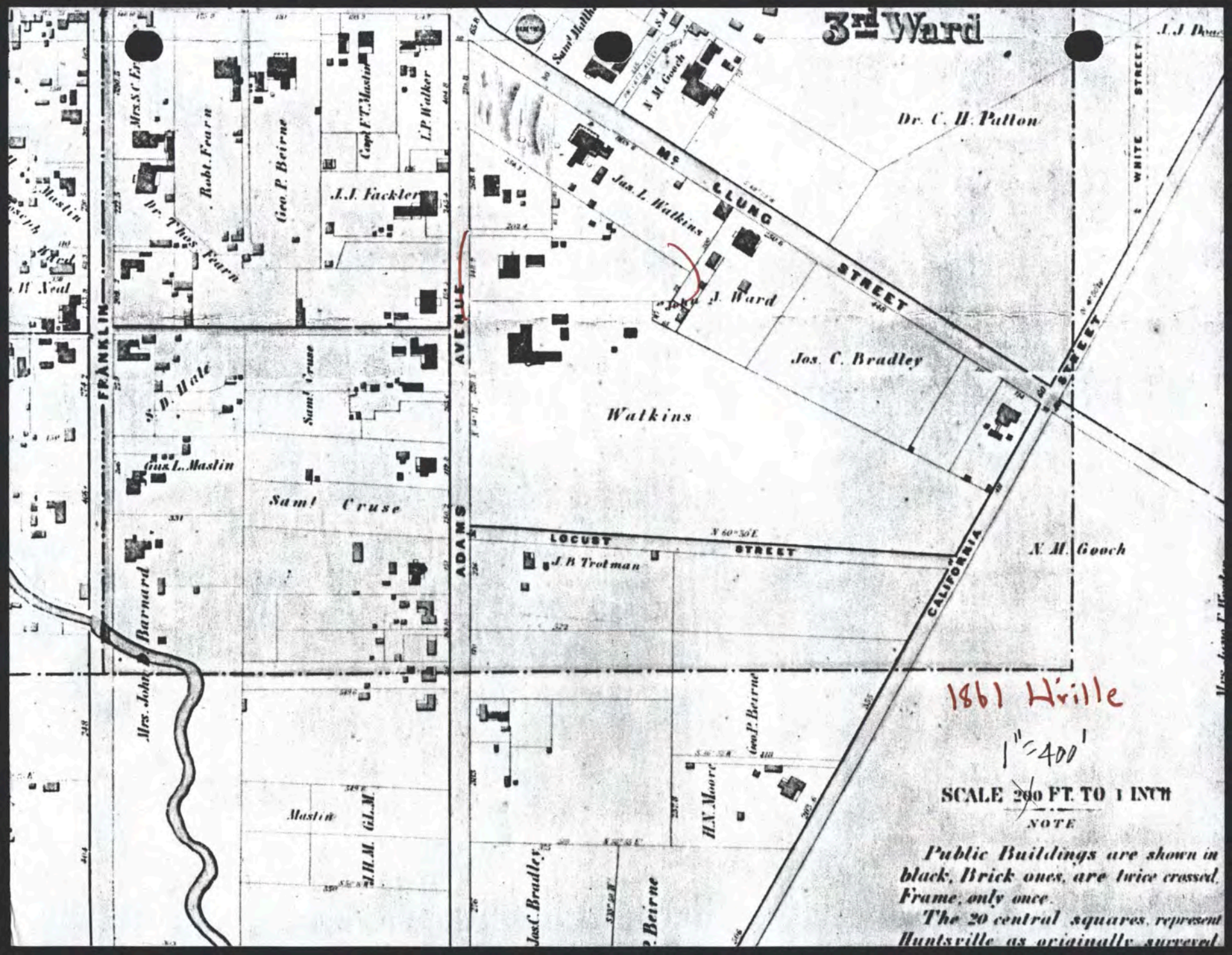


47. Federal occupation of Huntsville in 1864. In this view, the McDowell home is seen at center. To the left are Adams Street and the Pynchon home, and in the dis-



tance the Episcopal and Presbyterian churches. The road in foreground ran between the McDowell and Moore homes. From *Harper's*, August 1864.

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Ward



1861 Hville

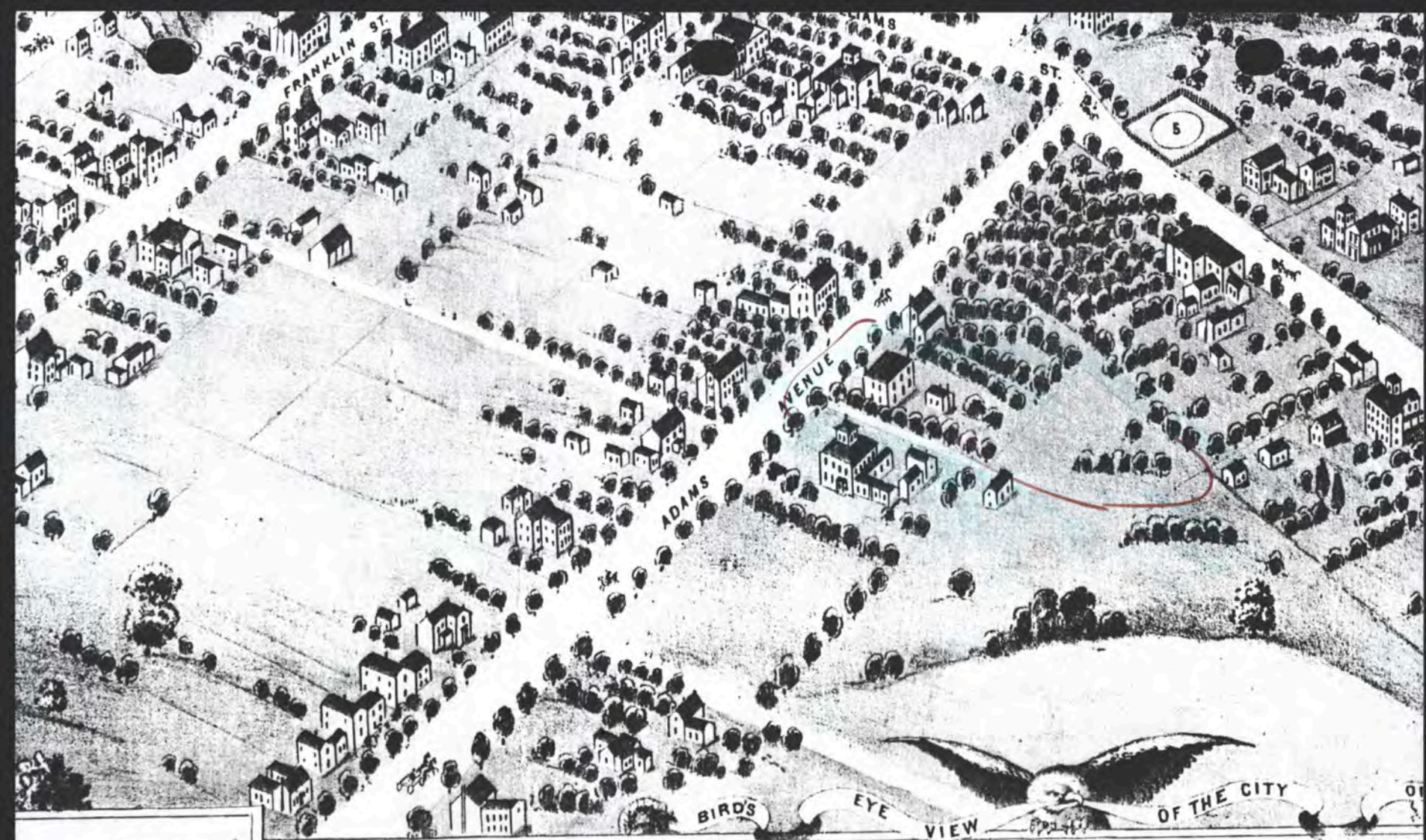
1" = 400'

SCALE 200 FT. TO 1 INCH

NOTE

Public Buildings are shown in black, Brick ones, are twice crossed. Frame, only once.

The 20 central squares, represent Huntsville as originally surveyed.



**REFERENCES:**

1. Court House.
2. County Jail.
3. Market House
4. Spring (Water-)
5. Reservoir/ Works.
6. Female College
7. Female Seminary

# HUNTSVILLE

MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA

Looking

1871

North West.





Oct '91

1000



July 1991 McParrell Hse



PHOTOS  
23/11/91



N ← Photo July 1989 HJ  
Front ext. complete. Rear of int. not complete

windows removed from 1848 rear wing  
(part of B.R.)



photo  
Aug 1990  
HJ

Spring & summer long view - JH & JH  
10/1984/60



A N



→ N



→ N

1842 McDowell Hwy, Adams St., Newcomb, Al.

Oct 1994 photos (pink prints) H Jones





← OLD PAVILION 1980 - N Jones  
MIDDLE TOWER - EXIST. IN 1980 (1950's?)



→



2082  
→ H  
House beyond



→ N  
Oct 94 photos N Jones

Photos June 1991

1848 McDowell Hse  
 after restor. & additions  
 by J & H, Arch (H Jones)  
 for Randy Schrimsher,  
 Adams Ave, Huntville  
 (Schrimsher sold to BVM Propst  
 for \$1.75 million in June 1991)

H. Jones photos



ATLANTA ST.

□ = orig. hse

□ = 1989 Addition -  
 J & H, Arch

1989 KIT.  
 IN N.E.  
 1848 RM  
 (bay window  
 is 1949)



N → 1989 SITTING RM 1969



1989 KIT. BEYOND (1948 SCALE) 1989 SITTING RM → N



"AFTER"



Cornice moulds by HS  
 not installed  
 + other jobs  
 not installed



↗ N  
 1989 HALL, E. OF 1848 HSE  
 N ↘



↗ N  
 Courtyard beyond  
 (unfin.)

↙ N

2

1871/2

1989 Main floor hall  
below



1989 Den  
in S. Wing



Removed inappropriate 1920's  
 too-small scale "colonial revival"  
 plaster cornice. This house originally  
 had no wall cornices, most typical  
 of this area & period - 1850  
 See "before" photos p. 16



Door to hall  
 (replicated 1848 door  
 + lock. All trim &  
 frame = orig. Transom = Replic)

1848 East Parlor

East Parlor → N



West Parlor ←

from hall beyond

N ←

1  
 N

4

balustrade is  
c. 1920s  
"Colonial Revival"



Replica "Bull & Bull" Carpenter Co. Lock  
(only one original lock remained, at front door, still there.  
See "before" photos p 14 & 15.

N ←  
Entry Hall.  
New "hall" beyond



HR

1848 Dining Room

Mantel is replica from  
c1840 OAK place by  
Geo. Stebbins

5

N



W 1989 S. Wing 1989 "Hall"  
View from Serv. Wing gallery



1948 Serv. Bldg. gallery, enclos. 1989 N  
Fl. 2



ORIG. MANTEL ✓ 1948 Serv. Wing, fl. 2



ORIG. MANTEL ✓

opening at peak is from a  
 "Colonial Revival" c.1920's work, but  
 has removed



Looking east from 1848 Fl. 2 into 1989 gallery, Fl. 2 N.S.



→ N  
 1848 h.M.  
 (balustrade is  
 c.1920's  
 Colonial Revival)

1848 Fl. 2  
 S.W. B.R.  
 (orig. mantel)



1848 Fl. 2 N.W. B.R. (orig. mantel) N.S.







N



1848 Fl. 2  
S.E. Rm

Beyond is large 1989 bay  
shown also at left

1989 2nd fl  
Gathering above  
the 1989 "Hall"

Cornice for case to  
per HS detail  
NOT installed.



1989  
Egyptian  
doors

1989 Master  
bath in  
S. wing  
NOT by HS

ca  
= "Miami  
Modern"

N



N

1848 Master