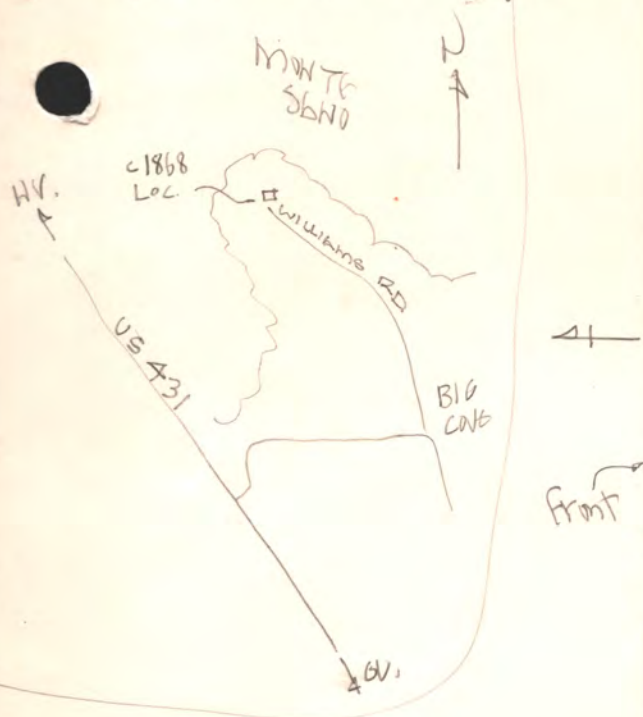


BEFORE RECONSTRUCTION
see 1993-4 "APR 1992" photos



Built c. 1830 (M. Herzan)
Moved & rebuilt c. 1868 in Big CNE
" " " c. 1970's

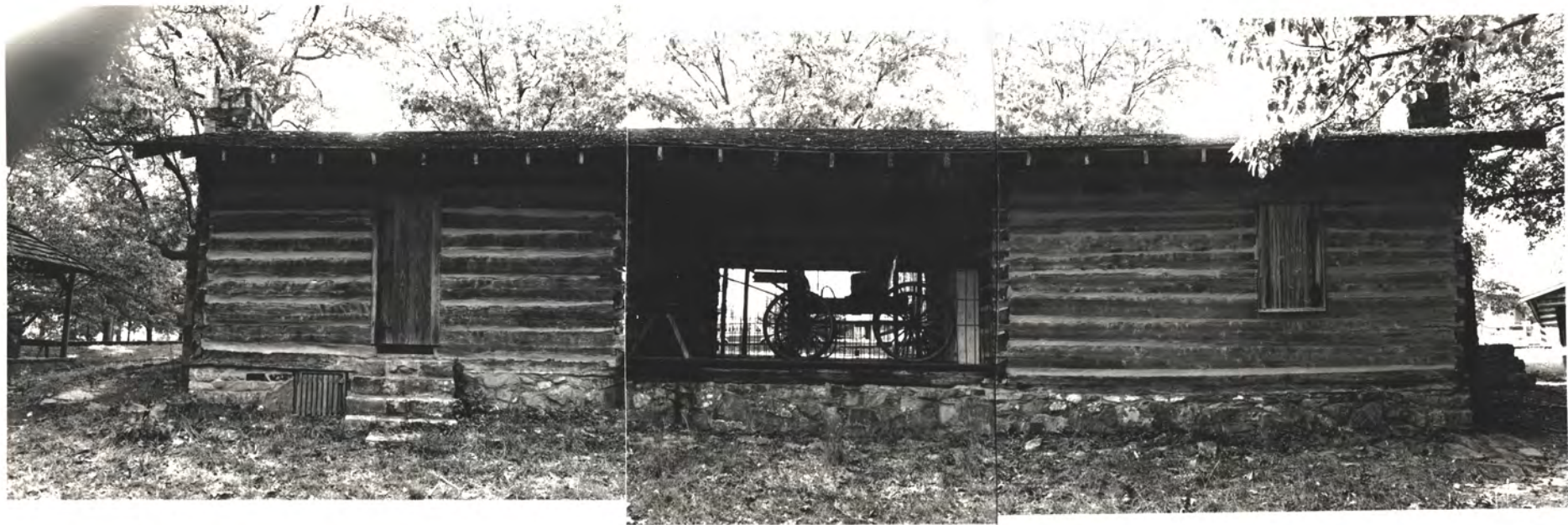


Smith-Williams Cabin
photos Oct. 1990 H. Jones
All is modern (c. 1970's)
except logs. (Not per hist. stamps)
Proposed to be relocated
to W. central bluff of
Rnd-Twp Ntrv. N. End
& rebuilt in 1990-91
by J&A, Arch., AD



SMITH-
WILLIAMS
C. 1830-1870







N ↘



front porch

PN ↗



N ↘

front

← FRONT →



N ↘

front

Smith-Williams



↑N



↓N

TROT



←N

Note mortises
for fl. joists
= very low
& apparently
upside down
(?)

PS-NO.
See similar detail
in The Arch of
S. Carolina
by Milburn



←N

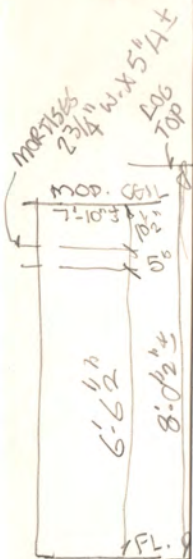
NORTH PEN (BR)

416

5066



AN



↓N

↙ to front

NORTH PEN (BR)



↖N

YENX

Smith-Williams



Front

↖N



↑ N ↑ to trot

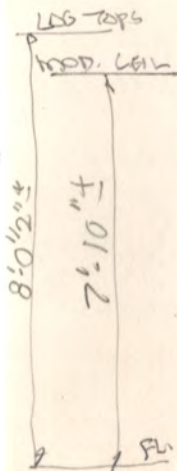


bd

SOUTH PEN (KIT.) Note NO windows, 3 doors



↑ N rear



↑ N front



SE.
FRONT

All except logs, punchon fl. - joists is c. 1960's
+ is NOT authentic of the period - to be redone.

SW
CORNER



SE. FRONT

1 of 5

SW.
END



c. 1940's Smith & Williams cabin
moved from Big Cove in 1960's to Britt Museum
Plates June 1991 (A. Jones) moved to NM, and of
Britt Museum field in prep. for 1991 restn.
(carpenter - no evidence remains) by
JFA, Arch - NM





S.E. front



S.W. corner

front

All of front
of front = 1960's



SE front

NE. End



S.W. Porch, front

Dogtrot →

N



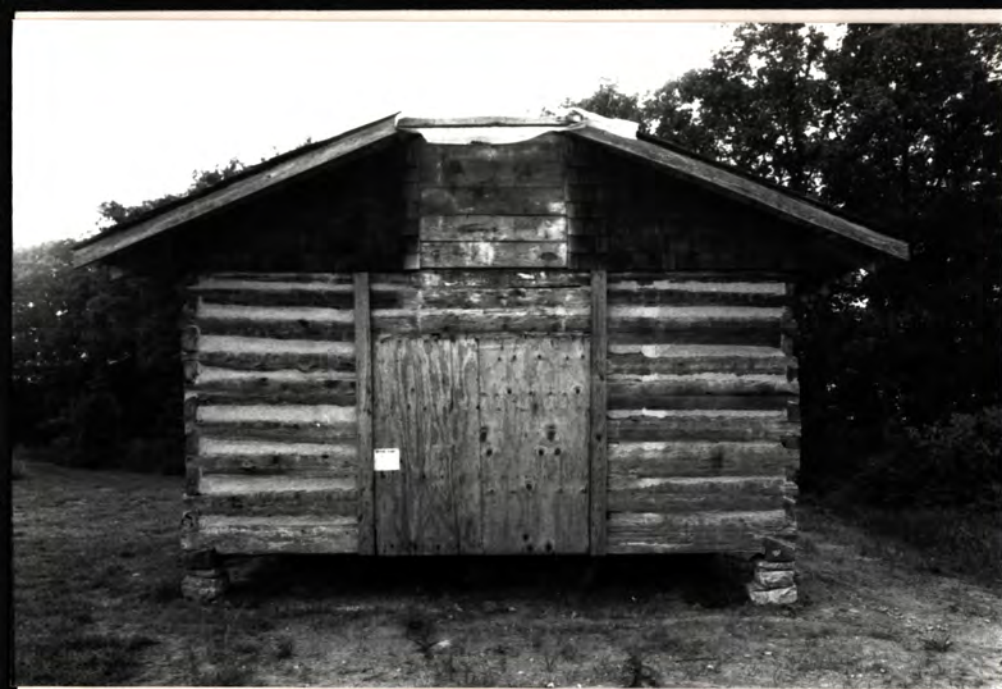
Dogtrot → S.W. Wall of East Pen Front



W Dogtrot SE Front, E. Pen



SE Front, West pen Dogtrot →



E. end of E. pen



N.W. Rear



E. end of E. Pen

A



↑ N.W. corner



West
PCH
↔

N ←

original panchan - joints (4x8's = mod., fl. = 1960's)
Piers = 1991 Loo. = 1991



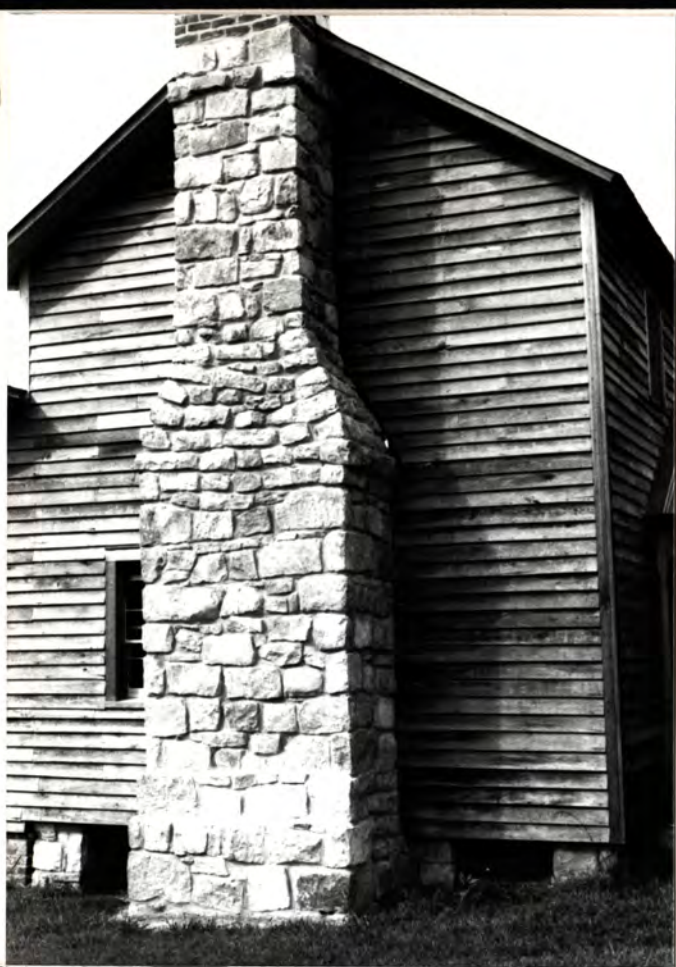
↑ along North

East
PCH
↔



N ←

1880's
Balch
125
(Burnett)
(log + clapboard)



9



Small cabin w. of Balch Hse
East chin

Examples of about the best that
economics of 1991 masons can do
on stone = not too good

1062

Smith-Williams
Cabin,
originally in
Big Cove,
Madison Co. AL,
here reconstructed
at Burnett Mns.
in Huntsville, OJ
in 1991 by
Jones & Herring
Architects,
W.P. Jones, FAIA
EXCEPT for 5'-4" h.
pyram- doors
are by the
Mrs. Dix.
decision



BUILT c.1830
MOVED & REBUILT
IN c.1865.
To BURNETT c.1910

on ext. =
mod. gl.
doors
to allow
view &
restrict
access
on wk.
ends

FRONT

↑



photos
Nov. 1993
HP Jones

Only original
parts to survive
are logs &
fl. joists (punch-ends)
Originally
moved to Burnett
in c.1960s &
poorly "renovated".

→ N

REAR



SMITH-
WILLIAMS
-MANSION
1893



"before"
 June
 1991
 H photo

pen



"before"
 (June 1991)



± 6" - 12" X

NE corner
 of West Pen

half-
 dovetail
 notches
 = most
 typical

2672

1092



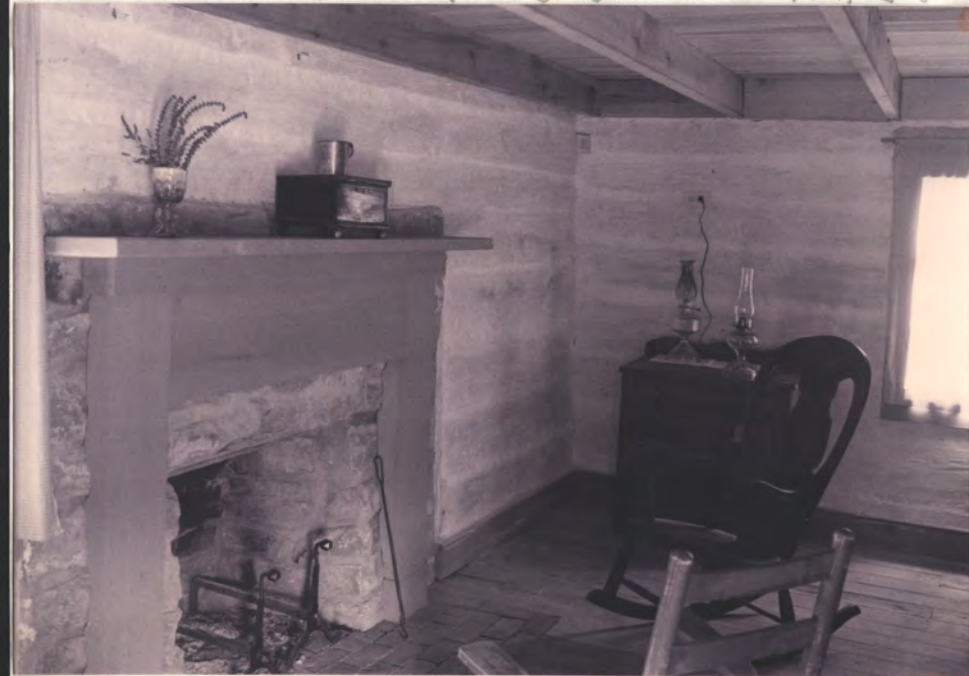
pygmy dove
(±5'-4"hi)
by Mrs. Div.
Herzog,
"left" the mus.
shortly after.

West
Chim.

N



W → S. Porch
c. 1840 + 1860 Smith-Wilkins Cabin, originally in Big Cove, Mad. Co.
Al. - moved to Everett Miss. c. 1960 Restored 1991, USA, Av. - 1200s



→ mental
design
from
serv. bldg.
at Chapman
Ala. mid
1800's

West
Porch





N

East Pass (Kit)

13. "Chimpanzee Club," Newspaper Clipping and photograph, Burritt Collection, Burritt Museum and Park.
14. *Huntsville Weekly Democrat*, July 29, 1891.
15. Unidentified newspaper clipping, St. Louis Scrapbook, St. Louis Historical Society, St. Louis, Missouri.
16. *Huntsville Times*, September 6, 1934, p.6.
17. Newspaper Clipping, Publisher and date unknown, Burritt Collection, Burritt Museum and Park.
18. "He Lives in a Southern Mansion Built of Straw," *The Atlanta Journal and Constitution Magazine*, November 4, 1951.
19. Handwritten notes of H. Merrill, Burritt Collection, Burritt Museum and Park.
20. *Huntsville Times*, December 1, 1935, p. 1.
21. "Fire Razes Home Built by Burritt On Mountain Top," *Huntsville Times*, June 7, 1936, p. 7.
22. "Burritt Says He May Build," *Huntsville Times*, June 16, 1936, p. 1.
23. Ibid.

Hist. H. Quarterly Spring 1994
 P. 42+50
 2 photos
 J&N-113

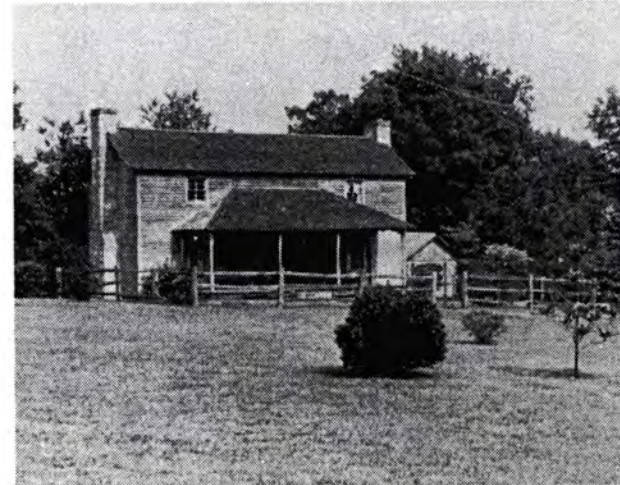
THE HISTORIC PARK (Burritt Museum)

Restoration 101: From the Ground Up

Charles Pautler
 Curator of History

Historic Preservation has come far in the past 25 years, from building restorations possessing the basic "old timey look" to a down-to-the-last-nail authentic approach of recent years. Perhaps nowhere is this thesis more evident than at Burritt Museum. The museum on Round Top Mountain is a microcosm of the preservation movement during the last quarter century, showing that even on the local level historic restoration work is one of learning, growth, and skill.

In the 1960's the Burritt Memorial Committee began to acquire rural log houses that were to be relocated to the museum grounds and restored to their original appearance. Through generous donations of time, money, and perseverance on behalf of the Committee, three structures were brought to the grounds between 1964-1974. Drawing upon their own knowledge and experience, the members of the Committee hired a local carpenter to complete the work.



*The
 Balch
 House
 in its
 second
 location,
 1984.*

The physical result was typical for the time and was a mirror of other restorations throughout the country. From the 1960's stand-point, the restorations were satisfactory. They met their intended purpose, giving visitors a "picture" of their rural past and saving the structures themselves from rapid decay and possible demolition. The "preservation" of each structure was accomplished.



The Chandler House as it appeared in its second location, 1991



The Smith-Williams House as it appeared in its second location, ca. 1980.

During the next 10 years Burritt Museum went through many changes, in both the Board personnel and the hiring of the Museum's first professional staff. A long-range plan was agreed upon for the future, which signaled the beginning of the second restoration phase. Through technological advancements in preservation techniques, as well as the trusty trial-and-error method, the future of a new "historic park" was forged, which after many years of hard work was finally being realized.

In the mid-1980's it was determined that the historic structures once threatened 20 years earlier and relocated to the museum were again being threatened, only by a different enemy. The small trees that were around the structures had grown considerably and were not allowing roofs and walls to dry properly, thereby encouraging rot. Also, after 20 years of visitation, the buildings were showing severe signs of wear, as well as cracked foundations, occasional vandalism, and animal and insect damage. In order to correct all of these worsening problems, it was decided the three main houses would be moved to a more preservation-friendly location. In addition, an interpretive plan was being developed that would give visitors more than a "picture" of past rural culture and would teach much more about 19th century life than just the physical buildings. The three structures relocated were the Balch, Chandler, and Smith-Williams Houses.

The first to be moved was the Samuel Balch House, originally built in Nebo, Alabama in 1887 and added to in 1898. The area selected for the house was the land behind the Burritt Mansion, comprised of about 12 acres. Once the appropriate land in the Historic Park was selected, in 1985 the Balch House was relocated for the second time. Because of museum reorganization and another project happening simultaneously, the actual restoration did not start until 1989, with completion of the project occurring in 1991. During the four-year span between relocation and restoration, basic research was conducted to bring the house back to how it probably appeared in 1898, after its substantial historical addition. By 1980's standards, the restoration was a vast improvement over its 1960's counterpart, but yet was not perfect.



Above: The Balch House on its original site in Nebo, Alabama, ca. 1950. Below: As it appeared during the 1970's in Nebo, Alabama.



The Samuel Balch House soon after completion, 1992. Note the 1898 rear kitchen addition.

We must all keep in mind that when dealing with restorations, the end result will never be an exact duplication of how the structure or room appeared at a certain time, as we are limited by materials, money, and documentation. Many of the building materials that were available in the 19th Century are no longer obtainable as new materials. An example of this would be chestnut wood. Because of a North American blight in the 1930's, new chestnut is no longer available as a wood for restoration purposes. This posed a giant problem for us when we had to find replacement logs for our chestnut and oak log barn two years ago. Money is also a driving force as to how thorough a restoration is to be. Luckily for Burritt Museum, we have a restoration staff that has been specially trained for such work. To contract out such work, which we have done and still currently do for simultaneous projects, the cost can be quite high for such specialty needs. The consumer is not only paying for accurate materials but largely hand-craftsmanship as well. Finally, documentation plays the ultimate role in determining the accuracy of restoration work.

It would have been fabulous for us if Samuel Balch had taken photographs of every view and angle, both inside and outside his house, for posterity. But it is unreasonable to expect such luxury at a time when photographs were sparingly taken and such photos would have been considered wasteful and eccentric. What we as historians have to do is look at the existing contemporary photographs, as well as other examples of similar structures from common economic backgrounds. Primary documents of all types come into play, such as tax and probate records, abstracts, personal letters, and reminiscences, with the latter constantly being checked for historical accuracy.

Much of the Balch House project was done by trial-and-error. We must remember that work such as this was so specialized, it was hard to find trained personnel. What then-Director Melinda Herzog did to find craftsmen who could complete such work was to hire two well-versed modern carpenters and send them to training workshops, have them study period examples of existing structures, as well as "learn on the job." It is a fair assumption that each subsequent restoration was better than the one before it, because the skill-level involved had improved through "hands-on" activity. Although the finished Balch House was the best possible restoration for 1989, what is currently being undertaken in 1994 is highly regarded by even the most well-known and successful museums in the country.

In 1988 a single-pen cabin was offered to the museum from the Leland Gardiner family. It was formerly a tenant house that was built sometime around 1850 and was most likely a slave house originally. It was moved in one-piece to the opposite end of the designated 12 acres of the Historic Park, and the project was immediately begun. The entire interior of the structure was stripped, and an 1850-era interior installed, including a partial sleeping loft. Many of the exterior logs were replaced with contemporary logs of the period, so in essence the project became a restoration/reconstruction.



The Gardiner Cabin soon after restoration. Note the stacked rock limestone chimney. April, 1991

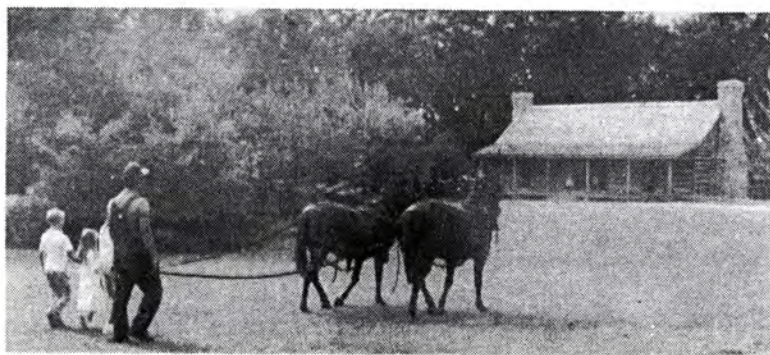
It is difficult to determine when a structure crosses the restoration/reconstruction line. Technically, a **reconstruction** is a new structure that is built of reproduction or authentic materials that when complete represents a former structure that no longer survive. A **restoration** is an authentic structure that has been taken back to a specific time period, through the use of reproduction or original materials. In the case of the Gardiner Cabin the exterior is about 40 percent replacement, and the interior 100 percent replacement.

It was during this period that the job search went out to find a historian with both a preservation and interpretation background who would oversee the remaining projects (eight total). Once that person was hired, the remaining houses to be relocated from the old Historic Park to the new area were moved. The Smith-Williams was the first, moved in August 1991, with the Chandler House following in November, 1991. A full interpretive plan was developed that outlined what dates the structures were to be restored to, as well as how they were to be used. Once each building was completed, living history interpretation would be implemented in and around the site to tell not only the structure's history, but that of the inhabitants as well.

The park was divided into two areas; 1850 and 1900, and support structures were planned to accompany the houses to add a sense of historical realism. When completed, the historic park would consist of four complete farmsteads that would not only reflect different time periods, but two different economic-levels and lifestyles within each of those periods. In addition to the houses and outbuildings would be authentic field crops and gardens, as well as a variety of woodworking, food and fiber processing, and other relevant indoor and outdoor activities that accurately interpreted rural life.

The new Curator's first restoration project was the 1868 Smith-Williams House. Harvie Jones, a highly-recommended historical architect and no stranger to historic preservation, was selected to oversee the project. The Museum's restoration staff installed all the replacement logs and splices, and the finished work was contracted out while the staff started on the next project. The end result was a general depiction of what the house probably looked like in the year 1900. The project was somewhat difficult from the start, as the house had the least amount of documentation of any project attempted. What had to be made was an educated guess on the part of the Architect and Curator as to how the

Clouded in Sorghum Festival smoke, the Smith-Williams house as seen from the sorghum-processing area. The mules in the foreground pulled the cane press during the festival. September, 1992



house looked. Based on his wide range of research photographs, Jones was able to configure what we believe to be a typical subsistence-level dogtrot house. It must be noted that the only original architectural elements left from the 1960's "restoration" were the wall logs themselves. At that time, all doors, windows, roof, joists, jambs, hinges, ceilings, and floors were replaced with modern kiln-dried pine lumber, cedar shingles, and aluminum hinges. This is not to condemn the earlier attempts, but to show how far the field has come since then.

While the Smith-Williams project was progressing, Curator Charles Pautler actively sought a 19th Century barn to better expand the agricultural emphasis of the site. A four-crib (or room) log barn was located on property that was for sale near Minor Hill, Tennessee. The owner stated that he could probably receive a better price for the land if the barn were gone, so the barn acquisition was negotiated. The Burritt Museum Guild raised the necessary funding, and the barn was relocated to the Historic Park on May 5, 1992.



Barn in original location, Minor Hill, Tennessee 1991.

The barn, disconnected at the breezeway log, was moved in two large sections, each on a flat-bed truck. The museum staff felt it better to keep as large a section together as possible when relocating a historic structure, as there was less room for accidents to occur, namely pieces disappearing during the move, from whatever reason. No matter how careful a person is to number and photograph a log structure before dismantling, accidents can happen; and there is a strong possibility the building will not go back together exactly as it came apart. That aside, there will always be a certain amount of dismantling that is unavoidable, such as roof rafters, and top and bottom logs that connect major sections. The barn rafters were carefully tagged and photographed, and the plate logs (those running across the top) removed as well. The staff did not have to worry about cutting any sill logs (those across the bottom), as nature had already rotted them in half.



Barn in progress, 1993.

Huntsvillians got to view a strange sight the day of the move, as the 1900 barn rolled down Governor's drive via flat-bed trucks. Strangely enough, this was to be a precursor to events that would also happen the following year, but nobody (Museum staff or the public) knew it yet. The barn was placed across from the Smith-Williams House, and would

serve as the 1900-era barn for both it and the now-finished Balch House.



Finished barn with clapboard siding, 1994

Once the Smith-Williams House was completed, the barn was started, which meant a complete replacement of the exterior siding, air louvers, loft flooring, and roof shingles. About 15 percent of the wall logs were replaced with oak logs donated to the museum by Milly Wright of Florence, Alabama, who had worked with the Curator of History on other projects in the past. As with the Smith-Williams House, all sawn lumber for the project was specially milled to the proper historic dimensions and was of the correct wood-type. The restoration was conducted from start to finish by the museum's restoration team that had by now grown from two to five men. One very lucky aspect of the barn project was that the structure had remained relatively unchanged since its initial construction. Original sawn lumber, stall doors, and most of the flooring remained, which meant exact

reproductions could be milled to originals' specifications. Original architectural elements that were in good condition were retained for the building, to be reinstalled towards the completion date.



Curator of History Charles Pautler, chiseling corner notches on the corn crib in the snow, March, 1993.

At the same time the barn was undergoing restoration, a corn crib was being reconstructed between the former structure and the house. By this time the living history program was going full swing, and the volunteer labor force was ready to try a project that went beyond fence building and firewood splitting. The Curator of History and the lead volunteer interpreter, Marty Siebert, started the small single-room log structure in August, 1992. The building was based on several original examples in the surrounding counties, and

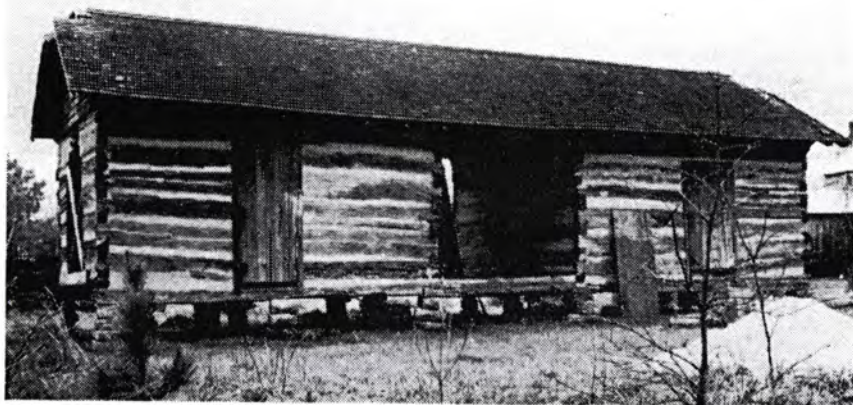
constructed entirely of salvaged logs and lumber from various restoration projects. All corner notches were newly made, and the walls were finished about six months later, mainly constructed during the living history program's hours, as well as on assorted weekends. All white oak shingles were hand-riven (split) on site, and laid board fashion, with one shingle covering each gap. The structure will be used in 1994 to house the heirloom corn crop that is grown in the park.



The finished corn crib, built by volunteer staff. Note the hand-riven oak roof boards. January, 1994.

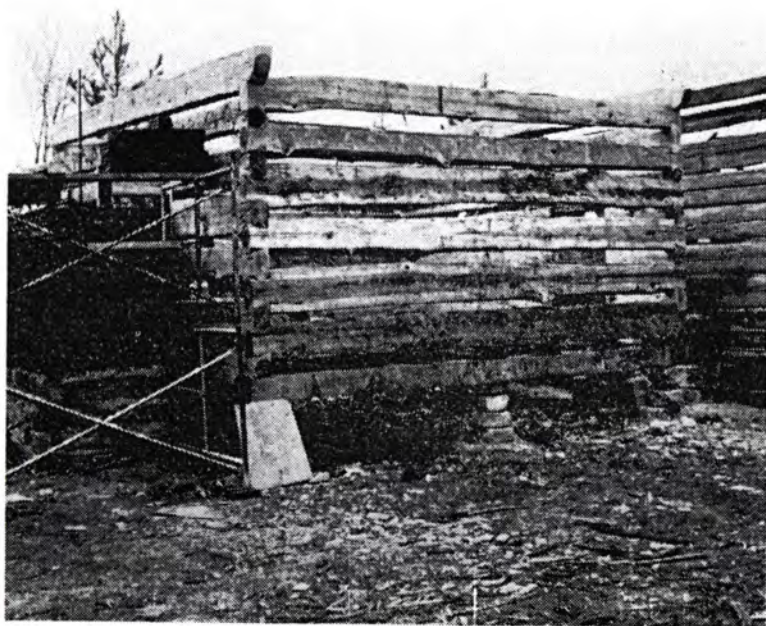
After the completion of the barn and corn crib, full attention was turned to the 1850 site. The only work done thus far had been the restoration of the Gardiner Cabin, the move of the Chandler House, and the installation of split rail fencing. All energies went into the development of the site, with massive amounts of research conducted, and the acquisition of the final Historic Park house. The Chandler House plans were drawn, materials purchased, and the restoration team started on the log replacement. A rear kitchen addition was reconstructed from new poplar logs that were hewn using only the tools and techniques of the 1850 period, such as felling axes, foot adzes, and broad axes. The project should be complete by early 1995.

By the time of the Chandler project, the museum's name was becoming known in the preservation field, and as a result the historical team was asked to consult on several area log



Above: The Chandler House soon after its relocation to the Historic Park. Spring, 1992.

Below: Chandler rear kitchen addition reconstructed of newly-hewn logs. Note the brick chimney in progress. April, 1994.



restorations. Partly as a result of these consultations and work done by the Curator on a survey of log structures, Robert Gamble of the Alabama Historical Commission contacted the museum about the possibility of a log house for sale in Limestone County. After talking with Gamble, Charles Pautler decided to make a routine trip to the county for documentary purposes, to do rough drawings and photograph. What he found was a complete 1840-era log saddlebag house. A "saddlebag" is a two-pen (room) log structure with a central shared-chimney. They are generally quite rare in Madison and surrounding counties, and are associated with the earlier settlement period. The structure was entirely covered in clapboard, which preserved the logs from most moisture. Still intact were one room's original windows, doors, flooring, trim boards, staircase, loft, molding, and wall paneling. Although modernized over time, many of the original elements of the house were underneath several layers but nevertheless still present.



The James A. Meals house in its original location, Lester, Alabama. November, 1992

*Restor completed July 1995
JH Arch - H Jones*

For fear it would not remain for sale very long, the museum had to act quickly on acquiring the house. A special request was made to the Burritt Memorial Committee by the Museum to purchase the house. The Board was in favor, except most funding was tied up in the other restorations. The Historic Huntsville Foundation was approached and graciously donated enough funds to cover half the purchase cost. Without the help of the Foundation, the project could have stalled in this first stage. Once the house was purchased, a research campaign was started to uncover the history of the family that lived within it. After years of working with structures that had limited information associated with them, it was very exciting and refreshing to be working with a house that still possessed most of its original fabric, and had never been previously moved. The staff used all the knowledge derived from years of restoration and documentary experience to start the final and most restoration-significant project to date.

Restor. JHA Arch. - HJ memo, 1994 +95

Plans were immediately set to relocate the house, built in 1840 under the direction of James A. Meals, to the Historic Park grounds. Before the house could be moved, all additions had to be cleared from the structure, and a plan devised to safely remove the roof. Because of its one and one-half story height, it was determined that the roof would not clear any telephone, power, or traffic signal lines. After several suggestions by the house mover, it was decided that the roof and top three layers of wall logs would be lifted with a crane and transported separately on another flat-bed truck. The house's length presented a major problem. Because it was 54 feet long, a special set of wheels for the flat-bed truck had to be acquired. Hollis Kennedy who handled the move had all the necessary equipment, and the preparations were made.

The additions that had to be removed from the house included an 1890 front room, a fallen circa 1870 rear bedroom, as well as a 1920's-era rear kitchen and bedroom. The entire process was scrupulously photographed, and most usable lumber was saved for the restoration and other future projects. What was uncovered was a late-federal era log

house made from virgin poplar timber, with each room differing somewhat in the workmanship. The interior was left as it was found until the following year.

On July 6, 1993, the James Meals House was driven down Governors Drive, following the same route the barn had taken the year before. Because of the sheer immensity of the house, an old service road through the woods near the Museum's entrance had to be used. It joined the paved driveway near the nature trail parking lot. Tree branches had to be cut along the entire way, as the house was 18 feet wide. The tight curve near the Burritt Mansion was the final obstacle, and the house was reunited with its roof the following day. The building was set in place, and two days later looked as though it had been there the entire time.

At the same time log replacement was occurring in the Chandler House, the interior of the Meals House was being studied, photographed, and all post-1850 elements removed.



Paneling in the parlor of the Meals house after cleaning. Note the original door and window as well as board and batten door with cut-out for electricity hookup. The window sash and glass have been removed during the restoration. All paneling is tongue-in-groove with a double-beaded edge on each side. 1994

Underneath 1960's drywall was 1850's tongue-in-groove poplar paneling. Underneath seven layers of linoleum was heart poplar flooring. 1960's ceiling tile likewise became 1890's poplar ceiling boards, which, after many photographs, yielded to 1840's hewn beams. The structure went through a metamorphosis during the next two weeks, and the history of the occupant's lives unfolded before our very eyes. We decided to remove the paneling so it could be cleaned and reinstalled. The historical artifacts the staff inadvertently found behind the paneled wall were so significant they will be showcased in a special Burrirt Museum exhibit. Found were bits of clothing, tools, spools of spun wool, seeds, a corn cob pipe, pieces of weaponry, natural dye agents, hand-forged items, mummified mice and rats, and tobacco paraphernalia, to name just a few objects.

Wooden builder's square found in Meals kitchen wall, 1994.



Summer, 1994 the log restoration will begin, to be followed by the house's restored full-length front and back porches, wood shingles, and a mammoth limestone chimney. For a project of this size, Harvie Jones was once again brought in, and at present is preparing the restoration plans. Once the house is finished, the visitor will be able to see the well-trimmed parlor next to the unfinished kitchen. Meals didn't finish the second room's interior until the 1890's. There are still many mysteries, but the existing clues available to us will make this project one of the most thorough restorations the museum has ever undertaken. This is fittingly so, as it shows the preservation community, both local and national, that even a small institution such as ours can provide a large window to the past.



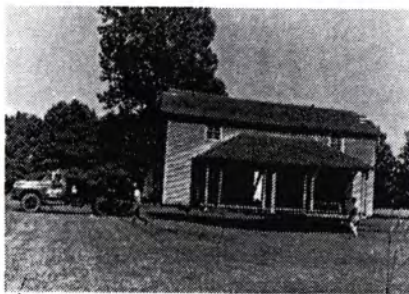
Above: James A. Meals house on site at Burrirt Museum. The clapboard siding has been removed to determine which logs need to be replaced. 1994.

Below: Removal of 1900-era siding to determine condition of logs. During the restoration, the house will be resided to bring it to its 1850 appearance. Note the chinking and mud daubing between the logs. 1994.

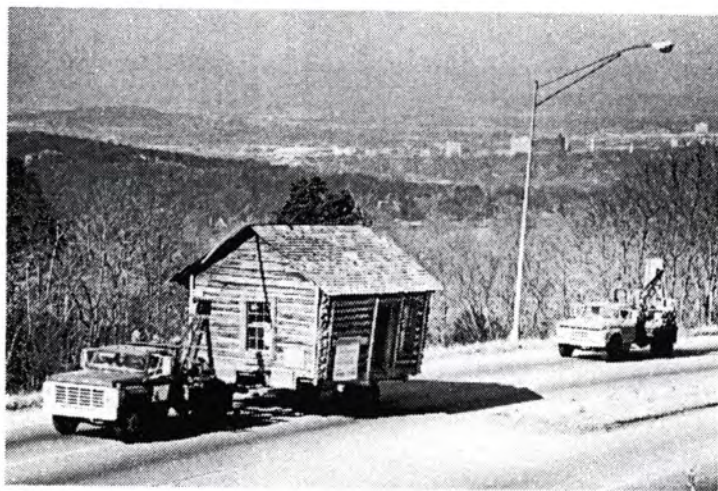


MOVING DAYS

Moving buildings up the mountain to the Burritt Museum and to various locations at the Historic Park has been going on since the 1960's. The movers take extra care to assure the safe arrival of their precious historic cargo.



The Balch House relocation in 1985. This was the first structure moved to the Historic Park



the Gardiner Cabin coming up Governors Drive towards the Burritt Museum. Photo shot from the Outlook. February, 1988.



Above: The Smith-Williams House being moved from the parking lot area to its present location in the Historic Park. August, 1991.

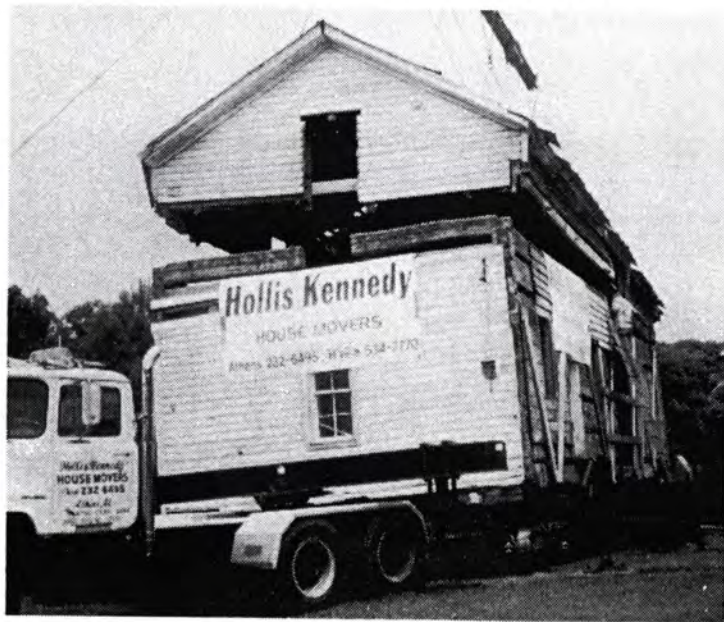
Below: The Chandler House being relocated to the Historic Park. 1991





Above: Barn in transit. May 5, 1992.

Below: The Meals House during relocation. The roof, having been transported separately, is placed on top of the lower portion of the building. July, 1993.



Future Plans at Burritt

Pat Robertson
Interim Director

The Burritt Museum will be constructing a multi-purpose building this year. This new building will allow us to have more exhibit space, meeting facilities and a store. The 4400+ sq. ft. building will have a large meeting/reception room with an attached catering kitchen. Museum offices will be moved out of the Burritt Mansion into this building, giving us more exhibit space in the Museum. The Conservatory will revert to gallery space and the other two rooms now occupied by offices will be converted into one small office and a changing room for weddings. We are also going to be able to up-grade the heating/cooling system for the Museum.

The new building will have a classroom giving us two classrooms on site for our educational programs, especially the Earth Camp summer program. The store will feature items for sale relating to the Museum's scope and purpose and will have a small snack bar. The new building will also have public restroom facilities. The building is designed so that different parts can operate separately from each other i.e.: the reception area can be in use when the offices are closed. The architect is Carl Gleghorn of Fuqua, Osborn & Associates. Other plans include a Visitors Orientation Center, a Center for Nature Studies and additional exhibit space in the Museum. We will continue to up-grade our infrastructure as needed.

In the Historic Park outbuildings will continue to go up; but, the acquisition of major structures is over. Most of the outbuildings will be constructed interpretively out of salvaged materials. Still to be constructed is a working well, privy, smokehouse, chicken coop, and fences. The Church will also go under some restoration to return it to more of its original appearance.

Burritt

Museum & Park



1995



Historic Park

GUIDE BOOK



Burritt Museum & Park
3101 Burritt Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801

For rental or group tour information, contact the Museum office at (205) 536-2882
Cover illustration based on "Whetting the Scythe," by William S. Mount, 1848.

From atop Monte Sano, the land below appears carpeted with a lush deep green. The area which is now Huntsville, nestled in the elbow bend of the Tennessee River, was a vast hunting ground for the Creek, Chickasaw, and Cherokee Indians. In 1802 Georgia ceded all of her western land, which included present-day Alabama and Mississippi, to the United States for \$1.25 million.

For over a hundred years the Indian lands had been fought over for control by the French, Spanish, and English. After the American Revolution, the new American government saw a need to remove the Indians from their rich lands for further white settlement. The new settler was a different breed with a lust for land that was insatiable. The government behind him was almost as greedy; first by offering the Indians worthless treaties, and then just removing them and taking their land wholesale. In 1805 the Chickasaws gave up their land titles, and in 1806 the Cherokees relinquished theirs as well. By the end of the 1830's, the vast majority of the Indian population had been removed from the Southeast to west of the Mississippi River, in what was known as the "Trail of Tears."

In 1804 an Irishman named John Hunt came down from Tennessee and settled in the Big Spring area, where current-day Huntsville is located. Like Hunt, many other settlers with a Scotch-Irish background poured in from Tennessee and North Carolina to start a new life. Between 1804 and 1809 more than 5,000 people made the Great Bend of the Tennessee River their home. The governor of the Mississippi Territory issued a proclamation creating Madison County in 1808. After the War of 1812, land prices had soared to \$20 an acre. By 1819 Alabama became the 22nd state in the Union. Huntsville was a broad mixture of planters, yeoman farmers, slaves, businessmen, and land speculators.

Like the rest of the South, Huntsville's cotton-based economy depended upon both slavery and the credit system. Cot-

continues on back cover...

ton, credit, and slavery were all part of the Southern triangle that held Huntsville in its grasp. In 1861 the Civil War had started, and many young Huntsvillians rushed to the Confederate recruiting stations in hopes of not missing any of the war before it was over. Both the North and the South sobered to the thought of a very long war after early battles in the eastern and western theaters of operation. Shortly after the fall of Fort Donelson, Tennessee, the Tennessee River was open to Union occupation. When General Ormsby Mitchell marched his Union troops into Huntsville on the morning of April 11, 1862, a feeling of doom came over the city. Though most of the buildings were spared from fire, the city and the surrounding countryside were picked clean by foraging federal soldiers. The city was used as a communications center and terminal for officers moving to and from the front, and remained occupied by the Union army for the remainder of the war, except for a brief period of ten months when the Confederate army regained control.

The people of Huntsville found reconstruction painful. Wartime occupation proved to be a humiliating experience as citizens had to take an oath of allegiance to the Union in order to run businesses or farms, while still being susceptible to having their property seized in the name of the government at any time. Postwar construction was slow, but in 1887 the 200-room, Queen Anne-style Monte Sano Hotel was built atop Monte Sano. The mountain, so named for its healthful, refreshing qualities, became a summer retreat for upper-to-middle-class Southerners who wanted to escape the summer heat and diseases such as cholera that ravaged the region around Huntsville and nearby cities.

The vast plantation acres of cotton were divided up into lots for freedmen and anyone else who would farm the nutrient-depleted soil as a farmer or sharecropper. This system of interdependency between farmers, merchants, and bankers made it nearly impossible for sharecroppers, who were at the low end of the scale, to get ahead.

The historic buildings at Burritt Museum & Park are arranged to reflect different farmsteads during various time periods between 1830 and 1900. They are restored and reconstructed to represent the "typical," farmstead rather than the unique, and were selected because of their original history as well as possessing "generic" qualities found on similar structures.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Mansion:	Grounds:	Office:
March through November Noon til 5:00 p.m.	April through October 7:00 a.m. til 7:00 p.m.	8:30 a.m. til 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday
Tuesday through Sunday (Closed Mondays)	November through March 7:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m.	Phone: (205) 536-2882

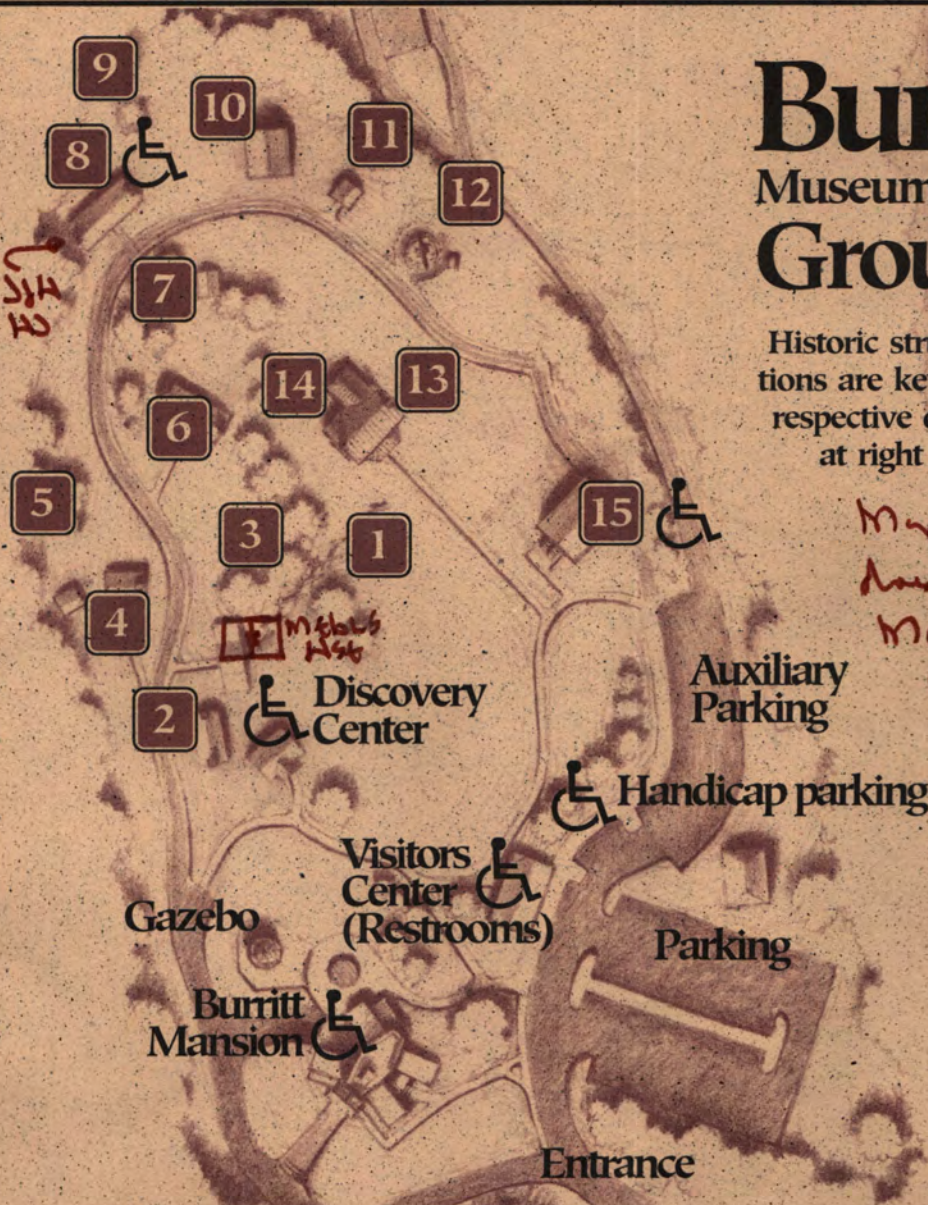
Text by Charles Pautler, Curator of History • Design & Illustration by Hamilton/Cristen & Assoc., Inc.
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Burritt Museum & Park Grounds

Historic structure locations are keyed to their respective descriptions at right and inside.

*Map is c. 1993,
does not include
Meads Hall
completed
July 95*



For handicap accessibility information,
please contact the Museum office: (205) 536-2882

1

Split Rail "Snake" Fence

White Oak

During the early settlement of North Alabama there were no stock-laws in the countryside, which meant that livestock ranged freely. Farmers had to build fences to protect their fields from these domestic foragers as well as native wildlife. As a result, rural fences were often described as "horse-high, bull strong and pig-tight." Farmers would use tools such as axes, mauls, wedges, and gluts to split out straight-grained trees into fence rails that were in six, eight, or ten foot lengths. Often, the existing trees that stood in the pathway of the fence were used for this purpose. The rails would be laid end to end, overlapping at angles, "snaking," or "worming" their way through the countryside. One course after another of rails would be laid until the desired height was achieved; usually six to eight rails high. Other types of mountain fencing included post and rail, picket, paling, brier hedgerows, and stone.

**2**

Saddle Bag Log House

Circa 1830

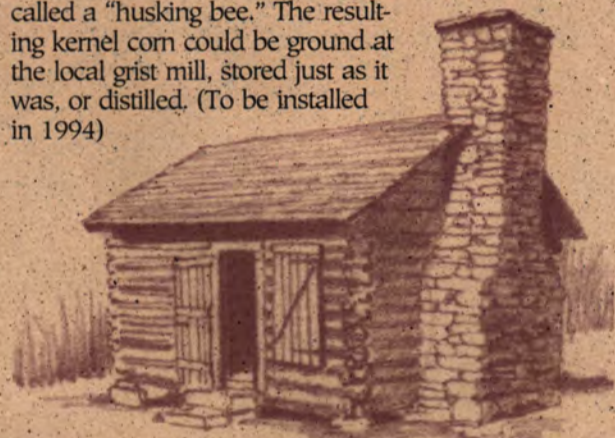
By definition, a "saddle bag" is a structure that consists of two single pens connected by a central chimney and roof. Probably originating in England, this was a very common southern housetype that usually predated the Civil War. Saddlebags frequently evolved from a single pen, with another pen being built on the chimney side. Even though the two pens both had front doors, the two rooms rarely had access directly to one another. (To be installed in 1996)

Burritt Museum & Park Historic Structures

3 Corncrib

Circa 1850

Corn was the most important food in the lives of the early settlers in this region. Unlike other crops, corn was easy to grow and was frequently the first crop planted in newly cleared fields. The type of corn planted was an open-pollinated variety and was commonly referred to as "gourdseed" or "Indian corn." Both yellow and white corn were grown, yellow being best for feeding livestock and distilling, and white being best for human consumption. Roasting ears were usually harvested in late July or early August, while the main crop was harvested later in August or early September. The entire plant was used. After being picked, cut, and shocked, the stalks were usually stored in a crib or barn and were fed to the cattle during the winter. When the ears were husked, neighboring farm families gathered and participated in a social event called a "husking bee." The resulting kernel corn could be ground at the local grist mill, stored just as it was, or distilled. (To be installed in 1994)



4 Single - Pen Gardiner Cabin

Hobbs Island Rd., Madison Co., Al., Circa 1830

A single room, or pen, log cabin was usually built as a temporary shelter. Constructed of partially hewn logs, the cabin walls were joined by crude saddle notches. Spaces between the logs were filled with wood splints or stones, called "chinking," and a mixture of clay, animal hair, straw, or lime mortar for "daubing," which served as insulation and kept the wind out. The cabin was torn down and reassembled twice before its relocation to the Museum grounds. According to Gardiner family history, the cabin was thought to have been built circa 1830, on the crest of Wallace Mountain, in south Madison County overlooking the Tennessee River. It was then torn down and reassemble on the William Gardiner plantation for use as a slave quarter sometime around 1850. During the 1870's Daniel Sibley, a former slave and Union army veteran, moved the cabin to a different location on the plantation grounds where he was able to earn a meager living as a sharecropper with his wife and two sons.

5 Spring House

Mid-nineteenth Century

Fifty yards from the Gardiner Cabin was a "bold spring" meaning a spring which provided a year-round source of water. In an effort to protect the spring from being filled in with leaves and debris the farmer often built a springhouse over the spring opening. The simple structure also served as a refrigerator. The springhouse base would be lined with stone which kept the water cool. Cocks of milk, eggs, butter, or any perishable items were kept in the stone-lined pool, and could be kept fresh for days. (To be installed in 1994)



6 Clark Chandler Dog-Trot House

Owens Cross Roads, Madison Co., Al., Circa 1850

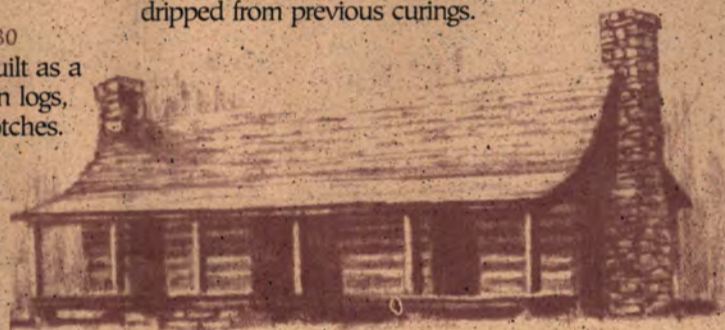
The dog-trot house is the most prevalent form of log home construction in the lower Cumberland range of the Appalachian mountains. The origin of this construction style is uncertain. Some scholars believe the open hall floor plan is of Scandinavian origin, while others believe it is a result of southern climatic accommodations. Dog-trots are two-pen cabins that are separated by a breezeway and connected by a gable roof. The open central hall, often facing the direction of the prevailing wind, served as a shaded breezeway in which residents did a variety of household chores. In the winter months the cold breezeway could be walled-in with firewood or long boards to shield against drafts.



7 Smokehouse

Jackson County, Alabama, Circa 1850

Laying away a supply of meat for the next year began shortly after the first frost. During the cold winter months of November and December, the meat had less of a chance of spoiling while curing than during the warmer months. Slaughtering day was often a social event as well, as large numbers of farm families would gather together; the men and older boys would butcher, while the women and girls would prepare a large feast that centered around a rarity — fresh pork. Dry salt curing, rather than using brine, was the most popular method used in the South. The curing process was done by salting; the flavoring process was done by smoking. After the meat was smoked, anywhere from two weeks to two months (depending on the farmer's preference), the meat was either placed in barrels of salt or ashes, or was left hanging in the smokehouse. These buildings were designed to be as "tight" as possible, to insure the production of properly cured meat. Due to Civil War shortages, many residents sifted the dirt and ash of their smokehouse floors to recover salt which had dripped from previous curings.



8 Smith-Williams Dog-Trot House

McKays Hollow, Madison Co., Alabama, Circa 1868

When James Bascom Williams returned home from the Civil War he found his family's holdings devastated by years of foraging by the occupying Union Army. When he proposed to Miss Victoria Smith in 1868 he had little to start his homestead. As a wedding present, both families gave the couple two 1840's log pens which were then rebuilt into a dog-trot house. One pen was used as a kitchen and the other served as the master bedroom and parlor and included a sleeping loft for the children. This cabin was originally located at the eastern base of Monte Sano mountain in McKays Hollow.

9 Hog Pen

Mid-nineteenth Century

During the nineteenth century, the majority of hogs in the South were wild native hogs. Many of the yeoman farmers of northern Alabama relied on capturing these wild hogs to supplement their income and provide food for the dinner table. Together with corn, pork was the staple of the southern diet. Wild hogs were gathered by farmers and marked, by either snout rings, brands, or ear notches, and then turned loose. In the forest they foraged on a "mast" of acorns, chestnuts, beech, and hickory nuts. In the autumn the hogs would again be gathered, and some selected to be fattened on corn for the winter butchering. By the mid-nineteenth century more hogs were raised in Madison County than were raised in the rest of Alabama combined. The amount of lard rendered in the big and little coves east of Monte Sano won them the distinction of being called "Big Greasy Cove" and "Little Greasy Cove." (To be installed in 1992)

10 Barn

Minor Hill, TN., Circa 1880

A barn was a multi-use structure. Draft animals such as horses, mules, and oxen were kept in the stalls during bad weather or sometimes at night. Feed for the animals, such as hay and corn fodder, was kept in the loft. Tools and farm implements were usually grouped in one of the "cribs," or rooms. Wagons and buggies were stored under a barn lean-to or in the breezeway between the cribs. Most of the multi-functional barns in northern Alabama were two or four-cribbed structures, usually having one or two lean-to additions. (To be restored in 1993)

11 Blacksmith Shop

Reconstruction of an 1850 Structure

By definition, a blacksmith was "a worker of iron and a horse shoer." He was a man of many skills, whether it was repairing the iron work on a wheel, barrel, or making and shaping plow shares or draft animal shoes. Since Madison County was not a big iron producing county, iron was often reused, as it was scarce and expensive. Even though blacksmiths were available, farmers also had to have a basic knowledge of forging iron for emergency repairs to equipment, or in case the blacksmith was not available. With some simple tools, a farmer could shape iron into horse shoes, fireplace cranes, knives, hoes, and plow points.

12 Sorghum Mill & Boiling Furnace

Madison County, Alabama, 1889

The expense of sugar made many farmers rely on sorghum molasses for their sweetener. By the late 1800's a variety of cast iron sorghum mills were manufactured. Many, such as this one, were produced in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Usually powered by a horse or mule, the mill consisted of two or three rollers which pressed the juice from the sorghum cane. The collected juice was strained and then poured into a pan on the nearby furnace and boiled down to a thick, sweet sorghum molasses. "Sorghum boils" were a time for neighbors to gather, and was one of the many fall harvest events which helped to develop and strengthen community ties.



13 Balch Log House

Nebo Community, Madison County, Alabama
Built 1887 and added to in 1898

In 1887, Samuel Balch began to hew tulip poplar logs into a single story dog-trot house. Originally located in Nebo (now Madison), Alabama the house was the center piece of a 160 acre farm. In addition to farming, he served as post master and operated the Nebo post office in his home from 1893 until 1903, ran a general store, helped his brother run a nearby grist mill, operated a cotton gin, and in 1897 established a sawmill. To meet his growing family's need for additional space, Samuel added to the house in 1898. He enclosed the trot to form a central hall and added a half-story to the original log structure. By owning a sawmill, he could afford to cover the house in clapboard siding and expand the original log structure to include a guest bedroom and post office.

14 Chicken House

Mid-nineteenth Century

Chicken houses were a necessity for all fowl, which included chickens, roosters, ducks, and geese. If fowl were left to roost in trees, they were likely to fall prey to predators at night. The house was a single-pen structure made of half-hewn logs and an overhanging roof. Commonly, a small picket fence would be placed around it so young chicks would not wander off. Ordinarily, the fowl would be allowed to roam the yard during the day, and would be put in the house at night. (To be installed in 1994)



15 Madison Baptist Church

Madison, Alabama 1884

This church was built in 1884 and stood at the corner of College and Sullivan Streets in Madison, Alabama. The Rev. Spears served the first congregation, which was organized prior to 1884. The Rev. Stockton was the first to serve in the church and Samuel Balch was Deacon. The church is constructed of poplar siding and was moved to Burritt and rededicated in 1981.

*Restored by James J. Harris, Dr. H. H. Jones
except chimney doors by Mrs. Dir. Herzog*

*Some cement by H.D.
(Kitt. wing)*