

JH, Rm

May 9, 1994

Ms. Ranee' Pruittt
Heritage Room
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
915 Monroe Street S.W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Ranee':

Thanks for the house calculations from the undated 19th century Clay family papers.

1. Please look at the original and see if you can decipher the family name of the house (upper right corner of first page) and let me know.
2. The calculations are for the ceiling and wall areas of each room, perhaps for plaster, plaster repairs, or painting. Interestingly, the square yard calculations are carried to three decimal places, which is silly because 1/1,000 of a square yard is less than 1 square inch, and doors, windows, baseboards and chair rails are ignored. This fanatical pursuit of "accuracy" is therefore meaningless. Who might have done this?
3. Attached is one possible sketch plan of the subject house that fits nearly all of the noted descriptions and measurements, assuming that all of the rooms in the house are listed.
 - A. Since only a "front hall" of 11'-9" high is listed, the house must be one story. No "back hall" is listed either.
 - B. The "front corner room" plan has a 45 degree corner that meshes with the 45 degree corner in the dining room to form a common corner chimney, with the rooms on the right side of the house. The "front corner room" must have been the family day-to-day living room (as opposed to the listed "parlor"), adjacent to the small dining room.
 - C. The small back porch presumably was behind the dining room, giving access from a separate kitchen (not listed) behind the house.
 - D. The "small back bedroom" may have been an addition, perhaps tacked-on behind the back porch, as I've seen in other similar arrangements (such as the McCrary-Thomas house west of 3 Forks of Flint). This could produce this "U" shaped plan, such as at the 1820's Judge Lane house on Adams Street as shown on the 1861 map of Huntsville, and the 1850's Paul Cottage at 710 Adams Street.
 - E. None of the bedroom plans fits above a room below, seeming to confirm that this was a one-story house. The size of the "back bedroom" matches the "front corner room" if the corner

SPOTWOOD
1994 (RAD)

chimney is disregarded, but then the room location - names contradict a possible stacking of these two rooms. Also there would have to be a corner stair within each room, which is unlisted and seems unlikely with the two above contradictions.

F. The noted "piazza" dimension is about 4 feet longer than the house, as plotted here. This is the only noted dimension that does not fit the conjectural plan.

G. Note that the two different ceiling heights are consistent with the sketched plan.

Let me know if you have any thoughts, and can make out the house name on the paper.

Respectfully,

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

cc: HJ

Pugga cily. — 28.569
 Front Hall — 71.962
 Parlor — 114.143
 Bed room — 107.528
 Dining-room — 73.190
 Back Porch ceiling — 8.750
 Little Bed-room — 95.075
 Front corner room — ~~24.620~~
 92.784

 592.001
 31-

 2960005-
 1776003

 20720

Front Pugga of ~~the~~ ^{the} ~~house~~ ^{house}
 $46 \times 9 \times 5 \text{ ft } 6 \text{ in}$ $9/257.125$
 $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{66}{66}$
 $\frac{28.569 \text{ sq. ft. of Pugga}}{31}$
 $\frac{14284}{85707}$
 $\frac{7999.915}{110}$
 cily. of front Pugga - \$110

 $15 \times 7 \times 8$ $9/115.000$ sq. ft. of cily. 12.777
 $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{92}{92}$
 $\frac{180}{360}$
 $\frac{1620}{1620}$
 $\frac{16560}{118.000}$
 $\frac{144}{218}$
 $\frac{144}{720}$
 $\frac{180}{192}$
 $\frac{272}{544}$
 $\frac{141}{544}$
 $\frac{2176}{544}$
 $144/76704$ $(5-32.666)$
 $\frac{420}{432}$
 $\frac{384}{288}$
 $\frac{960}{960}$

 $16 \times 14 \times 15$ $9/253.750$ Cily. of Parlor in sq. ft.
 Height - 11 ft. $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{180}{180}$ $\frac{28.194$ " " " sq. ft.
 Chimney depth - 1 $\frac{12}{12}$
 Sides of parlor $\frac{12}{12}$ $\frac{16240}{203}$
 211 $144/36540$ (253.750)
 $\frac{180}{203}$ $\frac{774}{720}$
 $\frac{378}{790}$ $\frac{540}{432}$
 $\frac{790}{790}$ $\frac{1080}{1008}$
 $\frac{3160}{774}$ $\frac{220}{720}$
 $144/11390$ $(774 \times 14) = \text{sq. ft. in sides of parlor}$
 $\frac{1080}{1008}$ $\frac{815.949}{28.194}$ " " " cily.
 $\frac{432}{432}$ $\frac{170.140}{170.140}$ - Total sq. ft.
 $\frac{780}{720}$
 $\frac{680}{526}$
 $\frac{340}{164}$

WILLIAM E. SPOTSWOOD HSE
 Detailed cily. of wall mens. of
 the Spotswood Hse, S.E. corner
 of E. Holmes & Greene St.
 Huntsville, Al. (per comparison w/
 1859 City Directory & the 1861 Map of Al.)
 Apparently built early 1800's as
 & added - to extensively by 1840's,
 demol. (perhaps) by 1871

from the 1840's papers of the
 Clay family of 513 Eustis St.
 (J. Withers Clay) Huntsville, Al.
 Copy: May '94 Iv. Pub. Lib.
 notes May 94 H. Jones, SAID

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

May 24, 1994

Ms. Rane'e Pruitt
Heritage Room
Huntsville-Madison County Public Library
915 Monroe Street S. W.
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: "Spotswood House" in Clay Family Papers

Dear Rane'e:

Spotswood

With your deciphering of the scrawled "Spotswood House" note on the 1840's Clay Family papers with their detailed room and wall height calculations, and your reading the several City Directory Spotswood residence locations in Huntsville in the 1840's, I feel certain that it is the house shown on the 1861 map at the S. E. corner of Greene and Holmes, and listed as one of the Spotswood residence locations. The 1861 plan fits the 1840's written description with only one minor exception: a small (4' x 11') back hall is entailed in plotting the description into the 1861 plan shape. This back hall is not listed in the description, but a "Front hall" is listed, strongly implying that there was also a back hall, not listed for some reason, or lost from the calculation sheets.

Based on the differing ceiling heights, it appears virtually certain that the original house was a small "starter house" typical of many here, consisting of an entry hall, one multi purpose room (parlor, dining and bedroom) and a detached kitchen/service building (not on the 1861 map nor listed in the 1840's description). The starter house had a 11' - 9" ceiling, whereas the various tacked-on additions all had 10' - 8" ceilings. The additions may have come at differing dates, as was common.

The roof shape of the south wing in the 1871 view is similar to that of the conjectural reconstruction, with the north wing hidden, or else the 1871 view could show a post-1861 new house.

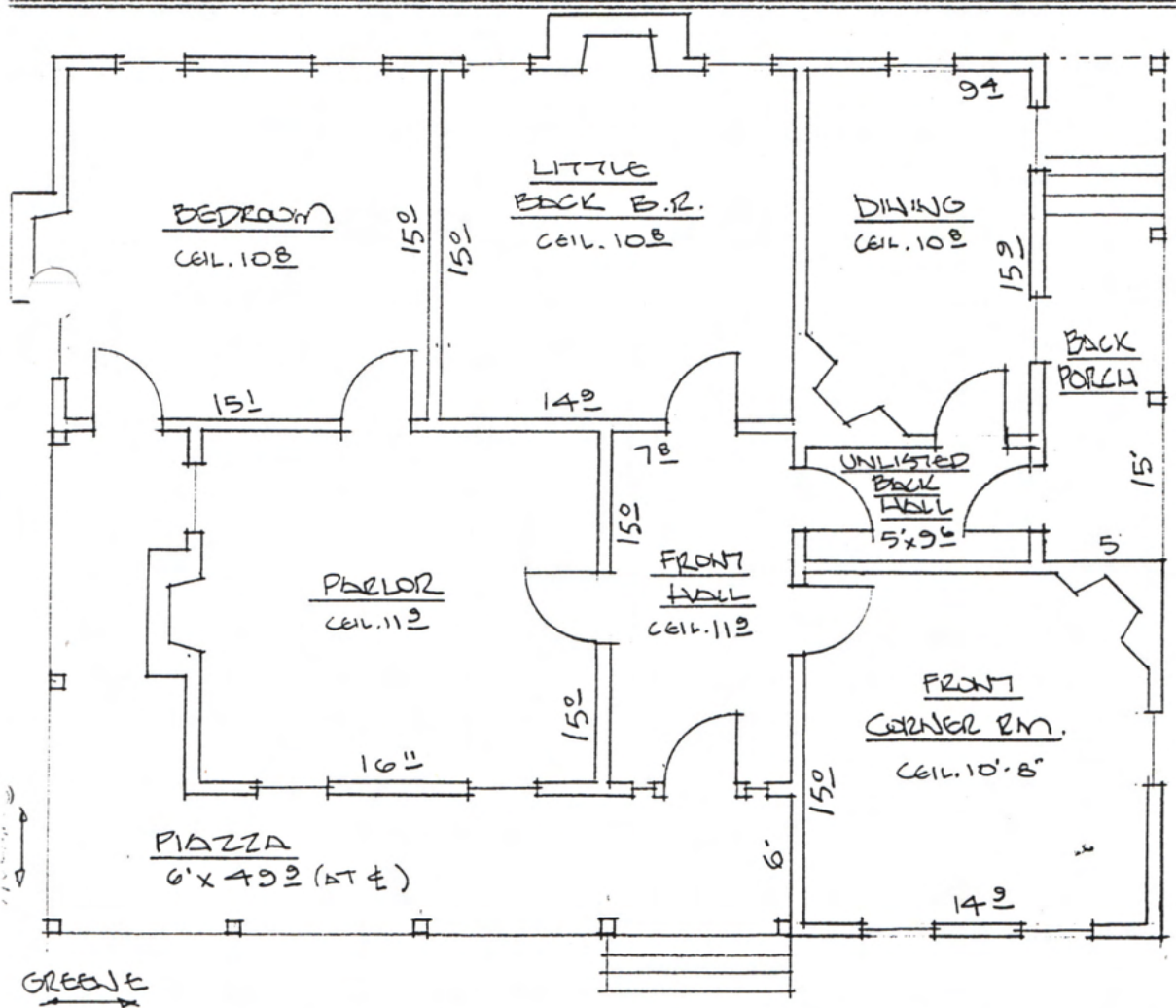
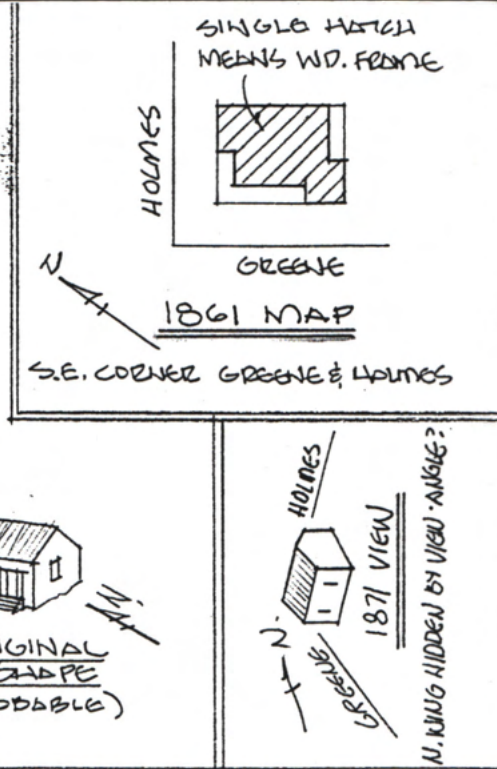
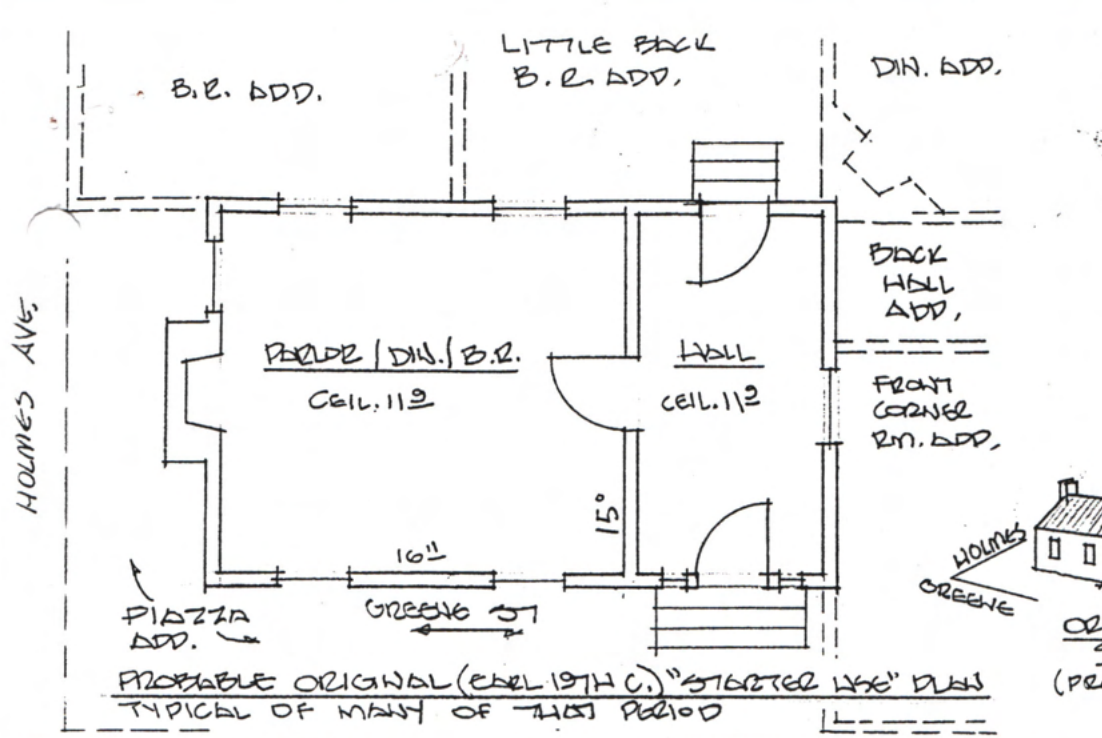
This was fun detective work, and I believe we jointly have found the answer, as well as "reconstructing" this long-lost house.

Respectfully,



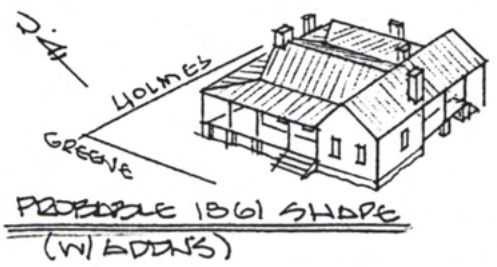
Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

cc: HJ



"SPOTSWOOD HOUSE", HUNTSVILLE, AL. (FED. + ADAMS)
 PER DETAILED MESS. OF INDIV. R.M.S.
 (NO OVERALL PLAN) IN 1840'S CLAY FAMILY PAPERS,
 & PER 1840'S CITY DIRECTORY. THIS PARTICULAR
 1861 MAP PLAN FITS EXACTLY, EXCEPT THE
 PAPERS LIST NO "BACK HALL", BUT DOES LIST A
 "FRONT HALL", IMPLYING A BACK HALL AS WELL.
 HARVEY P. JONES, F.B.A. & DANTEE' PROUITT, HV. PVE. LIB.

1861 MAP SHAPE W/ CONJECTURAL PLAN BASED ON
 DETAILED RM. MESS. IN 1840'S CLAY FAMILY PAPERS
 FOR "SPOTSWOOD HOUSE". CITY DIRECTORIES LIST
 THIS LOC. FOR ONE OF SEVERAL SPOTSWOOD HSES.
 IN THE 1840'S ("CORNER OF GREENE & HOLMES")
 24 MAY 1894 HARVEY P. JONES, F. A. I. A. HUNTSVILLE, AL.



HH
REFERENCE
WILLIAMS'

11778-17
1859-60

HUNTSVILLE DIRECTORY,

CITY GUIDE,

AND

Business Mirror.

CONTAINS ALSO A LIST OF POST OFFICES, IN THE
UNITED STATES, CORRECTED UP TO DATE.



VOLUME 1.—1859-'60

72 12772

HUNTSVILLE:
COLTART & SON, No. 10 Commercial Row.
1859.

HUNTSVILLE PUBLIC LIBRARY
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Sisk Mrs. Melinda, s s Williams b Madison and Henry

Sisk Wm. L. s s Williams b Madison and Henry

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Slaughter John R. (Binford & S.) res s w c Eustis and Lincoln

Slaughter S. A. conductor, M. & C. RR.

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Sledge Reuben M. medical student, n s Clinton b Gallatin and Limberg

Small Geo. T. w s Washington b Public Square and Clinton

Small Geo. W. tinner, bds Madison House

Small James, tinner, wks Thomas A. Sharpe's

Small Vincent, shoemkr. w s Washington b Public Square and Clinton

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Smith Carlos G. school, w s Adams Av. s of Williams

Smith Geo. W. machinist, e s Mill b Arms and M. & C. RR.

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Snead Miss Mary E. teacher of mathematics, Huntsville Female College

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Sumner Robt. carp. bds Madison House

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Swift Miss Anna M. at John H. Swift's

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