



Prepped to move.
± 9 March 1991

Mover = Hollis Kennedy
of Athens



COMPARISON LINE

CUT-OFF
BLUE SPRING BRANCH

R.S. Sprague
The Thompkins
F.M. Taylor
O.D. Sledge
JOS. H. ST.
JOS. C. BRADLEY

W. Echols
Dr. H. A. Bonford
J. H. Boodle
Clemens

J. R. Love
J. R. Love
J. R. Love
CANAL
Millers Estate
Millers Estate
4th Ward
1867 Map of New Orleans

HOLMES

STREET

JEFFERSON

WASHINGTON

CLINTON

GALLATIN

RANDOLPH



FOUNTAIN ROW

STREET

GATES

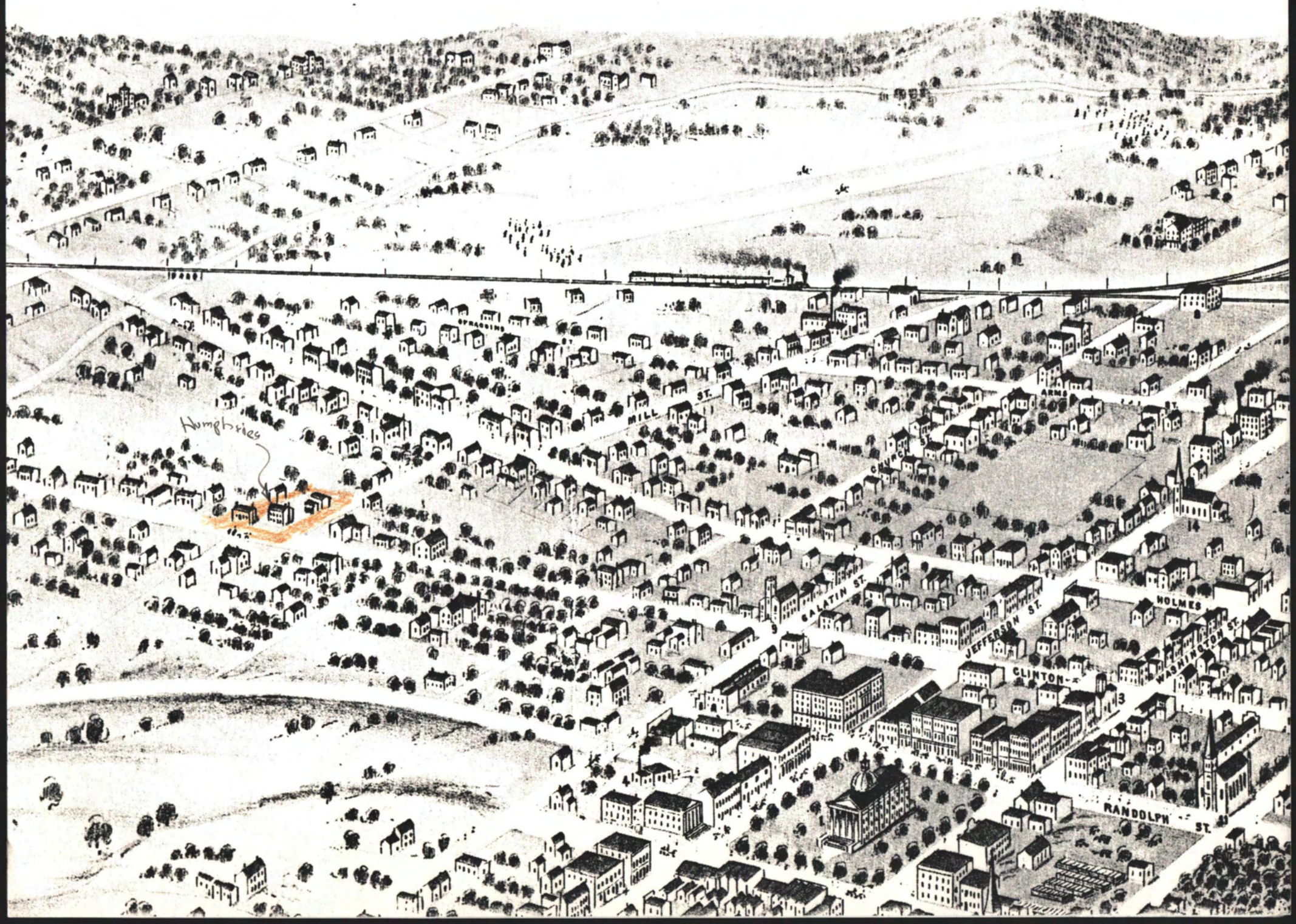
WILLIAMS

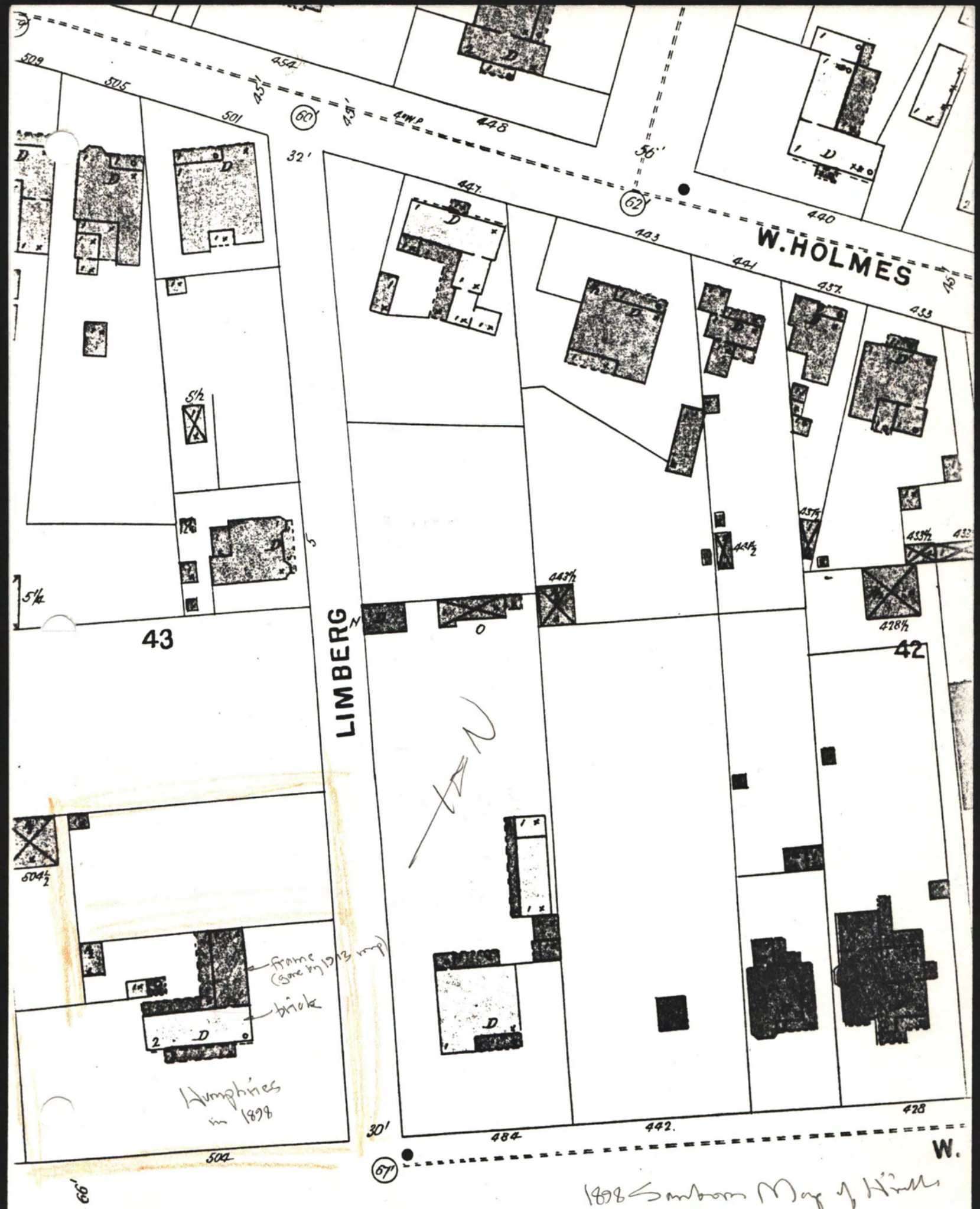
STREET

STREET

Erskine

1871 View of Ithaca.





43

LIMBERG

W. HOLMES

Humphries
in 1898

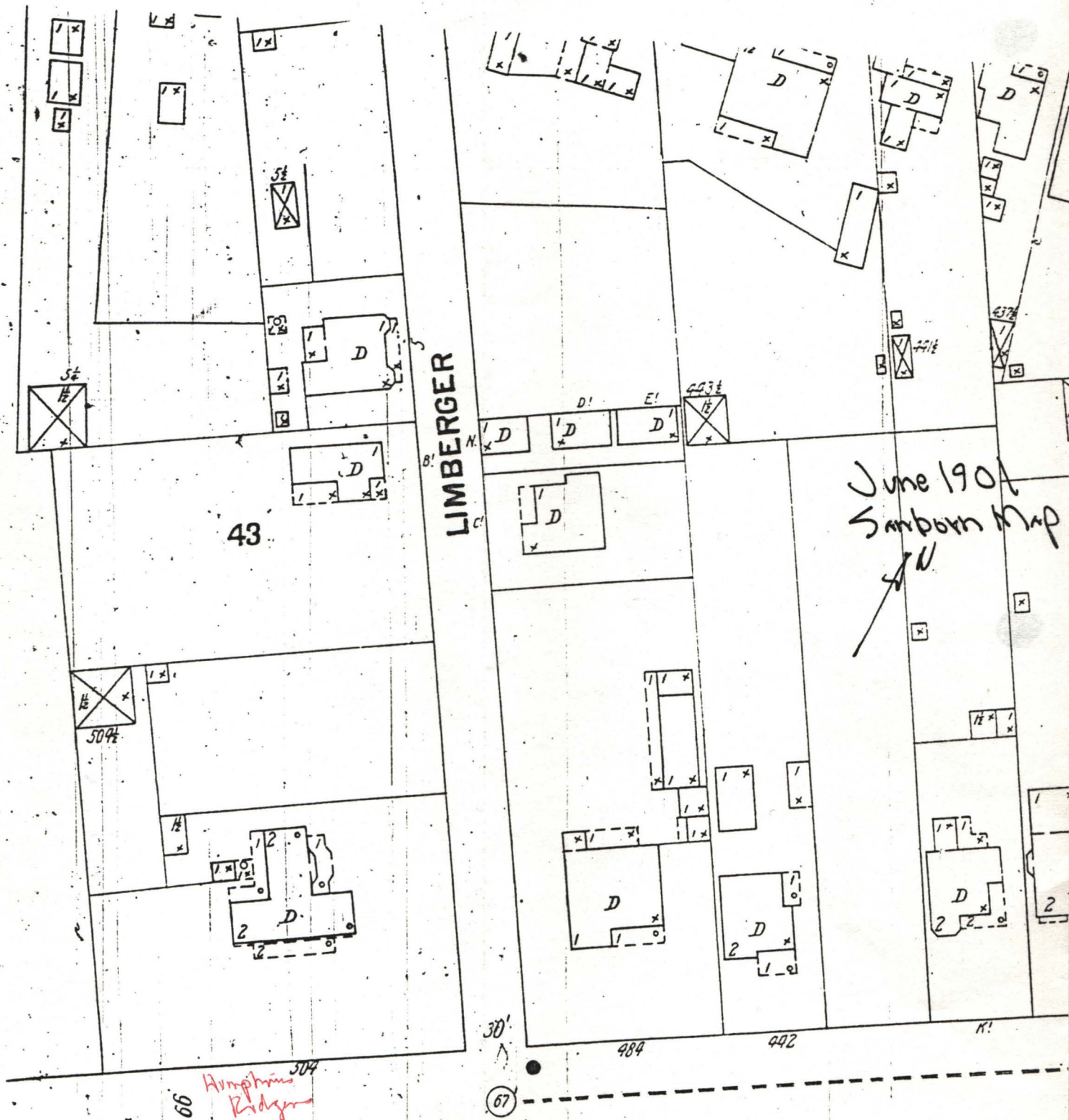
frame
(same by 1913 imp)
brick

1898 Sanborn Map of Hillsdale

67

66

W.



June 1901
 Sanborn Map
 ↙ N

66 Amphibia
 Ridgway

1901 Map

Therefore the rear wing
 of most remodeling was done
 between 1898/1901.
 Front Porch may be earlier

1913 Sanborn map
of W. St.

North

292

OUTSIDE STABLE

8

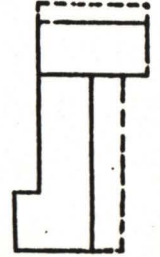
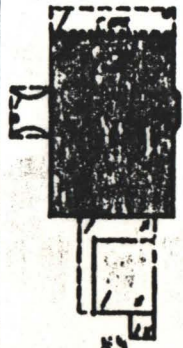
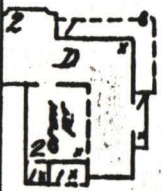
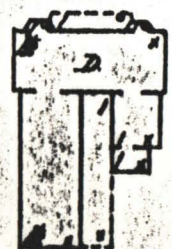
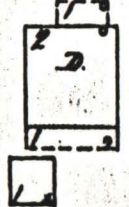
Amphitric
in 1913

LIMBERG ST

W. CLINTON

6" PIPE

67



240

14

Division
Library of Congress

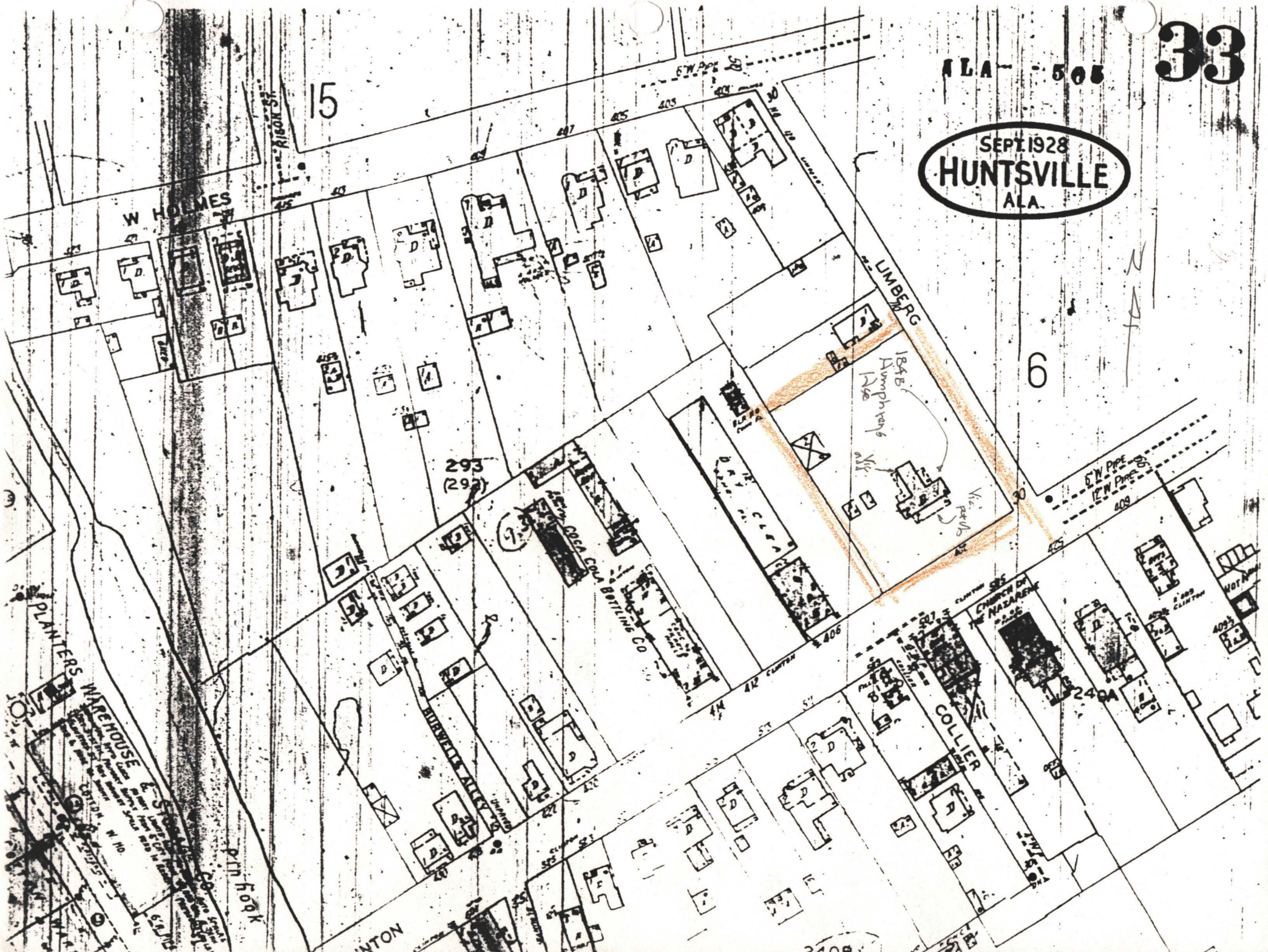
ALA 508

33

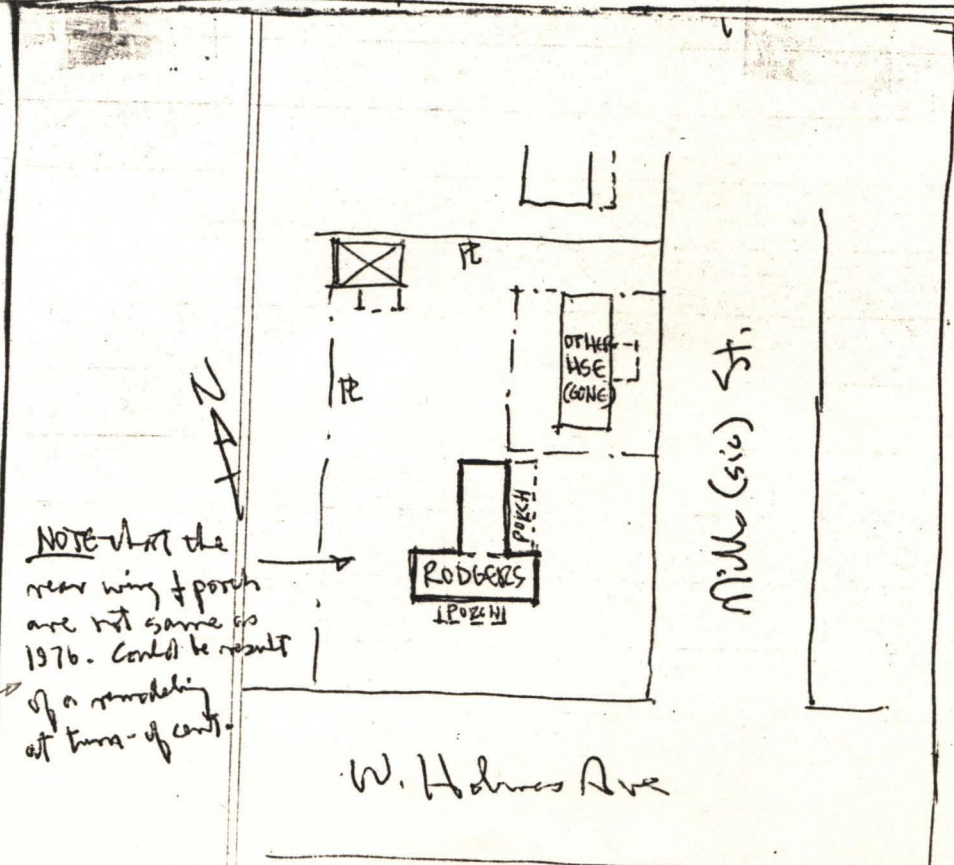
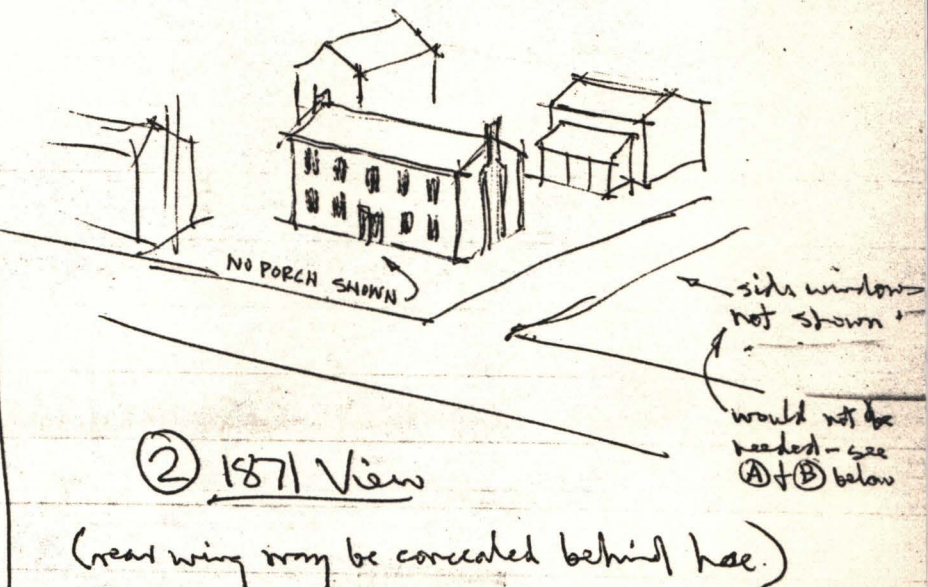
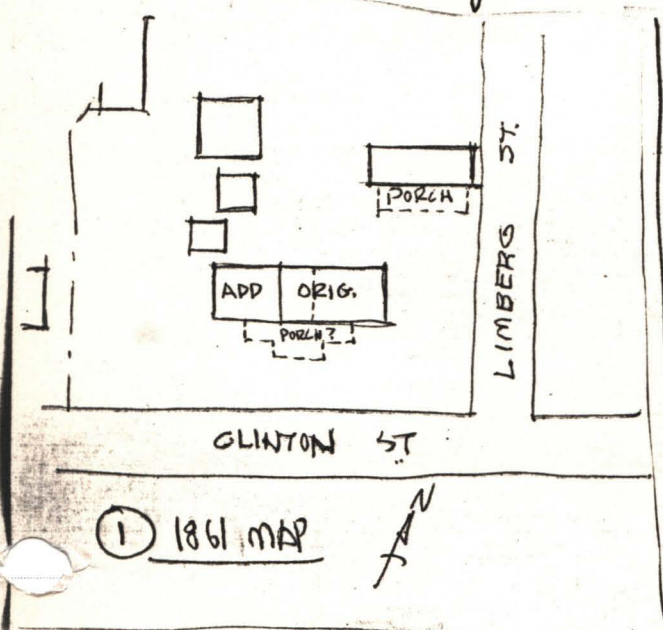
SEPT 1928
HUNTSVILLE
ALA.

15

6



Rodgers Use - Huntsville, AL HP Jones - July 14 76

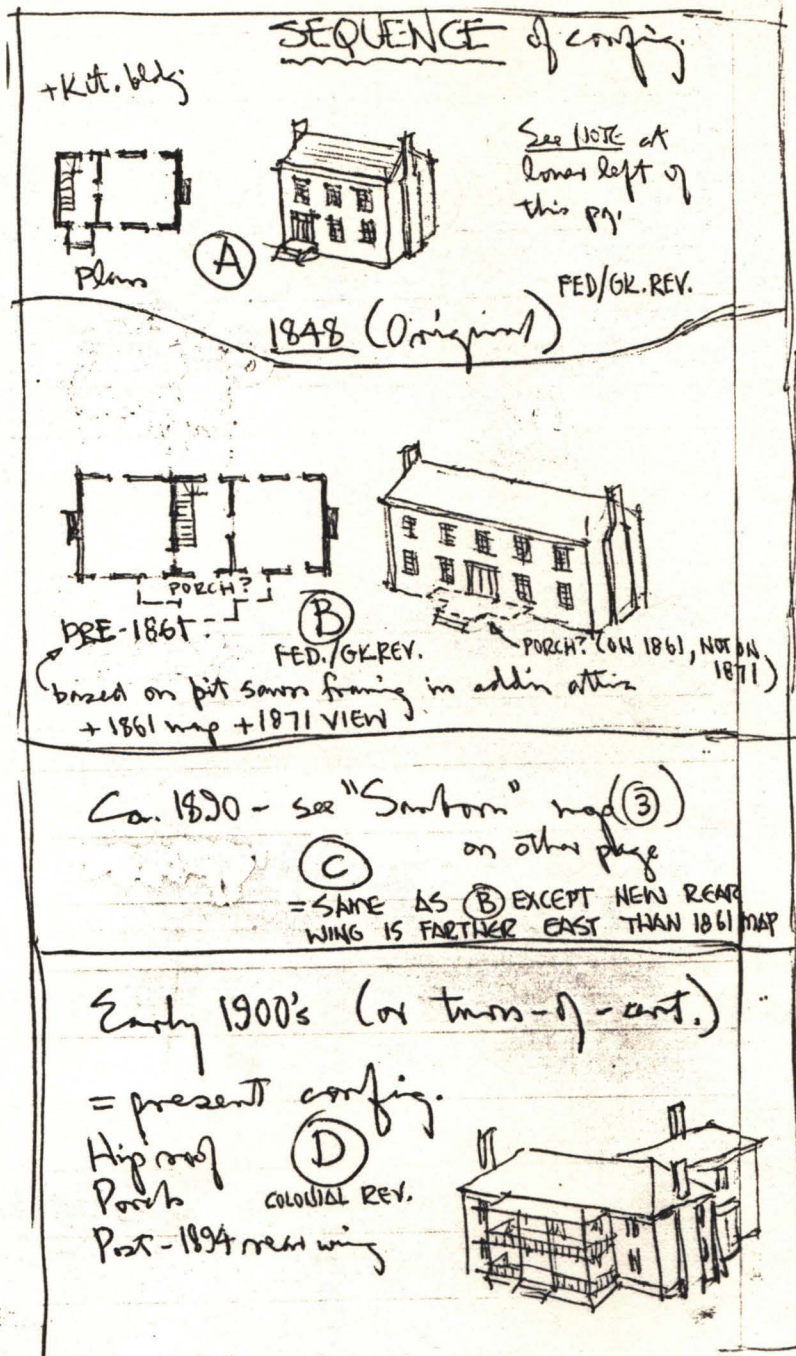


NOTE that the rear wing & porch are not same as 1976. Could be result of a remodeling at turn-of-cent.

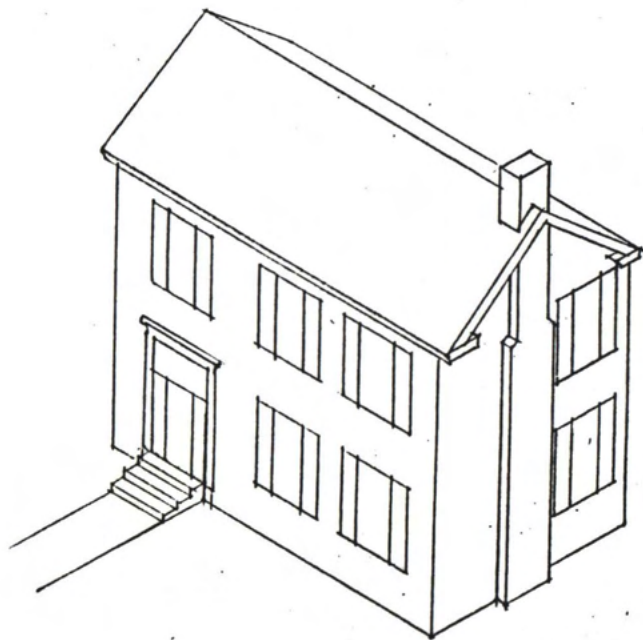
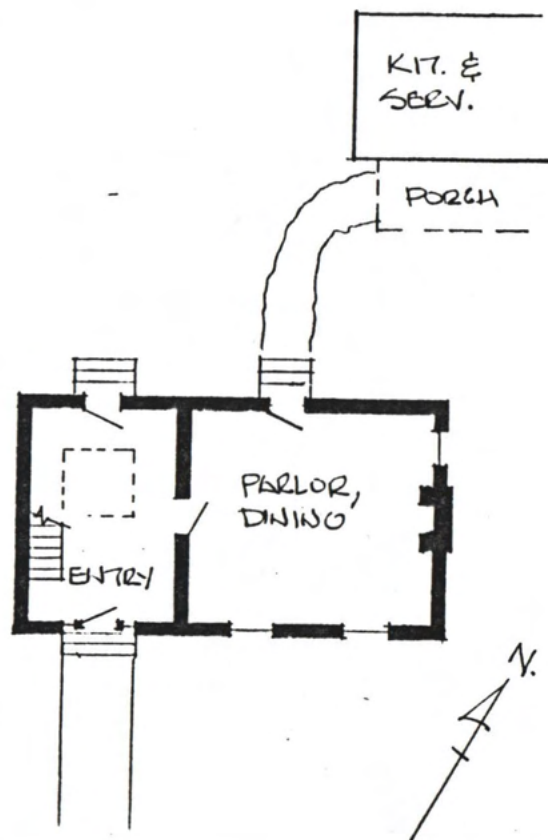
yes (AJ)

3 1894 "Sanborn" Map

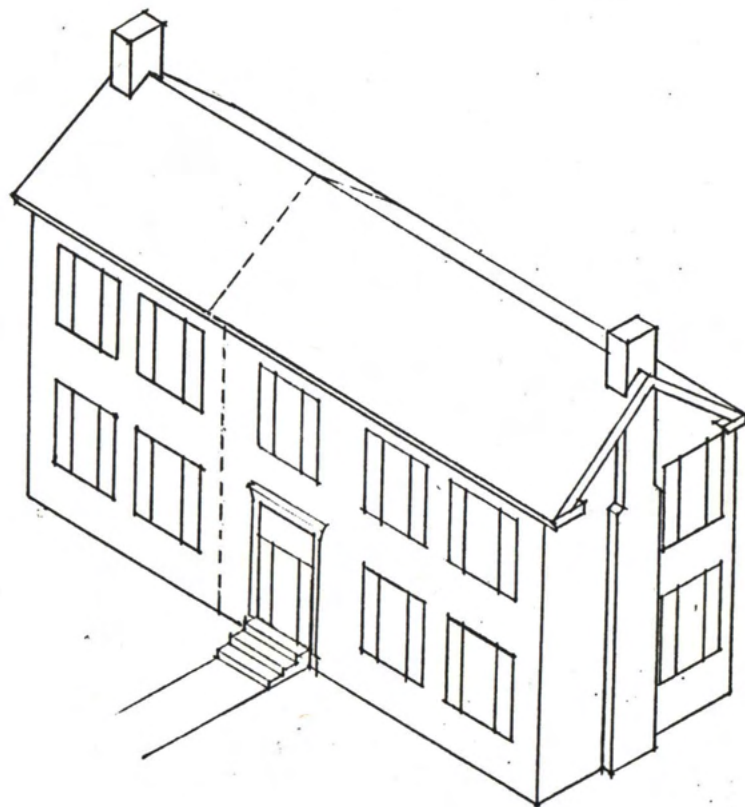
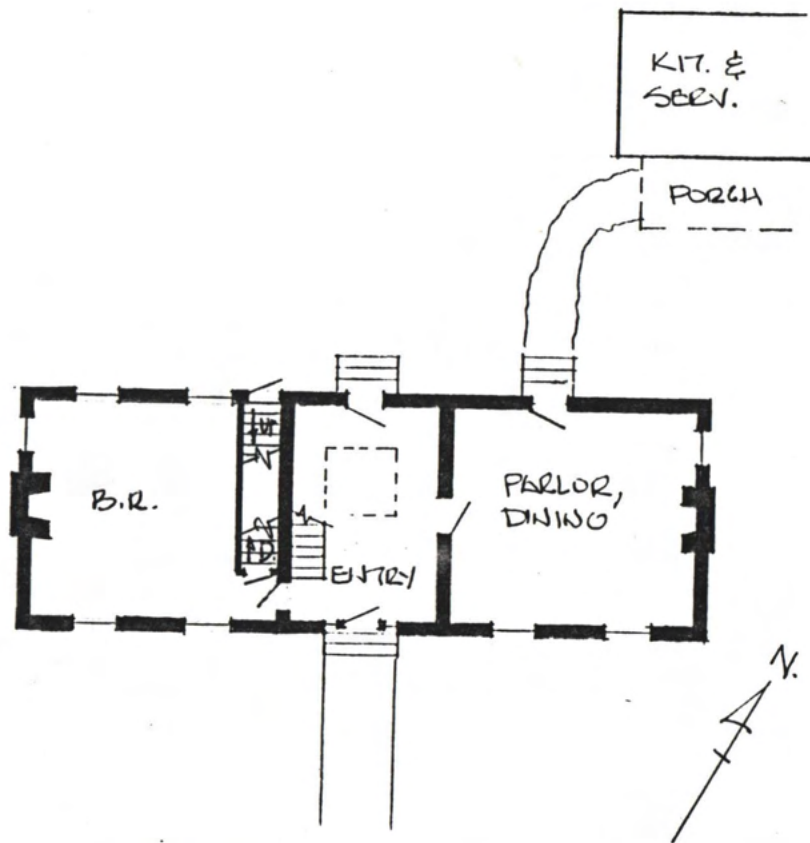
See "NOTE"
at bottom
of sheet



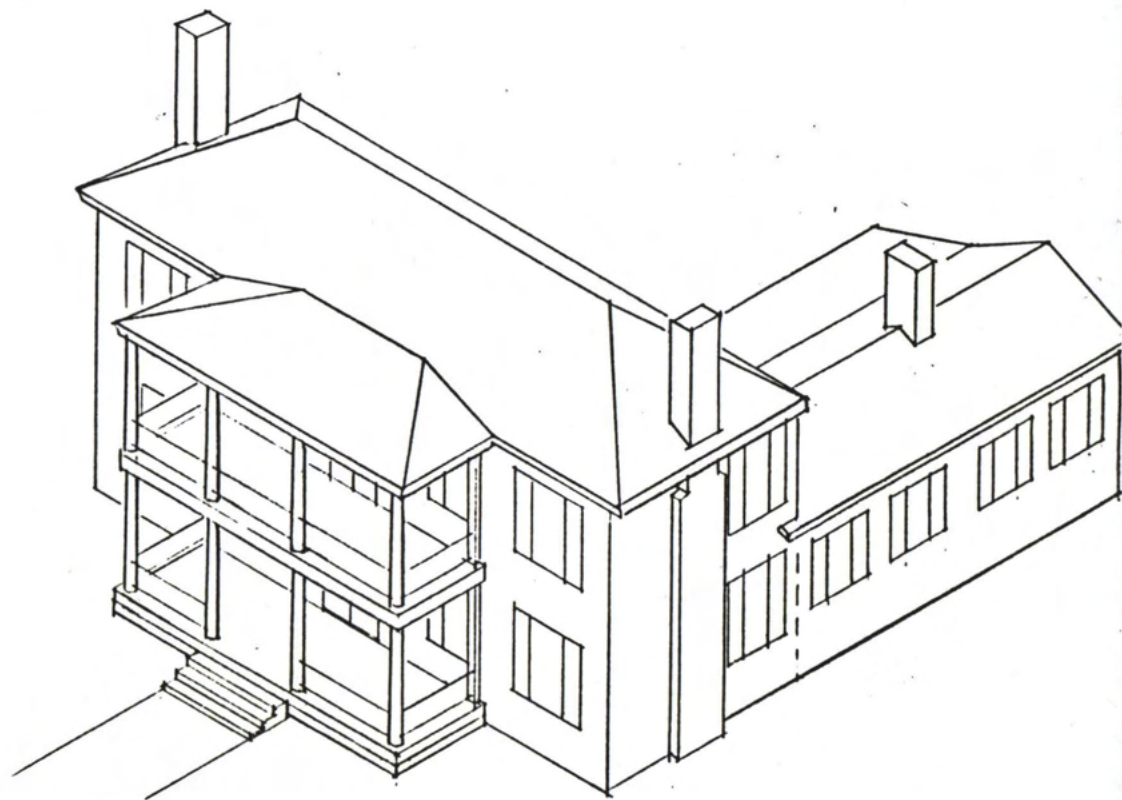
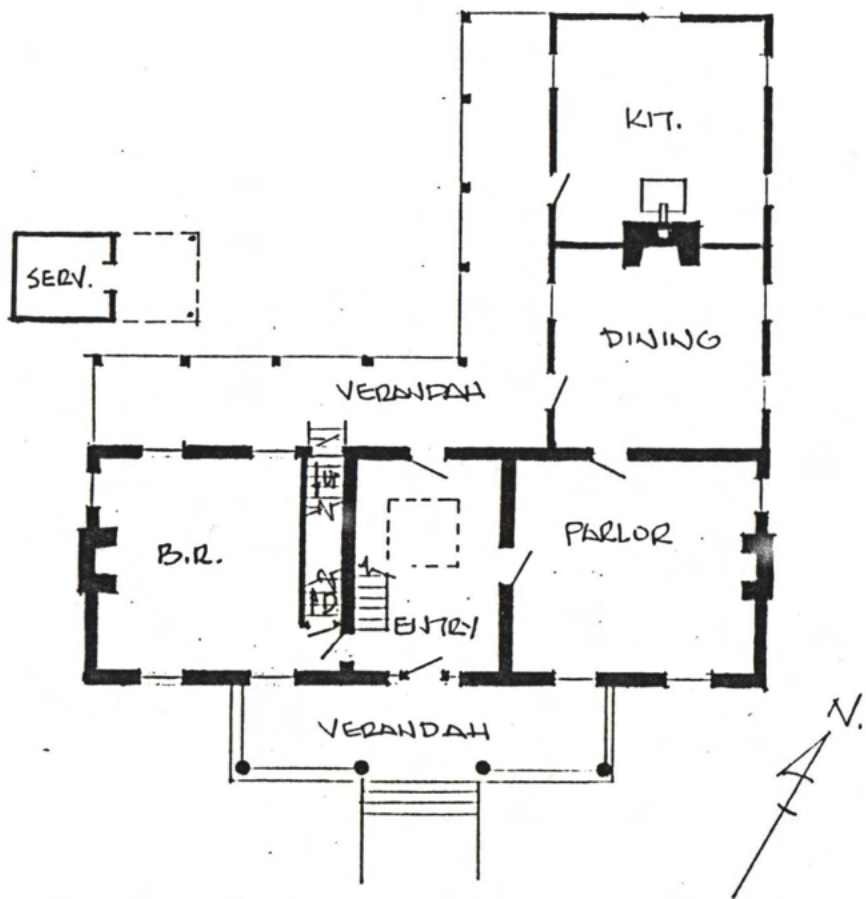
- NOTE - Sequence shown from (A) to (B) is clearly indicated by:
- ① It. in brick to left of entry
 - ② Patch in entry fl. where door was cut to west.
 - ③ Different (but pit-sawn) joists in attic to west.
 - ④ Removed west brick gable wall in attic
 - ⑤ Mantle, material & details at addn are Ok. Rev. (1950's)

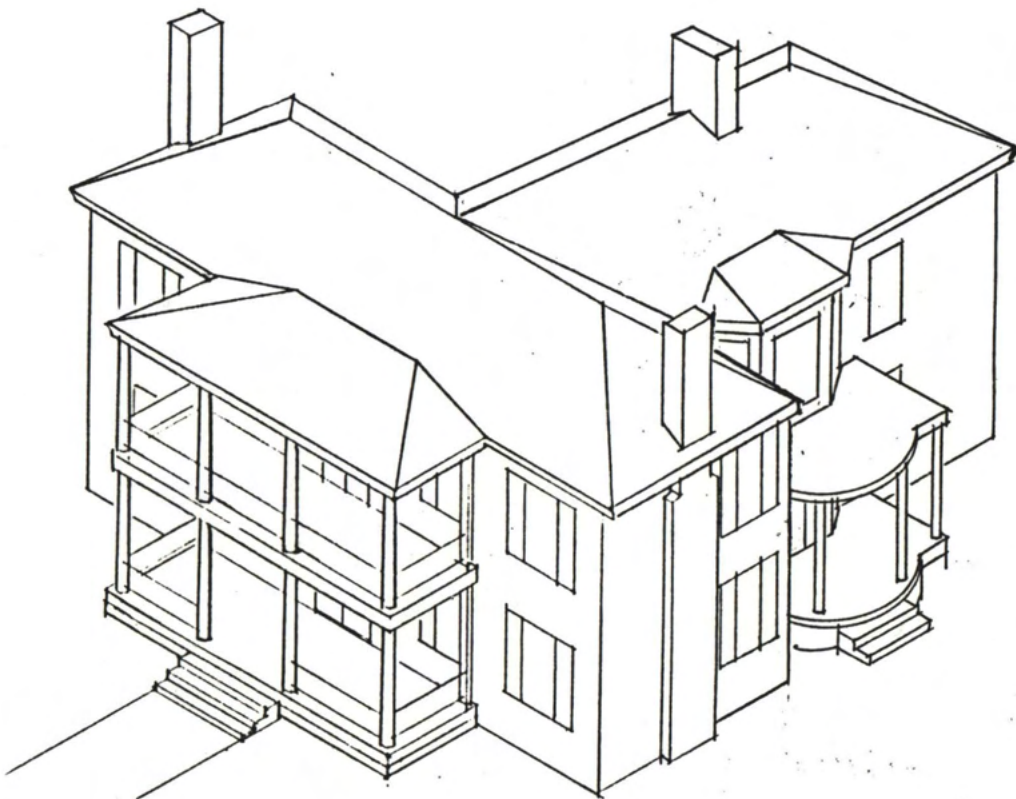
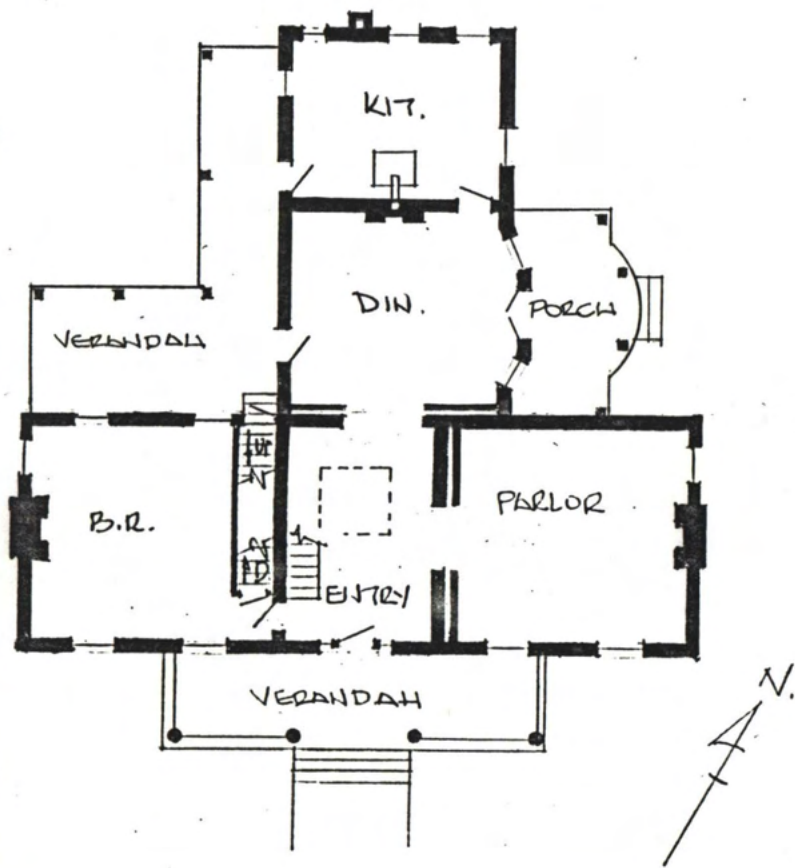


Circa 1848 configuration

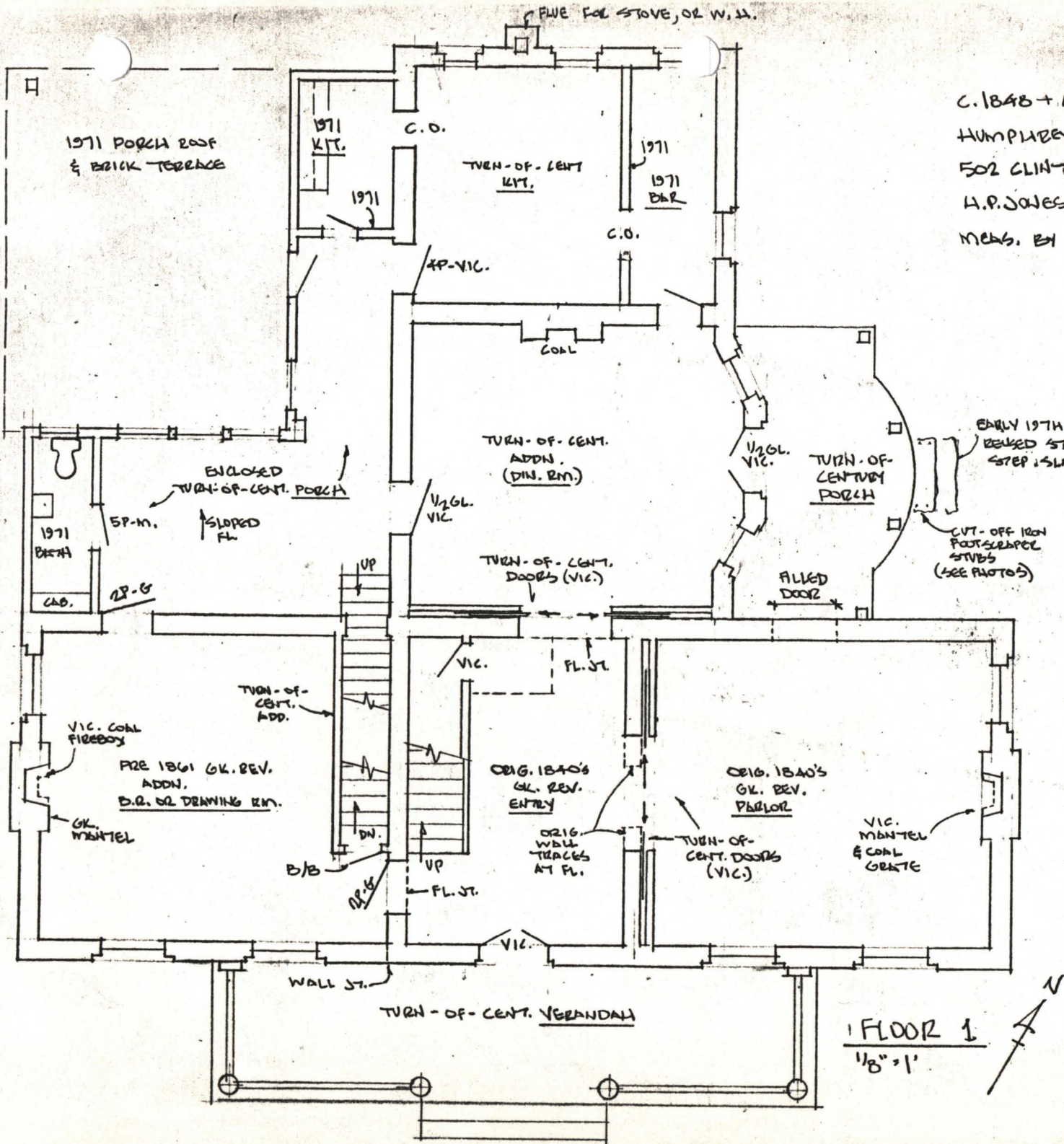


configuration on 1861 map

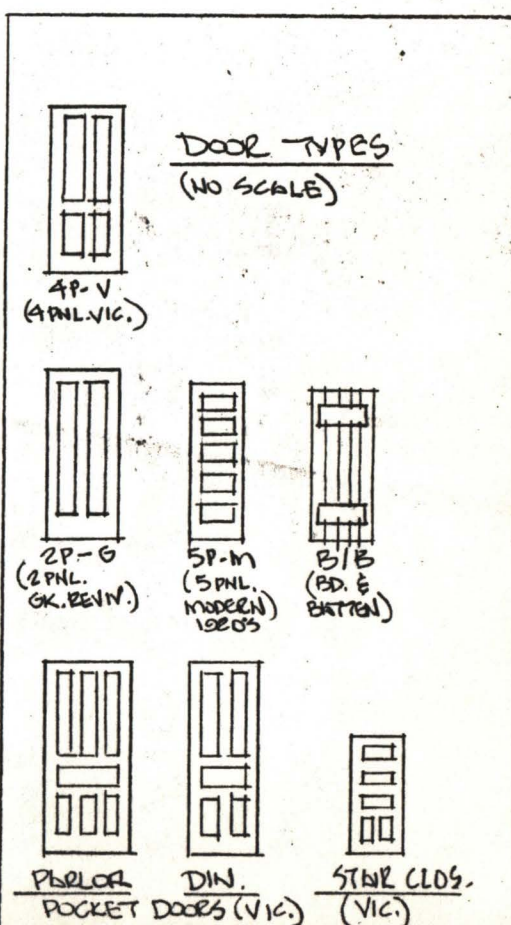




Configuration on 1913 Sanborn Map

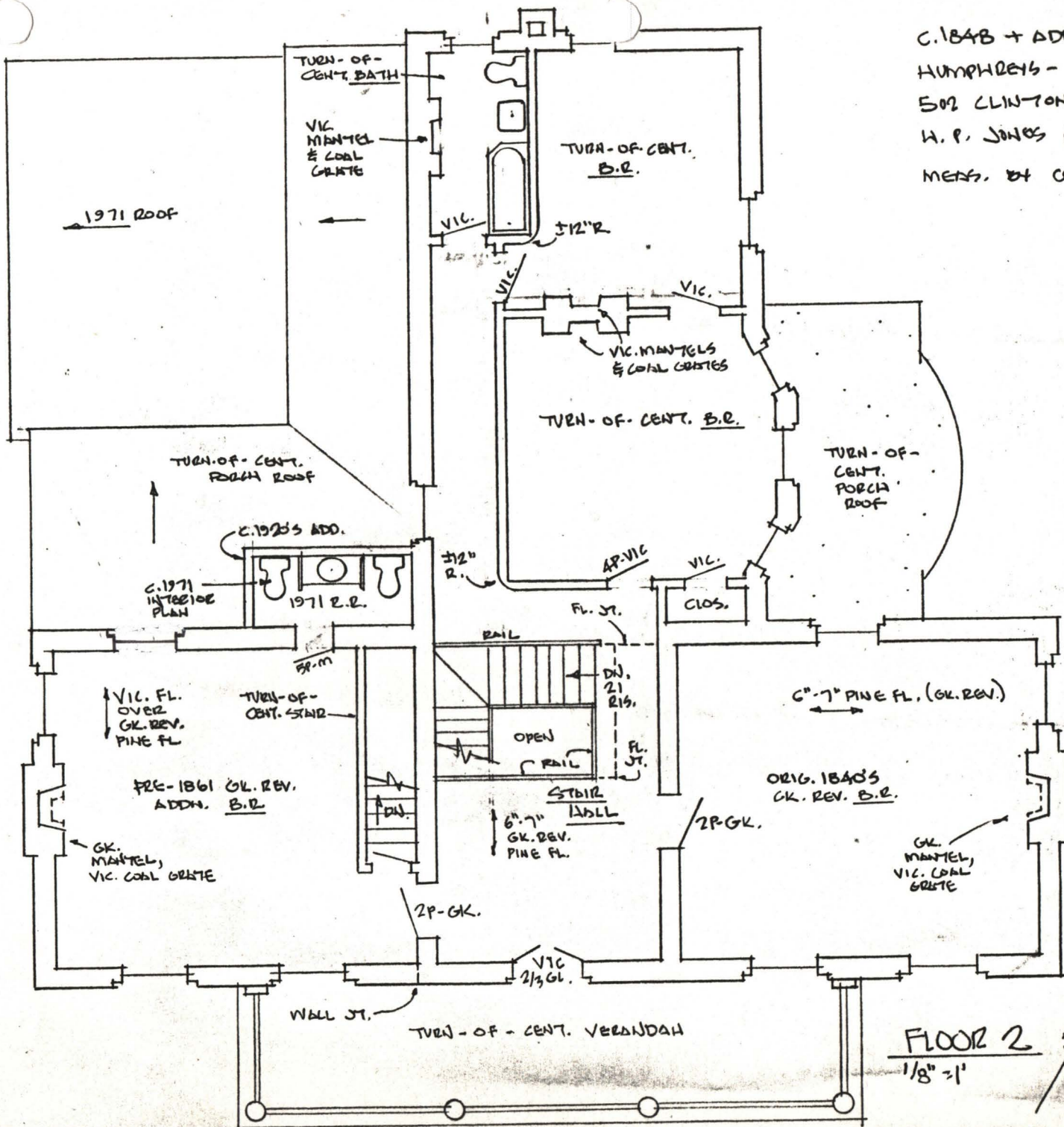


C. 1848 + ADDNS.
 HUMPHREYS - ROBERTS 1858.
 502 CLINTON AVE. W.
 H.P. JONES, FAIA - 27 NOV. 1930
 MEAS. BY COOK-COLA

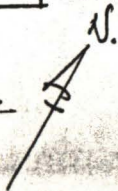


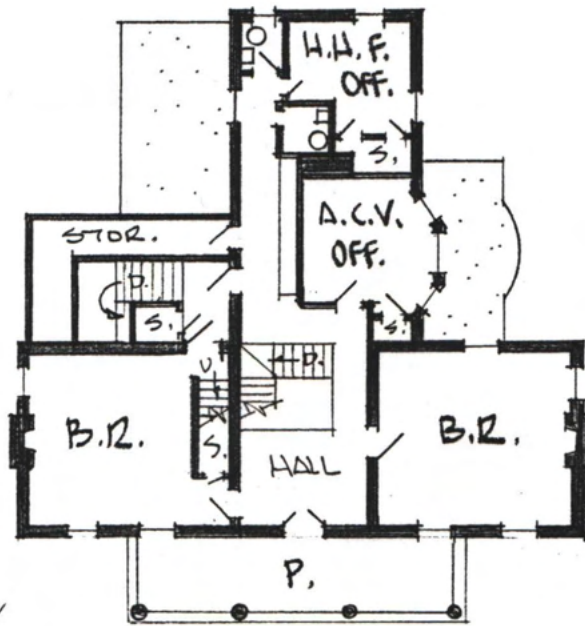
1 FLOOR 1
 1/8" = 1'

C. 1848 + ADDNS.
 HUMPHREYS - ROGERS USE
 502 CLINTON AVE. N.
 W. P. JONES, FND 27 NOV. 90
 MENS. BY COCA-COLA CO.

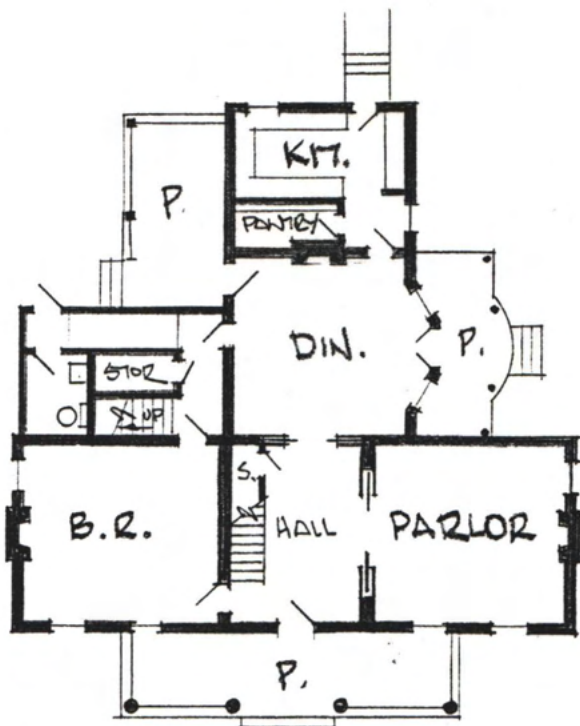
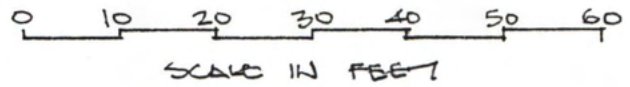


FLOOR 2
 1/8" = 1'





FLOOR 2



FLOOR 1



Gates Ave →

Fountain Caddy ↑

Restor. Plan
for Const. Village
J & H, Arch
HJ of James Wood

Humphries - Rodgers Hse
1848 + c. 1910, H'v'W, Al.
HJes, June '94

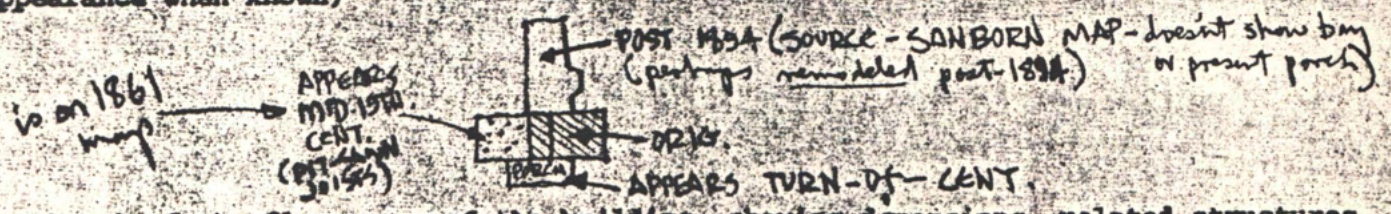
ing: orig ± 6" Pine
(± 3" at rear wing)

Notable hardware: mostly Vic. (date)

General setting and orientation: faces S. Originally in "suburb", now across st. from large Civic Center

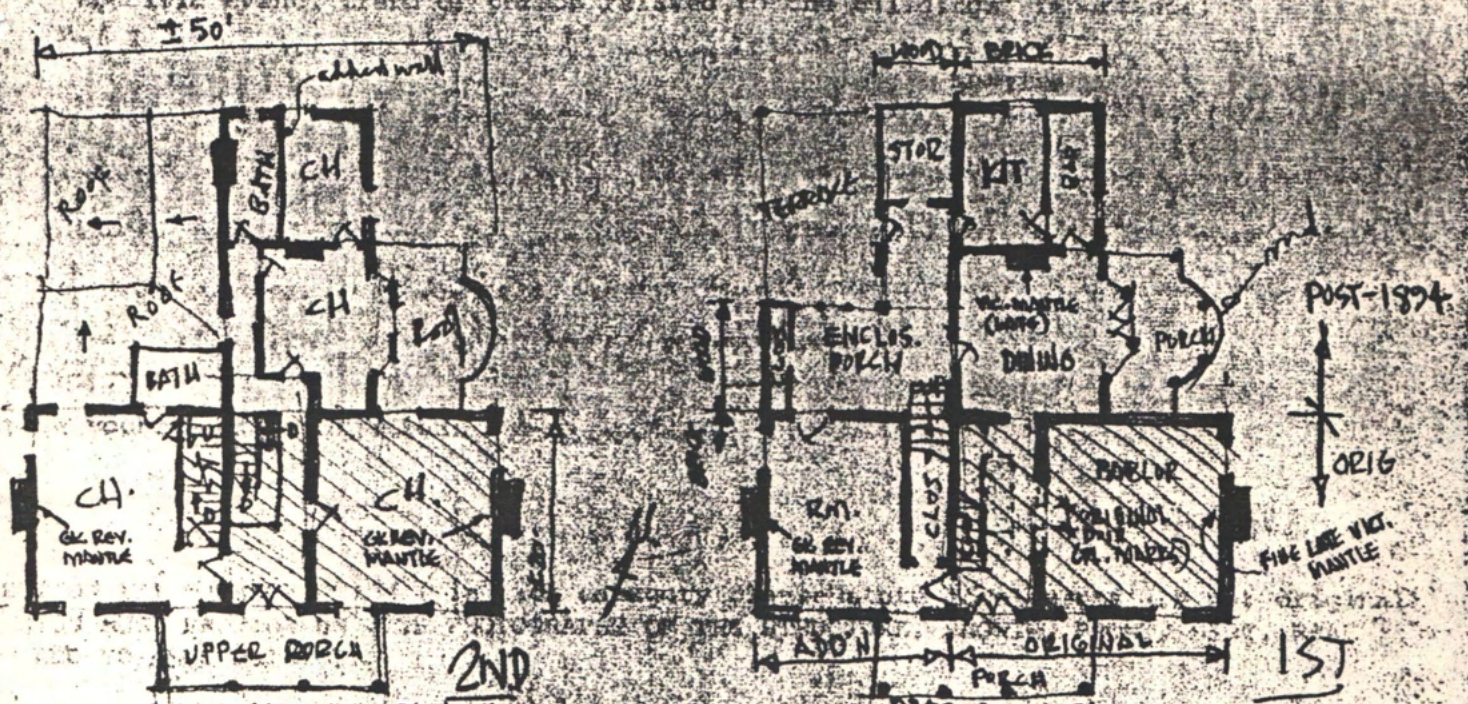
Outbuildings: None which are original

Give all alterations and additions: (be specific, give date of change and original appearance when known)



Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and additions. Also give north arrow and indicate front of the structure.

Stair on side is late Vic. period. Tracks are orig. ca. 1940



Form prepared by HARVEY P. JONES Date JULY 1976

Address 104 Jefferson St Phone 532-1764

Huntsville, AL 35801

Organization AHC

exterior wall material and design: (note changes from one floor or wing to another)

Solid brick, including stair-hall walls; 3 bricks thick
Brick pts are paint-stamped, per normal practice here in
pre 1860 houses. A.P.T. says this was done originally to accept
pts in post-war houses, if was not a later "touch-up".

Virtually every house here has heavy (pre 1860)
Good brick on front wall, cheap brick on sides & back (also normal practice)

Roof type and covering: Hip, cedar shingles (new) Orig. Hse roof
was gabled (1871 View + attic plan)

Roof trim: (describe cornices, verges, brackets, etc.)

Chimneys: (give number, location, and description)

Porches: Front (type and description) $\pm 10' \times 35'$ 2 story, 4 cols/fl.

2 layers of color-treated wood. Bracketed corners, dentils

Rear (type and description) $\pm 10' \times 35'$

Side (types and descriptions) E. Side - cornice like roof
wood fl - 1 story

Doors: Main entrance (location, description)

DKL, 5' x 7', high 1/2 door

other entrances: (location, description)

East Porch - same

Windows: (give types, number for each floor or facade, describe trim)

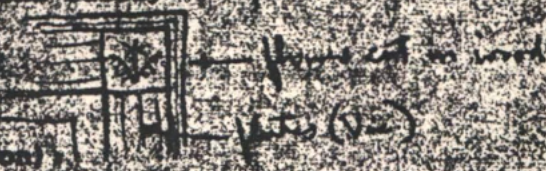
Front row - 6K Rev. Fluted

Back wing - 2 x 2' 1/2' of Porch, 1 row at Dining etc.

Trim - GK Rev. Fluted

(Give types, number for each floor and side)

Trim - Vign. Fluted
lower 1



INTERIOR FEATURES

Mantels: (number, location, and description)

7. 3 = GK Rev. Fluted

4 = Turn-of-cent. Plaster, very fine w/ inlay (number of panel & wd.)

Describe interior windows and doors

Front = GK Rev. Fluted

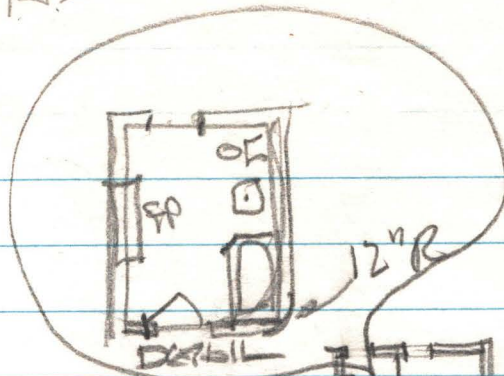
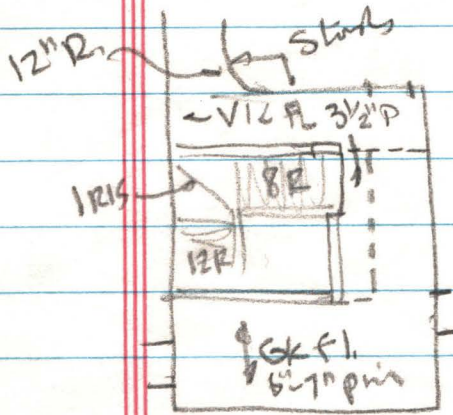
Heavy scale

Stairways (types, locations and features)

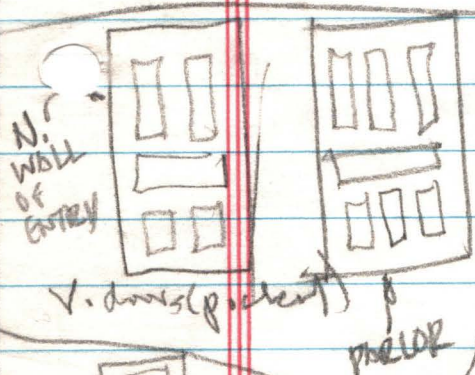
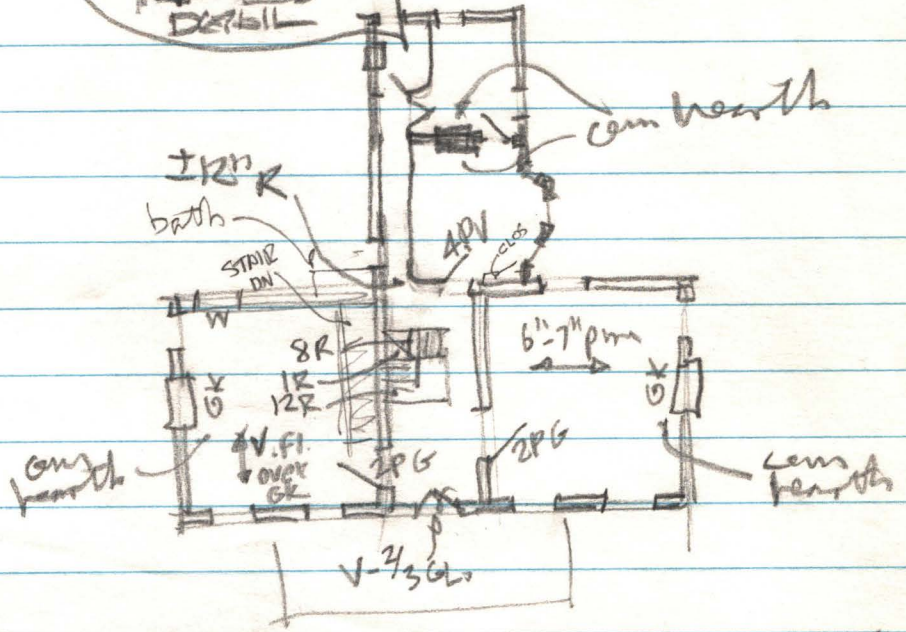
Turn-of-cent, grained, heavy scale, turned balusters
(Treads of riser in one piece) hand on wood of base with pine

C. 1980's Rogers Use
 + later additions
 field notes
 HPS, FAIS
 10 Nov. 1990

1 of 2



F12

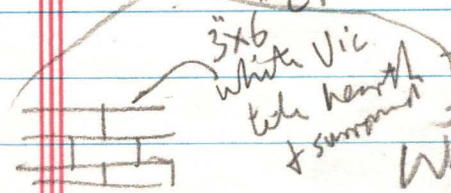


ell = sloped fl
 (old porch)

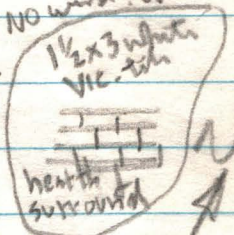
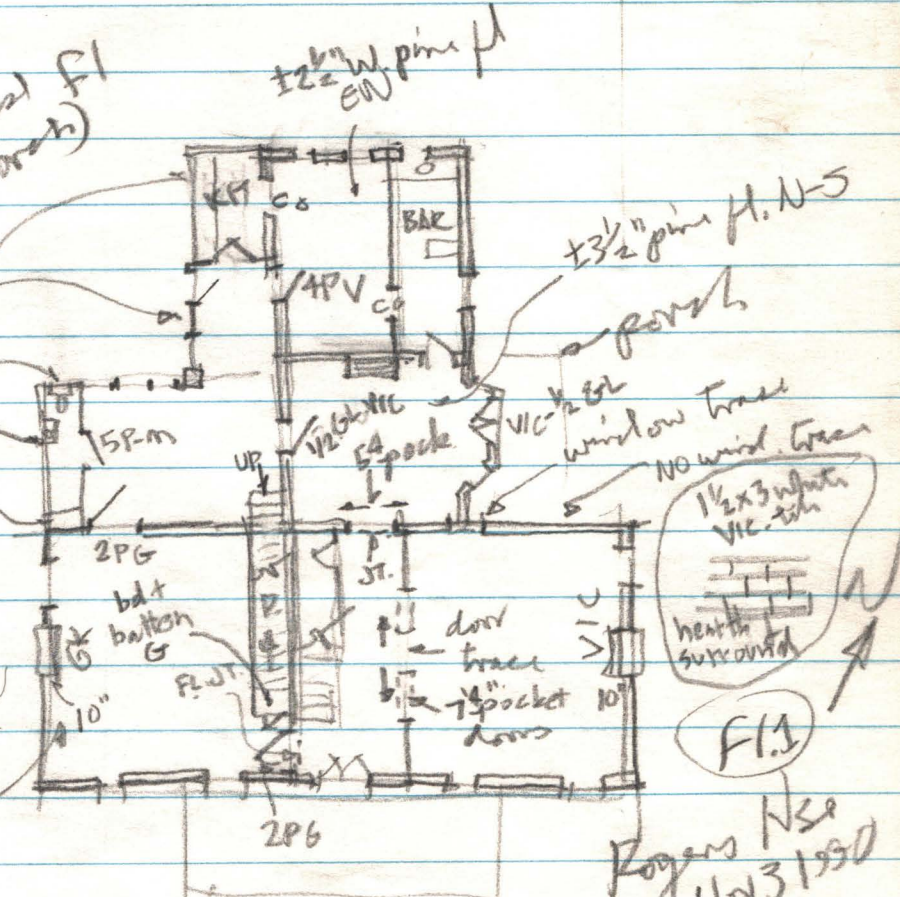
Vid onto
 under stair

All trim in entry = grained

Fl. 5
 = 6\"/>



Wall ± 14\"/>

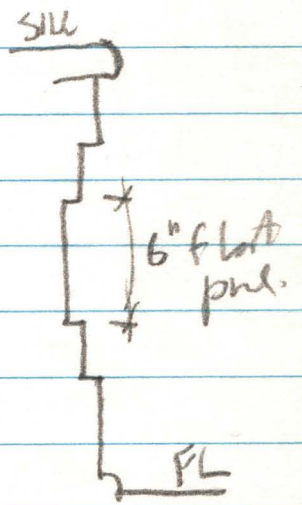


F11

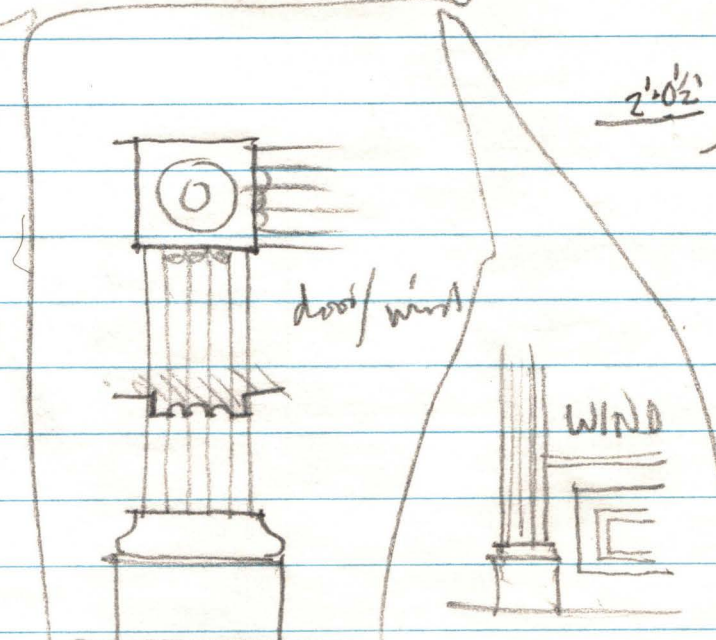
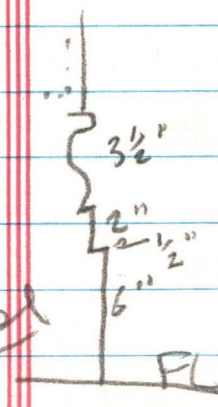
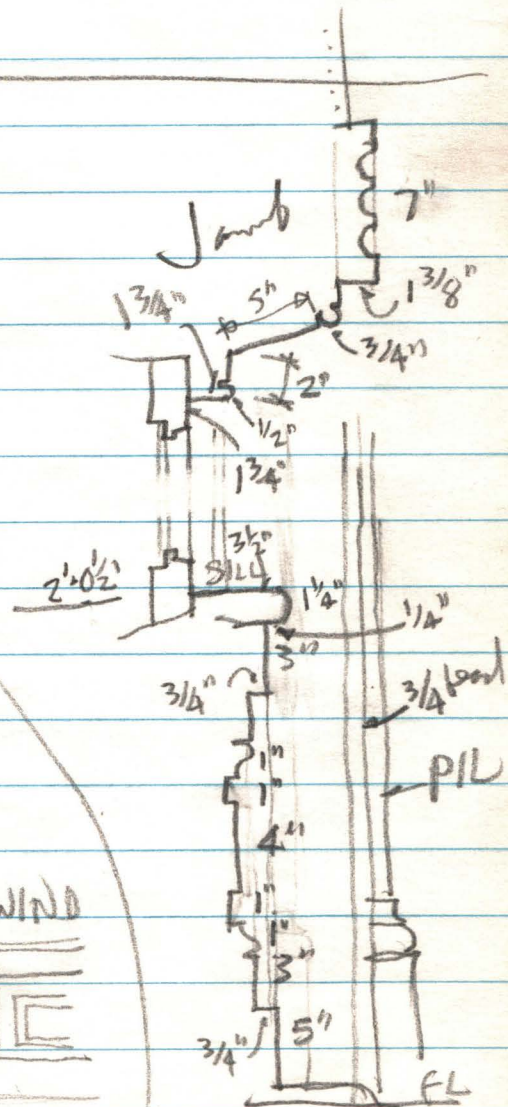
Rogers Use
 Nov 3 1990
 H Jones

1st fl. S.W.

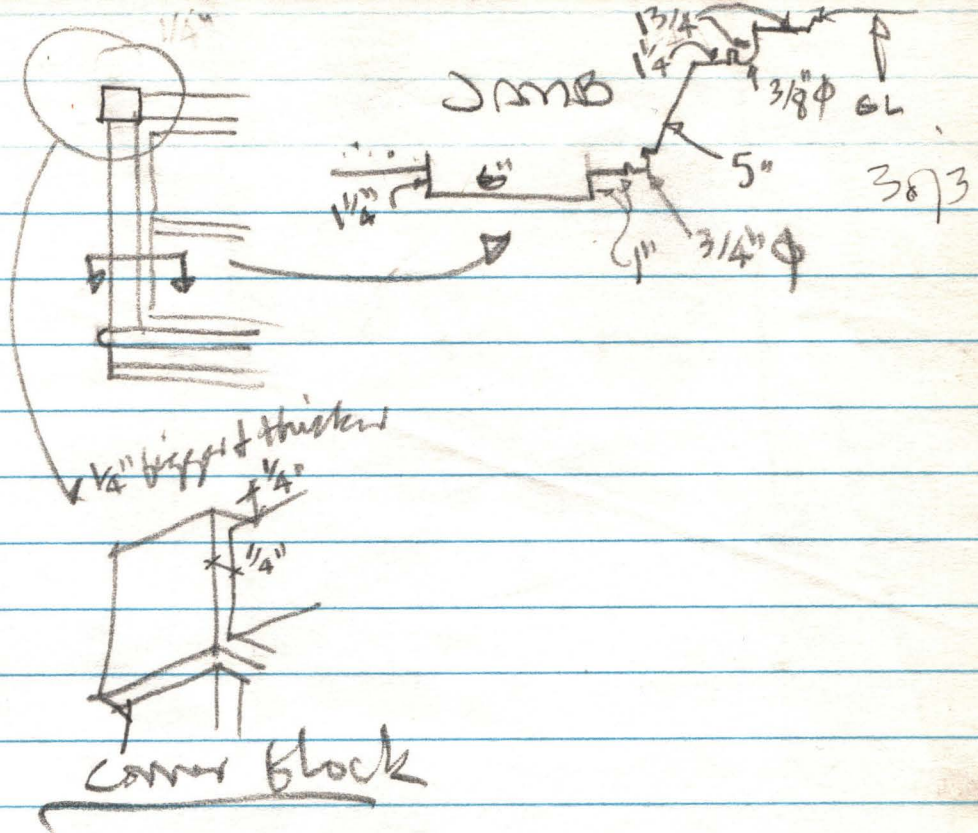
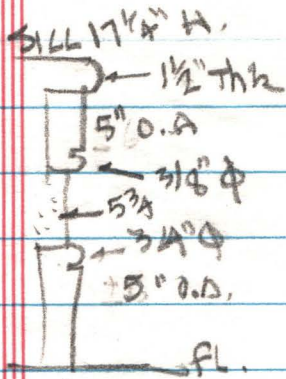
base etc same as porch except
panels below windows =



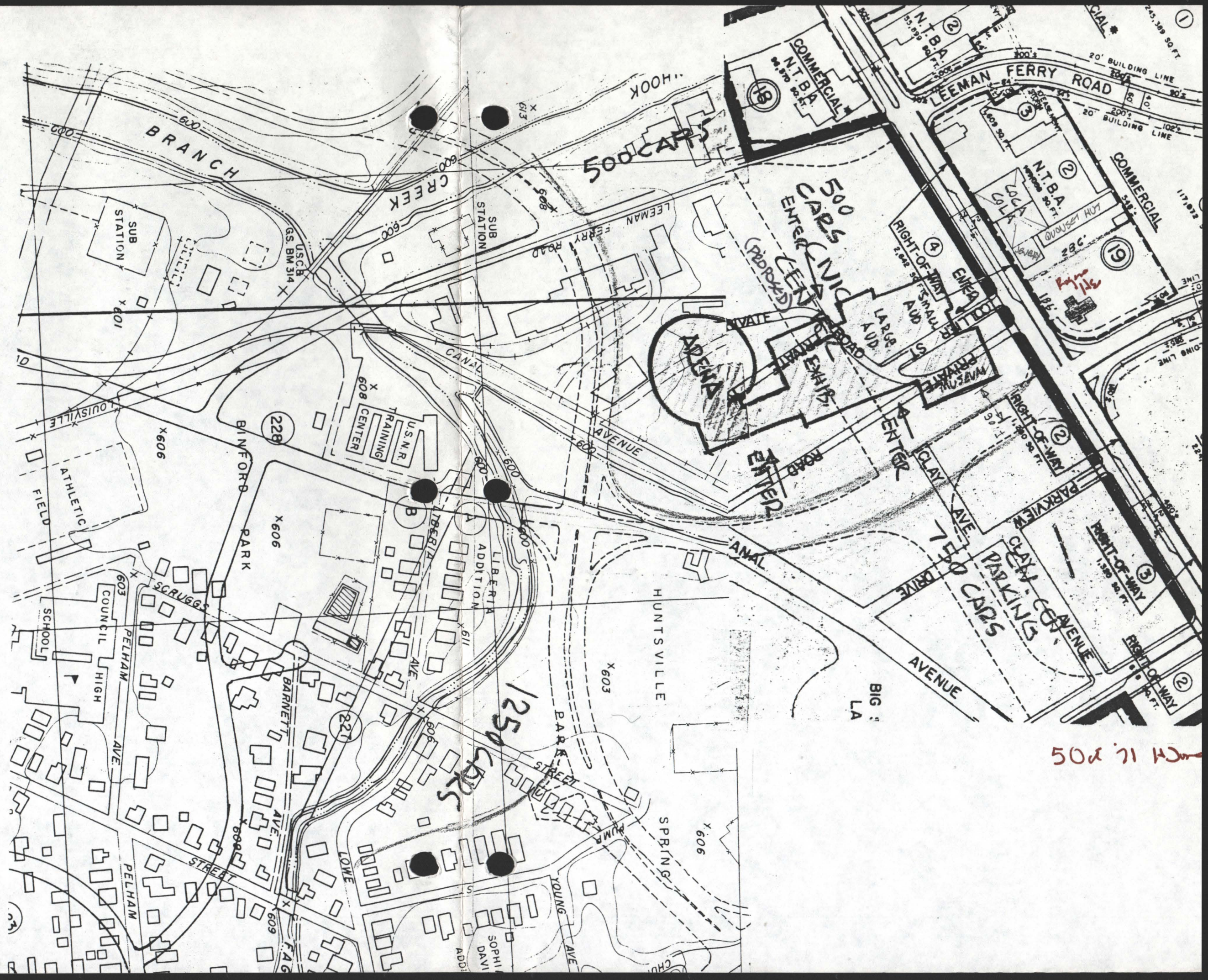
Parlor
Fl. & S.E.



F1 2 S.E.



F1 2 SW = same



500 CARS

500 CARS
ENTER CENTER

APRENA

1250 CARS

50x71 HD

BIG LA

N.T.B.A.
2800 SQ. FT.

2800 SQ. FT.

N.T.B.A.
11,500 SQ. FT.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
11,500 SQ. FT.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
11,500 SQ. FT.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
11,500 SQ. FT.

N.T.B.A.
2800 SQ. FT.

N.T.B.A.
11,500 SQ. FT.

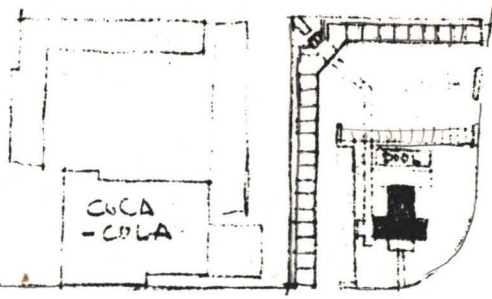
N.T.B.A.
11,500 SQ. FT.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
11,500 SQ. FT.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
11,500 SQ. FT.

RIGHT-OF-WAY
11,500 SQ. FT.

EMILY FERRY ROAD



HOLMES AVE. W

MOTOR HOTEL:
25 BNS/FL. 15' W.
4 ENT FLS - 100 UNITS
PARKING UNDER
120 CARS ±

Designed as a volunteer effort
to find a way to save the
abandoned house, on an
extremely costly & valuable
piece of land next to the
proposed Civic Center (built 1983-4)

It was built - Gov bought &
saved the house (w/o water)

CREEK

PROPOSED
VON BRAUN
CIVIC CENTER

500
CARS

ARENA

MONROE AVE

PROPOSED
CIVIC
CENTER
PARKING
STRUCTURE

750

PARK

LAGOON

CITY
UTIL.

PARK

WILLIAMS
AVE

CITY
HALL

LAGOON

1" = 100'
Section II

How

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

Jan 7 '91 Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A.

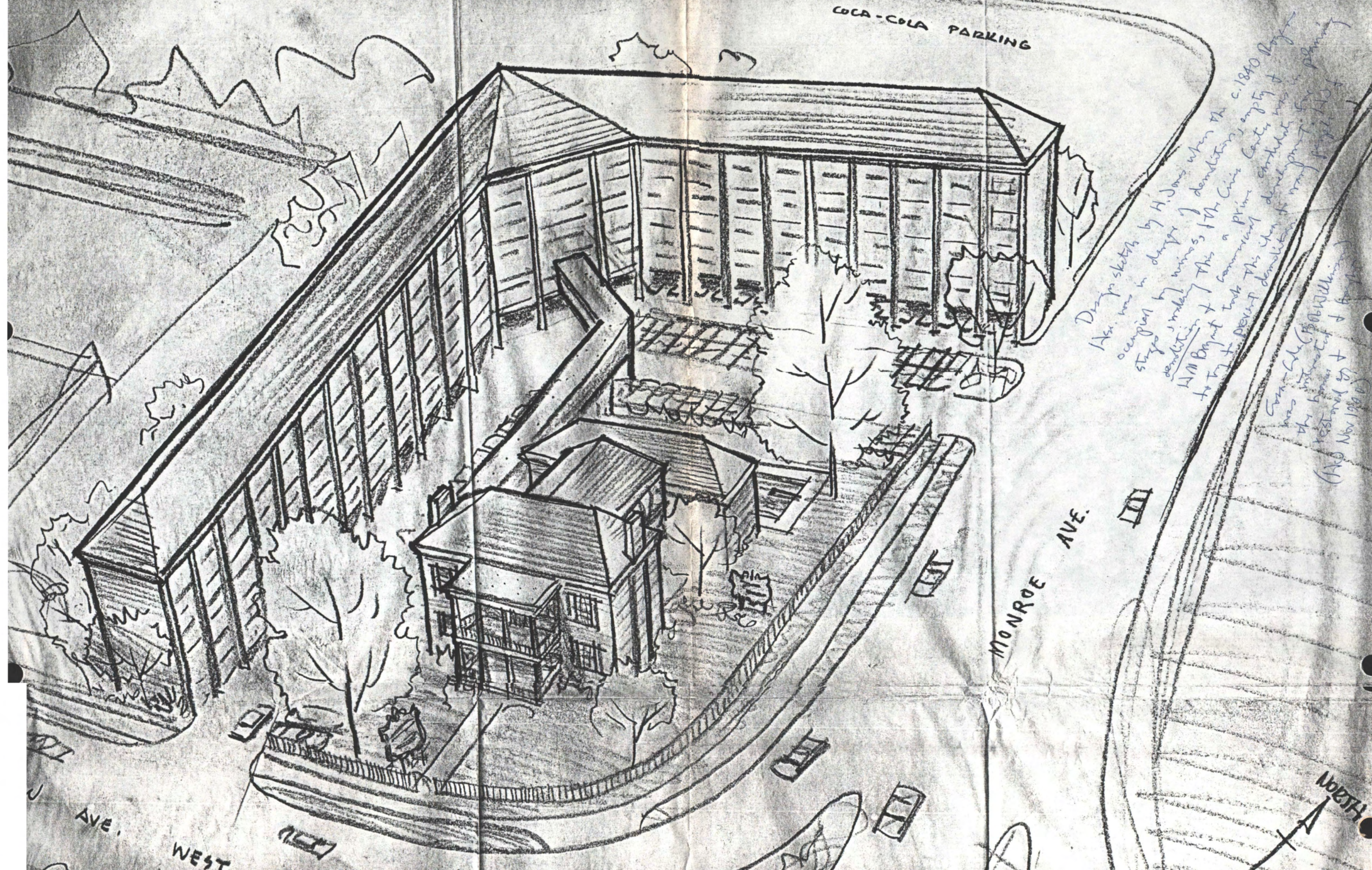
Sketch made in c. 1971 in an effort to save the Humphreys - Rodgers hse. from impending demolition upon constr. of the V.B. Civic Center. The 1.33[±] expansive acres of land precluded resid. use, right by the VBCC.

The idea was to find a commercial use that preserved the house. H. Jones of Hall Bryant Jr. called on a number of people w/ the idea, among them Jack Chambers of Bob Wilkinson of Coca Cola. They bought it & renovated the house in the mid 1970's (w/o the motel).

Harvie Jones

104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Telephone 205/539-0764
Fax 205/534-2289

COCA-COLA PARKING

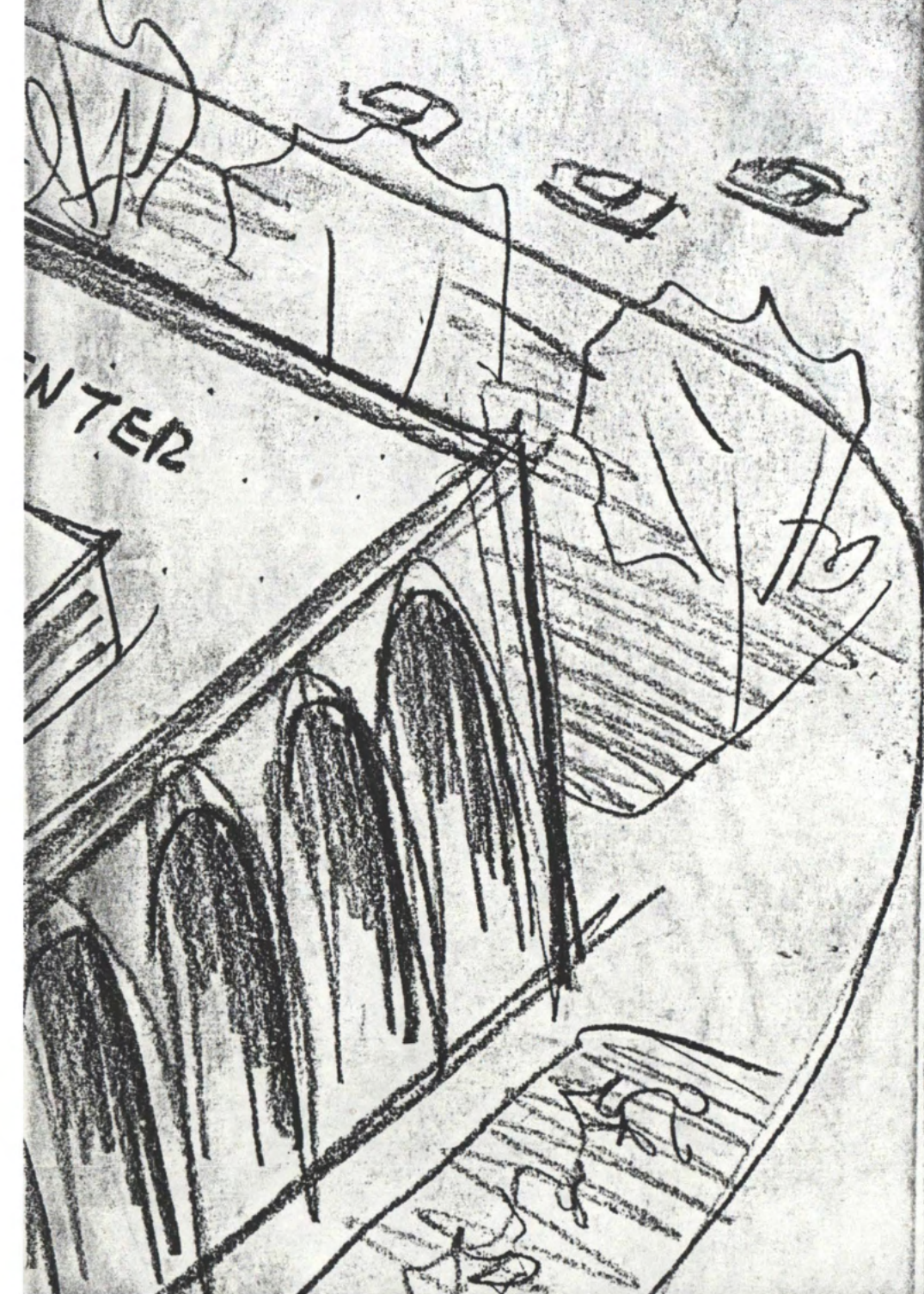


Design sketch by H. Jones when the original in design of demolition was decided in mid-winter. This is a prime example of a building that was intended to be demolished. It was intended to be demolished by the architect and the architect's office (H. Jones & H. H. Jones) in the late 1940s.

Ave. WEST

MONROE AVE.

NORTH



CENTER

CIVIC CENTER
MOTOR HOTEL
4 OCT. '11 100 UNITS

JONES AND HERRIN, ARCHITECTS, A. I. A.
215 RANDOLPH AVE.
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

CIVIC CENTER
PARKING STRUCTURE

MONROE ST.

DRIVE

EVERGREEN
CHERRY
LAUREL

REMOVE
REAR
WING

C. 1848
HAMPDEN
BOBBER'S
HOUSE

POSSIBLE
ADDN.
± 85' x 140'
(VERIFY)

CHERRY LAUREL

COMPRESSORS

CLINTON AVE.

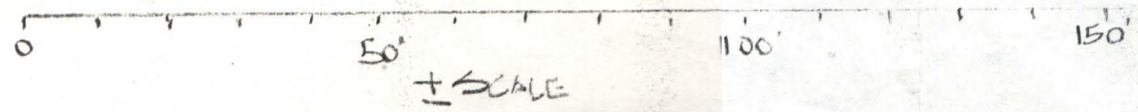
EXISTING PLANT

OFFICES

Plan made to attempt to
persuade BOB WILLIAMS to
not demolish the house
entirely



POSSIBLE ADDN. TO HV., AL
BIG SPRINGS INC. BOTTLING PLANT
DEC. 19, 1990 HIST. HV. FNDG. - H. Jones



150'

For Barditt program:
Amphibious - Redwood - 1958. Drawn



HP Jones '54

THE DOUBLE-JEOPARDY OF THE CIRCA 1848 HUMPHREYS-RODGERS HOUSE

*Harvie P. Jones, FRIA
June 21, 1991*

The citizens of Huntsville, with initiative and effort, have saved a considerable number of historic buildings from the bulldozer in the past 20 years. Few if any buildings have had to be saved twice in that time period, however. The circa 1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House has that distinction. This is a brief outline of its story, which compares favorably with the old silent-movie thriller series, "The Perils of Pauline". Instead of Pauline tied to the railroad tracks, the Humphreys-Rodgers House has been in the path of the bulldozer twice since 1971 and only narrowly escaped each time, the last in a most dramatic fashion.

THE FIRST PERIL:

In 1971 plans were under way to construct the Von Braun Civic Center directly across the street from the Humphreys-Rodgers House, then empty and occupied by vagrants, who had built a fire in the middle of the floor of one room among other depredations. Weeds stood waist-high around the house. A tall chicken-wire fence had been erected in an unsuccessful effort to exclude the vagrants. The empty house and site of about 1.4 acres were for sale at a commercial valuation that would exclude residential use. The impending presence of the Von Braun Civic Center across the street made it highly likely that the historic structure would be demolished and a fast-food establishment erected on the site to cater to the thousands of visitors who would be coming to the Civic Center upon its completion.

Rather than sit back and mutter "too bad, that's progress I suppose", several citizens had learned by then (1971) that preservation requires taking the initiative and making an effort. It was clear that the house could only be saved by finding a compatible commercial use for it and its sizeable site near the planned Civic Center that would enable the house to earn its keep and be a commercial asset rather than a hindrance.

A feasible plan seemed to be to use the house as a centerpiece for a low-rise 100 room motel which would wrap around the back edge of the site, with parking tucked beneath the rooms. The historic building would thus continue to visually dominate the site and could serve as the motel entry, office, restaurant and meeting rooms (with a low kitchen addition at the rear). A sketch plan and an aerial perspective were prepared. Hall Bryant Jr. contacted various people who might be interested in the adaptive-use preservation plan (a term not yet invented). Among those contacted were Jack Chambers and Bob Wilkinson of the Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Company, whose plant was a short distance to the west. A meeting was arranged and the preservation plan was presented. Mr. Chambers graciously let it be known that he was not interested in developing any motels or restaurants, leaving the preservationists disappointed and without other good prospects for saving the house.

It was soon learned that the Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Company had now bought the building and its site not for the purpose of demolition but of preserving it for company receptions, staff training and similar compatible uses that were much more desirable than being the centerpiece for a motel. Bob Wilkinson became intensely interested in the house, its history and its possible compatible uses for Coca-Cola. The house was nicely restored and became "The House for Coca Cola." Hundreds of items of Coca Cola memorabilia were displayed. In 1977 the structure was entered on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1989, an extensive amount of additional restoration was accomplished. The house seemed safe.

for pub. in "Historic Huntsville Quarterly"

THE SECOND PERIL:

In 1990, the Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Co. needed to add a bottling line. They examined expanding the west bottling line by moving the front of the building forward toward the street. They examined adding to the west side of the plant. Every avenue of expansion, except disturbing the house, was examined. To the consternation of Bob Wilkinson the only workable expansion plan was into the historic structure. The house was therefore regrettably offered in mid December 1990 to the Historic Huntsville Foundation "in pieces", with the requirement that the site be cleared on a short timetable of three months (March 1991). A firm commitment was required by January 14, 1991. This tight timetable did not allow the luxury of exploring in a methodical way various possibilities, looking for sites, funding and possible purchasers of the reassembled house on another site. Fast action was the order of the day, and several Foundation members devoted many hours of their December and January "holiday" workweeks, evenings, and weekends seeking a solution.

The consensus of the Foundation Committee was that it would be most desirable, and probably most feasible financially to disassemble and reassemble the house on an empty lot in one of the historic districts with an expanded rear wing that would provide modern bathrooms, kitchen, etc., thus enabling the house to once again become a private home, in a protected historic district. Efforts were thus launched to find a suitable and available site, and an interested contractor who might execute the project on speculation of selling the reassembled historic structure at a profit.

Charles Caldwell Jr. of Caldwell Home Builders expressed such an interest on December 20, 1990, and an intensive search for a site began. Since the house was 57 feet 6 inches wide, a site of at least 81 feet 6 inches wide would be required to avoid the need to obtain a zoning variance.

The Foundation decided, due to the extremely tight time-frame, to explore "all possibilities at once" in the hope that if one failed, another would succeed. To that end, Constitution Hall Village had been contacted on January 3 to see if they might be able and willing to accept the house. They were interested, and a location just behind Constitution Hall on Gates Avenue was discussed. The Foundation provided a site-plan to confirm the "fit" of the house.

Up to this point (early January 1991) there was no serious consideration given to moving all or part of the structure intact, since a rough estimate of the weight of just the front part was 350-400 tons. It was felt that while this size of "intact move" technically had been done and could be done, the cost would be prohibitive. This assumption was a mistake, for on the evening of January 7, a call was received from Hollis Kennedy of Hollis Kennedy House Movers. Hollis had looked at the house, was concerned about its impending loss, and felt that "it could be moved." The response was "at what cost do you think it (the front and oldest part) could be moved?" He quoted a figure that was much less than our previous guess. Possible time-tables, routes and insurance questions were discussed. Since we knew that Hollis had successfully moved the 1860's Jackson County Courthouse (a smaller but solid brick building) we felt comfortable with exploring this "intact move" in more detail. Mr. Caldwell and Mr. Kennedy were asked to do so.

Meanwhile the site search, much aided by Nancy Van Valkenburgh, had turned up at least four empty and suitable locations in historic districts. One was easily reached by an "intact" move. The other three involved more difficulty. None of this mattered, for none of the sites were, upon inquiry, for sale. It was quite a blow to have a willing contractor (who would finance the work on speculation), a good house-mover at an affordable price, and no place to move the house.

In 1989-1990 the City had engaged the planning firm of LDR International to update the downtown master plan. This firm recommended that the city-owned block bounded by Williams, Gates, Madison and Fountain Circle be devoted to a site for endangered and moved historic structures to complement Constitution Hall Village and perhaps provide specialty shops, restaurants, etc.

The Constitution Hall Village Board and staff was meanwhile working diligently to find a way to move and preserve the house. Their solution was to implement the LDR downtown plan and to place the house at the N.W. corner of Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle, facing north, where it would be visible from Constitution Hall Village and only a half-block away.

Thus one possibility of saving the house failed and another worked. On January 10, 1991, representatives of the Historic Huntsville Foundation, Constitution Hall Village and the Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Co. met in Bob Wilkinson's office to discuss final details. Bob Wilkinson approved the arrangements and the second "save" of the Humphreys-Rodgers House was under way, all accomplished in record-breaking time (about 3-1/2 weeks) over the busy holiday season by many volunteers who were determined not to lose this beautiful, irreplaceable historic house.

The preparation work began quickly. The Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Co. had in late 1990 at the Foundation's request made careful measurements of the house to document it and to aid in its possible reconstruction at another site. The Foundation also made about 150 annotated documentary photographs and notes for the same purpose. The rear wing (built between 1901 and 1913 per the historic "Sanborn" maps) was carefully dismantled by J.T. Schrimsher Construction Co., the components stored, the bricks removed and cleaned one-by-one, all for the hoped-for re-erection of the rear wing. The front and oldest part of the house, built in two sections in the c.1848-1861 Greek Revival period, was prepared for moving by Hollis Kennedy House Movers. The house and chimney-stacks were thoroughly strapped with steel angles, cables, and braces. Kennedy decided to move the large front upper porch intact with the house "because it makes better pictures." Steel beams, called "pins", were inserted at close intervals through the foundation walls under the first floor. The house was slowly jacked up, via the "pins", to several feet above grade. The pins were supported on two 60-foot heavy transfer beams that rested on numerous hydraulically-leveled "dollies" which enabled the weight to be evenly distributed on each dolly while the house passed over curbs and uneven soil.

Early on March 27, 1991, the move began, and was completed with only minor difficulties. There remains the task of restoring the house and reconstructing the rear wing with some adaptations for modern use by Constitution Hall Village. Firm plans for the type of use have not been announced, other than it will be used in the Village's interpretive program and not as a shop or restaurant, which is to be applauded. Various fund-raising events are planned, and public contributions are needed to complete the task. After the Herculean efforts to get this far, this is no time to drop the ball.

SOME LESSONS FROM ALL THIS:

1. Once a building has been "saved" (as many have been in Madison County in the past 20 years) you cannot relax. There are now several important historic Madison County buildings previously saved that are again on the endangered list. Still others are now endangered for the first time.
2. Don't assume that a building "can't be restored", or in this case "can't be moved". Check it out and get the facts. Many buildings are now beautifully restored that were regarded by many, particularly in the 1945-1970 "Urban Renewal" destruction, as "not worth saving." One sample comment from a contractor in 1984; "This thing ought to be 'renovated' with a bulldozer." This particular house, c.1828, is now in its original state of beauty, restored by a contractor and craftsmen who had eyes to see the beauty and basic soundness behind decades of neglect and vandalism.
3. Don't assume that it would cost too much to restore a neglected building. Rarely does the cost of renovation/restoration even equal the cost of new modern construction, much less exceed it. Huntsville has many examples to bear this out.

4. If rescue time is tight, try every plan you can think of simultaneously. You don't have the privilege of trying one plan at a time.
5. A lesson learned by the time of "The First Peril" in 1971 is to work on saving a structure when you think it may become endangered, rather than waiting for the bulldozer to arrive and then getting excited. Lying down in front of the bulldozer is dramatic, but only results in quicker demolition and an "us and them" mentality on the part of owners and preservationists. Much better results are obtained by taking a helpful attitude and trying to help an owner make economical and practical sense out of preserving the building. Several Huntsville buildings have been rescued from scheduled demolition this way. There are more cases than not where the economic and practical sense lies on the side of preservation rather than demolition, even disregarding the historic, cultural and esthetic factors.

While Madison County has had many preservation "saves", we have had many losses as well. To our knowledge, at least 14 early 19th century Federal Period houses have been deliberately demolished or burned since 1970. At this rate, it is ironic that someone in 2020 may have to look at a 1977 replication in Constitution Hall Village to try to get an idea of what a Federal Period building looked like.

A more extreme irony is that the pre-1819 Sheriff Neal house existed until c.1964, only 6 years before a replication of it was planned for Constitution Hall Village. It had been moved in the 1920's across Madison Street from its original site, expanded, and served in the early 1960's as offices for the Huntsville Planning Commission. Several aerial photos exist that show it. It was mid-block between Madison Street and Fountain Circle on the north side of Gates Avenue. One definition of a historic building is one that is torn down about ten years before a copy of it is built. The Neal House case fits this to a tee.

A final lesson is to try to save every historic building you can, for you are going to lose some now, and lose some more in every coming decade. The Humphreys-Rodgers House shows us that if you save it once it may again be lost in a decade or so. Eventually you end up with complete gaps in historic building types and periods. Huntsville lost its last intact Federal Period commercial building in the 1960's, for example.

An elitist approach of saving "just the best" or "just the oldest" is also invalid. A true sense of history is gained by seeing a complete picture, not "just the best" or "just the oldest". Ideas of "the best" also change. In the 1920-1960 period, Victorian architecture was reviled and demolished or remodeled indiscriminately. The same was true of Federal Period houses in 1850-1890, which we now consider to be almost priceless.

The moving and preservation of the c.1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House is one small partial success in an unending effort. It was a partial success because a historic building has deep roots in its soil just as does a tree, and should therefore not be moved. There is always a sense of something not right about a building that has been moved. To illustrate the importance of this factor, the National Register of Historic Places will not accept moved buildings. However if the choice is lose it or move it, moving it should be. At least four other historic buildings in Madison County have been moved in the last 20 years to save them from certain demolition: The Greek Revival clapboard church moved to the UAH campus (Student Art Gallery), a Gothic Revival house on Madison Street moved to the City of Madison, The "Steamboat Gothic" Van Valkenburgh house moved from Franklin Street to Lowe Avenue, and a Federal Period house moved from Redstone Arsenal to Rainbow Mountain in Madison.

The Historic Huntsville Foundation has not relaxed and is currently working on two other historic structures that appear to be endangered. The Foundation saved Alabama's oldest hardware store (Harrison's) by the extreme measure of buying it and operating it, of course, so there is no lack of determination in its constant efforts.

Why work to save all these "old buildings" anyhow? The answer goes much deeper than "they are attractive and we can't afford that kind of design, workmanship, and material anymore." To find the answer, all you have to do is go to a recently-built subdivision of houses, of whatever price range - \$80,000 - \$300,000, it doesn't matter. The new houses may all be very nice but "there is no there there", as Gertrude Stein once said of vapid Oakland, California. Old buildings and old streets are part of our moorings, our roots in life. They help us to understand who we are, how we got here, and where we may go from here. Historic architecture (and history in general) is therefore important even to those who proclaim no interest in it, for everyone is concerned with who he is and where he might go in life. The Historic Huntsville Foundation's goal is to assist in answering those concerns.

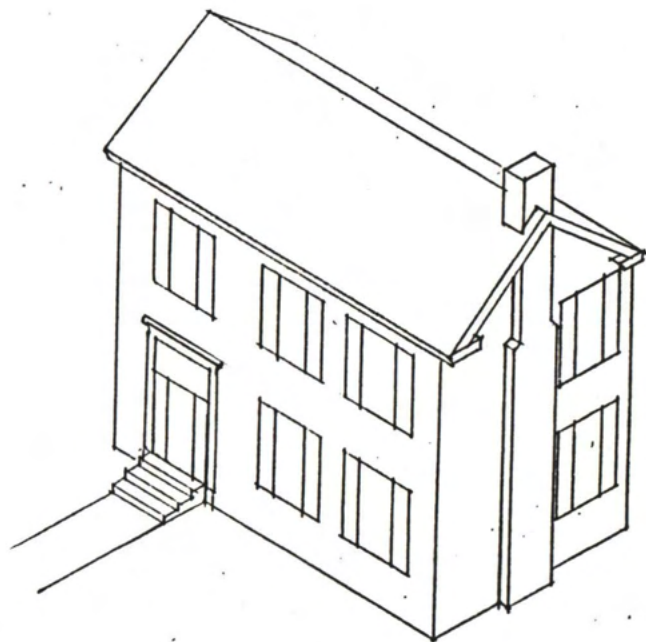
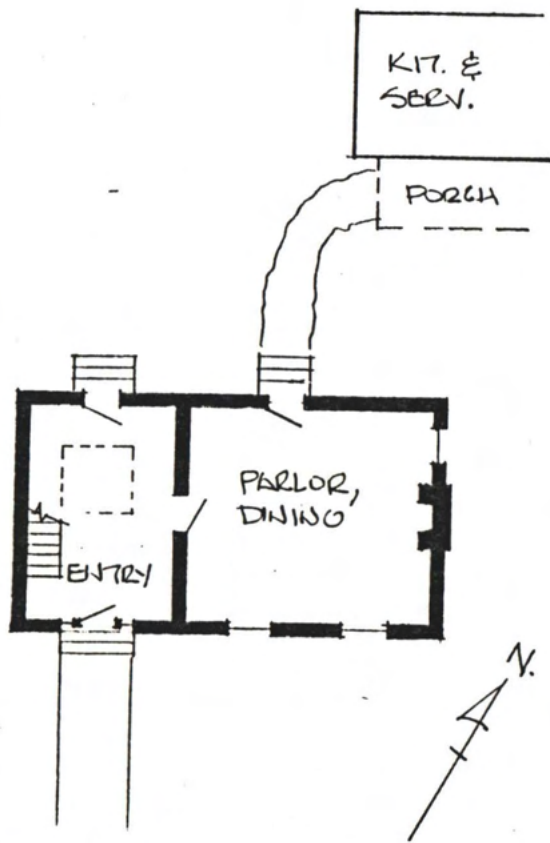
Captions for Photos and Drawings

Number is on back of each photo

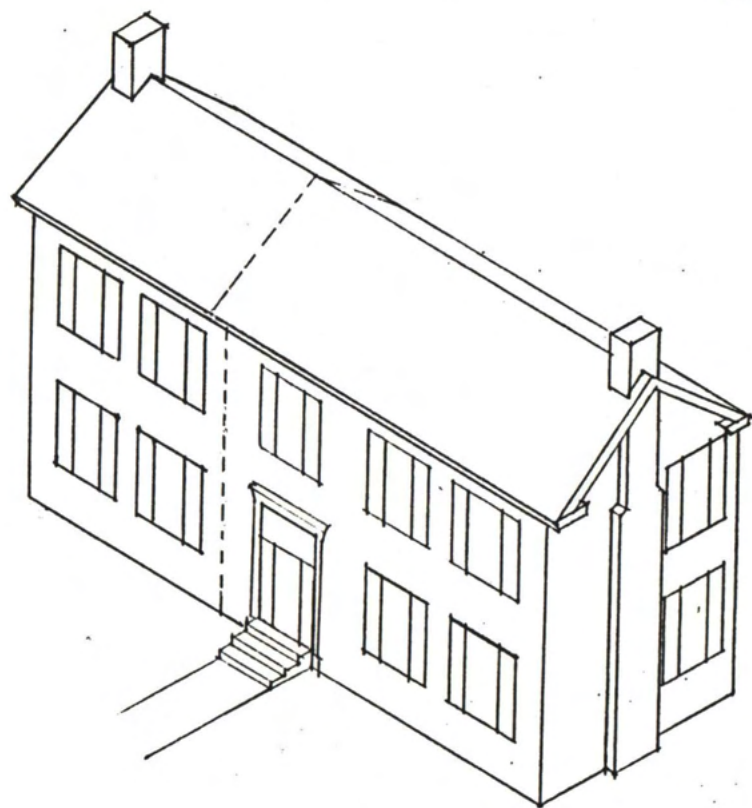
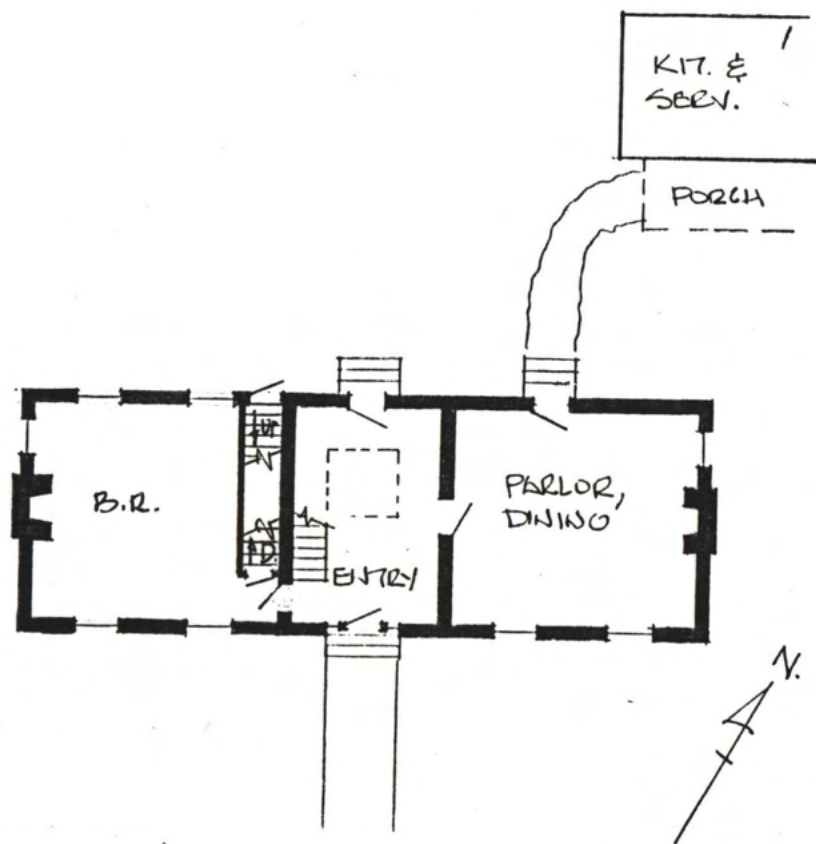
1. Sept. 1971 photo, when the house was empty and weed-grown, occupied by vagrants and for sale at a high commercial valuation for the land, with planning for the Von Braun Civic Center under way, to be directly across the street (Peril One).
2. 1971 plan sketch showing the proposed Civic Center and a possible way of saving the house by having it be the prominent centerpiece for a low-rise "background design" motel at the back of the site (Peril One).
3. 1971 perspective view of the possible adaptive-use plans shown at illustration No. 2.
4. 1990 photo of the house as restored and landscaped by Coca-Cola in the early 1970's (the resolution of Peril One).
5. March 1991 photo of "moving day" with the front part of the house raised onto steel "pins" (small lateral closely-spaced beams) which in turn rest on large transfer beams supported by hydraulically-leveled dollies. The back pre-1913 wing has been carefully dismantled and stored for future re-erection (Peril Two).
6. Detail of a dolly, transfer beam and pins.
7. Detail of steel pins and wooden intermediate blocking to support the solid brick walls at close intervals. No cracking occurred due to the move.
8. Pulling the house onto Monroe Street from its original site at Monroe Street and Clinton Avenue.
9. Passing in front of the Von Braun Civic Center and the Lagoon, along Monroe Street.
10. Hundreds of people watched the move, here in front of the Civic Center on Monroe Street.
11. The end of the journey, facing north to Gates Avenue, with the Constitution Hall Village Neal House, and Constitution Hall in the background (resolution of Peril Two).

List of Illustrations (Drawings)

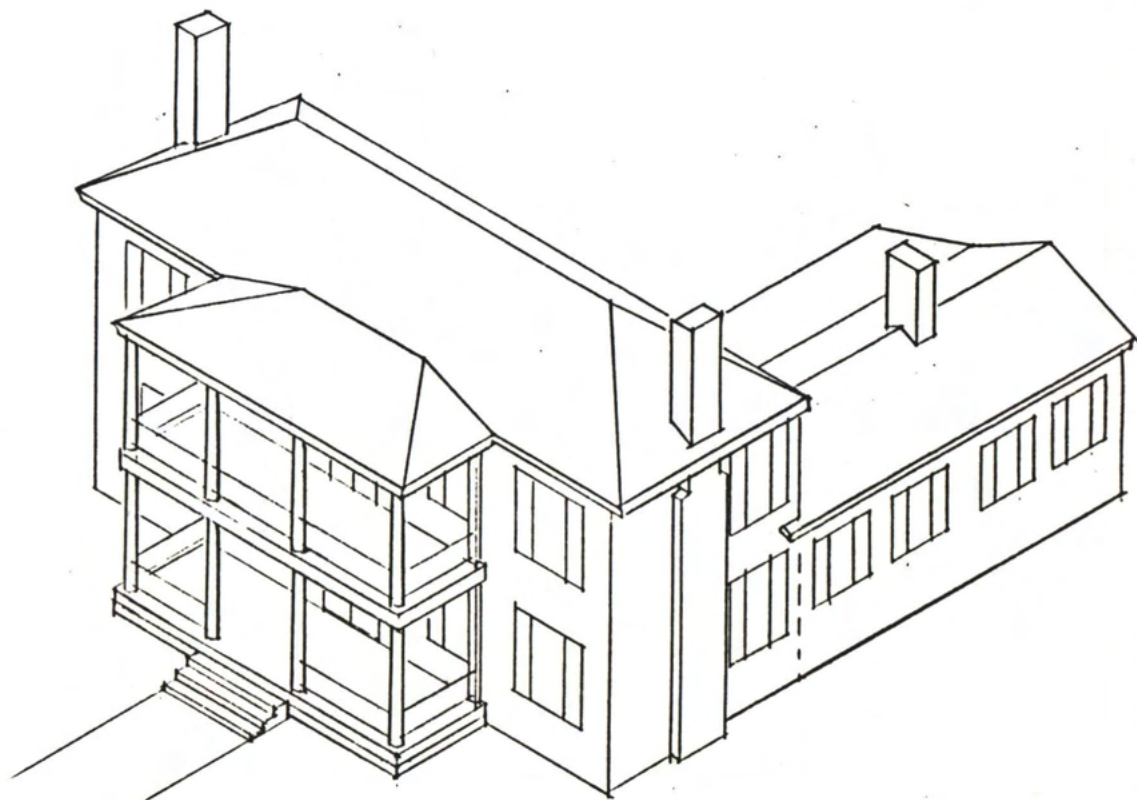
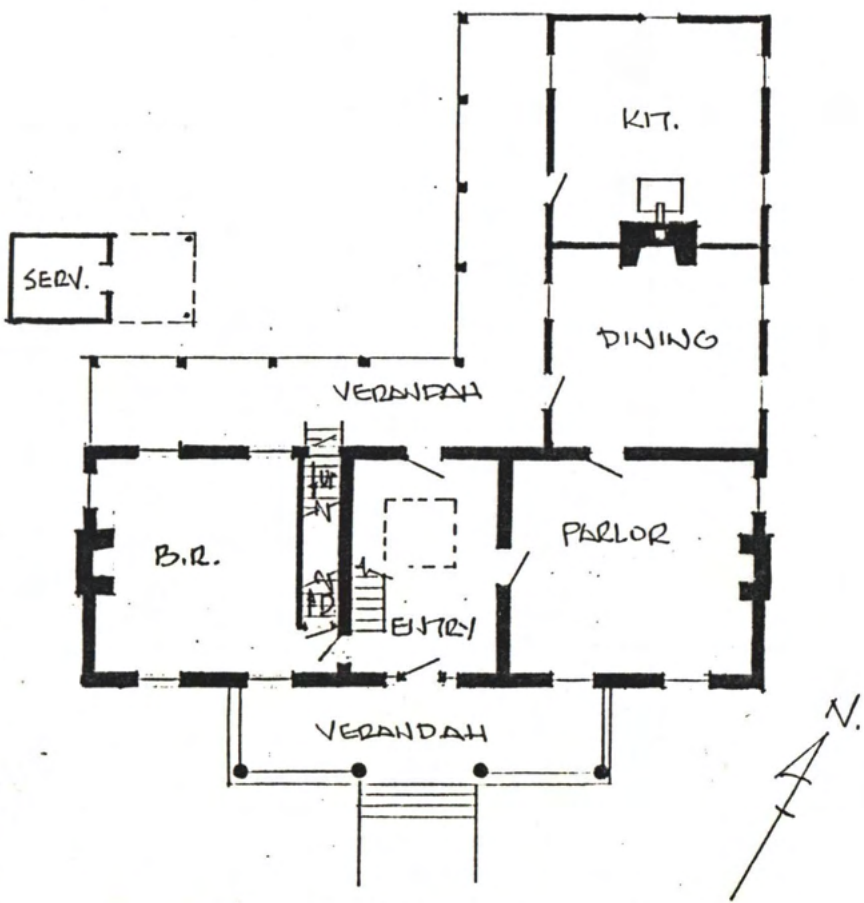
1. Circa 1848 configuration, based on the architectural evidence (a joint in the wall and floors at the left side of the entry). Gable roof is shown on the 1871 "View of Huntsville". The present hipped roof is not original and apparently dates from an c.1890's remodeling.
2. Configuration shown on the 1861 maps and the 1871 Bird's Eye view of Huntsville.
3. Configuration shown on the 1896 Sanborn Co. map.
Note that the rear wing is not like the one that is shown on the 1913 map (illustration 4), and is not present on the 1871 Bird's Eye View or the 1861 map. It was probably built in the 1870's when attached kitchens became the rule, and torn down in the early 20th century remodeling. A front porch of the 1913 (present) size is shown on the 1896 map. Therefore it seems likely that the present porch and hipped roof were in place in 1896. Their design and materials are appropriate for that period.
4. Configuration shown on the 1913 Sanborn Co. map, which is the 1991 configuration.

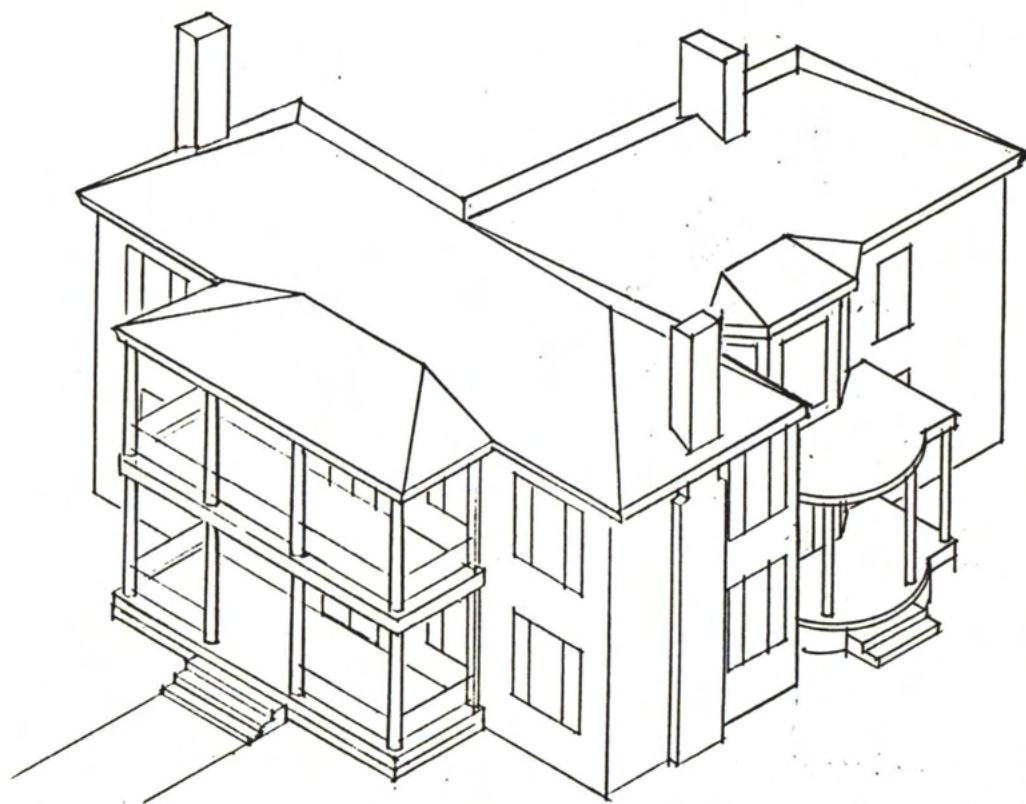
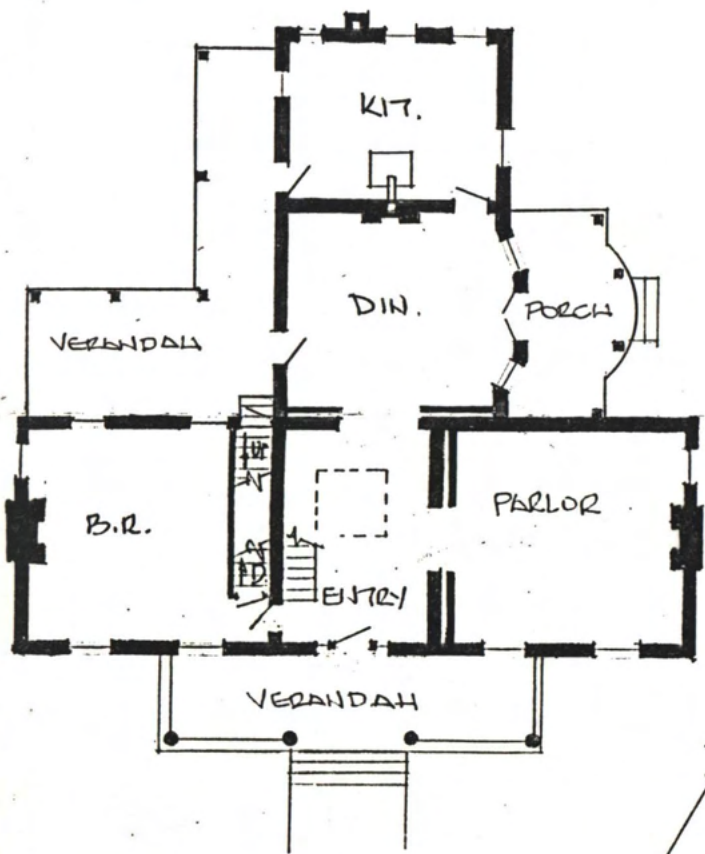


Circa 1848 configuration



configuration on 1861 map





Collected in 1913 Samborn Map

Date: 21 Nov. 77

Jones & Herrin

Architects, A.I.A.

Harvie P. Jones

William W. Herrin, Jr.

To: Bob Williamson
Coca Cola

Re:

Dear Jean & Bob:

I was most impressed with the ceremony for the Rodgers House being put on the National Register. You are to be commended for saving this beautiful house which had sunk to being a wine flophouse. What a change for the better we saw today! It proves again that we should not judge a building by surface appearances, but by its inherent character of quality.

My compliments, congratulations, & thanks to both of you —

By: 

Date: 2 Dec 77

Jones & Herrin

Architects, A.I.A.

Harvie P. Jones

William W. Herrin, Jr.

To: The Coca Cola Co.
Attn: Jean Johnson

Re:

Dear Jean:

We of the Historic Huntsville Foundation
greatly appreciate your love for the East
Huntsville Baptist Church. This church
had been thinking of tearing down the
beautiful Greek Revival George Steele house,
but are now exploring the possibilities of
saving & renovating it.

C1840
OAK
PLACE
Huntsville
Pa. 4

Your demonstration of pride & pleasure
with the Coca-Cola House will, I hope,
have a positive effect on their decision.

Many thanks!

P.S. - Oak Place was
restored by the
E. H. B. Church
in about 1979

cc: Nancy Van Valkenburgh (HHF)

By: _____

28 Feb. 1984

JONES AND HERRIN, ARCHITECTS, AIA
104 JEFFERSON ST. HUNTSVILLE, ALA.
(205) 539-0764 35801

TO: City of Huntsville Board of Adjustment
RE: Coca-Cola Co.
Warehouse Addition (84009)
Huntsville, AL

Gentlemen:

Coca-Cola Bottling Company has been located on West Clinton Avenue since 1925. In these 59 years they have been strongly committed to the improvement of Downtown in many ways, most notably in the preservation and restoration of the historic 1848 Humphrey-Rogers House at the corner of Clinton & Monroe. Ordinarily this fine house would have been demolished long ago to provide a place for a fast-food restaurant on this site directly by the Von Braun Civic Center, but Coca-Cola went to great expense and trouble to restore this house which they did not really need in the conduct of their business, in order to preserve it for Huntsville.

Coca-Cola is continuing this civic-minded approach in their proposal to meet their space needs by designing the proposed addition in a manner that harmonizes with the 1848 Humphrey-Rogers House and minimizes the height and apparent area of the addition, depressing the floor 3 to 5 feet below grade, thus lowering the walls by a like amount, and by using a patterned brick wall of Bickerstaff Woodmould Regency brick (same as the new Episcopal Church addition on Greene Street), a brick which will blend with the historic house and will be broken in its plan line to create shadow breaks in the walls. The walls of the addition will be kept away from the house to allow landscaping all around the house as at present.

if only
as of
1980
demol.

After 40 years of location on this site by Coca-Cola the land was zoned C-3. It therefore is now necessary for Coca-Cola to request a "land use-variance" for this addition. We would appreciate your consideration of this variance.

Respectfully,

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA

cc: Coca-Cola Bottling Co.
file

Written to assist Coca Cola
in obtaining a variance to
build a larger unsprinkled bldg.
on the site than the code
allowed

HJ - Dec. 24, 1990

Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company
a unit of Big Springs, Inc.

INTER CO / DEPT MEMO

TO: Ms. Mariam Accardi Mr. Randy Schrimsher
 Mr. Ralph Dowdy Mrs. Martha Simms
 Mrs. Henry M. Fail, Jr. Mrs. Dana Lee Tatum
 ~~Mr. Harvie Jones~~ Mr. John R. Wynn
 Mrs. Frances Roberts

FROM: Bob Wilkinson
DATE: January 10, 1991
SUBJECT: The House

Since our memo of January 7, 1991, we have had several conversations pertaining to the house. A couple of telephone conversations with Harvie Jones, a phone call to Randy Schrimsher, then a visit by Randy and Harvie with the news that Hollis Kennedy had stated that he could move the front portion of the house. Randy's dialogue indicated that he was lending his support to the preparation for the move which would include disassembling the rear portion which would not be included in the move but necessary for the preparation. We also discussed, in detail with Randy and Harvie, the necessity of protecting our physical equipment that is near the house.

Several days ago I talked for the first time with Ginger Fail, in that conversation explaining to her our position - I enjoyed that visit.

During the last few days I have contacted Ralph Dowdy to discuss the tax implications that may apply and called John Wynn discussing an agreement pertaining to various phases of the move itself.

Today we met with Harvie Jones, Mrs. Harvie Jones, Mrs. Ginger Fail, Dwight Jennings, Charles Vaughn, Dana Tatum, John Wilkinson, Henry Chase, and Jean Johnson and had a good general discussion. I think we have a plan and can move forward expeditiously.

Bob

Robert E. Wilkinson
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Operating Officer

Jerry Thomas
President
and General Manager

Jean R. Johnson
Sr. Vice President and
Secretary-Treasurer

Marva G. Wencil
Executive Vice President and
Dir. of Purchasing and Traffic

Paul Fowler
Vice President and
Mgr. Chambers Bottling Co.

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

January 11, 1991

Bob Wilkinson
Coca Cola Bottling Company
P.O. Box 2709
Huntsville, Al. 35804

Re: Humphreys-Rodgers House

Dear Bob:

I am delighted that you have given the c.1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House of Coca Cola to the Historic Huntsville Foundation and that it will be preserved as a house museum by Constitution Hall Village. This is the second time in twenty years that this house has been in jeopardy, and then saved. You should be pleased that you have been instrumental in both of these "saves". You could have "let it go".

We appreciate your efforts in the preservation of Huntsville's historic architecture.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: Jean Johnson
John Wilkinson
Ginger Fail
Dana Tatum
HJ

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

COPY

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

January 14, 1991

Bob Gamble
Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Al. 36130-5101

Re: c.1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House

Dear Bob:

An interesting aspect of the c.1848 Humphreys-Rodgers house "save" is that this is its second time of jeopardy and near-loss in less than 20 years. In 1971 the house was empty and occupied by derelicts, who had built a fire on the floor of one room, among other depredations. The house then sat on about 1.33 acres of prime commercial property adjacent to the planned-for Von Braun Civic Center site. The high asking price for the 1.33 acres, plus the proximity to the planned Civic Center precluded residential use and gave a strong financial incentive for demolition and erection of a fast food restaurant or some such use. It appeared that the only hope for salvation was to find a commercial adaptive use that preserved the house but that would generate enough income to offset the high land cost.

The best thing I could think of in 1971 was to place a low-rise 100 room motor-hotel away from the house at the rear perimeters of the site, with parking underneath, and use the house (with a rear service addition) as the lobby and restaurant (sketches attached). Hall Bryant, Jr. and I then called on a number of business people that we thought might be interested and able to do this, among them Jack Chambers and Bob Wilkinson of the Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Co., two doors to the west (a jewelry shop and Quonset Hut then separated their land from the Rodgers site.) They subsequently bought the house and land, did not build the motel, and did an excellent job of renovation and caring for the house for nearly 20 years. In 1977 I prepared a National Register Nomination and the house was subsequently placed on the Register. The company used the house for numerous public and private receptions and staff training classes.

In about 1984 it became necessary to add to the plant. The jewelry shop and quonset hut were removed. The addition was kept as far from the house and as low as possible, and the owner spent a considerable amount of money on a dark-brown brick serrated wall that intruded on the house as little as possible. Mechanical equipment was painted dark-brown to make it visually recede into the dark-brown brick plant wall.

In about 1988 the owner again needed to expand, and has since searched diligently for ways to do this without affecting the house, including the drastic concept of completely moving the plant to another location, a move that would cost many millions of dollars. These efforts did not work out, and the house was again in jeopardy because the owner was faced with no choice but to expand onto the site of the house. The owner then offered the house to the Historic Huntsville Foundation. All concerned felt that disassembly and re-location on another site was the only possibility, and time (and money) was a hinderance to that. It appeared that a quick piecemeal salvage of some items was about the only possibility.

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

After a newspaper article, we received a call of interest from Charles Caldwell, Jr. of Caldwell Home Builders. We expressed a desire to have the house re-erected on a site in one of the historic districts so that it could again become a residence, and he and the Foundation began looking for such sites.

Shortly thereafter, I received a call from Hollis Kennedy House Movers of Athens, Alabama, who had read of the house, looked at it and felt that it could be moved intact (in two sections.) Mr. Kennedy had previously and successfully moved the smaller but solid-brick 1868 Jackson County Courthouse in Scottsboro. Mr. Kennedy was asked to contact Mr. Caldwell, and the site search then concentrated on lots large enough and accessible for an intact move of at least the front (oldest) section of the house, about 57 feet wide by 20 feet deep without the front verandah and c.1900 rear wing.

The strategy of the Foundation was to pursue all possibilities simultaneously, since time was short, in the hope that one of the possibilities would come to fruition. Therefore the Constitution Hall Village museum was contacted, since there was in the 1990 Downtown Plan (prepared by "Land Design Research") a move-accessible site designated for endangered historic buildings. Constitution Hall Village expressed interest, and simultaneously no suitable and available site was found in the residential historic districts. J.T. Schrimsher Construction Company, who have been very active in historic preservation in both a civic and professional way, had previously offered to donate assistance in a salvage operation, and now offered to construct the foundation at the new site and to assist to some extent in disassembly of the c.1900 rear wing for possible future re-erection. The Constitution Hall Village feels that they can assuredly come up with the \$72,000 moving cost and other funds to move and stabilize the house, and eventually restore it, hopefully for interpretive use. The parts of the c.1900 rear wing would also, we hope, be eventually re-erected in a replicative manner.

At present, the house will probably be moved in March 1991 to its new site at the S.E. corner of the intersection of Fountain Circle and Gates Avenue, facing north, one-half block west of the Constitution Hall Village museum. No remaining roadblocks (no pun intended) are seen at this point.

A lesson for others in this experience is that we assumed it would be too costly to move the house intact. We should have contacted a reputable house mover such as Hollis Kennedy instead of making a negative assumption. But for his interest and telephone call, the house would have been lost. Other buildings have been lost by someone assuming they would be too costly to renovate or restore, without actually checking it out. Preservation decisions should not be based on assumptions.

Respectfully,

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: HJ



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101

January 18, 1991



TELEPHONE NUMBER
242-3184

Mr. Harvie Jones, FAIA
Jones & Herrin, Architects
104 Jefferson St.
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Harvie:

Thanks so much for your January 14 communique concerning the Humphreys-Rodgers house matter and the recent vinyl siding controversy.

Your summary of the Humphreys-Rodgers house case is indeed instructive. I think it's the kind of case that deserves publicity in order to instruct a lot of other folks out there. Your point is well taken about the tendency of preservation groups to sometimes assume the worst (i.e., too costly a project) before really getting the facts. Moving a brick house may seem daunting, but more feasible than at first suspected. To my knowledge, this will be the largest brick structure yet moved in Alabama. I'm passing your letter around to a number of other people.

The vinyl siding issue seems to flare up in every historic district sooner or later. Again, Huntsville's response could be instructive to other folk grappling with the matter.

As ever,

RSG/rf

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

Jan. 24 '91 Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A.

to: Const. Wm. Village
(Dora Tatum & Charles Vaughn)
re: Rodgers Hse.

The rafters are rotary-sawn
of 2" nominal width. The
rafters for the rear wing,
known to be 1898-1901, are
framed w/ a modif. into the front
attic. Therefore the entire roof
is 1898-1901 when the last
extensive remodeling occurred.
This indicates that the gable
roof of $\pm 30^\circ$ pitch shown on
the 1871 view (typical of 1800-1860)
is probably correct.

C. Randy Schrammer
AJ

104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Telephone 205/539-0764
Fax 205/534-2289

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

March 29, 1991

Hollis Kennedy House Movers
Kennedy Road
Route 15, Box 50
Athens, Al. 35611

Re: 1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House

Dear Hollis, and all your competent crew:

My compliments on your successful move of the 350 ton, two story brick 1848 Rodgers House in order to save it from destruction for a Coca Cola bottling -plant expansion. This was quite a challenge, particularly since lime mortar of this age and type does not offer any significant adhesion. The bricks are held together mostly by gravity, and for your move by the thorough support, strapping and bracing system you devised.

This is obviously not the kind of job you take on to make bread-and-butter money, but for the extreme challenge it offers. You and your crew met the challenge with great competence. I've recommended your services to others in the past, including the group in Scottsboro for your successful move of the brick courthouse there, and I'll continue to recommend your firm.

Congratulations!



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: Bob Gamble
Dana Tatum
HJ

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

October 5, 1994

Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Attention: Mr. F. Lawrence Oaks, Director

Re: 1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House
Project No. 92116

Dear Larry:

Dana Tatum, Director of the "Alabama's Constitution Village" Museum requested that I write regarding the proposed adaptive-use restoration of the National Register c.1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House. Attached are sketches that show the growth and evolution of the house from the original 2-room, 2 story "quarter house" to the present turn-of-the-century configuration.

The house faced certain demolition in 1992 for the expansion of a soft-drink plant. Efforts on the part of the Historic Huntsville Foundation to assist the owner in finding a way to save it on-site were not successful. Rather than see the house demolished, the Historic Huntsville Foundation then attempted to find a site and a person or organization for the relocation of the house. The only feasible solution to come about was furnished by Alabama's Constitution Village, who agreed to move the house to their site and restore it for use as a house museum, receptions, and children's "discovery" rooms on the second floor.

The pre-1860 front 5-bay solid brick portion was moved intact. The c.1900 rear wing was dismantled brick-by-brick and the components (wood and masonry) stored for reassembly in the same configuration at the new site.

The new location of the house (Fountain Circle and Gates Avenue) is on a 400 foot square city block which will be developed into an integral part of the adjoining half-block of museum buildings. The major component will be a large modern historical museum building. Perhaps two other related structures will be added in the future.

The restoration plans are prepared to a restoration standard which, we believe, meets and exceeds the "Secretary of the Interiors Standards for Rehabilitation". Rather than chop up the historic spaces for the necessary 1-hour rated fire stair, this element and the required ADA ramp and restroom was added at the back of the house in a latticed enclosure that does not detract from the house. New "stock" moulds and other modern elements will be used at the modern stair/restroom enclosure to differentiate it from the historic portions. The salvaged rear wing elements will be used in reconstructing the rear wing.

We have approximately 400 dated and annotated black and white photographs of the house of 1972, 1992 and 1993. Photocopies of a few are attached. Also attached are the plans and elevations of four of the twenty-five sheets of restoration plans. Please let us know if additional information is needed.

Inasmuch as the alternative was demolition of the Humphreys-Rodgers House, we commend Alabama's Constitution Village Museum and the Historic Huntsville Foundation in their strenuous efforts of over three years to preserve this house.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

copy: Ms. Dana Tatum
HJ
file

attachments

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

Sept 5 '95 Harvie P. Jones, FAIA

Lori Bates

re Humphries Rodgers

Lori - ① for interest, the
1840-50 wall color in
the 2 upstairs rooms
was pale blue similar to
SW 1221. The c. 1900
finish was apparently
wall paper.

The ¹⁸⁵⁰ hall color (Y 2)
apparently was a rust
brown similar to
SW 2281 but redder.

② We are restoring to c. 1900
period, of course.

Herrin

104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
Telephone 205/539-0764
Fax 205/534-2289

Art trim = "ivory"
originally except
some graining at
doors & frames
= "golden oak"
(under 1995 dark brown
"walnut" graining)

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

November 3, 1997

Mr. Chris Lang
Alabama Constitution Village
320 Church Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Re: 1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House

Dear Chris:

Congratulations on the beautiful and skillful infill-paint graining restoration of the badly-flaked and worn circa 1900 wood-graining on the Humphreys-Rodgers House interior woodwork. We deliberately did not paint over this flaked graining during the restoration in hopes that it could be restored, and you have nicely fulfilled that wish.

Just eight years ago this Fall I received word from Bob Wilkinson that Coca-Cola had to build a warehouse on the original house site on West Clinton and that the house, to his regret, would have to go. An intensive search for someone to move the house to save it resulted in Alabama Constitution Village coming to the rescue. The Huntsville Historic Foundation is most grateful for this, and your excellent graining-restoration is the crowning touch for this historic house that was very nearly lost to demolition.

Thanks,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

copy: Ms. Dana Tatum
Mrs. Nancy Van Valkenburgh
HJ

attachments

Humphreys-Rodgers Home

COCA-COLA COMPANY



502 Clinton Avenue, West

THE Humphreys house, located at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street, is an interesting example of two-story antebellum architecture with columned porch.

Built by David C. Humphreys around 1848 on land purchased from J. Withers Clay, the original house was a two-story, two-rooms-with-halls structure with a gable roof. Within a few years two rooms were added to the west. In 1886 Augustus D. Rodgers purchased the house and enlarged it. In all there were four phases of construction.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Rodgers, descendants of some of Madison County's original settlers, were active in many civic and cultural affairs in Huntsville and surrounding communities. The home was left to their three daughters, the Misses Edna C., Minnie Augusta, and Mary Rodgers, who lived there throughout their lives.

Detailing of the moldings, doorfacings, and windows in the home shows excellent workman-

ship. The front porch columns are cedar, and the brick walls are twelve inches thick. The ceilings are very high, and the transomed doorfacings bear a circle design. Original glass is still in some transoms. Large glass was not available, and two panes were butted together. Windows in the downstairs parlors are paneled full-length, and the baseboards have unusually deep moldings.

The staircase has a painted wood grain. In the southeast parlor is a beautiful mantel with an inlaid mother-of-pearl and wood design.

In 1972 the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company bought the house. Restored prior to 1980 for use by the company as a repository for Coca-Cola memorabilia, the Humphreys-Rodgers Home serves as testimony to the company's respect for the historic heritage of the city. It is their belief that "Preserving the Good we have is Progress."

N.R.H.P.

P.S. - Coca Cola decided to demolish it in Dec. 1990!

A.D.U.W.

*"Glimpses into Antebellum
Homes of HSV" 1986*

*P.P.S. - has moved interest (A part part)
to Gates Ave / Fountain Circle in
March 1991 by Hist. H. Pres. &
Constitution Hall Village*

*Porch is
c. 1900!*



From the Chairman: Update on Humphreys-Rodgers House

*(Pastor) Jerry H. Harris, Sr.
H. J. Johnson, W. M.,
1992-6*



It was donated to the Constitution Village by Coca-Cola, Inc. as a portal to the past. Its Georgian Revival architecture attracts and rewards the eye. Its historical significance engages and transports the mind. It was relocated and restored at Alabama Constitution Village, a proud echo of days long departed. It is the Humphreys-Rodgers House, and in October its doors opened again, inviting visitors to step back in time. Since the house was given to Alabama Constitution Village, a great deal of work has gone in preparing it for public use. Among other restoration efforts, its floors and walls have been returned to pristine condition. The Village must now rely on the support of its members and of the public in furnishing the house.

Plans are to furnish the house in a style consistent with the period during which it was constructed (1848) and modified (1872,

1900). Gifts of period furniture or monetary contributions are appreciated by the Acquisitions Committee. Their efforts have been rewarded with several early gifts.

A Hepplewhite turn-of-the-century style center drop leaf mahogany banquet table was given by the Constitution Village Society. A five-drawer mahogany American chest, circa 1860,

with reeded edges and satinwood inlays, is on loan from the Alabama Constitution Village Collection. A pair of wingback chairs was donated by Mr. and Mrs. George Moore. Five oriental rugs are on loan from Randy Roper Interiors.

Mark Catesby 18th-century copper plate engravings were given by Dr. and Mrs. John Hoar. Framing for ten of the Catesby engravings was provided by the Constitution Village Society. A Victorian upholstered rocking chair was given by Mrs. Sue Fleming.

Six French Restoration dining chairs circa 1870, oakwood with cane seats, a mahogany sideboard with ornate carvings, circa 1840 from New York, an English Chippendale Walnut Chest, a cherry corner cupboard, circa 1820 from North Carolina, and a poplar corner cupboard with barrel back and curved glass double doors, circa 1830, were given anonymously. A cherry

standing chest with turnings, circa 1860. And three turn-of-the-century framed lithographs circa 1870 were given by the Collectors' Guild. A permanent display inside the house will honor all contributors.

Furnishing this Huntsville treasure is a monumental task. We are grateful to the members of the Acquisitions Committee for their interest, support, and tireless efforts in obtaining furnishings for the Humphreys-Rodgers House. A special thanks to Emily and Jack Burwell for the house lecture on appropriate period furnishings delivered last month.

Chaired by Dianne and Calame Sammons, the Committee includes: Kelly and Randy Schrimsher, Emily and Jack Burwell, Randy Roper, Jimmy Parvin, Meyer Dworsky, Revelle Gwyn, and Dan Halcomb.

For almost four years, Pam Winstead has served as the Volunteer House Chairperson working with the architect and staff to complete the restoration. Thanks, Pam! Great job!

Anyone wishing to offer a contribution is invited to call the Village office at 535-6487.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to express my thanks to the Gothic Guild and to the Heritage Junior Women's Club for their financial contributions to the House. More than \$14,000 has been given by these groups.

Through the generosity of its members, the Historic Huntsville Foundation helped to secure the house and has donated a beautiful mantel and mirror for the dining room, and pieces of wood flooring that can be found throughout the House. Thanks to all!

Dwight Jennings, Chairman
Alabama Constitution Village/ Historic
Huntsville Depot Board of Directors

*FWM
1996*

A DELEGATE REMEMBERED

William Rufus King was born April 7, 1786, in Sampson County, North Carolina, the son of William King and Margaret Devane King. Young William Rufus King was educated in private schools and graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1803. He studied law in the customary manner of the day, in the office of a lawyer, William Duffy. He was admitted to the bar in 1805.

After beginning his practice in Lincoln County, North Carolina, he was elected to the state legislature in 1808. In 1810 at the age of 24, King was elected to the United States Congress and continued as a member until 1816, when he became secretary of the legislation to the American embassy at Petersburg.

Upon his return from Russia, the territory of Alabama was being organized. He bought land near Cahaba, in Dallas County, and was elected in 1819 as a delegate to Alabama's first

Constitutional Convention in Huntsville. He was a member of Clement Clay's committee of 15, which actually drafted the document. Afterwards, King served as a member of the U.S. Congress from 1819 until 1844. In 1844, he became minister to France and served in that capacity until 1846. In 1848, he was appointed to succeed Arthur Bagby as Senator from Alabama, serving until 1853. He was nominated as Franklin Pierce's running mate in 1852, and was elected to the office of Vice President of the United States. While serving in the Senate in 1852, he contracted tuberculosis and in 1853 was forced to spend the winter in Cuba. By a privilege extended by a special act of Congress, he took his oath of office in Havana on March 4, 1853. He returned to Alabama and arrived in Cahaba the day before his death. He died April 18, 1853, and was buried in Selma.

CLEMENS HOUSE
219 Clinton Avenue, Huntsville
1830
Structures: 1
Added: 10/16/74

DALLAS MILL (Burned 7/24/91)
701 Dallas Street, Huntsville
1892
Structures: 4
Added: 9/18/78

DOMESTIC SCIENCE BUILDING
Alabama Agricultural and Industrial University, Normal
1911
Structures: 1
Added: 4/11/73

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY NHL 6/21/90
212 Eustis Avenue, S.E., Huntsville
1859
Structures: 1
Added: 10/9/74

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF HUNTSVILLE
West Side Square, Huntsville
1835
Structures: 1
Added: 10/25/74

HUMPHREYS-RODGERS HOUSE
514 Clinton Avenue, West, P.O. Box S, Huntsville
c. 1848
Structures: 1
Added: 8/3/77 to N.A. Regis of Hist. Places (AL. HIST. COMMISSION LISTING)

HUNDLEY HOUSE (OSCAR)
401 Madison Street, Huntsville
1899-1900
Structures: 1
Added: 5/22/78

HUNTSVILLE MULTIPLE RESOURCE NOMINATION* HABS (1)
Downtown Huntsville
Structures: 48
Added: 9/22/80

*Each structure is treated as an individual nomination.

HOTEL RUSSELL ERSKINE
123 West Clinton Avenue

Old home blocking Coke plans

By MARIAN ACCARDI
Times Staff Writer

The antebellum home at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street in downtown Huntsville today stands threatened between the local business that wants to use the site for expansion and preservationists intent on saving it.

A 20,000-square-foot syrup plant for the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. and more operating space for the firm are planned at that corner, the site of the Humphreys-Rodgers house, also known as "The House for Coca-Cola" in more recent years. The bottling company owns the property and the house.

But the Historic Huntsville Foundation wants the company to maintain the house at the present

See COKE, page 2A



Tony Triolo/Huntsville Times

The Humphreys-Rodgers house, built around 1848, is standing in the way of the local Coke bottler's expansion plans.

Coke

Continued from page 1A

location and develop other expansion plans.

If not, the foundation wants the large-scale soft-drink bottler either to consider removing only the newer, rear wing of the house and retaining the oldest, front part of the structure, or dismantle the building and reassemble it on another site.

The existing L-shaped bottling plant wraps around the corner where the circa-1848 brick house sits. Both Coca-Cola and Historic Huntsville Foundation officers agree that it would be impossible to move the entire house because of its brick construction. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Bottler's offer

Robert E. "Bob" Wilkinson, chairman of the board and chief operating officer of the bottling company, told the foundation in a Dec. 11 letter that the need for more space has forced the company to reconsider its earlier position to "protect the house."

In that letter, he offered to contribute the house to the foundation. "This means in pieces for use in a new structure or as a whole if funds are available to you for that kind of activity," Wilkinson said. He asked for a "firm answer" by Wednesday (yesterday).

Ever since the house was purchased by the bottler in 1972, Wilkinson said Wednesday, he has personally intended to preserve the house "for all the good reasons that you can think of."

"Some people think, 'That Bobby Wilkinson don't give a damn about that house,'" Wilkinson said Wednesday afternoon. "But there ain't no truth to it. We've spent a lot of money to prove that we were trying to preserve it for the community," including constructing a brick wall that wraps the warehouse to screen it from the house, he said.

But Wilkinson said the firm has "production capabilities that demand syrup at an enormous rate. We can't do what we've got to do" and build the manufacturing addition (on other property) across the street," he said.

"It's imminent to me. We needed to have (the new building) by May, but we'll never make it," Wilkinson said. "There are volume swings in this business. February is about a 7 and May-June-July is above 12. The demand is there."

Wilkinson said he doesn't know when his firm will make a decision on the foundation's suggestions. "I just got their letter three hours ago," he said Wednesday afternoon.

"And here we are at Christmas. I've got to do what's best for the corporation and it'll take awhile to figure out the tax aspects of that. I'm not dodging. I'm telling you I don't know" what the decision will be.

"We are very competitive by nature. It would not enhance anyone's position to push us."

'Really important'

Ginger Fail, chairman of the non-profit Historic Huntsville Foundation, said Wednesday that saving the Humphreys-Rodgers house is crucial to the group because "that's our purpose, that's our business. We're the only organization concerned exclusively with architectural preservation and history. That's what makes this really important to us."

The house is "one of the two surviving antebellum homes in that end of town," said Harvie Jones, a local architect and member of the foundation.

The other antebellum structure in that part of Huntsville, he said, is the Clemens Home at the corner of Gallatin Street and Clinton, which was sold to Huntsville Utilities in the mid-1970s.

Jones said there were at least two other homes built around 1820 in the area, but they were demolished in the 1950s as part of an urban renewal program.

But the foundation doesn't have the money to pay for dismantling the house, storing and reassembling it, said Mrs. Fail. "We have just paid off the mortgage on the Harrison Brothers Hardware Store downtown, she said. The foundation operates the 1897 retail establishment.

"That's why we hope to see if Coca-Cola will foot the bill" for the dismantling and reassembling project, she said. "We have about \$10,000 to \$12,000 in the bank, but that's only a drop in the bucket of what's needed to do the whole thing."

Mrs. Fail said she will propose a new fund-raiser for the project at the foundation's next board meeting Jan. 12.

Most desirable to the foundation, she said, is for the entire house to be maintained at its present location, and the bottling company develop other options for expanding. The foundation, she said, would offer help in those plans.

If that option is not feasible, she said, the foundation would ask the company to explore the possibility of removing just the rear wing and retaining the older, front part of the house.

The third alternative, she said, would be to dismantle and save the entire structure. "We would attempt to find a way to reassemble the original structure on another site."

The third proposal calls for Big Springs Inc., of which Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. is an operating unit, to hire a contractor to take apart the building, with the Foundation providing technical advice. The salvaged materials would be donated to the foundation, according to the proposal, and the foundation would work with the company in seeking tax breaks allowed by law.

The same proposal calls for Big Springs Inc. to store materials in a weather-tight building for up to a year, or, in another option, give the foundation until February 1991 to find a suitable storage site.

"I think we have the contacts to pursue a financial commitment," Mrs. Fails said. "But we haven't had time to make the contacts. We just need the time right now."

"I appreciate (the foundation's) work and I understand" the concern for the building, Wilkinson said. "We have met with interested and informed people and carried this as far as we could without being forceful."

'Window of time'

"The words I used," he said, "were 'window of time' and 'definition,' or an expression of interest, and when the window closed, there was no definition. When you run a large company with a board of directors and stockholders, you can only go so far without taking steps toward continuity and growth."

He said the proposal to remove the rear wing is "no option at all. That allows us to use only half of the available space. The problem we have, and people can't understand, is that to build the building we must dig a 10-foot hole and you can't do that without the house falling in."

Wilkinson said the decision to expand on the corner lot was not an easy one.

"When we made the decision, we were comfortable with it because this is not a fly-by-night, loosely-thought-through process. We've put in energy, effort, time, money, tears, sleepless nights."

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The Huntsville Times

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Old house, old promises

Historic preservationists often get lumped into the same category as conservationists. One wants to save nature at any cost; the other proposes preserving everything from the past, especially the past with people's lives attached to it.

And, again like environmentalists, historic preservationists often run into the on-rushing tide of economic development. That's what the Historic Huntsville Foundation faces in its hopes to save the Humphrey-Rodgers House in downtown Huntsville. We hope the foundation succeeds, preferably in a way that will be acceptable to everyone involved.

The house, at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street, was built about 1848. It is one of only two antebellum homes still standing in that area of town. All the others were demolished long ago.

The historic significance of the Humphrey-Rodgers home was not lost on the Huntsville Coca Cola Bottling Co. when it bought the property in 1972. Coca Cola, in fact, has poured a great deal of money into preserving the house. And for years, Coke officials said they intended to keep the house just as it is.

But yesterday's promises can run smack into today's realities. Coke says it desperately needs room to grow, and the Humphrey-Rodgers home is the only room it's got. The company has offered to give the house to the foundation for relocation, but the structure is brick, which makes moving it intact difficult and perhaps impossible.

The foundation could always use the

bricks in something else, but that's sort of like spreading the ashes of a great uncle around in the rose garden. The old boy's still there, but it's just not the same. A house is more than the materials it's made of.

If Coca-Cola cannot save all of the house, the foundation says, then it should save some of it and demolish only the rear wing. But Coke officials insist that isn't feasible without risking the structural integrity of the building.

Coca-Cola should not be put at a competitive disadvantage because some people want to save an old house. But the company, through its good intentions and display of public spirit, unwittingly set itself up for this confrontation when it preserved the house almost two decades ago. Old things, especially those that are taken care of, take on value beyond their market worth. Moreover, preserving the house has enabled Coca-Cola to enjoy no small measure of favorable public relations.

The bottling company cannot practically locate its expansion elsewhere without moving its entire operation, and that would be a large undertaking. The Historic Huntsville Foundation cannot save the Humphrey-Rodgers home in any meaningful sense if it is disassembled.

The resolution may rest with a third party, if there's one out there with the interest or the resources. Otherwise, an element of Huntsville's past seems destined to become a thing of the past.

Parks aren't superfluous

the city has had plans of a sort for those fears are not unfounded, but they can-

Fitzgerald

By GEORGE F. WILL

ROCKVILLE, Md. — Dozen miles north of sparkling monument American successes, saddest stories is cornered by this inscription: "So against the current, ceaselessly into the past."

The last words of "Gatsby" mark the great Fitzgerald, who died Dec. 21, 1940. He was an era and his life is for this one.

Success ("This Side came to him suddenly published "Gatsby." dead. (In 1919, Gatsby the spring of 1922, he summer, he was dead spent most of his adult his talent and health was an alcoholic.

Not long before his attack, he wrote, in a tense: "In a small way original." In a big way

Time is running out for antebellum house

By MARIAN ACCARDI
Times Staff Writer

A Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. executive has given local historic preservationists a Jan. 14 deadline to come up with a financing plan to move the antebellum home next to the plant.

Planned for the site is a 20,000-square-foot syrup manufacturing plant to give the bottling company more operating room.

But members of the Historic Huntsville Foundation are trying to work out a way to save the Humphreys-Rodgers house at Clinton Avenue and Monroe

House

Continued from page 1A

house must go.

"With an investment of several hundreds of thousands of dollars for brick wall, roof and interior preservation some 10 years ago and several thousands of dollars recently for gutter repair on the house, we will not have any other financial obligations of this company" devoted to upkeep of the structure, Wilkinson said in a letter to Ginger Fail, the chairman of the non-profit foundation.

Because of the holiday season

Street.

The foundation had asked that the company maintain the house at the present site and come up with other expansion plans. If that option was not acceptable, the group had asked that company officials consider tearing down the newer, rear wing of the house and keeping its older, front section built around 1848 or, as a last option, dismantling the building and reassembling it on another site.

"We are comfortable with our decision," says Robert E. "Bob" Wilkinson, the chairman of the board and chief operating officer with the soft-drink bottler. "The

See HOUSE, page 2A

and pressing national and corporate matters, Wilkinson said a "limited time" is being offered to the foundation to pursue financial commitments.

"Meanwhile, we will be contacting other suggested interested parties to expedite a solution to this dilemma," Wilkinson said.

Harvie Jones, a local architect and foundation member, said today there's "a 40-60 chance that we may be able to move at least the front, oldest part of the house intact, hopefully to a site" downtown in the Twickenham Historic District, with the front porch possibly being dismantled and re-erected. "We have a mover who can move it at a price less than we had hoped for," Jones said. "If we

can get the site we want, there would be no bad obstacles" in terms of bridges or power and cable lines along the route to the site.

"We also have a contractor who has offered some extent of volunteer labor to dismantle it. The contractor is interested in moving or rebuilding it as a speculative home, hopefully in the historic district.

"We are also searching for a storage place in case we have to store things. We have a prospect there also.

"All of this is a long shot, but we are pursuing it. All three important pieces of the puzzle must fit together in the time frame" the foundation was given.

Foundation members had earlier believed that it would be impossi-

ble to move the house intact. "But we talked to a house mover and he feels it definitely is moveable," Jones said. Without a detailed estimate, Jones said the oldest, front portion of the house probably weighs 300 to 400 tons.

Wilkinson has directed the company's facility manager, John Wilkinson, to make preparations for the removal, disassembly or demolition of the house, such as digging up sidewalk brick and readying it for storage, cutting down cedar and oak trees in front of the house, disconnecting water and electricity services and removing iron gates at the front curb.

Huntsville Times
27 Dec. 90

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Plan may save old house before Monday deadline

By MARIAN ACCARDI
Times Staff Writer

(Jan 14) → A Monday deadline looms for preservationists trying to move the antebellum home at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street, but it appeared today that efforts to save the house from demolition may be successful.

Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. officials want to expand their existing plant onto company-owned corner property where the Humphreys-Rodgers house now sits. Robert E. Wilkinson, who heads the local bottling firm, had

offered to give the house to the Huntsville Historic Foundation.

Foundation members have been trying to determine whether — and how — the house could be moved and have searched for a lot for it.

Tonight, the City Council may consider whether to allow the house to be relocated to city property at the southeast corner of Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle. The lot was designated years ago for parking.

Since the ordinance has not been discussed previously by the council, it would take unanimous con-

See HOUSE, page 7A

House

Continued from page 1A

sent of each council member to bring it up for a vote tonight.

The board that oversees Constitution Hall Village has agreed to pay for moving the house, Dwight Jennings, the board's chairman, said today. The estimated cost of moving the original, front portion of the house is \$72,000, said Harvie Jones, a member of the foundation who has worked on the project.

"The city would have no cost in moving the house or setting it up," Jennings said. Local developer and building contractor Randy Schrimsher has agreed to build a foundation at the new site, Jennings said.

"Our role would be to manage the facility for the City of Huntsville," Jennings said. "We have no long-range plan for what happens to the house." But it would be a public structure, he said. "This fits in perfectly with what we're trying to do" at Constitution Hall Village.

"If we have time, we hope to dismantle the rear wing and re-erect a stud-and-brick veneer version at the new site," Jones said. "We don't see problems with the route" over which the house would be transported between the Clinton site and the city-owned lot. "There are no trees or low-overhanging telephone lines or bridges" along the way. Some traffic signals would have to be loosened, but not removed, he said.

"Things are looking good at the moment," said Jones.

Mayor Steve Hettinger said that locating the house at the Gates and Fountain Circle site "fits in with the downtown master plan." That plan, prepared by Land Design/Research Inc., calls for the block bounded by Gates, Madison Street, Williams Avenue and Fountain to be redeveloped to accommodate historically authentic buildings that would be used for an expanded program for Constitution Hall Village and a variety of private-sector uses.

Hettinger said that putting the house on that corner would eliminate 15 parking spaces.

Relocation of historic Humphrey^sRodgers Home OK'd

The Huntsville Planning Commission has approved the relocation of the Humphrey-Rodgers Home on Clinton Avenue to the southeast corner of Gates Avenue and Fountain Row.

The Huntsville Coca-Cola Bot-

tlng Co. plans to use the company-owned corner lot on which the historic home sits for plant expansion. Local preservationists worked together with the company to save the house.

The Constitution Hall Village

board of directors agreed earlier this month to pay the costs of moving the house. These are expected to total more than \$70,000.

The City Council has already approved the plan to move the house to an area that has been used for city parking.

300-ton house biggest challenge mover has faced

By MARIAN ACCARDI
Times Staff Writer

Hollis Kennedy will soon face the biggest challenge of his house-moving career relocating the 300-ton, 140-year-old Humphreys-Rodgers house near downtown Huntsville.

"We've moved solid brick buildings before," like the 75-ton, brick courthouse in Scottsboro built in 1868, Kennedy said. "And I've moved 150-ton houses."

"But you always want to move a bigger one."

He'll get that chance when his company, Hollis Kennedy House Movers, hauls the two-story antebellum Humphreys-Rodgers house from the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street to the city-owned southeast corner of Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle.

Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. officials planned to expand the existing plant onto the company-owned property at Clinton and Monroe. So, Robert E. Wilkinson, the chief operating officer of the local bottler, offered the house to the Huntsville Historic Foundation or any other group who would move it.

The board that oversees Constitution Hall Village agreed to pay the \$63,000 in moving costs.

"It's part of our master plan to protect and move historic homes into that block for mixed uses," said museum Director Dana Lee Hatum. "There are a couple of uses being considered for the house. The primary one is to use it as a 'discovery house' for young children who visit the museum."

The board, she said, had agreed to allow the Historic Huntsville Foundation to use a room in the house as an office.



Employees of the Hollis Kennedy House Movers company prepare the Humphreys-Rodgers house for its move.

Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

The .7-mile journey will take about eight to 10 hours, Kennedy estimates. The house will be hauled south on Monroe past the

Von Braun Civic Center, then east on Williams by the Huntsville Hilton and the south end of Big Springs International Park, then

back north on Fountain Circle.

In all, it will take workers about 3½ weeks to prepare the house for the move. Kennedy said it will

probably be the week after next before the house will be moved.

About 40 tons of steel beams are being put in place under the house for the move, Kennedy said. First, there are two, 10-ton, 67-foot-long steel beams. On top of that are 30, 9-inch beams, then about 40 smaller beams.

"It'll hold shelled corn by the time we get through with it," he joked.

Enough hydraulic jacks will be used for a 300-ton capacity, Kennedy said. "If that doesn't lift it, we'll add more jacks." He expects about 15 jacks will have to be used to raise the house.

One truck will probably be used for the actual move, Kennedy said, although several winch trucks will also be used to get the house off the corner lot.

"We will have eight steering dollies under it. Once we back it out into the street, the dollies must be turned. That itself will take a couple of hours."

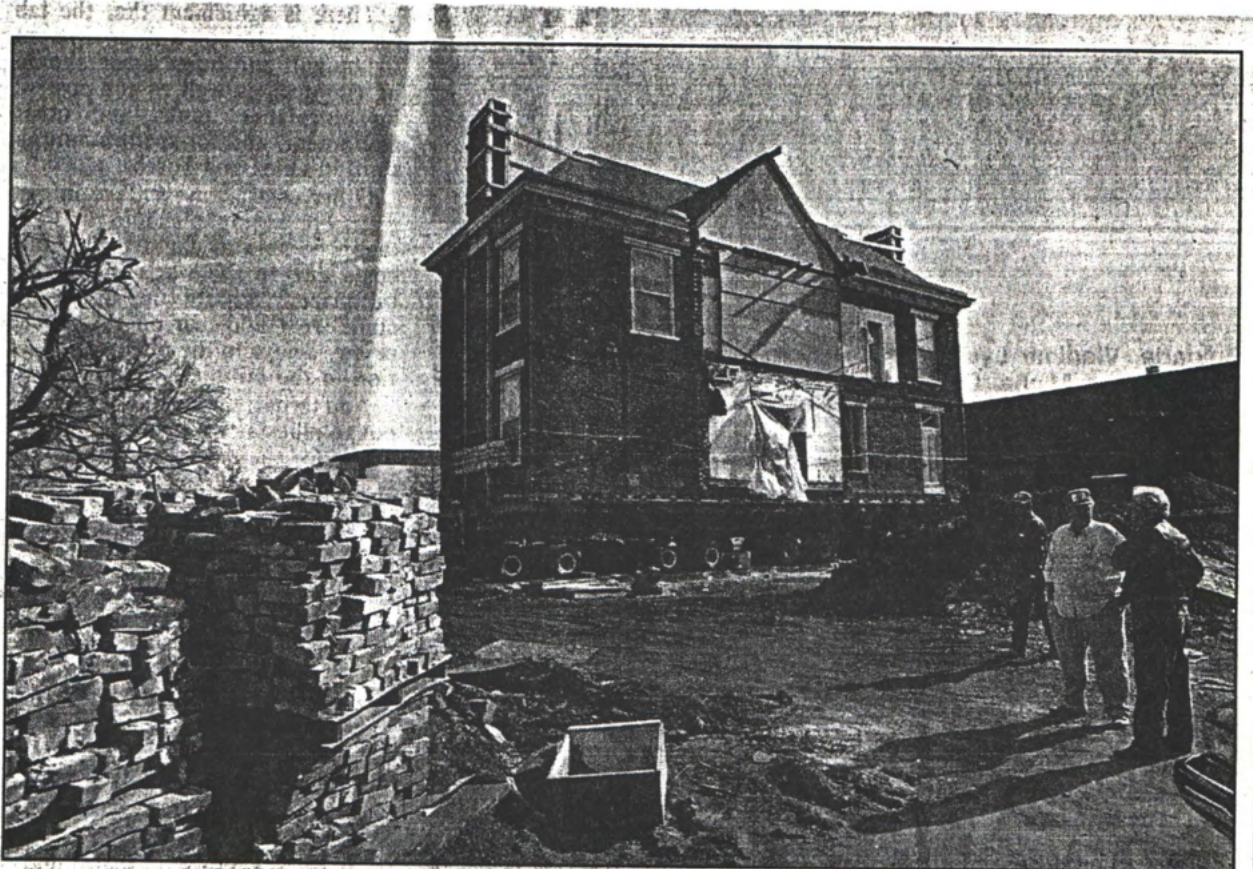
J.T. Schrimsher Construction Co. is building the below-grade part of the foundation at Fountain and Gates. "And, once the house is moved, we'll finish the foundation," said Randy Schrimsher.

The foundation work is a contribution from the construction company whose workers also dismantled the rear addition of the house "brick by brick," Schrimsher said.

Will the house survive the journey?

"We believe it will or we wouldn't be here," Kennedy said. "It we thought it was going to fall down, we wouldn't be here. We've got to have confidence in it. We thought about it a lot before we agreed to it."

"But, if we had let the house be torn down, when would another one like this come along?"



Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

Moving to a new home

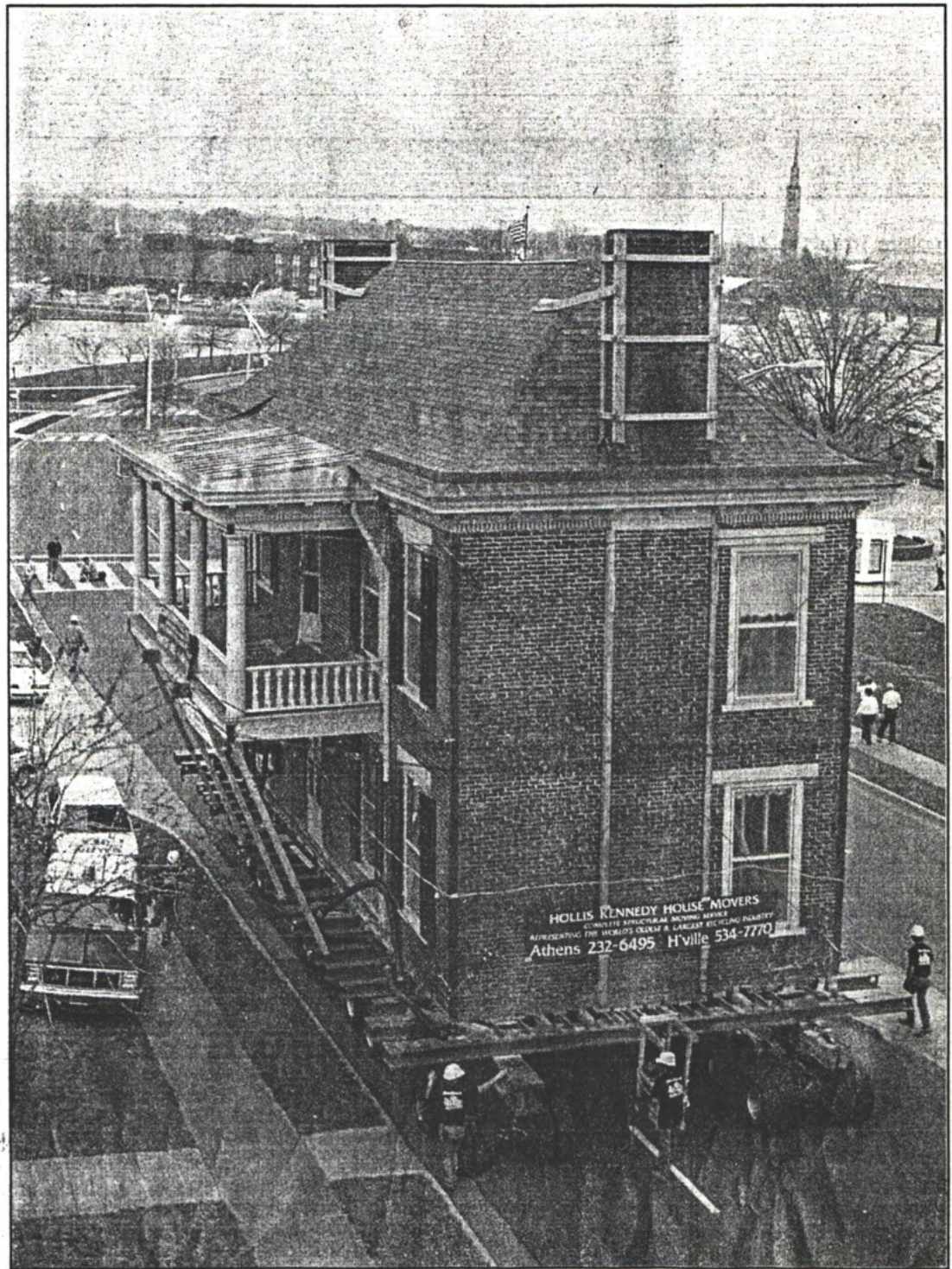
The Humphrey-Rodgers house is almost ready to begin its move from the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street to its new home at Fountain Circle and Gates Avenue. The moving process, which starts Wednesday at 7 a.m., is expected to take eight to 10 hours. The trip will take the 330-ton brick house built in 1848 south on Monroe past the Von Braun Civic Center to Williams Avenue and then east to Fountain Circle. Parts of Monroe will be closed during the move and parts of Williams will be blocked off to just two lanes.

IN TIMES 26 MAR. '91

The Huntsville Times

Times

Wednesday, March 27, 1991



Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

On its way

People line the streets as the 330-ton Humphrey-Rodgers house creeps by the Von Braun Civic Center late this morning on its move from Clinton Avenue to its new location at Constitution Hall Village on Fountain Circle. Hollis Kennedy House Movers hauled the 1848 house on the half-mile journey.

Local/State



Tony Triolo/Huntsville Times



Dave Dieter/Huntsville Times



Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

Long, heavy haul

For about 12 hours Wednesday Hollis Kennedy House Movers tugged 330 tons of bricks and wood from Clinton Avenue to a site near city hall a half mile away. At top, the Humphrey-Rodgers Home creeps past the Huntsville Hilton toward a hill on Williams Avenue. At left below, Ira Jones of Huntsville, a member of the

Historic Huntsville Foundation board, video tapes the progress of the move as the house passes the Von Braun Civic Center. At right, Hollis Kennedy and his son, Keith, find out that the strain of the move has blown the gear box on their main truck.

Hollis Kennedy & son



Dave Dieter/Huntsville

After a two-hour climb up Williams Avenue, the 140-year-old Humphrey-Rodgers house is pulled onto lot at Gates Avenue Fountain Circle. More photos on page B2.

Weather, equipment, gravity slow move

By **MARIAN ACCARDI**
Times Staff Writer

Wednesday was a long workday for the crew pulling the 140-year-old, 330-ton Humphrey-Rodgers house to its new location.

There was a flat tire along the half-mile route; a two-hour climb on the hill on Williams Street; a possible broken axle on the Mack truck pulling the house; a sinking

steering dolly and, finally, rain, lightning and a tornado warning.

But workers with Hollis Kennedy House Movers were able to get most of the house up on the lot at the corner of Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle, where it will become part of Constitution Hall Park.

Just before 8 p.m., the crews were forced to take cover, and Kennedy decided that the wheels of the steering dollies would be secured for the night and his work-

ers would return today.

"It's gone real good, all things considered," Kennedy said. Many people believed the house was "too old and too fragile" to be moved, "so I think we really accomplished something. If we do another house, we'll get a bigger truck.

"I've been in worse shape."

The company has been preparing the two-story, brick building for the move for nearly a month. Workers braced windows, door

openings and chimneys, wrap the house and porch with cables installed about 40 tons of steel beams under the house and place the hydraulic jacks to lift

"In my mind, I was prepared for the 330 tons, but it's really heavy," said Kennedy, who has moved 150-ton houses before. The house was especially stubborn as the crews started eastward down the hill on Williams Avenue. "Gravity really took over right there," Kennedy said.

Local/State

Thursday, March 28, 1991

■ Deaths: B5
 ■ Editorials: B6

Area Briefs

Clot hospitalizes former mayor here

Former Huntsville Mayor Joe Davis is in serious but stable condition this morning after being rushed to Huntsville Hospital by ambulance Wednesday afternoon.

Davis' son, Bill, said Thursday morning Davis was admitted to Huntsville Hospital because of a blood clot in one of his legs.

"He's doing fine," the younger Davis said, "I don't anticipate a real long stay in the hospital."

Davis' medical problems arose while he was at work at his tractor equipment store in New Market, Bill Davis said.

Davis served as mayor for 20 consecutive years before losing re-election in 1988.

Officials probe cross-burning

ALBERTVILLE — Local and federal authorities are investigating a cross-burning in the yard of a black family that recently moved to the mostly white community of Hyatt on Sand Mountain.

Authorities are also investigating the firing of gun shots during the incident early Sunday.

A six-foot wooden cross wrapped in burlap was burned in the yard of Isiah and Linda Ruffin. Ruffin reportedly fired at the person or persons placing the cross and the shots were reportedly returned. There have been no reports of injuries.

The Ruffins purchased the house in January, moving to the area from Cleveland, Ohio. Mrs. Ruffin has relatives in Guntersville.

Albertville wins lawsuit over death

ALBERTVILLE — A U.S. District Court jury in Birmingham has ruled in the favor of the City of Albertville in a lawsuit filed in a woman's death in the city jail.

The federal jury this week found in favor of the city in the death of Donna S. Baker in the city jail in August 1987. The



Dave Dieter/Huntsville Times

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see reverse also

Judge says identities of police Birmingham

Huntsville

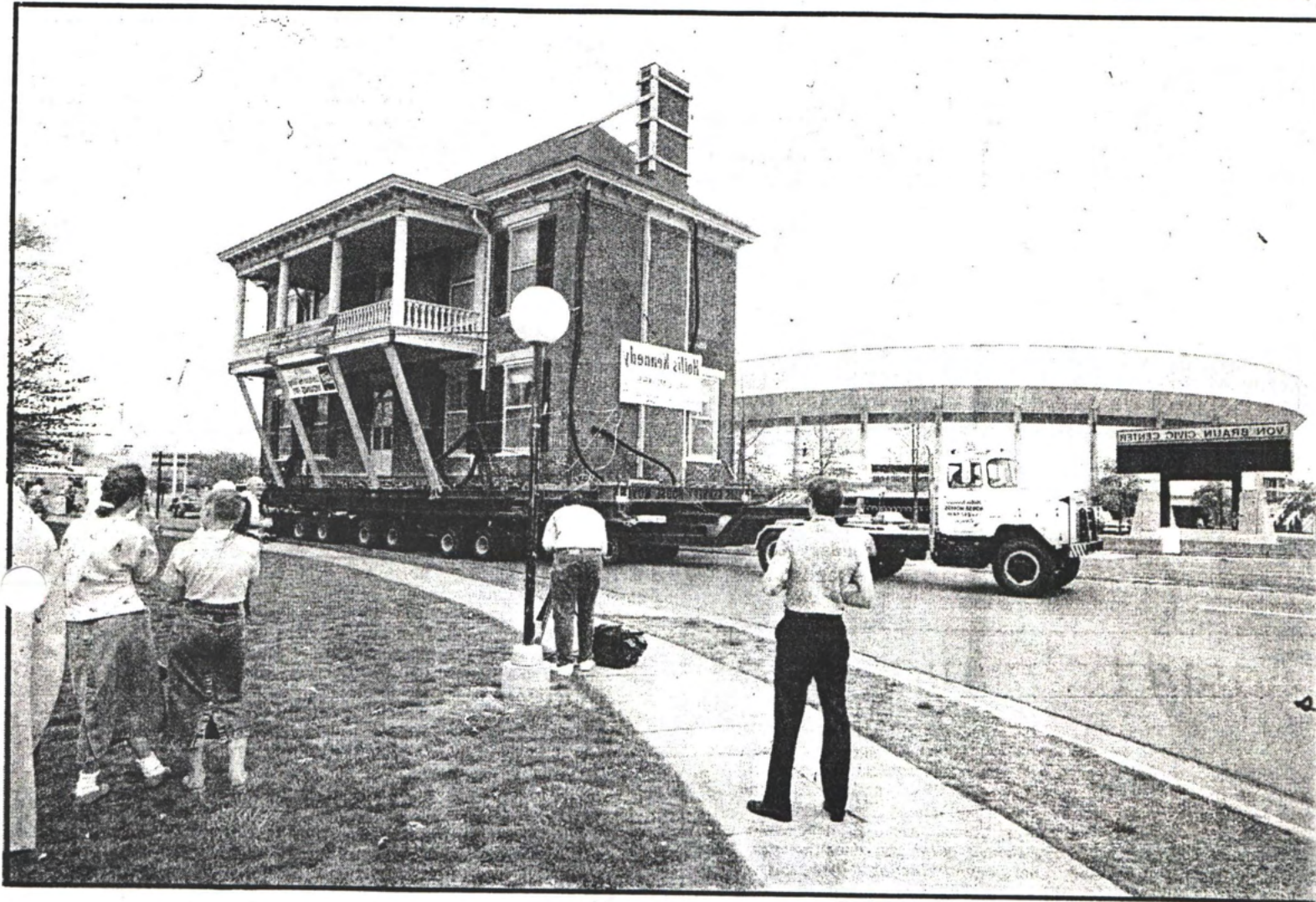
News

28, No. 75

"We put the good in your morning"

Huntsville, Ala., Thu

Mar. 28 '91



Moving day

The historic Humphrey-Rodgers home made its move to a downtown location near Constitution Hall Village on Wednesday. The home, built in 1848, was moved from its site adjacent to the Coca-Cola plant on Clinton Avenue to allow for that company's expansion. However, the move was delayed temporarily when one of its 64 tires went flat. Right, Vern [unclear] crawled among the steel beams and changed the tire during the "pit stop." (Staff Photos by Jim Taylor)



A house's new home

At long last, the Humphrey-Rodgers house is in its new home. The move wasn't easy; moving a 330-ton structure that was built before the Civil War is a challenge. But the move was successful, and a piece of the city's history has been saved.

The Humphrey-Rodgers house most recently was used as a showpiece for the Coca-Cola company, but Coke needed the land for its expanding operations. For a while, it looked as though the house would be torn down.

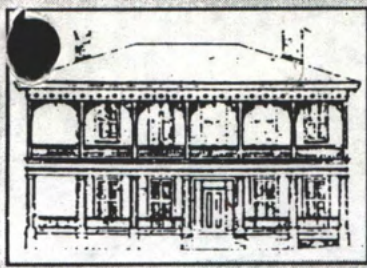
But in stepped the Historic Huntsville Foundation and others. Now the house will be a part of Constitution Hall Park at

Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle.

Hats off to the city of Huntsville for providing the land, to Coke for cooperating with the salvage effort, to Constitution Hall Park for pitching in and to the contributors who made the move possible. The home was trucked from its former location to its new one without the use of tax dollars.

Progress is important, but it cannot always be defined in terms of the new. Sometimes progress is represented by establishing what is of value from the past and carrying that value into the future. The history that is represented by the Humphrey-Rodgers house is now preserved, and that is a sure sign of progress.

WV. Times mbe. 29'91



THE

Preservation Report

Alabama Historical Commission

Montgomery, Alabama ■ Vol. 18, No. 4 ■ July/August 1991

Huntsville's Constitution Hall receives addition

Constitution Hall Village in Huntsville was established to present to the public a meaningful representation of Alabama's 1819 Constitutional Convention and to portray life during the Federal period in the South. Recently added to the village is the Humphreys-Rodgers House. Constructed in 1848 as a two-story brick Federal-type townhouse, it was enlarged in the 1850s and acquired its present, somewhat Georgian Revival appearance during the last remodeling around the turn of the century.

In 1972 Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. purchased and restored the house which was located adjacent to the Coca-Cola facility. A sign reading "Preserving the Good We Have is Progress" was placed on the grounds, and the house became available for student tours and company and community functions. In 1977 the Humphreys-Rodgers House was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

During the mid-1980s it became necessary to add to the bottling plant. A jewelry shop and Quonset Hut located between the plant and the house site were removed. The addition, built on this site, was kept as far from the house and as low as possible. Coca-Cola spent a considerable amount of money on a dark-brown brick serrated wall that intruded on the house as little as possible.

Mechanical equipment was painted dark brown in order to visually recede into the brick plant wall.

Around 1988 the need to expand occurred again. The company searched for ways to accomplish the expansion without affecting the house, including moving the plant to another location. When these efforts did not work out, the house was placed in jeopardy.

According to Huntsville architect Harvie Jones, this was the second time in less than 20 years that the house needed saving. In 1848 the house was the residence of David C. Humphreys, a lawyer, judge, politician, and peace movement leader in the later years of the Civil War. In 1886, Augustus D. Rodgers acquired the house and it remained in the Rodgers family until being purchased by the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company.

But in 1971 the house was empty and occupied by derelicts who had built a fire on the floor of one room. "The house sat on about 1.33 acres of prime commercial property adjacent to the planned-for Von Braun Civic Center site," wrote Jones. "The high asking price for the 1.33 acres, plus the proximity to the planned Civic Center precluded residential use and gave a strong financial incentive for demolition and erection of a fast food restaurant...It appeared that the only hope for salvation was to find a commercial adaptive use that preserved the house, but that would generate enough income to offset the high land cost."

In 1990, a 20,000-square-foot syrup plant and more operating space was planned at the site of the Humphreys-Rodgers House, also known as "The House for Coca-Cola" in more recent years. Robert E. "Bob" Wilkinson, chairman of the board and chief operating officer of the bottling company, offered in a Dec. 11 letter to contribute the house to the Historic Huntsville Foundation.

The Foundation, having recently paid off the mortgage on the Harrison Brothers Hardware Store, did not have the funds needed to dismantle and move the historic house. Days before the January 14 deadline, Constitution Hall Village was approached.

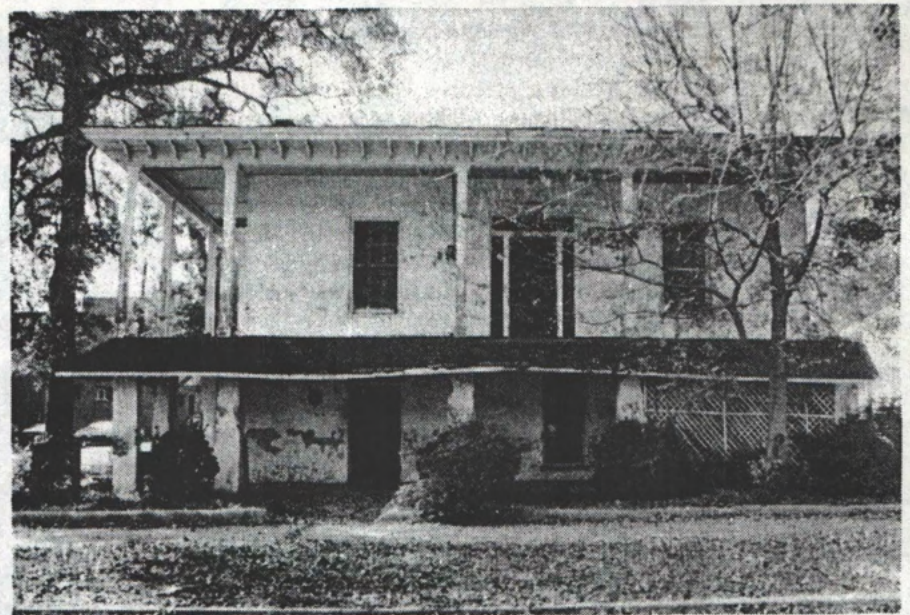
The organization was successful in persuading the Huntsville City Council to allow the house to be relocated on vacant city property that was designated years ago as parking. The board that oversees Constitution Hall Village agreed to pay the moving costs and to manage the facility for the City of Huntsville.

According to Constitution Hall Village Assistant Director Charles Vaughn, Constitution Hall Village plans to co-host with the Historic Huntsville Foundation a fund-raiser to offset the moving and setup costs, which are estimated at \$100,000. The moving cost is \$62,700, but more money is needed to cover architectural fees, the salvage of the back wing which will be reconstructed at a later date, and engineering costs.

"The house weighed 330 tons," said Vaughn. Part of the move was uphill and because of an underestimation of the house's height, street lights had to be taken down. "Credit needs to be given to Bobby Wilkinson of Coca-Cola for giving us this house," said Vaughn. The structure will probably become the Discovery Place for Constitution Hall Village, a learning center for preschool- to second grade-age children.



Humphreys-Rodgers House was moved to Constitution Hall.



The Plattenburg house in Selma is an example of a large-scale raised cottage, a housing type, very unusual to the Selma area.

During National Preservation Week—

Plattenburg house and grounds cleaned

In observance of National Historic Preservation Week, AHC staff members travelled to Selma on May 14 to clean the house and grounds of the Plattenburg house.

Sometimes referred to as the Kirkpatrick house or the Sudie Felder Apartments, it is a fine example of a large-scale raised cottage, a housing type very unusual in the Selma area.

The house is presently owned by the Grist Branch YMCA. The Y received the property last year and had planned to demolish the structure in order to expand its facilities or to create more parking space.

"Basically, we wanted to stabilize the house," said David Harris who works with the Commission's historic endangered landmarks program (HELP). "The YMCA has postponed demolition for us, the AHC and the Selma-Dallas County Historic Preservation Society, to see if adaptive reuse of the house is feasible. There is also the possibility that grant

money can be received for the house's rehabilitation.

"Only one other example of this house type is known to survive in Selma," said Harris. "It is closely linked architecturally to similar large-scale raised cottages in the Garden District of New Orleans and the Spring Hill area in Mobile."

Built around 1860, the house was one of 14 Selma structures considered significant for inclusion in the photographic archives of the Historic American Buildings Survey. These photographs, taken in 1934 and 1935, are housed in the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C.

"The original portions of the house are fundamentally sound," said Harris. "The 20th-century wood frame additions are badly dilapidated, though."

The Plattenburg house was recently added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, a prestigious statewide listing of buildings, structures, objects, and districts that possess architectural and historical significance.

Preservation Alliance seeks slides

The Alabama Preservation Alliance (APA) is seeking quality slides to incorporate in its audio/visual slide program. The program, funded in part by a matching grant from the Historical Commission, is designed to promote historic preservation awareness and activities, and to increase citizen and corporate participation on a local and state level. The audio/visual slide presentation will include a script tailored to photographs of historic structures and will feature current preservation activities in Alabama. It will be designed so that sites and information concerning local preservation efforts may be included.

Good quality Kodachrome or Fujichrome slides of residential and commercial historic buildings across the state, including the well-known and obscure, are sought. Whenever possible, these slides should depict people viewing, touring, studying, or enjoying the build-

ing. Slides are also needed of houses and commercial buildings in various stages of preservation or neglect. Case studies of the photographed structures should be included so that a program narrative can be developed.

Slides and accompanying descriptive copy should be mailed to the Alabama Preservation Alliance, P. O. Box 2228, Montgomery, AL 36102, no later than October 1, 1991. The APA does not guarantee that the slides submitted will be returned; therefore, it is advisable to send good quality duplicates.

Photographers of the slides included in the presentation will be given credit in the narrative booklet accompanying the audio/visual program. The deadline for the project's completion is March 31, 1992.

The APA is an independent, statewide, nonprofit organization that encourages the recognition and preservation of Alabama's heritage. It was cre-

ated to promote public participation in historic preservation programs and activities, to disseminate information and knowledge about our state's history, and to give voice to the many organizations and individuals in Alabama who are committed to the preservation of our heritage. For further information on the Alliance write to the address above or contact Doug Purcell at (205) 687-9755.

The Alabama Historical Commission annually awards matching grants for local preservation projects on a competitive basis. Monies for the projects come from Alabama's annual federal appropriation from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The grants must be matched by the communities and can be used for surveys of historic resources, nomination to the National Register of Historic Places, local preservation plans, or preservation education projects.

-The- Structural Mover

International Association of Structural Movers

Vol. 9 No. 3 - December 1991

**Representing the World's Largest
Recycling Industry**

***Hollis Kennedy
moves to larger jobs***



Hollis Kennedy
HOUSE MOVERS
Athens 232-6495 H'ville 534-7770

Coca-Cola Humphreys-Rodgers House

by Hollis Kennedy

A bird's-eye view shows the window bracing and how the chimney was braced. The house was being moved so that the Coca-Cola plant could expand. To celebrate the site clearing, the plant sent a truck along with the move with free Cokes for the whole crowd that was watching.



Waiting for the start, the house sits at the street edge. The dollies are set to back the house into the street, and the dollies will all be turned around to go to the new site.

The local newspaper caught my attention on another historical home in the way of progress. Built in 1848, this antebellum home, known as the Coca-Cola Humphreys-Rodgers House, was located in downtown Huntsville, Alabama, and was threatened by the expansion of a local business adjacent to the property. Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company officials needed the land to build a 20,000-square-foot syrup plant and additional operating space.

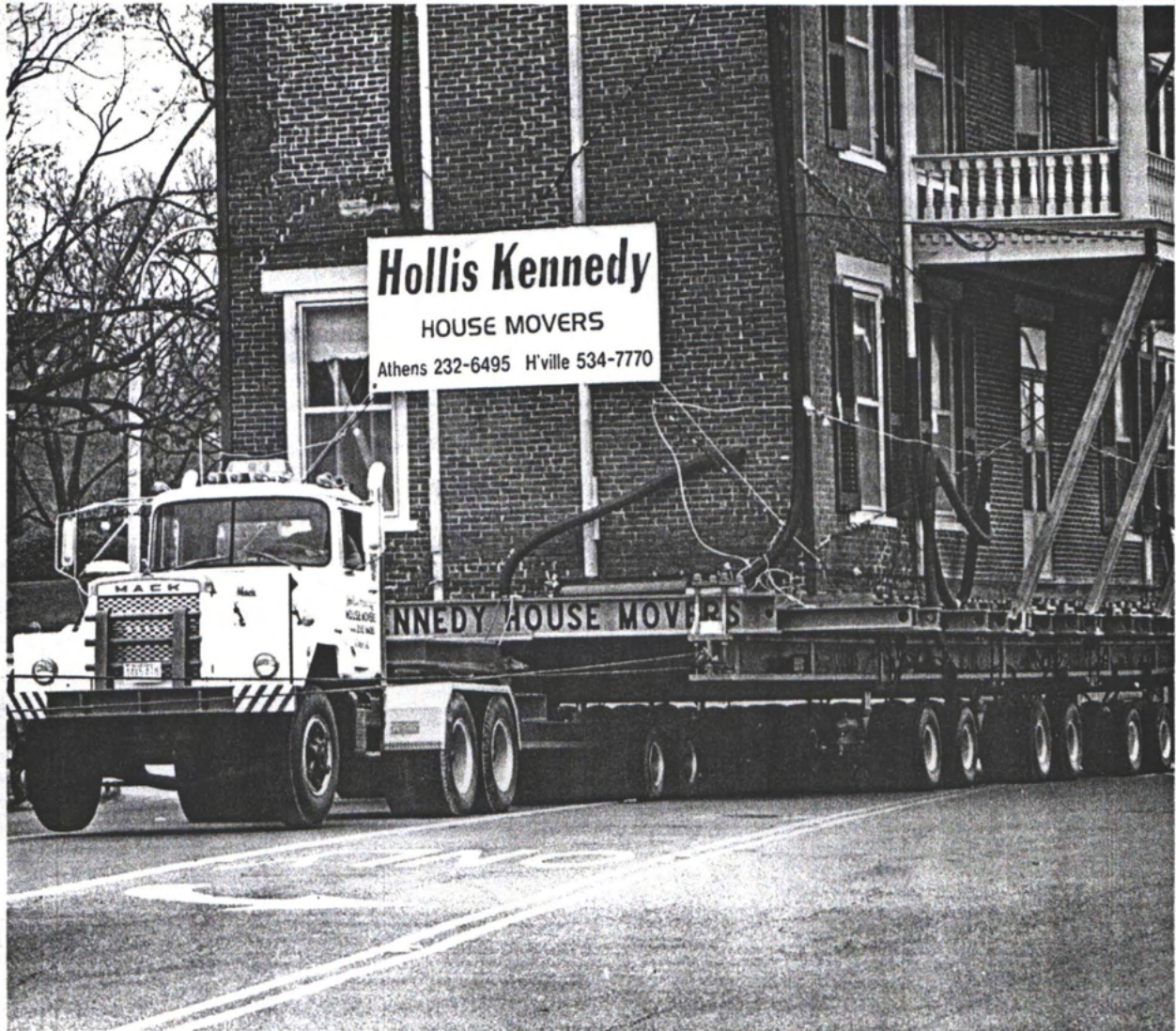
So it seems, the house would be removed one way or another. But Constitution Hall Village and the Huntsville Historic Foundation intended to save it. The Coca-Cola Humphreys-Rodgers House, in the middle of controversy, did however have everyone in agreement, or at least deeply concerned that

because of its age, and the fact the house was solid brick, it would be too heavy and too fragile to move.

I knew where the house was located and drove to Huntsville to take a look. I called a couple of people mentioned in the newspaper article to tell them I could move the house. Coca-Cola Bottling Company then donated the 143-year-old house to Constitution Hall Village.

We submitted a proposal to Constitution Hall Village and explained how we would support the house and exactly what kind of equipment we would be using, how much and why. We gained the support and confidence of the board members at the meeting. The job was all ours, and we were ready to get started.

Almost to the top of a long grade. Even with the winch truck pulling, the front wheels of the tractor are in the air.



The two-story house has 12" solid brick walls with two 12" brick cross walls. It is 58' long, 20' wide, 45' tall to the top of the fireplaces and a very heavy second story porch floor and roof, 8' x 28'. To begin, in each side we cut 28 holes for cross steel using small air chisels. Since the house had only 18 inches of crawl space under the floor, we dug two ditches 58' long and 18" deep just inside the foundation underneath the floor and threw the dirt out the cross steel holes. In these ditches we rolled in our two main beams (they were 16" x 17", 312 lb. per foot) and placed 28 cross steel beams about two feet apart (these were 8", 65 lb. per foot).

We set eight 30-ton jacks under the two main beams 15 feet apart, with four 15-ton jacks under the bolster, and then had to add two 15-ton jacks

to help the 30-ton jacks; we raised the house five feet high with an eight-jack power pack. We used eight hydraulic dollies with one set being hydraulic steering dollies. The four dollies on each side were zoned together, and we steered the rear dollies and had the other three dollies on each side cast-ering. Our Mack has 58,000 rears, three transmissions and 40 forward gears.

The day of the move was the biggest challenge we've ever had. We didn't realize just how much publicity the house had gotten until we arrived. There was an enormous variety of people including house movers with cameras, camcorders, children, picnics and Coca-Cola with a truck pulling a concession stand that followed the house, giving everyone along the way free cokes. Everyone was ready

for the parade to begin. All three local television crews, all the local newspapers and even CNN were watching us to see "recycling in a big way."

We backed the house out into the street and steered the rear dollies to turn 90 degrees, then turned all eight dollies around to go approximately one mile in the other direction. There was a curve

about one-quarter of a mile long with curbs on each side with about an eight-inch clearance on the dolly tires. We steered the rear dollies to the outside of the curve because with dollies stretched out for 50 feet they would not stay down between the curbs.

After going only two blocks there was a flat on



The large number of wheels and the hydraulics allowed crossing curbs, sidewalks and traveling the one mile of highway without damage. Six of the eight dollies are in caster mode.

the left front dolly on the steering axle. About a half block later we were waiting for a traffic light to be taken down; it was going to take awhile because it was a steel pole with a cross arm and all of it had to go, so we decided we had better get the tire fixed. A tire service truck was there in about 10 minutes; we had already set stiff legs under the beam and raised the dolly up. The tire repairman had the tire off and apart in a few minutes; what happened was that whoever mounted the tire in Forrest City, Iowa, had left a 1x4 about 10 inches long inside the tire and it had cut the tube. With a new tube in and the tire back on we were ready to roll.

There was one hill that gave us some trouble, but we were able to winch and pull to the top. We had three 90-degree turns to make and getting on the lot was upgrade. Then came a heavy thunderstorm, with hail and about two inches or rain. With about eight feet of the house still in the street we barricaded around the end of the house and came back the next day, getting all the dollies on oak tracking, then winched the house over the new footing.

With 90 tires under the house, we crossed over sidewalks, curbs and traveled over approximately one mile of paved streets without causing any damage. We checked the house inside and out after all the beams were removed and did not find any cracks in the plaster, wallpaper or the bricks.

A Huntsville architect stated, "This was quite a challenge, particularly since lime mortar this age offers no significant adhesion, the bricks are held together mostly by gravity and the thorough support, strapping and bracing system that you devised." It was a challenge, and I could not have moved it without my son, Keith, and a good crew. We had a lot of support from Constitution Hall Village in Huntsville, the Huntsville Utilities, the Department of Transportation and the police department. They really showed confidence in us to let us get in the streets of downtown Huntsville with a house this old,

fragile and heavy.

The house now is located in Constitution Hall Village, in Huntsville, Alabama, and will become a "discovery house" for young children.

This is what we were doing during the convention in California. Sorry we missed it; we were told we missed a good one. Hope to see everyone at the next one.

March 29, 1991

Hollis Kennedy House Movers
Kennedy Road
Route 15, Box 50
Athens, AL 35611


JONES & HERRIN
Architecture/Interior Design

Re: 1848 Humphreys-Rodgers House
Dear Hollis, and all your competent crew:

My compliments on your successful move of the 350-ton, two-story brick 1848 Rodgers House in order to save it from destruction for a Coca-Cola bottling plant expansion. This was quite a challenge, particularly since lime mortar of this age and type does not offer any significant adhesion. The bricks are held together mostly by gravity, and for your move by the thorough support, strapping and bracing system you devised.

This is obviously not the kind of job you take on to make bread-and-butter money, but for the extreme challenge it offers. You and your crew met the challenge with great competence. I've recommended your services to others in the past, including the group in Scottsboro for your successful move of the brick courthouse there, and I'll continue to recommend your firm.

Congratulations!


Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: Bob Gamble
Dana Tatum
HJ



Entering the new site, all is well, but in a few minutes, a thunderstorm with about two inches of rain came. The house was pulled ahead so that only eight feet remained in the road for the night.



The next day, the advantage of double-acting hydraulic dollies showed. One at a time each dolly was raised and track placed underneath. The road had to be planked as shown in the photo.

1848 house may soon be open

Renovation work is expected to cost some \$300,000

By **MARIAN ACCARDI**
Times Staff Writer

The 140-year-old house that was moved to Alabama's Constitution Village two years ago could be restored and opened for public use by the end of the year.

"We're trying to generate the last bit of money" needed for the project, said Dana Lee Tatum, the director of Constitution Village. "Bids are due to go out in the next 90 days and we're looking for the completion of the project by the end of the year," depending on the weather, she said.

The work is expected to cost \$300,000 and, so far, some \$230,000 has been raised to renovate the home inside, add the two side porches again and rebuild the two-story rear wing which was disassembled before the 330-ton home was moved a half-mile from

Clinton Avenue to Fountain Circle. The bricks and windows from that wing have been stored over the last two years.

The 1848 house will be renovated to modern-day building standards, which means building five bathrooms that are accessible to the disabled.

Proceeds from a membership campaign that begins in April will be used for the restoration. The Constitution Village Society, a group of 80 volunteers that supports the museum's educational efforts, and the museum's advisory board are competing in that drive "so there's a real team spirit to get the house completed," Mrs. Tatum said last week.

The guidelines for the use of the house are still being developed by the Village's board of directors, she said.

But, "it will become a public space," Mrs. Tatum said. "It's our

intent to offer a variety of services to people who visit here."

The second floor will have two large "discovery rooms" for young children to give them "a first-time museum experience," she said. "We'll be able to accommodate 75 to 100 children instead of 25 at a time."

An office for the house's manager and another office for the Historic Huntsville Foundation will also be located on the second floor, according to the plans by local architect Harvie Jones.

The first floor will have a large lobby, two reception rooms, a dining room and small catering kitchen.

An admission fee, not yet determined by the board of directors, will be charged to maintain the structure, Mrs. Tatum said.

"It was like a wish being granted

See HOUSE, page B3

House

Continued from page B1

when the house became available," she said. Robert Wilkinson, the chief operating officer with the local Coca-Cola Bottling Co., offered the house to the Historic Huntsville Foundation so the lot at Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street could be used for a plant expansion.

The City of Huntsville provided the property at Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle for the house, Mrs. Tatum said, and the Constitution Village board raised the money for moving the house and preparing the foundation, Mrs. Tatum said.

"The placement of the house on the block is really in keeping with the master plans for the Village as well as the (downtown) City of Huntsville," she said.

ville — not New York, L.A. or Nashville — and his company is currently running a major tour featuring Salt-N-Pepa, Kid Capri and R. Kelly. He has also worked with Luther Vandross, Frankie Beverly and Maze, and was in the studio when the legendary "We Are The World" session was led by

own record label — Genie Records — a partnership between himself and the amazing Al Bell, whose Bellmark Records is at least partially responsible for last's summer's "Whoot/Whoomp, There it is" phenomenon.

The first act to be released on the Genie

so Jones and another promoter went to his room to get him.

"He was just sitting there in the 'zone,' and we managed to get him out, says Jones. "But when he hit that stage, he was just another person."

The "zone" Jones referred to, however,

— let's chalk it up to his rare musical genius — was not the easiest person to get along with on a normal day.

"He's not a person that hangs out with you or talks to you a lot," says Jones. "He

See JONES, page H4

3 projects by JH-Hans



Ginger Fail, Trisha Bragg and Ann Bandgren, above left to right, rehearse for "Follies," as Dana Lee Tatum studies work to be done on the Humphreys-Rodgers home.



'Follies '94'

Public performs in restoration effort

By ANN MARIE MARTIN
Times Arts Writer

① Lots of life passed through the doors of the Humphreys-Rodgers House during almost 145 years at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street. Now sleeping in dusty silence, the old building patiently waits for rebirth.

The wait is almost over. Ready to revitalize the barren shell is a bolt of energy straight from Broadway — or rather from "Way Off Broadway."

"Follies '94: Way Off Broadway" is a musical variety revue being organized by Alabama's Constitution Village and the Historic Huntsville Foundation to raise money to renovate this piece of Huntsville's architectural past. The show is set for Aug. 26

and 27 in the Von Braun Civic Center Concert Hall.

Village and Foundation joined forces in 1991 to save the 1848 building from destruction when its owner, the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company, expanded its plant. Hollis Kennedy House Movers transported the 300-ton brick house to its present location at Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle on property donated by the City of Huntsville to the Village.

The renovation of the house is part of a major expansion plan begun at the Village in 1993 with the construction of the Confectionary and the Blacksmith's Shop. The star on the Village's horizon is a \$7 million-plus Visitors/History Hands-on Center. Ground breaking for that facility is slated for late this year.

The renovations to the Humphreys-Rodgers House will remain true to the character of the structure, says ACV director Dana Lee Tatum.

"We're going to try to keep as much or restore as closely as possible the architectural integrity of the house. The house was built in 1848, but it has had two additions that came at a later time."

She looks at the old house and envisions the possibilities.

"I'd love to have a court- ing swing on the front porch."

She says the renovation work will cost approximately \$320,000. The city put up \$200,000; it's up to the Village to get the rest. That's where "Follies '94" comes in.

The last time a follies

production was staged in Huntsville was 1981 with the Junior League in charge, and Mrs. Tatum says the city seems ready to see another one.

"We've had nothing but positive comments about bringing follies to Huntsville again."

The three general chairmen of "Follies '94" are Ann Bandgren, representing Alabama's Constitution Village; Ginger Fail, Historic Huntsville Foundation; and Trisha Bragg, the Huntsville community. Suzanne O'Connor, president of HHF, has been working closely with Mrs. Tatum to pull the event together.

② Mrs. Tatum points out how many people are involved in just the organizing of "Follies," 41 people named on the committees list alone.

"Ann Bandgren and Stephanie Sherman, who is another committee member, and myself have been to Selma, Ala., to see their follies production and to see how their dress rehearsal went, how they handled make-up and the technical side of it with lighting, sound and music."

③ She sighs then smiles.

"It's a lot of work for a big reward, a really big reward."

She says that between 150 and 200 people from the community will make up the cast. There is so much local talent, she adds, that it won't be hard to fill the stage.

The locals will have some professional help. The Jerome H. Cargill Producing Organization of New York will stage the show.

"They send a director, the music and all the costumes," she explains. "The director arrives about 30 days prior to the performance. As an example of the generosity of this community, the

See HOUSE, page H4

HV. 7/16/94 15:00pm '94

'Follies '94'

Musical variety revue benefits renovation efforts

By CAROLE JONES
Lifestyle Editor

Alabama's Constitution Village and the Historic Huntsville Foundation have joined forces to raise funds to renovate the Humphreys-Rodgers House located in downtown Huntsville.

Known locally for many years as the "Coca-Cola House," the structure was moved in 1991 from the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company property on Clinton Avenue to a lot on Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle donated by the City of Huntsville to Constitution Village.

Coca-Cola bought the house in 1972 and restored it for use by the company as a repository for Coca-Cola memorabilia. In 1990, the need for expansion forced the company to offer the structure to HHF for relocation.

In March 1991 Hollis Kennedy House Movers transported the 300-ton brick house to its present location. Since its historic move, the old building has been "begging for attention."

With this in mind, as a means of raising funds to restore the house, Alabama's Constitution Village and the Historic Huntsville Foundation are busy making plans for "Follies '94: Way Off Broadway," a musical variety revue.

Set for Aug. 26 and 27 in the Von Braun Civic Center Concert Hall, the event is being chaired by three general chairmen: Ann Bandgren, representing Alabama's Constitution Village; Ginger Fail, Historic Huntsville Foundation; and Trisha Bragg, the Huntsville community. Suzanne O'Connor, HHF board chairman, and Dana Lee Tatum, ACV director, have also been working closely to pull the event together, along with a committee of 41 community volun-



Staff photo/Jim T

Ginger Fail, Bob Rogers, Ann Bandgren and Trisha Bragg rehearse for "Follies '94 Way Off Broadway" scheduled Aug. 26 and 27.

teers.

In an effort to get an inside look of a follies production, steering committee members Mrs. Bandgren, Stephanie Sherman and Mrs. Tatum traveled to Selma earlier in the year to see their production and all the technicalities that go into producing a show.

Making up the "Follies '94" cast will be about 150 to 200 people

from the community showcasing their talents. The Jerome H. Cargill Producing Organization of New York will stage the show and provide the director, music and costumes.

When restoration to the Humphreys-Rodgers House is complete, the facility's first floor will be used by the entire community for meetings and receptions. The

second floor will house a hands-museum for elementary school children and the Historic Huntsville Foundation will have a permanent office to make the organization readily accessible to the public and to afford the space for archival materials. For more information, call 539-2817, 539-56 or 533-1522.

Alabama Constitution Village
and
Historic Huntsville Foundation

proudly present

Follies '94

Way Off Broadway

Friday, August 26, 1994 - 8:00 p.m.
Saturday, August 27, 1994 - 2:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Staged and Directed by

Doug Luedeman

Costumes and Professional Guidance
provided by

Jerome H. Cargill Producing Organization, Inc.
New York, New York 10001-3817

Proceeds for the Renovation of the Humphreys-Rodgers House

ALABAMA CONSTITUTION VILLAGE

Constitution Village opened its doors to the public in 1982 and began its tribute to the legacy of Alabama's past. The mission was simple: to educate, inform and excite people of all ages from all regions about the period in Alabama's past that led to it becoming the twenty-second state. And what better way to do that than to create a working, thriving environment that allows the visitor to step back in time to the early 1800s.

From the architectural integrity of the buildings and homes to the way of life, this period has been painstakingly recreated. Collections of 19th century furniture, decorative arts, crafts and implements have been acquired and incorporated into the living history that is Constitution Village.

Last year over 85,000 visitors toured the Village with another 29,000 receiving outreach services through library programs, school projects, and services to senior groups. The Village continues to offer a variety of programs and events geared to everyone, from the Discovery Room for pre-schoolers to Village tours and a special lecture series for adults.

In this 175th year of Alabama's statehood, each of us understands the importance of preserving the past and the lessons the past teaches us about Alabama's rich heritage. And what better classroom than the Historic Area where history comes alive for all Americans who visit each year.

Happy Birthday, Alabama!!



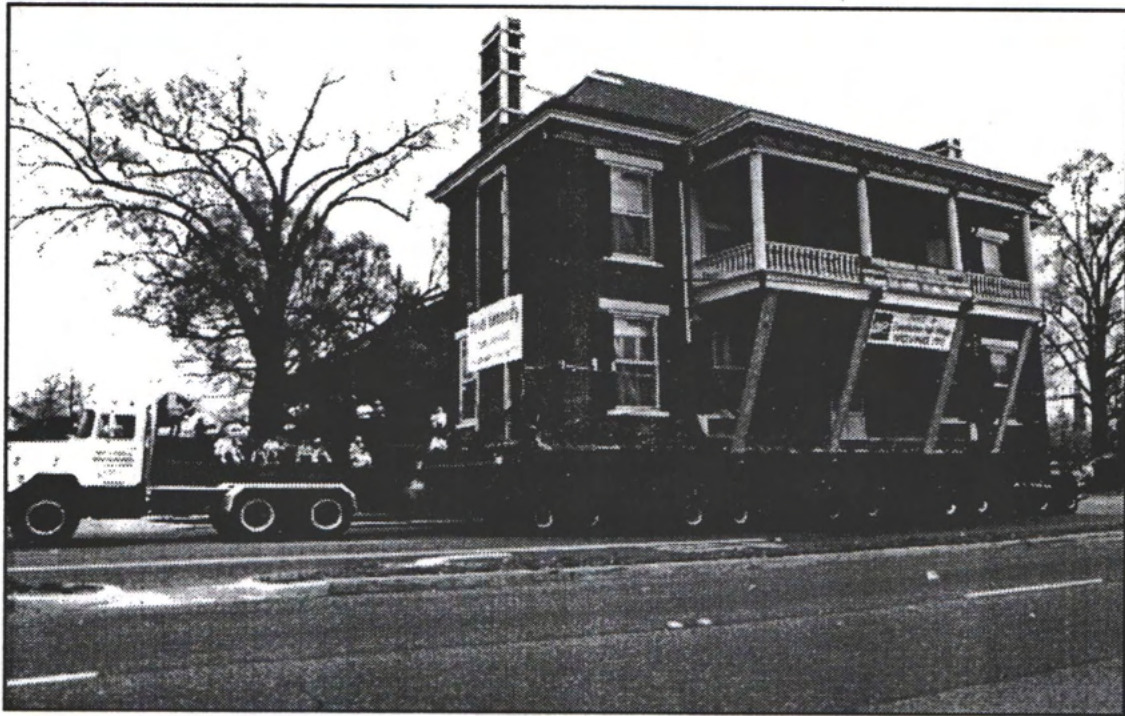


Historic Huntsville Foundation was established in 1974 to encourage the preservation of historically and architecturally significant structures in the Huntsville-Madison County area and to educate the public about these structures and the importance of preserving them. One of the Foundation's most important preservation efforts was the purchase in 1984 of Harrison Brothers Hardware, Alabama's oldest hardware store. Enlisting community-wide support, the Foundation raised the money to purchase the store and through ardent fund-raising efforts paid off the mortgage in 1990. Today this gem from the past attracts visitors from all over the United States as well as from foreign countries.

The Foundation has been instrumental in saving the Humphreys-Rodgers House twice. The first "save" occurred when the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Company purchased the house to be used for company receptions and training programs. It was restored and became known as "The House for Coca-Cola." In 1977, the house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. For almost twenty years it served its new use. However, the Coca-Cola bottling plant needed additional bottling capacity and, in December of 1990, the house was offered to Historic Huntsville Foundation if it could be moved from its original site on Clinton Avenue. After searching in vain for a lot in one of the preservation districts, Alabama Constitution Village was approached in the hopes that they could find a use for the house. The rest is history. The house was given to the Foundation which then deeded it to Constitution Village. The rear addition was removed from the house and stored. After extensive preparation, the Humphreys-Rodgers House began its trek on wheels to its present location at the corner of Gates Avenue and Fountain Row.

Historic Huntsville Foundation members take an active interest in keeping Huntsville a great place to live. It is not the kind of organization whose members routinely throw themselves in front of bulldozers to save old structures. Rather, it is an organization which works with an owner or prospective owner to preserve a historical structure if at all possible. The Foundation removes and preserves important architectural elements from buildings which cannot be saved. We work closely with other local organizations concerned with general history or with preservation within specific historical districts. The Foundation also seeks to educate residents and visitors about Huntsville's past in an effort to help make our future more relevant. Huntsville's historic structures are not only tangible evidence of its past; they are buildings which can and do take us into our future.

Moving the Humphreys-Rodgers House



What's involved with moving a 143-year old, 330-ton, two-story house? More than you can imagine! For starters, you use a Mack truck with 40 forward gears, three transmissions, and 90 tires. To lift the house onto the truck you need eight 30-ton jacks and six 15-ton jacks. And you put a lot of thought and planning into precisely how you're going to move the house. But what if the unexpected happens? In the middle of the move how would you like to fix a flat tire on the truck? Or wait nervously for a traffic light to be taken down? Or cope with a severe thunderstorm which brought two inches of rain, a lot of hail and eventually a tornado warning? It takes nerves of steel and a great deal of patience!! And that's exactly what Hollis Kennedy, his son, Keith, and their crew had during the move.

Publicity surrounding the move of the house drew a crowd of well-wishers as the parade began the morning of March 27, 1991. People came with cameras, camcorders, children and picnics. The Coca-Cola Bottling Company followed the movers with a concession stand and gave free Cokes to everyone along the way. All three local television crews, the local newspapers and even CNN were watching Huntsville's preservation effort. Many of us held our breath!

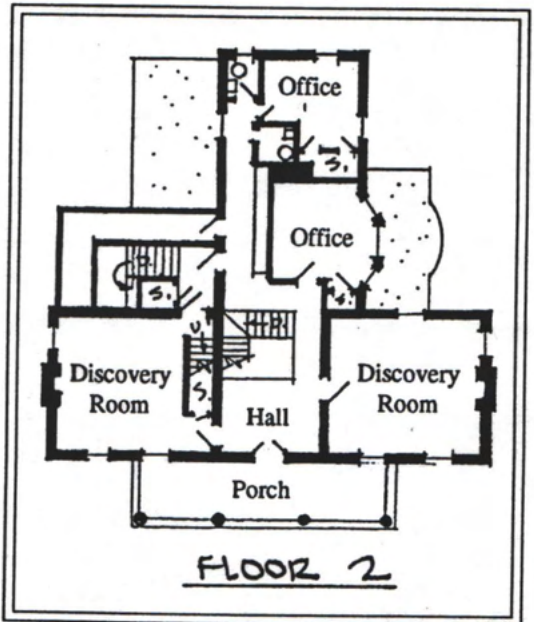
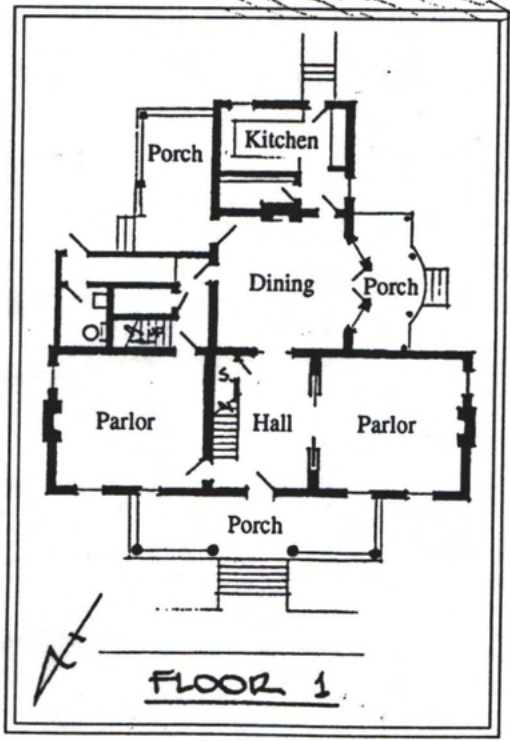
Inch by inch, the moving truck carried the house, crossing over sidewalks, curbs, crawling up a hill and traveling approximately one mile of paved streets without causing any damage.

Once at its new location at the corner of Gates and Fountain Circle, the house was gingerly shifted onto its new site.

The move was a great success. When the bracing beams were removed after the house was settled in its new location, there were no cracks in the plaster, wallpaper or the bricks! Following the move, architect Harvie Jones stated, "This was quite a challenge, particularly since lime mortar this age offers no significant adhesion. The bricks are held together mostly by gravity and the thorough support, strapping and bracing system that [Hollis Kennedy] devised."

Once again our thanks go to the City of Huntsville for providing the land, to Coke for cooperating with the salvage effort, to Historic Huntsville Foundation for spearheading the project, to Hollis Kennedy House Movers for the magnificent moving job, to J. T. Schrimsher Construction for building the below-grade part of the new foundation and finishing it following the move, and to Alabama's Constitution Village for incorporating this beautiful antebellum home into its facilities.

Progress cannot always be defined in terms of the new. It is also represented by bringing what was valuable in the past into the future. The history represented by the Humphreys-Rodgers house is now preserved, and that is a sure and positive sign of progress.



drawn
by H.J.

Restoration
 Joseph H. Harris, Art M.
 Address of James Wood



Chris Lang

A "before" picture shows the worn and peeling spindles Chris Lang is restoring on a staircase in the Humphreys-Rodgers House, along with other woodwork.

This old & new HOUSE

Historic home gets a special sprucing up

By ANN MARIE MARTIN
 Times Staff Writer

Chris Lang spent more than 230 hours painstakingly restoring the woodwork in the Humphreys-Rodgers House at Alabama Constitution Village.

But he hopes visitors won't notice. "You don't want to put your own mark on the work you're restoring," he explains. "If you can't tell it's been restored, that's the best work possible. My philosophy was to try to preserve as much as possible."

Although Lang is the Village's master cabinetmaker, he didn't automatically get the job for the work on the house.

"They called in other people, but I put in a bid and I got it," he says. "I was trained by Mary Lou Davis, a renowned historical finisher from Massachusetts. I took a class offered by the Smithsonian for conservators and other classes on woodworking in the mid-1980s when I was an apprentice in Virginia."

The Humphreys-Rodgers job required Lang to combine an artisan's skill in *faux bois* (fake wood) and *trompe l'oeil* (fool the eye) techniques with an historian's knowledge of mid-19th-century woods and building practices.

The structure that stands today at Gates Avenue and Fountain Circle started out in 1848 as a relatively small, two-story Federal-style house at the corner of Clinton Avenue and Monroe Street.

An 1861 addition to the side of the house gave symmetry to the facade by placing the front door in the center. In late 1896 a wood-frame addition off the back parlor transformed the house into an L-shape with a two-story veranda. The roof was changed to a hipped style, angled on all sides.

In 1913 the wood-frame addition was demolished and another addition built in the back center, leaving the house with a T-shape. This section was recreated when the house was moved to its present location after the Huntsville Coca-Cola Bottling Co. donated it to the Village.

Lang says the house has been restored to its 1913 appearance, reflecting the neoclassical revival of the late Victorian era. However, most of the wood he worked on dates back to the house's origins.

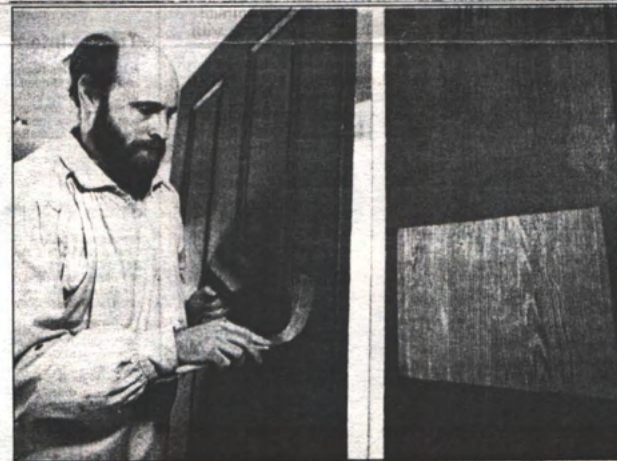
"Some of the wood is quite old," he says. "The upstairs door jambs have hand-plane marks."

When he was restoring that wood, he left a small block untouched to show the original faux grain.



Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

Chris Lang works on some of the spindles and staircase handrails in the Humphreys-Rodgers House. The pine banister spindles on the staircase in the entry hall were hand-turned, and Lang had to recreate the faux-oak graining that originally masked the pine.



Michael Mercier/Huntsville Times

Lang compares his restored wood detailing with the original work in the box at the right.

"When the house was first built, they used yellow pine and faux grained it to look like light oak. Later they used real oak trim in the new dining area. Usually if it was painted, it was cheaper wood.

"The paints have aged over the years. They had coal chimneys and gas lighting which darkened the paint. The whole area was very dark, ebonyized. I was constantly having to mix my paints to get the color just right. I added my

own pigments to the paint."

The pine banister spindles on the staircase in the entry hall were hand-turned, he points out.

"The paint had adhered to the soft wood and came off the harder part," so Lang had to recreate the faux-oak graining that originally masked the pine.

There are two basic methods — negative and positive — for creating realistic faux wood graining, he explains. The first step in both is applying the ground color and letting it dry. Next, a thin, darker-colored glaze is applied.

"You always work from light to dark," he notes. "I had to work on a lot of vertical elements, so the consistency of the glaze was important. If you make the paint too thin, it runs and streaks."

At this point the two methods diverge. The negative method involves rolling a graining rocker (developed in the 19th century) on the wet glaze. The grooves on the surface of the rocker lift off some of the paint, creating the wood pattern. That pattern is painted onto the ground color in the positive method.

The original wood graining was done by hand in the positive method, Lang says. He used both methods during his restoration.

"It was a big job. This was the large-

Please see HOUSE on C5

House

Continued from page C3

est faux-finishing thing I've tackled. It was liberating in that there was so much to cover. If I had a problem with one area, I moved on to another place until I got the problem worked out."

Not all of Lang's work inside the house involved restoration. In

a couple of places, he had to reconcile the 1913 atmosphere with the modern-day requirements of a public museum.

A quick, oblique glance at one of the doors leading out of the dining room gives the impression of aged oak. A closer look, however, reveals a heavy metal fire door camouflaged as wood through *trompe l'oeil* painting.

"There are so many characteristics of oak a painter has to take into account," he explains. "Quartersawn oak exposes the

rays radiating out from the center. Wood that is quartersawn is more stable. It is less likely to expand. You put it in the frame of a door to give the door structural stability."

Lang mimics that builder's practice when he creates a wooden door using paints, brushes and rollers.

"I have an appreciation for this kind of work," he says. "Some of it is very finicky work. I try to create the subtlety of the grain."



Rodgers - mounted in 1st fl. west rms, ca. 1850 address

Title of coal grate = late 1800's at least

photo c. 1980/120

In 1971 the house was empty
 & occupied by vagrants. The
 elderly Rogers sisters had died some
 time before of the hard freeze were in 1961



SEP • 71
 S.S.E FRONT
 (W. CLINTON)

1840's ROGERS HSE
 Monroe photos, Sep. 71



SEP • 71



SEP • 71

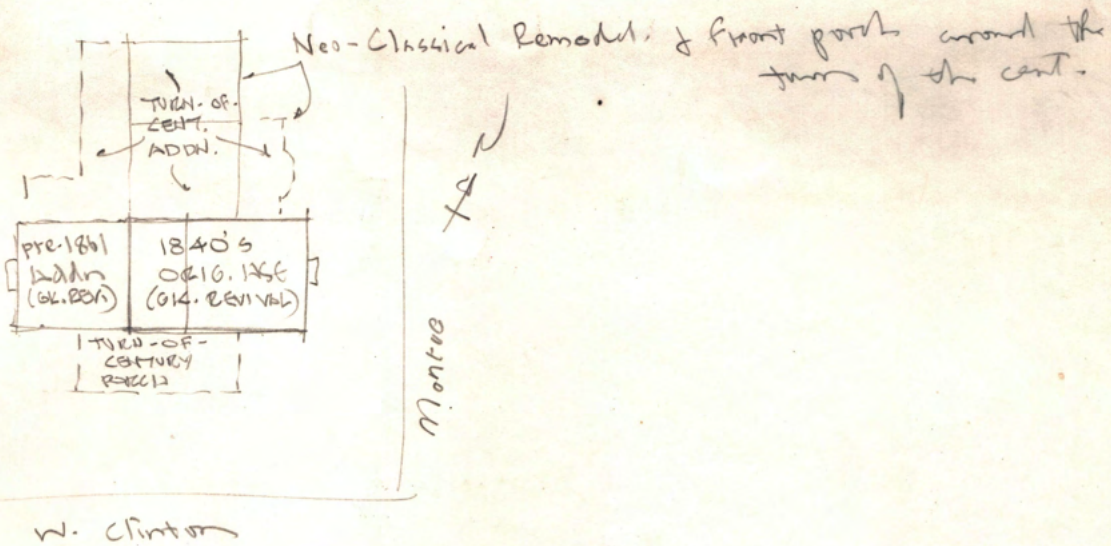


SEP • 71

CLINTON AVE → ← MONROE ST
 1 of 36



Rogers Hse.
 part on Nat. Register of Hist. Places (1977)
 (Nom. form by H Jones, FAIA)



These 1971 photos taken by H Jones, FAIA to assist in preparing plans & perspective of ideas on how this several acres of very costly commercial property might be utilized w/o destroying the house — an "adaptive-use" solution". The result was a low-rise motel w/ parking beneath, skirting the west & north edges of the site to preserve the house. The house would then serve as lobby, office, & restaurant (w/ KIT. add. in rear). This idea presented to Coca Cola & several others. Coca Cola thus bought the house & renovated it well.

② All this was volunteer work by H Jones & HWM Bryant Jr, to save the hse.



Note no headers



Rodgers ("Coca-Cola") House
see descrip. for evolution from 1848
photos 1976 - H. Jones





late 1800's stair rail (grained)



Ok. Rev. mantle - west 1st fl. rm.

late 1800's mantle - E. Parlor. Inlay = mother of pearl & wood veneers



pers. of gates
des. by H. Jones
in c. 1971

→



PRESERVING THE GOOD
WE HAVE
IS PROGRESS

① Sign installed by
Coca Cola after
war was restored
in c. 1971.

← Iron sign
Removed ± 15 Dec. 1990

← Stone
carrige-mnt.
c. 1848

② Gate scheduled for demolition
by Coca Cola in spring of
1991!

Moved, by efforts of
HJ, Hist. Soc. Friends, &
Constr. Hill Village

← Stone carriage-mount
from c. 1848 probably.
Bob Wilkinson kept
when he moved
(iron hitch is c. 1971)



photos Nov. 1990 Harvie P. Jones, F.A.A.
 c.1840 Rogers Hse, N.W. corner of W. Clinton Ave
 & Monroe St.
 "House of Cass Coln"
 (erupt by them c.1971)



P.O. 1871 addn → ← c.1840



balusters are c.1971. ^{AN}
 See 1971 photos on
 pg. 1 for previous ones



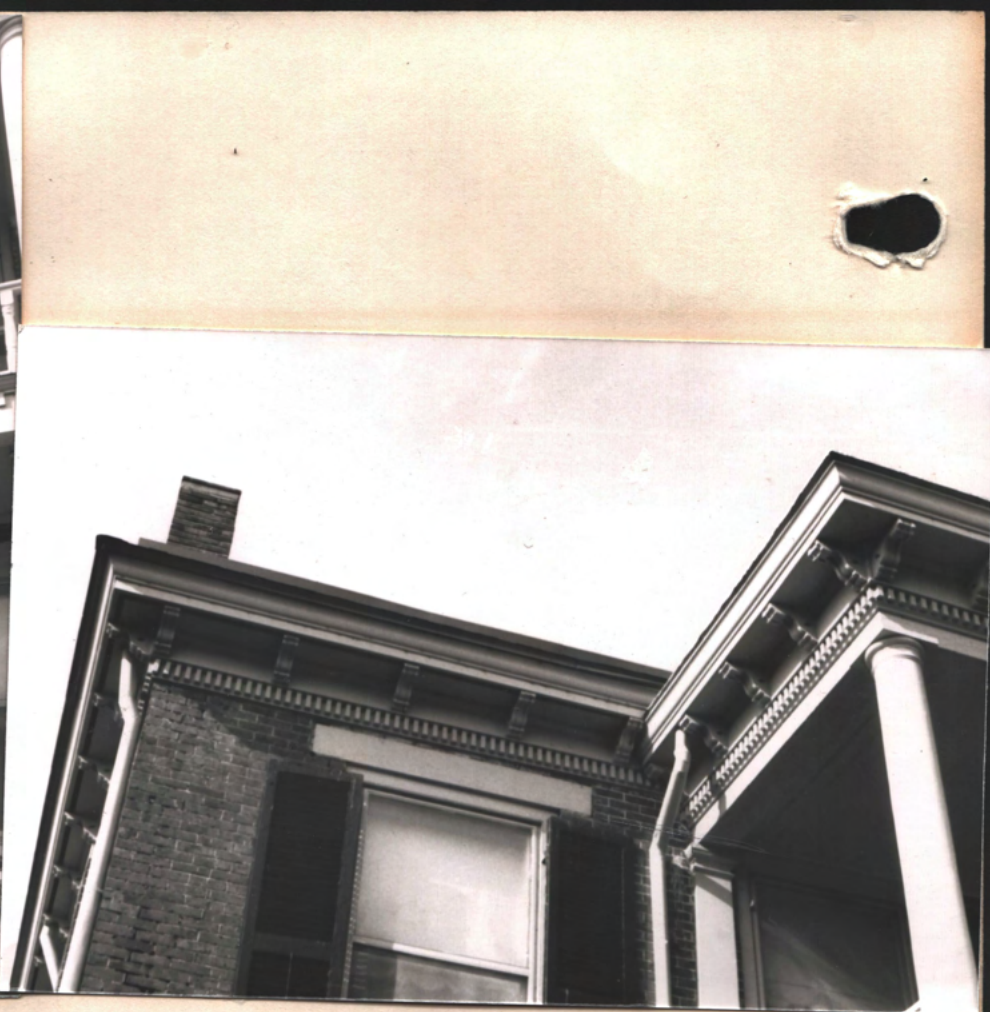
Creek Daniel Strober
 were originally 9/9.
 Muntins cut out in
 c.1900 remodeling.
 See pg. 33 & 35

1. front = "No. 1" grade brick
 laid in all-running-bond.
2. Sides & rear = "No. 2" grade
 brick laid in common bond
 (see pg. 8)
 = usual 19th c. practice

Stone splash blocks see p. 8



iron rails = c. 1971



prob'l S.W. Pms.
Cornice & Porch are
c. 1900 ±



-2''





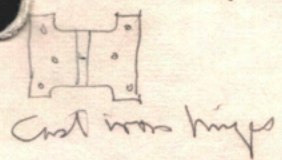
Sash at S. front, W. Rm
 (pre 1841, was 9/9 Gl. Rev.,
 mortar cut out c. 1900. See pg. 35

AN



Exposed tenon-ends of posts at glaze

fast with
 hitch





Window at c. 1840 S.E. Rm, 1st fl

2/2



blind mid-rail
(exposed term-ends of pegs)

1/4" white paint "pencilled" joints
= typical of c. 1800-1870 houses
to "dress up" the joints, usually
part of original constr., not later.
See article in the "Assoc. for
Preservation Technology Bulletin"
in the early 1980's ± for descrip.
Found traces on all Hunt with
houses up through c. 1890-1900s

— hinges at c. 1840 Rm. are
different than pre-1861 addn.
See p. 5.





Front (S.) Door = late Vic.



↑
manual doorbell
(installs key to ring)

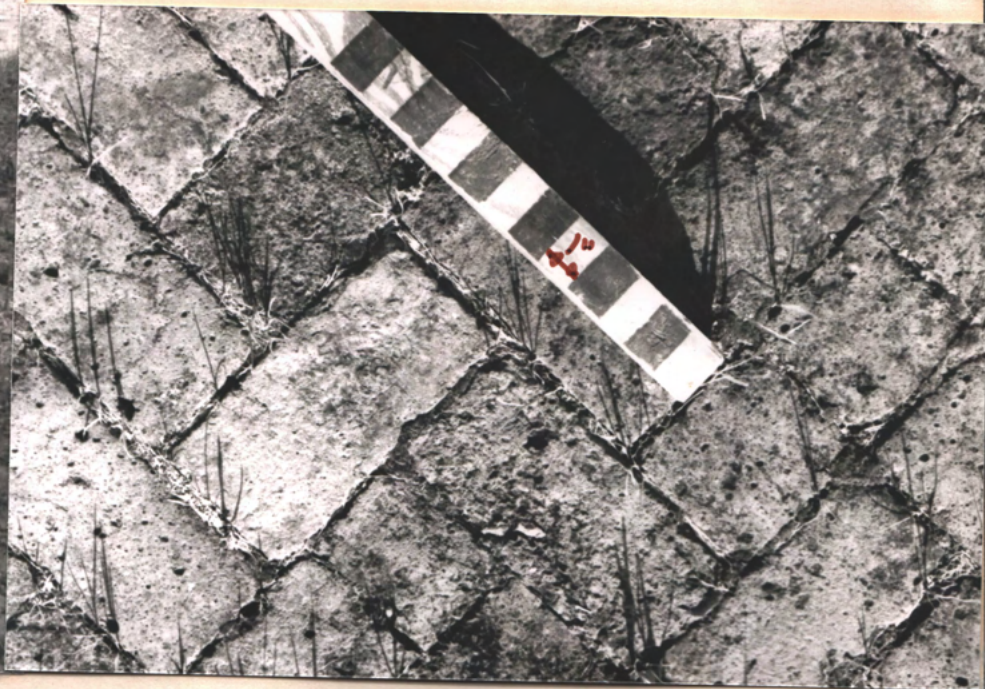




N →

FRONT WALK
(perhaps original)

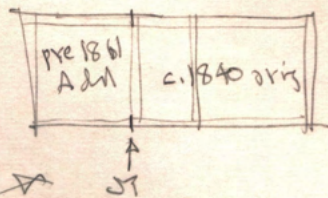
N →



Line of first addition

pre 1861 Addn

c. 1840 orig.





All-running bond
 No. 1 quality
 Brick on front
 No. 2 quality bricks
 in common bond
 on sides & rear



FRONT ↘
 W. ↘
 ↗ S.E. corner
 ↗ N

c. 1900 N. Wing → N
 c. 1900 NE porch → N



Curved limestone "splash blocks" (2 ea)
 kept by
 Bob Wilkinson
 when he was
 moved

DN
 SPWT



NO

N.E. SIDE
PORCH
(c.1900±)



NO

c.1840
ORIG. DOOR LOC.
See photo above left

c.1900 Addition
Note paint "pencil" joints

N.E. Side Porch (c.1900)



Double doors at
N.E. porch

"parallel" brick job. (1/4" white paint stripes)
at N.E. porch



Rensselaer limestone step w/ cut-off
iron footscrew steps set in lead.
Probably were the original c.1840
front door steps, moved here
in c.1900