1850 OTEY HSE
(GREEN LAWN)
s. of Meridianville -
Photos c. 1975, 2 pgs

vue-all Neg · Saver

Made in U.S.A.

DATE

TITLE

INSERT FILM EMULSION SIDE DOWN

NO

KODAK PX 5062

KODAK PX 5062

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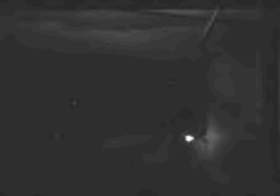

KODAK PX 5062

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KODAK PX 5062

1984

c. 1850 Otey Hse

± ½ mile S. of Meridianville, AL.

NPS nom., FAIA, photos

N

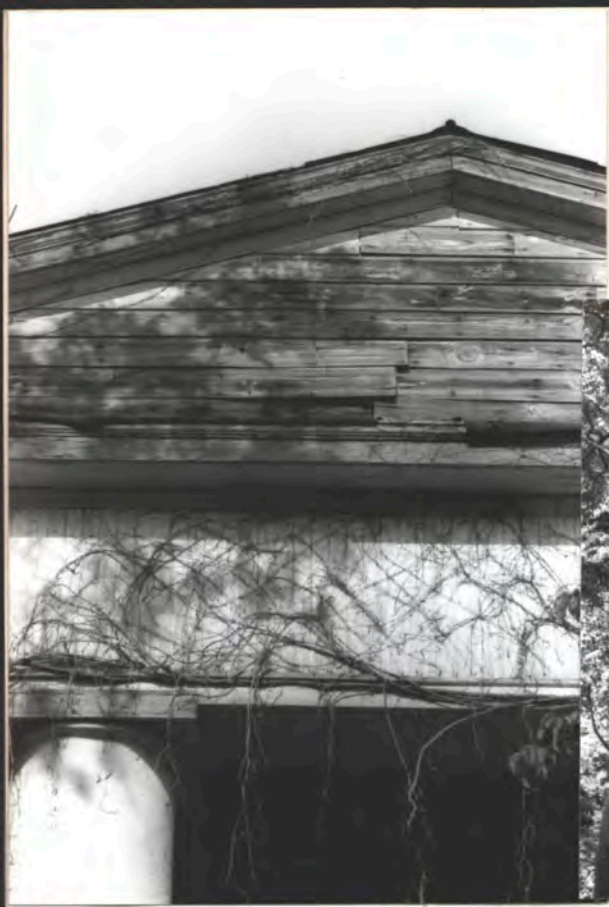
N

painting of Otey Hse w/
Italianate porch of perhaps c. 1880?
It is said this was the second porch

Exist portico — 1928 early 20th c.
cols = brick + stucco, crude.
Perhaps, since the house is Greek Revival in period of design, the original portico may have been much like this. No evidence is known.

N

1850 Otey House ("Green Lawn")
on Meridian Pike ± 1/2 mile S. of Meridianville, AL
(3rd portico of 1928 above)
photos June 1988 Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A.



N ←

N ←

one sty rm. gone. Door still in wall + plast. on chim

← orig. entry, boarded sidel'ts
20th c. portico

← conc. fl.

N ←

N ←

dbl-beaded 1x6 T&G boards (20th. c.) at portico

2

N ←

20th c. portico

Chim. top shortened from orig.

This wall = 20th c. clapbd. S. Chim. ← + plaster that was in a demol. rm

N. front clapbd + blind-hook + keeper

N ←

S. Gable.

Orig. moulds gone — see pg 6 for orig. moulds, at N. gable.

Mould at left is 20th c. "WP 47" = std.

N ←

N

S. WALL

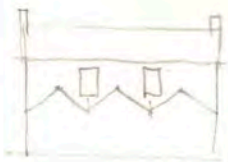
later brick infill between piers

door is behind clapb'd

S. WALL
(20th c. clapb'd replacement)

plaster on chim. is at "wall" of former 1-story rm., now gone

N



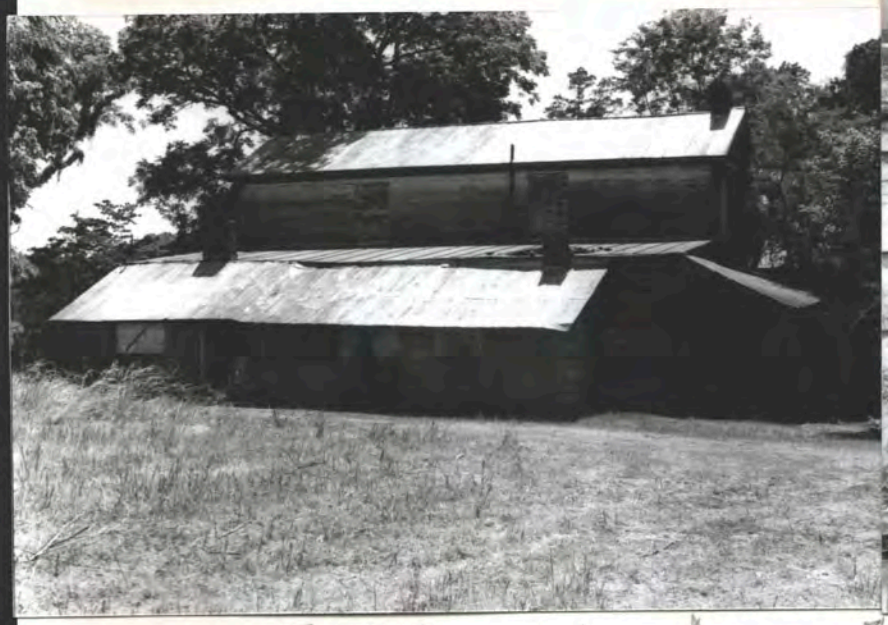
N

this roof was 3 gables originally
(see photo on pg. 6-A)

steep-roof shed rms = 20th c.

E. WALL

both chim. shortened by weather deterior.



E. WALL

Compare w/ July 29'88 photo (sheds removed)

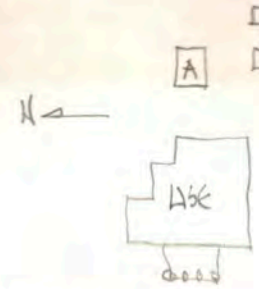
orig. const., at N.E. corner of 1st fl. N.E. Rm. Mortise, tenon + peg connections = typical

20th c. shed conc. block

later roof on original porch

E. WALL

See pg 6-A for orig. rear gables



20th c. outbldg
(rotary sawn planks etc.)
+ some reused 19th c. timbers

(A)

reused timbers from
a mid-19th c. bldg

(A)

PS - demol.
July '66

Found 30± dbl negatives, including view of back gables now removed, & front w/o the present (or any) porch superstructure

20th c. outbldgs

(C) (B)

EAST (REAR) OF HSE SHOWING 3 GABLES THAT WERE REMOVED, PERHAPS C.1940 OR LATER (ON 1930'S HABS) COMPARE W/ PG. 4 & 5 PHOTOS

↑ THIS CHIM. REBUILT SMALLER THAN ORIG., PER TRACE.

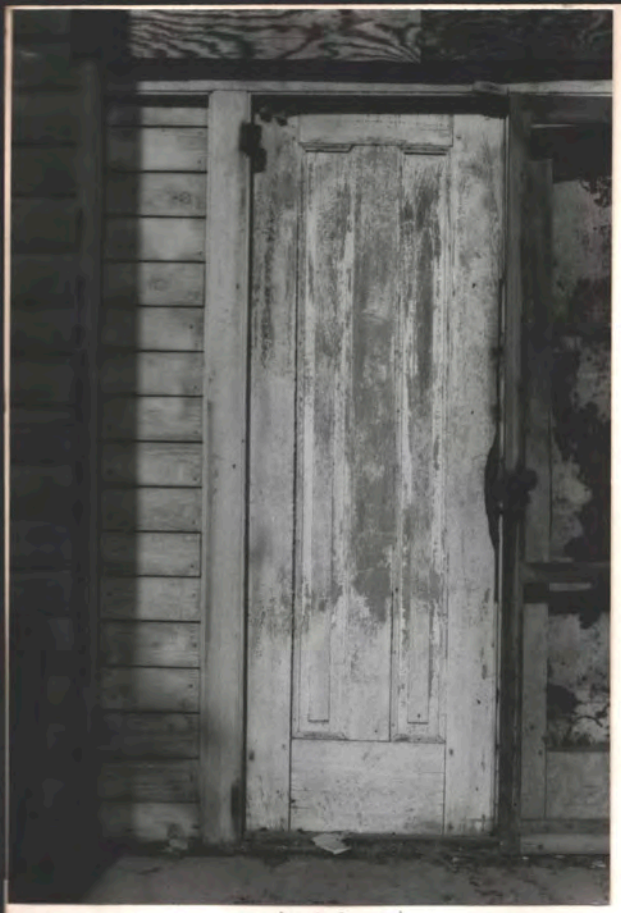
1988 Copies of 2 of ±30 old negatives Atnip found in one of the sheds

patch evidence at removed 2nd fl. porch of Italianate 2nd porch (see painting photo)

Said to be conc. fl. for present C.1929 "Greek Revival" portico, installed several years prior to portico erection.

MRS LESLIE CUMMINS (IMOGENE) - 1920's, per clothing

6-A



← transom behind ply

← screened door over Gk Rev. door

West 1st Fl entry from exterior (there is a dbl. door

N.E. corner of main roof

See pg 7 for notes

→ N

Orig. frame ONLY

ORIG

c.1920(?) replace. chim

patch at orig. chim loc.

→ N

Orig. back door (NO TRANSOM!)

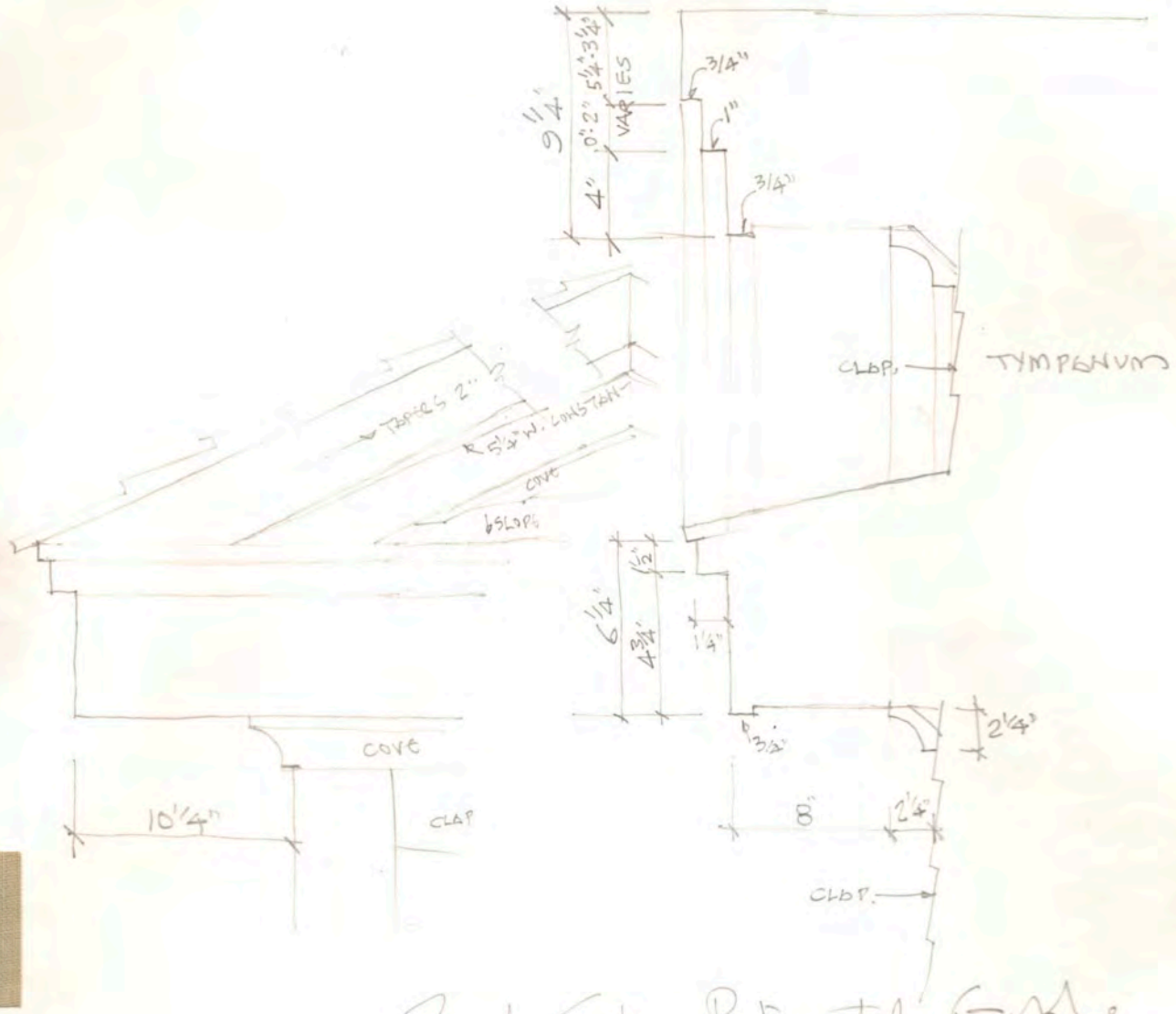
→ N

6-C

→ N

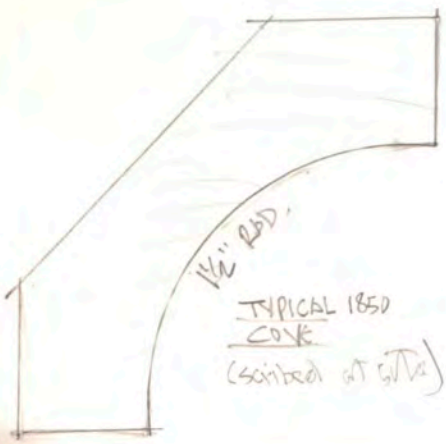
S.E. Door - 1850 frame 1920's door

1850 Otey House
photos ±25 July '84 HDD 1 of 1
during restor
(c.1920's shed rms. removed from rear)



2nd Sty Pedimental Gable

Measurements 11 Aug 88 HJ
(All vary ± 1/2" randomly)

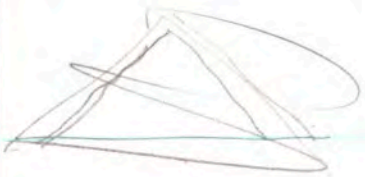


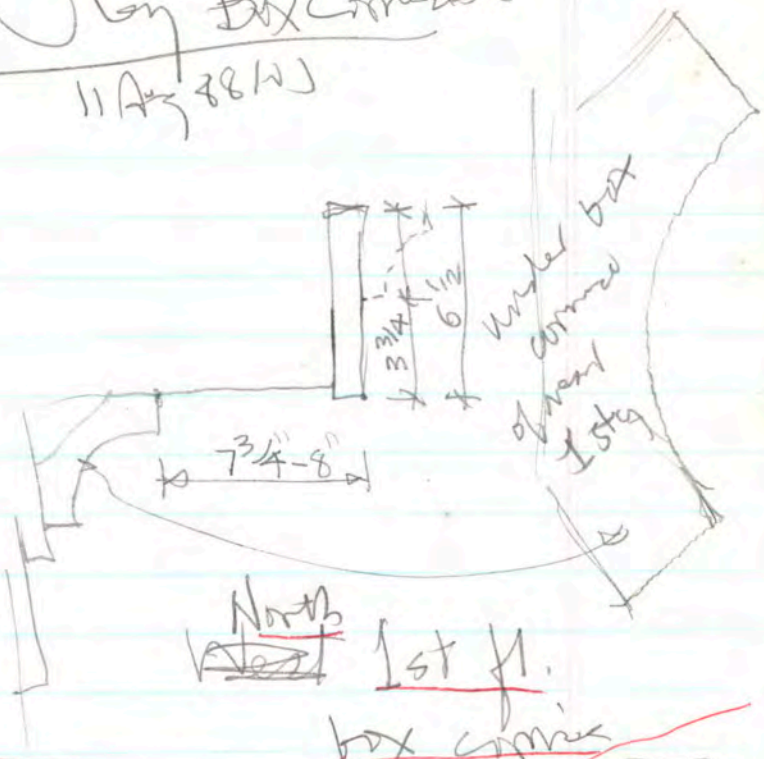
TYPICAL 1850 COVE
(scribed at site)

← (at 1929 portico, was WP47 crown →

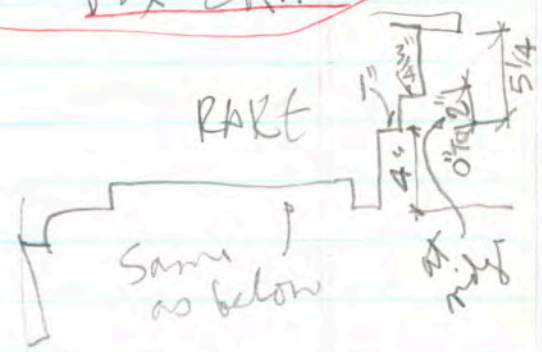
Toy Box Cornice (N. Side)

11 Aug 88 WJ

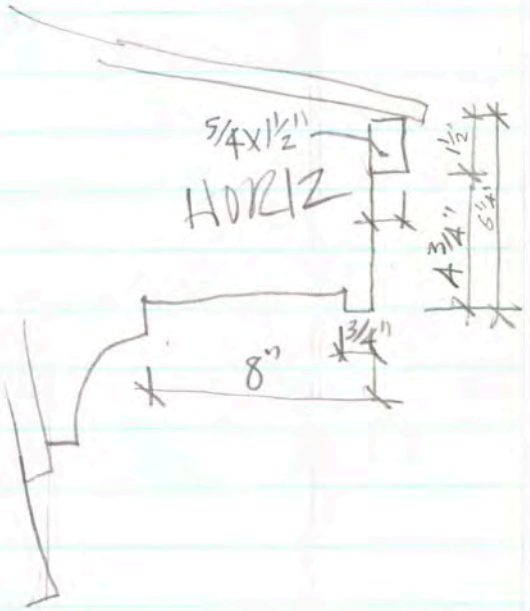


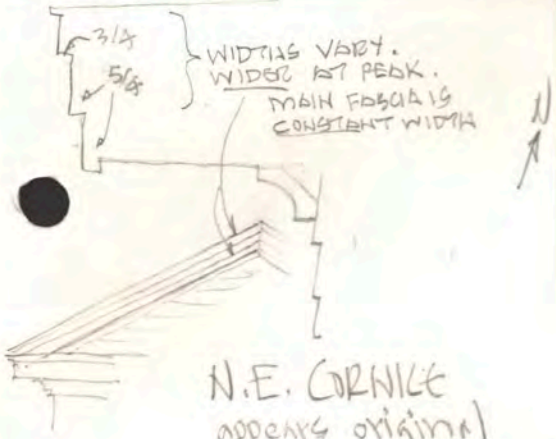


exposed Part: N wall

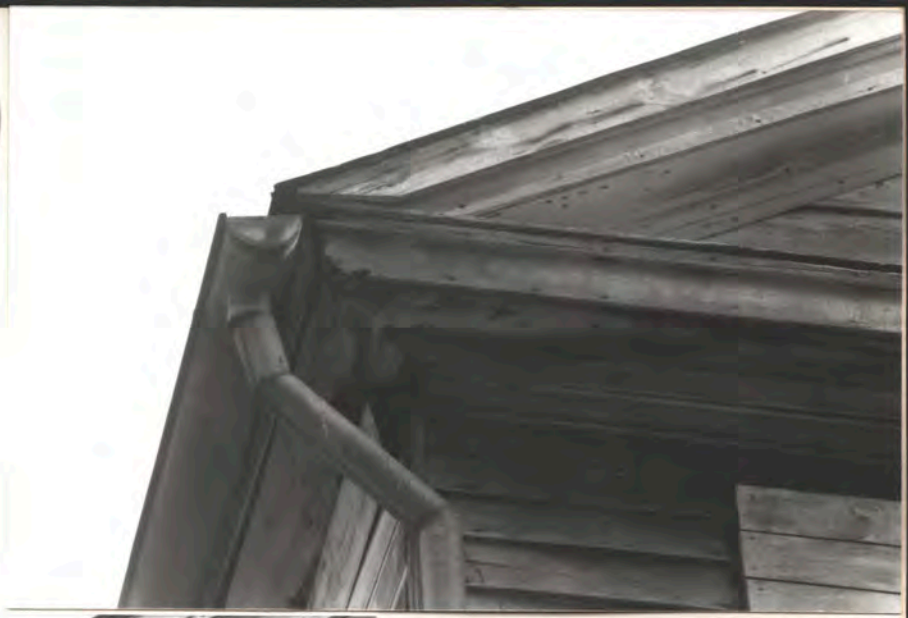


North Partitioned Gable (appears all one)

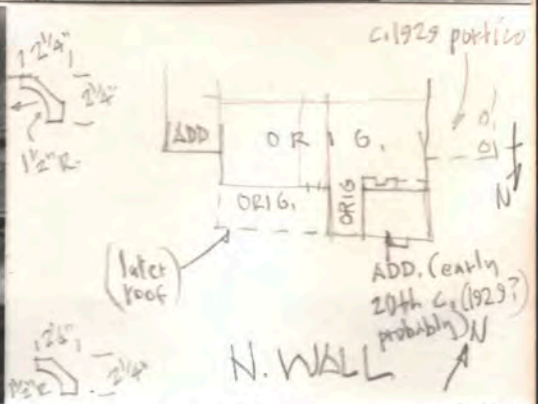




N.E. CORNICE
appears original



N



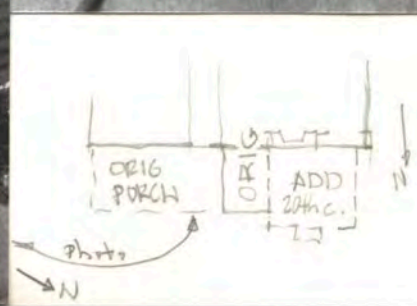
7

20th. c. N.E. Add.
(reused chiseled stones in central part of chim.)

ORIG. (LATER ROOF) | ORIG. | ADDN, LOOKS 1920'S, W. PORTICO

UP DN

orig. sash holdopen, stuck on nail at NE. porch S. wall. ± 2" L.



Otey Hse 8 of 33

N

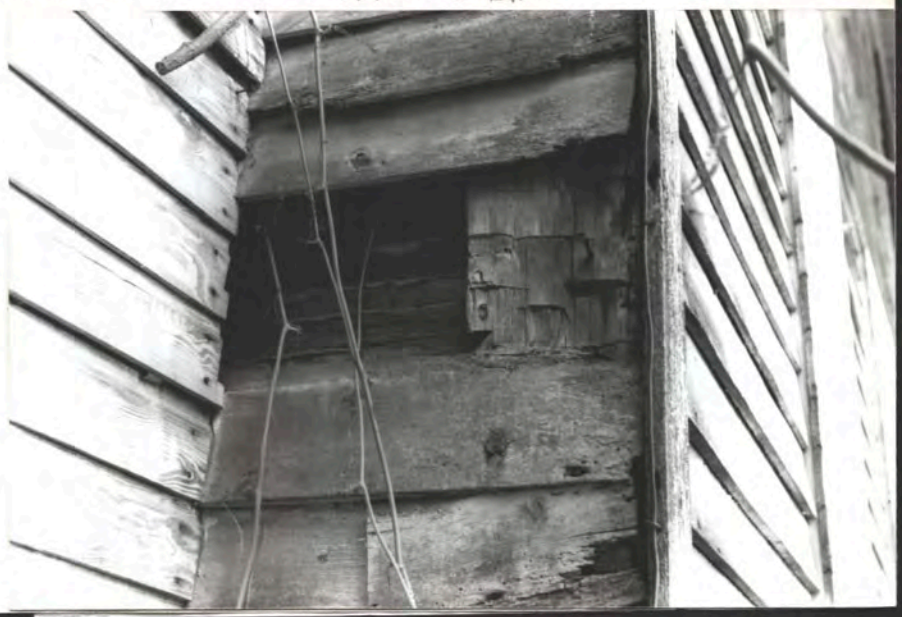
Sash - blinds on N.E. porch, probably original.

Hinge = L. CLARK brand

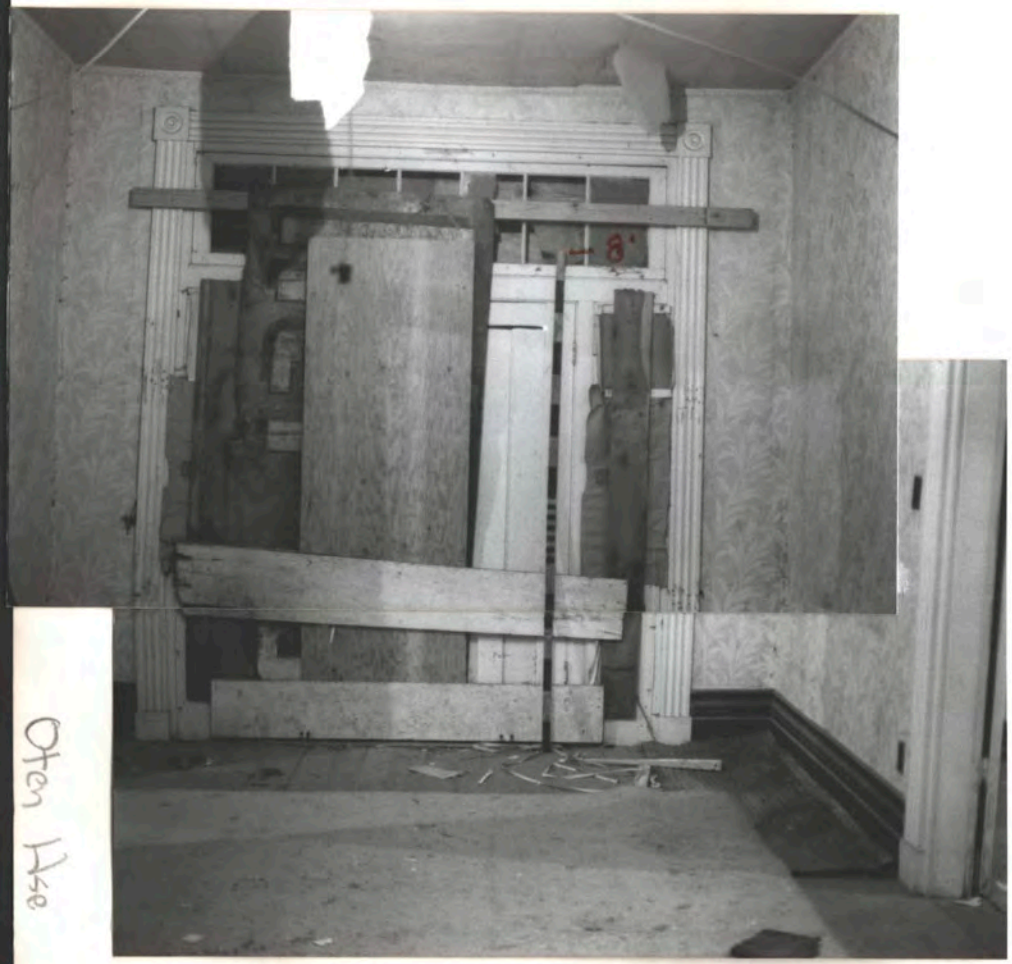
N

c1920's N.E. ADD. ←→ ORIG. N.E. RM.

broad-ax-hewn frame.
hand-split lath.



N



FRONT ENTRY
(original)

NEW

Otan House

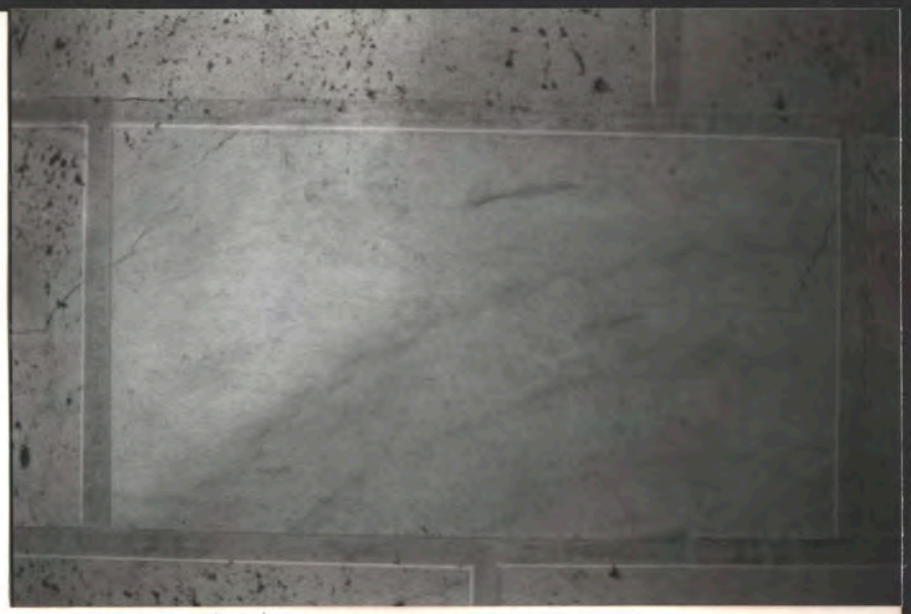
N

behind later wallpaper is hand-painted marbelized paper on brown coat plast., on all entry walls

ENTRY

strait in rear hall

dark spots are dust-balls



↳ wiped-off dust-balls

↳ flaked-off spots

hand-painted Marbelized paper in entry, pinkish color, on brown-coat plaster

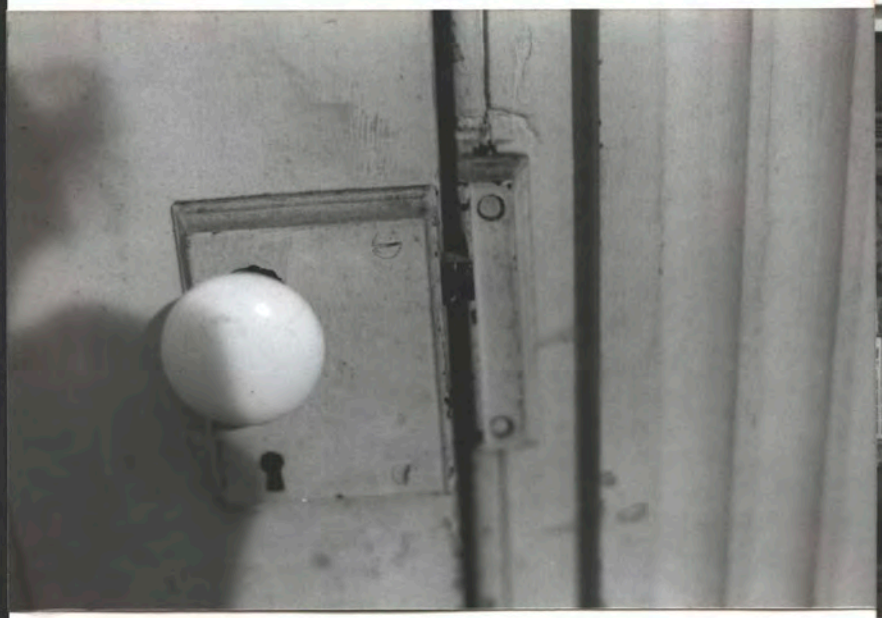
P.S. — all removed by owner, against recommendation of HJ

12

12-B

lock may be orig. - Is common 1850's design, including cer. knob

C.I. coal grate is addi.



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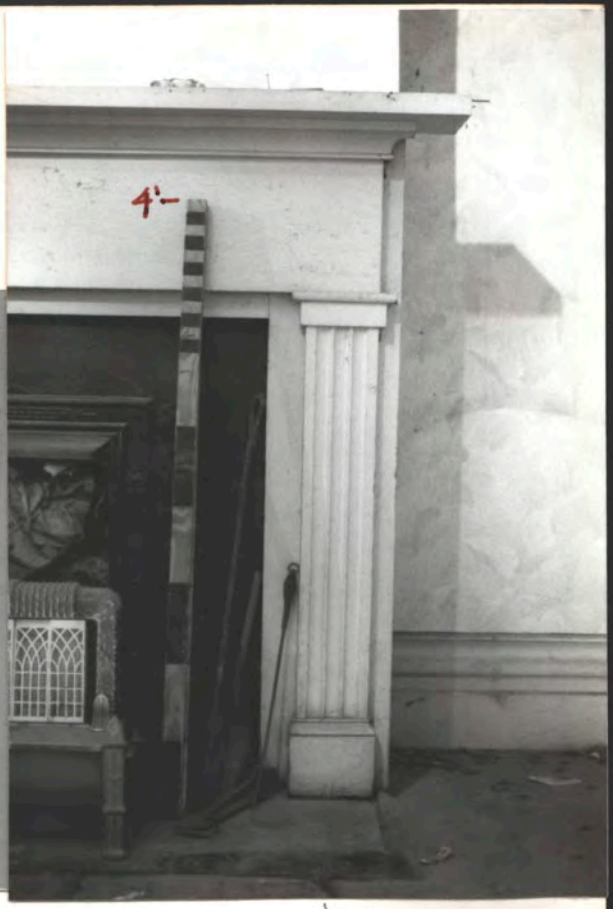


N

1st FL. S.W. RM

13

exposed tenon end

Peg

N

typical Greek Revival details

N

8'

to rear stair hall

20th. c. door to 20th. c. shed kitchen + to rear yard

1ST FL. S.E. RM.

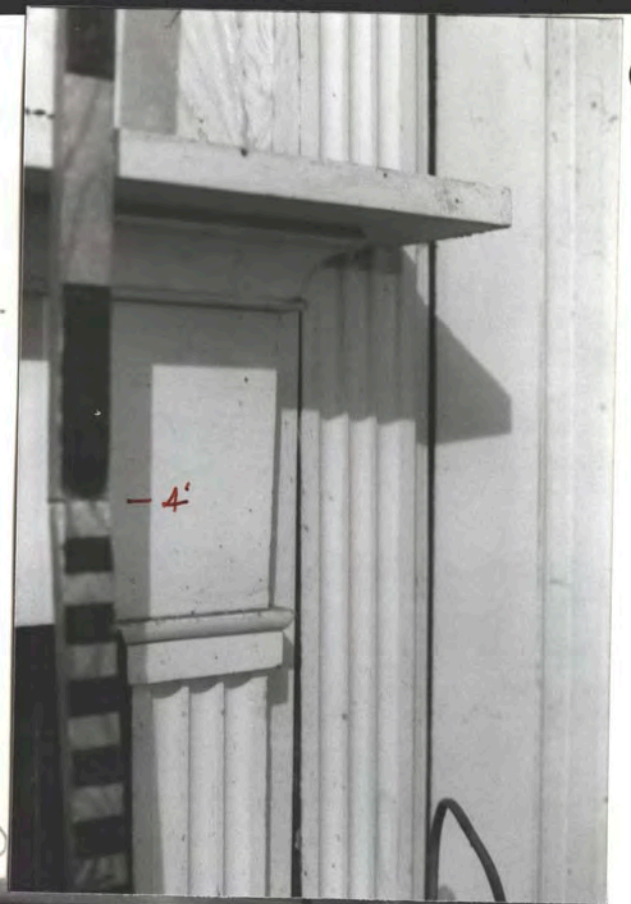
clos.

fl. dropped several inches due to deterior. of sills

Otten Use - 1966 photos 44 of 33

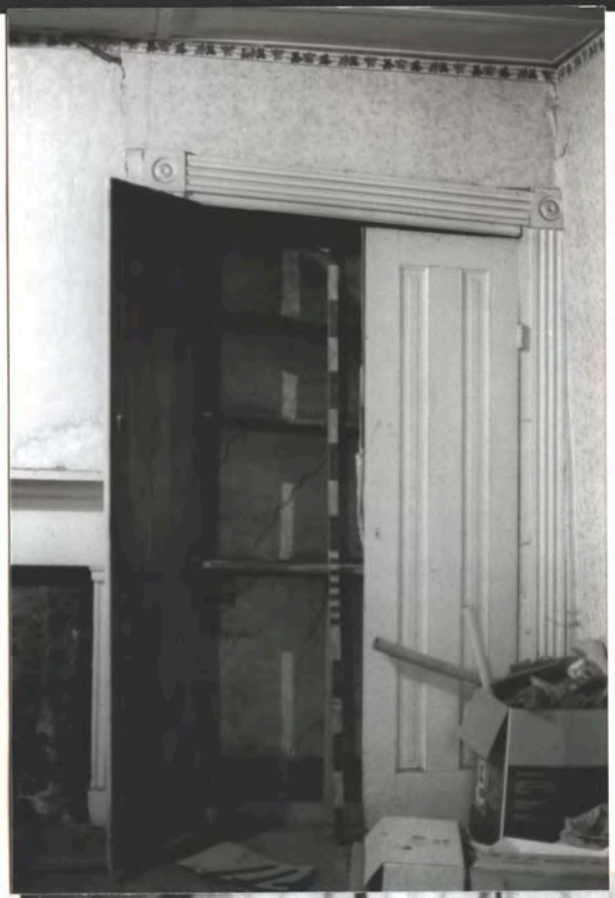
15

N



1ST FL. S.E.
ROOM

dense 5/4" heart pine floor (typ.)



N

closet (orig.)

N

S.W. Clos. Door
(under stair)

1ST FL.
S.E. Rm

Otey Hse
16 of 33

N. door to rear hall.
exposed tenon - end.
+2 pegs = typical

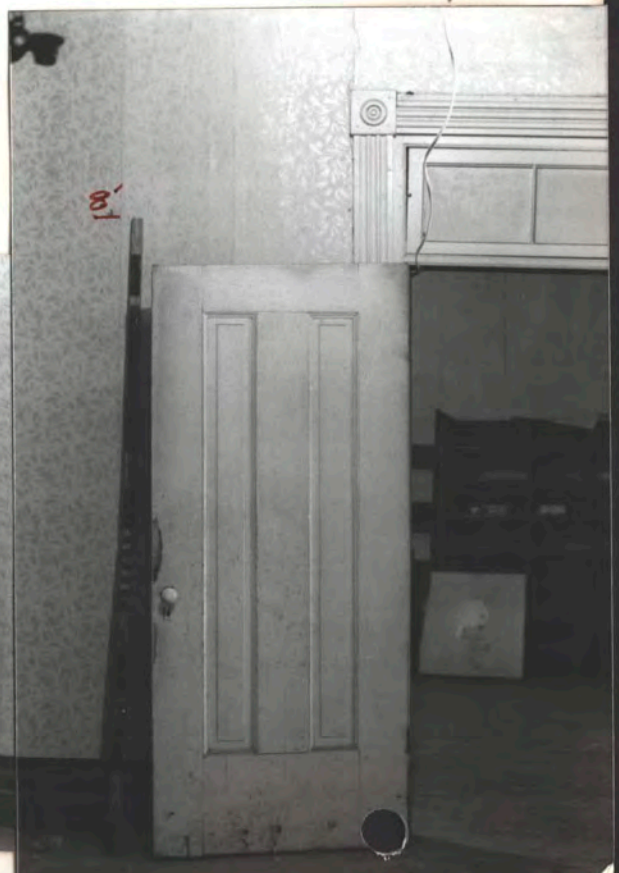
note
jack plane
marks
on bds
(typical)

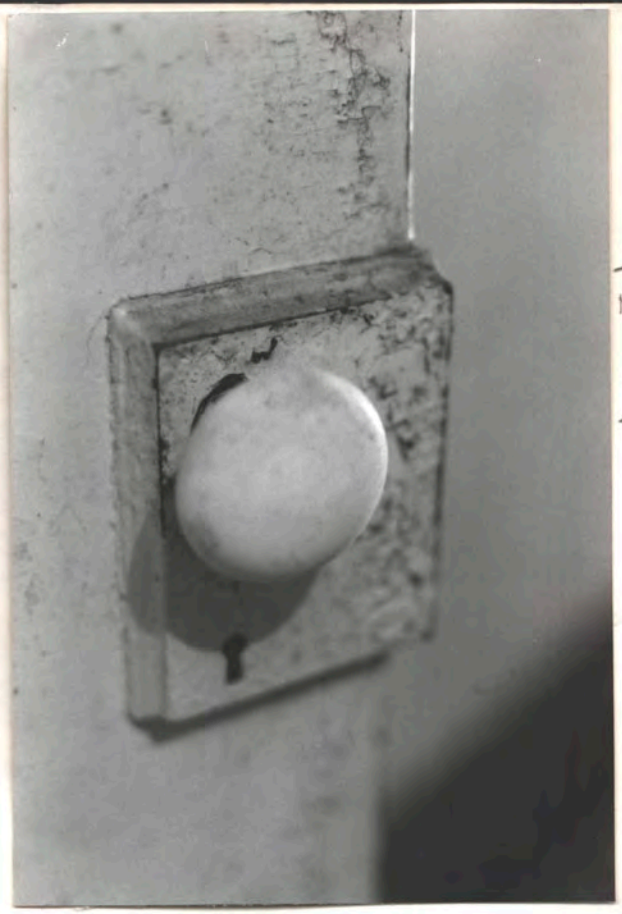
dbl. door
to S.W. Rm.

N.

door to clos. under stair

to rear hall





N. DOOR

S. FC.

N. FC.

1ST FL.
SE
RM.

→N

N

Back Wall

N

note narrow trim at this door

℄ to front entry

→N

bottom (original?) wallpaper at west wall of back hall

→N

BACK HALL

west door to entry looks like cherry

↓N

↓N

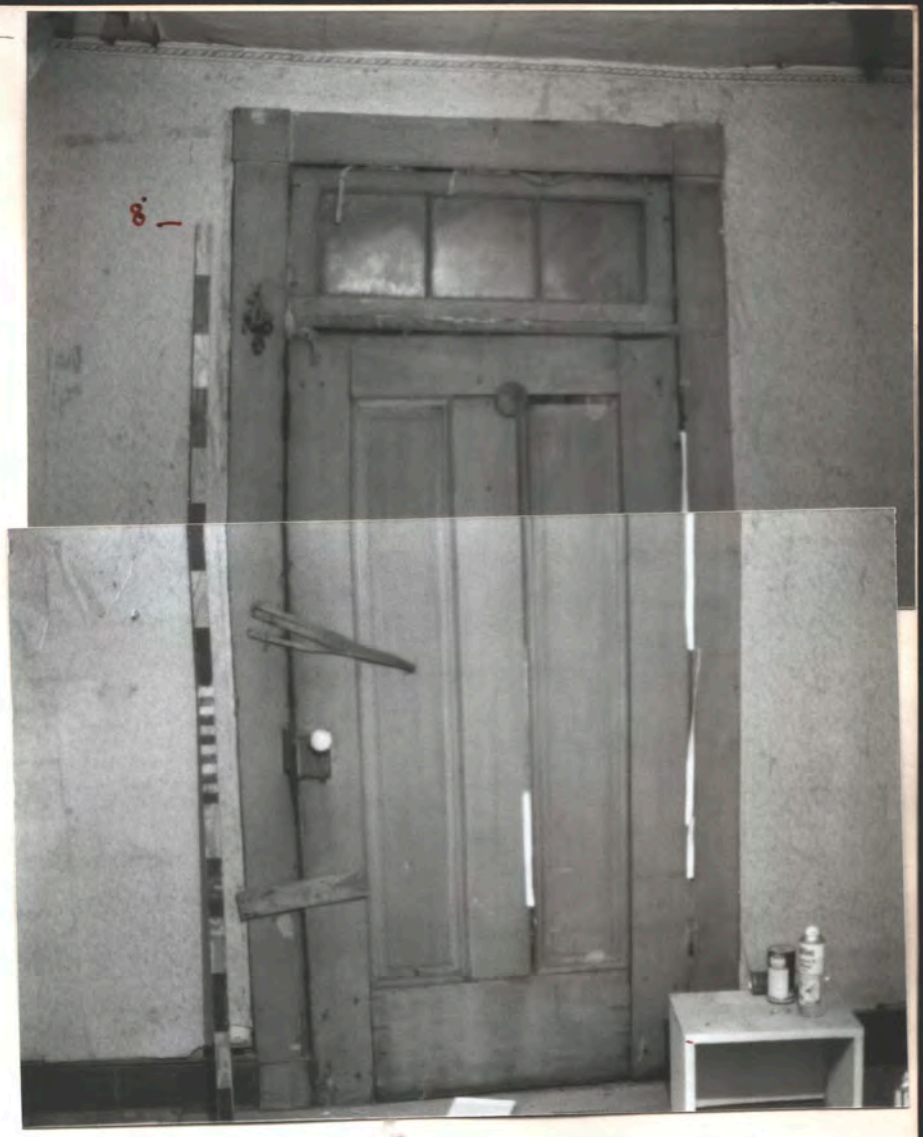
added 20th c. bath (door is early 20th c. type)

2ND FL STAIR HALL

Not

Not

±98 —



→ N

2nd Fl. stair hall front (west) door to (missing) balcony at portico

orig. clos. N N

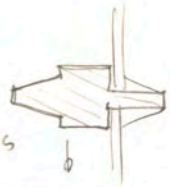
FIRST FL. N.W. Rm

Vic. coal grate

N

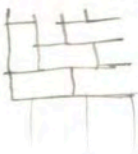
Otey
22 of 33

typical Greek Revival muntins



front (west) window
157 FL. N. W. Rm.

Orig. hearth (brick), typical 1800-1860 pattern, set in sand bed, tight j'ts, no mortar



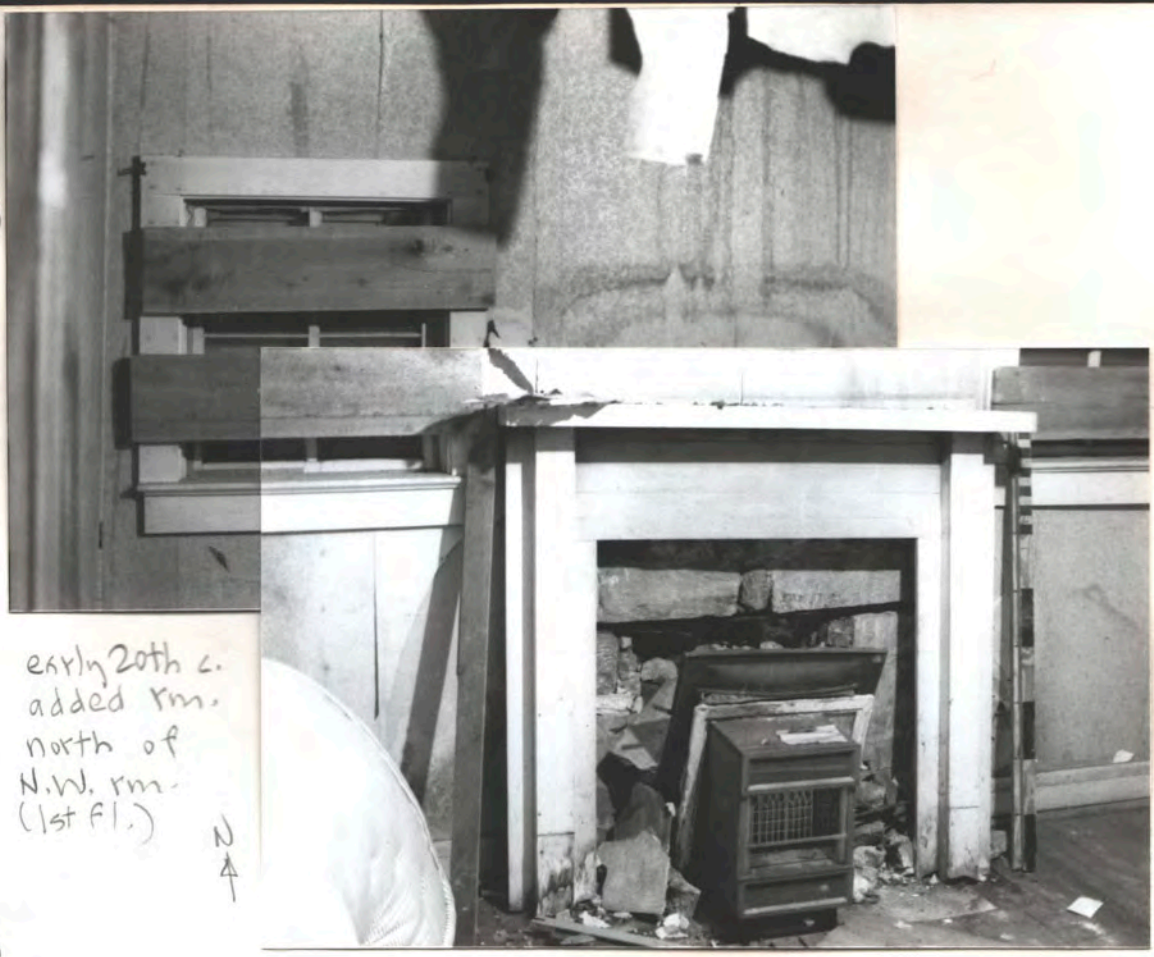
west sash spandrel

1st Fl. N.W. Rm.

East door to back north hall

lock at N. door at N. hall (knob gone, home-made keeper)

one-pc. cast iron hinges typical 1800 - 1860



early 20th c. added rm. north of N.W. rm. (1st fl.)

N

mid 20th c. kit. cabs. & finishes at added kit. shed rm (1st fl.)

N

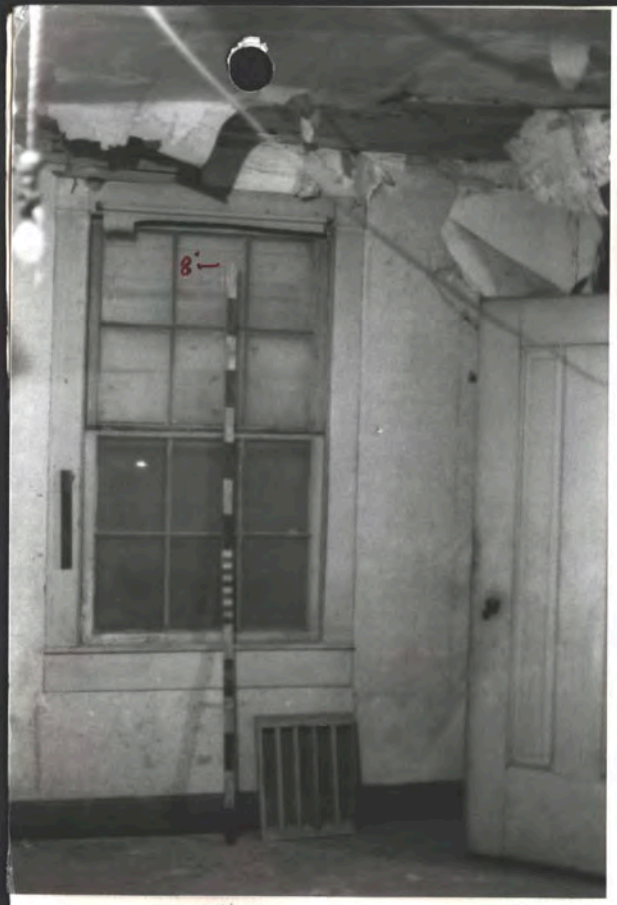
Removed 1968 (all of rear mod. shed)

~ B'

N

Back N.E. 1st fl. rm.
orig. mantel & clos.

← ceil. = split lath
& plaster



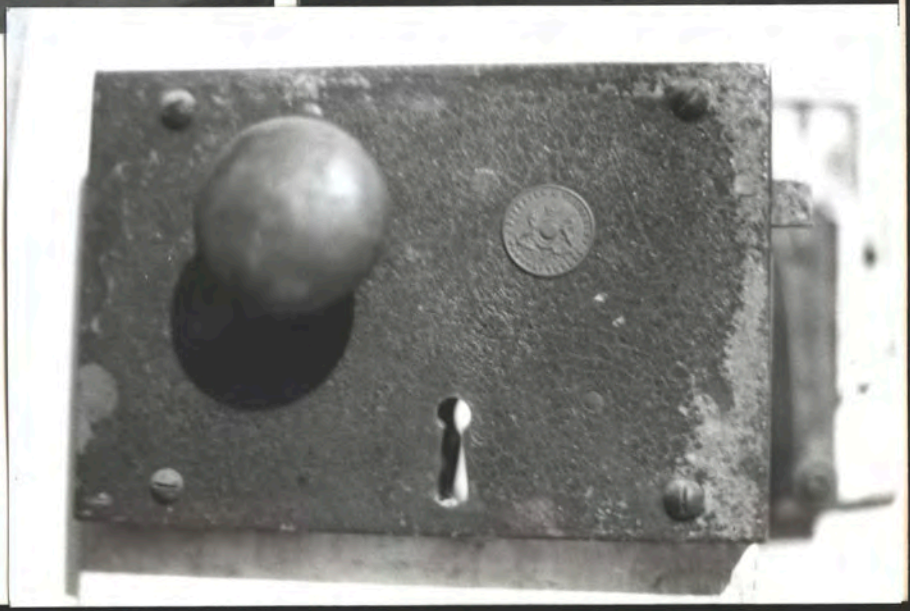
→N

→N

NORTH DOOR ↑↓

2ND FL. S.W. RM.

iron box, brass knob & seal →
= typical
"Carpenter & Co."
English lock
(see brass seal)
on this door only.
Old-fashioned by
this time, maybe
reused



27
#33

orig. mantel

orig. clos.

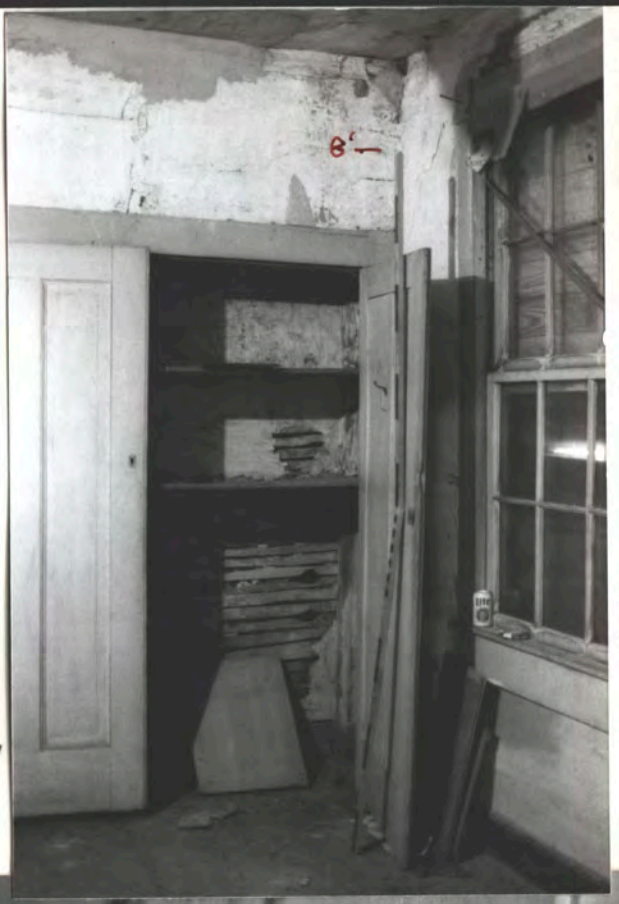
N

2ND FL. S.W. Rm

28 Otey Hse

NA

2ND FL. S.W. RM



N

orig. clos. shlvs

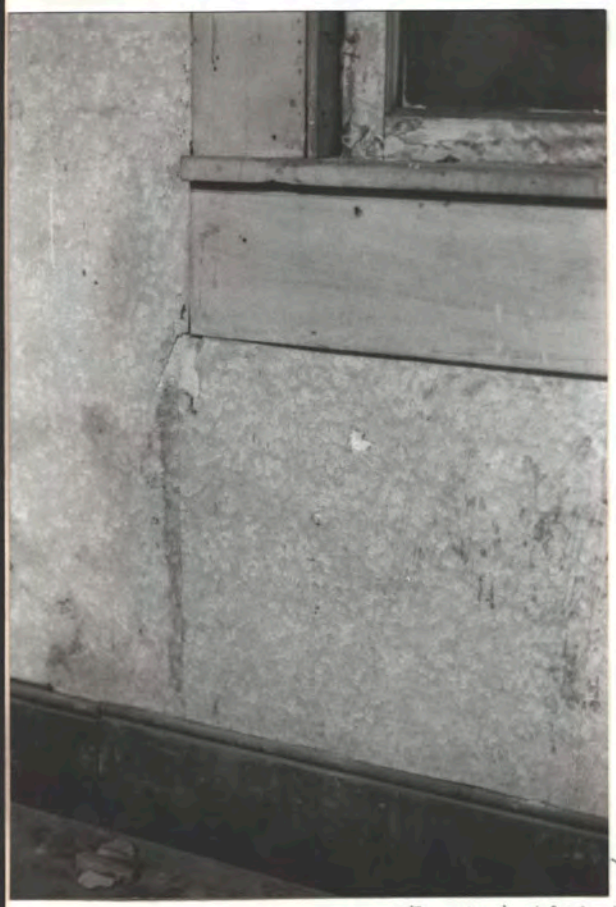
clothes hook on door back

N

29

→N

2ND FL. S.W. RM
west sash
(simplified trim in this upstairs B.R., old-fashioned beaded baseb'd)



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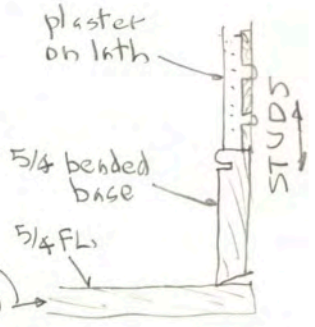


Typical 1800-1850

24

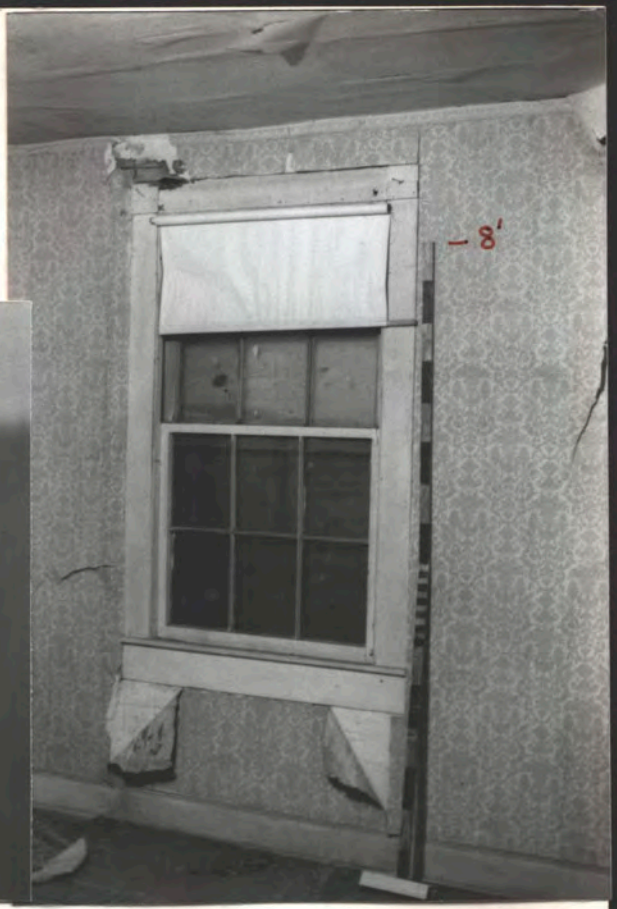
N

2ND FL. N.W.
orig. mantel & hearth & closet

N

Gen Hse 32 of 33

→N



West sash

→N

→N

← note peg (loose) at mortise & tenon corner connection

2ND FL. N.W. RM

(see notes at 2nd Fl. S.W.)

→N

33 of 33 - Otey Hse

photo below rt.

N

rotted studs replaced 1988

E. REAR

20th c. porch (c1929?) removed 1988

20th c. rm. removed 1988

N

N.N.E DOOR

NNW DOOR

1850

1850 Remnant

20th c.

1850 Remnant

ORIG. CORNICE

photos Aug. 1988 HRJ

1850 Otey Hse (Green Lawn, Cummins Place)

1 of 6

N.E. CORNER

N

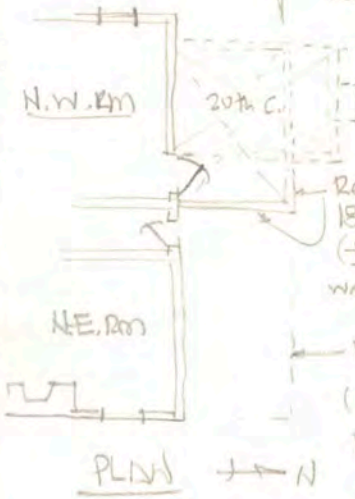
NNE 1850 DOOR

NNW 1850 DOOR

door

N

20th c. rm. + 1850 remnant removed 1986 Aug



← pit-sawn 1850 studs, split laths, plaster

WEST JAMB OF NNE DOOR

← clapboard (lt. gray off white pt.)

N

NNW Rm
removed Aug '88

3 of 6

20th c. rm.
replaced
smaller 1850 rm

REMNANT OF
1850 Rm
(beam, pier, studs, clapb'ds)

N

20th c.
NNW Rm

NNE DOOR TO WALL FROM PORCH
Note "graining" remnants on door. Note bended frame

lock on NNW door ↗ N

cut sawn framing

= FL.

— ax-hewn sill

N ↑

AT N. WALL REMNANT OF NNW. 1850s RM.

1850
E. WINDOW OF
N.E. RM.

→ N

E WALL
S. of N.E. CHIM.

→ N

hatchet-gouges → for leveling fl.

N →

Under fl. at
NW Rm
All 1850 const

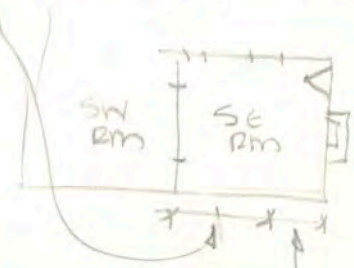
Sash-Sawn 5/4 fl.,
Pit-Sawn joists

South Wall
stripped of c.1929 deterior. pine clapboards

N

1½" (1988 stud-scabs)

S. Wall of SE. Rm.
(20th c. gray plaster on orig. 1850 lath & studs)



N

East 1/3 of S. Wall of S.E. Rm. — 1850 brown plaster remains here

Otey 6 of 6

→ N

west portico = early 20th c.

mid 20th c.
shed removed

→ N

Orig. chim. traces

Photos Summer 1988
1850 Otey House
"Greenlawn"
beginning restor./renov.
JJH, Arch H.J.
(Rear roofs were not put
back per hist. photos,
mediocre job in general,
never completed.
Atrip = owner/contr.

→ N

1 of 7

N

20th c. portico
N.W. corner

N

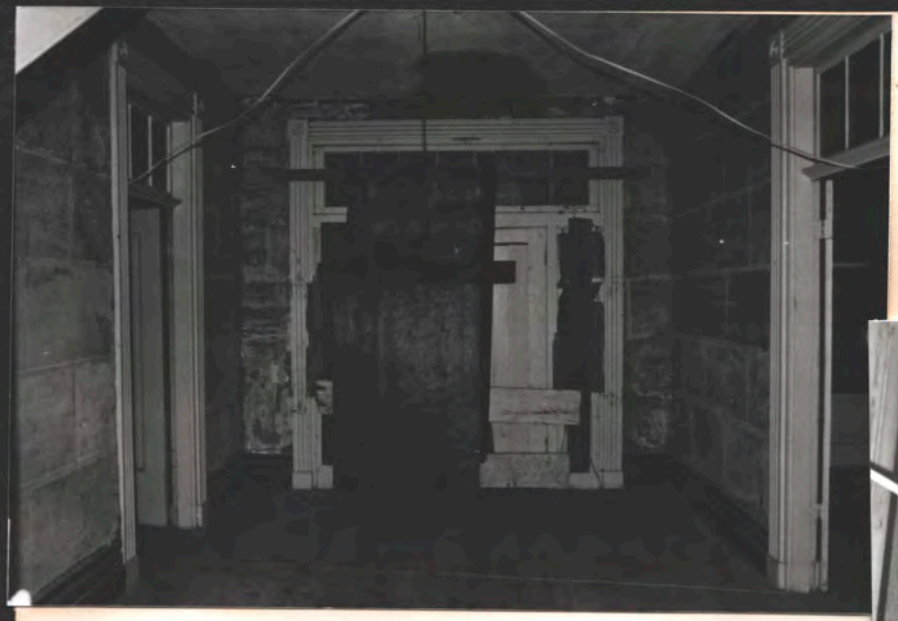
} mod. clapb'd

S.W.M

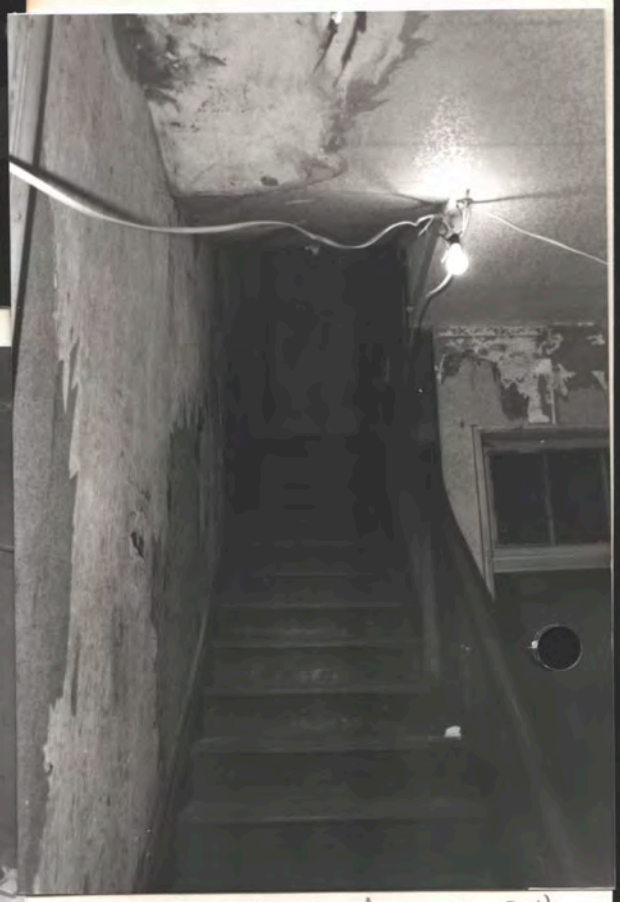
orig. clapb'd & studs
(covered by a later rm.,
here removed)

N. Pedimented Gable

Otey Hse - '88
3 of 7

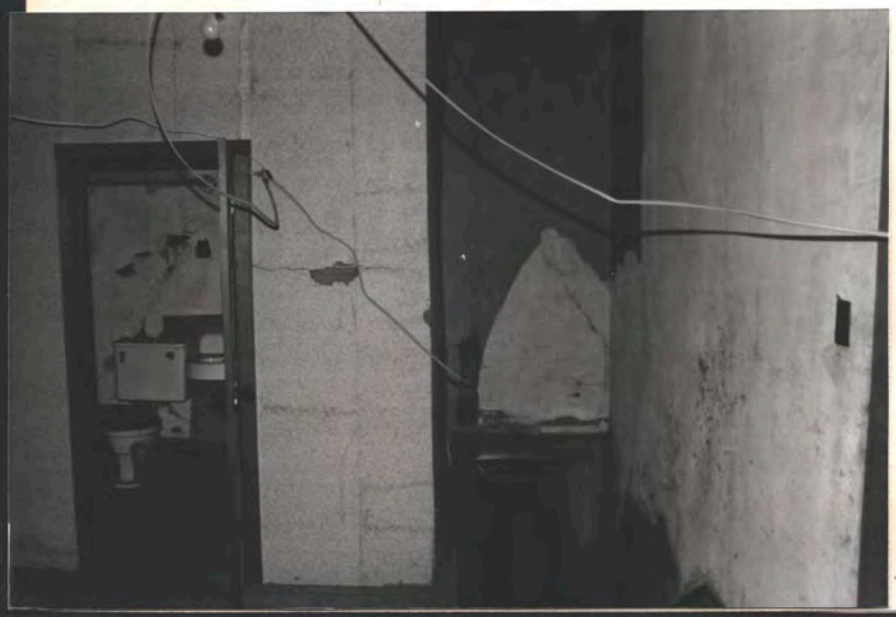


→N
ENTRY



→N

Rear Stairs Hall →N



2nd Fl.
Stairs
Hall
N

1st Fl. S.W.
S. Wall
(Parlor)

D.H. Parlor
(1st Fl.
SE + SW)

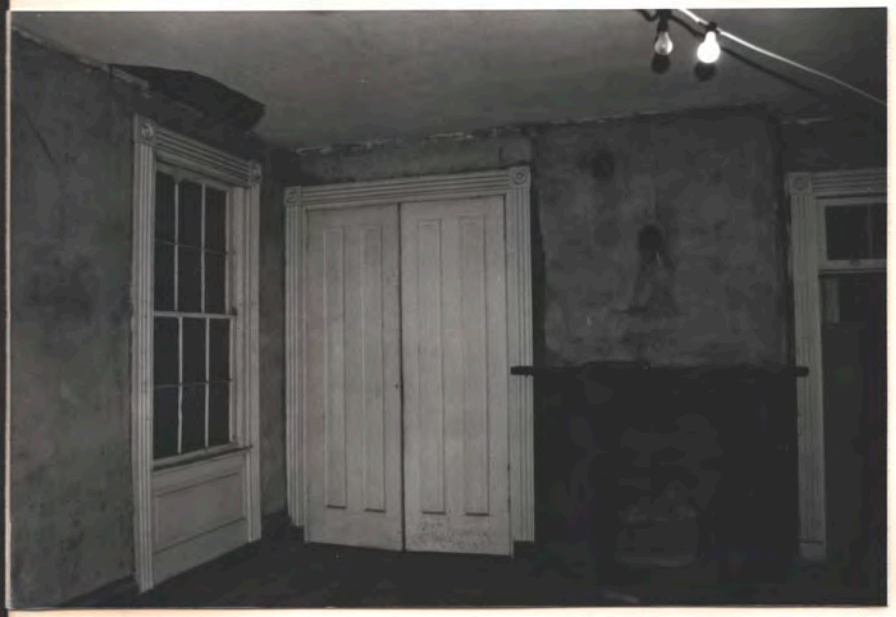
1st Fl.
S.W.
Parlor

1850 Otey House in 1988

5 of 7

1st Fl. S.E. Parlor

N



1st Fl. N.W. Rm

N

2nd Fl.
Stair Hall

N

2nd Fl.
N. Rm

→ N

2nd Fl.
S. Rm

N

1 of 2

N

N

N

c.1858 Otey Hse
(Greenlawn)
Portico = 1920's clumsy
photos Aug. 1990 HJ ones
after partial exterior restor.
J&H Arch - HJ, by Atnip, owner

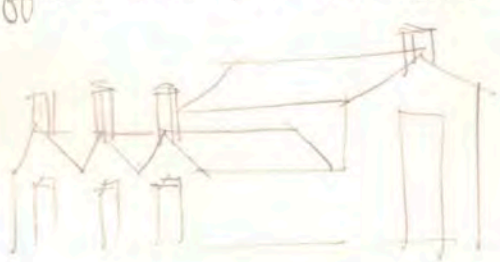
Corbels on chimney — caps are TOO WIDE & not per HJ plans = typical error of modern masons.

Aug. 1990 photo HJ

→N

Supposed to be like this (1930's HABS photos)

Shed = c.1950's



See J&H restor. plans, not followed here by Atkins, owner & bldr.
Did fair job otherwise.

---

low shed is 2nd fl. bath, des. by HJ to not intrude into fl. 2 spaces or exterior

Photo Dec. 1992 HJones

Restoration continued by George Heeschen, new owner, for antiques shop on 1st fl. & his son's apt. in rear & on fl. 2 (is not in Hr. city limits)

Rear view, under restor. → N

N

PORTICO IS 1928 ~~1930's~~ (CLUMSY)

N

1850 OTEY HOUSE (GREENLAWN) ±1/2 MILE S. OF MERIDIANVILLE, AL. STOOD EMPTY FROM ±1940 - 1990.
RESTORED 1990 - 93 PER JONES & HERRIN, ARCH. DETAILS (H.P. JONES) BY ATWIP (PARTIALLY) & COMPLETED BY GEORGE HEESCHEN - '93
Photos 1993 H.P. Jones FAIA

CHIMNEY CORBELS NOT PER H.J. DETAIL = MUCH TOO WIDE! SHOULD BE ±5/8" EA.

← 1993 GAR.

photos 1993

N

N

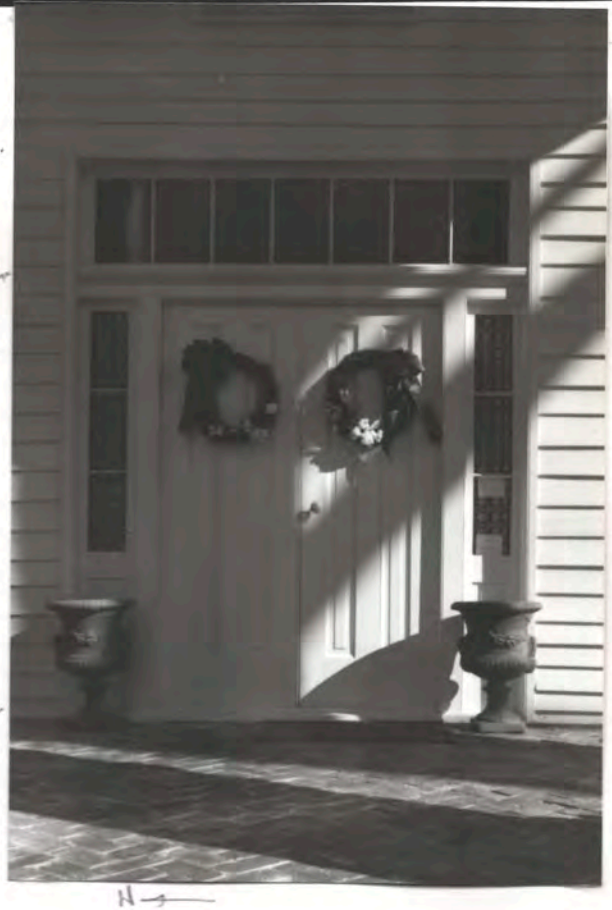
LT. COLOR IS PLASTER REMNANTS FROM A LATER S. ROOM

Cols = no taper. = Clumsy. Solid brick + stucco finish

ENTRY

N

c. 1930's portico. Brick fl. = 1990



N

Owner used 5-v/t galv. barn roofing for economy = o.k., not much visible

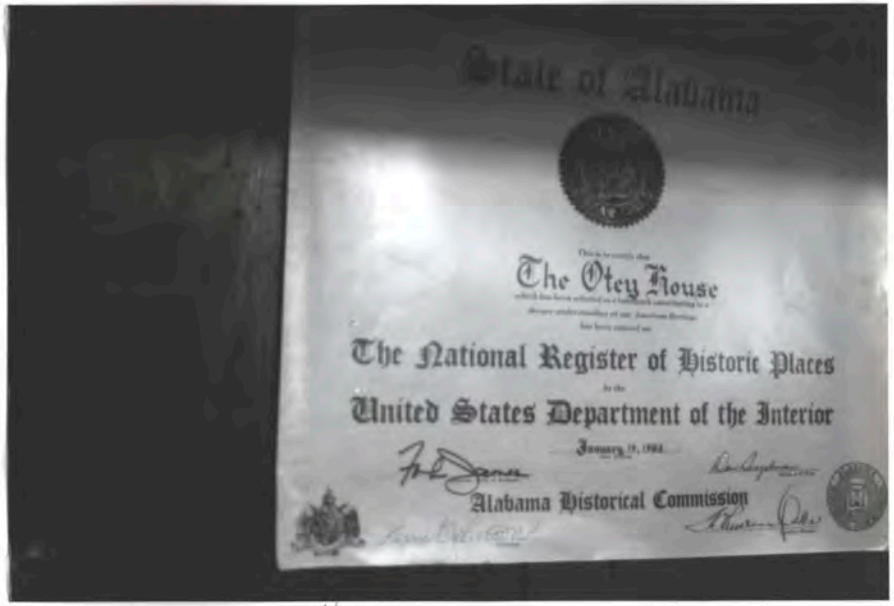
ENTRY (ORIG.)

N

EAST ELEV: 3 GABLES & CHIMNIES REBUILT / 1930's HABS PHOTOS (chim. corbels two wide, by several inches)

Small shed on top is bath per HJ, to avoid chopping up historic spaces

N



← in entry hall

← Jan. 1982

N ←

N ←

20th cent. conc. cap

hand-cut limestone c. 1850's

← CEMETERY ±300' SE. of house (rear)

N ←

→N

Nth – Strip in c.1990 removed all orig lath & plaster from fl. 1 (not per H.J. specs)

Weescher in '93 kept & restored all fl. 2 plaster walls & ceils

ENTRY

N→

N→

orig stair

Note jointer-plane marks on door

← orig. one-pc. c.I. hinge ("fast-pin")

A

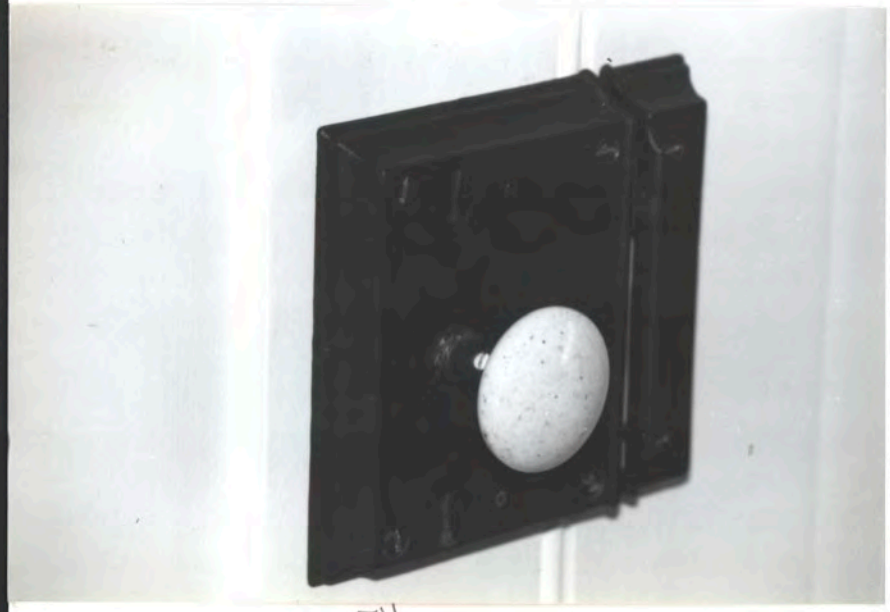
N. door trimwork, in entry

ENTRY

N

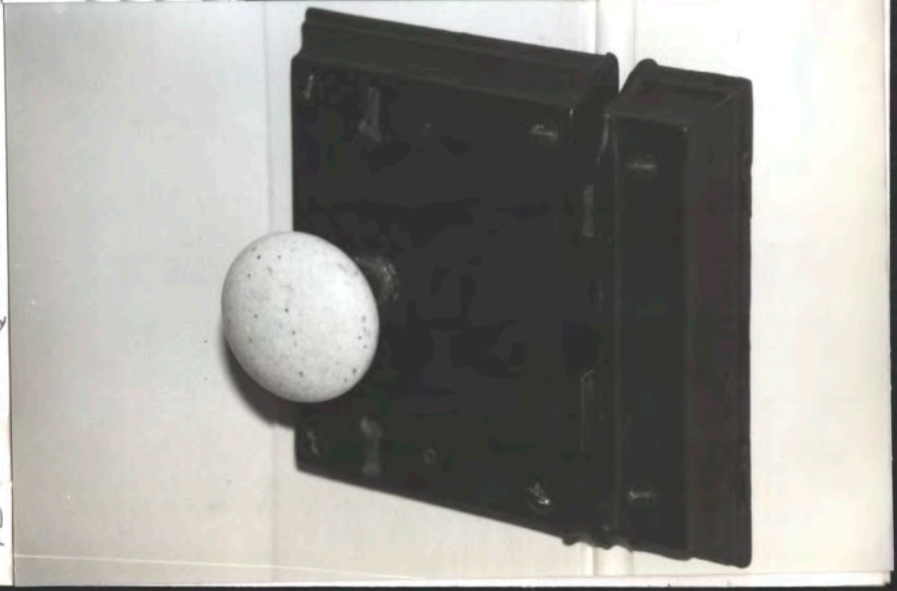
N. door trimwork in entry

N



dble front door lock (CI box with cer. knob)

N



N

Orig
clos.

N

FL. 1
S.E.
DIN.
RM.

N

Orig
mantel
(should
be black)

corrected
rebuilt
brick hearth

N

6

Orig. dbl. doors N

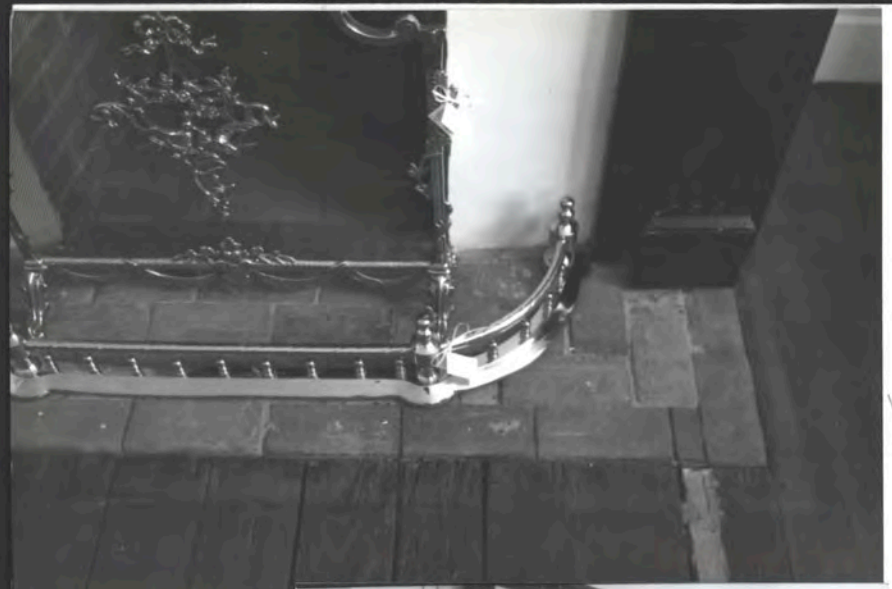
N

FL 1 S.W. PARLOR

N

to entry

heart pine 5/4 x 5"-7" T&G Fl.



property-lain brick hearth

black = typical 1800-1860

FL. 1 S.W. PARLOR

N.W. DOOR TO ENTRY HALL

00

N

FL. 1
N. W.
B. R.

N

S. WALL
(entry
beyond)

N ↓ N. WALL

N. DOOR

N

S. DOOR

N

N

N

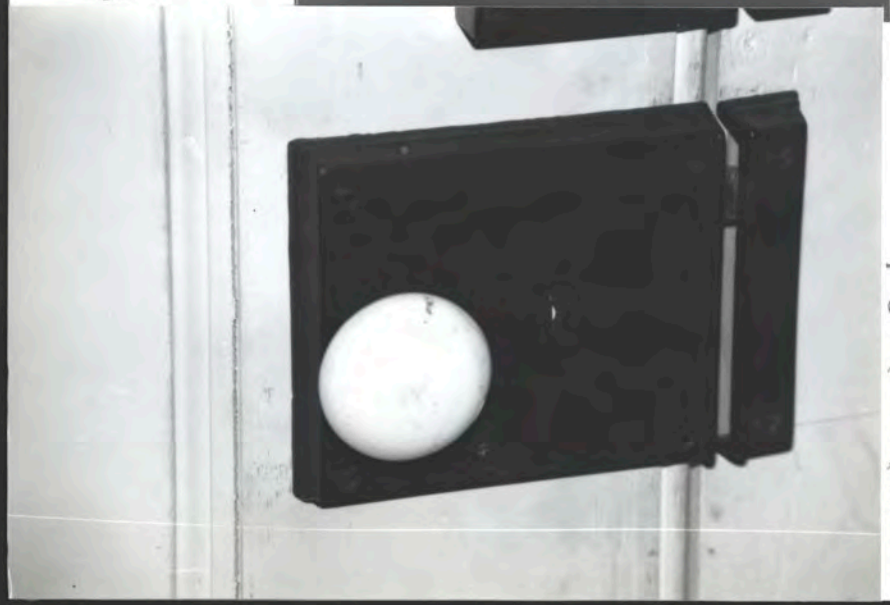
FL. 1
REAR
(EAST)
HALL

N

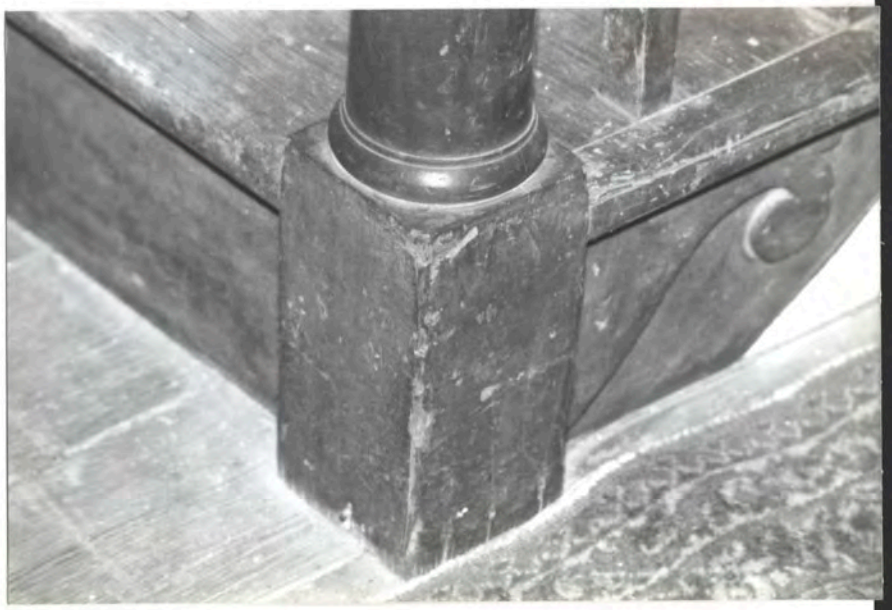
door to
entry
(west hall)

10

FL. 1 REAR (EAST) HALL



ORIG. LOCK AT REAR (EAST) EXT. DOOR = CI. + CER. KNOBS



← Orig mantel

N

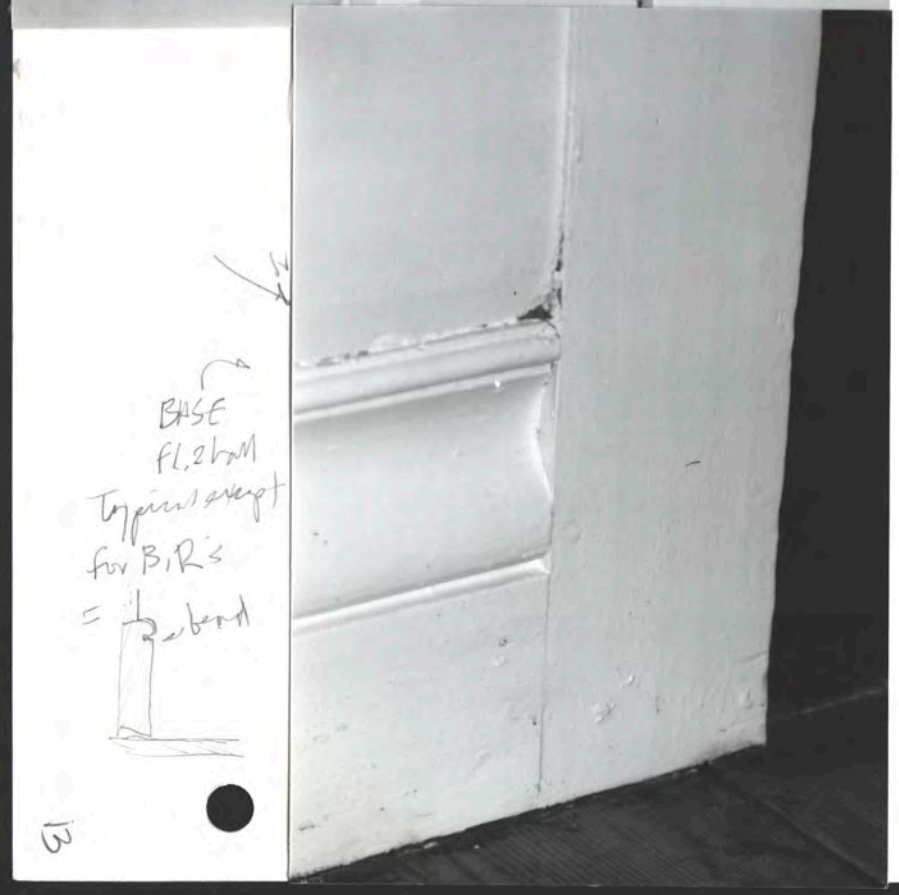
FL. 1 N.E. Rm.
Used as kit
(Orig kit. would have been detached bldg)

21

N

Transom
fl. 2 hall
west door

FL. 2 HALL



W

BASE
Fl. 2 hall
Typical except
for B, R's

N

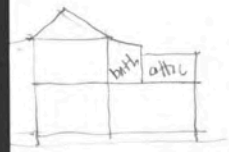
Original
balustrade

3

14

1993 skylight in bath

1993 door to modern bath in shed add. at rear attic & roof



N

N

door to bst balcony under 1930± portion

FL. 2 WALL

ORIG. NEWEL

S. WALL

orig. mantel

S. WALL

proper hearth

15

Fl. 2 S. RM.

hall door

N

orig. clos.

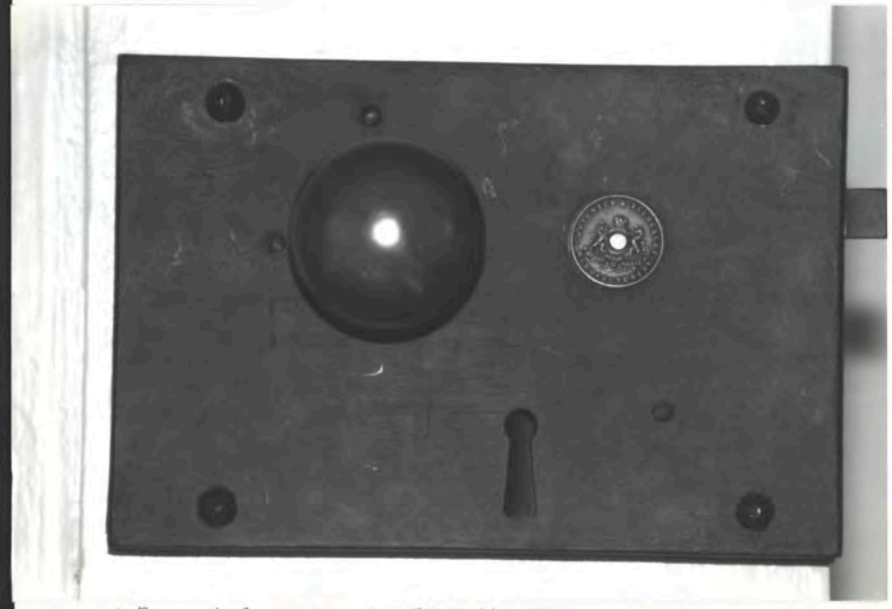
N

N

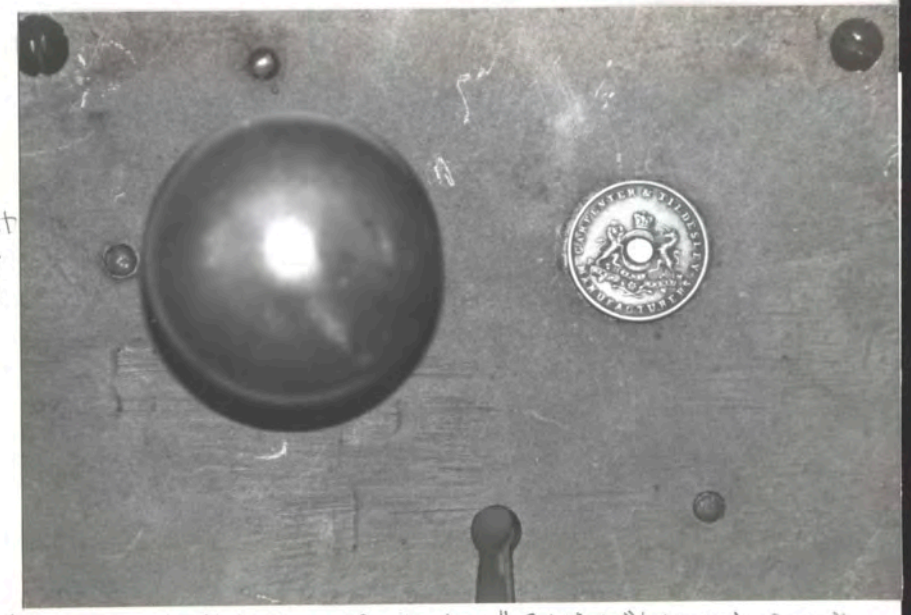
Orig. Clos. Door

SECT.

Fl. 2 S. Chamber



Orig. Lock at N. door to hall



Note — "Carpenter & Tildesley" is cal 1856 or after lock per English records → "Carpenter & Tildesley Patentee" English Export Lock. British "Lion & Unicorn" Royal Arms

Hall side of lock at Fl. 2 S. Rm

Typical Fl. 2 window head-trim (N. Rm. shown)

Original cast iron "fast-pin" (non-removable) hinge, typical of most 1800-1860 hinges

J

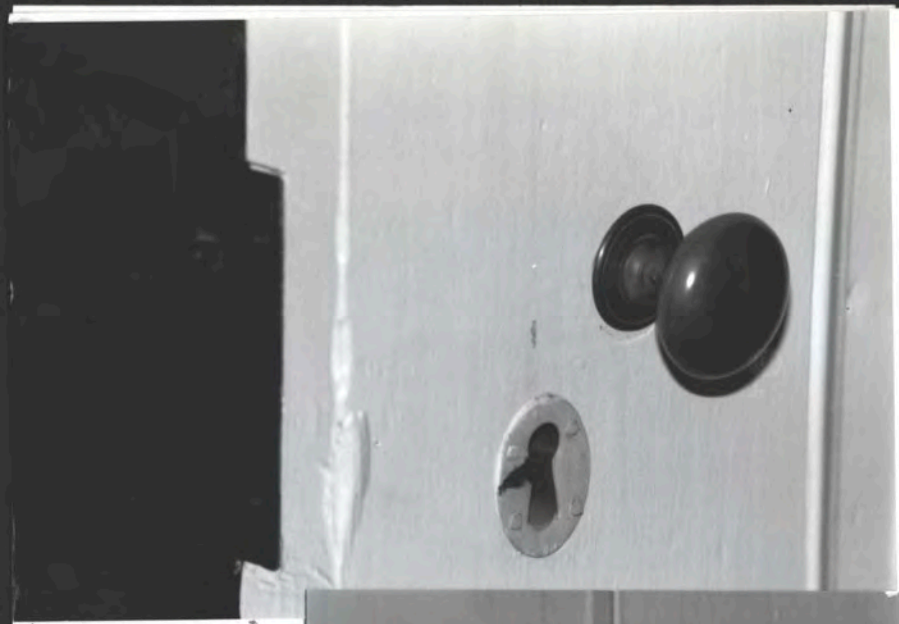
18

Orig. mantel
(should be black)

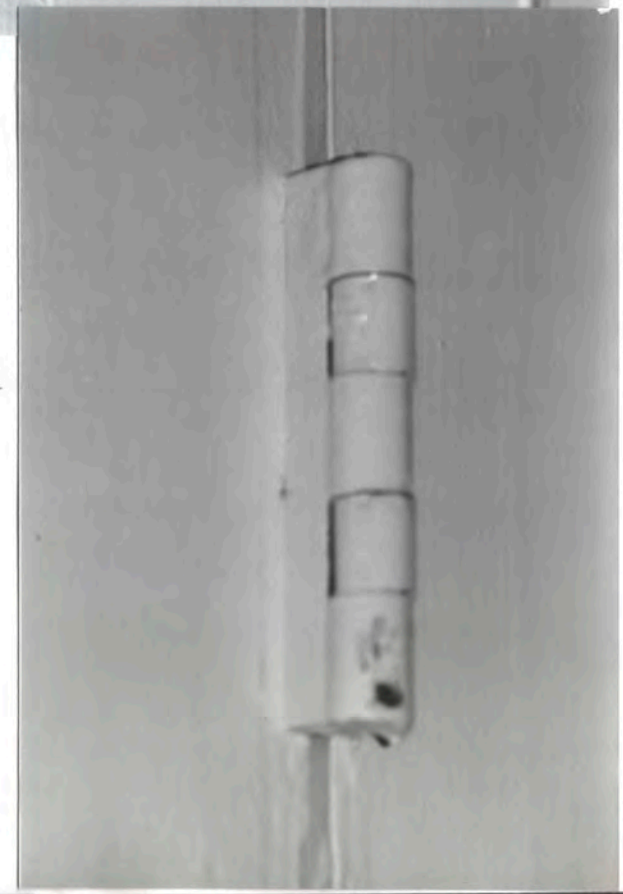
FL. 2 N. Rm.

Orig door, to hall

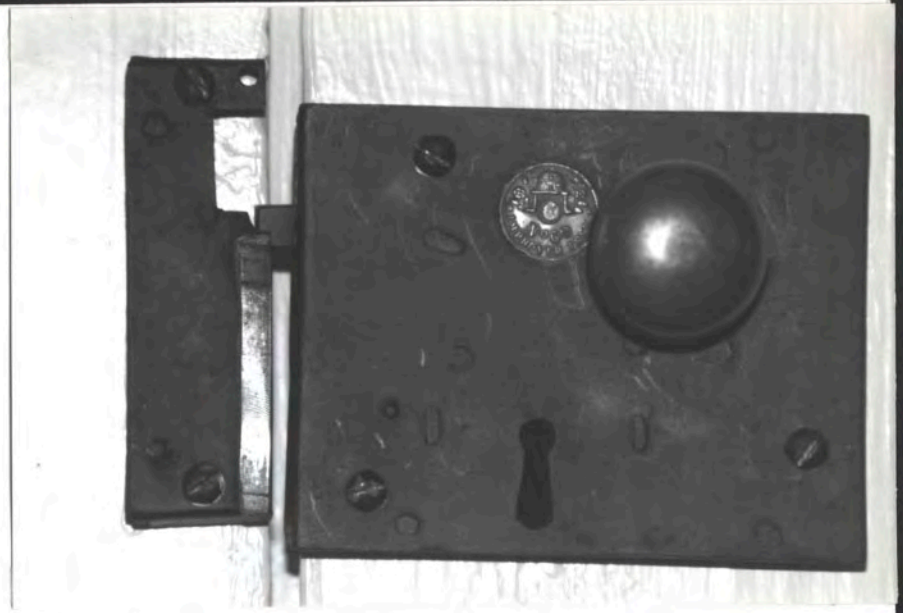
Sex Locks overlay



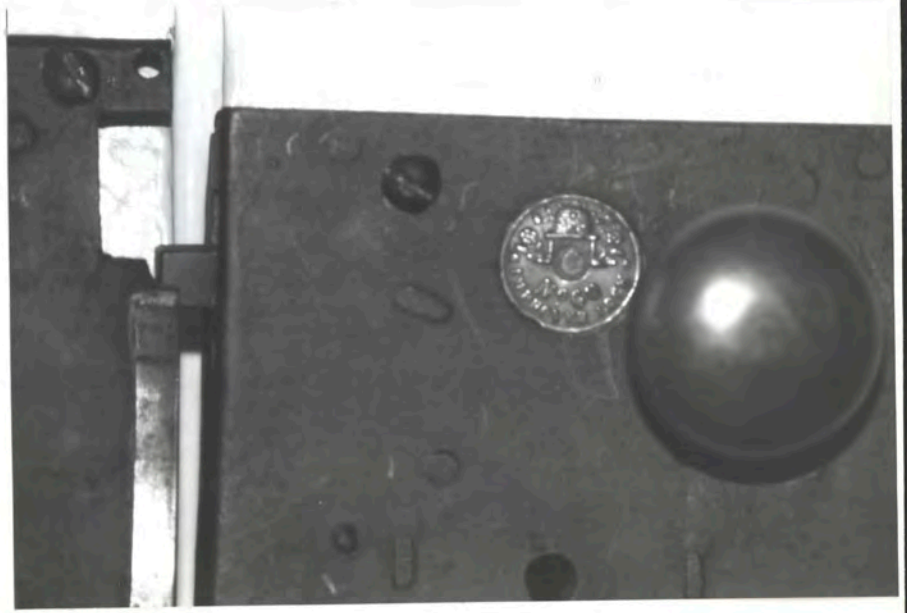
Hall side of lock at Fl. 2 N. Rm.



"Fast-pin" C.I. hinge typical



FL. 2 N. Rm

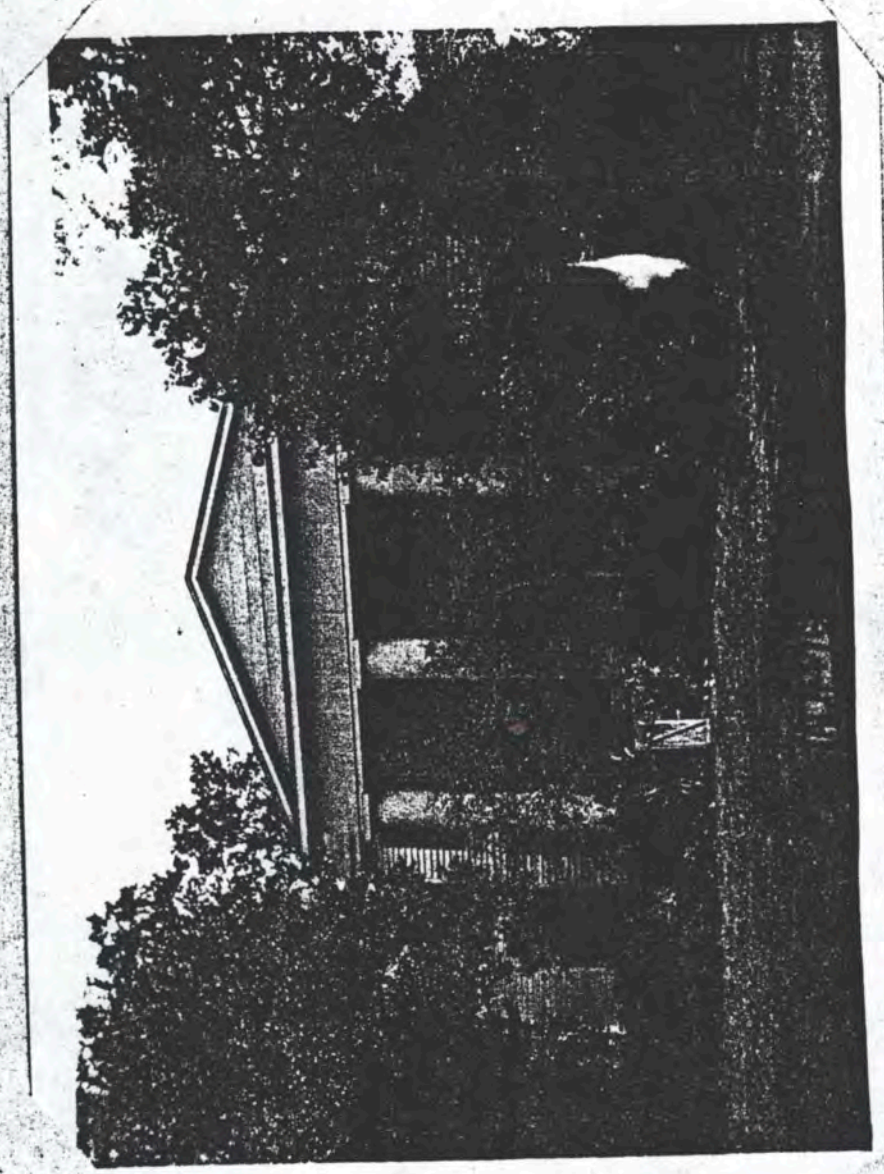


"No. 60 Improved Lock"
Beehive at top center
Mechanism is like "Carpenter Lock Co." patent (lift)

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA.
45-HUVI.V
5-1

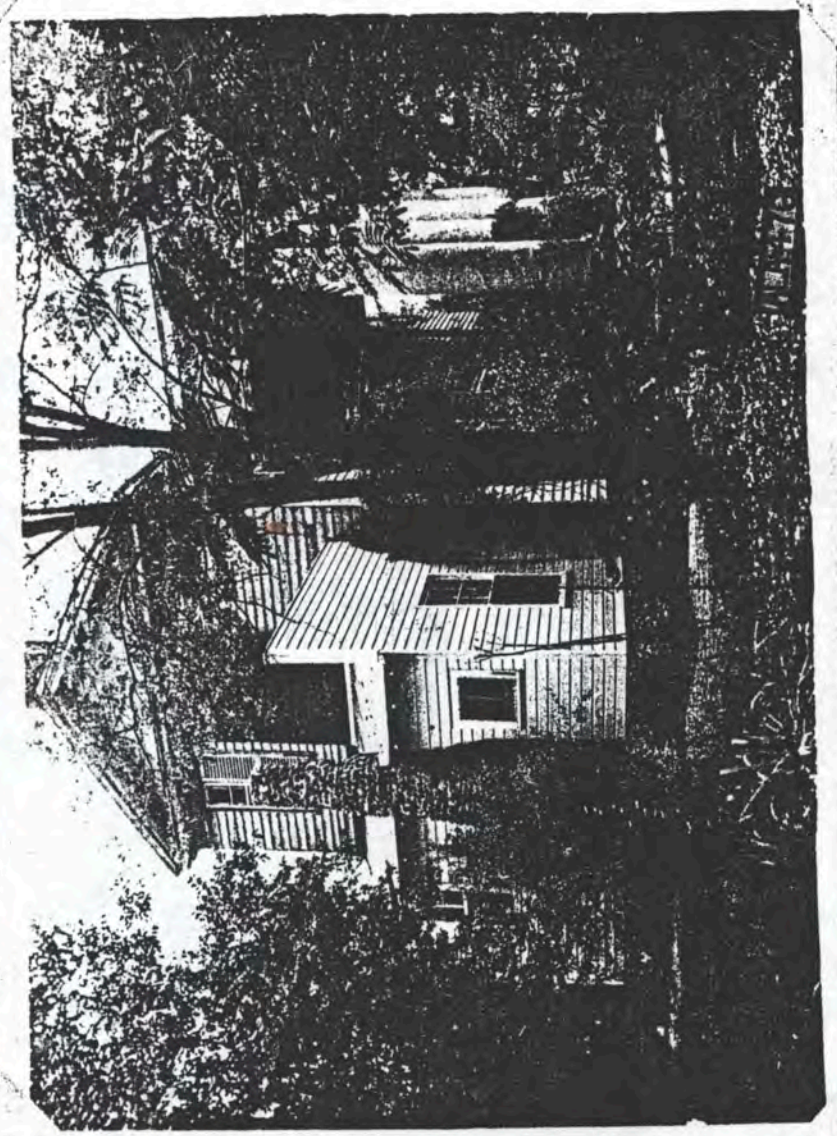


Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935
FRONT (WEST) ~~ELEVATION~~

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. On Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA
45-HUVI.V
5-2

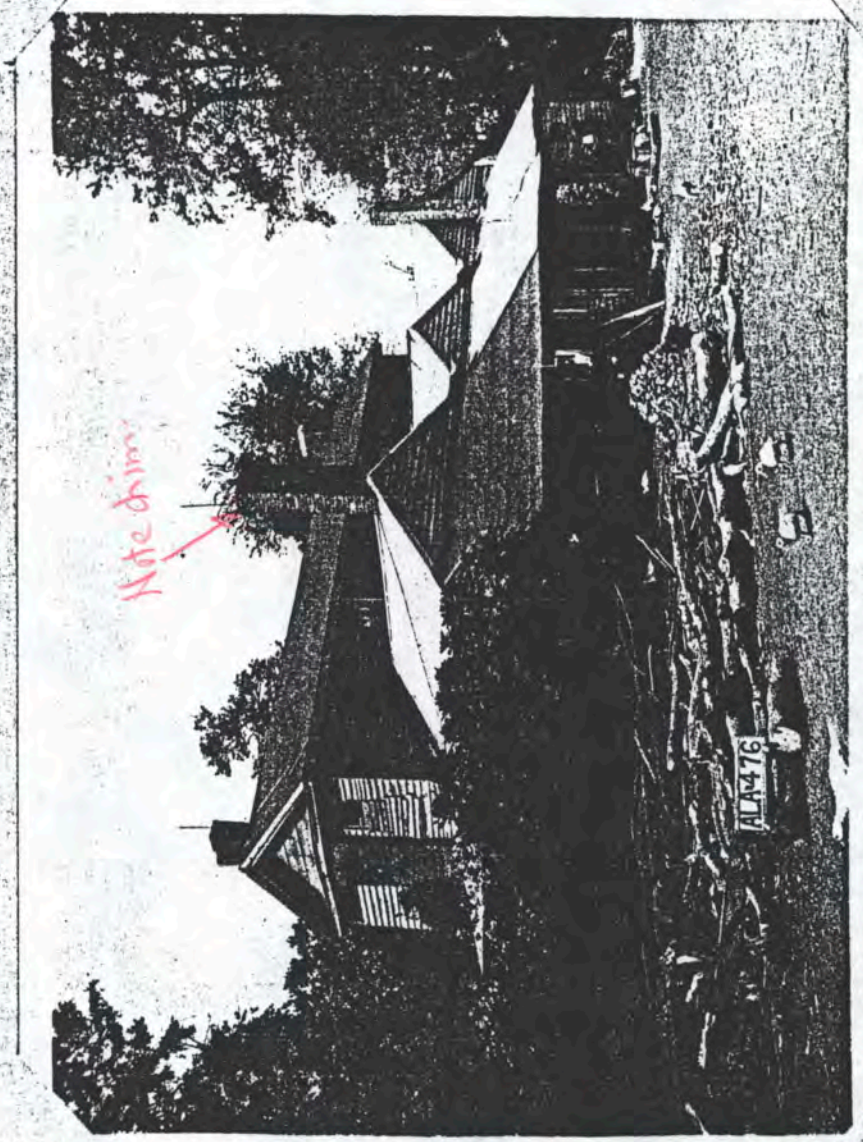


Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935
FRONT (WEST) AND NORTH SIDE

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA.
45-HUNT.V
5-3



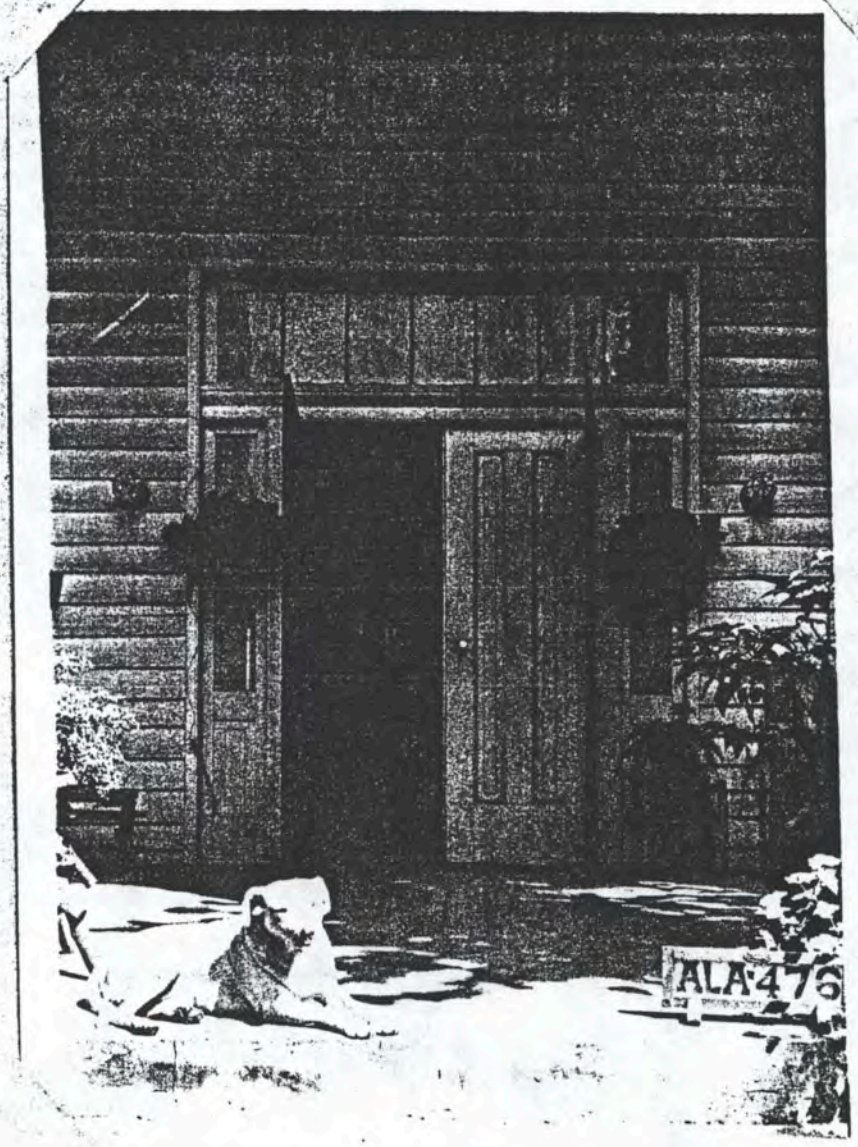
Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

REAR (EAST) AND SOUTH SIDE

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476.

HABS
ALA.
45-HUVI.V
5-4



Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

CLOSE-UP OF FRONT DOOR

(Otie Home,) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA.
45-HUVI.V
5-5

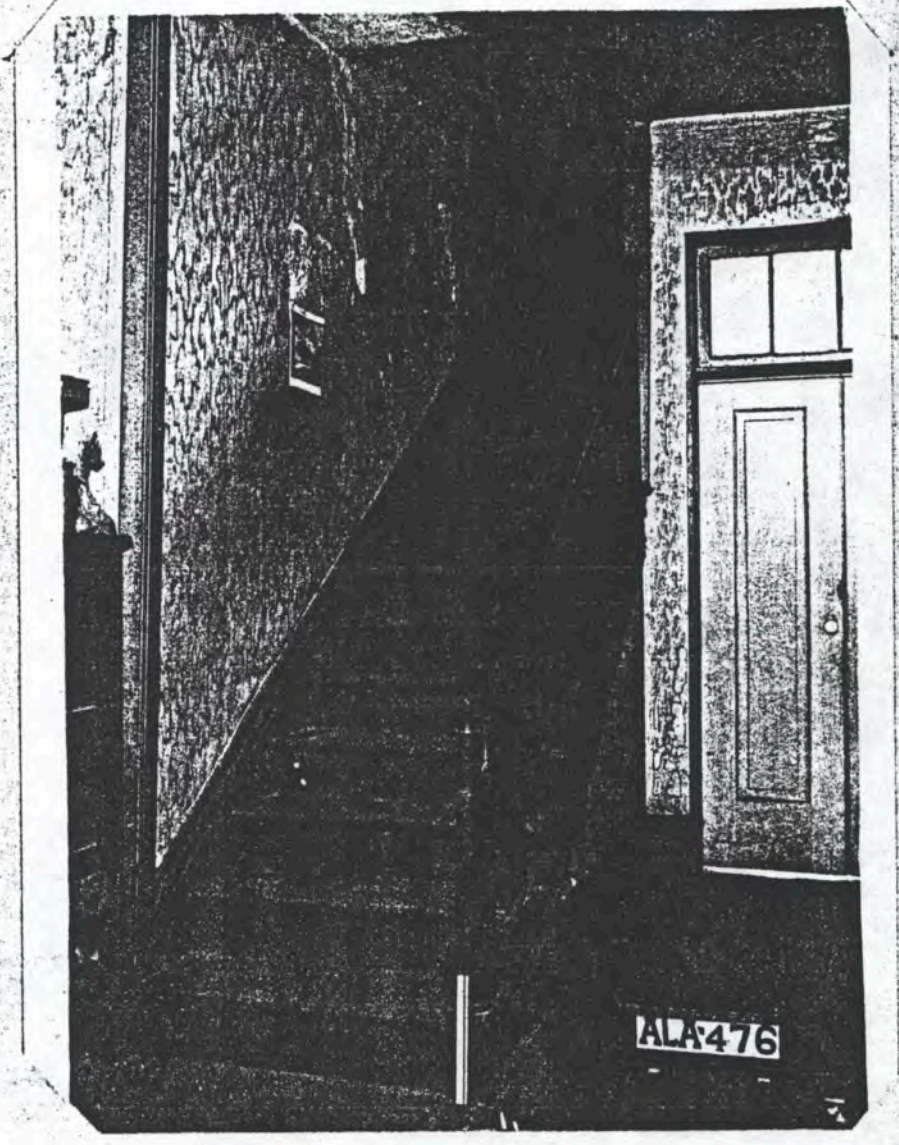
Historic American Buildings Survey :
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

FRONT END OF HALL

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA.
45-HUVI.V
5-6



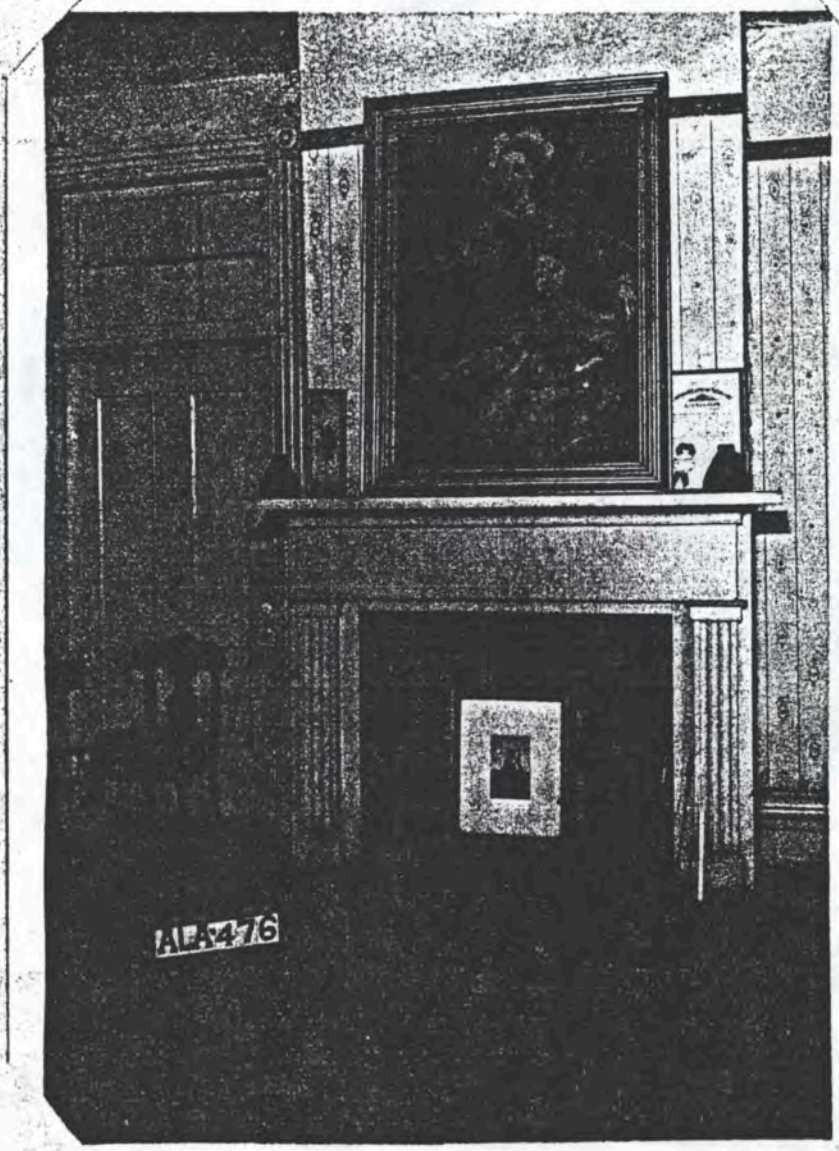
Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

STAIRS IN REAR HALL

(Otie Home,) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA
45-HUVIV
5-7



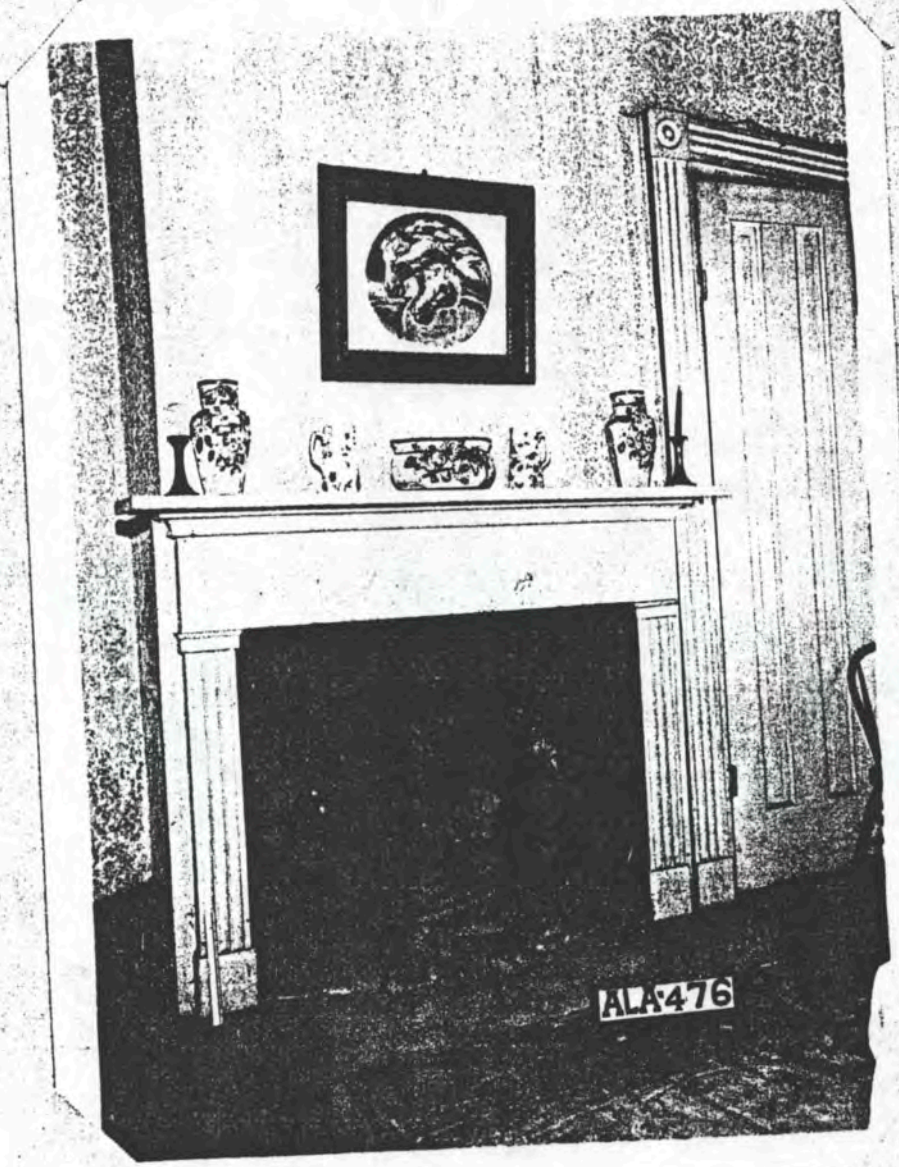
Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

MANTEL IN LIVING ROOM, S. W. ROOM, FIRST FLOOR

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA.
45-Huvi.v
5-8



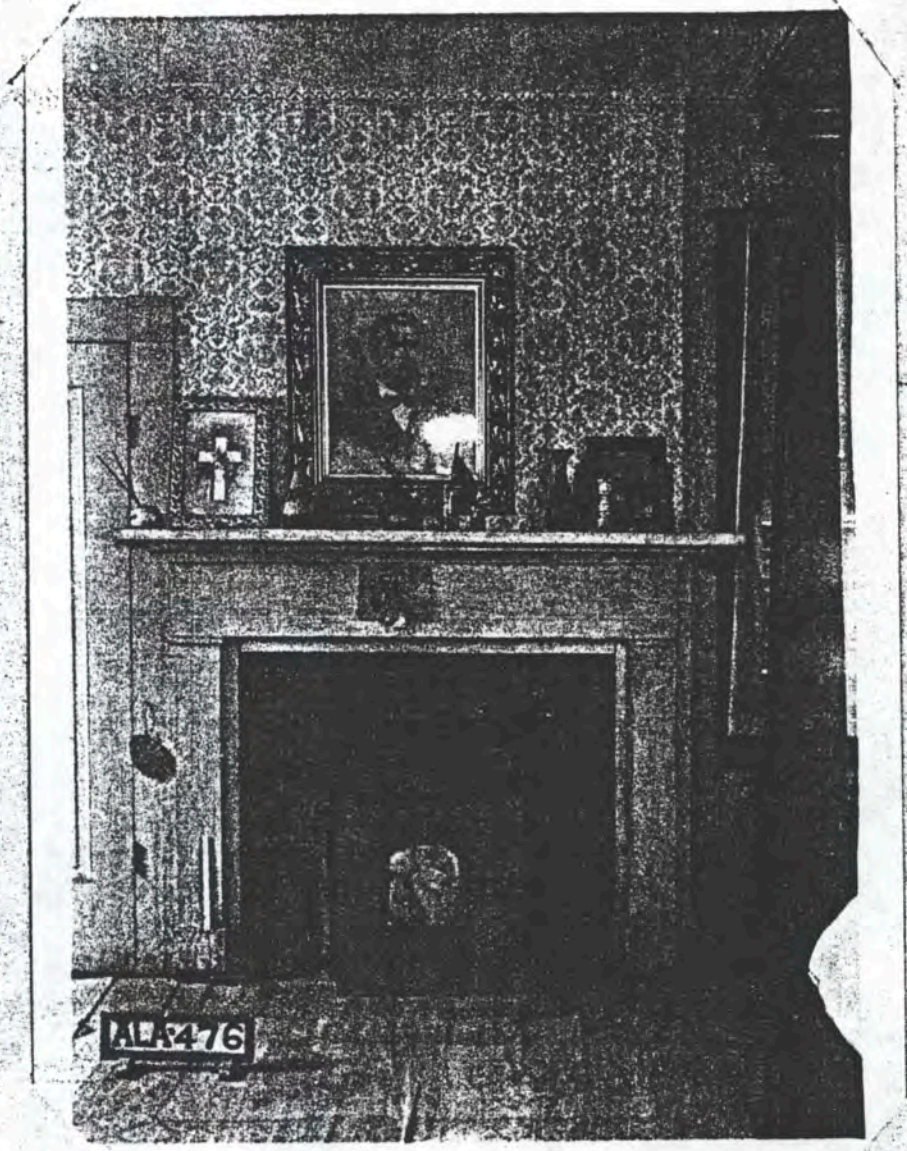
Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

MANTEL IN DINING ROOM

(Otie Home) "Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Green Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476

HABS
ALA.
45-HUVI.V
5-9



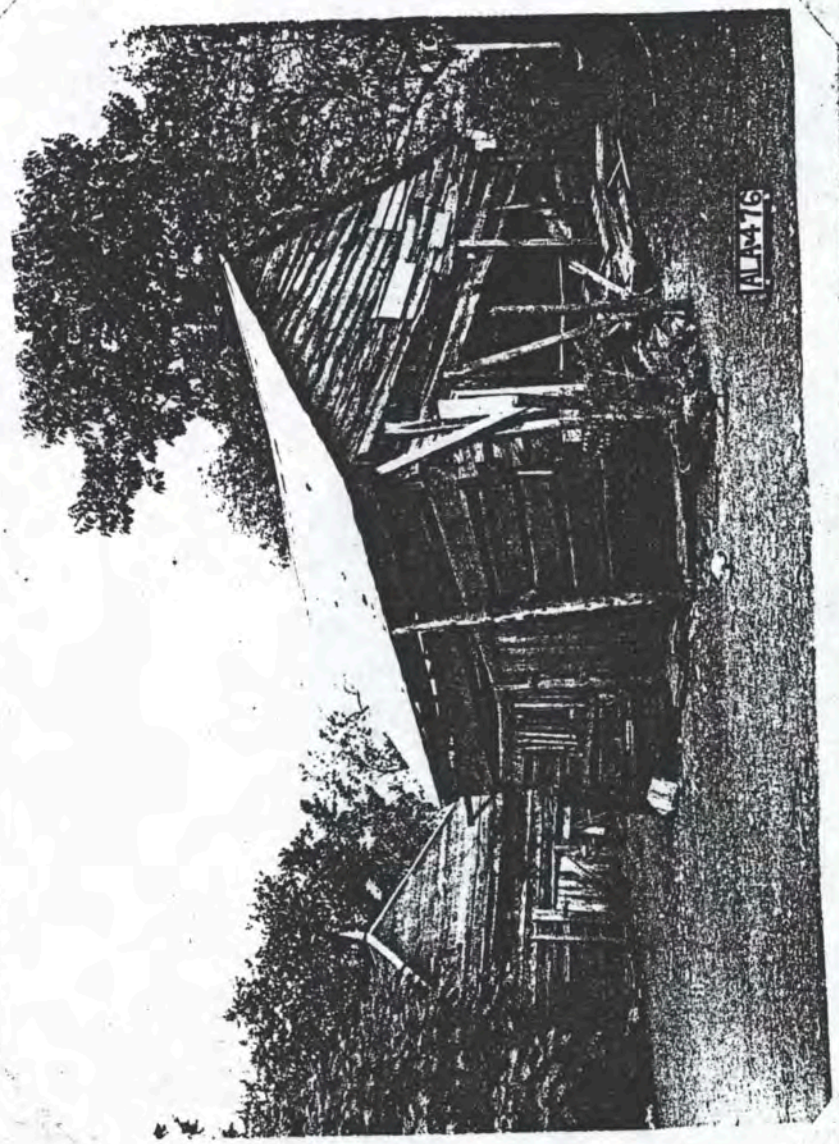
Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935

MANTEL IN NORTH BED ROOM ON SECOND FLOOR

(Otie Home)"Greenlawn"
Huntsville, Alabama
6 mi. N. on Hazel Ricks Rd.

HABS No. ALA-476:

HABS
ALA
45-Hunt.v
5A-1



Historic American Buildings Survey
Alex Bush, Photographer, September 12, 1935
OLD SLAVE HOUSE, SMOKE HOUSE IN REAR

FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic William Madison Otey House

and/or common Greenlawn

2. Location

street & number W 1/2 of Section 30, T. 2S, R. 1E
E side U. S. Hwy. 431 app. 0.4 mi. N of Bob Wade Rd. ___ not for publication

city, town Meridianville x vicinity of congressional district 5th

state Alabama code 01 county Madison code 089

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	X agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	X unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	___ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		X no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Leslie Cummins

street & number 310 Broad Street

city, town Sweetwater ___ vicinity of state TN 37874

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Office, Madison County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Huntsville state Alabama 35801

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Building Survey has this property been determined elegible? ___ yes ___ no

date 1935-present X federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Division of Prints & Photographs Library of Congress

city, town Washington state DC 20540

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date _____
_X_ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a low, cedar-covered knoll looking west toward the rich farmlands along Beaverdam Creek, Greenlawn is essentially a five-bay rectangular structure, frame, on a low brick foundation. The two-story, one-room deep main block measures approximately 52 by 20 feet, and is paralleled at the rear by a single-story shed-roof extension of roughly the same dimensions. Brick chimneys terminating each end of the front portion of the house are unusual in that they are slightly extruded from the wall below the pediment, thence passing upward through the ridge of the roof behind the tympanum and enframing cornice.

A small later wing abuts the north side of the house and is served by a fieldstone chimney. The roof of the wing, sloping away from the main body of the house, is concealed by a wood parapet.

The three middle bays of the facade are spanned by a massive tetrastyle portico, the columns themselves being of a rudimentary Doric order and built of stuccoed brick. They rest on a stylobate of reinforced concrete. The double-leaf front door sheltered beneath the portico is enframed by sidelights and a rectangular transom.

Inside, a lofty bisecting hall is partitioned midway into an entrance foyer with stairhall directly behind. Rooms to either side of the foyer are 19 feet square, the parlor at the right opening through a triple-leaf folding doorway into the large dining room at the rear. The pair of rooms on the north side of the center hall are separated by an intervening six-foot wide side passage. To the right of the double doors leading from the foyer into the back hall, a partially enclosed straight-run stair with simple cherrywood handrail rises, in reverse flight, to the upper hallway. On the second floor, there is a single room to either side of the hall, while a single-leaf door, now permanently closed, at the west end of the hall once led onto the upper gallery. Woodwork throughout is characteristically mid-19th century: fluted door and window surrounds, with cornerblocks, being echoed by the fluted pilasters of the first-floor mantelpieces. Baseboards downstairs are likewise crowned by a broad cyma molding. Upstairs woodwork is somewhat simpler, with unmolded door and window facings articulated only by square cornerblocks. Doors are of the typical, two-panel Greek Revival type. Rooms throughout are rather unusual in that each has a built-in closet, with double doors, in one of the chimney corners.

The forerunner of Greenlawn's present portico was a full-lenght double porch composed of five segmentally arched, superimposed bays carrying a full entablature with cornice adorned by paired brackets (see photo #5). Behing the entablature was a deck-like roof. Besides the circa 1925 replacement of this portico, changes occurring during the same period included construction of a north bath-and-bedroom addition to match a south wing since destroyed; also, the insertion of a bathroom at the rear of the upper hallway. Much of the exterior clapboarding was also renewed during this period. In the 1950s, a narrow cinderblock-and-frame utility addition was constructed across the back of the house. The interior, however, remains generally unaltered, and still retains much of the original furniture.

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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received
date entered

None of the original dependencies survive. A caretaker's house and storage structures are of relatively recent origin. Some fifty yards southeast of the house lies the family cemetery, enclosed by a wall of ashlar construction. Traces of the geometrically arranged gardens are yet discernible in front of, and to either side, of the house.

Unoccupied and boarded up from more than a decade, the house remains structurally sound and susceptible of restoration.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates 1849-50 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

In its scale and general arrangement, Greenlawn is representative of several mid-19th century plantation houses which once stood in northern Madison County. Today, it is the lone survivor. As originally constructed, with a two-tiered Italianate porch fronting a core structure that remained Greek Revival in character, the house expressed the increasing eclecticism of the late ante-bellum period. As renovated in the early 20th century, it was made to conform with a later generation's romatic preconception of the plantation house as inevitably a white-pillared mansion. Greenwood is significant, then, as an artifact which represents both an aspect of the past--socially and architecturally--and a particular viewpoint toward the Southern past which prevailed in the early 1900s. Situated on a tract cultivated by the same family for more than 150 years, Greenlawn is also a vivid reminder of the agrarian economy that once sustained this fertile region of Alabama.

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

The land on which Greenlawn stands was patented in 1809 by Dr. James Manning. Some few years later, Walter Otey acquired the tract, settled there with his family, and placed the land into cultivation. Like many of his neighbors, Otey was a Virginian, a native of Bedford County and a son of Col. John Otey, an officer in the Revolution. Of the same family was the Rt. Rev. James Hervey Otey, nephew of Walter Otey and first Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Tennessee. (In 1859, Bishop Otey was a guest of his Greenlawn cousins on the occasion of the consecration of Huntsville's Church of the Nativity.)

On his plantation, Walter Otey erected a log house that continued to be the home of his widow and children following his death in 1823. Eventually clapboarded, and finished inside, this house stood just north of the present dwelling. It was Walter Otey's youngest son, William Madison Otey, who began construction of Greenlawn in 1849, at the time of his marriage to Octavia Wyche. The house was finished and occupied by the Christmas of 1850.

In addition to the dwelling itself, the complex included a kitchen, a smokehouse, servants' quarters, barns, corncribs, and other dependencies. A cedar-lined drive looped in front of the house, with formal boxwood gardens to either side. From this nucleus, the plantation stretched north and south along the eastern side of the Meridianville Pike.

Octavia Wyche Otey outlived her husband more than a quarter of a century, and upon her death in 1890 was buried beside him in the family cemetery. For several years thereafter, the house was intermittently rented or left vacant. About 1907, Mrs. John Bealle Walker of Rockingham County, Va., a daughter of the Otey household, returned with her husband to make her home at Greenlawn. It was during the Walkers' tenure that the house assumed its present appearance, with the construction of a pedimentated portico and the present north wing. At Mrs. Walker's death in 1948, the house descended to her daughter, Mrs. Leslie Cummins, who remained in the residence until 1963, when she moved to Sweetwater, TN. Since then, Greenlawn has been boarded up and currently is under the protection of a caretaker who lives on the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Historic American Buildings Survey. Greenlawn photographs and data pages (1935), Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress.

Jones, Virgil Carrington (Pat). True Tales of Old Madison County. Huntsville: Johnson Historical Publications, 1966.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1.78

Quadrangle name Meridianville

Quadrangle scale 7.5'

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	539 300	3854 7510
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached plat.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert S. Gamble, Architectural Historian

organization for Alabama Historical Commission date

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama 36130

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state ___ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title date

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

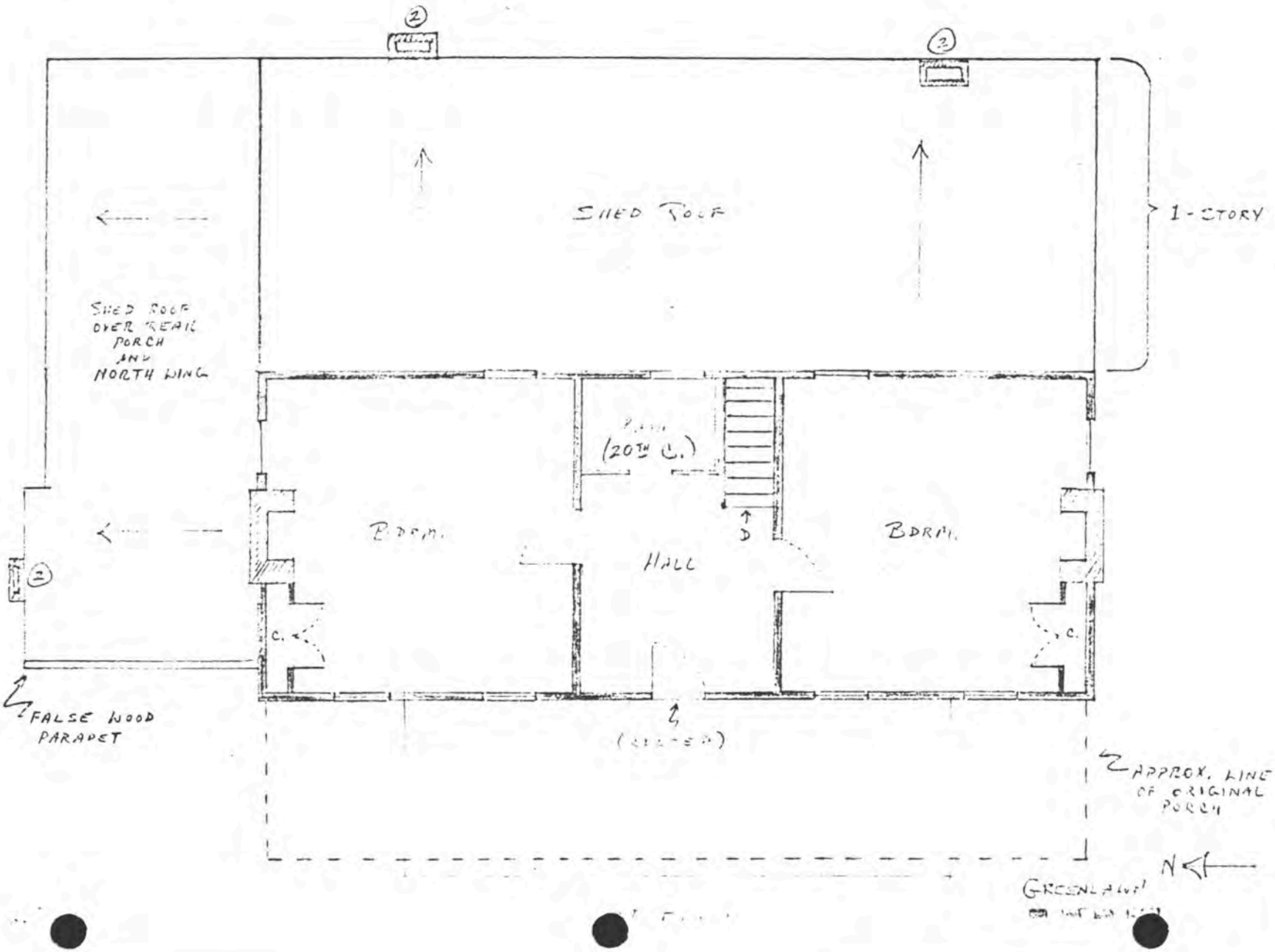
date

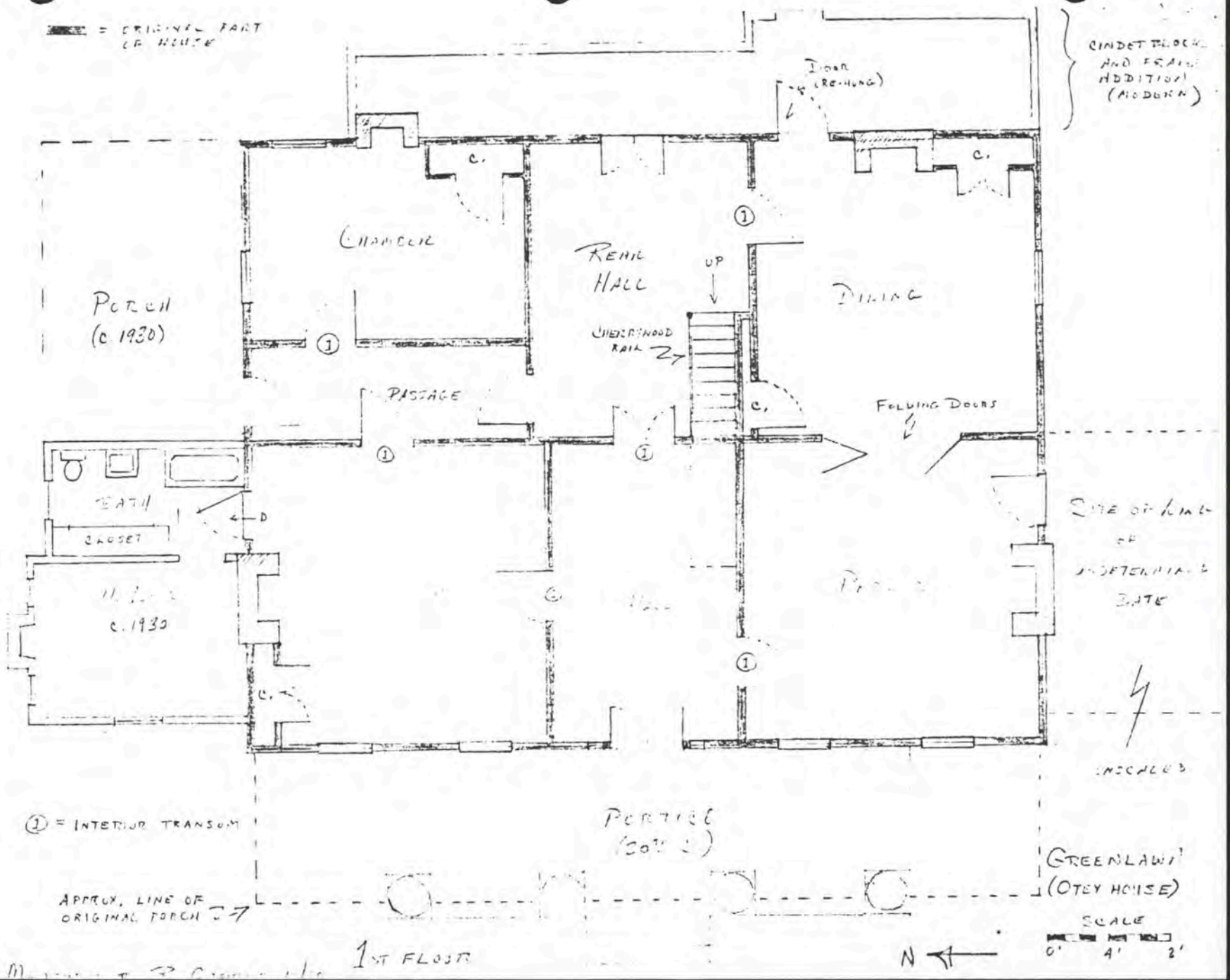
Keeper of the National Register

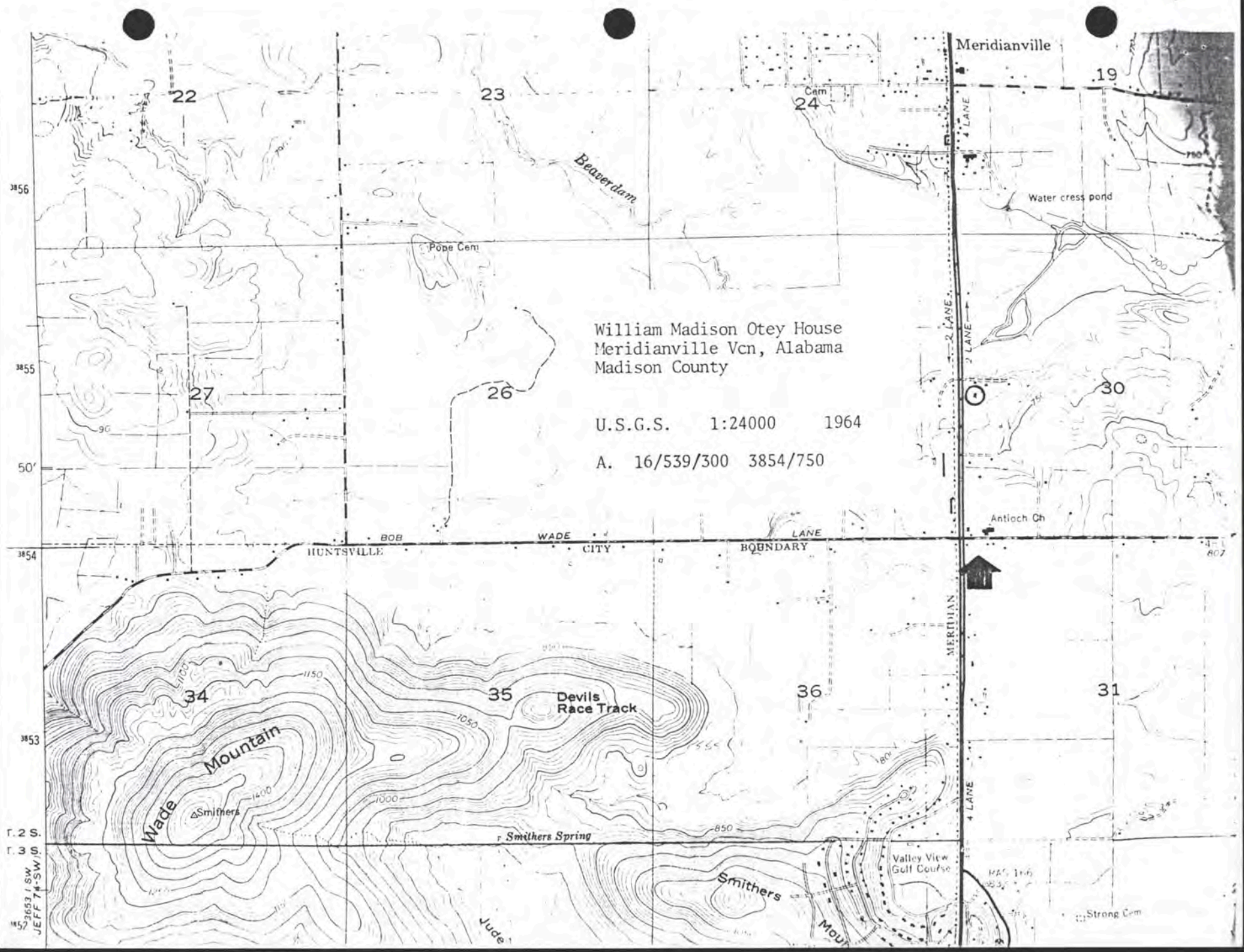
Attest: date

Chief of Registration

GPO 938 835


(2) = CHIMNEY STACKS
(2)
(2)
(2)
SHED ROOF
1-STORY
SHED ROOF OVER REAR PORCH AND NORTH WING
(20TH C.)
BDRM.
HALL
D
BDRM.
C.
C.
FALSE WOOD PARAPET
APPROX. LINE OF ORIGINAL PORCH
N
GREENLAWN

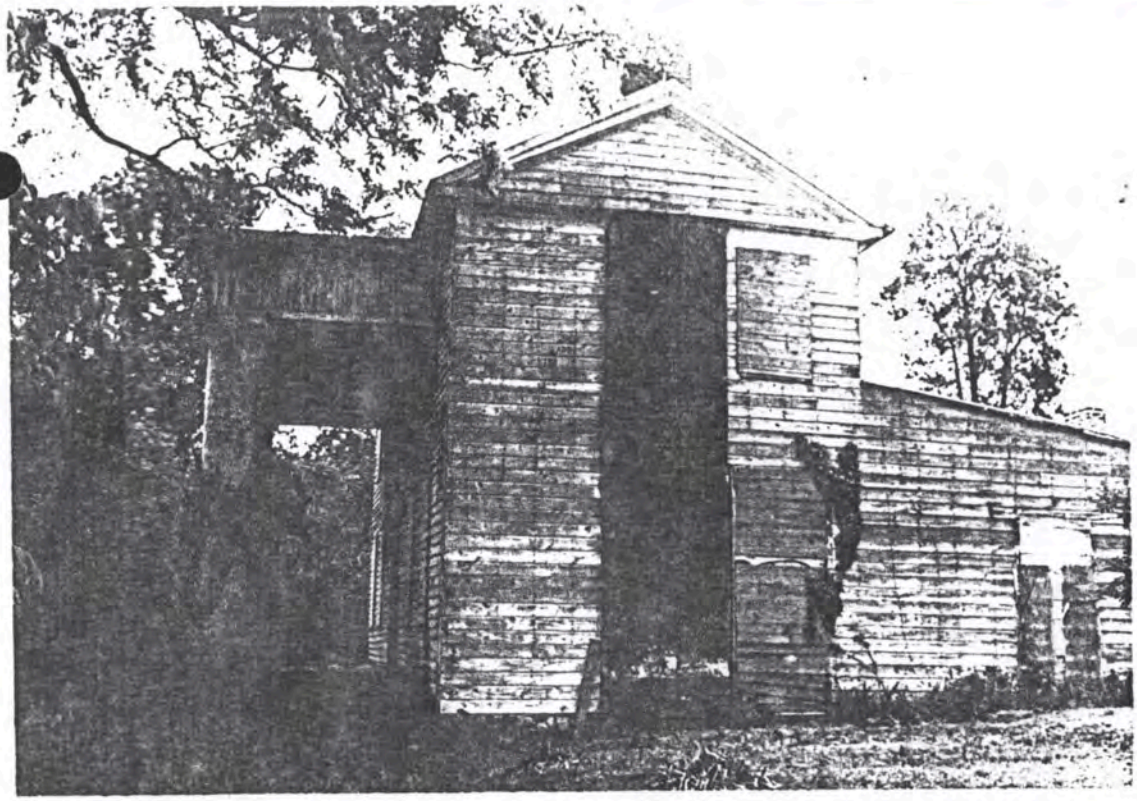

= ORIGINAL PART OF HOUSE
CINDER BLOCK AND FRAME ADDITION (MODERN)
DOOR (RE-HUNG)
C.
CHAMBER
REAR HALL
UP
DINING
PORCH (c. 1930)
CHERRYWOOD RAIL
PASSAGE
FOLDING DOORS
BATH
CLOSET
D
c. 1930
SITE OF KING OF UNDETERMINED DATE
UNSCALED
① = INTERIOR TRANSOM
PORTICO
GREENLAWN (OTEY HOUSE)
APPROX. LINE OF ORIGINAL PORCH
SCALE
0' 4' 8'
1ST FLOOR
N

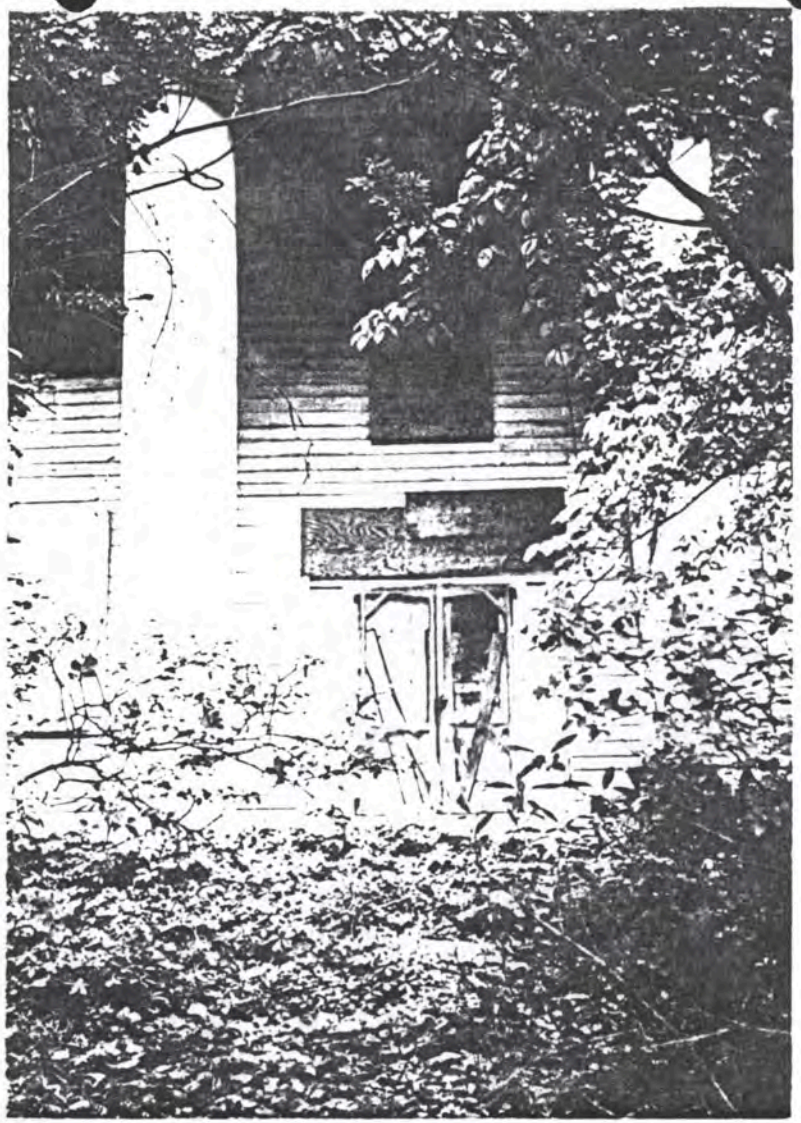


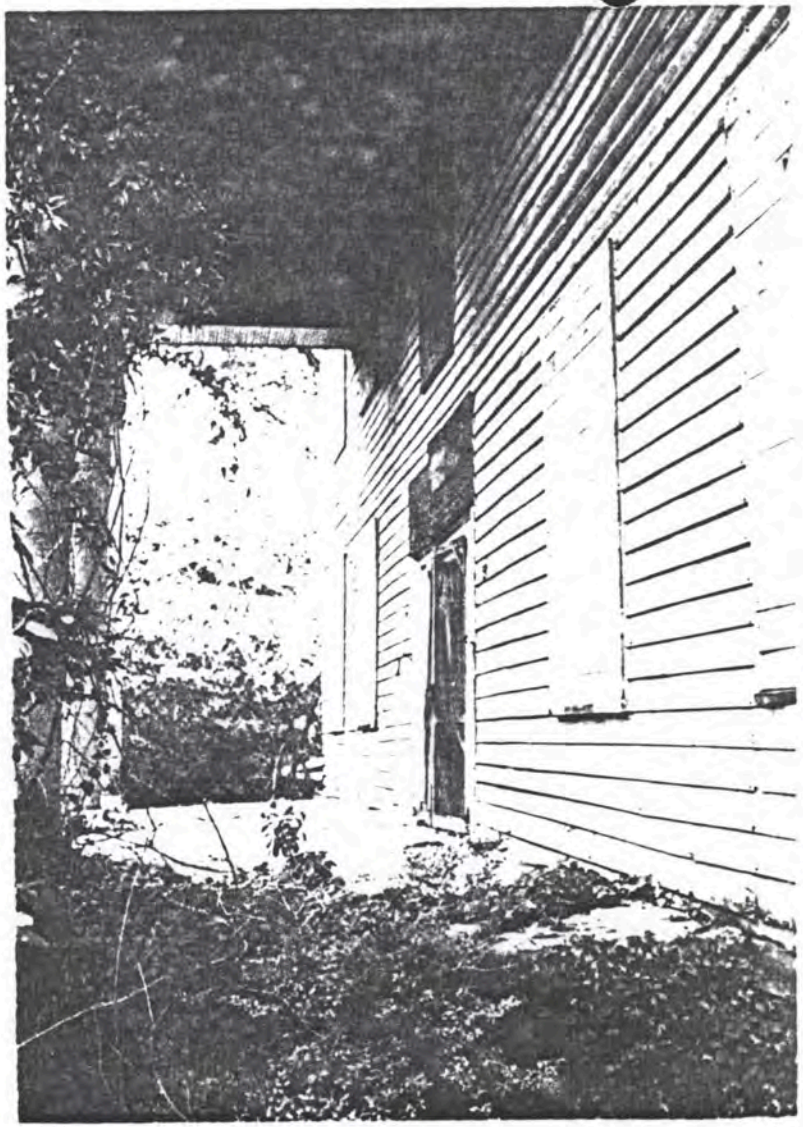
William Madison Otey House
Meridianville Vcn, Alabama
Madison County

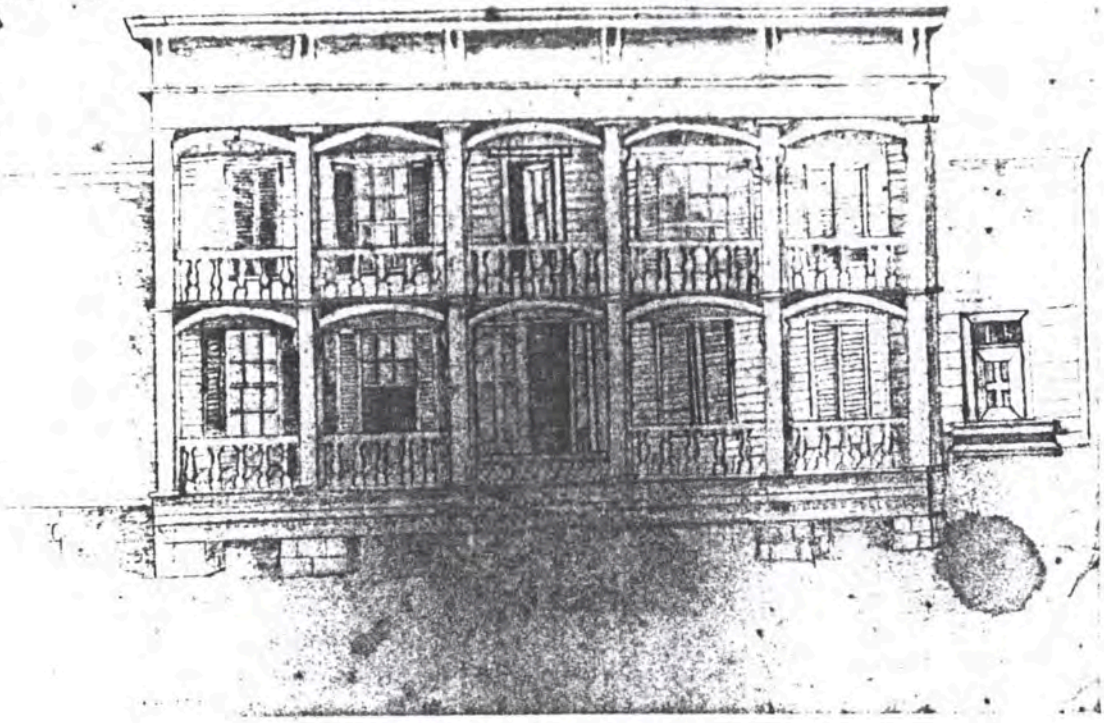
U.S.G.S. 1:24000 1964

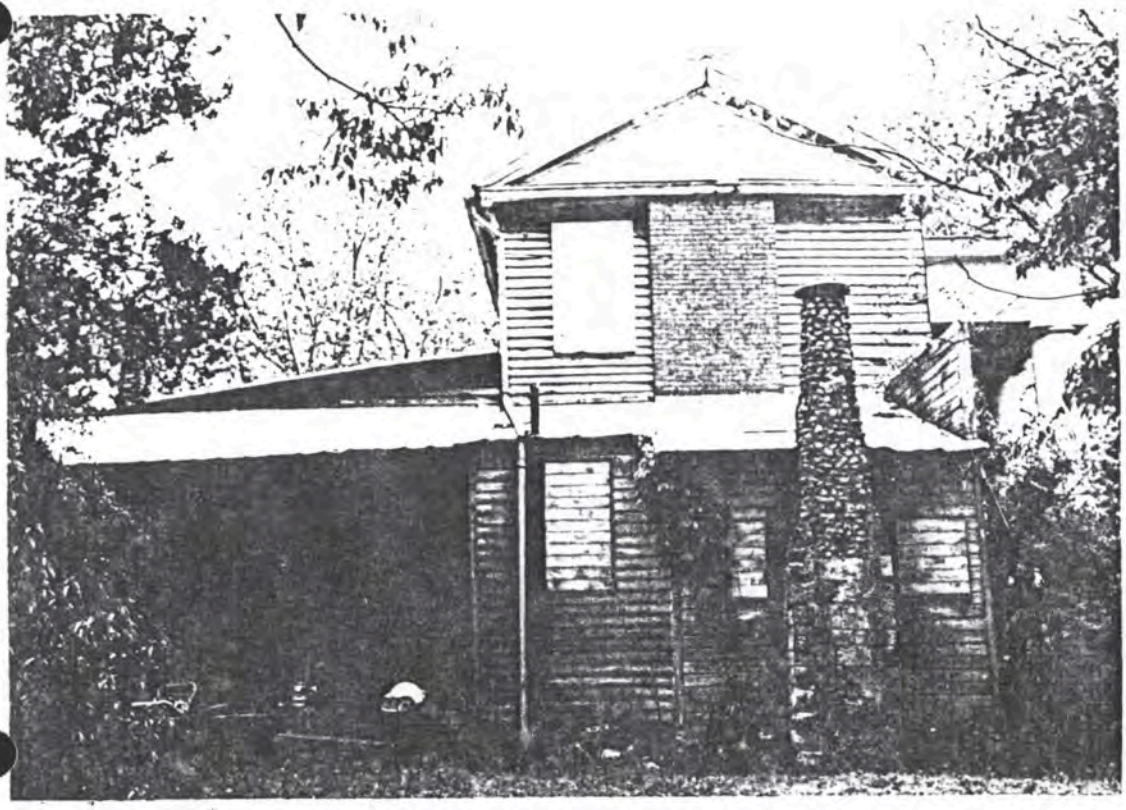
A. 16/539/300 3854/750











STATE OF ALABAMA
MADISON COUNTY

ALL THAT PART OF THE SOUTHWEST QUARTER OF SECTION 30, TOWNSHIP 2 SOUTH, RANGE 1 EAST OF THE HUNTSVILLE MERIDIAN MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA, PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS COMMENCING AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID SECTION 30; THENCE DUE NORTH A DISTANCE OF 2423.83 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE DUE EAST A DISTANCE OF 91.34 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING; SAID POINT OF BEGINNING IS FURTHER DESCRIBED AS BEING ON THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. HIGHWAY #31;

THENCE FROM THE POINT OF BEGINNING NORTH 2 DEGREES 00 MINUTES WEST ALONG THE EAST RIGHT-OF-WAY OF U.S. HIGHWAY #31 A DISTANCE OF 262.10 FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE NORTH 89 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 50 SECONDS EAST A DISTANCE OF 309.96 FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE SOUTH 0 DEGREES 49 MINUTES EAST A DISTANCE OF 272.92 FEET TO A POINT;

THENCE SOUTH 82 DEGREES 30 MINUTES 10 SECONDS WEST A DISTANCE OF 334.82 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING AND CONTAINING 1.78 ACRES.

ACCORDING TO MY SURVEY THIS THE 17TH DAY OF OCTOBER 1974.

BILLY H. SMITH ALA. REG.NO. 9761

SMITH ENGINEERING & LAND SURVEYING CO., INC.
724 MADISON STREET
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

PLOT PLAN FOR MRS. DAVID BROWDER

Fall/Winter 1985-86 Hist. Hv. Qtrly

The Oteys and Green Lawn

by Micky Maroney

Green Lawn was built in 1850 by William Madison Otey for his bride, Octavia Aurelia Wyche, and is still owned by their descendants.

"And I am engaged to be married and to one I do not love ... And he thinks I love him," wrote Octavia Wyche in her diary on the 6th of March, 1849, the day after she had agreed to become the wife of Madison Otey. She continued, "Oh, how perfectly miserable I am."

Sixteen years later, shortly after Madison had died, Octavia again wrote in her diary: "Oh my God, what shall I do, my poor husband is gone ... my heart's constant cry is how can I give him up."

In 1849, eighteen-year-old Octavia had debated for a long time over her reply to Madison's proposal of marriage. At times she felt she did not love him at all. At other times she loved him ardently. There was no question that he loved her, but the difference in their ages bothered her - Madison Otey was thirteen years her senior. Knowing her future happiness depended on her answer, she was distraught at her own indecisiveness.

Octavia Aurelia Wyche was accustomed to living in luxury with her mother and step-father at their plantations in Madison County, Alabama and Yazoo County, Mississippi. Born in 1831 after her parents had moved to Alabama from Brunswick County Virginia, she was the daughter of Mary Ann Rebecca and William Henry Wyche. Her father died in 1836, and a few years later her mother married John Kirkland, also of Alabama and Mississippi.

William Madison Otey, too, had been born in Alabama after his parents had moved from Virginia. He was born in 1818. Like Octavia, he was a small child when his father died, but his mother never married again. At one time, Madison's father had been one of the largest landowners in Madison County, owning a majority of the land between Meridianville and the Flint River.

The Early Generations

Madison's father, William Walter Otey, was the son of John Otey, a colonel during the Revolutionary War. Walter Otey married Mary Lucy Walton of Salem, Virginia in 1800. From their home in Liberty County, Virginia, they moved to Huntsville in early 1817. Walter soon bought a quarter-section of land near Meridianville and set forth clearing the heavily wooded acreage for planting.

With timber cut from his land, Walter built a log dwelling for his family. Located on a gentle rise of land near the narrow lane leading from Huntsville north to Tennessee, the house was typical of the dwellings erected by recently-arrived families. It consisted of only two spacious rooms separated by a large center hall.

Although constructed of white oak logs, the house was finished with plastered walls inside and weatherboards outside. These materials not only refined the appearance of the small home, but added insulation against the cold of winter and the heat of summer.

Often, when plantations prospered, these basic log houses were enlarged or replaced entirely by bigger, more stately homes of brick or clapboard. Perhaps it was Walter Otey's plan to build a larger house someday. But he suffered an untimely death in 1823, a few short years after arriving in Huntsville.

Following the purchase of his first quarter-section of land, Walter remained busy purchasing, clearing, and planting more and more land. His business endeavors included the endorsement of financial notes for various friends needing security for investments.

In 1819 and again in 1820 he co-signed, with other endorsers, two notes for Irby Jones for the purchase of the Huntsville Inn and Bell Tavern. (See **The Historic Huntsville Quarterly,** Spring/Summer/Fall 1984, pp. 13-16.) By early 1821, Jones had failed to make payment on the Bell Tavern note, so the tavern was offered for sale at public auction and Walter Otey was the highest bidder. Unfortunately, he "departed this life without having obtained ... a deed of conveyance" for the tavern. Nevertheless, it was legally his, and an 1823 inventory of its "goods and chattels" is listed along with his other assets in the Probate Court records of Madison County.

Family history has it that Walter's untimely death was caused, at least in part, by an immense financial loss due to his practice of endorsing notes. For a friend named Christian, whom family members to this day cannot identify, he apparently gambled and lost. In order to pay off Christian's note, he was forced to sell 1300 acres of his own land. This loss must have been unbearable because he died soon afterward.

In spite of Christian's note, Walter's estate remained solvent. Much property, real and personal, is listed in the Madison County Probate records. Many debts are also listed. To pay these debts, several properties were sold. Bell Tavern was finally sold after the Alabama General Assembly in December 1823 passed an Act enabling the administrators of the estate to sell the deedless Bell Tavern for payment of debts due from the estate. After all debts were paid, the widowed Mary Otey was left with only 250 acres and the log home, but she apparently took charge of the remaining plantation and managed to provide for her family.

Of the nine Otey children, the four boys received educations at the best universities of the South, and the five girls were properly educated, as well. After they were grown and married, most of the brothers and sisters remained in the area and became prominent citizens of Huntsville.

Stark winter scenery on Otey land.

Madison's eldest brother, John Walter, was the first Probate Judge of Madison County. Before John's marriage to Cynthia N. Smith in 1828, he went into business with Rodah Horton, who had purchased Bell Tavern from the administrators of the Otey estate. A newspaper advertisement in the May 13, 1825 issue of **The Southern Advocate** announced that Bell Tavern was newly opened by Rodah Horton and John Otey. In 1824, Rodah had married the eldest Otey sister, Lucy Ann, and they also owned a plantation near Meridianville.

Two of Madison's older sisters married Robinson brothers. Caroline Louisa Otey and John Robinson were married in 1828, and Mary Frances Otey and James B. Robinson were married in 1831. These two couples also had plantations (Oaklawn and Forestfield, respectively) on the Meridianville Pike north of Huntsville.

Eliza Otey married Paul Hildreth in 1830, and after being widowed, she married a Mr. Dillard. Christopher Otey was married twice, also, first in 1831 to Isabella Emily Smith, and in 1850 to Margaret A. Blackwood, a widow. In 1843, the youngest Otey sister, Maria Melinda, married John W. Pruitt of Meridianville, where he and Madison jointly owned a storehouse and lot (at the time of Madison's death). There is no Madison County marriage record for Armistead Otey, but family history lists him as having married Elizabeth Dosier.

Madison Otey was the

last of the Otey children to say the wedding vows, having devoted many years to helping his mother manage the plantation. As he was growing up, the older brothers no doubt helped with plantation matters, but one by one, they left home to start their own families.

By 1849, Madison was yearning to be wed to Octavia Aurelia, and she was struggling to give him an answer. In September of that year, the wedding took place - she finally did realize that she loved him and that the difference in their ages did not matter. Family lore has it that Madison sent his elegant carriage, shaped like half a goose egg, to fetch Octavia for the wedding. Perched high on a small seat in front of the vehicle was the Negro driver Henry, in command of two fine carriage horses, Jim Black and Jim Brown.

For the first year or so of their marriage, Madison and Octavia lived with his mother in the little log house, and their first child was born there in 1850. During that time, they were planning, then building, a fine large home - one, Madison felt, that would be more suitable for his lovely young wife and their expanding family. By early 1851, they were settled in the newly-finished house. Mary Otey moved there, too, and lived with them until her death, at age 73, later that year.

The House

The new house was built not far from the log home Madison had lived in all his life. As a finishing touch, perhaps added sentimentally, or thriftily, Madison had one room of the old house moved to the rear of the new one to be used as the kitchen. (Kitchens were frequently separate from the main house to spare the occupants the heat and cooking odors and to reduce fire hazards to the house.) At the rear of the house, in addition to the kitchen, was a row of slave cabins built at right angles to the main dwelling. Spreading lawns and gardens were soon planted around the new Otey home, inspiring the plantation's new name, Green Lawn.

The two-story house, five bays across, is strictly Greek Revival in style, both inside and out. Arranged on the center-hall plan, it has two rooms on either side of the partitioned hall downstairs and one room on each side of the hall upstairs. The house was built with expansion in mind. At a future date, two more upstairs bedrooms were to have been added to the rear of the structure but the addition was never built, accounting for the somewhat unusual front-to-back profile of the house. A change made to the roofline of the back portion of the dwelling during the 1930's accentuates its unusual appearance.

Classic Greek Revival details enhance the exterior features of the home - long, wide windows with large panes in the six-over six sashes; a wide entry with double doors having two vertical panels each; sidelights and oblong lights over the doorway; and pediments formed by the box-

The unusual front-to-back profile of Green Lawn is due to a 1930's change in the roofline of the one-story section of the house. Note the gable pediment formed by the box-cornice and the roof edge, and also note the chimney configuration at the gable. The original library, now gone, was located next to the front room where the brick of the chimney appears darker.

cornice traversing the gable ends of the house. The chimney configuration at the gables retains the unbroken line of the pediments. Although the main structure of each chimney is interior, it is obvious only at the attic portion of the gable ends and at the roofline. Between the ground and the box-cornice, the brickwork of the chimneys appears to be exterior, projecting about two inches beyond the weatherboards.

The present Greek Revival portico with four massive columns was built in the 1930's. Each stucco-coated column, two stories high, was made from a huge cedar log cut from the property. Above the columns, the wooden entablature and pediment are simple and unadorned. This imposing portico replaced a two-tier Italianate porch which ran the full length of the house. According to family members, there was yet another portico - the original one - but unfortunately, no one remembers what it looked like. The strict adherence to the Greek Revival style throughout the house would indicate that the original portico could have been Greek Revival, too. Because there is an original exterior door in the upstairs center hall, it is reasonable to conclude that the first porch

had two levels, or at least a balcony.

A smaller one-story porch on the north side of the house appears to be the original entry to a side hall. In the construction of the porch sill, the position of the lap-joint indicates that the porch was an extension of the original north wing - a one-story dressing room off the northwest bedroom on the first floor. In the 1930's, the dressing room was enlarged to contain a small bedroom and bathroom.

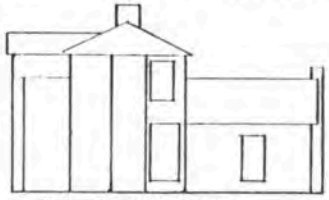
A south wing, also original, was located next to the parlor and was used as a library. This room was removed sometime during the twentieth century.

The present sloping shed-roof atop the east (back) rooms of the house was remodeled when the other changes were made during the 1930's. According to family recollection, low attics were accessible through the second-floor bedrooms, and the roofline had a series of three gables across the back, attached at right angles to the two-story section of the house. Also, when the other changes were made, a cinderblock extension with a deep, sloping shed-roof was added across the rear of the house to contain a kitchen and two other rooms.

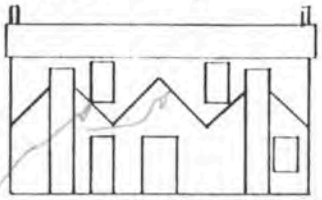
The interior of Green Lawn is dominated by Greek Revival styling, as well, with only one concession to the Federal mode - the use of black paint on the mantels in the two first floor bedrooms, and on the baseboards of all rooms except the parlor and dining room. The six original mantels are Greek Revival in style, as well as the door and window frames and baseboards. All woodwork on the first floor is attractively fluted or grooved, while the upstairs woodwork has flat, smooth surfaces.

All original doors have one or two vertical panels and are fastened by rimlocks. Nearly all doorframes and window frames are topped with corner blocks, the ones downstairs having bullseye centers. The one exception is in the back hall. Architraves are missing entirely from the doorways there, which are delineated only by

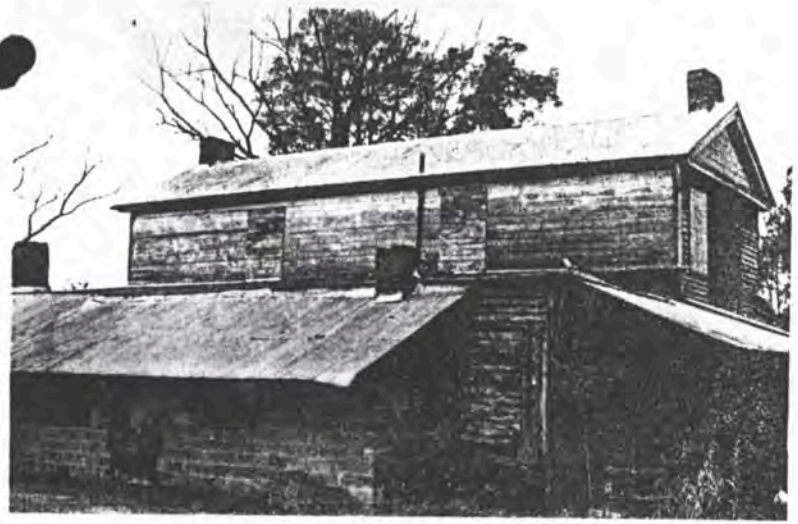
Side and back elevations of the way the house looked when the back roof had three gables rather than the present sloping shed-roof. **Elevations by Micky Maroney.**



SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'

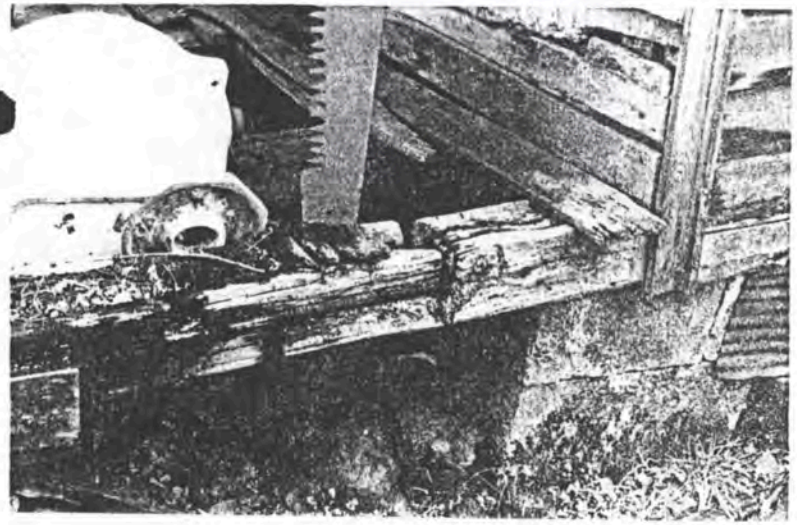


EAST ELEVATION
DIMENSIONS APPROXIMATE

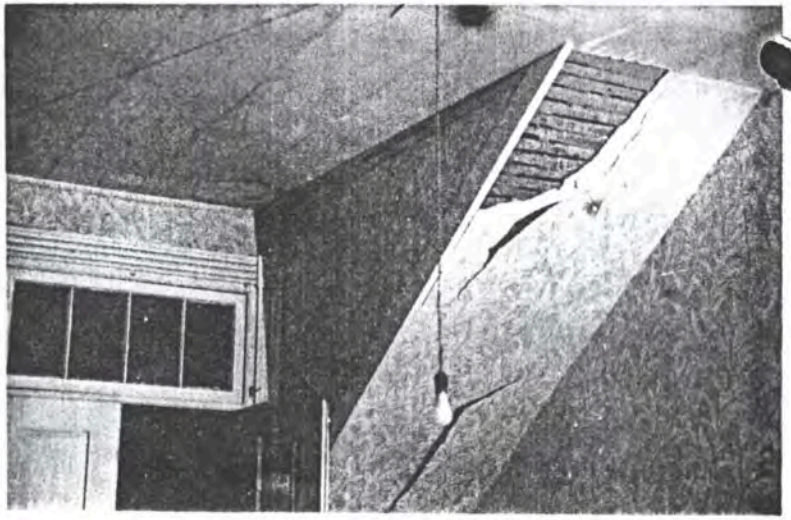


Back view of the house. The porch at right is original, while the cinderblock addition, of course, is not!

Detail of the lap-joint construction of the sill of the side porch.

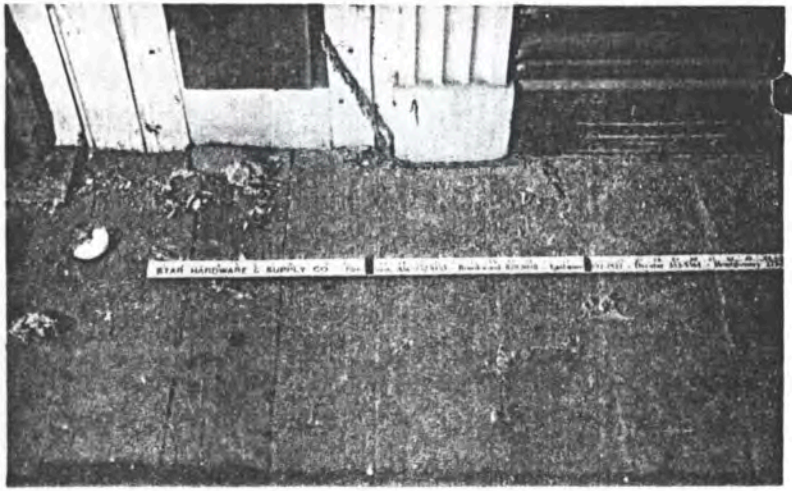


Confirmed by old negatives found in a shed, July 1988. See print in here (photo looks ± 6:12)



Entrance hall. Visible at right is the back of the staircase, which descends into the back hall.

Detail of random-width floorboards, black-painted baseboard, and fluted architrave surrounding the entrance door and sidelights.

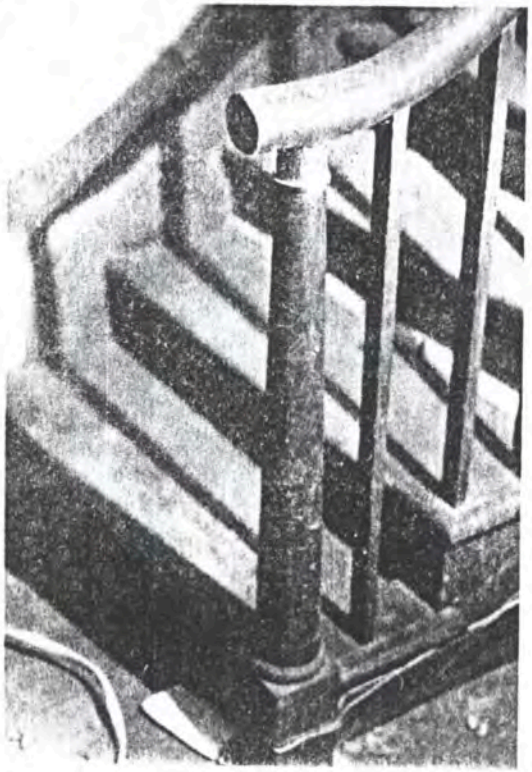


Back hall doorway to entrance hall. Note that there is no wide doorframe; the edge of the jamb serves as an architrave.

he narrow edges of the jambs. Transoms are used above all the principal doors on the first floor. Oddly enough, there are no transoms over the doors upstairs where extra air circulation would have been most welcome in the heat of summer. However, both bedrooms have good cross-ventilation with windows on three walls. The closets, one in every room except the parlor, are original to the house - unusual for 1850, though not unique.

On the first floor, the architraves surrounding the windows extend to the floor, enclosing raised wooden panels under the windows. Second story windows have no panels underneath. Still in place above the parlor windows are the original valances, cast in metal in a floral motif.

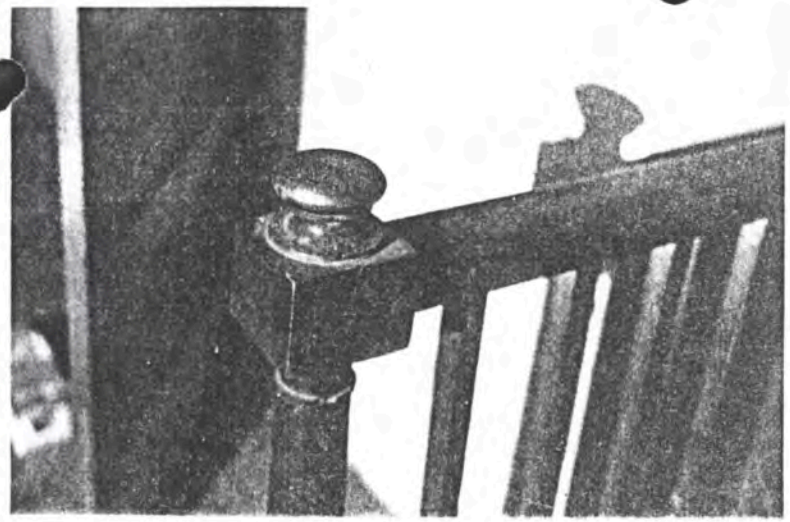
Baseboards downstairs are twelve inches wide and are topped with shaped, grooved moldings, while second floor baseboards are only



Note the abrupt termination of the handrail over the newel post on the first floor.

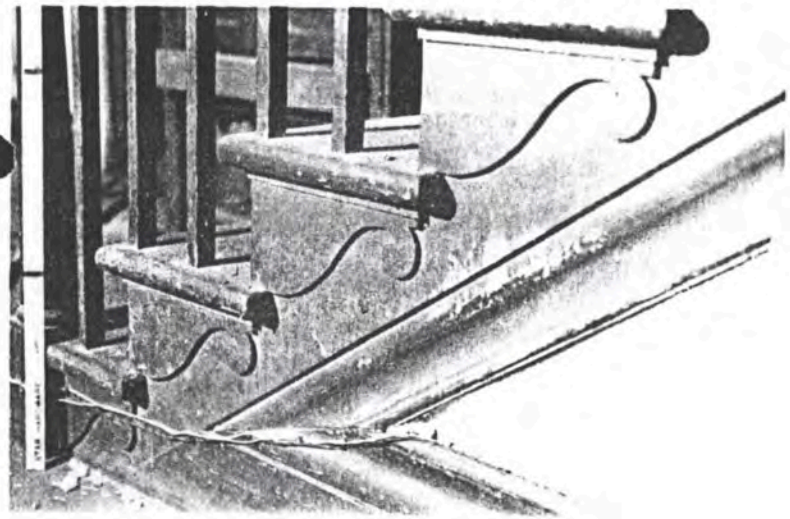
six inches wide and have no moldings or other embellishments. The thick heart of pine floorboards, sawed in wide, random-width planks and planed only on one side, are laid directly over the joists. (The use of subflooring was a later innovation.)

According to family lore, the placement of the staircase in the back hall was due to Madison's penchant for privacy. With this arrangement, family members could come and go, undisturbed by guests in the front rooms. The arrangement was also a practical one, eliminating the need for an angular staircase with a landing. It allowed the stairway to be built in a straight line from the one-story back hall up to



The second floor newel post is topped by a box and knob.

Detail of the decorative scrolls on the stairway.



the second floor center hall. A rounded handrail of cherry wood is supported by simple, square balusters and round newel posts also made of cherry. The handrail is terminated in a rather unusual manner above newel on the first floor - the rail is simply cut off, having no shaped structure atop the post, such as a box, pad, or volute.

The Gardens

The gardens at Green Lawn must have been among the lovliest in the area. Madison, wanting an appropriate setting for his fine new home, employed an English landscape architect to refine and complete his plans for the surrounding gardens. A driveway, laid out slightly to one side of the house, extended to form a circle in front of it. At each side of the expansive lawn, a row of pine trees was planted, then a row of hollies, and next, a row of cedars. Interspersed among the evergreens were walnut and locust trees, the whole arrangement designed to allow passers-by a full view of the house.

Two formal gardens, rimmed by boxwood, were arranged in squares at each end of the house. Within each square were two concentric ovals of boxwood planted three feet apart, providing space for a pathway. In the center of each inner oval, a pink crepe myrtle was planted, surrounded by hyacinths. A double row of tulips circled the hyacinths, and next to the tulips, tall white lilies bordered the boxwood. Rosebushes were planted at each end and at each side of the outer boxwood ovals. In the triangles formed at the corners of the squares, roses and peonies bloomed, edged with white and blue duck lilies and violets. These formal gardens were reached by walkways leading from each end of the front portico. Another walk led from the center of the portico to the horseblock at the edge of the flower-lined drive.

View form the front porch steps, looking north down the partly overgrown carriage lane. At the left are two huge **old boxwood bushes.**

Even today, many of the ancient crepe myrtles, some as tall as trees, still bloom; most of the old trees, planted according to the landscape architect's design, now tower over Green Lawn. But only remnants remain of the formal gardens, with immense, aged boxwood bushes suggesting their former existence.

To complete the fine new house in its park-like setting, Madison and Octavia filled it with fine furnishings which were selected with obvious care. Much of the now-antique furniture of Green Lawn is presently in the possession of Otey descendants.

Letters, Ledgers, and Lists

In addition to the house and furnishings, many family papers have survived to the present. Madison and Octavia saved numerous pieces of correspondence, financial ledgers, diaries, and lists. Family correspondence topics range from accounts of visits and social life to education and cotton planting, plus comments on religion, politics, and hard times.

An 1852 diary of Madison's consists mainly of ploughing and planting records and other items of plantation business. Starting in 1856, Octavia used the blank pages of his out-of-date diary to make lists concerning household details such as meat salted down, china on hand (and broken), china bought, sewing, linens needed, and things to be bought at the stores. Scattered among the lists are various notations on such dissimilar subjects as an unusual dream, invitations issued, a Christmas gift list, and the behavior of a child. For example:

Christmas Gifts - 1856

Imogen - Tea set and doll
Willie Walter - Monkey in a box, candy
Marie Beck - Doll, Little Woolly dog

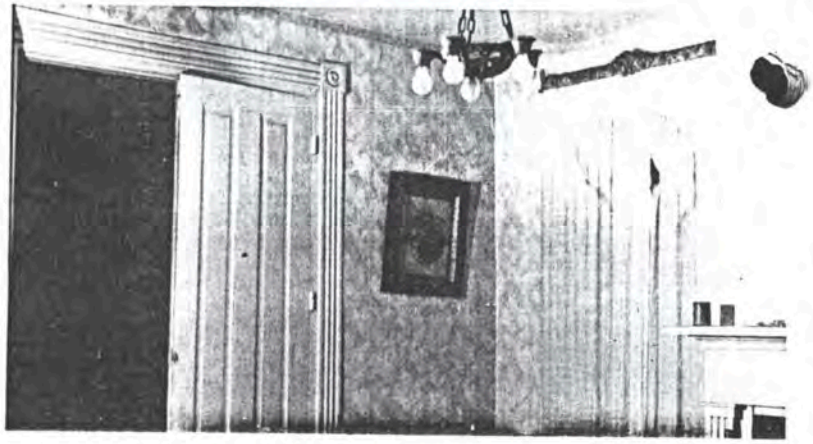
Christmas group list

Almonds, raisins, rice, cheese, Rennet, oysters, white sugar, candies, fruit

Marie Rebecca, the Otey's youngest child at the time, inspired Octavia to pen the following comment in 1857: "Mollie Beck is the worst child I ever had, she has done nothing but cry for the last two months, nearly all night long - She is very good in the day."

Later Generations

In all, six children were born to Octavia and



Drawing room. At left is a wide doorway with triple doors between the drawing room and dining room. At top right is an original drapery valance.

Rimlocks are still in place throughout the house.

Madison. Imogen Wyche was born in 1850 in the little log house. After her marriage in 1884, Imogen moved to Virginia with her husband, William Fields, the owner of a 3,000 acre plantation at Castlewood. Born in 1853 at Green Lawn, William Walter married Sophia M. Robertson in 1887 and they lived near Meridianville. Marie Rebecca, known by several familiar names - Marie Beck, Mollie Beck, Mollie, and Mary - was born in 1855. In 1881 she was married to John M. Hampton of West Point, Mississippi. They moved to the Hampton family's Alabama plantation, Sunnyside, which was located directly across the road from Green Lawn. Madison Wyche, called Matt like his father, was born in 1858. He died of pneumonia when he was only thirteen years old. Laura Elise, called Elise, was born in 1860 and never married. The youngest Otey child, Lucile Horton, was born in 1862, only a few years before her father died. Lucy's marriage to John Beal Walker of Luray, Virginia took place at Green Lawn in 1892.

During the years prior to the War between the States, Madison and Octavia lived a customary plantation life - rearing their children, tending to the household, farming and business matters, and leading an active social life. Guests were always welcome at Green Lawn, and the Otey's hospitality ranged from small gatherings of family members to large Christmas dinners, Open House parties, and even dances. Under Madison's supervision, the plantation prospered enough that he was able to more than double the acreage that had been left to his mother and then to him.

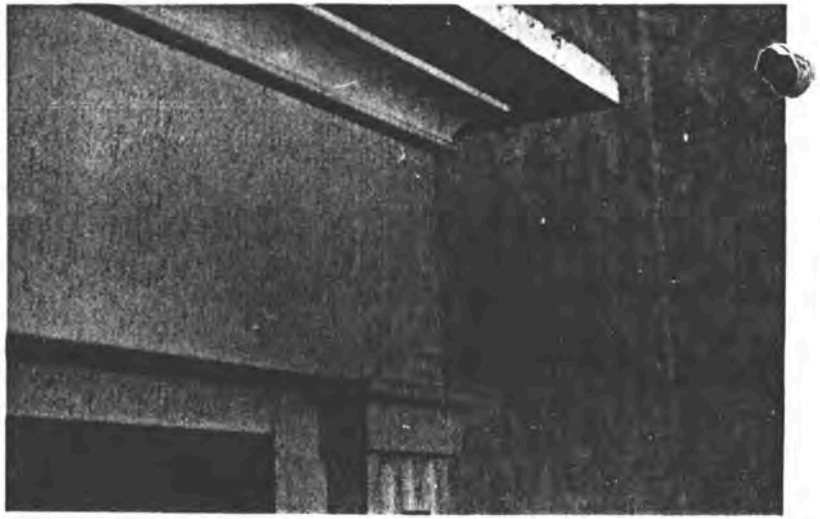
At the time the Civil War started, Madison was suffering from severe carbuncles and was not able to sit a horse. Therefore, according to family legend, his plantation overseer fought in his stead and returned unharmed, "without a scratch." Times were hard during the War and the Oteys were subjected to extensive financial losses, as were many other families. Nevertheless, food from the plantation was given to numerous Confederate soldiers. Although the Yankee soldiers left the family and house unharmed, they did manage to steal forty tons of hay from a field near the house.

In December 1863, Octavia obtained a pass to cross Union Army lines so she could travel to Nashville to purchase supplies. The travel permit was dated "Nashville, Tennessee, the 9th day of December 1863" and stated:

To whom it may Concern:

This may certify, that Mrs. Otey has this day filed in my Office an application and the required affidavit, for purchase of the Family Supplies described in the annexed memorandum countersigned by me, the aggregate value whereof is $16.00 and for transportation thereof by way of Wagon, to the place of residence of Mrs. Otey.

And by virtue of the authority vested in me, I do hereby permit the said Mrs. Otey to pur-



Detail of drawing room mantel.

chase the said supplies at Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, and to transport them from Nashville to __ Home, Madison Co. Ala. __.

This permit will expire and cease to have any force ten days after its date.

The permit was signed by the "Local Special Agent" and the "First Special Agency," whose signatures are, unfortunately, illegible. The attached memorandum was signed in Nashville by merchant John Duff and dated December 18, 1863. The supplies consisted of $15.00 worth of tobacco and $1.00 worth of soap. Perhaps they were to be given as Christmas gifts.

During the war years, Madison had become an invalid and his health continued to decline. He died June 2, 1865, leaving Octavia to cope not only with her terrible grief but also with the dreadful financial losses caused by the war.

At the time of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation, Octavia owned twenty-nine slaves at Green Lawn, plus twenty-five more on her plantation in Yazoo County, Mississippi. These slaves were, of course, given their freedom, but many elected to remain and work for Octavia. In fact, even today, descendants of the Otey slaves, who adopted the Otey name as their own, live and work on or near the original Green Lawn land.

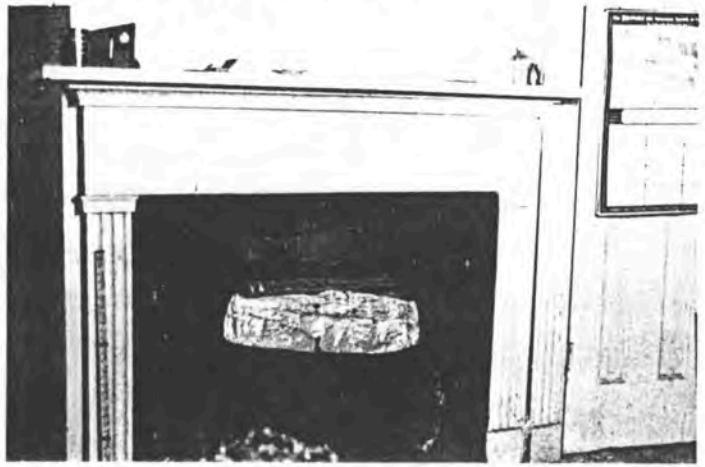
As a young widow of 34, Octavia Aurelia faced harsh realities. The children were still young and the plantations had to be managed. Money was scarce and Madison had died without a will. Not only had she lost her husband, but a way of life, as well.

Probate Court records concerning the estate span eleven years. There was a court-ordered sale of personal property in 1865, but the remaining debts were so large that in April 1868 it was necessary for the court to declare the estate insolvent. Not long after that, to provide for the widow and children, a Decree of Dower was declared, setting aside 287.5 acres for the family's use. Of that allotment, 62.5 acres surrounding the house were designated as a homestead, assuring a permanent residence for the family. In the summer of the same year, there were court-ordered sales of railroad stock and the remaining 232.5 acres of land. During the ensuing years, claims against the estate were gradually settled. The last entry in the Probate Court records for the William Madison Otey Estate was made on October 10, 1876.

In spite of her troubles, Octavia was regarded as being cheerful, amiable, and brave. She managed her affairs effectively and was able to remain at Green Lawn, making sure her children were well-cared for as they were growing up. One of her special pleasures was reading, and she read extensively. She also had a love for the beautiful in nature and in art, being quite artistic, herself.

When Octavia died in 1890, Green Lawn was passed

Greek Revival fireplace mantel in dining room matches the other three mantels on the first floor. At the right of the fireplace is an original closet.



on to Imogen, Elise, and Lucy. Willie Walter and Marie Beck, after each was married, gave to Imogen their respective shares of their inheritance of Green Lawn.

In 1892, Lucy's wedding took place at Green Lawn at "high noon," and among the family papers is a newspaper account of the event: " ... The pretty golden-haired bride was Miss Lucile H. Otey, whose charms of person and character have won and held so many admirers. The groom, Mr. John Beal Walker of Luray, is a typical Virginian, a representative of the charming Valley family of the 'Old Dominion.' ... The bride wore a lovely gown of white bengaline, entraine with flounces and veil of chantilly, and held a bunch of bride roses." The four maids were "gowned in white India silk, made in the fashion of the 2nd Empire, and carried different colored roses. The parlors were wreathed in roses and smilax and lit with waxen tapers in old silver candelabras of Ante Bellum days." After the ceremony, "the guests were ushered into a delicious luncheon served in courses and with jest and smile and laughter closed the pleasant occasion, Mr. and Mrs. Walker leaving on the East bound train for a Summer in the Thousand Islands and the lake region of the Adirondacks."

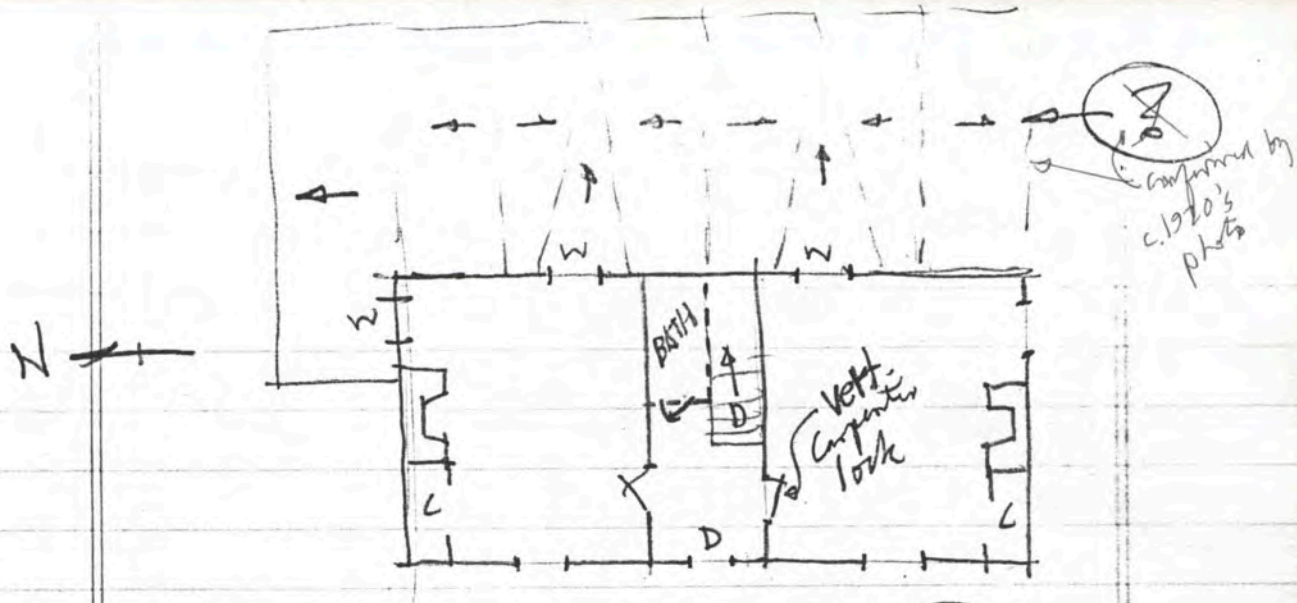
After Lucy's marriage, the house was empty from about 1893 to 1902. When Imogen's husband died in 1913, she returned to live at Green Lawn.

Lucy's daughter Imogen (Mrs. Leslie Cummins) was the next Otey descendant to live at Green Lawn, and she and her family lived there for many years. In later years after her husband's death, Mrs. Cummins found that the large old place was too much to manage by herself, so in 1966 she moved to Tennessee to be near her daughter Leslie (Mrs. David Browder). The house was boarded up to keep prowlers and vandals out, and a caretaker (whose wife is a descendant of Otey slaves) keeps a watchful eye on the old place. His own home is right next door to the Otey house and he is diligent in keeping trespassers off the property.

In 1982 Green Lawn was placed on the National Register of Historic Places. Mrs. Browder is now planning to restore the old family home as time and financial resources allow.

South bedroom upstairs. Note the plain, unfluted woodwork, including the mantel. Between the window and mantel is an original closet.

View of Green Lawn from the back yard.



c.1850
Otey Hse
Meridian Dr.
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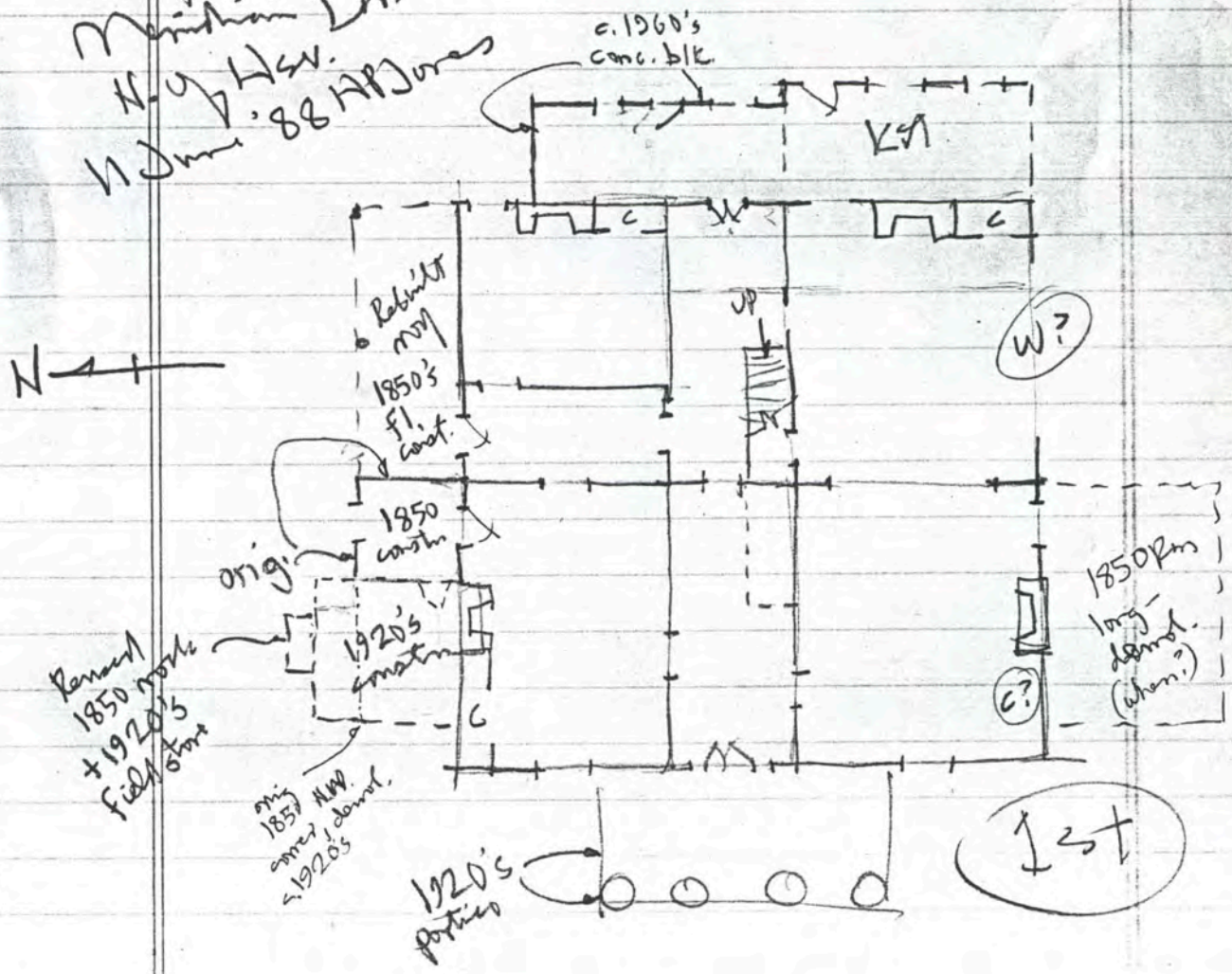
11 June '88 HP Jones



JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

June 13, 1988

Atnip Design and Supply Center, Inc.
200 Industrial Drive
Huntsville, AL 35811

Re: Greenlawn at Cummins Place (1850 Otey House)

Dear Jerry:

Mrs. "Sweetie" Eslick has told me about the local group who used to go to the Otey house to play tennis. They affectionately called it the "Hog Meadow Tennis Club". She said she would write up some notes about it, and the people who frequented it. I'll pass those on when I receive them. I think they could be helpful.

I'm pleased that you have decided to restore this fine 138 year-old house, and I'm sure it will lend instant positive identity to your development. In the future it can become a community center, like Cedarhurst, an office building, or acquire numerous other compatible uses.

You need primarily written and verbal advice from me on the restoration, and on-site observations rather than plans and details. When Robby is ready, I can meet with him at the site and decide on a plan of action. Decision number one is whether you want to take advantage of the Tax Act. If you don't want to wait for advanced approval, we could submit anyhow as work proceeds. There is a good chance the work we are currently talking about would be approved after the fact.

Our work would be on a time and materials basis: $75/hr for my time, $30 for administration time, 15% markup on reproduction. There is no mileage charge since the site is local. I can't accurately predict the total time required, of course, but it should be a fraction of the time needed to

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

do plans and specs on a new building of the same size, based on our past experience with many such restorations. In the case of mechanical, electrical and plumbing I would need to talk with your various engineers before they do their layouts and then review the layouts to help them avoid messing up the house by placing devices where they shouldn't be, etc.

Before we get into extensive work, we need Robby's "as-is" plans and elevations (at 1/4 inch/foot). My photos should be ready by 20 June. I will be out of town June 27 - July 1.

We look forward to helping you and Robby. Let us know when you are ready to get started.

Respectfully,

Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A.
HPJ/jm

Copies: Harvie Jones File

115 E. Mikado Dr.
Colorado Springs, CO
80919

Aug. 12, 1988

Dear Mr. Atnip:

I hope these notes on Greenland & the gardens are not too late to be of some use. It took me awhile to find them. If I find anything else I think would be of interest, I'll be glad to send it along.

These notes I took from an oral description by my grandmother & are quite random. I hope they make sense.

I have old photos of Greenland that I would be happy to copy for you, if you desire.

Sincerely,
Lucy Callimore

Notes on Greenlawn

Kitchen in the back - 30' sq. log house w/ large fireplace + chimney of rocks on south side - It sat slightly south of the corncrib.

Smokehouse - north of kitchen on same line as kitchen with 30'-40' between.

The reason the staircase is in the back hall is because Matt (Madison Otey's mother) didn't want it in front because would have to bring the "slops" (slopjars) down through the front, otherwise.

Concrete porch in front - 30' of rock inside. Cedar tree in center of each column that reaches full length. Construction in 1902. Clematis + jasmine climbed the left columns, as you face house.

1902 conflicts w/ early 20th c. photo (per woman's clothes) that show no cols. N Jones Sept. 1992

Gardens

Octavia Aurelia Wyche had formal gardens on either side of the house put in by an English landscape gardener named Mr. Eshman (?). Also the large trees in front -

There were 30' boxwood ovals (boxwood over 200 yrs. old now imported from England. These are the boxwood that now go across the front of the house.

Box wood in ovals kept clipped to 1' height. Had crape myrtle in center. Easter lilies bordered inside of oval, along w/ other lilies. Clumps of irises, peonies, spring bulbs like hyacinths, snowdrops & daffodils — no tulips.

Gravel walkway around box wood on other side of the lilies. Also paths to the ovals made square sections planted w/ flowers too.

On the west side of the walk was grass & a pit to "winter over" some of the plants.

Original House - Built 1850 by Madison Otey. When they built the house, the dining room was originally to be on the north side & bedroom on south for warmth & sun in winter. But Mrs. Otey (Matt), Madison's mother, wanted to have her bedroom face north so she could look out where the original log cabin had stood. (the little bedroom on the NE corner of the house). The dressing room of the master bedroom downstairs is now the bath. Matt took feet off the room & had the little hall put in so she wouldn't have to listen to children crying in the master bedroom. Her room originally opened onto the back hall. The room behind the bath was built for Laura Elise Otey.

A library originally was a room adjoining the parlor (Door to left of parlor chimney).

For 10 yrs. (circa 1890-1902), no one lived in the house after Octavia Amelia died.

Lumber of the house was grown on the place - planks in floor split trees w/ bark on underside. Put down w/ hand-forged nails.

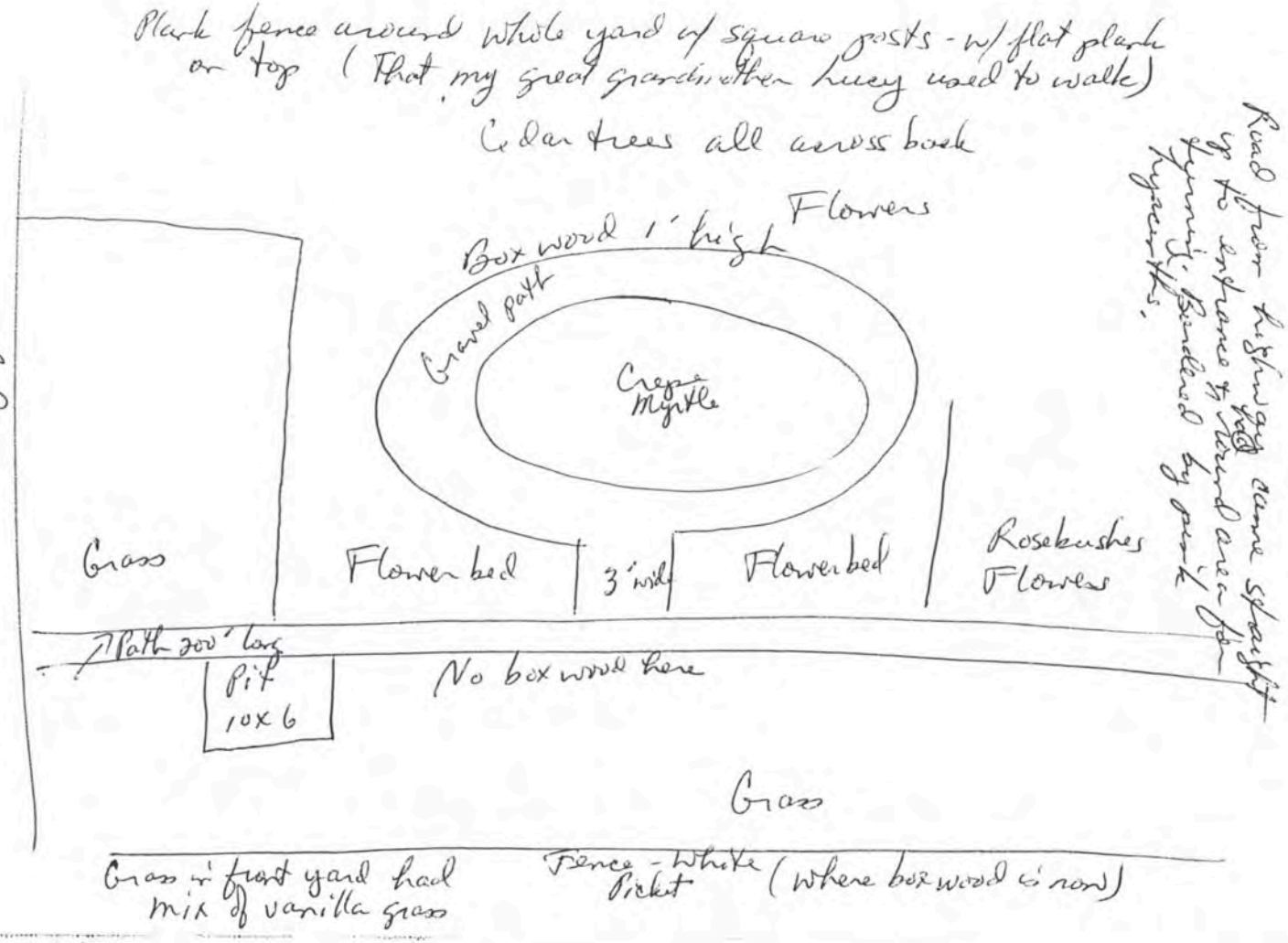
Originally, both sides of the house were balanced; but the library with + the little bedroom by the bath was added.

Front originally had stoop w/ roof over it. Then a long double porch built to length of house - 52' w/ square columns + wooden arches on both levels between columns.

House was 40' East to West w/o wings

no = sawn
HJ Sept '92
no - machine made "cut" nails.

Formal Plan - not drawn to scale & strictly from oral description



Road from highway came straight up to entrance & round area for turning. Bordered by pink hyacinths.

Re- "HOG MEADOW TENNIS CLUB", 1[illegible]6 AT OTEY ASE, 1850 "GREENLAWN" S. OF MERIDIAN, AL "CUMMINS PLACE"

Cecil Fain QUOTES...

c.1990

/1441 mays Cecil Fain quotes 021.9 IN 04/27 09:43

There was a big spring that had some of the best water you ever drank.=
Had a little, what we would call a crib in South Alabama, a little farm house and we made that as a clubhouse. We had running water from the spring, and a refrigerator. He even had a little place upstairs with a bed in it.=
About half our members really weren't tennis players, but they just enjoyed coming out there. We had barbecues and dances and that sort of thing.=
If we'd make a trip to Birmingham or Nashville or whatever, the wives and sweethearts would go with us. We'd go to the nightclubs the night before and then go out and play tennis the next day.=
We had a good team.=
A lot of people in those days played in the long white duck pants. About half the people still played in them. Of course, Milton did, because he had a peg leg. He had some of the prettiest strokes you ever saw and he could cover the court pretty well.=

(Leslie Cummins) was with the health department.=

Two courts up on Randolph.=

He could build tennis courts ... just had a natural talent for building tennis courts. Courts were not lighted.=
Basil Adams, an Englishman who worked for the Alabama Power Company here for years, is the one who named it the Hog Meadow Tennis Club. The courts were enclosed by poultry wire and outside all around those courts there were cattle grazing, pigs were rooting and we had to go by a big sty to get to the tennis courts.=

MADE IT SO SPECIAL=
We had such good times out there. Most all those fellows out there later on joined country clubs, but they'd all tell you today _ those who are still living _ that the most wonderful pleasure they had in their lives were at the Hog Meadow Tennis Club.=

MEMBERS=
Sen. Sparkman _ I had a picture of him once, watering down the courts in his shorts. He was just a fair player.=
Bill Popejoy (Board of Education)=
Virgil Upton (assistant postmaster)=
Basil Adams (power company)=
Paul Anderson (city recreation)=
Jeff Darwin (farmer0=
Bill Cummins and Milton Cummins (cotton)=
Jean Mason (Alabama state singles champion four straight years)=
Hubert Williams (photographer here)=
Junior and T.T. Lanier (insurance)=

Sometimes, being a school teacher, I could get off in the afternoon. Milton would come by and pick me up about 1 or 1:30 and we'd go out and play. The crowd would start coming in around 4, 4:30 or 5.=
Never forget one time, Milton Cummings, Jeff Darwin, Bill Popejoy and I were playing and Bill always told us he had important appointments. One day he said, 'Boys, I've got an important meeting at 5 o'clock,' and we were hoping a fourth man would come up, but one never did. So Milton slipped over there and set his watch back two hours. So we got to play about an hour and a half longer than we would have. When Bill found out what we had done, but you should've seen how mad he got...=

It was mostly tennis, but the social atmosphere had a lot to do with. A lot of people who showed up out there the most never even played tennis.=
(No dues) If we needed some money, we'd just pass the hat.=
We'd put planks out in front so we could have dances and barbecues and that sort of thing. It was the place to go because it was so restful and so relaxing. Had special things about once a week. Go out on trip and have parties.=

She was a fine woman, but she didn't care too much about tennis. She was a fine woman, a sweet woman, but she was more interested in maintaining the grounds and the history of the place.=

Some of the fellows began to think they were too old and they quit playing tennis and started joining the Huntsville country clubs.=
I don't, not exactly, maybe in the 1950s.=
Get out there about 1 or 2 o'clock afternoon. We'd challenge one another, play singles, doubles, mixed doubles. Some days we'd play all day long.=
I think everyone who played out there or belonged out there ... looks back on those days at Hog Meadow Tennis Club as the happiest days of their lives.=
Bill Popejoy was treasurer _ kept up with the money matters. I have a feeling that Milton, being a multi-millionaire, paid most of the expenses.=

CECIL FAIN – HOG MEADOW TENNIS CLUB

"Cummins" quotes... c.1990

2072

/1430 mays Otey Plantation quotes 018.5 IN 04/26 16:05

JOHN CUMMINS=

73 years old.=

It was pretty frugal for one thing. We never had very much money, but we always enjoyed life and had plenty to eat and had clothes to wear.= We started out with one tennis court, my dad and I built. It got so popular that we didn't [illegible] too much of a chance to play, so we built a second one and when that got filled up and we built a third one. We had three tennis courts out there that they eventually called Hog Meadow.= Courts built ... I must've been about 12 or 14 years old, so it would've been around 1927, 28, that neighborhood.=

We were pretty well acquainted with Bill and Milton Cummings and they came out to play all the time. I guess they brought people out with them. People from Alabama Power Company came out with them. People from all over the county came out and played.= After I left that area they had a team that went all around North Alabama and played.=

I did a lot of hunting and fishing on the place.= Rabbits and squirrels. Raised primarily cotton but also had corn and wheat.=

Madison was in fairly poor health most of the time. I used to hear the old story all the time about when the Yankees came through there burning all the old houses in the county that he was real sick in bed and my great grandmother talked them out of doing anything to the house, so they left it standing, and it was one of the few that was left standing in the county.=

Bill Cummings, Earl Ford Sr. (lawyer) and Earl Ford Jr., Cecil Fain, Milton Cummings did real well for having just one leg.=

Just old Alabama red clay soil and we rolled in a lot of the ground up limestone to give it a harder surface than just a regular clay court. We did all the lining and striping and everything.=

250 Bolero Ridge=
Escondido, California 92026=

MRS. CUMMINS= c.1990
celebrated 96th birthday April 27...=

Born in a canopy bed in that house _ it was the same bed my mother was born in. My grandmother was an heiress, you know. She had a lot of property in Mississippi and owned 200 slaves.= They didn't have hardly anything left by the time Momma came along. They lost it all in the Civil War.= When I was 9 years old we came back from Washington because my Momma thought I ought to go to school.= We used to play hide and seek at night. I was an only child, but I had lots of cousins _ the Hamptons _ who used to live across the street. We'd hide behind all the big old trees.= I never was much of a game-player. I liked to read. My favorite game was "Authors." I don't know whether the kids still play that or not.=

JOHN CUMMINGS=
It was in a way, but on the other hand none of the family was getting any use out of it. It had been sitting there all boarded up for more than 20 years and it had been broken into several times. My sister _ before she died two years ago _ had these grandiose plans of fixing the place up again, but she never really had the resources to do it.= re the Otey House

Used to catch lightning bugs and June bugs.= We used to play ball in a creek bottom, but it was on the Hamptons' property.=

TENNIS COURTS=
He just did it for the benefit of the kids _ my sister and me, although my sister didn't play much.=

stairs were from the rear hall, giving people upstairs privacy from guests entering

fireplaces, mantels + door + window trim fluted [illegible] facing

large room, [illegible] high ceilings, hard-pine floors

March 22, 1970 — TENNIS — Huntsville Times

Cecil Fain, Hog Meadow Pioneer, Guru for Many

By KATHY DEATON
For The Times

Cecil Fain is one of the greatest personalities I have ever met.

A pioneer of tennis in Madison County, Fain has been many things to many people.

To the students, Fain was an outstanding principal.

To the athlete, Fain was their coach (coached the first football team at Bradley school and also at Rison, and was known to the players as the "scrimmaging coach").

To Alverson-Draughon Business College, Fain is their Director of School Relations.

To me, and many other tennis players in Huntsville, Fain is known as "Mr. Tennis".

After being principal and coach in many of the local schools, and playing baseball, basketball and football, Fain, during the course of a bridge game one evening about 45 years ago, decided he was "going to seed" after laying off athletics for about a year. Virgil Uptain suggested to Cecil that he try tennis.

The first year Fain claims he was just "keeping fit." The second year, the "bug bit," and the third year of his tennis career Cecil made the Huntsville Tennis Team.

KATHY DEATON

From then on, the stage was set: tennis courts, competition, and the beginning of the fabled "Hog Meadow Tennis Club" which Fain feels gave him "the most enjoyable memories of my life."

Fain recounts the history of the Hog Meadow Tennis Club, which perhaps was the most unique tennis club in the world, like this:

"The Hog Meadow Tennis Club was quite unique. We never lost a match in over 15 years. This club was the brain-child of Leslie Cummins, who built two of the finest clay courts in the state of Alabama on his plantation, at Meridianville.

"Located in a meadow, surrounded by grazing hogs and cattle, the club, a member of the American Lawn Tennis Association, was aptly named the Hog Meadow Tennis Club by Basil Adams.

"Our clubhouse, a small, converted farm building, contained a shower, refrigerator, and other rustic conveniences. Oh yes, we had water pipes leading from a spring. Leslie Cummins did most of the work, although he occasionally "roped" some of us in. We made movies! You should see Senator Sparkman clad only in tennis shorts watering down the courts!

"We had about 50 members—men and women—about half of whom played very little tennis. Those wonderful social affairs—barbeques, bridge, dominoes, dances! When we went out of town for a match, the whole gang would often go along. A combination of family, fellowship, and sport. Since then, most of our members have joined various country clubs but all are unanimous in saying their happiest hours were spent at Hog Meadow Tennis Club!

"We brought outstanding tennis players of national renown to Hog Meadow. They all agreed that Hog Meadow was the most! One man, Phil Harmon, who had played at Forrest Hills, Wimbledon, and in Australia, said he had never seen anything like it. We paid his expenses on the first trip, but he returned several times at his own expense.

"Many members of the Hog Meadow Club finally left tennis and took up golf. Then came the era of the Big Spring Tennis Courts, and the Huntsville Tennis Club. We helped organize the State League and out teams have won outstanding honors.

"About five years ago, tennis for everybody became a reality with the highly efficient Huntsville Industrial Tennis League (HITL) when fellows like George Buckle started it off.

"I had the privilege of being the speaker at their first banquet and at their banquet last fall. On both occasions, I challenged them to sponsor development of

CECIL FAIN
... Meadow Memory

tennis in our schools. The have responded. Boards education and other organiz tions are cooperating.

"Every student can pla tennis! Tennis and swim ming are recreational spor that can be enjoyed for lifetime. Let us support HIT in this great project. Wi the cooperation of us all, m dream of seeing tennis activ ly sponsored in all the school will come true.

"On my travels represen ing Alverson-Draughon Co lege (a member of HITL I am thrilled to see tenni courts being built on hig school campuses in Tennesse and Alabama."

Everytime I pass by Bi Spring Park, or I see a te nis player with that eve present bag of paraphern lia one carries onto the court and I smell cigar smoke, can remember the times used to try my hardest, a unsuccessfully, to win a fe games off this great con petitor, "Mr. Tennis," Cec Fain.

in one of the Players:
Milton + Vastus Cummings
Cecil Fain.
W. E. Popejoy
Jeff Dalton.
Julia Bowen
Virgil Uptain -
Gordon Warden -
Bill Cummings
Paul Anderson,
Leslie Cummens -
Sweetie Moon Eslick
Basil + Louise Adams

and shutters.

One of the few antebellum homes in North Alabama which is still in the same family, the McCrary-Thomas home is enhanced by much of the original furniture, including many plantation-made pieces.

It is also noteworthy as one of the few country houses still to be found in the area. While Madison County was founded and entirely dependent on an agrarian economy, there were only a few landowners who built enduring brick houses in the county. Most of the wealthy planters built their homes in Huntsville, the county seat.

Green Lawn Plantation

Meridianville

Located a mile south of Meridianville on Highway 231-431 North, Green Lawn now stands as the focal point of the new Green Lawn Plantation subdivision. In 1850 when it was built by Madison Otey for his bride Octavia Wyche, Green Lawn was situated on a country lane which was the main road from Huntsville to Nashville.

The Otey's home served as the core of their cotton plantation of several hundred acres which Mr. Otey had inherited from his parents. Six children were born to the Oteys at Green Lawn. Mr. and Mrs. Otey lived at Green Lawn all their lives. Unfortunately, Madison died at the age of 47 in 1865. Octavia remained there until her death in 1890.

The house that Madison built for Octavia was constructed on the center hall plan and was built with future upstairs expansion in mind. Unfortunately, Madison's ensuing poor health and financial misfortunes caused by the Civil War prevented the construction of the planned addition, giving the house its unusual front-to-back profile of two stories in front, one story in back.

The gardens at Green Lawn must have been among the loveliest in the area. Mr. Otey hired an English landscape architect to beautify the grounds, including two formal gardens on the north and south sides of the house. Carefully placed holly, pine, cedar, walnut and locust trees, crepe myrtles and boxwood enhanced the spreading lawns around the home, inspiring its name.

For over fifty years the house has been dominated by a two-story Greek Revival portico which was built by Otey descendants in the 1930's.

During the 1930's remodeling, the library wing was removed and a triple-gabled roof over the one-story back rooms was changed to a nearly flat roof. The dressing room wing and side porch were removed in the late 1980's during renovation by new owners.

An unusual feature of the house is the result of Mr. Otey's penchant for privacy. The cherrywood staircase ascends straight up from the back hall downstairs to the center hall upstairs. With this arrangement, family members could come and go undisturbed by guests in the front rooms. Also

grant will be used to improve "critical needs" academic programs thrcugh curriculum design and equipment acquisition; instruction through video interactive teaching and learning; and for equipment for strengthening administrative management.

Calhoun, with more than 8,200 students, is the junior college for Madison, Limestone, Morgan and Lawrence counties. A majority of the students are Madison County residents.

Hollytree fire destroys store

HOLLYTREE — An early morning fire Saturday destroyed the community's only grocery store.

Volunteer fire departments from Woodville, Gurley, Paint Rock and Princeton fought the fire for about two hours, said Jimmy Sisk.

The fire also destroyed store owner William Lammons' residence, which was attached to the building, Sisk said.

Two people die in crashes

At least two people have died in weekend traffic accidents in Alabama, state troopers said.

A head-on crash in Winston County killed one man Saturday morning. Troopers said Dean McCauley, 57, of Double Springs died in the wreck on Alabama 195 about five miles south of his hometown. He wasn't wearing his seat belt.

In Franklin County, authorities said Rodney Layne Renfroe, 22, of Red Bay died when his four-wheel all-terrain vehicle hit a county road at about 1 a.m. Saturday. He wasn't wearing a helmet, troopers said.

From Staff and Wire Reports

MONTGOMERY — The last time a grand jury met to consider his ethics case, Gov. Guy Hunt stayed home in Holly Pond, out of the public eye. Things will be very different this week as the panel resumes work.

Instead of being cloistered at his farm in Cullman County, Hunt has several public appearances scheduled — including a lengthy, live television interview the same day the grand jury returns.

Hunt is scheduled to appear Wednesday night on Alabama Public Television's "For The Record" show. Earlier that day, grand jurors are set to resume their consideration of Hunt's moneymaking preaching flights on state airplanes.

Also scheduled for Wednesday is a court hearing for Hilda Teague, the Cullman County woman whom administration spokesman Terry Abbott has accused of trying to lure him into a cocaine deal.

APTV news director Joe Terry said Saturday he had tried to get Hunt on the 30-minute program back during the legislative session, but the scheduling couldn't be worked out with Hunt's press office.

"We pretty much issued a standing invitation and talked to Terry," Terry said. "Terry called back and asked about that date."

Terry said he was somewhat surprised when Abbott suggested July

Stuart Siniard/Huntsville Times

'No sale' on mansion

A Saturday auction at the Otey mansion resulted in a "no sale" for local owner Atnip Design and Supply Center Inc. There was a single bid of $90,000 for the mansion, which was constructed in 1850. Auctioneer Pete Horton said the property alone is worth more than the bid.

July 12 '92 Hv. Times

Interior not restored

George Heacham bought in 1992 & continued the restoration in a good manner

...ntsville Times, Sunday, July 12, 1992 B11

project 92135

Completion of restoration by
George (Buzz) Heeschen & family (J&H Arch. HJ)
for antiques shop / res. for his son Matthew & wife

George Heeschen - 3606 Hutchens Av. 35801
Off - 730-7510

Did good job overall, much of
the labor themselves. HJ, Jan. 94

Eric Schultz/Huntsville Times

Making plans for the Historic Huntsville Foundation's annual membership tea at Greenlawn on Dec. 11 are, from left, Rachel Heeschen, Mary Alice Coulter and Carol Harless.

Historic Foundation plans membership tea

Stocked with period furnishings, Greenlawn offers a glimpse of mid-19th century life on a Madison County plantation. Built in 1850 for his bride, Octavia, William Madison Otey's house still stands on a hill just north of Huntsville. Guests for the Historic Huntsville Foundation's annual membership tea are being asked to visit from 2 to 4 p.m. on Dec. 11 in this restored home in Meridianville listed on the National Register of Historic Places. A fascination with antebellum history kindled Peg and **George Heeschen's** interest in Greenlawn. They are the present owners and restorers along with their son and daughter-in-law, **Matthew and Rachel Heeschen,** who reside on the second floor. Peg and Rachel operate Greenlawn Interiors Antiques and Gifts occupying the first floor.

The Heeschens have tried to preserve the integrity of the house and grounds in returning it to its 19th century roots by replacing the three gables at the back, scrubbing the "heart of pine" floors with lye (no sanding, ever) and removing a 1920s bathroom from the upstairs hall, hiring a blacksmith to replace missing door hardware and copying the original wallpaper from fragments found in restoration.

The Greek Revival Portico with four large columns built around large cedar logs from the property replaced the original Italianate porch around 1920. About that time the owners also built the Hog Meadow Tennis Club at the rear where local notables came regularly to play on the courts. It has been brought back by the Heeschens. Otey descendents owned the house until 1987. It was left vacant for more than 20 years.

Another historical note is the Otey family cemetery, with graves dating back to 1823, located next to the drive leading to the house.

Invitations are going out. Call 539-3928 or 536-3695 if you are interested in receiving an invitation.

Taking Note

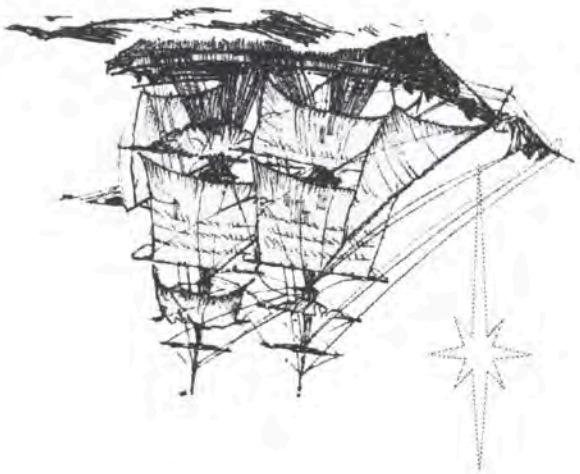
Margaret Lindberg
Society Columnist

Holiday tea

The Christmas Tea put on the first week by the Huntsville Museum of Art Women's Guild is a glittering symbol that begins the season in Huntsville. The date, time and place is Dec. 5 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the museum.

Pam Fleming is in the process of creating a Greek-inspired tablescape for the party as another way to illuminate the season. Tea chairman **Phyllis Lively** and her co-chairman **Wanda Cobb** promise delicious libations, spirited and not. Invitations are out.

...argaret Lindberg's column ap... Sundays, Tuesdays, Wednes... and Fridays in Life. Her office ...ber is 532-4440.



I must go down t
And all I ask is a

'When they had h
they saw in the e
the young child w

'Whun they saw

B. Barnowsky
1903 Robbins Drive
Camden, SC 29020

Otey Family Descendants

Matthew Chapt 2, v 9 & 10

Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

Thanks ever so much for the Greenlawn historical literature and the excellent photographs. Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season.

Warm Regards Bob Barnowsky.

Lynn Tutwiler Aug 13 '96

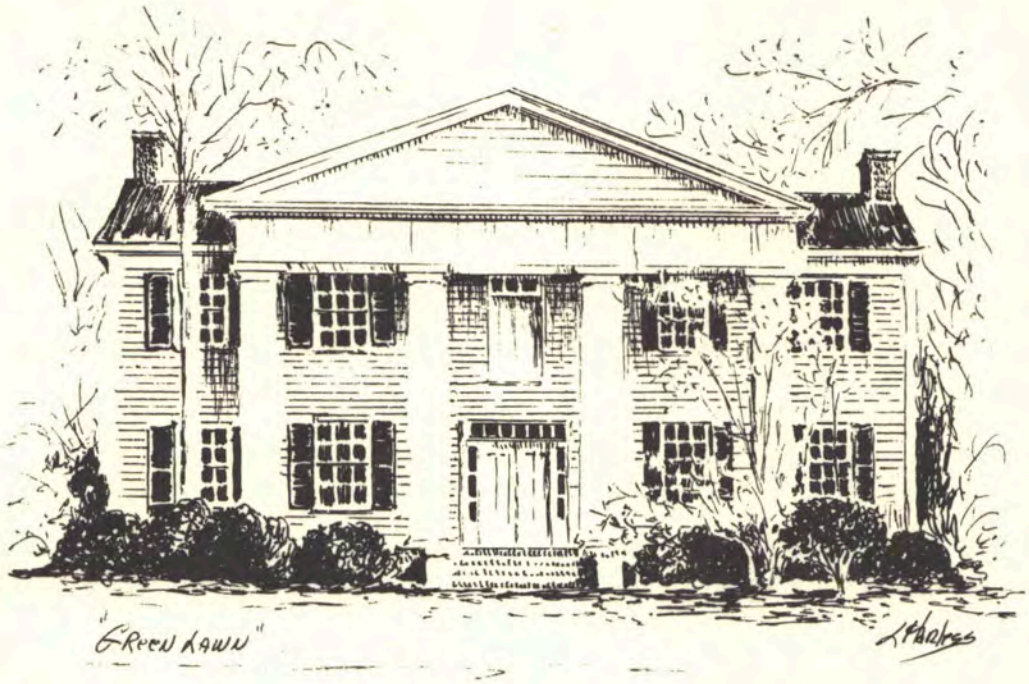
Dear Ms Jane.
Thank you so much for the information and picture of Green Lawn. My great grandfather was Wm Madison Otey who built the home. My grandfather and Father lived there at one time. My cousin Robert Baranowski has just compiled a book on the Oteys at Green Lawn. Again many thanks
Lynn Tutwiler

Mrs. Allen J. Tutwiler
4023 Winston Way, Birmingham, Alabama 35213

The Historic Huntsville Foundation
cordially invites you
to attend the
Annual Membership Tea
at Greenlawn
11216 Highway 231-431 North
Meridianville, Alabama
Sunday, the eleventh of December
Nineteen hundred and ninety-four
Two until four o'clock in the afternoon

Hse is 1850
Portico is 1920's (1928) of awkward

Otey Hse – ½ mi. S. of Meridianville, Al.
Restor. by Jones & Hessin, Arch. – H Jones
c.1988-94



OTEY HST.

Please Join Us For An
Open House
at
Greenlawn
Sunday, January 16, 1994
1:00 — 3:00 p.m.
11216 Highway 231/431 N
Meridianville, Alabama

Matthew & Rachel Heeschen
851-7329

George & Peg Heeschen
539-3073