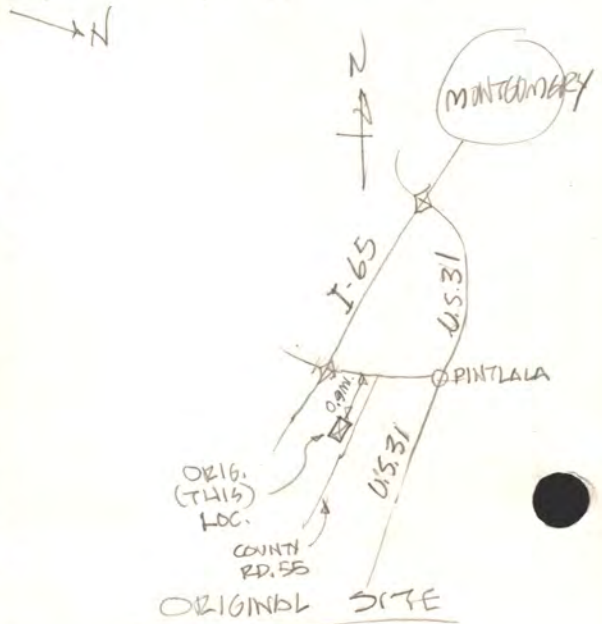




Photos Spring '89
NP Jones, FAH

Front sashes = original
(not side sashes)

Porch not original.
Post tops appear to be from frame.



S. Wall (Chim. gone)

Claybids not original
(see 2nd fl. int. for
reversal orig. claybids)



area 1830
Parmer - Murrell Hse
("I" type)
Owner - Gillis & Ann Payne (Dr.)
of Mont.
To be moved to their
farm near Mont. in '89-'90

brick piers = all modern

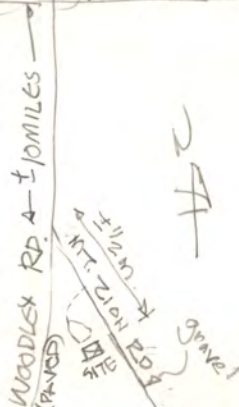
N →

1934



N →
 Sashes probably orig.
 (Verify)

SOUTH BLVD.
 (SOUTHGATE BYPASS) (MONTGOMERY)



PROPOSED SITE

BS - moved (restored)

N →
 Orig. sashes of blind



Chim. - see photo
 Porch roof original
 Blinds = original



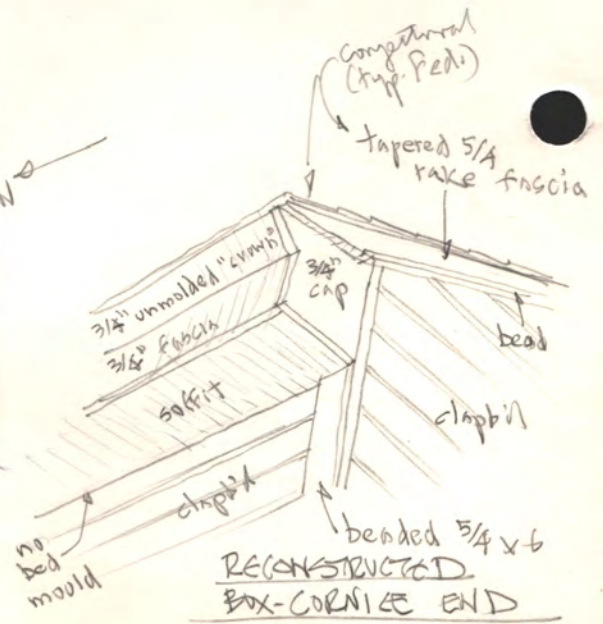


W →



S.W. Corner
Main Roof

W →



RECONSTRUCTED
BOX-CORNICE END



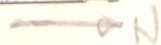
N.W. Corner
Main Roof
(same at
eave cornice).

N →

Note:
Cornice b.d. is
90° to this
at front.
See photo
on p. 4



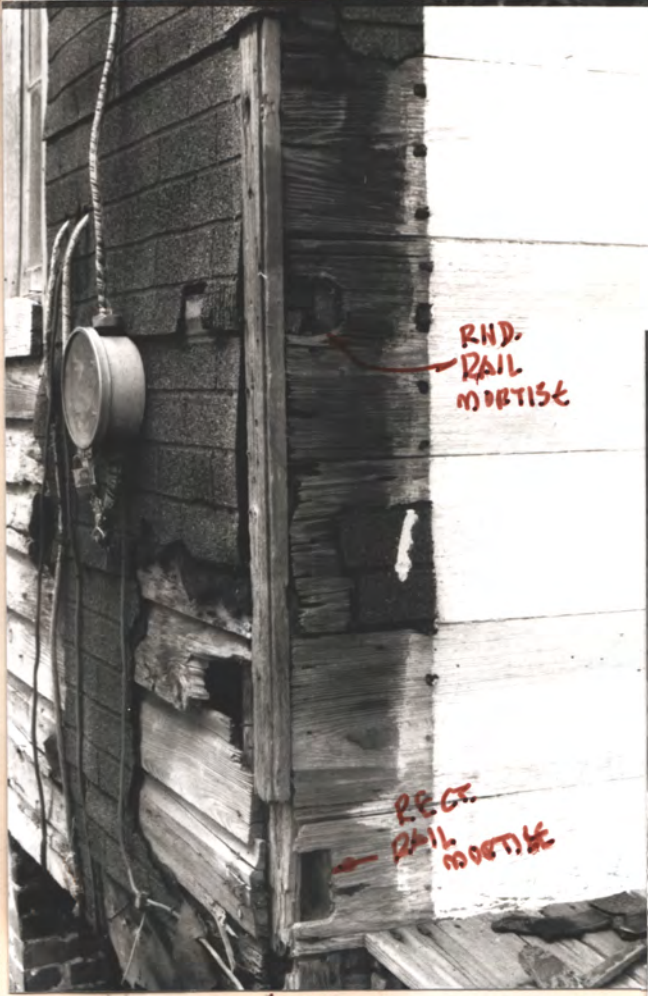
East



All posts reused, but rotated & relocated,
 tops cut off & shifted up ± 24" on top of early 20th c.
 brick
 "bungalow"
 pier



S.E. Corner of porch



RND.
RAIL
MORTISE

RECT.
RAIL
MORTISE



↖ N
↗ N
S.E. Corner of porch

N.E. Corner " "



ROUND
RAIL
MORTISE

RECT.
RAIL
MORTISE



N



N. Central Post

See previous notes

← pole "joint" (two only) at porch





See previous notes



S. Central post

8.13A



← Soffit of roof
are each $\pm 30^\circ$ slopes
($\pm 7:12$). Soffit detail
properly original. Have
seen in other Fed period
houses (Savannah, 1989)



← ALL POSTS:
post rotated 90° (if shifted
N. about $8''$).
Top cut off $\pm 24''$ & raised $\pm 24''$
to accommodate "bungalow" style
brick pier

fl. mortar
= all mod. →

S.E. Post
(see previous notes)

An elderly former resident told Bob Gamble
his father remodelled the front porch in
in early 20th c. - H.S., 1949



Typ. of early
19th c.
(+ latter 19th)



Chim. built so as
F.P. at 2nd fl.
None was ever there
per int. evidence (see photos of hearth contents)



N. Chim. (other one gone)
Maybe original, since
no trace of a 2nd fl. mas.
hearth exists. Bricks
appear early, + mortar.
Bricks are "salmons"





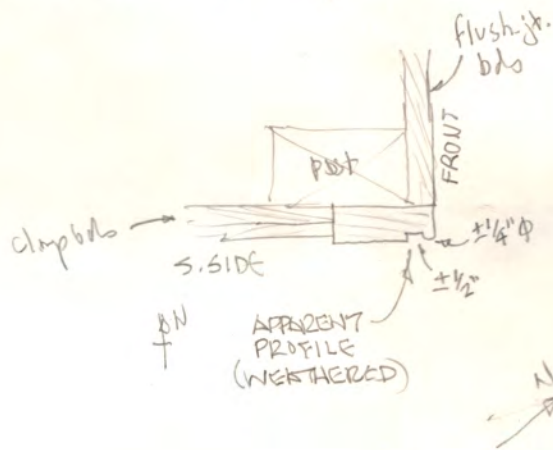
NA

Sash + blind at N.W.M
(blind appears orig.)
Strong hinges

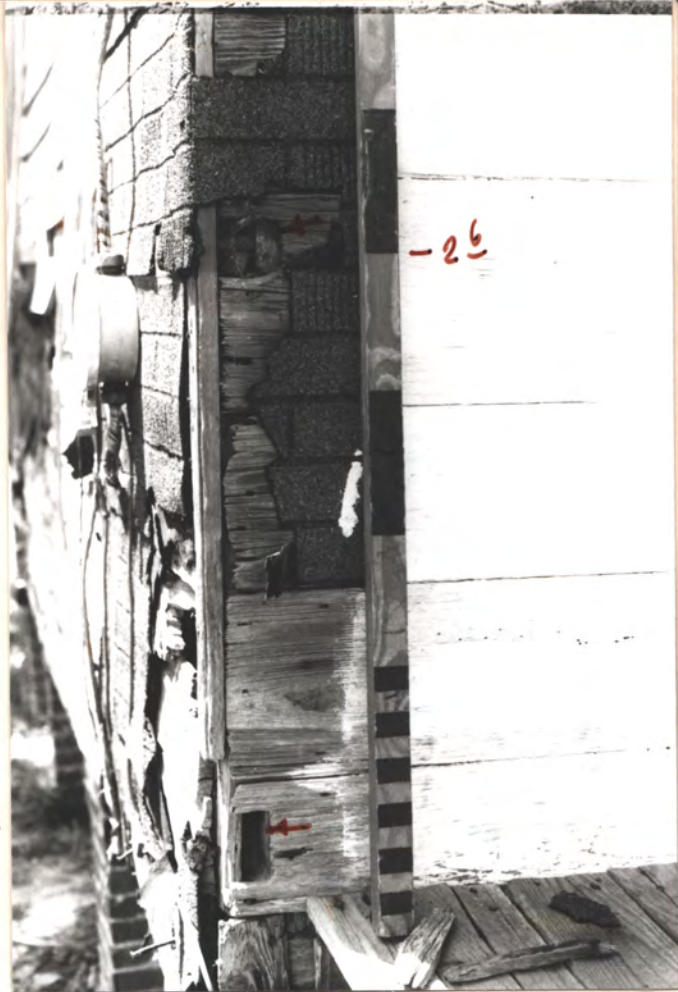




orig. blinks & sashes of door (not screen door)
 Later porch, some reused framing
 Orig Flush-bd. wall under porch



Later porch
 conctm.
 mod. bricks,
 fl. framing &
 flooring



Traces of top & bottom rails (mortises)
 Orig. Corner-bd. & flush wall-bds





Note evidence of 300 more locks



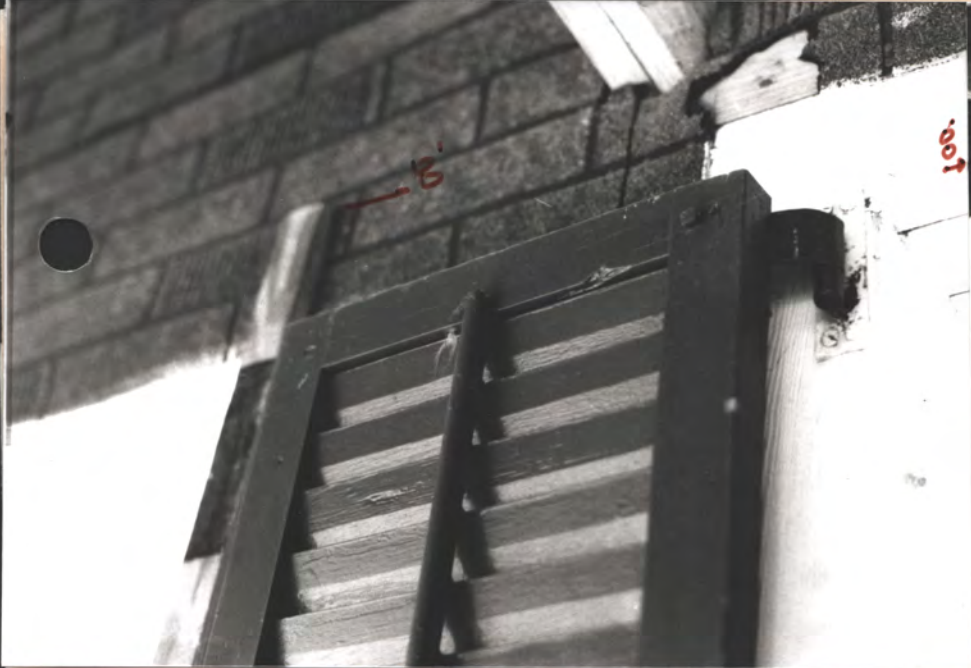
↔ beaded face trim



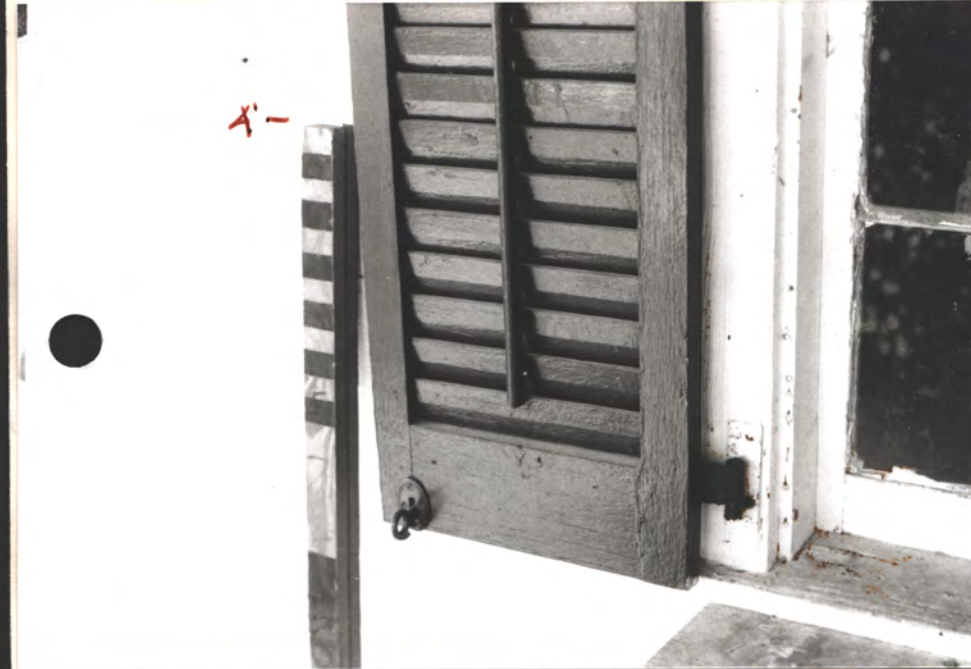
Orig. S.E. entry
door & blinds
at S.E. rm., E. wall

} later shelf at sill

13



→ N E. window at S.E. Rm. (orig. sash, blinds, etc.) →



later shelf → → N

Note apparent "addition jt." between front + rear shed →



No 14



S.E. front door



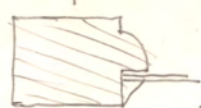
Orig. N. Bm. 1st fl. mantel (later raised hearth) ↗ N



bd. wall (orig.) ↗

bead ↗

N ↗



FED. SASH (TYPICAL SHAPE)

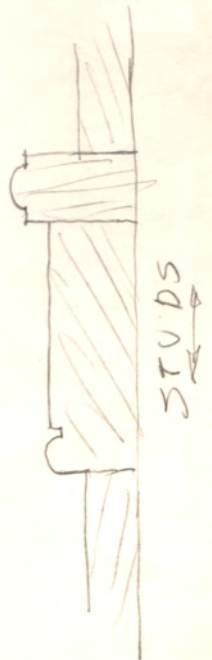
N ↗



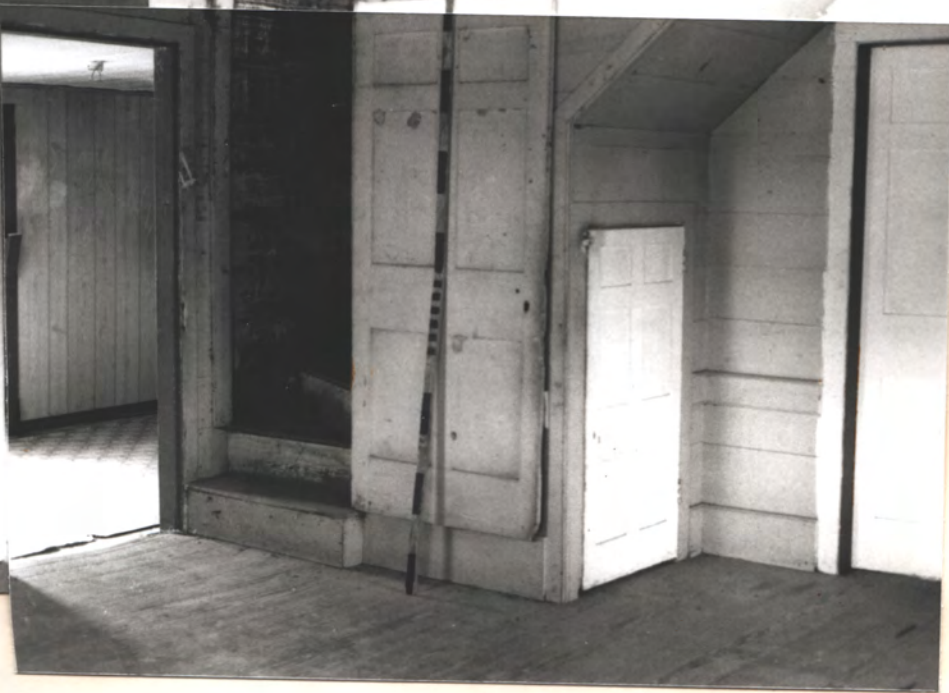
1st fl. North Rm. Mantel
 (chim. is later, hearth later (not raised originally))



Typical Chair Rail
 (this at S.E. corner
 of stair closet, 1st fl)
 S. Rm



16 734

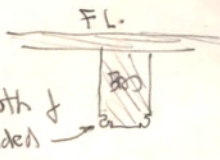


1st fl. S.E. Rm.

Floor, walls, doors, stair = orig.
 Joints either were covered w/ b.l.s (like walls)
 or were meant to be, since they are visible.

If meant to be adposed, would typically have been smooth & banded

This hse was never "finished out" - see 2nd fl. photos





N →



N →



↖ "stock" lock (wood case over metal mech)
= fairly rare

DOOR TO CLOS. UNDER STAIR

↖

orig. enclosed to cell. (cut out perhaps due to low headroom)



door to stair

NR

→ All = orig.



NR

4'

NR



18 134

This chin. removed.
parts - bbs are
behind the cloth
at the f.p. →



5
1st fl.
South Rm



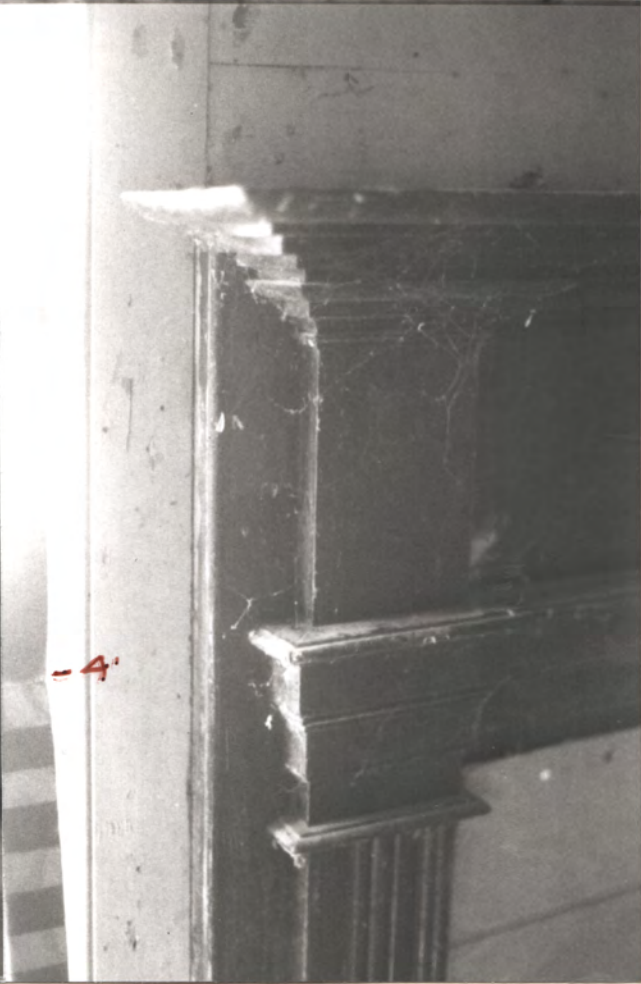
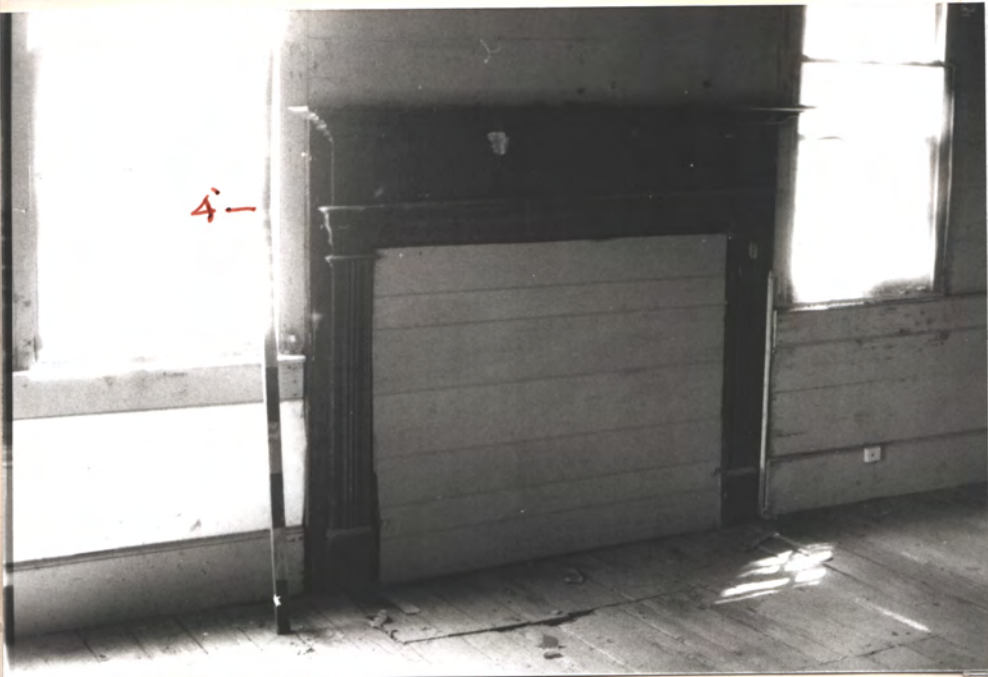
c. 1830 Parmer-Murrell
(Dr Payne) base
near Mont. D.
photos Bob Gammble
July 1989





1st fl. north rm
c. 1830 Parmer-Murrell Hse
S. of Mont.





Mantel,
 1st fl. S.E. Rm
 (chimney govt)
 (hearth govt)
 Orig. finish = black
 = typical fed.





1st fl. N.W. Shed Rm



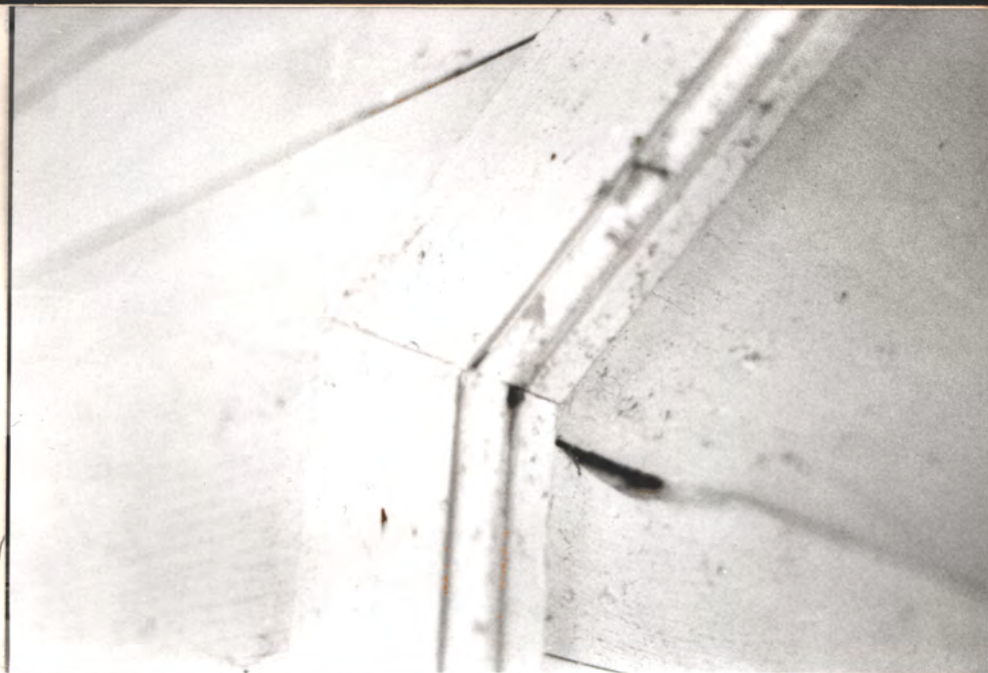
1st fl. West central rm.
probably open porch originally (verify)

Door frames = orig.
(banded-edge 5/4)
Wall = mod. ply. pnl.
Ceils may be orig.,
or at least reused orig.
Ceil $\pm 7'-5''$ verify



1st fl. W. Central Rm.
(probably open porch originally)

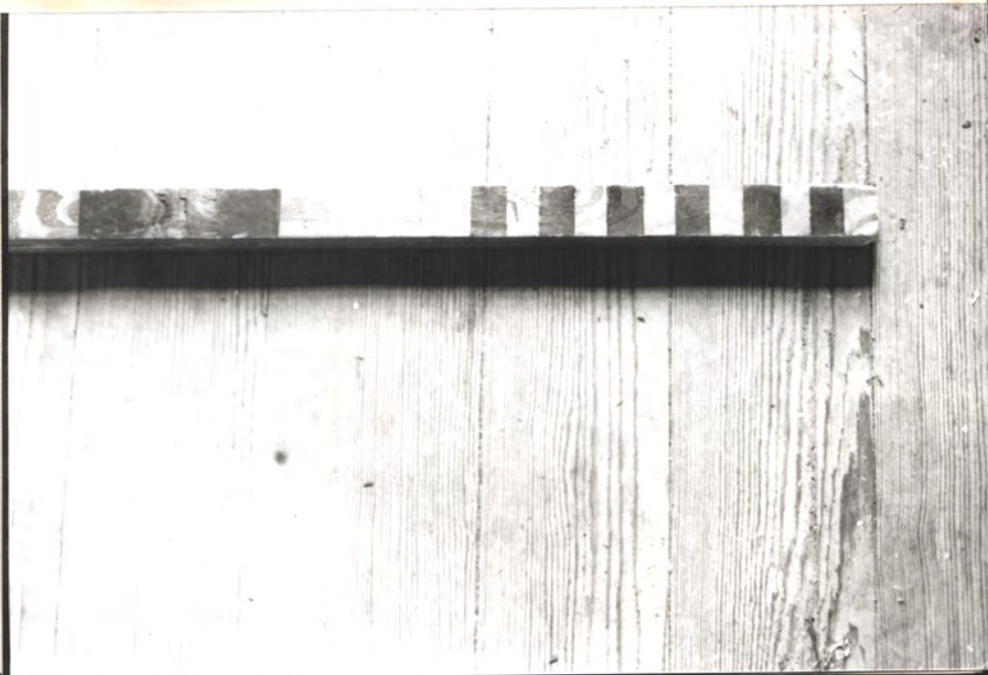
S.E. Corner of
stair enclosure
at closet front



Ax-hewn joists
above, at 1st fl. N.E. Rm.
(same at S.E. Rm.)
Mant to be covered
by bds., like at walls



Orig. fl.
(this at 1st fl.
N. Rm.)
3/4 nominal
heart pine
widths vary
± 5" to 7"

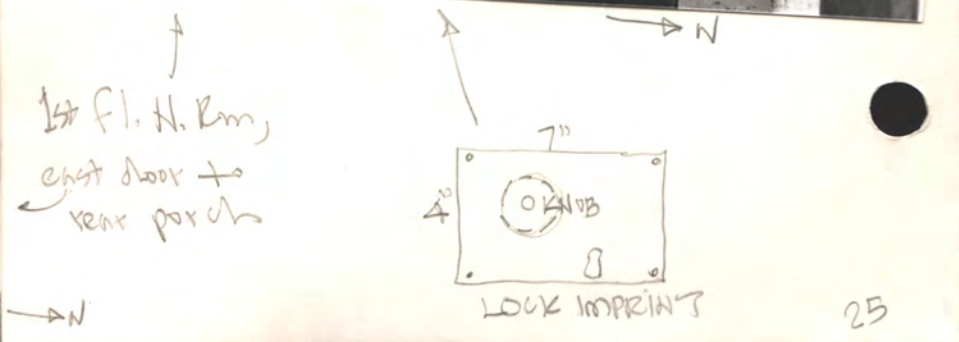




1st fl. N. Rm., S. door to parlor



1st fl. N. Rm.,
east door to
rear porch

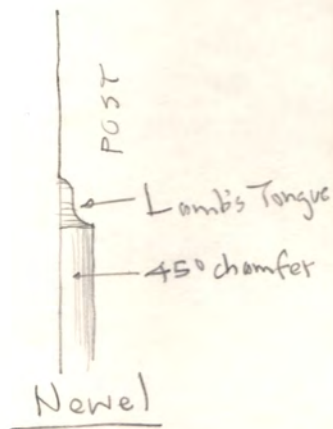


mod. ply. over
window opny. →

walls = never covered
above the chair-rail ht. ↕



"Puncher" studs at N. wall of stairs
at 2nd fl. ceil. level (no ceil.)
Wall brs = Sash-sawn = orig.
Joists = ax-hewn





NEVER
FIN.
← REUSED REVERSED CLAPBDS (ORIG. INTL.)

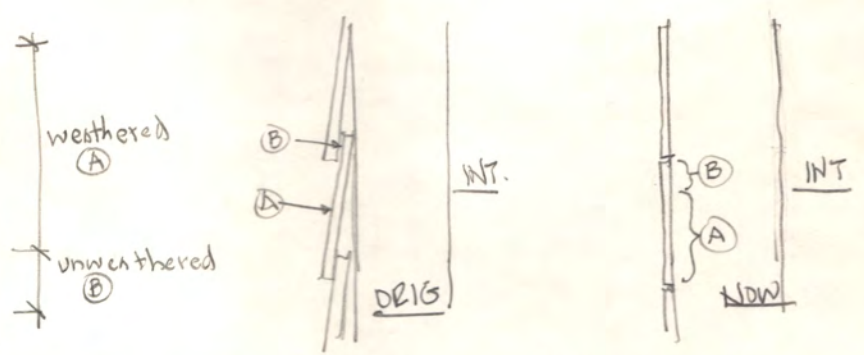


← AN

← AN

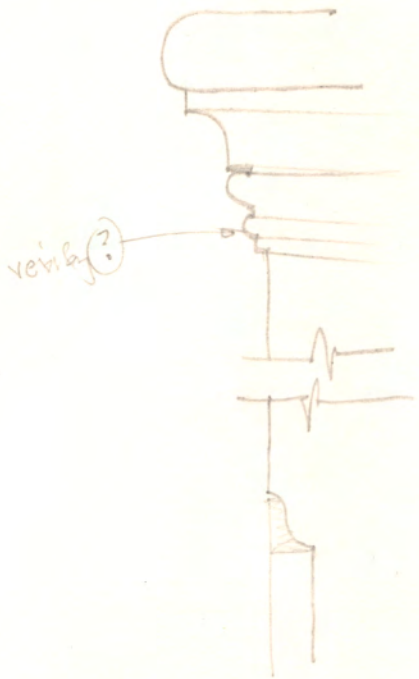
S.W. Corner, 2nd fl.

Mortise, tenon & peg joints = typical feds.



2ND FL. S. RM., W. WALL (others same)
← ORIG. CLAPBDS, here are upside down & backwards to serve as sheathing for the modern asphalt "brick" siding

← N



H →

Navet (2nd fl)



N →





N
 → Pottery shown despite
 not original



2nd fl.
No hearth extant
 (no evidence of any
 hearth masonry ever
 being in here, or chimney,
 or int. wall) ext. finish

PN

29



NA



NA



NA

2nd fl. S. hearth cut out
No evidence of any hearth masonry ever being here,
or chim., wall or cert. finish



-- "Ceil", (more over hand)

W66D

2 - claps' ds are re-used, probably original, reversed (note weathering traces)

SASH frame

2nd fl. west wall (Hypocline)



SILL



framed for windows
 - no evidence of them
 ever having been there



S. Rm. - West Wall
 (rear) → H
 note sash frame

N. Rm. - West Wall (rear) → H
 note no sash frames or traces of them

C. 1830 Parmer - Murrell Hse
 S. of Montgomery



N ←

Rincheons Rafters = probably orig.
Tin roof + "deck" bds = mod.



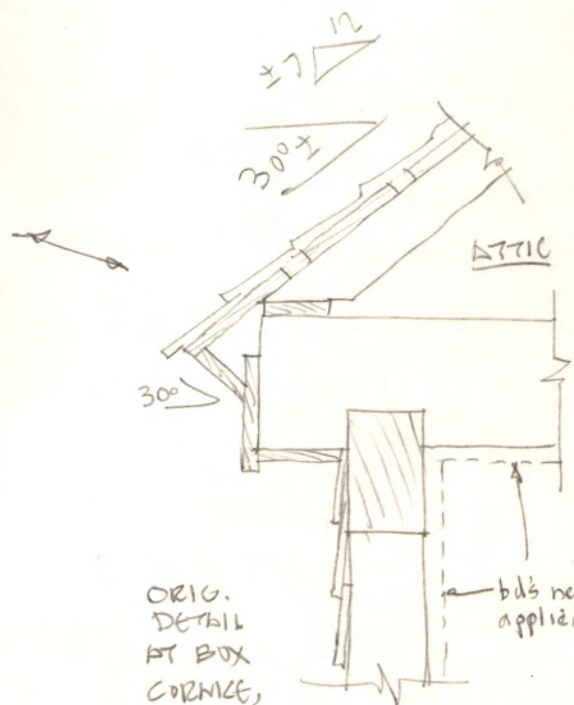
← Stair

↑ N. RM.
2ND FL.

↑ N



← N



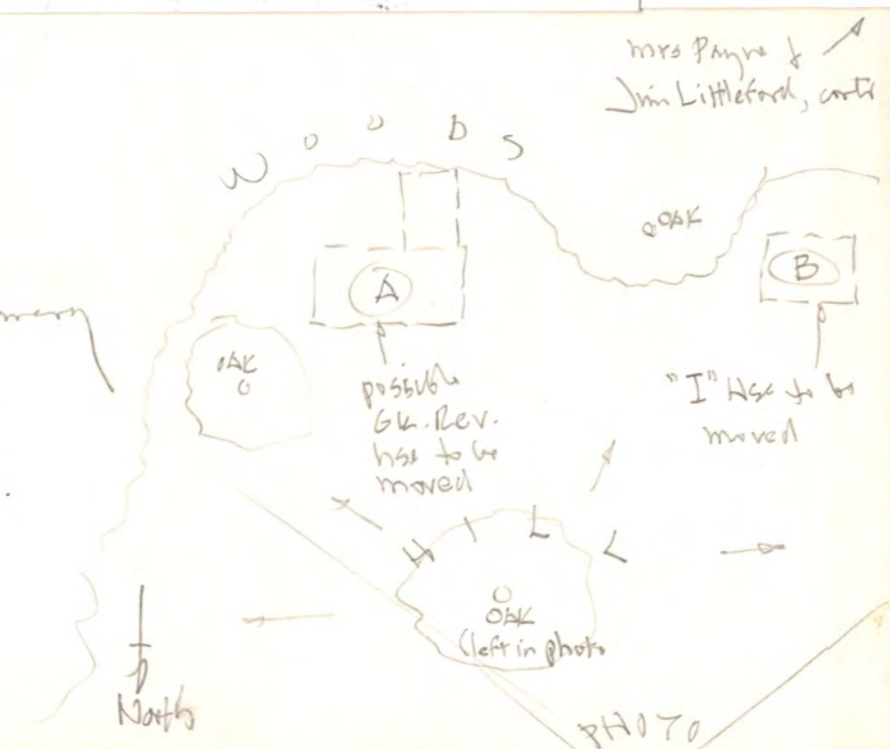
3A ↘ 3A



PARSONS - MURPHY
(on Sims Payne)

Proposed new site several miles east
of exist., on Dr. Payne's farm near Montgomery
Photo #1 June '89 H.S. area

RD (Public)



Mt. Zion Rd,
 east of Montgomery, Al.
 a few miles



N. front



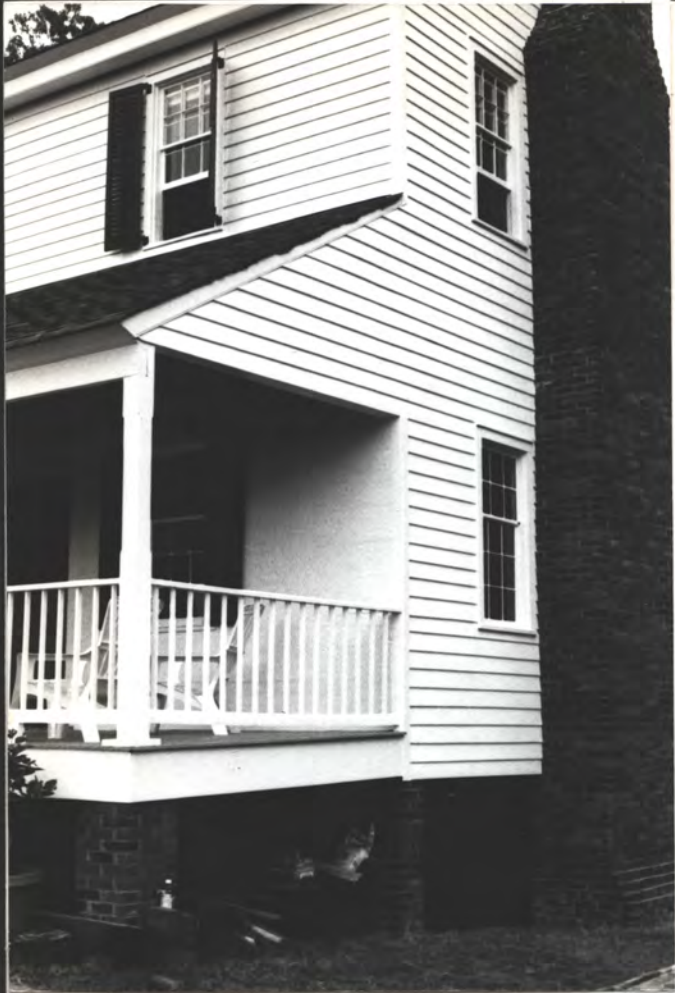
Moving to new site (1989)



1430 Parmer - Murrell - Payne Hs
 1991 Owner - Dr. Gillis & Ann Payne
 Moved & restored 1989-90
 Jones & Herrin, Restor. Arch. (HJones)
 Photos Oct. 1991 H. Jones 1 of 7



N. →



front porch N →



N
↑



c. 1930

1989-90 new by HS

← back porch at KTD

N

c. 1830
Parmer - Mumma
3 of 7



Parlor (Fl. 1 left)

Entry



N →

Fb. 1
Parlor
(left)



→ N

N



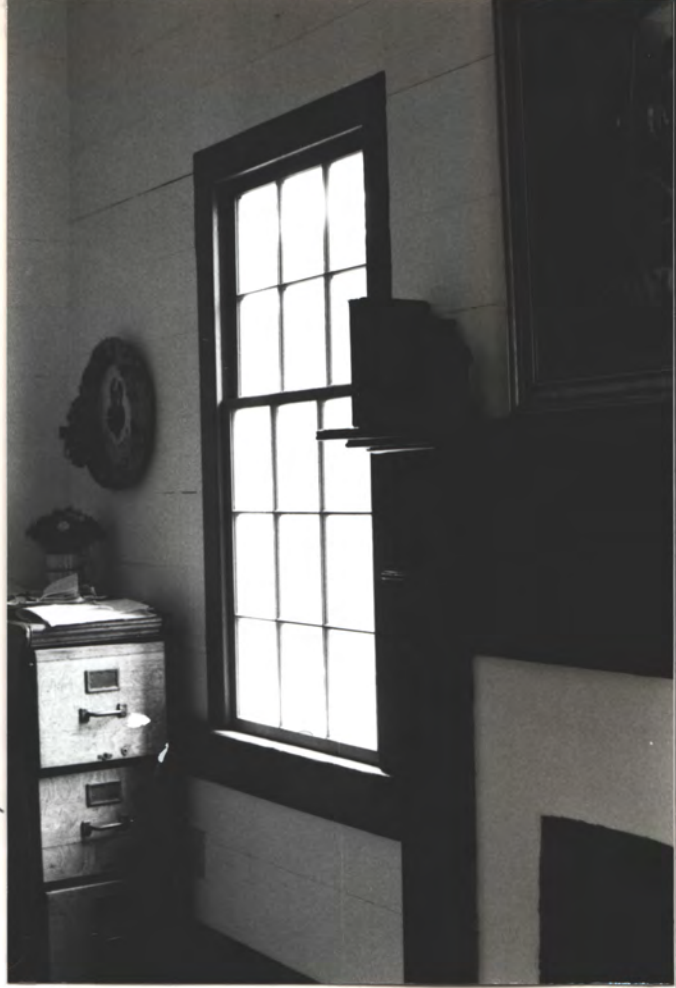
View
from
front
door
↓
parlor
(look S)

+



N
↙

Fl. 1 Parlor (left)
Fl. 1 Rear Hall in shed look. S.



W
↘

Fl. 1 west rm (rt.)



S
of 7



N
↘



→ N

Fl. 2 East BR (left)



→ N

→ N

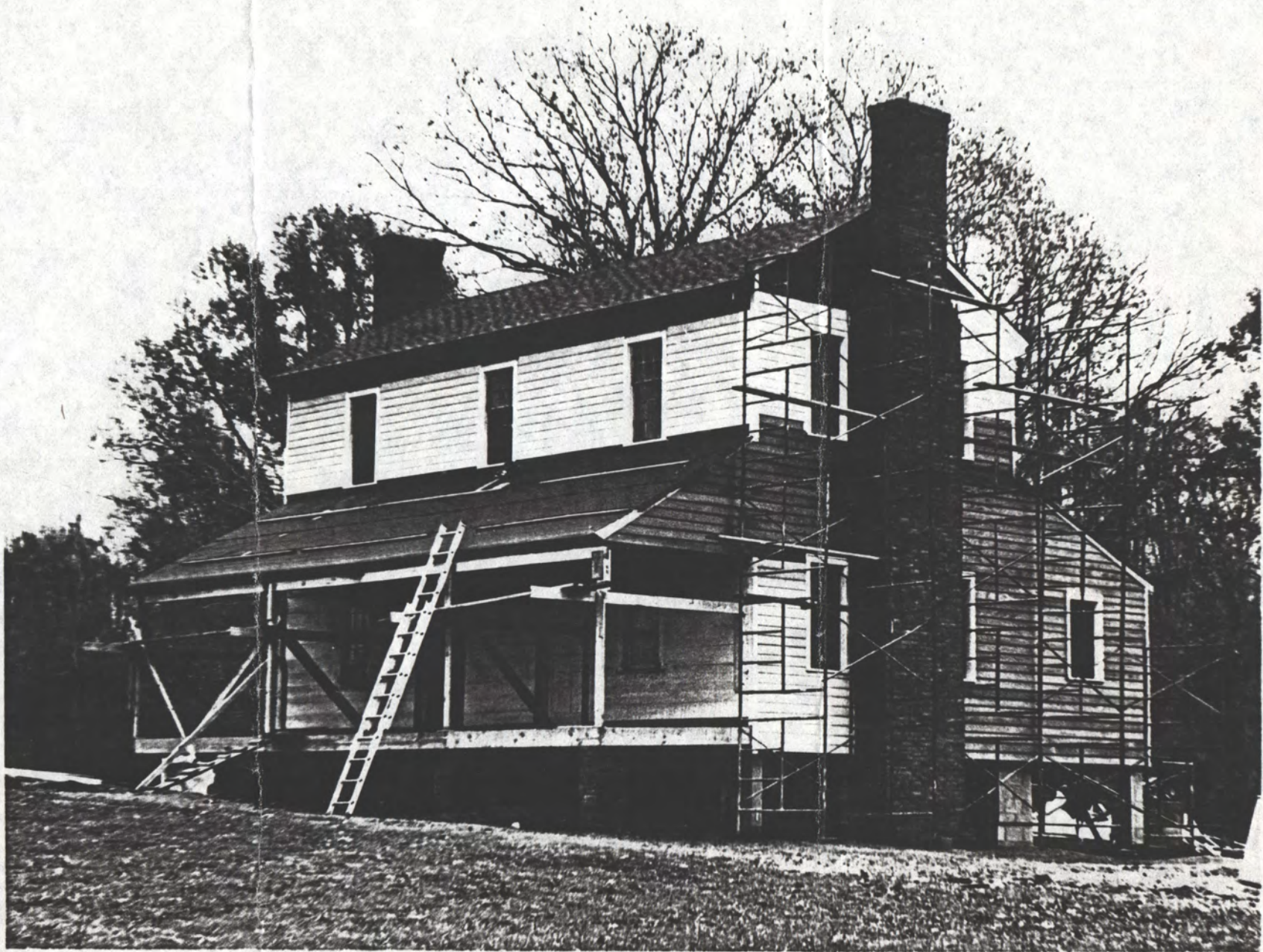


→ N

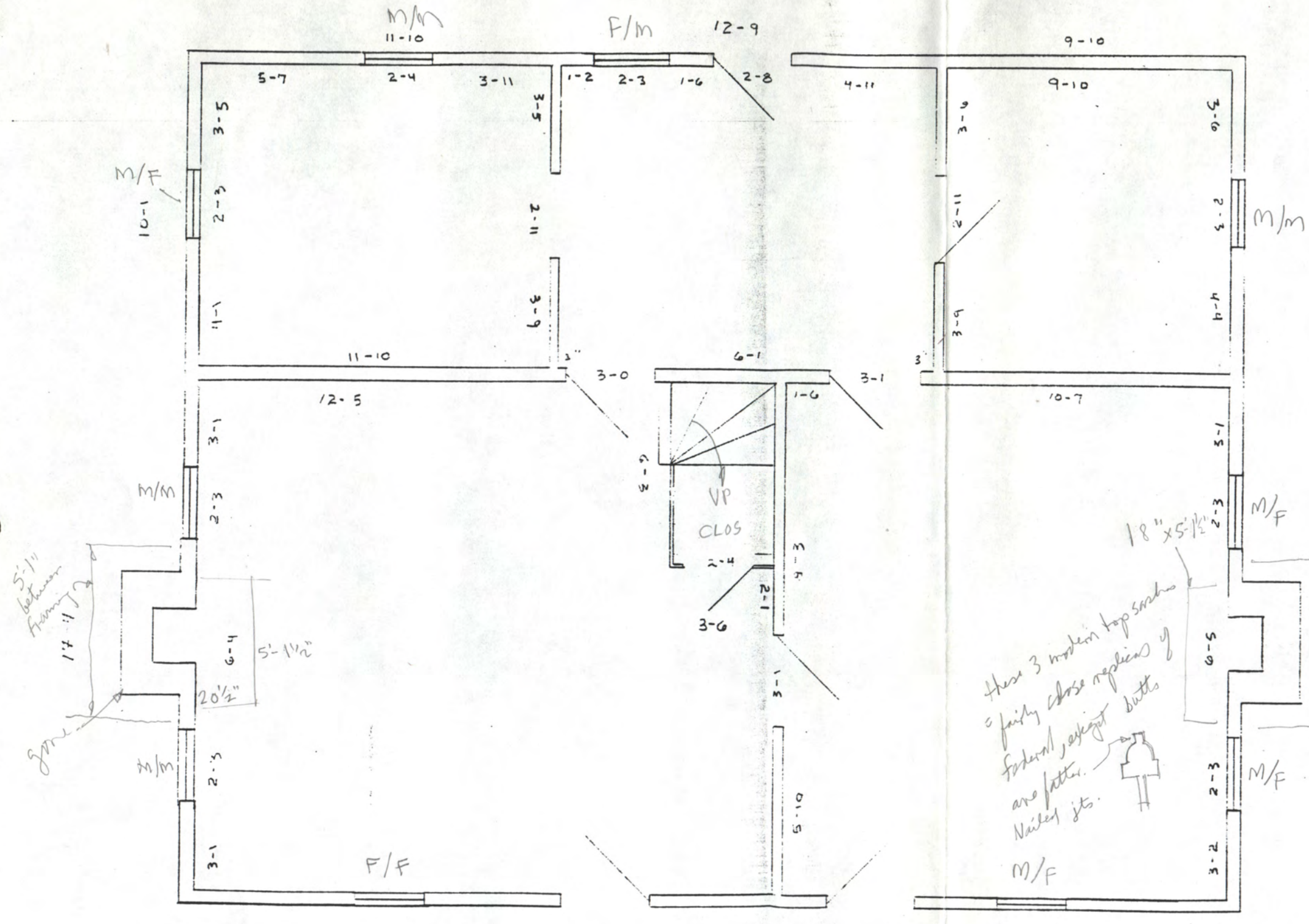



W → Pardon

7 of 7 Pinner - M m r r l 1830

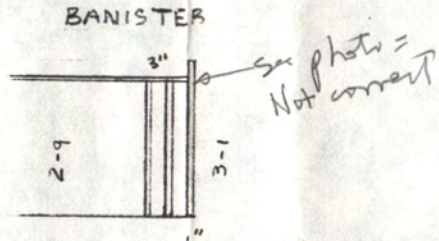


Progress photo Dec. 1989, under restor. at new site
(Parmer - Murrell Hse near Mont.)
c.1830 JdH, restor. arch., HD



F = Federal sash 
 M = modern " (various shapes)

c. 1840 Palmer - Murrel
 S. of Mont. near Pintala (S.W.)
 June 1989 1/4" = 1'-0"
 by A.H. Commission



See photo =
Not correct

these two
contain window
frames boarded over

FRAMED OPNGS. FOR
WINDOWS NEVER INSTALLED (BOB GAMBLE DMS. - JULY '83 LETTER)

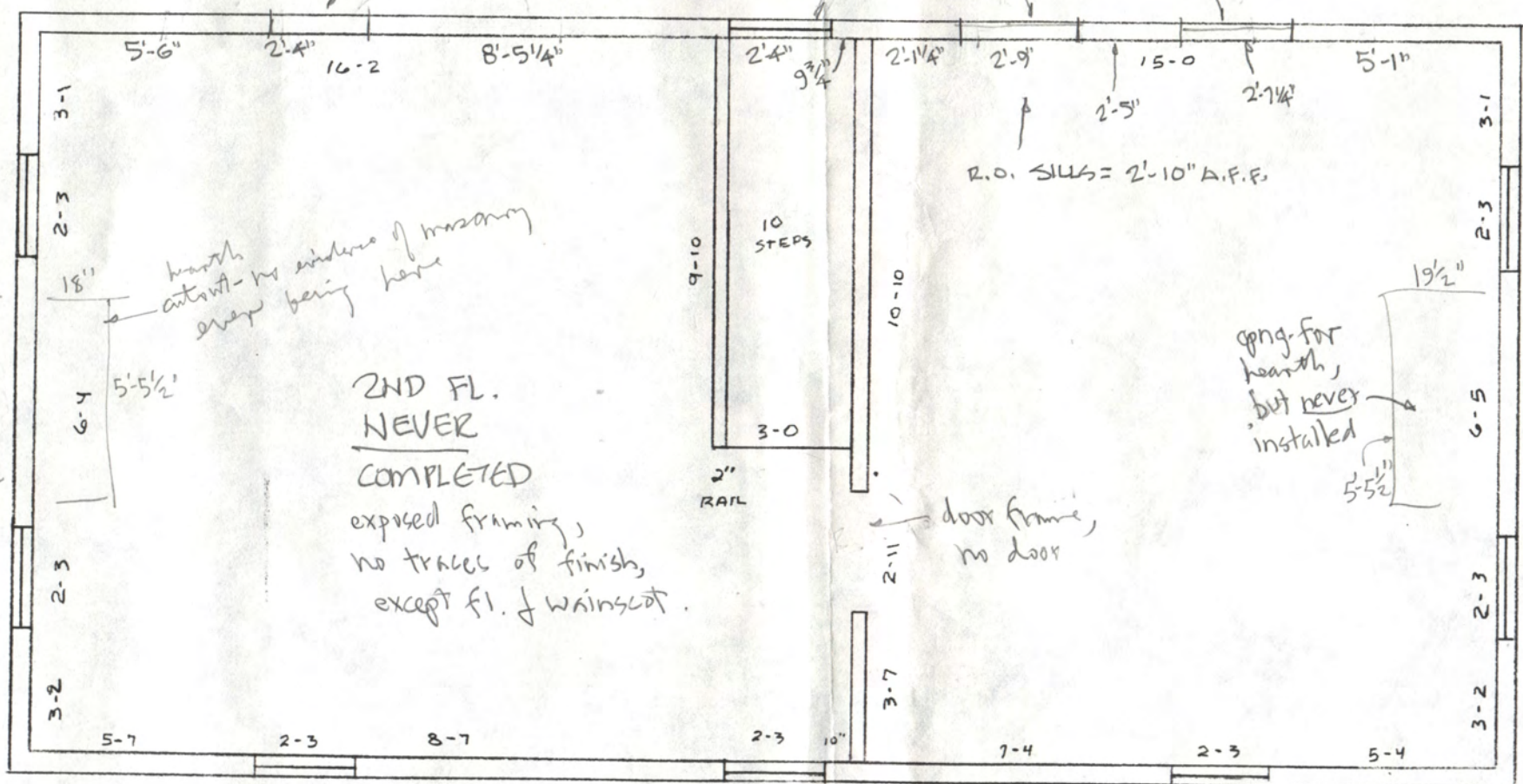
chim.
gone
was here

hearth
cut out - no evidence of masonry
ever being here

2ND FL.
NEVER
COMPLETED
exposed framing,
no traces of finish,
except fl. & wainscot.

going for
hearth,
but never
installed

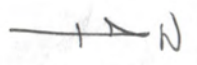
no f.p. this fl.
chim.
shaft



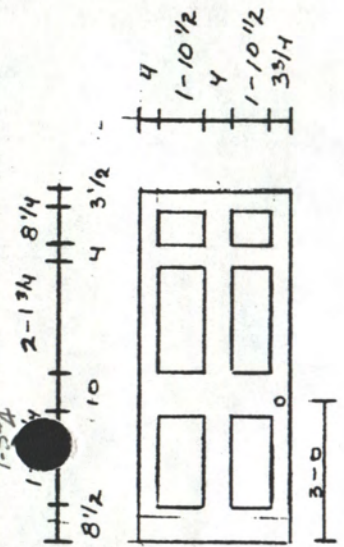
All sketches at
2nd fl = Modern
(Various types)

2ND FL.
c. 1830 Parmer - Murrell
1/4" = 1'

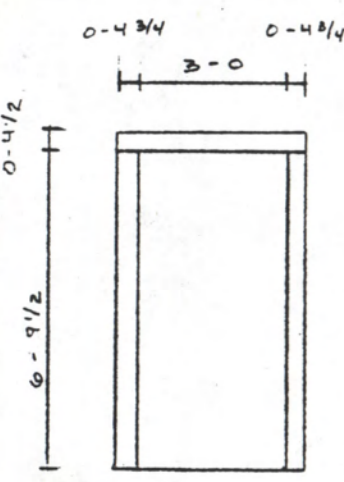
June 1989 not by HD (by AHC)



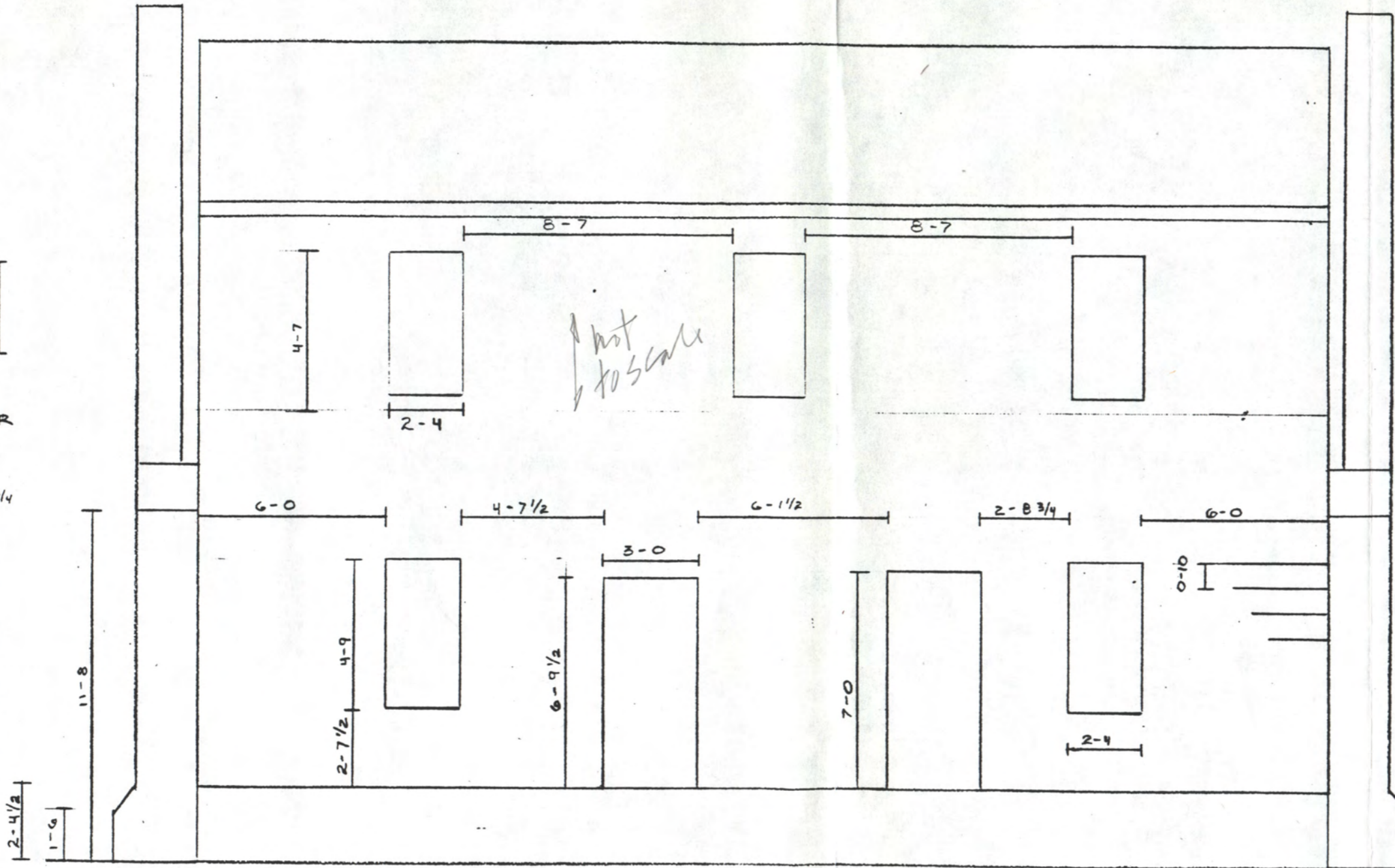
1-5 |-----| 36-2 |-----| 2-0



TYPICAL DOOR

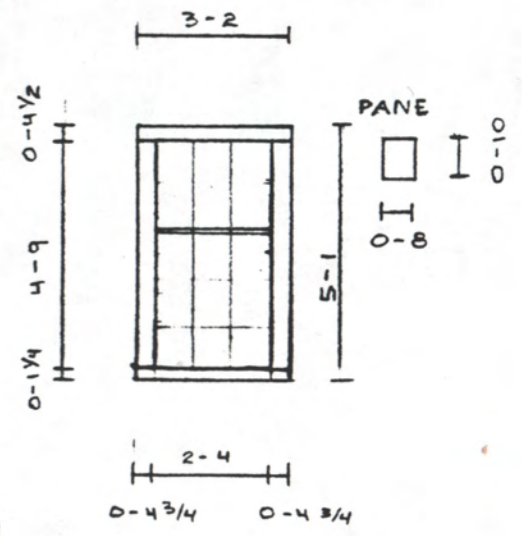


TYPICAL WINDOW 4/9

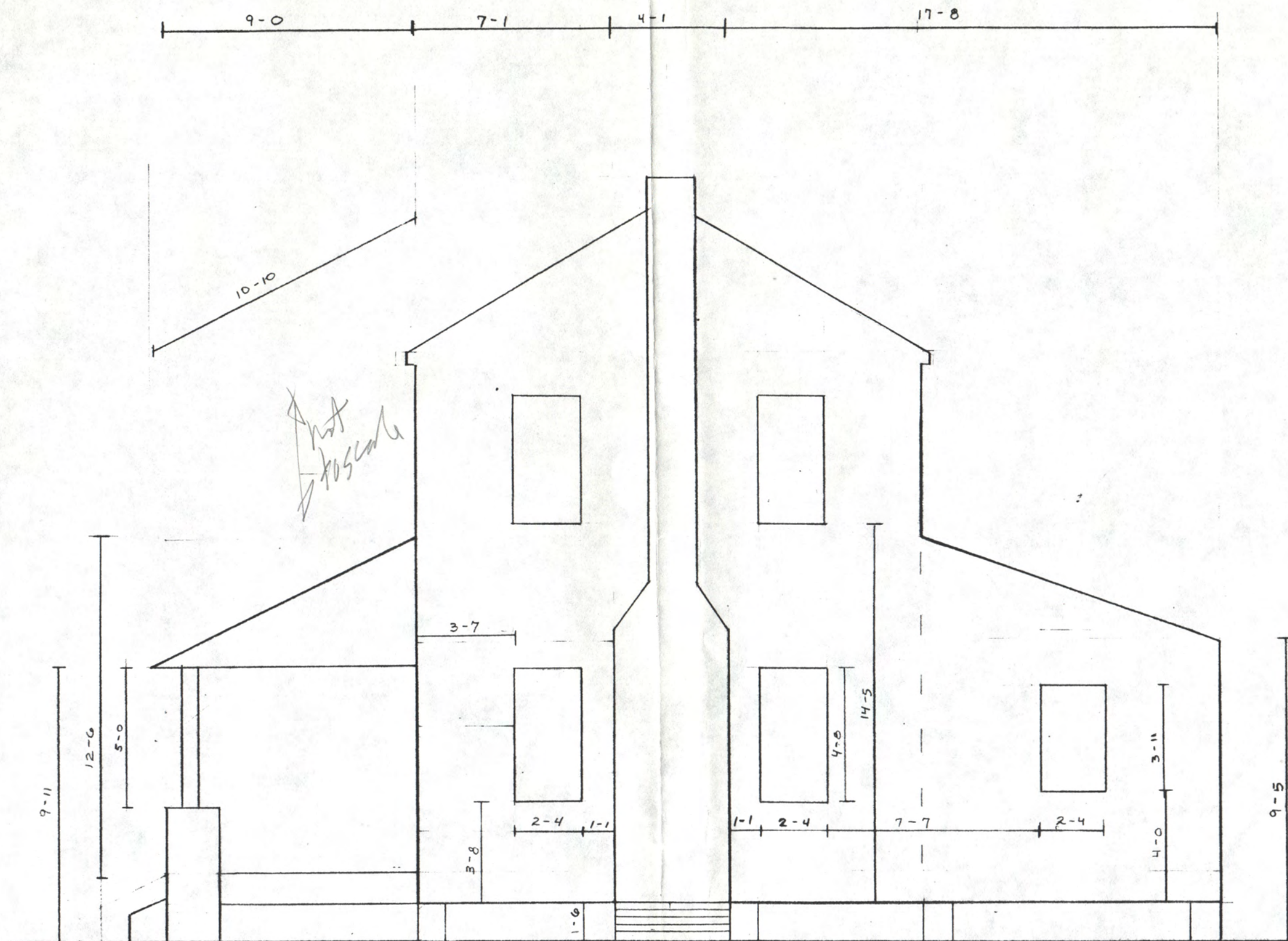


not to scale

TYPICAL WINDOW 4/9



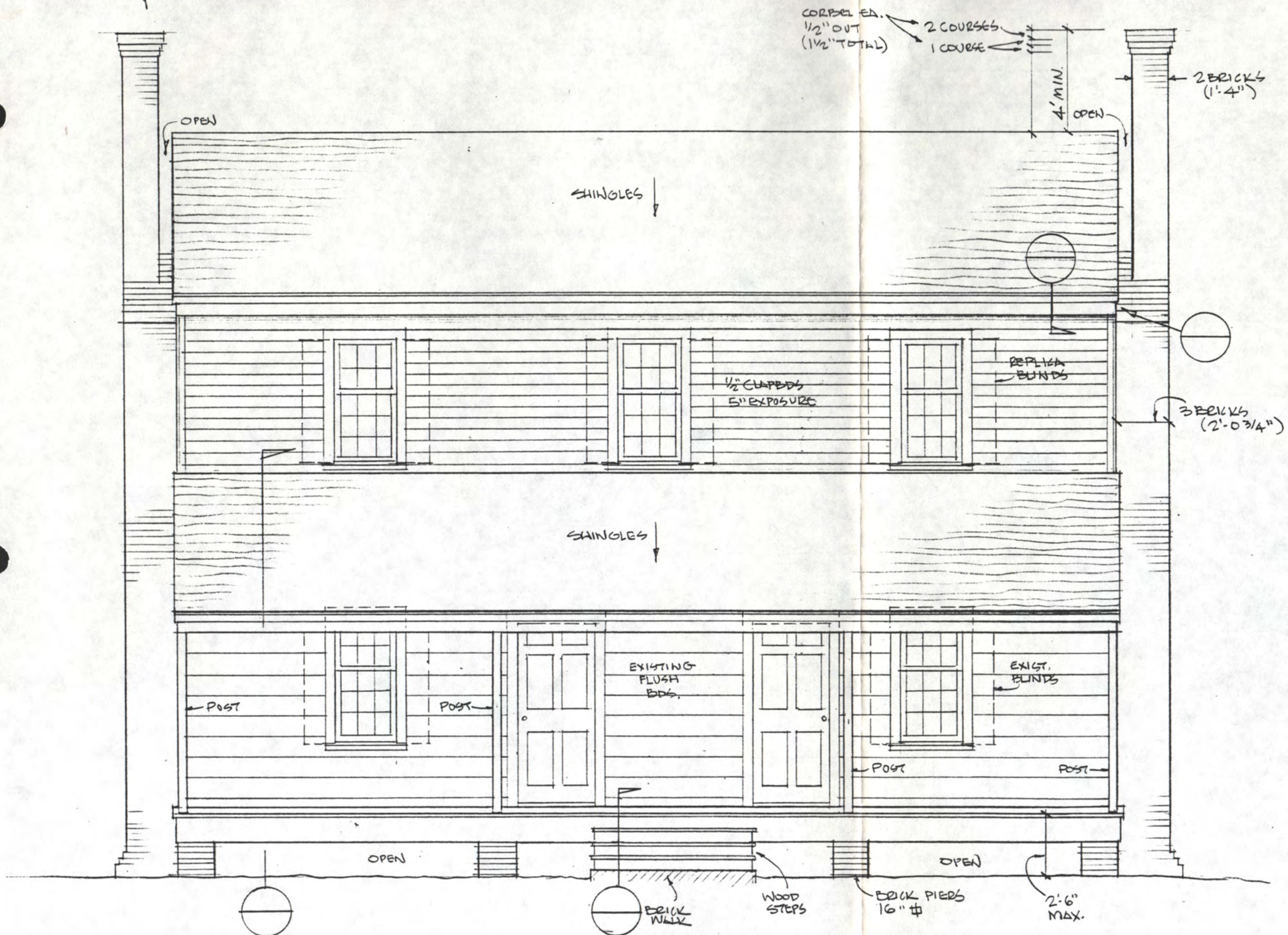
EAST EL



N. E. I.

C1830 Pinner - Murrel

by A. H. C.



CORBEL EA.
 1/2" OUT
 (1 1/2" TOTAL)

2 COURSES
 1 COURSE

4' MIN.
 OPEN

2 BRICKS
 (1'-4")

1/2" CLAPBDS
 5" EXPOSURE

REPLICA
 BLINDS

3 BRICKS
 (2'-0 3/4")

EXISTING
 FLUSH
 BDS.

EXIST.
 BLINDS

POST

POST

POST

POST

OPEN

OPEN

BRICK
 WALK

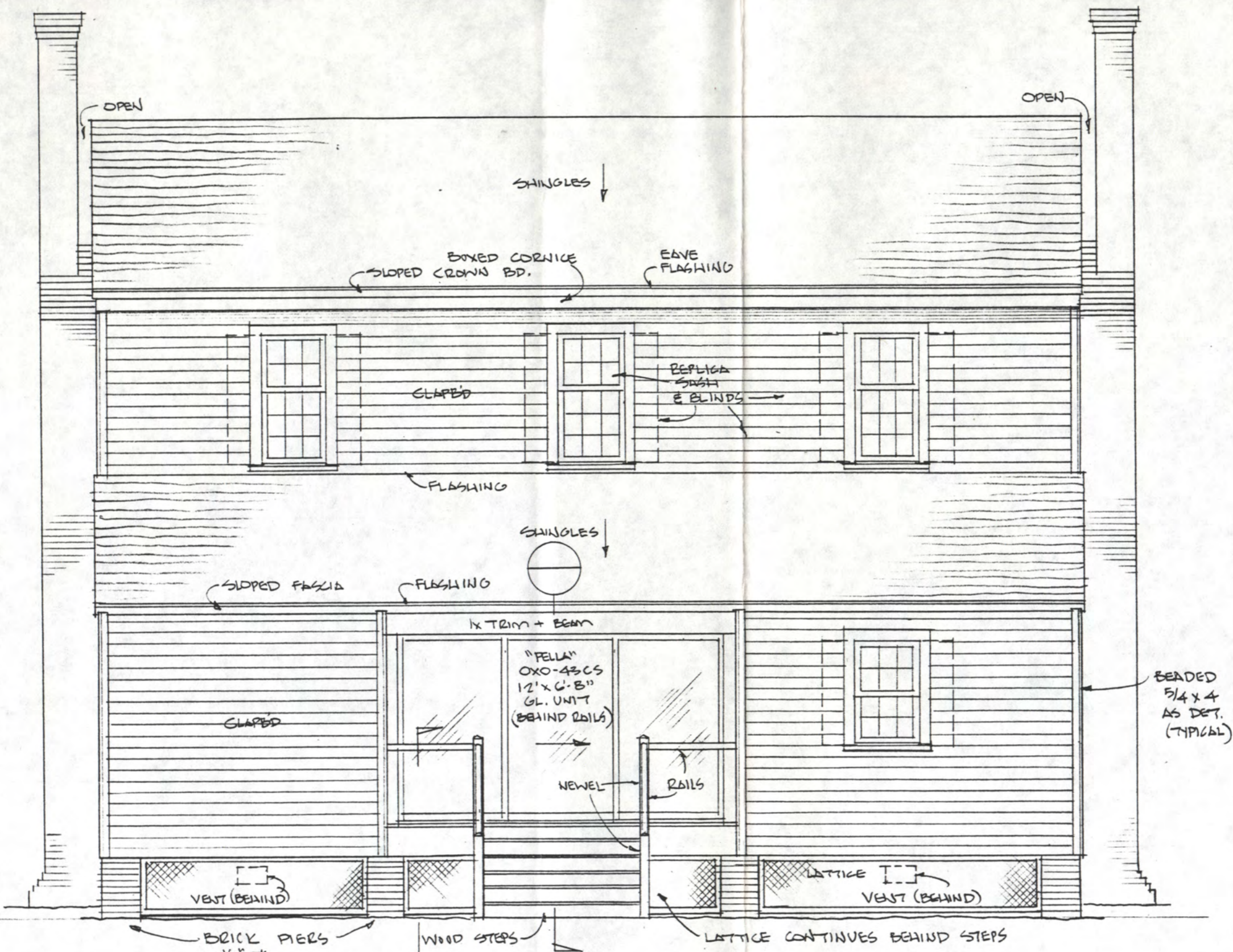
WOOD
 STEPS

BRICK PIERS
 16" #

2'-6"
 MAX.

FRONT ELEVATION
 (EAST AT ORIG. SITE, NORTH AT NEW SITE)

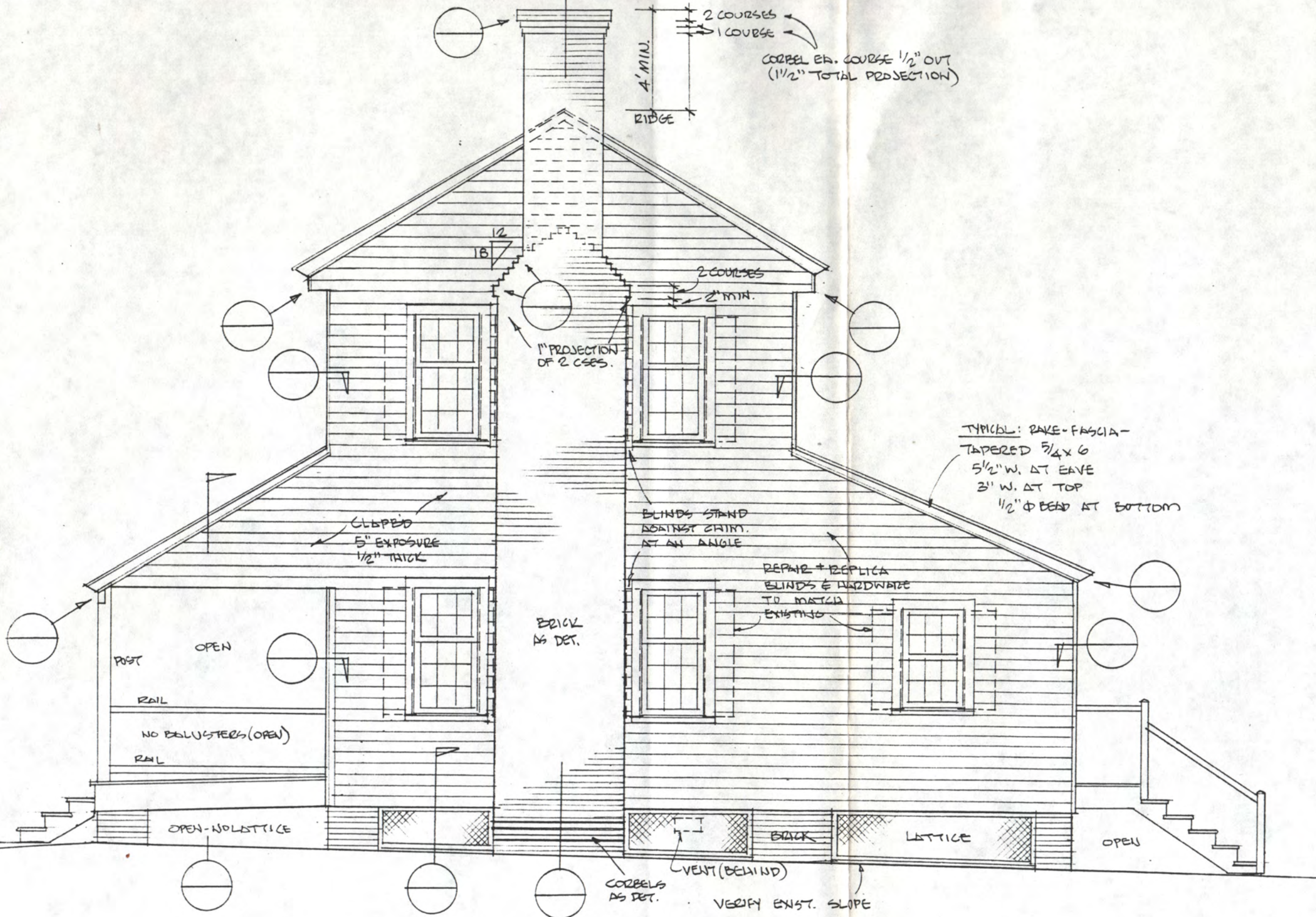
1/4" = 1' ±



REAR ELEVATION $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1' \pm$
 (WEST AT ORIG. SITE, SOUTH AT NEW SITE)

by HJ

BEADED
 $5/4 \times 4$
 AS DET.
 (TYPICAL)



RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION
(NORTH AT ORIGINAL SITE, WEST AT NEW SITE)

1/4" = 1" ±

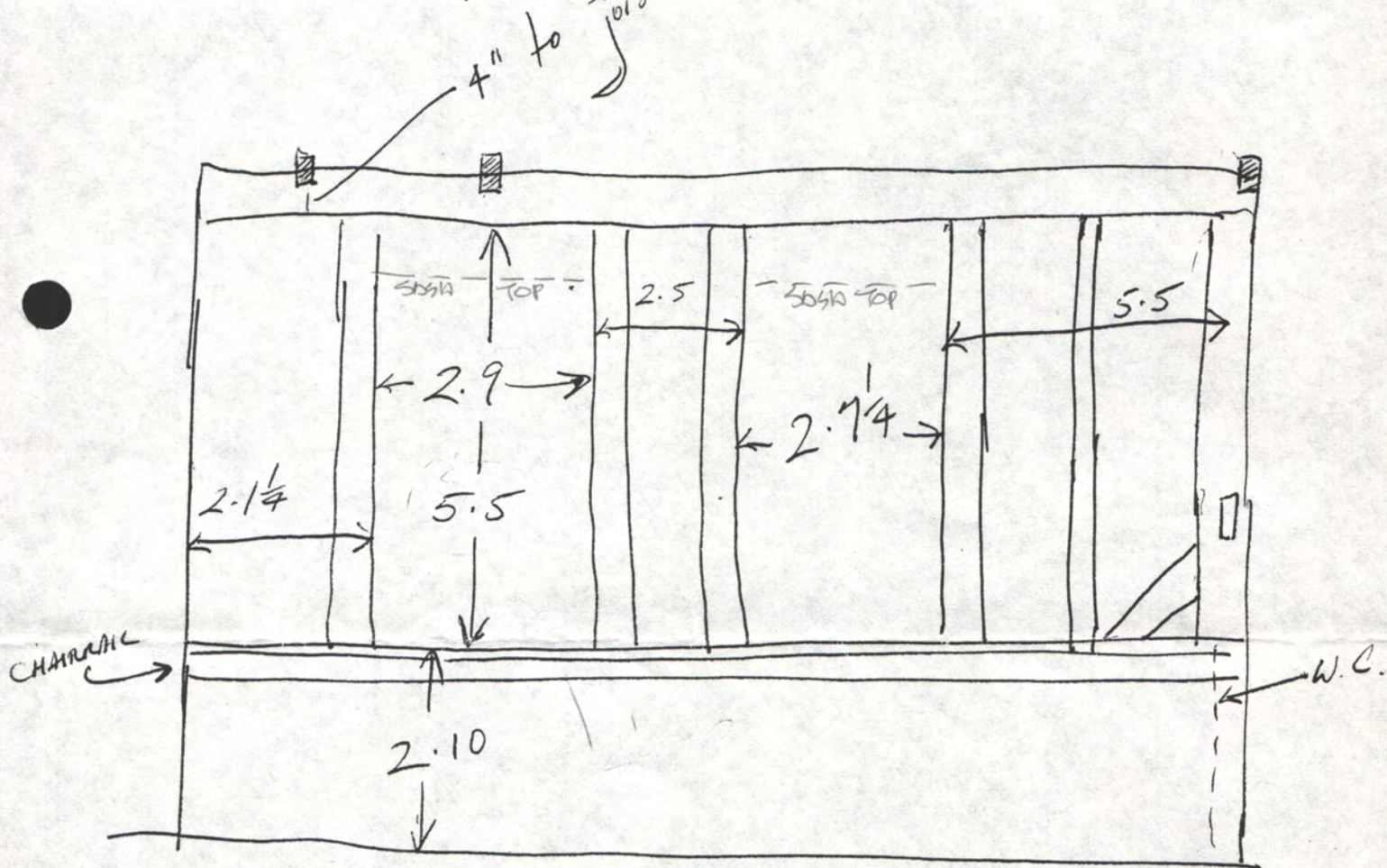
by HJ

c. 1840 Parmer-Murrell House
2nd fl
Bob Smith - AHC

Jones measurements (fr)

Window openings
2'-4" x 4'-7 1/2"

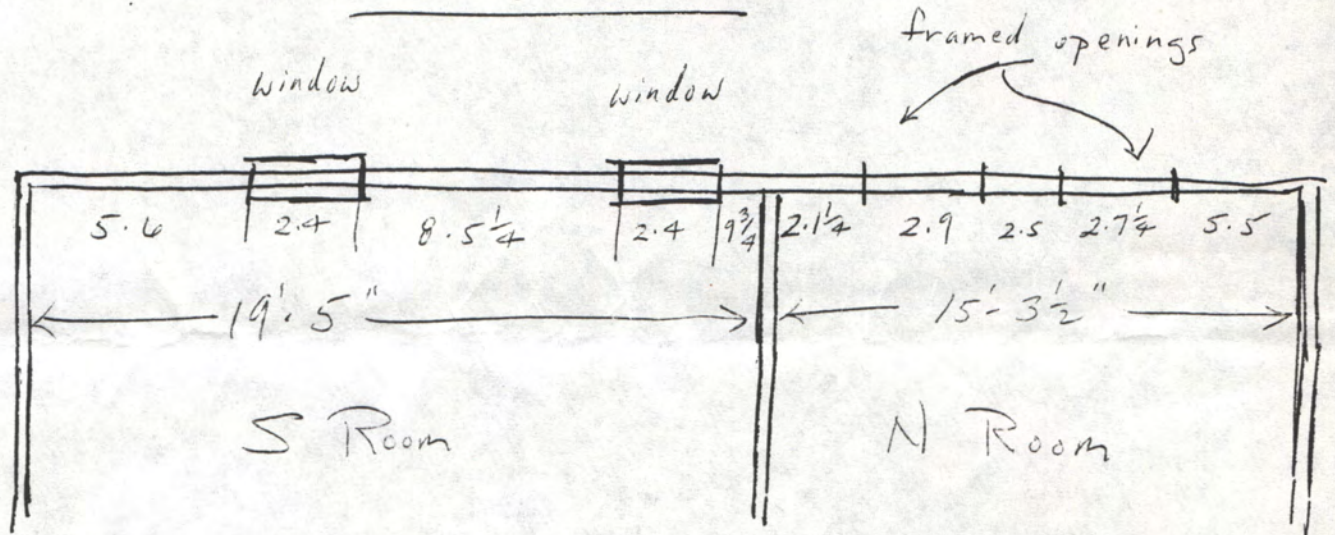
N Rm. (rear/west wall)



framed openings for windows vary thruout between
2'-7" & 2'-9" ~~in~~ wide

Parmer - Murrell House

West (rear) Wall

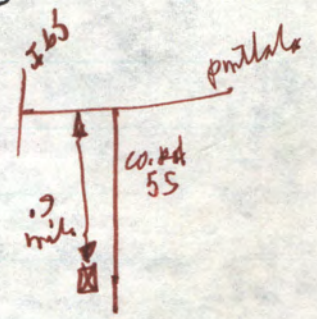
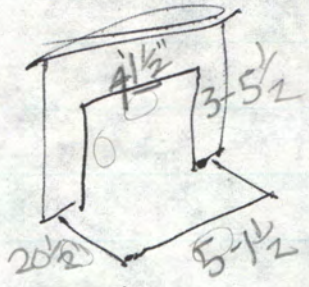


Gillis Payne Res - Montgomery

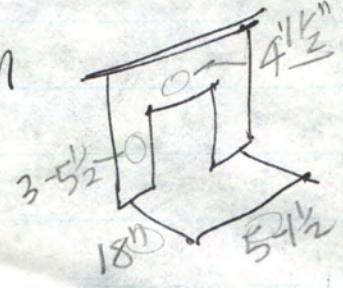
Job site measurements - 27 July 89 HJ

(1)

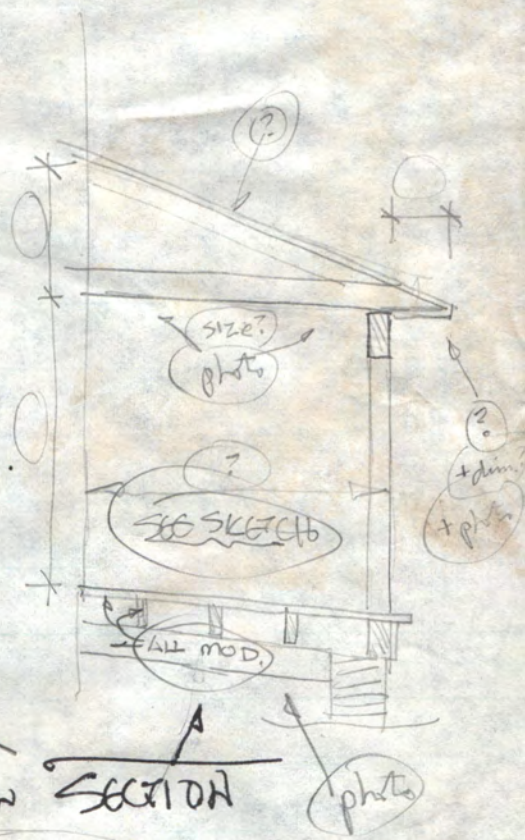
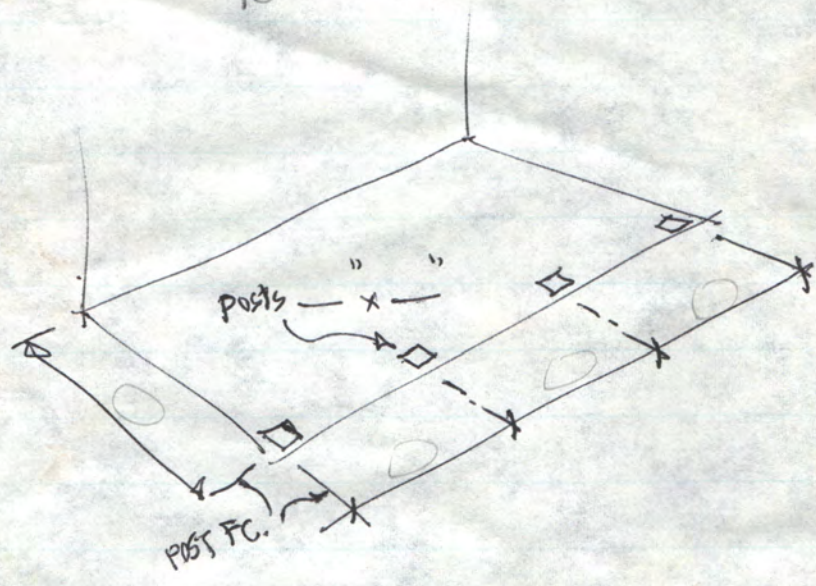
1. South mantel



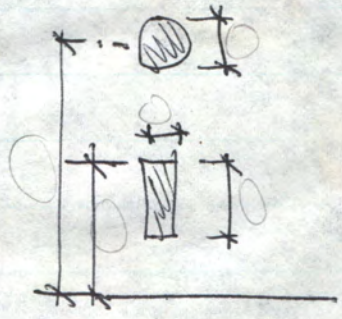
2. North mantel



3. Porch



a. measure size + ht of top & bottom rails



draw SECTION + dims

b. ck. nail evidences in posts.

c. S.E. post rotated 90°? Looks so. Not orig. loc

d. Measure posts, photo top, photo roof frame, sketch top detail

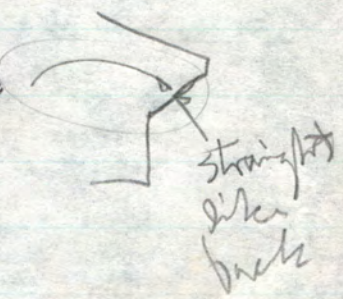
SEE SKETCH

4. Measure chim. width traces at clay beds



5. Are brick piers original? (Mod.)

6. Check crest (front) roof cornice crown shape

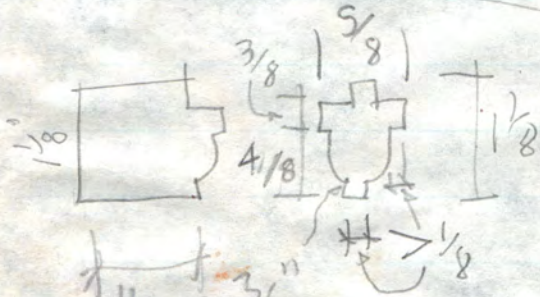
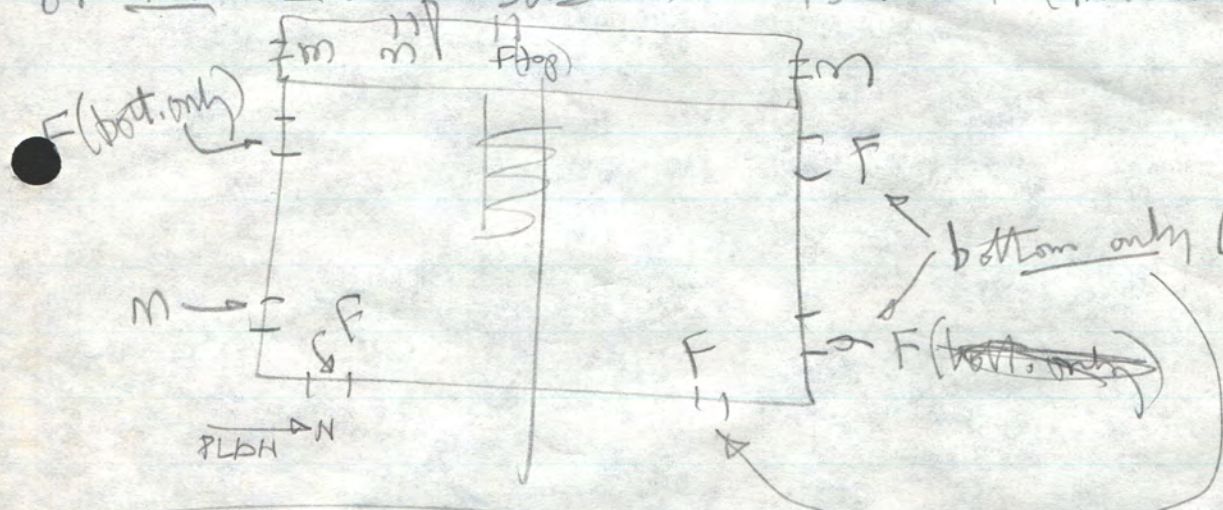


7. Measure height contents at 2nd fl.

S. 18 x 55 (Chim opening 5-1/2)

N. 19 1/2 x 55 1/2 (" " 5-1)

8. No 2nd fl sashes = Federal (modern)



1 1/2 - 1 3/4

3/16

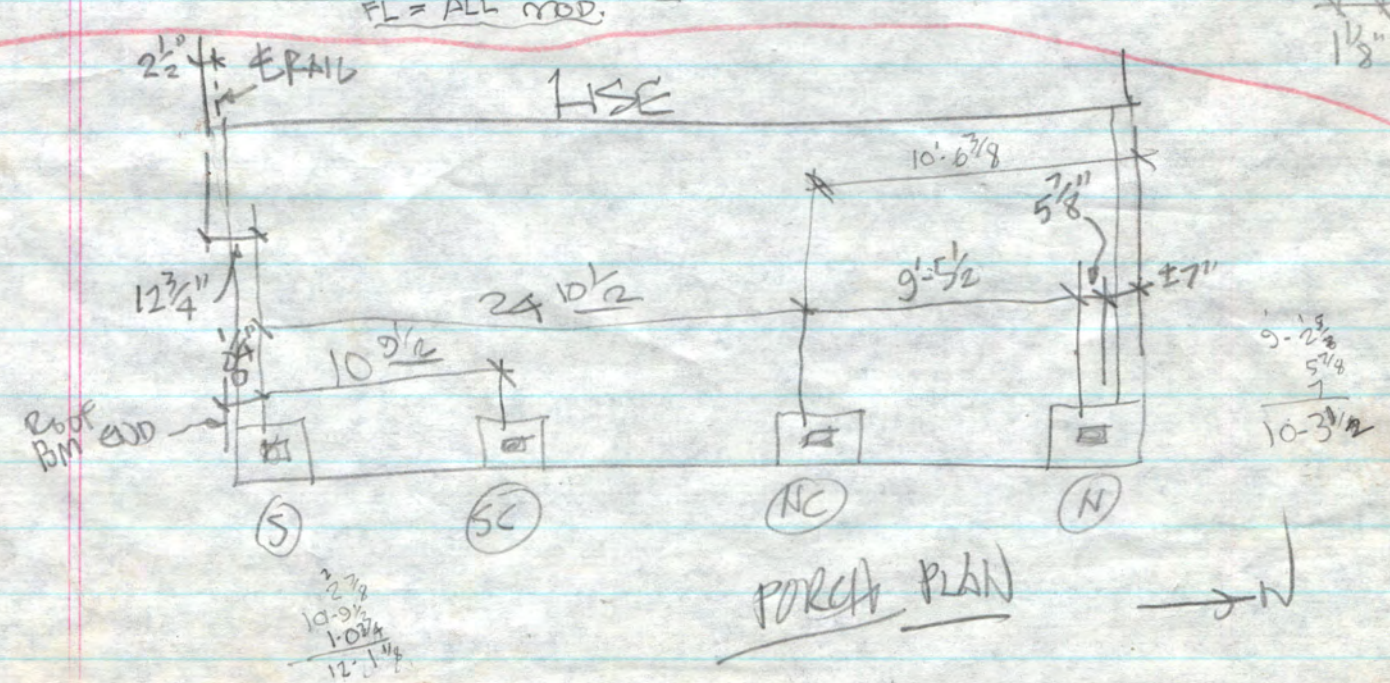
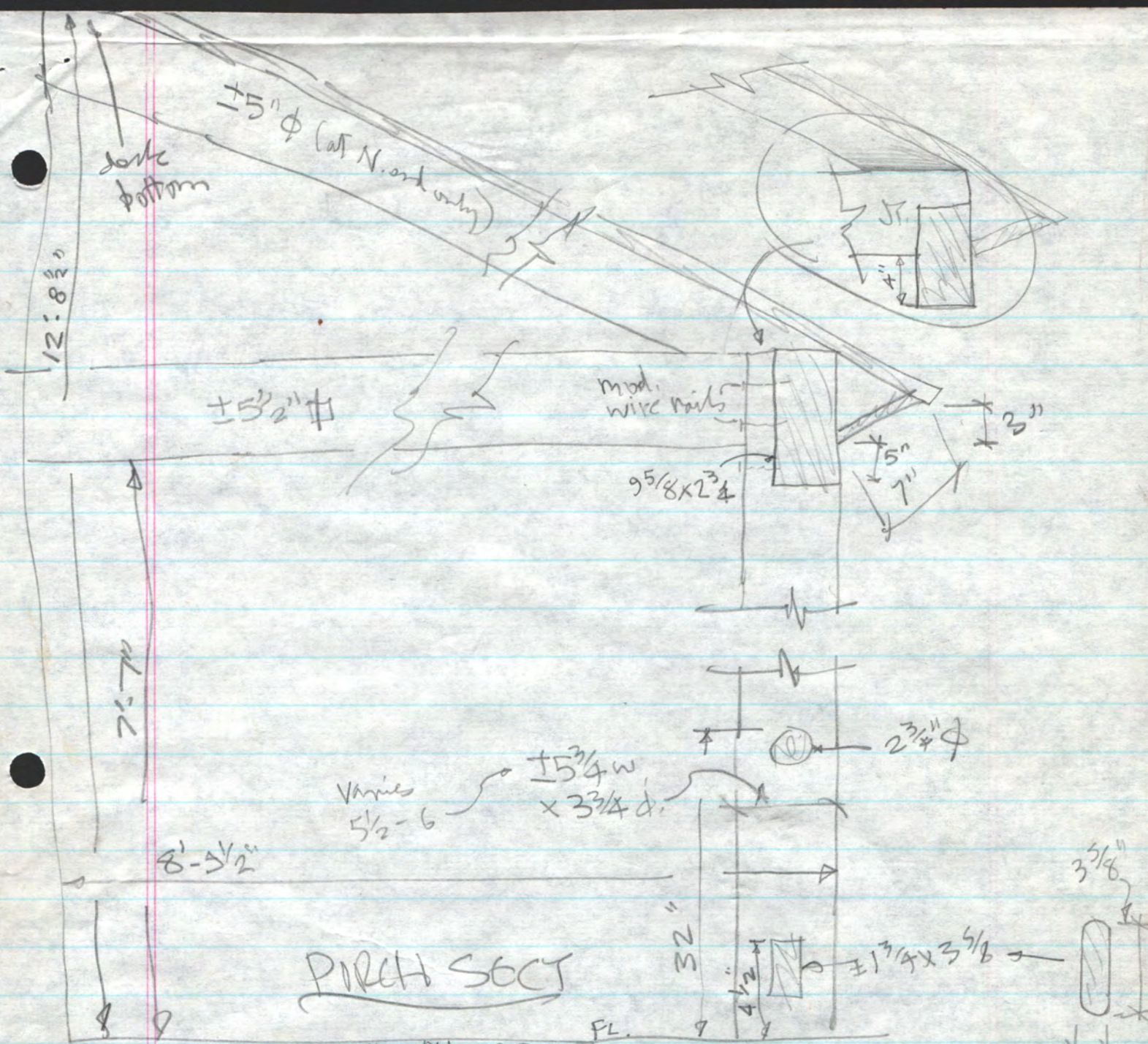
Jamb

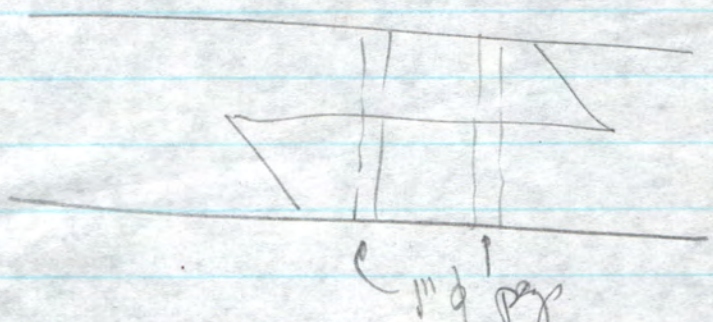
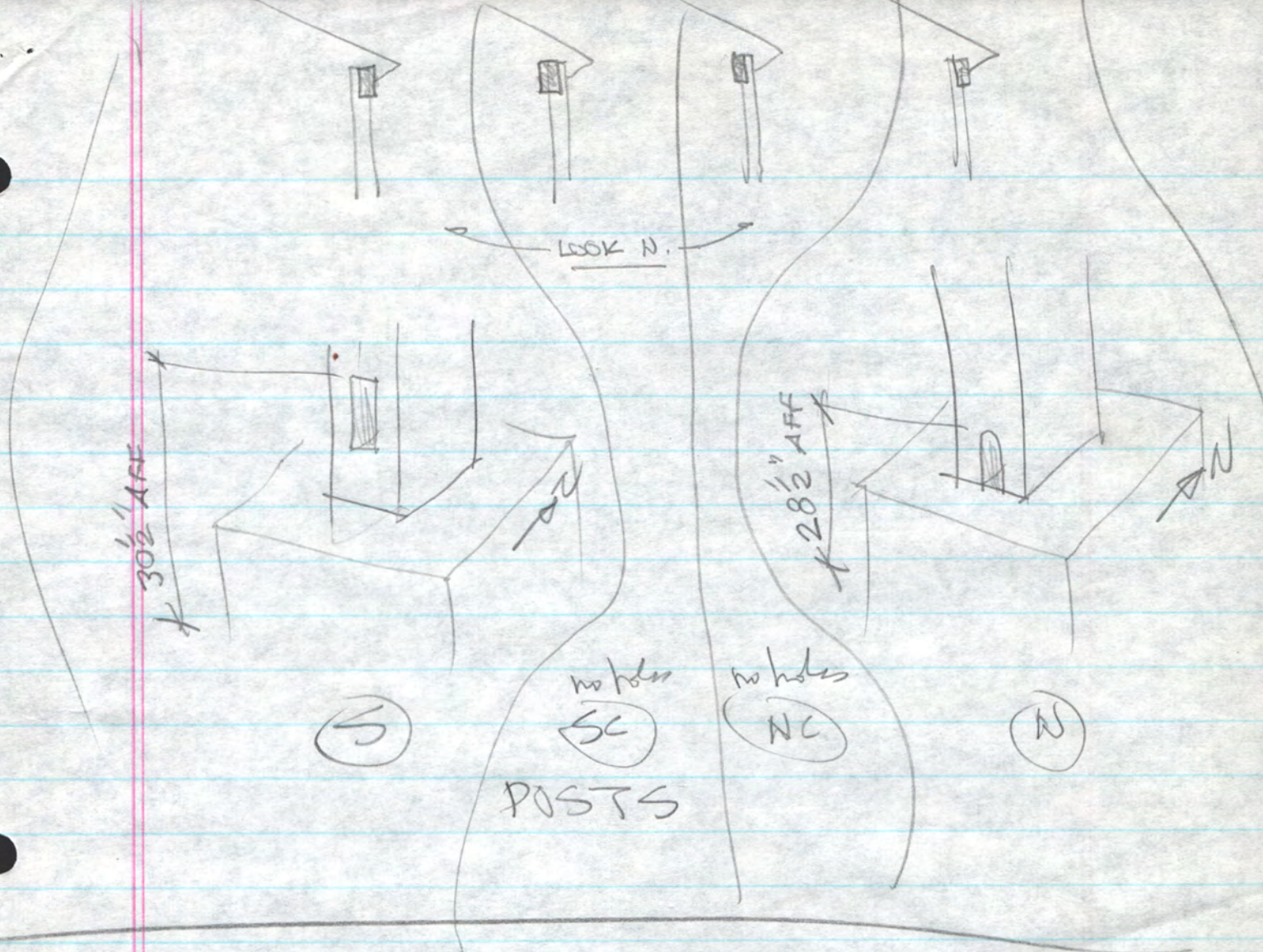
SASH

7/8 meet rail

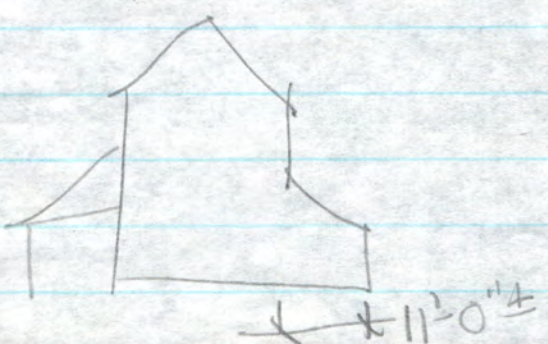
2 3/8 bott rail

1 3/4 top rail





1" dia pipe
 BOB AT center of porch front



PLYMOUTH RES.

89061

29 MAY '89

Trip to sites HD

Plymouth lock

7" x 4"



imprint
on 1st fl.
N. Rm
year door

~~Cont. on Plymouth Res:~~

~~JIM LITTLEFORD~~

~~RTR. BOX 509~~

~~SELMA.~~

~~872-7382~~

May 29 '89



PROPOSED SITE (see photos)

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

June 1, 1989

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

Re: Dr. Gillis Payne
c.1830 House
Project No. 89061

Dear Bob:

Attached are 3 examples of Georgia "I" houses from the c.1830 period as published in The Architecture of Georgia by Frederick Nichols, Beehive Press, 1976. Of these examples the majority have square timber posts with corner chamfers, similar to the newel post in the subject house. The posts appear to be about 10 inches square and have no bases or capitals. The chamfers stop just above the top rail.

Some of these porches have board soffits and some do not. Several examples have no balusters at the porch rail, which would appear to be the case at the subject house (what is its historic name?).

The present remnants of porch posts at the subject house have a mortise that, if lowered 2 to 3 feet, might match the bottom rail mortise on the house front. However there is no corresponding mortise for a top rail. I do not recall seeing mortises on different sides of the posts, either, as would be expected. In short it looks like these may be later makeshift revised framing members (their rectangular section and irregularity seem to support this) rather than porch posts. They may have been floor or roof members for the now-gone original porch. The next time someone goes to the site this should be examined in more detail, but without looking again I doubt these were the original posts.

Please let us know what you think is appropriate to do in reconstructing posts for an appropriate porch. The present porch appears to be early 20th century or so.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: Mrs. Payne
File

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

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

June 12, 1989

Jim Littleford, Contractor
Route 2 Box 509
Selma, Al.

Re: Dr. & Mrs Gillis Payne c.1830 House
Project No. 89061

Dear Jim:

Your photographs of the "I" house you moved some years ago will be very helpful in giving us a documented local period and type source for such missing elements as the upstairs mantels and the chimneys. When the time comes, it would be best for you to go back to this previous house and get accurate profiles and dimensions of the upstairs mantels. Were both upstairs mantels identical? Usually they would be somewhat different, as are the downstairs mantels in the ~~Gillis~~ ^{Payne} house. If these are different they should each be reproduced accordingly.

For my records, please indicate on the attached map the original and relocated positions of the house in your photos, the addresses, historic name and date (or "circa" date), present owner's name and any other such information you have.

I've copied 36 of the most useful photos and returned your originals to Anne Payne.

I noticed on the "after" photos that the chimneys and roof-gable trims were not reproduced per the originals. On the Payne's house we will want to go more towards accurate "restoration" rather than approximate renovation, and take pains to accurately reproduce the original details. It generally costs no more, but only takes a little study of the details and existing elements before beginning a particular task.

I will work up details for you, and of course you will find many things in working on the building that I will not have seen. This will be a team effort, and the basis of the effort is historical accuracy whenever possible. It is important to engage subs and craftsmen who understand this goal and are interested in it.

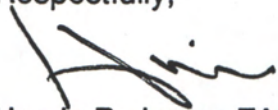
I find that some excellent craftsmen have no sympathy with nor understanding of such a goal and are thus unsuitable for restoration work, no matter how skilled they are. For example, few masons are willing to do it other than "their way". We normally have to show them how to tool the joints etc. I will furnish you details on joint-tooling.

Old houses were not built to the degree of "square, plumb and uniform" that is standard today, and this is part of their beauty and charm. A costly handmade oriental rug is also not dimensionally true as a machine-made one from Sears-Roebuck, but the irregular one is far more beautiful. This is a subtlety that is hard for some craftsmen to grasp. They ordinarily want to make it perfect, or else will over-react and make it "rustic". Either approach is inappropriate. We need to try for the same type of workmanship found in the original work.

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

I'm looking forward to working with you and Anne on this interesting old house.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harvie P. Jones". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: Anne Payne
File



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101



TELEPHONE NUMBER
261-3184

June 27, 1989

Mr. Harvie P. Jones, AIA
Jones and Herrin, Architects
104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Harvie:

Friday the clouds finally broke, allowing me to get out to the Parmer-Murrell House. Please find enclosed a sketch showing the horizontal and vertical dimensions of the framed openings of the upstairs north room (rear or west wall). I also enclose a photo of the entire wall framing for that portion of the house. It seems that the larger framed openings into which the window frames themselves were set varied from 2'-7" to 2'-9" throughout the house, with a height of 5'-5".

The windows openings themselves--that is, the part accommodating the sash--is the standard 2'-4" wide, with a height of 4'-7". The window frame was of course simply set into the larger framed opening and wedged where necessary to stay put. Each windowsill is 2'-10" from the floor. I hope this information will help. Please let me know if there's any confusion or if you need additional measurements.

I also enclose prints of both downstairs mantelpieces, as per your request. Sorry they're not clearer. I can use a scale stick if you need additional views.

I'm very glad that you stressed to Jim Littleford the need for authenticity--for accurate rather than approximate work--in your June 12 letter to him. Since some of the trim at the Parmer-Murrell house will have to be devised from scratch, it is all the more important that appropriate prototypes be sought and then scrupulously replicated.

In your letter to me of June 1, you raised the question of the original appearance of the front porch. According to 80 year-old Styles H. Murrell, Jr., who lived in the house as a boy, it was his father who cut off the lower part of the porch posts and substituted brick piers "to improve the looks of the place." Mr. Murrell knew of no other work to the porch prior to that, and from a close look at the present framing I'm inclined to think it is early, if not original. Supports are secured by mortice and tenon to the top plate, which itself is composed of a couple of heavy members lap-jointed together. If there was a railing of any kind enclosing part of the porch, it seems to have been merely a single waist-high beveled plank with no corresponding bottom rail. I have seen this on some other pioneer structures. The mortice pockets indicate that only the north end of the porch was railed, if indeed there was railing.

Mr. Harvie P. Jones, AIA
June 27, 1989
Page 2

One inexplicable mortise pocket on the outside of the south post may have been simply a miscalculation, which I have also seen on old framing members which were shaped, bored and pocketed before being "raised." The same post is attached to the top plate in reverse from the other posts--although evidently with a tenon.

Given all this, I feel that the porch should remain pretty much as is, except for removing the brick piers and replacing the bases of the posts. To conjecture out of thin air seems inappropriate in this case.

Mr. Murrell was at a loss to explain why the house was never finished. As he put it, "they had the money and the slaves. I reckon they just figured that was enough to live in."

Family tradition says the house was built around 1833 for Mr. Murrell's ancestor, Josiah Parmer (1787-1869). Parmer patented the land from the government in 1827, adding to it in 1831 according to the county tractbook--so tradition and documented fact dovetail nicely. Besides, the 1833 date is just about right for the mantelpieces and molding profiles, which seem to have been taken from one of Asher Benjamin's patternbooks.

Since the mid-1830s was a time of economic crisis in the South (when the speculative bubble burst and lots of people lost their shirts in the ensuing "panic"), this, too, could account for the house not being completed. It's a fascinating little mystery.

The house passed into the Murrell family when Styles Murrell's grandfather, David Westcott Murrell (1833-1905) married Sarah Amanda Parmer (1837-1909), a daughter of Josiah. Members of both families, including a Parmer son who died in Confederate service, are buried in the private cemetery across the road.

We are now awaiting final approval from the governor for transfer of the property to the Paynes. I hope this will take place in just a few days.

With best wishes,



Robert Gamble
Architectural Historian

RSG/rf

Enclosure



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101

July 11, 1989



TELEPHONE NUMBER
261-3184

Mr. Harvie P. Jones, AIA
Jones and Herrin, Architects
104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Harvie:

Perhaps you will have heard from the Paynes by the time this reaches you. The Parmer-Murrell House transfer has now been completed and they appear eager to move ahead. Anne Payne told me last week that they hope to put the concrete pads for the foundation piers in place as soon as it dries out. You will also be pleased to learn that she has accepted your proposal for the "tight" upstairs bathroom (3' - 6' wide).

The Autauga County house about which you inquired (the one Jim Littleford dismantled) is the Benjamin Underwood House (circa 1840). It stood originally in the Mulberry community about 8 miles east of Autaugaville and one mile N of Ala. 14 on the east side of County Road 9. It was dismantled, moved, and rebuilt in altered form by Jimmy and Gladys Elliott, the current owners, in 1985 (Gladys descends from the builder, Benjamin Underwood). Initially, their plans were to raze the house and simply reuse some of the materials. The current structure is situated on Autauga Co. 15 (Jones Bluff Dam Road) 3 miles south of Alabama 14, but still in the Mulberry community.

Except for the rear shed, the rebuilding preserved the plan of the original structure (see enclosed sketch), but added a large rear wing and a basement. The wide, flush board walls and interior trim were also retained.

The Elliotts would be glad to show you the house if you're ever out that way. Their telephone number is 875-3586 (Selma exchange); address: Rt. 3, Box 214 E, Selma, AL 36701.

Best,

Robert Gamble
Architectural Historian

RSG/rf

Enclosure

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

July 28, 1989

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

Re: c.1830 Parmer-Murrel House (Payne Residence)
Project No. 89061

Dear Bob:

After a meeting on another matter on July 27 at the Alabama Historical Commission offices, I went by the house to check the items we recently discussed. I now have measurements that will enable me to set the chimney widths, hearth sizes, second floor mantel surrounds, porch dimensions, etc. I verified that the front main roof cornice is the same profile (unmoulded angled board) as the rear, verified the porch roof profile and construction, confirmed that all the brick piers are modern, and inventoried which sashes are apparently Federal.

Interestingly, the top sashes of the three windows in the north-east room are close but modern replicas of the Federal bottom sashes. They have nailed corners instead of pegs, and are slightly fatter in section. The distinctive Federal moulding profile was copied very closely.

At the present porch, all the flooring and floor framing is modern. The roof beams (front and north side) and one pole-rafter (north edge) could be original based on their joinery and general dimensions. However, on the roof beams I do not see the jack-plane marks typical of "smoothing" of this period. The beams have a precise and modern look, notwithstanding the pegged shiplap joint of the front beam. This beam may be a "restoration", as are the top sashes in the N.E. room. The other rafters are modern. If the tar-paper can be torn off I think we will find clear mortise evidence on the house front of the original rafter number, size, and spacing and by copy of this letter I'm requesting Ann Payne to see if she can get this done and furnish to me photos and measurements.

There is clear and matching evidence in the siding at both the north and south ends of the porch of the missing top and bottom rails (top mortise is +/- 2/3/4" diameter, bottom rail is +/- 1-1/8" x 3-5/8" with rounded top and bottom.) The material of the posts is probably also original for two to them have mortises corresponding to the bottom-rail mortise at the siding, although the tops of the posts have been cut off, the posts moved and rotated, and the posts shifted upward to fit the modern brick raised porch piers. Thus all the joints at the top post and beam connection are with modern wire nails. The corner posts have also been moved about 10" from their original locations in order to

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

center on the modern brick piers. The posts would necessarily have been at the porch corners in order to receive the rails evidenced at the house front wall.

The evidence is mixed and murky on whether the porch rails extended across the front as well as the sides. However, the building code is clear: Rails are required if the porch is 30 inches above ground, which this one will be unless we fill 6 or 8 inches under the porch. Please let me know your preference. Remember that guests unfamiliar with the house will be using it, in the dark.

The four post remnants are irregular in size (5-1/2 - 5-7/8 inches wide by about 3-3/4 inches deep and appear to be at least to be early material.) Since two of them contain mortises that approximately correspond to those in the house front of the bottom rail, (but have no mortise for the top rail), this supports the possibility that these post remnants may be original. I have no explanation for the lack of top-rail mortises, nor for the lack of any mortises on any post faces except these two narrow faces (i.e. side faces, not corresponding to a fit to the rails at the porch ends). Perhaps the posts were rotated 90 degrees when relocated, so the narrow post faces originally faced to the front. Anything we do is going to be a guess, so I'll make one and send it to you for your thoughts.

In Federal Period houses with plastered walls, I've always found the fireplace surrounds to be plastered brick. This house apparently had no plaster. Would the surrounds have been exposed brick? Or would they have gotten enough plaster together to avoid this (in my observation) unusual interior finish condition?

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: Ann Payne
file
HJ



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101



TELEPHONE NUMBER
261-3184

August 21, 1989

Mr. Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
Jones & Herrin, Architects
104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, AL 35801

Dear Harvie:

This office has reviewed your rehabilitation/restoration plans for the Parmer-Murrell House. They are indeed impressive, indicating a lot of careful thought about this project. The modifications made to the original structure for the sake of contemporary function have been achieved with unusual sensitivity. Assuming they are carried out as shown in the drawings, this project should be a model of adaptive restoration.

In our telephone conversation, I mentioned the design of the front steps. After further thought and investigation, I am inclined to agree with you regarding the use of ^{closed}risers. I found only two instances of their absence after looking at dozens of mid-to-late 19th century photographs, including many from the Civil War period. Even a slave house in a circa 1862 photograph had risers on its very crude front steps!

Our one concern regards the front porch. As you so aptly put it, the provenance of the porch is "murky." That, of course, is all the more reason to change it as little as possible except where new construction is clearly in evidence, as with the floor and the brick piers. Styles Murrell emphatically remembers that the bottom of the porch supports "got bad," as he put it. So about 1940 his father sawed the lower part of the posts off and inserted the brick pedestals beneath the remaining portions. Keeping the railing as plain as possible is also appropriate. While the evidence is clear for a railing at the north end, I'm not so sure about the south.

I understand that the house will probably be moved next Friday.

Best regards,

Robert Gamble
Architectural Historian

RSG/rg

f: Parmer-Murrell/EP

Bob - there are two different posts with top-rail mortises (S. + N.) & even more conclusively the bottom of top rail mortises are clear & distinct at both the south & north ends of the porch



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101



TELEPHONE NUMBER
261-3184

21 August 1989

Mrs. Ann Payne
Route 2, Box 622
Ramer, AL 36069

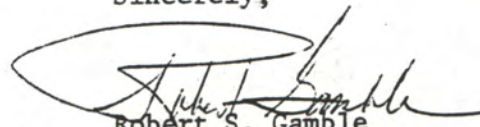
Dear Ann:

This office has reviewed Harvie Jones' plans for the restoration/
rehabilitation of the old Parmer-Murrell house. This is to let you
know that we are in agreement with the project as he has detailed
it. If carried out as shown, the project should be a very exemplary
one of its kind.

Enclosed is a copy of our letter to Harvie on this matter.

We will be in touch as things move along.

Sincerely,


Robert S. Gamble
Architectural Historian

RSG/rg



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101

November 30, 1989



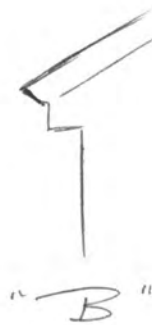
TELEPHONE NUMBER
261-3184

Mr. Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
Jones & Herrin
104 Jefferson Street
Huntsville, AL 35801

Dear Harvie:

Congratulations on the Award of Merit that Jones & Herrin have received for the restoration of Belle Mont. Well deserved! We will mention it in our next newsletter. I also think it would warrant a short press release through AP or UPS (or has this already been done by General Shale?). This achievement makes all of us associated with the project feel proud.

I was out at the Paynes' house, the old Parmer-Murrell house, day before yesterday. Everything is coming along nicely. One minor mistake was the cornice at the roofline. As indicated when the framing was stripped, the cornice had a simple box profile in the beginning, rather than being built up as indicated on the working drawings. In other words, it was "A" below, rather than "B."



OK - see attached. HJ

Unfortunately, I failed to catch this when I reviewed the plans, or I would've probably raised the question with you. Most people won't notice, but the net result is that the cornice is about 5" lower than it was originally.

What do you think of reusing the porch posts and splicing new bottom sections onto them, fashioned of weathered wood? If not original, the remnant posts are certainly early. From the aesthetic perspective, chamfered posts would probably be preferable. But of course I speak from the purely preservationist viewpoint.

already on plans - HJ

Mr. Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
Page 2

The Paynes also did away with both rear windows in the shed addition, since they needed the wall space. I've suggested they insert blind sashes there, or perhaps false closed shutters, to at least retain the outward reminder that windows were once there. What think you?

Best regards,

Bob
Robert Gamble
Historian

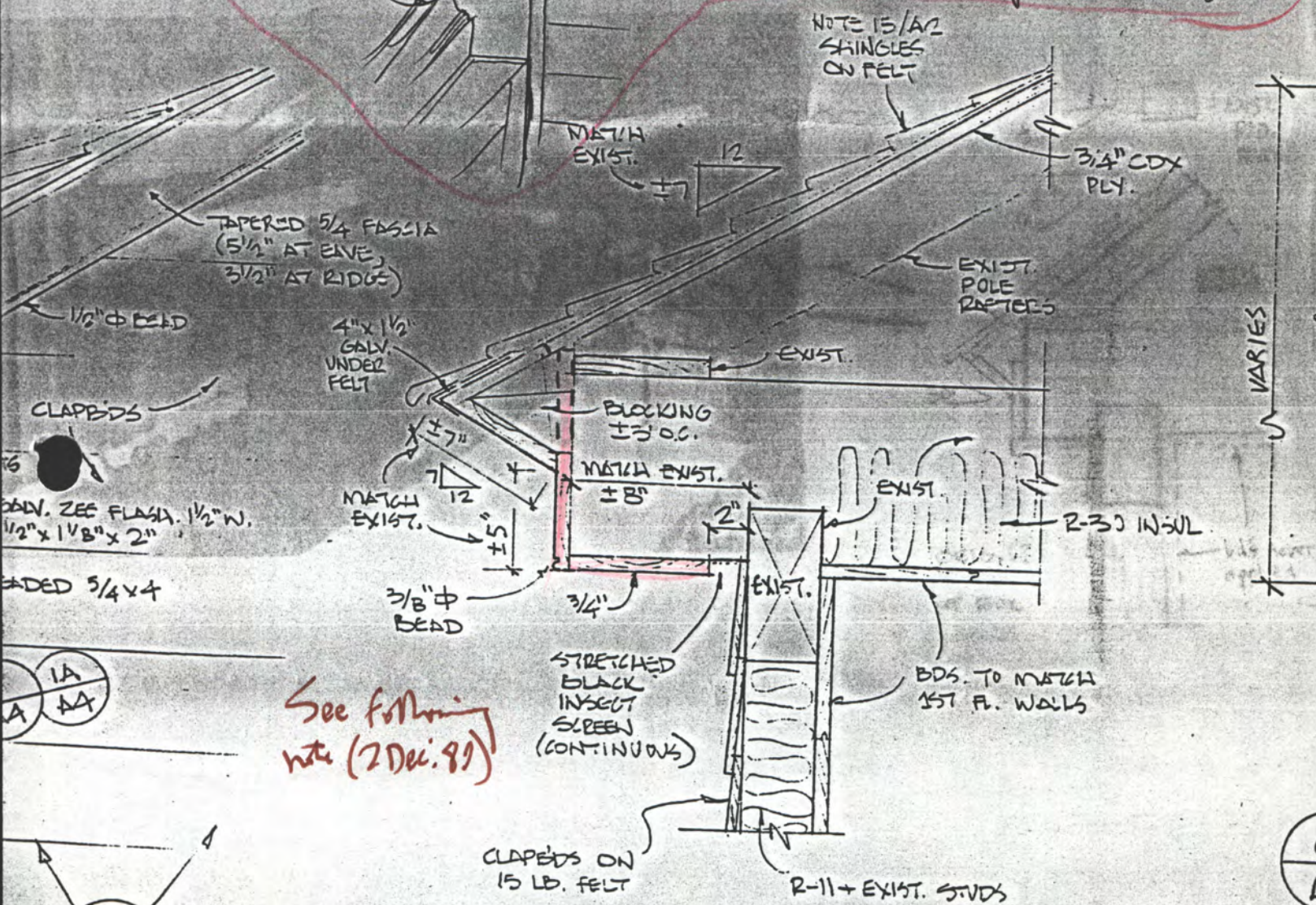
RSG/rf

1 Dec 89

Bob - I assume you mean that the evidence is that the 30" projection at the box cornice is later. If so, all they have to do is remove it - an easy job.

This appeared to be a variation on the typical Fed.

It matches the porch cornice, as well.



See following note (2 Dec. 89)

7
A4

MAIN ROOF BOXED CORNICE
1 1/2" = 1'-0"

c. 1830 Palmer - Murrell - Payne
H. Jones

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

2 Dec '89

Harvie P. Jones, F.A.I.A.

to AHC - Mart - Bob Gamble
re - c. 1850 Parmer - Merrill Payne

Dear Bob -

Attached are c. 1980 photos of
the c. 1840 Benj. Underwood house,
very similar to Parmer - Merrill.
It has a roof - cornice mould.

The framing would not be
evidence of a lack of a projection
since the joint - ends would be square
in either case:

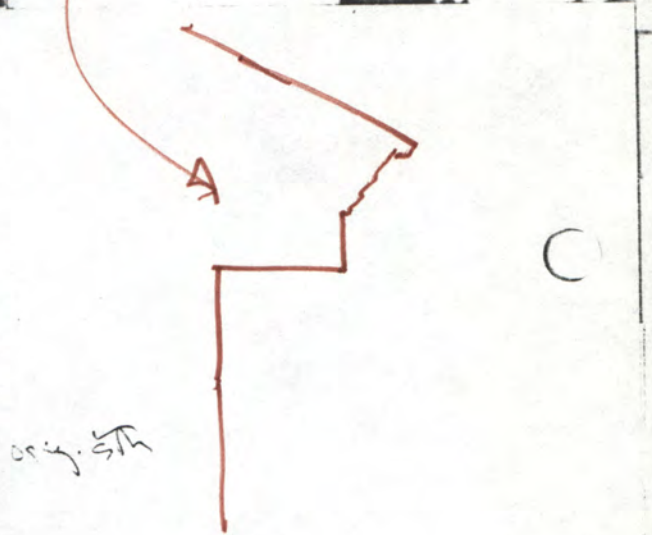
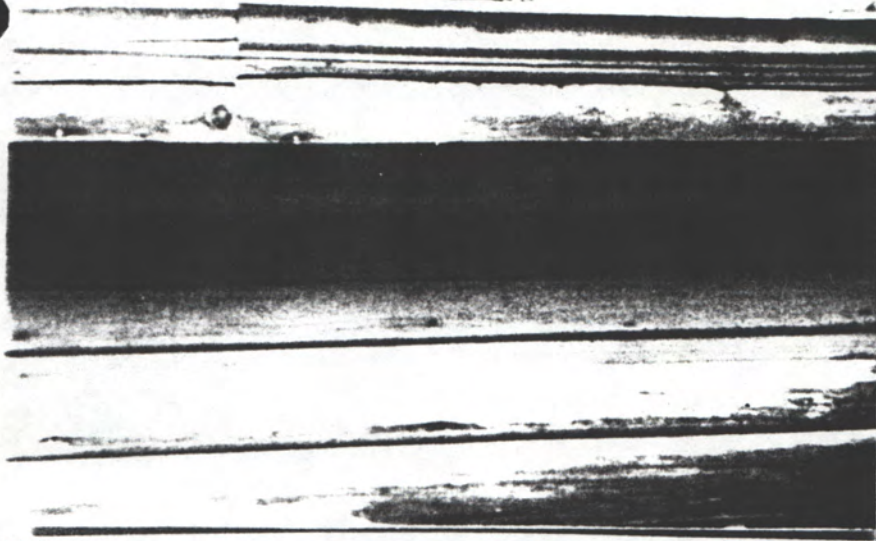
OPTIONAL
PROFILE

SQ. JOINT ENDS
= TYPICAL

The best evidence would
be the trim boards that
were removed (saw marks, paint traces,
weathering, wood - grain etc.)

Herrin

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



c. 1840 Benj. Underwood 1st
 Autauga Co. AL
 in 1985
 (almost identical to
 c. 1830 James Murrell

Re: C. 1830 Parmer-Murrell Hse
near Mont. (Proctor.)

Rec'd Jan. 19 '90
HW

Dear Harvey,

We are progressing steadily but slowly on the house restoration. The bad weather ~~last~~ ^{this} month really slowed us down, but there was no damage since the plumbing was just being installed - Bob Gamble has come out several times to give us advice. Your

original plans were so complete that it has been relatively easy to continue to work with those guidelines - We have not been able to begin work on the kitchen/dining addition.

Hopefully, we will have some dry weather soon and we can get the foundation established. We have used all the warm days so far to paint.

Joe Harris is an excellent carpenter, and he is very interested in this project. He does nearly all of the work himself - that slows us down, but I don't have to worry and check constantly to be sure the work is done correctly -

Please plan to come by sometimes when you
are in this area - I would like for you to see
the house and see what you think about it.

Sincerely,
Anne

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

January 22, 1990

Mrs. Anne Payne
P.O. Box 11609
Montgomery, Al. 36198

Re: c.1830 Parmer-Murrel (Payne Residence)
Project No. 89061

Dear Anne:

Thanks for your nice note of January 18. I appreciate the comment regarding the plans and am happy to hear you have an interested and capable carpenter. Apparently you got a good mason as well, for Bob Gamble said that William Seale, a nationally known architectural historian, was convinced the new chimneys were the originals.

I will be at the Architectural Review Board meeting at the Alabama Historical Commission offices on March 8. I will probably be finished by about 2 PM and would enjoy seeing your progress. I'll call your office to see if you can go.

Respectfully,



Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/am

cc: HJ

James f. Herrin, Arch.
H. Jones

TRADITIONS

BY JIM UPCHURCH

A MONTGOMERY COUPLE RESTORES AN HISTORIC HOME



"I loved it from the first time I saw it," says Anne Payne of the 150-year old hand-made structure she and her husband, Dr. Gillis Payne, are restoring after moving it from Pintlala to Montgomery County's Mt. Zion Road.

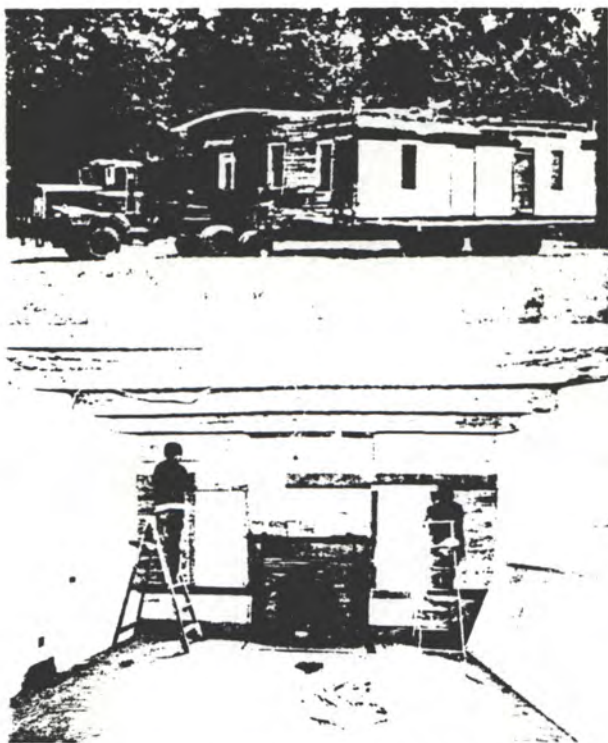
The modest-sized, two-story plantation house, built in 1836 by prosperous planter Josiah Parmer and later passed by marriage and inheritance to the Murrell family, members of which lived in it until 1989, is "the only example in Montgomery County and one of only about 40 in the state of a plantation plain-style I-house," according to Bob Gamble, senior architectural historian with the Alabama Historical Commission. "It's really the last of the buffalo, and one of the most sensitive restorations in this area."

The description "I-house" refers to the house's room arrangement, which simply puts two rooms end-to-end in an I formation in the main structure, with a shed-type I-shaped structure normally along the back of the house.

The structure, which Gamble says is "probably one of the two or three oldest frame houses in Montgomery County," was brought to light by Montgomery businessman Ray Scott, former head of Bass Anglers Sportsman Society. Last summer, Scott was clearing some old buildings off land he intends to use as a deer park. His plans were reportedly to

burn the old house down. But after a member of the Pintlala Historical Society told him that the old house might have some significance despite its ramshackle, tar-papered appearance — "It looked pretty worthless," says Mrs. Payne — Scott called Gamble for advice.

Gamble, whose *Historic Architecture in Alabama* is the standard work in the field, recognized the significance of the house. He called Landmarks Foundation executive director Mary Ann Neeley for advice on a house-mover. He got not only that information, but also the welcome news that the Paynes, who had long



Top: The Parmer-Murrell house, roof and porch dismantled, was trucked to its Mt. Zion Road site in September.

Bottom: Crew members working on two window frames. The handmade mantelpiece is original; the brickwork is by Selma craftsman Alvin Craig.

Right: A winding gravel farm drive leads up to the house, sited atop a gentle green hill.

Photos (except top photo) by: Kevin Glackmeyer



dreamed of restoring an old house though they'd never done it before, might be in the market for just such a project.

They were indeed. In fact, so committed were the Paynes to performing a sensitive restoration that they accepted the structure from the Historical Commission under deed restrictions requiring them to abide by the Department of the Interior's strict restoration standards.

The Paynes didn't find that as limiting as some people might. "We had wanted to live in an older-style house for so long, and hadn't been able to find the right one. We had even looked into recreations," said Ann Payne. "But none of them looked right; they looked too new. We really wanted to do an authentic restoration or nothing."

Once the legal details were taken care of, things began to move quickly. Gamble recommended Huntsville architect Harvey Jones, a member of the American Society of Restoration Architects and a

Institute of

"splendid expert in restoration work" as Gamble describes him, to advise the Paynes. Before the house was moved, Jones had examined it, done careful measurements, and drawn the restoration plans. He had also "keyed" the house's parts, for partial disassembly and re-assembly would be required to move the house across the county and put it back in one piece. The porch and top story of the house were collapsed for the move.

Reconstruction began in September 1989; the Paynes hope to move in in June. Their contractor is Joe Harris of Selma, who has worked on such prime-quality restoration projects as the Strother house in Camden and the Henderson house in Selma.

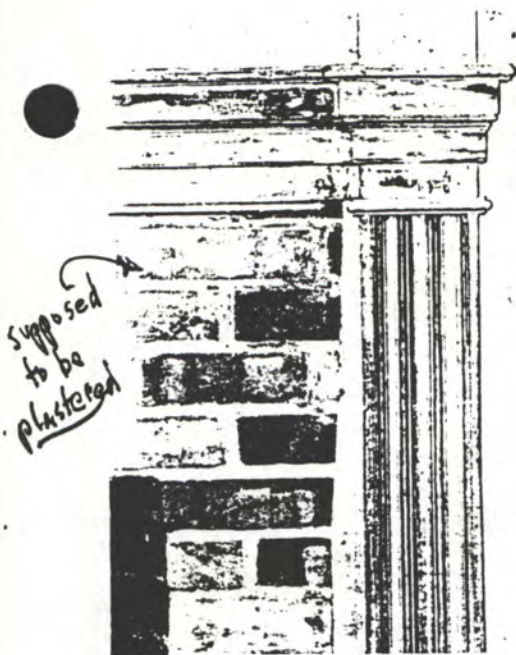
Jones' and Harris' expertise are combining well with the Payne's sensitivity: the house's early 19th-century details are fascinating. You can see on these pages examples of the hand-notched joints, hand-shaved beams made of pine trees cut on the home's original site, and the

original flooring, now being stripped back to its natural finish.

Almost all the original wood remains, and almost all of that is in sound shape. In a few places, the Paynes have allowed water- or termite-damaged wood to stay in place, reinforcing it with new wood. That's so that future scholars can better study the original construction techniques used to build the house.

They couldn't save the original chimneys. One of them was gone and the other had "pulled far away from the wood, and it was so old the bricks just came apart in your hand," says Mrs. Payne. But they did the next best thing: found an excellent latter-day craftsman to reconstruct the chimneys under Harris' supervision. His name is Alvin Craig, also from Selma.

Craig has worked with Harris on other historic structures. Gamble and Mrs. Payne join in their admiration of his handiwork, some of which is shown on these pages. Craig's not particularly a



The original handmade mantel with old-style brickwork by Alvin Craig.

specialist in restoration, though, says Harris. He says Craig "Does this kind of thing, but also lots of work on Hardee's and things like that. It don't make him no difference *what* it is. He's just good at it."

"I've had to learn some patience," says Mrs. Payne, who's anxious to move in in June. But it could be much worse: the Paynes already live on the site, in a farmhouse that faces the project from another low hilltop across the dirt drive. So Mrs. Payne is able to carry out daily inspections with little inconvenience. They'll move out of the farmhouse and into the restored dwelling, and the existing farmhouse will be where their college-age children and other visitors will stay. They've owned the land for about six years.

It took Josiah Parmer much longer to build the house than it will take the Paynes to restore it: Gamble says a project like this would have taken about two years in the mid-1830s, which should give Mrs. Payne some consolation. "They cut all the main timbers and framing on site with hand tools, and planed it by hand with saws and adzes. Then it had to cure, which takes time." Almost undoubtedly,

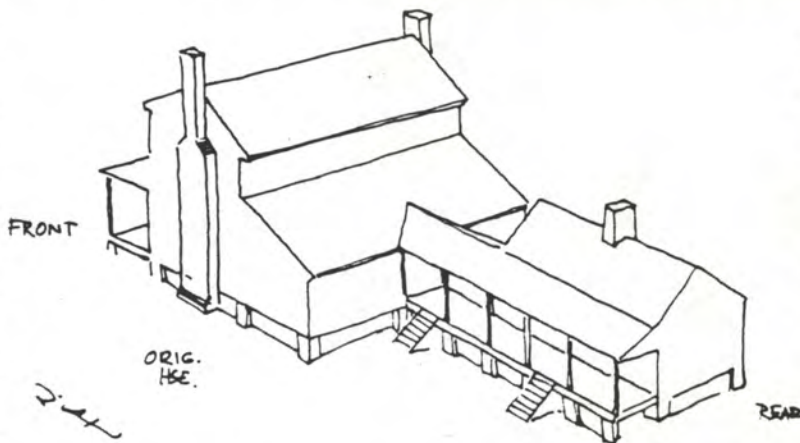
slave labor was used in the construction. Finely-fitted hand-notched joints and other details are visible throughout the house. Finish work would probably have been purchased from a local cabinet-maker in town, says Gamble.

Even in those frontier days, a plantation owner like Parmer would have hired a contractor to build the house. Architects wouldn't have been used, just "master builders," working from what Gamble calls a "mental template of designs

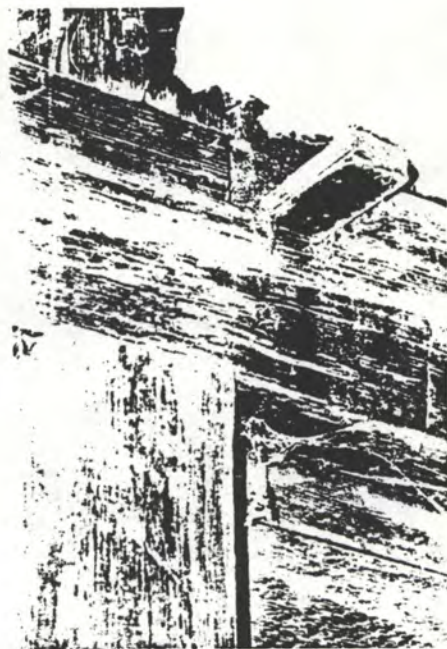


The stairway to the master bedroom. Vertical beams were rough-cut from single trees — chop marks are visible.

learned during their apprenticeship." This style of house was widely built in South Carolina, where Gamble says Parmer came from, and many examples



Sketch by architect Harvey Jones includes the planned kitchen-and-dining addition at lower right.



A typical hand-fitted joint. "The house fits together like Lincoln logs," says Anne Payne.

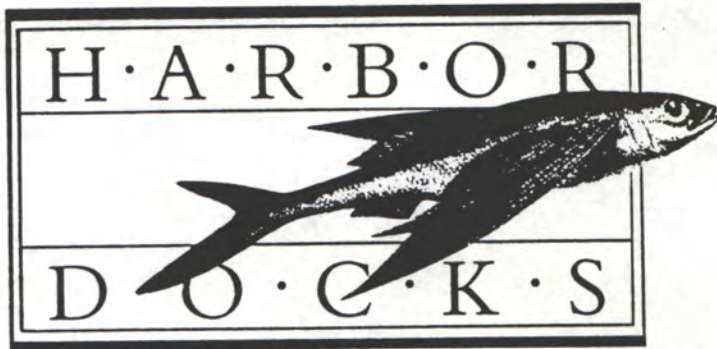
of the style are preserved there.

In fact, a member of the family, even Parmer himself, could have been the contractor. "There's a record of a man named Parmer being paid for building a church for a Montgomery County congregation during the 1830s," Gamble says.

Gamble dates the house to 1836 with considerable confidence. The tip-offs are the "molding profiles and mantelpieces and chair rails," says Gamble. "People think you look at the whole piece of cake and date it, but that ain't so," he says. "It's the details." He also knows the land the house stood on was bought in two parcels in the late 1820s and early 1830s.

Family tradition also supports the 1836 date: Gamble talked to an elderly member of the Murrell family.

Gamble doesn't know how much the house would have cost to build, but it was definitely the project of a fairly prosperous planter. But though it's a lovely house now, with restoration substantially advanced, it's not large — maybe a thousand square feet downstairs — and not in the least reminiscent of Tara or other manifestations of



· R E S T A U R A N T ·



Since 1979,
the only thing we've overlooked
is the Destin Harbor.

538 Hwy. 98 East • Destin, Florida • (904) 837-2506

HOME EQUITY LINE OF CREDIT NO CLOSING COSTS



CALL
LARRY McLEMORE
270-3003

You deserve the tax advantage. Establish a First Montgomery Line of Credit for \$10,000 or more and close before July 1, 1990, and you may eliminate all closing costs. We do recommend that you consult your tax adviser

regarding the deductibility of your interest.

A dedication to quality service — a commitment to excellence, the First Montgomery way.



FIRST MONTGOMERY BANK

MEMBER FDIC

Main Office
First Montgomery Center
2740 Zeida Road

Downtown Office
500 Bibb Street



Eastmont Office
5400 Atlanta Highway

Southeast Office
2834 E. South Boulevard

the modern-day antebellum fantasy. "It's not widely known that well over half, probably 75%, of Alabama free whites even as late as the 1850s lived in log cabins, dog-trot houses or the equivalent," says Gamble. "This was definitely an upscale house for the period. The Murrell family, which inherited the house, had 110 slaves according to the 1850 census, so they were wealthy."

Another interesting historical footnote: on its original site, the house stood next to the Federal Road, the most significant thoroughfare through this area. The house was right down the Federal Road from a landmark named Manak's Tavern. "There was probably just a picket fence between this house and the Federal Road," says Gamble.

As committed as the Paynes are to the authenticity of their restoration, a 20th-century lifestyle does make some demands. Jones has designed a second kitchen and dining building, which will be attached to the rear of the house and connected to it by a screened walkway. Separating the kitchen from the house is the way they did it in the 1830s, though, and the exterior of the addition, designed by Harvey Jones, will be visually consistent with the rest of the structure. The house will have asphalt shingles, because wood shingles are just too expensive and too much of a fire hazard, says Anne Payne. But "if it had had a tin roof, we'd have put on a tin roof," she says. And hand-blown glass for the windows is also too expensive to replace, she says: about \$10 per pane plus \$10 to install. And the house has plenty of windows.

Standing in the upstairs bedroom, surrounded by large windows looking out over sun-flooded, springtime fields and big oaks draped in Spanish moss, Mrs. Payne talks about natural-finish beams with their visible saw and adze-marks; about the hand-made doors; about their being no nails used to frame the house, and how everything is "notched and grooved by hand and fits together like Lincoln logs."

"What I love about the house is its integrity," she says. "It's exactly what they built when they got off the wagon. It was later on that people accumulated lots and lots of slaves and money and started to fancy everything up."

The sound of hammers comes from below as she turns to an open window framing a massive oak. "Right under that tree," she says with a laugh, "is where my chair goes." ■

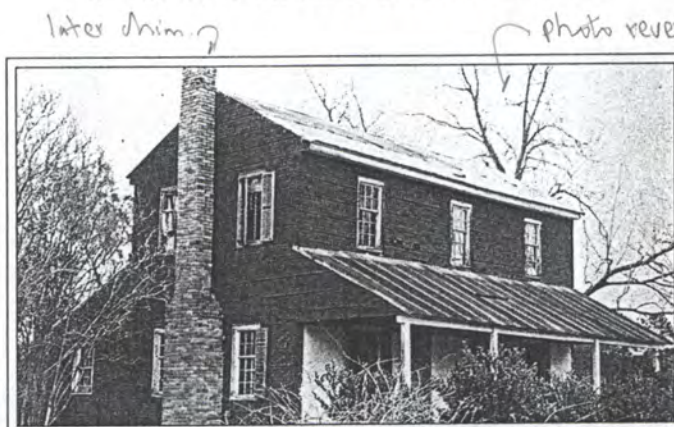
THE PARMER MURRELL HOUSE: A SUCCESS STORY

NO MATTER how far gone a building seems to be, it can probably be saved from complete obliteration. An example may be seen in the Parmer Murrell house, a modest two-story plantation house built in 1836 and one of only forty remaining "I"-houses in Alabama. The Parmer Murrell house is the only "I"-house left in Montgomery County, and it was in danger of being burned because the land on which it sat was being cleared to make a hunting preserve.

As it happened, when the owner of the land was alerted by the local historical society as to the building's worth, he contacted the Alabama Historical Commission. The Commission staff confirmed that the building was probably one of the two or three oldest frame houses in Montgomery County.

Subsequently, ownership of the house was transferred to the Alabama Historical Commission, and the house, despite its tar-papered, ramshackle appearance, won the hearts of a Montgomery couple, Dr. and Mrs. Gillis Payne, who had long wanted to restore an old house. They accepted the structure from the Historical Commission under protective covenant, meaning they had to employ restoration standards set by the Department of the Interior.

After the legal details were settled, the house was relocated. In preparing for the move, the new owners wisely hired restoration architect Harvie Jones of Huntsville to advise them. He drew up the restoration plans, examined and measured the house, and identified the



The Parmer Murrell house, pictured before and after restoration, now serves as inspiration for those who hope to one day save an historic property.

parts of the structure that would be disassembled before the structure's removal to the new site. These included the upper story and the porches, which were later replaced when the house was reassembled.

The only features that did not make the move were the chimneys: one was already gone and the other was so old that the bricks disintegrated when handled. The restored house in its new location has chimneys made of brick that duplicate as closely as possible the original. It also has a new kitchen wing attached to the house by a screened breezeway that is visually compatible with the structure.

Ann Payne offers an interesting perspective about dealing with a property that looks "too far gone." These houses, she says, are actually better to work with than houses that have been periodically updated. "They are much easier to restore because there aren't all those coats of paint and wallpaper, those lowered ceilings, and cut-up rooms to contend with. You save the expense of removing unsuitable renovations."

Mrs. Payne adds that she wishes those who are considering, as they did, building a new replica of an historic house would, instead, save an old house. As she points out, "While replicas may look like the real thing from the exterior, they just don't have the same atmosphere inside. I'm not talking about creaking joints. I'm talking about rooms that measure eighteen by thirty feet, hand-made paneled doors, visible saw and adze marks on the beams. A replica could never have the integrity of the original."

PARMER (PALMER) - MURRELL HOUSE

The 1810 census of Edgefield, S.C., lists Josiah Parmer. He married first Mary Moseley, daughter of Robert D. Moseley and Margaret Vann, and bought land in Montgomery County, Alabama, in 1819. The Parmer-Murrell house was on Cloverfield Road (Tabernacle Loop) and was on property bought by Mr. Ray Scott. The house was reportedly built in 1833.

The house has now been bought by Dr. and Mrs. Gillis Payne and moved to Mt. Zion Road. Mrs. Payne says that with the help of Mr. Harvey Jones, a restoration architect of Huntsville, Alabama, they are attempting to restore the house as it was originally built. She says it is an I shaped house with two large rooms downstairs, two upstairs, and two preacher's or traveller's rooms. There was a lean-to on the back. There are few of this type houses left - most of them in the Huntsville area.

Josiah Parmer's daughter, Sarah Amanda, married David W. Murrell in 1851. On Josiah's death in 1869 at age 82, Sarah Amanda Murrell inherited one-half of his estate and came into possession of this house. Josiah's first wife, Mary, died in 1845. In 1846, Josiah married Eliza Tankersley, daughter of John Roy Tankersley and his first wife, Mary Ann (Polly) Tankersley. Josiah and Eliza had no children. She died in 1864. Josiah also had a daughter by Mary named Rebecca who married King Harrison in 1825. According to Josiah's will, the Harrison children inherited the other one-half of his estate.

According to Styles H. Murrell (Sarah Amanda was his great grandmother) the Murrells owned property near Montgomery and in southwest Montgomery County from below Slade's Store to Letohatchee.

Mrs. Payne very graciously invited the Pintlala Historical Association to have a meeting in the Parmer-Murrell house when restoration is completed and to come by and watch the stages of work.

More information on the Parmers and Murrells is on file at Pintlala Library.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Pintlala Historical Association
% Pintlala Public Library
175 Federal Road
Hope Hull, AL 36043

\$5.00 registration fee + \$5.00 annual dues.

Note: All members of a household are included.

Mr., Mr. and Mrs., Mrs. Ms. _____

Other household members: _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone (home) _____ (office) _____

Interest Area: _____

If you are interested in genealogy please indicate family surnames _____
