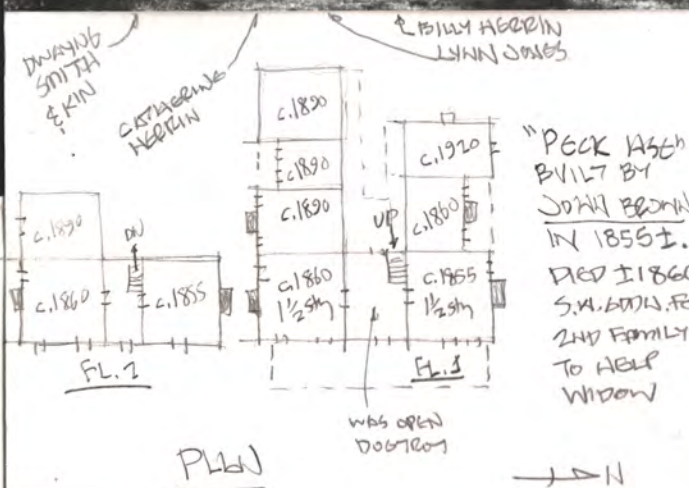
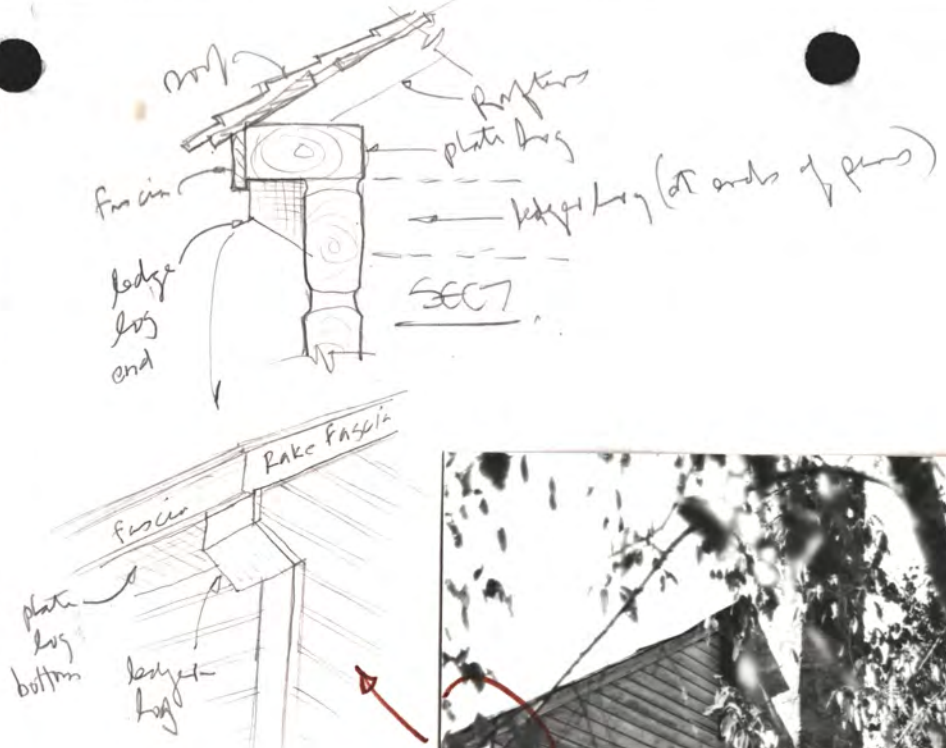


1966

1993 OWNER (AGED)
HUGH D. SMITH (DWAYNE)
(205) 462-2609 PALM SPRINGS, AL. BOX 115 NAT KEY RD.



"PECK ASH
BUILT BY
JOHN BEHN
IN 1855±.
DIED 1860.
S.M. BORN FOR
2ND FAMILY
TO HELP
WIDOW

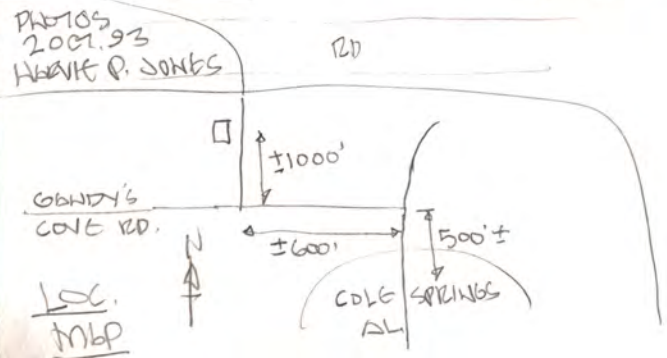


BILLY HERRIN

porch is c. 1900 (?).
Old photo shows a vic. porch.

note logs behind
vert. furring - strips

sunstone



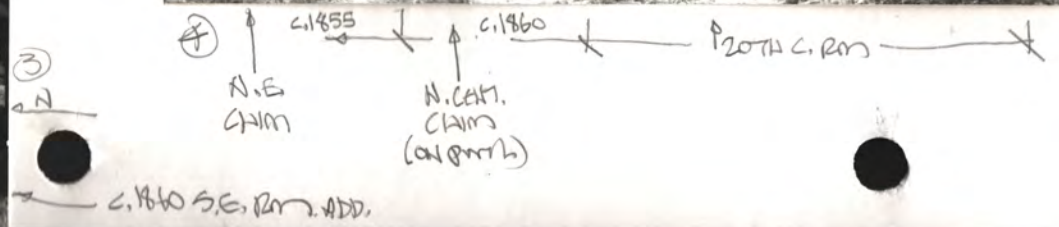
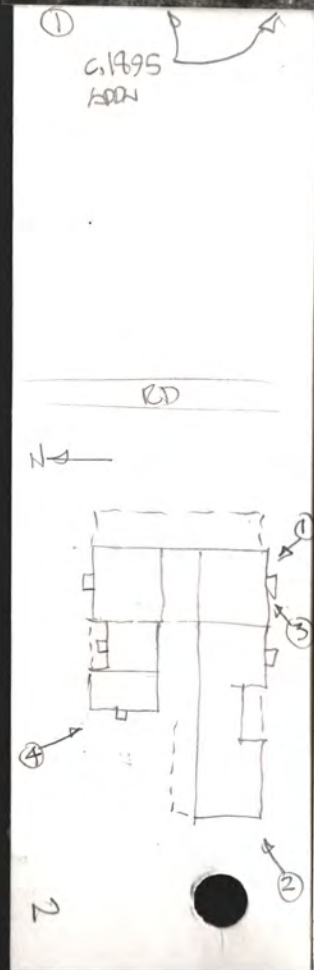
1855 LOG,
COLE SPRINGS



c.1860
ADD.



N ← c.1855 S.W. CORN. →



3066

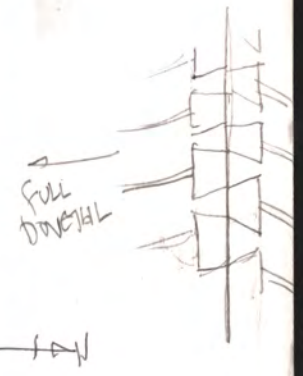


Purbeck J. joints under J. 1
of N.E. Rm, look SSW

P.N.E. CHAM. 157
c. 1835 Rm

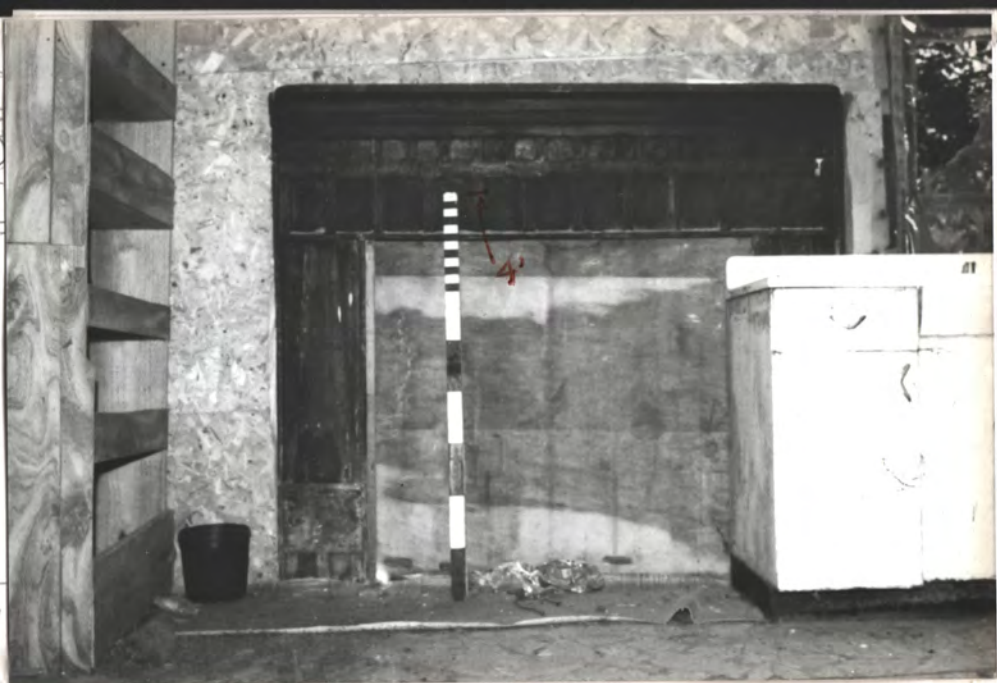


Purbeck J. joints under N. Cor. c. 1860 A. Adams, look SSE
(A. 1)



Smoky Mts,
c. 1835?
SE. Corner
FULL DOVETAIL JOINT
(MOST VISIBLE)





Mantel, Fl. 1 N. Cent. Rm., N.W. Wall
c. 1860

4H

Mantel
Fl. 1 N.E. Cor



West Door
Fl. 1
N.W. Rm

note butt
hinge
(not straps)



Mantel - SE Rm., Fl. 1, c. 1860 Adm

5046



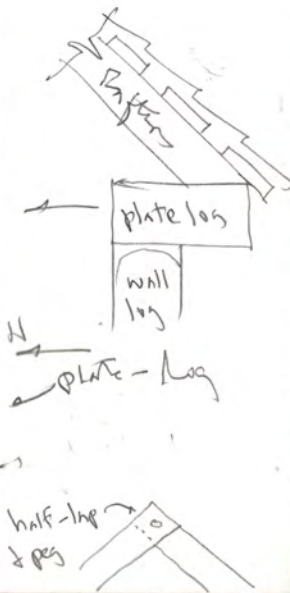
N.E. Pen

Left

white wash

N

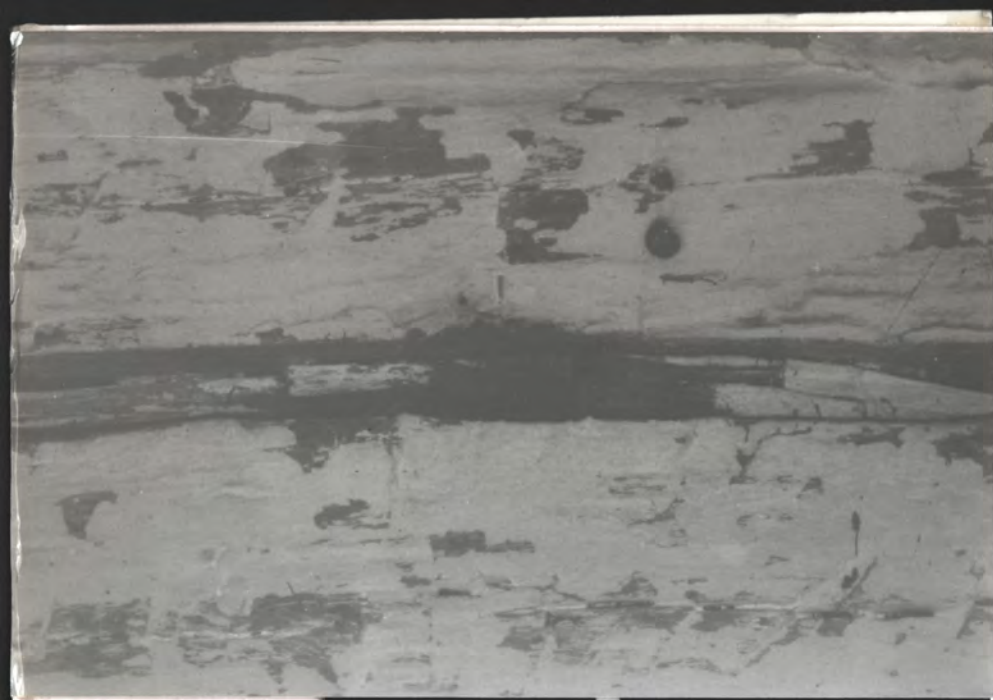
N. Wall



white wash

28

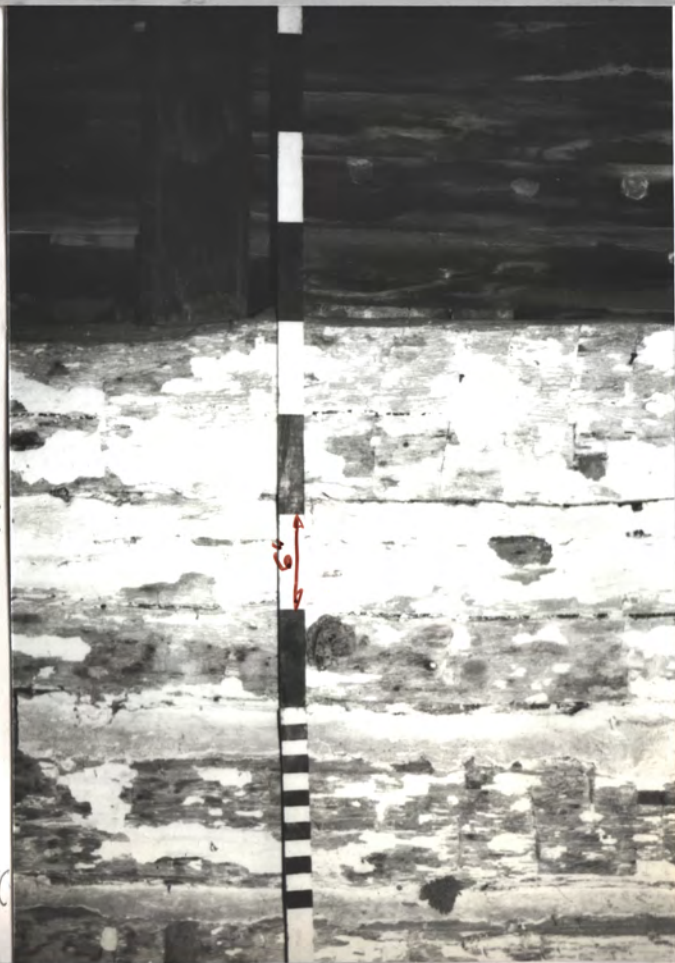




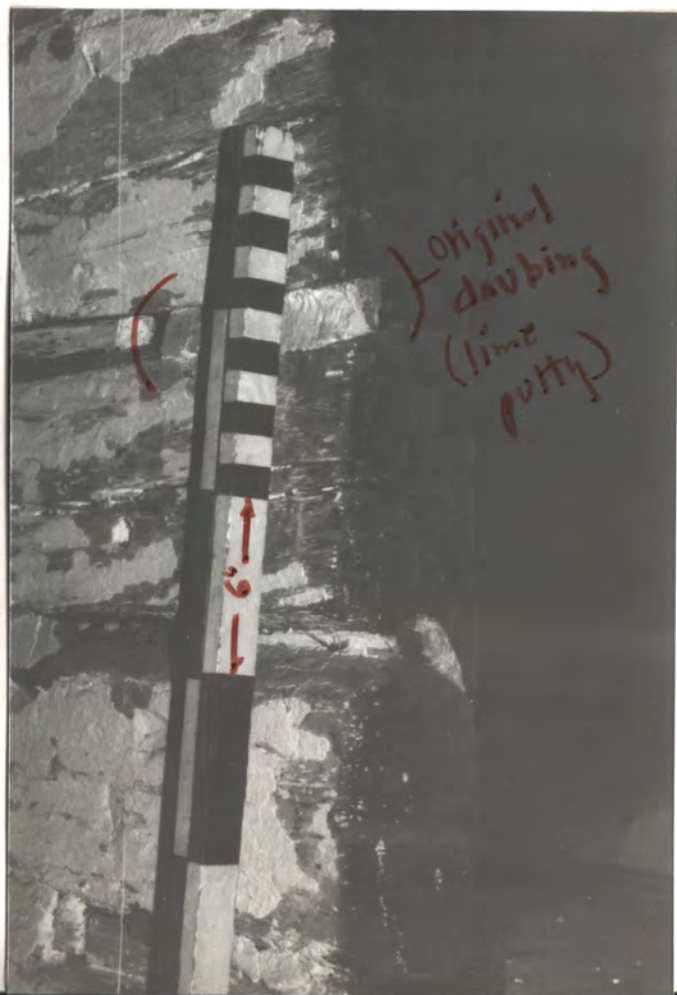
H

← chinking (w/d. shingles).
(dabbing is out, here)

← whitewash on logs



original
dabbing
(lime putty)



original
dabbing
(lime
putty)



c. 1855 Log House
Peck Hill, Garding Cove, Morgan Co.,
Cole Springs, Al.

1994 copy of hist. photos (2)
from Duayne Smith, Rt. 1 Box 115

Fallville
Al.
35622

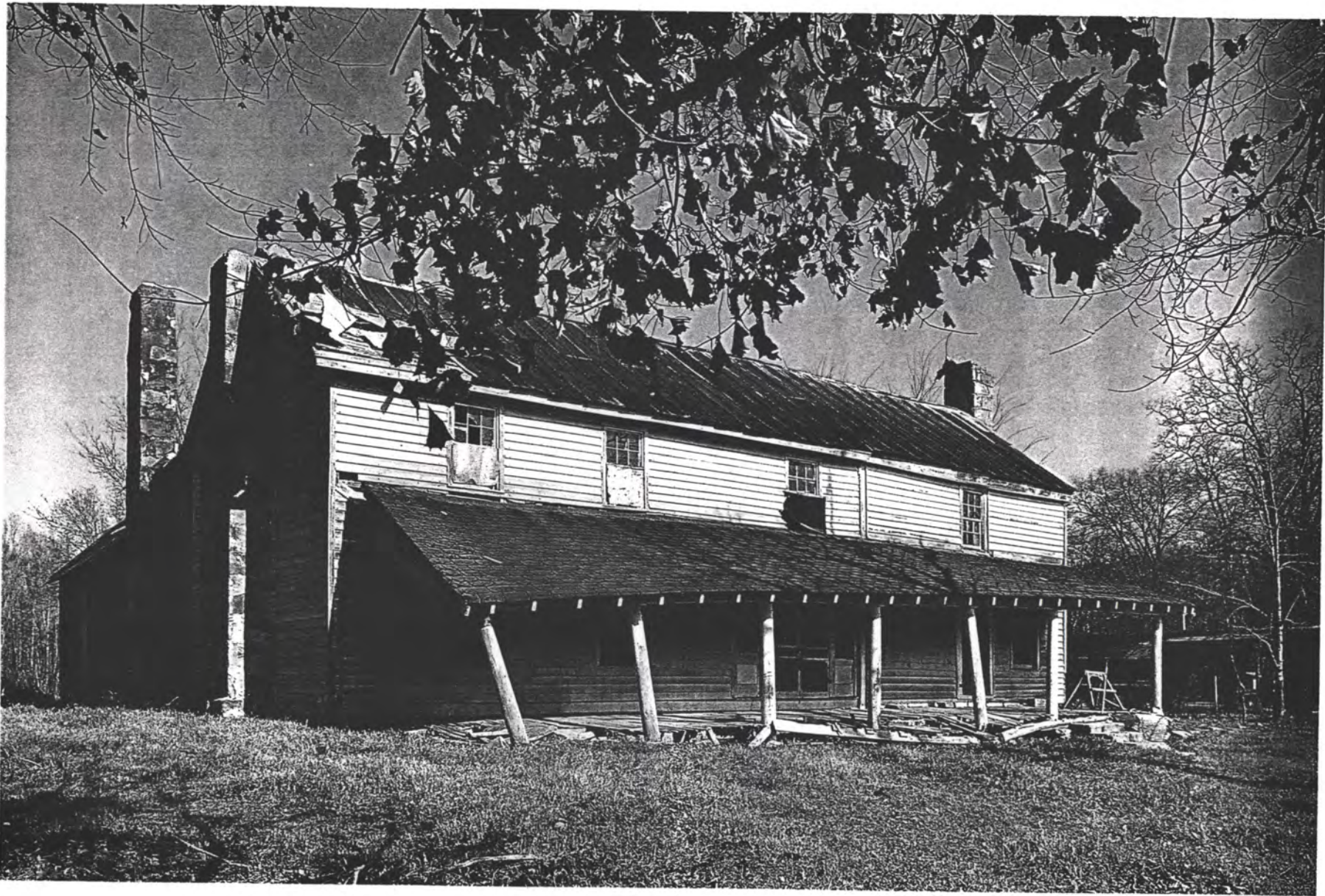


The small girl is Duayne Smith's mother, born in 1896
Approximately 18 years old here, ∴ photo is circa 1904



photo believed to be c. 1915, by Dwayne Smiths, descendant

1855 Park Pass - Chesapeake, Maryland
+ view
C. A. 1



1993 Bob Campbell



OAKSIDE
ca 1873 • Chilton County

With its playful roofline of jutting gables to the front, sides and rear — all topped by a rather strange little cupola sporting its own miniature gables — Oakside suggests how far rural southern architectural design had traveled during the period between 1850 and 1875. American architecture everywhere underwent a radical transformation, as a taste for the novel and exotic finally overwhelmed classical precepts that had become almost reflexive through many generations. Architectural patternbooks and an increasing flood of popular magazines now touted a bewildering range of new design options that promoted not so much particular references to this or that historic style as simply a general effect of picturesqueness.

Thus Major Joseph Carr Gibson, the Confederate veteran and land investor from Virginia who built this house when he elected to move to rural Alabama, probably had no special style in mind. Nevertheless, there is a faint hint of the Italianate about its general composition, while the emphatic gables suggest a slight whiff of the chalet.

Filly jigsaw work is absent except for a ripple along the gables of the side wing. Later, when a porch was added across the front to replace a small covered stoop, the stocky square pillars—slightly chamfered at the edges—carried an odd paneled parapet that peaked in a finial above the front steps. The parapet has been removed, but the porch itself possesses the same sober restraint evident not far away, in the little Methodist church which Major Gibson helped to erect.

Gibson's son, Sidney Lanier Gibson, is responsible for enlarging the house and for beautifying the spacious surrounding grounds of Oakside with stone walls, parterres and a long pergola covered over with rambling roses. An old servant house, a stable and other dependencies still convey a remarkably complete sense of a pleasant, cultured country



PECK HOUSE
ca 1855 & later • Morgan County

The original portion of the Peck house — the right or east side as one faces the structure — was a story-and-a-half cabin built of hewn logs. Although the present clapboard sheathing dates from the late 19th century, it is likely that weatherboarding covered the initial log structure from the beginning. Inside, however, whitewashed log walls are still visible, with a steep box stair ascending from one corner of the single main room to a sleeping loft directly overhead. As is typical, the log walls of the sleeping loft rise several feet above floor level to create more overhead room and what is almost the equivalent of a full-height second floor.

In an expansion pattern seen again and again across the rural South, this cabin became the nucleus of a larger house as family circumstance and condition demanded more space. A seam running down the front of the house indicates the spot where the house was elongated — family tradition says "during the Civil War era" — by tacking on the first frame addition. It was an addition that introduced a wide central hall (possibly an open dogtrot at the beginning), plus another pair of rooms above and below. Yet again in 1888, an ell was built to the rear. With a long front porch and sturdy chimneys of cut sandstone at each gable end, the house has a pleasing air of rustic formality. Inside, the starkest simplicity prevails even today, though this must have been less obvious when furniture and family filled the rooms.

A tumble-down log outbuilding behind the house is probably contemporary with the original structure.



PREUIT OAKS
1847 • Colbert County

Approached by a half-mile long cedar-lined lane, with cotton fields spreading to either side, Preuit Oaks represents the rare survival of an unusually intact plantation domestic complex.

The "big house" itself — far more typical of the planter class than the white columned mansion of legend — is relatively modest. It is a trim story-and-a-half frame structure with a narrow gabled entrance porch, dormer windows, and brick end chimneys. Large twelve-over-twelve windows are framed with a graceful molded facing, complete with corner bull's eyes, typical of this region. Beneath the stairlanding at the rear of the main hall, a large dining room is linked to the original detached kitchen by a raised boardwalk — once covered. Directly behind the massively-chimneyed frame kitchen stands a log cook's cabin. A tall weatherboarded smokehouse faces the kitchen yard. And to one side of the front lawn stands the small gabled "office," where plantation business was transacted.

The fields and woodland fringes beyond the house contain further remnants of 19th-century southern farm life: a secluded family cemetery, barns, stables, the remains of the mule-powered plantation cotton gin, a tumble-down tenant house, and even the vine-covered ruins of two slave houses — once part of a long row of little houses stretching for half a mile across the northern edge of the plantation.

Without fanfare or pretense, the ensemble of structures at Preuit Oaks vividly captures the solitude and yet the village-like atmosphere that characterized life on a large cotton farm a hundred years ago.



PRICE
ca 185

Visual hallmark of the cottage is the addition of a porch accentuated by the addition of a porch. Still visible is the present porch of the original house, in the back rooms.

Who is responsible for the house? From simple to fancy — the housewright who inspired the clear why the motif of twin chimneys is hard by either side and accessible from the front — the fashion of the region of southern Alabama, several examples have been aptly named.

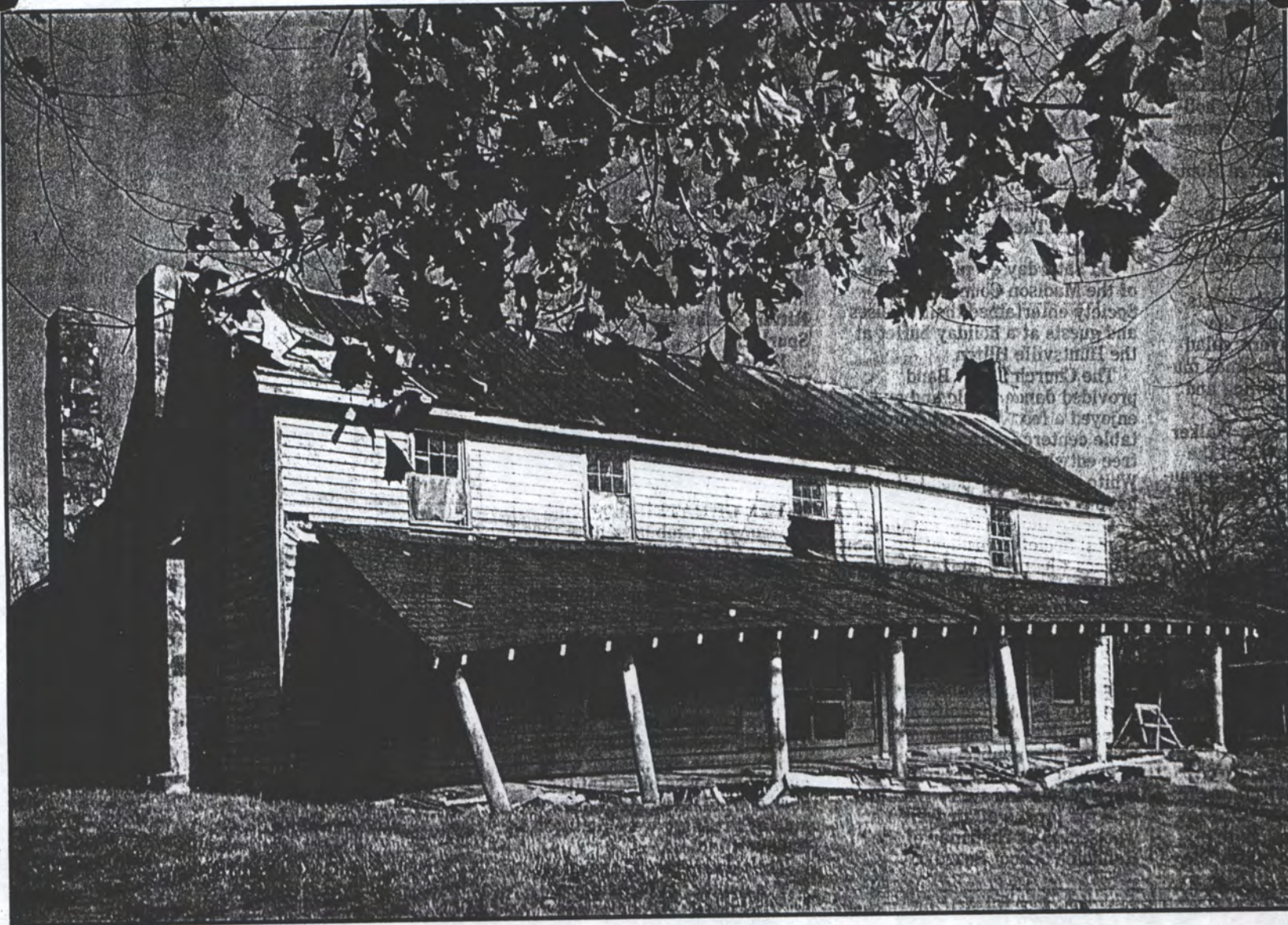
At the compact of the log pavilions, is a surface texture by board-and-diagonals of shingled gables, and the veranda compound work.

Until the household use that grazed the hind was drawn porch.

PECK HOUSE

The log house at Gandy's Cove tells a story of more than four generations of farmers who have lived here in Morgan County and worked the land. Through the house's history, one can trace the relationship of the settlers and their descendants to the land and also to the territorial and state governments that oversaw the land. ❖ The house stands near the site of the first house built at Gandy's Cove when the area was homesteaded in the early 1820s. A log house with a dogtrot was the center of a homestead awarded by the territorial government grant that encompassed at least forty-five hundred acres. The sturdy structure served the family well for many years. Later it would be burned by vandals. ❖ The second, still extant house was built around 1855 by a later generation. Known as the Peck House, it was also constructed of logs, containing one large room downstairs and an equally spacious room upstairs. As the family grew, so did the house. Additions were made over the years to accommodate the needs of a large family of young children. The builder died during the process, leaving his wife by herself to teach school, raise their young children, and manage their farm of several thousand acres. ❖ Dwayne Smith now owns the Peck House. He works very hard to maintain it as a historical structure. It was his grandfather who completed the last addition to the house and whose children, Smith's father among them, received parcels of the original homestead as their family inheritance, a practice common among farming families in the South. The land around Gandy's Cove has been reduced to about two hundred acres now, over half of which are planted in soybeans and corn, the farm's cash crops; the rest is devoted to cattle. Smith wants to reverse that, increasing the size of the herd so that cattle will be the principal operation of the farm. To survive, the modern farm must have this sort of balance. ❖ Smith is proud of the land and is particularly proud to have this log house as part of his family possessions. All hand-hewn, the logs are a daily reminder of the skills of his ancestors. Like many other farmers who have inherited historic structures, his resources for restoration are limited. But he is committed to continuing his methodical approach to maintaining and restoring the house. He plans to remove the last clapboard addition to the house, the one at the rear of the original building, and to restore the log wall behind it to its original condition. He intends to leave the clapboards on the side of the house but remove them under the porch, expecting this will provide some ventilation as well as protection for newly exposed logs. ❖ When complete, the restoration will reveal more of the log structure as it originally existed following its construction in the 1850s. It will also embrace some of the additions made to the house during the last decades of the nineteenth century. The history of four generations of Smith's family will then be reflected in the house, as will the way they accommodated their family residence to their changing lives in Gandy's Cove.





Chip Cooper

The Peck House in Morgan County stands near the site of the first house built at Gandy's Cove when the area was homesteaded in the early 1820s.

'Silent in the Land'

House images reflect life in Alabama

By DAVID BOWMAN
News Staff Writer

A memorable tribute to "Silent in the Land" comes from novelist Harper Lee that deserves special notice: "(This book) is a visual feast. With photography and text it evokes a Southern agrarian culture of which little remains but echoes and glimpses — heard in the reminiscences of the very old, seen in the dwelling places of their ancestors... (Many) of them were the work of black craftsmen — gifted woodcarvers, stonemasons, carpenters — who, while serving their masters, built their own monuments. What is left must be preserved."

"Silent in the Land" (CKM Press, \$45) is a triple treat devised of the splendid color photographs of Chip Cooper, loving architectural descriptions of these Alabama dwellings by Robert Gamble, and warmly evocative sketches of the human-kind who built and lived in them, written by Harry Knopke.

As an adopted Alabamian since 1985 I am putting this book into my small but cherished "Best of Alabama" collection along with Harper Lee's classic novel "To Kill A Mockingbird" and Tallulah Bankhead's autobiography.

What is so touching about "Silent in the Land" is that many of these dwellings are in peril.

Some are clearly close to crumbling away if they do not find good stewards as other Alabama landmarks have done.

What the photos, descriptions and humanistic essays capture is the platonic ideal that makes them exist in a kind of eternal perfection.

Huntsville's friends of historic houses have an opportunity to meet the three principals of this creation Thursday from 6 to 8 p.m. at Shaver's Bookstore and Dec. 18 at Fleming Books.

All proceeds from the sale of the book are designated for the endowment of the University of Alabama Division of Student Affairs.



Chip Cooper

Sanders Hall, located three miles outside of Town Creek, is an aging reminder of days gone by.