

↓ N

E to W. Cent. enclosed porch & S.W. Kite beyond



to N.W. Rm

E to porch

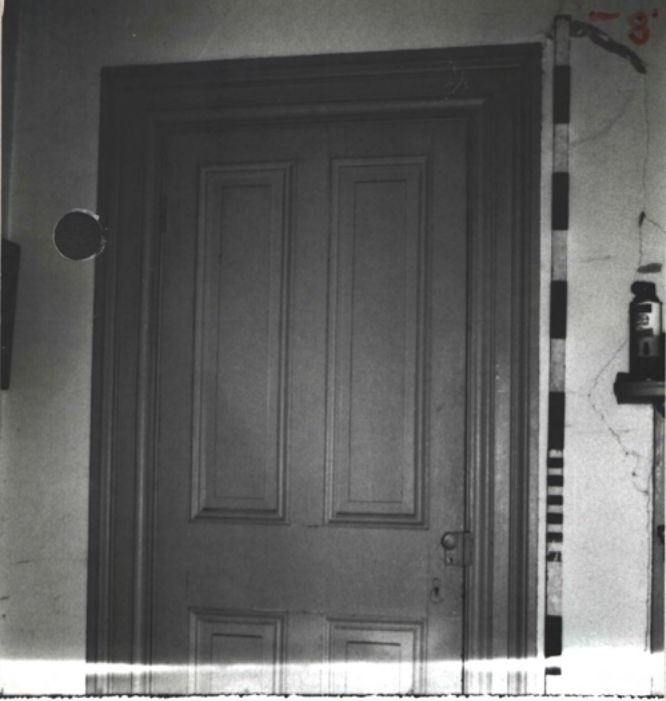
Fl. 1
W. Cent. Rm

→ H



to clos.
by drive

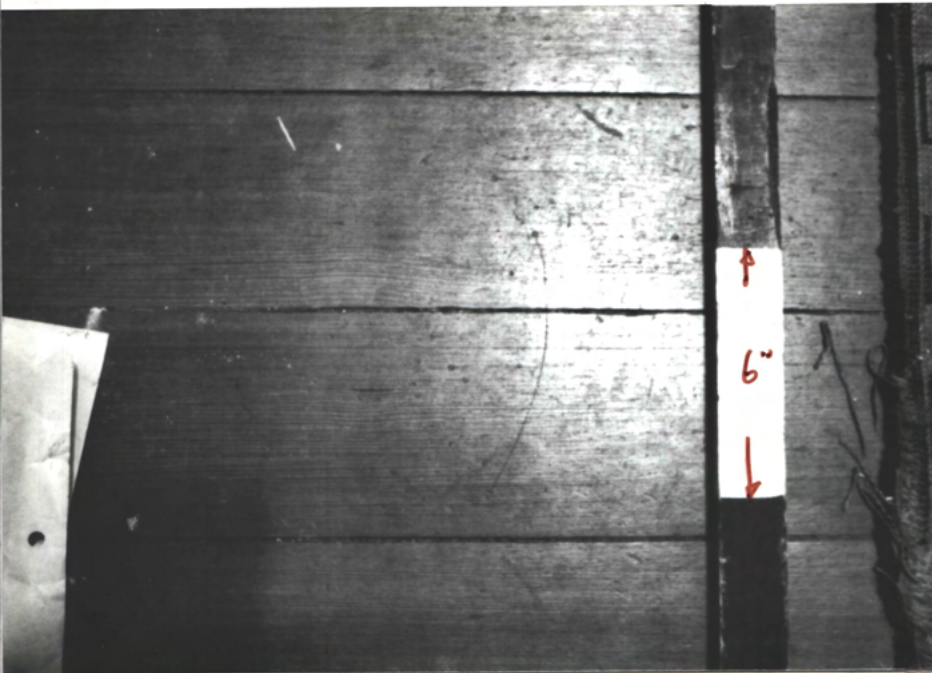
→ N



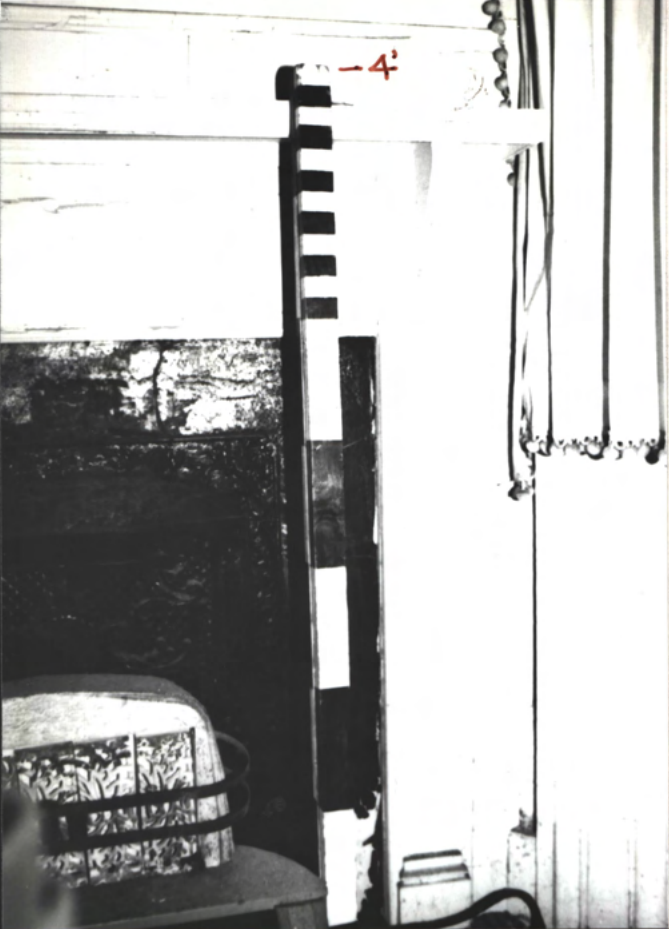
N

N.E. Clys. door

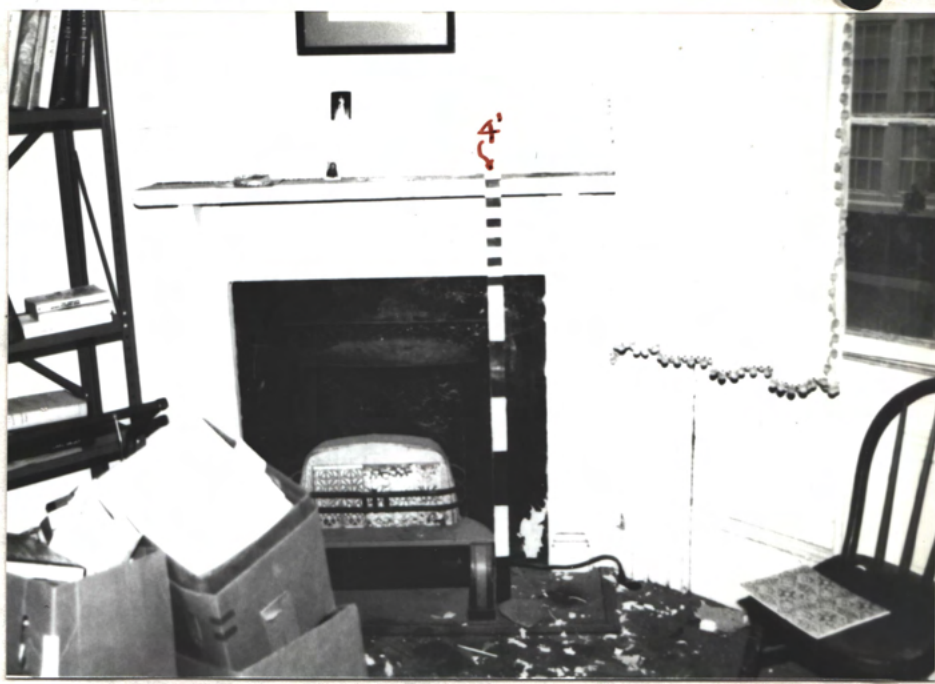
W. Cent. Rm



Typical fl. (pire? verified)



→ N



Corner fig.

→ N

FL. 1 N.W. Rm



→ N

to NW porch

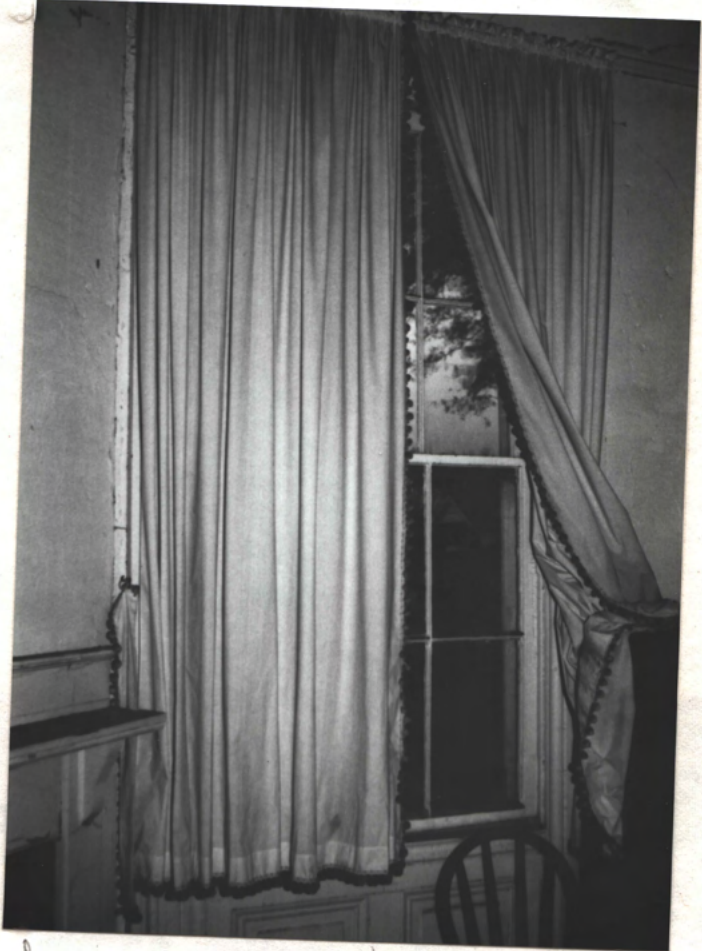
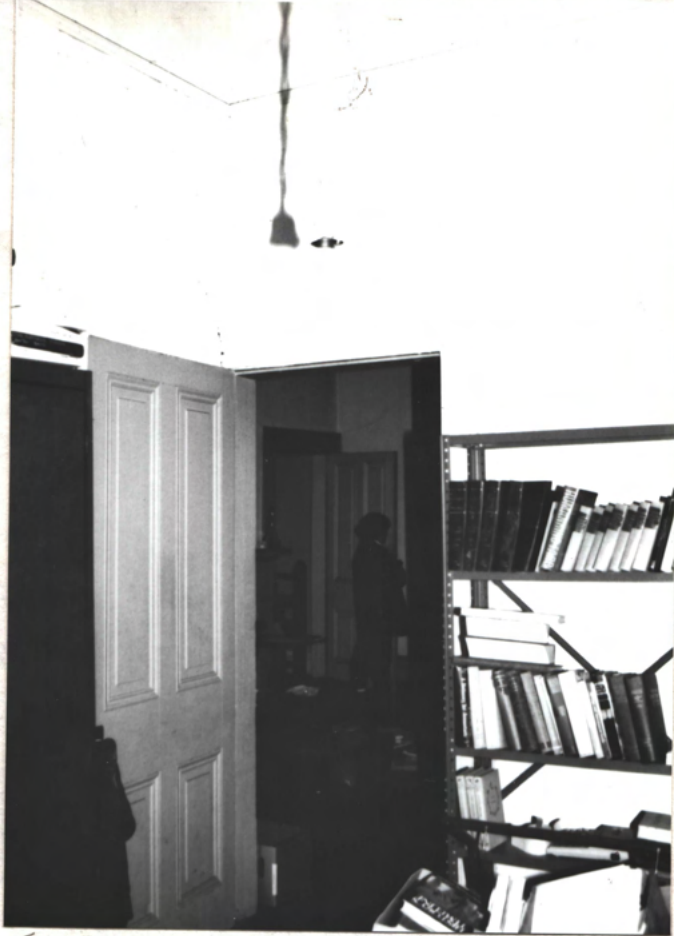


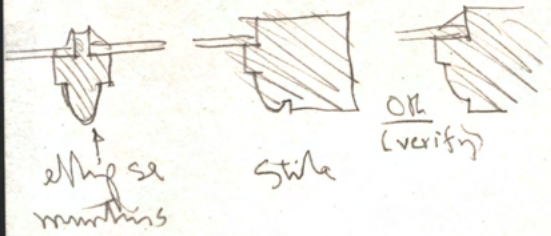
fig.

→ N



Fl. 1 N.W. Rm

MIN





N



S.W.
KIT.

W

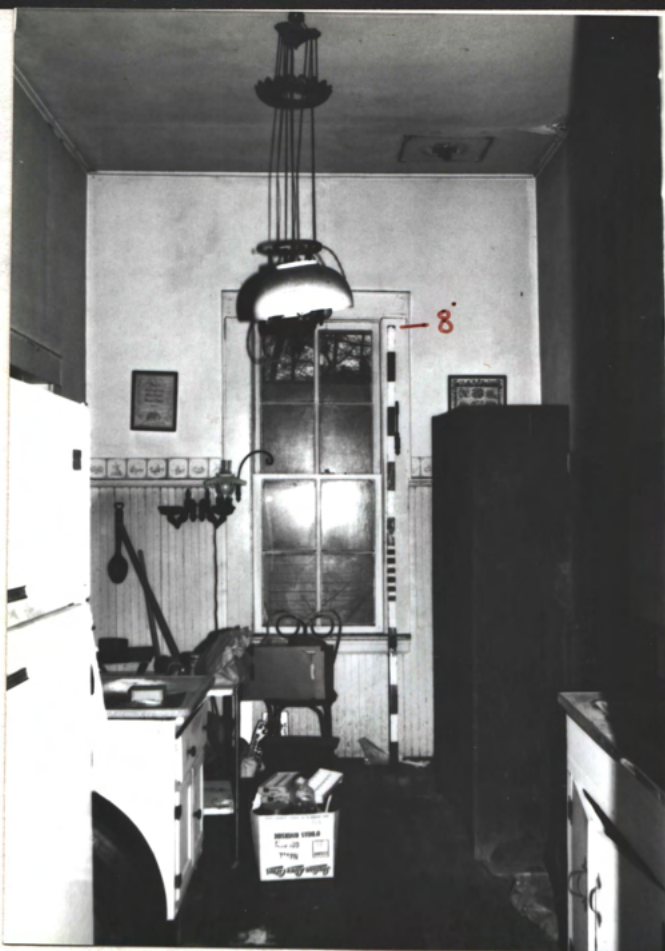
FL. 1 - WEST enclosed former porch (fl slopes) E to W. enclosed porch



plumbing
furring
(bath is
above)



P to W. Cent. Rm



KA S.W., KIT. - Fl. 1



S.W.



elect fuses

Clos. under S. Stair



S. Stair - 20th c.

WA



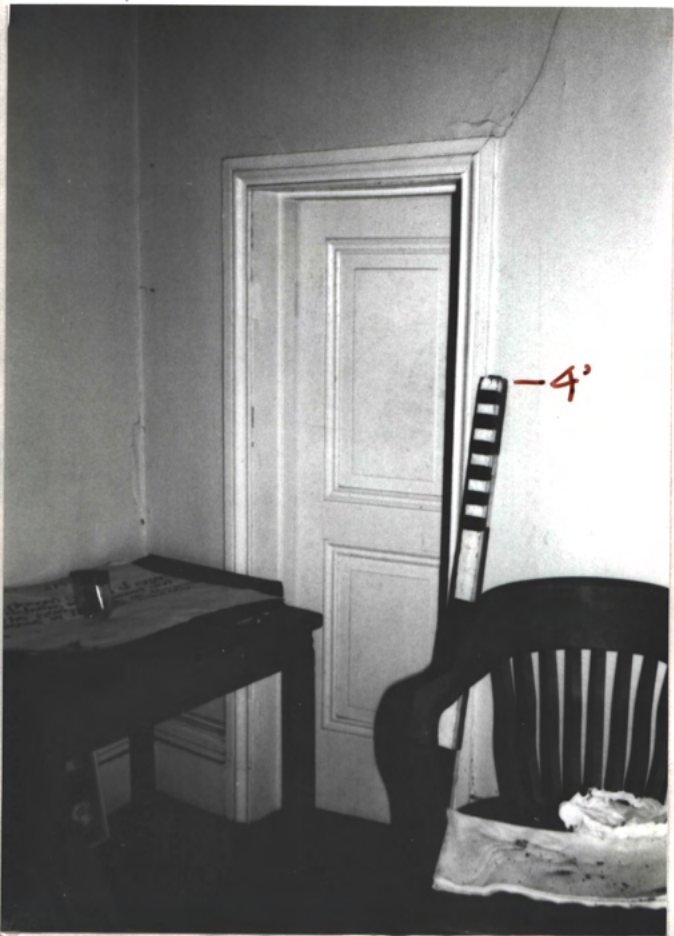
↑
to W.
Cent. Rm



later bath

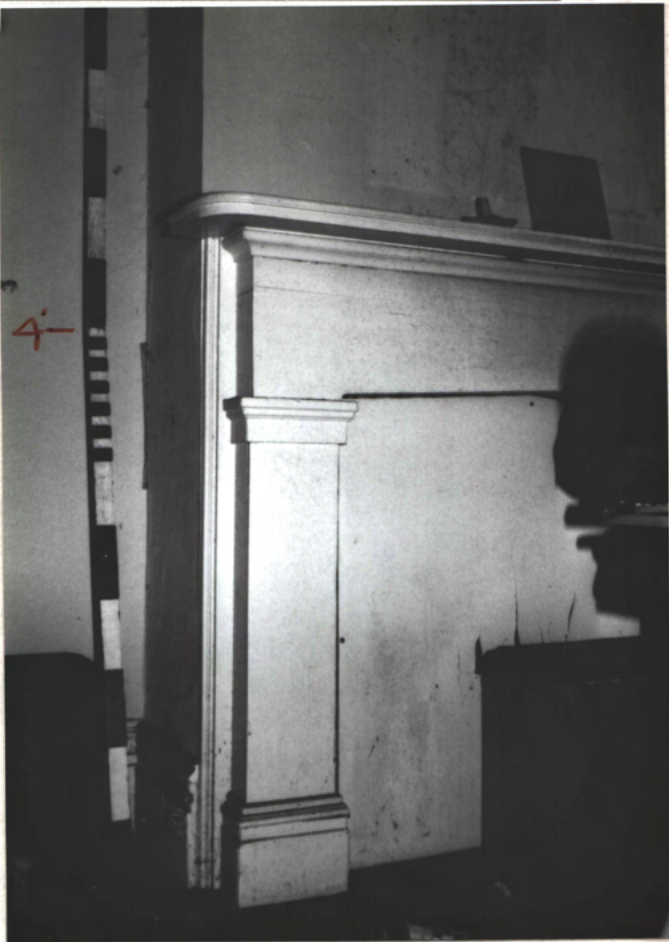
Fl. 1 East Cent. Rm

↖ N.W. Corner of Rm



← short chas door
under stairs

later bath



— N.

Fl. 1 E. Cant. Rm

E.CENT.



← MATCH PL. →

→ H



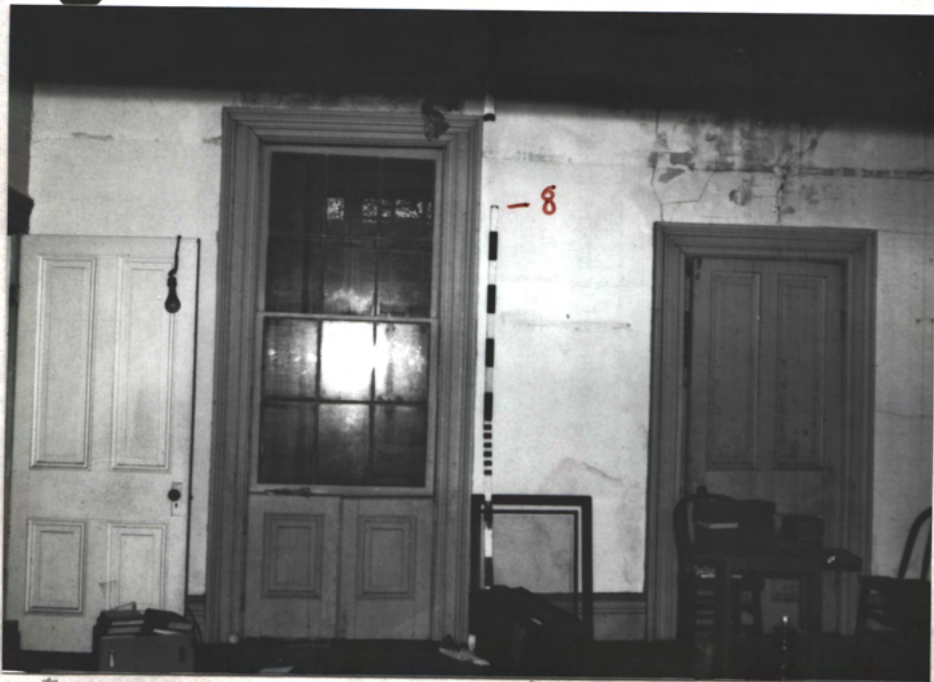
slab-window

to west exterior porch

→ H

Fl. 1 S. Cert. Rm





to E. Cent.
Rm

not
jib - window

to S.E.
Shed Rm



E. Jib - window

5.47.5

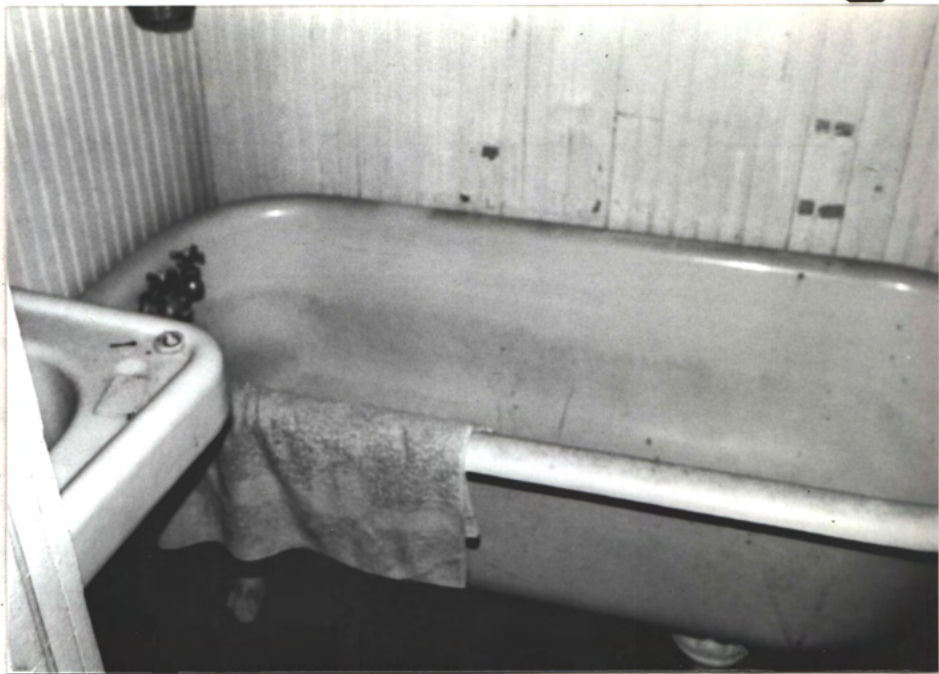


West jib - window



H

Fl. 2-E. Cent.
Endroom
Porch



Baths chopped into S.E. corner
of E. Cent. Rm



Job-Window (ext.)



Fl. collapsed here →

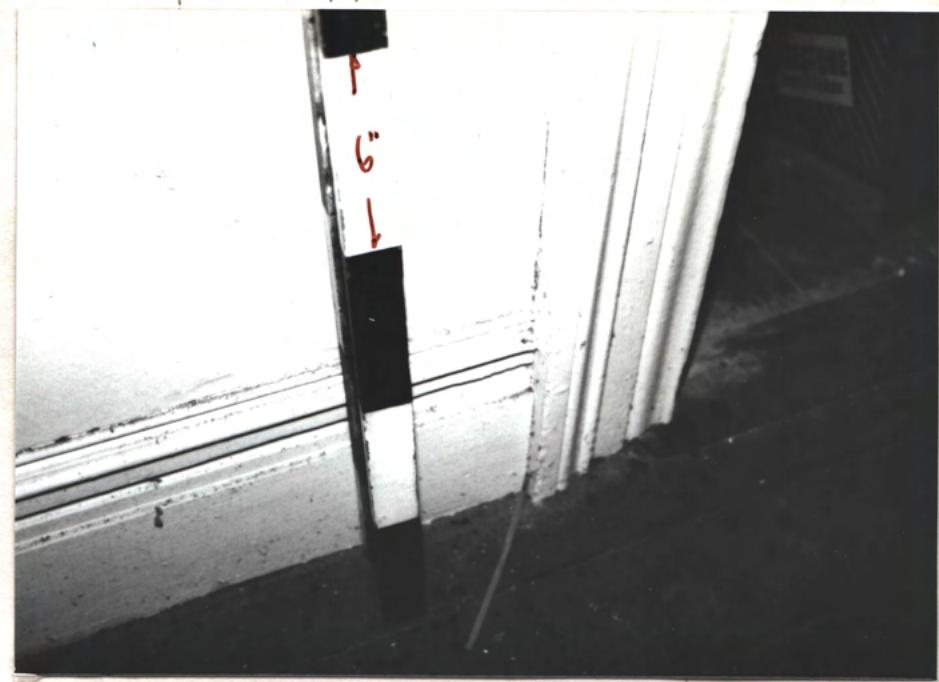
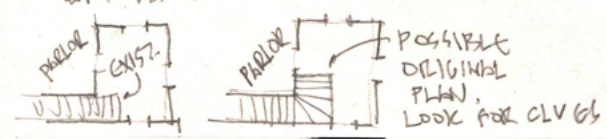
Fl. 1 - S.E. Stor Rm (20th cent?)
 Doors indicate c. 1900 - 1930



S.E.



Ends of stair treads are same of landing.
 Truss (mother) of clerest. balustrade, 2 (tread)
 are in track



→ N (Curtain, looks)
 20' N
 ("Whittier" screen - and)

Fl. 1 - N.E. (Entry & Stair - 1st)

→ N to Parlor



STAIR HALL → PARLOR
 N



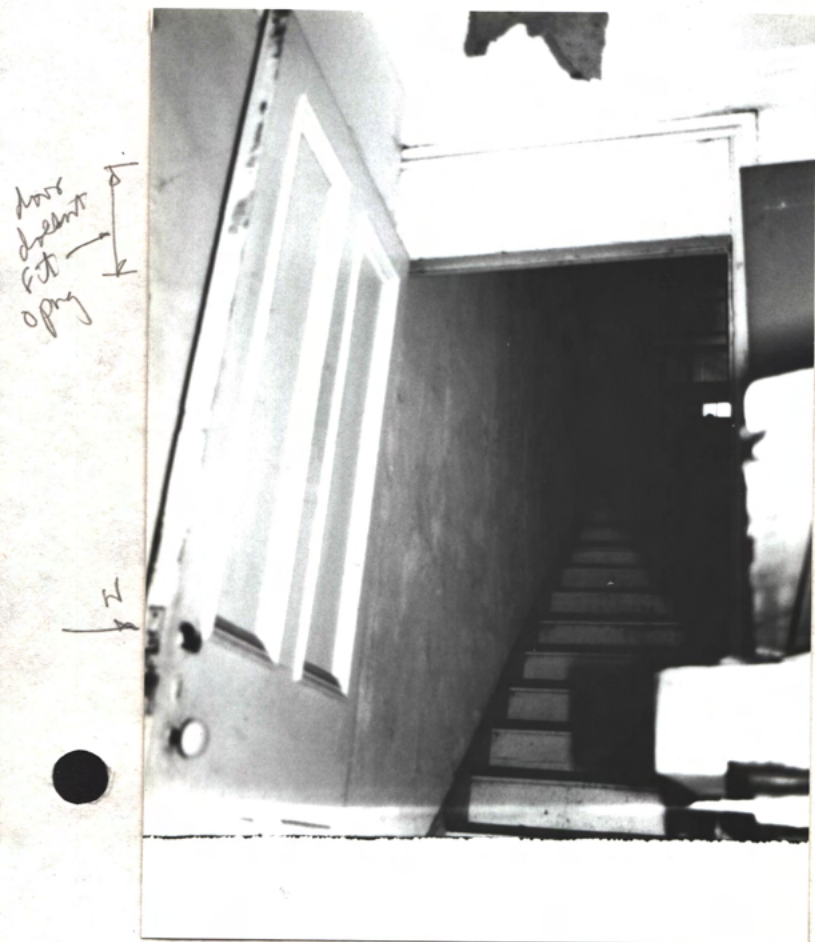
→ N
 ↑ to N.E. Porch



STAIR - FL2 HALL

N. CENT.

STAIR





H ←



→ H

Bath, west of stair hall

Fig. 2 Stair Wall



Cont. &
BR.

-8

AN
S.W. B.R.

to bath

4
8450



to stair
hall

→ N

FL. 2 N. CEM. B.R.



8' N



to stair
hall

clo. over stair



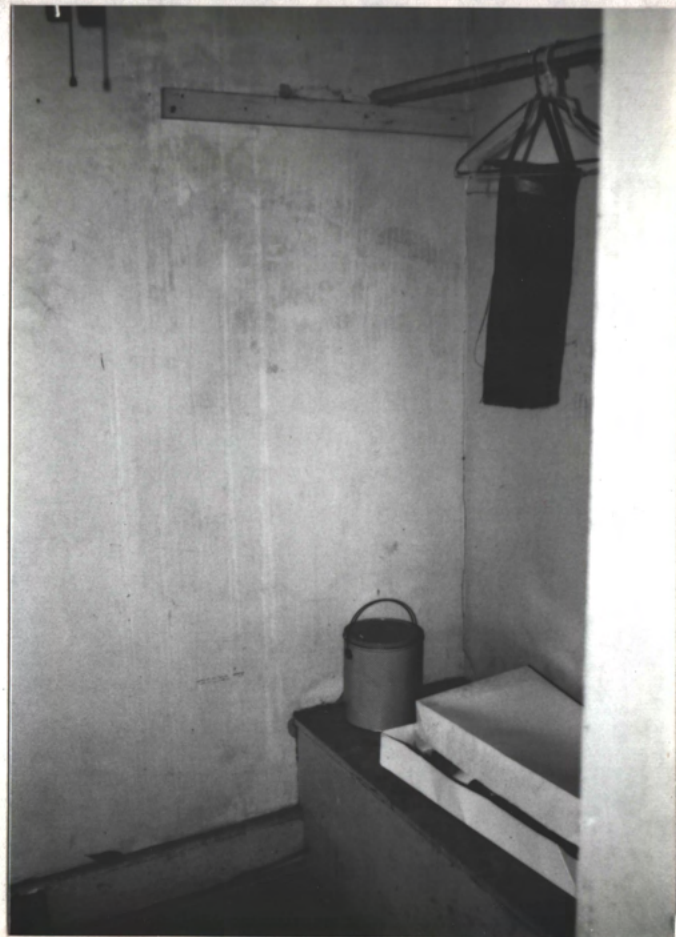
8'

stair hall N4



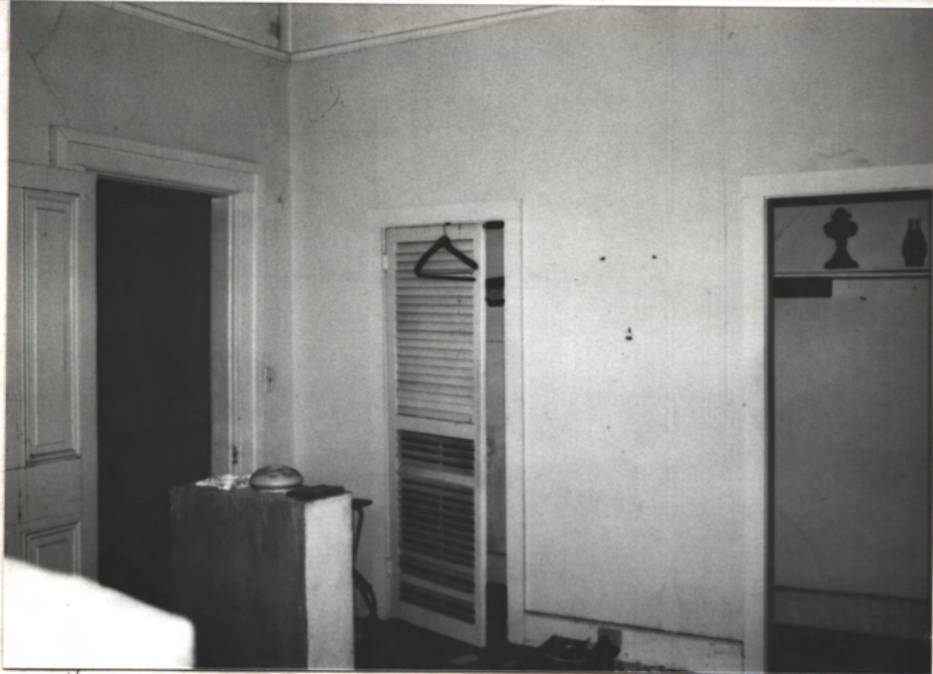
H. N.B.C. P. ¹ Clos.

Fh 2 Clos. over stair
S.E. of N.E.B.R.



↑ boxing for sloped
stair cell. below

→ dv



← c. 1950's dr sets

to stairs
hall

← reversed sash-blind doors

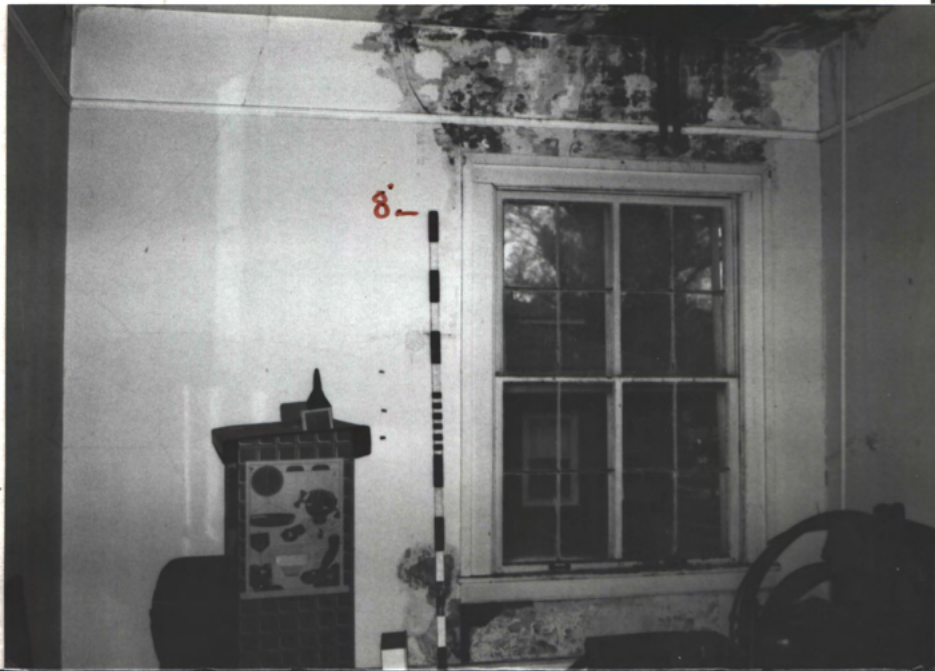


W. Cent.

F1.2
W. Cent. B.R.

N

to S.B.R.





to S. Rm



to S. Rm

Fl. 2 S. Cent. Rm



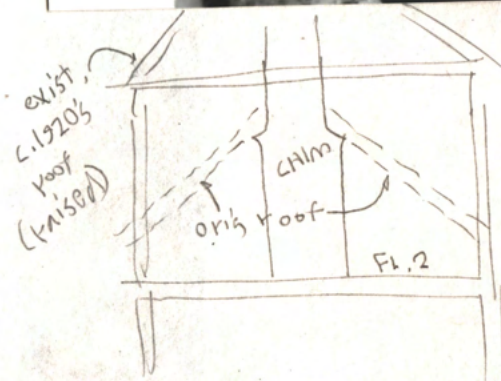
to E. Cent. Rm

N

to S. Rm

450450

NS



metal leaning on chin.
No fig. here!

Fl. 2 S. Rm (apt. 121)

Set
P. 13

5047

P to S. Stair

N



Fl. 2 S. STAIR



↑
to S. Rm

9 clos.

→ W

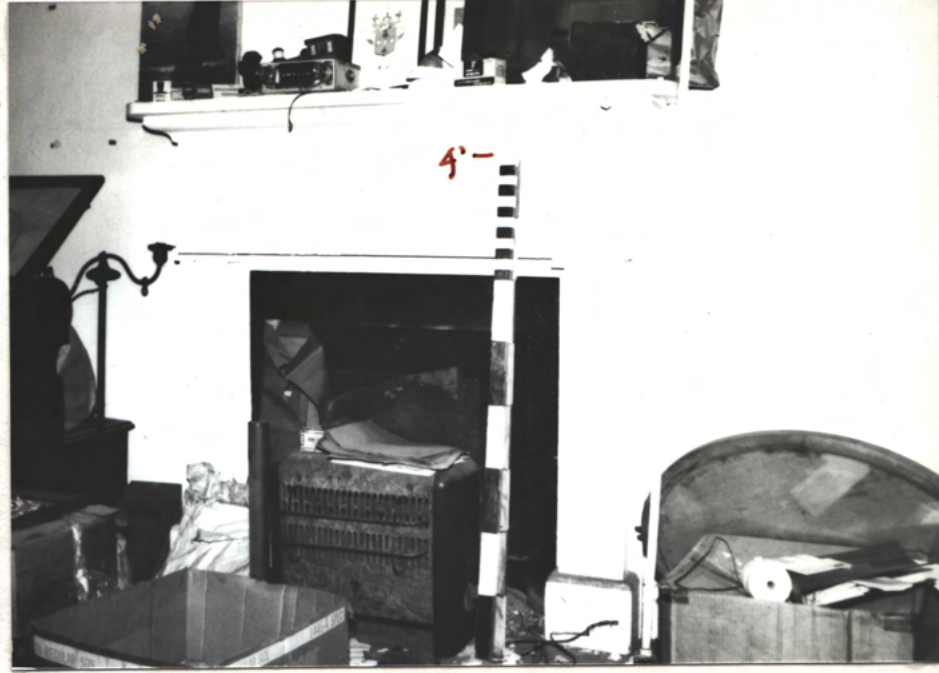
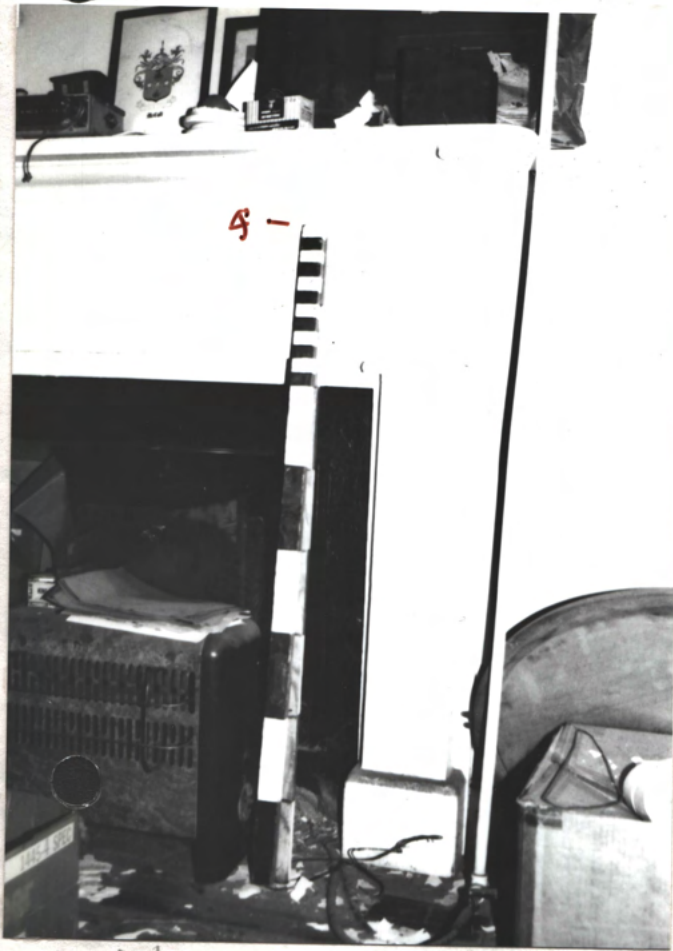
Pl. 2 East-Cent. B.R.



→ N

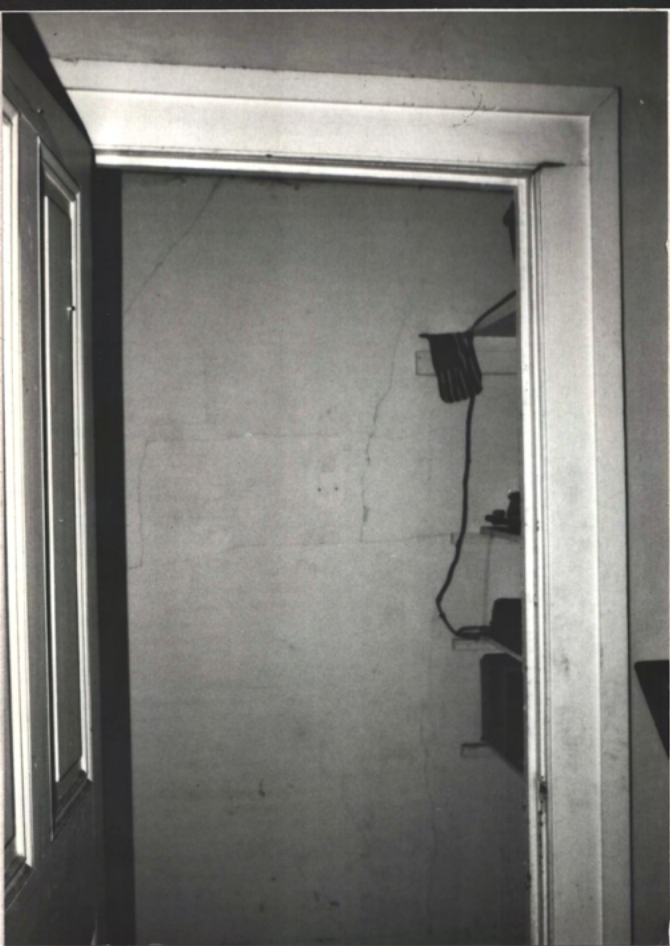
→ 9 clos.

↑
to S. Rm



Fl. 2 E. Cent. Room

to
stair
hall



→ H

FL. 2 E. Cont. Rm.

S.W. Closet

**ARCHITECTURAL COLLECTION
OF
HARVIE P. JONES, F.A.I.A.**

SERIES 4---PHOTOGRAPH NOTEBOOKS

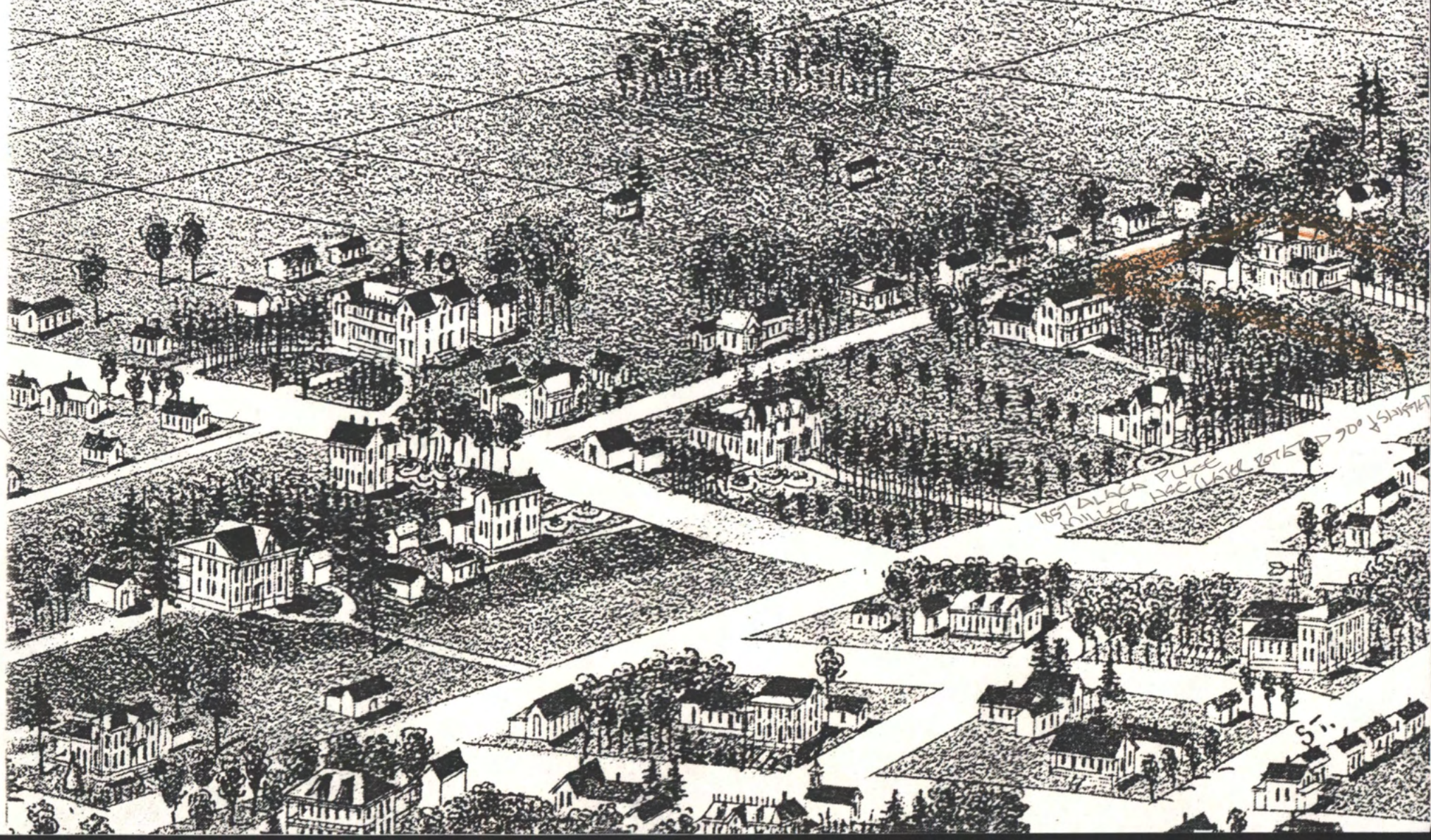
BOOK 56

**1859 Miller
Tuscaloosa,
Neville Res.**

**1825 Wakefield,
Florence, AL
Zac Abramson**

ON & LAND COMPANY.

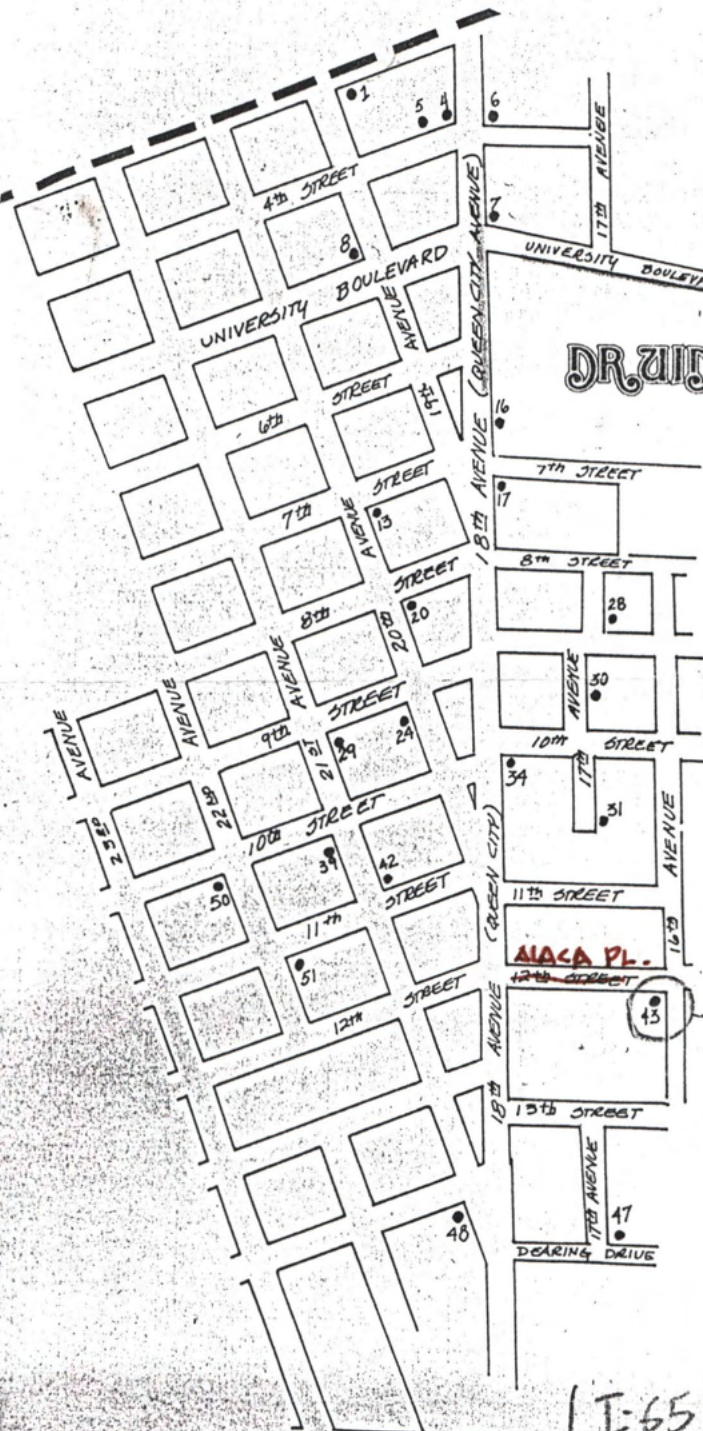
1887 View of Tuscaloosa, Al.



CHARLOTTE NOBILE
205-339-4550
5314 LANT WREST DR.

DRUID CITY HISTORIC DISTRICT

AREA MAP



Miller - Harrison - Laseter House
1857 (William Miller built it)

I-65

12

43. Miller-Harrison-Laseter House c. 1847-1857 1601 Alaca Place

This two-story house is built in the shape of a Maltese Cross. There are three entrances and three porches, with modified Gothic arches and columns.

Originally the house was facing west with an avenue of Oak trees leading to it from Queen City Avenue; therefore, this street today has been given the name "Alaca," which means "Oak tree."

It is thought that William Miller built the house in the late 1850's before the Civil War. Mr. Richard B. Baugh bought the home in 1863 for the sum of \$23,000. Mr. Baugh was a prominent cotton mill operator, but during the Civil War, he went bankrupt and was forced to sell the house. Mr. J. Calhoun Harrison bought the home in 1879 and his family resided there until 1920. Mrs. Harrison was one of Tuscaloosa's local poets, and also was noted for her beautiful speaking voice.

Mr. and Mrs. Neilson Laseter, and their charming daughters are now the occupants of this home.



MEMORANDUM

September 1, 1994

To:

From:

Robert O. Mellow, Ph.D.

Member, State Review Board

National Register of Historic Places

Member, Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County

Re: Miller/Laseter House, 1601 Alaca Place

The house located at 1601 Alaca Place is a building of major architectural and historical significance for Tuscaloosa and the state of Alabama. Its importance is recognized by the fact that it has been placed on the National Register as well as being part of a municipal historic district. Its demolition would have serious consequences for the Druid City Historic District of which it is a vital part. Without this important structure the integrity of the district would be brought into question. Indeed, it is one of less than a dozen houses in the district which have major architectural significance. It was built in 1859 to designs by architects associated with the nationally significant Bryce Hospital--a structure eligible for National Landmark status. The Alaca Place house has a floor plan which was unusual when it was built and is now unique in Tuscaloosa. In fact, it may be unique in the state.

It would be a tremendous blow to the architectural heritage of Tuscaloosa and of Alabama to allow demolition of this house. It would also tarnish the city's image as leaders in preservation. Demolition will certainly receive statewide coverage in the state's major papers and it will receive nationwide coverage in the newsletters of the National Trust for Historic Preservation and National Register for Historic Places.

Despite its mildewed exterior, the house, built of heart pine, is in sound condition. It obviously needs considerable work to bring it up to code. However, there are people interested in purchasing and restoring this property if we can gain enough time to reach an appropriate preservation solution.

Miller/Baugh/Harrison/Laseter House
1601 Alaca Place
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

The house was built by William Miller in the summer of 1859. Miller was one of the contractors of Bryce Hospital and it appears that he got the design for this house from Sloan and Stewart, the architects of that institution. After constructing the house Miller put it up for sale in August 1859 at which time the following advertisement appeared in the Tuscaloosa INDEPENDENT MONITOR:

I OFFER for sale my residence, situated upon a five acre lot adjoining the eastern margin of the city of Tuscaloosa immediately south of Mrs. Pratt's, within ten minutes walk of the University and Female Schools. the improvements are entirely new. The dwelling house is two stories high, and contains ten rooms, including Hall. Six of these are 18 x 20 feet, with lofty ceilings. The interior arrangements are such as to suit the most fastidious housekeeper, whilst its peculiar form and well ventilated apartments makes it well suited to our Southern climate.

It is so provided with verandahs and Balconies as to afford a shady retreat in the open air at any hour in the day. The style of architecture (Italian) is neat and strikingly handsome; altogether it is one of the most comfortable, convenient and handsome residences in or about the city. The materials and workmanship challenge scrutiny.

A well of good water and out houses complete. Any one desirous of investing for educational or other purposes will find this a rare chance. Wm. Miller

The editor of the paper mentioned the house sale on another page of the August 13, 1859 edition and stated:

"We direct attention to Wm. Miller's advertisement of his new house for sale... It is entirely new and was built under Mr. Miller's supervision -- and he unquestionably ranks with the very first of this country as a finished and faithful architect and mechanic. Any person who desires to purchase in Tuscaloosa would do well to examine his residence."

Richard Baugh, a cotton mill operator bought the house in 1863 for a reputed \$23,000. In 1879 it was purchased by J. Calhoun Harrison whose family lived there until 1920. At that time the house was re-oriented to face Alaca Place and the large lot subdivided. Since 1950 the house has been owned by Mr. and Mrs. Neilson Laseter.

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

November 18, 1994

Carol
Mrs. Carolyn Neville
5314 Lake Hurst Drive
Northport, Alabama 35476

Re: c.1857 Miller-Harrison-Laseter House
Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Project No. 94171

Dear Mrs. Neville:

I appreciate your call of November 17th in reference to your newly-acquired 1857 Italianate house in Tuscaloosa. We will be happy to help you in its restoration. Our firm has been engaged for well over six-hundred preservation projects in Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia and Florida, including twenty buildings in the historic district of Savannah. The firm has been accorded twenty-one Awards for its historical preservation work. We particularly enjoy restoring to their original beauty historic houses that have been deemed "too far gone" (as was Bean Hall at Judson College).

In preparation for my visit with you at the house, it will help for you to send any information you have on the house, including photographs and, if available, sketch or measured plans. Notes on your thoughts as to modern items such as kitchen, baths etc. will help, although this can come later. Please send a sketch map of how to get to the house from Greensboro Avenue.

As we discussed, I can perhaps combine a brief (1 hour maximum) visit to the house in early December when I will need to come to the University and then to Judson College. I would need to return at another time to spend several hours at the house looking, sketching and making about 150-200 photographs to enable me to "see" details of the house here at the office.

In restoration it is imperative to have a contractor and craftsmen who (1) LIKE old buildings, (2) are not afraid of old buildings (3) understand that the idea is PRESERVATION, not "copy and make new". Slightly damaged or deteriorated old wood should be repaired, not replaced. This is for both preservation and technical reasons, since 19th century wood is of much higher durability and quality than any present day fast-growth sappy wood.

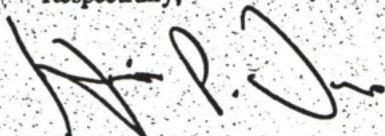
The contractor must also understand that the result expected is not to have the restored house "perfect" with all surfaces newly made square, plumb and unblemished. No one can afford such perfection, and to achieve it would give the house a shallow Disneyland feel. Signs of age are also character-givers. Most 19th century houses were not perfectly square and level when they were first built, in any case.

One type of craftsman thinks that old building repairs should be "rustic" (i.e. sloppy). The opposite type thinks that absolute perfection is the objective (with the cost being commensurate). What is desired, of course, is that repair work closely match the historic work. Another danger is the "sorta-like" syndrome, wherein repaired work is only sorta-like the original in configuration and details. The key here is a basic understanding of the objectives, and a sympathy with the building and with those objectives. The success of your restoration will depend on finding the right contractor and craftsmen.

*1 visit +
your rest. details
+ xerox typewritten details
only. Please?
PS - no of June 1997,
Nothing.*

I look forward to meeting with you and seeing your house in early December. I will call when I have a proposed date and time. Since this first visit will involve two other projects, the travel time will be only 1 hour (out of 8 total) and the mileage will be divided among all three projects.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Harvie P. Jones', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

copy: file

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

January 5, 1995

Carol
Mrs. Carolyn Neville
5314 Lake Hurst Drive
Northport, Alabama 35476

Re: 1857 Miller-Neville Residence
Project No. 94171

Dear Carolyn:

Attached is a loose-leaf notebook of sixty-six pages of notes and details from our files and previous similar projects which in many cases will be helpful to you in your restoration and renovation. These items should be regarded as a general resource inasmuch as the details were not prepared for your specific house, so you will need to select and modify as appropriate. Rather than give the contractor pages out of this, give them copies so that you will always have a complete reference set.

I look forward to receiving your measured plans of individual rooms. I will then compile them into complete scaled floor plans so that general planning can proceed. I will first do freehand scaled plans of the revisions we discussed at the site in December and send them to you for your review and revisions. Then I can revise the plans to scale and get copies to you for your work with contractors on the electrical, mechanical, plumbing, cabinets and other items. It is my understanding that we are not to do complete plans, details and specifications on the total project, but to assist in devising the basic floor plan in the form of "preliminary floor plans" which are simple scaled floor plans without detailing. In addition we can furnish advice and details to the extent you desire on restoration aspects, such as the desirable restoration details of the original roof design, stair-base modification etc. It would also be good if I can review the engineer's detailed design of the mechanical system in regard to visual impact in the house.

The key element is to find a contractor, superintendent and craftsmen who have a basic understanding of and sympathy with the old house and preservation principles versus "remodeling". This is a tough task, for such persons are sometimes hard to find. Our twenty restorations in Savannah have been successful because we had such a contractor. It could easily have gone the other way. It is doubly important in cases where the architect is only furnishing general guidance rather than voluminous detailed complete construction drawings and specifications, and cannot frequently visit the site and meet with the contractor.

Since we know the bottom section of the stair is a crude c.1920's revision, look for clues on the floor, baseboard and walls of the possible original configuration. Look for a floor-peg that would have been the original newel anchor, and plaster patches and base-patches. I will sketch on the

PS - no progress as of May 8, 95 (?)
PS. Oct '96 only minor progress (cleaning) see photos in here Oct '96
PS. July '95 - no progress. Nairnes thought they could do the job for \$35,000 ± to be livable. Would require ± \$300,000 to restore. Execution is unlikely, therefore.

plan some ways I think it might have been. If you want to restore this we will need to find an appropriate heavy 1857-style newel. We can make the balusters and rail if need be.

In general, restoration requires the same time as new construction. Eight to twelve months after planning is completed is usual, if all craftsmen are available when needed. A house like this can typically be completely restored for about 2/3 to 3/4 the cost of a new good-quality custom house. Such new houses now run from \$100 to about \$125 per square foot, not counting land cost. Therefore your restoration might be expected to be roughly \$75 to \$95 per square foot of heated gross area, depending on the contractor, the market, and the degree of restoration versus renovation that you choose.

Over the holidays (at no charge) I sorted, mounted and annotated the fifty pages of 180 ± photographs that will enable me to "see" many parts of the house from my office. These are in a tabbed ring-binder so I can quickly locate the area I need to see. It is desirable for you to make a similar record, for historic interest, of the house as it is, and as you restore it. Each photo should be identified and dated. It is best to use black and white film, which is more stable than color. Attached is an example of my method. I use acid-free 3-hole punched card stock and a small dot of Elmer's glue at each corner, kept in a ring-binder.

Respectfully,



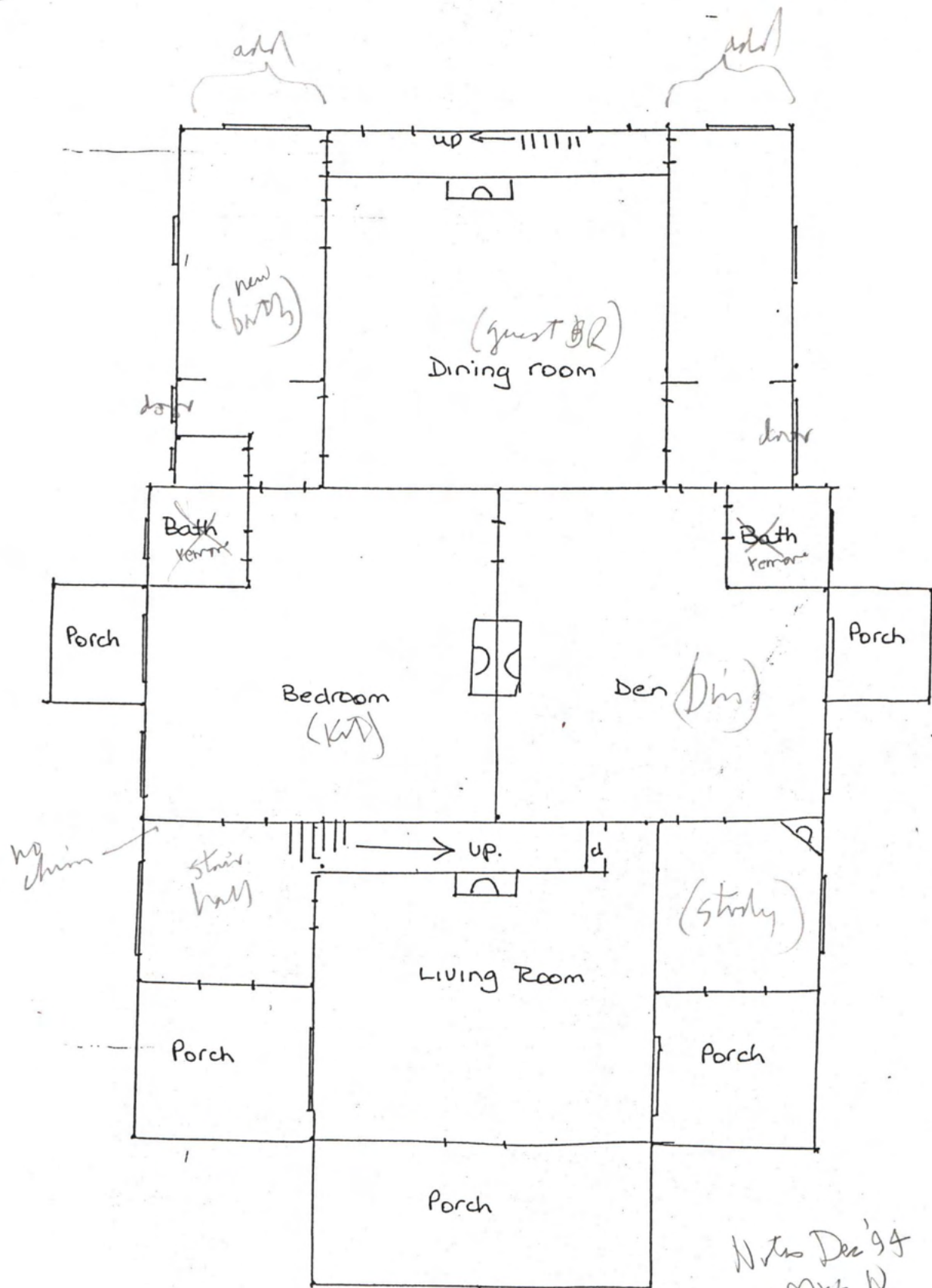
Harvie P. Jones, FAIA
HPJ/tm

copy: file

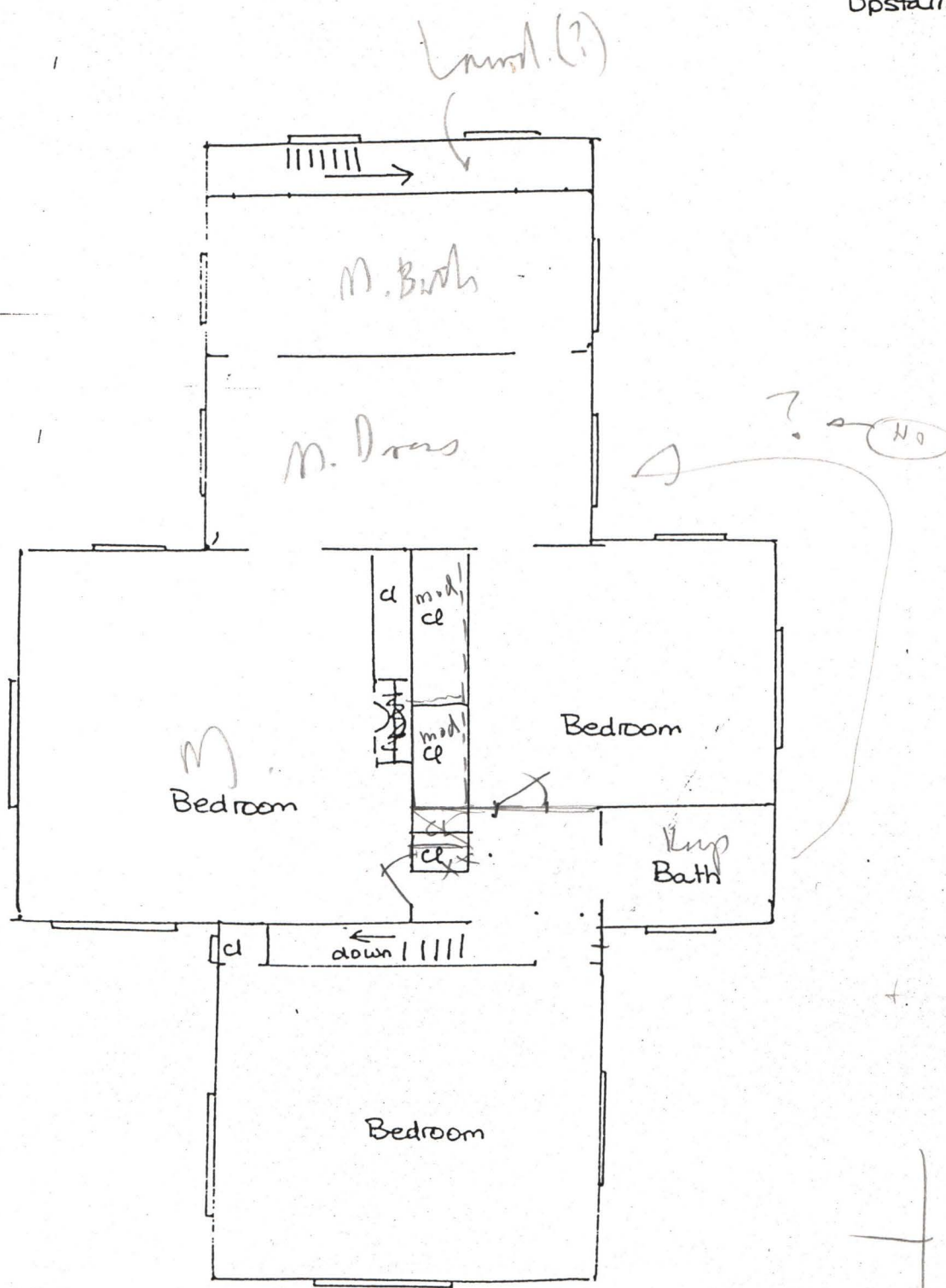
attachment

1601 Alaca Place
Ground floor

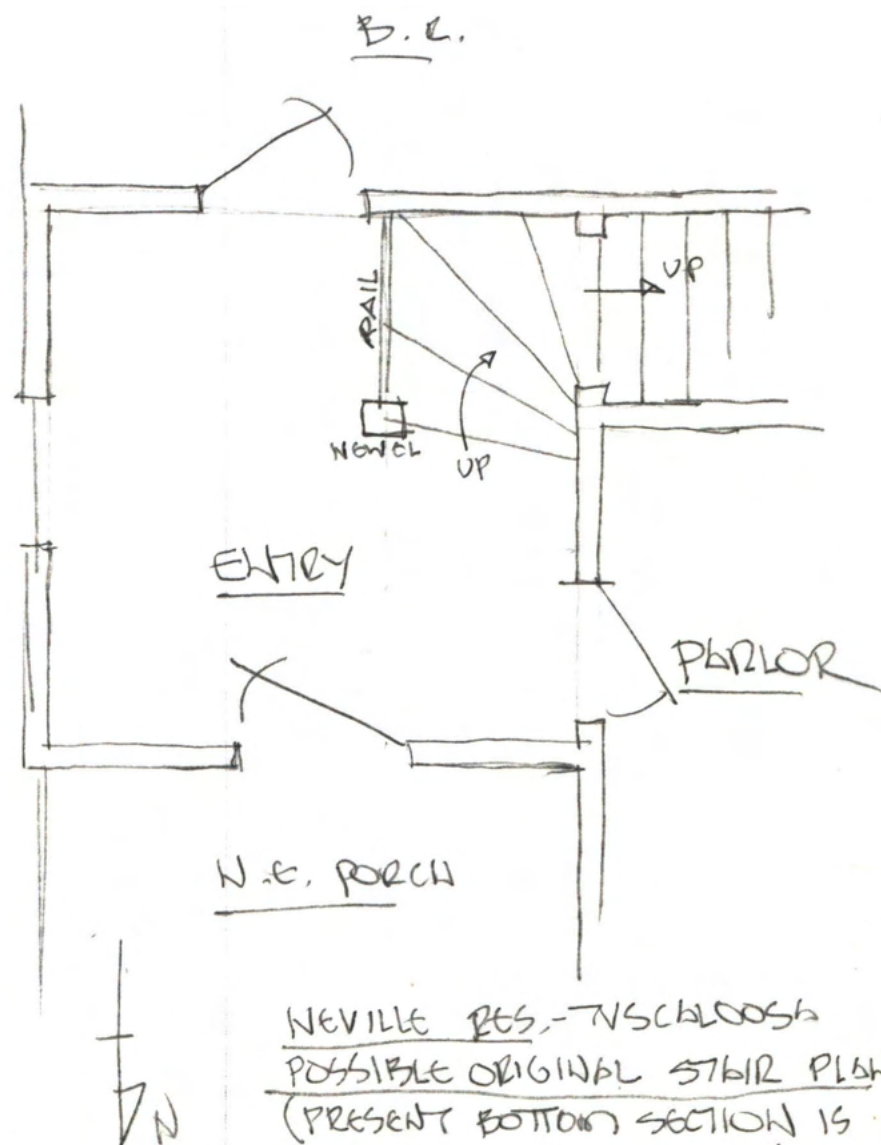
Door Swings
Drms



1601 Alaca Place
Upstairs



Notes Dec 94
per Mr H



NEVILLE RES. - TNSCHLOOSH
 POSSIBLE ORIGINAL STAIR PLAN
 (PRESENT BOTTOM SECTION IS
 LATER CRUDE MAKE-SHIFT)

NOT TO SCALE
 1859 MILLER HSB
 5 Jun 95 HBS

JONES & HERRIN

Architecture/Interior Design

104 Jefferson Street

Huntsville, AL 35801

State of Alabama



This is to certify that

HARRISON-LASETER HOUSE (DRUID DISTRICT)

*which has been selected as a landmark contributing to a
deeper understanding of our American Heritage
has been entered on*

The National Register of Historic Places

by the

United States Department of the Interior

February 24, 1975

Date Entered

Ray C. Walker
Governor, State of Alabama

Malik A. Amos
Secretary of State

Alabama Historical Commission

Wils B. Toward, Jr.
Chairman

W. Warner Floyd
Executive Director





Home of Mrs. Belle R. Harrison, Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Author of "Pomp's Defense".

*'Ef de motiv' is right, den whar's de sin?
I stole dem breeches ter be baptise' in.'*

New project - 1959 M. M. W. h. - Tuscaloosa





→ N



← N

1857 Miller Hse ("ALACK PLACE")

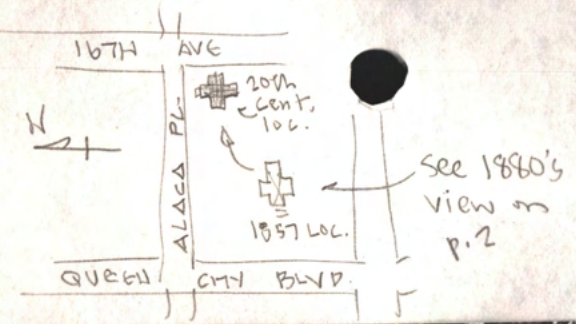
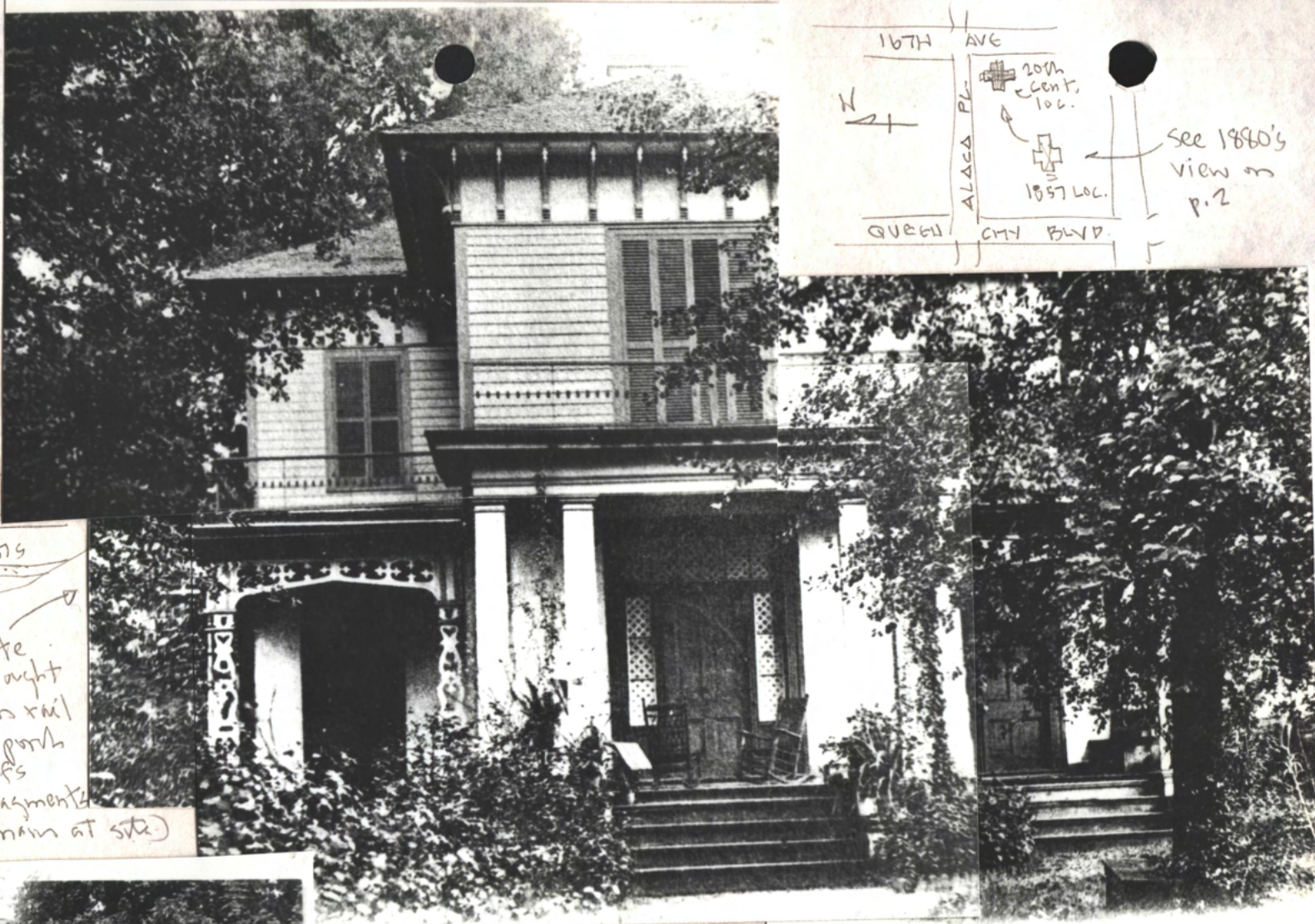
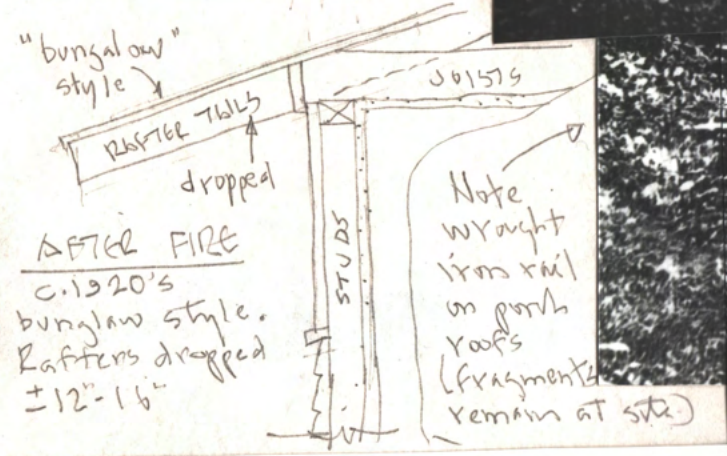
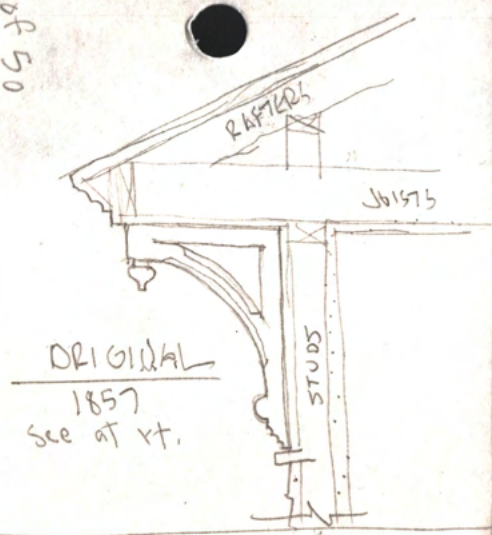
Inscalosa, AL.

photos of renovation progress, Oct 1996 H P Jones FRK Huntsville
Restor. Consultant

SLOW progress (began in 1994)

Unrealistic idea of costs, by owner. Expected \$35,000 to put in livable cond.
Would cost ± \$400,000 + fully restore.

1 of 50



Home of Mrs. Belle R. Harrison, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 Author of "Pomp's Defense".
 'Ef de motiv' is right, den whar's de sin?
 I stole dem breeches ter be baptise' in.'

Postcard, early 20th. c.,
 or late 19th (?)
 photo before roof burned
 Compare w/ 1994 photos

son, Tuscaloosa, Ala.
 "Defense".
 whar's de sin?

tel.
 205-339-4550
 Proj. 94171

1859 Miller 1st, Alaca Place, Tuscaloosa, Al.
 1994 new owner - Dr. Jim Nevill (fetal)
 Nat. Regs of Hist. Places, 1975
 Photos Dec. 1994 Harvie J. Jones, FAHB
 for restor. - Jones & Herrin Architects
 Huntsville, AL.

1857
 PHOTOS

1859 MILLER
 25TH 6581

3 of 50



AN

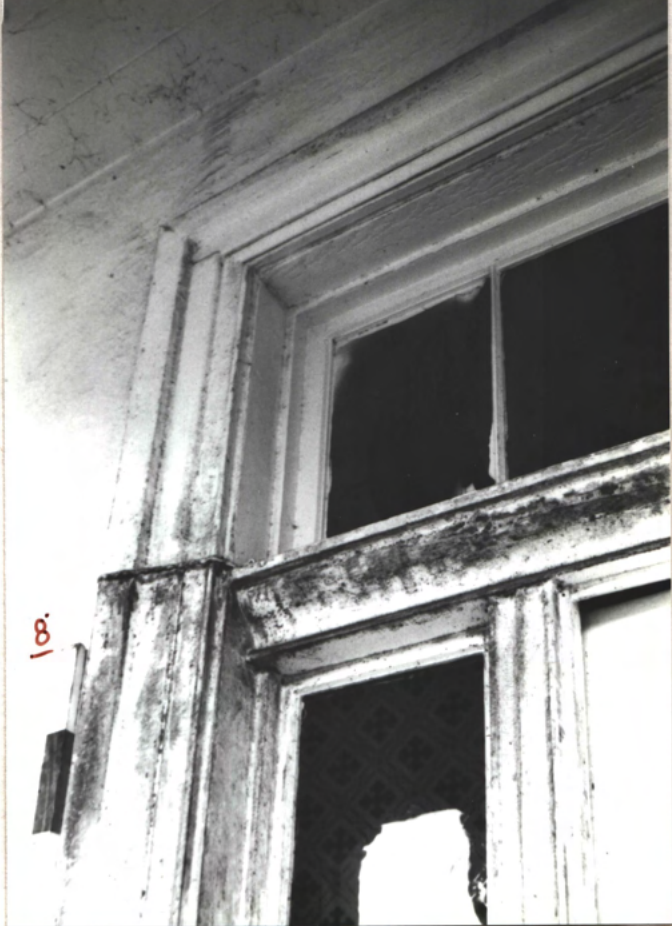
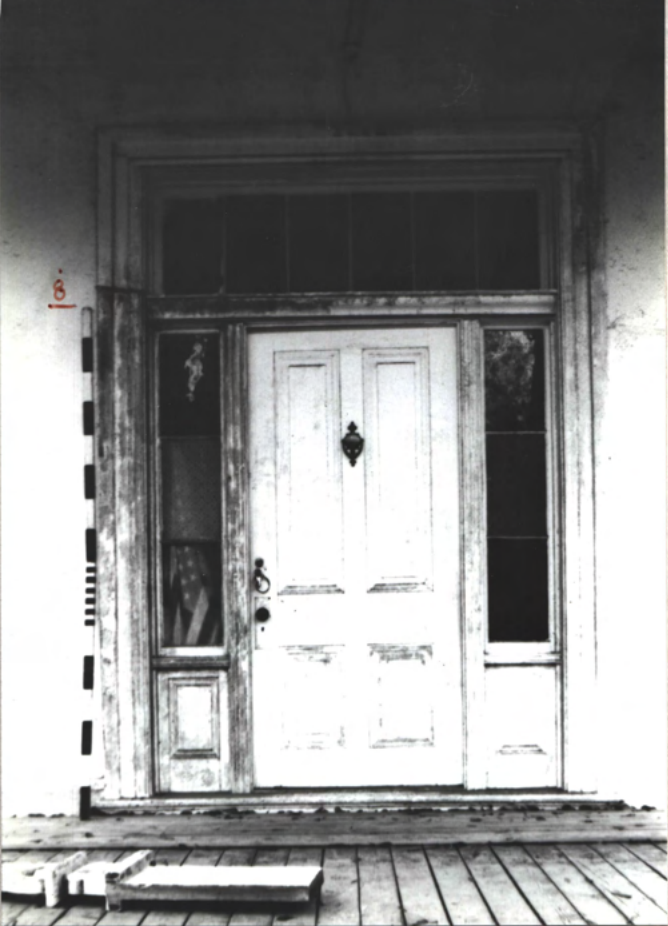


AN

11. F2047

AN





1994
incorrect fl.
by previous
owner

TH

N. Cent. Entry, directly
to Parlor (most unusual)

patterned gl.



1994
treated pine
(incorrect
"deck")



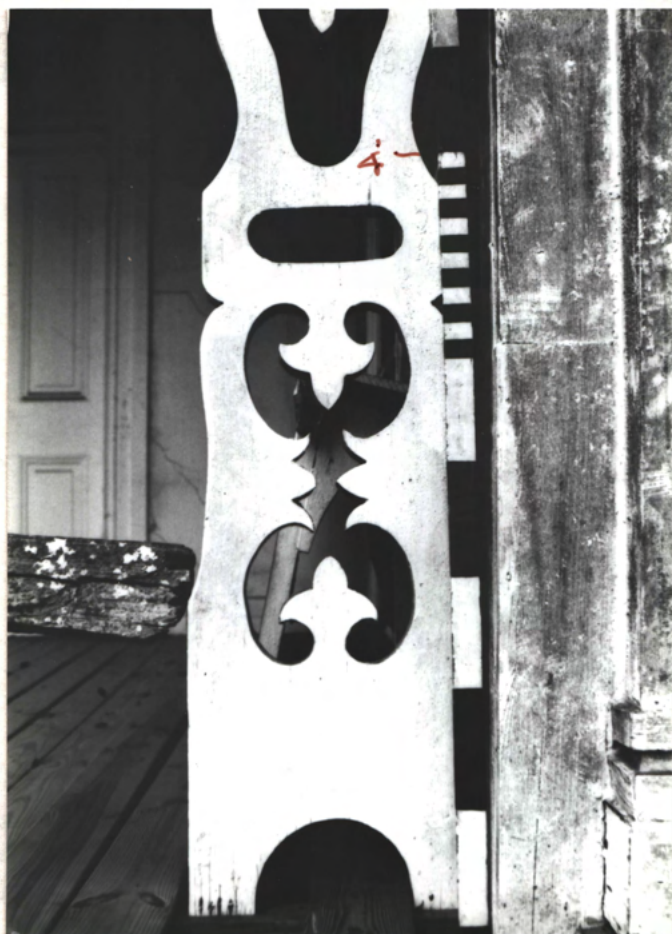
↓N

1994 incorrect photo (lower)

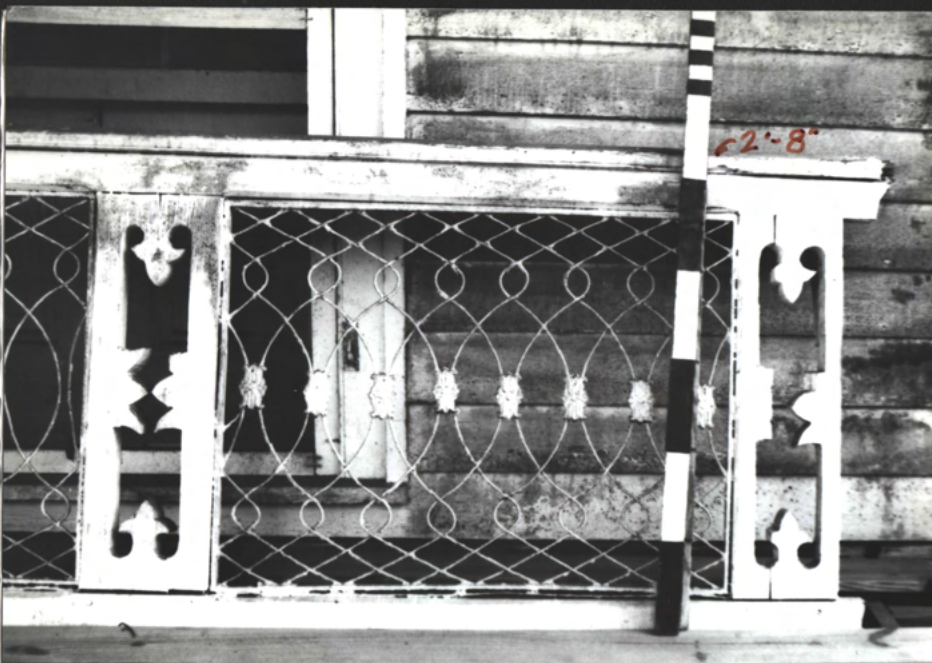


↓H

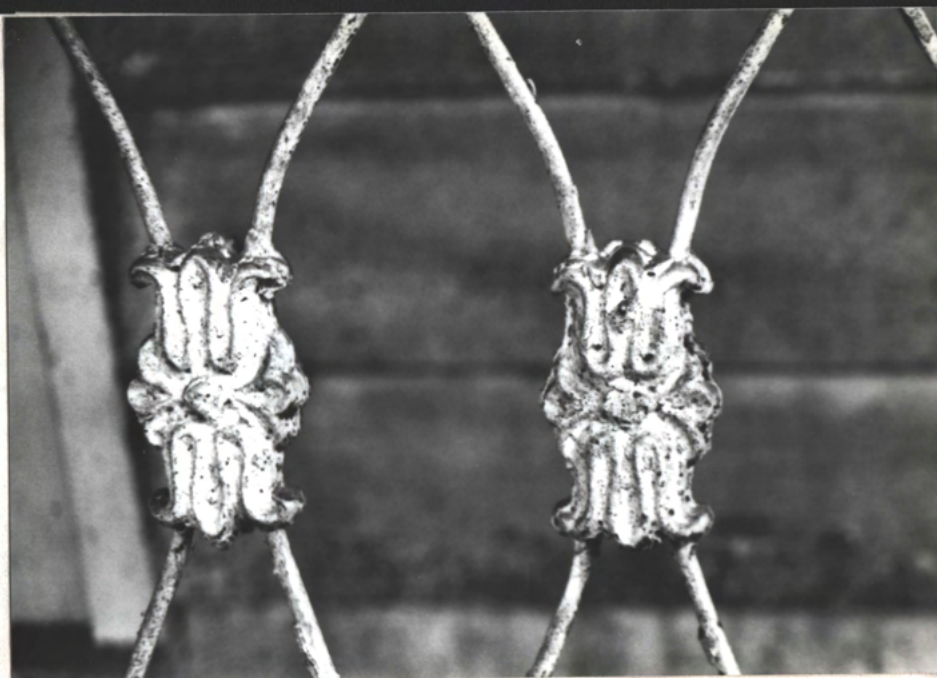
N.E. Porch



↓N

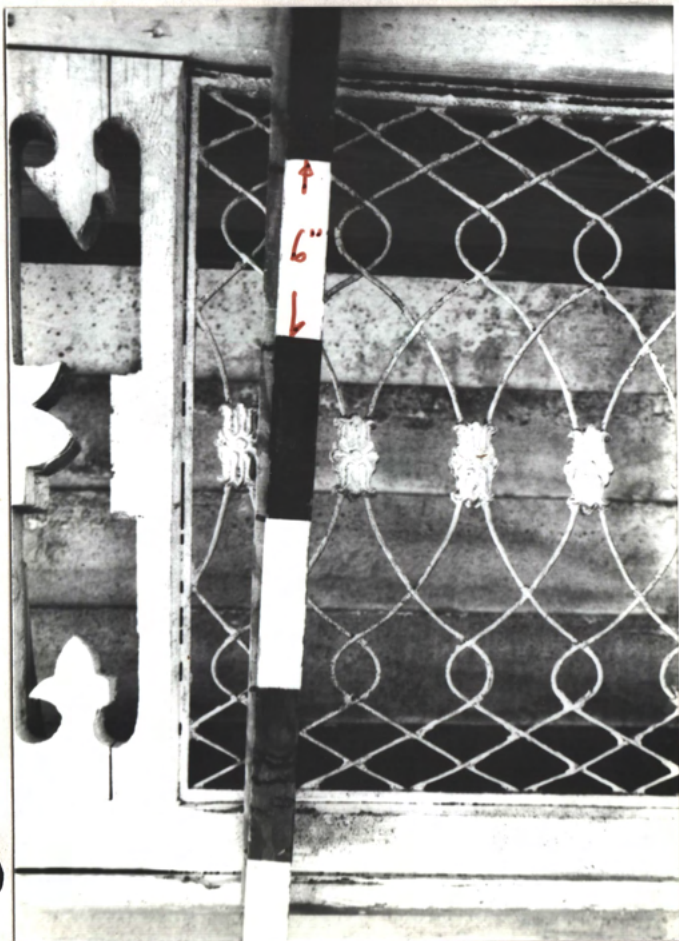


Wrought
filigree
Cast-iron
bosses



N.E.
Porch

loose
rail
from
this porch
not safe



Col. at
Side
Porch
J

2 joints
torque
See p. 9.



Roof dropped
 12" - 16"
 after fire
 probably in
 1920's
 See p. 1



→ N

76450



Cornice at
 S.E. corner
 of N.E. porch



Cornice at N.E. corner of N.E. porch

9 of 50



16th Av.
↙

N



N



20th c.
← bungalow
roof
(dropped
12" - 1 1/2")

E SIDE

N

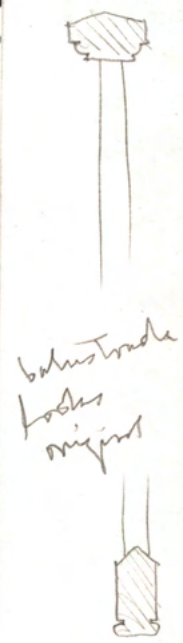
N

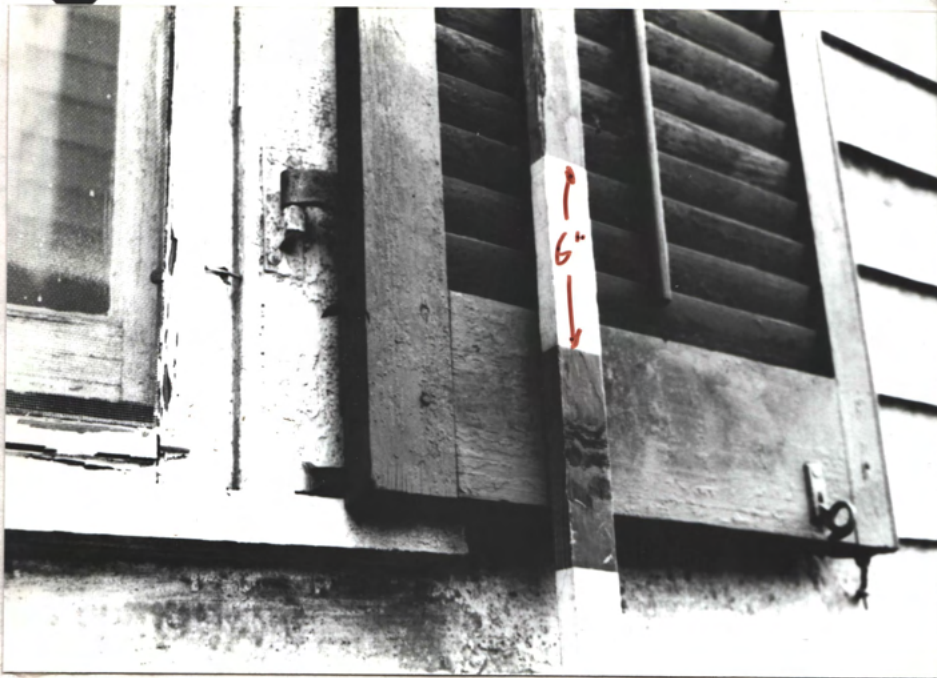
originally on
piers.
Later infill





EAST PORCH





face - wtd. blind hooks (uncommon)

↑ mortise, tenon & peg gts. (note pegs)

EAST SIDE



later sash for added bath mail ↓



At E. wall of later S.E. Shed Rm
sup. 9 photo



core block mfm brick pier

→ Was a porch, later enclosed
Note porch floor edge



St. Mary



N



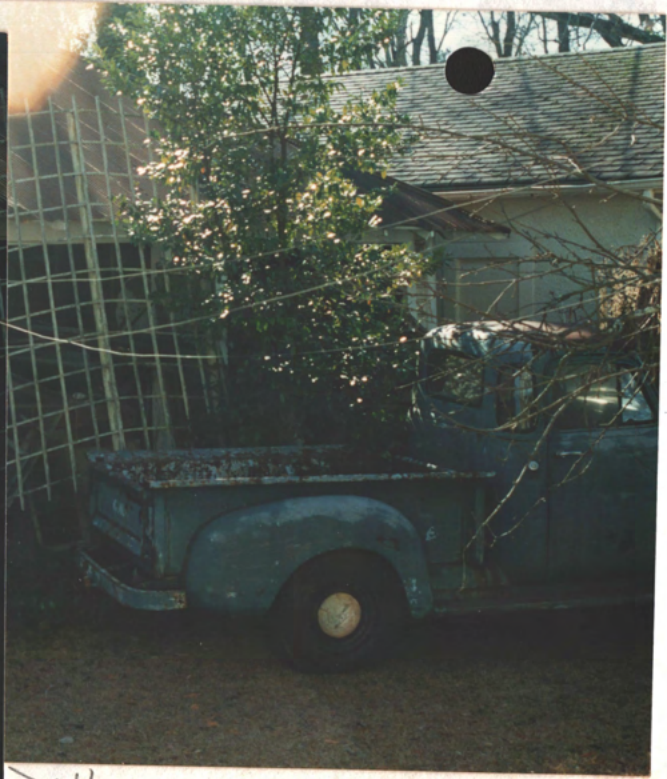
N

c. 1920's
Gw + Shed

ps 1996
Owner dead,
needless say.



St. A
corner of house
JAD



→ N



→ N



c. 1920's sq. behind
1459 N. Main St., Tusculum, AL
photos by owner, Feb. 95

1452



→ N



2032



2032



2032

2032



S. 100.0

corner to d.

PH

corner to d.

house
corner to d.
↓



Apparent previous S. elev.

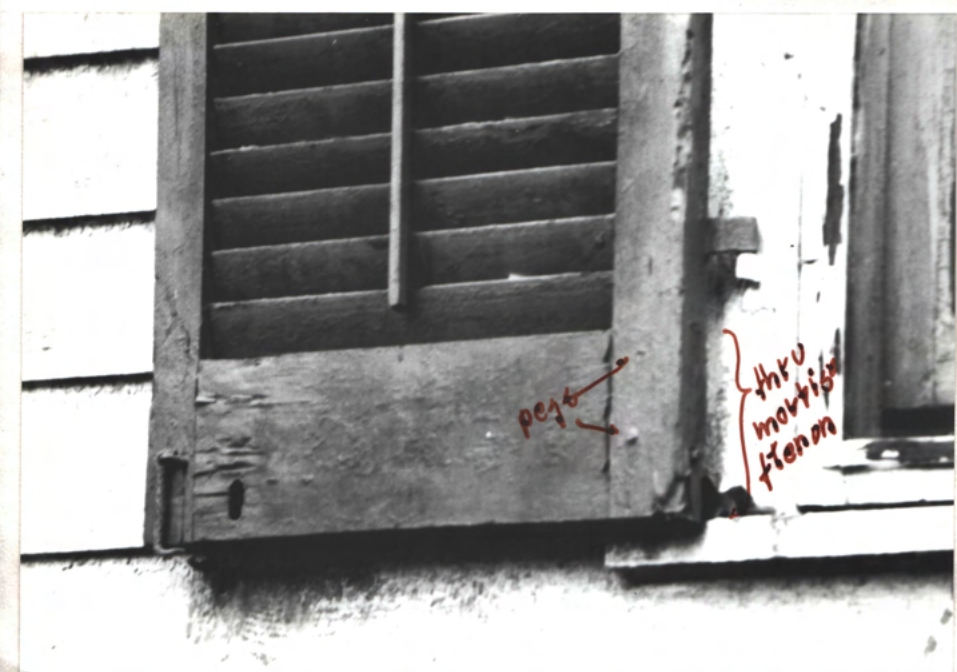
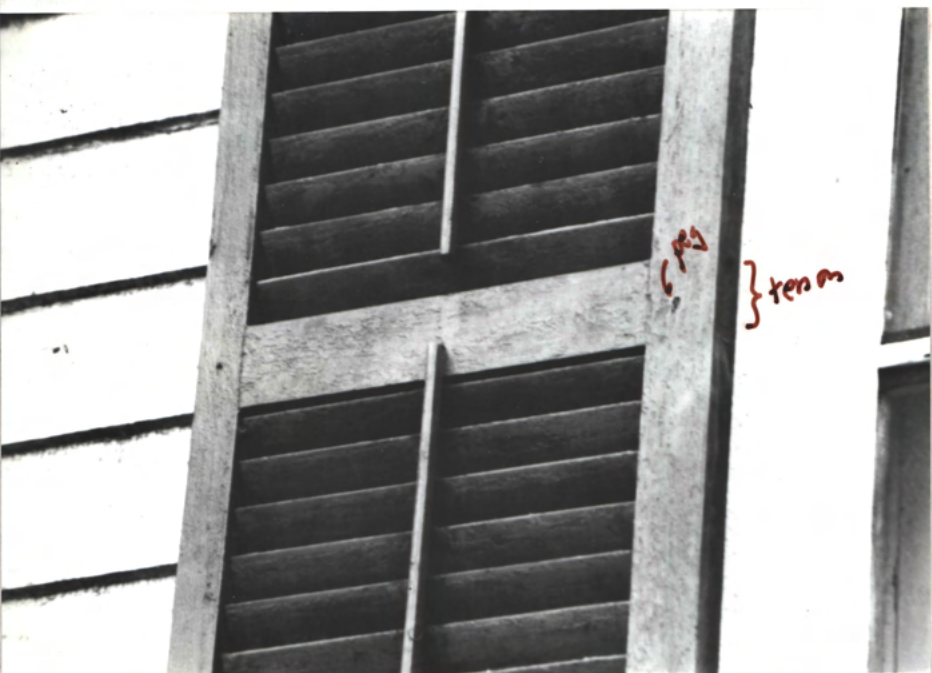
early 20th c.
type door



N
A



Notes through-mortises,
 tenons & pegs etc.



Blind-hook
 (at west wall)
 Typical blind
 (this at East stair hall rm.
 - see p. 11)



N

1857-4
West Wall

Later enclosure
of porch

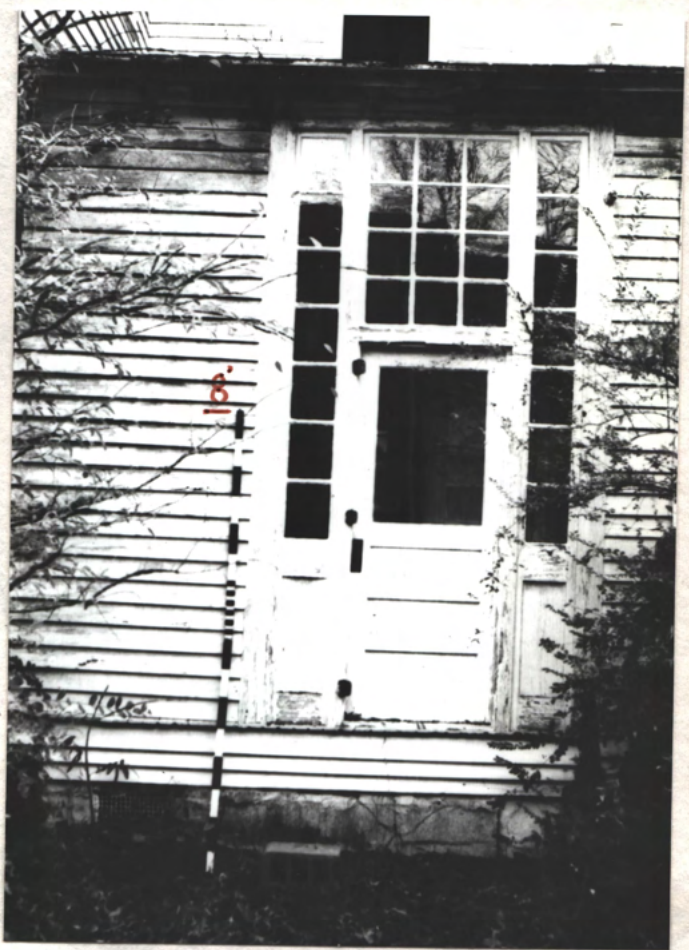
Later
(both fls)



N

Later enclosure of
original side porch

porch fl.
edge
(fl. slopes
inside)



N



112



112

West side porch



112



112



N2

WEST Side Porch



N2





b N

Metal rail
like on
hist. photo
on p. 1
porch roof



N

N.W. Corner Porch



N

Mortise,
tenon
peg

Metal
Rail
in N.W.
porch



N

Flux
to
lis



N ←

N. porch
(parlor)

N.W.
Porch

W. porch



N ←



N.W. porch

N ←

N ←



Central Chimney N2



N2 South Chimney



N2 West Porch



West Porch, Panel in Jib-Windings 20

See
P. 17
more
photo



Upper part of open. it now-enclosed
south-west "porch"



S. China

NA

to
N.E.
Stair
Hall



FIG. 1 - N. East. Parlor

W

to west - cent. rm



WOOD!
(not
marble)
mantel
carved in
imitation
of Italian
marble

W

W





Photo

↑ N

Fl. 1 N. Court Parlor



↑ N

Fl. 1 N. Court Parlor

af.p.

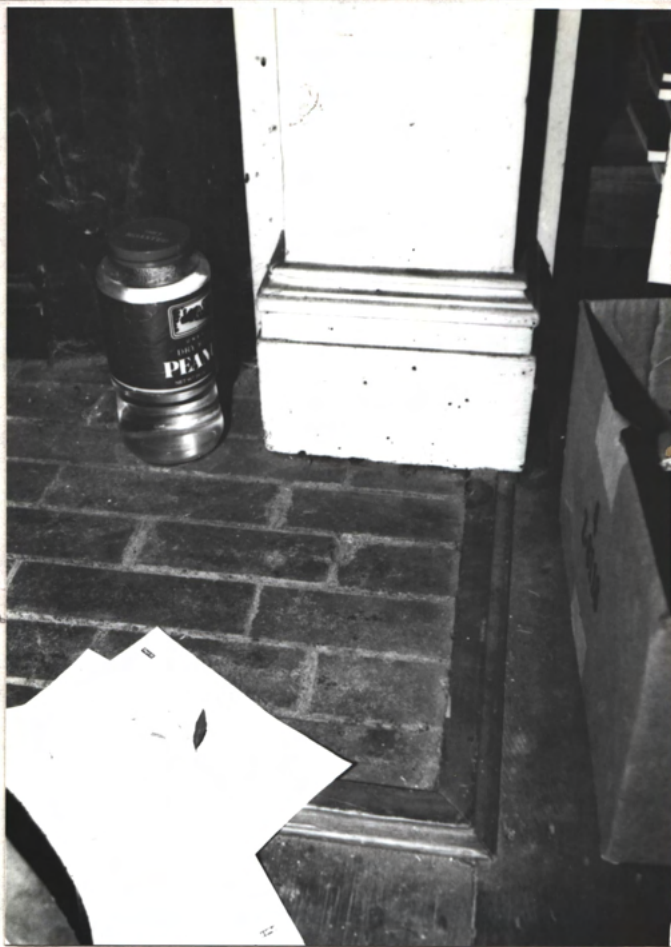


N. Cent. Parlor / Wood mantel (not marble)
 Fl. 1



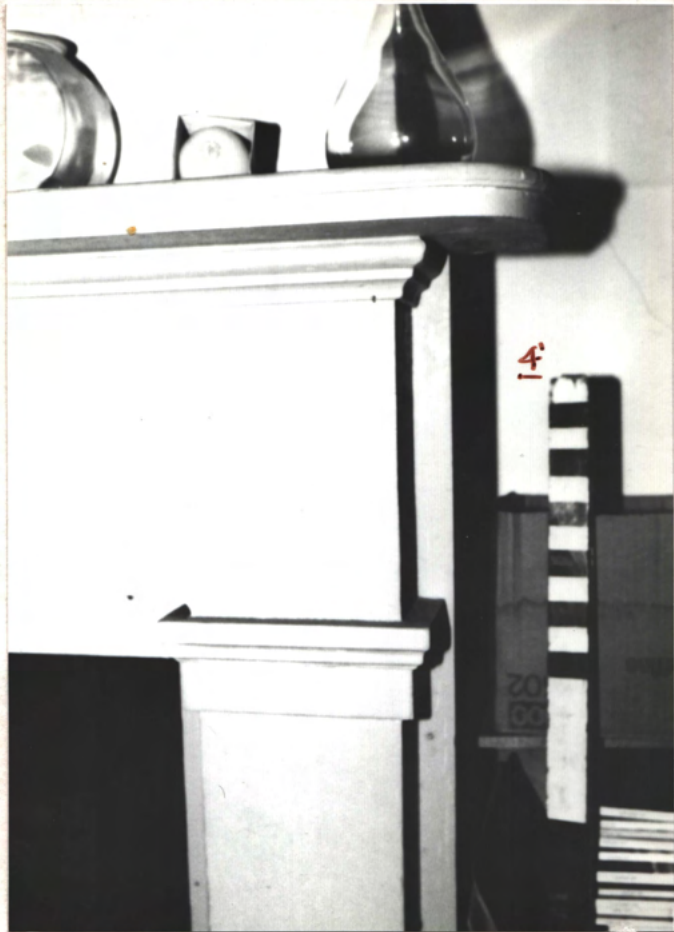
Fl. 1 W. Cent. Room
 (S. of Parlor)
 Mantel was black

Glas. water stairs, S. of parlor



modern
hearth

N ←



N ←

Fl. 1 W. Cert. Rm



← to N. Parlor

N ←

↑
to E. Cert. Rm.