

Drish House was home to school

Thanks to John Harris for locating an article in the Sept. 12, 1926, Tuscaloosa News and Times Gazette about Jemison School. It was at that



BETTY SLOWE

time that the school got its modern school building on Greensboro Avenue in Rosedale.

Until that time, the school was located in the Drish House, built before the Civil War by Dr. John R. Drish using slave labor. Thomas Clinton

remembered that the Drish family lived in great style, even having a "gate-house" in which a gate keeper lived near the carriage entrance, an idea borrowed from English and European customs. The house was on the southern edge of Tuscaloosa and to its south was the cotton plantation, tended by Drish's slaves, who had also built the mansion.

Drish died in the home after leaping (or falling) from his second-floor bedroom, rushing to the balcony next to an elegant curved staircase, where, with a shriek, he fell (or dived) to his death. That was in 1869, when he was 71 years old.

The house later was owned by Judge W.T. Cochrane, probate judge of Tuscaloosa County and mayor of Tuscaloosa in 1900.

After Cochrane's ownership, the house was used as a residence and as a lodging house until it was purchased for use as a school building.

Retired News Librarian Betty Slowe delves into The Tuscaloosa News archive in her Looking Back blog. To read the rest of her blog, visit www.tuscaloosaneews.com.



Historic Drish House purchased, with plans for renovation

By Laurie Mundy Perrigin



One of Tuscaloosa's most well-known, historic old homes is now in the hands of a local woman who plans to restore it and give it new life. Nika Mc-

Cool is a mom of four who has an MA in history and loves old houses. Last year, McCool renovated the 175-year-old Foster-Murfee-Caples House on 17th Avenue. Her hard work earned McCool a Bricks and Mortar Award from the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society.

Now, McCool has set her sights on restoring the Drish House on 17th Street. Built in 1837 by Dr. John R. Drish, the home has served over the years as a public school, a garage and, until 1995, a meeting site for the Southside Baptist Church.

The restoration and renovation won't be easy, but it's a challenge that McCool says she's up for. "The Foster-Murfee-Caples House renovation was so challenging, frustrating, and fun that when the TCPS approached me about the Drish House, I couldn't say no," McCool said. "I just want to save that house and give it a productive new life."

McCool says she's looking for a buyer or tenant to work with her on the restoration, ultimately making the Drish House a focal point of Tuscaloosa. In the meantime, she's grateful for the support from her husband, Matthew McCool, and many others who made the project possible.

"I plan to begin work on the exterior soon with my wonderful contractor, Jeffrey Harless," McCool said. "The interior is a blank canvas. I am just



Photos: Matthew McCool

waiting on someone to let me know their vision for its completion."

Crimson - white
Oct 28, 2010

The Drish House



CW | Drew Hoover

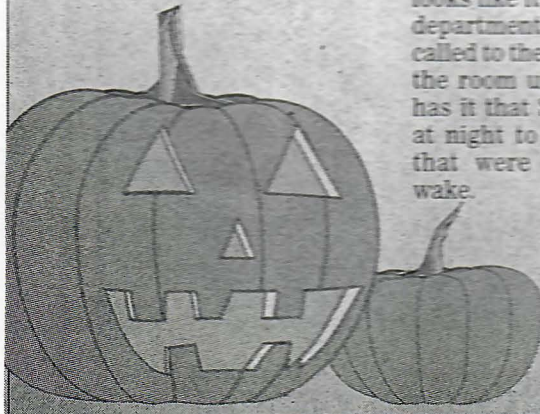
Perhaps the most famous haunted place in Tuscaloosa is the Drish House, located downtown on 17th Street. Built in 1837, the house is haunted by Dr. John R. Drish's wife Sarah, Higdon said.

Records show John Drish was an alcoholic, and he died after having one too many and falling down the stairs. His wake was held in the tower

room of the house, and a ring of candles surrounded Drish's body and burned throughout the ceremony.

Sarah made it known to her friends and relatives that she wanted those same candles to be used at her wake, too, but when she died, the candles could not be found.

Now, at night, the tower room of the Drish House often looks like it is on fire, and fire departments have often been called to the house only to find the room untouched. Legend has it that Sarah comes back at night to light the candles that were never lit at her wake.



Church demolition restores look of Drish House

Effort is part of plan to stabilize the house

By Tommy Stevenson
Associate Editor

TUSCALOOSA | The Drish House, one of Tuscaloosa's most prominent "haunted" houses, is being returned to something approaching its original appearance this weekend.

Early Friday morning, a crew from Arrowood Excavating began tearing down the large, red brick church building that had been home to the 174-year-old Southside Baptist Church in the 1950s. The church building is adjacent to the Drish House.

James Arrowood, the owner of the Romulus-based company, said he hoped to have the job finished today.

The Drish House was built on 17th Street around 1835 by Dr. James Drish, who died after falling off a balcony in the house. His death, and that of his wife, Sarah, led to several stories that the house was haunted by their ghosts.

Over the years, the house passed through many hands. At one point during the Depression, it was an auto parts store, captured in a famous photograph by Walker Evans.

Two years ago, the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society bought the house from the church and has been working to stabilize it, said architect Evans Fitts, a member of the preservation society's board of directors.

Southside Baptist had used the house for Sunday school classes and build a small addition to the east side that was demolished last year. Tearing

SEE DRISH | 3B



STAFF PHOTO | DUSTY COMPTON



For video of demolition of the former Southside Baptist Church adjacent to the Drish House, visit www.tuscaloosaneews.com.

Workers with Arrowood Excavating began tearing down the old Southside Baptist Church next to the Drish House on Friday morning.

DRISH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

down the sanctuary of the church is more complicated.

"The church is attached to the side of the Drish House, and we don't know yet what it will look like when this demolition is finished," Fitts said. "Hopefully, there won't be too much work to be done to the side of the house to stabilize it and make it look something like it did in its heyday.

"But the inside still needs massive renovation, and the preservation society does not have the money to do much other than repair and stabilize what's inside. Hopefully, sometime in the future, someone will

come forward with an offer to renovate the house completely."

The claw of a large bulldozer made its first incision in the south side of the church building Friday morning, and by noon the bulldozer was still at work, sitting on a large mound of rubble.

Arrowood was keeping a close eye on the project.

"We've torn down several buildings this size before, but not one that was connected to another building that needs to be saved," he said. "My main concern is that we don't do any damage to the house itself."

Katherine Mauter, the executive director of the preservation society, was bundled up against the cold weather and keeping a close eye on the work.

"I'm here to document the

process," she said, holding up a small camera. "This is a big project and just the latest chapter in the Drish House history."

Arrowood said he was well aware of the stories about the house but said he noticed nothing out of the ordinary as the demolition work began.

"Yeah, I know all about the ghost stories," he said. "I've even been in the house at night alone, and you can bet that I had those stories in mind while I was in there.

"But I didn't see anything unusual."

Since the preservation society acquired the Drish House, it has allowed the home to be investigated by the Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group, which last year set up electronic "ghost hunting" gear one night

in October. The group stayed in the house for several hours after dark but did not detect anything unusual.

The house has also been included in a tour of Tuscaloosa haunted houses by University of Alabama students for the last two Halloweens and was visited two months ago by two Drish brothers from Iowa.

Although the brothers are distantly related to Dr. Robert Drish, who also owned a large plantation where Greensboro Avenue runs through south Tuscaloosa, they said they had not been aware of the imposing, three-story building until they found it on the Internet.

Reach Tommy Stevenson at tommy.stevenson@tuscaloosaneews.com or 205-722-0194.

Tuscaloosa News
Dec. 12, 2009

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
COUNTY:
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Southside Baptist Church

AND/OR HISTORIC:
The Drish House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
2300 17th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Tuscaloosa

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
125

STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01** COUNTY: **Tuscaloosa** CODE: **125**

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Southside Baptist Church

STREET AND NUMBER:
2300 17th Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Tuscaloosa

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Probate Office, Tuscaloosa County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
714 Greensboro Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Tuscaloosa

STATE:
Alabama

CODE:
01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
HABS

DATE OF SURVEY: **1935** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
The Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:
COUNTY:
ENTRY NUMBER:
DATE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY

CONDITION	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Drish House is a two story brick structure combining Italianate motifs with the Classic Revival style. There are two porticos. The front one having a central three story tower flanked by two Ionic columns on either side and the rear having a colonnade of six Doric columns. Originally, there were galleries behind both porticos and cast iron balconies on the sides of this square house, as well as a narrow balcony around the tower, but all have been removed. The cornice around the house was at one time adorned with scrolled supports but today they are present only on the tower. All openings on the tower are arched and the main entrance of the house is inside the arches of the tower's first floor. This, the north facade, has lost much of its original ornamentation. The Doric south facade, has a simple entrance with double doors and a transom. All original window sashes have been replaced with large two-paned sashes. Both upstairs and down two windows flank the tower north facade, on the south the same pattern is repeated with a center window over the rear entrance in place of the tower. On the west side of the house a large brick three story sanctuary - educational building has been added and a one story building has been added to the east.

Inside, there is a wide hall from front to rear with a new staircase replacing the original "double horseshoe" stair.

Both floors have four large rooms 25 X 25 and a hall, with the tower room opening onto the upstairs hall. Originally there was a wing to the southeast that housed the kitchen and dining room. The building has a hip roof and the four chimneys were removed when this roof was last repaired. There were originally 8 fireplaces, one in all major rooms of the house, but all have been covered over and the mantels removed.

This building has been altered greatly, but still retains much of its original beauty.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Drish House was built about 1830 by Dr. John R. Drish. Drish had married a wealthy widow and nothing was spared in the construction of their new home. It was the center of activity for Drish's 80 acre farm as well as his many business ventures. Tragedy plagued the Drish family for years. A daughter of Drish's went insane because of a lost lover; a niece was murdered; and Dr. Drish himself died after a fall down the great staircase. Since these tragic years, ghost stories have surrounded the history of this home. Later residents of the house were the Lilley and Snedecor families, and Judge and Mrs. W. C. Cochrane, who made it their home for many years. In 1906 the Jemison School was housed in the building. Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company occupied the building from 1925 until 1938 when the Tuscaloosa City Board of Education purchased it. Southside Baptist Church bought the house in 1943 and it is still serving this group.

The Drish House is a very unique specimen of architecture in this area. It's two porticoes and it's tower set the building much apart from the other homes of the mansion class in West Alabama. The combination of Italianate and Classical Revival styles in this structure is interesting and is an excellent example of the blending of the two popular styles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Winnam, Kathryn Tucker. Thirteen Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey.
 Huntsville, Alabama: Strode Publishers, 1969.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		33 ° 11 ' 49 "	87 ° 33 ' 45 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Gregory B. Free

ORGANIZATION: **Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society** DATE: **July 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 1665

CITY OR TOWN: **Tuscaloosa** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ <i>Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</i></p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ <i>Keeper of The National Register</i></p> <p>Date _____</p>
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS







*This is the
latest version!*

The Drish Mansion

The Drish Mansion, "Monroe Place," notable for its unusual architecture, was erected in 1837 on 32 acres of land on the south margin of the city by John R. Drish, a local physician and building contractor who assisted in the construction of the state capitol, original University of Alabama campus, and Bryce Hospital. Built in the Greek Revival style, the house was remodeled in the 1850s with the addition of north and south porticos, a massive Italianate tower, and elaborate decorative trim. The Drishs were financially ruined by the Civil War but continued to live in the mansion until 1884. Family tragedies including a failed romance, alcoholism, and insanity gave rise to colorful local legends and ghost stories. The home was later occupied by the W.G. Cochrane and the J.G. Snedecor families. In 1906 it was purchased by the City Board of Education and transformed into the Jemison School. Leased to the Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company in the 1930s, the building became the subject of a famous photograph by noted American photographer, Walker Evans. During that decade the mansion was documented by the Historic American Building Survey. In 1940 it was purchased by the South Side Baptist Church which renovated it and built the large structures on either side of the house. The Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County leased the building in 1996.

*225 words
1149 characters
Drish.doc*



The House of the Seven Gables
Settlement Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**CARI PALMER
(508) 744-0991**

**SEE HAWTHORNE'S NOVEL COME TO LIFE IN
*SPIRITS OF THE GABLES***

SALEM, MA - Explore the mystery of the House of the Seven Gables by candlelight, as the 17th century mansion's night-time inhabitants come to life in the *Spirits of the Gables*. Friday October 10th through Saturday November 1st, the Gables mansion will be visited each weekend by ghostly characters from Nathaniel Hawthorne's famous novel.

Spirits of the Gables is an interactive play that leads visitors through the night shadows of this spooky structure. Meet the ghost of Mathew Maule, a persecuted victim of the witch trials. Hear of the circumstances that drove a family to lunacy, the secrets that surrounded them, and the curse that led to impending death.

This year's program will feature several new haunts, as well as the hidden passage of the forbidden Secret Staircase.

Spirits of the Gables will run weekends, October 10th through November 1st from 7 PM to 10 PM. On Halloween night, tours will be available from 7 PM until midnight. Admission is \$6.00 for adults \$3.50 for children, children under 6 are FREE. Discounts and a private showing of *Spirits of the Gables* and *The Haunted Village* at SALEM 1630: Pioneer Village will be available for members only - so join now and avoid the lines!!!!

Guided tours of the Historic Site are available daily from 9AM to 6PM, adults \$7.00, \$4.00 for children, under 6 are FREE. The House of the Seven Gables Historic Site is located at 54 Turner Street, Salem, MA.

Other discounts for *Spirits of the Gables* do not apply. Group reservations are required. Reservations are recommended, and non-refundable.

Call (508) 744-0991 for information and reservations!

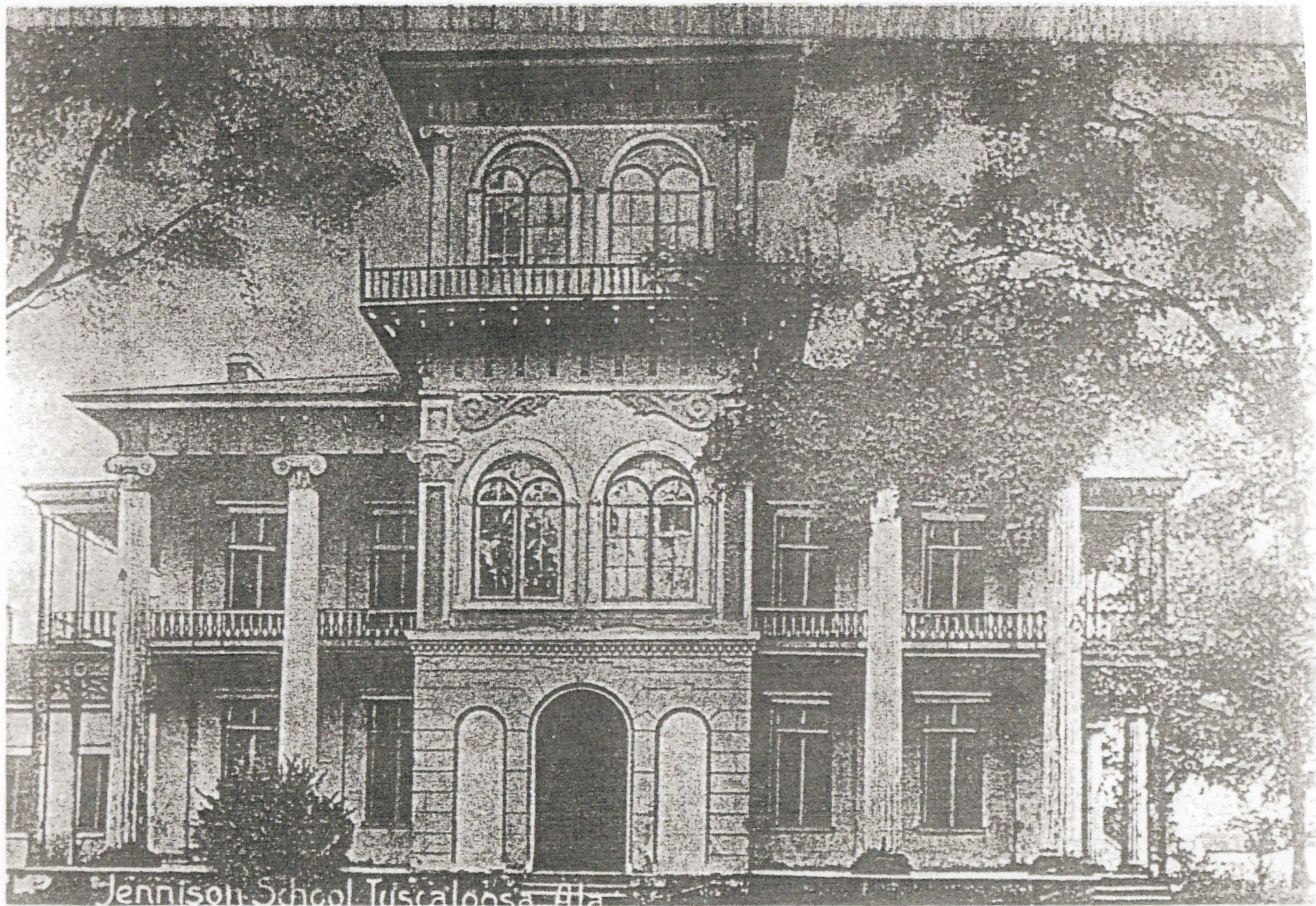
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54 Turner Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970 • (508) 744-0991 • Fax (508) 741-4350

The Settlement House • 114 Derby Street • (508) 745-5909
SALEM 1630: pioneer village at Forest River Park

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE Alabama	COUNTY Tuscaloosa	TOWN OR VICINITY Tuscaloosa
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Drish, Dr. John R., House		HABS NO. AL-201
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) 2300 17th St. (in traffic circle at intersection of 17th St. and 23rd Ave.)		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) mid 19th c.	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) Once a remarkable example of eclectic combination of Greek Revival and Italianate elements. John R. Drish, builder-owner, was Tuscaloosa physician and erstwhile building contractor, owner of skilled slave craftsmen who executed much of early Tuscaloosa		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE) Served at Jemison School 1906-25; Southside Baptist Church in 1978. /plasterwork.		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) Brick covered with stucco		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 61'-2" (five-bay front) x 67'-10 1/2" overall, two stories		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE Hipped roof extending over full-length porticoes front and rear, bracketed cornice with egg and dart ovolo molding, applied paterae on frieze, north (front) elevation dominated by three-story arcuated tower breaking from center of full-height Ionic portico (tower embellished with Greek Revival-style detail and bracketed (cont'd in Other Info below)		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED) Center hall plan, originally branched stairway to second floor, elaborate plasterwork throughout.		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES Severely altered early to mid 20th c. including gutting of interior (removal of original stairway, plasterwork, and most interior woodwork), exterior modifications, demolition of service wing.		
PRESENT CONDITION AND USE Now sandwiched between modern construction on east and west sides.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE (cont'd from Exterior Features above)...cornice), hexastyle Tuscan colonnade across rear; semidetached rectangular one-story service wing (approx. 41'-11" x 20'-3") on east side. Mansion originally stood at end of tree-lined avenue extending to now-demolished gate and porter's lodge at present 23rd Ave.-15th St. inter-		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) section.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Alison K. Hoagland, HABS, from information provided by Robert Gamble		DATE Nov. 1984



Jennison School Tuscaloosa Ala

Dec

FACTS AND LEGENDS ABOUT THE DRISH HOUSE - *my Baylist ch...*

About the year 1817 three (or four) Owen brothers and a widowed sister (Mrs. McKinney) came from the Norfolk district of Virginia to settle in Tuscaloosa. They made the trip down in covered wagons bringing with them their mahogany furniture and other heirlooms and their negro slaves. Each brother built a home, one the house off Queen City Avenue later occupied by the Hemphills and the Murphrees, one on the corner of 19th Avenue and 4th Street, and the other the house later occupied by Gen. Wood. Mrs. McKinney who had inherited a considerable fortune from her husband was soon wooed and won by a certain Dr. John Drish, himself a widower with one daughter, Katherine. Dr. Drish was a well educated man, a skilled physician for his day and possessed of great charm of person and manner. He had bought the land on which the Methodist College afterwards stood and built in 1833 a two story brick residence there with a brick office for his medical practice at one side. As was the general custom in old times his wife's fortune was handed over to his management and he built the house once known as the Drish Place, later as the Jemison School. Mrs. Drish was well acquainted with the beautiful homes in Virginia and many of her ideas were incorporated in the house which was a combination of the southern Colonial influenced by the Greek and of the Italian Renaissance of the type seen in many villas in the valley of the Poe. It had originally galleries on two sides with Doric pillars on the south side, Ionic on the North. Later were added two story formal galleries, East and West. There was a large square tower in the center of the front with an arch before the front door and with a square room above which opened from the upstairs hall. From this square room a winding stair led to another square

tower room above the level of the roof.

Down stairs there was an immense hall with double horse shoe stairs in the back which rose in graceful curve to a landing which two short straight flights, one on each side, led to the upstairs hall as large as the one below.

There were four large rooms downstairs. On the west side were two parlors with folding doors between. On the east side were two large rooms also connected by folding doors. Leading off from the east side at the back was a row of one story rooms containing store room, kitchen, and the every day dining room. Back of the house were brick houses for the servants, a smoke house and a carriage house. Upstairs there were four large bed rooms.

The house was built of ^{BRICK} brick covered with stucco and all the work even the beautiful ornaments--still to be seen in fragmentary state--of the rooms downstairs, were built by slave labor.

The parlor floors were covered by velvet carpets of a design ornamented with large pink roses. Stiff lace curtains hung at the large windows, on both mantle pieces of white marble were candelabra hung with crystal prisms. There were portraits hanging on the walls and one of them was that of the beautiful and unfortunate Katherine Drish. The two parlors were furnished exactly alike with mahogany covered with black horsehair; in each a sofa, arm chairs, single chairs, two small ottomans and one large one. They had several large chairs and two book cases. The dining room furniture was also mahogany and the silver, linen and china were as fine as was to be expected in such a mansion.

The house was set on a tract of eighty acres of land but the farm lands extended on both sides of the Greensboro road from 15th Street to where the A.G.S. station is now and ran west as far as the

old Herman place north of Kaulton. The main entrance to the estate was on what is now 15th Street. By the entrance gate was a lodge also built of stucco covered brick in which lived a family of slaves whose principal duty was to open and close the entrance gates. Elm trees bordered each side of the wide avenue which led up to the house. In front of the mansion was a formal garden planted in box, on the west side a shorter avenue planted on each side with alternating pink and white altheas led down to the Greensboro Road. On the sides of the house were gardens of roses and other blooming flowers and further back was an orchard with pear, peach, apple trees, grape vines and the once highly prized quince and pomegranate bushes. To quote a poet dear to our grandparents: "If ever there seemed an Elysium on earth it was this, it was this!" But this beautiful place was to be the scene of tragedy and of years of sorrow and to be disturbed by seeming supernatural events which have never received any satisfactory explanation.

Dr. Drish was a man of many fine qualities but he had two unfortunate weaknesses. He gambled and he drank and he was constantly unlucky in his gambling. He took boatloads of cotton to Mobile and lost the proceeds in a few nights wild play at cards accompanied and followed by heavy drinking. His daughter, Katherine, was loved by a young man who soon won her heart completely but her father resolutely opposed the match, and by fair means or foul, compelled the young man to leave Tuscaloosa. He locked her in her bed room for several weeks and allowed her no food but bread and water. Tradition says that the lover left riding on horseback down the Greensboro Road, that Katherine stood on the side porch and waved a last farewell as he rode past and that from that day began the change which was to wreck her beauty and her happiness. She married afterwards a certain W. W. King.

They went on a wedding tour to New Orleans. She and her husband were standing on a hotel balcony together when she saw her former lover pass on the street below. She fainted and her husband who had recognized his rival was deeply incensed. Two sons were born of this marriage but she began to show the signs of oncoming insanity and the husband returned her and her small sons to her father's house and himself moved to New Orleans and there obtained a divorce on the ground of insanity and remarried.

At the time when history begins to take the place of legend as far as the narrator is concerned she was still beautiful but her insanity had made rapid progress. She no longer carried on connected conversation or any rational occupation or amusement. She was always restlessly wandering from room to room. She was a fine musician and sometimes played beautifully on the piano but always stopped immediately if she became aware that someone was listening. A portrait of her husband had been hung over the parlor mantel and she frequently took this down and put it face to the wall. As often as she could she went out to walk in the woods and fields south of the house, sometimes accompanied by the negro woman who was ordered to keep her always in sight but frequently escaping from her keeper, she went for long rambles by herself. She had always loved flowers and she sometimes returned with hands full of wild flowers and autumn leaves which gave her evident but unexpressed pleasure. About this time another tragedy came to the Drish family. Dr. Drish had a niece, Helen Whiting, of whom he was very fond and who came frequently to make long visits. She was a very beautiful girl and a very popular one. Suitors flocked around her and she finally married a Mr. Fitch and they went to live in the Gorham house in Newtown. He proved to be insanely jealous of her and without any good reason. Fierce quarrels followed his unjusti-

fied accusations and frequent sprees of drunkenness added to the young wife's unhappiness.

One morning after Mr. Fitch had been drinking several days he got up sober but very nervous and much shaken by his debauch. He was standing before the bureau in their bedroom shaving. The young wife reproached him for his conduct and he threatened her with violence if she did not keep silent. She walked up to him and said, "Why, you know you would not hurt me, now would you?" "No, I would not hurt a hair of your head", he replied, then turned, put one hand on top of her head, pushed it back and drew his razor across her throat almost severing the head from her body. He was arrested, tried, and declared insane and was confined in an asylum. For six months he resolutely refused to eat and was kept alive by forcible feeding and after several years treatment declared cured and later became a prominent railroad man in the North. A number of objects which had belonged to her were still in the Drish house and the negroes would not touch one of them after her death and warned everyone else not to touch them saying, "Miss Helen'll hant you ef you tech her things."

Dr. Drish drowned these sorrows as well as that of the diminishing of his wife's estate under his ruinous management in constantly increasing draughts of alcoholic liquors.

Delirium Tremens came to add its horrors to the troubles of the house and in a final attack he jumped from the bed in which several negroes were trying to hold him, rushed down the beautiful curved stairway, uttered a terrible cry and fell dead midway in the hall.

Before his death he had exacted a solemn promise from his wife that under no circumstances would she ever send his daughter, Katherine, or permit her to be sent to a hospital for the insane so after his death Katherine remained in the Drish Place. She had still some traces

of her former beauty but her mind became more and more clouded. The windows of her room were fastened down with heavy screws. The door was locked every night, and all day a negro woman was constantly on watch to keep her from wandering away.

A niece of Mrs. Drish with several little children had come to live in the home and Katherine showed at once a deep affection for them and a pathetic interest in their childish games. When they first came she tried to read fairy stories to them or little tales but after a few pages she could not control her fleeting fancies and she would close the book and begin her incomprehensible mutterings and broken ejaculations. The children were never afraid of her in the least. One, a little boy who was her favorite would often beg when locking up time came: "Aunt Sarah, let Cousin Katherine stay up a little longer. We want her to play with us. I'll take her up to her room after a while." And Aunt Sarah, Mrs. Drish, would consent and Katherine would stay, not to play, but to look and listen with apparent pleasure till the children's bedtime and then the little boy would take her hand and say: "Come on, Cousin Katherine, it's time to go up," and the poor mad woman would go without a word to be locked up for the night. She never spoke but one connected sentence after the time of the arrival of these children. One night as the family was sitting before the fire, Mrs. Drish said to her, "Katherine, do you know who made you?" Katherine looked at her fixedly for a moment, then replied, "He who had the burning coal laid on the lips of the prophet Isaiah made me". The negro servants of the family had been shocked and terrified at the tragic death of Dr. Drish and they soon began to whisper to each other that they had heard far in the night the rush of his steps down the stairs and the sound of his wild death-cry. No white person ever heard them but they insisted that they heard them distinctly more than once.

Then another "sign" came to disturb the dwelling. One night there was a loud cry from the negro quarters, "Ole Miss de house on fire!" The family ran up the winding stairs but the tower was dark and quiet and the mistress sent them out with stern reproof but the same thing happened several times and on each occasion the negroes insisted they seen fire in the upper tower room. This upper tower room had become haunted after a run-a-way negro slave in some way had managed to get into it unobserved and stayed in it several days till thirst and starvation had forced him to come out of his hiding place. He had been handed over to his master and the quick negro imagination had conjured up a picture of the cruel punishment which awaited him, certainly a flogging. When one whispered, "Mebbe dee burnt him to death," and there the story of the flames appearing in his old hiding place required but a little further stretch of their imagination.

When Mrs. Drish grew old and feeble she felt that the grown sons, long since moved away--of Katherine, should assume the care of their mother and she wrote them to that effect. The sons came and Katherine left the scenes of her sorrow and her years of madness to return no more unless it was her perturbed spirit which caused some of the mysterious happenings of later years.

In her old age Mrs. Drish's estate furnished but a scanty income but in spite of that fact she continued her subscription to a number of periodicals. The Philadelphia Times, Littels Living Age, The New Orleans Picayune, Appletons Journal, Godey's Ladies Book and The London Illustrated News. She had dropped Harper's Magazine from her list when it became strongly pro-union at the time of the Civil War. As a very old woman she showed keen interest in foreign news and and politics and discussed them frequently with her niece who was also a highly educated woman.

Mrs. Drish died not long after Katherine departed and as soon as she was dead an old negro servant who waited on her during her last illness came to the niece and said: "Ole Miss done tole me to tell you to light them candles what she saved after dey burned um by ole Marster's Coffin:."

The niece who had not been at Dr. Drish's funeral replied that she had never seen or heard of any candles. The old woman was very insistent. "We got to look for dem candles an fin um, Case if we don, Ole Miss gwine walk. She she gwiner walk:" A prolonged search failed to reveal any candles and Ole Miss was buried without them and so another story was added. The negroes reported that Ole Miss was walking and that they had seen her and heard her voice. Some months after Mrs. Drish was buried a large secretary was being moved in the upstairs hall, a secret drawer of whose existence no one then living in the house knew came upon and in it were a number of half-burned candles apparently the ones which had been used at Dr. Drish's funeral and which Mrs. Drish had wished lighted again at her own.

The two young daughters of Mrs. Drish's niece who had been sleeping upstairs were afraid to stay alone on that floor after their great-aunt's death and a bed was set up for them in what had been the north parlor. The head of the bed was placed against the folding doors which were now kept closed and the key had been lost.

The head of their mother's bed was against the folding doors on the south side so the two little girls could easily summon her by call or by tapping on the doors and they felt perfectly safe in their new quarters.

It happened that the day the change was made Nellie Guild-- a name well known to some of us, came to invite one of the sisters to "spend the night" and the other was left to sleep alone the first

night in her new bed room.

When bedtime came the mother stayed in the room several minutes talking till the little girl said: "Mama you go on to bed now. I'm not afraid at all." The mother kissed her good night, put out the lamp, left the room, shut the door behind her went into her own bedroom just behind the front one. The little girl heard her mother move around in her room, heard her shoes drop on the floor and then silence. The little girl lay in bed still, wide awake, when she heard the door into the hall open very quietly, light steps cross the room to her bed, felt gentle hands pull the cover close up around her, tuck it in, then a soft caressing pat and she heard the steps cross the room again to the door, heard the door open and close again very quietly. She was wide awake but she never doubted for a moment that the visitor was her mother come to make sure that she was sleeping comfortably and so she did not speak. The next morning she told her mother she had heard her come to her bed the night before. "Why, I did not come back any more," said the mother. "Yes you did," the child insisted. "I heard you come and felt you tuck me in." Both a little upset, they discussed the strange happening for some time and agreed not to tell the absent sister for fear of frightening her.

That night the two sisters went to bed and at the usual time. After talking for a few moments the one who had already passed one night in the room went to sleep. She was waked by a nudge from her sister, she spoke to her, receiving no response, reached out her hand to touch her and found her trembling from head to foot. Frightened now, she called loudly to her mother who left her lamp and was in the room in a moment.

The second sister was speechless from fright, trembling all over panting for breath. The mother took her in her arms, soothed

and caressed her and after awhile she was able to tell her story. She was lying quietly in bed, wide awake, when she heard the door from the hall open and steps coming across the floor toward the bed. She said she knew at once it was a ghost but she was too frightened to move or call for help. The steps came up to the bed a hand smoothed the cover over her gave her a gentle pat and then the steps receded, the door opened and closed again very quietly. It was then that, still unable to speak, she had nudged her sister. The next night both beds were moved across the hall where the folding door could be kept open and the sisters had no further visit from the ghost. Long years afterwards when the house had passed out of possession of the relatives of the builders, it became the home of Judge and Mrs. W. G. Cochrane. After they had been living in it for some time they went one summer to pass several weeks at the Alabama White Sulphur. The two girls who had had the queer experience in the Drish Place and who were now grown women were also guests in the hotel. But Mrs. Cochrane had forgotten that happening and did not know that they had any connection with the house in which the Cochranes' were living.

One rainy night the group sitting in the hotel parlor began to tell ghost stories and after several had been heard Mrs. Cochrane said she would tell two strange things that had happened in her house. A sister had come to spend Commencement with them and the three, she, her sister and the Judge were going to the Commencement Hop. The night of the Hop--this is the improbable part of the story--both ladies were dressed and ready some time before the hour to start. The sister said that she had a slight headache and would go lie down for a few minutes in the room across the hall--the same room in which the two sisters slept. She went, the door was heard to close behind her and a few minutes later a scream from her brought Judge and Mrs. Cochrane run-

ning to her. She told them that she was lying in the darkened room when she heard the door open quietly and steps advance toward her. She asked who it was, received no answer and felt a soft comfort spread over her and a gentle hand touch her. She screamed and did not hear the steps withdraw. The three persons were alone in the house and no one could give any explanation. The cover was really lying on the couch.

One night when the Judge and his wife were sitting at the supper table, they hear steps running up the front walk and a loud knock at the door. The Judge went to open the door and an excited neighbor exclaimed, "Judge your house is on fire." "Oh, I think not," said the Judge, "Come out into the yard," said the neighbor, "you can see the flames in the top tower room." The Judge stepped out and sure enough there was a bright light fire streaming from the tower. He ran inside and up the winding stair but when he reached the tower room all was dark and quiet, no sign of fire and no sign of lamp or candles.

The Lilley and then the Snedecors succeeded the Cochranes in the Drish Place but no members of the family ever saw or heard ghostly disturbances but their servants well aware of the stories about the house and were convinced that it was haunted and were never willing to be alone in it after dark.

Another well known family name became associated with the place when it became the Jemison School so named in honor of Major W. C. Jemison. At that time, began a service to the children and the families of the Southside which can never be sufficiently praised and the memory of which should not be allowed to die. Miss Belle Strickland was made principal and devoted herself to the service of the pupils and the families from which they came. She was a rarely gifted teacher and a fine principal but that was only the beginning of her work. She brought to these children

Southside Baptist Church

Drish, Dr. John R., House (ALA-201), 2300 17th St. (in traffic circle at intersection of 17th St. and 23rd Ave.). Brick covered with stucco, 61'-2" (five-bay front) x 67'-10½" overall, two stories, hipped roof extending over full-length porticoes front and rear, bracketed cornice with egg and dart ^{ovolo} molding, applied paterae on frieze, N elevation (front) dominated by three-story arcuated tower breaking from center of full-height Ionic portico (tower embellished with Greek Revival-style detail and bracketed cornice), hexastyle Tuscan colonnade across rear; semidetached rectangular one-story service wing (approx. 41'-11" x 20'-3") on E side; center hall plan, originally branched stairway to second floor, elaborate plasterwork throughout. Erected mid-19th C.; reputedly designed and construction supervised by slave-craftsman belonging to Dr. Drish; mansion originally stood at end of tree-lined avenue extending to now-demolished gate and porter's lodge at present 23rd Ave.-15th St. intersection; severely altered early to mid 20th C. including gutting of interior (removal of original stairway, plasterwork, and most interior woodwork), exterior modifications, demolition of service wing; now sandwiched between modern construction on E and W sides. Once remarkable example of eclectic combination of Greek Revival and Italianate elements. John R. Drish, builder-owner, was Tuscaloosa physician and erstwhile building contractor, owner of skilled slave craftsmen who executed much of early Tuscaloosa plasterwork. Jemison School 1906-25; Southside Baptist Church in 1978. 5 sheets (1934, including plot plan, plans, elevations, details); 1 ext. photocopy (ca. 1907), 5 ext. photos (1934, 1936), 3 int. photos (1934, 1936); 2 data pages (1936). See also CSAS (J7-ALA-1132 through 1135; T3-ALA-339183 and 339184).

by Lee White & David Nelson.

Section Seven - Narrative Description

1

The Drish House is a large, two-story home displaying an eclectic combination of Greek Revival and Italianate styles. Located near downtown Tuscaloosa, south of Fifteenth Street and a block ^{from} ~~off~~ of Greensboro Avenue, the house was built circa 1830 on land acquired in 1826 by Dr. John R. Drish. At the time of its construction, the Drish House was approached ^{part a portico lodge (garden house)} down a broad avenue ~~from Fifteenth Street~~ ^{flanked with a double row of elm trees}. Dr. Drish, a prominent physician and building contractor, employed his own skilled slave craftsmen to execute the building of his mansion, surrounded by acres of land cultivated to grow cotton. ^{originally constructed in the}

was approached from N.E. part a portico lodge

The original house ^{the house was} ~~was~~ constructed in the Greek Revival style, then altered in 1855 to ^{incorporate} ~~include~~ Italianate elements. Constructed of brick covered with stucco, the structure has a hipped roof which extends over full-length porticos, front (north) and rear, ^(south) five-bay ^{north} front and ^{south} rear, the original structure measures approximately 61'-2" x 67'-10 1/2" overall. A series of four Ionic columns (originally fluted) line the front (north) portico, while six ^{doric} ~~Tuscan~~ columns line the ~~the~~ rear (south) portico. ~~These~~ Pilastered lateral walls carry a full entablature, ^{and} On the east side of the house, a semi-detached one-story service wing was constructed containing a kitchen and a storage room. With the addition of Italianate elements in 1855, the ^{north} ~~front~~ facade became dominant

tuscan or doric?

... principal facade bears a ...

by a three-story arcuated tower, breaking from the center of the portico. The tower is embellished with Greek - Revival details as well as bracketed Italianate cornices. In keeping with the Greek - Revival decorative elements, egg and dart ovolo moldings and applied paterae on the frieze constitute further exterior details. The structure also received a cast iron balcony that wrapped around the entire house, ^{as well as} iron elements ~~were also used~~ on the roof, all of which ~~exterior iron works~~ were later removed from the house. **

revolver around a

The interior of the Irish House features a typical center-hall plan. Off the main hall, four public rooms could be found: a sitting room and a dining room on the east side; a formal parlor and a music room on the west side. ~~Originally~~ In 1855, a branched stairway replaced the original staircase, allowing access to the four private family ^{rooms} on the second floor. Elaborate plasterwork, executed by the Irish slave craftsmen, ^{could be found} in the house ~~in crown moldings and ceiling medallions~~. However, the interior of the house was severely altered early in the twentieth century, ^{when} much of the main floor was gutted, including the removal of the branched stairway, plasterwork, and ^{some} woodwork. The rectangular east service wing was also demolished, [as well as the parterre lodge (gate house).]

... principal facade bears a striking resemblance to the south

Today, while the structure is in desperate need of major exterior and interior ^{structural} repair, many of the original exterior moldings and elaborate woodwork, as well as all of the original columns and the unique tower, remain.

Section Eight

Statement of Significance

The Irish House is historically significant for its truly unique architectural combination of Greek Revival and Italianate styles, and for its association as the residence of an early prominent Tuscaloosa citizen. While it has deteriorated over the last several decades, the Irish House remains one of Tuscaloosa's most significant ante-bellum structures.

Historical Background and Significance

Located in the western section of Alabama along the Black Warrior River, Tuscaloosa was incorporated as a town in 1818. From the first frame house constructed by William Colgin in 1820, Tuscaloosa has been known for its lovely homes and broad, tree-lined avenues. The early growth, architecturally and otherwise, was certainly influenced by the Black Warrior River, and the accessibility

... Magnolia Grove's principal facade

it provided to the port city of Mobile ~~on the Gulf of Mexico~~.

During the years 1826 to 1847, The University of Alabama opened (1831), the remaining Indians were relocated westward, and Tuscaloosa served as the capital of the Alabama. The State Capital Building at Tuscaloosa was constructed between 1827 and 1831. State Architect William Nichols had the greatest influence, direct and indirect, on the early architectural development of the city. The architect for the capital, the University, and numerous private residences in the city, Nichols' designs often displayed lofty columns of unique proportions, supporting hipped-roof structures. Notable among those structures remaining today are the University Club, c. 1834; the Alexander Dearing ~~House~~ House, c. 1838; and most probably the Dr. John Drisk House, ~~c. 1830~~ c. 1830. During the Civil War, Tuscaloosa found itself on the route of General Sherman's destructive march. Occupied by Federal troops, many of the buildings of the University were burned, to the ground, including the Rotunda. Luckily, most of the private residences of the city were spared a similar fate.

Tuscaloosa House's principal facade bears a striking resemblance to the south.

In the years prior to the war, Tuscaloosa thrived as an affluent center of the cotton trade, thanks ^{again} largely to its location on the Black Warrior river. Many successful land owners built their large mansions in the city limits or in the margins of the town. Among these prominent plantation owners was John R.

Dorish. Arriving in Tuscaloosa in 1822, Dorish had already established himself as a successful physician. Upon choosing Tuscaloosa as his home, Dorish built a beautiful residence for his family on the eastern margin of the town, now Queen City Avenue. As his wealth increased, Dorish decided to construct an even more elaborate home which he would surround with acres of farm land. On land he acquired

in 1826 on the south margin of town, Dorish built his mansion ^{in the popular} of Greek Revival style, beginning construction ^{in 1830} 1830. Although formally

educated as a physician, Dorish served as the building contractor for his home ^(by 1840) and would also serve as the building contractor for the Croom family home, Magnolia Grove, in nearby Greensboro. Magnolia Grove's principal facade

bears a striking resemblance to the south facade of Dorish's own home. ^{He also} employed his own skilled slave craftsmen in the construction ~~of~~ and decoration of his residence, particularly ~~the~~ elaborate decorative plasterwork. The work of these craftsmen may also be seen ~~at~~ in the

with particular attention given to the

President's mansion of the University of Alabama, and throughout the region. ^{put to} ^{reference} ^{papers in} ^{archive} (1)
Prior to the Civil War, Drish estimated his property to be valued at more than a half million dollars.]?

As a prominent member of Tuscaloosa society, Drish had many friends and many enemies. William K. Smith says of Drish: "As a citizen, his popularity decayed in proportion as he grew rich, and covetousness was charged upon him as one of his sins; but the world is not always right or just in its judgment of men." 3 [A Mrs. Merwether wrote about her unfortunate experience with Dr. Drish during the Civil War. ~~With her husband~~ ^{away} fighting, Mrs. Merwether had to provide for her children and herself during the leanest days of the war in 1863. Determined to not see her sons go hungry, Mrs. Merwether offered to buy several ears of corn from Dr. Drish. Although he had an abundance in his field, Drish ^{wasn't} ~~refused~~ to give any corn to Mrs. Merwether, despite her offerings of payment. Yet, Mrs. Merwether ~~triumphed~~ ^{triumphed} in the end, climbing over the fence surrounding the field, getting an armful of corn, ~~and~~ ^{while} paying a Drish slave for the corn, she took.] 5 At Drish's death in 1869, the war's ravages ^{had} resulted in the devastation of his ^{personal} ~~estate~~ - only his palatial mansion remained.

Add - ① Ghost story.

② statement concerning ^{property} current use.

- 1 John R. Drish
- 2 Sarah O'Brien
- 3 Katharine McKimney

Perhaps, the Drish House is best known today as one of ^{Alabama's} "haunted homes," ^{widely known by} according to the story in Kathryn Tucker

Windham's 13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey. The ghosts of John R. Drish and his second wife Sarah ^{O'Brien} McKimney Drish haunt the house. [As the legend goes, Dr. Drish died as a result of stumbling on the curved stairway while drunk. Mrs. Drish asked that the same candles used at Dr. Drish's funeral be used at her own. However, when Mrs. Drish died years later, her niece, a Mrs. Green, failed to place the same candles around her coffin. Soon after Mrs. Drish's death, people in town began to see ~~a~~ appearance of fire in the tower room. However, when investigated, no fire could be found. The Drish servants believed that the ~~fire~~ ghostly fire was a result of Mrs. Drish's unfulfilled wish for the burial candles. Others believe the mysterious fire is caused by Dr. Drish himself.

The Drish House may also claim a haunting by Dr. Drish's daughter Katharine. Katharine was the ^{only} daughter of Dr. Drish and his first wife. Due to her father's stern ~~other~~ intervention in a love affair, a broken-hearted Katharine gradually lost her mind, ~~and~~ her parents confined her to the second floor of the family's home.

After the death of Dr. and Mrs. Drish, Katharine was sent to family members in another state.

Following the death of Mrs. Drisk, a niece and her family became the inhabitants of the Drisk house. The Greens closed the second floor of the home and converted the two downstairs parlors into bedrooms.

One of the Green's daughter awoke one night to gentle hands straightening and tucking her covers. Believing the person to be her mother, she pretended to be asleep. The next morning, Nimmo Green confessed to her mother that she had not been asleep when she came in to check on her. However, Mrs. Green said she had not come into the room.

Several nights later, Mary Green had a similar experience while Nimmo slept beside her. ~~Two other girls~~ The two frightened girls went to their parents' room to find their father and mother sound asleep.

Mr. Green made a thorough search of the house and found nothing out of the ordinary.

In later years, other residents and visitors experienced similar encounters with a gentle spirit, believed to be Katherine Drisk.]

In addition to serving as a private residence, the Drisk House has been used as the offices of the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron, and (Light) Company; ^{Lord?} as the Jemison School; and ~~is~~ currently ^{is} a part of Southside Baptist Church.

Photos

- Druid
- 1 x North Facade
 - 2 x ~~North~~ South Facade
 - pic 3. x Front - d close up
 - pic 4 Front door
 - 5 ceiling - central hall + stairs
 - 6 parlor
 - 7 parlor
 - pic 8. N Facade
 - R cornice + capitals.

Biblio -

- Gamble "Alab catalog"
- TCPS "Past Horizons"
- Smyth "
- Clinton "
- ? M E Eachin "
- Peatrian "William Nichols, Architect."
- Kathryn W. "13 AL Ghosts" ??

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA
Its Early Days, 1816 - 1865

by
Matthew William Clinton

Publisher
The Zonta Club
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received his legal training at Yale also and began practice at the age of twenty-one, that is, in 1824. He was a law partner with Baylor. Both men were unusually tall, and it is said that their aggregate height was nearly thirteen feet. Aiken weighed 240 pounds. He was elected by the Legislature in 1833 to prepare a digest of the laws of the state, for which he received \$2,500 plus \$800 for superintending its printing. He later moved to Mobile and then to Stockton. He served in the Mexican War.

Hiram and Eli Shortridge were born in Kentucky and came to Tuscaloosa in 1822. Hiram remained in Tuscaloosa only a few years. He practiced law with Colonel Baylor. He married Margaret Penn, daughter of James Penn, who was believed to be the first who improved the beautiful place afterwards occupied by Gen. George W. Crabb and afterwards owned by James H. Vanhose. The Stewart family moved into this old mansion soon after 1900. It was partially destroyed by the tornado of 1932 and is no longer used as a residence. It is located on the north side of the Sanders Ferry Road a short distance west of Stillman College.

When Eli Shortridge was a boy ten years old, his father was killed on the Virginia side of the line between Kentucky and Virginia over a property dispute. Eli and his brother, Levi, who was twelve, got in a canoe and by a circuitous route brought their father's body back to his home place in Greenup County.

Eli Shortridge practiced law with Harvey W. Ellis. He was appointed to the Supreme Court in 1828, represented Tuscaloosa County in the state Legislature, and in 1835 was elected to the circuit court bench, which necessitated his moving to Talladega. He was considered to be one of Alabama's best orators. He was a member of the Episcopal Church and a Mason. His son, George D. Shortridge, also became a judge.

Francis Moody came to Tuscaloosa in 1820. With him came his son Washington Moody who was destined to distinguish himself in Tuscaloosa and Alabama history. Francis Moody died soon after, and it was Washington Moody's good fortune to have as his adviser Levin Powell. Powell was postmaster and a justice of the peace, and Moody assisted in making records and listened to the trials. He also aided Judge Minor and George W. Crabb in a similar capacity. He was a writer for the Alabama Sentinel in 1829. Later he became a leading member of the bar and, in 1871, established the First National Bank. He married Sara Sims, a daughter of Edward Sims.

Judge Henry W. Minor was born in Virginia and moved to Alabama at an early age. He was a member of the state Supreme

Court and afterwards clerk for that court. It is for his work as court clerk that he is best remembered.

Henry W. Collier moved, in succession, from Virginia to South Carolina, to Tennessee, and to Alabama. He came to Tuscaloosa in 1823 and became a law partner with Sion L. Perry. In 1828 he was elected by the Legislature to the Supreme Court and served as chief justice from 1837 to 1849, when he was elected governor of the state. He lived in the house now occupied by V. G. Overbey on Ninth Street and Twenty-first Avenue.

Samuel G. Frierson came from Tennessee in 1819. He was admitted to the bar in 1826. He served in the state Legislature, as postmaster of Tuscaloosa, and as state treasurer. He was a very large man, weighing over four hundred pounds. Garrett says, "His humor was inexhaustible in the line of mimicry."

William R. Smith also names as early Tuscaloosa lawyers John H. Jones, George W. Stewart, and Judge Hume R. Field.

The influence of lawyers on public affairs was great. It is but a step from the profession of law to law making and to the judicial interpretation of the laws. Another reason is that, in the pioneer days of our state, of all the professions the lawyers were the best trained.

The first physicians in Tuscaloosa were Dr. John L. Tindall and Dr. Jephtha V. Isbell. Both were here by 1817. Doctors here by 1821, in addition to these two, were William Purris, Thomas Hunter, Robert L. Kennon, Samuel M. Meek, Nicholas Perkins, William Owen, John Owen, and James Guild. William R. Smith names Dr. James Isbell also, but does not name Jephtha Isbell. Possibly there were two doctors named Isbell, or there may have occurred a confusion of names. Richard Inge, eldest son of Richard Inge, Sr., who came to Tuscaloosa in 1821, probably practiced here a short while before moving to Greensboro. Smith simply states that Dr. Richard Inge "belonged to the medical faculty of Tuscaloosa." Dr. John R. Drish came in 1822, Dr. Mitchell in 1826. Dr. Doric S. Ball came about 1824. Smith tells us that Dr. Reuben Searcy came to Tuscaloosa "at a very early age, in 1826." Dr. William A. Leland was one of Tuscaloosa's early doctors.

Very few of these early medical men had received training at medical colleges. Most of them had studied and practiced with older doctors. Four of them were not only medical men but were ministers in the Methodist Church. Dr. Kennon is listed as pastor of the Tuscaloosa Methodist Church for the years 1829-1830 and 1837. Doctor Meek was a minister before he became a doctor. He also operated a drug store. Doctors John and William Owen were brothers. Smith says that they were both more

On the north side of Broad Street between Greensboro and Twenty-fifth was a large brick house which had, in the later period of its existence, housed the State Bank. In the early 1850's it was the residence of Albert G. Gooch. Later it became the home of James Harris Fitts, the founder of the City National Bank. During the Civil War Fitts was the financial agent of the Confederate States government in this area.

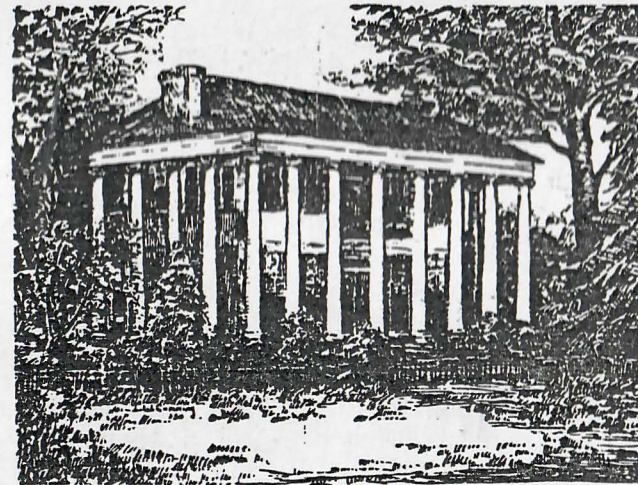
Other prominent families lived farther out from the center of the town or outside the boundaries of the town. Judge John J. Ormond lived on the east side of Queen City Avenue about a block north of University Avenue. His home was actually outside the limits of the town. Judge Ormond, a native of England who came to Alabama in 1827, was elected a member of the state Supreme Court in 1837 and remained on the bench for a period of twelve years. In 1840 he moved to Tuscaloosa. In 1848 he resigned his position on the Supreme Court because of ill health and resumed private practice. He died in 1866. His house was later occupied by Dr. George Little.

On the northeast corner at the intersection of University and Queen City avenues lived the Harris family, who owned some large plantations in the Black Belt. Amanda Harris married Dr. John Little, son of Dr. John Little, Sr. Dr. John Little was cashier of the First National Bank of Tuscaloosa. His sons were Rev. John Little of Louisville, Dr. Robert Irving Little of the University of Alabama faculty, and R. H. Little. The Harris home was the former home of James H. Dearing.

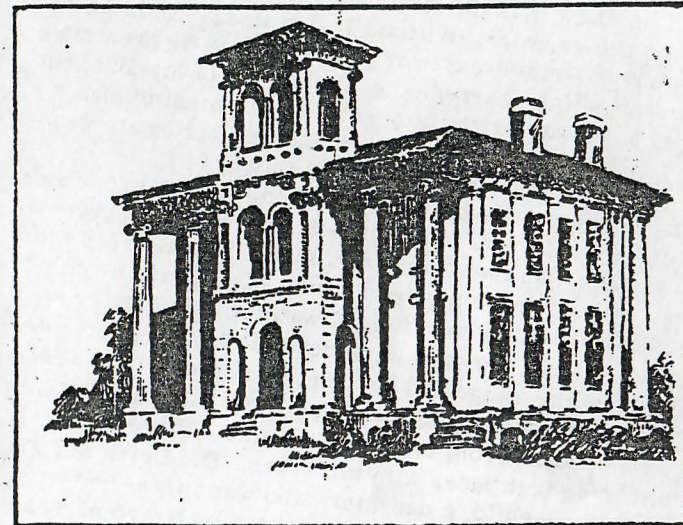
On the east side of Queen City Avenue and facing Fourteenth Street was the home of James H. Dearing. Dearing moved from the house located at the intersection of University and Queen City avenues because of disturbances created by University students, some of which were rather serious.

His brother, Alexander Dearing, lived on Fourteenth Street and Queen City Avenue in the splendid mansion later occupied by Mrs. James Spence, now the home of the Swaim family.

Dr. John R. Drish's mansion was located south of Fifteenth Street a distance equal to two blocks and in a line with Twenty-third Avenue. A double row of elms led from the mansion to a lodge house, which was located on the western side of the avenue leading to Fifteenth Street. A slave family lived in the lodge house, and someone was always present to open and close the gate when a carriage passed through. Behind the house were the slave quarters, which were built of brick. His farm was on both sides of Greensboro Road, extending from Fifteenth Street, the boundary of the town, to the A.G.S. station. West of Greensboro Road was the gin house and cotton press, where



The Alexander Dearing Home



The Drish Home, built in the 1830's is now used as the Southside Baptist Church.

Dr. Drish's cotton, as well as that of his neighbors, was processed for market. Dr. Drish's daughter, a Mrs. King, was mentally ill and was kept in one of the upper rooms of the house.

was the rest of that bacon at my house." She invited the six cavalrymen to her house, and Rose, upon learning that the bacon and the few eggs they possessed were to be fed to the soldiers, almost fainted. Mrs. Meriwether says, "They needed it more than we did."

The next episode in Mrs. Meriwether's attempt to feed her family properly was a serio-comic affair, which took place between her and Dr. John R. Drish. Dr. Drish had come to Tuscaloosa in 1822 and had been very successful in the practice of medicine. He built a beautiful residence on the eastern margin of the city (now Queen City Avenue) which was afterwards remodeled and turned into the Methodist College. Later he built a more splendid mansion on the south margin of the town. This building is now part of the Southside Baptist Church. Before the war Dr. Drish estimated the value of his property to be more than half a million dollars. He retired from the practice of medicine and devoted his energies chiefly to farming. The land south of his mansion, that is to say the land in the vicinity of the A.G.S. station, was his farm. Dr. Drish had many friends and many enemies. William R. Smith says of him: "As a citizen his popularity decayed in proportion as he grew rich, and covetousness was charged upon him as one of his sins; but the world is not always right or just in its judgment of men." When Dr. Drish died in 1869, it was found that his estate was insolvent. Such had been the ravages of war.

Mrs. Meriwether tells of the event as follows: "On one side of our house were several other little frame shanties occupied by poor refugees. On the other was a forest of pine trees whose branches Adrienne nibbled at such scant grass as she found. Not far off was a corn field; I watched this corn grow and determined when the ears were ready to be boiled or roasted that I would see the owner and buy some from him. I was told that the owner was a rich old man, who lived half a mile away I could see the house from my porch. It was a large white mansion lined on both sides with tall trees. Dr. Drish was his name. He had one child, a daughter, who was insane and kept on the third floor of the house attended by Negro nurses.

"When at last the corn was in the ear, I drove to the Drish mansion. I stated the purpose of my call. Dr. Drish eyed me critically, then said harshly:

"No, madam, I will not allow my corn to be pulled from my field. That corn is to feed my Negroes this winter. If I allow corn to be pulled now, it won't be a week before my Negroes will strip the field." With this he turned away and started to enter the house as if the whole matter were settled. But I did

not feel that way. I followed him to the door.

"Wait a minute," I said. "The father of my little boys is in the army. He cannot now provide food for his family. Do you not feel it is your duty to keep a soldier's children from starving?" "I have answered your question," he returned. "I have nothing more to say."

"He started again for the door, but again I halted him. 'Before you go,' I said, 'I give you fair warning that I mean to go into your cornfield and pull enough corn to feed my children'-- and I did. On emerging from the shady tree-lined avenue leading away from the house I ordered my nephew, Sidney Lamb, who was with me, to hop over the fence and pull me a lot of corn. He demurred, and thereupon I climbed over and pulled several dozen ears, threw them back over the fence, and put the corn on the floor of my rockaway. I was about to drive off when I saw a Negro galloping down the avenue toward us. I waited to see what he wanted. He stammered out that his master had sent him to say we had better not bother his corn.

"Well, it can't be helped today," I said. "Tell him I had it pulled before you got here. And here, Sambo," I continued, taking two Confederate paper dollars out of my pocket, "give this to your master. I don't want to steal his corn."

"The Negro took the money, and I drove on home. I gave my sister half the corn, and she and her boys had a feast too."

Mrs. Meriwether was a determined woman. In a few days the corn was all eaten, and she decided to visit Dr. Drish's corn field again. But in a most unexpected manner it became unnecessary. As she was about to leave the house, an old gray-haired man drove up and introduced himself as Mr. Whitfield. He had heard about the way Dr. Drish had treated Mrs. Meriwether and was indignant. He reported that Dr. Drish had Negroes patrolling his corn field with shotguns. He concluded by saying: "Drish is a contemptible fool. . . . When the Yankees come I hope they will take everything Drish owns." Mr. Whitfield called to his servant, who brought a basket filled with beets, turnips, parsnips, onions, potatoes, and grapes. From that time on Mr. Whitfield brought vegetables regularly. He would not take a cent's payment for them. Mrs. Meriwether says of this kind old man, "For surely no man ever deserved God's favor more than the dear old man I knew in Tuscaloosa during the summer of 1863."

A Mississippi newspaper announced a prize of \$500 for the best short story submitted. Mrs. Meriwether wrote a story entitled "The Refugee," based largely on her own experiences. She won the prize. With the money she bought some cloth with

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Alabama
COUNTY: Juscaloosa
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER _____ DATE _____

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON: South Side Baptist Church
AND/OR HISTORIC: Dusk Home

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: 2300 - 17 th Street
CITY OR TOWN: Juscaloosa
STATE: Alabama CODE _____ COUNTY: Juscaloosa CODE _____

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: _____
STREET AND NUMBER: _____
CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE _____

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Probate Office, Juscaloosa County Court House.
STREET AND NUMBER: 714 Greensboro Avenue
CITY OR TOWN: Juscaloosa STATE: Alabama CODE _____

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: _____
DATE OF SURVEY: _____ Federal State County Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: _____
STREET AND NUMBER: _____
CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ CODE _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<i>no overlap</i>			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Mrs. Ruth S. Flowers

ORGANIZATION: *Juscalossa County Preservation Society* DATE: *27 Oct 1970*

STREET AND NUMBER:
P.O. Box 1665

CITY OR TOWN: *Juscalossa* STATE: *Alabama* CODE:

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER FORM

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Once a private home, then a public school, badly deteriorated, this building has been restored and greatly altered for use as a church. However, most of the original structure remains basically the same in appearance on the exterior except for the addition of large red brick wings on each side. The original building constitutes the center portion of the church, and is painted white.

Facing north (but also with a south entrance) the two story brick building features 4 Ionic columns, with a three story tower in center of north facade.

Tower windows show Italianate influence in shape, still very evident although openings have been closed in with plaster or louvers. Center archway on ground floor leads to a double front door with square transom and lights with pilasters. Pilasters on front of tower 3rd floor match Ionic columns below.

East and west sides feature three regular windows with pilasters on corners and between windows up to roof. (First floor windows, etc., removed and walls opened to connect with wings which are built on to main center section.

On South side 6 Doric columns rise to roof.

Once spacious grounds now reduced to small curbed oval area not a great deal larger than

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

B. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) *ca 1830*

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unique combination of architectural features. Once the home of a prominent early resident of city - House was built about 1830.

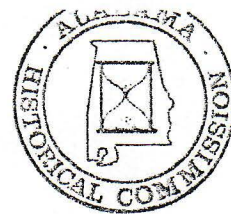
SEE INSTRUCTIONS



W. WARNER FLOYD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104



TELEPHONE NUMBER
269-6839

August 5, 1975

Southside Baptist Church
2300 17th Street
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Gentlemen:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the Drish House has been favorably reviewed and added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on July 31, 1975. The Alabama Register is a prestigious listing of historic, architectural and archaeological landmarks. These selected Alabama landmarks are worthy of both recognition and restoration. The Alabama Historical Commission appreciates your interest in Alabama's historic preservation program.

Sincerely,

W. Warner Floyd

WWF/1t1

cc: Mr. Gregory B. Free



F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101

November 18, 1992



TELEPHONE NUMBER
242-3184

Dr. David Nelson
600 University Boulevard E
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Dear Dr. Nelson:

In response to your inquiry on November 16, the Drish House in Tuscaloosa was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on July 31, 1975. Our records do not indicate that it is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places. Since talking with you on the phone, I checked the district nominations to see if the Drish House is located within a historic district. I do not find it included in a district nomination either.

I am enclosing the appropriate forms for nominating a property to the National Register of Historic Places. Informative brochures and a Guide to Researching Old Buildings in Alabama are also attached. If you have questions concerning the National Register process, you may contact Melanie Betz of our office. She is coordinator of both the Alabama and National Register programs.

As you requested, I am sending you a listing of properties from Hale and Tuscaloosa Counties that are included in the National Register and the Alabama Register. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

I will inform Bob Gamble that you will touch base with him in the near future regarding the Drish House nomination.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hinson
National Register Secretary

CH/s
Enclosures



STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-0900

August 19, 2015

LISA D. JONES
ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER

TEL: 334-242-3184
FAX: 334-240-3477

Katherine Richter, Executive Director
Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society
P. O. Box 1665
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

RE: National Register Nomination for Jemison School (Drish House), Tuscaloosa,
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Richter:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the Jemison School (Drish House) was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior on March 17, 2015. By copy of this letter we are notifying local public officials and concerned citizens.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our historic and archaeological resources.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me at 334-230-2659.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/nw



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Tuscaloosa's historic Drish House coming back to life

New owner plans to reopen home for modern uses

By Alana Norris

Special to The Tuscaloosa News

Published: Saturday, March 14, 2015 at 11:00 p.m.

Tuscaloosa's Drish House was born in opulence.

Through the years, the Drish House has changed hands several times, serving at various times as a public school, a garage and a meeting place for a church. Local legend has it that a ghost once roamed its halls.

The story of the historic house on 17th Street, built in 1837, has been one of deterioration followed by renewal.



Staff photo | Erin Nelson

The historic Drish House underwent renovation in 2014, the exterior is seen in Tuscaloosa, Ala. on Saturday March 14, 2015.

Now, Nika McCool, who bought the vacant house in 2014 from the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, hopes the time is ripe for resurgence again.

"I feel really strongly in private enterprise having a role to play in the preservation of historic buildings," said McCool, who lives in the Birmingham suburb of Mountain Brook. "There are only so many period restorations that can be done, and after that, if you want them to be saved, they need to find a place in 21st-century society. They need to become part of the day-to-day life of society again, and that's what my business is dedicated to doing."

Ian Crawford is director of the Jemison-Van de Graaff Foundation, a nonprofit that helps take care of the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion on Greensboro Avenue. Crawford says McCool's effort is vital to Tuscaloosa.

"No city has a successful rehabilitation program without including historic preservation, and that's been shown time and time again," Crawford said. "We're hoping that things like the Drish coming back will help people understand how important historic preservation and building conservation are."

McCool's renovation has been organized into two phases. Her first objective was to restore the outer facade. Repairs were made to the roof, stucco and masonry. The woodwork and windows were replaced, and more than 100 gallons of paint were used. Now she is conquering the interior, with plans to have it completed by fall. Then she hopes to locate someone who could find a good use for the building.

She sees the space, with its mostly open floor plan downstairs, being used as an event venue for weddings and parties. The upstairs has been sectioned off into smaller rooms that once held Sunday school classes and now could be used for office space.

"It's right next to the new brewery and the new gym," Crawford said. "It could be a great restaurant, it could be offices, a little cafe, artists' lofts. We've talked about everything under the sun."

McCool said she hopes to find out if the house will be added to the National Register of Historic Places by the end of the month. The National Park Service has 45 days to review the submission and decide what will happen.

"They can either say yes, they can say no or they can request that somebody goes back to the library and does even more research," McCool said.

Dr. John Drish, a widower from Virginia, built the house. He bought the land after moving to Tuscaloosa and marrying a wealthy, local widow. He was a physician by trade, but he enjoyed building. He renovated the structure continually over the years to fit with the latest architectural styles. The columns on either side of the house are different styles, and the front tower was added later.

Drish lost his fortune after the Civil War and died two years later. According to the old ghost story told by Kathryn Tucker Windham, he was a gambler and a drunk who died after falling down the stairs during a withdrawal fit. The house was still intact at the end of the war, but without any money, it was auctioned off to a Northport lawyer who let Mrs. Drish stay in the house until her death 15 years later.

At that time, the house remained a private residence and changed hands between a couple of families. As universal education was becoming commonplace, the city of Tuscaloosa bought the house and turned it into the Jemison School. Four teachers kept the school running, and changes were made to the structure for the children's safety.

Over time, there was no longer a need for a school in that location, and the house went to a mechanic who turned it into an auto parts and wrecking business during the Depression. That's when the most famous photograph of the house was taken by Walker Evans, regarded as one of the most influential artists of the 20th century, who was traveling through town on his way to the Black Belt. Evans was assigned to photograph the effects of the Depression on farmers.

"Decadence and decay all in one," Crawford said.

The house was photographed again by Frances "Fannie" Johnson for the Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South. The next year, it was bought and poised to become Southside Baptist Church. The church opened its doors two years later once the renovation was complete, and it continued to grow until additions had to be built. After 50 years, membership waned, and the congregation was not able to support the structure financially.

The Heritage Commission then took over, using the building as a storage unit. It was nearly condemned before the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society was able to save it and clean it up once again.

"One of the reasons we wanted to save it so badly was because it's been a house, a school, a church, a wrecking company and it could be anything," Crawford said.

"These older structures are so diverse, and they can have so much going on with them."

The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society knocked down the additions and stabilized the structure before it sold the house to McCool. Only time will tell what will come of it next.

Anyone interested in using space in the house can contact McCool at 205-356-8194 or visit the Historic Drish House Facebook page.

"You can take this old structure, use it for a modern purpose and still respect the structure and the history," McCool said.

Home Has Ghostly History

Legends Live

There was a time in Tuscaloosa when rain meant long, muddy roads, winding through thick forests, and wind stirring in trees told lonely horseback riders they were not alone.

On such a night a breathless horseman must have ridden hurriedly through the gates of the palatial Drish house off 15th St. to inform Dr. John Drish of the first of a chain of events which were to eventually lead to the destruction of Dr. Drish's life and the downfall of his home.

His favorite niece, Helen, had been savagely murdered by her husband, who could never explain why he had used his razor to sever his wife's head from her body.

Stories passed down these last 150 years make it clear that the stage was set for violence, if not for the supernatural, years before Helen's death. Dr. Drish was known to gamble and to drink, taking off on trips to Mobile and staying for days, making those in his household miserable when he returned.

Marriage Fails

His daughter from his first marriage, Katherine, was locked up to keep her from her lover and he was persuaded to leave Tuscaloosa. After a

marriage arranged by her father failed, Katherine passed the line from sanity to insanity, and began to act in ways which set the stage for legends after her death.

She seemed to float from room to room, disappearing into a corridor or another room if sighted by someone. She frequently rambled the large galleries surrounding the stately house, or sneaked away from the Negro slave who watched her, showing up in a few hours with arms full of wild flowers.

Since Katherine's two children had been taken from her, she developed a fondness for children which was not true of many adults she knew. She had been seen turning a portrait of her husband to the wall. Needless to say, she was left alone much of the time, and spend the rest of her life taking part in very little.

Deathbed Requests

Deaths abounded in the physician's home. But all had a stigma attached which caused the slaves to whisper and refuse to enter dark parts of the house alone. Dr. Drish jumped from his bed one day and ran toward the graceful stairs, only to fall dead with a terrible cry before reaching his destination.

Soon after, his wife was on her deathbed. For some strange reason, she implored those around her to carry out a promise. They agreed to light the same candles beside her coffin which had been used at the funeral of her husband. When the candles were no where to be found after her death, the slaves swore she would "walk the house" because they had not been used.

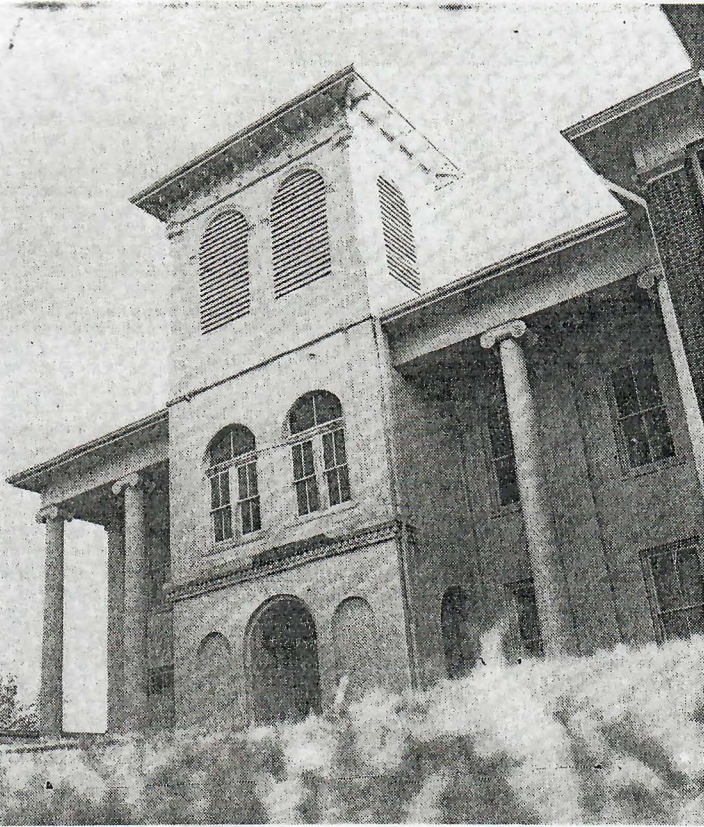
About this time, stories of steps heard in the night flew round the house, and occupants said they heard Dr. Drish's death cry more than once.

'Burning' Tower Room

Then came another "sign" to disturb the dwelling. An uproar from the slave quarters one night brought urgent word to the house that the tower room was burning. When the room was investigated, it was dark and quiet.

Katherine was taken away by her grown sons, never to return in life to the scene of years of sorrow and madness.

The house was now lived in by a niece of Mrs. Drish, who had two daughters. Though normally they slept together



Staff Photo by Marshal Hagler

DRISH HOME TELLS NO SECRETS AFTER 140 YEARS OF SILENCE
... But Unexplained 'Happenings' Still Puzzle Tuscaloosans

On

in the same room, there was only one girl in bed the night Katherine's ghost was first said to roam. The niece had taken a sick daughter in the room with her, and the one remaining was restless. She finally heard her mother tip-toe in, and felt a coverlet from the chest being pulled about her.

The next morning she commented to her mother on the event, but her mother could only stare. She had not been to her daughter's room, but the coverlet was on the bed still, to prove someone had.

They said nothing to the other girl, who returned to her own bed the next night. The sick child woke her sister in the night with a frantic hand. Trembling from head to toe, she asked for her mother. To her mother, she repeated the same story her sister had told the night before, though she could not have known of her sister's experience. The girls were moved across the hall and no further trouble took place.

One rainy night, years later,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Halloween night is the traditional night that ghosts and goblins roam. However, most towns and cities have their own stories of "ghosts" appearing other than on this celebrated night. Topping the list of "ghosts" stories in Tuscaloosa is the following one on the Drish home from a story told by Frances Nimmon to the late Dr. Irving Little. More information may be found in a Friedman Library paper entitled, "Facts and Legends About the Drish Home," written by Dr. Little."

a crowd was assembled at the Alabama White Sulphur. The girls were present, though now adult and no longer owners of the Drish home. The owners, Judge and Mrs. W. G. Cochrane, related odd happenings in their home, though none of the four knew of the other's connection with the Drish home.

Events Repeated

Mrs. Cochrane told how a sister was visiting for the commencement hop. She said the sister had a headache and said she would lie down for a while, in the same room the sisters had slept in, it was later revealed. She heard the door open and footsteps come toward her. Asking who it was, she received only a soft quilt spread over her as an answer, and when a hand touched her, she screamed. The judge and his wife came

running, but of course there were only the three of them in the house.

Even harder to explain, from the judge's viewpoint, was an event which took place later. He answered a knock at the front door, and an excited neighbor told him the house was on fire. They ran into the yard to see fire streaming from the tower. But when they reached the room, it was dark and quiet, as it had been so many years before.

The Drish home is still standing and is now a part of the Southside Baptist Church. To anyone with a good imagination, it still has a secretive air which suggests that dark nights might still find ghostly flames leaping from the abandoned tower room and footsteps echoing down lonely halls.

The Drish House

SEE MAP 63-31-05-22-4



SEE MAP 63-31-07-26-2

Rev. and Congregation
of the
New Southside Baptist Church
2300 17th Street
Tuscaloosa, Al. 35401

RE: Lease with The New Southside Baptist Church

Dear Reverend Butler,

I apologize for the delay in getting this lease to you. I have prepared the conditions that our groups have recommended be a part of the agreement for your review. I would like to point out several items which need your approval. If the congregation approves this lease, call me and we will set a meeting with the people to sign this document, have it notarized and we will have a contract.

1. Paragraph 4 refers to Exhibit "A" which is the legal description of the property to be leased. Brooks & Brooks surveyed the property and will provide this description.
2. Paragraph 5(a) refers to a common wall along a portion of the Church sanctuary. We need for Tommy Brooks of Brooks and Brooks, to tell us whether such wall is the North, South, East, or West wall of such sanctuary.
3. Paragraph 6 provides the date on which the lease commences, and the blanks in such paragraph will need to be completed when an agreement is reached with the Church.
4. Paragraph 8 provides the annual rental amount. We need to complete the blanks in this paragraph at the time we execute the lease. We were considering \$1.00 per year.
5. Paragraph 9 addressed the use of the house. We have enclosed the zoning ordinances for the area as Exhibit "B". We hope that your congregation can agree to approve classifications of tenants rather than each one individually with the consideration that under no circumstances alcohol will be served on the premises. Take into consideration that the commission will carefully screen prospective tenants to prevent any property or neighborhood destruction. Perhaps you could appoint a member of your congregation to serve on the tenant screening committee with authority to approve the use.
6. Paragraph 12 provides that the Heritage Commission will not begin paying for utilities until such time as the restoration process begins. We had initially said that all utilities would be severed between the church and the house. Tommy Brooks has advised us that the utilities are probably designed with all three building tied together in a fashion that may require both the church and the house to completely redo the wiring. He has not located the underground gas service or sewers. It is our hope that we can prorate the utilities until the time that a regular tenant would occupy the house and be able to rewire according to their needs if feasible. At any rate we would pay our share of the shared utilities during the restoration using an agreed equation. Your ideas are welcomed.

7. Paragraph 17 provides the "right of first refusal" to purchase the property. The Commission would like to add the following;

In the case that the Church repossesses the house through voided lease or through selling the property, the Commission would like the cost of improvements and repairs to the portion of the New Southside Baptist Church commonly known as "The Drish House" will be amortized over 30 years. At any time during that period, should the Church wish to dissolve the lease agreement, the amount of those improvements investment remaining is due and payable to the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, or, if that body is no longer operating, to the City of Tuscaloosa. Payment schedule and agreement is to be negotiated within 60 days of the announces dissolution of the lease.

8. As a part of Exhibit "B", the Commission agrees to the following request from the Church;

1. The Church will be held harmless should any workmen be injured on the job during the restoration and repair of the house.
2. No alcoholic beverages be served on the premises.
3. The Church has the right to approve the classification of the proposed tenant of the Drish house.

Please review the lease and the conditions, and call me with your comments. Our next meeting is Monday February 13, 1995 at 4:30 p.m. If these conditions are agreeable, I will draw up the "Exhibits" as part of the lease.

Very truly yours,

Betsy B. Hayslip

Requested amendments of the Drish House Lease

The Board of the Southside Baptist Church has requested the following be amended to the lease agreement between the Church and the HCTC

1. The Church will be held harmless should any workmen be injured on the job during the restoration and repair of the structure.

2. No alcoholic beverages be served

3. The Church has the right to ~~reject~~ ^{approve the classification of} any inappropriate tenant.
~~tenant within the permitted use according to~~
~~the City zoning laws included as exhibit 'B'.~~
The HCTC Board has requested the following clause be added to the lease agreement

#26 {

The cost of improvements and repairs to the portion of the Southside Baptist Church commonly known as "The Drish House" will be amortized over 30 years. At any time during that period, should the Church wish to dissolve the lease agreement, the amount of those improvement investment remaining is due and payable to the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, or, if that body is no longer operating, to the City of Tuscaloosa. Payment schedule and agreement is to be negotiated within 60 days of the announced dissolution of the lease.

Brooks ~ Brooks
752 - 5033

June 30, 1994

Southside Baptist Church
2300 17th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Dear Reverend Butler,

We at the Heritage Commission appreciate your patience in working with us to save the old Drish House. The following is what we are trying to do for the house.

Surveyors from Thomas Brooks have surveyed the property, located easements and other points of importance. We met with attorney Karen Welborn to develop a contract of agreement and a deed. Mrs. Welborn explained that the three buildings have so many connecting and touching areas such as the roof overhang inside the buildings that it was very difficult to legally separate them. She suggested a long-term lease agreement where the church owns all three buildings and gives the Heritage Commission a 99 year lease for \$1 with the same considerations as we have already agreed upon.

The responsibility of maintaining the Drish House would be the same as if the Commission owned it. We will still separate the utilities and honor the other conditions of our previous agreement.

I would be happy to meet with you and your congregation if you would like. You will hear from me as soon as the legal forms are completed.

Sincerely,

Betsy Hayslip
Executive Director

BH/cd

Collect items

① Marmaduke -

Williams, Owenwood,

Quild-Vernal,

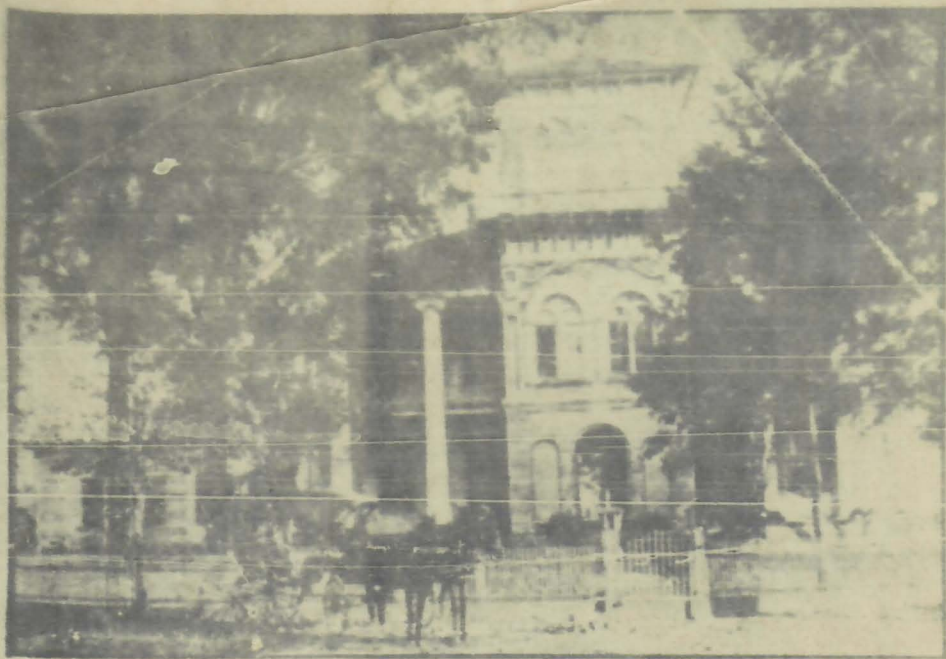
Push & mail to

Allen E. Gamble

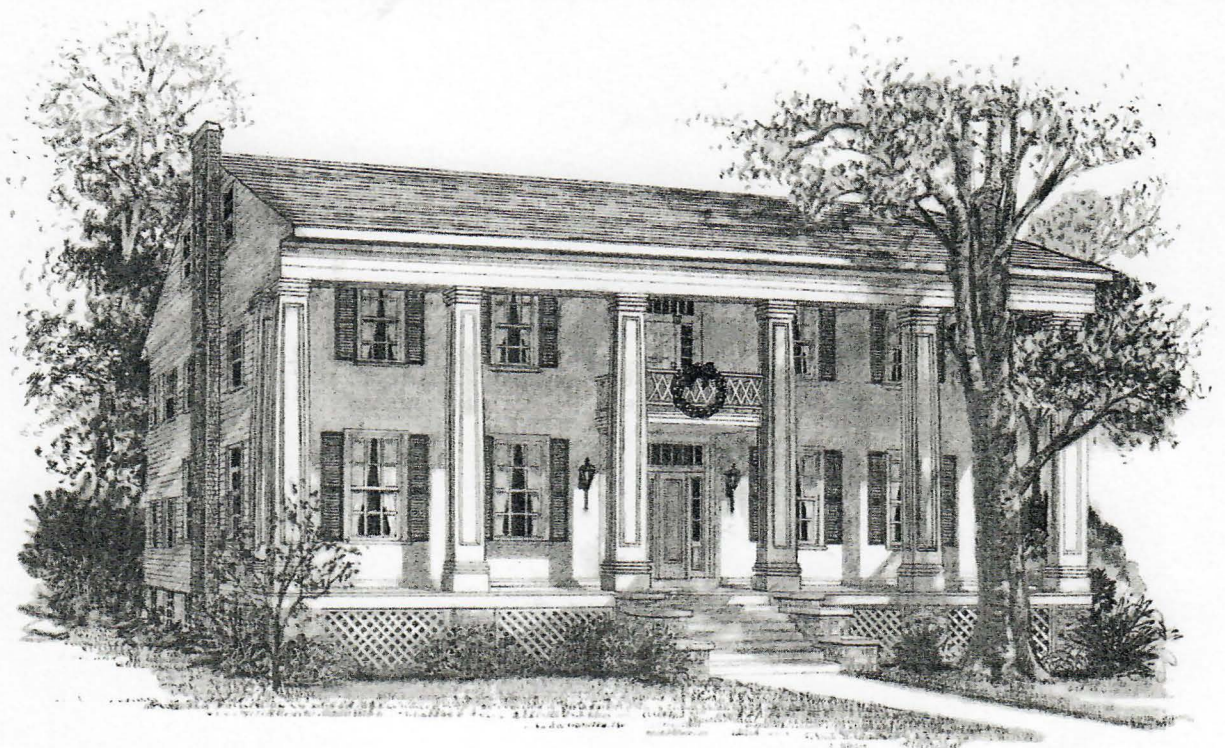
1567 Valencia Rd.

Niskayuna, N.Y.

12309-4200



A HOME OF THE 60'S.—One of the famous old home of Tuscaloosa was the "Dial Home" near what is now the A. G. S. railroad station. This building is now used by the Southside Baptist Church. This picture was taken many years ago when the residence was still used for living quarters. It was the day before auto, as the horse and buggy indicate.



PHELPS, JENKINS, GIBSON & FOWLER

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

BOX 020848

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35402-0848

**SAM M. PHELPS
JAMES J. JENKINS
J. RUSSELL GIBSON, III
RANDOLPH M. FOWLER
MICHAEL S. BURROUGHS
C. BARTON ADCOX**

**1201 GREENSBORO AVENUE
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35401**

**TELEPHONE
205-345-5100
TELEFAX
205-758-4394
205-391-6658**

**FARLEY A. POELLNITZ
K. SCOTT STAPP
KAREN C. WELBORN
SANDRA C. GUIN
KIMBERLY B. GLASS
STEPHEN E. SNOW**

July 19, 1994

**Ms. Betsy Hayslip
Tuscaloosa County Heritage Commission
1305 Greensboro Avenue
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401**

RE: Lease with Southside Baptist Church

Dear Ms. Hayslip:

I apologize for the delay in getting this draft Lease to you. I have prepared the enclosed draft for your review and would like to point out several items which need to be resolved:

1. Paragraph 4 refers to Exhibit "A" which is the legal description of the property to be leased. I believe Tommy Brooks will be able to provide a legal description for us but I do not have one at present.
2. Paragraph 5(a) refers to a common wall along a portion of the Church sanctuary. We need for Tommy Brooks to tell us whether such wall is the North, South, East, or West wall of such sanctuary.
3. Paragraph 6 provides the date on which the lease commences, and the blanks in such paragraph will need to be completed when an agreement is reached with the Church.
4. Paragraph 8 provides the annual rental amount. We need to complete the blanks in this paragraph at the time we execute the lease.
5. Paragraph 12 provides that the Heritage Commission will not begin paying for utilities until such time as the restoration process begins. Is this in keeping with your agreement with the Church? It seemed to me that it would not be practical for the Heritage Commission to begin paying such utilities until such time as the Heritage Commission severs the utilities as between the Church and itself so that separate bills could be established. If my assumption is incorrect, please let me know.

Ms. Betsy Hayslip
Page 2
July 19, 1994

6. Paragraph 15 includes a blank for the type zoning presently governing the property the Heritage Commission intends to lease. I believe Tommy Brooks may be able to tell us how the property is zoned, and if not, I am sure Lisa Algiers will be able to provide such information to us.

7. Paragraph 17 provides the "right of first refusal" to purchase the property. Please review this provision very carefully.

8. One of the more complicated issues associated with this lease, in my opinion, is how to handle the partial or total destruction of the leased property in the event of fire or other casualty. The problem, as you know, arises because of the common wall and overhangs. I suspect that, were the property leased by the Heritage Commission damaged by fire or other casualty, it may be very difficult, if not impossible, for the Heritage Commission to replace the improvements it makes on the property without requiring the Church to restore sections of the property which are common to both the Church and the Heritage Commission. Therefore, I ask you to carefully look at paragraphs 19 and 22.B. We may need to further revise these paragraphs as I have tried to, at this point, keep them very simple and not be overly burdensome to the Heritage Commission.

9. Paragraph 22.A requires the Heritage Commission to maintain in effect liability insurance. I certainly think this is advisable, however, I do not know if this is something the Heritage Commission contemplates.

Please review the Lease in its entirety, and call me with your comments, suggested revisions, and questions at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



Karen C. Welborn

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Tommy Brooks
Brooks & Brooks Engineering
2127 8th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Ms. Betsy Hayslip
Page 3
July 19, 1994

Ms. Lisa Algiers
City of Tuscaloosa
Zoning and Planning
P. O. Box 2089
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

KCW/dfs

David Nelson

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property Drish, Dr. John R., House

historic name The Drish House (The Dr. John R. Drish House)

other names/site number Annalona Coal, Iron & Lumber Co.
Jemison School 1906-25; Southside
Baptist Church annex; - present.

2. Location

street & number 2300 Seventeenth Street not for publication

city or town Tuscaloosa vicinity Congressional District

state Alabama code AL county Tuscaloosa code 125 zip code 35401

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register. <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other, (explain): _____	_____	_____

The Irish House
Name of Property

Tuscaloosa Co.,
County and State Alabama

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic / single dwelling =
mansion house.

Religion / religious facility =
church.

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century / Greek
Revival - Italian Villa.

- foundation brick ?
- walls ~~brick~~ masonry ?
- roof synthetic ?
- other Wood, stucco, ?
concrete,

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

The Irish House
Name of Property

Tuscaloosa Co.,
County and State
Alabama.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1830's to 1855
~~early 1830's - erected~~
~~1855 - altered in Italianate style~~

Significant Dates

1830's
1855

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A.

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builder - Dr. John R. Drish
Drish, Dr. John R.

Narrative Statement of Significance XX

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography XXX

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
AL-201.
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

The Irish House
Name of Property

Tuscaloosa Co.,
County and State Alabama

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 1/2 acre. "less than one acre"

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description *****

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification *****

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

David Nelson, Lee Webb, Nancy Patrie, Betty Haydel j
 name/title Endangered Structures Committee
 organization Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa Co. date 1993
Tuscaloosa Co. Preservation Society
 street & number 1305 Greensboro Avenue telephone 205/7 - 205/7 -
 city or town Tuscaloosa, state Alabama zip code 35401

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

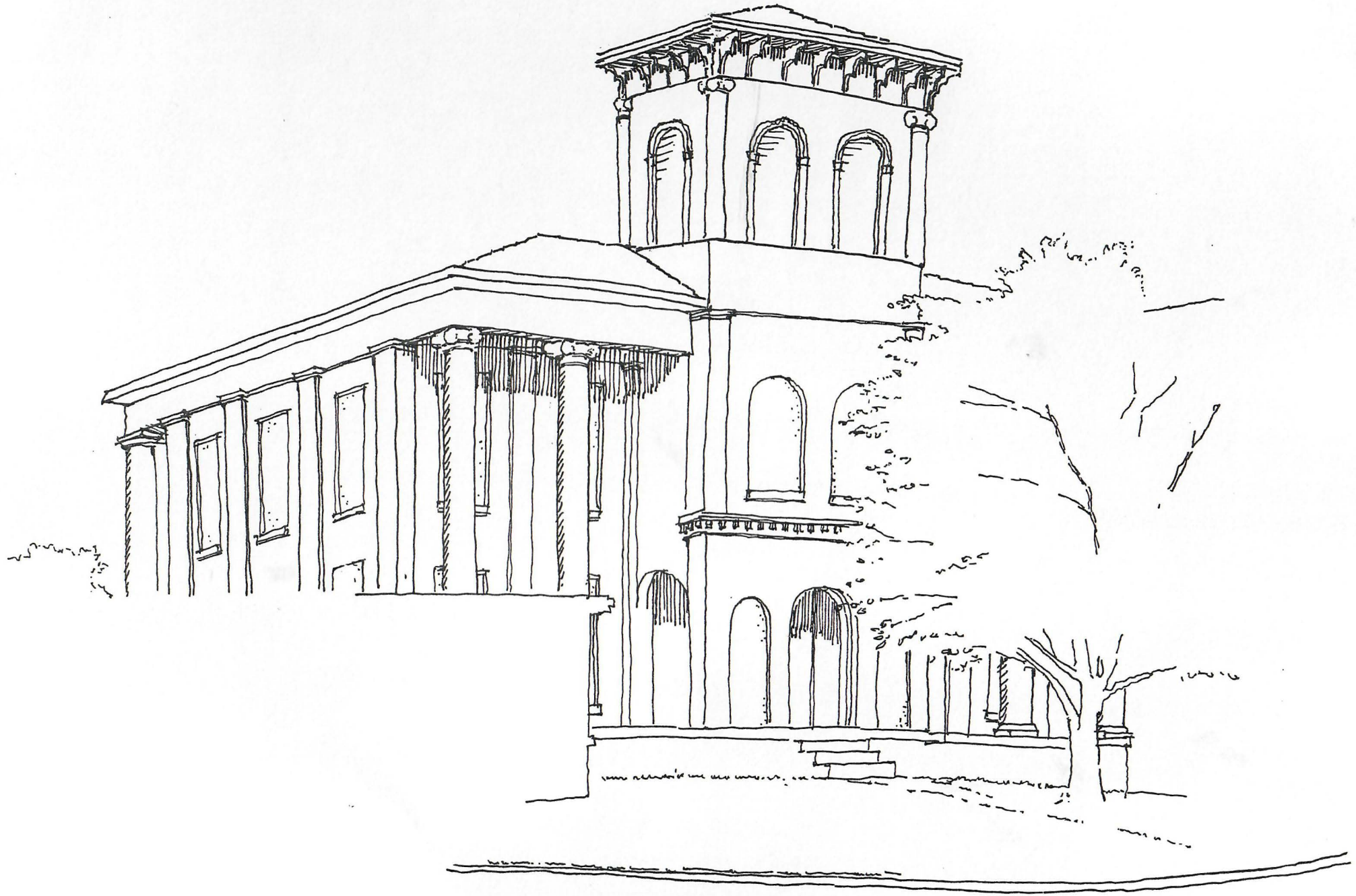
Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Southside Baptist Church
 street & number 2300 Seventeenth St. telephone 205/345 -
 city or town Tuscaloosa state Alabama zip code 35401

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.



ARTICLE IV

BUSINESS DISTRICT REGULATIONS

SECTION 35-41: STATEMENT OF INTENT

The following statements of intent are provided in order to clarify the purposes for which the several business districts were created:

- A. BC Central Business Districts: This district is created to provide minimum standards for the use and redevelopment of land and structures in the Tuscaloosa central business district. While recognizing the limitations imposed by existing development, these standards are designed to promote the gradual evolution of the central core area in accordance with the City's development objectives.
- B. BGO General Business-Office Districts: This district is created to provide minimum standards for the development and use of offices, business establishments, and similar uses which do not require large volumes of walk-in or drive-in patrons and do not rely on impulse sales. It is not intended to zone small, isolated parcels in the midst of residential areas as BGO Districts.
- C. BN Neighborhood Commercial Districts: This district is created to provide minimum standards for the development and use of retail and service establishments concentrated at convenient locations throughout the City, and intended primarily to serve local residents. While the Zoning Map of Tuscaloosa recognizes the existence of extensive strips of land devoted to such uses along major streets, it is intended to encourage the clustering of such uses into properly designed shopping centers in future development.
- D. BH Highway-Related Commercial Districts: This district is created to provide minimum standards for the development and use of two (2) classes of business:
 1. Commercial establishments serving the needs of highway travelers, and
 2. Auto-related businesses serving mainly the local market, but which are difficult to incorporate into unified shopping centers.

SECTION 35-42: PERMITTED USES

In business districts, land and structures may be used, and structures may be erected, altered, or enlarged only for the uses listed in the following table, except as provided in Section 35-43: SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS, Section 35-86: HISTORICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS, and Article XII PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENTS:

PERMITTED USES	BC	BGO	BN	BH
Accessory use on the same lot with and customarily incidental to any of the below uses permitted in the district concerned	X	X	X	X
Antique shops	X	X	X	
Apartment		(A)	(P)	
Appliance repair store, watch or camera repair store and the like	X	X	X	
Automobile repair shop	X			X
Automobile service station	X		X	X
Automobile and truck sales agency, provided that any used car sales lot abutting any residence shall be shielded from such residence by a wall, solid fence, or hedge not less than five (5) nor more than eight (8) feet high, and that any lighting used to illuminate such used car lot shall be deflected away from any residence	X			X
Automobile washing facility	X		X	X
Bar, tavern	X		X	
Church and other place of worship, religious or philanthropic use	X	X	X	X
Club or lodge organized for fraternal or social purposes	X	X	X	
Confectionery or bake shop	X		X	
Corporate headquarters or branch headquarters office building	X	X	X	
Data-processing installation	X	X		
Doctor or dentist's office, medical or dental clinic, medical laboratory	X	X	X	X
Drive-in theater, provided that no portion of the premises shall be less than 500 feet from any residential district				X
Editorial offices of newspaper or other publisher, not including a printing plant employing a web-fed press	X	X		

PERMITTED USES	BC	BGO	BN	BH
Financial institution, including bank, savings and loan company, credit union, finance company, or mortgage company(*)	X	X	X	X
Food catering	X		X	
Governmental and quasi-governmental offices	X	X	X	X
Group home for Mentally Retarded/Mentally Ill		(A)		
Indoor theater or auditorium, bowling alley or other recreational facility enclosed within a building	X		X	
Laundry and dry cleaning pick-up and delivery establishment, not including a dry-cleaning or laundry plant	X		X	
Marina and related facilities				X
Mobilehome sales agency			X	X
Motel	X		(P)	X
Off-site sign	X		X	X
On-site sign, subject to regulations set forth in Article X	X	X	X	X
Other dwelling, not including a mobile home		(P)	(P)	
Parking facility, subject to regulations set forth in Section 35-91	X	X	X	X
Passenger station, railway or bus	X		X	X
Personal service shop, including tailor, barber, beauty shop, shoe repair, and the like	X		X	
Photographic studio	X	X	X	
Professional office, i.e. insurance, real estate, lawyer, architect, engineer, and the like	X	X	X	X
Radio or television studio	X	X		
Real estate office, insurance agency	X	X	X	X
Restaurant(*)	X		X	X

PERMITTED USES	BC	BGO	BN	BH
Retail sales store, other than a motor vehicle sales agency, farm implement sales agency, heavy construction equipment sales agency, or mobilehome sales agency.	X		X	
School of dance, drama, or music	X		X	
Service establishments needed to support the above uses, such as messenger service, answering service, telegraph office, blue-printing and reproducing establishment, and the like	X	X	X	
Telephone exchange or other switching equipment entirely enclosed within a building	X	X	X	X
Tire recapping plant				X
Unified shopping center, incorporating any of the above uses permitted in the district concerned	X		X	

Footnotes:

- (A) Permitted in this district only in the area platted and known as the Original City Survey and subject to the same restrictions as in the RMF-2 district.
- (P) Permitted in this district only in a Planned Unit Development, except as provided in Section 35-43 below.
- (*) Provided that drive-thru teller or food pick-up windows may be included only if the adequacy and safety of the driveways are approved by the City Traffic Engineer and further provided that any establishment with a drive-thru window located within 100 feet of a residence shall be screened along the side facing such residence by a wall, opaque fence or compact hedge not less than five (5) feet in height, and that exterior lighting shall be shielded and deflected away from such residence.

SECTION 35-43: SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS

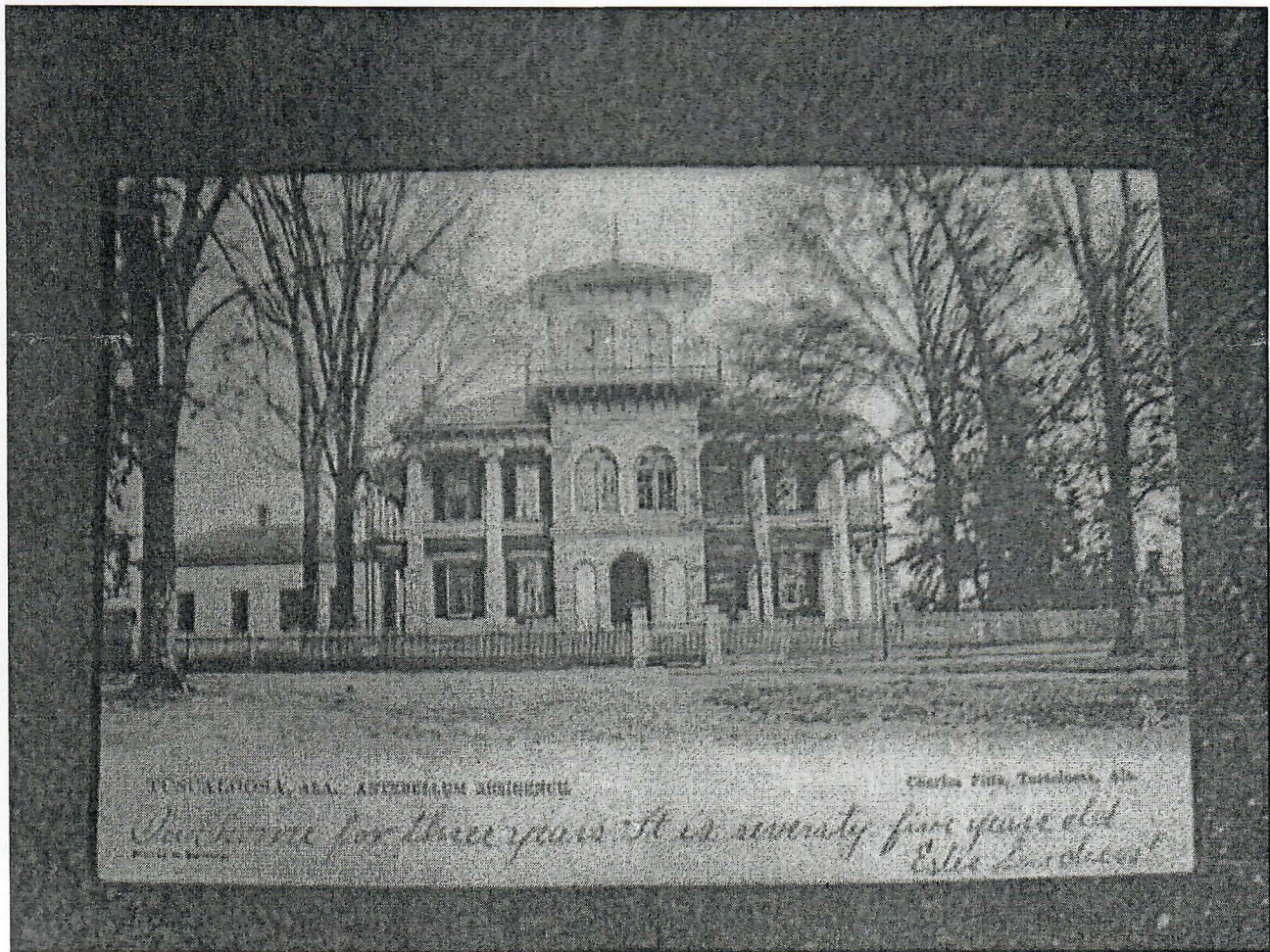
The Board of Adjustment may authorize any of the uses listed in the following table as a Special Exception, pursuant to the warrants and criteria set forth in Article VII:

- Thousands & Thousands of positive feedbacks
- I try to list only quality postcards with NO common stuff which saves you time by not having to search through thousands of listings of junky postcards
- Transactions are completed quickly. Most often my customers are pleasantly surprised at how quickly they receive their merchandise
- Postcards are shipped in a hard photo mailer. Well over 99% success ratio of a postcards safe arrival.

[Click Here to SEE my other auctions](#)



Powered by eBay Turbo Lister

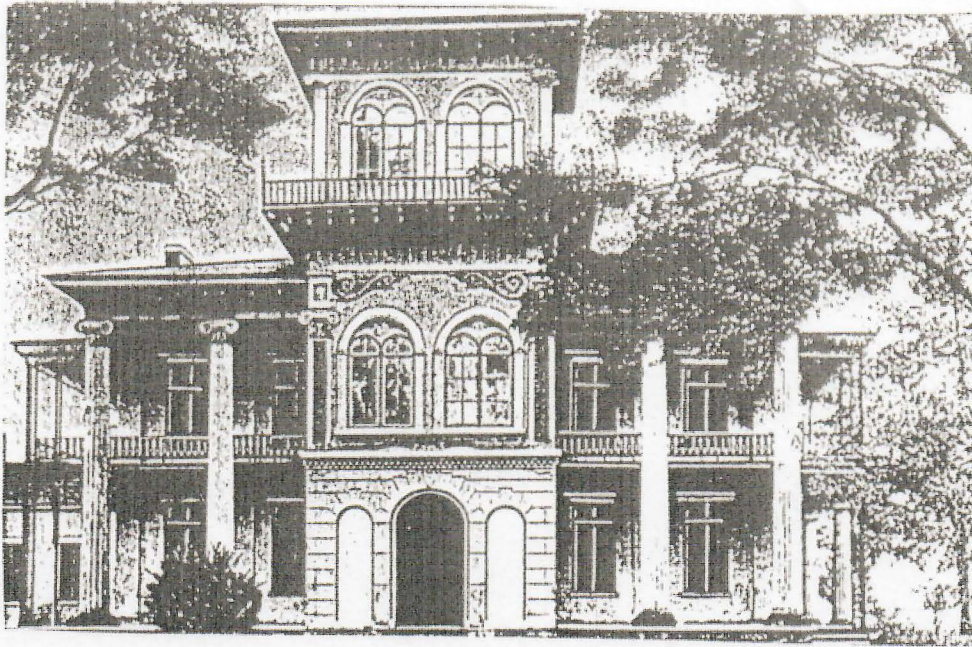


[Get Counter Stats](#)

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Rejected '95

**ISTEA
ENHANCEMENT
GRANT APPLICATION**



CITY OF TUSCALOOSA

AUGUST 5, 1994

APPLICATION FOR TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM

GENERAL

Sponsor City of Tuscaloosa
Owner (if different) Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County (HC) & Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society (TCPS)
Contact person Lisa Algieri
Title Community Planner
Mailing Address P.O. Box 2089
Tuscaloosa, AL 35403
Daytime Telephone (205) 349-0160

Location of Project

Address 2300 17th Street
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401
County Tuscaloosa
Senate District State Senate District 24
Congressional District State House - 70, U.S. House - 7
Legal Property Description Tax I.D. # 63-31-08-27-1-20-1

Name or Nickname of Property Drish House
In Which Urbanized Area is Project Located* Tuscaloosa
Population Served 77,759
Proximity to State Route(s) or Interstate(s) I359 - 1/4 mile,
Hwy 69 - 1 mile
ADT I359 - 40,500, Hwy 69 - 54,700
Proximity to NHS Route(s) U.S. Hwy 43 - 1 mile
ADT 54,700

Current Property Condition Deteriorating

Size (in acres) Less than 1/4 acre

Current Owner Southside Baptist Church (The two preservation agencies have a 90 year lease)

*See Appendix C

Land Use Vacant (most recently used as a church)

State or Condition of the Property Deteriorating

Water Sources Supplied by city water

Buildings on the Property House and church

Wetlands Involved? None

Previously Undisturbed Soil Involved? None

Other Features None

Is this an Archaeological Site? No

Estimated Property Value \$500,000

Project Plans

Plan or Study / Acquisition / Restoration / New Construction
(Circle All that Apply)

Historic / Beautification / Bicycle-Pedestrian Facility
(Circle All that Apply and Address the Corresponding
Section of the Application)

How will project modify existing buildings? The house will be restored
to a structurally sound condition

How will project modify existing plant/animal systems? Not applicable

How will project modify existing wetlands? Not applicable

Approximate Date Plans and Specifications will be Ready: 6 months

Construction by: contract / force account / combination
(Circle ONE)

Expected time required to complete the project: 12 months

Who will oversee the project: Name Lisa Algieri

Address P. O. Box 2089

Tuscaloosa, AL 35403

Daytime Telephone (205) 349-0160

Qualifications She has previously

administered other state and federal grants

Commitment

A 20% match is required; however, the sponsor may exceed this amount.

Total Project \$ 100,000 (100%)

ISTEA Funds \$ 80,000 (80%) No More than 80%

Local Match \$ 20,000 (20%) No Less than 20%

Funding Source \$10,000 - TCPS, \$10,000 - HC

Plan of Maintenance

Describe Anticipated Maintenance Routine repairs to historic house

Source of Funding for Maintenance Maintenance accounts from HC & TCPS

Source of Manpower for Maintenance Contracted

Project Budget

27

Item	Cost & Labor	Labor
EXTERIOR:	\$	\$
Roof	\$ 8,000.00	
Painting & replacing rotten wood	12,000.00	
INTERIOR:		
Carpentry	\$40,000.00	
Electrical	\$20,000.00	
Plumbing	\$10,000.00	
Mechanical	\$10,000.00	
TOTAL	\$100,000.00	

Continue as necessary, using the same format.

HISTORIC

Property / Property and Building
(Circle One)

Year Built: 1830

Year Restored: Never restored

Architectural Style or Type : Classic Revival

On National Register / Eligible for National Register
(Circle One)

On State Register / Eligible for State Register
(Circle One)

Brief History, including people or events that give the property historic merit:

Originally home of Dr. John R. Drish, featured in the book
13 Alabama Ghosts & Jeffery, by Katherine Tucker Windham

Attach a sketch of the floorplan (does not have to have been prepared by an architect).

Provide good, clear, labeled photographs (no polaroids) to show each facade and select interior views. Indicate name, view and date of photo.

Attach U.S.G.S. (7.5 minute) quadrangle topographical map photocopy with the location of the project clearly outlined.***

Will adjacent property be affected? Explain.

No. The adjacent church is encouraging the restoration
of the Drish House.

***See Appendix E of guidelines.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County and the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society are jointly proposing to restore the Drish House. Built in 1830, by Dr. John R. Drish, the house is a very unique example of architecture in West Alabama. The combination of Italianate and Classical Revival styles in this structure is interesting and is an excellent example of the blending of the two popular styles.

The house was set on 80 acres of land that served as the Drish farm. The main entrance to the estate was on what is now 15th Street. By the entrance gate was a lodge made of stucco covered brick in which lived a family of slaves whose principal duty was to open and close the entrance gates. Elm trees bordered each side of the wide avenue which led up to the house. In front of the mansion was a formal garden and an orchard was planted in the back.

The house is most famous for its spiritual occupants. Featured in the book 13 Alabama Ghosts & Jeffery by Katherine Tucker Windham, there are reputed to be at least four ghosts in the house. The most noted ghost is Mrs. Drish who burns candles in the tower. To this day there are calls to the police and fire departments reporting a fire in the tower of the Drish House.

The house has had various owners and uses over the years. Originally residential, the house was at one time a school, an auto parts store, and most recently a church. The church built two additions on the east and west sides of the house. These additions are currently being used by the church. However, the Drish House is now vacant and the church has donated the house to the two preservation agencies through a 90 year lease.

The two preservation agencies intend to restore the house to a functional condition. The outside will be stabilized and the interior will be made habitable for offices. If funds permit, the missing architectural details on the exterior will be restored.

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN ISTE A GRANT APPLICATION

WHEREAS, the Alabama Department of Transportation is making available ISTE A Enhancement grants; and

WHEREAS, the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society and the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County desire to make a joint application to renovate the historic Drish House; and

WHEREAS, non-profit agencies are required to apply through a local government to qualify for an ISTE A grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TUSCALOOSA:

That the Mayor be, and he is hereby authorized, for and as an act of the City, to submit an ISTE A Enhancement grant application to the Alabama Department of Transportation on behalf of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society and the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County for restoration of the historic Drish House in an amount of \$80,000 and be it further resolved that the required match of \$20,000 and any necessary professional fees will be paid by the two non-profit agencies.

ADOPTED THIS THE 4TH DAY OF AUGUST, 1994

City of Tuscaloosa

COUNCIL

ODESSA WARRICK
District 1

HARRISON L. TAYLOR
District 2

JERRY PLOTT
District 3

GARY L. PHILLIPS
District 4

POST OFFICE BOX 2089

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35403

205/349-0160

Fax: 205/349-0147

ALVIN P. DUPONT
Mayor

COUNCIL

SAMMY WATSON
President Pro-Tem
District 5

JACK KUBISZYN
District 6

SARAH S. McBROOM
District 7

August 4, 1994


District Engineer
Corps of Engineers, Mobile
Regulatory Functions Branch
P.O. Box 2288
Mobile, AL 36628

Attention: Bill McNeil

Dear Mr. McNeil:

The city of Tuscaloosa is applying to the Alabama Department of Transportation for Transportation enhancement funds for renovation of the historic Drish House. The City is requesting your review of the attached project location map for the likelihood of wetlands. It would be appreciated if you would check the appropriate space below, sign, and return this form to my office.

Sincerely,



Lisa Algieri, AICP
Community Planner

_____ No Wetlands Involved

_____ Wetlands Involved

_____ Need additional information _____

Signed: _____

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

J. ADRIAN STRALEY, AICP
DIRECTOR

EVELYN K. YOUNG, AICP
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

City of Tuscaloosa

COUNCIL

ODESSA WARRICK
District 1

HARRISON L. TAYLOR
District 2

JERRY PLOTT
District 3

GARY L. PHILLIPS
District 4

POST OFFICE BOX 2089

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35403

205/349-0160

Fax: 205/349-0147

ALVIN P. DUPONT

Mayor

COUNCIL

SAMMY WATSON
President Pro-Tem
District 5

JACK KUBISZYN
District 6

SARAH S. McBROOM
District 7

August 4, 1994

F. Lawrence Oaks
Executive Director
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

Dear Mr. Oaks:

The City of Tuscaloosa is applying to the Alabama Department of Transportation for a Transportation Enhancement grant to renovate the historic Drish House. The City is requesting that your agency review the proposed project for potential impact on significant historic resources. Please send your response to my office at the above address.

Sincerely,



Lisa Algieri, AICP
Community Planner

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

J. ADRIAN STRALEY, AICP
DIRECTOR

EVELYN K. YOUNG, AICP
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

City of Tuscaloosa

COUNCIL

ODESSA WARRICK
District 1

HARRISON L. TAYLOR
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JERRY PLOTT
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GARY L. PHILLIPS
District 4

POST OFFICE BOX 2089

TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35403

205/349-0160

Fax: 205/349-0147

ALVIN P. DUPONT

Mayor

COUNCIL

SAMMY WATSON
President Pro-Tem
District 5

JACK KUBISZYN
District 6

SARAH S. McBROOM
District 7

August 4, 1994

Larry Goldman
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
P.O. Box 1190
Daphne, AL 36526

Dear Mr. Goldman:

The City of Tuscaloosa is applying the Alabama Department of Transportation for Transportation Enhancement funds for renovation of the historic Drish House. The City is requesting your review of the attached project location map for potential threatened/endangered species. Please send your response to my office at the above address.

Sincerely,



Lisa Algieri, AICP
Community Planner

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

J. ADRIAN STRALEY, AICP
DIRECTOR

EVELYN K. YOUNG, AICP
ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR

PS Form 3800, JUNE 1991

Sent to
Street and No.
P.O., State and Zip
Postage
Certified Fee
Special Delivery
Restricted Mail
Return Receipt to Whom & Date
Return Receipt Date, and Ad
TOTAL Postage & Fees
Postmark

Larry Goldman
 Field Supervisor
 U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
 P. O. Box 1190
 Daphne, AL 36526

\$
\$



Receipt for Certified Mail
 No Insurance Coverage Provided
 International Mail

P 836 565 841

PS Form 3800, JUNE 1991

Sent to
Street and No.
P.O., State and Zip
Postage
Certified Fee
Special Delivery
Restricted Mail
Return Receipt to Whom & Date
Return Receipt Date, and Ad
TOTAL Postage & Fees
Postmark

District Engineer, Bill McNeil
 Corps of Engineers, Mobile
 Regulatory Functions Branch
 P. O. Box 2288
 Mobile, AL 36628

\$
\$



Receipt for Certified Mail
 No Insurance Coverage Provided
 use for International Mail (reverse)

P 836 565 843

PS Form 3800, JUNE 1991

Sent to
Street and No.
P.O., State and Zip
Postage
Certified Fee
Special Delivery
Restricted Mail
Return Receipt to Whom & Date
Return Receipt Date, and Ad
TOTAL Postage & Fees
Postmark

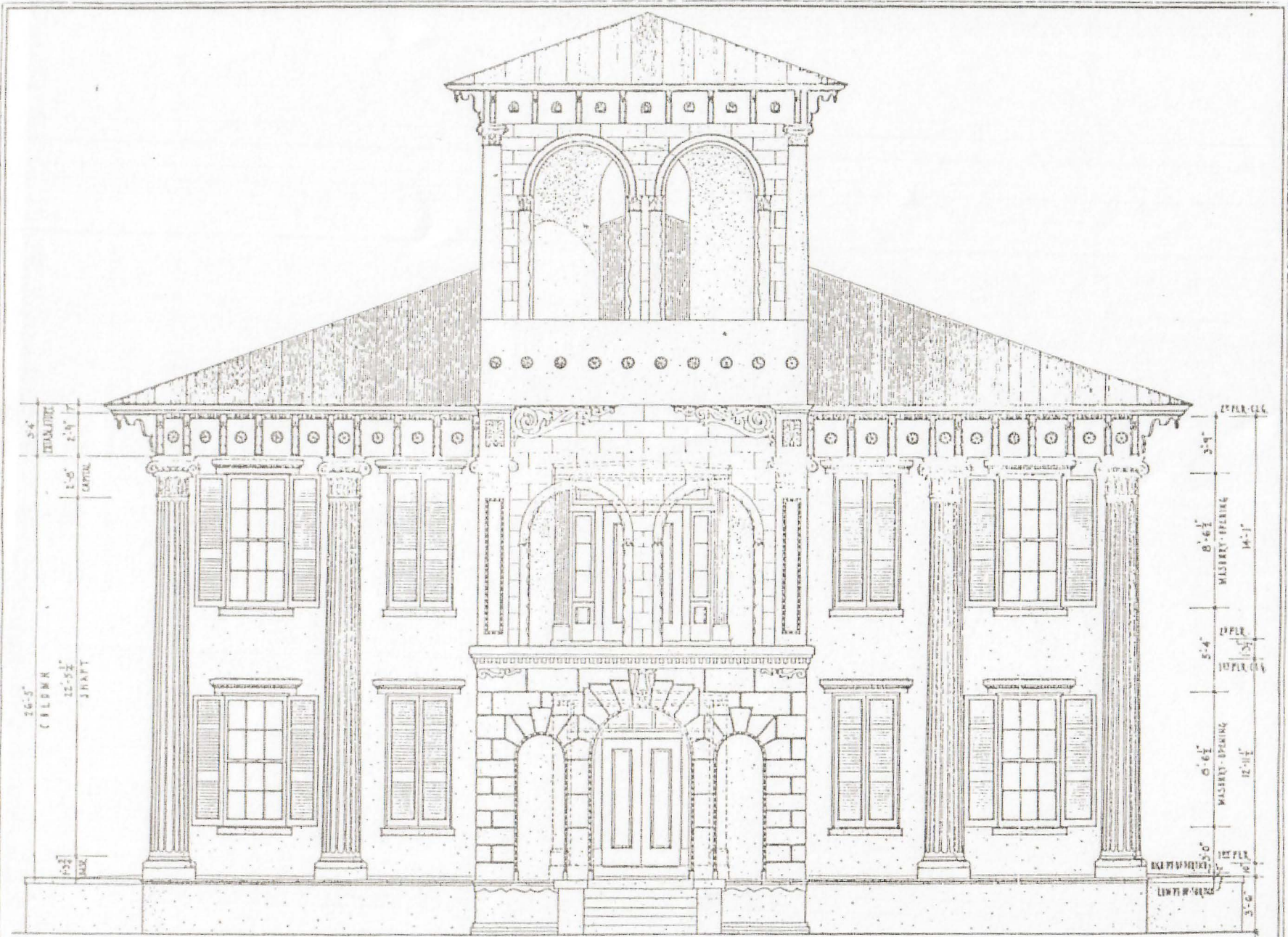
F. Lawrence Oaks
 Executive Director
 Alabama Historical Commission
 468 South Perry Street
 Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

\$
\$



Receipt for Certified Mail
 No Insurance Coverage Provided
 International Mail

P 836 565 842



• NORTH ELEVATION •
 SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"



WILLIAM P. SHAW · DEL.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS

• BUILT ABOUT •
 1825

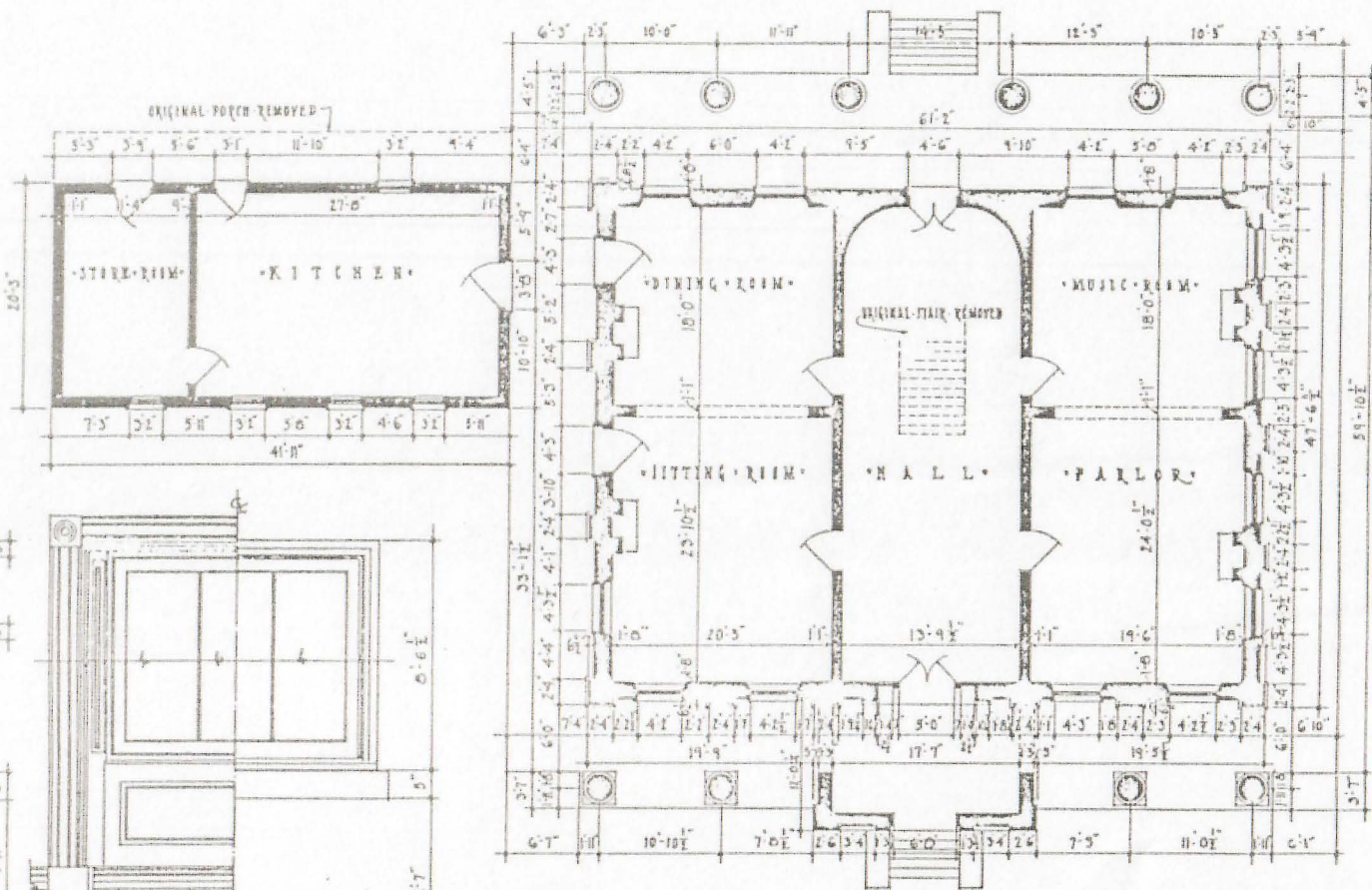
NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE IRISH HOME

• TUSCALOOSA •
 • TUSCALOOSA COUNTY •
 • ALABAMA •

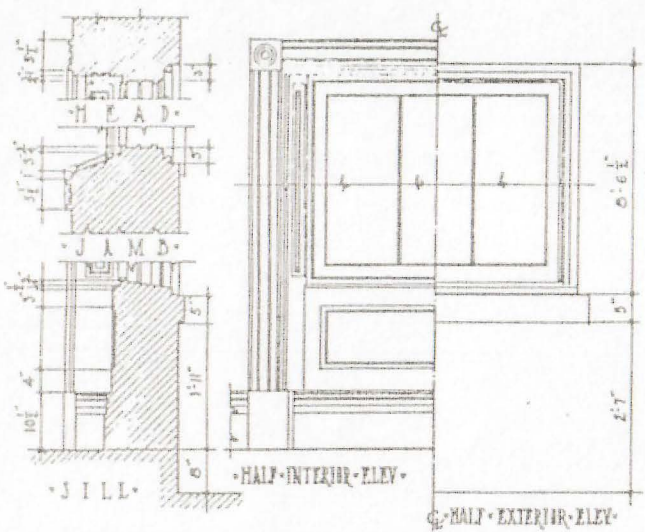
SURVEY NO.
 116-201
 APR. 7, 1934

HISTORIC AMERICAN
 BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 3 OF 5 SHEETS

INDEX NO.

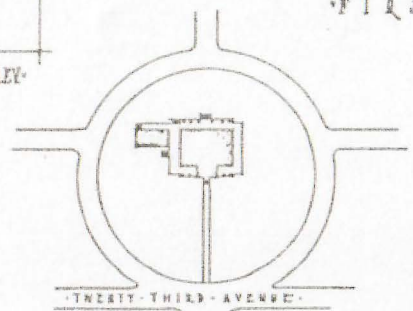


FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



TYPICAL WINDOW DETAILS
SCALE: 3/4" = 1'-0"

GENERAL NOTES: FRONT & REAR PORTICOS & TERRACES ARE PLASTERED. ALL COLUMNS ARE BRICK STUCCOED ENTIRE BUILDING IS RED BRICK STUCCOED WITH A YELLOW-BROWN SAND FINISH STUCCO WHITE WASHED. ROOFING IS RAISED SEAM TIN ENTIRE ROOF INSIDE IS PLASTERED WITH WHITE SMOOTH FINISH PLASTER.



WILLIAM P. SHAW · B.C.L.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

BUILT ABOUT
1825
25 W. AVE. 877 · GALENIDRUG AVE.

NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE IRISH HOME

TRICALOUSA
TRICALOUSA COUNTY
ALABAMA

SURVEY NO.
16-201
APRIL 1934

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 1 OF 5 SHEETS

INDEX NO.



NORTH SIDE OF HOUSE



NORTH SIDE OF HOUSE



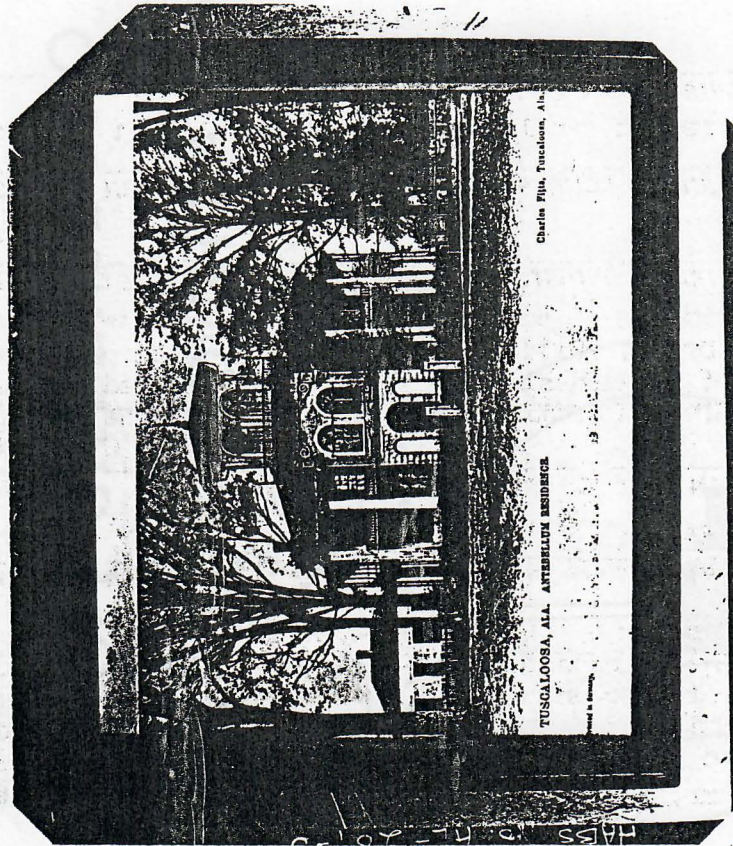
SOUTH SIDE OF HOUSE



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. _____

HAC
ALA
12-11



HABS
ALA
63-TUSLO,
1-9

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Addendum to
Dr. John R. Drish House
2300 17th St.
Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-201

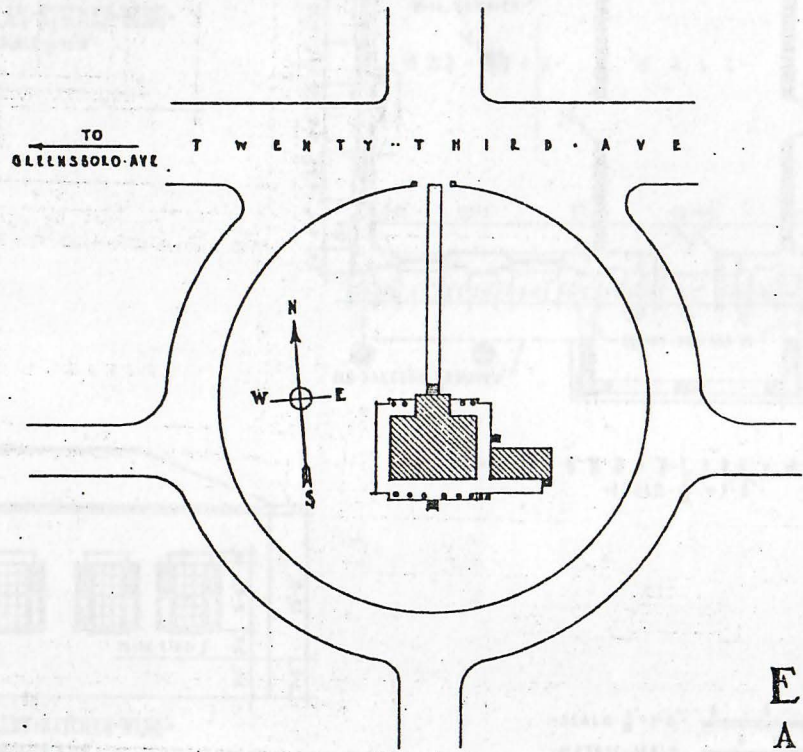
Photographs AL-201-1 through -8 have been previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

AL-201-1 Photocopy of photograph
Charles Pitts, Photographer ca. 1905
NORTH FRONT

T H E · D R I S H · H O M E

TWENTY·THIRD AVE·OFF·GREENSBORO AVE

TVSCALOOSA·TVSCALOOSA COVNTY·ALABAMA



SKETCH·MAP·SHOWING·LOCATION

ERECTED ~~1825~~
 ARCHITECT NO RECORD
 BVILDER NO RECORD

H. S. 1-63-1

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

MEASURED: JAN 8 - JAN 10, 1934
 DRAWN: MARCH 22, 1934, APRIL 7, 1934



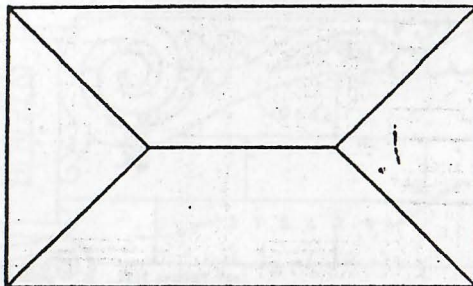
DRAWINGS APPROVED: *Esther S. ...*
 DRAWINGS APPROVED: *S. ...*

DISTRICT OFFICER
 CHIEF ARCHITECT

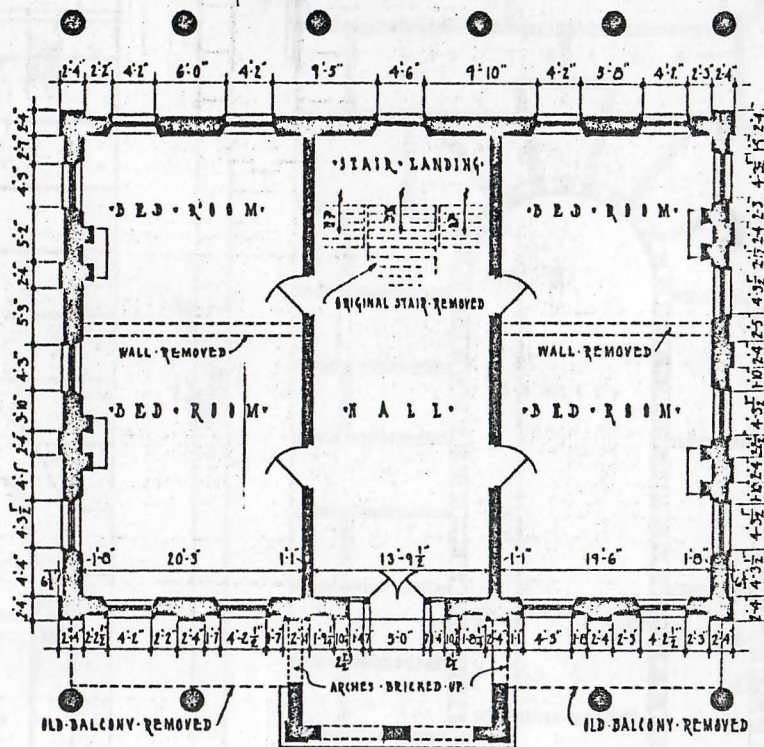
DIST. NO 16-STATE OF ALABAMA
 E. WALTER EYERMAN, DIST. OFFICER
 ILLINOIS TECHNICAL SURVEY ALA
 FIELD PARTY
 W. T. WATKINS, SQVAD LEADER

SURVEY NO. 16-201
 SHEETS

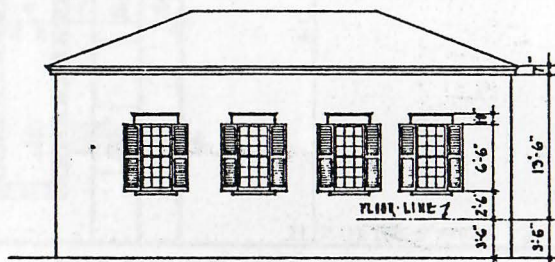
INDEX NO. ALA
 63-TULLO



• ROOF PLAN - KITCHEN WING •
• SCALE - $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0" •



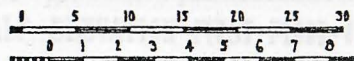
• SECOND FLOOR PLAN •
• SCALE - $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0" •



• FRONT ELEV - KITCHEN WING •
• SCALE - $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0" •

• SCALE - $\frac{1}{8}$ " = 1'-0" •

• METRIC SCALE •



WILLIAM P. SHAW... DEL.



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

• BUILT ABOUT •
1825 •
25th AVE. OFF. FREEZERS - AVE

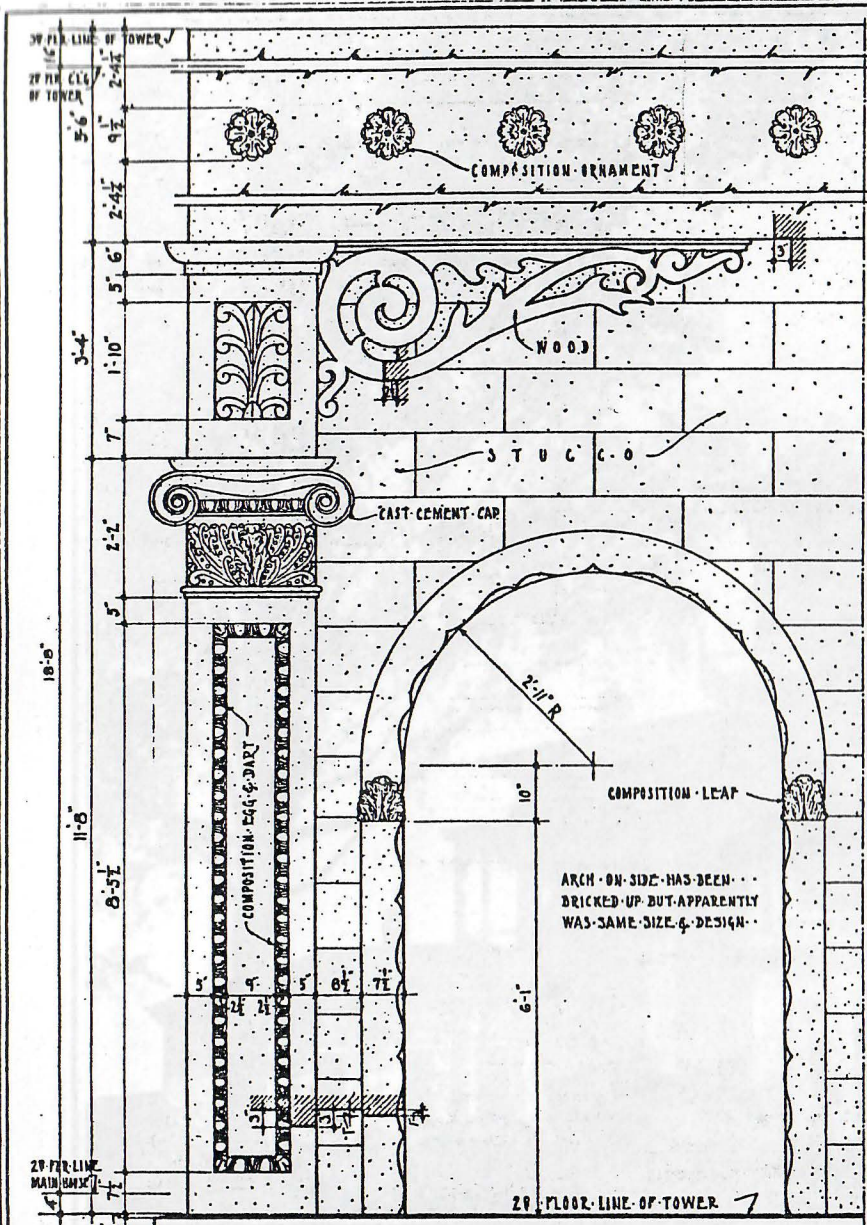
NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE DRISH HOME

TUSCALOOSA
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY
ALABAMA

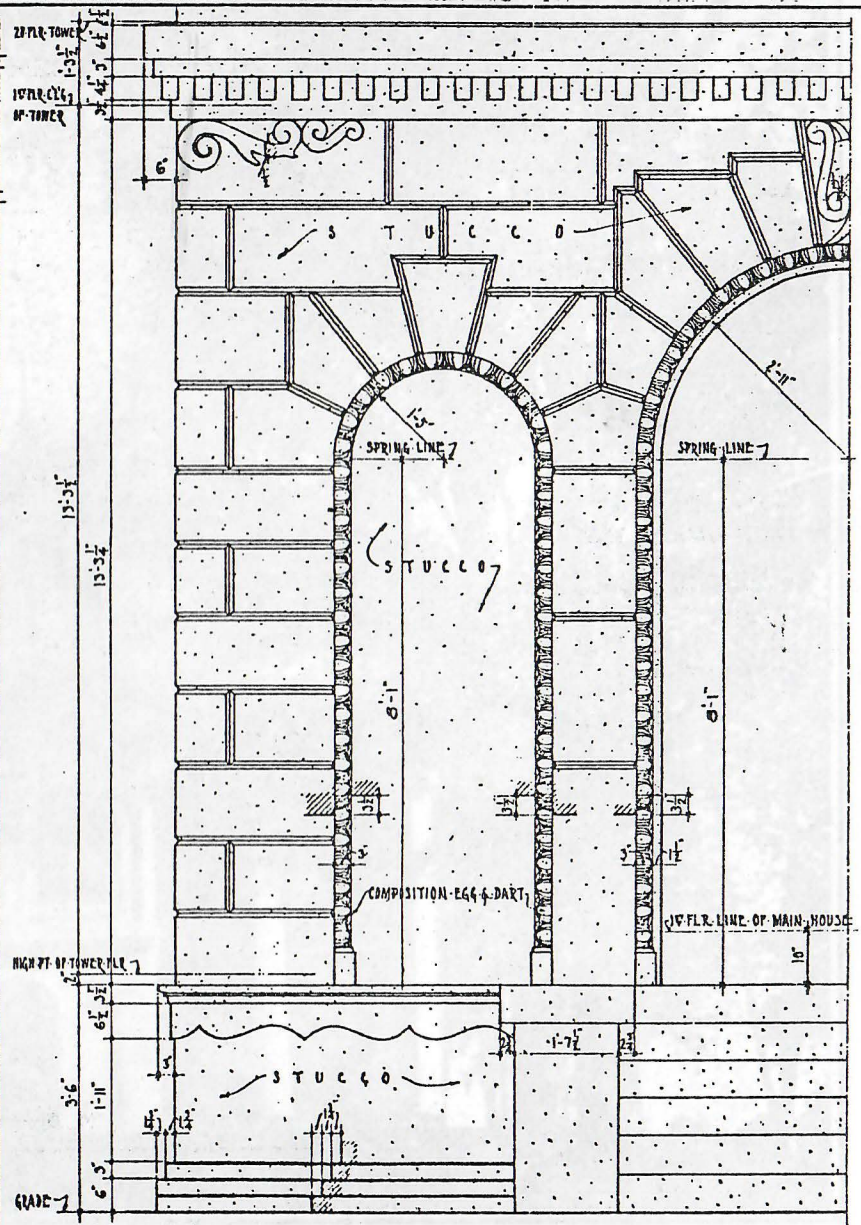
SURVEY NO.
16-201
APRIL 7, 1934

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 2 OF 5 SHEETS

INDEX NO.



• HALF • ELEVATION • SECOND • FLOOR • OF • TOWER •



• HALF • ELEVATION • FIRST • FLOOR • OF • TOWER •

WILLIAM P. SHAW . . . DEL.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS, AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

• BUILT • ABOUT •
1815 •
250 AVZ 177 - GREENSBORO - AVZ.

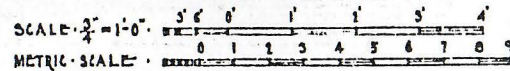
NAME OF STRUCTURE
THE DRISH HOME

• TUCALOSA •
• TULALOOJA COUNTY •
• ALABAMA •

SURVEY NO.
16-201
APRIL 7, 1934

HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY.
SHEET 4 OF 5 SHEETS

INDEX NO.





JEMISON SCHOOL

City of Tuscaloosa

ALVIN P. DUPONT
Mayor

COUNCILMEN

WILLIAM LANFORD
President Pro-Tem
District 6

CHARLES STEELE, Jr.
District 1

JOHN H. ENGLAND, Jr.
District 2

JERRY PLOTT
District 3

ED MONTGOMERY
District 4

SAMMY WATSON
District 5

THOMAS C. DOCKERY
District 7

POST OFFICE BOX 2089
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35403
205/349-2010

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 1988

TO: Betsy Hayslip, Heritage Commission

FROM: Evan Williams, CPDD



RE: Drish House

I have enclosed the copies of my photographs of the Drish House. Unfortunately I did not get one of the cat.(ugh!)

I have also enclosed a copy of the tax map for the Drish House area and a list of the property owners with the present appraised value of the house. The owners names may not be current, I believe that one or two of the properties have changed hands very recently, but this can still give us an idea of the situation there. When the time comes to begin to contact the owners we will do another check to see that we have the right people.

I have colored in the area that I think we could build a project out of. The large area with Greensboro frontage could be used for a new office complex. The other areas would serve as a buffer zone to create the correct environment around the house. The area in block 12 that borders 23rd Avenue is an easement that we would have to acquire from Roy Madison.

See what you think and let me know if you need anything.



Staff/Mark Lent

Drish House cleaned

Carmen McIlwain, left, Lynn Davis and other students from American Christian Academy in Northport cleaned the interior of the historic Drish House, on 17th Street in Tuscaloosa. The students helped the Tuscaloosa County Heritage Commission clean the structure as one of several community service projects, at the same time raising funds for World Vision, a relief agency that helps the needy. The Drish House, home of an early Tuscaloosa County judge, has been featured in a ghost story made famous by Alabama author Kathryn Tucker Windham.

2)

CHAPTER VI: TUSCALOOSAS OWN GHOST STORY

This is from the Tuscaloosa News, April 4, 1948. The article says: The building that houses the Southside Baptist Church was built more than 100 years ago by Dr. John Drish. Since then it has been the home of the Lilley family, the Snecdor family, Judge and Mrs. W. C. Cochrane Jemison school, an auto wrecking company, and finally the church. The home is said to be haunted by a one time resident.

The legend of the haunting goes like this: Dr. Drish married a wealthy widow from Virginia, he drank heavily and lost lots of money while gambling. Then, one day his beautiful daughter Katherine fell in love with a man that Drish violently opposed. So he locked his daughter in her room until the young man left town by means known only to Dr. Drish. A great change soon came over Katherine and eventually she married another man. Then, while she was on her honeymoon in New Orleans she and her husband were standing on the balcony when she saw her old lover pass below and she immediately fainted. From that day on her mind became increasingly cloudy.

From her marriage came two sons but Katherine soon showed signs of insanity so her husband divorced her and remarried . She then returned to her former Tuscaloosa home with her two sons. Eventually, she got so crazy that

she could hardly speak a rational sentence. She would often escape her negroe woman keeper and wander in the woods alone.

Then another tragedy occurred in the Drish family, Dr. Drish's favorite niece was murdered by her husband. Drish continued to drown his sorrows in alcohol until he was afflicted with delerium tremers. One day he broke away from several negroes who were trying to hold him and rushed down the stairway with a horrible scream to fall dead half-way down.

At her father's request Katherine was never sent to an insane hospital. Her windows were fastened and the door to her room was heavily bolted each night. The servants said that they often heard the rush feet and a wild scream at night. After the death of Mrs. Drish, a negroe servant told a niece that "Old Miss" wanted the same candles to be burned at her funeral that were burned at her husband's funeral. The candles couldn't be found and so the servants said that she walked the halls at night and often spoke to them. Then, when the Cochranes got the house, one night the Judge and his family were eating when a servant reported that the house was on fire. The Judge went into the yard and saw flames in the tower room but when he got up there he found no signs of a fire, lamp or candles.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:

PRIMARY SOURCES:

1. Newspapers Department of Archives and History
Independant Monitor-November 10, 1868-
November 2, 1869. This volume contained news-
papers from the year 1868-1869. Each news-
paper is 4 pages long. The 1st and 4th pages
are ads and national news. The 2nd and 3rd
pages are local news and a few ads. Several
articles described the racial situation. The
general lifesyles between 1868 and 1869 was
shown through these papers.
2. State Census: Department of Archives and
History, 1854
This census listed the white males over 21,
the white males under 21, the white females
over 21 and under 21, and the total whites.
It also lists the insane within each county,
the insane sent abroad, the slaves, free
persons of color and the total inhabitants.
3. Vertical Files: Mountain Brook Jr. High
Library
There are 3 pamphlets on Tuscaloosa County
contained in this file. One is on the
Gorgas home, one on Landmarks from Tuscaloosa's
"Capital Period", and one on the Old Tavern.
4. Vertical Files: Southern Room.
There is very much information on Tuscaloosa
County in this file. There are mostly news-
paper clippings and a few pamphlets. I used
newspaper articles from these newspapers:
The Birmingham News, The Post Herald, The
Tuscaloosa News and The Montgomery Advertiser.

SECONDARY SOURCES

1. Alabama Historical Society. Alabama's Tapestry of Historic Places (c)1978
 Historic Places in Tuscaloosa County are listed in this book-among these are:
 Adrians Department Store -founded in 1871,
 Bryce Hospital -founded in 1852-completed 1861. Mental hospital has central, 4 stories with a portico and dorie columns supporting 2 balconies and a large round dome, Byler Rd.-1822-Alabama's 1st state toll road-once ran from Tuscaloosa-Tennessee Railroad and one-half mile section of original road remains 11 miles north of Northport, Cap. Square-1820-1846, site of Alabama's 4th Capital, State Capital-1826-46; destroyed by fire in the late 19th century.

2. Brewer, Willis, Ala.: Her History, Resources. War Records, and Public Men. Spartanburg: Reprint Co., Publishers. (C)1975
 The general statistics of Tuscaloosa County are listed like when it was established, the orig.boundary, origin of name, farm products, description of land, 1st settler, 1st newspaper, Gen Croxton's Raid.

3. Brown, Virginia Pounds and Akens, Helen Morgan Alabama Heritage, Huntsville: The Strode Publishers (c) 1967
 This is a history of the state beginning with the 1st Alabamians and ending with the Civil War. There is a section on Tuscaloosa's capital days .

4. Clinton, Matthew. Tuscaloosa Alabama as Early Days. Tuscaloosa: The Zanta Club (c)1958
 There's not a whole lot of historical information on Tuscaloosa County. The books tell briefly about the beginnings of Tuscaloosa County and its European explorers.

5. Matthew Clinton's
Scrapbook (c) 1979
There's a great deal of information contained in this book. Among the information is a description of the city of Tuscaloosa and it's historic sites, where the name of the county emerged, county population at early periods of time, a description of the University of Alabama located in the city of Tuscaloosa, important dates, famous people and the industries of Tuscaloosa county.
6. No Author: A History of the State
New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Co., Inc.
(c) 1949
The original boun where the county was created by an act. the origin of it's name, a description of the cities of Northport and Tuscaloosa and a description of the university are all contained in this book.
7. Lambert Anton: History of Tuscaloosa
County Alabama Volume I
Centre-Stewart University Press (c)1977
There's a lot of information in this book on Tuscaloosa county. This information includes Tuscaloosa county's location, area, soils. weather, building of the courthouse and jail, the population every 10 years from 1820-1970, important dates in the county's history the capture of Mrs. Crawley, farming and the earliest grist mills.
8. McEachin, Archibald B: The History of
Tuscaloosa
Confederate Publishing Co. (c) 1977
This is general information on the city of Tuscaloosa. It includes where the city is located, what it was noted for in the past and the present, origin of it's name, and important people, dates and buildings.

DRISH HOUSE
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RECORD

<u>ID NUMBER</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>APPRAISED VALUE</u>
31-08-27-1-12-1	Madison Masonry	\$170,600
31-08-27-1-12-2	Roy V. Madison	\$175,540**
31-08-27-1-12-2.1	William R. Tillery	\$47,550*
31-08-27-1-12-3	Roy V. Madison	\$179,130
31-08-27-1-13-1	Elizabeth B. Cummings	\$18,500*
31-08-27-1-13-1.1	no longer listed	*
31-08-27-1-13-2	William P. Gray	\$15,060*
31-08-27-1-13-3	Morris Latham	\$19,690*
31-08-27-1-13-4	Joe G. & Julia C. Burns	\$24,720*
31-08-27-1-13-5	William P. Gray	\$16,760*
31-08-27-1-13-6	Columbus Marble Works	\$39,230*
31-08-27-1-13-7	Elizabeth Cummings	\$65,570*
31-08-27-1-20	Southside Baptist Church	\$478,930*
31-08-27-1-21-3	Imogene Wright Duren	\$78,070
31-08-27-1-21-3.1	Jamer Herman Duren	\$41,450*
31-08-27-1-21-4	Jimmie E. Smelley	\$15,020
31-08-27-1-21-5	Livia E. Gooden	\$17,320
31-08-27-1-21-6	Clayton Strickland	\$22,700
31-08-27-1-22-1	Edith Garrison & Wagner Shoes	\$40,560*
31-08-27-1-22-2	Clarence T. Hellum, Sr.	\$64,890*
31-08-27-1-22-3	Belle Bradshaw	\$138,490
31-08-27-1-22-3.1	Belle Bradshaw	- *
31-08-27-1-22-3.2	no longer listed	*
31-08-27-1-22-4	First National Bank	\$237,150

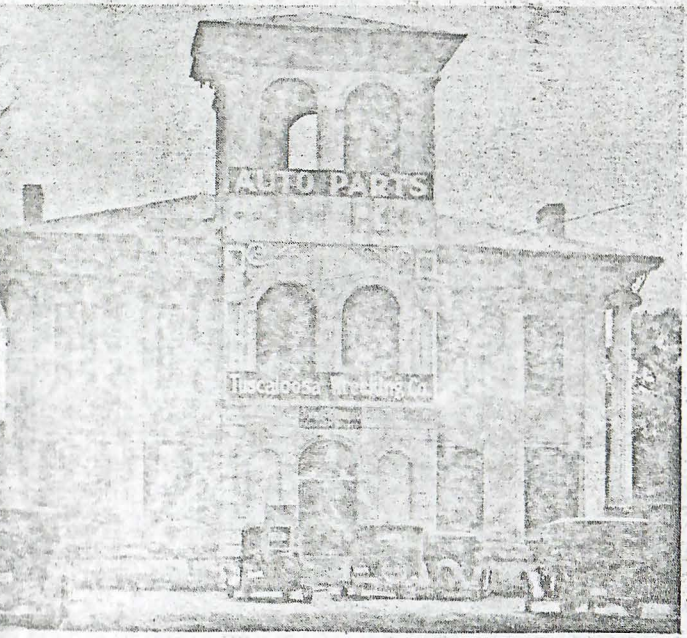
* Property highlighted on map

**Easement highlighted on map



Alabama town, 1936

Tuscaloosa Wrecking Co., Alabama, 1936



It is difficult to know now with certainty whether Evans recorded the America of his youth, or invented it. Beyond doubt, the accepted myth of our recent past is in some measure the creation of this photographer, whose work has persuaded us of the validity of a new set of clues and symbols bearing on the question of who we are. . . . So writes John Szarkowski in a brilliant book accompanying the retrospective of Evans' work at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. The exhibition opened Jan. 27 and will be there through April 11. Then, I expect, it will travel back and forth across the country for years, reverberating Evans' mysterious, factual, intense photographs of the American 20th Century, particularly the 1930s.

The clues and symbols Evans shows us are unorchestrated, but not random. There are bare old wood frame buildings, the paint worn off them by the corrosive weather of the 1930s. The faces of the 1930s are unpainted too, Southern tenant farmers, Havana dock workers. Sometimes the buildings have their windows boarded up—and the people their eyes. There are billboards of surpassing innocence, hand-lettered signs such as one on a Bowery restaurant window: "2 fried eggs and coffee 10¢ roast loin of pork 20¢ fried mackerel 15¢." Evans is the world's greatest expert at photographing emp-

rich friends forget it. He worked briefly as a clerk in a Wall Street brokerage house (and got a job there for a friend. Hart Crane, who stayed even more briefly). In 1935 he became one of the Farm Security Administration photographers who documented the rural misery of the 1930s in muted black and white. In 1941, with the late James Agee, he published *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men*. Both he and Agee worked at *TIME* magazine as writers, but Evans switched to *FORTUNE* in 1945 and retired in 1965.

For most of 40 years Evans has been famous in small circles. These have gradually widened so that now he is recognized as an important American artist. In person he is a small, slender, handsome man who dresses very well, in restrained English country style, and can put anyone down. He wouldn't let Captain Steichen use any of his photographs in his "Family of Man" show, perhaps because it was going to be a group show, perhaps because it was going to be a sentimental show. He has an entrancing, self-indulgent wit, a finely polished peskiness, a zone defense of personality traits that makes him even more impenetrable than his pictures. But all the protective complications he puts between himself and the world seem to help when he looks into the back of the camera. There is a scrupulous mental lens behind the glass one. Some successful photographers are romantic, or dramatic, no matter how hard they try to keep it down. They manipulate their material. Evans, at his best, makes his material use him. It is his genius. He becomes so much a part of the photograph that you do not know just where he is in it. And in turn his photographs become a part of our past, whether or not we were ever there.

by Walter McQuade

Mr. McQuade, a *FORTUNE* editor, is a member of the New York City Planning Commission.

March 1, 1971

Home Has Ghostly History Legends Live On

There was a time in Tuscaloosa when rain meant long, muddy roads, winding through thick forests, and wind stirring in trees told lonely horseback riders they were not alone.

On such a night a breathless horseman must have ridden hurriedly through the gates of the palatial Drish house off 15th St. to inform Dr. John Drish of the first of a chain of events which were to eventually lead to the destruction of Dr. Drish's life and the downfall of his home.

His favorite niece, Helen, had been savagely murdered by her husband, who could never explain why he had used his razor to sever his wife's head from her body.

Stories passed down these last 150 years make it clear that the stage was set for violence, if not for the supernatural, years before Helen's death. Dr. Drish was known to gamble and to drink, taking off on trips to Mobile and staying for days, making those in his household miserable when he returned.

Marriage Fails

His daughter from his first marriage, Katherine, was locked up to keep her from her lover and he was persuaded to leave Tuscaloosa. After a

marriage arranged by her father failed, Katherine passed the line from sanity to insanity, and began to act in ways which set the stage for legends after her death.

She seemed to float from room to room, disappearing into a corridor or another room if sighted by someone. She frequently rambled the large galleries surrounding the stately house, or sneaked away from the Negro slave who watched her, showing up in a few hours with arms full of wild flowers.

Since Katherine's two children had been taken from her, she developed a fondness for children which was not true of many adults she knew. She had been seen turning a portrait of her husband to the wall. Needless to say, she was left alone much of the time, and spend the rest of her life taking part in very little.

Deathbed Requests

Deaths abounded in the physician's home. But all had a stigma attached which caused the slaves to whisper and refuse to enter dark parts of the house alone. Dr. Drish jumped from his bed one day and ran toward the graceful stairs, only to fall dead with a terrible cry before reaching his destination.

Soon after, his wife was on deathbed. For some

in the same room, there was only one girl in bed the night Katherine's ghost was first said to roam. The niece had taken a sick daughter in the room with her, and the one remaining was restless. She finally heard her mother tiptoe in, and felt a coverlet from the chest being pulled about her.

The next morning she commented to her mother on the event, but her mother could only stare. She had not been to her daughter's room, but the coverlet was on the bed still, to prove someone had.

They said nothing to the other girl, who returned to her own bed the next night. The sick child woke her sister in the night with a frantic hand. Trembling from head to toe, she asked for her mother. To her mother, she repeated the same story her sister had told the night before, though she could not have known of her sister's experience. The girls were moved across the hall and no further trouble took place.

One rainy night, years later,

EDITOR'S NOTE: Halloween night is the traditional night that ghosts and goblins roam. However, most towns and cities have their own stories of "ghosts" appearing other than on this celebrated night. Topping the list of "ghosts" stories in Tuscaloosa is the following one on the Drish home from a story told by Frances Nimmon to the late Dr. Irving Little. More information may be found in a Friedman Library paper entitled, "Facts and Legends About the Drish Home," written by Dr. Little."

a crowd was assembled at the Alabama White Sulphur. The girls were present, though now adult and no longer owners of the Drish home. The owners, Judge and Mrs. W. G. Cochrane, related odd happenings in their home, though none of the four knew of the other's connection with the Drish home.

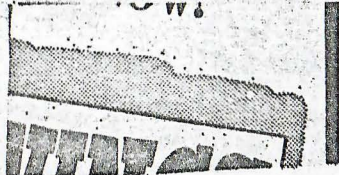
Events Repeated

Mrs. Cochrane told how a sister was visiting for the commencement hop. She said the sister had a headache and said she would lie down for a while, in the same room the sisters had slept in, it was later revealed. She heard the door open and footsteps come toward her. Asking who it was, she received only a soft quilt spread over her as an answer, and when a hand touched her, she screamed. The judge and his wife came

running, but of course there were only the three of them in the house.

Even harder to explain, from the judge's viewpoint, was an event which took place later. He answered a knock at the front door, and an excited neighbor told him the house was on fire. They ran into the yard to see fire streaming from the tower. But when they reached the room, it was dark and quiet, as it had been so many years before.

The Drish home is still standing and is now a part of the Southside Baptist Church. To anyone with a good imagination, it still has a secretive air which suggests that dark nights might still find ghostly flames leaping from the abandoned tower room and footsteps echoing down lonely halls.



By JOHN WRIGHT
News Staff Writer

It is a stroke of irony that one of Tuscaloosa's grand mansions now used as a place of worship was, in fact, once the scene of insanity, tragedy and even ghosts, according to many.

Southside Baptist Church has since erected additions to the original home of Dr. John R. Drish, but still to be seen are the hallways where the ghosts of Drish and his wife were said to roam, the upstairs room which was bolted to confine the doctor's insane daughter and the building's tall tower which would continuously be seen aflame and yet never burned.

When constructed in 1830, the Drish home was outside the city, built on a tract of 80 acres on both sides of Greensboro Road. The doctor, who came to Tuscaloosa in 1822 had previously built another home on Queen City Avenue.

Drish married a widow, a Mrs. McKinney, who was wealthy and turned her fortune over to her husband. At the time of the marriage the doctor himself was a widower with a daughter, Katherine.

He was most successful in the practice of medicine and prior to the Civil War he estimated his estate at one-half million dollars. He had many fine characteristics, but nevertheless made some bad investments, gambled and drank. At his death in 1869 his estate was found insolvent.

The original land of the estate covered 80 acres and incorporated numerous ideas on houses and grounds of Virginia residents known by Mrs. Drish.

The mansion was reached through an entrance gate which was opened and closed by slaves who stood by for this singular duty. The drive leading to the house was lined with elm trees, and a formal boxwood garden fronted the structure, with roses and other flowers on either side. To the back was an orchard, and lining a short avenue from the houses' west side were pink and white altheas.

Slave quarters were behind the house as were a carriage house and smoke house, and west of Greensboro Road stood a gin house and cotton press owned by Drish.

Second In A Series

a balcony when her former lover passed below. She fainted at that moment, the time which marked the start of her gradual loss of reason.

Her husband divorced her some time later and returned her to Drish along with their two normal sons. Refusing to admit her to a mental institution, the doctor each night fastened her room windows and bolted the door of the upper room. When she was allowed to walk the grounds, a slave would always accompany her. Years later, Katherine left Tuscaloosa to live with her grown sons.

Another family tragedy involved Drish's favorite niece, Helen Whiting, and occurred away from the house. Her husband, named Fitch, drank heavily and one morning following a quarrel, cut her throat, involving the unhappy family in murder.

Financial reverses added to these two events drove Drish to frequent drinking which, in turn, caused him to develop delerium tremens.

In 1867, he wrestled free of slaves trying to keep him in bed, dash down the long, circular stairway with a final terrible scream to fall dead midway in the hall.

Negroes at the house often said they heard the doctor walking the halls after his death and many times, again heard his death cry.

It was not until Mrs. Drish's death soon afterward, however, that persons other than the slaves told stories of hearing and even feeling the ghosts of the first master and mistress of the mansion.

"Ole Miss going to walk. She sho' going to walk," was the cry of the Negroes when candles that burned over her husband's coffin could not be found to burn over Mrs. Drish's. They later reported she had even talked with them at night.

When the house had become the property of Mrs. Drish's niece, one of her

daughters heard steps in the hallway and felt someone pull the covers of her bed up and give her a gentle pat. She told her mother she had heard her come in. "Why I didn't come into your room," her mother replied.

The following night, the girl and her sister slept together and the other girl had the same experience.

The mansion became the property of Judge and Mrs. W. C. Cochrane following ownerships by the Lilley and Snedecor families, both of which reported no ghosts. A visitor of the Cochrane's, however, reported the recurrence of previous happenings.

Then one evening when the judge, who was a member of the City Board of Aldermen and a representative of the State Legislature, and his family were dining, a Negro ran in to say the house was on fire.

Outside, the tower could be seen to be blazing away, but upon rushing upstairs, Judge Cochrane found no flames or anything capable of reflecting light.

This event happened several more times and Negroes believed it signified the horrible fate of a slave who had once been caught hiding from his master in the tower and had been returned to the other plantation.

In following years, the home became the Jemison School in 1906, with Miss Belle Strickland as principal for 15 years, was owned in 1925 by an auto wrecking company, purchased in 1936 by the City Board of Education, and then bought in 1943 by the Southside Baptist Church.

So ends the days of Tuscaloosa's haunted house and the sadness which once surrounded it, but never will end the tales they tell of the unexplainable things seen, heard and felt almost 100 years ago in John R. Drish's house of tragedy.

(The News wishes to thank Matthew William Clinton, well known Tuscaloosa historian, for his assistance in contributing notes for the series first two articles.)

The house itself was brick covered with stucco, combining Southern Colonial architecture with Greek and Italian Renaissance.

A large square tower was constructed in the center at the front with an arch before the door, containing one square room over another, connected by stairs.

Galleries originally were on two sides with doric pillars at the south and ionic to the north. Two-story frame galleries were later added on the east and west.

Inside and downstairs was a large hall with double staircases rising in graceful twin curves. Four spacious parlors were also downstairs, two each on the east and west sides, as were the kitchen, store room and dining room. Upstairs were four large bedrooms.

Portraits adorned the walls and velvet carpets covered the parlor floors. Candelabra rested upon the two mantle pieces and book cases lined the hall. Furnishing for the parlors was identical, each containing a sofa, arm chairs, single chairs, two small ottomans and one large one.

Tragedy laid its hand over this most respected household, however, beginning by striking Katherine, the doctor's beautiful and popular daughter.

Katherine had been somewhat forced to marry a Mr. King, who was selected for her by Drish after he had forbade her to marry a young man she deeply loved. During her New Orleans wedding trip, however, she happened to be standing on



Roy Emerson Wins Masters Tennis Meet
 ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) - Showing an uncanny skill in judging the gusty wind which up-sets his opponent, Australian Roy Emerson easily defeated Luis Ayala of Chile to take top honors in the second annual Masters Ten-



News staff photo

THE HOME OF JOHN R. DRISH BEFORE RECENT ADDITIONS
 ... Where Ghosts Once Played Among The Wealthy.

Tuscaloosa's Historic Homes

They Say Ghosts Walked Drish's House Of Tragedy



W WARNER FLOYD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE NUMBER
832-6621

March 15, 1978

^{n.}
Ms. Marie Ball
Tuscaloosa County Preservation Authority
Post Office Box 1776
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Re: Southside Baptist Church
Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Marie

Dear Ms. Ball:

The Alabama Historical Commission, in cooperation with the Alabama Council of the American Institute of Architects, is gathering material for an audio-visual program on the religious buildings in the state.

Through it we hope to encourage the preservation of Alabama's visible religious heritage and to acquaint our citizens with our rich heritage of religious buildings.

Several Alabama church buildings have been selected because of their historical and/or architectural significance. Exterior and interior slides of the above mentioned structure are needed along with slides of features such as spires or domes, church furniture, windows and architectural detailing.

Color 35mm slides are needed and the deadline is April 30. We will need slides that we can keep for our records. Can you help us to include this church in our presentation by furnishing slides? Please send them to my attention at the Alabama Historical Commission and include a brief church history if one is available.

Thanking you in advance, I am

Sincerely,

Cathy

Cathalynn Donelson
Information Specialist

CD/jg

P.S. - And we'd appreciate any others you might have. Thank you and your staff for the Heritage Week files. We are passing them along.



The House of the Seven Gables
Settlement Association

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CARI PALMER
(508)744-0991**

***THE HAUNTED VILLAGE:
PURITAN SETTLERS' WORST NIGHTMARES***

SALEM, MA - Tip-toe through a terrifying fishing village of ghoulish personalities from Puritan settlers' worst nightmares at *The Haunted Village* at SALEM 1630: Pioneer Village. Experience the inherent creepiness of this waterside fishing village of thatched roof cottages, wigwams and dugouts, each weekend from Saturday October 11th through Saturday November 1st.

The Haunted Village will feature fireside storytelling, and first-hand encounters with spirits of old Salem, guaranteed to provide spine-tingling thrills while recounting mysterious episodes from the North Shore's haunted history.

The Haunted Village will run weekends, October 10th through November 1st from 7 PM to 10 PM. On Halloween night, tours will be available from 7 PM until midnight. Admission is \$6.00 for adults \$3.50 for children, children under 6 are FREE. Discounts and a private showing of *The Haunted Village* and *Spirits of the Gables* will be available for House of the Seven Gables members only - so join now and avoid the lines!!!!

Guided tours of SALEM 1630: Pioneer Village are available daily from 10AM to 5PM, Sundays noon to 5PM, adults \$5.00, \$3.00 for children, under 6 are FREE. SALEM 1630: Pioneer Village is located in Forest River Park near Salem State College. From Route 1-A/114 (Lafayette Street), turn onto West Avenue. Follow West Avenue into Forest River Park. Plenty of free parking is available.

Other discounts for *The Haunted Village* do not apply. Group reservations are required. Reservations are recommended, and non-refundable.

Call (508) 744-0991 for information and reservations!

This tour is not recommended for pre-school-age children.

###

54 Turner Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970 • (508) 744-0991 • Fax (508) 741-4350

The Settlement House • 114 Derby Street • (508) 745-5909

SALEM 1630: pioneer village at Forest River Park

MEMORANDUM:

TO: Heritage Commission Members and Guests

FROM: Betsy B. Hayslip *BH*

WHAT: Regular Meeting of the Heritage Commission

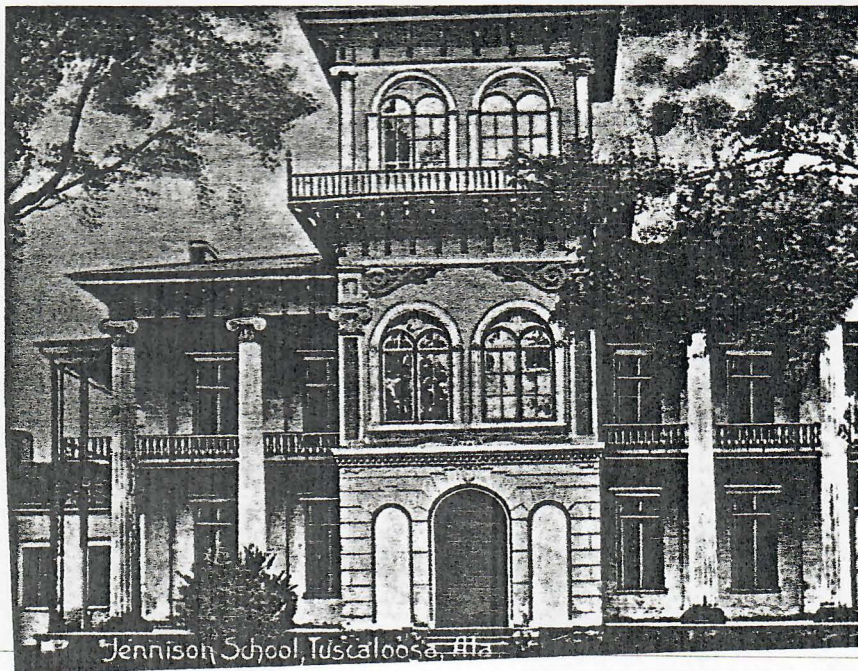
WHEN: Monday, December 12, 1988, 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Tuscaloosa County Library, Rotary Room

The Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County will hold its regular meeting on Monday, December 12, 1988, at 4:30 p.m. in the Rotary Room of the Tuscaloosa County Library located at the foot of Queen City Avenue on River Road.

You are invited to the December meeting at the library for an informal video tour of the Drish House.

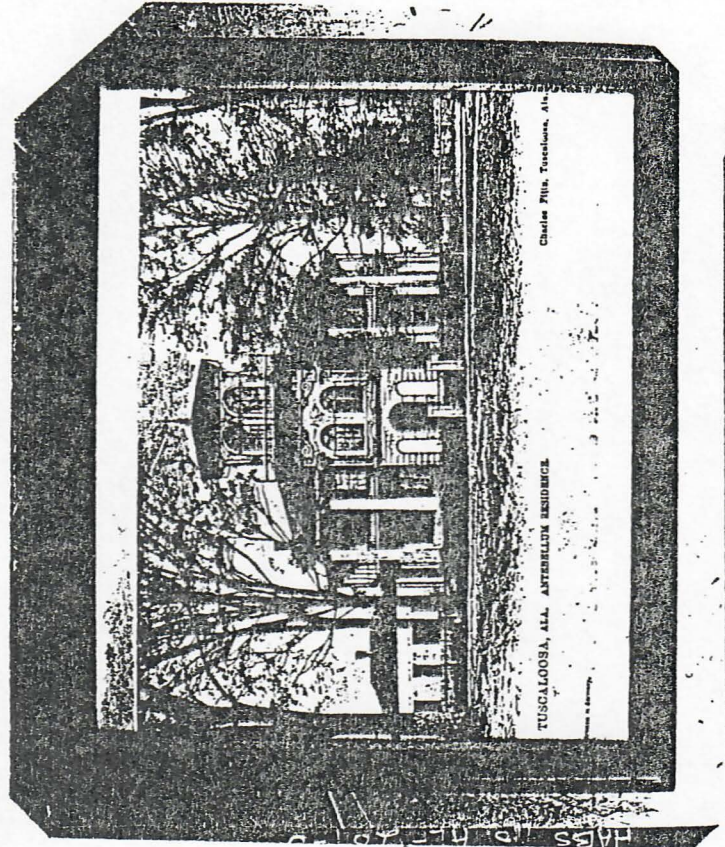
The once remarkable example of combination of Greek Revival and picturesque elements is located at 2300 17th Street (in the traffic circle at the intersection of 17th Street and 23rd Avenue) and is now sandwiched between two red brick buildings all of which house the Southside Baptist Church. Erected in the early 1830's; reputedly designed by state architect, William Nichols. The two story stucco covered brick building has a hipped roof extending over full-length porticos. The rear portico is supported by a Tuscan colonnade. The front portico has an Ionic colonnade with a three-story Italianate tower in the center. The tower, embellished with Greek Revival style detail and bracketed cornice was a later addition. Dr. Drish, the owner was a Tuscaloosa physician and erstwhile building contractor and owner of skilled slave craftsmen who evidently executed the interior elaborate plaster work. The mansion originally stood at the end of a tree-lined lane extending to now-demolished gate and porter's lodge at the present 23rd Ave-15 St intersection. The house was photographed by Walker Evans in the 1930's and is documented by the HABS collection. Legend has several ghosts and mysterious happenings associated with the house.



HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
SEE INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS FOR CAPTION

HABS No. 63-9

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

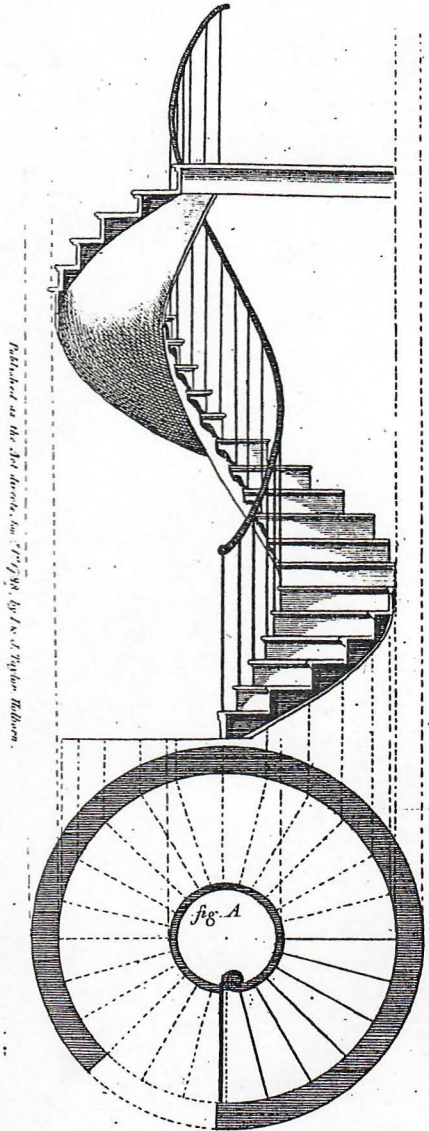
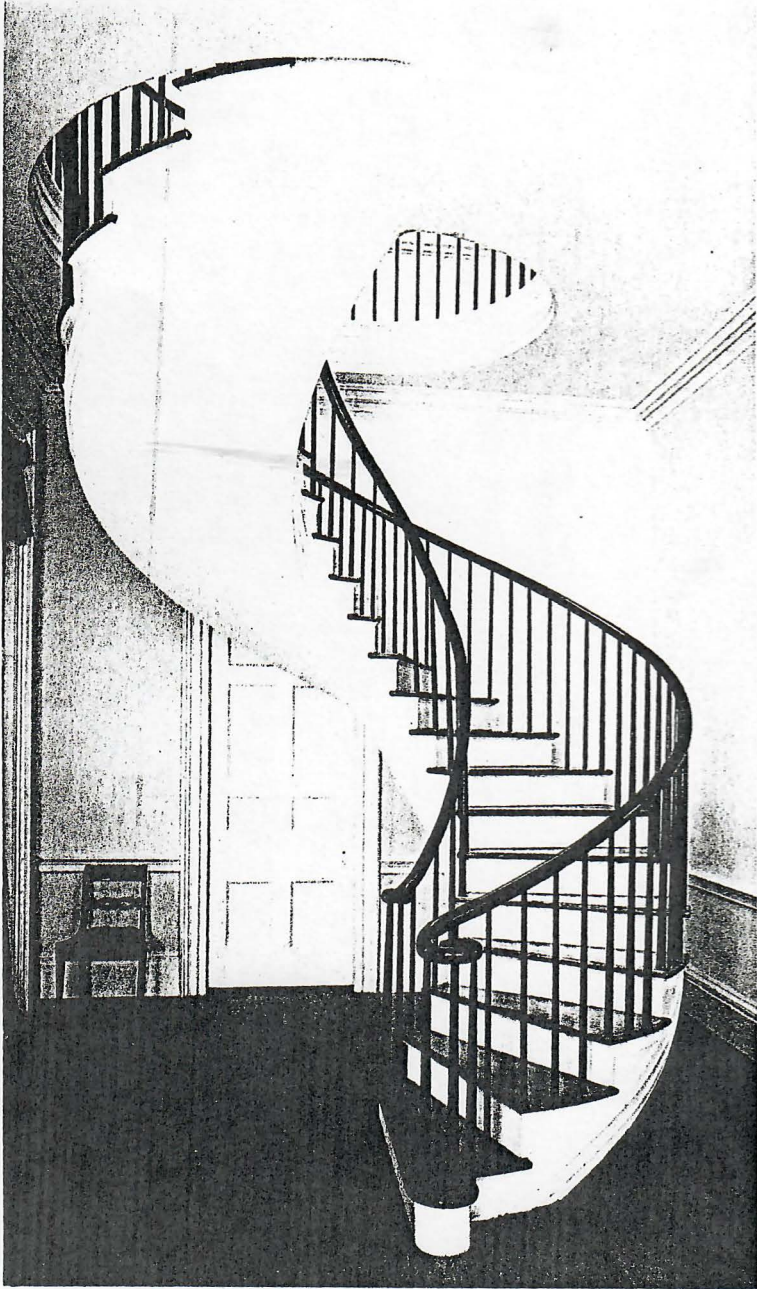
INDEX TO PHOTOGRAPHS

Addendum to
Dr. John R. Drish House
2300 17th St.
Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-201

Photographs AL-201-1 through -8 have been previously transmitted to the Library of Congress.

AL-201-9 Photocopy of photograph
Charles Pitts, Photographer ca. 1905

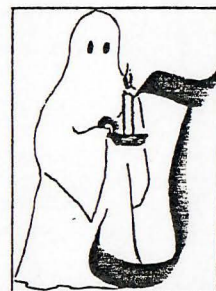


Auburn, "Geometrical staircase" in front hall, with its model, Plate 41 of William Pain's *British Palladio* (London, 1757). Pain illustration from Art & Architecture Collection, Miriam & Ira D. Wallach Division of Art, Prints and Photographs, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations



"Judge! Judge! Come quick!! Your house is burning up!"

Death Lights in the Tower



JUDGE! JUDGE! COME QUICK!!
Your house is burning up!"

The excited man beat upon the door of the old mansion, trying to rouse its sleeping occupants.

Inside the house, Judge W. G. Cochrane was awakened by the commotion, and he lay still for a moment trying to identify the noise.

"Oh, no. Not again!" he muttered sleepily. But he got out of bed, threw his robe around his shoulders, and went to answer the door.

"The tower room is blazing," the Negro gasped as the judge opened the door. "You can see the fire all over this end of town!"

"All right. Let's go investigate," Judge Cochrane replied.

Together they climbed the two flights of stairs to the square tower room, and Judge Cochrane threw open the door.

The room was dark—no flames, no sparks, no smould-

ering ashes, not even a wisp of smoke.

The visitor shook his head in disbelief and hurried for the stairs.

"But I seen it myself! I seen it myself!" he kept repeating as Judge Cochran escorted him down the hall and out the back door.

"Thank you for being concerned," the judge said wearily. "Good night."

"How many times has it happened now?" Judge Cochran asked himself as he climbed back into bed. "And when will she stop burning those damnable candles?"

The "she" he referred to was Mrs. Sarah Drish, builder and longtime resident of what is now known as the Old Drish Place in Tuscaloosa. Mrs. Drish was a gentle, intelligent woman, but, according to tales told about her home, it is her frustrated ghost who returns to alarm the neighborhood by burning candles in the tower, candles which she wanted to be burned around her coffin at her death.

The story goes back to 1817 when three or four Owen brothers and their sister, Mrs. Sarah McKinney, a widow, came from Norfolk District, Virginia, to Tuscaloosa. They traveled by covered wagons, bringing their handsome mahogany furniture and other family heirlooms. Some of this furniture stood proudly in the Drish home. But that was later.

In Tuscaloosa, Mrs. McKinney met and married Dr. John Drish, a physician whose wife had died some time before. Dr. Drish had one child, Katherine, a beautiful young lady who, heartbroken by a love affair which her father's stern intervention had terminated and further tormented by a miserable marriage, had lost her mind.

About 1830 Dr. and Mrs. Drish built on the outskirts of Tuscaloosa (now in the residential-business section on 17th Street between Greensboro and Queen City avenues)



About 1830 Dr. and Mrs. Drish built an imposing plantation home.

an imposing plantation home.

The house can probably best be described as Southern colonial with strong Greek and Italian Renaissance influence. A wide porch with stark Doric columns extends across the rear, and the front is distinguished by two Ionic columns on each side of a large square tower rising from the middle of the porch. The main entrance to the home is through the arched door on the ground level of the three-story tower.

Above the entrance is a square room which opens into an upstairs hall. A winding stairway leads from this room to the square tower room which stands above the level of the flat roof.

At the rear of the large downstairs hall a horseshoe staircase rises in a graceful curve to the landing where straight flights, one on each side, ascend to the upstairs hall.

Mrs. Drish was evidently a woman of excellent taste and of impressive financial means. Rich velvet carpets covered the floors of her home, imported lace curtains hung at the windows, and the soft glow of candles danced in the crystal prisms of the candelabra on the marble mantel.

A lodge at the main entrance to the estate provided shelter for the slaves whose duty it was to open and close the heavy gates. A long driveway bordered by flowering shrubs and evergreens led from the gate to the house. One approach was bordered with pink and white altheas, and in the formal gardens were thousands of roses. Beyond the gardens were the fruit orchards, and beyond them stretched the fields and woods.

Such an elaborate estate required much attention. Dr. Drish was unfortunately a very poor manager. It was widely reported that he "gambled and drank—and did both very poorly." Often, the story goes, he would take a boatload of cotton from his plantation down the river to

Mobile to sell. Weeks later he would return to Tuscaloosa with nothing except a terrific hangover and a remorseful conscience. Usually he had to be put to bed and carefully nursed for some time.

It was after one such trip that, tormented by his own guilt and by sadness over Katherine's increasing madness, he broke from the restraining arms of servants trying to hold him on the bed, stumbled to the curved stairway, shrieked, and died.

For many years after his death Negroes on the plantation often claimed they heard Dr. Drish's stumbling footsteps followed by his agonized cry.

Before his burial, Dr. Drish's body lay in state with candles burning around the bier, the same candles that were to provide another restless spirit with a reason for haunting the Drish house.

Mrs. Drish, after the funeral, asked that these candles be put away to be saved until her death when they were to be lighted again around her coffin.

Following Dr. Drish's death Mrs. Drish's niece, Mrs. Virginia Owen Green, her husband, Thomas Finley Green, and their children came to live with her. The happy confusion of having children in the house was a delight, particularly to Katherine who had become more and more silent and withdrawn.

Through the years Mrs. Drish maintained an alert interest in the happenings beyond her dwindling estate. Records show that, despite her old age and loss of wealth, she continued to subscribe to and read *The Philadelphia Times*, *The New Orleans Picayune*, *Godey's Ladies' Book*, *The London Illustrated News*, *Littel's Living Age*, *Appleton's Journal*, and other periodicals. And she insisted that the accustomed ceremonies of gracious living which had been practiced in less poverty-stricken

years be continued as far as was possible. As she grew older she was particularly concerned that the death rites she desired be observed, especially that the same candles which had burned after Dr. Drish's death light her coffin while she lay in state.

When Mrs. Drish died one of the old servants reminded Mrs. Green of the dead woman's almost obsessive wish.

"Ole Miss said a hundred times she want them same candles burned," the servant prompted Mrs. Green.

The niece made a search, not a very diligent one, for the candles, but they were not found. Mrs. Green had not been present for Dr. Drish's funeral and did not attach any real significance to her aunt's request concerning the candles, possibly dismissing it as a whim of an old and addled woman.

She paid no heed, except for a show of impatience, when the servant kept repeating, "We got to find them candles. Ole Miss going to walk if we don't find them candles and burn them like she say. Ole Miss sure gonna walk!"

The candles were not found, and Mrs. Drish, though given a proper funeral, was buried without their having been burned.

Soon afterwards began the strange appearances of fire in the tower room, sightings which for many years caused the occupants of the house to be ousted from their beds by false fire alarms.

Some people tried to find scientific explanations for the fiery lights in the tower, but those wise in the ways of the spirit world never doubted that "Ole Miss" was indeed walking and had come back to her home to burn her own death candles.

Most Alabama homes are content to provide habitation for only one ghost, but the Drish house has had several

ghostly inhabitants. Not only have both Dr. Drish and Mrs. Drish returned, but another and in some respects even stranger presence has manifested itself there.

After the death of Mrs. Drish, Mr. and Mrs. Green closed the upstairs of the house and converted the two downstairs parlors into bedrooms. Katherine had been sent, before Mrs. Drish's death, to be cared for by family members in another state, and so there were not enough people living in the house to necessitate the use of the upstairs portion.

Mary, fourteen years old, and her sister, Nimmo, a year younger, slept in the front parlor, and their parents shared the bedroom in the converted back parlor. The folding doors between the two rooms were kept locked.

One night Mary and Nimmo had been invited to a spend-the-night party at their cousins' home, but Nimmo had a headache and stayed at home, going to bed alone in the front bedroom.

Her headache kept Nimmo from sleeping, but, when she heard the hall door open softly, she pretended to be asleep so that her mother would not worry about her. She lay quite still and kept her eyes closed while gentle hands straightened the covers and tucked them snugly around her. Not until the soft sound of the tiptoes had died away and she heard the latch on the hall door click did Nimmo open her eyes. She laughed to herself at the joke she had played on her mother.

The next morning at breakfast she confessed, "Mother, I was just pretending to be asleep when you came into my room and covered me up last night."

Her mother was amazed. "I didn't come to your room, dear," she said. "You must have had a vivid dream."

However, she and her mother agreed not to mention the episode to Mary as they did not want to frighten her.

The next night the sisters were in their big bed, and Nimmo was sleeping soundly when Mary clutched her and sobbed in fright.

"Nimmo! Nimmo, wake up!! Somebody came in here and covered us up. I thought at first it was Mother, but it wasn't. Whoever it was wouldn't answer me, wouldn't say anything at all!"

The child was almost hysterical, and Nimmo was frightened too, but she calmed her sister enough so that they could go together to their parents' room.

They waked their father and mother, both of whom had been sound asleep, and told them what had happened. With Mr. Green leading the way, they made a thorough search of the house, but every door and every window was locked. Nobody was there.

Some forty years later, when Mary and Nimmo were middle-aged women, they were spending a vacation at Alabama's White Sulphur Springs, a popular resort in DeKalb County.

One night the guests were gathered on the wide veranda entertaining each other by telling of unusual or weird things that had happened to them.

Mrs. G. W. Cochrane of Mobile announced to the group that she knew a ghost story more exciting than any that had been told.

Her sister, Mrs. Cochrane said, had come to Tuscaloosa to visit her while she and Judge Cochrane were living in an old home there. The sister, young and popular, was invited to a number of parties at the University of Alabama, among them the Commencement Ball.

On the night of the ball she complained of a slight headache, perhaps brought on by lack of sleep, but she got dressed for the festivity, and, while waiting for her escort, she decided to lie down to rest for a few minutes.



As she lay in the darkened room, the door opened lightly, someone tiptoed across the room, and tender hands pulled up a coverlet and tucked it about her.

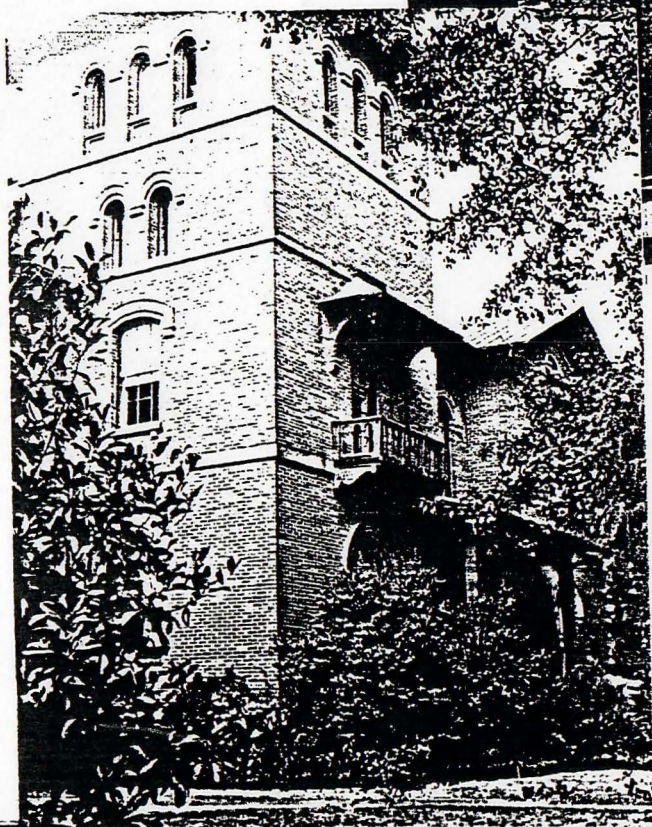
The guest turned to thank her sister—but there was no one there!

Screams brought Judge and Mrs. Cochrane to the room immediately. They searched the house, but no trace of an intruder could be found.

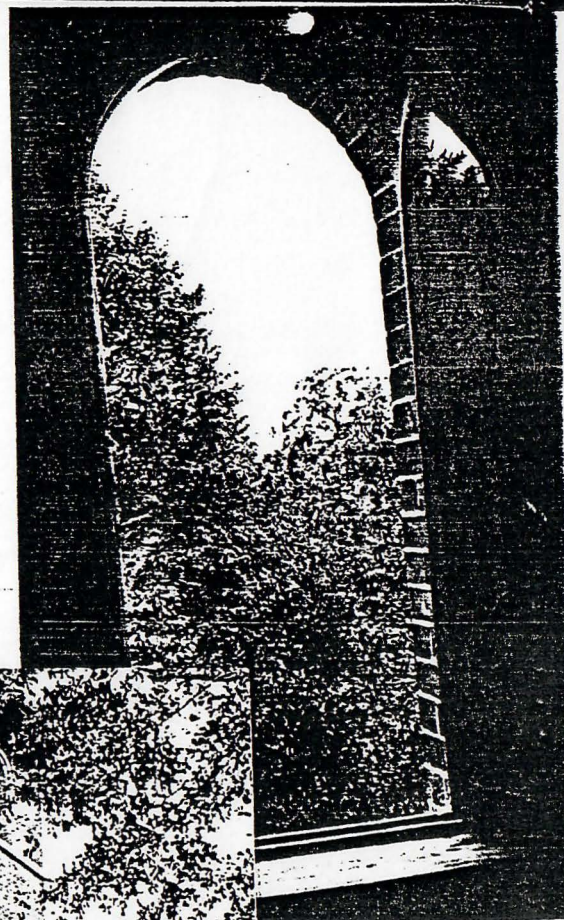
When Mrs. Cochrane finished her story, Mary and Nimmo exchanged glances. Then, to the amazement of the audience, they named the house and the very room where the incident had occurred: the downstairs front parlor in the old Drish Place.

The Drish home is now part of the educational building of the Southside Baptist Church in Tuscaloosa. This latest change in ownership should have exorcised the ghosts. But on some nights there still appear to be lights in the tower room, the kind of lights cast by flickering candles.

Here in the tower, with its triple windows on all four sides, Anne and her playmates spent many happy hours.



Carlisle Hall looks almost exactly today as it did when completed in 1837.



The Faithful Vigil at Carlisle Hall



CARLISLE HALL DOES NOT conform to the accepted notion of a Southern plantation home: it has no white columns, no broad verandas, no delicate iron grillwork trim. Instead it is a solid, sensible structure

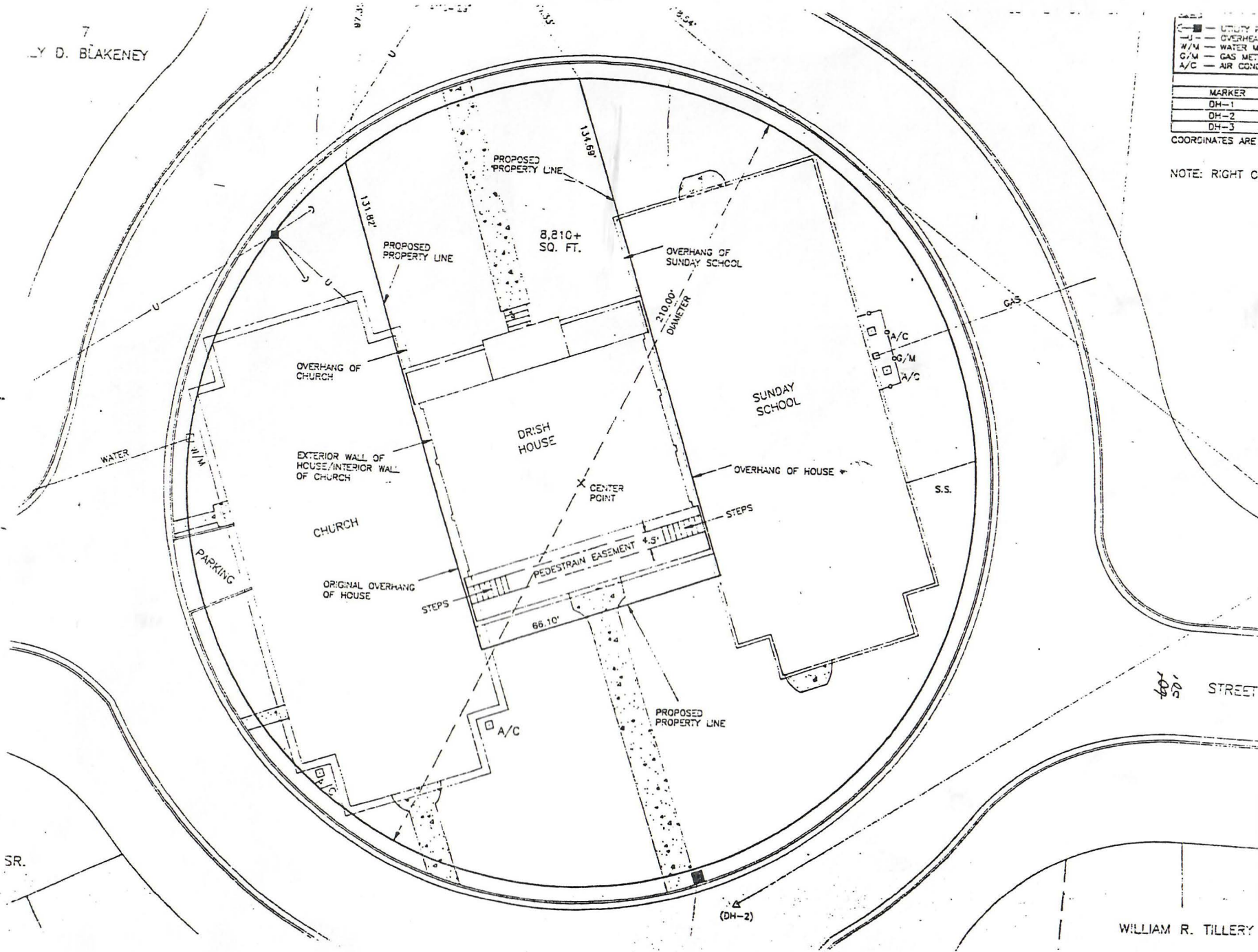
made of brick and trimmed in pale pink fieldstone. Its doors and windows are arched, and its plain balcony with the copper-roofed overhang is more Oriental than Grecian.

There is little in the appearance of Carlisle Hall to suggest that it has a ghost, yet there is somehow a vague atmosphere of gloomy foreboding about the place.

Except for its front porch, which has been altered from its original proportions, Carlisle Hall looks almost exactly as it did when it was completed in 1837.

Edwin Kenworthy Carlisle chose for the site of his home a hilltop covered with oaks and hardwoods, some of which still shade the house today. Ten years in the building, the dwelling is a short distance off the main highway about a mile west of Marion in Perry County.

7
LY D. BLAKENEY



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-	OVERHEAD
W/M	WATER METER
G/M	GAS METER
A/C	AIR COND
MARKER	
DH-1	
DH-2	
DH-3	
COORDINATES ARE	

NOTE: RIGHT OF

WILLIAM R. TILLERY

Requested amendments of the Drish House Lease

The Board of the Southside Baptist Church has requested the following be amended to the lease agreement between the Church and the HCTC

1. The Church will be held harmless should any workmen be injured on the job during the restoration and repair of the structure.
2. No alcoholic beverages be served
3. The Church has the right to reject any inappropriate tenant.

The HCTC Board has requested the following clause be added to the lease agreement

The cost of improvements and repairs to the portion of the Southside Baptist Church commonly known as "The Drish House" will be amortized over 30 years. At any time during that period, should the Church wish to dissolve the lease agreement, the amount of those improvement investment remaining is due and payable to the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, or, if that body is no longer operating, to the City of Tuscaloosa. Payment schedule and agreement is to be negotiated within 60 days of the announced dissolution of the lease.

Rev. and Congregation
of the
New Southside Baptist Church
2300 17th Street
Tuscaloosa, Al. 35401

RE: Lease with The New Southside Baptist Church

Dear Reverend Butler,

I apologize for the delay in getting this lease to you. I have prepared the conditions that our groups have recommended be a part of the agreement for your review. I would like to point out several items which need your approval. If the congregation approves this lease, call me and we will set a meeting with the people to sign this document, have it notarized and we will have a contract.

1. Paragraph 4 refers to Exhibit "A" which is the legal description of the property to be leased. Brooks & Brooks surveyed the property and will provide this description.
2. Paragraph 5(a) refers to a common wall along a portion of the Church sanctuary. We need for Tommy Brooks of Brooks and Brooks, to tell us whether such wall is the North, South, East, or West wall of such sanctuary.
3. Paragraph 6 provides the date on which the lease commences, and the blanks in such paragraph will need to be completed when an agreement is reached with the Church.
4. Paragraph 8 provides the annual rental amount. We need to complete the blanks in this paragraph at the time we execute the lease. We were considering \$1.00 per year.
5. Paragraph 9 addressed the use of the house. We have enclosed the zoning ordinances for the area as Exhibit "B". We hope that your congregation can agree to approve classifications of tenants rather than each one individually with the consideration that under no circumstances alcohol will be served on the premises. Take into consideration that the commission will carefully screen prospective tenants to prevent any property or neighborhood destruction. Perhaps you could appoint a member of your congregation to serve on the tenant screening committee with authority to approve the use.
6. Paragraph 12 provides that the Heritage Commission will not begin paying for utilities until such time as the restoration process begins. We had initially said that all utilities would be severed between the church and the house. Tommy Brooks has advised us that the utilities are probably designed with all three building tied together in a fashion that may require both the church and the house to completely redo the wiring. He has not located the underground gas service or sewers. It is our hope that we can prorate the utilities until the time that a regular tenant would occupy the house and be able to rewire according to their needs if feasible. At any rate we would pay our share of the shared utilities during the restoration using an agreed equation. Your ideas are welcomed.

7. Paragraph 17 provides the "right of first refusal" to purchase the property. The Commission would like to add the following;

In the case that the Church repossesses the house through voided lease or through selling the property, the Commission would like the cost of improvements and repairs to the portion of the New Southside Baptist Church commonly known as "The Drish House" will be amortized over 30 years. At any time during that period, should the Church wish to dissolve the lease agreement, the amount of those improvements investment remaining is due and payable to the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, or, if that body is no longer operating, to the City of Tuscaloosa. Payment schedule and agreement is to be negotiated within 60 days of the announces dissolution of the lease.

8. As a part of Exhibit "B", the Commission agrees to the following request from the Church;

1. The Church will be held harmless should any workmen be injured on the job during the restoration and repair of the house.
2. No alcoholic beverages be served on the premises.
3. The Church has the right to approve the classification of the proposed tenant of the Drish house.

Please review the lease and the conditions, and call me with your comments. Our next meeting is Monday February 13, 1995 at 4:30 p.m. If these conditions are agreeable, I will draw up the "Exhibits" as part of the lease.

Very truly yours,

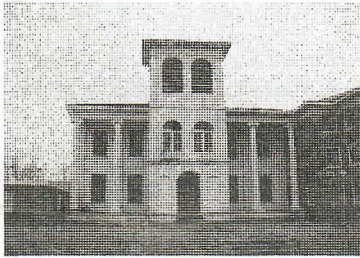
Betsy B. Hayslip

The Preservationist

VOLUME 17, ISSUE 2

MAY 2006

Drish House Makes State Places in Peril List



The John Drish house on 17th Street has been named one of the twelve most endangered historic places in the state by the Alabama Historical Commission and the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. According to **Dr. David Nelson**, chairman of the TCPS Endangered Structures Committee, the TCPS nominated the house to the Places in Peril list in hopes of bringing attention to the home's plight and finding a solution to its many problems.

The listing does not bring with it any formal protection for the property, but it can make a significant difference by helping generate local support. "We're very pleased that the house made the list," said Dr. Nelson, "because the Drish

house is a very important part of Tuscaloosa history and it needs to be saved."

Erected on the outskirts of town in 1837 by Dr. John Drish, who spent far more time being a building contractor and hiring out his slaves than he did practicing medicine. In fact, the house was built by Drish's slaves who also executed the elaborate decorative plaster work that once graced the building's interior. The still extant plasterwork in the President's Mansion at the University of Alabama is evidence of their skill. Drish employed his slave carpenters, bricklayers, and plasterers on jobs throughout Tuscaloosa and as far away as Greensboro and Montgomery.

In the late 1850's, Drish added an Italianate tower and classical columns to the front of his house in a curious attempt to keep up with the fashion of the day, but the mix of architectural styles has led contemporary architectural historians, like **Robert Gamble** of the Alabama Historical Commission, to label the house "eccentric."

Following Drish's death in 1867 (a heavy drinker, Drish fell down one of a pair of elegant curving stairs and broke his neck), the house changed hands several times. From 1906 to 1925, the house was used as a school. Subsequently, the city leased the building to a wrecking company and it was in this transformation that the house gained national attention. The Greek Revival/Italianate house with a "Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company" sign out front spoke volumes about what had happened to the Old South when Walker Evans photographed the structure in the 1930's.

The Southside Baptist Church purchased the property in 1940 and later attached a church building to the side of the house, adding yet another bizarre twist to the architectural oddity of the place.

Today, the house is leased by the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, which, with the help of the Tuscaloosa Preservation Society, has replaced the roof, painted the house, and mothballed it in hopes of preventing further deterioration.

Pigeons, bats and other creatures, however, still find a way to make the Drish house home.

TCPS Places in Peril List

Places in Peril hopes to bring an awareness to historic buildings or sites that are in danger of neglect or demolition. The Endangered Structures committee of the TCPS has placed on its list four structures in the Tuscaloosa County area. These include: **Bryce Hospital, Foster Auditorium, the Moody-Smelser home and the John Drish house.** If you know of a structure or site that should be included, please contact the office at 758-2238. Members of the Endangered Structures committee include **Dr. David Nelson, chair, Dr. Robert Mellown, Suzanne Wolfe, Evans Fitts, Jim Johnson, Jim Harrison and Susan Haynes.**

Heritage Week 2006

Thank you to the many volunteers, participants and sponsors who helped make Heritage Week 2006 a success. Heritage Week is the primary fund-raiser for the TCPS and this weeklong event would not be possible without the generosity and support of the community. We are extremely grateful to the Heritage Week Committee members for their hard work and effort; to the many homeowners who so graciously opened their doors for tours and social events; to the medical community who so willingly loaned or donated items for the medical exhibit and provided venues for various events; to our speakers and storytellers; to the many demonstrators and entertainers during the week; and to the Tuscaloosa Belles and their advisors.

Heritage Week Committee members: **Barbara Kucharski, chair, Mollie Chambers, Ardis Hancock, Carolyn Rowell, Camille Elebash, Barbara Rountree, Carolyn Fritz, Elois Zeanah, Jessica Garrison, Kithy Fitts, Beakie Powell, Carla Wilhite, Dean Walburn, Kathy Voltz and Susan Haynes.**

Heritage Week Sponsors: **Gulf States Paper Corporation, Harrison Galleries, LLC, Greene Beverage Company, Compass Bank, DCH Regional Medical Center, Tuscaloosa Internal Medicine, Wachovia Bank, American Roof Care of West Alabama, and the Tuscaloosa County Republican Women.**

Additional thanks go to: **Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Walsh, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Garrison, Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan McLelland, Mr. and Mrs. John Pointon, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Garrison, S.T. Bunn Construction Co., Mr. Marvin Harper, Dr. Robert Witt, the Jemison-Van de Graaff Mansion, Christ Episcopal Church, Mayor Harvey Fretwell, Mr. and Mrs. Michael Cavanaugh, Mr. and Mrs. Doug Dyer, Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Wilson, Ann Yocum, Mary Elsie Pow, The Capitol School students, the Fifth Regimental Band, the West Alabama Fiber Guild, the Tuscaloosa Squares, Bobby Wooldridge and the Barbershop Quartet, Yvonne Wells, the West Alabama Quilters, the Stillman Choir, Dr. Ulysses Bell, the Children's Hands-On Museum, the Hoole Special Collections Library at the U of A, Bryce Hospital, Jim Myers Drug, Dr. Robert Mellow, the Evenpressure Company, Dr. Hayse Boyd, Celeste Burnum, Maggie Grimes, the Stillman College Library, Northport Medical Center, the Tuscaloosa Public Library, the Murphy African-American Museum, Spiller Furniture Company, Dr. and Mrs. John Menard, Dr. Will Coggins, the University Medical Center, Mrs. Malcolm Portera, the Battle-Friedman House Committee, Canterbury Clothiers, the Bama Theatre, Kentucky, Kellee Reinhart, Lillian Quarles, Rumsey Environmental, Weatherford Office Supply, the Solo Cup Company, the Mental Health Association, PARA, First Presbyterian Church, Hallie Hull, Lydia Siegel, Karen Kelly, Buffalo Rock and the many other volunteers who gave of their time to work shifts at the homes tour, the medical exhibit, the Capitol Park celebration, the Bama Theatre, in the office and behind the scenes.**

Preservation Awards Banquet

The Preservation Awards Banquet, held Friday, April 7, in the Bryce Mansion, was an elegant affair with candles and roses decorating each table and catering by Café Venice.

President **Jim Harrison** hosted the event, presenting the top award, Preservationist of the Year, to **Robert Reynolds** for his active role and outstanding contribution to the cause of preservation in the city of Tuscaloosa. **Celeste Burnum** was named Volunteer of the Year for her work with the Battle-Friedman Gardens. **Ben Windham** was named Educator of the Year for bringing us stories about home in his weekly column "Southern Lights" in the Tuscaloosa News, and **Sydney Cummings** was given a Special Recognition Award for the ongoing maintenance of her home, the Foster-Cummings house.

Brick and Mortar Awards went to **Charles Sealy and Gina Miers**, representing **Sealy Realty**, for their restoration of the Foster-Chabannes House, and to **Rev. and Mrs. Donnell Williams** for the restoration of their Newtown home.

**45 SENIOR BELLES
PRESENTED**

A traditional part of the Heritage Week celebration, the presentation of the Tuscaloosa Belles is the culmination of two years of preparation.

During their two years the girls, all 11th and 12th graders at area high schools, are required to perform community service hours. This year the Belles have worked with Theatre Tuscaloosa, the Tuscaloosa Symphony, Dickens Downtown, The Junior League of Tuscaloosa's Merry Market, the Children's Hands-On Museum, North River Assisted Living Center and various other agencies within our county. During the holidays, the Belles attended a Mother-Daughter tea at the Jemison-Van de Graff Mansion and donated nearly 100 toys and books to the Salvation Army to help lift the spirits of a very special group of children.

BELLES ADVISORS

***Frances Pool
Lora Hubbard
Becky Fowler***

The 2006 Tuscaloosa Belles

Senior Belles

- Taylor Claire Anderson*
Daughter of Ms. Delcia Anderson &
Mr. Harold Anderson
Jaclyn Bailey Ashcraft
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Duane Ashcraft
Kate Caroline Batson
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Grover Batson
Caroline Farris Boone
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Buford Boone, Jr.
Catherine Blakelee Bryant
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Maurice Bryant
Marianne Mims Carlson
Daughter of Dr. & Mrs. John Terry Carlson
Valarie Barbara Crawford
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Gary Wikerson Crawford
Frances Melissa Chambers
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Harper Calhoun Chambers
Ashley Morgan Christian
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Glover Christian
Brittany Lloyd Danford
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Donald Steven Danford
Ashley Jean Dollar
Mr. & Mrs. Keith Alan Dollar
Catherine Franklin Emens
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steven Countiss Emens
Bethany Kristen Faught
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kyle Dean Faught
Allison Clair Hallman
Daughter of Ms. Lisa Wilson Hallman &
Mr. Fred Howard Hallman
Katherine Lazenby Harris
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. John Robert Harris
Taylor Scott Harwood
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Richard Scott Harwood
Anna Carolyn Hopper
Daughter of Ms. Lynn Watson Hopper &
Mr. Bruce Murrell Hopper
Mary Meigs Jackson
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Charles Jackson, III
Julia Raye Jesuit
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. James Martin Jesuit
Rebekah Kathleen Johnson
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Raiford Cornell Johnson
Lindsey Brooke Kilgore
Daughter of Ms. Lynda H. Ingram
Lauren Elizabeth Lavender
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Michael Lavender
Alexandra Terrell Leigh
Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Jack Register Leigh
Con't

Junior Belles
Bradley Marie Almon
Morgan Elizabeth Bailey
Cayla Marie Barnes
Brittaney L. Blake
Robin Elise Barnett
Saylor E. Blankenship
Meredith Anne Brown
Carolyn York Bryant
Julia Katherine Burchfield
Kadi-Rebecca Burkhalter
Kathryn B. Carter
Katie Morgan Carthers
Mollie Claire Chambers
Allison Paye Chandler
Caroline Margaret Keeney
Leslie Anna Conerly
Charlotte Elizabeth Cover
Jamie Marie Crowe
Laura Linda Davis
Kathryn Elizabeth David
Kenda Kay Earley
Hannah Meredith Essary
Sarah Armistead Fiveash
Emily Ann Fleming
Fallon Taylor Franks
Jessica Mireya Garcia
Mary Alice Gehwix
Britney Nicole Hamner
Jessica Ann Hunter
Lindsey Tyler Hyché
Katherine Robertson
Jackson
Kathryn Easterling
Jamison
Mary Martin Johnson
Virginia Houston Johnson
Sarah Jamison Johnston
Cecilianne DeJarnett
King
Mary Ellen Leigh
Laura Elizabeth Langdon
Caroline Elizabeth Link
Morgan Suzanne
McDonald
Chelsea Elora McKenna
Rebecca Irene Magner
Mallory Daniele Meissner
Ashton Taylor Minto
Caroline C. Montgomery
Mary Anabeth Osborn
Anne-Katherine Powell
Katherine Walters Pruett
Kendal Leigh Rader
Elizabeth Anne Rhoden
Caroline McConnell
Robertson
Courtney Leah Scott

The 2006 Tuscaloosa Belles Con't

Katie Breyer Leigh
 Daughter of Ms. Nancy Furrow Leigh &
 Mr. Raymond Breyer Leigh
Rebecca Alexander McGowin
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Bruce Lancaster
Mallory Elizabeth McGuire
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Houghton McGuire
Katherine Claire Noble
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Ralph Noble
Rachel Elizabeth Odom
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Corley Walton Odom, Jr.
Veronica Parsons
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. William Hall Mitchell
Adrienne Elizabeth Patrick
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steve S. Patrick
Stephanie Anne Plumley
 Daughter of Ms. Laurie Ann Plumley &
 Dr. Joseph Plumley, Jr.
Mary Margaret Randall
 Daughter of Mrs. Craig Alan Cramer &
 Mr. James Allen Randall, Sr.
Rachel Katherine Reynolds
 Daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Douglas Shirley Reynolds
Laura Grace Rogers
 Daughter of Ms. Carolyn Yourick Rogers &
 Mr. James Richard Rogers
Emily Elizabeth Rowell
 Daughter of Dr. & Mrs. Gardner Edward Rowell
Catherine Alexandra Shelton
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Steven Alexander Shelton
Rebecca Fay Shields
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Wayne Shields
Katherine Grace Strickland
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. George Edward Strickland
Elizabeth Fanning Tipton
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ritchie Lee Tipton
Mary Frances Weatherly
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Stone Weatherly, III
Emily Grace Woods
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Phillip Perry Woods
Katherine Frances Woods
 Daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Mark Anthony Woods
Elizabeth Ann Wright
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Robert Wright
Kelly Marie Wright
 Daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Eugene Wright

<i>Lindsey Leigh Starks</i>	<i>Bailey Amanda Walker</i>
<i>Mary Margaret Stokes</i>	<i>Kortney Ann Walters</i>
<i>Hadley Kaye Strickland</i>	<i>Lauren Macy White</i>
<i>Hayley Elizabeth Strong</i>	<i>Jordan Leigh Williams</i>
<i>Katelyn Suzanne Taylor</i>	<i>Kathryn Taylor Williams</i>

Update on the Gulf States Historic Properties

Two historic structures donated to the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society by Gulf States Paper Corporation may have found new homes. The 1838 Gainesville Bank could return to its original site in Gainesville, and the 1829 Umbria Plantation Schoolhouse may move to Northport Heritage Park. Both moves depend in part on the ability of the sponsoring organizations to raise sufficient funds to transport the structures and establish them on their new sites.

The one-room Umbria Plantation Schoolhouse, built c. 1829-30 on Umbria Plantation in Hale County, survived the fire that destroyed Umbria's main house in 1973. Subsequently, Mrs. George Spigener, owner of Umbria, donated the schoolhouse to Gulf States Paper Corporation. Recently, Gulf States gave the building, along with the Gainesville bank, to the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society in hopes that the Society could find good homes for the structures elsewhere.

That hope may have been realized.

According to **Chuck Gerdau**, past president of Friends of Historic Northport and currently first vice-president, his board will meet the second week in June and vote on whether or not to accept the schoolhouse offered to them by TCPS. "I don't think there will be any problem with it," he said, "but we do need to vote on it. Then we'll get down to the business of raising money, applying for grants, that sort of thing."

Gerdau pointed out that the roof of the structure would probably need to be removed before the schoolhouse is transported and then be replaced once the building is situated. "That will add to the cost," he said. Friends of Historic Northport plan to use the building as a mini-schoolhouse museum. "We want to put it behind the current museum and facing the road," he said. "You'll be able to see it the minute you cross the bridge."

Similar progress is being made in Gainesville, where **Chuck McGough**, president of the Gainesville Preservation Society, is soliciting estimates for moving the bank back to Gainesville. The owner of the property where the bank originally stood has donated the property to the Gainesville Preservation Society, paving the way for the bank to return to its original site.

The bank was moved from Gainesville to Tuscaloosa in 1969 by Gulf States' **Jack Warner**, who saved the building, vacant for years and in serious disrepair, from what preservationists call demolition by neglect.

TCPS has asked both groups to move the structures within the next six months.

Welcome New Docents

Two new part-time docents have been hired at the Battle-Friedman House to work on the weekends and help out with special events. One brings a valuable knowledge of local and regional history and the other experience in the tour industry.

We welcome **Herb Neu**, former founder and publisher of the monthly magazine "Old Southern Times." Herb recently sold the magazine to help take care of his mother during the week. He is currently chairman of the Northport Historic Preservation Commission and a board member of the Friends of Historic Northport.

We also welcome **Verta O'Neal**, who is employed by Mercedes-Benz, U.S., International. Verta worked as a tour guide when the visitor center was open for tours and currently conducts pre-employment training orientations. She comes highly recommended by Robert Ratliff of the Tuscaloosa Convention & Visitors Bureau who says that he always requested Verta when sending groups to Mercedes for a tour

DONATIONS

In Honor of
Sam Jackson's Birthday
By

Gene and Cal Wilson
Mrs. Lyman Findley
Charles Hilburn
Sue Paul

In Honor of
Bee Cooper's Birthday
By

Marion Almon

To the TCPS
In appreciation of
Emily Patton
By

The Heritage Study Club

MEMORIALS

In Memory of
Anne Calhoun Wilson
By

Joan and Jim Mosley
Margaret Strickland
Polly S. Moore
Connie and Syd Frazier
Rosemarie and Wayne
Childress
Lois Belcher
Tommy and Ann Ray

The Preservationist

Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society
P.O. Box 1665
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(205) 758-2238
e-mail tcps @dbtech.net

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The Eufaula Ramble

On Friday, June 2, a busload of TCPS members and friends will travel to Eufaula for two days of historic tours, fine dining, and fun. Organized by TCPS board member and Eufaula native, **Cal Wilson**, and by TCPS board member and the Society's rambler-in-chief, **Vassar Hemphill**, the tour begins early on Friday morning and heads to Eufaula for lunch at the 1884 Neoclassical Shorter Mansion.

Afternoon tours include the Smith-Couric home (an ancestral home of Katie Couric), St. James Episcopal Church and First Presbyterian Church, and the Foy-Hamilton house. Dinner will be at Fendall Hall, an 1860 Italianate structure operated as a house museum by the Alabama Historical Commission and containing some of the finest Victorian-era murals (1884) found in any house in America.

On Saturday, the group will have breakfast at Woodlane, the early 1850's home of Cal Wilson's family, and the 1950 Dixon House. Of the latter, Cal says, "It has one of the prettiest gardens anywhere. No one ever wants to leave."

The group will also tour the Eufaula Athenaeum, an extraordinary collection of Southern books, diaries, photographs, maps, etc. collected by Eufaula native Steve Williams, and Kendall Manor. Built in the late 1850's, the manor has 18 foot ceilings and is regarded as one of the premier Italianate homes built in antebellum Alabama, on a par with the Jemison

Mansion in Tuscaloosa.

After lunch at Eufaula's La Bella Vita, the group will head home.

Did you grow up in Tuscaloosa?

If so, help us think about and record the past. We are collecting information on Tuscaloosa neighborhoods for future publication. We want to document our neighborhoods and those that were involved in incorporating them as well as the residents at that time and now. W.H. Nicol and Pelham Brown were instrumental in The Highlands development. Carl Carmer, who wrote *Stars Fell on Alabama*, was an early Highlands resident. Two homes in The Highlands served as church parsonages for many years and at least two former University of Alabama football coaches lived there as well. Dearing Place, Pinchurst, The Downs, Glendale Gardens, College Park, Washington Square, Country Club Hills, Indian Hills, Ridgeland, Bellwood, Northwood Lake, Vestavia Hills and many more, are the neighborhoods that we need information on. Please call the office at 758-2238 or mail to TCPS, P.O. Box 1665, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403 any stories, names, facts, photos, etc. that you would like to share.

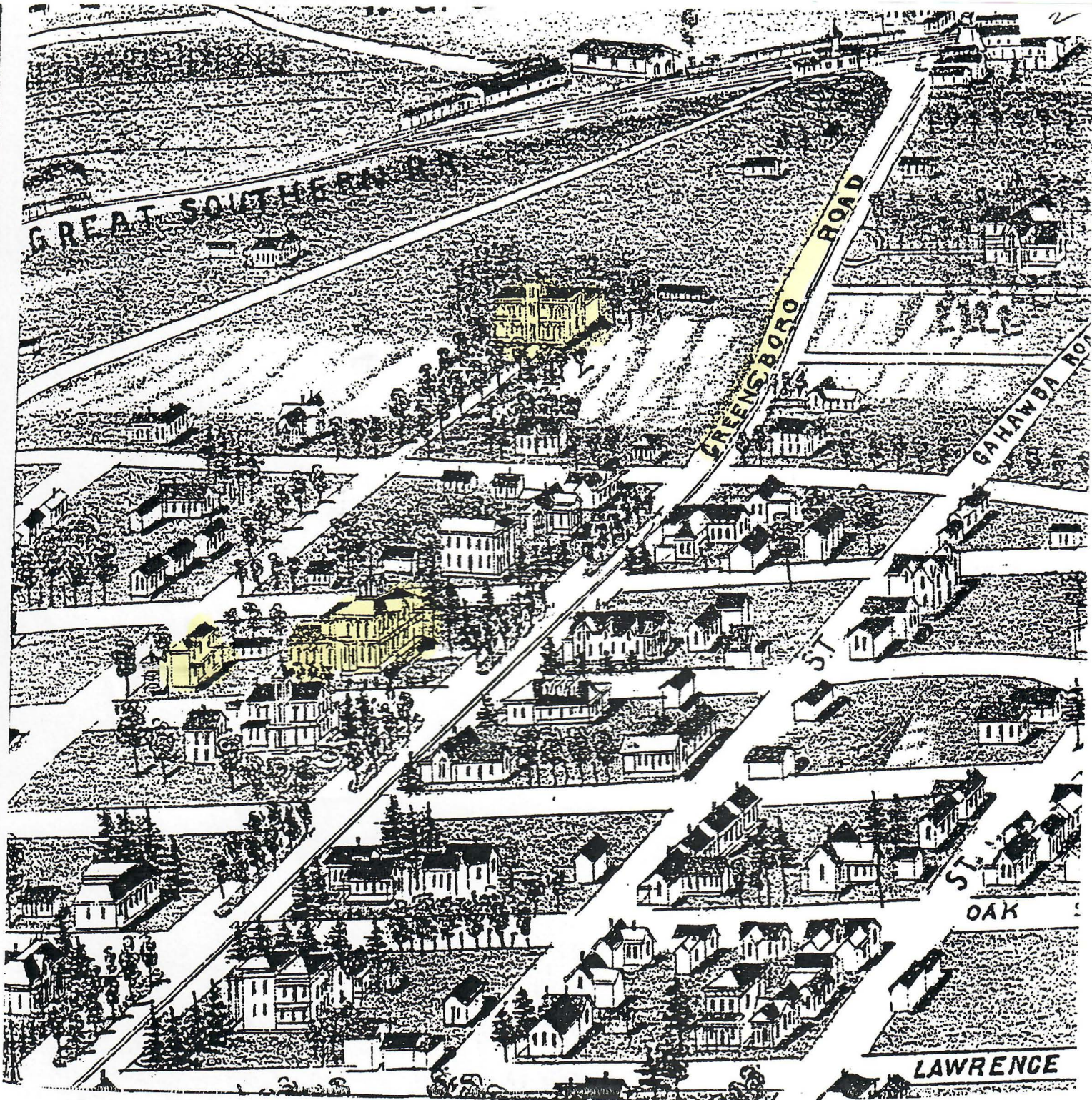


Figure 2

Drish House. Detail from Perspective Map of Tuscaloosa, Ala. County Seat of Tuscaloosa Co., 1887, (Milwaukee: Henry Wellge, Beck & Pauli Lith. Co.), 1887.

Drish once owned all the property located in the upper half of this illustration.

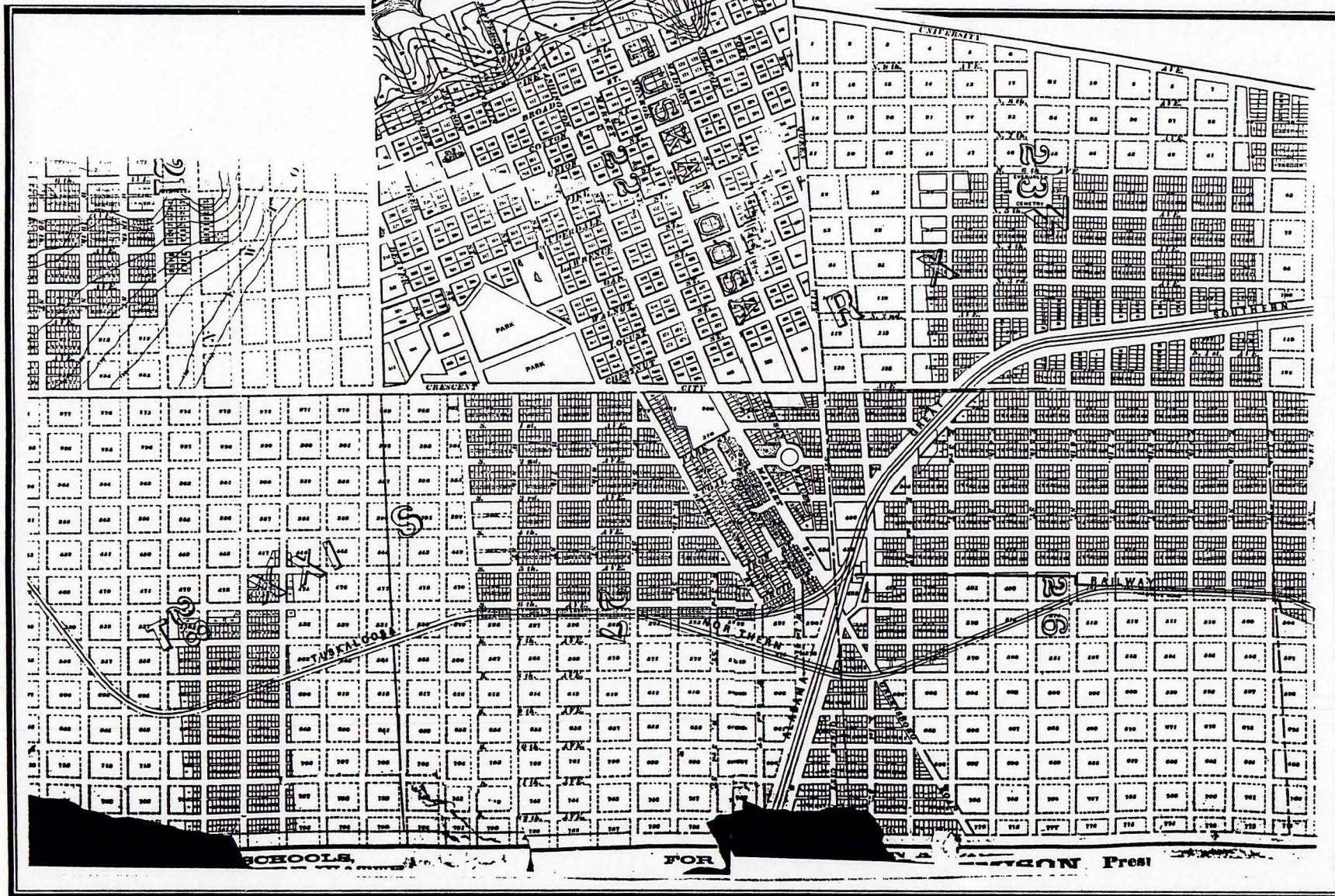


Figure 12 Monroe Place. Detail of 1887 Tuskaloosa city map showing site of former plantation. Map of City and Suburban Land Belonging to the Tuskaloosa Coal, Iron, and Land Co. at Tuskaloosa, Ala., Showing Also Newtown and Northport, R.E. Hardaway, Chief Engineer, W.B. Osborn and J.C. Wright, Draughtsmen (Tuskaloosa: Tuskaloosa Coal, Iron, and Land Co., 1887.

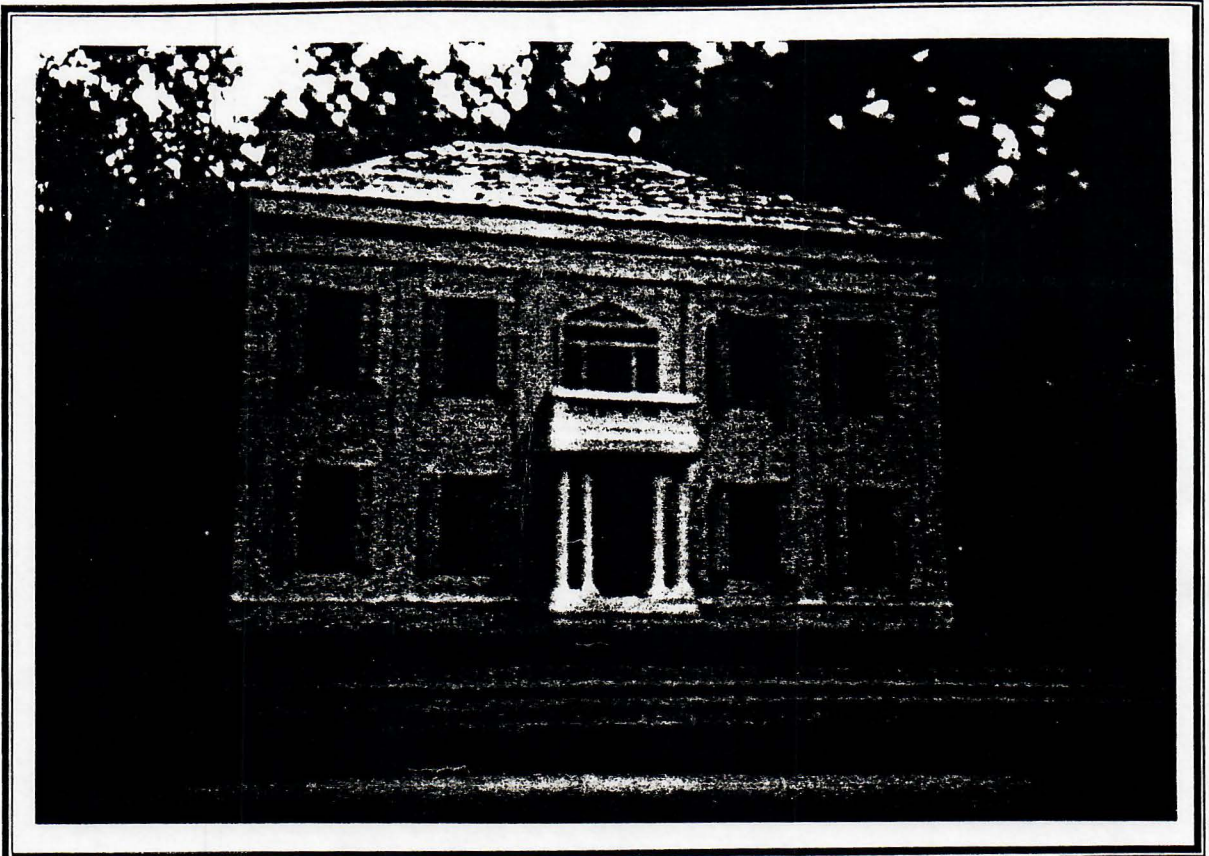
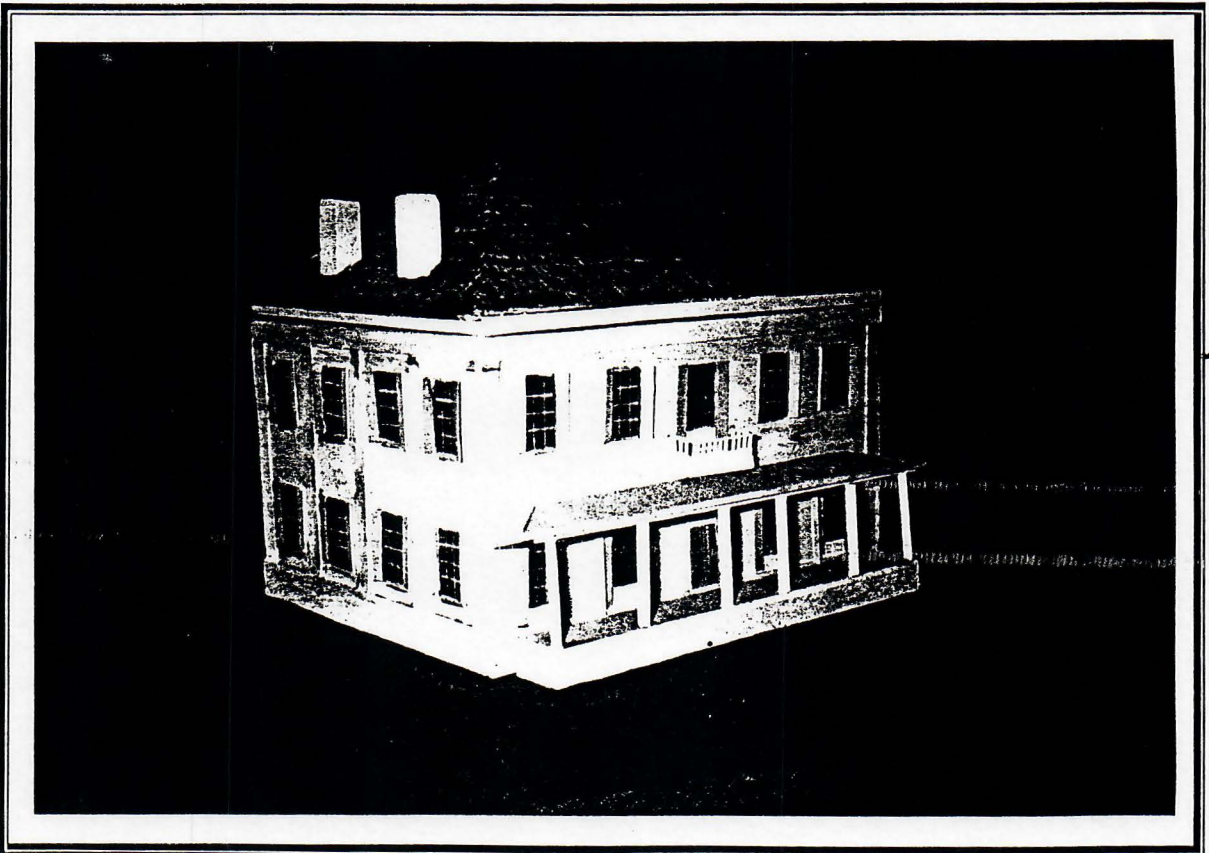


Figure 14 Model of Monroe Place as it might have looked about 1839. Robert O. Mellown. July 200. Collection of author.



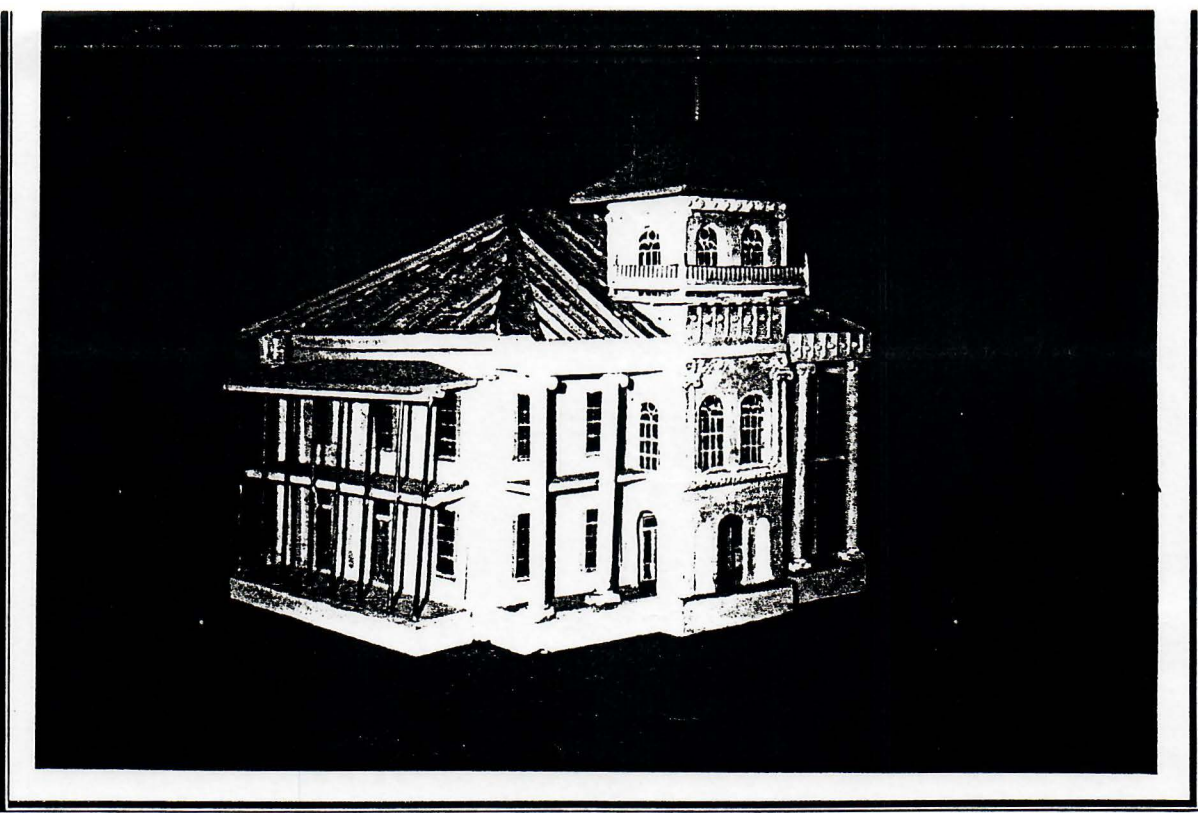


Figure 15 Model of Monroe Place after late antebellum renovations. Robert O. Mellown, July 2000. Collection of author.

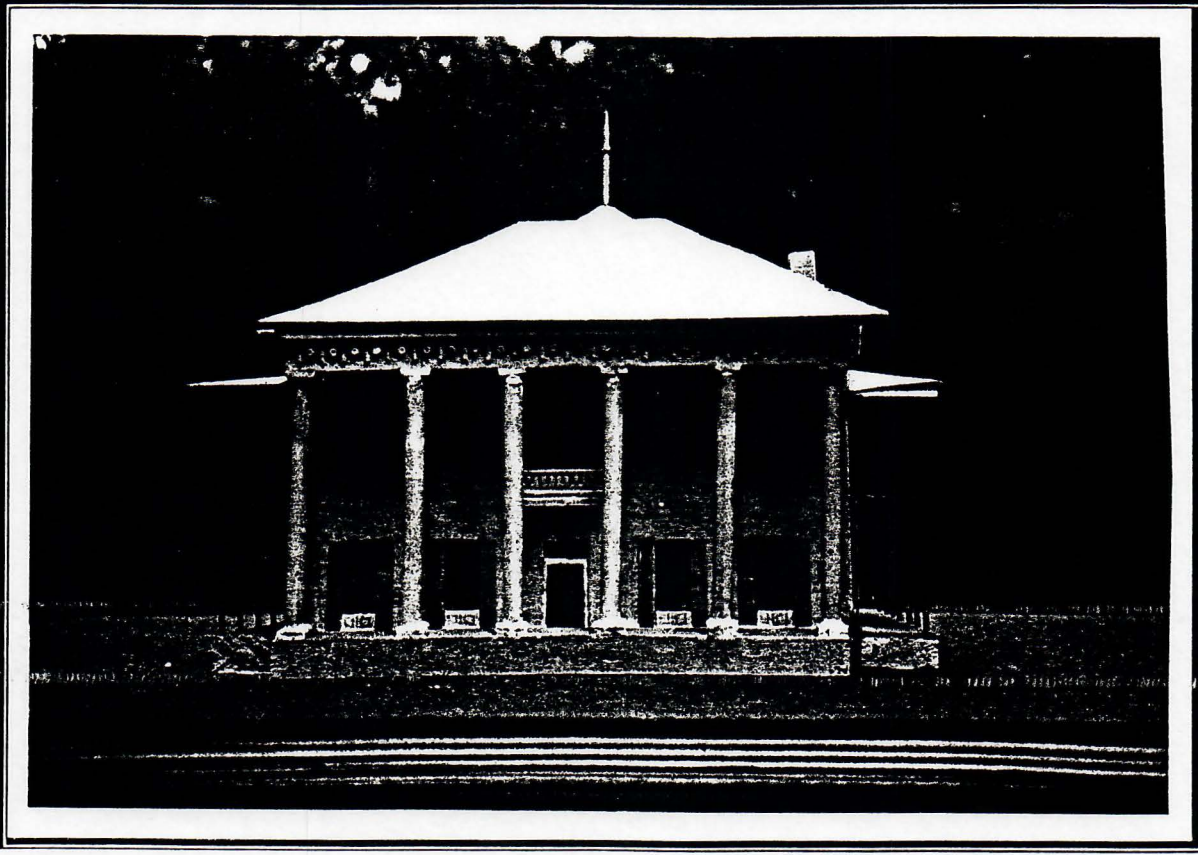


Figure 16 Model of Monroe Place Robert O. Mellown. July 2000. Collection of author. South Façade

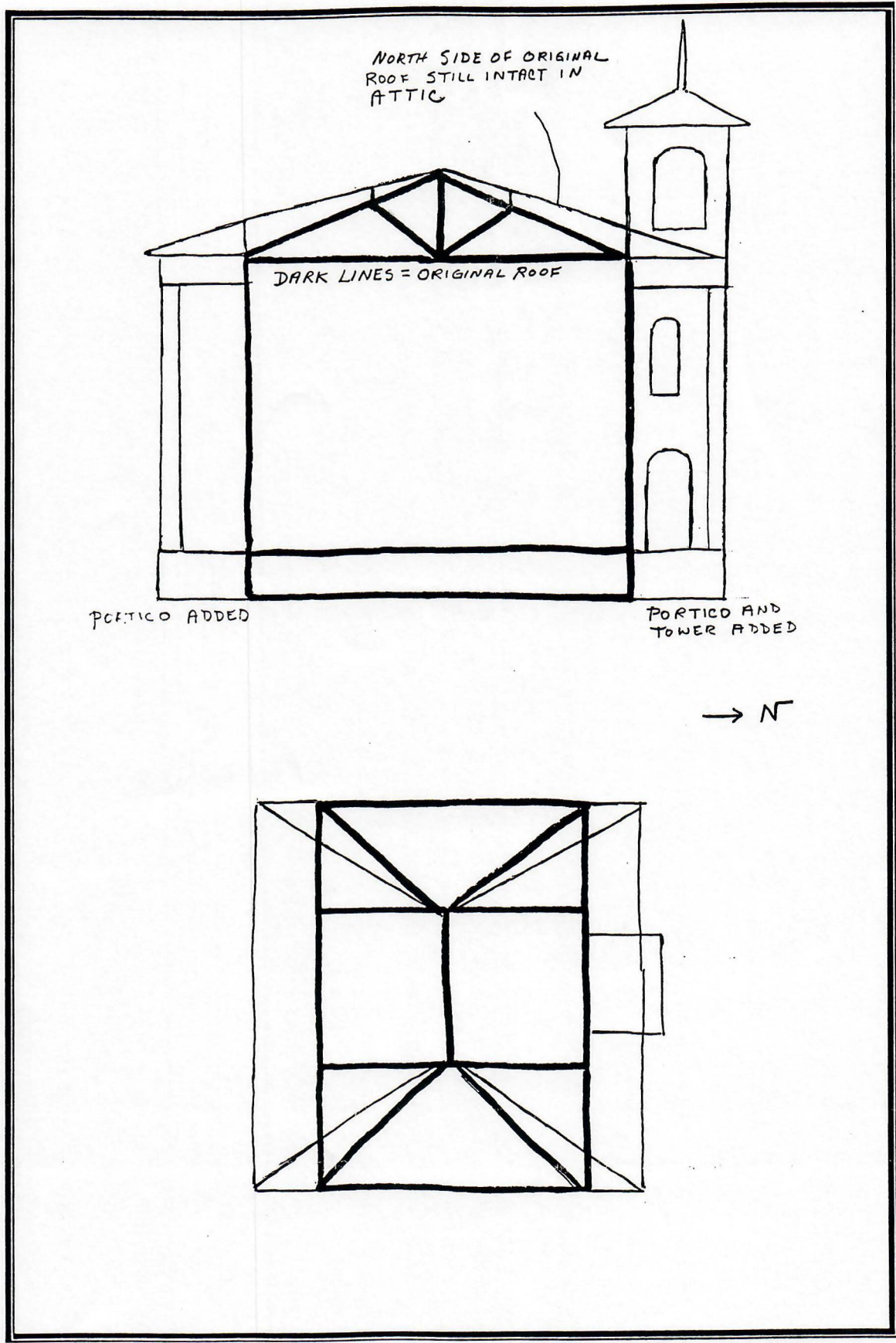


Figure 18 Drish House. Drawing showing original 1837 roof and later roof and tower. Robert O. Mellown. June 2000.

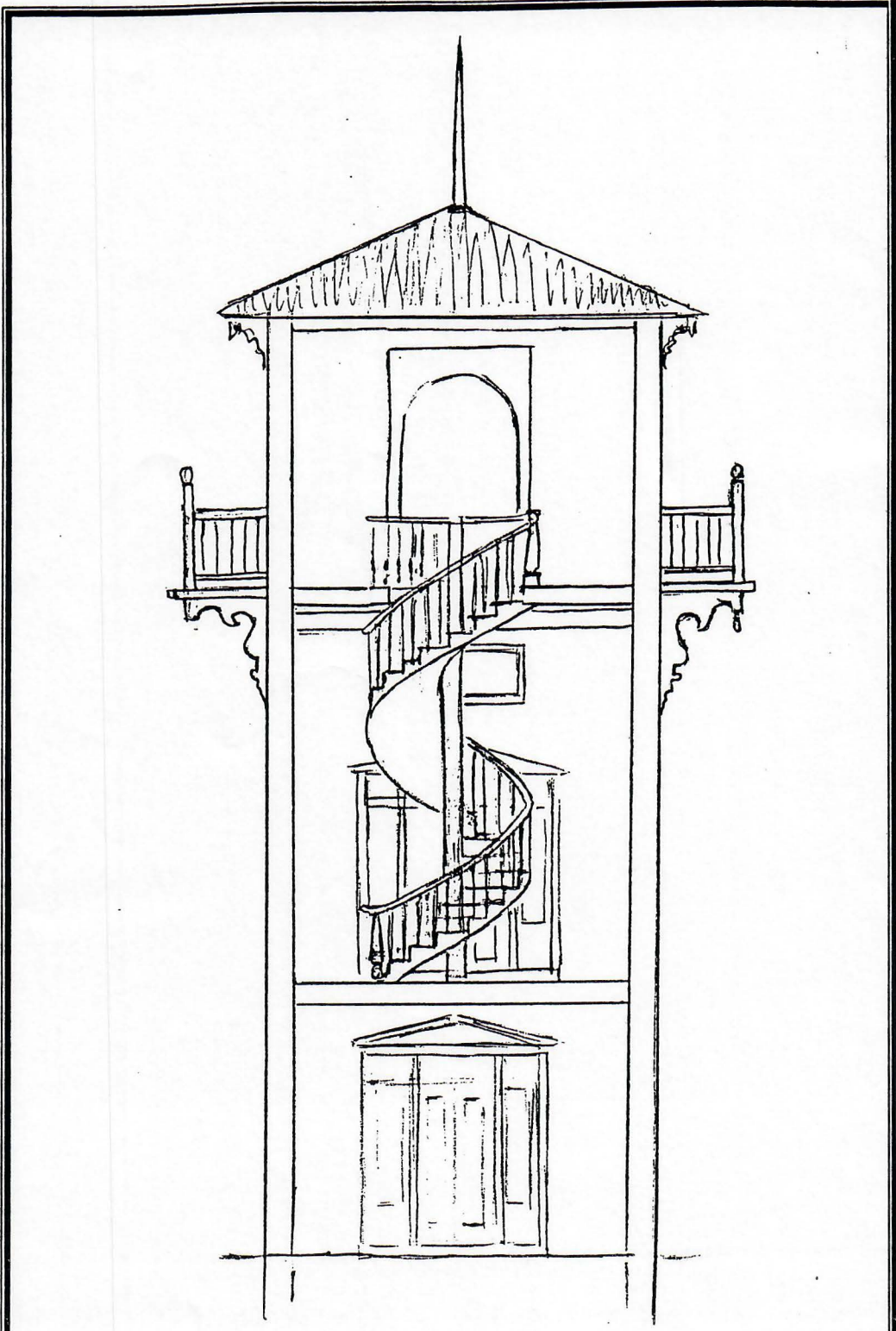


Figure 46

Drish House, Cut away drawing of tower showing demolished spiral staircase. Field notes by Robert O. Mellow, 1996.

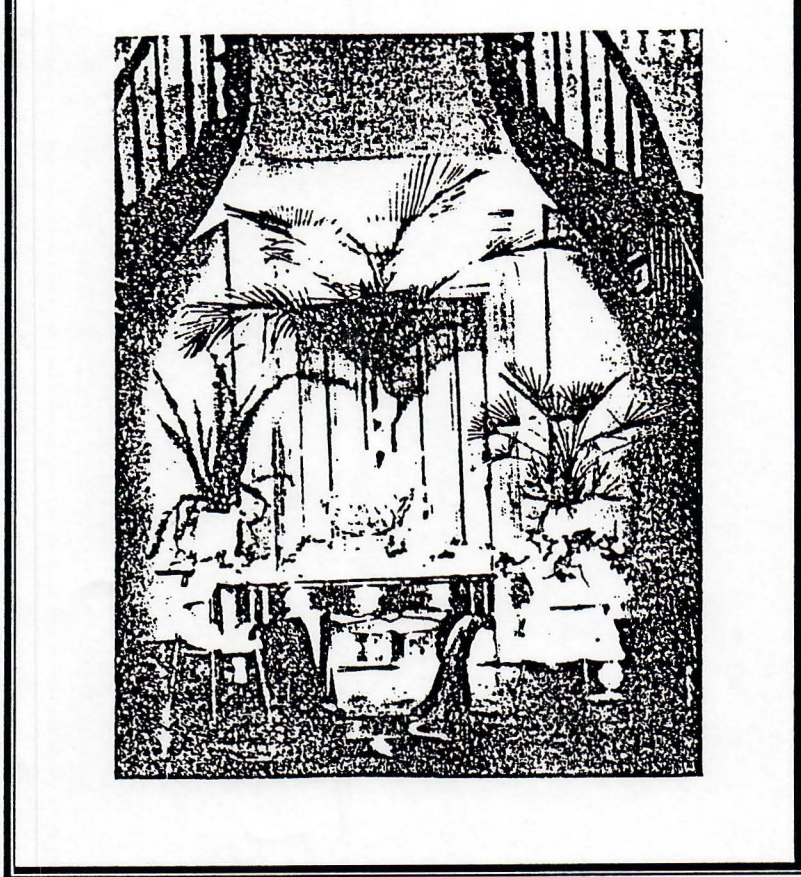


Figure 5

Drish House. Stair hall showing a portion of the original double elliptical staircase in the background. Snedecor—Campbell wedding, April 26, 1905. James G. Snedecor, Genealogy and History of the Alabama Branch of the Snedecor Family Through Thirteen Generations, 1639-1968 (Granada Hills, Cal.: Snedecor, 1968). n.p.

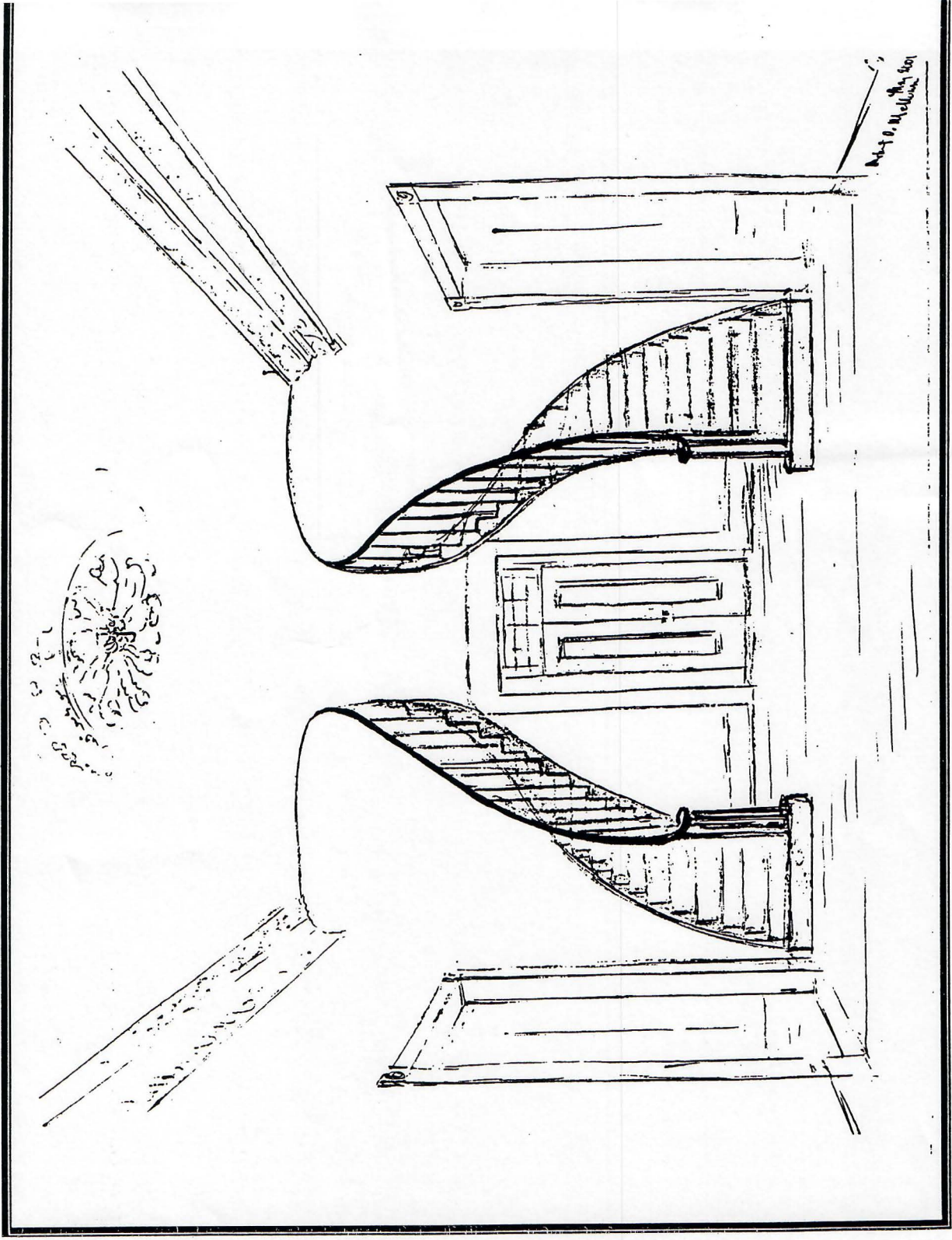


Figure 31 Drish house. Conjectural drawing of the original double staircase. Robert O. Mellown, 2000.

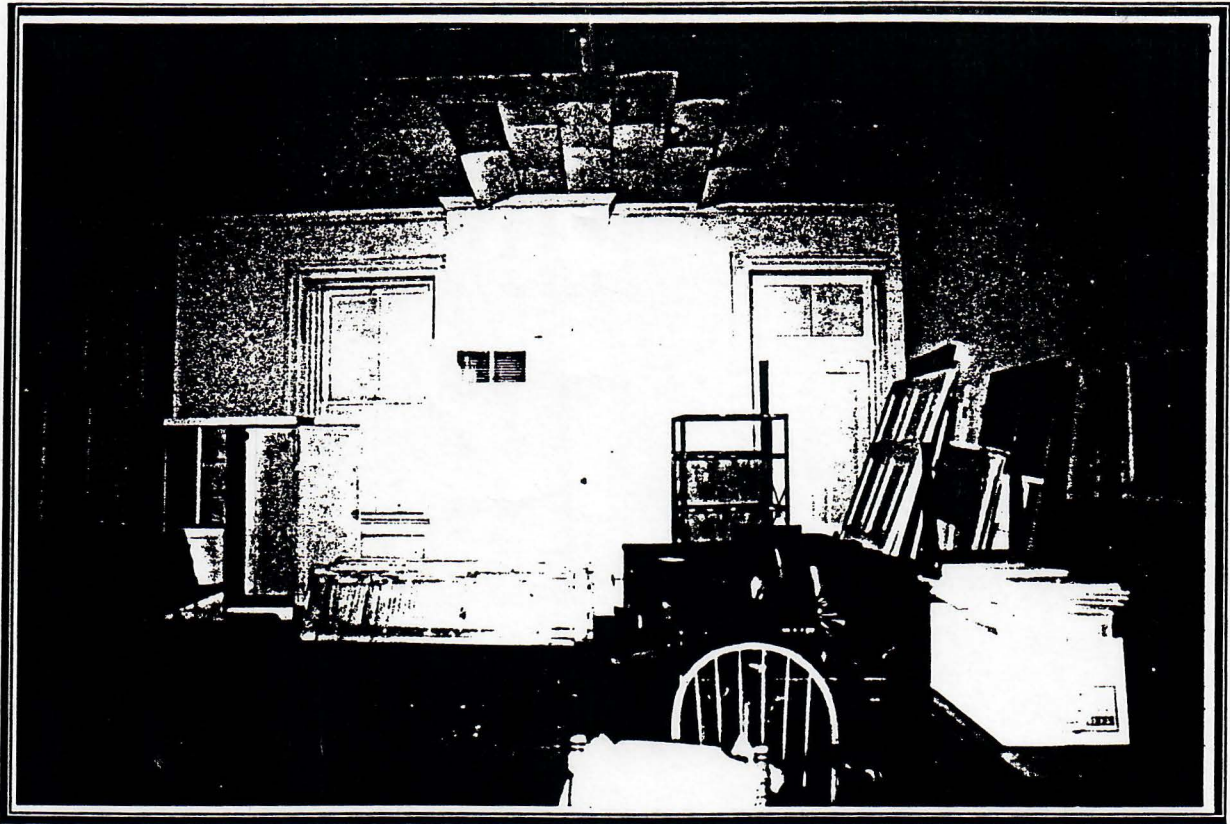
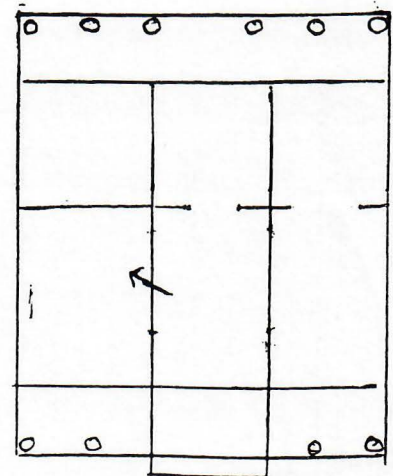


Figure 66 Drish House, Library (NE Room). Used as part of sanctuary by Southside Baptist Church until 1952. Photo by Betsy Hayslip. Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County.



RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION APPROVING A PROFESSIONAL OFFICE USE IN RMF-2
HISTORIC DISTRICT PURSUANT TO SECTION 24-106 OF THE
CODE OF TUSCALOOSA PERTAINING TO HISTORICAL
OR ARCHITECTURAL LANDMARKS

WHEREAS, Red Forge, Inc. has requested permission to use the Marmaduke-Williams House located at 907 17th Avenue as a professional office for a media production company.

WHEREAS, 907 17th Avenue is in an RMF-2H District and a professional office is not allowed in an RMF-2H District; however, it is also in the Druid City Historic District and is eligible for admission pursuant to Section 24-106 of the Code of Tuscaloosa on a finding that (1) a normally permitted use is not economically or practically feasible or would not be in the interest of historical preservation; and (2) the proposed use will tend to promote the maintenance or restoration of the unique, historical or architectural qualities of the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TUSCALOOSA that it hereby makes the following finding:

1. That a normally permitted use in an RMF-2H District is not economically or practically feasible at 907 17th Avenue and will not be in the interest of historical preservation.

2. That the proposed use as a professional office by Red Forge, Inc. will promote the maintenance or restoration of the unique, historical and architectural qualities of the building at 907 17th Avenue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF TUSCALOOSA that approval is granted to Red Forge, Inc. to utilize the property at 907 17th Avenue as a professional office for a media production company in an RMF-2H District pursuant to Section 24-106 of the Code of Tuscaloosa.

DRISH Folder

THIS INSTRUMENT PREPARED BY: *HAAREN WELBORN*
Phelps, Jenkins, Gibson & Fowler
P. O. Box 020848
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35402-0848

SOURCE OF TITLE:
Deed Book 204, Page 436

DESCRIPTION:
Lot #12 in Block 346 in the
Tusc. Coal Iron & Land Co's
Subdivision in the City of Tuscaloosa

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W. Hardy McCollum - Probate Judge
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

STATE OF ALABAMA)
:
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY)

LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY

This Agreement to lease real property is made on the date set forth below and includes the following terms and provisions:

1. PARTIES: The parties hereto are Southside Baptist Church (hereinafter referred to as "the Landlord"), whose address is 2300 17th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401, and Tuscaloosa County Heritage Commission (hereinafter referred to as "the Tenant"), whose address is 1305 Greensboro Avenue, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.

2. LEASE: The real property described on Exhibit "A" attached to and made a part of this Lease ("the Premises") is leased, granted, and demised by the Landlord to the Tenant during the term for rent and on the conditions hereinafter stated.

3. CONSIDERATION: The consideration for this Lease is the payment of One (\$1.00) Dollar by each party hereto to the other upon the execution hereof, the receipt and sufficiency whereof is hereby acknowledged, the payment of the rent required hereby, and the timely performance of the provisions and conditions stated herein.

4. LEASED PROPERTY OR LEASED PREMISES (PREMISES): The real property leased herein is situated in the City of Tuscaloosa, County of Tuscaloosa, State of Alabama, and is described on Exhibit "A" attached hereto and made a part hereof as though fully set out herein.

5. LANDLORD'S TITLE AND QUIET ENJOYMENT BY TENANT:

A. Landlord and Tenant acknowledge that the Property being leased by Tenant is known as the "Drish House", an antebellum home of historical significance to the Tuscaloosa community, which

Tenant desires to restore and make available to the public for public and private meetings, parties, social events, and similar activities. Further, Landlord and Tenant acknowledge that the Church sanctuary and Sunday School building owned by Landlord were constructed around the "Drish House", creating, among other things, a common wall along the [N, S, E, or W] portion of such sanctuary, overhanging roofs of the "Drish House" onto the sanctuary building and the Sunday School building and common use of utilities access, all as depicted on the survey attached hereto as Exhibit "B" and incorporated herein by reference. Subject to such common wall, encroachments and similar circumstances existing at the execution of this lease, all being depicted on the survey attached hereto as Exhibit "B", and subject to Paragraph B below, Landlord warrants, covenants and represents unto Tenant that the property hereby leased to Tenant is free and clear of all liens and encumbrances superior to the leasehold hereby created, except for current taxes, easements, and rights of way presently of record in the Probate Office of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, and that Tenant shall quietly enjoy the Premises without interference by Landlord or by any other person, subject to the covenants, agreements, terms, and provisions and conditions of this lease.

B. Landlord and Tenant acknowledge that Landlord presently uses and shall continue to use the 4.5 foot ~~covered~~ pedestrian walkway which connects the sanctuary to the Sunday School building, which said walkway is located on the property being leased by Landlord to Tenant, and which is marked as "pedestrian easement" on the survey attached hereto as Exhibit "B". For and during the term of this lease (including all renewals and extensions thereof), and only for such period of time as Landlord owns the said sanctuary and Sunday School buildings, Landlord and Tenant agree that Landlord shall, for its members, invitees, and guests, have the non-exclusive, personal right to use the 4.5 foot "pedestrian easement" reflected on Exhibit "B" for the purpose of such members, invitees and guests of Landlord walking to and from the sanctuary and Sunday School building of Landlord. Landlord hereby agrees

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that such easement shall not run with the land, but rather, is personal to Landlord, and shall cease upon Landlord's termination of such use as contemplated herein.

C. Tenant shall have the right to cancel this Lease within thirty (30) days hereof if Tenant has been unable to obtain evidence of Landlord's title to the Premises being free and clear of all encumbrances except as hereinabove stated. Tenant may obtain, at Tenant's expense, a leasehold title insurance policy in whatever coverage amount is desired by Tenant and insuring Tenant's leasehold interest in the Leased Premises and the estimated cost of Tenant's improvements to be good and merchantable, free and clear of all liens and encumbrances except those stated above and subject to the terms and provisions of this Lease. In the event such title policy cannot be obtained by Tenant without exceptions not contemplated herein, then, prior to the termination of this Lease by Tenant, Landlord may elect to proceed to cure the alleged title problems at Landlord's expense.

D. At Tenant's request and expense, Tenant shall execute a short-form memorandum of this Lease. Tenant shall pay the cost of recording fees and to be paid in recording this Lease or a suitable memorandum thereof in the Probate Office of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

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G. TERM: The term of this Lease (hereinafter referred to as the "initial term", to distinguish it from any renewal or extension of the duration of the Lease), shall be for a period of thirty (30) years, commencing on the 24th day of April, 19945 (the "commencement date"). The term "lease year" as hereinafter referred to shall mean a period of twelve (12) consecutive full calendar months. The first lease year shall begin on the "commencement date" of the term hereof, as hereinabove referred to. Each succeeding lease year shall commence upon the anniversary date of the first lease year.

* 7. OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE TERM: If Tenant is in full compliance with all of the terms of this Lease, the Tenant may extend the duration of this Lease for two (2) successive extensions

of thirty (30) years each, under the same terms, conditions and provisions applicable to the initial term. Such right to extend the term of the Lease shall be deemed to have been exercised by the Tenant unless Tenant gives to the Landlord notice in writing of the Tenant's election not to so extend signed by one with authority legally to bind and obligate the Tenant and in the manner provided herein in the paragraph headed "NOTICES" and not sooner than six (6) months prior to nor later than one (1) month prior to the end of the initial term (or any extension term onto which the additional period is to be added).

8. RENT: The annual rental shall be due in advance on the first day of each lease year during the entire initial term of this Lease and also during any extensions of the lease term if options to extend are exercised by Tenant. Tenant agrees to pay to Landlord, as rent for the premises, the sum of One dollar (\$ 1.00) Dollars per year.

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9. USE OF THE PREMISES: The Premises occupied by the Tenant for the operation of its business functions, as well as the business and social functions of any sub-lessees of Tenant, and for any other lawful purpose provided such other use has been reasonably approved by Landlord.

10. TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS: During the term of this Lease, the real property constituting the Premises shall be assessed for ad valorem tax purposes in the name of the Landlord and the improvements to be constructed by Tenant shall be assessed for ad valorem tax purposes in the name of the Tenant. The Landlord agrees to pay all rental and other taxes and assessments levied, charged or assessed to or against this lease and the real property constituting the Premises as well as the ad valorem taxes assessed on the real property; Tenant agrees to pay all ad valorem taxes assessed on the improvements, fixtures and equipment placed on the Premises by Tenant. Landlord shall deliver to Tenant promptly after receipt thereof all tax notices and bills from the Tuscaloosa County Tax Assessor or the Tax Collector for ad valorem taxes assessed against the improvements, fixtures and equipment placed on

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the Premises by Tenant. Tenant shall have the right to contest or review by legal proceedings at Tenant's own cost and expense any tax assessment for the Premises for which Tenant is liable hereunder. If necessary, such proceedings may be in the name of and with the cooperation of Landlord. Nothing herein shall require or be construed to require Tenant to pay any inheritance, income, estate, succession, franchise, gift, excise or profit taxes not specifically mentioned hereinabove that are or may be imposed upon Landlord, and the successors and assigns of Landlord.

11. RESTORATION OF PREMISES BY TENANT: As stated above, Tenant intends to restore the Premises, and at such time as the restoration process begins, Tenant agrees to provide separate utility services (gas, water, electricity, telephone service, sanitary sewer, etc.) to the Premises being leased by Tenant. Tenant agrees that, to the extent possible, such restoration process, and specifically the construction-type work related thereto, will be conducted at times which will not materially interfere with any services or activities being held by the Landlord in the sanctuary or Sunday School buildings. Further, during such restoration process, Landlord, its successors and assigns, grants to Tenant, and its agents, employees, contractors and business invitees, the right to enter upon the property owned by Landlord and surrounding the Premises being leased herein to Tenant, for purposes of completing such restoration of the Premises by Tenant, including, but not limited to, the severing of utility services as between the surrounding property owned by Landlord and the property being leased by Tenant herein and the establishment of separate utilities as between Landlord and Tenant. All expenses related to such restoration shall be paid solely by Tenant.

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12. UTILITIES EXPENSE: The Tenant shall fully and promptly pay for all water, gas, electricity, telephone service, sanitary sewer, and other public utilities of every kind furnished to the Premises; however, Tenant shall not begin paying for such services until such time as the restoration process discussed in the preceding paragraph begins and from such date throughout the term

of this Lease and any extension or renewal thereof and all other costs and expenses of every kind whatsoever in connection with the restoration of the Premises and other improvements and the use and operation of the Premises and all activity conducted on it and the Landlord shall have no responsibility of any kind whatsoever with respect to such charges. Tenant shall maintain the Premises free and clear of all liens and encumbrances, except as may otherwise be permitted under this Lease and except for liens and encumbrances respecting Tenant's equipment, fixtures and other personalty. Landlord shall furnish to Tenant all information available to Landlord with respect to the present location of the existing facilities required to furnish utility services to the Premises. Tenant shall have the right to enter into agreements with utility companies, governmental entities, or nearby land owners creating easements in favor of such parties as are required or useful in order to service the Premises being restored by Tenant. Landlord agrees to consent and further agrees to execute all documents, agreements and instruments reasonably required to take all action in order to effectuate such agreements, all at Tenant's cost and expense.

13. MAINTENANCE BY TENANT: The Tenant shall be responsible for all maintenance of the Premises and structures on the Premises as soon as Tenant begins the restoration process. Tenant shall permit no waste of the Premises, or allow the same to be done, but shall take good care of the same and upon termination of this Lease, Tenant shall surrender quiet and peaceable possession of the Premises and the improvements constructed by Tenant thereon in like good order as at the commencement date of this Lease except for normal wear and tear. In undertaking the restoration process contemplated by Tenant and thereafter in making such other improvements and alterations to the Premises as Tenant may so desire, Tenant shall obtain all necessary building permits or authorizations and shall comply with all applicable laws and regulations and shall keep the Premises free from all liens, or rights of liens, or claims of all persons, firms or corporations performing labor or

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furnishing materials, machinery or fuel thereon or therefor and shall also save Landlord harmless from any cost or expense of any kind in connection therewith, and from any claim, demand, judgment, expenses of litigation and causes of action growing out of or in any way connected with such restoration, alteration or improvement, whether occasioned by Tenant, any contractor, subcontractor or anyone else performing work or involved in such restoration, alteration or improvement, or by anyone else, arising out of any accident, wrong or other occurrence causing or inflicting injury or damage to any person or property whomsoever or whatsoever happening or done, directly or indirectly, in the course of or as a result of such restoration, alteration or improvement. Provided Tenant is not in default hereunder, Tenant may, upon the expiration or termination of this Lease remove fixtures, furniture and decorations, signs, floodlights and other personalty installed by Tenant. Tenant agrees, however, to repair or to restore any damage to the Premises resulting from any such removal at Tenant's sole cost and expense.

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14. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS: Tenant will not knowingly commit or permit to be committed on the Premises any act or thing contrary to any state or federal law or contrary to any rule or regulation prescribed from time to time by any federal, state, county or municipal authority.

15. ZONING: Landlord represents that the Premises are presently zoned ~~(B) Neighborhood Commercial~~ ^{(B) Neighborhood Commercial District}, and Landlord warrants the non-existence of any zoning or other restriction preventing or restricting the use of the Premises as contemplated in this Lease. In the event such zoning or other restriction should become in effect, or be adopted during the term of this Lease preventing Tenant, its successors, assigns or sublessees from using the Premises or any part thereof as permitted herein, Tenant, at its option, may terminate this Lease by providing written notice to Landlord. Thereafter, Tenant shall stand released and discharged of and from all other further liability under this Lease. Alternatively, at Tenant's option and sole expense, Tenant may

elect to pursue obtaining a variance or similar exception to any such zoning or other restriction arising during this Lease, and in such event, Landlord covenants and agrees to assist Tenant in such attempt, including, but not limited to, becoming a party to such proceeding and executing all necessary documents in connection therewith.

16. LEASEHOLD MORTGAGES: The leasehold estate of Tenant may be mortgaged from time to time during the term of this Lease to secure a loan or loans made to Tenant. In this event, Tenant or the leasehold mortgagee or the holder of the note thereof (the "Mortgagee") shall notify Landlord of the placing of any such mortgage.

17. RIGHT OF REFUSAL: In the event that Landlord shall at any time during the term hereof (including any renewals or extensions thereof) desire to sell the demised premises, then Landlord shall offer such demised premises to Tenant on such terms and conditions, including purchase price and payment terms as Landlord shall determine. Tenant shall have thirty (30) days from and after receipt thereof to decide whether or not to purchase the demised premises at such price and on such terms. If Tenant shall give notice of intent not to purchase or shall give no notice within the time herein provided, Landlord shall be free to dispose of the demised premises in accordance with the terms communicated to Tenant. If Landlord does not sell the demised premises in accordance with the terms of the original offer to Tenant, or Landlord wishes to decrease the price or make the terms of said offer more favorable to a buyer, then Landlord must reoffer said demised premises to Tenant in accordance with the procedure set forth above. If Tenant notifies Landlord that it elects to purchase the demised premises at such price, the parties shall enter into a contract of purchase and sale forthwith. Such contract shall provide, among other items, for prorating rentals to date of closing, supplying of title insurance to Tenant by Landlord in the full amount of the purchase price, and conveyance free and clear of easements, restrictions and encumbrances by general

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warranty deed, with transfer taxes paid, properly executed and in form for recording.

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18. CONDEMNATION, EMINENT DOMAIN: In the event all the Premises shall be taken by eminent domain or condemnation, this Lease shall be terminated as of the date of such taking. In the event of a partial taking of the Premises, the Tenant shall have the option to cancel and terminate this Lease if the remaining portion of the Premises shall not, in the judgment of the Tenant, be adequate for the conduct of the Tenant's business therein. If such option is not exercised by the Tenant, the rent payable by the Tenant for such remaining portion of the Premises shall be equitably adjusted. In the event all or any part of the premises shall be taken by eminent domain or condemnation, Landlord shall be entitled to that portion of the condemnation award which represents the full fair market value of the real property so taken without deduction for the value of Tenant's leasehold and a proportionate part of the value of the building renovation and other improvements constructed on the land by Tenant based upon the length of the unexpired term of the Lease at the time of such taking (said unexpired term shall include not only the primary term, but also all of the extended terms as if Tenant has exercised such options to renew and extend) and Tenant shall be entitled to the balance of the award attributable to the value of the building renovation and other improvements. Landlord's proportionate part of the value of the buildings and other improvements shall be equal to the fraction for which the denominator is 90 (the maximum term of this Lease with all extensions) and for which the numerator shall be the number of years, or parts thereof, which have elapsed following the Commencement Date until the condemning authority is entitled to possession of the premises.

19. DESTRUCTION OF THE PREMISES: In the event of partial or total destruction of the structures on the Premises (as they exist prior to restoration by the Tenant) during the term of this Lease, or any renewal thereof, by fire or any other cause, Landlord shall commence the repair of the structures within thirty (30) days of

the loss and shall complete the same in a timely manner. Such partial or total destruction shall not void this Lease. The Tenant shall not be entitled to a proportionate reduction of rent while such repairs are being made. In the event Landlord and any Mortgagee of Landlord fail to repair such structures on the Premises within the time periods provided in this Section for Tenant, then Tenant may terminate this Lease.

20. SIGNS OF THE TENANT: The Tenant may erect and display at its own expense on the Premises signs, advertisements, notices, etc. as the Tenant might wish, if the signs comply with law, regulations applicable to them.

21. LANDLORD'S INDEMNIFICATION: The Landlord shall not be liable for any loss, injury, death or damage to persons or property which at any time may be suffered or sustained by the tenant or by any person who may at any time be using or occupying or visiting the Premises as a result of Tenant's use of the Premises or be in, on or about the same, whether such loss, injury, death or damage shall be caused by or in anyway result from or arise out of any act, omission or negligence of the Tenant or of any occupant, subtenant, visitor or user of any portion of the Premises and the Tenant shall indemnify the Landlord against all demands, claims, liability, loss, or damage whatsoever on account of any such loss, injury, death or damage.

Similarly, the Tenant shall not be liable for any loss, injury, death or damage to persons or property which at any time may be suffered or sustained by the Landlord or by any person who may at any time be using or occupying or visiting the Premises, and specifically the Pedestrian Easement reserved unto the Landlord (as provided in Paragraph 5.B above), as a result of Landlord's use of such Easement, or be in, on or about the same, whether such loss, injury, death or damage shall be caused by or in any way result from or arising out of any act, omission or negligence of the Landlord or of any member or visitor of Landlord or any user of such easement; and the Landlord shall indemnify the Tenant against

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all demands, claims, liability, loss, or damage whatsoever on account of any such loss, injury, death or damage.

22. INSURANCE:

A. LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE: The Tenant, at the Tenant's own cost and expense, will purchase and maintain in effect during the term of this Lease and any extensions or renewals of this Lease, general liability insurance covering the Premises in the amount of at least one million (\$1,000,000.) Dollars or combined single limit BOPD ~~policy for bodily injury or death, and not less than~~ ~~dollars for property damage per accident.~~ ~~Bodily injury insurance may be supplemented by umbrella or excess liability coverage. The amounts of these required coverages shall be periodically increased to provide equivalent coverage during each of the extended terms granted to Tenant.~~ Such liability insurance specifically shall insure the Landlord against all liability hereunder as well as liability imposed by law; and, the Landlord, by name, shall be designated as an "insured" on all such policies.

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B. FIRE AND EXTENDED COVERAGE INSURANCE at the Tenant

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may, but is not required to, obtain at Tenant's expense ~~fire~~ ~~insurance~~ ~~with~~ ~~standard~~ ~~extended~~ ~~coverage~~ ~~for~~ ~~the~~ ~~replacement~~ ~~cost~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~buildings~~ ~~and~~ ~~improvements~~ ~~placed~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~Premises~~ ~~by~~ ~~Tenant~~ ~~as~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~its~~ ~~restoration~~ ~~process.~~ ~~Should~~ ~~all~~ ~~or~~ ~~a~~ ~~part~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~building~~ ~~or~~ ~~improvements~~ ~~be~~ ~~damaged~~ ~~or~~ ~~destroyed~~ ~~by~~ ~~fire~~ ~~or~~ ~~other~~ ~~casualty,~~ ~~Tenant~~ ~~shall~~ ~~be~~ ~~entitled~~ ~~to~~ ~~all~~ ~~of~~ ~~any~~ ~~such~~ ~~proceeds~~ ~~of~~ ~~insurance~~ ~~with~~ ~~respect~~ ~~to~~ ~~such~~ ~~damage~~ ~~or~~ ~~destruction.~~

23. ENTRY BY LANDLORD: The Landlord and the Landlord's representatives may enter the Premises at reasonable times for the purpose of inspecting the Premises and if the Tenant elects not to extend the term of this Lease as provided herein, to show the Premises to prospective purchasers or lessees during the last sixty (60) days of the term of this Lease and any option or extension period hereunder.

24. DEFAULT BY TENANT: If there shall be a default in the payment of rent or any part thereof for more than thirty (30) days

after written notice of such default is given by Landlord to Tenant, or, if there shall be any default in the performance of any other covenant, agreement or condition herein contained for more than thirty (30) days after written notice of such default is given by Landlord to the Tenant, Tenant's rights hereunder may be terminated and the Landlord shall have the right to re-enter or repossess the Premises and the improvements located thereon and dispossess and remove therefrom the Tenant or other occupants thereof, and their effects, without being liable to any action or prosecution therefor. In that case, the Landlord may re-let the Premises and the improvements located thereon or any part thereof as the agent of the Tenant and the Tenant shall pay to the Landlord any difference between the rent reserved and agreed to be paid by the Tenant for the portion of the term remaining at the time of re-entry or repossession and the amount, if any, received or to be received under such reletting for such portion of the term, as the same shall fall due. Following default and the entry by the Landlord, the Landlord shall be under no obligation to account to the Tenant for any rentals received from others by Landlord in excess of the amount required hereunder from Tenant. The acceptance of rent by the Landlord after a violation of a duty or obligation of the Tenant or breach by the Tenant of a condition to this Lease shall not be deemed a waiver of any default that may exist hereunder. The remedies provided for herein shall be cumulative and nothing contained herein shall be construed as restricting or limiting any right that the Landlord may have, to recover damages, or other remedy provided by law, against the Tenant for a breach of this Lease Agreement.

25. EXPENSES OF COLLECTING RENT AND ENFORCING PROVISIONS OF THE LEASE: If either party defaults under this lease, the other party shall have the right to recover reasonable attorneys' fees and costs provided the other party prevails in any action filed in connection with such default.

26. IMPROVEMENTS BY TENANT: The improvements initially constructed by Tenant upon the premises in the manner hereinabove

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set forth, and any and all additional improvements of any kind or nature which may be thereafter constructed on the premises at any time during the term of this Lease will remain the property of Tenant, until the date of the expiration of the Lease Term as set forth hereinabove, or such earlier date that Tenant's rights under this Lease may be terminated by virtue of any default hereunder, at which time, and only at which time, all real property improvements then situated on the Premises shall revert to and become the property of Landlord. During the entire term of this Lease and any extensions or renewals, Landlord shall not be obligated to make any repairs or to maintain the Premises or any improvements constructed thereon.

27. NON-WAIVER OF BREACH: The waiver by either party of, or the failure of either party to take any action with respect to any breach of any provision, covenant or condition contained in this Lease shall not be held or considered to be a waiver by either party of such provision, covenant or condition; nor shall acceptance by either party of rent subsequent to any breach by either party of any provisions, covenant or condition of this Lease be held or considered to be a waiver of any such breach, regardless of such party's knowledge of such preceding breach at the time of the acceptance of the rent payment.

28. NOTICES TO OR BETWEEN PARTIES: Any notice given by one party to the other shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given only if delivered personally or mailed by certified mail in a postage paid envelope addressed to Tenant at Tenant's address as stated in this Lease, to the Landlord at the Landlord's address as stated in this Lease. Any such writing dispatched by United States Mail shall be deemed to have been received by the party to whom it is addressed upon its being placed in the United States Mail, correctly addressed with adequate postage prepaid. However, if either party admits, either in writing or under oath or in any pleading filed in any court, the receipt of any notice, evidence of delivery in accordance with this paragraph shall not be necessary.

29. RECORDATION: An executed copy of this Lease or a suitable memorandum thereof shall be recorded in the Probate Records of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama at Tenant's expense.

30. ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS: The Premises is hereby leased in its "as is" condition, and Landlord makes no covenants, warranties or representations as to the condition or state of the Premises whatsoever. Landlord specifically covenants, warrants and represents that to Landlord's knowledge there are no toxic substances or hazardous wastes on or under the Premises. Tenant shall not allow any toxic substances or hazardous wastes to be stored upon the Premises or utilized in the Tenant's operations on the Premises except in compliance with applicable laws and Tenant's use of the Premises shall fully comply with all applicable land use and environmental laws and regulations.

31. CONTINUATION IN EFFECT: This Lease shall inure to the benefit of and shall be binding upon the heirs, personal representatives, successors and assigns of the parties.

1228 226
Noted in file
DEED Book & Page
PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE
02-31-34 PM
W. Hardy McCollum - Probate Judge
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

32. ENTIRE AGREEMENT; AMENDMENTS: This writing contains the entire and complete Lease and agreement of the parties and supersedes all negotiations and discussions between them. It can be amended or modified only by an instrument in writing which expressly refers to it and which is executed by authorized officers or agents of the Landlord and Tenant or by the Landlord and Tenant themselves. The invalidity of any provision of this Lease other than the essential business provisions contained herein including without limitation the amount of rent, the term, the extended terms and other such provisions affecting the monetary obligations of Tenant and Landlord, shall in no way affect the validity of any other provision. This Lease has been negotiated by the parties and shall not be construed to any extent against such party as may be deemed to have prepared the same. This Lease shall inure to the benefit and be binding upon the parties hereto and their respective successors and assigns. Each provision hereof shall be deemed a covenant and condition and shall run with the land. The captions or headings of the paragraphs herein are utilized for the purpose

1228 227

of ready reference only and shall not be construed to affect or modify in any way the text of the agreement itself.

EXECUTED under seal by the parties hereto in duplicate and in counterparts for assembly into two complete documents, each of which for all purposes shall be deemed and provable as an "original", as of the 24th day of April, 1995.

LANDLORD:

SOUTHSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

By: Cecil Bonner

TENANT:

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY HERITAGE COMMISSION

By: Steve A. Johnson

STATE OF ALABAMA)
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY)

1228 227
Recorded in Above
04/18/95 02:51:41 PM
Notary Public, State at Large

I, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that Cecil Bonner, whose name as Chairman of Tuscaloosa Southside Baptist Church, is signed to the foregoing instrument, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of said instrument, he, as such officer and with full authority, executed the same voluntarily for and as the act of Southside Baptist Church.

GIVEN under my hand and official seal of office on this the 24th day of April, 1995.

Mary C Luer
Notary Public in and for the
State of Alabama at Large
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE AT LARGE
My Commission Expires June 7, 1995

STATE OF ALABAMA)
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY)

I, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for the State of Alabama at Large, do hereby certify that Steve A. Johnson, whose name as Chairman of Tuscaloosa County Heritage Commission, is signed to the foregoing instrument, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of said instrument, he, as such officer and with full authority, executed the same voluntarily for and as the act of Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society.

GIVEN under my hand and official seal of office on this the 24th day of April, 1995.

Mary C Luer
Notary Public in and for the
State of Alabama at Large
NOTARY PUBLIC, STATE AT LARGE
My Commission Expires June 7, 1995

EXHIBIT "A"

1228 228
Recorded in Above
DEED Book & Page
01/18/96 02:51:48 P:
W. Hardy McCollum - Probate Judge
Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

1228 231

Exhibit C

Requested amendments of the Irish House Lease

The Board of the Southside Baptist Church has requested the following be amended to the lease agreement between the Church and the HCTC

1. The Church will be held harmless should any workmen be injured on the job during the restoration and repair of the structure.
2. No alcoholic beverages be served
3. The Church has the right to reject any inappropriate tenant.

The HCTC Board has requested the following clause be added to the lease agreement

The cost of improvements and repairs to the portion of the Southside Baptist Church commonly known as "The Irish House" will be amortized over 30 years. At any time during that period, should the Church wish to dissolve the lease agreement, the amount of those improvement investment remaining is due and payable to the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County, or, if that body is no longer operating, to the City of Tuscaloosa.

- Payment schedule and agreement is to be negotiated within 60 days of the announced dissolution of the lease.

1228 231
 Recorded in Above
 REED Book & Page
 01/18/96 02:52:10 PM
 W. Hardy McCollum - Probate Judge
 Tuscaloosa County, Alabama
 Cashier: MAM Total: 51.50
 BK/Pgs: 1208-213 NO TAX
 REC RECORDING FEES 48.50
 SOT SOURCE OF TITLE 1.00
 PJF PROBATE FEES 2.00

2001 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT
TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

OFFICERS

President Elect: Rosemarie Childress

First Vice President: Barbara Burgess

Secretary: Ann Henderson

Treasurer: Jack DeWitt

Parliamentarian: Pam Mantle

Historians: Sarah Wiggins and Jim Harrison III

BOARD MEMBERS, 2001-2004

Rosemarie Childress

Camille Cook

Evans Fitts

Jim Johnson

Emma Jean Melton

John Murdoch

David Nelson

Frances Pool

Sarah Wiggins

NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2002

Sandra Dockery

Claire Friday

Harriet Walker

Rosemarie Childress

Vassar Hemphill

Pam Mantle

CENTURY CLUB: Jim Johnson and

Jacqueline Morgan

ENDANGERED STRUCTURES: David Nelson

REVEALING A HERITAGE: Emma Jean Melton

Nominating Committee for 2001: Cal Wilson, Rosemarie Childress, Vassar Hemphill, Dena Prince and Barbara Burgess. Ex Officio: Pam Mantle, Hannah Brown

INCOMING PRESIDENT: Cal Wilson was elected last year.

The following board members will continue to serve:

Terms to expire in 2002

Ken Aycock

Barbara Burgess

Celeste Burnum

Jack DeWitt

Ben Fields

Sandy Gordon

Pam Mantle

Jacqueline Morgan

Cal Wilson

Terms to expire in 2003

Bee Cooper

Jim Harrison

Vassar Hemphill

Ann Henderson

Charles Hilburn

Judy McNutt

Ditsy Partlow

Michael Ursic

Suzanne Wolfe

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Events: Heritage Week 2001

Homes Tour, Church tour, lunch and lecture, three parties.
Presentation of the Tuscaloosa Belles
First Warner Art Tour
Victorian Society
Auction
Century Club Party
Awards Banquet
Annual Meeting

Grants and gifts

MAAM \$60,000.00
Battle-Friedman House \$50,000.00
Battle-Friedman House, Friedman furniture
Many smaller donations

Memberships:

18 Grand Benefactors, a new category of membership, 2 new life members,
274 Century Club memberships (includes Belles), 98 regular memberships.
Tuscaloosa Belles: 42 Seniors, 44 Juniors

Employees:

New assistant at the Murphy African-American Museum: Christina Harris
Docents at the Battle-Friedman House:
Marsha Boening, Ethelda Potts (new), Camella Mayfield (new)
Hannah Brown continues as director.

Hours of opening:

Battle-Friedman House: 10-12 and 1-4 Tuesday through Saturday. 1-4 Sunday
Murphy-Collins House (MAAM): 10-12 and 1-4 Tuesday through Friday.
Old Tavern: 8.30- noon, 1 - 5.00 Tuesday through Friday mostly.

Other activities:

Four issues of The Preservationist
Grounds and buildings maintained and inventories improved.
Tours conducted throughout the year at MC, BF and OT
Hundreds of inquiries from the public, media etc. responded to.
Work on the web site progressing. Check soon at WWW.HistoricTuscaloosa.org
Efforts made to preserve endangered structures:
Fire Station No. 1 and the Glascock House
Worked with other organizations: Alabama Preservation Alliance, Alabama
Historical Commission, Tuscaloosa Area Museums Association, Jemison Van De
Graaff Mansion Foundation, Arts Council of Tuscaloosa etc.

MINUTES

Annual Meeting of The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society June 2, 2000

The Annual Meeting of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society was held at 5:30 p.m. on June 22, 2000, at the Jemison House. Society board members present were Bennett, Brown, Burgess, Burnum, Cook, Cooper, DeWitt, Fields, Fitts, Gordon, Henderson, Johnson, McNutt, Melton, Monfore, Wiggins, Wilson, and Wolfe. A total of thirty-four society members attended. After a reception at 5:30 President Evans Fitts called the business meeting to order at 6:15.

Acting Director Hannah Brown reviewed the budget item by item with society members. The membership approved the budget for the forthcoming year.

Anne Henderson, chairman of the Nominating Committee, presented her report:

President: Pam Mantle
President Elect: Cal Wilson
Vice President: Bee Cooper
Secretary: Sarah Wiggins
Treasurer: Jack DeWitt
Parliamentarian: Evans Fitts
Historian: Cal Wilson
Board Members, terms to expire September 2003
Bee Cooper James Harrison III Vassar Hemphill
Charles Hilburn Judy McNutt Ditsy Partlow
Micky Ursic Anne Henderson Suzanne Wolfe
Board Members, terms to expire September 2001
David Nelson Rosemarie Childress
Board Member, term to expire September 2002
Jacqueline Morgan
Century Club Chairman: Jim Johnson and Ann Patton
Endangered Structures: Cal Wilson and David Nelson
Murphy African-American Museum: Emma Jean Melton
Nominating Committee: Cal Wilson Chairman,
Dena Prince, Vassar Hemphill, Barbara Burgess
Rosemarie Childress

No nominations were made from the floor, and the report of the Nominating Committee was approved.

President Fitts gave special recognition to Legislator Bryant Melton for his success in obtaining an appropriation of \$50,000 for the Murphy African-American Museum.

Cal Wilson thanked Fitts for his leadership of the society for the past two years and presented a gift on behalf of the society members.

Fitts thanked Acting Director Brown for her efforts for the society during the past year.

Fitts then presented Dr. David McElroy who introduced the speaker for the evening, Daniel Vivian of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Vivian spoke on the subject "New Millennium and New Challenges in Preservation."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah W. Wiggins

City of Tuscaloosa

ALVIN P. DUPONT
Mayor

COUNCILMEN

WILLIAM LANFORD
President Pro-Tem
District 6

CHARLES STEELE, Jr.
District 1

JOHN H. ENGLAND, Jr.
District 2

JERRY PLOTT
District 3

ED MONTGOMERY
District 4

SAMMY WATSON
District 5

THOMAS C. DOCKERY
District 7

POST OFFICE BOX 2089
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA 35403
205/349-2010

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 16, 1988

TO: Betsy Hayslip, Heritage Commission

FROM: Evan Williams, CPDD *Evan*

RE: Drish House

I have enclosed the copies of my photographs of the Drish House. Unfortunately I did not get one of the cat.(ugh!)

I have also enclosed a copy of the tax map for the Drish House area and a list of the property owners with the present appraised value of the house. The owners names may not be current, I believe that one or two of the properties have changed hands very recently, but this can still give us an idea of the situation there. When the time comes to begin to contact the owners we will do another check to see that we have the right people.

I have colored in the area that I think we could build a project out of. The large area with Greensboro frontage could be used for a new office complex. The other areas would serve as a buffer zone to create the correct environment around the house. The area in block 12 that borders 23rd Avenue is an easement that we would have to acquire from Roy Madison.

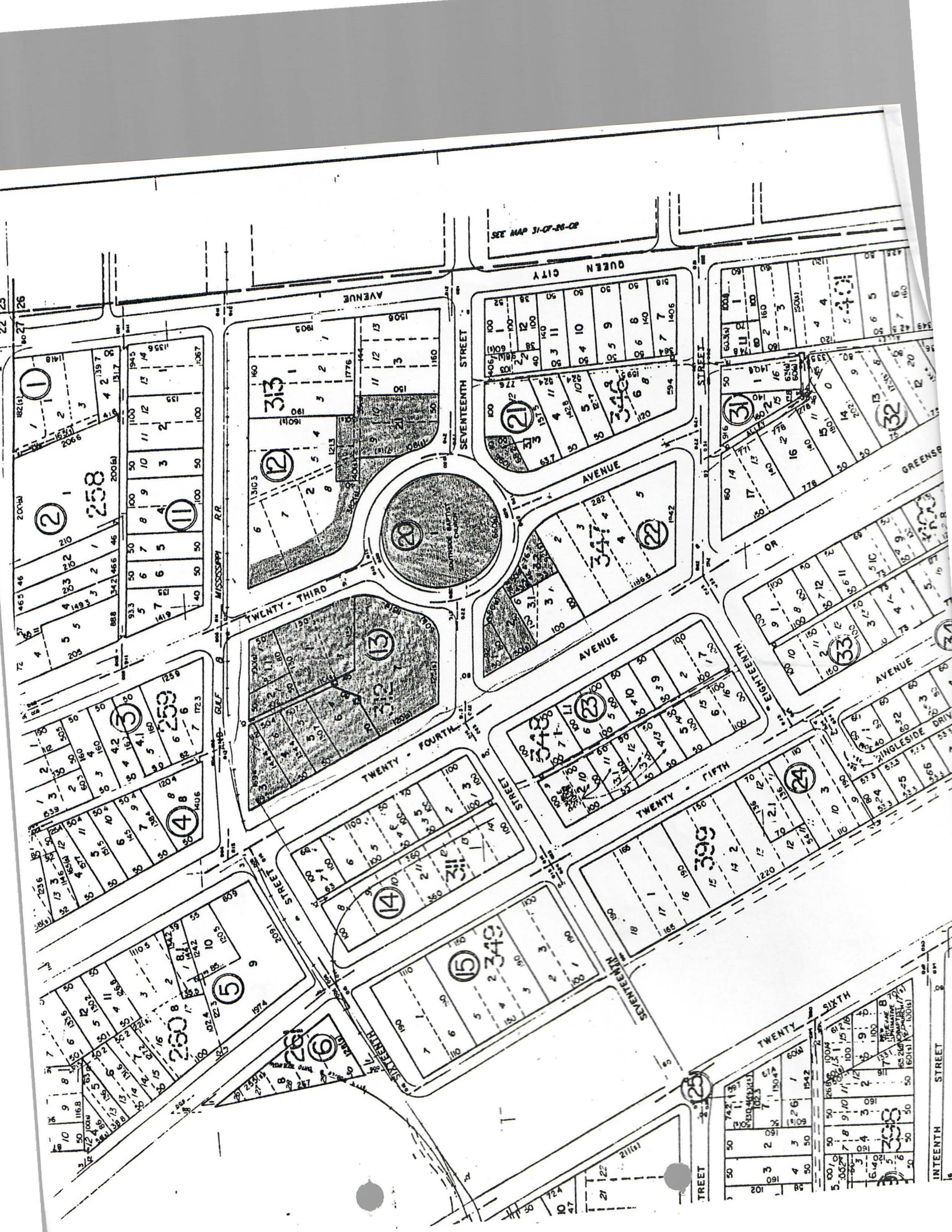
See what you think and let me know if you need anything.

DRISH HOUSE
PROPERTY OWNERSHIP RECORD

<u>ID NUMBER</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>APPRAISED VALUE</u>
31-08-27-1-12-1	Madison Masonry	\$170,600
31-08-27-1-12-2	Roy V. Madison	\$175,540**
31-08-27-1-12-2.1	William R. Tillery	\$47,550*
31-08-27-1-12-3	Roy V. Madison	\$179,130
31-08-27-1-13-1	Elizabeth B. Cummings	\$18,500*
31-08-27-1-13-1.1	no longer listed	*
31-08-27-1-13-2	William P. Gray	\$15,060*
31-08-27-1-13-3	Morris Latham	\$19,690*
31-08-27-1-13-4	Joe G. & Julia C. Burns	\$24,720*
31-08-27-1-13-5	William P. Gray	\$16,760*
31-08-27-1-13-6	Columbus Marble Works	\$39,230*
31-08-27-1-13-7	Elizabeth Cummings	\$65,570*
31-08-27-1-20	Southside Baptist Church	\$478,930*
31-08-27-1-21-3	Imogene Wright Duren	\$78,070
31-08-27-1-21-3.1	Jamer Herman Duren	\$41,450*
31-08-27-1-21-4	Jimmie E. Smelley	\$15,020
31-08-27-1-21-5	Livia E. Gooden	\$17,320
31-08-27-1-21-6	Clayton Strickland	\$22,700
31-08-27-1-22-1	Edith Garrison & Wagner Shoes	\$40,560*
31-08-27-1-22-2	Clarence T. Hellum, Sr.	\$64,890*
31-08-27-1-22-3	Belle Bradshaw	\$138,490
31-08-27-1-22-3.1	Belle Bradshaw	- *
31-08-27-1-22-3.2	no longer listed	*
31-08-27-1-22-4	First National Bank	\$237,150

* Property highlighted on map

**Easement highlighted on map



SEE MAP 31-07-38-02

QUEEN CITY AVENUE

AVENUE

SEVENTEENTH STREET

TWENTY-THIRD AVENUE

AVENUE

TWENTY-FOURTH AVENUE

AVENUE

TWENTY-FIFTH AVENUE

AVENUE

TWENTY-SIXTH AVENUE

MISSISSIPPI R.R.

GLF

STREET

STREET

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MEMORANDUM:

TO: Heritage Commission Members and Guests

FROM: Betsy B. Hayslip *BH*

WHAT: Regular Meeting of the Heritage Commission

WHEN: Monday, December 12, 1988, 4:30 p.m.

WHERE: Tuscaloosa County Library, Rotary Room

The Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County will hold its regular meeting on Monday, December 12, 1988, at 4:30 p.m. in the Rotary Room of the Tuscaloosa County Library located at the foot of Queen City Avenue on River Road.

You are invited to the December meeting at the library for an informal video tour of the Drish House.

The once remarkable example of combination of Greek Revival and picturesque elements is located at 2300 17th Street (in the traffic circle at the intersection of 17th Street and 23rd Avenue) and is now sandwiched between two red brick buildings all of which house the Southside Baptist Church. Erected in the early 1830's; reputedly designed by state architect, William Nichols. The two story stucco covered brick building has a hipped roof extending over full-length porticos. The rear portico is supported by a Tuscan colonnade. The front portico has an Ionic colonnade with a three-story Italianate tower in the center. The tower, embellished with Greek Revival style detail and bracketed cornice was a later addition. Dr. Drish, the owner was a Tuscaloosa physician and erstwhile building contractor and owner of skilled slave craftsmen who evidently executed the interior elaborate plaster work. The mansion originally stood at the end of a tree-lined lane extending to now-demolished gate and porter's lodge at the present 23rd Ave-15 St intersection. The house was photographed by Walker Evans in the 1930's and is documented by the HABS collection. Legend has several ghosts and mysterious happenings associated with the house.





F. LAWRENCE OAKS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-5101



TELEPHONE NUMBER
242-3184

November 18, 1992

Dr. David Nelson
600 University Boulevard E
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401

Dear Dr. Nelson:

In response to your inquiry on November 16, the Drish House in Tuscaloosa was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage on July 31, 1975. Our records do not indicate that it is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places. Since talking with you on the phone, I checked the district nominations to see if the Drish House is located within a historic district. I do not find it included in a district nomination either.

I am enclosing the appropriate forms for nominating a property to the National Register of Historic Places. Informative brochures and a Guide to Researching Old Buildings in Alabama are also attached. If you have questions concerning the National Register process, you may contact Melanie Betz of our office. She is coordinator of both the Alabama and National Register programs.

As you requested, I am sending you a listing of properties from Hale and Tuscaloosa Counties that are included in the National Register and the Alabama Register. If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

I will inform Bob Gamble that you will touch base with him in the near future regarding the Drish House nomination.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hinson
National Register Secretary

CH/s
Enclosures

◆ The Preservationist ◆

Volume 9, No. 3

A Publication of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society

April 1994

TCPS and Heritage Commission to become owners of Drish House

PENDING FINALIZATION of details, the New Southside Baptist Church has agreed to deed the Drish House to the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County and to the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society. On February 17, the TCPS board voted to accept joint ownership and to contribute up to \$10,000 to help restore the roof and the exterior.

The house has a rich history. According to architectural historian Robert Mellown, it was built about 1834-36 by Dr. John R. Drish, a prominent physician and building contractor who worked closely with state architect William Nichols, designer of the original University of Alabama campus. Quite likely, Nichols participated in the design of Drish's house.

In the 1850s, not to be outdone by Robert Jemison, Jr., who was building a fashionable Italianate mansion on Greensboro Avenue, Drish remodeled his own house in the Italianate style, adding a tower and ornamental bracketed cornices to the earlier Greek Revival plan. Like Jemison, Drish used the best materials available, including massive first growth heart pine timbers and sandstone window and door sills.

Following the death of Drish and his wife, the house was bought by Judge Cochran in the 1880s, and later it became the Jemison School. By the 1930s the school had fallen on hard times and the house had been purchased by the Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company. In this form, it was recorded by the internationally known photographer Walker Evans. The wrecking company gutted the interior of the house and filled it



Photographed by renowned photographer Walker Evans in the 1930s, the Drish House is one of the best known nineteenth-century homes in Alabama. (William Stanley Hoole Special Collections Library, University of Alabama)

with spare car parts. The house was later rescued by the South Side Baptist congregation, which originally used it as a sanctuary. In the early 1950s, the congregation built a new auditorium and red brick Sunday school rooms flanking the house.

Since then, the mansion has been little used, and today the newly rejuvenated church has generously agreed to deed it to Tuscaloosa County's two preservation organizations.

Remember Heritage Week, April 14 - 17. Heritage Week is the primary fundraiser for the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society.

Marmaduke Williams House, one of oldest, rarest in county

THE MARMADUKE WILLIAMS House on Seventeenth Avenue is for sale. This Federal-era house, complete with original woodwork and mantels is one of the last survivors of its kind in Tuscaloosa County and the only house of its type within the Tuscaloosa city limits. The age and importance of the house gave impetus to the creation of the Druid City Historic District, and it remains today one of the most singular houses in the District.

The origins of the house are uncertain, according to architectural historian Robert Mellown, but it was probably built about 1827. The most distinguished resident of the house was Marmaduke Williams, who resided here during the 1830s.

Williams was born in Caswell County, North Carolina, in 1774. Trained as a lawyer, he served three terms in the North Carolina legislature, where he succeeded his brother, Robert Williams, who had been appointed governor of the Mississippi Territory.

In 1810 Marmaduke Williams moved to the Mississippi Territory, settling first in Huntsville, and in 1818, in Tuscaloosa. A member of the 1819 Constitutional Convention of Alabama, Williams also ran for governor, losing to William Wyatt Bibb.

He served in the Alabama legislature from 1821 to 1839, was county judge of Tuscaloosa County, 1833-42, and was a member of the University of Alabama board of trustees from the institution's incorporation in 1821 to 1840.

(continued on page 2, col. 2)

Christmas Open Houses Great Success: Structures Committee Report

THE TCPS CHRISTMAS open houses on December 5, 1993, were a great success and all volunteers reported that they thoroughly enjoyed preparing for the events and look forward to helping with other TCPS projects.

Volunteers who worked to decorate, provide refreshments and serve as hosts at the Old Tavern were Betty Jo Watkins (volunteer co-ordinator), Barbara Tarwater, Melinda Sutton, Mary Nealens, Pat McFarland, Martha Williams, Anne Price, Mary Christian (story teller), Trish Sanford and Elizabeth Tennyson. The Tavern had 75-80 visitors and the Tavern gift shop took in \$700 in sales.

At the African-American Museum: Ruthie Pitts (volunteer co-ordinator), Dorothy Lee, Lizzie Pullom, Bill Crawford, Ila Glenn, Rosemary Buffer (choral director), Laura Cameron and Lou Mims. Between 75 and 100 persons attended the open house.

At the Battle-Friedman House: Emily Bliss (volunteer co-ordinator), Sue Simpson, Diane Bull, Johnnie Killingsworth, Norma Newton, Cynthia Thomas, Bennie Ross, Florence Huthnance (creator and donor of tree ornaments). Sue Looney, Stella Gregory (pianist), Ernestine Jackson, Roscoe Shamblin, Margaret Roberts (and other members of the Worthwhile Study Club. The Battle Friedman House had about 35 visitors.
—by Lee Rahe

**UPDATE:
BATTLE-FRIEDMAN HOUSE**

All structural work on the house is now completed except the replacement of marble paving on the front porch. This will be done very soon using the original marble and several replacement pieces. Upon completion of this work the contractor will clean up the site and repair any damage which might have been done to the shrubbery, grass etc.

WILLIAMS, continued from page 1

In 1798 Williams married Agnes Payne Harris. Her ancestors had landed at Jamestown, Virginia, with other cavaliers after the execution of Charles I. Mrs. Williams was the first cousin of Dolly Payne Madison, wife of President James Madison.

Within the past year, the Marmaduke Williams house has suffered a fire, but fortunately the damage was not severe and the house remains as solid as ever. The heart pine floors and woodwork survive, as do the doors and finely detailed mantels, waiting for an owner who will give the house the love and attention it deserves.

For information call Revis Hall,
Hall Ray Realty Company 758-7777
Financing available.

Let's all work together to get historically significant real estate into the hands of responsible, historically sensitive owners.

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT REAL ESTATE

Alston House 1021 Queen City Avenue
Gene Wilhite 345-0116 or 752-7807

"Caplewood," c. 1836 Greek Revival
815 17th. Avenue
Presently 6 apartments. \$145,900
Tommy Brooker 345-3801

Harrison House
1220 Queen City Avenue
by owner \$192,500
Scott & Diane Tucker 345-9302

1118 Lurleen Wallace Blvd
Lynch Realty 752-0071

**REPORT:
Endangered Structures Committee**

As the new chairman of the Endangered Structures Committee, I am excited about working to preserve Tuscaloosa County's rich past. David Nelson, last year's chairman, has been tremendously helpful in getting basic data. This year, the ESC will continue to compile a comprehensive listing of endangered structures in the county. In the planning stages is a process to document, analyze, and then recommend a course of action for the structures.

We need to get the word out to the general public about endangered structures. To that end, we are considering developing a newsletter for realtors. If you are concerned about a structure please call me at 391-2250. Remember, historic properties may be anything from a fine old house to a barn, a bridge, a school, or an archaeological site. One of the properties we are looking at now is a school house in Hulls, Alabama. Also be sure to check the listing of available real estate in the column to the left.

—by Bruce Bizzoco

TREES IN HISTORIC DISTRICT



The city of Tuscaloosa recently obtained a grant from the Alabama Forestry Commission to plant trees in various parts of Tuscaloosa including Queen City Avenue, Thirteenth Street and Evergreen Cemetery. TCPS board member Lisa Algieri, a member of the city planning department, says that many of these are flowering trees, planted wherever possible in conjunction with large canopy oaks. Choice of the trees was made in consultation with a landscape architect

Battle-Friedman House Acquires Fine Antique Linens

Report of the Acquisitions Committee

According to Connie O'Reilly, chair of the acquisitions committee, the Battle-Friedman House has recently acquired several remarkable pieces of antique linen, the gift of Virginia Coffman Dear Powers. At the suggestion of TCPS member Charlotte McEachin, Mrs. Powers made the gift to the society earlier this year, several weeks before her death. Among the gifts are a couple of fine linen tablecloths, a crib quilt, and a star quilt, which still has the cotton seeds in it and which, according to Mrs. Powers' family history, was made by slaves.

One of the more exceptional pieces is a Civil War-era crazy quilt which features a silk embroidered centerpiece made from the wedding dress of Mrs. Powers' grandmother. Also in the quilt, are pieces from the same ancestor's "second day" dress.

Another piece of special interest is an early handmade Chenille knotted bedspread with the date 1837 embroidered on it. All pieces will be used or displayed in the Battle-Friedman House.

Don't forget to shop at the Old Tavern Gift Shop where members always receive a 10% discount. Popular items include storybook dolls and cards for all occasions. Also available are prints of old Tuscaloosa, books about the city and the state, including the popular Tuscaloosa and Past Horizons. Many items are on sale.

ALICE MCLEAN STEWART AWARD FOR TUSCALOOSA BELLES

Amy Grimes, advisor for the Tuscaloosa Belles, has instituted a new award to be given each year to the outstanding young woman among the Tuscaloosa Belles. The award is to be named for Alice McLean Stewart, long-time member of the Preservation Society and the driving force behind the founding of the Tuscaloosa Belles.

Benefits of membership in the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society include free admission to all TCPS landmarks, invitations to special events throughout the year, discounts in the Old Tavern gift shop. Century Club members also receive invitations to annual Century Club events and are eligible to nominate members to the Tuscaloosa Belles.

RESERVATION RATES

Battle-Friedman House

Luncheons,, teas, receptions, weddings, parties, etc..

For the first six hours:

Up to 300 persons.....\$350.00
 Over 300 persons.....\$450.00
 \$50.00 for each subsequent hour.
 Corkage fee.....\$ 50.00
 Other permitted uses of the house:
 \$50.00 per hour (minimum of two hours after 4:00 p.m.)

Old Tavern

Wedding or reception.....\$150.00
 Wedding and reception....\$175.00
 Parties.....\$150.00
 Additional (per hour).....\$ 35.00

Rates on both houses are discounted 20% for members of the TCPS. For reservations , call 758-2238.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM OPENS IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Shelton State Community College is offering a certificate program in Historic Preservation designed to assist students in recognizing career opportunities in the field . The program will also provide an educational link to preservation degrees offered by four year colleges. Homeowners, community planners, members of Historical Architecture Review Boards, Historic Commissions, and local governments are invited to participate in this program. Historic preservation is an increasingly important part of modern community development both in cities and in rural areas.

For the 1994 Summer Term, Skyland Campus is offering two courses:

1. HUM 299.50 - History and Theory of Historic Preservation, Tuesday evenings at 5.30 p.m. in the Life Writing Center. Designed to introduce students to the history and theory of the historic preservation movement. Various activities are planned to familiarize students with the changes that have characterized the preservation movement since 1800. Instructor: Jeff Mansell

2. HUM 299.51 - Preservation Law, Zoning and Taxes. Thursday evenings in the Life Writing Center. A study of major court cases recognizing the power and restrictions in historic preservation law, tax laws and incentives, as well as the relationship between zoning laws and preservation in the courts. Instructor: Attorney Katie Ferguson

Reduced tuition available for those over 60 years of age.

For further information call Katherine Alexander, 391-2389.

President's Message

RELECTING UPON the first half of the year, I believe that the Society is accomplishing several of the goals that were established last September. These accomplishments are the result of industrious efforts by many Society members and your Board of Directors. I am encouraged by this level of participation and am confident that the Society's successes will continue.

One of the highlights of the year was the Open House at the landmarks during Christmas. The open house event, which was coordinated by Lee Rahe, featured beautiful decorations and the warm ambiance associated with the holiday season. Many thanks to all the volunteers. The reward for all of the hard work was the enjoyment experienced by the more than 200 people who attended.

The Society is most appreciative of Cynthia Thomas' recent luncheon reception honoring Helen Blackshere. Mrs. Blackshere is the author of a new book about Tuscaloosa and several of its prominent families. The Society is trying to arrange a reception during Heritage Week to publicize this fine oral history.

The Society's membership is growing thanks to the efforts of David Nelson and his membership committee. The Society extends a warm welcome to all new members.

Plans and activities for Heritage Week are well underway. The list of private homes for the tours is impressive and the Society is very thankful for these homeowners' generous support of Heritage Week.

Recently the Board regretfully accepted letters of resignation from Jack Leigh and Barbara Mountain. The Society appreciates the fine service Jack and Barbara gave to the organization. The Society also welcomes Mary Colwick and Bee Cooper who will fill their unexpired terms.

In closing I want to thank the mem-

bers of the Board for their hard work. If any member has questions about the Society or ideas for furthering the Society's goals, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Board. I look forward to seeing many of you during Heritage Week.

Tickets for Heritage Week are available from the office of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society in the Jemison House, 1305 Greensboro Avenue.

Benefactors - 2 tickets for all events, \$300

Subscribers - 1 ticket for all events, \$50.00

For any tour, individual tickets are \$10, 2 for \$15, 3 for \$25 or 4 for \$30

MEMORIALS

For Mr. Ross Morgan, Jr.
by : Mr. Marvin Harper
Mrs. Louise Faircloth

For Mrs. William Gray Little
by Mr. & Mrs. John Puryear

For Mrs. Kathleen Maxwell
by Mr. Marvin Harper

CLUB DONATIONS

The Elysian Club
Colonial Dames XVII Century
National Society Daughters of
American Colonists
The Quaker Club
Chief Tuskaloosa Chapter DAR
Alpha Thursday Club

NEW MEMBERS

Century Club

Mr. & Mrs. Carey Arendale
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. John Bambarger
Mr. & Mrs. James Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. A.D. Christain
Mr. & Mrs. Peyton Cochran
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Emery
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Junkin
Mr. & Mrs. Bob Land
Mr. Leon Maisel
Mr. & Mrs. Gaines McCorquedale
Mr. & Mrs. Kenny Nelson
Mrs. Karen Nicolosi
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Posey
Ms. Laura Powell
Mr. & Mrs. Pettus Randall
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Robertson
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Rouzie
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Scully
Dr. & Mrs. Michael Ursic
Dr. & Mrs. William Clipson
Dr. Pamela Butler
Ms. Suzanne Kirby
Mrs. Mary Colwick
Dr. & Mrs. Dudley Davis
Mrs. Katherine Alexander
Mr. & Mrs. James Ward
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Wade
Mrs. Emily Rogers

Regular

Mrs. Owen Meredith
Mrs. Mary London
Mr. John H. Frye
Ms. Annie B. Russell
Ms. Mary A. Crenshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Milton M. Williams
Mrs. Frankie Thomas
Mr. Strudwick Marvin Rogers
Mrs. F. B. Thardy
Dr. & Mrs. Norman Carlson
Mrs. Emily Deal
Mrs. George Toffel
Mr. Charles Senna

Heritage Week Calendar — April 20 - 17, 1994

Thursday, April 14

BENEFACTOR/SUBSCRIBER PARTY

James and Carolyn Boone
3 River Oaks
6.30 - 8.30 Cocktail Buffet and tour

Friday, April 15

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

LANDMARK TOUR OF HOMES

President's Mansion
University of Alabama
(3rd floor open Friday only)

Living history performed by Jenny Garland Smith (played by Rosa Newman) during certain hours.

Battle-Friedman House
1010 Greensboro Avenue
Reopening, book signing

Mildred Warner House
1925 8th Street
New furnishings

Old Tavern
28th Ave & 5th Street

Murphy African-American Museum
2601 Bryant Drive

PRIVATE HOMES TOUR

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Holman
200 The Highlands

Ms Andrea Sullins
16 Buena Vista

Mr. & Mrs. Danny Hartley
105 Riverdale

Saturday, April 16

10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
LANDMARK TOUR
Same as Friday

PRIVATE HOMES TOUR

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Holman
200 The Highlands

Mr. & Mrs. Christy Davidson
12 The Highlands

Mr. & Mrs. Gus Primos
7603 River Edge Road N.E.

Mr. & Mrs. Burt Moore
8326 Enterprise Drive

HISTORIC GREENWOOD CEMETERY TOUR

Limited availability
11 a.m. and 1 p.m.
Diana Combs, author of *Early Tombstone Art*

Sunday, April 17 TUSCALOOSA BELLES PRESENTATION

President's Mansion
University of Alabama
By invitation only

MEMBERSHIP

I would like to become a member of TCPS

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Phone.....

Check enclosed []
Please bill my Visa/Mastercard

#.....
exp. date.....

Signature.....

Regular annual membership \$25.00 []
Century Club \$100.00 []
Persons under 35 \$50.00 []

BENEFACTORS

Mr. & Mrs. Anthony H. Allison
Hardins Bakery
AmSouth Bank
Mrs. Daisy Bond
Mr. & Mrs. James B. Boone, Jr.
Mr. Jon A Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Lacon Carver
Women's Division, Chamber of Comm.
The Tuscaloosa News
Mr. & Mrs. W. Gene Grafton
Mrs. Ella Davis
Dr. & Mrs. Robert H. Davis
Mrs. George Echols
Mr. & Mrs. James Flemming
Mr. & Mrs. George B. Gordon
Mr. & Mrs. James E. Grimes
Tanner & Guin
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hahn
Dr. & Mrs. Karl Harbin
Mr. & Mrs. Ted Hellums
Mrs. Dorothy Hodnette
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Huthnance
Mr. Royce Kirkland-Zeigler
Mr. & Mrs. L. Christopher Kyle
Mr. Jim LaMoureaux
M. & Mrs. Russell Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Harmon Looney
Dr. & Mrs. John Mantle
Dr. & Mrs. John Menard
Mr. & Mrs. Guy Moman, Jr.
Mrs. Frank Moody
Mrs. Donald Morris
Mrs. Rosa Morrow
Dr. & Mrs. John Newcomb
Mr. & Mrs. Tim Parker, Jr.
Dr. & Mrs. Davis Partlow
Mr. & Mrs. Joe Phifer
Dr. & Mrs. Robert Posey
Dr. Elizabeth Ruben
Mr. & Mrs. George Shirley
Mr. & Mrs. James Harrison
Ms. Ruth Spruill
Ms. Patricia Stripling
Mrs. Frances Summersell
Mr. & Mrs. David Suther
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Topazi
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Vaughn
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Warner
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest G. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Ford Williams
Phifer Wire

Know Your Board Members

SANDY GORDON, president, stepped into the office without the usual "apprenticeship" when Wayne Childress found he would be unable to serve. Sandy is an attorney with the University of Alabama system. He is a member of the Jemison-Van der Graff Foundation, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxilliary, a past president of the St. Andrew's Society of Tuscaloosa, past president of the Tuscaloosa Jaycees and past president of the Tuscaloosa Sailing Club.

CAROLYN BOONE, a member of the membership committee and also chair of the ad hoc audit committee, is serving the third year of her term of office. In addition to her work with TCPS, a large family, including two small daughters, keeps her busy. Carolyn is also a member of Christ Episcopal Church, a member of the Women's Di-

vision of the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce and serves on the board of the Tuscaloosa Symphony Orchestra.



SHELLEY KYLE, Chairman for Heritage Week is also a busy mother of two children. Shelley is a member of the Junior League of Tuscaloosa and serves as Community Vice-President. She is also active in First United Methodist Church, a volunteer at Verner Elementary School, and advisor for Kappa Delta sorority.

Preservation Society Standing Committee Chairs

Long Range Planning Sandy Gordon
Brick and Mortar Aaron Christian
Century Club Judy Nicholson
Endangered Structures
Bruce Bizzoco
Revolving Fund Roscoe Shamblin
Nominating Lucy Kubiszyn
Acquisitions Connie O'Reilly
Ways & Means Lisa Algieri
Membership David Nelson
By-laws Jim Johnson
Finance Butch Grimes
Structures Lee Rahe

Join
the Alabama
Preservation Alliance

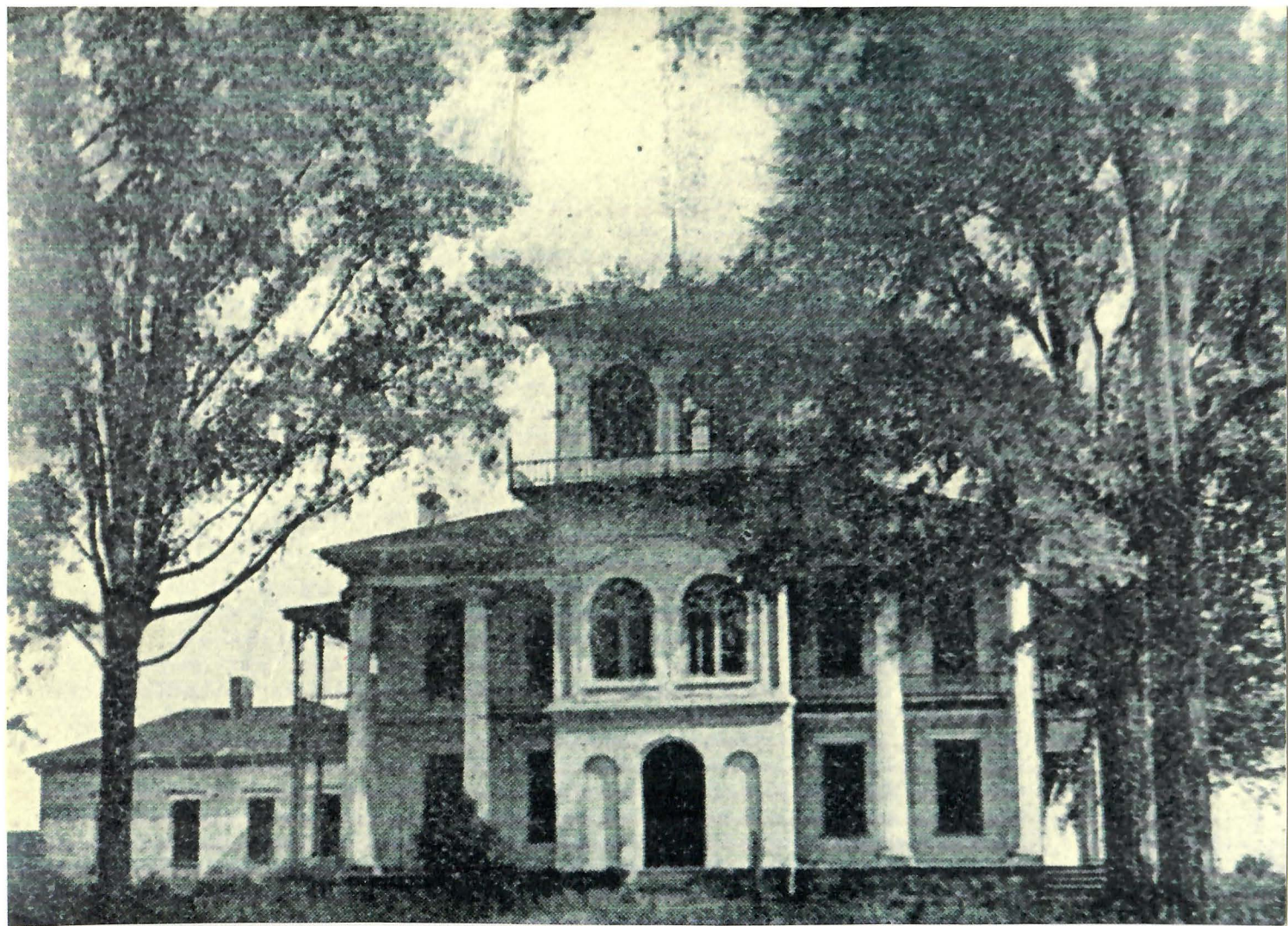
The Preservationist

Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society
1305 Greensboro Avenue
P.O. Box 1665
Tuscaloosa, Al 35403

Non-Profit Org.
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Tuscaloosa, Al
35403
Permit #61

Mrs. Lisa Algieri
P.O. Box 2089
Tuscaloosa AL 35403

Inside This Issue:
Heritage Week Calendar
Endangered Structures
Report on the Drish House





Drish House

Built in 1837 by Dr. John R. Drish, this house was the focal point of a plantation that bordered the Tuscaloosa city limits. It was originally classified as an Italian villa in style but was remodeled several times, adding massive columns and the three-story tower. The house has served as a school, an auto wrecking business, and part of a church. The TCPS worked to stabilize the home and find a new owner. Located at 2300 17th St., it now serves as an event venue.

Susan Haynes

From: rmellown@bama.ua.edu
Sent: Thursday, May 07, 2009 12:22 PM
To: Susan Haynes
Subject: Drish

Attachments: rtf211_lr.jpg



rtf211_lr.jpg (30
KB)

Susan: In between giving (and grading) finals I have been doing some internet research on the 19th C. brick construction techniques and now know what we have discovered under the Drish House. They are called "sleeper walls." This was once a common technique for creating supports for ground floor, floor joists. Long and heavy floor joists were (and still are) very expensive. Sleeper walls allowed the carpenter to use shorter (less expensive) joists on the ground floor and reserve the longer joists for upper floors. It also resulted in less waste because (depending on how the sleeper walls were spaced) a variety of short lengths of joists could be used. The major problem with this construction technique was poor air circulation. Therefore vent holes were needed in sleeper walls and of course exterior walls. Air could circulate in the spaces between the joists and also through slits or rectangular vents in the sleeper walls (Drish has both). Not enough ventilation or blocked vents often led (as we well know!) to moisture buildup with resulting rot and termite infestation. When Drish built the house in 1837 there probably was enough air circulation since all four sides of the house had vents. Problems, no doubt, arose when he added the porches on the north and south. They were made MUCH worse when the church added the sanctuary and the Sunday school room which resulted in no air circulation at all. Attached is a diagram I found of a sleeper wall. Robert





Drish House may be donated to historic commission

By **JOAN LADD**

Staff Writer

Tuscaloosa's historic Drish House is the latest focus of preservation efforts by the Heritage Commission of Tuscaloosa County.

The 1830s house, which was the former residence of Judge W.G. Cochrane and later was the site of the Jemison School, is owned by New Southside Baptist Church, which has a sanctuary and education facilities located on either side of the mansion. The house is located at 2300 17th Street.

"It's deteriorating rapidly. It's an eyesore and it's of no value to the ministry," Rev. Buddy Burkhalter said.

Because church officials would rather spend available funds to up-

grade the sanctuary and educational facilities, Burkhalter said they are considering donating the Drish House section to a local historic preservation group.

A legal agreement would need to be worked out between the church and the commission, said Burkhalter. He said the church would probably place few restrictions on the use of the building, with the exception that alcoholic beverages could not be used or sold on the premises.

"We're grateful for you bringing the building to us. We want to see

the building saved," said commissioner Jim Fitts.

Members of the commission's Endangered Structures committee will meet at noon today to discuss saving the building.

After a December fire at the 1819 Maraduke Williams House, also known as "The Ivies" on 17th Avenue, the city's inspection department has ruled that the house must be completely rehabilitated to meet city and fire codes, said commission executive director Betsy Hayslip. The house has since been put on the market, she said.

A buyer for the house could qualify for income tax credits if a restoration is done, said Mrs. Hayslip.

Owenwood House, located on Alabama 216 near Summerhill subdivision, was recently acquired by a realty company with plans to construct several apartment buildings on the property, said Mrs. Hayslip.

Because parts of the main two-story frame house date from the 1830s, commissioners authorized Mrs. Hayslip to draft a letter to Charles Sealey Jr. to urge him to develop the property with the his-

toric home as a centerpiece.

Commissioners also recommended community support for efforts to make repairs to Hunter's Chapel A.M.E. Zion Church, 1107 22nd Avenue.

The church was the first black Methodist church in Tuscaloosa and dates back to 1866.

The commission approved plans for Mary Nelson and Mort Jordan to remodel a house at 2922 Seventh Street into an office with residential quarters. A deck would be added to the rear of the house and a carport on the side.

The board also asked Nelson Lassiter, owner of 1601 Alaca Place, to check with city officials to determine whether an additional building permit is needed for repairs to his home.

Lassiter said he had begun renovating the house several years ago but illness in his family had interrupted progress.

Neighboring residents had sought to have the house condemned by the city, but after inspection, city officials found no evidence the house was a public nuisance, said commissioner Lisa Algieri.

PREPARED UNDER THE DIRECTION
OF THE
STATE OF ALABAMA
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
AD VALOREM TAX DIVISION

PREPARED BY
COLE LAYER TRUMBLE CO.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA



TAX MAPPING DIVISION



SCALE: 1" = 100'

DATE OF MAP: 9-8-76 DATE OF PHOTOGRAPHY: 2-23-74



COUNTY LOCATOR



TOWNSHIP LOCATOR
(INDEX TO 1" = 400' & 1" = 200' MAPPING)

6	5	4	3	2	1
03		02		01	
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
04		05		06	
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09		08		07	
31	32	33	34	35	36

SUB-SHEET INDEX

22-3	22-4	22-5
27-2	27-1	26-2
27-2	27-4	26-1

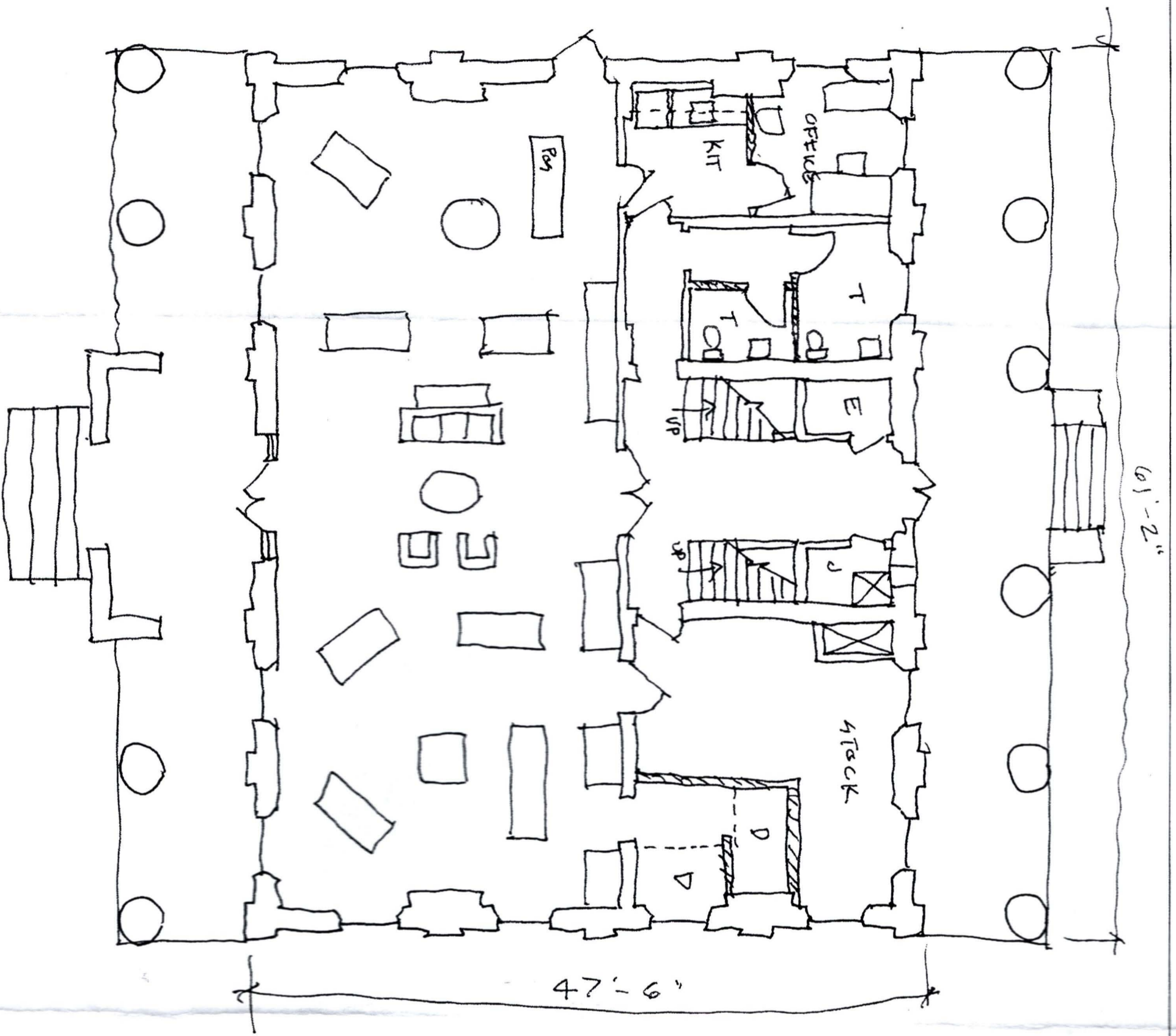




**DRISH HOUSE
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA**

DATE:
10-7-2013
JOB NUMBER:
13116
SHEET NUMBER:

ELEVATION
1/8" = 1'-0"



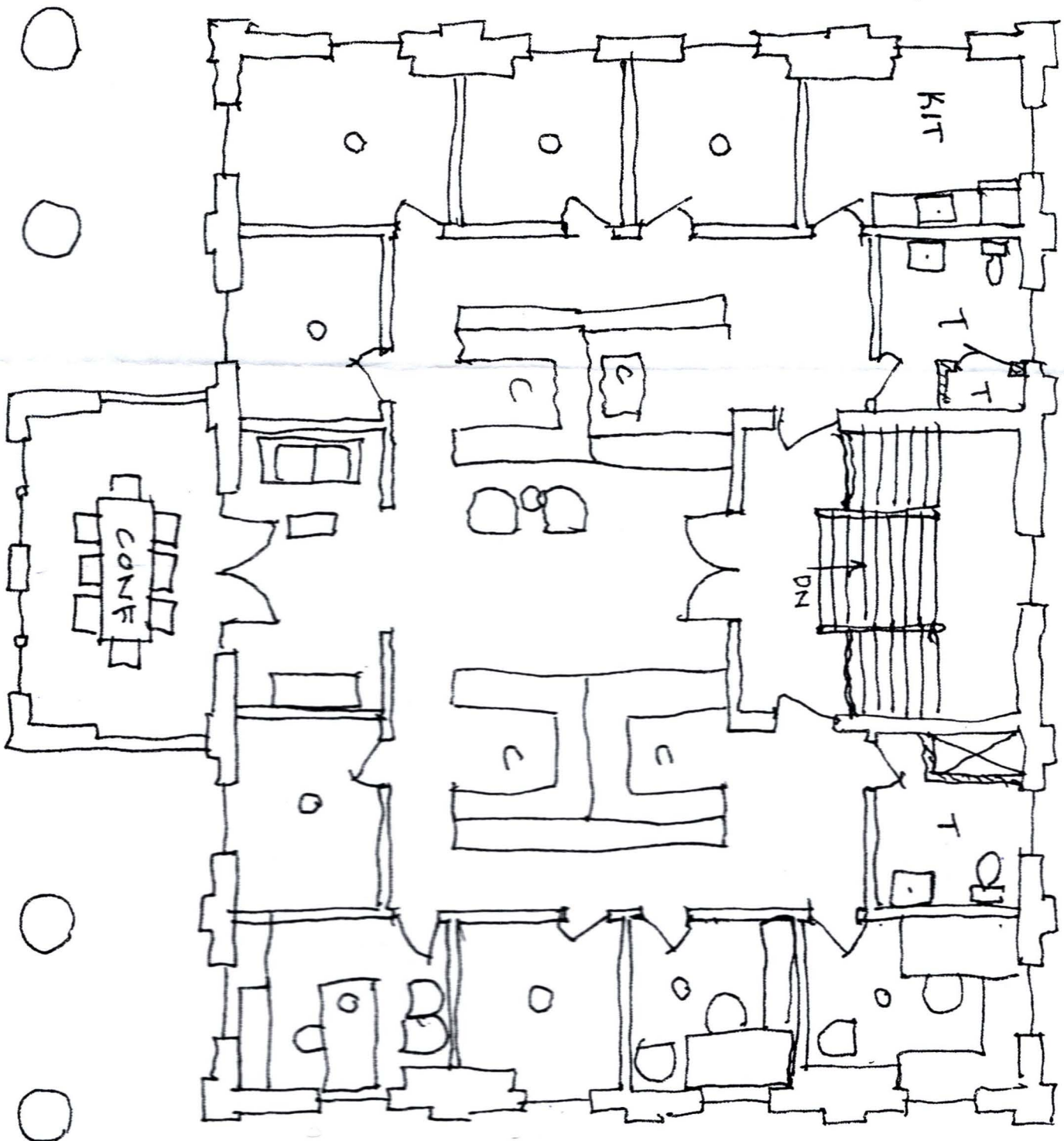
FIRST FLOOR
1/8" = 1'-0"

DRISH HOUSE
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA



COHEN
CARMICHAEL
REYNOLDS

DATE:
10-7-2013
JOB NUMBER:
13116
SHEET NUMBER:

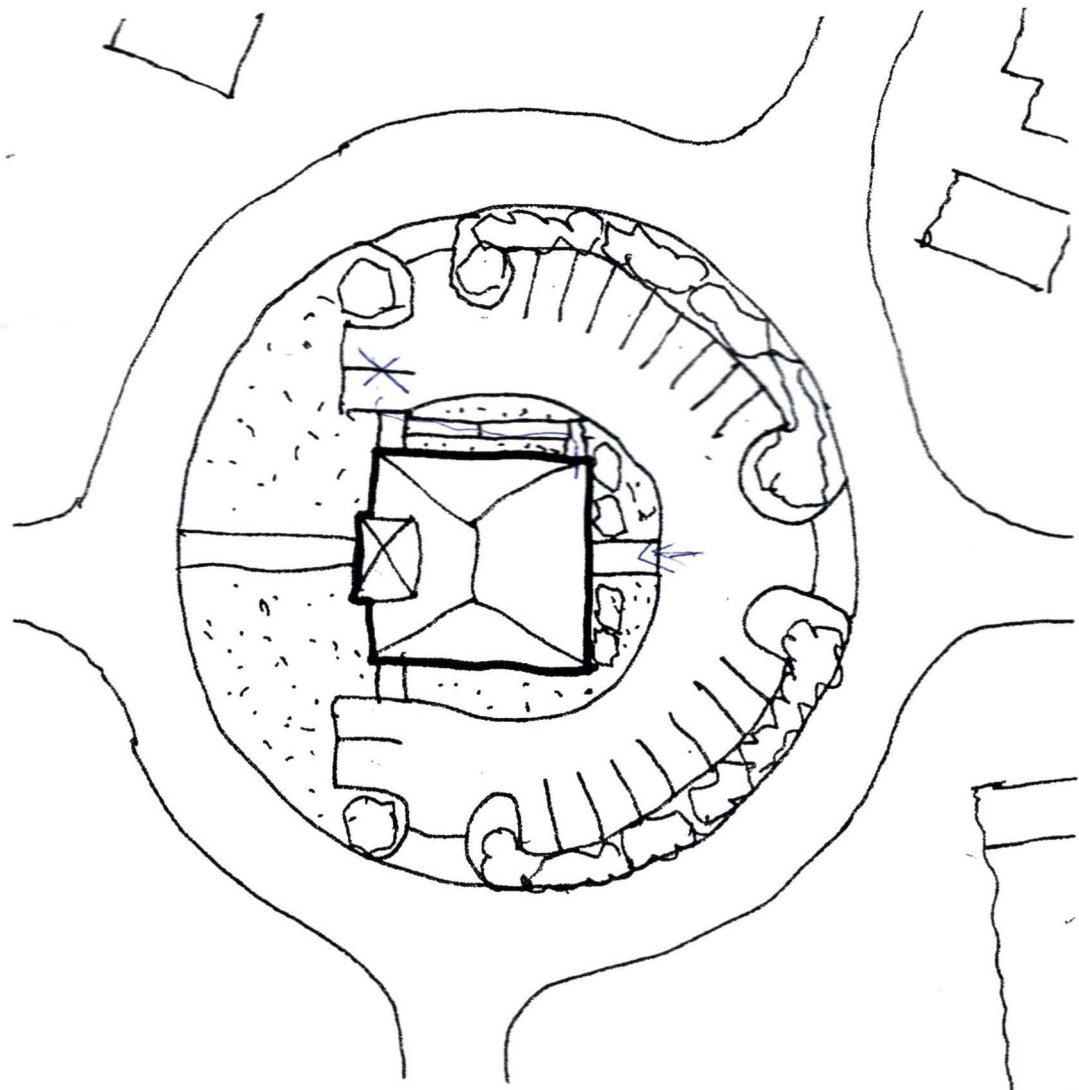
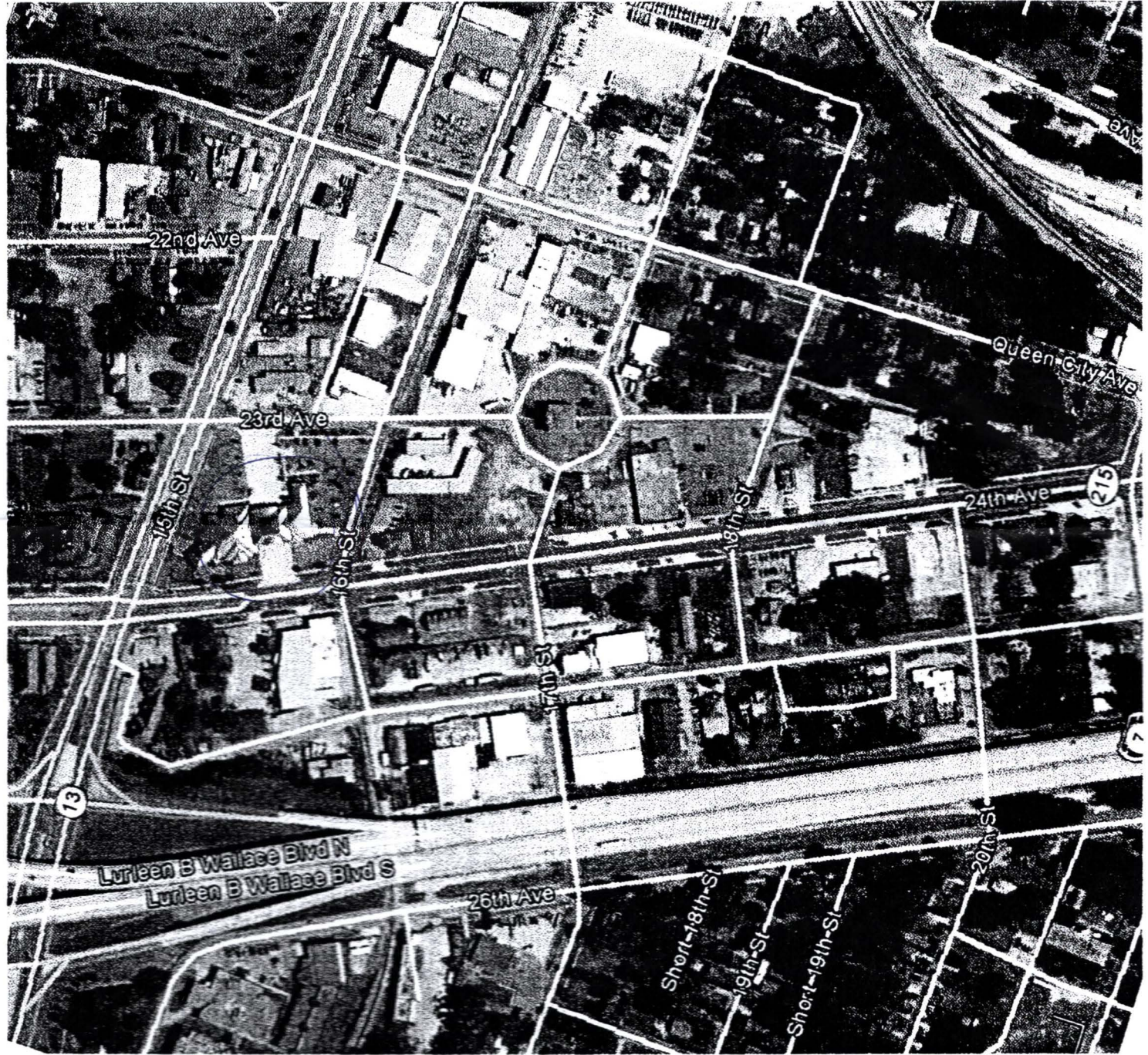


SECOND FLOOR
 1/8" = 1'-0"

DRISH HOUSE
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA



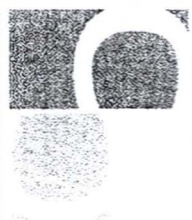
DATE:
 10-7-2013
 JOB NUMBER:
 13116
 SHEET NUMBER:



SITE PLAN
1:60

**DRISH HOUSE
TUSCALOOSA, ALABAMA**

COHEN CAMARGO ARCHITECTS



DATE:
10-7-2013
JOB NUMBER:
13116
SHEET NUMBER:

A HAUNTING PAST

Drish House finally gets a chance to yield its secrets

By Tommy Stevenson
Associate Editor

OF all the allegedly haunted houses in Tuscaloosa — and there are more of them than you might think — the Drish House on 17th Street near downtown has been the holy grail for those looking.

"We've been waiting for years to get to go inside the Drish House," David Higdon, one of the co-founders of the

"Look, I'm a skeptic myself, but I do know that in some of our investigations we have come on things we can't explain."

Mike Corley, co-founder of the Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group

signed the deed over to the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society. The society has been cleaning and stabilizing the deteriorating building ever since.

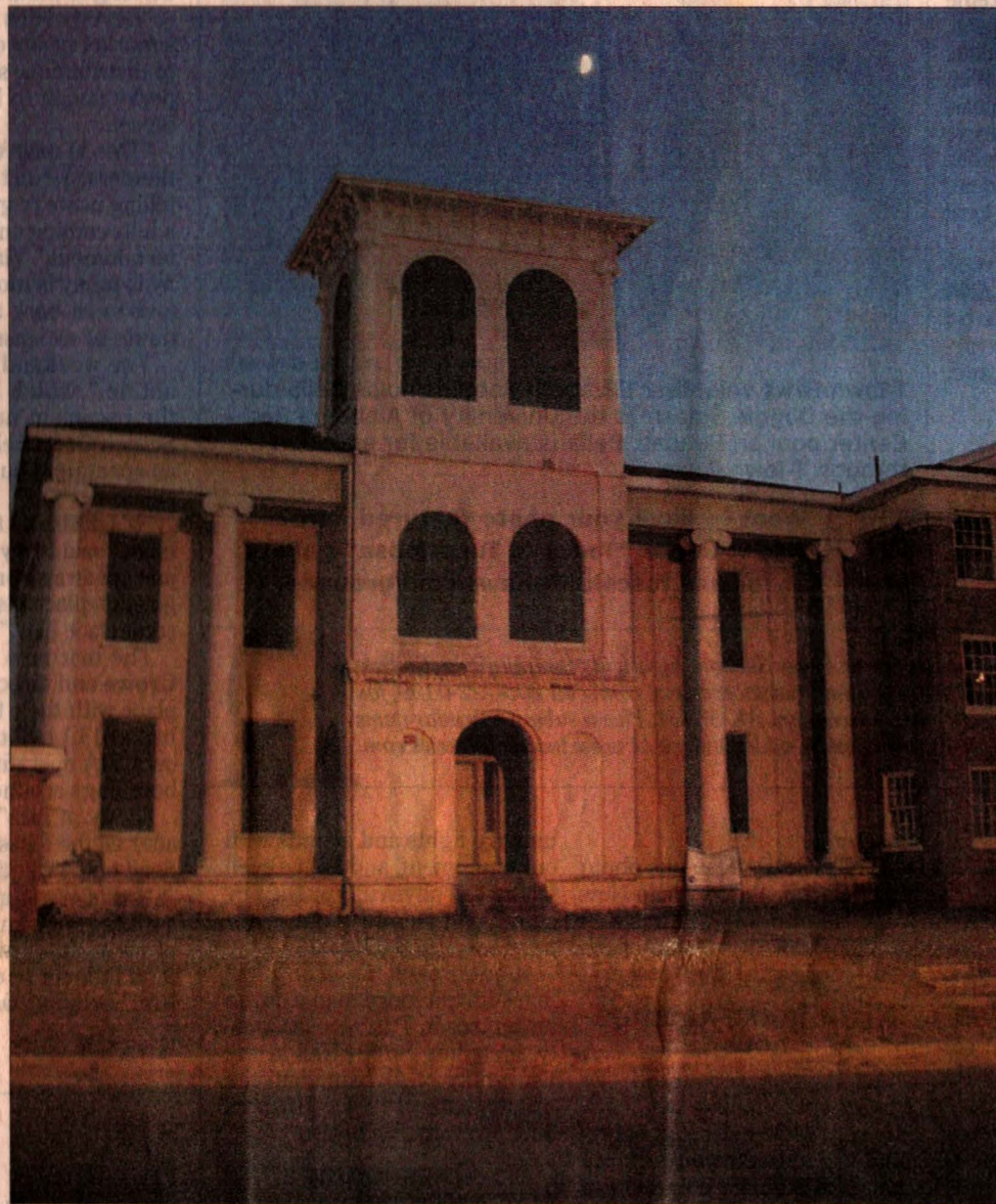
"We've finally got all the trash out of the house and even though there are still some places in the floors you can't walk because of termites and a stairway that is too unstable to climb, we think it is safe to enter now," said Susan Haynes, the executive director of the society, as she joined the members of the paranormal group in their three hours to look for, well, the paranormal.

"We've worked with this group before," she added, "and I kind of think it is fun to investigate places like this just to see

SEE DRISH | 2A

TUSCALOOSA
Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group, said last week, as he prepared for a night of investigation. "The house has so many stories associated with it, maybe more than any other house in town, but it has been off-limits forever."

All that changed last year when the last remaining members of Southside Baptist Church, which for 70 years owned the three-story mansion built by Dr. John Drish around 1835,



STAFF PHOTOS | TOMMY STEVENSON



Do you believe in ghosts? Visit www.tuscaloosaneews.com to vote in our Web poll. Also, go online to see video and a photo gallery of the Drish House.

The Drish House is one of the most famous haunted houses in Tuscaloosa.



David Higdon points to where the Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group sets up its monitoring equipment in the Drish House.

DRISH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

just to see what we can find."

The tragic beginning

While there are several versions of the story behind the ghosts in the Drish House, they all revolve around Drish himself, who was also a planter, gambler and, by all reports, an alcoholic, Haynes said.

"The story is that one night when he was trying to dry out, but had the shakes and was seeing things, he leapt up out of his bed upstairs and charged right over the banister, falling to his death," she said. "But maybe sensing something, he had left elaborate instructions for his burial, and they included lying in state upstairs in the home surrounded by candles."

Drish's widow, Sarah, lived in the house for several more years, becoming increasingly unstable as she grieved for her husband.

"She wanted her funeral to be just like her husband's and became obsessed with preserving the candles that were used at his bedside," Haynes said. "But when she finally died, no one could find the candles — she had hid them too well — and she lay in state without them."

That's when the strange occurrences began, Haynes said.

"There are numerous instances of people reporting seeing the third-story tower on fire and calling the fire department," she said. "But each time when they got there, there was no fire and no sign of fire."

"The lore is that the light people saw was from those candles that Sarah, or her spirit lit. Even in recent years, there have been reports of strange lights coming out of the house."

There are several other stories of the supernatural elements in the Drish House, including some about Drish's daughter, Katherine, said to be insane, and runaway slaves who hid in the house only to die of starvation.

"But Dr. Drish's violent death and his widow's sorrow and what happened after she died is the story most people know best," Haynes said.

The Drish House also achieved some notoriety in the mid-1930s when Walker Evans photographed it while it was being used as an auto parts store and wrecking company head-

quarters.

"That's really a famous photo that hangs in a museum in New York," Haynes said. "It was part of Evans' documentation of the South during the Depression."

Night in the haunted house

As Haynes recounted the stories surrounding the Drish House, a white half moon set behind the old mansion as more than half a dozen members of the Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group unpacked their equipment. Unpacked were three infrared cameras that attached to a digital video recorder and a monitor that showed scenes from all three cameras at once, several digital tape recorders, highly accurate thermometers, hand-held video and digital cameras along with other sensors.

Mike Corley, who co-founded the 20-member group with Higdon about three years ago, didn't bother hiding his excitement as the equipment was being unloaded and investigators waited for their first glimpse inside the mansion.

"The story of the Drish House was told in Kathryn Tucker Windham's very first '13 Alabama Ghosts' book," Corley said. "I know that a lot of groups all around the country have been interested in getting in this house for years, but its never been available until now."

Once inside, Higdon and Corley set up the DVR and monitor in the small kitchen the church had built on the ground floor, while cables were run to the infrared cameras placed in the main ground floor room, looking down the stairwell where Dr. Drish plunged to his death, and vertically on the second floor looking up into the tower where the "fires" were often reported.

"Once we get everything set up, we'll all gather in the big room and have what we call 'lights out,' which is when we will see if any of our equipment can detect anything or we can hear or see anything ourselves," Higdon said.

Both he and Corley shrugged off any suggestion that the 30 members of their group are "ghostbusters."

"We don't mind anything people might think of us," Corley said. "Look, I'm a skeptic myself, but I do know that in some of our investigations we have come on things we can't explain."

"We've recorded some very

unusual lights and sounds with our equipment, and I have even felt myself physically pushed by something on one of our investigations."

Higdon said his group has investigated more than a dozen structures in Tuscaloosa County, including Smith Hall at the University of Alabama and the original site of Bryce Hospital on University Boulevard.

Questioning the ghosts

By the time "lights out" finally came at 9 p.m., the group gathered in the front room of the old mansion had swelled to about a dozen. Many sat on the floor, a few stood and a couple of people sat in folding chairs they brought with them.

After a few moments of silence, punctuated only by the sound of a nearby train whistle, Corley began to ask questions of the darkness, pausing for a long time between each inquiry.

"Is there anyone here who would like to contact us?"

"If there is someone here, could you tell us your name?"

"Is there anyone here who might want to communicate by knocking on the wall or floor?"

After several more questions and seemingly no responses — at least none that could be detected by the people in the room — the group went upstairs, where the ritual was repeated, again to no obvious paranormal reaction.

But Higdon said he was not discouraged, that the data collected from the various sensors had to be analyzed before any judgment could be made.

Later in the week, he said that while the data had yet to be assessed, there did appear to be some anomalies detected both by the infrared cameras and some of the audio recorders.

"There were some lights floating around the room," he said. "Now whether that might just have been dust, or even a bug, we can't say yet. And there did seem to be some response to some questions that we couldn't hear, but that was picked up by our monitors."

"But I think Monday was a good start — we usually visit a site three or four times before we're through," he said. "I'm just glad somebody finally got in the Drish House."

"There is just so much good lore there."

Reach Tommy Stevenson at tommy.stevenson@tuscaloosaneews.com or 205-722-0194.

Tuscaloosa News
Oct 13, 2008



STAFF PHOTO | TOMMY STEVENSON

T Have you ever put anything in a time capsule? Vote in our Web poll at www.tuscaloosaneews.com.

A time capsule recovered from Southside Baptist Church when it was torn down last month contained many church documents, photographs of the construction of the church and these still-colorful church bulletins.

Time capsule from 1950s discovered at old church

By Tommy Stevenson
Associate Editor

TUSCALOOSA The 175-year-old Drish House on what used to be the southern border of downtown Tuscaloosa is famous for its ghost stories and other mysteries.

But it turns out the Southside Baptist Church, which had owned the antebellum mansion since the 1940s and built its sanctuary adjacent to the home in the mid-1950s, also had some secrets to reveal after

it was demolished last month.

As the church was being built, a time capsule containing several dozen pieces of mostly church-related memorabilia was incorporated near the cornerstone. The time capsule was recovered by several church members, including Bobby Ledbetter, who has loaned the small rectangular brass box to the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society so its contents can be copied and archived.

The contents of the box, which had been so expertly soldered that

several of the church bulletins retained their colorful covers, were recently examined at the Battle-Friedman House by members of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, which has owned the Drish property since the church deeded it to the organization more than two years ago.

On hand for the inspection was James Arrowood, the owner of the Romulus-based demolition company that carefully stripped away the large brick church from the wood and stucco

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CAPSULE

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Drish House at the intersection of 17th Street and 23rd Avenue.

"It's a good thing someone knew to come get the time capsule out before we did it any damage," he said. "We didn't have any idea it was there. Whoever did the soldering job on this thing was an expert, because it was completely sealed."

Katherine Mauter, the executive director of the preservation society, said that while old bulletins, pamphlets and lists of former Southside Baptist Church members are fascinating to examine, the photographs of the actual construction of the church are the real jewels to emerge from the time capsule.

"The best we can determine, the box was put in the foundation in 1955, just as it was being finished," she said. "Some of the pictures on the bulletins and pamphlets give you a real sense of life in the '50s, and the histories of the church and church members are a good record of a slice of life back then."

Gary Spencer, a Tuscaloosa police officer, said he grew up in the Southside Baptist congregation and remembers attending Sunday School and other functions in the Drish House, which is known for its stories of the violent death of builder and plantation-owner Dr. John Drish and subsequent "hauntings" by him and his wife, who also died in the house.

"I was born in 1958 and didn't know any of that," Spencer said. "It was just a big old house to us."

He said before the church built its brick sanctuary on the west side of the house and a smaller building on the east,



STAFF PHOTO | TOMMY STEVENSON

Cal Wilson, Susan Haynes and Nedra Scott look over materials found in the time capsule Southside Baptist Church placed in its cornerstone in 1955.

"they actually held church services in the house — in a 'haunted' house."

Not only were services conducted in the Drish House, but weddings, too, including that of Eva Blake Hartley, Spencer's mother-in-law, who married Archie Hartley on Christmas Day, 1946.

The 81-year-old Hartley, known by her friends as "Pete," said the service was held on a small stage facing east in the Drish House.

She said she also had Sunday school classes in the house and as a girl was aware of the ghost stories associated with the building.

"We used to play 'kissing games' when the teachers weren't looking, and if you got lost, you had to walk around that spooky old house in the

dark," she said. "There were also classes upstairs, and that was even spookier."

Hartley said she was not aware that a time capsule had been placed in the church building as it was being constructed but is glad someone thought to do so.

"Now they've got some new history to look at," she said.

Mauter said that once the preservation society finishes cataloging and copying the items from the capsule it will be returned to Ledbetter for safe-keeping and for him to share with the remaining members of the congregation of the now-defunct Southside Baptist Church.

Reach Tommy Stevenson at tommy.stevenson@tuscaloosa.com or 205-722-0194.

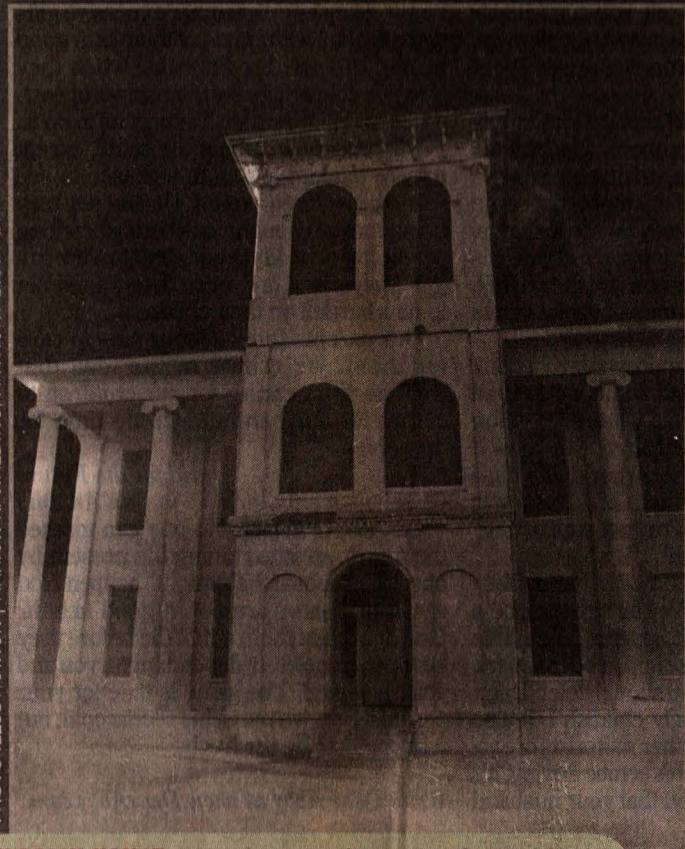
Tuscaloosa News
Oct 25, 2009

Mysteries of Tuscaloosa

Who haunts the halls of Tuscaloosa?

GHOST STORIES

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION | MARION R. WALDING, ANTHONY BRATINA



THE DRISH HOUSE: Insanity, murder, a tragic accident and dying wishes unfulfilled this house has plenty of fuel for wierd sightings reported there.

By Mark Hughes Cobb
Staff Writer

Believers in ghosts imagine incorporeal spirits, souls of those who have died with a sense of incompleteness, unfinished business. Or the souls of those who lived and died in sorrow and horror.

Usually the haunts are bound to a place from life; somewhere they lived and worked, or died, often in violence. Revenants remain behind when the body has gone on, it is said, because they failed to finish something crucial in life. Some look for redress, or vengeance.

Tuscaloosa's most famous ghost seeks light amid dark madness and death.

The Drish death lights

The Drish Mansion is probably the best known of Tuscaloosa's supposedly haunted houses. Its legend is now almost 150 years old. Tragedy stalked the house during its thriving years in the early- to mid-19th century.

A story titled "Death Lights in the Towers" in "13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey" (first published in 1969) by folklorists Kathryn Tucker Windham and Margaret Gillis Figh, made the Drish history famous. But tales of the tormented Drish family have been told often since, and even earlier in the 1958 book "Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Its Early Days, 1816-1865," by Matthew W. Clinton. Walker Evans photographed the then-declining abode in 1936 with a sign of its then-owner: Tuscaloosa Wrecking Company. In a century, the plantation home had gone from showplace to heap, its fortunes as fallen as those of its owners.

Dr. John R. Drish moved to Tuscaloosa in 1822, already a thriving physician. The building we think of

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UA ghosts

Most ghosts on the UA campus are benevolent, or at least non-threatening. Among those said to haunt namesake halls or locations are Eugene Allen Smith (Smith Hall), Amelia Gayle Gorgas (the Gorgas Library) and Marian Gallaway (the Gallaway Theatre in Rowand-Johnson Hall).

These spirits are mostly of the tapping, throat-clearing and only occasionally visual variety.

However, students have reported hearing Smith's carriage, which is exhibited in the gallery of the building's Alabama Museum of Natural History, rolling down hallways, horses neighing and whips cracking. A group of students once followed voices to a classroom where they found desks, lined up just a short time before, in disarray; the story had it that a boiler explosion had killed a group of students in that room many years before. A lab assistant claimed that an unseen something pushed him into a closet and locked it.

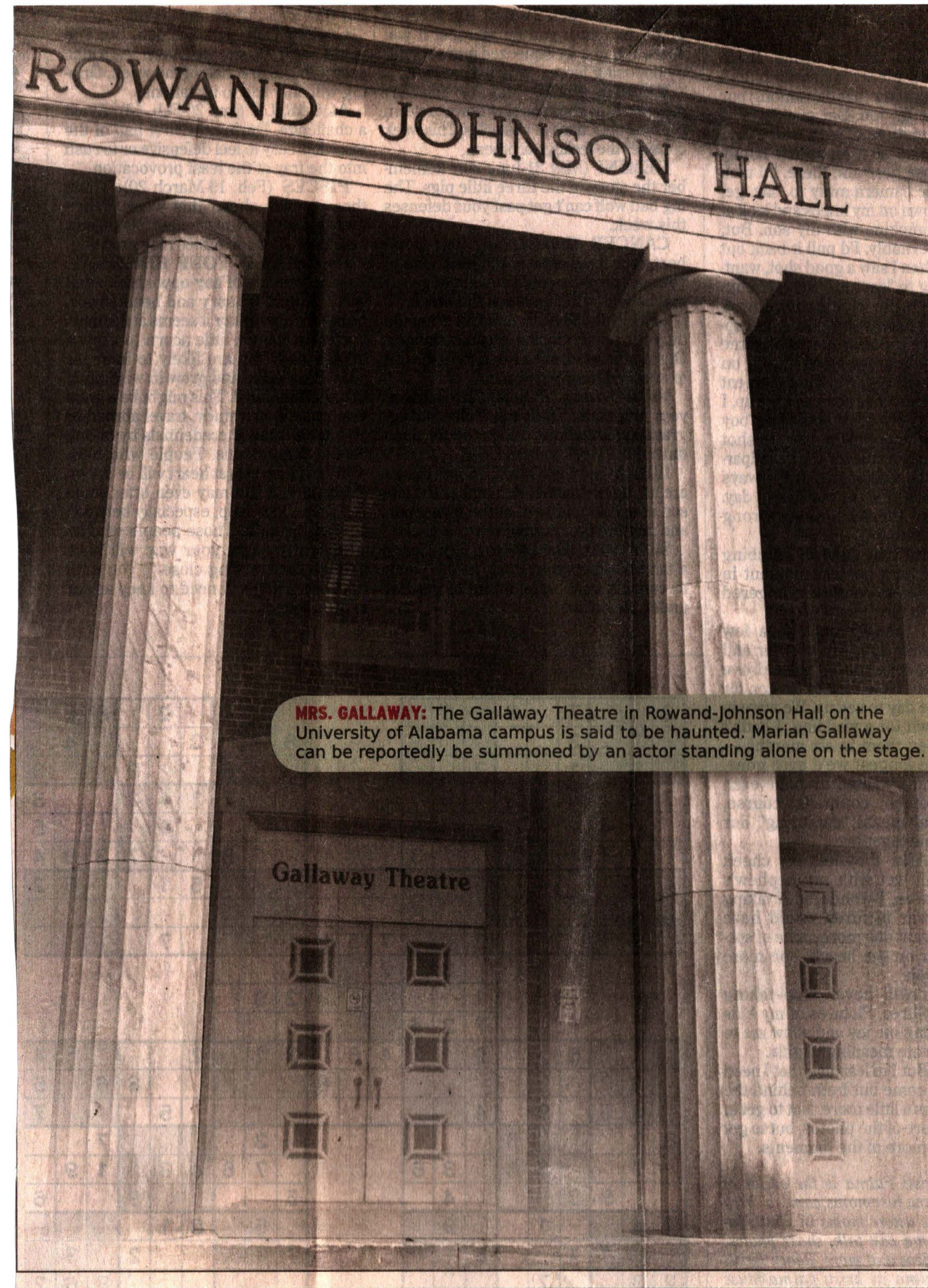
Mrs. Gallaway remains one of the more supportive presences. She can reportedly be summoned by an actor standing alone on the stage. The actor must say, "How's my blocking, Mrs. Gallaway?," and she will appear in the projection booth to the rear of her theater, overhanging the entrances.

Less than a decade ago, a UA theater student was walking toward the building when he saw an elderly woman approaching on the sidewalk. He smiled and said hello; she smiled, but said nothing, which he thought odd. On entering the lobby, he saw a portrait of the woman, realizing why she'd looked so familiar. The student spoke to Edmond Williams, then chair of the department.

"Ed," he said, "I just saw Marian Gallaway!"

Williams stared at him, trying to see the joke. "Unlikely," he replied. "She's been dead for 11 years."

Perhaps he'd been thinking about his blocking.



MRS. GALLAWAY: The Gallaway Theatre in Rowand-Johnson Hall on the University of Alabama campus is said to be haunted. Marian Gallaway can be reportedly be summoned by an actor standing alone on the stage.

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GHOST

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as the Drish House is actually the second he built; the first was on what is now Queen City Avenue and later became a Methodist college for women. The second, more famous, Drish home was at the far south of Tuscaloosa when completed, around 1837, sitting amid 450 acres of planted fields. In the years just prior to the Civil War it was remodeled into a Greek Revival/Italianate villa, with the addition of columns and the distinctive central tower.

Drish prospered both in medicine and farming, though some of his fortune came from his marriage to Sarah McKinney, who, like him, was widowed. Unlike him, she was wealthy. Drish invested in railroads, endeavored to bring a cotton mill to town and was elected to the state Legislature. He was well-known and very popular...among some.

In his "Reminiscences of a Long Life," published in 1889, early Tuscaloosan William Russell Smith wrote of Drish: "...In the community he had many friends and many enemies. As a citizen his popularity decayed in proportion as he grew rich, and covetousness was charged upon him as one of his sins; but the world is not always right or just in its judgment of men.

"Dr. Drish was a man of sorrows. He encountered great family afflictions; and in the latter part of his life he was retired in his habits and of sad and melancholy appearance. He had accumulated a vast fortune. Before the war he estimated his property at nearly half a million. He died in 1869 in the seventy-first year of his age; and, to the astonishment of all persons, his estate proved to be insolvent — such had been the ravages of war..."

One of Drish's sorrows stemmed from his beautiful but ill-fated daughter Catherine, child of his first wife. She fell in love with a man her father did not approve of; the elder Drish forbade the match. One story has it that he locked Catherine in her bedroom for weeks, feeding her only bread and water, to break her will. He eventually drove the lover from town, and forced Catherine to marry a Mr. W. W. King.

Clinton, in his collection "Matt Clinton's Scrapbook," first published in 1979, wrote: "Catherine, from the portico on the west side of the house, waved and bade him a tearful farewell as he traveled away from town down the Greensboro Road."

On their honeymoon in New Orleans, the new Mr. and Mrs. King were standing on a balcony when she saw her former lover. Catherine fainted. Her husband became incensed. That moment was the triggering point for a dark era.

Clinton wrote: "From that time her mental health became worse and worse until she became completely deranged."

Although the Kings had two sons — a daughter, Cora, died at 4 — he brought Catherine and the boys back to Dr. Drish's house. King moved to New Orleans and obtained a divorce on the grounds of insanity, and later remarried.

Catherine's beauty faded along with her hold on reality. Stories were that she could no longer carry on conversations of any rationality. Once a fine pianist, she would stop playing when anyone was listening. In the later years of her life, she was kept locked in rooms on the mansion's top floor, the windows of her room fastened with heavy screws, a servant keeping watch on her night and day. She stayed there until the end of her days.



PHOTOS | MARION R/ WALDING

University of Alabama students in Smith Hall have reported hearing Eugene Allen Smith's carriage, which is exhibited in the gallery of the building's Alabama Museum of Natural History, rolling down hallways, horses neighing and whips cracking.

The second horror of the Drish family occurred to the west of the mansion, in an area known as Newtown, roughly where Tuscaloosa Country Club is now. Drish's beloved niece, Helen Whiting, was like Catherine: very beautiful and popular in her youth. From her many suitors, she chose a man named Fitch, who turned out to be not only horribly jealous but a terrible drunkard. After a debauch of several days' duration, Mrs. Fitch approached her husband as he was shaving, trying to staunch the wounds in their marriage.

Clinton writes about the encounter: "Now you wouldn't harm a hair on my head, would you?" she asked. Fitch replied "No my dear," and seizing her hair, he bent her head back and drew his razor across her throat, killing her instantly." Fitch nearly severed the head from Helen's body. He was tried, found insane and confined to an asylum. After several years, he was declared cured, and moved north to work on the railroads.

Some of Helen's property remained in the Drish Mansion; the slaves were said to be superstitious of touching them, believing the ghost of "Miss Helen" would get them if they moved her effects.

The Civil War, along with Drish's growing gambling and drinking problems, shrank the family fortunes. While sick — perhaps drunk and distraught, or suffering from delirium tremens — Drish bolted out of bed one night and tumbled down

The stories vary about the man — that he began killing young people, or raped and murdered a farmer's daughter. Or that he was simply falsely accused. In reprisal he was either hung or beheaded near a silo. His ghost is said to continue to haunt the grounds, seeking vengeance for his unjust death.

Legend of the ghost reported at Maxwell's Crossing

the winding, double elliptical staircase, dying in the fall. (Although Smith reports him as 71 at death, some reports say he was 75).

Drish lay in state in the upper tower, with candles burning around the body. His widow, Sarah, set aside the half-burned stubs, making clear that she wanted the same lights around her own coffin.

From "13 Alabama Ghosts and Jeffrey": "As she grew older, she was particularly concerned that the death rites she desired be observed, especially that the same candles that had burned after Dr. Drish's death light her coffin while she lay in state."

But on Sarah's death in 1884, the candles either couldn't be found, or her wishes were disregarded, according to different versions.

Soon fiery lights began appearing in the central tower. More than once, fire brigades rushed to the house, only to find nothing upstairs but dust. Among those who reported seeing the burning lights were Judge and Mrs. W. C. Cochrane, who owned the

home after it passed out of Drish family hands.

Other reports of mysterious sounds and disembodied touches came from various tenants over the decades. The house passed out of private ownership in 1906, being converted into a public school. Deterioration began shortly after; it became a garage, leading to Evan's famous photograph. In 1940, Southside Baptist Church purchased the building, adding on the modern western additions. In years gone by, it's been considered for demolition, and was even once condemned by the city.

In 2006, it was listed as one of the "Places in Peril" by the Alabama Trust for Historic Preservation. The Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society took control in 2007; Earlier this year the group held "An Evening With Dr. Drish," since the building has been brought up to safety standards.

The Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group conducted investigations in the Drish House twice in the past year, yielding what co-founder Mike Corley called "quite a bit of activity," mostly involving recorded sounds. Most mysterious was a toy piano, placed in Catherine's room, that apparently played by itself.

Still, out of many Drish family tragedies — the mad Catherine, the slashed niece Helen, the wild, angry, drunken Dr. Drish himself — it is said to be Sarah, perhaps the least afflicted of them all, who returns in the night.

Maxwell's Crossing

Maxwell's Crossing's reputed hauntings are far less known and told than that of the Drish House. Yet folklorist Joseph P. Goodwin, who graduated from the University of Alabama in 1974, recounted overheard legends in the book "Haunted Halls: Ghostlore of American College Campuses," edited by Elizabeth Tucker.

The most terrifying tales regard a 7-foot-tall black man, a slave or ex-slave, who chased young people driving down the dirt road with its 13 bridges, overhung by vegetation and

trees so that the road appears to pass under tunnels. He would steal their cars and sink them in creeks and rivers.

The stories vary about the man — that he began killing young people, or raped and murdered a farmer's daughter. Or that he was simply falsely accused. In reprisal he was either hung or beheaded near a silo. His ghost is said to continue to haunt the grounds, seeking vengeance for his unjust death.

Drivers through the area are encouraged not to stop, because the ghost might just hitchhike.

Also, one is asked to beware red and green lights; if green, all is well. If red, the driver will never be seen again.

In reality, the reference is to a train signal light. So in theory, if one climbed up on the trestle while the light was red, one could indeed meet one's untimely demise.

Crybaby Bridge

An urban legend, this story is told about various Tuscaloosa locations: a bridge near Guild's Woods, one of the Maxwell's Crossing bridges, an iron truss bridge on Keene's Mill Road and the Holt-Peterson bridge over Hurricane Creek.

Each has variations on the legend about a baby or children being killed, usually by being thrown from the bridge into the waters, sometimes by a young girl shamed at having given birth out of wedlock.

Confederate ghosts

Many variations on these appear around Tuscaloosa and Northport, including the ghosts supposedly at the Little Round House on the University of Alabama Quad, the two Confederate widows off Alabama Highway 43 — long known to have been the reflections of headlights off a pair of white posts — and again, at Maxwell's Crossing.

While little could be found about the Maxwell's Crossing ghosts, the Northport widows were said to have been killed while waiting by the side of a road for their men to come home.

The story of the Little Round House is tied to its status as one of the few campus buildings not burned by Croxton's Raiders in April 1865. Legend has it that Rebel forces in disguise sent Union soldiers over to the tiny building to buy booze. Each was then silently killed.

More or less, anyway, legend has it that you can hear, on quiet nights, the sounds of struggle and murder.

No historical records exist of any such Rebel activity, however.

SOUTHERN LIGHTS

A woman
of courage
and strength

Since its founding, Tuscaloosa has marched to the beat of a different drummer. Even given the South's propensity for singular characters, Tuscaloosa has had a generous helping of oddballs and eccentrics.

Fortunately, the city also has been something of a magnet for strong women. Like many another city in our region, Tuscaloosa has them to thank for helping to keep it from completely running off the rails.

Many are homegrown; we know them well and hope that at least some of them are being honored this Valentine's Day. Yet some of the strongest — women like Julia Tutwiler (educator and prison reformer), Vivian Malone Jones (one of the first blacks to integrate the University of Alabama) and Sarah Patterson (coach of the Crimson Tide's gymnastics team) — were not Tuscaloosa natives but were drawn here by history or circumstance.

Elizabeth Avery Meriwether could serve as a template for these assertive, progressive females. Her Civil War experiences in Tuscaloosa, told in a fascinating memoir published decades after the great unpleasantness, offer a glimpse not only into a woman whose courage and spirit were emblematic of strong Southern women, but also into the character of this city. Some of the events of 145 years ago still resonate today.

When the war erupted, Meriwether was a woman of wealth and privilege in Memphis. Her husband, Minor, joined the Confederate Army, where his background gave him entry to the officer corps; in short order he had a title right out of "Catch-22": Major Minor Meriwether.

He rode with Nathan Bedford Forrest, the slave trader-turned-cavalryman. But his wife, Elizabeth, was ridden right of town.

Memphis fell in 1862 to Union troops, becoming the headquarters for Gen. U.S. Grant. An order went out to purge the city of Confederate families. Although she had two small boys and was due to deliver a third any day, Mrs. Meriwether had to flee the city.

She took her boys and hurriedly hit the road. Her husband's servant, Henry, drove their carriage; Henry's wife, Rose, accompanied the Meriwethers. It was the beginning of an odyssey that Meriwether recounted in her remarkable "Recollections of 92 Years," written in 1916.

Meriwether had dreaded giving birth on the run. Near the end of her pregnancy, she spent the night in a squalid cabin occupied by a woman with five children.

"I was racked with fear lest my third child should be ushered into the world at that place and hour," she wrote. "I had read that queens had to submit to the presence of witnesses when a child is born, but I was not a queen."

She was spared that indignity, but on Christmas night, 1862, her third son was born in a shanty near Columbus, Miss. She decided to name the child Lee, in honor of the Confederate general.

She couldn't remain in Mississippi indefinitely, however, and she kept

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WINDHAM

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moving east. In May 1863, she and her family arrived in Tuscaloosa.

They were safe, for the time being, but they had a terrible time finding a place to live. Finally, Meriwether and her three boys moved into a little hovel near where the train depot stands today off Greensboro Avenue.

It was cramped and filthy. The house was crawling with bedbugs. Using a cake of homemade soap, Rose filled cracks in walls, ceiling and floors to fight the insects.

Finding furniture was another headache. In the whole of the city, there wasn't even a skillet for sale.

But the generosity of Tuscaloosa shone through. One woman donated a mattress; another gave the refugee family a pillow and an old table. Five women each donated a spare chair and another gave Meriwether an iron pot.

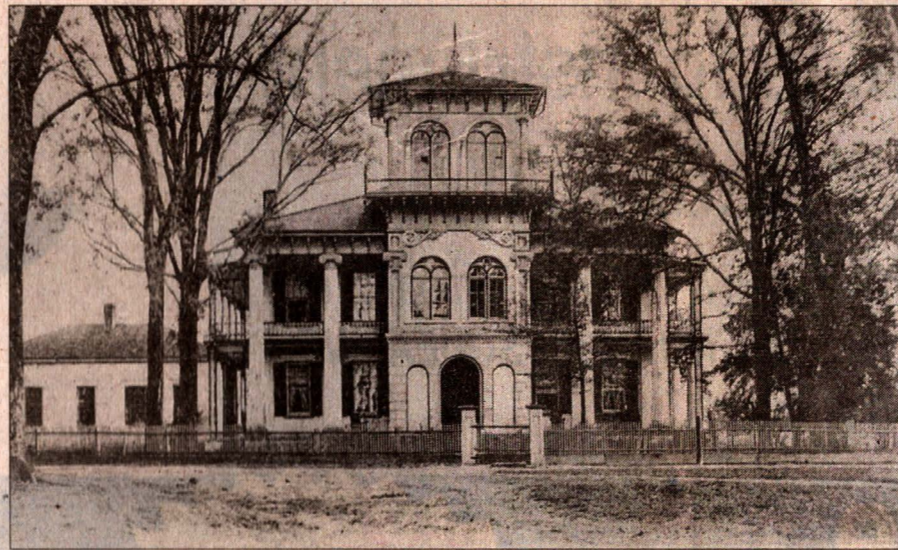
A mile outside of town there was a jug factory (the namesake of a modern road); Meriwether got a set of crockery there. Later on, someone gave her a white china cup.

Food was a constant problem. As a Confederate officer's wife, Meriwether got a small allotment of corn, and field peas were available. Everything else was hard to come by.

Her husband mailed her his tobacco allotment, which she traded for milk, butter and eggs. But there was virtually no meat to be had and the Meriwethers' milk supply steadily evaporated from a quart a day to nothing. Rose, who was now pregnant, volunteered to serve as a wet-nurse for Lee, keeping the baby alive.

The little cache of money that Meriwether brought with her from Memphis was steadily shriveling and she was forced to barter away her last link to high society. She traded a gorgeous gown from her trunk for the services of a man who fixed their carriage wheel.

Later, a pair of silk slippers, bartered before a ball for Confederate soldiers, got her 15 pounds of sugar, but only after Meriwether sent Rose 46 times to the "sugar lady" to demand



The Drish House, circa 1907, was built by Dr. John Drish, one of the first settlers of Tuscaloosa in 1822. The antebellum mansion on 17th Street still bears his name.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY TUSCALOOSA COUNTY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

payment.

It got even rougher.

Dr. John Drish's farm straddled both sides of Greensboro Road. As the green stalks of corn rose from soil, Meriwether began to wonder why her family had to go hungry in the face of such bounty. She decided it was time to pay a call on the doctor.

Drish is an interesting character. Arriving here in 1822, he was one of the first settlers of Tuscaloosa. Eventually, he built the imposing mansion on 17th Street that bears his name today.

Histories described him as kind and personable — "a man of many fine qualities," in the words of one writer. Yet he also was a gambler and a heavy drinker, who was abusive when he was in his cups.

According to one account, he locked his daughter in her bedroom for a period of weeks, feeding her only bread and water, while he chased her suitor out of town. Later, she married someone more to Drish's liking, but she slipped slowly into insanity.

Drish ultimately quit medicine and went into farming full time. "As a citizen his popularity decayed in proportion as he grew rich," wrote historian William Russell Smith.

Judging from Meriwether's memoir, it's easy to see why. She explained her desperate circumstances: But when she asked him to share his corn, Drish stared coldly at her.

"No, madam," he replied harshly, "I will not allow my corn to be pulled from my field. That corn is to feed my Negroes this winter. If I allow corn to be pulled now, it won't be a week

before my Negroes will strip the field."

He headed for the door, but she stopped him.

"I give you fair warning that I mean to go into your cornfield and pull enough corn to feed my children," she said. Drish slammed the door.

Unbowed, Meriwether set off down Drish's drive. She stopped long enough to tell her nephew, who had come with her to the great house, to jump the fence and pick some corn; when the nephew refused, Meriwether climbed over on her own.

She tore off about a dozen ears, threw them over the fence and put them on the floor of her carriage — just in time to see one of Drish's servants come galloping up on a horse.

He delivered a warning from the good doctor: Don't touch that corn.

"Well, it can't be helped today," Meriwether shot back. "Tell him I had it pulled before you got here."

Then she gave Drish's slave \$2 — in Confederate money, the ultimate insult. "I don't want to steal his corn," she added tartly.

The 12 ears didn't go far, and soon Meriwether was ready to raid Drish's fields again. But just as she was setting out, a local resident who introduced himself as Mr. Whitfield pulled up at her home.

Most of Tuscaloosa had heard about her encounter with Drish, he said, and the city was shocked by the doctor's bad behavior. Drish now had armed some of his slaves with shotguns and had them patrolling the cornfield, he added.

"Drish is a contemptible fool," Whitfield said. "When the Yan-

kees come, I hope they will take everything Drish owns," he added, perhaps allowing an inadvertent admission of defeat.

Then Whitfield gave the young mother a basket full of beets, turnips, parsnips, potatoes, onions, even grapes. He refused to take any money and kept the family supplied with vegetables throughout the war years.

For all her troubles, Meriwether was equally open-handed. Once, when Confederate wives were given a rare allocation of meat, Meriwether shared it with six Confederate cavalrymen who had ridden into Tuscaloosa on empty bellies. Rose, she wrote, almost fainted when she learned that Meriwether had decided to feed the men the few eggs that the family had as well.

Tough as a hickory rod, Meriwether got her family through the federal raid on Tuscaloosa and was here at the end of the war.

"When news of Lee's surrender reached Tuscaloosa the citizens stood about on the streets almost stunned," she wrote. "... tears filled the eyes of men."

Meriwether was made of sterner stuff. Loading up her family, along with a basket of cornbread and potatoes, she headed back for Memphis, where she was reunited with her husband.

They bought a little house on the site of what is now the Peabody Hotel.

Minor Meriwether had a strange history. When he and Elizabeth married, they sold a portion of his inherited property to send some of his slaves, whom he freed, to Liberia. Yet after the war, he joined with

Forrest in creating the Ku Klux Klan.

His wife, however, became publisher of a newspaper that crusaded for the right of women to vote. She also advocated equal pay for women and a revision of the divorce law.

She presented petitions calling for female suffrage to the Democratic and Republican conventions of 1880, but they were unsuccessful.

At the same time, she pursued a career as a novelist, publishing "The Master of Red Leaf" in 1872 and "Black and White" in 1883. She also wrote a play, "The Ku Klux Klan or The Carpetbagger in New Orleans," several short stories and a number of nonfiction pieces, including her memoir, "Recollections of 92 Years." Her son Lee also became a published author.

As for Drish — well, Whitfield's malediction hit pretty close. The former doctor's drinking became heavier as his once impressive estate and farm fell into ruins. He suffered from delirium tremens.

One day in 1869, he leaped from his bed, raced down a stairway and fell dead.

His ghost is one of several said to haunt the old Drish House.

During the Depression, it was occupied by an auto repair business; a photograph of the decaying mansion became one of Walker Evans' iconic images from Alabama. Later on, the mansion was incorporated into a church building; these days, it's being renovated by preservationists. But it still looks out over Drish's former lands with a haunted visage.

Needless to say, his fields of corn are long gone.

Ben Windham is retired editorial editor of *The Tuscaloosa News*. His e-mail address is Swind15443@aol.com.

Fundraiser brings city founders back from the dead

Dr. Ross Vaughn will dress up as Dr. John Drish, one of Tuscaloosa's founders, for "An Evening with Dr. Drish" on Saturday at the historic Drish house.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Drish House event to aid Preservation Society

By Tommy Stevenson
Associate Editor

TUSCALOOSA | The infamous Dr. John Drish has been dead for 140 years now, but on Saturday he will once again walk the floors and climb the stairs of the allegedly haunted home on 17th Street that bears his name.

Actually, the top-hatted, whiskey bottle-toting "Drish" will be Dr. Ross Vaughn. The local internist will reprise his role as one of the Druid City's troubled founders for the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society's fundraiser, "An Evening with Dr. Drish." The event will be

6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday at the Drish House.

Tickets are \$50 per person and include a tour of the historic home, cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, music and a chance to visit with "Dr. Drish" and other characters — portrayed by other locals — connected to the home's colorful past.

"We are very excited because we've only recently been able to open the Drish House to the public — since the preservation society got the deed a couple of years ago," said Susan Haynes, the society's executive director.

The preservation society has held a couple of other events in the past

IF YOU GO

- **What:** An Evening with Dr. Drish
- **When:** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Saturday
- **Where:** The Drish House, 2300 17th St.
- **Cost:** \$50 per person
- **Info/Tickets:** Call 205-758-2238

year that involved the Drish House, but this will be the first opportunity for a lot of people at once to attend a single event at the house, Haynes said.

Drish moved to Tuscaloosa in 1822 and around 1835 had completed what was then a mansion with a view of downtown Tuscaloosa to the north and cotton fields to the south. He died in 1869 at the age of 75.

SEE DRISH | 4B

DRISH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Drish, whose reputation was that of an eccentric and possibly an alcoholic, died after bolting out of bed during a sickness and charging over an upstairs bannister.

His wife was said to have gone mad after his death and is reputedly the main spirit haunting the house.

Vaughn has portrayed Drish three times previously for various preservation society functions. He said he used the Internet to obtain the period garb he will wear Saturday by searching Google for "18th Century Gentleman's clothes."

"I really don't know what attracts me to Dr. Drish," he said with a chuckle earlier this week. "Maybe it's because I'm a doctor, maybe it's because I've got some ham in me and maybe it's because Susan [Haynes] lives right across the street from us and has encouraged me to do it."

"But it's fun and it should really be interesting Saturday since we will have several others 'in character' for the entire evening."

Also on hand for the fundraiser will be members of the Tuscaloosa Paranormal Research Group, which has used high-tech cameras, recorders, heat, sound and light sensors to investigate "hauntings" of the newly accessible Drish House. They will demonstrate their methods and explain the results of their investigations of the house.

"We did our initial investigation right after the house was opened in October — we had been waiting for years to get in that place," said David Higdon, one of the co-founders of the organization. "We didn't really turn up much then, but a couple of weeks ago we spent the whole night in the house and found some things I think people will be interested in."

Higdon says, for instance, that they have a digital recording of a flashlight left on the floor turning itself on with no one around it.

Haynes said the event replaces Heritage Week as the preservation society's primary fundraiser for the year. In addition to individual tickets, the society is selling several levels of sponsorship.

Haynes said Monday that more than 150 tickets have already been sold.

The Drish House is at 2300 17th St. Parking will be available at Wachovia Bank on the corner of Greensboro Avenue and 15th Street with shuttle service to the Drish House.

For information, e-mail tuscantypreser@bellsouth.net or call 205-758-2238. Tickets will be available at the door or can be purchased in advance by calling the same phone number.



FILE | STAFF PHOTO | TOMMY STEVENSON

The Drish House, located at 2300 17th St., is considered by many to be haunted.

Tuscaloosa News
May 13, 2009

Join this battle, save these historic resources

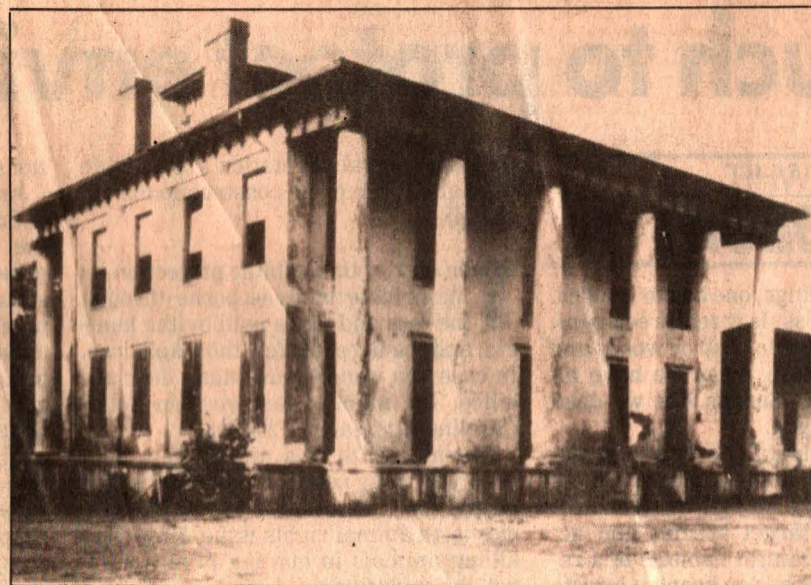
By JEFF MANSELL

Special to The News

A war is being waged on the historic battlefields of Virginia. Unlike the conflict that was fought over 130 years ago on the rolling Piedmont countryside, this particular struggle is, at this point, merely a war of words, a heated debate focusing on the preservation of cultural resources, the protection of scenic landscapes, and most importantly, the interpretation of American history.

There is an intruder upon the heartland of the Old Dominion State and it is none other than The Walt Disney Co., the entertainment industry giant known for family-oriented movies and lavish theme parks. CEO Michael Eisner has decided that Americans need a history-based theme park, one located on a tract of 3,000 acres, four miles from Manassas National Battlefield Park.

The announcement of the planned enterprise has spurred a national campaign against the proposed development from environmental, preservation and citizens' groups, including the National Trust. Even some prominent American historians have formed Protect Historic America, an organization whose sole mission is to fight the proposed



This Walker Percy photo shows the Drish House in decay, even in the pre-World War II era.

Disney project. According to celebrated historian, David McCullough, "... this is not just the site of Civil War battlefields but of the very land upon which the founders of the nation lived. This is as vividly historic ground as one could find."

In this day and time, when historians and preservations alike are working diligently to educate everyone about the importance of historic resources, most Americans

are probably a little perplexed about the furor that has erupted over the Disney announcement. One argument that could be made for Disney's case is that we should welcome any attempt to expose children to American history. As Virginia Gov. George Allen testified, "history is not just for historians. And it not just for smug, self-appointed arbiters of culture and Hollywood movie stars. It is for all

citizens — or it should be."

No one can argue with Allen's opinion; history should be for all our citizens. Yet will Disney's interpretations of history be what we should be striving for or exposing our children to? Americans are already forced to suffer the reconstructed buildings of "authentic" Colonial Williamsburg. We tour complexes (known in the preservation field as "house zoos") of buildings and structures that have been moved from their original rural sites and relocated on city blocks to recreate a genuine, authentic, 100 percent real, 19th century village.

Must we now be subjected to a mouse impersonating Thomas Jefferson drafting the Declaration of Independence? Or will it be Uncle Donald standing in the bow of the boat, striking his best George Washington pose as Huey, Duey and Luey row him across the Delaware? Or how about those seven dwarfs reenacting Pickett's charge at Gettysburg? I feel certain that if asked, most Americans would rather not have their ancestors who died on Civil War battlefields portrayed by a bunch of half-witted cartoon characters.

If the Walt Disney Co. is allowed to proceed with the development and creation of their history theme

park, a dangerous precedent will be set. Throughout America, the right of an industry or corporation to create an enterprise that will ultimately destroy the landscape and the integrity of a pristine and historically rich area will supersede that of average landowners who want to preserve not only culturally significant areas, but rapidly diminishing stretches of rich farmland.

Alabamians need not look to Virginia to witness the setting of dangerous precedents in the field of preservation. Indeed, they are being set in our own state, particularly in our capital of Montgomery, a city rich in the history of the Old South and the Civil Rights movement. I doubt, however, that either Jefferson Davis or Martin Luther King Jr. would recognize Dexter Avenue today.

The destruction of historic resources in downtown Montgomery is appalling. Whole city blocks, one of which was the core of the African-American business district, having been leveled for the erection of soaring office complexes and parking garages. These modern structures tower over King's Dexter Avenue Baptist Church as well as the Winter building where word was received by telegraph that Beauregard had fired on Fort Sumter.

While Alabamians should be

proud of their recently restored state Capitol, we should be disgusted with wholesale destruction of the historic fabric surrounding Goat Hill. And we should be concerned over the apparent ease with which the destruction took place. The silence from the preservation community in Montgomery and indeed, throughout the state sent the developer the wrong message. The wrecking ball was set in motion and a dangerous precedent was set.

Recently, a concerned citizen said that the only precedent set in Tuscaloosa seemed to be one of inaction, that preservationists seemed to be more reactive rather than proactive. Yet, in all fairness, organizations such as the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society and the Heritage Commission have worked diligently to educate the public about the benefits of preservation. These two groups have made significant strides in preserving and restoring some of the area's most historic resources: The Old Tavern, the McGuire-Strickland House, the Jemison Mansion, the Battle-Friedman House, the Murphy African-American Museum. It is an impressive list.

Yet there are a number of issues on the horizon and how we address (or ignore) these concerns will set the tone for preservation in the Please see JOIN Page 2F

JOIN

Continued from Page 1F
community. The future of the Wesley Foundation building on the University of Alabama campus is uncertain. The corporate giant Mercedes-Benz is coming. Are we ready for the development that will inevitably follow?

And what about the Drish House, one of Tuscaloosa's premier 19th century antebellum structures? Will we preserve it or merely stand by as it slowly crumbles?

As our ancestors did in the 1800s, we are closely watching the events taking place on the historic battlefields of Vir

What about the Drish House in Tuscaloosa?

ginia. Yet let us focus on the preservation issues in our own backyard.

As the new director of the Tuscaloosa County Preservation Society, I encourage everyone who is interested in preserving and promoting our historic resources, to join our battle, help us establish positive precedents in our ongoing struggle to maintain a sense of place.

Jeff Mansell has been assistant director of the Cahaba Trace Commission.

Strange lights in the Drish home

Haunted houses, ghosts, mysterious sounds-these all make good ingredients for a spooky story. In Tuscaloosa there is an old home called the Drish home which is thought to be haunted.

A Dr. and Mrs. Drish built a Southern Colonial home on what is now 17th Street in Tuscaloosa. The home was very large and elaborate with very expensive and fancy furnishings and decorations.

Dr. and Mrs. Drish had a daughter named Katherine. She was a very unhappy person because she was heartbroken by a love affair

her father had put an end to. She eventually lost her mind.

Dr. Drish traveled to Mobile by river to sell his cotton and one day he came back to Tuscaloosa very sick. The servants put him to bed. He was so upset about what he had done to Katherine and about her madness that he jumped out of bed, ran to the stairway, gave a loud cry and died.

Before the burial, Dr. Drish was laid in state in his home with candles surrounding his coffin. Mrs. Drish made a special request that the same candles be used and lighted around her coffin when she died.

Mrs. Drish's niece and her husband and family came to live with her after Dr. Drish died. Their names were Thomas and Virginia Green and daughters, Mary and Nimmo.

As she grew to be an old woman, Mrs. Drish became very concerned that the same candles used around her husband's coffin be used when she died. She asked people many times to please use the candles.

When Mrs. Drish eventually died, the servants reminded Mrs. Green of Mrs. Drish's



Strange lights in the Drish home

request to use the candles. A search was made from the tower of the house. But nothing was made for the candles, but they were never ever found.

found. The servants were very worried. Although everybody thought Mrs. Drish because they feared that if the candles were not used, Mrs. Drish's ghost would return to haunt the house. Since the candles could not be found, Mrs. Drish was buried without having her wish being honored.

was a very nice woman, her neighbors thought it was her unhappy ghost who returned to haunt them because the candles she wanted burned around her coffin were not used.

Soon people would see the tower of the Drish house on fire at various times. Each time an investigation was made, the room would be empty with nothing burning. People would even see flames and smoke coming

The Drish home is now part of the Southside Baptist Church. On some nights people still say they see lights in the tower room, maybe the kind of light made by a candle.

What to read:

Friedman Library

These books are appropriate for children in kindergarten through the third grade. Some books the children can read to themselves, and some are for adults to read to children.

MICKEY MOUSE'S RIDDLE BOOK - Walt Disney Productions; Mickey, Minnie, Goofy, and Donald Duck ask outrageous questions with hilarious answers.

I HATE TO TAKE A BATH - Judi Barrett; in simple text and charming illustrations are some of the good and bad things about jumping into the bathtub.

MR. ZIP AND THE U.S. MAIL - Jene Barr; the story of how letters and packages travel through our mail system.

MY OWN LITTLE HOUSE - Merriman B. Kaune; a beginning-to-read book, illustrated with water color drawings.

A PIECE OF RED PAPER - Sara Sein; encourages creativity by showing easy, fun things to do by cutting, tearing, and arranging pieces of paper.

A WISE MONKEY TALE - Betsy and Giulio Maestro; animals in the jungle are outsmarted by the monkey.

BURTON AND DUDLEY - Marjorie Weinman Sharmat; Dudley Possum and Burton Possum take a walk that proves to be a test of friendship.

THREE FRIENDS - Robert Kraus; the story of a most unusual trio - a tiger, a panda, and an octopus.

AMELIA MIXTED THE MUSTARD AND OTHER POEMS - Evaline Ness; twenty funny, poignant, proud poems about girls, of all sizes, shapes, ages, and dispositions.

METRIC MEASURE - Herbert S. Zim and James R. Skelly; fun to work with, easy to understand, this book will be an invaluable tool in the approaching changeover.



The "Young Alabamian" is an original creation of the Graphic staff and associates.












The Little Cook's Nook

By: Alyce Mize

Lunchtime is always a busy time and I'm sure that any busy mother would love to have a helpful son or daughter cook for her once in a while. When you want to give your mom a day off try this quick lunch. It's called:

Red Robin

You will need:

- 1 can tomato soup (undiluted) 
- 1 cup cheese (grated)  
- 1 egg (beaten)  
- A dash of Salt and Pepper  
- 4 slices Hot Toast    

In the top of a double boiler, mix the soup and cheese and cook slowly until cheese melts. Add beaten egg, salt, and pepper. Serve over hot toast. Now you have a great tasting lunch that's good for you. (and good for Mom too!)

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

This Indenture, Made and entered into this the 16th day of September, 1940, between The Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as part of the first part, and The Southside Baptist Church, a Corporation, of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, as part of the second part, Witnesseth: That the part of the first part, for and in consideration of...

CLAIMS LIST
All BK 187 P 230
B BL-346
J.C.I.+L 1-567

the sum of Four Thousand & no/100 (\$4,000.00) Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to it in hand paid by the part of the second part, at or before the ensembling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, convey, and confirm unto the said part of the second part, and to its successors and assigns, forever, all the following described real property in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot No. Twelve (12) in Block 346, according to the Tuscaloosa, Coal, Iron & Land Company's Subdivision in and to the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Southeast Corner of said Lot No. Twelve (12); run thence Northward along the West side of a ten foot alley Seventy-seven and Six-tenths (77.6) Feet to the Northeast Corner of said Lot No. 12; run thence Westward along the South side of Seventeenth Street One Hundred Ten (110) Feet to a point of Curve; continue thence along a Fifty-six and Twenty-eight Hundredths (56.28) Foot radius curve to the left a distance of One Hundred Nine and Sixty-three Hundredths (109.63) Feet to a point of tangent on the East side of Twenty-third Avenue; run thence Southeastward along the East side of Twenty-third Avenue Sixty-three and Seven-tenths (63.7) Feet to the Southwest Corner of said Lot No. 12; run thence Northeastward, One Hundred Fifty-seven and Fifty-four Hundredths (157.54) Feet to the point of beginning. Also the Circle Numbered Two Hundred Ten (210), including the residence building now situated thereon and bounded by the Fifty (50) Foot Street on Jensen Place; all according to the survey of the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company as said survey is duly recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, said lots being situate in the City and County of Tuscaloosa and State of Alabama.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion and reversions, remainder or remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof. And also all the estate, right, title, interest, dower and right of dower, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said part of the first part, of, in, and to the same and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances. To Have and to Hold, all and singular, the above mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said part of the second part its successors and assigns forever. And the part of the first part covenant and agree with the said part of the second part that it is seized of an indefeasible estate in fee simple in and to said property; that it has the lawful right to sell and convey the same in fee simple, that the said property is free from all mortgages, liens, and encumbrances; that it is entitled to the immediate possession thereof; and that it will forever warrant and defend the title to the same and the possession thereof unto the said part of the second part, its successors and assigns, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever.

Only \$1,000.00 of the above consideration has been paid, and the remaining \$3,000.00 is to be paid \$500.00 on September 16th each year for six years, which deferred payments are evidenced by six promissory notes of even date herewith, secured by mortgage, and which deferred payments bear 6% interest from date, payable annually. A Vendor's lien is specifically saved and retained hereby as to the unpaid portion of the Consideration for this deed.

In Witness Whereof, the said part of the first part has hereunto set its hand and seal the day and year first above written.
Witness: Alice H. Wesel, Its Secretary; The Board of Education of The City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, By Reuben H. Wright, Its President.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. I, Mary Eleanor King, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that Reuben H. Wright, whose name as President of the Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal this 16th day of September, 1940.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. I, Mary Eleanor King, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that Alice H. Wesel, whose name as Secretary of the Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, she executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. And I do hereby certify that on the 16th day of September, 1940, came before me the within named who, being examined separate and apart from the husband, touching her signature to the within conveyance acknowledged that she signed the same of her own free will and without fear, constraints, or threats on the part of the husband. In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal this 16th day of September, 1940.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. Office of Judge of Probate. I, CHESTER WALKER, Judge of Probate in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that the foregoing conveyance was filed in my office for registration on the 29th day of March, 1941, at 9:30 AM, and duly recorded in Deed Book No. 204 Page 436. Given under my hand this 31st day of March, 1941.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. I, CHESTER WALKER, Judge of Probate for said County, hereby certify that the following Deed tax has been paid on the within instrument as required by law: \$ 4 Cents.

Vertical handwritten note on the left margin: The Vendor's Lien evidenced hereby has been satisfied and is hereby satisfied in full. This action is by order of the Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, by its authorized officers.



THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

This Indenture, Made and entered into this the 16th day of September, 1940, between The Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, as part of the first part, and The Southside Baptist Church, a Corporation, of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, as part of the second part.

CLAIMS LIST

Old BK 227 P. 230 B. 81-346 J.C.I.# 1-56?

The Vendor being provided with a copy has been satisfied and is satisfied in full. This is a copy of the deed as recorded in the books of the County of Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

the sum of Four Thousand & no/100 (\$4,000.00) Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, to it in hand paid by the part of the second part, at or before the enrolling and delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, has granted, bargained, sold, aliened, released, conveyed and confirmed, and by these presents do grant, bargain, sell, alien, release, convey, and confirm unto the said part of the second part, and to its successors, forever, all the following described real property in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, to-wit:

Lot No. Twelve (12) in Block 346 according to the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron & Land Company's Subdivision in and to the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Southeast Corner of said Lot No. Twelve (12); run thence Northward along the West side of a ten foot alley Seventy-seven and Six-tenths (77.6) Feet to the Northeast Corner of said Lot No. 12; run thence Westward along the South side of Seventeenth Street One Hundred Ten (110) Feet to a point of Curve; continue thence along a Fifty-six and Twenty-eight Hundredths (56.28) Foot radius curve to the left a distance of One Hundred Nine and Sixty-three Hundredths (109.63) Feet to a point of tangent on the East side of Twenty-third Avenue; run thence Southeastward along the East side of Twenty-third Avenue Sixty-three and Seven-tenths (63.7) Feet to the Southeast Corner of said Lot No. 12; run thence Northeastward, One Hundred Fifty-seven and Fifty-four Hundredths (157.54) Feet to the point of beginning. Also the Circle Numbered Two Hundred Ten (210), including the residence building now situated thereon and bounded by the Fifty (50) Foot Street on Jefferson Place; all according to the survey of the Tuscaloosa Coal, Iron and Land Company as said survey is duly recorded in the Office of the Judge of Probate of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, said lots being situate in the City and County of Tuscaloosa and State of Alabama.

Together with all and singular the tenements, hereditaments, and appurtenances thereto belonging or in any wise appertaining and the reversion and reversions, remainder or remainders, rents, issues, and profits thereof. And also all the estate, right, title, interest, dower and right of dower, property, possession, claim and demand whatsoever, as well in law as in equity, of the said part of the first part, of, in, and to the same and every part and parcel thereof, with the appurtenances. To Have and to Hold, all and singular, the above mentioned and described premises, together with the appurtenances, unto the said part of the second part and its successors, and assigns forever. And the part of the first part covenant and agree with the said part of the second part that it is seized of an indefeasible estate in fee simple in and to said property; that it has the lawful right to sell and convey the same in fee simple, that the said property is free from all mortgages, liens, and encumbrances; that it is entitled to the immediate possession thereof; and that it will forever warrant and defend the title to the same and the possession thereof unto the said part of the second part, its successors, and assigns, against the lawful claims and demands of all persons whomsoever.

Only \$1,000.00 of the above consideration has been paid, and the remaining \$3,000.00 is to be paid \$500.00 on September 16th each year for six years which deferred payments are evidenced by six promissory notes of even date herewith, secured by mortgage, and which deferred payments bear 6% interest from date, payable annually. A Vendor's lien is specifically saved and retained hereby as to the unpaid portion of the consideration for this deed.

In Witness Whereof, the said part of the first part has hereunto set its hand and seal the day and year first above written. Witness: Alice H. Weasel, Its Secretary; Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama; By Arthur H. Wright, Its President.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. I, Mary Eleanor King, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that Arthur H. Wright, whose name as President of the Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, he executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal this 16th day of September, 1940.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. I, Mary Eleanor King, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that Alice H. Weasel, whose name as Secretary of the Board of Education of the City of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, whose name is signed to the foregoing conveyance, and who is known to me, acknowledged before me on this day that, being informed of the contents of the conveyance, she executed the same voluntarily on the day the same bears date. And I do hereby certify that on the 16th day of September, 1940, came before me the within named who, being examined separate and apart from the husband, touching her signature to the within conveyance acknowledged that she signed the same of her own free will and accord and without fear, constraints, or threats on the part of the husband. In Witness Whereof, I hereunto set my hand and official seal this 16th day of September, 1940.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. Office of Judge of Probate. I, CHESTER WALKER, Jpdge of Probate in and for said County and State, do hereby certify that the foregoing conveyance was filed in my office for registration on the 29th day of March, 1941, at 7:30 P.M., and duly recorded in Deed Book No. 204 Page 436. Given under my hand this 31st day of March, 1941.

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, TUSCALOOSA COUNTY. I, CHESTER WALKER, Judge of Probate for said County, hereby certify that the following Deed tax has been paid on the within instrument as required by law: \$ 4 Cents 00.

Handwritten mark or signature.

date above written
Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the presence of
H. W. Ellis

W. M. Daniel
J. N. Peirce

George McKinnis State of Alabama
Gen. W. Crane Tuscaloosa County
Clerk of the County Court for the County aforesaid do hereby
testify that William A. Daniel and John R. Peirce the
to the foregoing Indenture appeared personally before
this day and acknowledged the signing sealing and
delivery of the same as their free act and deed for the
purposes therein specified and contained given under
hand this 23rd day of February 1895

a true copy of 23rd Feb 1895

Henry Anthony Clerk

This Indenture made and entered into this 16th day of February
in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
ninety five between James Fears of the first part and John R. Dusk of
Second part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum
one hundred dollars by the said party of the second part, before the
sealing and delivery of these presents to the said party of the first
part in hand paid the Receipt whereof is here by acknowledged
the said party of the first part hath granted bargained sold
conveyed and confirmed and by these presents doth grant
give, sell alien convey and confirm unto the said party of the
second part his heirs and assigns a certain tract or parcel of land
situate lying, and being, in the County of Tuscaloosa and State of Alabama
to wit, the west half of the north west quarter of Section five
Township twenty one and Range ten in the District of
Tuscaloosa containing Seventy nine $\frac{16}{100}$ acres

To have and to hold the lands hereby conveyed with the
tenures thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining
unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns
forever, and the said party of the first part do hereby convey
and agree that he will warrant and forever defend the
granted premises unto the said party of the second part his
heirs and assigns, against himself his heirs and assigns, against
claim or claims of all and every other person or persons
-ing from, through, by, or under, him, his heirs or assigns, or

date above written
Signed Sealed & Delivered
in the presence of
H. W. Ellis

W. M. Daniel
J. N. Peice

George McKinnis State of Alabama
Clk. W. Crane Tuscaloosa County
Henry D. Dish
clerk of the County Court for the County aforesaid do hereby
testify that William A. M. Daniel and John R. Peice the
to the foregoing Indenture appeared personally before
this day and acknowledged the signing sealing and
delivery of the same as their free act and deed for the
purpose therein specified and contained given under
hand this 23rd day of February 1895
a true copy of 23rd Feb 1895 Henry Anthony Clerk

This Indenture made and Entered into this 16th day of February
in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
ninety five between James Fears of the first part and John R. Dish of
Second part Witnesseth that for and in consideration of the sum
one hundred dollars by the said party of the second part, before the
sealing and delivery of these presents to the said party of the first
part in hand paid the Receipt whereof is here by acknowledged
the said party of the first part hath Granted bargained Sold
conveyed and confirmed and by these presents doth Grant
give, Sell alien convey and confirm unto the said party of the
first part his heirs and assigns a certain tract or parcel of land
lying, and being, in the County of Tuscaloosa and State of Alabama
to wit, the west half of the north west quarter of Section five
Township twenty one and Range ten in the district of Tus
caloosa containing Seventy nine $\frac{16}{100}$ acres

To have and to hold the lands hereby conveyed with the
tenancies thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining
unto the said party of the second part his heirs and assigns
forever, and the said party of the first part do hereby convey
and agree that he will warrant and forever defend the
granted premises unto the said party of the second part, his
and assigns, against himself his heirs and assigns, against
claim or claims of all and every other person or persons,
-ing from, through, by, or under, him, his heirs or assigns, and

and against the Claim or claims of all and every person or persons
claiming from, through, by or under the Government of the
United States - In Testimony whereof I have hereunto subscribed
my name and affixed my Seal the day And Year above written
Signed Sealed and delivered James Fears *Sealed*

In the presence of
Henry Anthony } State of Alabama }
R. C. McAlpin } Tuscaloosa County } J. Henry Anthony
Henry Anthony Clerk of the County Court for said County do hereby certify
that James Fears Signed, Sealed and delivered the foregoing deed
on the day of the date thereof and that I was a Subscribing Witness
thereto together with R. C. McAlpin given under my hand this
21st day of February 1825 -

Henry Anthony Clerk

State of Alabama }
Tuscaloosa County } Know all men by these presents that I Judith Fears
the wife of James Fears do hereby Relinquish all my Right of
Dower and claim to the foregoing described tract or parcel of Land
conveyed by my said Husband to John R. Dish, In Testimony
whereof I have hereunto Set my hand and affixed my Seal
this 21st day of February 1825 -

Judith Fears *Sealed*

State of Alabama }
Tuscaloosa County } I Henry Anthony Clerk of the County Court
for the County aforesaid do hereby certify that Judith Fears the wife
of James Fears appeared this day personally before me and acknow-
ledged (after being by me privately examined separate and apart
from her said Husband as the law directs) that she freely and volun-
tarily Relinquished all her Right of Dower and claim to the fore-
going described tract or parcel of Land as conveyed by her
said husband to John R. Dish, and that this she does not from
any fear, threat, or compulsion of her said Husband - Given under
my hand this 21st day of February 1825 -
a true copy Ex. 24th Feb 1825

Henry Anthony Clerk