

## ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DATE ADDED: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. NAME

Historic: Charles M. Nelson House  
and/or Common: Mary Ann Nelson House

### 2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 13232 Mary Ann Beach Rd  
City, Town: Fairhope ---Vicinity of: \_\_\_\_\_  
State: AL County: Baldwin Zip: 36532

### 3. CLASSIFICATION

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Park
<input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> Being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:

### 4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Name: William K. Strange Jr Telephone: (251) 990-2495  
Street & Number: 13232 Mary Ann Beach Rd  
City or Town: Fairhope State: AL Zip: 36532  
Email Address: STRANGE.Bill@BellSouth.NET

### 5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

(Attach sketched floor plan and/or site plan)

*See Powerpoint*

## 6. DESCRIPTION

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(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the description.)

### CONDITION

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Good                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fair                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed    |

### CHECK ONE

- |   |
|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered |

### CHECK ONE

- |   |
|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Moved Date Moved         |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

## 7. SIGNIFICANCE

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(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the significance.)

### PERIOD

- Prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

### AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-CHECK AND EXPLAIN BELOW

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric         | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning      | <input type="checkbox"/> industry                       | <input type="checkbox"/> religion                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic            | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture                    | <input type="checkbox"/> education               | <input type="checkbox"/> law                            | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture                 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>architecture</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering             | <input type="checkbox"/> literature                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> art                            | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement  | <input type="checkbox"/> military                       | <input type="checkbox"/> theater                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> commerce                       | <input type="checkbox"/> funerary art            | <input type="checkbox"/> music                          | <input type="checkbox"/> other                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> communications                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government |  |

SPECIFIC DATES: \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: \_\_\_\_\_

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE





UTM 16 418846E 3365558N (NAD83/WGS84)  
**Brook Cedron Cemetery, USGS Magnolia Springs (AL) Quadrangle**  
Projection is UTM Zone 16 NAD83 Datum

## 8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

## 9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of nominated property: 210 x 305  
Quadrangle name: Magnolia Springs AL

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, or USGS map)

If the property includes more than one building, submit a small sketch map showing the locations and relationships of the buildings.

## 10. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/title: William K. Strange Jr.  
Organization: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: 5/2/2008  
Street & Number: 13232 Mary Ann Beck Rd Telephone: 251 990 2495  
City or Town: Fairhope State: AL Zip: 36532  
Email Address: strangebill@BellSouth.net

## 11. PLEASE SUBMIT COLOR IMAGES OF THE PROPERTY WITH THIS FORM:

Images are essential to the review process. They can be 4x6 color prints or digital images on a CD. Please see the "Instructions for Completing an AR Form" for more details on images or contact the AHC at 334.230.2687.

## 12. PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORM AND DOCUMENTATION TO:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
468 SOUTH PERRY STREET  
MONTGOMERY, AL 36130-0900



## Charles M. Nelson House Significance

Architecture – This style of house with double porches and sunshades was not prevalent along this coast at the time this house was built. I talked with the granddaughter of Charles Nelson and she informed me the lower porch had a sunshade at one time. She was a great help in remembering details about the original structure. This house is very well recognized by the community for its unique design.

Humanitarian – The Nelson family not only gave their time while living in this community but also donated land for public use. Now a very well know landmark is Mary Ann Beach. This parcel serves as a bay front park so all residents of the area can enjoy Mobile Bay.

Politics and Government – Charles Nelson was head of the roads commission for Baldwin County and was a leader in the community by serving as one of the first county commissioner when Baldwin County adopted a commission style Government.

Social History – Charles Nelson was active in the community but his wife Mary Ann is much more easily recognized in the social history of Fairhope and the surrounding area. She was a member of Fairhope social clubs and is also recognized because of her name being on County highway 27(Mary Ann Beach Road) and Mary Ann Beach itself.

## Charles M. Nelson House Description

1. Number of stories – Two
2. Foundation- Concrete Block Pillars
3. Interior Framing – Wood frame
4. Exterior Wall Material- The original is pine lap siding  $\frac{1}{2}$ "x6" in 2007 repairs were made with  $\frac{1}{2}$ "X6" CYPRESS siding.
5. Exterior Wall Treatment-
6. Porches- The front of the original structure has two porches, one up and one main level. The size is 10'x25' each. They are covered by the front hip of the main roof. During restoration the rear kitchen revealed a porch off the south side and was rebuilt and screened. On the kitchens' north side it was discovered that entrance was an old fireplace. Due to the driveways location a porch was rebuilt 8'x8' with a plain leaning flat roof. An addition was done 2007 appx 16'x40' which has a porch on the front side that is covered by a hip roof beneath the gable of the addition.
7. Number of Bays- There are three bays or vertical divisions (walls) on each floor.
8. Roof Type and Covering – The main House has a double hip roof the decking is 1'x6' pine boards with Classic rib steel over. The original roof was pine shake and was replaced in the 1940's. The rear addition (Kitchen 1914, and 2007) has a gable roof with a flat roof to the south side. The Master Suite addition has a gable roof with the porch having a hip roof. In all additions true measured cypress timbers were used in construction the decking is 1'x6' boards. There is no plywood or sheetrock in this house now.
9. Roof Trim- The main house has cornices with a crown type molding on the upper edge. The remainder of the house has exposed risers. (true 2'x6')
10. Chimneys- The main house has one brick chimney in the center with three fireplaces.(Foyer, Living Room and Dining room.
11. Doors- The main entrance is on the west side of the original house. It has a double door with a three light transom. Each pine door panel has glass with two panels below. The north side of the kitchen has a glass panel pine door with two raised wood panels below the interior side has detail trim. The south side entry to porch has a 8' double glass panel cypress door with two raised panels below. The west entrance to the master suite has the same door as the south porch entrance.
12. Windows- All windows are the same. 3'4"x5'6" double hung with two panes in each sash. Trim is cypress  $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ " inside. Outside trim is pine with cypress surround to fill to siding. During the restoration 2007 all windows were replaced.
13. Interior features- Most interior features were in great disrepair due to water damage and termite damage. Walls, floors and chair rail were saved in the foyer. The upstairs' walls, ceilings and floors were saved. Original Mantels remain in the dining room and foyer. Dining room mantel is wood with mirror, the foyer is tile and wood.
14. Notable hardware – original door hardware remains in working order thanks to local locksmith who had skeleton keys. The original fireplaces are intact.
15. Alterations and additions –



- a. Additions- master suite was added in 2007. This building lies on the south side of the original structure and connects to it by a hallway 14' long and 6' wide. Using the same type framing with the same size timbers duplicated the construction methods of the original structure. All chair rail trim was made on site and runs throughout the structure. There is no sub floor and true 1 1/2" thick cypress tongue and groove was used for flooring. All walls and ceilings are tongue and groove cypress, vertical bead board to chair rail and horizontal above chair rail.
  - b. Alterations- In 2007 the whole structure was in disrepair from neglect, water damage and termite damage. Although the house had residents I discovered severe structural damage to major components of the original house. During the repairs we noticed a few boards that had withstood the elements and were still intact. These were determined to be cypress, so we decided to use it exclusive for all repairs. All boards were true measured and rough cut, just like the original structure. Floors through out the first floor had severe termite damage that ran from the joist that had been spliced to beams with 2x4's. 6" beams had been replaced with 4" that were unable to hold the loads. We replaced all joist on the north side of the original structure and replaced the flooring with cypress. Walls were replaced with cypress bead board and tongue and groove. The entire kitchen was rebuilt and the original floor plan was followed.
16. General Setting- The house faces west and most of the landscaping is the same. Several trees were cut to open a line of sight to the road. The addition is tucked to the side and behind large live oak trees.
  17. Outbuildings – In 1948 a clay block outbuilding was constructed on a slab for the purpose of milking cows. The building has a flat roof without much pitch. This was renovated into a studio apartment with a bathroom and kitchen area.



Charles M. Nelson House  
13232 Mary Ann Beach Road  
Fairhope, Al 36532

Renovation 2007

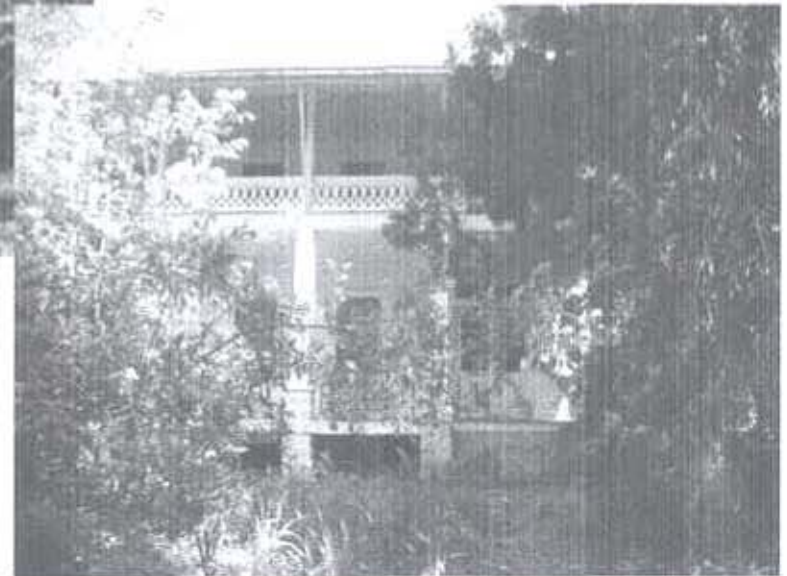
# Our Mission

Our mission in renovating this house was to repair the Structure so the building could endure through time and In the same process make it a livable house. All repairs were Made with true measured rough cut cypress lumber. The interior walls and floors were milled offsite but all chair rail and corner moldings were made on site.

We hope the work will allow this house to endure many years into the future.



# Front Before



# Front Finished





# Rear Before



# Rear Finished





# Kitchen Entrance Before

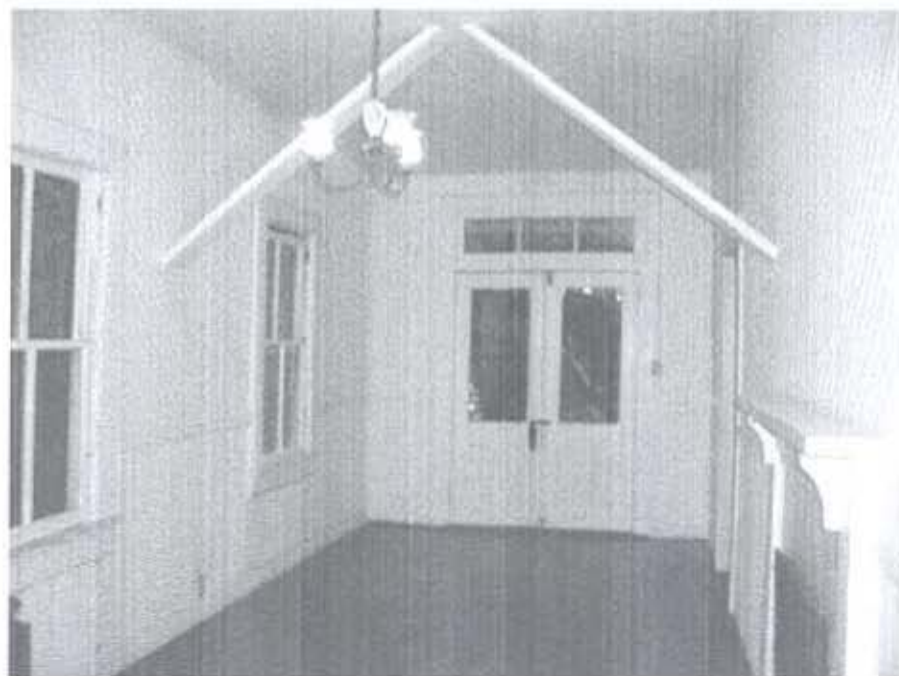


# Kitchen Entrance Finished





# Front Entrance Before



# Front Entrance Finished



# Foyer Before





# Foyer Finished



# Kitchen Before



# Kitchen Finished





# Dining Before



# Dining Finished



# Living Room Before

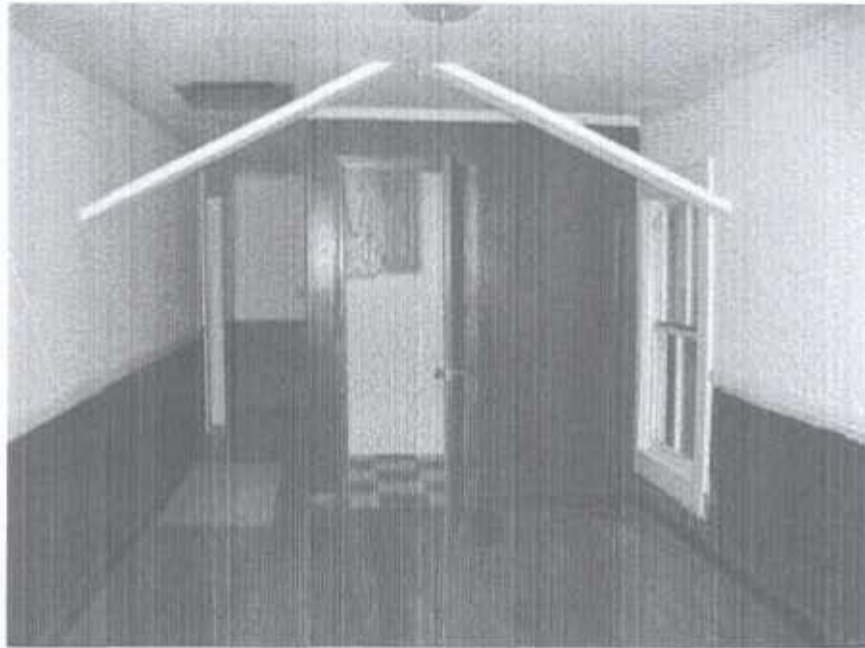




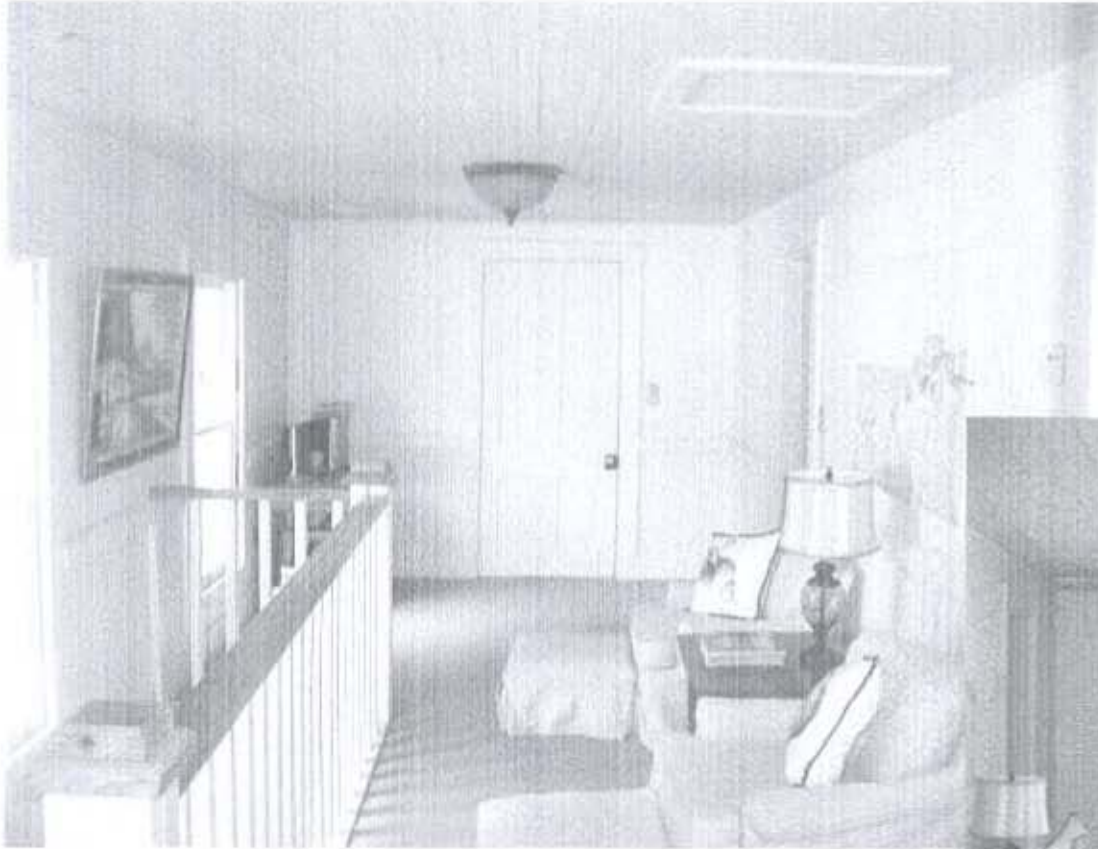
# Living Room Finished



# Upstairs Foyer Before



# Upstairs Foyer Finished





# Bedroom 1 Before



# Bedroom 1 Finished



# Bedroom 2 Before

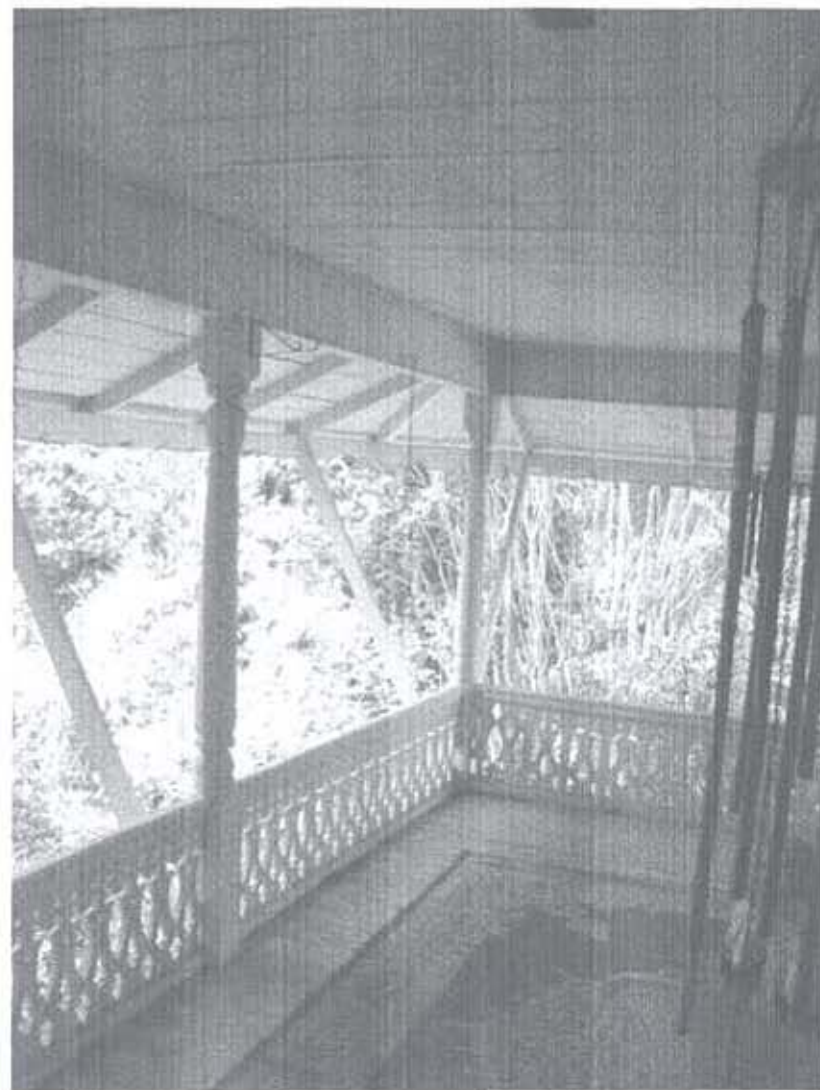




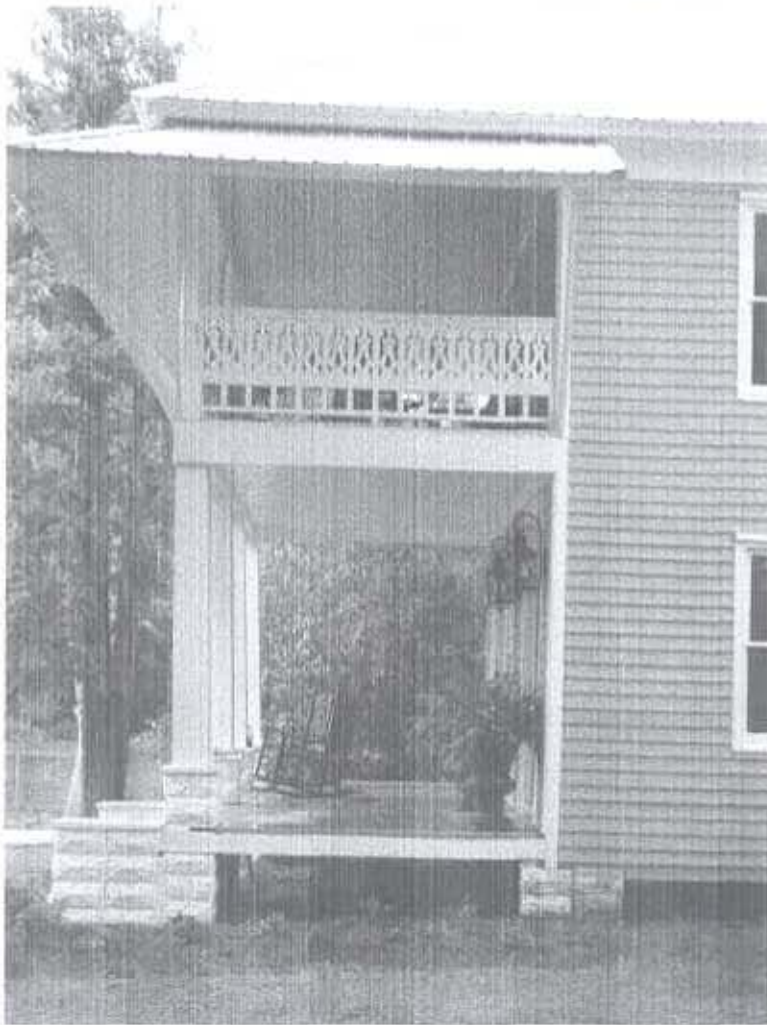
# Bedroom 2 Finished



# Porches Before

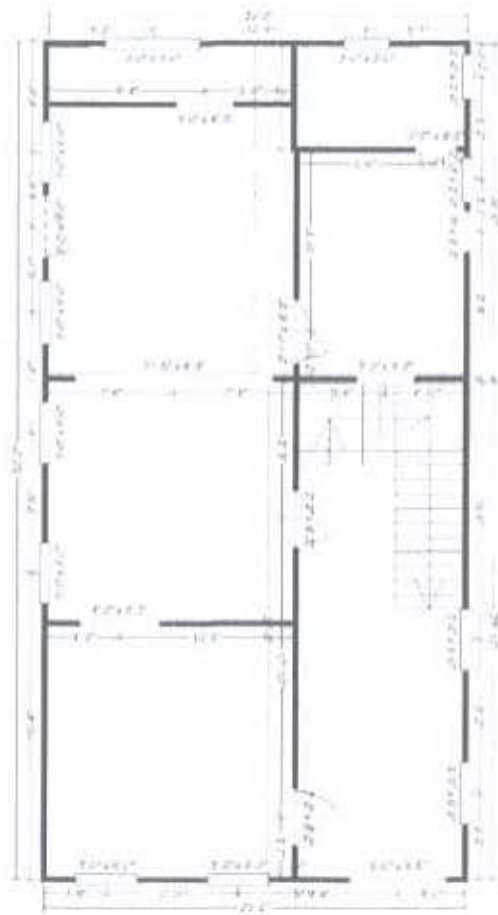


# Porches Finished





# Layout Before

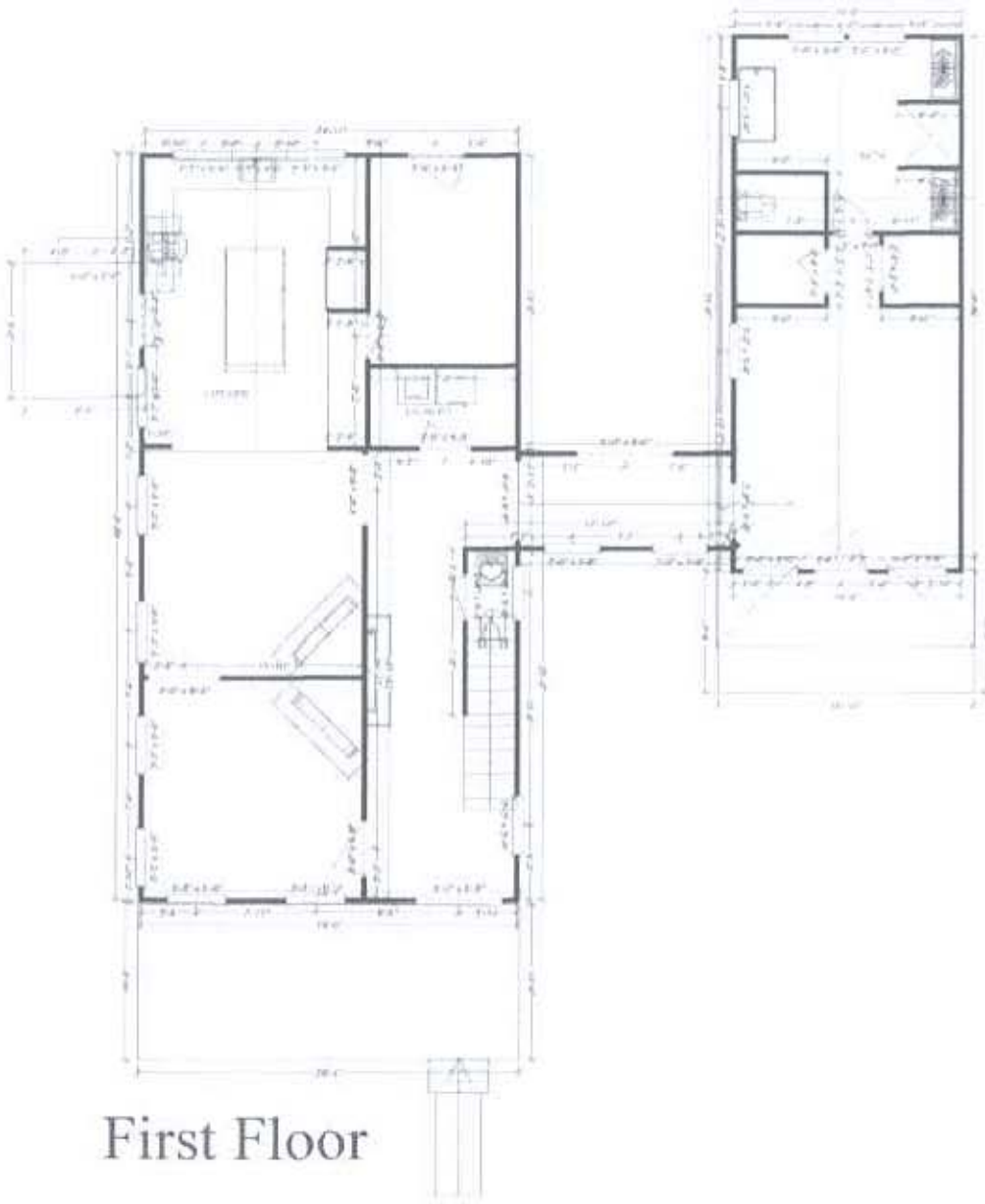


First Floor

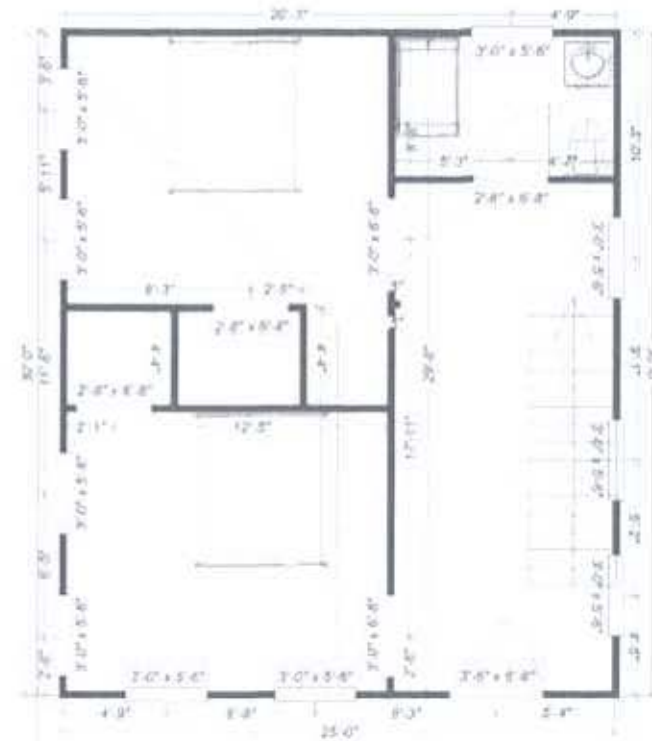


Second Floor

# Layout Finished



First Floor



Second Floor

# The Addition

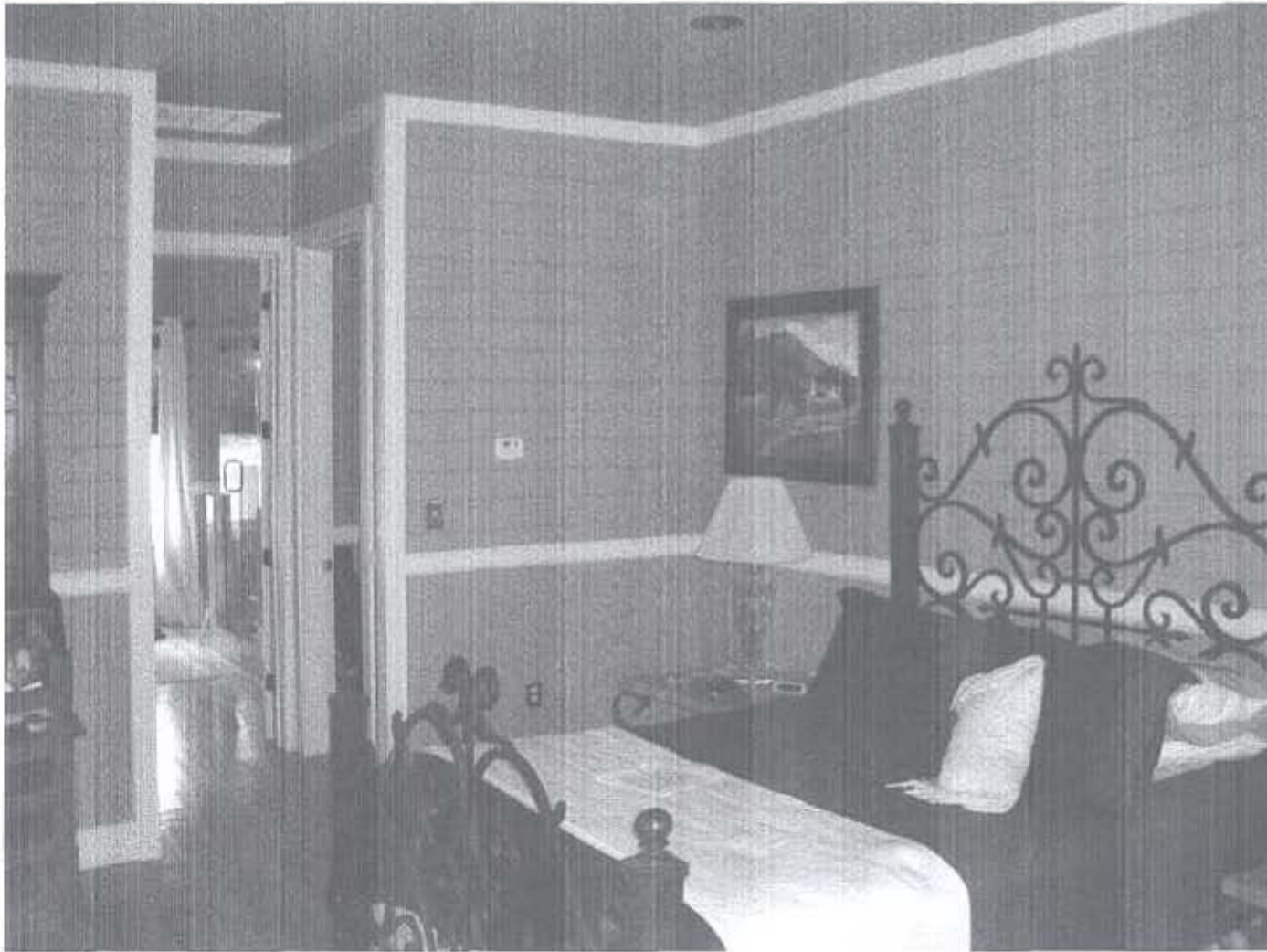




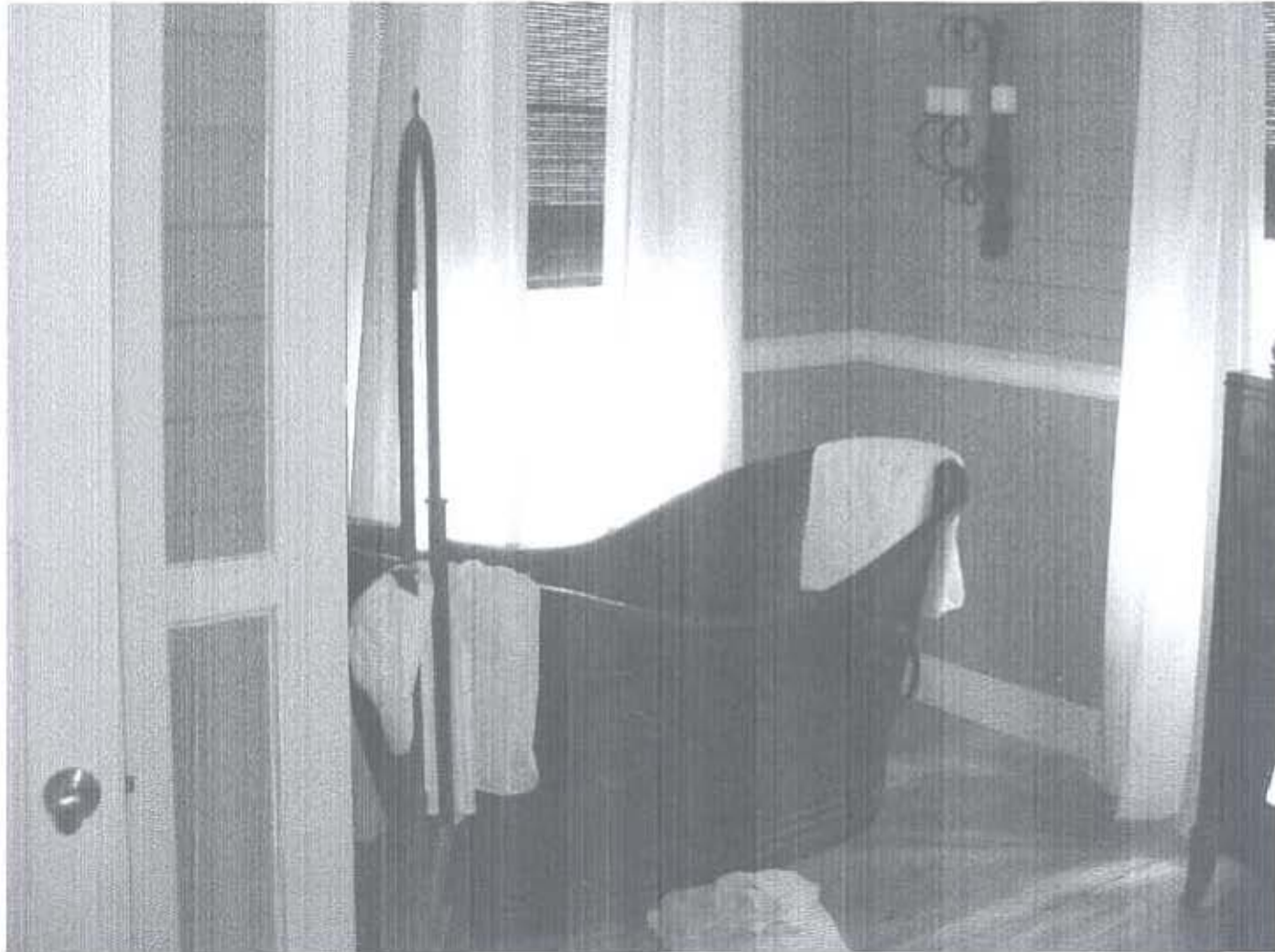
# Connecting Hallway



# Bedroom



# Bathroom



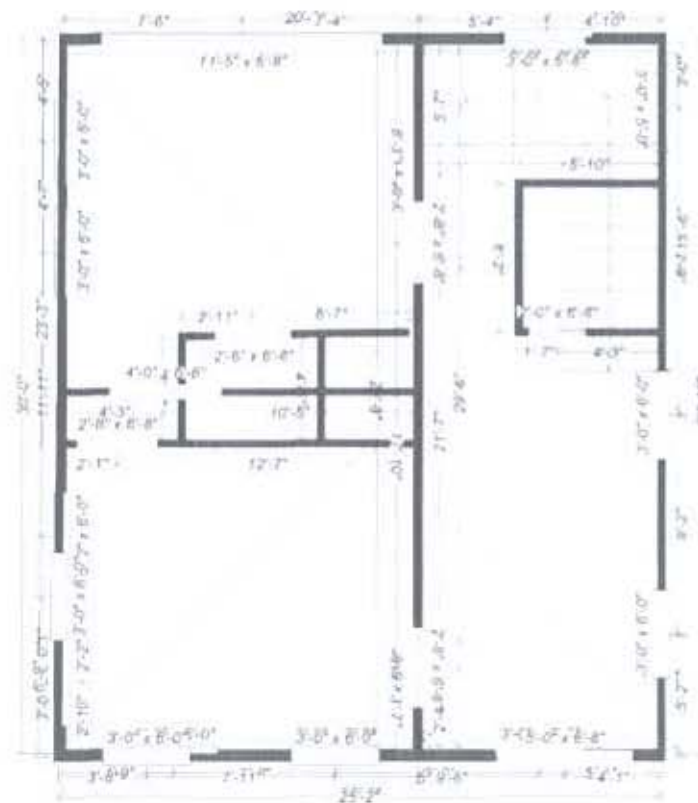


# Vanity and Shower



# Charles M. Nelson House

## Established 1898



# Charles M. Nelson House Addition 1914





# Charles M. Nelson House Addition 1948

Barn



# Charles M. Nelson House Addition 2000



Shed



# Charles M. Nelson House

2007

