

STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY BULLOCKPRESENT NAME Foster-Bryan-Brown HISTORIC NAME Laurel HillLOCATION (Street and number) 201 KennonTOWN (Give directions if rural) Union Springs, AlabamaPRESENT USE Dwelling HISTORIC USE same

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (x) Public acquisition being considered ()

OWNER'S NAME Grady A. BrownMAILING ADDRESS P. O. Box 168Union Springs

CONDITION: Excellent () Good (x) Fair () Ruins ()

INTEGRITY: Original Site (x) Moved () When? _____

From where? _____ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No (x) Yes () By What? _____

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered () Underway (x) Completed () Not planned ()

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land () Woodland () Scattered buildings ()
High building density () Commercial () Industrial ()
Residential (x) Rural () (Public School)

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a
Historic District? Two blocks from a section of town added to National Register 1976

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important () associated with events, persons, or movements
Local () State () National ()
(x) a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant,
give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the
community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend
or person related to the building's importance.)

The most architecturally significant features of the house are 1. the Oriental or Gothic
effect of the front portico and 2. the very unusual low risers on the central hall
stairway and its walnut ballusten and rail. Builder was grandfather of 1st wife of U. S. Suprem
Court Justice Hugo Black and her sister Mrs. Cifford (Virginia) Durr.

Date of Construction: 1852 - 1856
Builder or Architect: (Give names and biographies, if known)
Dr. Sterling Foster - owner and architect
(see attached)

Original Owner: (Give name and biographies--attach additional sheet if necessary)
Dr. Sterling Johnson Foster Born 12/16/1822 - Greene County, Georgia
Died 3/12/1899
married Virginia Heard of Madison, Georgia 2/26/1850
moved to Union Springs in 1852
educated at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.
one of founders of Union Springs, large land owner, physician, merchant.

Subsequent Owners (Give name and biographies)

2. Hugh Foster (Son of Builder) - Purchased from estate of va. Foster 1912-1947
3. Carey Bryan - October 1947 - July 30, 1976
local businessman
4. Grady A. Brown - July 30, 1976 - present owner

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

Dr. S. J. Foster - Newspaper Articles and granddaughter. Mrs. Susan Foster Blackwith - Also, Hugh Foster newspaper articles and daughter Susan Foster Beckwith

SECTION III: DESCRIPTION (In each category please state if elements are not original)
YOU MUST PROVIDE US WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE STRUCTURE, SHOWING FRONT, SIDE, REAR
AND NOTABLE DETAILS.

Number of stories 2 Foundation Hand hewn sills with pegs
Basement No Interior framing or structural system _____
Laths and plastered wells 2" x 4" Studs
2 x 12" floor joists

Exterior wall material and design: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)

Heart pine weather boarding - drop siding.

Roof type and covering: Hip Roof - Composition covering

Roof Trim: (Cornices, vergeboard, brackets, etc.)

Boxed with Brown molding

Chimneys: (Give number, location, and material)

4 - 2 North side of house

2 South side of house Brick

Porches: Front (type and description) _____

concrete - originally wood

Rear (type and description) wood

Side (type and description) 1 small concrete sun porch (addition)

1 wood

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) Double pine doors with transom and side lights open into wide central hall front 2nd back.

Other entrances: (location, description)

South side (addition 1940) South side from rear porch - west side double doors with transom and side windows. Stairway from rear to landing on inside stairway.

Windows: (Give types, number for each floor of facade, describe trim)

6 over 6 panes open upon the veranda to front - 2 first floor with cresting trim serve as jib doors, the panels being hinged and serviced in Dutch door effect

North side - 5 first floor - 4 upstairs - Southside - 3 downstairs - 3 upstairs

Rear - 4 down stairs - 4 upstairs.

(Give types, number per floor for rear and sides)

INTERIOR FEATURES

Mantels: (Number, location, and description): Nine - Parlor solid walnut very plain - all other same design made of pine except one later 1880's mantel and overmantel in mahognony (dining room)

Describe interior window and door trim: 1st floor doors and windows have cresting effect - 2 windows open onto front porch to serve as French doors - hinged in Dutch door effect.

Stairways (types, locations and features)

1. Central hall stairway at rear - second lift is of such gentle rise as to imbue one traversing it with the sensation of being escalated upward. 2. Rear stairway from porch to second floor.

3. Side stairway added 1940

Wall and ceiling finish: (Include wainscotting, plasterwork, cornices, etc.)
Plaster walls and ceilings
Parlor has prieze in center of ceiling

Flooring: Heart pine Notable hardware: A few original Sheffield silverplated key covers remains.

General setting and orientation:

2 acre lot surrounded by cedar and oak trees
Originally - cherry laurel hedge in front.

Outbuildings:

Barn still standing on site but owned by Brown's, well, original laundry house

Give all alterations and additions: (Be specific, give date of change and original appearance when known)

See attached - furnished by granddaughter (Susan Foster Beckwith)

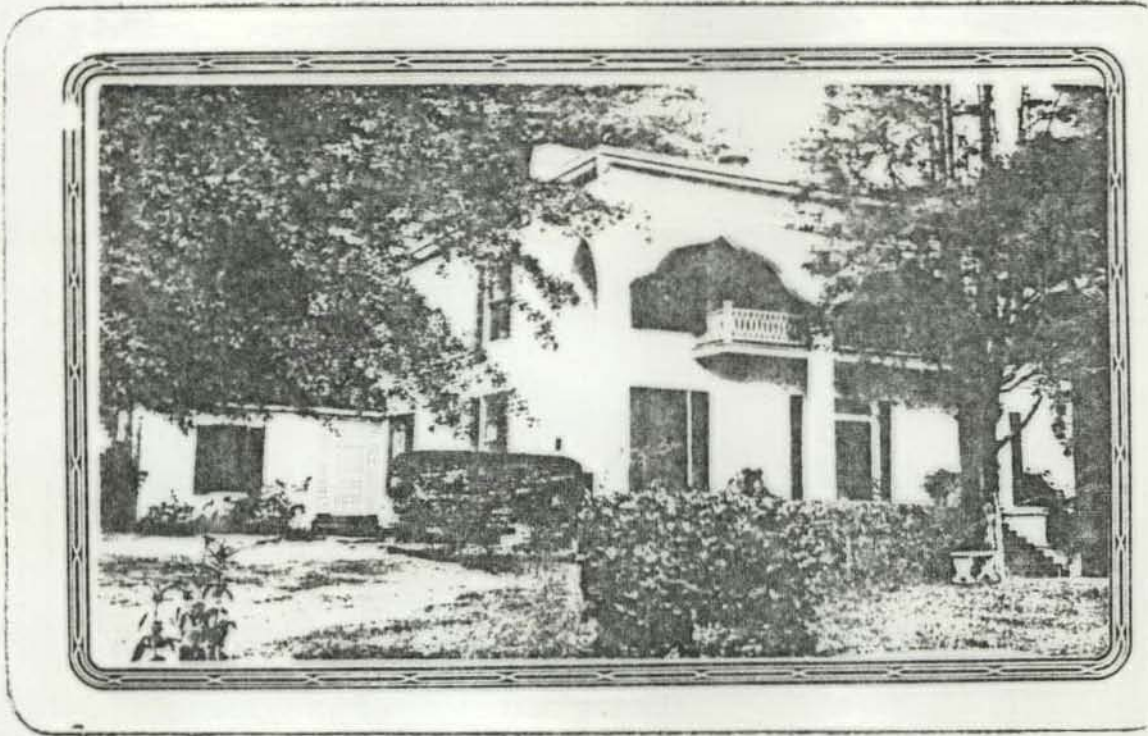
Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and additions. Also give north arrow and indicate front of the structure.
see attached

Form prepared by Mrs. Grady (Ruth) Brown Date _____

Address _____ Phone _____

Town _____

Organization _____



Handwritten text, possibly a name or address, is faintly visible between the two photographs.

