



STATE OF ALABAMA

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



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

COUNTY Butler

NAME: Present Howard-Raybon Historic Howard Home

LOCATION: Street and Number RFD # 2 Box 136 Greenville, Alabama 36037

Town (Give directions if rural) 10 1/2 miles East of intersection Hwy 31 & Alabama 10. Home on Alabama 10.

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

CATEGORY: Building (x) Structure () Object () Site () District ()

USE: Present Living-private home Historic Private home

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (x)

Owner's Name Mrs. Kate Howard Raybon

Mailing Address RFD # 2 Box 136
Greenville, Alabama 36037

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

From where? (Give details in significance.)

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

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

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

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

Acreage 469

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow. Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.

SIGNIFICANCE:

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

Greek Revival Antebellum architecture.
Ownership still in original Howard family. (attachment - significance -)

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true)

Doric Columns. Each column sets on original pillar. Greek Revival Architecture
Original doors, windows, floors. Home in excellent condition. Original
furniture and many valuable antiques are in home.

Ownership still in original Howard family. Kate Howard Raybon, 3rd generation owner.
Date of Construction or Period of major importance.

1860

Architect or Builder (Give name and biographies, if known)

Wright and Rouse.

Give a complete but concise history of the Landmark. Include information on important people and events associated with the landmark. (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

Major James Howard, Confederate Soldier of Alabama, was the father of John W. Howard. John W. Howard was the original owner of the house. John W. Howard inventor of subplow Patent number 136,726, March 11, 1873. (Copy attached with records).
Soil

The Howard-Raybon home is a single story home built by John W. Howard with completion in 1860. The architects he chose were Wright and Rouse. The family lived in a two-pen log cabin while home was under construction.

John W. Howard was a prominent Butler County planter and inventor of the sub plow. Kate Howard Raybon, present 3rd generation descendant owner occupies the home furnished with family heirlooms, antiques and much memorabilia from the War Between the States. Howard Coat of Arms, paintings, and family members
State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:(attachment - history)

DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANDMARK MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.

Complete as directed below for each category.

BUILDING:

Number of stories 1 Foundation Brick pillars Basement no

Wall Material: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)
(clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batton, stucco over wood or brick, metal, logs)

Virgin Heart Pine Timbers. Plaster walls.

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame (x) Load-bearing masonry () Iron or Steel ()

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: Heart pine timbers used throughout home. 14 foot ceilings.(attachment)
On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM
Aerial photograph map and Butler County Raod Map are attached. Structure is marked.

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Mrs. Kate Howard Raybon Date April 5, 1982

Address RD # 2 Box 136 Telephone 382-3880

Town Greenville, Alabama 36037

Organization and Miss Fern Nix, a relative, assisted with gathering data, descriptions of structure, furnishings, photography.

Rt. 5 Box 191, Greenville, Alabama 36037 phone 382-6271

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP _____

U. T. M. Reference
Zone _____ Easting _____ Northing _____

Thematic Category _____

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER _____

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination)

Hipped

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate) Composition Alligator shingles.

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

Porches: Front (type and description) 48 x 7 ft. bannisters with 4 columns, round and fluted. Heart pine flooring.

Rear (type and description) 30 x 7 ft. with, 2 columns, square. Heart pine flooring.

Side (type and description) none

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) huge double doors in front.

Other entrances (location, description) huge double doors on back. one single door from room opening on back porch.

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade
15 large windows. All the same size. 4 on front side, 4 on
Types and number per floor for sides and rear
east side, 2 on back side, 5 on west side.

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.
Plaster work throughout home. Four wooden hand carved mantels.

Other: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

A bathroom has been built. Space used from bedroom on left hall.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED! (Sketch and floor plan is attached)

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS & HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

Alabama Historical Commission
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Howard-Raybon House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

AL Hwy. 10, 10½ mi. E. of intersection Hwy. 31 & AL Hwy. 10

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

COUNTY

Butler

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC
 PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mrs. Kate Howard Raybon

STREET & NUMBER

RFD 2, Box 136

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Butler County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Greenville

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alabama Inventory

DATE

1970 to present

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Alabama Historical Commission

CITY, TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Howard-Raybon House in rural Butler County is a single-story frame structure with pyramidal roof built in the Greek Revival style.

Square in plan, the structure has a symmetrical five-bay facade composed of four 6/6 double-hung sash windows and a double-leaf paneled central main entrance framed by sidelights and transom. The full-width recessed portico has a plain entablature resting on four fluted Ionic columns.

Alterations to the structure are minimal. At an unspecified date, a corner bathroom was added to space in a rear bedroom.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1860

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Wright and Rouse

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Howard-Raybon House in Butler County is a well-preserved and intact example of a Greek Revival cottage. Built as the home of John W. Howard, son of Confederate Major James Howard, the house has remained in that family since construction.

John W. Howard was a prominent Butler County planter and inventor. In 1873, Howard was granted a patent from the United States Patent Office for certain refinements and improvements made to the sub-soil plow.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

1. Interviews with owner
2. Property records
3. Deed

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Honoraville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

B

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

C

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

D

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

E

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

F

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

G

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

H

ZONE	EASTING			NORTHING					

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Kate Howard Raybon & Mrs. Fern Nix

ORGANIZATION

DATE

4/82

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

RFD 2, Box 136 & Rt. 5 Box 191

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Greenville

Alabama

36037

12 FOR ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION USE ONLY

Staff Member David W. Baldwin

ADDED

Number

Thematic Category Architecture

National Register Potential

Added to National Register

Significance continued -

The Howard-Raybon home is an example of a Greek Revival Antebellum home in rural Alabama built in the mid-19th century.

Architecturally, the Howard-Raybon home resembles Greek Revival homes built in the south prior to the War Between the States.

The Doric Columns resting on individual brick pillars influences the single story virgin timber use in homes during this period.

The house has served as a private home for the Howard family since construction was completed in 1860. It has served not only as a home but met the civic, social, and cultural needs of the family.

The home reflects history of a pioneer planter who patented the sub soil plow on March 11, 1873. Patent number 136,726. (Copy of patent and sub^{soil}plow with all the drawings attached.)

Cemetery: Old family cemetery is located in area back of house.

Family owners: Mrs. James Phillip (Emily Kate Raybon) Sewell, daughter of Kate Howard Raybon, is the 4th generation descendant, and her two daughters, Sara Christain Sewell and Shelly Renee Sewell, are the 5th generation descendants to live in this old home. Plans are for the home to be given to these generation heirs.

History of Landmark continued -

peer from portraits as you move through the tastefully decorated home.

One gets a real feel for the old South as it use to be when walking up the old brick walkway to the doorsteps. A large old fashioned porch with bannisters occupies the entire front of the home columned with four Stately Doric Greek Columns with fluted shafts which welcomes you to this home located on Alabama Highway 10, 10½ miles east of Alabama Highway 31 and seven tenths (.7) shy of a mile to the Crenshaw County line.

A step inside the Howard-Raybon home gives one a sense of a time and place that were prevalent in the old South. The home is full of personality and gives one a warm sense of the civic, cultural, social events, and functions of the family through the years.

Throughout the entire house framing and trim are simple. Original plaster work of the interior walls is a fine example ow work of the mid-19th century.

House: Virgin Heart Pine Timbers. Hand-hewn timbers, square nails, and wooden pegs are prevalent throughout the home.

Foundation: Brick pillars.

Hall: The central hall opens at both front and back with large double doors which make for a natural movement of air.

Style: Right side hall has bedroom, dining room and kitchen.
Left side hall has parlor, bedroom and bath.

Doors: Hugh double doors open to front and back porches. Doors put together with pegs and some square nails. All the doors, window framing, flooring are original.

Windows: The windows are of old glass which explains perfection. Mules and wagons transported virgin pine timber to Wetumpka, Alabama where the State pentitentiary was located. Doors and windows were made at the pentitentiary by offenders.

Floors: Original heart virgin pine floors are very much in site and perfect taste. Boards are 6 inch widths in all rooms with three 12 inch boards in dining room floor.

Fireplaces: Five fireplaces with chimneys were built along with house in 1860. Four chimneys are still standing and are usable. Beautiful wooden hand carved mantels are located in the parlor, bedroom on the left of hall, dining and bedroom on right of hall. Fireplace and old chimney have been dismantled in kitchen.

Walls: Walls are plaster. 14 foot ceilings are in all rooms and hallway.

History of Landmark continued -

Roof: Composition alligator shingles which resembles the original wooden shingles.

Steps: Exterior changes consists of brick steps covered with mortar. These steps replaced original ones of wood.

Garden: Garden plantings and shrubbery typical of the mid-19th century.

Bath: Addition of the bath to the left of the hall was added using space from bedroom.

Furniture: Antiques owned by the Howard family furnish the home.

Wardrobes: Large antique wardrobes of solid pine made from packing cases are elegant in taste.

Trunks: 3 antique trunks. One trunk made in 1850 by great grandfather Major James Howard is a priceless heirloom.

Chairs: 2 antique rockers in parlor.

Beds: 4 antique beds. A spool bed is a priceless heirloom. Three antique beds, marble top dressers, marble top wash stands, marble top tables, and marble top chests give flavor to this home.

Sideboard,
Oak Table,

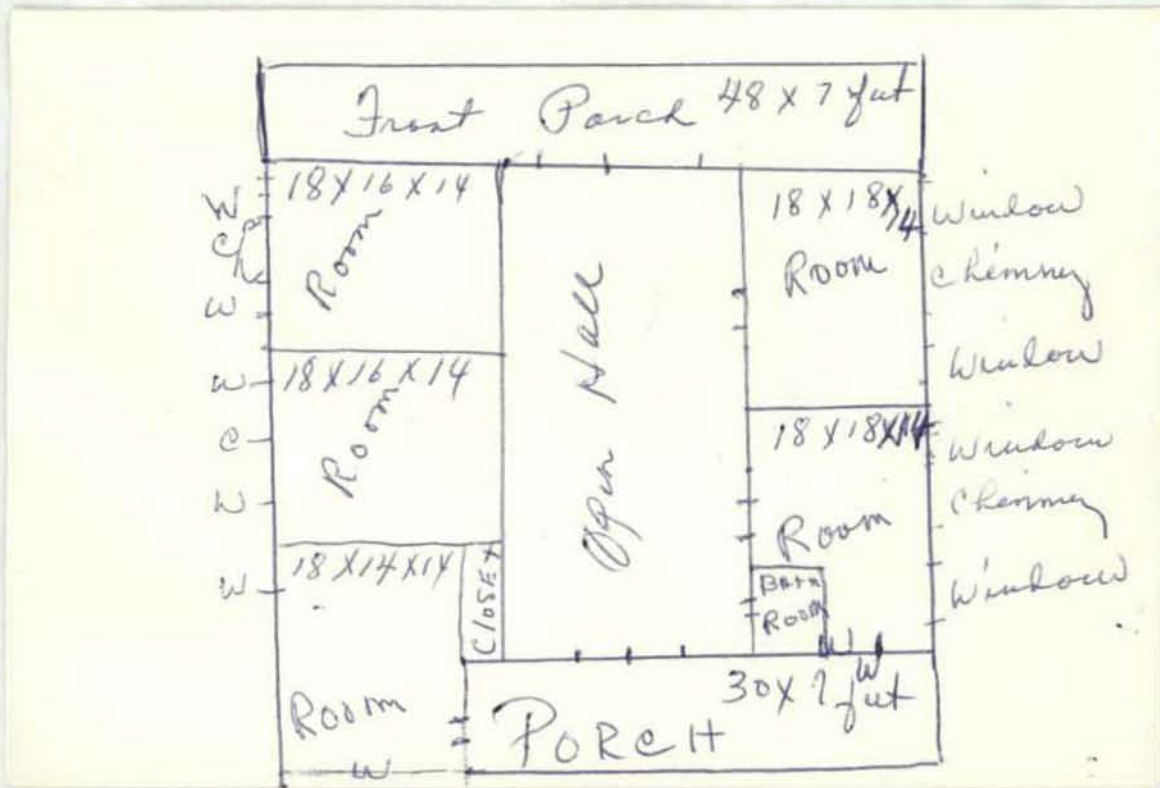
&

Chairs: Old sideboard, solid pedestal extension oak table, matching chairs with straw bottoms in dining room reflect mid-19th century mode living.

A landmark with architectural design still hinted of Butler County's early prosperity and prominence. Apart from the beauty of its architecture, the house as a home had the self-sufficiency of a plantation-on the scale, of course, of a town residence.

(Copy of written record of home attached as handed down to heirs.)

Sketch of floor plan:



Structure continued -

Single story Greek Revival Architecture. Hand-hewn timbers, square nails, wooden pegs are prevalent throughout the home. Doric Greek Columns influences the single story virgin timber home which was built prior to the War Between the States.

Structure in excellent condition and worthy of preservation. Plaster work on interior in excellent condition.

Doors and windows in excellent condition. Pillars and steps in excellent condition.

Mrs. Kate Raybon, deceased
daughter now owns:
Mrs. James Phillip Sewell
Rt. 2
Greenville, Ala. 36037
phone - 382-8775

Howard-Raybon-Sewell House

Butler County, Ala.
Highway 10 (10.5 miles east hwy. 31)
Rt. 2
Greenville, Ala. 36037

1. Land platt, attached as acquired from tax assessor's office.
2. Description
Located 10.5 miles from highway 10 east, Butler County, Ala. near City of Greenville, Ala.: Southside of highway 10
1 acre more or less
NW Quarter of the SW Quarter
Section 16 Township 9
Range 16

x on platt for location
3. Black and White Photo's 5 x 7
all four sides of house in 5 x 7 are attached
4. House only building on property for the National Register of Historic Places
5. There are 5 or 6 houses in the Greenville area somewhat similar to this house. The Howard-Raybon*Sewell home is the nicest and best kept house in Butler County of this style.
6. Original pillars and colums are still attached to the house and very well preserved.

All rooms original. Bathroom is the only additional room in the house.
6. John W. Howard was a planter, and he invented the subsoil plow which the Alabama Historical Commission has all the papers that were located to identify the plow.
The Subsoil plow, No. 136,726, patented March 11, 1873.
Inventor John W. Howard.

Taluca, Alabama

Taluca was once a thriving community, located in Butler county, twelve miles east of Greenville, on Ala. 10.

There was a large mercantile store, a post-office, Lodge Hall a camping ground - used as a stop-over for travelers between Greenville and Luverne. There was also a horse-drawn cotton gin and a sawmill.

The Taluca post-office was established in 1859 and was active until 1886 when the U.S. Postal Department notified them that the name would have to be changed as there were two of the same name in Alabama. This was done by placing the nick names of the young men in a hat. "Dock" Mr. Wiley Howard's nick name was drawn and the community still goes by that. After that the mail was delivered out of the Greenville postoffice by horseback.

The postmasters were (1) W.N. Knight (2) George W. Webb, (3) Robert E. Smith, (4) T.E. Harrison. There is a receipt here dated 1860 where Thomas M. Tate audited the postoffice. Dr. James M. Milton had his office in the store as well as the lodge up-stairs.

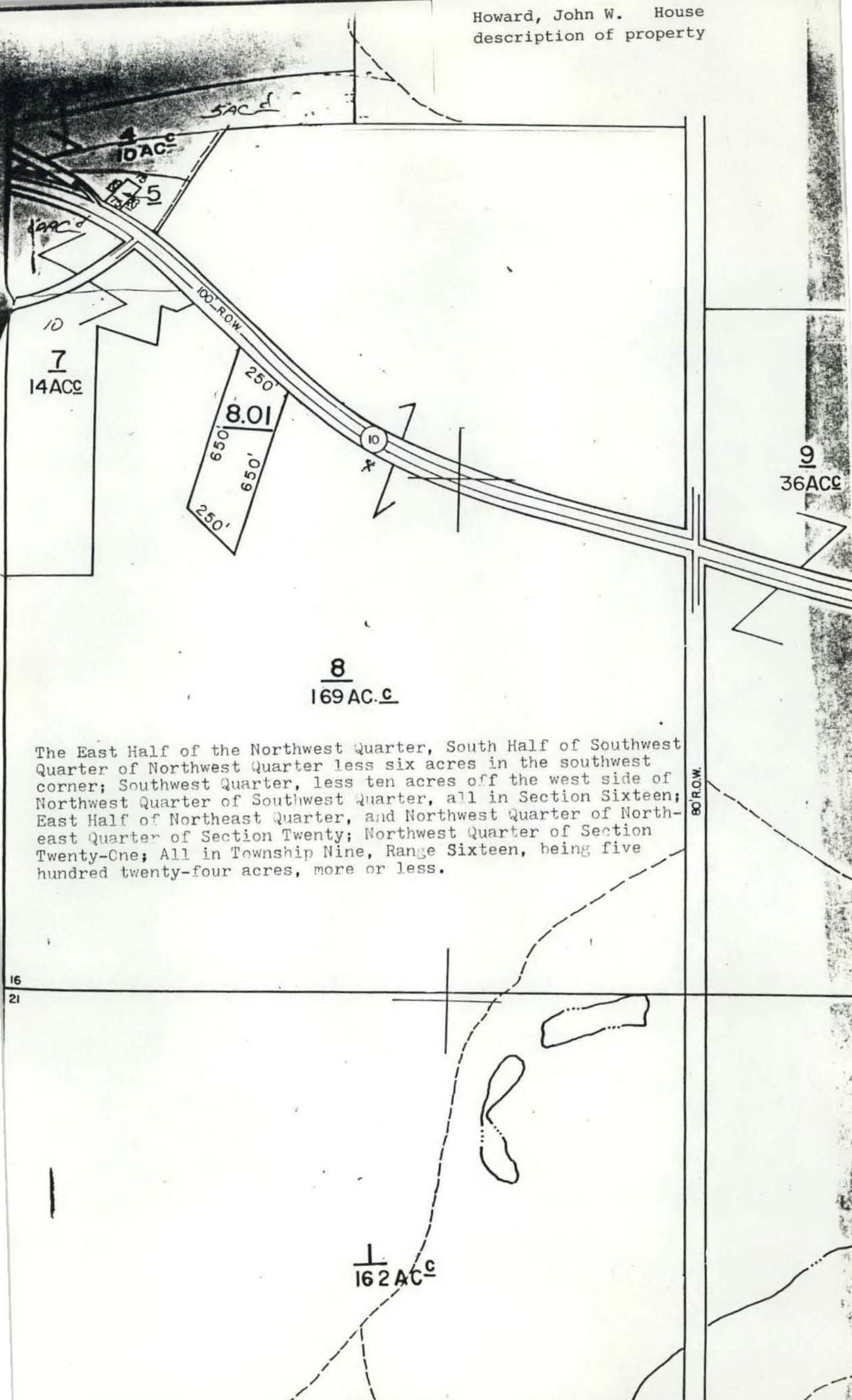
The Taluca Lodge was est. in 1859. There were nine charter members; P.N. Drake, J.G. Cook, W.N. Knight, J.C. Lockhart, John Green, Mathen Bishop, William Louge, M.D. White and A.L. Jones. In 1881 these names were added; David Roach, Joseph Hickman Charles Jones, H. Robertson David Milton and W. Cumbie.

John W. Howard (son of Maj. James Howard and Tabitha Motley Howard) and Elizebeth Rebecca Penn (daughter of William S. Penn and Elizebeth White Penn) were married in Macon county in 1852 and came to Butler and settled in Taluca. They lived in a two-pen log cabin until the present home was built in 1859-60.

The pines were cut from the homesite, hauled to Wetumpka where the lumber was dressed, the windows and doors were made, using wooden pegs. The carving over doors and windows was also done by the inmates of the state prison located in Wetumpka then. The house contains three rooms 18-18-14, two rooms 18-18-14, hall 36-12-14 enclosed back and front with large double doors. The front porch is 48-10-14 with four fluted columns resting on individual brick pillars just off the porch. The back porch is 30-10-14 with two large square columns resting on edge of floor. One room extends out on porch to form an ell. There are four chimneys, two on the east and two on the west side. The house is plastered throughout.

Mr. and Mrs. John Howard reared a large family, five daughters and five sons. Only two of the sons remained to make their home out here - Mr. Wiley built his house about $\frac{1}{4}$ mile north west of the old home. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Creech owns and resides there now.

Mr. and Mrs. John Howard Jr. Occupied the old home during their life time. Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Raybon owns and occupies it now. Mr. and Mrs. James Philip Sewell Shelley Renee, and Sarah Christian Sewell being the fifth generation to live here.



8
169 AC. c

The East Half of the Northwest Quarter, South Half of Southwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter less six acres in the southwest corner; Southwest Quarter, less ten acres off the west side of Northwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter, all in Section Sixteen; East Half of Northeast Quarter, and Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter of Section Twenty; Northwest Quarter of Section Twenty-One; All in Township Nine, Range Sixteen, being five hundred twenty-four acres, more or less.

16
21

1
162 AC. c

ORIGINAL DESCRIPTION

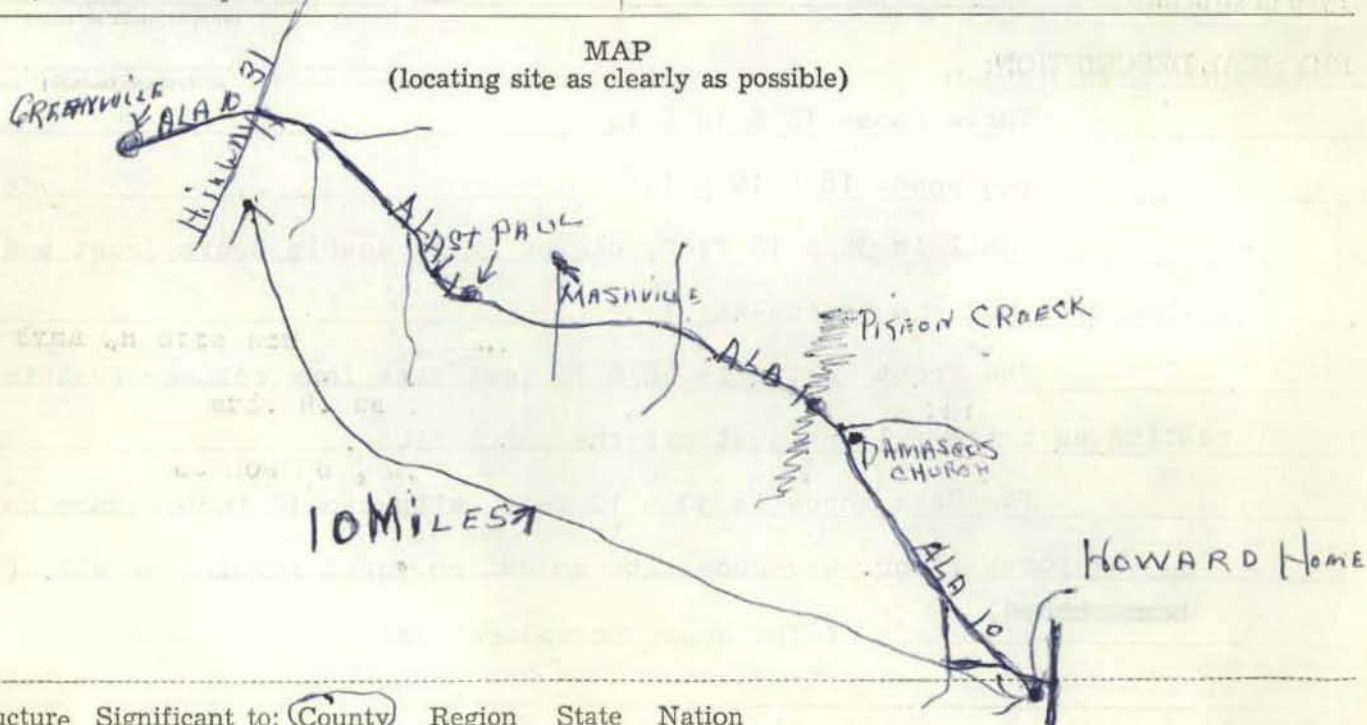
The kitchen was separate from house, being connected by a covered walkway.

PRESENT CONDITION: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Moved Altered Added

HISTORICAL CONNECTION WITH FOLLOWING THEMES:

- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art/Sculpture
- Education
- Government
- Literature
- Music
- Commerce/industry
- Science/invention
- Travel/communication
- Military affairs
- Religion/philosophy
- Indians
- Development of town/city
- Exploration/settlement/expansion

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:



Site/Structure Significant to: County Region State Nation

PHOTOGRAPH(S) ATTACHED _____ DATE OF SURVEY _____

BUILDING DESCRIPTION

FOUNDATION/BASEMENT: High Regular Low Material: Brick Pillars

WALL COVER: wood _____ Brick Stone Other _____

ROOF: Ridge Gable Flat Hip Gambrel Mansard _____

Tower Cupola Domer Windows Balustrade Grillwork _____

CHIMNEYS: 1 2 3 4 Center End End interior Cluster Elaborate Irregular

STORIES: 1 2 3 4 ATTACHMENTS: Wings Ell Shed Dependency _____

PORCHES: 1 2 3 4 Portico _____ Balcony Recessed: _____

FACADE: Gabrel end: Front/Side Ornament: _____

Entrance: Side Front Center/Side Details: ~~Double doors~~ front and back

Windows: Spacing: Regular/Irregular Identical/Varied _____

Corners: Plain Pilasters Quoins Cornerboards _____

OUTBUILDINGS The old smoke house still stands, and the old kitchen was moved back and is used for storage.

RELATION OF SURROUNDING TO STRUCTURE

The Home was once surrounded by farming land, considwred a twelve horse farm. The main crop was cotton, and corn, with timber land too. Now the land is in planted timber, with pastures, for the horses and cows.

~~Home~~

Original Use Home

Present Use Home PRESENT Owner Mrs Kate H. Raybon

Date, source 1860 Style Antebellum

Architect _____ Builder John W. Howard

Footage of structure from street About one hundre and fifty feet.

Property has 1/2 MILE feet frontage on ~~street~~ HIghWAY (NORTH AND SOUTH of HIGHWAY)

Currently zoned _____