



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36104
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

COUNTY Clarke

PRESENT NAME Kimbell-Rivers-Woodson House HISTORIC NAME Kimbell House

LOCATION (Street and number) Corner of Commerce Street and Depot Road Mayton Drive

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Jackson, Alabama

PRESENT USE vacant HISTORIC USE residence

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

OWNER'S NAME Jackson Historical Committee

MAILING ADDRESS % Mrs. Walter Wild Andrews (Chairman)
2230 Catherine Avenue, Jackson, Alabama, 36545

CONDITION: Excellent ( ) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Ruins (X) (structurally sound)

INTEGRITY: Original site (X) Moved ( ) When? Move contemplated

From where? Give details in significance

THREATS: No ( ) Yes (X) By what? Demolition

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

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

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District?

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

Explain: This is one of the few remaining pioneer type dwellings of simple style (Plantation Plain) remaining in Jackson. It was built by Isham Kimbell, survivor of the KIMBELL-JAMES MASSACRE near Fort Sinefield in Clarke County during the Creek Indian War of 1812-13. Isham Kimbell was an important figure in the early days of Jackson and held the County offices of Sheriff and Clerk of the Circuit Court. (See Attachments)

## SIGNIFICANCE (Continued)

Date of construction 1848 Date of additions \_\_\_\_\_  
 Architect or Builder Isham Kimbell

Give a complete but concise history of the structure.

This home was built in 1848 by Isham Kimbell on Commerce Street, at that time the main thoroughfare from Jackson to the River Landing on the Tombigbee River. At his death, it passed into the ownership of Mrs. J. C. Rivers, his granddaughter. Mrs. Rivers died in 1944 and the property was sold by her heirs to Mr. G. E. Woodson, Jackson Merchant who has donated the house to the Jackson Bi-Centennial Committee.

Isham Kimbell was born March 31, 1797 and died on February 17, 1881. His wife, Martha T. Carney Kimbell was born December 26, 1797 and died June 2, 1853. She was the daughter of a pioneer settler of Clarke County, Josiah Carney of Carney's Bluff on the Tombigbee River. Isham and Martha Kimbell are buried in Pine Crest Cemetery, Jackson, less that a block from their home.

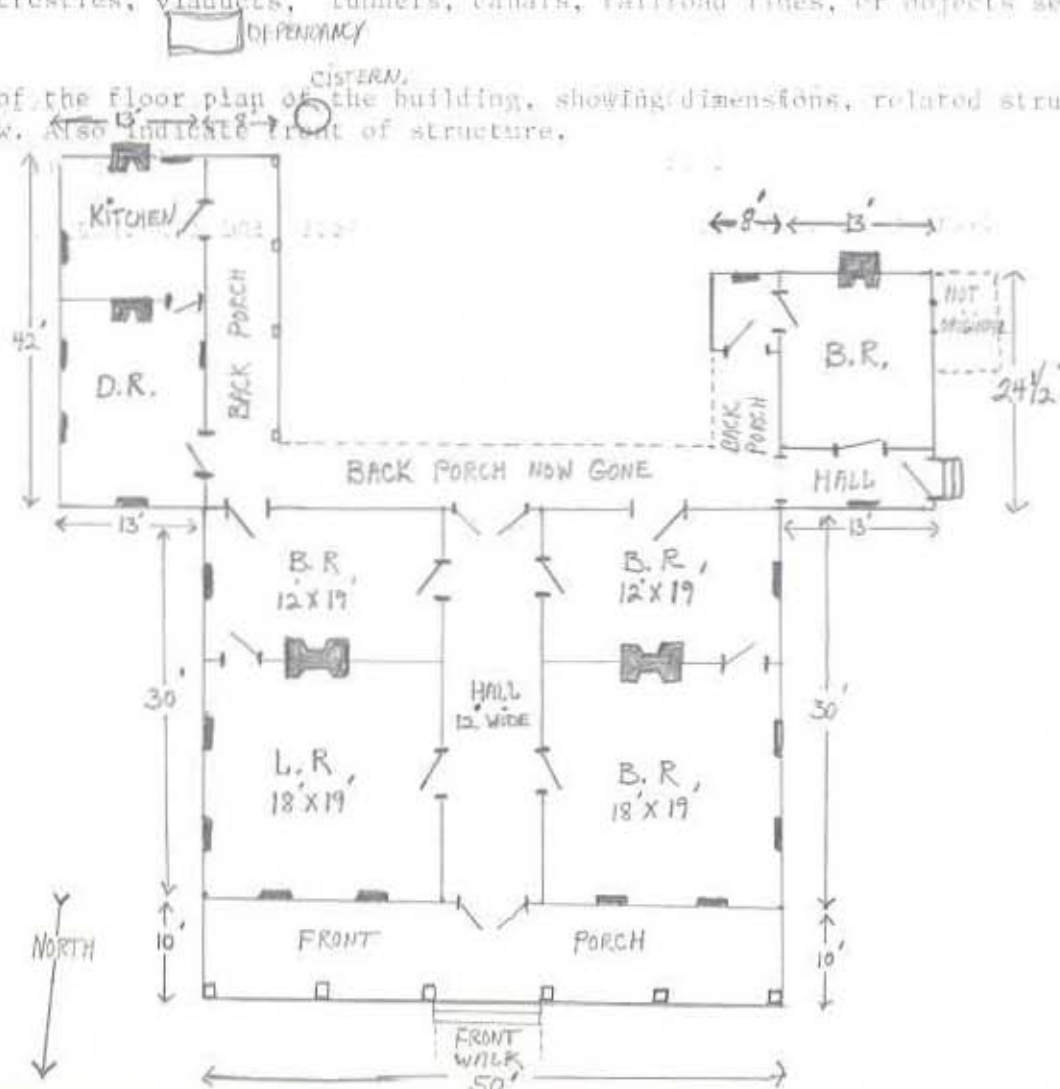
State sources of information for the above:

County Records, Rivers heirs residing now in Texas and Rivers heirs now residing in Mobile. Also, HISTORY OF THE CREEK WAR by Ball and Halbert and a personal letter written by Isham Kimbell to Isaac Grant, editor of the Clarke County Democrat. (see attachments)

## DESCRIPTION.

(For bridges, trestles, viaducts, tunnels, canals, railroad lines, or objects see supplement Form I)

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



DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Number of stories one Foundation brick piers 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) PLEASE NOTE TYPE OF BRICK BONDING AND LOG NOTCHING.

clapboard sidings

STRUCTURAL SYSTEM (If known) Wood frame  Load-bearing masonry ( ) Iron or steel ( )

ROOF TYPE: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination)

Gable roof

ROOF COVERING: Wood shingle ( ) Asphalt  Tile ( ) Metal ( ) Slate ( )

ROOF TRIM: (If any)

CHIMNEYS: (Number, location, and material)

Two chimneys, brick with four openings to serve four main rooms in house. One  
brick chimney between two rooms of east wing and two brick chimneys at end of  
PORCH east and west wing./front porch Type across front of house with simple white square  
columns  
Rear U-shape porch on back to serve the main house and two wings . square columns.  
Most of the rear porch has fallen away.  
Side \_\_\_\_\_ Type \_\_\_\_\_

DOORS: Describe entrance door.

Entrance door opening is double - six feet wide with plain sidelights, no overlight.  
The doors themselves are modern addition and are not original.

Describe other doors.

Other doors are plain heart pine, four paneled 3'2" X 7'2"

WINDOWS: Types and number of each floor

Windows are 2'9" X 5' 12 light sixteen windows all told

INTERIOR: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

mantels are plain wooden and fireplaces later converted to grate fires.  
Beautiful pine wainscoting in four main rooms. Above wainscoting are wide  
horizontal pine boards (some 18'' wide) covered by wall paper.

CEILING - 11' high. BOARD + BATTEN.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

Old cistern is to rear of east wing. Old original dependency used as shed or storehouse, to rear of east wing. One later addition to west wing will be removed.

\*A MAP WITH THE STRUCTURE MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM.\*

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: Must be black and white, glossy finish and either 5 x 7 or 8 x 10.

PREPARED BY Louis M. Finlay, Jr. DATE August 16, 1976  
ADDRESS Box 131 PHONE 246-2426  
TOWN Jackson, Alabama, 36545 ORGANIZATION Clarke County Historical Society

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

Map Reference: Map \_\_\_\_\_ Site number \_\_\_\_\_

Thematic Category \_\_\_\_\_

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

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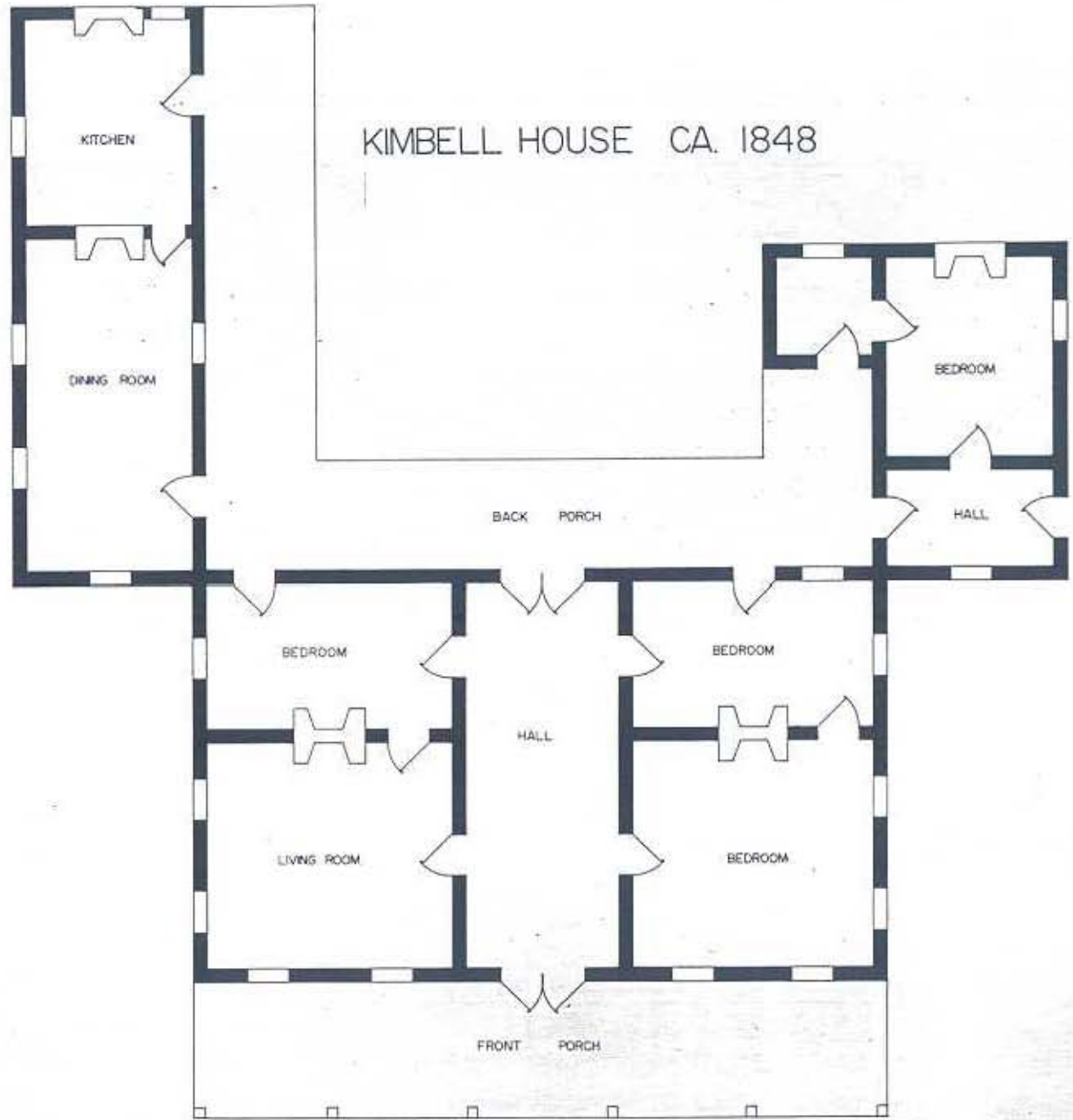
Latitude

Longitude

Constructed in 1848, the Kimbell-Rivler-Woodson House was one of the few remaining pioneer type dwellings of simple style still remaining in Jackson. It was built by Isham Kimball, a survivor of the Kimbell-James Massacre which took place near Fort Sinefield in Claiborne County during the Creek Indian War of 1812-13. Isham Kimball was an important figure in the early days of Jackson and held the County Offices of Sheriff and Clerk of the Circuit Court.

The home was built in 1848 on Commerce Street, at that time the main thoroughfare from Jackson to the River Landing on the Tombigbee River.

KIMBELL HOUSE CA. 1848



- COPY OF  
LETTER

FROM ISHAM KIMBELL TO ISAAC GRANT, EDITOR OF "THE  
CLARKE COUNTY  
DEMOCRAT,"

Jackson 25, May, 1880

Isaac Grant, Esqr.,

Agreeable to my promise, I have endeavored to give you a history of my birth, seens and troubles, from the time of my recollections, since my birth down to the year 1850.

I was born in the state of North Carolina, Warren County, on the 31st day of March, 1797. My Mother died when I was quite young. I can just recollect her death. My Father married a second time and had one son by his second wife. His second wife died and after her death my Father took me and a sister to the state of South Carolina, to an Aunt of ours, by the name of Chastain. She was the sister of my Mother, and then he returned and brought the balance of his family to where he had left us. My Father married a third time, I think the year 1807. In the fall of 1811, we moved to what was called the Mississippi Territory, arriving on the west bank of the Tombeckbee River in Washington County, about four miles above this Ferry, at present owned by me. On the 24th day of December, 1811, and in the fall of 1812, he moved to Clark County and settled, where the family was all murdered except him and myself and some free Negroes. In the spring of the year, 1813, my Father hired his wagon and team to a man named Lumsdale, to go to Pensacola and take a load of coffee to Georgia, and sent me with his driver. Mr. Lumsdale

accompanied us with his wagon and team and after reaching Pensacola the coffee was purchased by Lumsdale and the wagon loaded and we started for Georgia on reaching Mr. Lumsdales' house in Georgia and delivered our load and in a few days started back for home. The driver and myself alone and after having reached a stand called Connellys Station, we were advised not to attempt to go through the Indian Nation at that time, because of great confusion in presence of trouble growing out of war feeling to the government of the United States on the part of the Indians. We then returned to Georgia and left our wagons and proceeded on to South Carolina to my Aunts and remained there until about June or July and then started back to our wagon and for home and when we had reached Connellys Stand, the place where we had turned back, we were advised by Connellys there would be no danger. I requested him to send a friendly Indian along with us, he provided one who said he would travel with us to the Cahaba Creek, who lived near there. A few miles before we reached the creek, our guide left us, on reaching the creek we found the bridges burned, which gave us much alarm. We went to the old ford, on the creek, near the bridges and succeeded in getting across. The moon was then in a state that would admit of travel a greater part of the night and we came to the conclusion to secret ourselves as best we could and travel in the night, we thus traveled and I assure you we lost no time in taking all the advantages we could devise, and when we had nearly gone through what we supposed to be most of the danger and very early in the morning we met some



4 or 5 white men all armed, just as they were coming out of the edge of Murder Creek Swamp. They had stopped to feed and get some refreshment, they inquired of us what we thought of the prospect of getting through safely. We gave all the information we had and moved on, and as we entered the ford of the creek, the driver stopped the team to drink, we discovered some 4 or 5 Indians standing to the side of the wood all armed, and as the team had gotten through drinking, I told the driver to move on and to notice nothing. As soon as the road would permit it to drive with as much speed as possible, I stood at the back end of the wagon until I thought we had gone one or two miles. I have no doubt but what they would have murdered us if they had not been deterred from doing so because of the men we had left on the other side of the creek. We traveled all day and night and reached Connellys Ferry on the Alabama River early the next morning, that Ferry was after called Dale's Ferry and after crossing the river, stopped and fed, took something to eat, then started and reached home that evening, and on arriving at home, found all quiet and well. In a short time it was deemed prudent that the citizens fortify themselves and a fortification was commenced at the residence of a William Sinkfield and was soon completed and the citizens all moved into the Fort. We had not been there but a short time before one or two of my Fathers children were taken sick and he, supposing no danger, took his family home. We had not been at home long until an attack was made on Fort Mims and were all killed and on two days after, my family was all murdered except him and myself and some few

of the Negroes. The family was taken up to the Fort the next day and all entered in one grave, and just as they had finished entering the dead, the Indians made an attack upon the Fort with a force of them supposed to be about one hundred, and after about an hours fight, withdrew from the Fort. The Fort was evacuated the next day and the citizens all went to Fort Madison.

General Claiborn, who was in command at St. Stephens, ordered the troops from Fort Madison to St. Stephens and many of the citizens went with them. My Father also took me and his Negroes and carried them over to St. Stephens with the troops but did not remain in St. Stephens but a short time before we returned to Fort Madison and after reaching Fort Madison, died in a very short time. Mr. R. R. Harwell, after hearing of his death, came and took me home with him and administered my Fathers estate. I remained with Mr. Harwell until the year 1815, at which time put with Mr. David Taylor, a merchant who lived in Jackson. I remained with Mr. Taylor until in the spring of the year 1817, at which time I went to Augusta, Georgia to my Uncle who lived in the city\_\_\_\_\_. I remained with him until the year, 1819, at which time I returned to Jackson and in the year 1821, I married the daughter of Mr. Josiah Carney and settled at this place, commenced a small business in a mercantile line which turned out greatly as making a start to make a living. I was then offered the business of the Sherriffs office of this county. I accepted the offer and I closed up my Mercantile business, which resulted considerable in my favor and conducted office of Sheriff for one term. This was about the time of the annexation

of a part of Monroe County to Clark which have considerable business to the office of Sheriff. I was afterward appointed Clerk of the Circuit Court of Clark County in the year 1833, and continued in said office by election of the people of the County until the election in August, 1849, which time I was again elected for the fourth time to the office. I had purchased the property I now own, it became necessary that I should devote the most of my time in attending to my business at that place. I resigned the office of Clerk after the spring Court in 1850 and removed to this place. I know as my time is nearly up, it affords me much to give to the people of Clark my sincere thanks for the many favors they have bestowed upon me.

Isham Kimbell

THE KIMBELL-RIVERS-WOODSON HOUSE

Jackson, Alabama

(Nominated to the Alabama Register Of Landmarks And Heritage on August 16, 1976)

\* \* \*

"When ancient buildings nod and threat to fall,  
To patch up flaws and buttress up the wall --  
Thus far is duty, but here set the mark;  
To venture further is to touch the ark!  
To change foundations, cast the frame anew,  
Is work for rebels, who base ends pursue.

JOHN DRYDEN in  
Absalom and Achitophel.

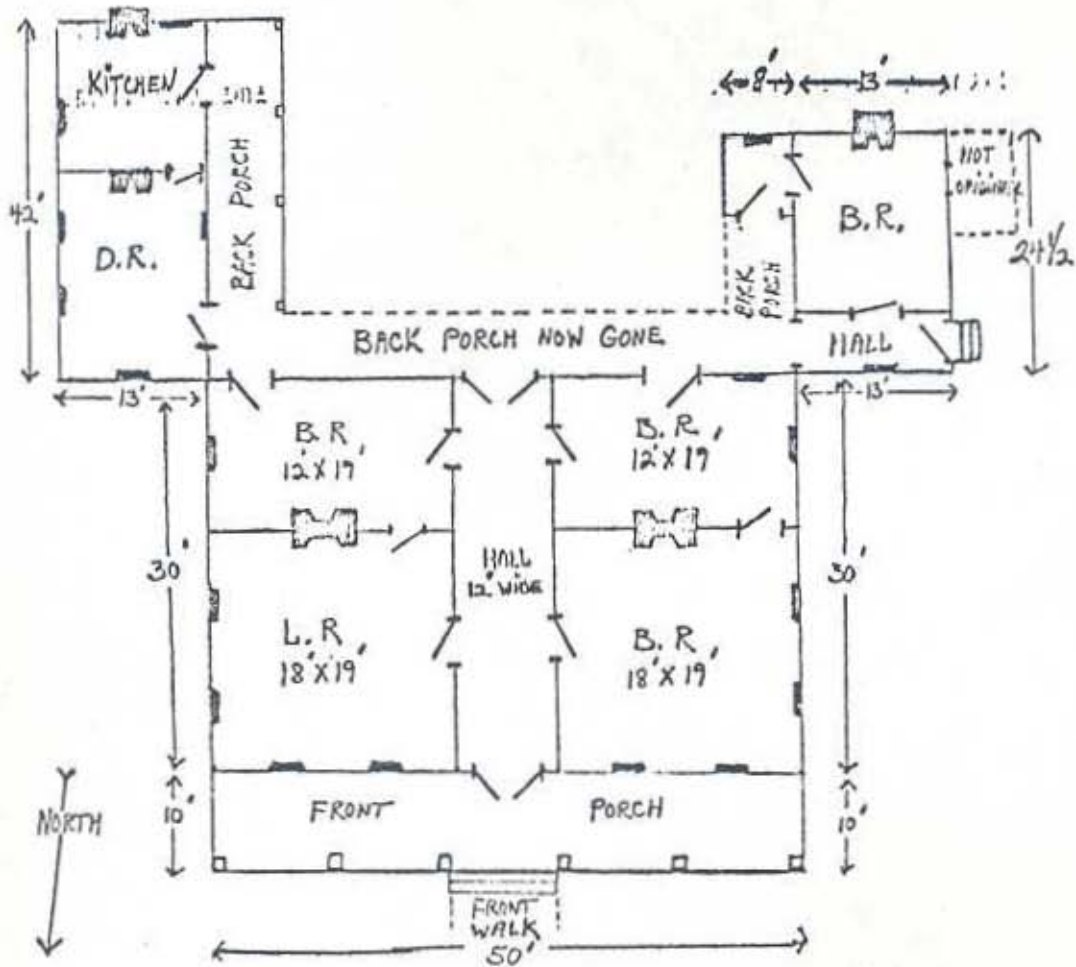
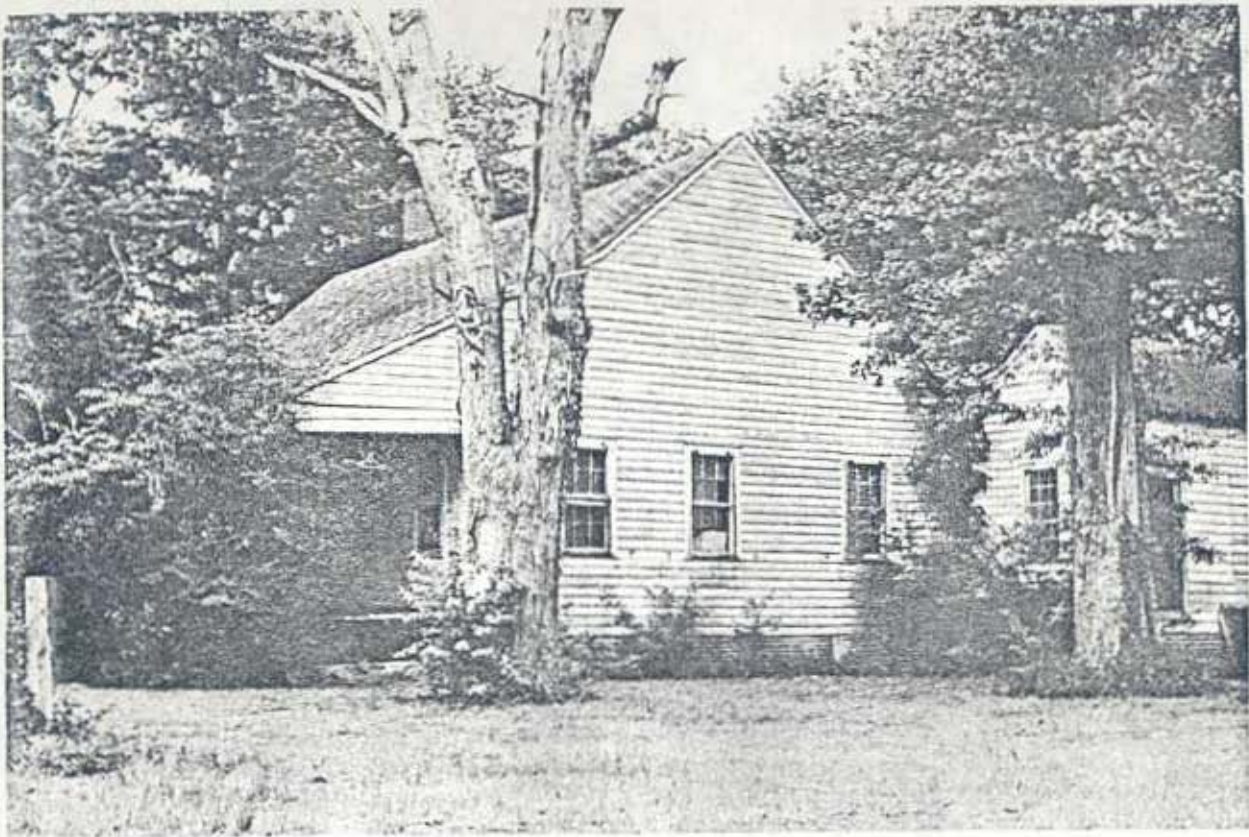
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The Kimbell-Rivers-Woodson House was built in 1848 by the old and respected pioneer of Clarke County, Isham Kimbell. It was built on Commerce Street, at that time the main thoroughfare from Jackson to the River landing on the Tombigbee River. At Kimbell's death, the house passed into the hands of Mrs. J. C. Rivers, his granddaughter. Mrs. Rivers died in 1944 and the property was sold by her heirs to Mr. G. E. Woodson, Jackson Merchant who has donated the house to the Jackson Bi-Centennial Committee. The Committee hopes to raise sufficient funds to move the house to a suitable location, restore it to its original condition and provide a place for civic groups to meet, or perhaps some day to serve as a city museum.

Isham Kimbell was born March 31, 1797 and died on February 17, 1881. The Rev. T. H. Ball in an excellent book co-authored with H. S. Halbert, THE CREEK WAR OF 1813-1814, describes vividly on pages 177-183 how on the afternoon of September 1, 1813, the sixteen year old Isham Kimbell and his little brother, escaped the scene of the Kimbell-James Massacre near Fort Sinquefield and started for the protection of the Fort. "The distance was a little more than a mile. The brothers avoided the roadway. The Indians saw them and fired a gun, the shot cutting the chincapin busnes near them but harming neither. Crossing a little stream that flows between the two localities, the elder brother fell. Regaining his feet and looking round, to his surprise his little brother was not in sight. He was with him when the gun was fired and was not hurt, and that seems to be the last certainly known of this child. Of his death, or of his captivity among the Indians, nothing was ever heard. Like the disappearance of Ginevra of Modena, all that was ever known was the brief record that he was not. On the 1st day of September, 1813, that young Kimbell boy passed strangely out from the knowledge of all the white dwellers of Clarke."

Isham, reached the Fort but all the members of his family were killed with the exception of his father who was away from home on the day of the massacre, but who did not long survive but died at Fort Madison.

Isham Kimbell's wife was Martha T. Carney who was born December 26, 1797 and died on June 2, 1853. She was the daughter of another pioneer Clarke settler, Josiah Carney of Carney's Bluff below Jackson. Isham and Martha Kimbell are buried in Pine Crest Cemetery, Jackson, less than a block from their Home.



KIMBELL-RIVERS-WOODSON HOUSE  
1848

















