



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 261-3184



ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

COUNTY Colbert

NAME: Present Melrose Historic Melrose

LOCATION: Street and Number W side Cook's Lane approx. 1 mi. W of U.S. 43

Town (Give directions if rural) Tuscumbia, AL 35674

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

CATEGORY: Building Structure Object Site District

USE: Present residence Historic residence

OWNERSHIP: Public Private

Owner's Name Mrs. Herman Cook

Mailing Address Rt. 6, Box 320

Tuscumbia, Alabama 35674

INTEGRITY: Original Site Moved When? _____

From where? _____ (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent Good Fair Ruins

THREATS: No Yes By What? _____

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered Underway Completed Not planned

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

Acreage 61

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? () associated with events, persons, or movements
Local () State () National ()
(X) a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true)

Although greatly altered, this is a rare example in Alabama of the occurrence of the so-called "Tidewater-type" cottage or "Virginia style" house.

Date of Construction or Period of major importance. c. 1830

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

Possibly Daniel Wade

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)

See enclosed historical statement.

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

See enclosed footnotes and bibliography.

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 Basement raised

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

Weatherboarding now covered with asbestos siding over brick basement (presently stuccoed)

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame (X) load-bearing masonry () Iron or Steel ()

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

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

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate)

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

Porches: Front (type and description) None although a full-length porch existed in early 20th century (probably no porch originally)

Rear (type and description) L-shaped rear porch

Side (type and description) _____

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) Originally central doorway (now converted to double window)
Other entrances (location, description)

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade Originally 4 windows over corresponding basement openings
Types and number per floor for sides and rear

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.
See enclosed description.

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

See enclosed description.

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.
THIS IS NOT REQUIRED!

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: 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

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 Bob Gamble and Tom Dolan Date 12/3/85
Address Alabama Historical Commission, 725 Monroe St. Telephone 205 261-3184
Town Montgomery, Alabama 36130
Organization Alabama Historical Commission

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP USCS

U. T. M. Reference 1 6 4 3 7 8 0 0 3 8 3 7 8 5 0
Zone Easting Northing

Thematic Category Alabama Tidewater Cottages

Added to ALARAMA REGISTER _____

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential Not eligible

does not meet criteria for
listing in NR #6

"TIDEWATER" COTTAGES IN THE TENNESSEE VALLEY

(Thematic Group)

Owner: Mrs. Herman Cook
Rt. 6, Box 320
Tuscumbia, Ala. 35674

Historic name: "Melrose"
Common name: "Melrose"

Location: Colbert County near Tuscumbia: on Cook Lane one mile west of U. S. Rt.
43 (Jackson Highway).

Acreage: 61

UTM: A-16/437/610/3838/310
B-16/437/850/3838/310
C-16/437/860/3837/420
D-16/437/610/3837/420

Date of Construction: c 1825

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

"Melrose" is architecturally significant as one of eight known examples of the "Tidewater"-type cottage in North Alabama, and is one of only three in the group to sport a rear ell extension.

Integrity:

"Melrose" retains the essential feature that defines the group - its form, making it immediately recognizable as a member of the group in spite of the loss of much of the exterior and interior fabric. Losses include roof covering, porches, window sash and all interior woodwork. Also asbestos shingles cover the exterior. The building, however, does retain its integrity of location and setting as well as design.

Criterion A & B - Exploration/Settlement:

"Melrose" is significant for its associations with the development of slave-based cotton plantations in the Tennessee Valley of North Alabama by wealthy immigrant planters from North Carolina and Virginia. The house was probably built by David Goodloe whose father emigrated from Caroline County, Virginia to Granville County, North Carolina. Goodloe and his wife, also of wealthy Virginia ancestry, moved on into Alabama's Tennessee Valley c 1820. This migration pattern into Alabama was common, and like the Goodloe Family the route was sometimes covered gradually by more than one descendant rather than in only a few years by a single family generation.

Description:

"Melrose" is a single story, five bay, wood frame house with a gable roof flanked on either end by an exterior brick chimney. The outside of the structure is currently

covered with asbestos siding. The house is situated on a raised brick foundation with a full basement with fireplaces beneath. There is a cross gable rear ell extension with recent shed roofed attachments (see photograph 2). In the angle, formed by the original main block and the ell, is a porch that now serves as the main entry despite the fact that it is on the back of the original house.

The front has been heavily altered although the main entry and flanking fenestration are still clearly discernible. All of the original window sashing has been replaced with metal framing. The main entry has been converted into a large window. There is no evidence of the configuration of a front porch or stairs that must have once existed. The raised basement wall has been perforated for the installation of five metal framed casement windows.

Plantings at the original front of the house outline the early yard with its enclosing fence line. There is an early brick cistern and a very early board and batten outbuilding (see photo 3).

The interior has been heavily altered with very little early fabric. Interviews with people familiar with the house before renovation indicates that the interior was once single pile with a center hall. These people stated that the house was in an extreme state of deterioration in the 1930s before it was renovated for the first time by the current owner's family. The original interior spaces are reported to have had paneled wainscoting with plastered walls and ceilings above. Interior access to the basement was by way of a stairway in the center hall. Those interviewed gave no indication that there was ever access to a second floor, but architectural evidence suggests that there may, indeed, have been one prior to contemporary memory. The exterior chimneys are shouldered well above the first floor level (see photograph 1) indicating that there were probably fireplaces where the second floor would have been. No other logical reason for the high chimney shouldering has been determined and it is, therefore, conjectured that there was a usable second floor at some point.

Historical Summary:

The first owner of this property and apparent builder of the house now known as Melrose was David Short Goodloe. On March 4, 1823, Goodloe purchased the quarter-section of land that includes the house site from the State of Alabama. Two years later, he acquired another quarter-section directly south of his initial purchase.¹ Both tracts consisted of prime agricultural land and were probably placed into immediate cultivation. Except for these initial tractbook entries, all early public records for what is today Colbert County have been destroyed. Thus it is possible that Goodloe resold the parcels soon after purchase. Yet this appears unlikely, and certainly such a house would have been commensurate with Goodloe's wealth and standing in the community.

Born on July 26, 1776, in North Carolina, Goodloe was the son of Captain Robert Goodloe of Caroline County, Virginia. A younger son of George and Diana (Minor) Goodloe, Robert Goodloe was, especially through his mother's line, connected with several of the leading families of Tidewater, Virginia. A few years before the War for Independence, Robert Goodloe joined the general exodus from the Tidewater into the newer and more fertile lands of the Piedmont, settling just a few miles over the

¹ Colbert County Tractbook, pp. 110-11, Colbert County Courthouse, Tuscumbia. The Melrose tract was among those lands sold by the State to raise revenue for the construction of the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa.

Virginia line, in Granville County, North Carolina.² Later he served as an officer in the Revolution.

David Goodloe, his son, first married Mary Hill, a descendant of Colonel Edward Hill of Shirley plantation on the James River. About 1820, the Goodloes emigrated to the Tennessee Valley and settled near Tuscumbia. Mary Hill Goodloe died in 1831, at the age of fifty, leaving four adolescent sons and a daughter. Two years later, David Goodloe married again, this time to Elizabeth Pride, likewise a North Carolinian and a daughter of Major Edward Mitchell Pride.

As an adjunct to his planting interests, David Short Goodloe became a chief promoter of Alabama's first railroad--the Tuscumbia, Courtland, and Decatur line. The T C & D was incorporated in 1832 as an attempt by Tennessee Valley planters to devise a means of circumventing the treacherous Muscle Shoals on the Tennessee River in shipping their cotton to market.

Three of Goodloe's four sons became planters in their own right and owners of large farms in the western part of Franklin (now Colbert) County. David Short Goodloe himself moved to the same area in 1837, and died there in October of 1845, a few months after the death of his second wife.³ Whether or not the Melrose tract still remained in their hands at that time is uncertain. But by the mid-1800s the house and surrounding acreage had passed into the hands of the Armistead family, who probably gave the plantation its present name.

Peter Fontaine Armistead II (1810-1898) was the son and namesake of Peter Armistead and his wife, Martha Henry Winston, who lived near Florence on the north side of the Tennessee (see Peter F. Armistead House). As a youth, the younger Armistead had come with his parents to Alabama from their former home in Culpepper County, Virginia. In the 1830s he married his distant cousin, Mary Susan Winston (1822-1879), and the couple's move to Melrose may have been prompted by Mrs. Armistead's desire to be near her parents--Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Winston of Belle Mont.

Peter and Mary Winston Armistead lived at Melrose the rest of their lives. Eventually, there were twelve children in the Melrose household, a fact which may have prompted Peter Armistead to establish a neighborhood school, likewise known as Melrose, not far from his plantation house.⁴

²"Granville's social and economic ties with Virginia have always been very strong. Many of the county's early settlers were sons of Virginia gentry who acquired extensive holdings and established plantations in Granville County." (from Historic and Architectural Resources of the Tar-Neuse River Basin; Appendix 8, Granville County Inventory, pp. 8-15 passim, published by the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources, 1977). Robert Goodloe, who at one time held title to as much as 6500 acres of land in North Carolina, was representative of this connection. See Mary Alexander Lollar, My Colbert County Families (Privately published, 1974), pp. 53-56. One Granville County architectural prototype for Melrose is "Hill Airy," built about 1835 on much the same plan and form.

³Alabama Historical Quarterly, vol. 7, no. 3 (Fall 1945), pp. 379-80; Lollar, My Colbert County Families, 53-60. Also information from Mrs. Larkin Yates, Decatur, Alabama, September 30, 1985.

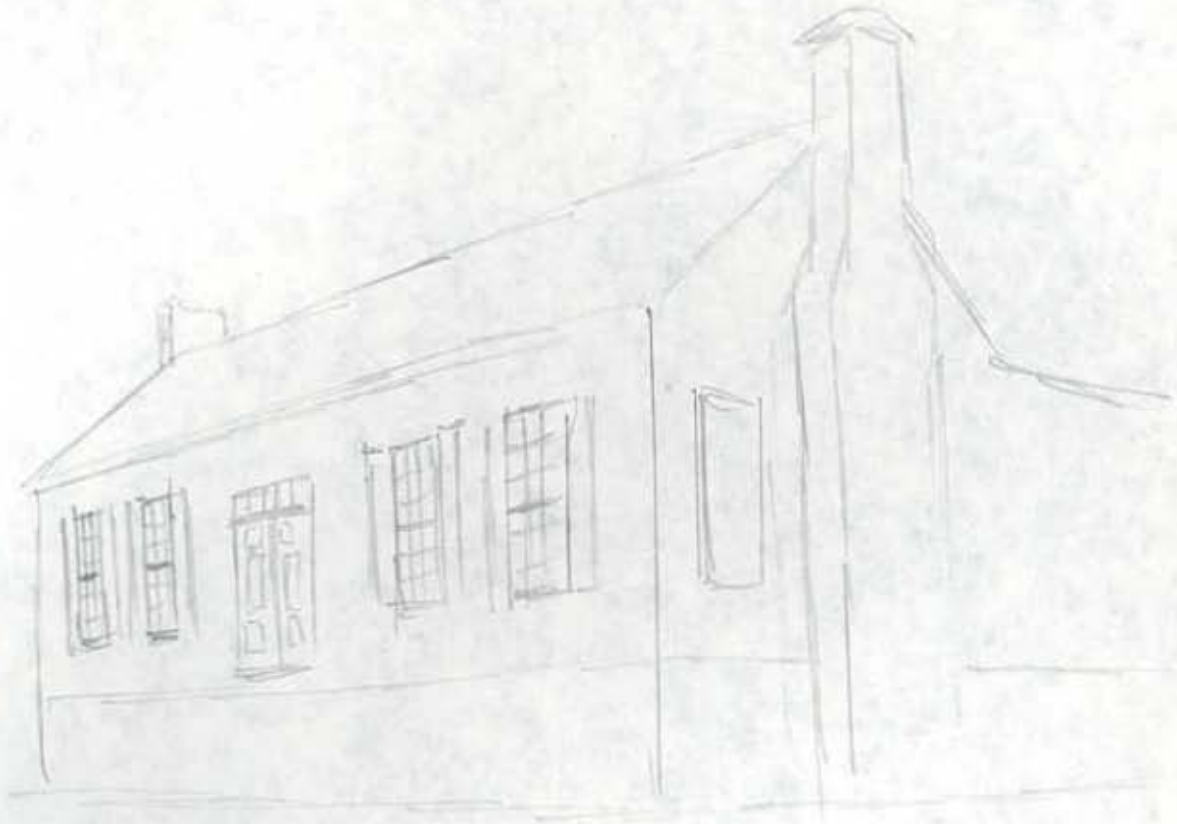
After Peter Armistead's death in 1898, the plantation house was sold out of the family. A long period of neglect ensued, until the house and some twenty acres around it were purchased in the 1930s by Robert and Naomi Cook. The Cooks and their children moved into the brick-floored basement and immediately began repair work on the floor above. While the high-ceilinged rooms still retained their mantelpieces and paneled wainscoting, the plaster had completely fallen away from the walls and ceilings in some areas, leaving only the bare laths.⁵ While in no sense a restoration, the work done by the Cooks in the 1930s did stabilize the house, make it habitable once more, and effectively prevent its destruction.

Upon the death of Mr. and Mrs. Cook, Melrose passed to their children. One of the sons, the late Herman ("Red") Cook, bought the interests of the other heirs and the house became the residence of he and his wife, Frances.

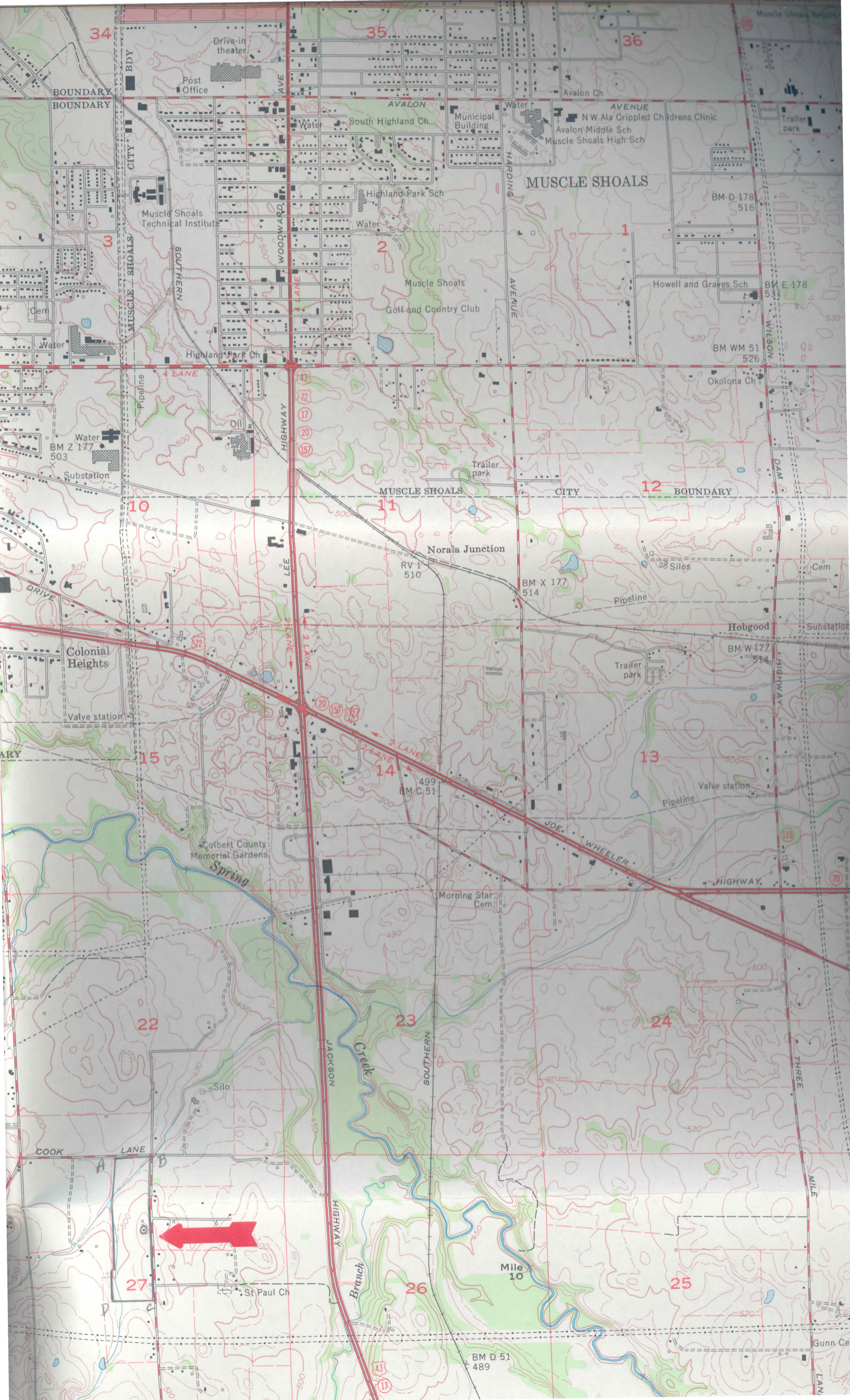
When storm damage again made repairs necessary about thirty-five years ago, Melrose lost its original windows, doors, and door trim. Subsequently, the wainscoting and mantelpieces have also been removed, while even the main doorway has now been replaced by a window.⁶ Nevertheless, the overall form of the house itself, buttressed by massive original chimneys, remains recognizably that of the Tidewater-type cottage.

⁵Statements of Mrs. Lila Cook Minor, Tuscumbia, Alabama, September 30, 1985.

⁶Interview with Mrs. Herman Cook, Tuscumbia, Alabama, August 13, 1965.



Melrose



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BOUNDARY

CITY BOUNDARY

MUSCLE SHOALS

SOUTHERN

LANE

LANE

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LANE

HIGHWAY

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MUSCLE SHOALS

MUSCLE SHOALS CITY BOUNDARY

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Drive-in theater

Post Office

Muscle Shoals Technical Institut

Highland Park Ch

Colonial Heights

Valve station

Colbert County Memorial Gardens

Silo

St Paul Ch

Water

Water

Water

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South Highland Ch

Highland Park Sch

Muscle Shoals Golf and Country Club

Norala Junction

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