

# ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DATE ADDED:

## 1. NAME

Historic: Noble-Woodruff House  
and/or Common: Camwood

## 2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 1301 Booger Hollow  
City, Town: Anniston ---Vicinity of:  
State: AL County: Calhoun Zip: 36207-3807

## 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 checked="" 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: Dr. Gerald G. Woodruff, Jr. Telephone: (256) 237-8527  
Street & Number: 1301 Booger Hollow  
City or Town: Anniston State: AL Zip: 36207-6807  
Email Address:

## 5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

(Attach sketched floor plan and/or site plan.)

## 6. DESCRIPTION

(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.

The house is a two-story Colonial Revival design with hipped roof situated on an elevation overlooking Choccolocco Valley with Kaintuck and Cheaha mountains in the background. Two sets of brick steps and a brick wall lead from the front driveway which is .4 mile from Coleman Road. Accessory driveways lead to the west side porch and around to the northeast to the basement and garage. A front porch extends across the width with covering over front entrance and west side supported by Corinthian columns.

The house faces east and features a symmetrical façade. The first floor features a central single, four panel wood door with sidelights and a transom flanked by pilasters. Four french doors with leaded transoms accent the façade. There is also a one story, portico supported by Corinthian columns.

In the fall of 1966, the Anniston School Board decided Woodruff Avenue would be a good place to build a new school. In order to save this historic founders' home it was necessary to completely dismantle the house since it was too large to be moved intact. Plans were made to move the house in sections until a fire broke out in the second story. After this, it was apparent that the house would have to be dismantled and rebuilt at the new location. The exterior remains exactly the same, except for the addition of vinyl siding. The interior is only altered slightly to fit the new location and for more convenience to the kitchen and back work rooms. All the doors inside and out are original as are the windows, sills, mantles, stairs, chandeliers, cut-glass transoms, door hardware and the molding, baseboards, etc. The floors are all heart pine with wide boards obtained from the original house of houses of similar age which were being demolished. The interior room sizes are exactly the same although the use of some have changed.

Also on the premises is a cottage that was built as a studio for an English artist that was brought over by the Noble Family to paint their portraits. Also, the carriage house, stable, and a servant's quarters, which has been renovated into a five bedroom house is located on the premises. These structures were moved in large sections; otherwise, they would have also been destroyed.



## 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

- archeology-prehistoric
- archeology-historic
- agriculture
- architecture
- art
- commerce
- communications

- community planning
- conservation
- education
- engineering
- exploration/settlement
- funerary art
- humanitarian

- industry
- landscape architecture
- law
- literature
- military
- music
- politics/government

- religion
- scientific
- sculpture
- social history
- theater
- other

SPECIFIC DATES: 1882; 1920; 1967 \_\_\_\_\_

BUILDER/ARCHITECT: George Noble \_\_\_\_\_

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE ATTACHED

Originally located on Woodstock Avenue in Anniston, Samuel Noble chose this location to build his

house. The Noble House was the grandest house along the avenue that was home to some of Anniston's most prominent families. Noble-Woodruff House was originally a wonderful example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century Victorian house. This house was built c. 1882, for Samuel Noble by his brother, George Noble, one of six Noble brothers and the builder of the family. Samuel Noble concerted with Alfred Tyler to found the Woodstock Blast Furnace and the City of Anniston which was being built as a new city. It was certainly one of the most prominent houses along Woodstock Avenue and served as a meeting place for many of the significant area leaders including Henry Grady, the well-known journalist from Atlanta, Georgia.

Samuel Noble died in 1888 in this house and it remained in his family for twenty to twenty-five years, before passing to a number of different ownerships. One of them was a dentist named Dr. Lightfoot who altered the exterior of the house to the Colonial Revival style as it is today.

In 1947 Dr. Gerald Woodruff, Sr. and his wife, Flora Campbell purchased the Noble House as their family home. In 1966, Dr. Gerald Woodruff, Jr. and his wife Harriet Bowen Woodruff, purchased the home. Dr. Woodruff and Harriet lived in the house at this location with their five children until 1967 when the house was moved to its current location. The Anniston School Board obtained the property by eminent domain to build a new high school complex. To save it from demolition, the Woodruffs dismantled the house piece by piece and over the next two years rebuilt it in its present location to the same specifications, using much of the material as gleaned from the original house.

The house retains its early 20<sup>th</sup> century appearance and retains a high degree of integrity in materials, feeling, association, design. While the house no longer is in an urban setting, the new setting hardly detracts from its significance. The siting of the house is appropriate for the design and massing of the house.



## **8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Dr. Gerald Woodruff, Jr. family history

## **9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of nominated property: 6 acres

Quadrangle name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

## **10. FORM PREPARED BY**

Name/title: Lee Anne Wofford

Organization: AHC

Street & Number: 468 S. Perry Street

City or Town: Montgomery

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 04/17/07

Telephone: (334) 242-3184

State: AL Zip: 36130-0900

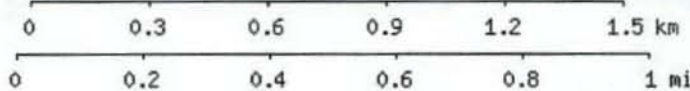
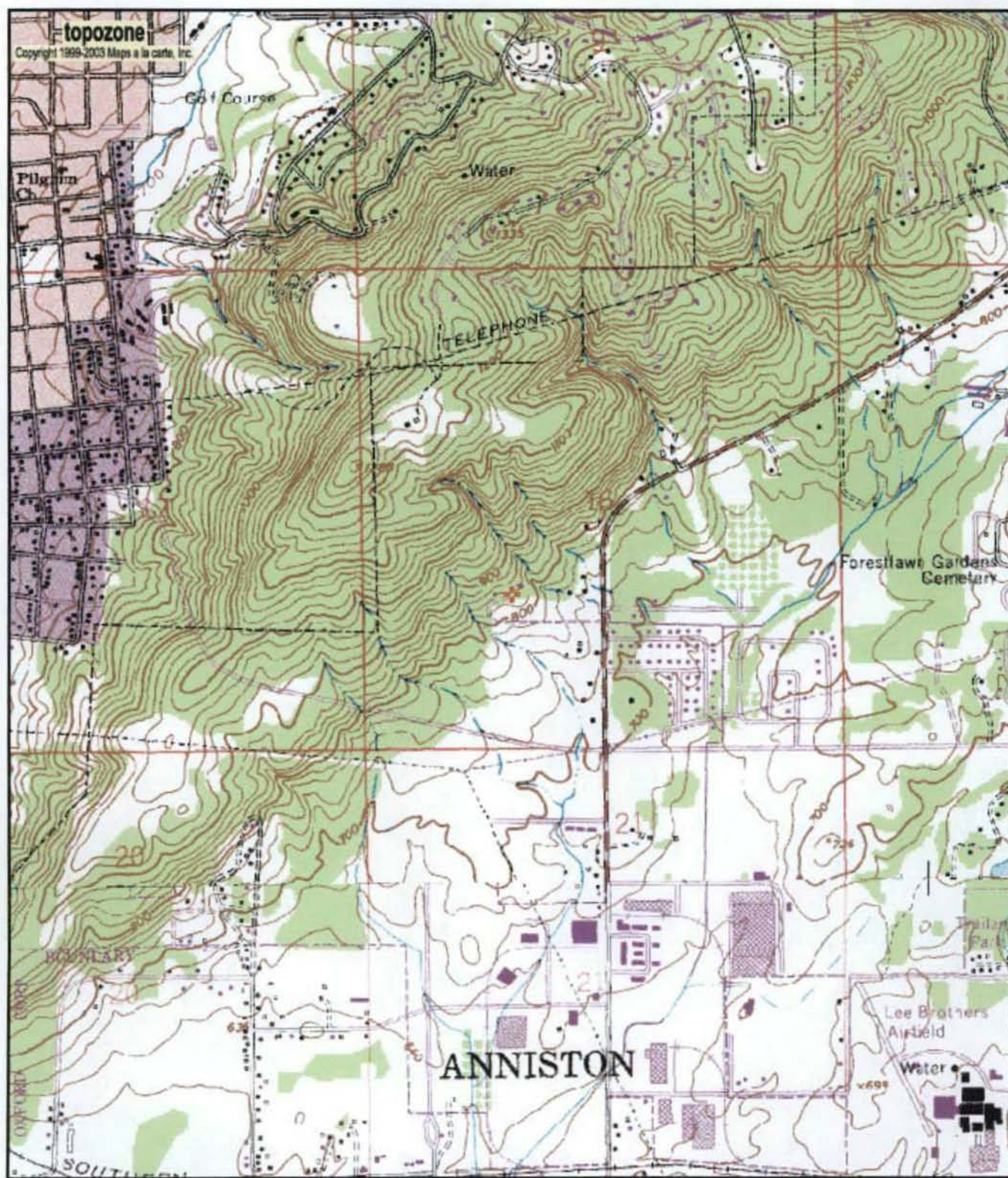
## **11. PLEASE SUBMIT COLOR IMAGES OF THE PROPERTY WITH THIS FORM:**

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**





UTM 16 610678E 3722000N (NAD27)  
**USGS Anniston (AL) Quadrangle**  
Projection is UTM Zone 16 NAD83 Datum



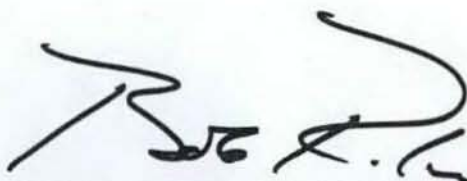
# Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage




## Noble-Woodruff House

Listed April 18, 2007

preserve **ALA**  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

  
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Governor of Alabama

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Executive Director, ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION





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### 1301 Booger Hollow Rd Anniston, AL



#### Find it in the 2007 Road Atlas

- page 4, grid section E-9

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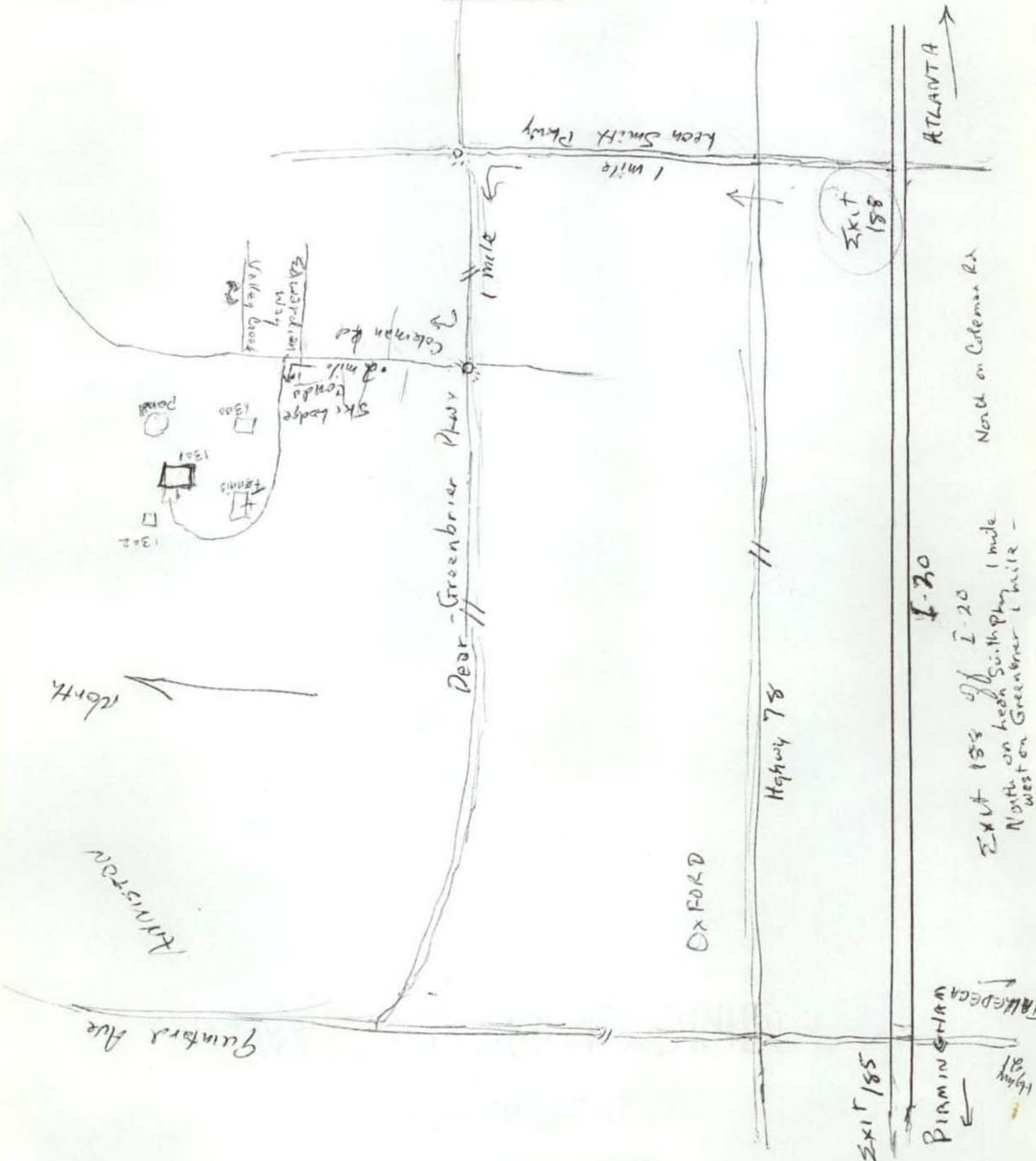


PRACTICE LIMITED TO  
INFANTS AND CHILDREN

GERALD G. WOODRUFF, JR., M.D.  
721 EAST TENTH STREET  
ANNISTON, ALABAMA 36201

TELEPHONE 237-8508

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## Camwood – The Noble-Woodruff House Anniston, Alabama

### History

Shortly after the Civil War, Samuel Noble, who had fought in the Confederate Army, was journeying back to Rome, Georgia where prior to the war he and his family had operated an iron foundry which was destroyed by Union forces. He traveled through east-central Alabama in the area which is now Calhoun County and he recognized this area contained all the natural ingredients required to produce pig iron. There was the iron ore itself, limestone to produce lime, and large pine trees which would produce coke to fire the blast furnaces. His father was a well known iron monger who had supplied iron products to the Confederate army and had six sons, all of whom were engaged in the trade.

Shortly afterwards Noble was in Charleston, SC at a meeting of venture capitalists from the North looking for opportunities to invest in the devastated South. He met Daniel Tyler of Connecticut, a former general in the Union army and very successful business man who was one of the potential investors. After studying the situation they agreed to combine Tyler's capital and Noble's expertise to establish a blast furnace and a new town, bringing in many workers to build the furnace and the city where they would live. They were iron workers, stone masons, carpenters, and merchants, many of whom came from the Cornwall area of England, the origin of the Noble clan.

In 1873 the two founders moved to their new town, named Anniston after Alfred Tyler's wife, Annie. Alfred, the son of Daniel Tyler, inherited the leadership from his aging father. The two families built homes in well-selected locations in Anniston. Sam's house, now known as Camwood, was built by one of his five brothers, George Noble, who was the house builder of the family. It was located on a hill on the east side of town and overlooked the fledging community and the newly activated blast furnaces just south of town.

Anniston was laid out on a model city plan with numbered streets running east and west and named avenues north and south. It quickly gained recognition as a thriving community with strong potential for prosperity. It was a lovely setting in a valley in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, an area noted for its temperate climate, good water, and fertile ground. Sam Noble located his house on a circular drive named Christine Circle after his mother (later became Woodstock Avenue). He planted a row of water oaks by a drive which led to the north end Grace Episcopal Church about a one-half mile away. A few of these large oaks can still be identified. Grace was Anniston's first permanent church and was built by Noble and Alfred Tyler, whose house was located on a small hill a block to the south of the church – now the site of Regional Medical Center. A row of oak trees also lined a drive to the front of Grace Church.



Sam Noble added two structures in the rear of his house. One was a carriage house with stalls for horses, a garage to hold two carriages, and servant's quarters on the second floor. The other was a four-room house that was built to house an English artist who was brought over to paint all the Noble's portraits.

The founders of this new "Model City" also designated other prime areas given as church sites and a progression of other ventures such as the renowned Anniston Inn in the rapidly growing city. One of the people involved was the well known architect Stanford White from New York, who was in town to oversee the building of the Anniston Inn, a renowned hotel perceived and originated by the Nobles during this time. He designed many of the houses for the founders, certainly including Sam's.

Sam Noble's house was a meeting place of a long list of prominent industrialists and government officials included in the new venture. Henry Grady, the well-known orator and journalist of Atlanta, stood on the front porch looking over the busy town with the bustling foundries and advised the owner of a starting newspaper to name it the Daily Hot Blast, which he did. Sam Noble died in 1888 and the house passed on to his descendents for the next 20-30 years before leaving the family. A dentist named Lightfoot remodeled the front, adding a living room on the north side with a full porch across the front and colonnaded roofs on each side giving its present day Georgian appearance.

Other occupants followed. Mr. Eastham in 1922 added a "gaming room" at the top of the main stair case which had a rear exit in case of raids. He also is credited with several attempts to burn the house to collect insurance. All were unsuccessful. Also, as in houses of this era, due to fire hazard and odors, the kitchen was located in a single floor projection to the rear of the house, and Eastham built a bedroom and recreational room over it resulting in the 2 bedrooms and bath in place now.

The Frank McCraw family occupied it for four years, followed by Judge Charles Kline, whose wife was said to have kept goats in the house.

In 1947 Dr. Gerald G. Woodruff, Sr. and his wife Flora Campbell Woodruff purchased the home from Judge Kline's widow and after some renovating, moved in with their three children, Gerald Jr., Jane, and Roy. Combining the two family names provided the "Camwood" that has continued since then.

### **The Woodruff Era**

In 1958 their oldest son, Dr. Gerald Woodruff, Jr. married Harriet Bowen of Charleston, South Carolina and moved in to the Artist Cottage behind his parents who were living in the main house. Within a year Gerald Woodruff III was born so they moved in to the Carriage house which had been converted into a single dwelling and was large enough to accommodate a family. By 1966 the family had expanded to five so an agreement was

(1) Ned Perkins, who married into one of the early founding families and lived next door, recounted his numerous calls to come help move furniture and valuables out of the way of the flames, always in the middle of the night.



made with the two Woodruff Seniors whereby they would move into the Carriage house and the Woodruff, Jr. family would occupy the big house at 1301 Woodstock Avenue. This was accomplished after considerable remodeling of the beautiful eighty year old house that sat on six acres of ground and overlooked the center of Anniston from the top of 13<sup>th</sup> Street. It lined up with ten other spacious homes with long front lawns amid expansive oak trees. All had been occupied by prominent families involved in Anniston's successful beginnings, including members of the founding families, industrialists, and successful politicians. Alabama Governor Thomas Kilby's estate was next door.

This grand location, picked by Sam Noble who could have had any place in his town to build his home, turned out to be its downfall. In the fall of 1966 the Anniston School Board decided this was a good place to build a new high school. The rest of this beautiful residential area would also be sacrificed for an educational park. In spite of the protest of the Woodruff family and others, eminent domain won out and the historic area was destined for destruction.

#### **Time of Decision 1965-66**

This becomes more personal and will be easier to continue in a first person narrative by Gerald Woodruff, Jr.

We found it hard to believe that a school board, made up of Annistonians interested in our community, would take the action to destroy

this house that was the founder's home and the neighborhood that nurtured so much of the town's beginnings. But that was the course that was to be taken and there was nothing that could be done about it except move it out of harm's way.

The sales contract was arraigned whereby I could have the 3 houses on the property if I would take all of them and have the property cleared within a specific time.....like 6 months.

Harriet and I both loved this big old house that had come to mean so much to our family and was to be our permanent home. Harriet was a native of Charleston, South Carolina and her family had been through generations of living in and appreciating beautiful historic houses. We deeply felt the desire to do anything we could to save this one.

I found out that the biggest house mover in the Southeast was Berger House Moving Company in Birmingham, who had the long flat-bed trucks with rear-steering dollies that could turn 90 degree corners. He agreed to come to Anniston and we spent a full day looking at the house and mapping out a potential route to get it to another location. Harriet and I had spent days trying to find a suitable location that was big enough and accessible enough to accept what we were going to try to bring to it. We finally found a 6 acre tract in an area on the east side of one of the mountains surrounding Anniston. It had been farmed and had more undeveloped available land around it. It was close to Greenbrier Road, a wide new street being constructed that led out to the Golden Springs area,



paved for use but not opened yet and bereft of overhead entanglements like phone and power lines and tree limbs. The land had been terraced for farming, the young trees too low to obstruct a beautiful 180 degree view across Choccolocco Valley, Cheaha Mountain, and the Fort McClellan hills. There was also a creek running through it and on further exploration the source proved to be the Booger Hollow Creek that emerged from the ground between two mountains and flowed down several hundred yards into the property. As a young Boy Scout I often hiked to this place from the other side of the mountain to camp out and enjoy the pure water. On inquiring in nearby houses we were delighted to find the owner of this property, and on contacting him to find it was available.

I took Mr. Bergen to that area, and he reaffirmed that he could move the house in two large pieces. The problem was going to be able to get overhead clearance, including permission from local governing officials to remove traffic lights and limbs, and from power, telephone, and cable companies to take down all sorts of lines, and then to block passageway on roads and streets to get over the four mile distance. Greenbrier Road was no problem, but Mr. Bergen said it was too much to expect cooperation from all the others involved. I asked him that if I could get the necessary clearance could he move the house in two pieces. He reiterated that he could move the house, but felt the clearance would not be forthcoming.

I knew that finally there was a lot of feeling being generated in town over losing such a significant piece of heritage, and I really thought the

clearance could be accomplished. The next several months were spent negotiating now it could be done. The biggest obstacle was all the power lines that cross every street. The Alabama Power Company could not have been more cooperative. Their engineers began to draw up plans and a contract of running the overhead lines under the street where they crossed....permanently and at my expense, of course. Other overhead obstacles would be taken down and replaced after the forty-foot high freight passed through.

David Boozer, our architect, drew plans of the house as it was and where he planned to divide it into two very large pieces for transport. When it was put out for bids, one contractor, George Rush, described this as a "challenge he couldn't resist". In studying the plans to submit a bid for taking the house apart and putting it back together, he called Bergen to discuss some construction factors. Mr. Bergen couldn't believe we had firm affirmations from all involved in overhead clearance and just said "it would be crazy to try to move that tall a house. It would rack to pieces". Obviously we had called his bluff on his house moving ability, and obviously I wasn't going to spend that much money to move a large pile of unusable lumber in another location.

George Rush had become very interested in our efforts to save the house and came up with a new idea. We had already moved two houses over the mountain. First the Artist Cottage by cutting it in half, bringing it to the new property and rejoining it and the Carriage House by lifting off the



second floor, removing the cupola and a back bedroom, and taking down the first floor walls, successfully rejoining all component parts in the new location. Both house's rebirths were highly successful.

George Rush was confident that we could do the same dismantling and rejoining of walls, floors, ceilings, and roofs to the big house, so much so that we wound up with a contract for doing just that.

### **The Fire – 1966**

The grading and filling and foundation preparation started right away as our time was drawing close to have the property cleared. The electricity to the house was supposed to have been cut off but one fuse box was not. The workers had begun removing millwork, cut glass transom windows, and doors when a fire started in the second floor ceiling, apparently due to an electric short while removing crown molding. The ancient 2<sup>nd</sup> floor dry pine ceiling and other attic areas flared up immediately and went right through the roof. I was in my office 3 blocks away when notified about the blaze and coming out my back door I could see flames rising above the big oak trees where the house was located. It appeared too much to be able to be extinguished but the firemen did an amazing job and contained the damage to the destroyed roof and 2<sup>nd</sup> floor ceiling.

## **The Court Case**

I had been told by my insurance agent that by keeping my homeowners policy in effect that the house remained insured in spite of being dismantled. He reaffirmed that statement while we watched it burn, but the insurance company eventually denied liability. We sued the company, spent a week in Judge Seaborn Lynn's Federal Court in Birmingham, got an appreciable award by a jury and thought we were in good shape. The idea of moving by sections was no longer feasible due to fire damage so we proceeded to dismantle piece by piece to duplicate the original house, using as much of the salvageable material as possible. This actually was a more comfortable plan. The move by sections had some questionable features to say the least, and the jury award would make up the difference caused by fire loss.

## **The Last Hurdle – 1967**

That's what we thought. The insurance company appealed the case to the Fifth Circuit Court in New Orleans and Judge Rives reversed the verdict of the jury with prejudice meaning we couldn't try the case again except in the Supreme Court – obviously hopeless.

By this time, thinking we were home-free to build the duplicated house, we were too far along to change the size, and our fifth child was on the way so we decided to proceed with the original plans. I would work out the extra expense situation later.



## **Building the House – 1968-69**

Our contract was with George Rush to have the exact same finished exterior as the original except for the final vinyl siding. All the doors with their hardware and big windows, mantles, chandeliers, sconces, door sills, 14" baseboards and crown molding and anything else usable was installed. Otherwise it was only sheet rock and sub-flooring throughout-plus wiring and plumbing. The rest of the house including stairs, interior doors, and molding filled a storage warehouse and were brought out for installation by Mr. Hucceby, a master carpenter who planned to make this his last job before retiring, Roosevelt Callaway and Elijah Harris, faithful workers who had been with us all through the move, and me. We wanted to replace whatever couldn't be used from the old house with similar material from houses of the same age. For example, there is no new flooring anywhere in the new house. All the upstairs floors are heart pine and came from demolished houses and churches of about the same period. Downstairs, the beautiful 6 inch wide heart pine floor boards were taken from the 180+ year old Carter Home in nearby Munford which was used as a girl's school at one time. Only the second floor boards could be used. The downstairs was being used to store corn.

Once it was known I was looking for these things I received many calls from local people to help. One was about a theater in Fort McClellan being torn down. It was built for the WAC school during World War II and the

supportive trusses were still standing and were all made of heart pine and bolted together since steel was saved for the war effort. They were all 3 x 12; or 3 x 14 and 30-34 feet long. I dashed out there only to find a Piedmont developer had already asked for it to build a barn. It was beautiful wood and I was sick to have missed it. Fortunately, a few days later we had a heavy wind storm, the trusses were all blown down, so were no longer intact for use.

The house is now undergirted with these joices and could support a 10-story building according to George Rush. The few boards left over were saved and used as wide flooring in the Woods Room. What was left from that became an eight foot breakfast room table....all beautifully grained.

The Woods Room, which looks out over Booger Hollow Creek running through the woods, is paneled in weathered oak boards which were gleaned from old barns and out-buildings throughout the county. An old farm house near Jacksonville supplied us with the hardhewn beams supporting the roof.

The breakfast room bricks on the mantle area came from the old First Baptist Church in Talladega. They were made by slaves and were of different sizes giving the brick mason a challenge. The large beams were obtained from the old Presbyterian Home in Talladega.

Ivy Fleming, one of our house movers, had been involved in demolishing the old ornate Anniston Opera House built by the Noble family in 1880. A number of famous people had entertained there such as Lillian Russell, John Philip Sousa, and the Shakespearian actor Richard Mansfield.



Ivy had salvaged one of the two remaining intact stained glass windows which had decorated the lobby and brought it to me to be installed in our house. Now it is in the playroom as a window with backlighting.

The Master bathroom contains the marble floor, one of the heavy pedestal lavatories, and a large tub with it's period hardware. The tub is said to have contained the body of Samuel Noble, packed in ice, to await the arrival of Northern family members for his funeral. He had died unexpectedly, probably from a ruptured appendix, after walking from Oxford to Anniston in the heat of the day in July 1889.

The ornate Newell post at the foot of the stairs in the front hall was the only valuable object lost in the transition from Woodstock to Booger Hollow, but it disappeared. Fortunately, the top piece was removable, and I had kept it with our personal belongings. We had an accurate picture of the whole Newell post, and we found an excellent wood worker in Piedmont who could duplicate the rest of it to match the original top....and he did.

One of the distinct decorative features of the interior molding was the elaborate plaster medallions around the chandeliers. When the house burned, the large amount of water used to extinguish it saturated the 1<sup>st</sup> floor ceilings, causing the medallions to fall and break up. I was able to piece together a quarter piece of one. Bob Carr was the manager of Lee Brothers Foundry and made a polyurethane mold from the surviving piece. From that I was able to cast enough quarter pieces using plaster of Paris impregnated

with gauge...like that used in plaster casts....and to install a medallion around each of the 5 chandeliers. The kitchen was a mess, but it worked.

Part of our sales agreement with the Board of Education was that we could take all the shrubbery and plants that we needed to have for our move. So we dug up and heeled-in in the back lot about 80 2-3 foot boxwoods (60 of which I had just purchased, roots still bagged) and other trees such as dogwood, maples, and some fruit trees, all of which were recently planted. The one I wanted the most was a 20 ft. water oak, fairly expensive and with a large burlap root ball. I had just planted it in front of the house to replace one of Sam Noble's big oaks that he had planted to line the driveway and had recently died. I gave explicit instructions to Elijah and Roosevelt about taking care to dig around it and by all means preserve the ball. So of course they hit a few licks around and in the ball, then gave a big tug and the tree came right out of the ball with only a few straggly roots still intact. I had been so sure that this was one transplant that was bound to be successful, and we were now looking at the bare roots. I was furious with my two black friends, but it was already done, so I told them to go heel it in anyway. About a year later it appeared to have survived its rough treatment, so we were ready to plant it in the front yard of the new location. Again Elijah and Roosevelt were told to keep as much as possible of the root system intact ....and of course, again they pulled it out of the ground with a little stub of a root with few branches. I let them know what I thought of their transplanting ability but told them to go ahead and put it in the front yard, but I



was sure it couldn't survive. I told Elijah if it did, I was going to name it after him. Elijah's Oak has never missed a beat and is now a beautiful 40 foot spreading oak tree with a 3-foot diameter trunk with swings and pogo cylinders hanging from its branches – shading a rope hammock.

When we were about finished with our new big house we found we still had some building material in the warehouse, and we still had Mr. Huckleby. We also had a spacious attic running the length of the house, and because we had lowered the second floor ceiling to nine feet from the original ten and a half but had kept the outside walls the same as the original house, there was lots of head room. So at Harriet's insistence we put a bedroom, sitting room, and full bath up there, mostly for Gerry, the oldest, as a way to get away from all his brothers and sisters. This little secluded apartment has been a wonderful addition for the whole family ever since.

We moved in about the end of the summer of 1969 when Margaret was 6 weeks old, David 2 years, Rhett 4 years, Bowen 8 years and Gerry 10 years old. It ended 3 years of upheaval and uncertainty and then lots of hard work to save this house with all its charm and history but we felt it was worth it all the way. We had lots of help from our families and friends and just interested townspeople. Harriet's background as well as her cultivated tastes and interest in antiques were invaluable, and both our families contributed to the project with furniture and objects d'art. The children have grown now and have their own lives in other places, three of them having married and starting families of their own. Harriet died in 2000, and I have married again. We

move on with thankful hearts for the 40 wonderful years provided by  
Camwood and hope that many families will find the same enjoyment in the  
future.