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INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Borden Oaks

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number north of Hale County Road 28 N/A not for publication

city or town Greensboro vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Hale code 065 zip code 36744

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] June 1, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

Do not explain.

[Signature] Edson H. Beall 7.7.94
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Entered in the National Register

Borden Oaks

Hale County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing	
5	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
5	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
Plantation Houses of the Alabama Canebrake and
their associated outbuildings (1818-1942)

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Domestic/secondary structure

Agriculture/animal facility

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

Vacant/not in use

Agriculture/animal facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Early Republic

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Metal

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1835 - ca. 1935

Significant Dates

ca. 1835

ca. 1935

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of reporter:

Borden Oaks
Name of Property

Hale County, Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 346 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	435660	3620050
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	16	436480	3620040

3	16	436450	3618840
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	16	435200	3618850

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Jeff Mansell

organization Cahaba Trace Commission date June 23, 1993

street & number Route 1, Box 147 telephone (205) 665-7982

city or town Brierfield state Alabama zip code 35035

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mrs. Bestor Wynne Coleman, Jr.

street & number P. O. Box 88 telephone (205) 624-8778

city or town Greensboro state Alabama zip code 36744

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to address existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain all the benefits provided by the National Historic Preservation Act, including but not limited to 16 U.S.C. 470 and 479.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Borden Oaks
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Constructed ca. 1835, Borden Oaks is a significant example of an I-house with rear ell form embellished with Classical Revival detailing. The two story frame house rests on a small knoll in the midst of a grove of towering oak trees. The house faces west at the terminus of the original entrance drive. The approach today is from the south, through pasture and croplands and across a levee of a man-made lake.

The dwelling house was built using mortise and tenon construction; the house rests on brick piers and is covered with weatherboarding. The central portion of the facade, originally protected by a portico features flush boarding wall material. The hip roof of the main block as well as the gabled roof wing is covered in standing seam sheet metal. There are three chimneys, all located at the exterior end. The five bay facade has double hung sash windows; those on the first floor are 9/9 pane configuration while those on the second floor are 9/6 pane. The structure once featured a double tiered pedimented portico supported by Tuscan columns on both floors. The Tuscan columns were hewn from solid tree trunks and are in an excellent state of preservation. The portico columns have been removed and have been placed in the central hall. A centrally placed, double leaf entrance with multipane transom and sidelights is located on each floor.

The rear ell is attached to the main block at the northeast corner of the dwelling. A small one story porch is attached to the rear of the dwelling and a side porch (which has been enclosed to form two small rooms) is located on the northern elevation along the rear ell. This side porch which has been enclosed, was once attached to a kitchen wing with an open breezeway. The kitchen wing which has been removed, contained a large kitchen, pantry, and cook's room. The rear ell is located over a brick cellar.

The interior of the dwelling is based on a central hall plan with large flanking 20' x 20' rooms. The central hall features a delicately detailed staircase which rises along the north wall of the hallway, across the back of the hall over the rear double leaf entrance and up along the south wall. Fluted moldings and bullseye corner blocks adorn all window and door surrounds. The doors are all of the "Cross and Bible" configuration and all retain their original hardware, including large Carpenter locks. The fireplaces are all tri-part Federal style and each room contains a chairrail. The rear ell is separated from the main house by a cross stairhall and a smaller room. On the first floor, the smaller room was used as a pantry while on the upper floor, the smaller room was a water closet. The side entrance door on the northern elevation features a small transom and provided access to the former kitchen wing. The side entrance on the southern elevation of the rear ell originally contained a louvered panel; the staircase turns in front of the doorway, providing for a cumbersome access to the cross hall. The cross hall staircase and smaller rooms on both floors featured wood graining which may have been prevalent throughout the house.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Borden Oaks
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Located on the grounds of Borden Oaks is a barn, shed, and two tenant houses, all of which date from the mid 1930s. While Borden Oaks is in a state of extreme deterioration, plans are underway for a restoration of the structure as a project of the school of architecture at Auburn University. The Borden Oaks nomination includes five contributing buildings on the 346 acres of the original plantation.

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Section number 8 Page 3

Borden Oaks
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Criterion C: Architecture

Borden Oaks, constructed ca. 1835, is a significant example of an early Canebrake plantation house constructed in the I-house with rear ell form and embellished with classical detailing. The plantation house yields information regarding the styles, forms, construction methods, techniques and craftsmanship utilized by the residents of the Canebrake from 1830-1942. The dwelling retains a high degree of integrity in regard to design, materials, workmanship, feeling and setting.

Historical Summary

The Borden Oaks plantation was formed in the 1830s by John and Mary Cocke of Fluvanna County, Virginia. John Cocke was a first cousin to John Hartwell Cocke, the noted Virginia planter, reformer and friend to Thomas Jefferson who resided at Bremo, the Jeffersonian mansion. John Cocke and John Hartwell Cocke both purchased large tracts of land west of Greensboro and John Cocke acted as supervisor of Hartwell Cocke's landholdings. John and Mary Cocke presented the plantation now known as Borden Oaks to their daughter Martha upon her marriage to John Gray in 1835. The Grays immediately began construction of a plantation house. John Gray died however, while the timbers for the structure were being prepared. Martha Cocke Gray completed the construction of the house with the help of her father. Martha Gray later married Benjamin Borden and the property became known as Borden Oaks. The youngest child of the Cock-Borden marriage was James Pennington Borden. Martha Cocke Gray was born in 1808 and her youngest son was born in 1852. The property today is owned by Mrs. Martha Cocke Gray Borden's granddaughter, Mary Esther Borden Coleman, daughter of James Pennington Borden. The property comprises 346 acres of the original Cocke plantation and is presently being considered as a restoration project of Auburn University's school of architecture. ¹

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made at Borden Oaks, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Properties of this type were sited with a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens and other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

¹Interview with Mary Esther Borden Coleman, June 23, 1993. Also see Mills Lane, *Architecture of the Old South, Virginia*. (New York: The Abbeville Press, 1987).

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Borden Oaks
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Bibliography

Mary Esther Borden Coleman, Interview with author, June 23, 1993.

Lane, Mills. Architecture of the Old South: Virginia. New York: The Abbeville Press, 1987.

Verbal Boundary Description

The 346 acres lying in Sections 9 and 16 of Township 20 North, Range 4 East being the property of Mrs. B. W. Coleman, Jr. This information is on record at the Tax Assessor's office at the Hale County Courthouse, Greensboro, Alabama. Please refer to tax map for exact boundaries.

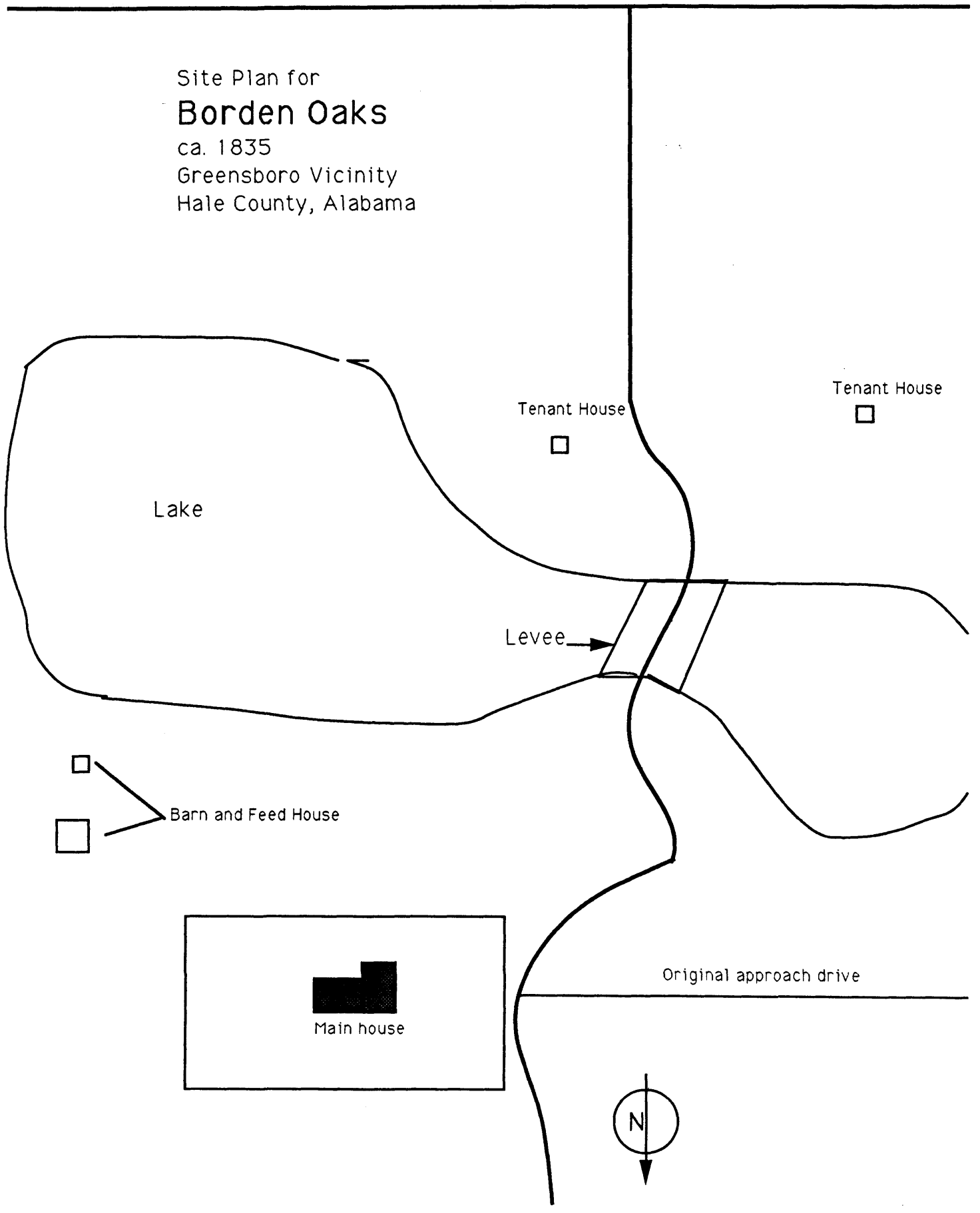
Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to include the 346 acres remaining of the original Borden Oaks plantation.

UTM References	#5	16	435100	3619310
	#6	16	435660	3619640

Hale County Road 28

Site Plan for
Borden Oaks
ca. 1835
Greensboro Vicinity
Hale County, Alabama



Lake

Tenant House

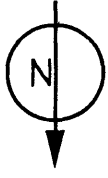
Tenant House

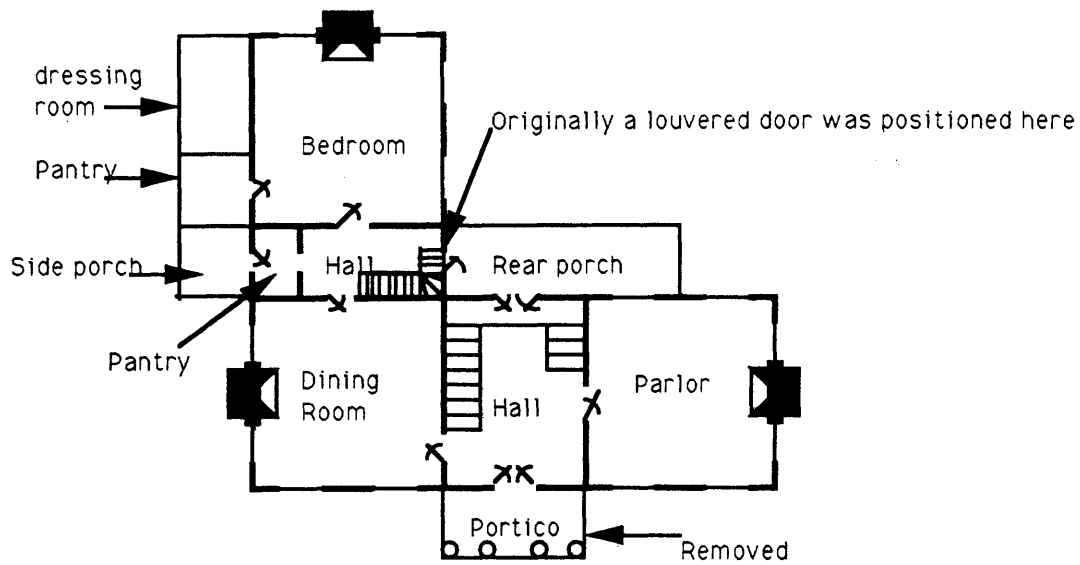
Levee

Barn and Feed House

Main house

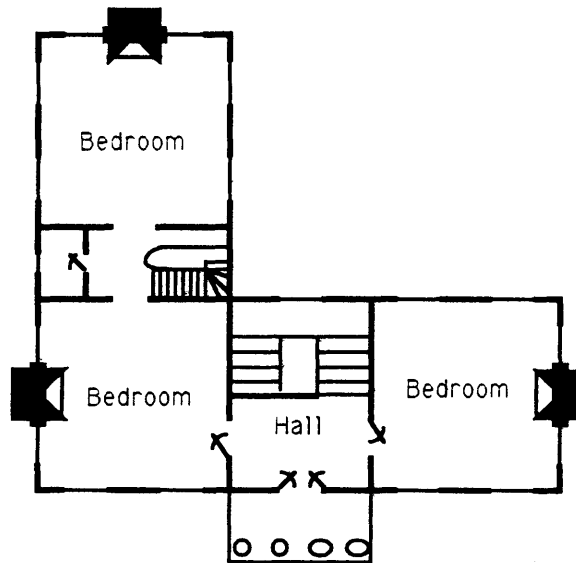
Original approach drive





First Floor Plan

(Brick cellar positioned under the rear stair hall and rear bedroom)



Second Floor Plan

Floor plan for
Borden Oaks
 ca. 1835
 Greensboro vicinity
 Hale County, Alabama

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Borden Oaks
Greensboro vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 5

The information included in items #1-5 is the same for all photographs. There has been no change to the property since a site visit in June, 1993.

1. Borden Oaks
2. Greensboro vicinity, Hale County, Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell
4. June, 1993
5. Negatives on file at the Alabama Historical Commission

Photograph #1, front facade, camera facing east

Photograph #2, detail of entrance and remnants of portico, camera facing east

Photograph #3, front and side (south) elevation, camera facing northeast

Photograph #4, rear and side (south) elevation, camera facing northwest

Photograph #5, side entrance, north elevation, camera facing south

Photograph #6, side (north) elevation, camera facing south

Photograph #7, detail of staircase in cross hall from rear porch, camera facing north

Photograph #8, detail of interior door, "Cross and Bible" configuration, southwest

Photograph #9, detail of main staircase, camera facing northeast

Photograph #10, detail of staircase landing, camera facing east

Photograph #11, mantle detail in parlor, camera facing south

Photograph #12, detail of window in parlor, camera facing east