

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

17480  
NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Bell House  
other names/site number Carpenter Place

### 2. Location

street & number 1280 State Highway 25 South N/A not for publication  
city, town Starkville N/A vicinity  
state Mississippi code MS county Oktibbeha code 105 zip code 39759

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u> objects
			<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Kenneth H. P. Pool September 23, 1992  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register. **Entered in the National Register**  
 See continuation sheet. Alton Byers 10/29/92  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain:)  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Other: I - house

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weather board

roof asphalt shingles

other

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Bell house is a five bay, two story, wood frame structure with beaded clapboard siding. Its configuration is that of an I-house with a one story front porch, one story rear cabinet rooms and exterior end chimneys. It also has a second story, single bay front gallery. After being unoccupied from 1888 until 1915, the house was extensively repaired during 1923. The original porch was rebuilt, lowering the roof pitch and changing from a shed to a hip roof. The roof over the rear cabinet rooms was raised, necessitating the removal of three second floor windows. At the same time, the missing original nine over nine window sash on the front and sides of the two story section on both levels were replaced with two-over-two sash. The house was the subject of a rehabilitation that was completed in April 1992, at which time the sash were replaced with nine over nine sash, the porches were returned to their original configuration and a side door and shed roofed porch were re-installed.

The front porch columns are square, Tuscan design. The first floor entrance consists of a six panel wood door with flanking sidelights and panels and a full width transom. The casing has quirk-ovolo trim molding with an eared and pedimented head. The second floor central opening is similar but without side lights or transoms. The original double doors at the second floor have been restored during the recent rehabilitation.

The interiors are characterized by beaded door and window casings with quirk-ovolo trim moldings. Some door casings are reeded three part frames with corner blocks. Original doors are two panel with quirk ovolo applied moldings. Three Carpenter style rim locks labeled "No. 60 Improved Lock" are extant.

Mantels are Greek revival with square or turned columns. The stair has undecorated stringers with turned newels, simple round railing and plain rectangular balusters.

Interior walls are plaster except that the first floor hall has painted horizontal tongue and groove flush boards. The right side front room and the hall have a paneled wainscot with chair rail and the left side front room has a chair rail and plain board wainscot.

The house is located on a partially wooded tract of approximately 32 acres that constitutes the remainder of the original farm of 560 acres.

The other three buildings on the site consist of a dairy processing building, a stock barn, and a carport, all of which are noncontributing elements. The dairy processing building and stock barn are of concrete block construction with wood gabled roof structures. The carport is a two-story frame building with gabled roof.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

ca. 1838  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

ca. 1838  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bell House is a remarkably well preserved I-house dating to the earliest permanent settlement of Starkville and Oktibbeha County. At least one other I type farm house of this period survives in Oktibbeha County, "The Cedars", located some five miles south of Starkville on the Octoc Road. "The I-house form was first introduced to Mississippi around 1800 in the Natchez area by settlers from the Eastern Seaboard". (Cawthon, 2) Many of the earliest settlers of Oktibbeha County after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830 were from Georgia and the Carolina's where the I-house was popular. Of the nine sub-types of I-house identified by Cawthon, the Bell House is an I-house with a composite porch, that is, a one story front gallery extends entirely across the front of the house with a narrower porch on the upper level center. "The earliest example of this porch type in Mississippi is at 'Linden' in Natchez, which was built about 1816 and assumed its configuration by the 1840's. Antebellum and early post-bellum I-houses with this porch configuration are very rare in Mississippi, being found largely in and around Canton in Madison County and dating between about 1850 and 1870." (Cawthon, 6).

The early date and physical integrity of the Bell House, both interior and exterior, along with the rarity of this particular sub-type contribute to its significance to Mississippi Architecture.

See continuation sheet

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The present owner of the house is a direct descendant of Robert Bell, who purchased the 560 acre tract from William Montgomery in 1838 for \$25,000. Montgomery had purchased that tract with an additional 80 acres in 1835 for \$8,000. On this basis, and the style of moldings and other details, the construction date has been established as 1838. In his book Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County, T.B. Carroll mentions the "Bell Lanier House two miles south of Starkville" as among "other fine examples of antebellum architecture." (Carroll, 80) The Montgomery and Carpenter families played instrumental roles in the transition of Oktibbeha County from a one crop (cotton) economy into the "dairy center" of the south. The farm remained a dairy farm for many years. See Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County for a more detailed discussion of the economic development of the county.

The house had names other than those associated with family ownership. According to an interview with Mrs. J.C. Nash in 1971, she stated that after the Civil War the house was known as the "Pest House" as returning veterans stopped off there to be rid of pests before returning to their families. Also, Mrs. C.L. Carpenter, the mother of the current owner, stated that the house and acreage was one time known as "Hilltop Plantation" as the plantation house sits atop a high hill.

The interior of the house is remarkably well preserved, retaining most original finishes, moldings and hardware.

The current setting of the house retains its integrity as a rural farmhouse, despite its location less than two miles from the center of Starkville and extensive pressure on all sides by commercial and residential development.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Carroll, T.B., Historical Sketches of Oktibbeha County,  
The Dixie press, Gulfport, 1931  
Oktibbeha County Deed Books, Oktibbeha County Courthouse,  
Starkville, MS  
Nash, Mrs. J.C., interview with R.E. Carpenter, 1971  
Carpenter, Mrs. C.L., interview with R.E. Carpenter  
Cawthon, Richard J., "The I-house and expanded I-house in  
Mississippi, 1800-1875: Variations of a Traditional Form",  
monograph published by the Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History, January, 1992.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering  
Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property 32.25 acres

UTM References

A	<u>1,6</u>	<u>33,12,4,0</u>	<u>3,70,11,8,0</u>	B	<u>1,6</u>	<u>33,12,4,0</u>	<u>3,70,0,8,2,0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1,6</u>	<u>33,10,5,0</u>	<u>3,70,0,8,2,0</u>	D	<u>1,6</u>	<u>33,10,5,0</u>	<u>3,70,0,8,7,0</u>
E	1 6	3 3 0 6 9 0	3 7 0 0 8 7 0	F	1 6	3 3 0 7 9 0	3 7 0 1 1 8 0

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary is the remaining 32.25-acre tract of the original farm property of 560 acres.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

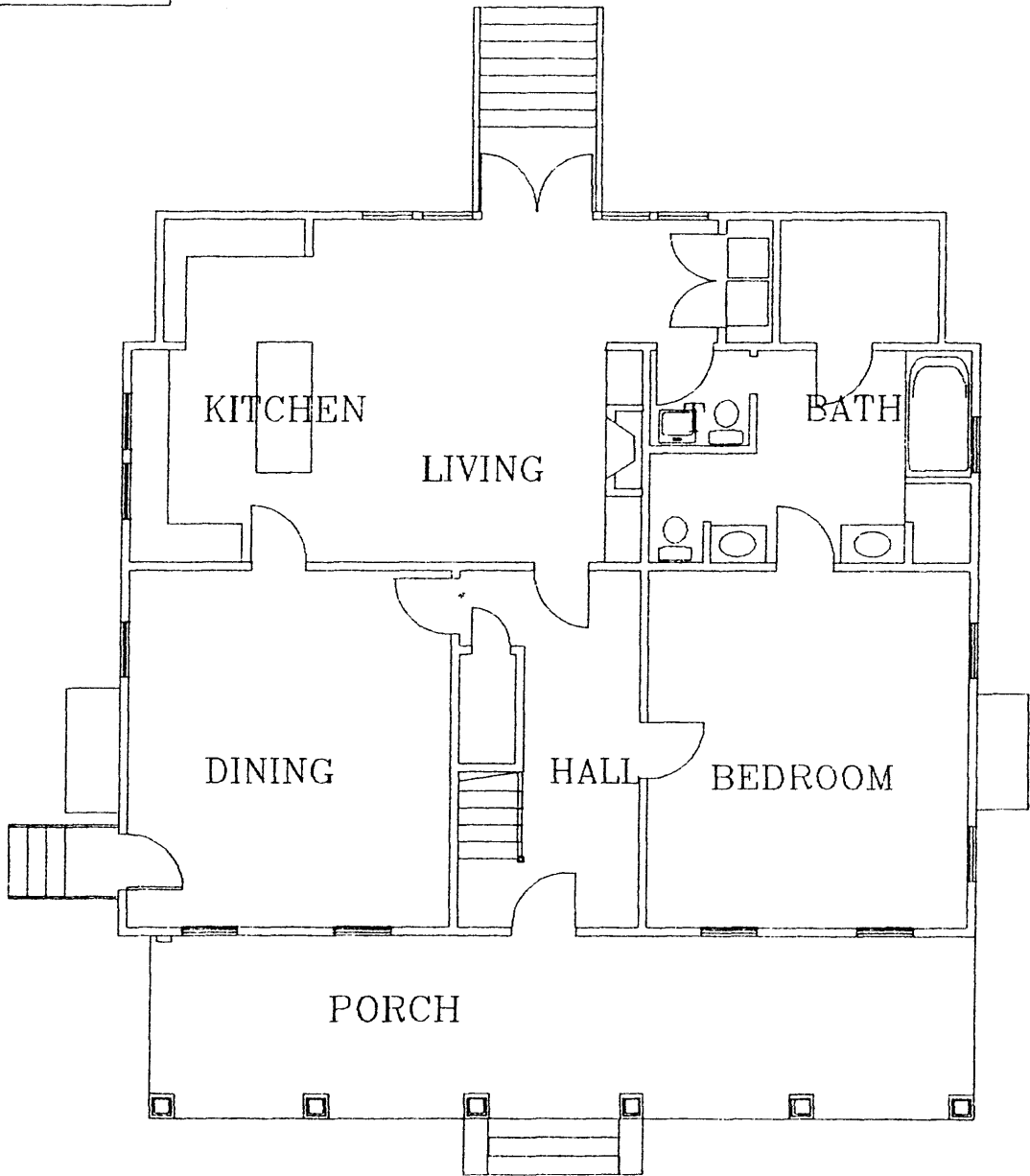
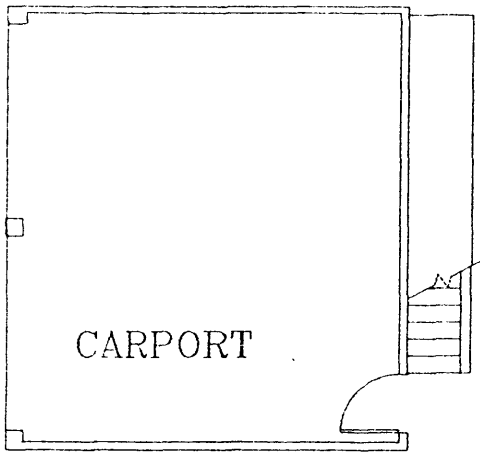
name/title Samuel H. Kaye, AIA  
organization Luke McMullan Kaye, P.A. date 3 August, 1992  
street & number 114 5th St. S. telephone (601) 327-6241  
city or town Columbus state MS zip code 39701

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Commence with the intersection of the East right-of-way of Mississippi Highway No. 25 with the South right-of-way of Academy Road and run in an Easterly direction along the South right-of-way of Academy Road a distance of 310.0 feet to the center line of a large drainage ditch; thence run South 11 -15' West along the center line of said ditch, 208.0 feet; thence run South 11 -05' West along the center line of said ditch a distance of 158.0 feet; thence run South 8 -00' West along the center line of said ditch a distance of 100.0 feet; thence run South 5 -45' East along the center line of said ditch a distance of 345.0 feet; thence run South 0 -15' West along the center line of said ditch a distance of 50.0 feet and use as the Point of Beginning.

Thence run South 0 -15' West along the center line of said ditch a distance of 227.0 feet; thence run South 16 -58' West along the center line of said ditch a distance of 388.0 feet; thence run South 23 -18' West along the center line of said ditch a distance of 314.1 feet; thence run South 89 -59' East a distance of 1,138.0 feet; thence run South a distance of 130.0 feet; thence run South 89 -59' East a distance of 526.8 feet; thence run North a distance of 1,016.0 feet; thence run West a distance of 1,426.0 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Being 32.25 acres located in the South half of Section 10, Township 18 North, Range 14 East of Oktibbeha County, Mississippi and being part of Block 92-C as shown on the Michael Baker Official Map of the City of Starkville, Mississippi, 1974 Edition.



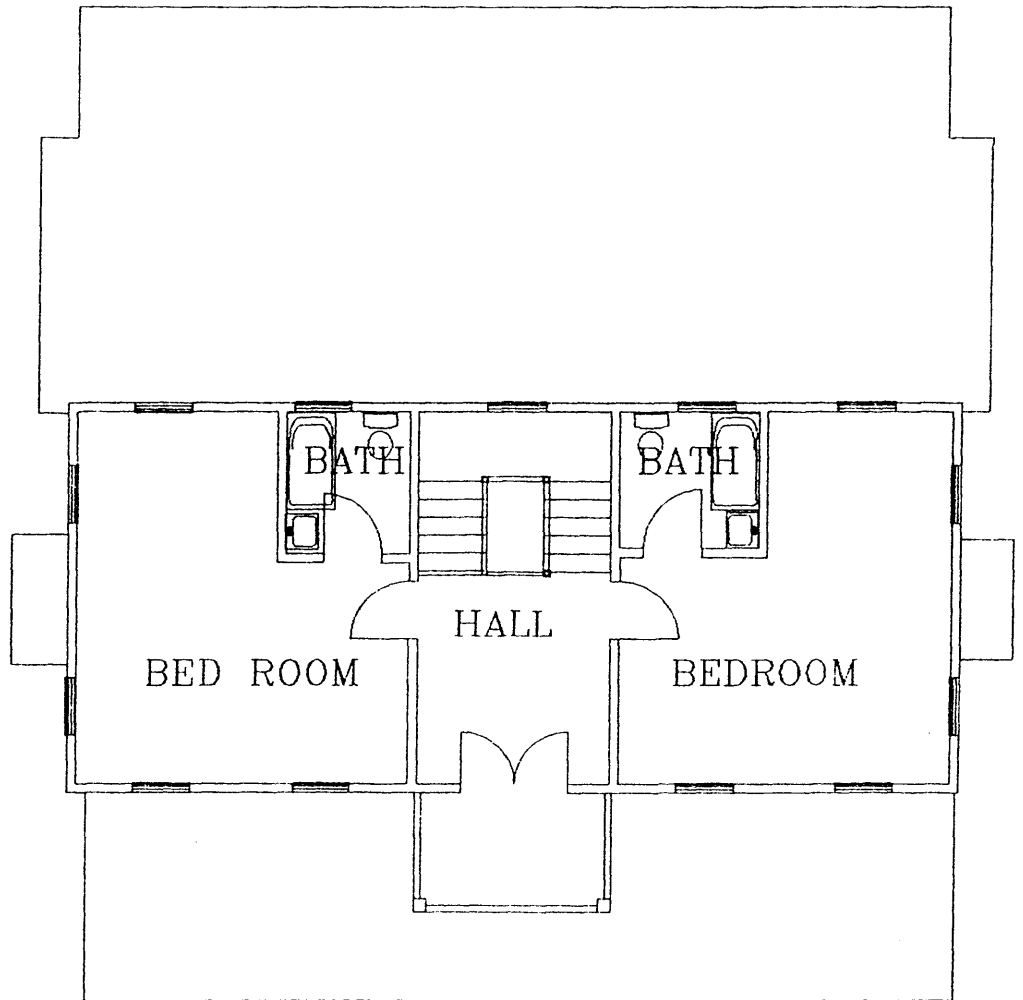
SCALE: FEET



# FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Bell House  
 Starkville, Oktibbeha  
 County, Mississippi

LOFT APARTMENT



SCALE: FEET



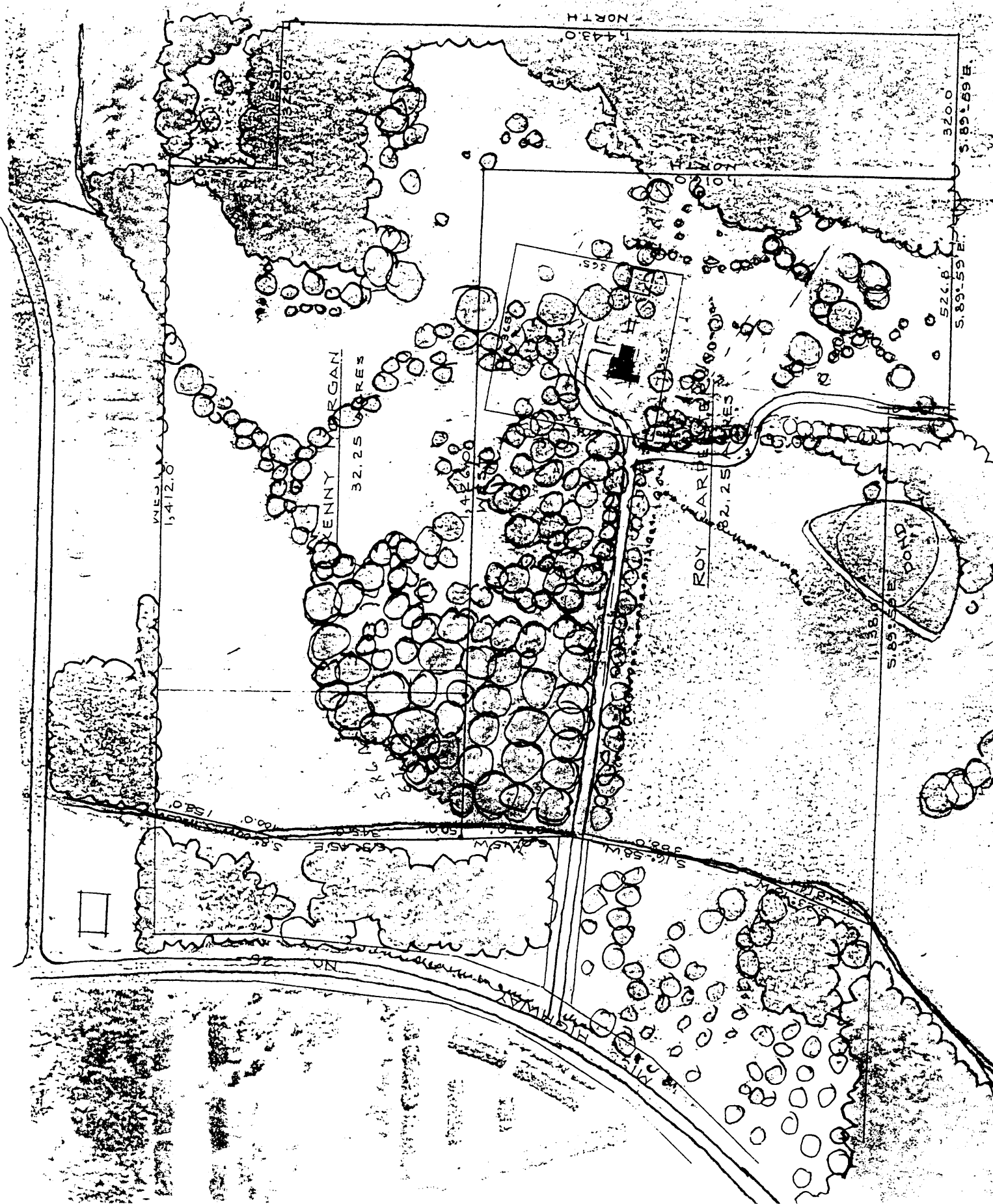
# SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Bell House  
Starkville, Oktibbeha  
County, Mississippi





179



W 52.1  
1,412.0

KENNY MORGAN  
32.25 ACRES

ROY CARPENTER  
32.25 ACRES

SIDE POND

1,443.0  
NORTH

320.0  
S 89.59 E  
526.8

S 89.59 E 526.8

S 16.58 W 388.0

N 82.12 W 1,412.0

N 82.12 W 1,412.0

N 82.12 W 1,412.0

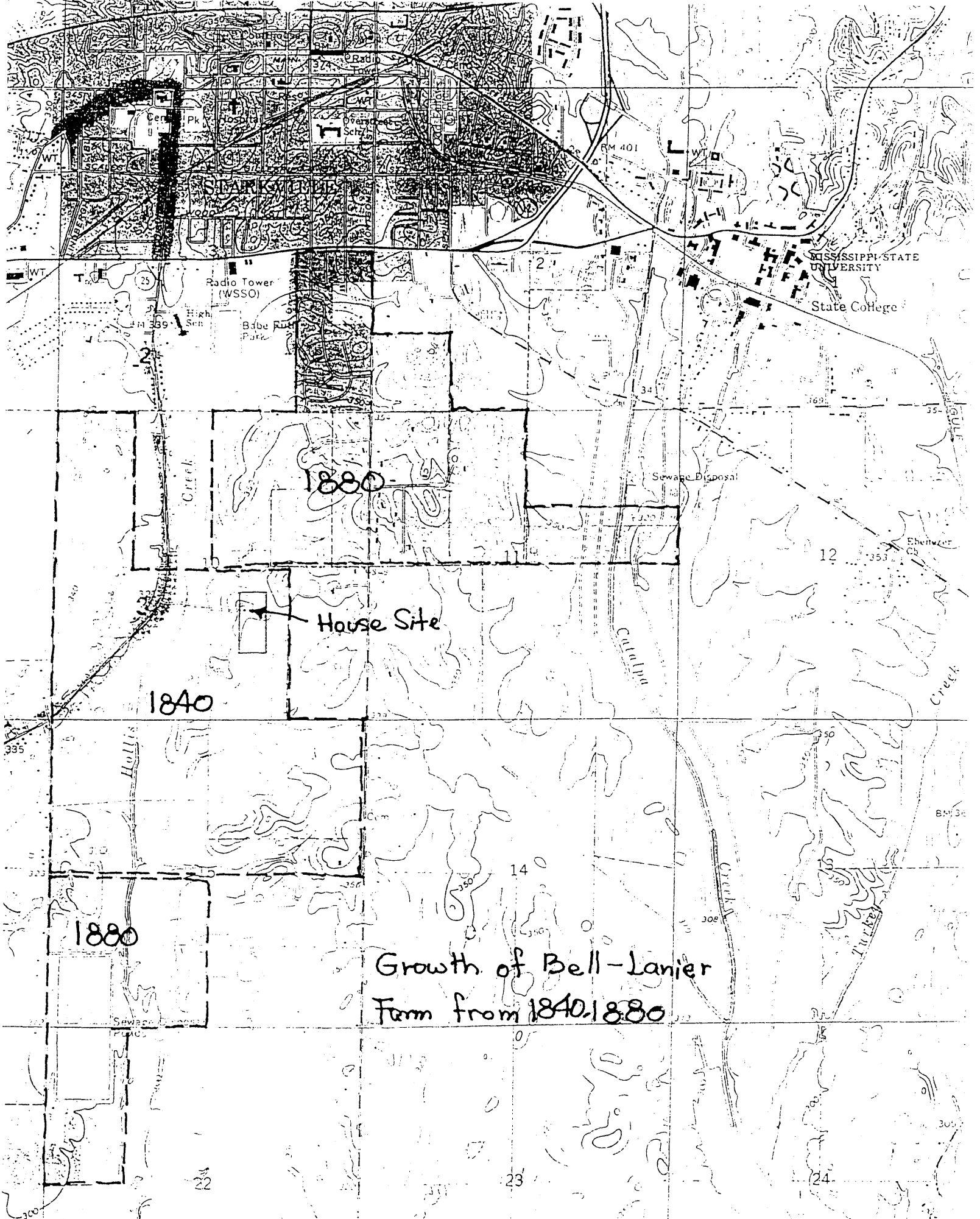
N 82.12 W 1,412.0

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N 82.12 W 1,412.0

N 82.12 W 1,412.0

N 82.12 W 1,412.0



1880

House Site

1840

1880

Growth of Bell-Lanier  
Farm from 1840-1880