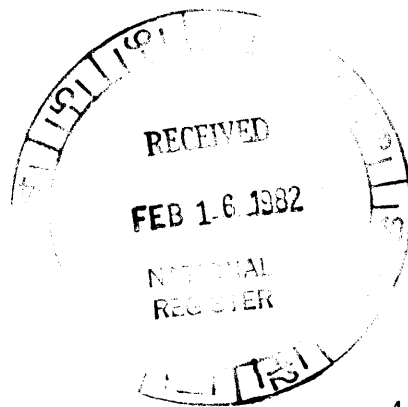


26. JOHN COLEMAN HOUSE "GRASSDALE"
1160 Mesopotamia Street

James O. Banks
704 Wilson Street
Eutaw, Alabama 35462



4.64 acres

Latitude: 32° 51' 36"

Longitude: 87° 55' 24"

1830s (?)

Architect/builder: unknown

? porch, rear lean-to, west wing

SIGNIFICANCE: Located at the northwest perimeter of the almost vanished village of Mesopotamia, this property is outside the corporate limits of the City of Eutaw. It is, however, older than the other houses in this nomination and is an important local prototype for the I-house form brought by the area's early settlers from the Carolinas and Georgia.

DESCRIPTION: This house was given nine-over-nine paned sashes in the first story and nine-over-six paned sashes in the second. The entrance has double doors with six panels each, transom and sidelights, and 4 1/2 inch molded facings, whose corner blocks have recessed circles of the same profile, and bases.

The same door facing and panel system is used inside the first story, with baseboard reflecting the plinths of the front door jambs, and there is chairrailing. Paneled dado is in the center stairhall (though only the rail rises on the wall with the stairs) and west room. The staircase is simple, with square posts and banisters and round handrail. It has an open stringer and plain cutout consoles. A door centered on the east side of the hall opens into the parlor, which, like the chamber above, has pairs of windows at front, rear and flanking the fireplace in the outer walls. The mantel in this room is pilastered, made up of flat members and running moldings. The dining room, across the hall, was entered by a door in front of the staircase, which left a long unbroken space for the sideboard on the wall opposite the fireplace. A single door was centered in the rear wall for access to the detached kitchen behind the house. The dining room was more elaborate than the parlor. In addition to paneling under the chairrailing, it had a press or built-in cupboard alongside the chimney. Southeast of the dwelling is the old Coleman family cemetery. The place remains in the hands of direct descendants.

Remodeling: The wooden mantel with fine, deeply cut moldings was taken out and put in the new house of the present owner at 704 Wilson Street built in 1968. In later years, Grassdale acquired a square-piered Greek Revival porch across the front, a single story lean-to at the rear, and a wing on the west end. Its nine-paned window sashes have been replaced by modern versions of two.

The Verbal Boundary is described by the yellow line on the survey map. It includes the house and cemetery and acreage immediately surrounding the house/