

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED **FEB 12 1979**
DATE ENTERED **MAR 29 1979**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Cedars

AND/OR COMMON

The Cedars

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

1311 Military Road

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Second

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Lowndes

CODE

87

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- ___ DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- ___ STRUCTURE
- ___ SITE
- ___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- ___ PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- ___ BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- ___ IN PROCESS
- ___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- ___ OCCUPIED
- ___ UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- ___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
- ___ NO

PRESENT USE

- ___ AGRICULTURE
- ___ COMMERCIAL
- ___ EDUCATIONAL
- ___ ENTERTAINMENT
- ___ GOVERNMENT
- ___ INDUSTRIAL
- ___ MILITARY
- ___ MUSEUM
- ___ PARK
- PRIVATE RESID
- ___ RELIGIOUS
- ___ SCIENTIFIC
- ___ TRANSPORTAT
- ___ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Robert B. Hardy

STREET & NUMBER

1115 Park Circle

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

___ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk
Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Second Avenue North

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi 39701

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE

1936

FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C. 20540

7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Facing east on historic Military Road in Columbus, Mississippi, the Cedars is a frame residence consisting of a one-and-a-half-story gable-roof front section and a one-story multi-gable rear section. The present structure is the product of subsequent enlargement to an original log cabin built ca. 1830. The undercut gallery of the six-bay (east) facade is supported by square modified Tuscan columns. Window and door enframements on facade consist of flat-faced architraves with molded backbands. Windows on the first floor have nine-over-nine double-hung sash, and the two on the north side of the second floor single-sash six-light. The north and south elevations of the front section contain exterior chimneys. The rear section consists of a gable-roof addition running parallel to the front section, and a transverse-gable addition along the north elevation. A brick-wall basement located under the transverse gable, together with a brick-pier foundation, supports the house. The six-bay west (rear facade) elevation is comprised of the two-bay transverse gable end extended to the west, and the gable-roof addition extended to the south. The five-bay north elevation has a central chimney in the transverse gable; and the four-bay south elevation has a central chimney and an entrance to the rear section of the house.

The double-pen interior plan of the front section features simplified Greek Revival mantelpieces, each with flat-faced Doric pilasters supporting entablature and shelf, on north and south walls of the parlor and dining room. A stair to the second-floor sleeping porch on the north cabin side is located along the south wall of the parlor. Interior millwork consists of flat-faced architraves with molded backbands. Doors are six-panel and retain original brass knobs and escutcheons. A nineteenth-century portrait of George Wisner Sherman, son-in-law of former owner Capt. Edward Brett Randolph, hangs in the dining room. The transverse gable of the rear section contains two chambers, each with a pilastered mantelpiece. A sitting room and kitchen are located south of the two chambers and parallel to the front section of the house.

The Cedars is situated on its original four-acre lot with historic landscape features intact. The grounds to the east, sloping down from the house to Military Road, are terraced with serpentine brick walls and planted in variegated box shrubs, and hickory, pecan, and white-oak trees. The perimeter is lined with cedars.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES ca. 1830, 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Constructed in part ca. 1830 during the settlement of Columbus, Mississippi, and surrounding Lowndes County, the Cedars is among the earliest extant residences in the area. Purchased and expanded in 1835 by Capt. Edward Brett Randolph, a veteran of the War of 1812, the property has remained in the Randolph-Sherman-Hardy family for six generations. The architectural significance of the house is derived from the application and addition of late Federal elements to a single-pen log-cabin form.

Captain Randolph's renovation of the log cabin in 1835 entailed elevating the roofline along the facade to accommodate an undercut gallery, and extending the gable end southward to allow for the addition of another room. A transverse-gable section was constructed along the north elevation, and a gable-roof kitchen was added along the south elevation. The gable-roof section parallel to and west of the front section, which connects the transverse gable to the kitchen, was added much later, in 1948. Although the only visible evidence of the original log cabin is an exposed log wall along the stair, the Cedars retains its integrity of scale and form. The application of restrained and simplified millwork details, such as the pilastered mantelpieces and modified Tuscan columns along the facade, is typical of rural vernacular residences in Mississippi before the Civil War. The present owner's plans for exterior and interior restoration and landscape improvements should greatly enhance the property.

The Cedars and its residents have figured in the history and affairs of the area in this and the past century. The house lies along historic Military Road, constructed when the Congress in 1816 ordered the War Department to build a thoroughfare to be known as Jackson's Military Road from New Orleans to Nashville (Dunbar Rowland, Mississippi [Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Company Publishers, 1976], p. 570). Captain Randolph traveled the Military Road in 1821 on his way home to Culpepper County, Virginia, from Pensacola, where he had been stationed while serving in the United States Army (W. E. Gibbs, "Columbus in its Infancy and Growth--Lowndes County," Columbus [Miss.] Independence June 21, 1879, p. 3). His favorable impressions of northeastern Mississippi gained on trip prompted him to return to the area in 1825 as one of the first white residents of Lowndes County, settling with his family ten miles north of Columbus at Goshen Place (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi, 2 vols. [Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891], I, 230). In 1835 Randolph sold the Goshen Place property and purchased the Cedars (Lowndes Co., Miss., Deed Book 5:31). The Randolph-Sherman-Hardy family, descendants of Captain Randolph and after his death owners of the Cedars down to the present, have like their ancestor been known for their accomplishments, particularly in agriculture and government service. During the nineteenth century the family were moderately successful cotton merchants, and during the present century, one of the family, Thomas Bailey Hardy, a successful pecan cultivator, supplied his product to such notable as the King of Siam and Lord Halifax. Robert B. Hardy, present owner of the house, ser

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bibliographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891.

Gibbs, W. E. "Columbus in its Infancy and Growth--Lowndes County," Columbus [Miss.] Independent, June 21, 1879.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Caledonia, Miss.-Ala.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 3,6,8 | 2,0,0 | 3,7 | 0,8 | 5,5,0

B | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | |

D | | | | |

E | | | | |

F | | | | |

G | | | | |

H | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point where the west right of way line of Military Road intersects the e and west section line between the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) and the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Sectio

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jack A. Gold, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

January, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 571

601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Jackson

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer R. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

February 7, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

3-29-79

ATTEST:

Charles J. [Signature]
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

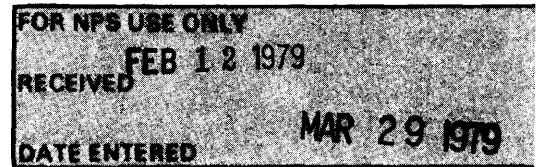
DATE

3/20/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**



CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6, 8&9 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: Statewide Survey of Historic Sites
Date: 1978 X State
Depository for Survey Records: Mississippi Department of Archives and History
City: Jackson State: Mississippi 39205

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

in the United States Air Force as a colonel and in the Mississippi State Senate (Robert B. Hardy, interviewed by Jack A. Gold, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Jackson, Dec. 13, 1978).

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Gold, Jack A., architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Inspection of the Cedars, Columbus, Miss., Nov. 25, 1978.
- Hardy, Robert B., present owner of the Cedars. Interviewed by Jack A. Gold, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Jackson, Dec. 13, 1978.
- Lipscomb, William Lowndes. A History of Columbus, Mississippi During the 19th Century. Birmingham: Press of Dispatch Printing Co., 1909.
- Lowndes Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Book 5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. Microfilm.
- Rowland, Dunbar. Mississippi. Spartanburg, S.C.: The Reprint Company Publishers, 197
- United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Lowndes Co., Miss., 1820, 1830, 1840.
- United States. Works Progress Administration. Lowndes Co., Miss. Source Material for Mississippi History. Statewide Historical Research Project, E. R. Hopkins, comp. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

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| DATE ENTERED | MAR 29 1979 |

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Township 18 South, Range 18 East; thence southwest along said right of way line 409.8 f to the north right of way line of Billups Avenue; thence northwesterly along said right way line 556.1 feet to a point; thence northerly 148.8 feet to a point on the east and of said Quarter Section line of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of said Section 9; thence east 642.0 feet along said Quarter Section line to the point of beginning;

LESS AND EXCEPT THEREFROM:

Commencing at a point where the west right of way line of Military Road intersects the and west section line between the Northeast Quarter (NE 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter a the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of the Southeast Quarter (SE 1/4) of Section 9, Township South, Range 18 East; thence southwest along said right of way line 409.8 feet to the n right of way line of Billups Avenue; thence northwesterly along said right of way line 445.8 feet to an iron pin being the point of beginning of this description; continuing thence northwesterly along said right of way line 110.3 feet to a point; thence norther 148.8 feet to a point on said east and west Section line of said Section 9; thence east 121.0 feet along said Quarter Section line to an iron pin; thence southwesterly 195.1 f to the point of beginning.

"THE CEDARS"

THE SECOND HOUSE BUILT IN COLUMBUS

The historic and hospitable home of Mr. George Worzeley Sherman is situated on the Highlands, one of the most beautiful parts of Columbus. From the top of a high, terraced hill it overlooks Military Road, the route which Columbus people would choose for the Jackson Highway. In response to a request for information as to the place of this old home in the history of Columbus, the following letter was received by the Secretary of the Ladies' Reading Circle from Mr. E. R. Sherman, a brother of the present occupant of the house.

Dear Mrs. Landrum:

Complying with your request I herewith submit such data as I possess of the old Randolph house now the residence of my brother, George W. Sherman.

In 1816 my grandfather, Captain Edward Brett Randolph, of the U. S. Army, passed through this part of the state, and, being impressed with its agricultural possibilities, resolved to make it his future home. Accordingly in 1825 he and my grandmother, accompanied by their slaves and such household effects as they could bring, settled at Coshen in this county. His coming brought other notable pioneers, his friends, among them Captain

Neilson of the army, grandfather of the Messrs. Hopkins, and Capt. Shields of the navy.

After planting for ten years, my grandparents liberated their slaves and sent them to Liberia, and then took up their residence here. The house they purchased was a log structure, and it still retains its original features except for the addition of more rooms and a veranda. Since 1835 it has been the family residence, having housed five generations. The first house to be built on the hills, it is almost the last to remain. Anomalous as it may seem, it has been the depository of more gold and silver than any other house in Columbus not a bank. My grandfather was the receiver of public moneys and all the payments from the land sales in that early day passed through his hands. At that time such banks as existed were accounted insecure, so he carried his bags of money home, where his only strong box was a little landing at the bottom of the stairs. Here the money accumulated into thousands, until he could get safe conduct for it to Washington.

Along with many other houses in Columbus this was a haven for sick and wounded soldiers during the Civil War. General Forrest was under its roof-tree and so also was his long time an-

tagonist, General Grierson, who came to restore to my grandmother a pair of mules that had been stolen by some of his men. A gentleman he was, by the way, of much elegance of manner. Another haven, it was, in 1875 when several negroes, old family servants, sought asylum, which was granted by my grandmother.

It contained the first cooking stove ever used in Columbus and was the home of the first setter dog ever brought here, whose portrait is still hanging there. In its archives are some antique manuscripts and old books, a letter written in 1754 and two books printed in the reign of George I, some land grants bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren, and an autograph letter of John Randolph and one of William H. Crawford. Among the relics to be found there of the long ago are a dozen silver spoons bearing the crest of Col. Byrd of Westover and a silk sash worn by my grandfather at the battle of Lundy's Lane. Through the long years moth and rust have necessarily been in evidence but no thief has ever broken through its portals.

The house was shingled twice by Uncle Jeff Kirk--the negro local historian of his time--first in 1840 and again in 1890. The old house is sound in every timber and bids fair to last for many a

year unless it should meet the fate of its stat-
lier neighbors and become food for the ash hopper.

Such in brief outline are the facts as I know
them. I might add as being unusual in a house so
old and so long occupied that there have been but
three deaths there and only three births.

I remain with high regard,

E. R. Sherman

OUTLINE HISTORY OF "THE CEDARS" AND ITS OCCUPANTS

1. Frontier log house of excellent quality was constructed CA 1817.
2. It was the second house to be built in Columbus - the first has since been destroyed.
3. The log house and its four acre site were bought and improved in 1835 by Capt. Edward Brett Randolph, an officer during the War of 1812.
4. The house borders Jackson's Military Road constructed about 1817.
Capt. Randolph left his native state of Virginia in 1825 to raise cotton on the Mississippi frontier.
5. Capt. and Mrs. Randolph were among the first southerners to free their slaves and in 1835 returned them to Liberia.
6. Capt. Randolph was employed by the Federal Government as Receiver of Public Monies, and they were in safe keeping at "The Cedars".
7. "The Cedars" contained the first cooking stove used in Columbus.
8. It was the home of the first English Setter bird dog in this area.
9. During the Civil War it sheltered wounded and sick Confederate soldiers.
10. General Nathan Bedford Forrest was a guest of the home.
11. His antagonist, Gen. Benjamin H. Grierson, returned to Mrs. Randolph at "The Cedars" a pair of mules which had been stolen by his soldiers.
12. Hugh and George Sherman, great grandsons of Capt. Randolph, served as officers in World War I.
13. During World War II Lord Halifax visited here and was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. T. Bailey Hardy.
14. Mr. Hardy provided pecans from his plantation orchard to the King of Siam.
15. Lt. Col. Robert B. Hardy, present occupant, served in World War II, the Berlin Airlift, Korea, and Vietnam before retiring in 1966.
16. Col. Hardy served four years as a member of the Mississippi Senate and is a Planner.

COLUMBUS PILGRIMAGE

COLUMBUS, MISSISSIPPI

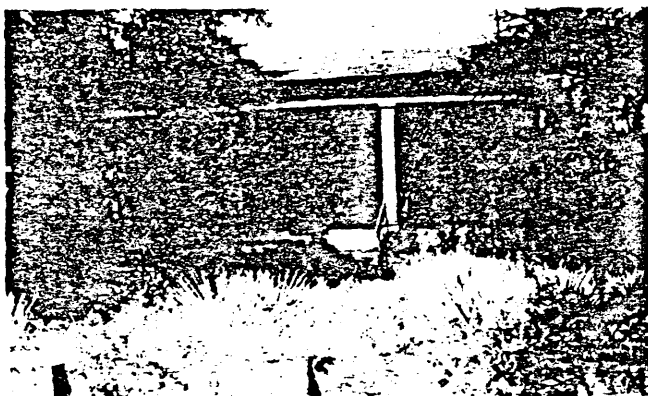
APRIL 14-15-16, 1940



COLUMBUS

"DISCOVER THE OLD SOUTH
IN COLUMBUS"

TOUR OF ANTE-BELLUM HOMES AND HISTORIC SITES



THE CEDARS has been the residence of the Randolph-Sherman families since 1835. This was the second house to be built in Columbus. It is constructed of logs and retains its original features, except for the addition of more rooms and a veranda. Though the first to be built, it is one of the last of the old homes to remain on this

hill. Its timbers remain sound after more than a century.

Much gold and silver was taken care of in this house, when Capt. Randolph was a receiver of Public Money from the Land Sales of that early era.

This house served as a haven for sick and wounded soldiers during the War Between the States. General Forrest was under this roof-tree; so was General Grierson of the Federal Army, when he came to return mules taken by some of his soldiers.

The portrait of the first Setter Dog brought to this section hangs on these walls.

In its archives are old historical books, Land Grants, etc., bearing the signatures of early Presidents. Among the relics, are silver spoons, with the crest of Colonel Byrd of Westover, and a sash worn by Capt. Randolph in the battle of Lundy's Lane.

The Cedars - Oldest Home In Columbus, Mississippi

Boring up on our history, we recall that the first white man to set foot in what is now Mississippi, Hernando DeSoto by name, entered the state about eight miles above the present site of Columbus. Two centuries later Bienville and his expedition on their way to attack the Chickasaws passed close by beneath the Tombigbee bluffs, but it was not until 1817 that the first white men stopped and settled.

They were Thomas Thomas, who in that year opened a trading post at the junction of the Luxapallia and the Tombigbee Rivers, and Spiros Roach who shortly afterward built a tavern. Because Roach was old, gray, bent and wizened he reminded the Indians who came to buy his whiskey of a 'possum, so they called the settlement Possum Town.

This was soon changed, however, by the bluebloods from Virginia and the Carolinas who followed Roach and Thomas to grow cotton on the surrounding fertile prairie. In 1821 they gave it the name Columbus, much more in keeping with its proud present position as the home town of M.S.C.W., the first state supported college for women in the United States.

One of these just mentioned bluebloods was Captain Edward Brett Randolph of the U.S. Army who in 1813 rode horseback through this part of Mississippi on his re-

turn to Virginia after the close of the War of 1812. Captain Randolph was greatly impressed with the agricultural possibilities, cotton in particular. Not able to get it out of his mind he returned nine years later in 1823 with his wife, Elizabeth Bland Beverley Randolph, together with slaves and household goods, and bought large holdings north of Columbus. He called his plantation Goshen.

For ten years he was a successful planter. Then he liberated his slaves, sending all who wished to go by chartered boat to Liberia in Africa, and took up residence in Columbus. There he bought the house now called The Cedars. It was then a log house built on top of a high, terraced hill with four acres of ground around it, facing Military Road, now Highway 12. It had been the second house built in Columbus and is today the oldest home in Columbus, still retaining its original features with the addition of more rooms and a veranda.

Since Captain Randolph occupied it The Cedars has been a residence of the same family, seven generations having called it home which includes the last two generations who visit it every summer. Since 1943 it has been occupied by Mr. and Mrs. T. Bailey Hardy.

An historical oddity of this old antebellum house is that it has contained more silver and gold coin than any other building in Columbus not a bank. Mrs. Hardy's great grandfather, the original Captain E. B. Randolph, was the receiver of public monies. The payments for land sales passed through his hands. At that time such banks as existed were considered unsafe, so Captain Randolph carried his bags of money home where they accumulated up into the thousands of dollars

strong box was a little landing at the bottom of the stairs. This landing, incidentally, is still a feature of the house.

Along with many other houses in Columbus The Cedars was a haven for the sick and wounded soldiers during the Civil War. General Nathan Bedford Forrest passed under its roof-tree and so did his Yankee counterpart, Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson, an able officer and a gentleman who came back to return to Mrs. Randolph a pair of mules his men had stolen.

In 1875 it became another sort of haven—when several former slaves of the family too old to work sought sanctuary which was granted by Mrs. Randolph.

The Cedars contained the first cooking stove ever used in Columbus and was the home of the first setter dog ever brought to the area. His oil portrait is still in the house.

Among the relics still a part of this historic old house are antique manuscripts and old books, a letter written in 1754, another letter written by one of the liberated slaves from Africa inquiring about his kin left behind, two books printed in the reign of George I and land grants bearing the signature of President Martin Van Buren. There is an autograph letter of John Randolph of Virginia, and one of William Crawford of Virginia, who was U.S. Secretary of the Treasury under Monroe and Secretary of War under Madison. There are silver coin teaspoons with the crest of Colonel William Byrd, the Colonial Virginia planter who had the largest library in the Colonies and was a Randolph kinsman. . . also the silk sash worn by Captain Randolph at the battle of Lundys' Lane on July 25, 1814, one of the most bitterly fought battles of the War of 1812, in which the Americans charged to the very muzzles of the British cannon, bayoneting the artillery men at their guns.

The original Captain Randolph and his wife occupied The Cedars until their deaths. Other generations of the family have lived there, the great granddaughter, Mrs. T. Bailey Hardy and her husband, now the occupants.

Data courtesy Mary Ita Sherman Hardy of The Cedars.

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THE DAILY HERALD

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 and HOLIDAYS
 MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Monday Afternoon, December 3, 1962

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May 8, 1978

Subject: RETORATION OF "THE CEDARS"
From: Robert B. Hardy

Objectives: To restore, preserve, and protect "The Cedars" in the best manner possible and to demonstrate its history and tradition. To make it a modern, practical, and desirable place for us to live and to share its culture, beauty, and charm with the community. To restore and house without structural change so as to reflect the different periods of its growth and development in order that its entire history can be revealed. Repair and restore original features of the home wherever possible. To have it listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Work Needed for Completion by August, 1979:

1. Master Bath - Design, within the present space, a luxurious dressing room, clothes closets, and bathroom.
2. Kitchen - Design kitchen incorporating new cabinets and butler's pantry.
3. Design floor level deck above 2 car carport west of living room, use Nags Head bench, provide covered entrance to kitchen, attach by plates only to present structure.
4. Design downstairs apartment and a patio as its entrance in conjunction with above.
5. Restore cistern.
6. Analyze energy uses, determine where savings can be made, estimate pay out time for cost of each improvement, and install measures selected.
7. Design the house and site to be private and secure from intrusion. Install an alarm system.
8. Provide for maximum fire safety and install fire alarm devices and extinguishers.
9. Replace chandelier and wall fixtures in dining room.
10. Design airy, frivolous summer house in the ancient roots and vines of the wisteria north of the house.

11. Repair front and side steps and replace railings.
12. Provide plan for landscaping the entire lot to include place for herb garden, vegetable garden, fruit trees, nut trees, ornamental native flowering trees and bushes, and second growth cedars. Driveways and parking for front and rear to be included. Consider making entire lot a compound. Plant East and South boundaries with red cedars for traffic noise abatement and privacy.
13. Design shelter for tractor and equipment and consider locating it north of the house.
14. Minimize building and grounds maintenance.