

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received 1 8 1987
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Winston Place

and or common

2. Location

street & number Just off Highway 117 in center of town NA not for publication

city, town Valley Head NA vicinity of congressional district 4

state Alabama code 01 county DeKalb code 049

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	NA	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Col. and Mrs. Welborn L. Matthews

street & number P. O. Box 165

city, town Valley Head NA vicinity of state Alabama 35989

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. DeKalb County Courthouse

street & number

city, town Fort Payne state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Nestled in the Wills Valley at the foot of Lookout Mountain, Winston Place faces west toward the railroad tracks and the main street of Valley Head. Situated on a parcel of approximately 60 acres, the house and the outbuildings cluster on approximately 12 acres and retain their peaceful rural setting. Old plantings and huge hardwoods and cedars surround the house.

Known as Winston Place, the house had at least three phases to its development--beginning with the 1840's two-story pioneer dwelling and followed by the late-19th century Colonial Revival update--to the incorporation of its turn-of-the-century and early 20th-century rear additions. Evidence of the early nucleus exists today in the random width 5" to 6" cherry and pine flooring found at both levels, the 10" to 12" board wainscotting in one downstairs room, the random 2 and 3 vertical panel interior doors and the 7" to 8" wall boards hidden in a closet. There are also Greek Revival mantels and old 9/6 wood window sashes throughout.

Winston Place is generally characterized, however, by its Colonial Revival elements and in particular by its monumental portico. The full height pedimented porch has a denticulated gable and cornice, and is supported by four wood Doric columns. Extending to the north and south of the portico, the earlier two-story porch was altered with the incorporation of a matching entablature. Square, chamfered columns, with turned balustrade spanning between, support the porches.

The clapboarded house has an L-shaped mass. The 2/2 wood sash windows fenestrate the main mass while 9/6 windows light the rear extension. The Victorian double door entrance, with diamond-patterned side lights, was apparently added when the porch extensions were constructed. There is one interior and two exterior brick chimneys which service six fireplaces. The house rests on brick piers, and there is a partial basement (c 1930) beneath the rear extension.

On the rear of the house a small, one-story kitchen and an open carport were added during the 20th century. Vinyl siding covers approximately 31% of the house exterior; however, none of the original fabric or detail was removed or damaged during the siding installation.

Inside, the Winston Place displays embellishments as rich and diverse as its history. Five of the fireplaces feature simple Greek Revival wood mantels, while the main parlor has a more elaborate marble mantle. Both the front and rear stairs feature Colonial Revival balusters, handrail and scroll details.

Most of the interior doors are solid wood with six panels, but several older doors with two and three panels also survive. Wainscotting embellishment varies with rooms containing treatments dating from both the 19th and 20th centuries.

Winston Place has a significant collection of 19th century and early 20th century outbuildings including a hexagonal smokehouse, a corn crib, a carriage house and a frame shed. There are two noncontributing structures in the complex--a small brick cottage (1977) and a gambrel roof barn (c 1940). The woodhouse building indicated on the site plan (Map 1) was recently razed (spring 1986).

Contributing - 5

Noncontributing - 2

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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates c.1838, c.1850, c.1890 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

CRITERION A - Social/Humanitarian (Recreation)

Winston Place is significant as DeKalb County's finest late-19th and early-20th century private summer place. Because of the opening of the county by the railroad in the late-19th century, and the location of "healthy" springs in the Wills Valley/Mentone area, the northern part of the county became a very popular summer resort (Sulzby. pp.174-75). Railroad posterity enabled the Winstons to make Winston Place into the area's grandest summer showplace.

INTEGRITY

Winston Place exists today essentially as it did during its period of significance as one of DeKalb County's finest Colonial Revival houses and grand summer homes. Although vinyl siding has been applied to approximately 31.5% of the building's exterior (1/4 of south side; 1/2 of the east side; 1/4 of the north side), the remaining 68.75% of the building (which includes its facade) along with the overall massing of the house form and the architectural detailing is not compromised by the siding. The choice of siding width is appropriate for the Colonial Revival style and conforms to that of the original weatherboarding. Therefore, the building's location, setting, workmanship and feeling all convey its historic associations. A product of clearly identifiable changes in economic status, taste and use, Winston Place retains its historic identity.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15

Quadrangle name Valley Head

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	2	7	5	5	0	3	8	2	5	9	6	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

B

1	6	6	2	7	4	9	0	3	8	2	5	8	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

C

1	6	6	2	7	2	0	0	3	8	2	5	7	4	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

D

1	6	6	2	7	0	5	0	3	8	2	5	7	9	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

E

1	6	6	2	7	0	7	0	3	8	2	5	8	7	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

F

1	6	6	2	7	1	0	0	3	8	2	5	9	3	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

G

1	6	6	2	7	1	6	0	3	8	2	6	0	0	0
Zone	Easting			Northing										

H

Zone	Easting			Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification

See shaded area on scaled plat map attached. Boundaries have been drawn to encompass the historic property presently under one ownership.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	NA	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Tom Dolan, Architectural Historian; Shirley Qualls, Historian; and Marilyn B. Sullivan, Consultant (Point of Reference)

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date June 12, 1986

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

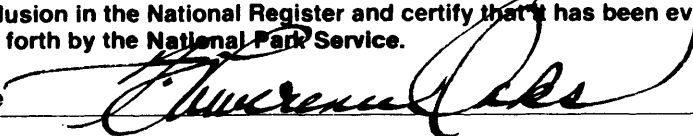
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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



title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2-10-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

entered in the National Register

date

3-19-87

Keeper of the National Register

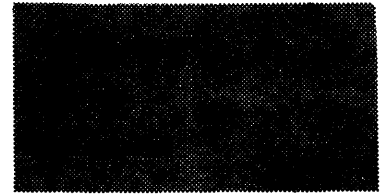
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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Historical Summary

William Overton Winston's father-in-law, Jesse Beene of Cahawba tried to convince his daughter and her young husband to join him in Dallas County in 1830. He offered them a house, which he would be glad to furnish on his next trip to Mobile, and land saying that "Selma is a better place for a lawyer than Cahawba - it contains 15 or 20 stores and does nearly the whole business in the mercantile way, of the county." But Mr. Beene went on to add, "I hope Mr. Winston will press forward with ambition and exertion in his profession wherever he may settle."¹

In 1828 William O. Winston had begun reading law under Mr. Peter Parsons in Rogersville, Tennessee.² From Mr. Beene's correspondence it is apparent that the Winstons had determined to stay in Rogersville for awhile. In about 1838, however, the Winstons re-located from the northern Tennessee County of Hawkins to the new DeKalb County on Alabama's northern border. Shortly thereafter, he bought, among other lands, James and Elizabeth Gardner's farm, the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ of Section 29, Township 5, Range 10 East.³ The Gardner's farm, it is said, was not only one of the Valley's first dwellings, but also site of an important Cherokee meeting place prior to the Tribe's displacement.

William Winston apparently did "press forward in his profession" because by 1840 he was representing DeKalb County in the State Legislature, where his cousin, future governor John A. Winston was representing Sumter County. The two cousins' careers are particularly interesting because of William Winston's life-long promotion of railroads and Governor John Winston's reputation for vetoing railroad legislation.

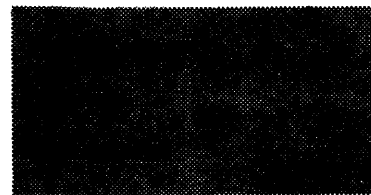
William Overton Winston participated in the incorporation of the Old Gainesville⁴ and Narheetah Railroad Company and the Gainesville and Mississippi Railroad Company. He is most remembered, however, as the "father" of the old Wills Valley Railroad which ultimately opened up the isolated, mineral rich northeastern Alabama counties. In fact, one source speculates that railroad fever of the 1850s was directly stimulated by State Geologist Michael Toumey who "exposed" the great mineral wealth of the state.⁵

Chartered in February of 1852 when there was less than 500 miles of track in the whole state, the Wills Valley Railroad was to build a line from "a point on the Alabama and Tennessee River Railroad (yet unfinished in 1852) ... thence the most practicable route through the county of DeKalb to the Georgia line to intersect the Georgia and Tennessee Railroad at some convenient point in Lookout Valley." Almost simultaneously, the North East & South West Alabama Railroad was chartered by a group of West Alabamians for the purpose of connecting Sumter, Greene, Tuscaloosa and Jefferson counties thence in a northeasterly direction to the state line.⁶ By 1854 the two lines under Winston and L. C. Garland had begun discussions of merger and in 1856 Wills Valley was granted permission by the legislature to consolidate with another company.

It is interesting to note that it was also during this period that Winston bought significant parcels of land surrounding Winston Place from the U. S. Government. The Agricultural Census for 1850 places the worth of Winston's farming operation at \$4,000 making it one of the county's largest. His primary crops were corn, oats and potatoes.

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In 1858 the Wills Valley and the North East and South West were given permission by the Legislature to consolidate, but the merger did not take place until 1861. Little or no completed track existed on the NE & SW line and only about 12 miles existed on Wills Valley line at that time, but Winston had been actively establishing a right-of-way from Gadsden to Chattanooga. A particularly significant number of right-of-ways were recorded in 1859 and 1860, and in 1860 the State issued a grant of lands north of Gadsden to the line.⁹

Probably because of its location and usefulness to the Confederate Government, the short Wills Valley Railroad issued an optimistic annual report in 1863 despite the War.¹⁰ Completion of the line was pressed, although not realized, in hopes of accessing coal beds of North Alabama as well as shortening the travel distance between Richmond and points southwest.

Meanwhile, in the fall of that same year, Winston Place was commandeered by McCook's 20th Corps and served as Union headquarters during the Chattanooga campaign.¹¹

But for the "dogged opposition" of Governor John A. Winston, the State of Alabama would have become heavily involved in railroad funding during the 1850s. However, "his political philosophy was opposed to government tampering with private enterprises."¹²

With the end of the Civil War, however, agitation began anew for State aid to the railroads. Winston, still President of the Wills Valley Railroad, was elected to represent DeKalb and Marshall Counties in the State Senate in 1865. During the two terms as Senator he originated an act "To establish a system of internal improvement in the State of Alabama."¹³

With State aid, completion of the railroad from Chattanooga resulted in a doubling of DeKalb County's population from 1878 to 1888, and recognition that iron, coal and kaolin were economically important to the county.¹⁴ Completion of the railroad also opened the Lookout Mountain area as a summer resort easily accessible from Birmingham. Not incidentally, the resort community of Mentone was laid out in 1872 on the mountain overlooking Winston Place and the Wells Valley. Completion of the railroad also meant increased prosperity for the Winstons, witnessed by grand alterations to Winston Place.

With victory for his cause and failing health Winston retired from the Wills Valley Railroad and from public life in 1867 to live his last four years quietly at Winston Place.

After Winston's death, Winston Place was passed to one of his daughters and subsequently to a granddaughter and great granddaughter, all three of whom married railroad men. Benjamin F. Paine, his son-in-law, was chief engineer for the construction of the Wills Valley Railroad and his granddaughter's husband, F. Y. Anderson, was Land Commissioner for the Alabama Great Southern Railroad. Great granddaughter, Mary Anderson, married Edward Magruder Tutwiler, Jr., whose father was influential in the railroad, mining, banking and hotel business of Birmingham.¹⁵ The railroad tracks passing in front of Winston Place were thus of enduring significance to the family.

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Correspondence and reminiscences from the late 19th and early 20th century reveal that the period was a time of extensive entertainment at Winston Place. Guests escaped the summer heat of Birmingham by catching a train to Winston Place, the area's grandest summer place for weekend "house parties."¹⁶ The turn-of-the-century resort area remains a popular summer escape.¹⁷

H. M. Hulgan remembers that his father, William B. Hulgan, was farm foreman for Winston Place during the period when the house was surrounded by sixteen outbuildings, an orchard and garden. Four of those buildings remain today along with a barn built c. 1940 when the old barn burned.¹⁸

The Winston Home remained in family ownership until 1945 when it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Harry Haralson Hammond.¹⁹ The Hammond's daughter and her husband own Winston Place today, sharing it generously with the public and hoping to secure its protection for posterity.

¹Letter from Jesse Beene to his daughter Maria Winston dated, Cahawba, October 15, 1830.

²Brewer. Owen.

³DeKalb Co. Records Book B, p. 268-269. (An historical marker on the south lawn of Winston Place supposedly marks the location of the old Cherokee Council Tree.)

⁴Alabama Historical Quarterly, Spring 1972, p. 44.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Owen.

⁷Tutwiler.

⁸DeKalb Co. Records, Book G.

⁹Moore. Tutwiler.

¹⁰Tutwiler.

¹¹Hammond. "Groundhog."

¹²Moore

¹³Owen. Garrett.

¹⁴Northern Alabama.

¹⁵Abstract. Owen. W/A/H Papers.

¹⁶W/A/H Papers.

¹⁷Sulzby.

¹⁸Reminiscences of H. M. Hulgan (Map of Winston Place)

¹⁹Mrs. Hammond's great grandfather was Mr. John N. Franklin. Franklin served with William O. Winston as the other DeKalb County Representative to the Constitutional Convention of 1861.

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Books

- Brewer, Willis. Alabama Her History, Resources, War Record and Public Men. The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1975.
- Clark, James Harold. History of the North East and South West Alabama Railroad to 1872. University of Alabama, 1949.
- Garrett, William. Reminiscences of Public Men in Alabama. The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1975.
- Griffith, Lucille. Alabama, A Documentary History to 1900. University of Alabama Press, 1972.
- Hammond, Ralph. Ante-Bellum Mansions of Alabama. Architectural Book Publishing Co., New York, 1951.
- Historic Homes of Alabama and Their Traditions. "Winston Place" by J. W. Tutwiler. Birmingham, 1935.
- Landmarks, A Pictorial History of DeKalb County, Alabama. Landmarks of DeKalb County, Inc., 1972.
- Moore, Albert Burton. History of Alabama and Her People. American Historical Society, Inc., Chicago. 1927.
- Northern Alabama, Historical and Biographical, The Reprint Company, Spartanburg, South Carolina, 1976.
- Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography. S. J. Clarke Publishing Co., Chicago 1921.
- Sulzby, James F., Jr. Alabama Hotels and Resorts, University of Alabama Press, 1960.

Manuscripts

Reminiscences of H. M. Hulgan whose father worked at Winston Place c. 1908-1930.

Winston/Anderson/Hammond Papers, miscellaneous letters, receipts and photographs in possession of LaJean Hammond Matthews, Valley Head, Alabama.

County Records

DeKalb County Agricultural Census of 1850. Archives Library.

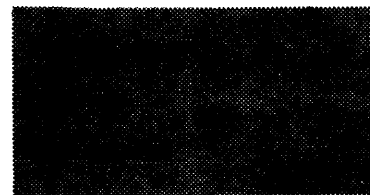
DeKalb County Records of Conveyance, DeKalb County Court House, Fort Payne, Alabama.

Gandrud and Jones Index to Miscellaneous DeKalb County Records, Archives Library.

DeKalb County Tract Book, DeKalb County Court House, Fort Payne, Alabama.

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Periodicals

Alabama Historical Quarterly, "Landon Cabell Garland's Letter Book," Vol. XXXIV, Spring, 1972.

"Landmarks News," Vol. 16, No. 1, Winter-Spring 1986.

"The Groundhog," a publication of the Mentone Area Preservation Association, Vol. 3, No. 1, April 1985, "History of Mentone" by Zora Shay Strayhorn.

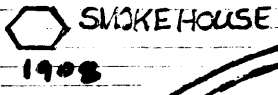
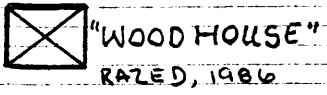
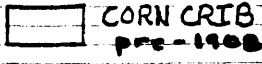
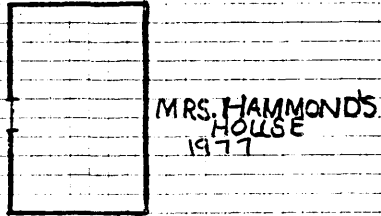
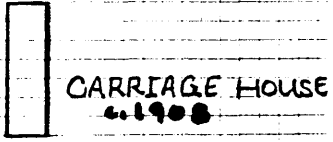
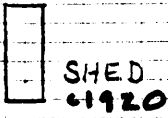
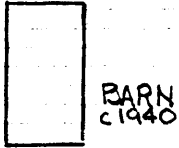
Interviews

LaJean Hammond Matthews, conversations February - May, 1986.

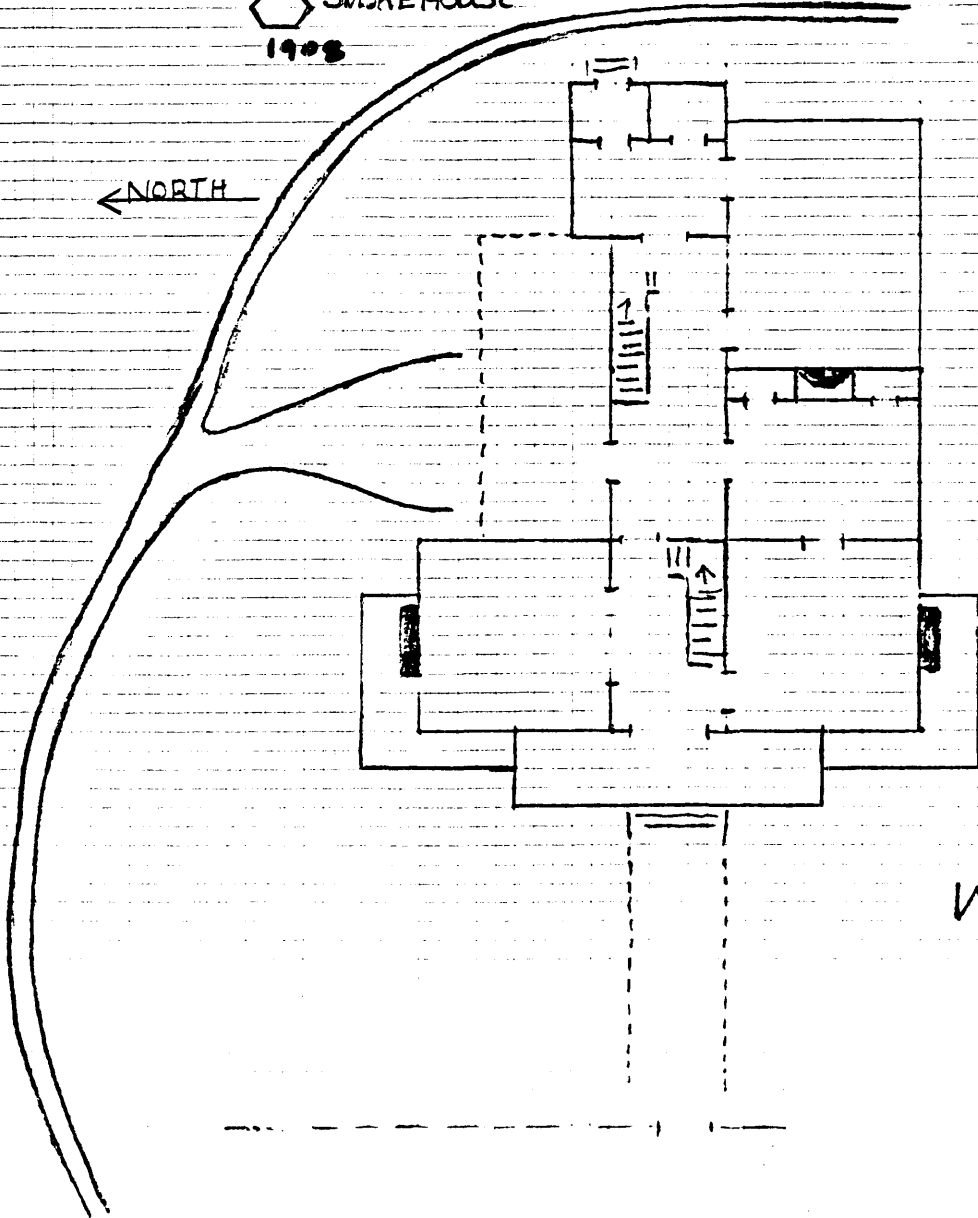
Miscellaneous

Abstract of property in possession of Col. & Mrs. Welborn L. Matthews.

Acts of Alabama, 1856-57 and 1865-67, Archives Library.



← NORTH



WINSTON PLACE
SITE PLAN
NO SCALE

Map 1

23.

← 22.

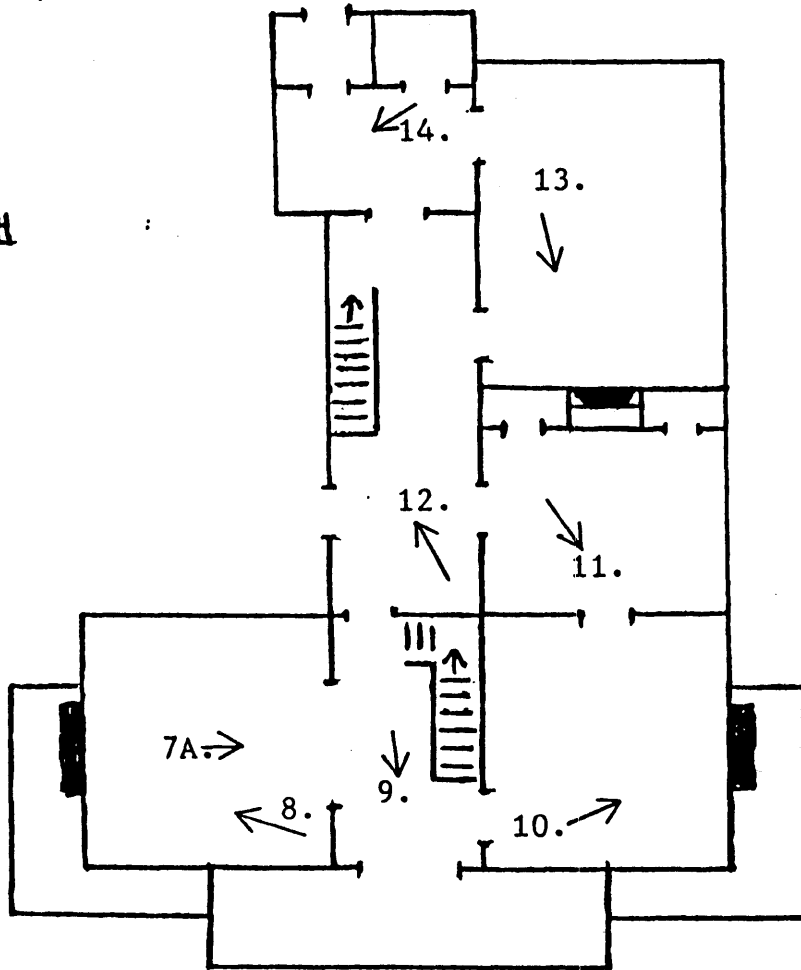
6.

24.

7.

← NORTH

5.



WINSTON PLACE VALLEY HEAD, AL

Floor Plan - unscaled
(First Floor)
Numbered references indicate
photo views.

3.

2.

4.

7A →

← 8.

9.

10. →

12.

11.

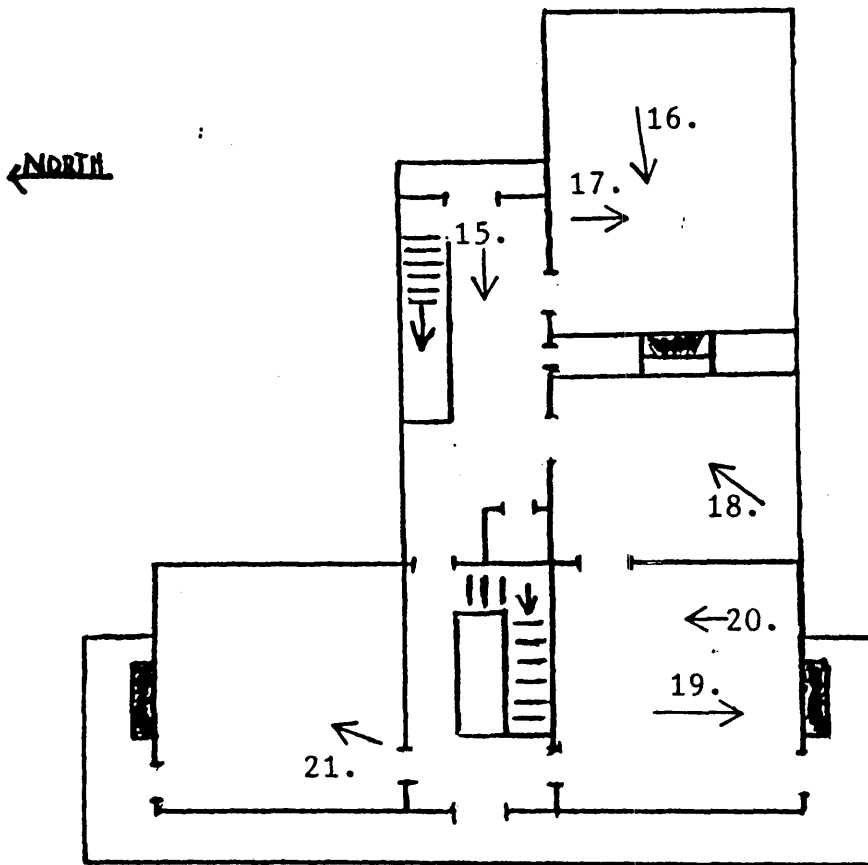
13.

14.

→ 4.

→ 1.

↙ 3.



WINSTON PLACE
VALLEY HEAD, AL

Floor Plan - unscaled
(Second Floor)
Numbered references indicate
photo views.



Winston Place
Valley Head, Alabama
DeKalb County
c. 1900