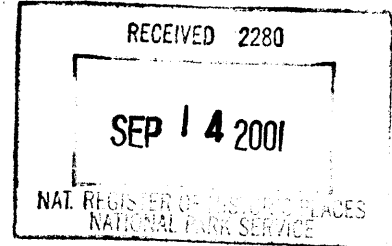


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM



1. Name of Property

historic name Chancellor House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 51 Chancellor Ferry Road not for publication N/A

city or town Harpersville vicinity N/A

state Alabama code AL county Shelby code 117 zip code 35078

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 8/29/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this 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
 - other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 10/29/01
Entered in the National Register

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====

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.)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>5</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>7</u>	<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Storage</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Animal Facility</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Road</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Secondary Structure</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>Storage</u>
<u>Transportation</u>	<u>Road</u>
<u>Funerary</u>	<u>Cemetery</u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>
<u> </u>	<u> </u>

=====

7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival and Federal

Other: center hall with rear ell

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof metal

walls wood

other

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

=====

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.) N/A

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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 _____

Agriculture _____

Period of Significance circa 1840 to circa 1951

Significant Dates circa 1840

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder unknown

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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

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 # AL-435
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data: N/A

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

Name of repository

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property 74

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 16 555790 3684330 3 16 556190 3683540
2 16 556190 3684340 4 16 555790 3683540
 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 Mary Farr Hamby; Barbara Hamby Stone; and Trina Binkley, National Register Coordinator
organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 1, 2000
street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone 334-242-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

=====
Additional Documentation
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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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Barbara Hamby Stone
street & number 51 Chancellor Ferry Road telephone 205-672-7367
city or town Harpersville state Alabama zip code 35078

United States Department of the Interior
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

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SECTION VII: NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The Chancellor House faces north and sits among native red cedar, willow oaks, and pine trees near the town of Harpersville, a small farming community in south Shelby County, Alabama, just north of the Coosa River. A high picket fence with snakeboard has recently been built to the north and west sides of the house replicating the fence shown in a photograph of the house taken in about 1900. The fence encloses perennial and boxwood parterre gardens.

The one-story frame clap and flush board house has a center hall with two flanking rooms and a rear ell (once separated by an open passage) with two rooms. The early paint scheme of white with green trim has been restored. The L-shaped building has three of its original fireplaces and chimneys, two of the three having been restored. The west chimney was restored in 1970 and the south one in 1989.

Two classically-designed porticos have Greek Revival styling. The larger of the two porticos is located at the front entryway and the second one at the west side breezeway. Four square wood posts on each portico support a plain pediment. "Gingerbread" ornamentation was added to the porticos during the late 1800s. The front entry is comprised of double, raised panel, heart pine doors. The doors have wooden pegs securing mortised and tenon construction. Their hardware consists of acorn finial iron hinges, white porcelain knobs, and an iron rim lock. Surrounding the door are rectilinear sidelights and a four-light transom. The wall surface within under the portico is flush board, as are the rear walls of the main body and the ell. The remaining exterior walls of the main body and ell are covered with clapboard. The only exception to this is the paneled area surrounding the exterior of the rear entry doors to the center hall. There are four six-over-six double-hung windows on the front of the house, two on each side of the portico. All windows in the house are alike. Window muntins are spaced unevenly as one might expect with vernacular architecture. Many of the panes of glass are the original rolled glass.

A large L-shaped gallery/porch is the dominant feature of the back of the house. This rear porch's roof is a continuation of the house roof with no change in line or pitch. The double front doors described above are duplicated, without sidelights and transom, at the rear of the front hall leading to the rear porch. When both sets of doors are open, the front hall acts as a breezeway.

The original roof line remains. The roof is gabled at each end of the "L" and has a hip roof at the apex of the "L" indicating that the front and rear portions of the house were built concurrently. Modifications during the second half of the 20th century to the original form of the partitions under the roofline include the addition of two bathrooms. One is in the east side of the original open passage between the main body of the house and the rear ell (1969) and another under the roofline of the rear porch on the south side of the house (1988). The open passage is enclosed on the west side with glass panels and a glass panel door, which duplicate the proportions of wooden panels in the front hall. These glass panels weatherproof the passage while allowing it to retain the open feeling it originally had. None of the original room partitions have been removed.

The house was originally supported by brick pillars. Due to extensive deterioration, major restoration was done starting in 1988 when the present owner inherited the house. During this late-20th-century restoration, these brick pillars were replaced with cinder block clad with brick veneer. Some of the severely deteriorated heart pine lap siding was replaced with similar wooden siding during the restoration effort of the 1980s. The cedar shake roof was replaced with tin in the first half of the 20th century.

Interior walls and ceilings are random width (6" to 12"), flush boards. The walls in every room, with the exception of the current kitchen, were covered with wallpaper during the early part of the 20th century. The wallpaper has been removed by the present owner, exposing the unfinished wooden boards. The saw or kerf marks from the blade of the steam- or water-powered saw and square-cut nails are clearly visible. The current kitchen walls were whitewashed during the early part of the 1900s. The Chancellor House contains very rare and important Federal style, paneled wainscoting in the front rooms and paneled rear interior and exterior walls of the center hall. The floors of the house are 6" tongue and groove heart pine. The floors in two of the four major rooms retain their original scrubbed finish; flooring in the ell has an early-painted finish.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

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The front double doors open into a wide center hall. The rear wall of this front hall is paneled and has double doors, which match the front entry doors. These rear doors open to a rear gallery/porch. The ceiling of this room has been re-papered with a Regency-style wall covering. The center hall is flanked by singular rooms, similar in size as well as fireplace, window, and door placement. Both rooms exhibit original faux finishes on some doors, wainscoting, baseboards, and mantels. The majority of the faux finish is stippling to resemble granite; however, some doors and mantels are grained to look like oak. All original openings in the house retain their original doors. All or most doors are wood grained to simulate oak. Most finishes are original. These front rooms of the house have served multiple functions during the years: bedrooms, parlor, dining room, and/or a combination of these.

Behind the west front room is an open cross-hall or passageway that has been enclosed to accommodate a bathroom in one end. It has been glassed in for weatherproofing on the other end. Both changes were made during the second half of the 20th century. The walls of this former open passage are 6" flush boards. They were painted during the house's early years and continue to have a painted finish.

The ell houses the current kitchen. Formerly a bedroom, this front room was converted into a kitchen during the early part of the 20th century when the outbuilding kitchen/diningroom burned. This room has been renovated to include modern appliances and fixtures incorporated into cabinets made to simulate freestanding furniture. This kitchen has an exterior door leading to the rear gallery. Originally, a fireplace and chimney existed. Architectural evidence supports this with modifications identified in the attic and exterior wall. The flush board kitchen walls were painted in the 1940s. Walls in the other three rooms were papered in the early 1900s. The paper has now been removed to expose boards which exhibit original saw marks.

The room located at the rear of the ell has been in continuous use as a bedroom and includes a fireplace and four exterior windows. The windows in the room were replicated during the 1980s restoration due to severe deterioration. The floors in this room retain their original lye-scrubbed finish. A bathroom and closet were added in the rear gallery during the 1989 restoration and are accessed from this room through original exterior door and window openings.

Interior spaces are furnished with early lighting fixtures c. 1900, which have been electrified. Additional, simple wooden blade and black iron ceiling fans have been installed in three rooms. Interior furnishings include a collection of early-southern decorative arts and furniture. Approximately 60% of the furnishings are original to the house and include two folk portraits of ancestors of the current owner done by unknown artists. One of the sitters, Elizabeth Jane Caruthers, depicted as an infant in the portrait, was a resident of the Chancellor House during the late-19th and 20th centuries. These portraits are very significant because they were painted during the early 1830s in rural Alabama. Very few paintings of this type have survived. They have been exhibited nationally in museums including an exhibition sponsored by Phillip Morris and the American Museum of Folk Art in New York City. Other decorative arts original to the house include quilts, coverlets, blankets, homespun sheets, baskets, local pottery, and farm-made furniture. Some of the furniture was crafted by farmer workers or members of the family. A pine linen press with it's original oxblood-colored paint remains in the house and is signed by it's maker, William Caruthers, father of Williams Chancellor's second wife, and bears the date August 15th, 1855. An insurance policy written by Home Protection of North Alabama, Huntsville, Alabama, provided coverage from 1884 through 1887 for a total premium of ten dollars per year. Two items were covered by the policy: a one-story frame dwelling house (the building nominated here) insured for \$1,000 and a "Piano-Forte therein", insured for \$200.

The outbuildings include a circa 1880 log chicken coop, a circa 1840 wood frame "dairy," a large circa 1900 barn constructed of vertical boards on frame with brick pillars for support, and a circa 1935 board and batten storage shed. The original independent kitchen/diningroom building burned around the turn of the century. A two-seat privy was used until 1969 when running water and a bathroom were added to the house. The privy has since deteriorated. The outbuildings reflect the family's early agrarian roots.

During the latter part of the 19th and 20th century the Chancellor family ran a ferry that crossed the Coosa River. This ferry was an important link between Birmingham, Sylacauga, and other points in Southeastern Alabama. The road to the ferry landing lies approximately 20 yards to the west of the house and extends 1 mile to the river. It has traditionally been called

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Section 7/8 Page 3

Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

"Chancellor Ferry Road." During the days when the ferry was in operation, it was well traveled. Photographic records and verbal history indicate that the ferry was constructed of wood and had wooden ramps at each end that would be raised and lowered at the landings to allow vehicles to drive on and off. During its later years it was powered by a gasoline engine and wooden paddle wheel. Unfortunately, the ferry and its landing are no longer extant. Many famous personalities as well as common folk negotiated the river on this ferry including President McKinley, who once canvassed Alabama. During the 1920s a car reportedly rolled off the ferry and went into the river. Three young children were drowned. The ferry road, still named "Chancellor Ferry Road," starts just northwest of the Chancellor House, is very close to the house, and is an important and integral part of the historic significance of the house. It remains a one-lane dirt road, sometimes sunken and lined with trees and fences, but is in danger of being widened and paved to facilitate the development of adjacent property. The owner hopes that listing on the National Register will bring awareness and recognition to this important, contributing structure.

On the west side of the house, within just a few feet of the ferry road, is a small cemetery. One of the gravestones has the name "Woods" on it and the words "Daughter of Mary E. and Richard Wood." Mary Elizabeth, who married Richard Wood, was the daughter of Williams Chancellor. The Woods lived on the place for many years. Other graves (dating 1874-1897) are thought to be babies of workers who lived on the farm.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this district area, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens or other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain information useful in interpreting the entire property.

SECTION VIII: STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CRITERION A: AGRICULTURE

The Chancellor House is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A for its significance in the agricultural history of Shelby County. The house and farm complex reflect the diversified, independent farming history of several families, namely the Chancellors, during the second half of the nineteenth century and the early-twentieth century. Independent farmers played a leading role in this Alabama county, located at the end of the Appalachian Mountains, comprising the majority of its population throughout much of its history. The county remains rural but is developing quickly as its proximity to Birmingham makes for high rural "suburban" appeal. This farmstead includes the original patented 80.3-acre tracts of land; however, the acreage has been reduced over time to approximately 74 (the nominated acreage) due to the creation of county roads through the property. The original acreage is intact and still used for agricultural purposes or has been kept in woodland. Outbuildings reinforce the sense of a variety of farm operations that contributed to the household economy of the Chancellors, and with its original acreage, remain as a valuable resource for understanding Shelby County farms. The supplementation of an additional income source, maintaining and running a ferry to cross the Coosa River, further makes this resource increasingly rare. And while the ferry and ferry landing are no longer extant, the ferry road that runs through the property to the Coosa River, also contributes important information about economic diversity of the Chancellors. As an intact complex of a farmhouse, farm outbuildings, land, associated cemetery, and the ferry/farm road, the Chancellor House illustrates the evolution of one Shelby County farm and its agricultural life from circa 1840 to circa 1951. The period of significance reflects the original patent of the land and construction of the house and concludes with the National Register's 50-year rule, as the farm continued to be worked through the twentieth century up until the 1980s.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

The Chancellor House is also eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion C for its significance in architecture. The house is an excellent example of a center hall house with rear ell with Federal and Greek Revival detailing. This house form is typically one or one-and-a-half stories with rooms flanking a central passage (a hall), one or two rooms in depth with end chimneys, and frequently has a rear ell or shed addition. The most common houses of this form have gabled ends, but some may have a hipped or pyramidal roof. The Chancellor House is a rare variation on the gabled-end type in that the western end of the main body of the house is hipped, incorporating the original ell wing, rather than being gabled like the other end. Irby Kidd, who built the house in circa 1840, would have likely been familiar with this center hall form as it was a common plan used in the coastal south state of Georgia where Kidd was from. The center hall house with rear ell was a popular form used by small farmers, who made up the majority of Shelby County's population. The Chancellor House is a more sophisticated example because of its Federal and Greek Revival details. Greek Revival details can be seen on the front porch with its square wood posts supporting a central pedimented portico; its symmetry; rectilinearity of line with its square-headed door and window surrounds, and bold, albeit vernacular/folk-done, interior details in formal spaces (fluted door and window surrounds, wide mantels with fluted pilasters, and two vertical and four vertical (cross and bible) paneled doors. Other important and interesting interior details include paneled wainscot and paneled wall, which display Federal styling; the granite faux finishing on some of the wainscoting, baseboards, mantels; and the oak graining on some doors. The date of construction for the Chancellor House falls squarely within the period in which homes employed Federal and Greek Revival details.

The outbuildings of the Chancellor House illustrate common forms of agricultural outbuildings constructed in the middle- and late-nineteenth and early-to-mid-twentieth century. The large barn, c. 1900, is situated about 100 yards from the house, across the road known as Chancellor Ferry Road. The barn contains a large front area with a hall extending to the back which has stalls and corncribs on both sides. A log chicken coop, c. 1880, no longer used, is within 20 yards of the rear of the house. Wooden boxes and shelves for chicken nests, and poles across the inside for roosting, remain and show its former use. A dairy, c. 1840, is the only original outbuilding still standing. Milk and butter were kept cool within this dairy. After electricity was introduced in the late 1930s and refrigeration became commonplace, the little dairy was used for storing small farm implements. A storage house, c. 1935, was built over an underground storm pit, c. 1930. The storm pit was used as a refuge for the family when bad weather threatened. This storm cellar has since been filled in to make the building structurally stable. The storage building sports a rear shed roof open on three sides for storing large farm implements. It is constructed of vertical board and batten with a brick foundation. Many of the early farm implements such as plows, excavating tools, and early tractors remain at the site.

HISTORIC SUMMARY

In 1840 Irby W. Kidd patented 80.3 acres of land in the northeast quarter of Section 14, Township 20, Range 2 East of Shelby County, Alabama, just north of the Coosa River. Originally from Georgia, Irby is recorded as having property valued at \$5,000 in the 1850 census. In addition to the 50-year-old farmer, the census taker noted his 50-year-old wife Mary A. (originally from South Carolina); a 20-year-old son, James A., who worked as an overseer; a 19-year-old son, Edward C., who is listed as a laborer; and two daughters, Josephine E. aged 16 and Sarah aged 10. The three later children were noted as having some schooling.

It is highly probable that the house was constructed around circa 1840 by Kidd. Irby Kidd's death date is unknown; however, a few other details have been discovered about the family's earliest years. Mary A. died sometime around the mid 1850s, as her will was probated in Shelby County in 1857. One of the son's, James A., served in the Civil War as a private in Company K, 31st Infantry, organized in 1862. Family tradition holds that Mr. J. P. Fluker married into the Kidd family (probably to Sarah Ann Kidd) and apparently he or his wife inherited the house and 80 acres at the death of Mary A. around 1857. In 1869 Fluker conveyed the property to Mr. Williams Chancellor (1816-1907), who came to Autauga County, Alabama, from South Carolina with his parents in 1821. Prior to moving to Shelby County, Chancellor had married Louisa Bridges in 1837 (who

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Section 8 Page 5

Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

bore him nine children), was a tax collector in Coosa County, served a single year (1863) in the Civil War, and was a merchant and farmer after the war in Coosa County. Despite some financial challenges, Williams Chancellor eventually recovered to buy property in Shelby County. It was from the nominated house where he lived with his family, farmed, ran a cotton gin, and operated a ferry across the Coosa River.

Chancellor Ferry was established by Williams in the 1870s and was one of several on the Coosa River during the second half of the 19th century. It connected Harpersville with Childersburg, in Talladega County. Originally powered by adjusting lengths of tethered cables, angling one end more downstream, passengers would ring a bell to alert the Chancellors of wanting to cross the river. In 1899 Williams Chancellor moved into Childersburg in Talladega County and became a merchant, deeding the house and farm in Shelby County to his youngest son Isaac. Issac Suttle Chancellor (1854-1940), Williams' youngest son, with his wife of two years, Mary Elizabeth, took over the operation of the farm and ferry. Issac was active in the community, helping to build schools for both local white and black children and serving on the County Board of Education. Interestingly, in 1909 Issac deeded the house and surrounding land to his wife, Mary Elizabeth Chancellor. The reason for this is not documented or known by current descendants of Chancellor, who lived until 1940. However, all farm, house and tax records, and papers subsequent to 1909 bear Mary's name and signature.

Existing farm, land, and insurance records in the family's possession indicate that the land was farmed at least as early as 1884; however, it is certain that farming was the predominant income source when Irby Kidd patented the land in 1840. Earlier farming is also evidenced by the presence of equipment used in land clearing and terracing for farming. The character of the terrain in currently wooded areas of the farm indicate that the land was cleared, terraced and farmed during the latter half of the 19th Century; early mule-pulled equipment used for such clearing and terracing still remains near the barn. This wooded area changed from field or pasture usage approximately 50 years ago after World War II. Other records indicating the early agrarian use of the land are multitudes of receipts for fertilizer and papers from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The earliest receipt for cotton found in the house dates to 1893. The land was farmed for over 125 years by the families who lived there and at one time the farm grew to nearly 1500 acres. Historically cotton, corn, oats, and wheat were grown on the farm land. During that time cows, pigs, horses, and mules were found in the barnyard. Beef cattle grazed in the surrounding pasture. Chickens, guineas, and turkeys used the log house and the yard as their home. A dairy, c. 1840, the only original outbuilding still standing, kept milk and butter cool. After electricity was introduced in the late 1930s and refrigeration became commonplace, the little dairy was used for storing small farm implements. A storage house, c. 1935, was built over an under ground storm pit, c. 1930. The storm pit was used as a refuge for the family when bad weather threatened. This storm cellar has since been filled in to make the building structurally stable. The storage building sports a rear shed roof open on three sides for storing large farm implements. Many of the early farm implements such as plows, excavating tools, and early tractors remain at the site.

The ferry road lying just west of the house extends one mile to the Coosa River. During the days when the Chancellor Ferry was in operation (1870-1939), it was well traveled and a very significant link between the central and southeast part of Alabama. Mr. Williams Chancellor, his youngest son Isaac and his three grandsons Forrest, Walter, and Lee all lived in the Chancellor House and operated that ferry for its lifetime.

The Chancellors were proponents of education, many of the women becoming teachers. Records provided by the Shelby County Historical Society indicate that before 1880 there was a one-room, log school building on Chancellor-owned land at the crossroads near the home. The school was for grades one through seven, but later moved to Creswell (approximately 3 miles east) and in 1921 a two-room building was built and called Chancellor School. Among the teachers of the school was Elizabeth Chancellor, granddaughter of Williams Chancellor.

Isaac and Mary's three sons, Forrest Jefferson Chancellor (1888-1962), Walter Hughston Chancellor (1891-1963), and William Lee Chancellor (1906-1969) continued to farm the land and operate the ferry. In 1939 the ferry was shut down when a bridge was built about a mile up the river. Lee inherited the farmland from his mother in 1941 and farmed it until his death. Isaac and Mary's daughters, Lena Maria Chancellor (1895-1958) and Mary Elizabeth Chancellor (1897-1988) taught school in the area. Elizabeth taught for almost 50 years, mostly in Harpersville and nearby Vincent and Childersburg. Elizabeth inherited the house from her mother in 1941 and after Lee's death in 1970, ran the farm with the help of Tot Chancellor, a descendant of family-owned slaves. Elizabeth lived in the house until her death in 1988.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8/9/10 Page 6

Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

African American history is another component to the history of the Chancellor House; however, time constraints limited research into this aspect. An initial search for slave records turned up no information and agricultural census records of postwar tenants could not be found. A 1978 newspaper article interviewed a descendant of Williams Chancellor's slaves, Tot Chancellor (who died in 1986), still living and working on the Chancellor property. Tot's father, Tosh was born a slave in Coosa County, Alabama, and his mother, Sue, was bought at a slave auction near Goodwater in Coosa County. Family stories tell that after Williams bought the land in Shelby County and before he moved there, Sue would travel by mule up to the newly acquired land and plow. *A Short History of the Chancellor Place* states that many descendants of Williams' slaves still live in the area. Barbara Hamby Stone (born 1951) is the present owner of the described farm and house, and a great-great-granddaughter of Williams Chancellor. She inherited the house in 1988 in a very deteriorated condition and supervised its recent restoration.

SECTION IX: BIBLIOGRAPHY

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First Presbyterian Church, Talladega, Alabama, brochure, c. 1990.

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The Daily Home. Talladega, Sylacauga, Pell City, Alabama. 12/12/1985.

Birmingham Regional Planning Commission. *A Historic Site Survey of Blount, Chilton, Shelby, St. Clair, and Walker Counties*. Birmingham, Alabama: A.H. Cather Publishing, Inc., 1975.

The Shelby County Reporter, by Bert Seaman, 1976. Source: Elizabeth Chancellor Graham and Tot Chancellor.

Seaman, Bert. "Life more enjoyable then, Tot say," Shelby County Reporter, December 21, 1978.

Conversation with Robert Gamble and other historians of the Alabama Historical Commission.

Hamby, Warren. "A Short History of the Chancellor Place." *Shelby County History*, 1999.

SECTION X: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description: The Chancellor House is located about 3 miles outside the center of the town of Harpersville, in Shelby County, Alabama at the intersection of Highways 76 and 79. This crossroads is known as Chancellor Cross Roads (see USGS map). The nominated boundaries include the original 1840 land patent, legally described as the East ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 14, Township 20 South, Range 2 East.

Boundary Justification: The approximate 80-acre boundary of the nominated property is the original land patented by Irby Kidd in 1840 and contains the historic house surrounded by outbuildings, gardens, a cemetery, the ferry road, and farm and wood lands. This farmstead includes the original patented 80.3-acre tracts of land; however, the acreage has been reduced over time to approximately 74 (the nominated acreage) due to the creation of county roads through the property.

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Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

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PHOTOGRAPHS:

CHANCELLOR HOUSE
SHELBY COUNTY, ALABAMA
BARBARA STONE, PHOTOGRAPHER
MARCH 2000
NEGATIVES: ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

1. The Chancellor House among pines and willow oak, facing SE
2. Front of Chancellor House showing front portico and symmetry of Greek Revival style, facing S
3. Showing double door entrance and four large windows - two on each side. Also good view of hip roof on West side, facing S.
4. Pediment of front portico showing gingerbread decoration placed in Victorian era, facing S
5. Front entrance, double doors, transom, and side lites, facing S
6. Close up of hardware of front doors, facing S
7. Side portico, facing E
8. Close up of glass around west side door, facing E
9. View of west side of house showing the small cemetery outside the garden fence, facing E
10. One of the tomb stones in the little cemetery. "Janie (?), infant daughter of Richard and Mary E. Wood, Born Feb. 9, 1873, Died Oct. 30 (?) 1876", facing E
11. Gallery/piazza along back-side of ell. facing NW

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Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

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12. Outside wall of bath and closet built under original roof at the south end of gallery, facing W
 13. Shed, c. 1935 with farm tools, wheels, and many antique implements, facing E
 14. Dairy, c. 1840, for storage of milk and butter, in the late 19th and early 20th century, facing E
 15. Chicken Coop (house), c. 1880, with boxes for nests and poles for roosting, facing SE
 16. Group picture of above three contributing buildings showing relationship to each other. From the left: dairy, chicken coop, shed, facing SE
 17. Barn, c. 1900, with cribs for corn and stalls for animals, facing SW
 18. South end of garden which is on the west side of house, facing S
 19. Perinneeal Parterre garden, in bloom, at south end of this west garden, facing N
 20. Brick paved sitting area in garden, facing W
 21. Chancellor Ferry Road with house on right, facing N
 22. Chancellor Ferry Road, as seen from place between house and barn, facing S
 23. Antique farm implements in yard, (house in right background), facing N

INSIDE OF HOUSE

24. Fireplace of east front room showing stippled wood and carved mantle with three extensions like a Greek key.
25. Close up of same room mantle.
26. Graining on door of east room going into front hall.
27. Inside view of front doors with ceiling and light fixture of front hall.
28. This corner view shows black painted baseboard, saw marked wall, and white painted woodwork (three wood treatments)
29. View of lock, porcelain knob, white paneled walls and inside doors, on opposite side of front hall.
30. Close up of same lock and porcelain knob.
31. Close up of door stop on same doors. (see on floor at right of picture) and hinge.
32. Close up of iron door bolt on these same doors. This bolt, when in place, allowed the left door to remain securely shut while right door could be used to enter the ell shaped gallery.
33. This view, shows stippled baseboard, wood-grained wainscoting and door, white painted woodwork, and wide heart of pine floors. Also see iron hinge.

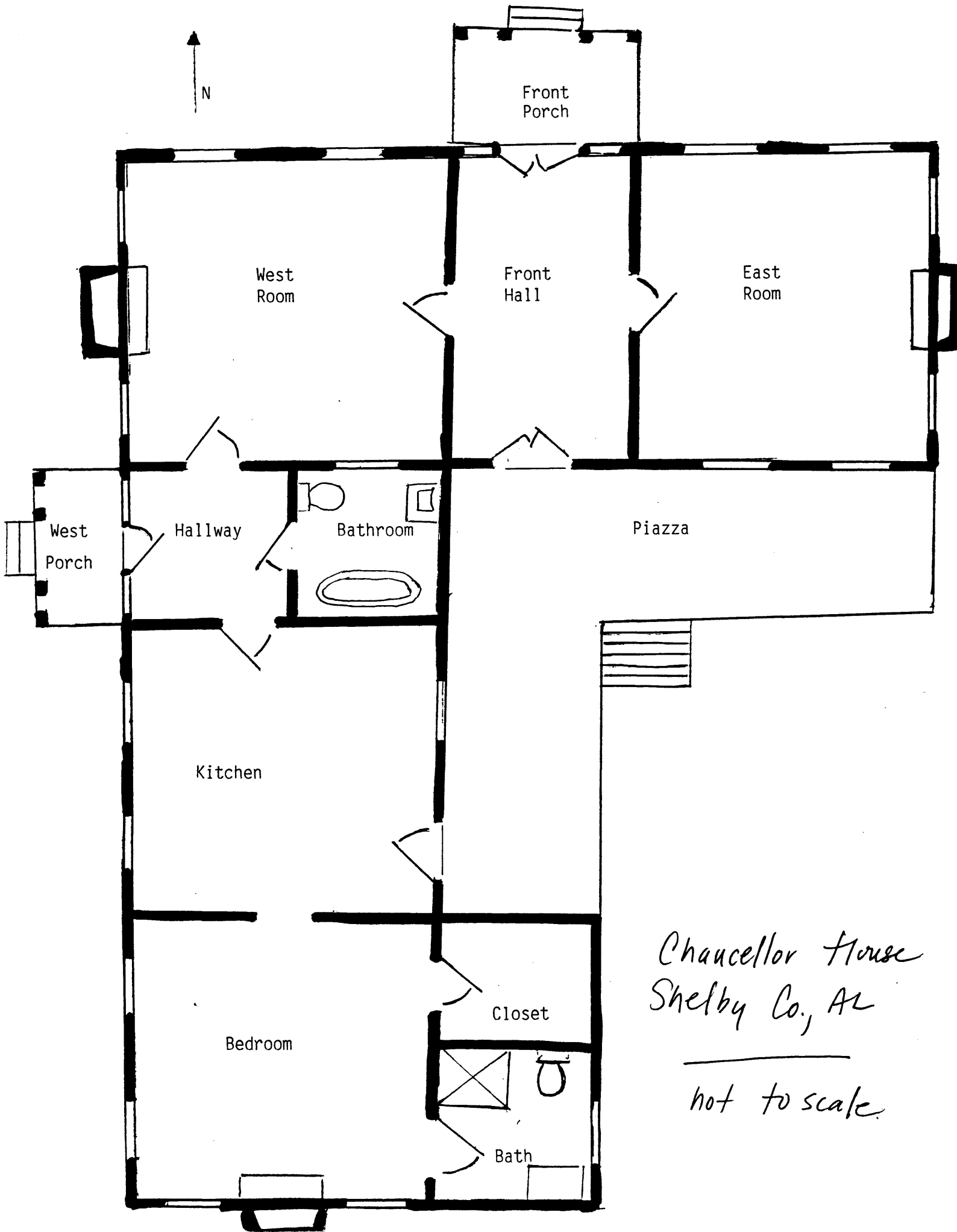
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Chancellor House
Shelby County, Alabama

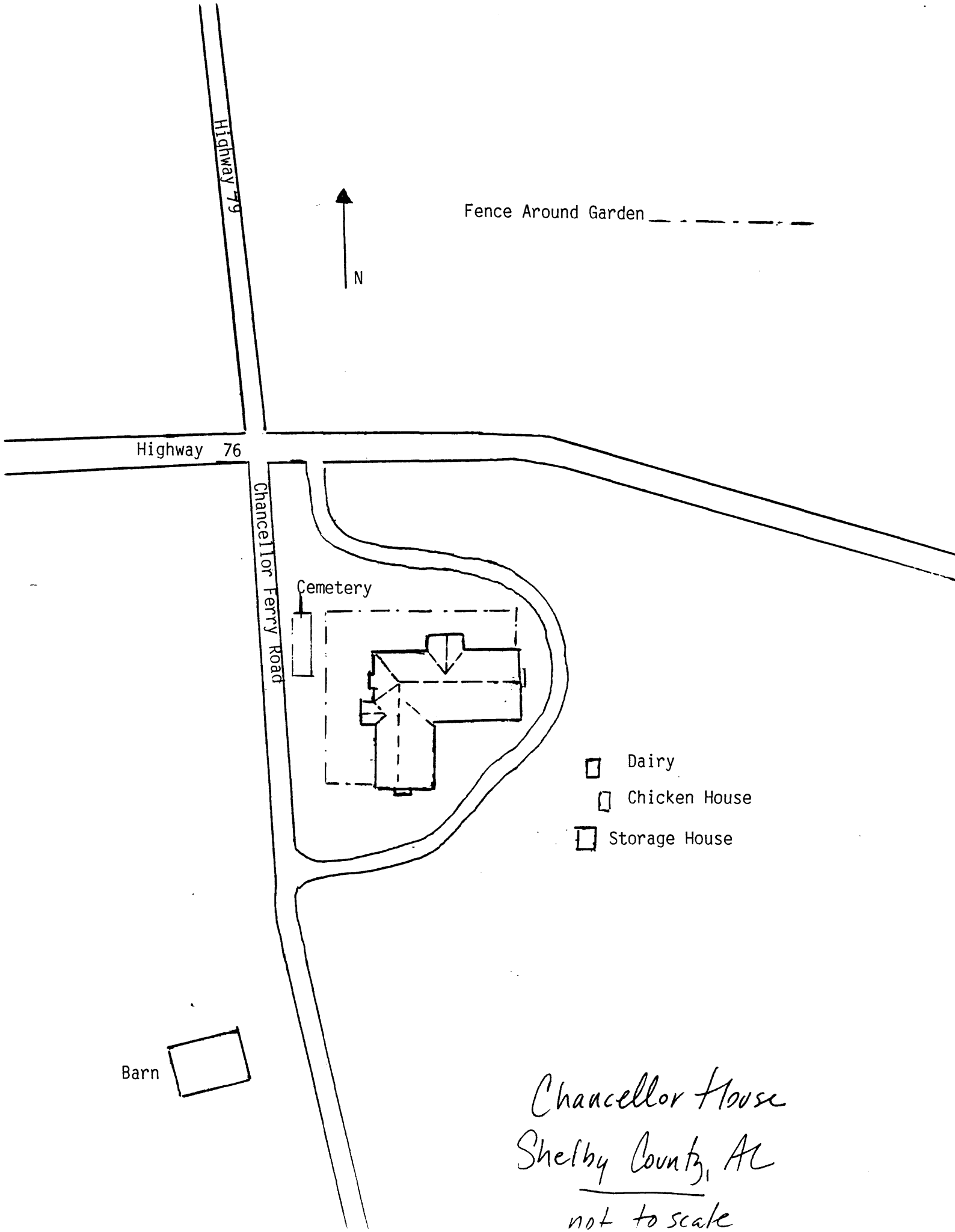
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34. Top view of back paneled wall of front hall, with double doors which open to ell shaped gallery. Also shows ceiling and ceiling light.
35. Saw marks on wall.
36. 6"-12" wide heart of pine floors.
37. Fireplace in west front room, stippled to resemble granite. Folk art picture shows Mary McCulla Caruthers (great, great, grandmother of present owner) painted in early 19th century.
38. Close up of detail and stippling on fireplace mantle in west front room.
39. Stippled wainscoting in west front room.
40. Close up of same stippled wainscoting.
41. Former dogtrot, enclosed to include this bathroom with free standing tub (behind stripped shower curtain), and sink which displays old medicine bottles, antique mirror, and part of a collection of old washboards.
42. Other end of same enclosed dogtrot showing quilt and Southern Slab.
43. Dining area of kitchen with antique light fixture.
44. Work area of kitchen, showing free standing sink with built-in cabinet, oven, refrigerator, and storage space for antique articles. Cabinet at far left is old and free standing. Quilt stretcher, at top right, is suspended from the ceiling and has an old basket, a scale, and other antique objects hanging from it.
45. Original fireplace mantle at south room. Folk art is picture of Elizabeth Jane Caruthers Chancellor, as a baby. She was the aunt of Mrs. Isaac Chancellor, and the second wife of Williams Chancellor. She was the daughter of the lady in the folk art picture already seen over the mantle of the west front room.



Chancellor House
Shelby Co., AL

not to scale.



Highway 79

Highway 76

Chancellor Ferry Road

Cemetery

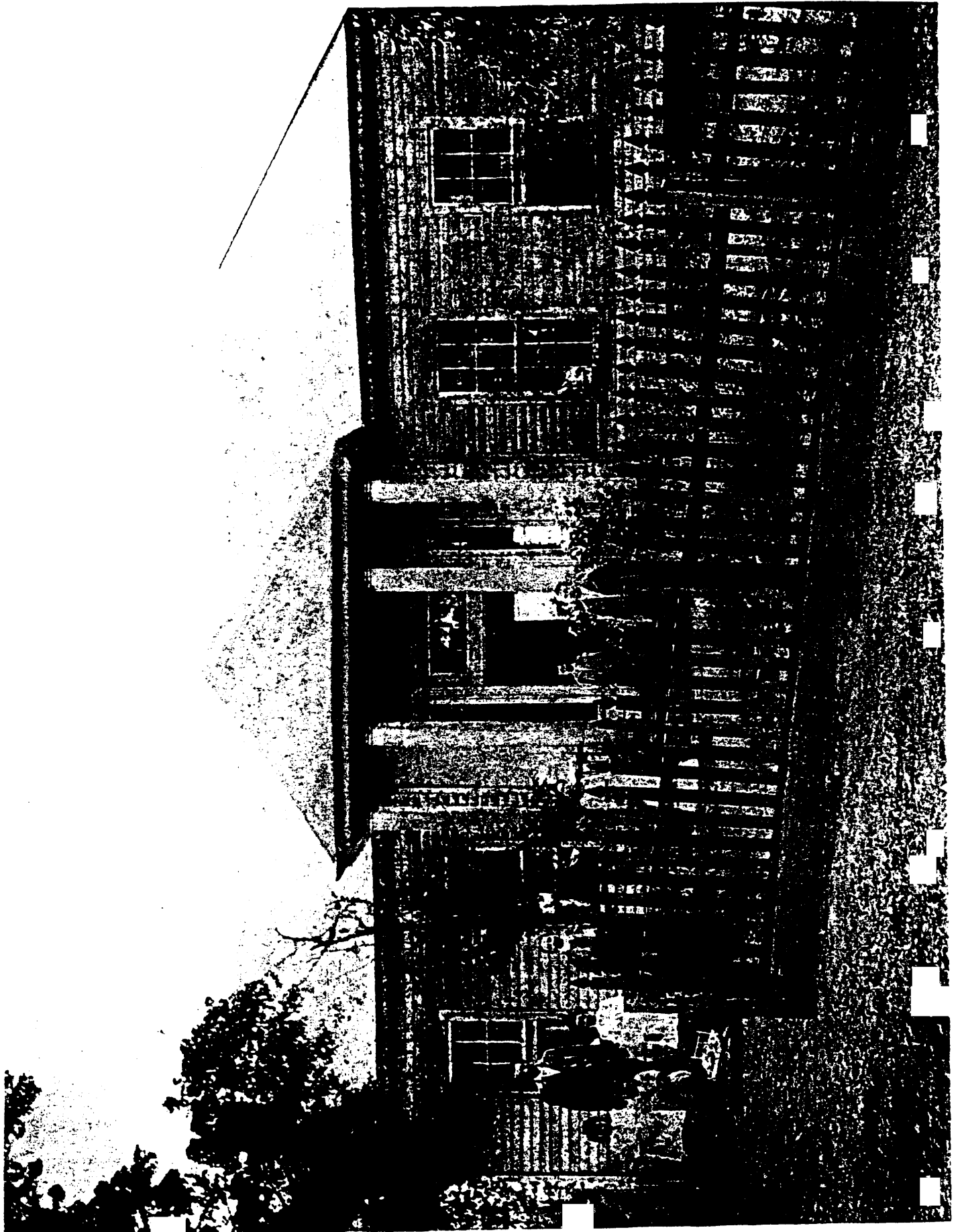
Fence Around Garden

N

Barn

- Dairy
- Chicken House
- Storage House

Chancellor House
 Shelby County, AL
 not to scale



Chancellor House, Shelby County, Alabama; circa 1906



Chancellor House, Shelby Co., AL
HABS photo, 1936
rear of house, facing north