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NATIONAL REGISTER

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Skinner, Marcus Meyer, House  
other names/site number Howorth House

2. Location

street & number 2612 Summerfield Road NA not for publication  
city, town Selma NA vicinity  
state Alabama code 01 county Dallas code 047 zip code 36701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>    </u>	<u>    </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> objects
			<u>2</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 7-22-87  
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.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.  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] 8/27/87  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic - single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Tudor Revival

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concretewalls brickstuccoroof slateother wood - half-timber

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

The Skinner-Howorth House, designed in the Tudor Revival style is characterized as a large rectangular, one-and-one-half-story brick structure with a steep side gabled roof. Decorative elements include half-timbering, decorative brickwork, a dominant front chimney, cross gables, dormers, multipaned casement windows, and oriel. The house sits on its original 10-acre lot which includes a small stable. The house is virtually unchanged since its construction and retains its integrity in regards to location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Skinner-Howorth House, a single-family dwelling, is located on the northwestern edge of Selma; previously a rural area outside the city limits. The house is situated on the northern edge of its lot facing an expansive meadow to the south, while the rear yard is terraced. Approximately 250 feet to the southeast of the house is an original small brick stable. The entire perimeter of the lot is densely lined with trees, isolating the house from the neighboring mid-twentieth-century suburbs.

The basic shape of the house is a long narrow rectangle with minor indentions and projections to the main mass and an internal double-garage wing to the rear. The house has a linear plan, composed of six rooms aligned into a single row one-room deep. The elevation is one-and-one-half stories in height. It has a steeply pitched end gable roof with a prominent steeply pitched cross gable, varied eaves lines and gable and shed dormers. The main elevation has seven bays which are asymmetrically placed.

The house has no basement and rests on a raised concrete slab foundation. It is constructed in load-bearing brick masonry laid in common bond with randomly placed single bricks diagonally laid. The surface is clad in a variety of decorative materials, typical of the Tudor Revival style. For example: false half-timbering infilled with stucco or herringbone-patterned brickwork on the second floor and stucco on the garage wing. The roof is covered in slate laid in a plain pattern.

The house displays other architectural details that are characteristic of the Tudor Revival style. There are tall, narrow metal casement windows in multiple groups with multipaned leaded glass. On the second-story main elevation there is an oriel window with diamond-shaped leaded glass. The windows in the structure contain over 2,000 pieces of leaded glass. The doorway on the main elevation has an elaborately carved stone door surround imported from England. The door, measuring 4 1/2 feet wide, is a Tudor arched paneled door. The massive chimney is prominently placed on the main

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elevation. The lower section is simple while the top has separate chimney pots for each flue. On the west end of the house there is an end porch under the second-floor sun porch. The porch is supported by bracketed timbers.

Inside, the house continues to display Tudor Revival details. The walls and ceiling are stuccoed, displaying a rough texture. There are decorative timber beams in the living room and study. There are wide floor boards in the hall, study and living room while the entry hall, dining room, breakfast room and kitchen have slate floors. The study is fully paneled and has built-in book cases. The paneling over the fireplace is a single piece of richly carved cypress. The mantels in the living room and study are carved stone, and are very similar to the exterior door surround; and all were imported from England. The main staircase is characterized by ornate wrought-iron balustrades and turned handrails which are topped by finials.

Located near the house is a small, one-story, three-bay stable. It is constructed in the same brick pattern as the main house and has rusticated wood lintels and door frames. The steeply pitched end gabled roof has exposed rafter tails and is covered in tin. The structure has maintained its integrity and historic annotation.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Health/Medicine  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1928-1937  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1928-1929  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

NA  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

Dr. Marcus Meyer Skinner

Architect/Builder

Frank Lockwood

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

INTEGRITY

The Skinner-Howorth House has maintained its integrity and has changed little since its construction in 1928. The house is located on its original 10.6-acre lot and still has a rural setting, despite its new suburban neighbors. The house itself has undergone no alterations or modifications. The only interior change is the replacement of several original chandeliers, although the original wall sconces remain.

CRITERION C - ARCHITECTURE

The Skinner-Howorth House is significant as a particularly fine example of early 20th-century domestic Tudor Revival architecture, and is perhaps among the better examples in the black belt region of Alabama. The house embodies picturesque decorative elements most common to the Tudor Revival style, including: patterned brickwork, rusticated half-timbers, detailed wrought-iron work and multipaned leaded glass windows. Additionally, the house clearly illustrates a sophisticated design that modifies the Tudor Revival style to adapt to the southern climate. For example: a single depth form for better circulation, the use of multigrouped casement windows to create large window surfaces such as in the sun room and the use of a side porch.

This house is also significant for its association with prominent Montgomery architect Frank Lockwood. Lockwood is noted for designing large public and institutional buildings as well as private residences in various Revival styles throughout the state.

CRITERION B - MEDICINE

The Skinner-Howorth House is also significant for its association with Dr. Marcus M. Skinner, a nationally prominent orthopedic surgeon and plastic surgeon. The structure served as Dr. Skinner's home and private office during his early and most prolific period. Dr. Skinner was highly respected in the medical field and wrote extensively on innovating techniques of bone surgery and plastic surgery of the cleft lip and palate. Dr. Skinner was among the founders of the Alabama Crippled Children's Service, founded in 1926. Dr. Skinner was also administrator of the Memorial King Hospital in Selma.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Interview with Mrs. Marcia Pousen, daughter of Dr. Skinner.

Interview with Buddy Howorth, son of present owner.

Who's Important in Medicine 1961.

Selma Times-Journal November 22, 1961

November 24, 1961

November 26, 1961.

Crippled Children Services 50th Anniversary printed 1985 by Alabama State Department of Education.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

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

Primary location of additional data:

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

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

**10. Geographical Data**

Acres of property 10.6 acres

UTM References

A 

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

B 

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

C 

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

D 

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

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary has been drawn to reflect the Skinner-Howorth House and its original lot.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Steven Kay

organization Alabama Historical Commission

street & number 725 Monroe Street

city or town Montgomery

date May 22, 1987

telephone 205 261-3184

state Alabama zip code 36130

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Marcus Meyer Skinner was born February 29, 1892 in Furman, Alabama and was taken to live in Selma when he was six weeks old. Skinner attended the Dallas Academy until 1906 and the Selma Military Institute until 1908. Skinner received his M.D. in 1912 at the University of Alabama Medical Department, Mobile. His postgraduate work included house surgeon at Mobile City Hospital, house officer at New York Hospital, and house surgeon at Boston's Children's Hospital.

It was while in Boston that Dr. Lovett, a professor of surgery at Harvard Medical School, recommended Dr. Skinner to be the first assistant to Sir Robert Jones. Sir Jones was a prominent bone surgeon and considered the "father of orthopedic surgery." Dr. Skinner served in this position at the Royal Southern Hospital in Hoswell, England for two years until the outbreak of World War I. From 1915 through 1916 Dr. Skinner served with Sir Jones in the Medical Corps of the British Army in Leeds, Belfast and France. After the war Dr. Skinner continued to work in England until 1919, at which time he returned to Selma, Alabama.

In 1921 Dr. Skinner purchased a private hospital in Selma after the death of its founder, Dr. Goldsby King. The hospital was renamed the King Memorial Hospital. Dr. Skinner owned, administered and was chief surgeon of the King Memorial Hospital and Skinner Clinic for 30 years. During that period Dr. Skinner perfected the techniques in orthopedic surgery and was regarded a pioneer for his treatment of crippled children. Dr. Skinner and several other doctors established the Alabama Crippled Children's Society in 1926. Alabama was the first state to offer services to crippled children. Local specialists donated their time and talents to serve Alabama's crippled children. Dr. Skinner, an expert in orthopedic surgery and in plastic surgery of the cleft lip and palate, was a vital contributor to that society for over 30 years. Dr. Skinner held membership in local, state, and national medical organizations, including the American College of Surgeons and the Dallas County Medical Society, which he served as a past president. He also wrote extensively on his surgical techniques for medical journals and conferences. Dr. Skinner is mentioned in the Who's Who of Medicine as well as The Biographic Encyclopedia of the World.

Several years after purchasing the King Memorial Hospital, Dr. Skinner acquired 10.6 acres of rural land for his new home. After spending almost seven years in England, Dr. Skinner developed a taste for British clothing, manners, art, antiques and architecture. For this reason in 1928 Dr. Skinner commissioned Montgomery architect Frank Lockwood to design his new home. Lockwood, known for his Revival style of architecture, had been designing English Arts and Crafts-inspired domestic structures prior to World War I and was steadily moving towards full-blown Academic Revival and Tudor Revival styles during the 1920s. To enhance the Tudor Revival style Lockwood imported a stone door frame and two mantels from England. The bricks used to construct the house were salvaged from the 1928 fire on Commerce Street in Montgomery. The house was completed in 1929 at the cost of twenty thousand dollars.

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The interior design of the house was also heavily influenced by Dr. Skinner's English tastes. He commissioned Strassell and Company of Louisville, Kentucky to furnish and decorate the house. Mr. Strassell selected English Tudor furniture and art for the house as well as designed Tudor-inspired furniture, light fixtures and draperies.

Dr. Skinner, who retired from private practice in 1951, lived in the house until his death on November 22, 1961. His twin daughters remained in the house until it was sold to its present owners in 1977.

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TITLE: Lots 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28 of Block E of Buena Vista Heights Subdivision, according to map of said subdivision recorded in Map Book 1, Page 165, in the Probate Office of Dallas County, Alabama;

Also: The South 34 feet of Lot 5 of said Block E, conveyed to Dr. Marcus Skinner by deed of J. S. Faulk and Anna D. Faulk, dated September 15, 1930, recorded in said Probate Office in Deed Book 305, Page 428, and more particularly described in said deed as follows: A part of Lot 5 of Block E, according to a map of Buena Vista Heights on record in the Probate Office of Dallas County, Alabama, in Map Book One, on page 165, being a part of the same property conveyed to the said J. S. Faulk by W. C. Agee and his wife, Fay S. Agee, being further described as follows: Beginning at the southwest corner of said lot on the east side of the Selma and Summerfield Road, running east 200 feet, thence north 34 feet, thence west 200 feet, thence south 34 feet to the point of beginning;

LESS AND EXCEPT the right-of-way for Summerfield Road and Less and Except any easements for public utilities.

See attached map with boundary outlined in red.

MANGUM ST.

589'-22"E  
50' 50' 50' 50' 50' 50' 50' 50' 50'

LONG BARBER  
29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39  
SHOWN FOR INFORMATION ONLY

HUFFMAN

589'-10"E 460.0'

REPLACED I.P. WITH CONC. MON.

HOWORTH HOME

BLOCK 'E'

10

40  
41  
42  
43  
44  
45  
46  
47  
OLD FENCE  
CONC. MON.  
E.F.W.

CONC. MON.

SET 28  
32E (PROBABLY)

RECORDED 200  
1960  
S 21/16 W

917.4' E.F.W.

AGE AVENUE

REVISED MAP OF  
LOTS 2 THRU 5, BLK. A  
BUENA VISTA HEIGHTS  
RECORDED IN  
MAP BOOK 4  
PAGE 81  
SHOWN FOR INFORMATION  
ONLY

N 0° 05' E  
200.0'

7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

GOODWIN

BLOCK A

SHOWN FOR INFORMATION ONLY

E.F.W.  
271.3

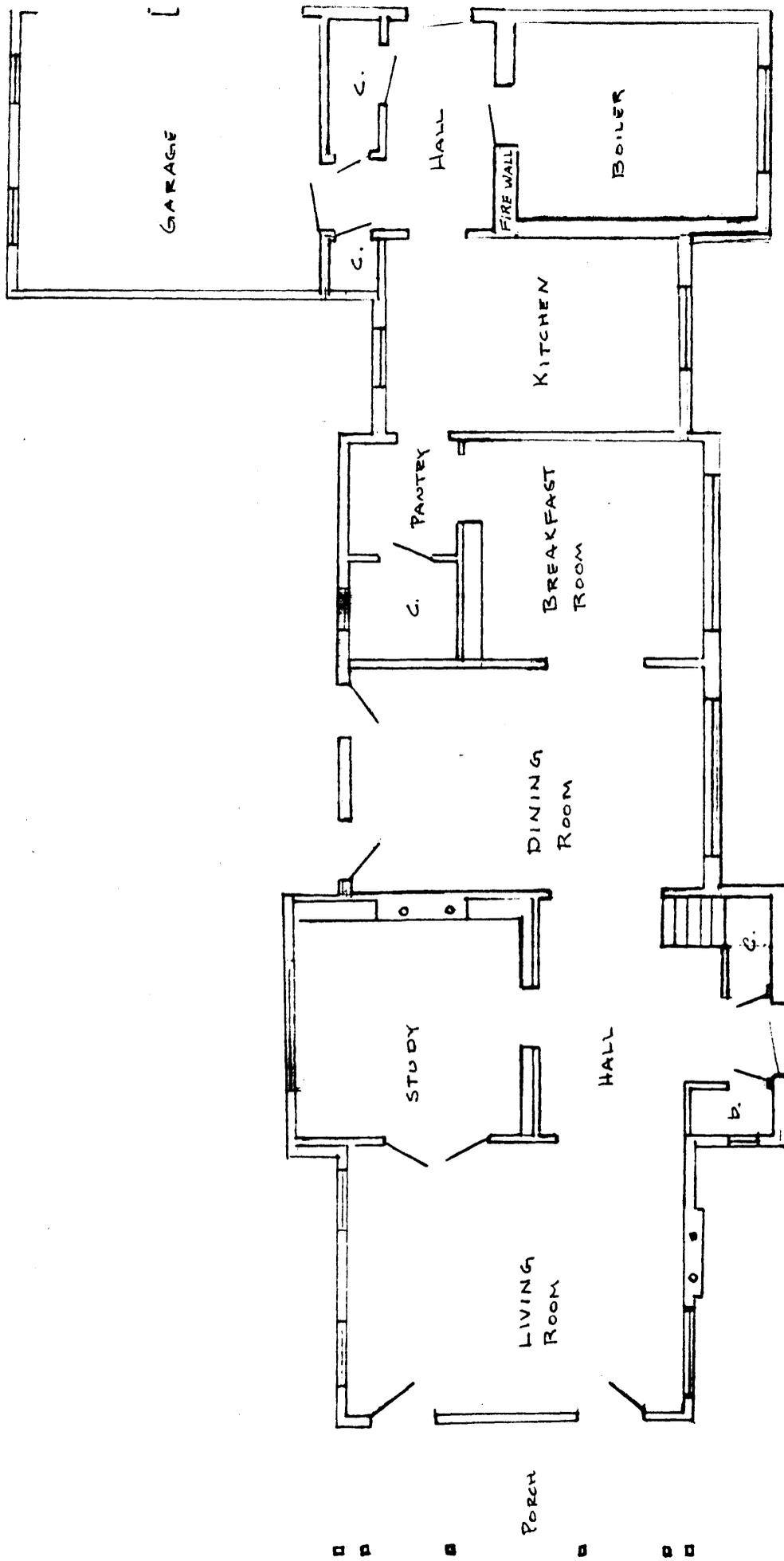
SE COR. OF SE 1/4 OF NE 1/4  
SEC. 23, T-17-N, R-10-E  
DALLAS CO., ALA.

SUMMER FIELD  
N 11° 33' E  
624.8'

R 0 7 0  
624.8'

M STREET



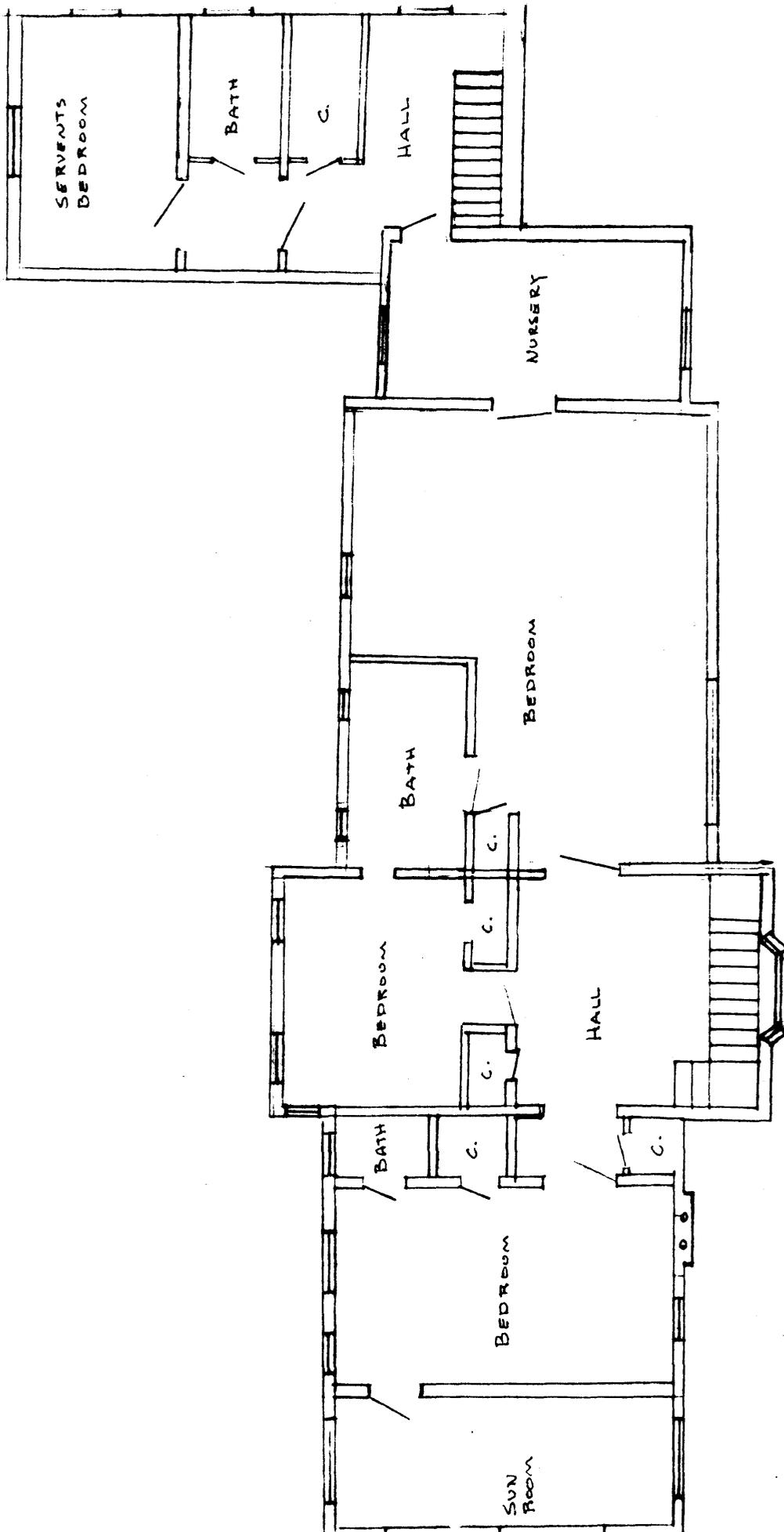


↑ N

FIRST FLOOR

NOT TO SCALE

HOWORTH HOUSE



SECOND FLOOR



HOWORTH HOUSE

NOT TO SCALE