

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Whitman-Cobb House

and/or common Cobb, Paul, House

**2. Location**

street & number Winchester Road, 1/2 mi south of intersection west of <sup>New Market</sup> not for publication

city, town New Market vicinity of congressional district 5

state Alabama code 01 county Madison code 089

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<u>  </u> district	<u>  </u> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<u>  </u> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<u>  </u> unoccupied	<u>  </u> commercial
<u>  </u> structure	<u>  </u> both	<u>  </u> work in progress	<u>  </u> educational
<u>  </u> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<u>  </u> entertainment
<u>  </u> object	<u>  </u> in process	<u>  </u> yes: restricted	<u>  </u> government
	<u>  </u> being considered	<u>  </u> yes: unrestricted	<u>  </u> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<u>  </u> military
			<u>  </u> museum
			<u>  </u> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<u>  </u> religious
			<u>  </u> scientific
			<u>  </u> transportation
			<u>  </u> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Alta (Mrs. Paul) Cobb

street & number Winchester Road

city, town New Market vicinity of state Alabama

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Madison County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Huntsville 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

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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

The Whitman-Cobb House is a two-story, three-bay, frame structure on a brick foundation with a partial basement under the two north rooms. An ell extends to the rear (N.E.). Based on the present owner's memory, the structure had a porch extending across the rear of the ell, with a detached two-room, one-story frame kitchen and service building. The ell is now filled-in with 20th century one-story, frame shed additions. Foundation stones of a frame smokehouse are extant east of the NE ell room. Evidence of a frame grainery and a well are north of the smokehouse. (see figure 1).

The framing is mortised-and-tenoned, with hewn and pit-sawn members. Studs are about 3 1/2" square and 2' on center. The corners are braced. The basement lies under the two north rooms and contains a fireplace at the east chimney. The floor is square brick (8" square) laid in half-bond directly on the earth. Hewn and pit-sawn joists, about 3" x 8" x 2' on center, are exposed above, as is the original  $\pm$  6" wide x 5/4" flooring. The three brick chimneys have characteristic 19th century corbeled hips with two courses projecting about 1" at the bottom of the hips; no corbeled caps are extant, although they may have been revised. The chimneys are located at each gable end. The northwest one is inside the clapboard and the others are outside. Chimney bases corbel out six courses away from the house, as was common in many 1800-1850 houses.

The gable roofs are covered in asphalt shingles. There is Federal influence in the tapered rake-fascia and mouldings at the south gable; the north gable has a projecting untapered raking box cornice. Front (west) sashes are "modified paladian" consisting of a large 9-over-9 center sash flanked by two very narrow 2-over-2 sashes. Other original sashes are single 9-over-9. All original sashes are double-hung, 7' high. Trim is 6" wide flat boards. Smaller sashes are mid-20th century. A small one-story gabled entry porch replaced the original two-story porch in the 1940s. The present pediment may be original, but lowered one story. The scrollsaw decoration on the raking cornice of the pediment consists of trefoil pendants of alternating heights. The original second story door onto the portico was shortened to a window opening to clear the porch roof ridge. The main entrance is a pair of Greek Revival two-panel doors, flanked by sidelights, with a narrow rectangular transom above.

Interior: Interior doors are also two-panel with broad flat trim and square bullseye corner blocks. Original cast-iron hinges survive, but locksets are 20th century. Three original mantels survive. One is very elaborate with cyma reverse scroll-sawn overlapping flat boards at the entablature resting on cyma-recta face-sawn pilasters. Another is plainer with flanking pairs of slender colonettes which seem to be a remembrance from the Adamesque period. The third is also heavy, simple and rectangular except that its shelf has offsets to recess the front center portion as in an Adamesque mantel. The closed-string stair has a moulded band about 2 1/2" wide under each tread which miters at the outer corner and extends along the side of the stair to the rear wall creating an interesting layered look to the stairs. There is only one turned baluster per tread, which is very unusual. These balusters are the same as the mantel colonettes. The newels are a large-scale version of the type most common in the Federal Period except with a ball on top instead of the flattened void top. There is a shaft with entasis, astragal and cap, surmounted by a square section (which receives the rail), which is in turn capped with a ball on a flared round base. The stair is in the entry hall. There is evidence of a back stair which was removed in the 1950s.

# 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/
<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 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. 1861 (?)                      **Builder/Architect**    Colonel W. F. Whitman (?)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Architecture:

The Whitman-Cobb House is significant as a fine, locally crafted house which incorporates nearly a century of design and technology in a single house. The southwest parlor mantel is up-to-the-minute 1860s in style. Yet the other mantels incorporate remembrances of delicate Adamesque details and heavy Greek Revival proportions, all in the same chimney-piece. The five-bay center-hall, ell plan dates from the 18th century, as does the tapered rake-fascia and boxed cornice detail at the south gable. The framing is still heavy, hewn, pit-sawn, mortised and tenoned nearly three decades after the invention of the light rotary-sawn ballon frame in 1833. The house thus reflects the prevalent tendency in Alabama to apply the newest stylistic features to traditional house types.

\* \* \* \* \*

In 1849 Colonel William F. Whitman purchased the land from William D. Hayten which eventually became his home site. Local traditions hold that Colonel Whitman built his house and the nearby Laxon House (HABS, named Five Oaks) about the same time. Whitman was born in Halifax County, Virginia in 1809. Whitman was married at least three times. When Whitman built his house, he probably assisted his neice Ellen and her husband, W. G. Laxon, in the design and construction of their neighboring brick house. Whitman died on March 10, 1888, and three years later the homestead was sold to W. M. Davis. It remained in the Davis family until H. L. Davis sold the home to Frank Love and his wife, Tommie, in 1907. The house changed hands several times during the Depression years. In 1943, Charles M. Miller and his wife, Bernie, purchased the house which is owned by their daughter, Alta Cobb.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Census of 1850, Madison County  
 Deeds, Probate records, Marriage records. Madison County Courthouse  
 Interview with Mrs. Alta Cobb, January 25, 1979  
 Johnson, D. S. Cemeteries of Madison County, Alabama. Vol. II. Huntsville, Alabama:  
 Johnson Historical Publications, 1978.

# 10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 5.5

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED  
 Quadrangle scale 1:24000

Quadrangle name New Market

### UMT References

A 

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

B 

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

C 

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

D 

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

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

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

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Harvie P. Jones, A.I.A./ Barry Loveland & Ellen Mertins

organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 6, 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 832-6621

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

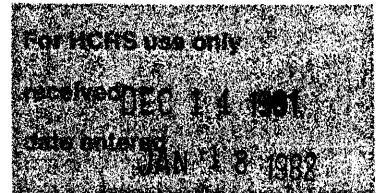
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Orlando B. Howard, Jr.

title SHPO Alabama date October 6, 1981

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>for</u> <u>Alma Byers</u>	Entered in the <u>1/18/82</u> date <u>National Register</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

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Continuation sheet

Item number 10

Page 1

A lot in or near the Town of New Market, Alabama beginning at a stake on the east boundary of Section 32, Township I Range 2 East; said stake being 3.15 chains north from the Southeast corner of said Section 32, and at the northeast corner of H. L. Davis lot; thence with said Section line north 6.30 chains to the Southeast corner of W. F. Laxson lot; thence west 8.20 chains to a stake in the center of Huntsville and Winchester Pike; thence along the center of said pike, south 12 degrees west 6.44 chains to the Northwest corner of H. L. Davis lot; thence along north boundary of same east 9.50 chains to beginning, containing 5.50 acres, more or less, and being formerly known as the F. O. Love home place.

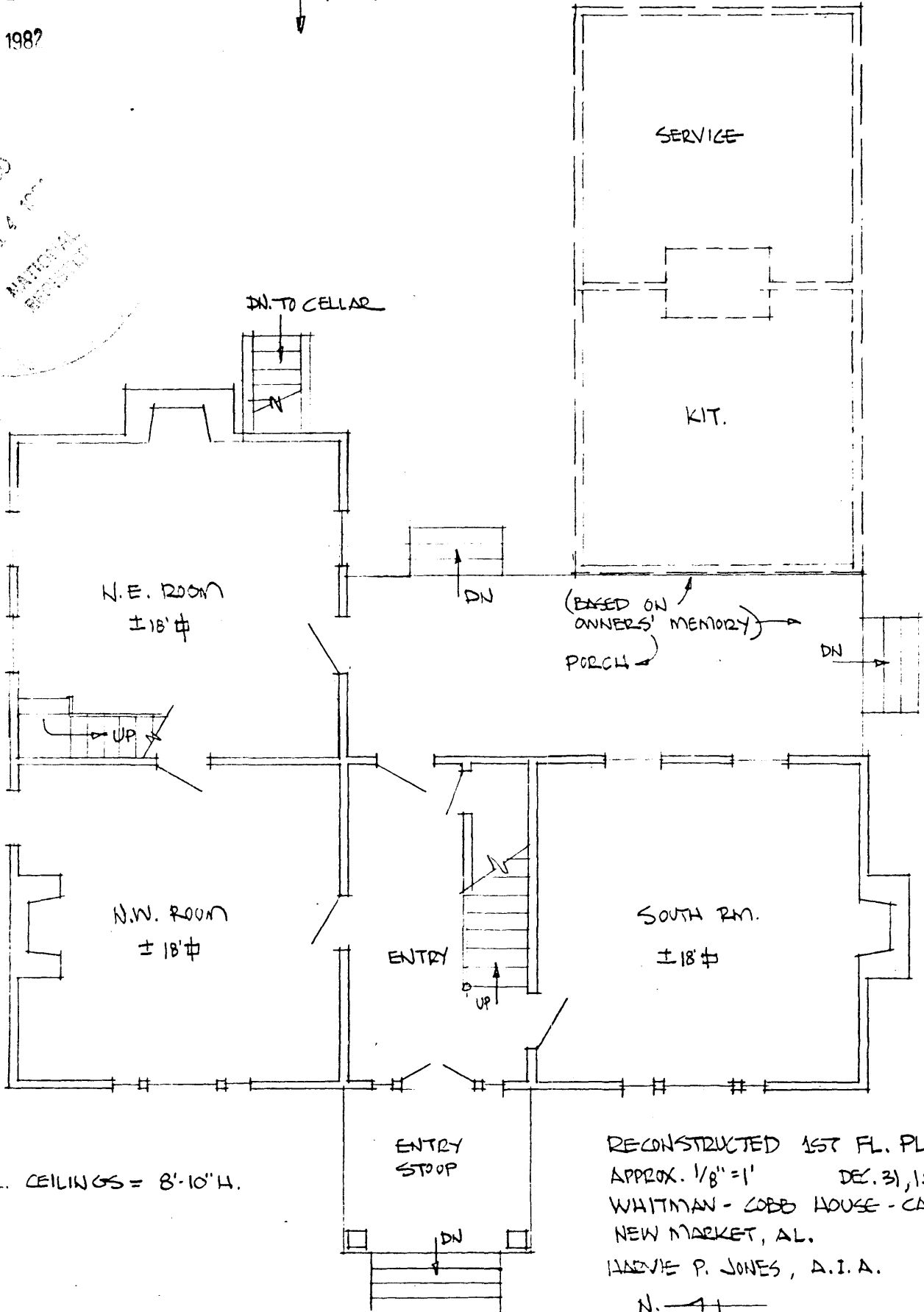
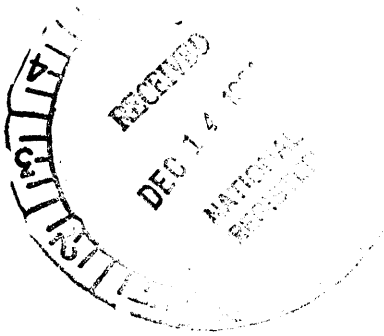
SMOKEHSE (DEMIL.)

EXTANT STONE PIERS

± 50' TO WELL

± 40' TO HSE.

JAN 18 1987

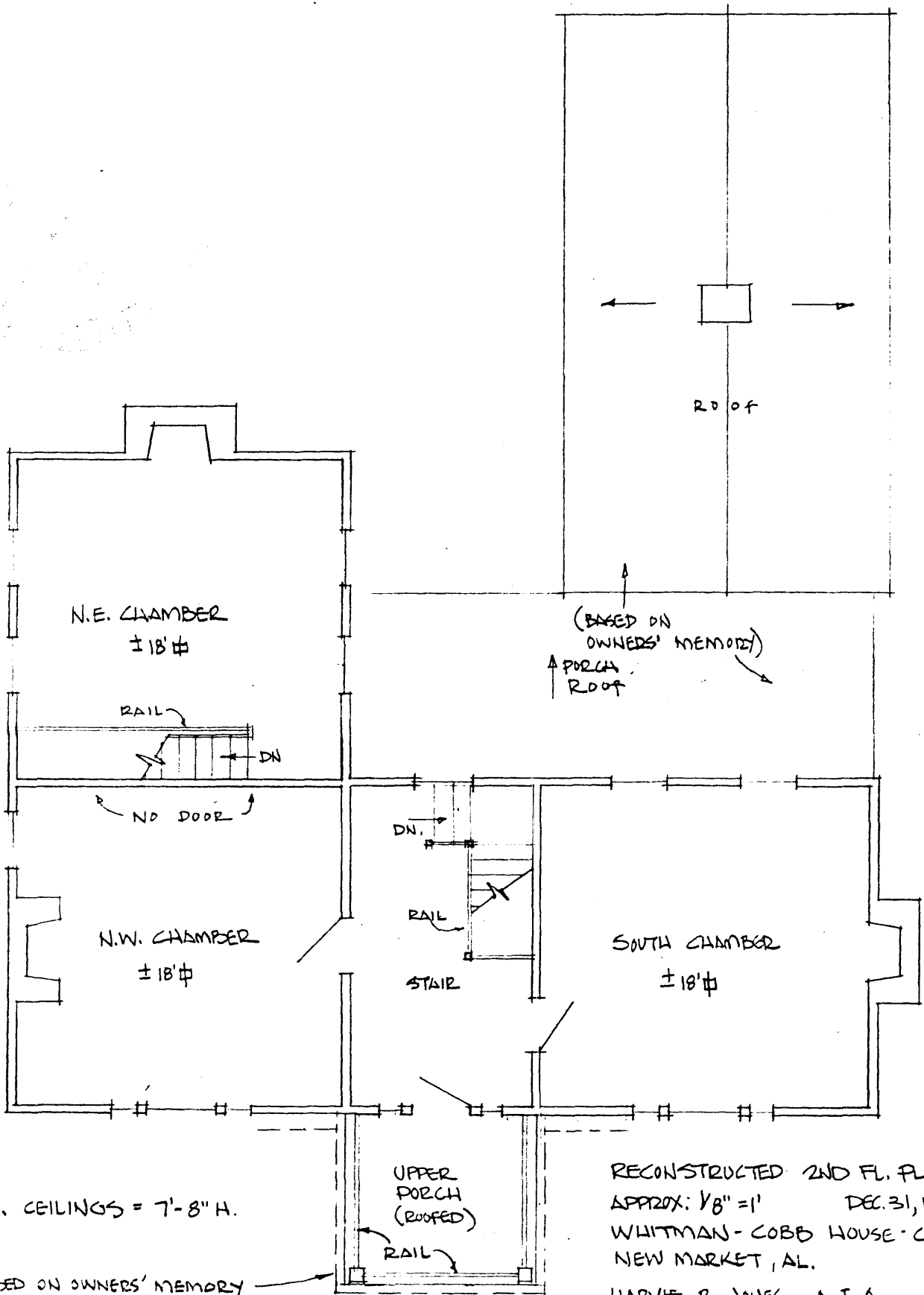


1ST. FL. CEILINGS = 8'-10" H.

RECONSTRUCTED 1ST FL. PLAN  
APPROX. 1/8" = 1' DEC. 31, 1973  
WHITMAN - COBB HOUSE - CA. 1861  
NEW MARKET, AL.  
HARVEY P. JONES, A.I.A.

N. ———→

JAN 18 1987



2ND FL. CEILINGS = 7'-8" H.

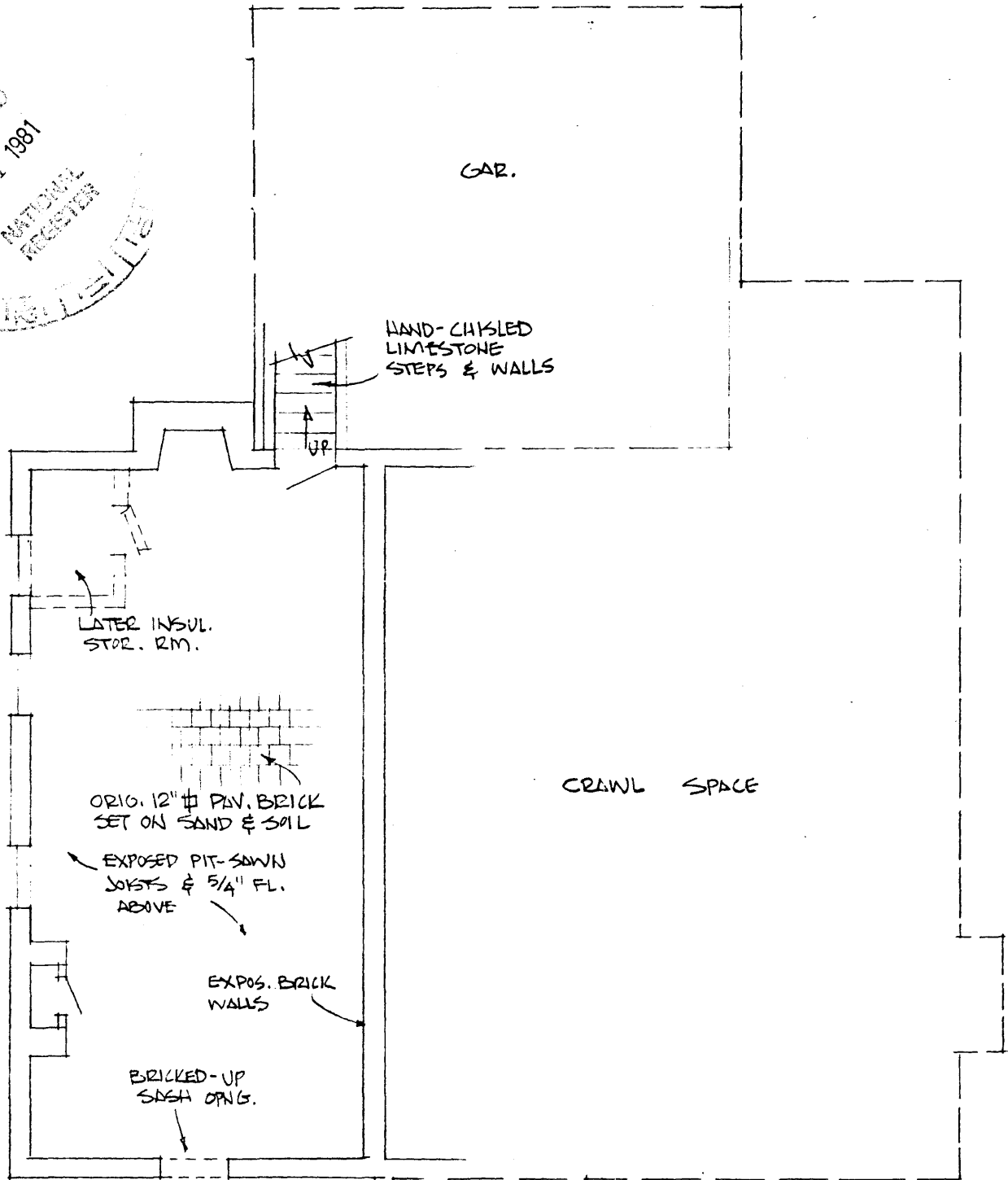
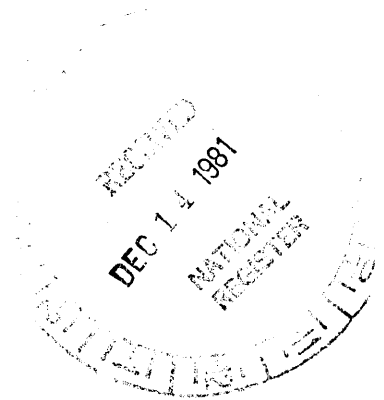
BASED ON OWNERS' MEMORY  
(REVISED LATE 1940'S)

RECONSTRUCTED 2ND FL. PLAN  
APPROX: 1/8" = 1' DEC. 31, 1979  
WHITMAN-COBB HOUSE - CA. 1861  
NEW MARKET, AL.

LARVIE P. JONES, A.I.A.

N ←

JAN 18 1982



GAR.

HAND-CHISELED  
LIMESTONE  
STEPS & WALLS

LATER INSUL.  
STOR. RM.

ORIG. 12" # PAV. BRICK  
SET ON SAND & SOIL

CRAWL SPACE

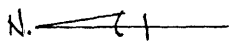
EXPOSED PIT-SAWN  
JOISTS & 5/4" FL.  
ABOVE

EXPOS. BRICK  
WALLS

BRICKED-UP  
SASH ORIG.

BASEMENT PLAN

APPROX. 1/8" = 1' DEC. 31, 1979  
WHITMAN - COBB HSE. - CA. 1861  
NEW MARKET, AL.  
HARVIE P. JONES, A.I.A.

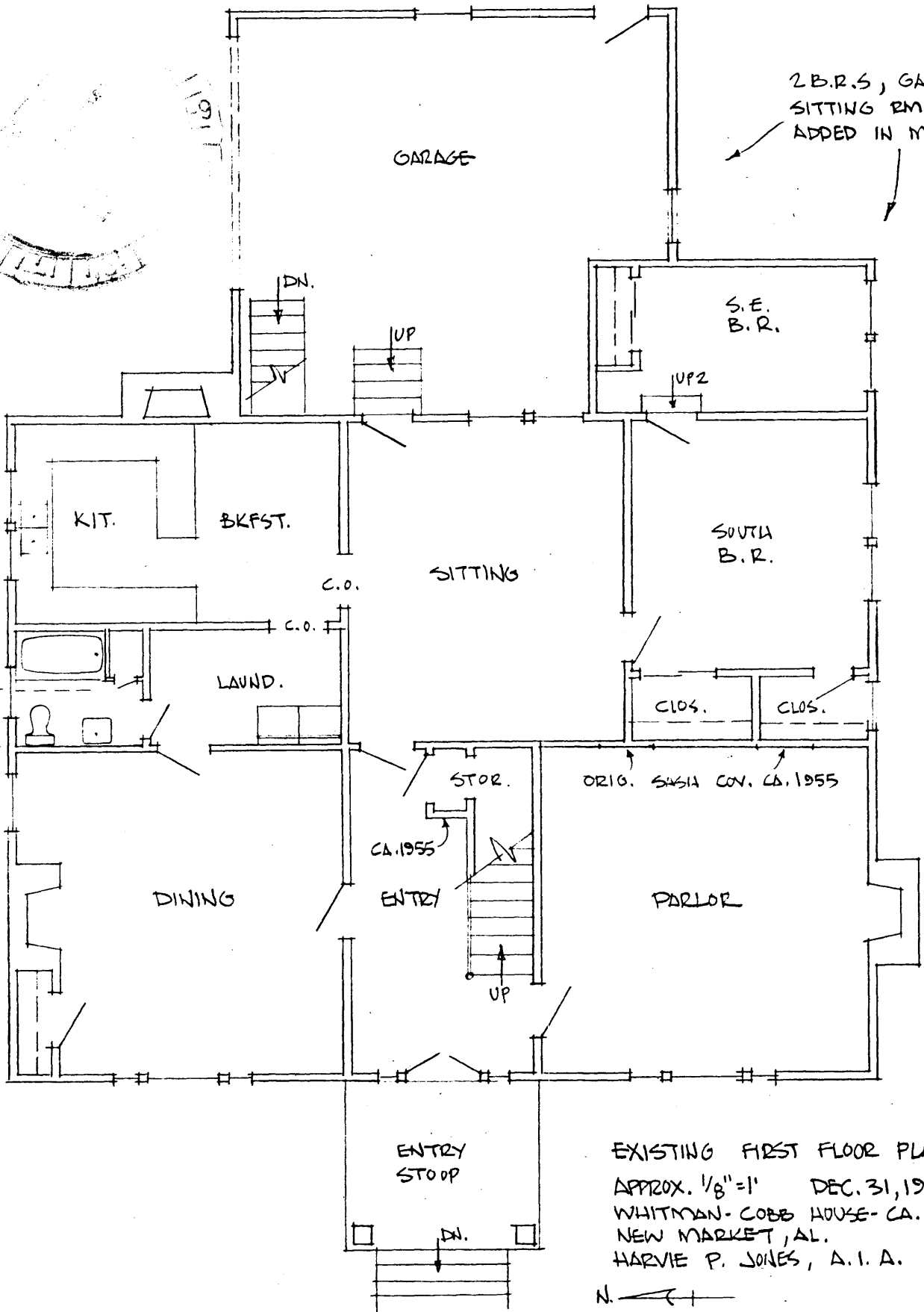




JAN 18 1982



2 B.R.'S, GAR. & SITTING RM. ADDED IN MID 20TH.C.



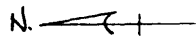
N.E. RM & SASH MODIF. CA. 1955

STAIR UP REMOV. CA. 1955

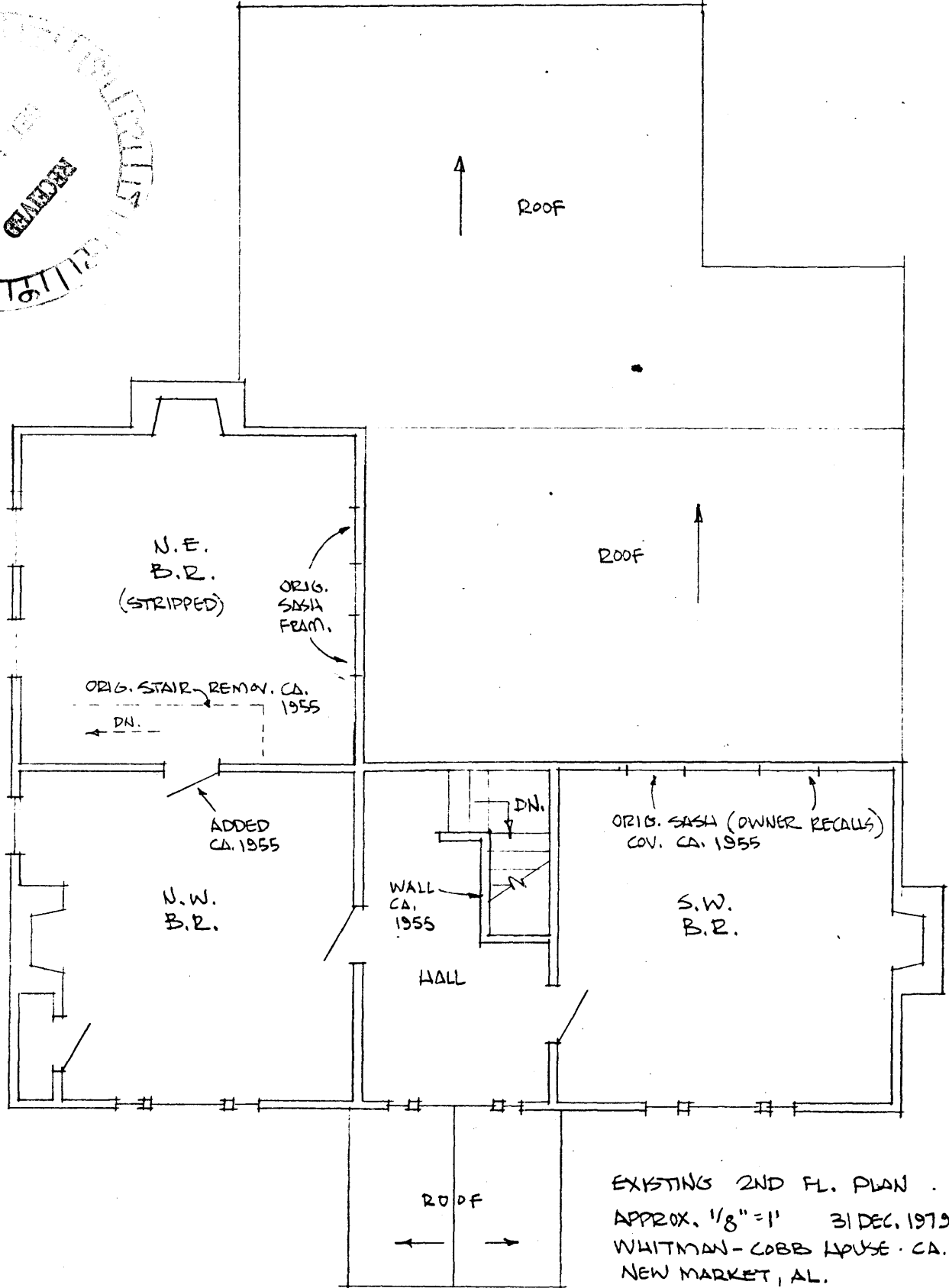
CA. 1955

ORIG. SASH CON. CA. 1955

EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN  
APPROX. 1/8"=1' DEC. 31, 1979  
WHITMAN-COBB HOUSE- CA. 1861  
NEW MARKET, AL.  
HARVIE P. JONES, A.I.A.



JAN 18 1982



EXISTING 2ND FL. PLAN  
APPROX. 1/8" = 1' 31 DEC. 1979  
WHITMAN-COBB HOUSE - CA. 1861  
NEW MARKET, AL.

HARVIE P. JONES, A.I.A.

