

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000684

Date Listed: 7/22/94

Waldwic
Property Name

Hale
County

ALABAMA
State

Plantation Houses of the AL Canebrake & Assoc. Outbldgs. MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

MAJ M. W. W.

Signature of the Keeper

7/27/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

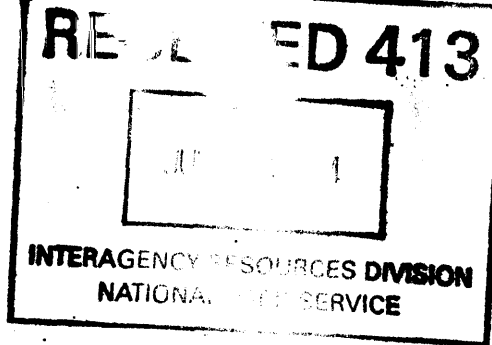
Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to claim significance under Criterion A, for agriculture, as well as under C, for architecture. The case for agricultural significance is specifically addressed in the text.

This change was confirmed by phone with the AL SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)



684

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

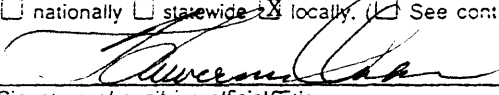
1. Name of Property

historic name Waldwic
other names/site number Spencer, William M, III, House

2. Location

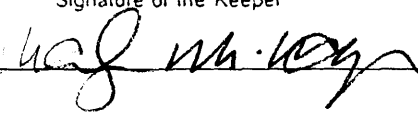
street & number west side of Alabama Highway 69 N/A not for publication
city or town Gallion vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Hale code 065 zip code 36742

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant: nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
 June 1, 1994
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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.
Signature of the Keeper  Date of Action 7/22/94

Waldwic

Hale County, Alabama

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	9	buildings
		sites
	4	structures
		objects
4	13	Total

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

Plantation Houses of the Alabama Canebrake and
~~their associated outbuildings (1818-1942)~~

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/secondary structure
- Domestic/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling
- Domestic/secondary structure
- Vacant/not in use
- Other/storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

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

ca. 1840-1943

Significant Dates

ca. 1840

ca. 1843

ca. 1858

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(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-260

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository

-Waldwic
Name of Property

Hale County, Alabama
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 160 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,6	4,3,2,3,6,5	3,5,9,4,5,4,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1,6	4,3,3,1,5,0	3,5,9,4,5,3,0

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

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 Jeff Mansell

organization Cahaba Trace Commission date August 23, 1993

street & number Route 1, Box 147 telephone (205) 665-7982

city or town Brierfield state Alabama zip code 35035

Additional Documentation

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. William M. Spencer, III

street & number 3035 Briarcliff Road telephone (205) 967-5331

city or town Birmingham state Alabama zip code 35223

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to allow a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1Waldwic
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

The main house located on the Waldwic plantation is a significant example of Gothic Revival architecture in the state of Alabama. Although the dwelling appears to have been conceived as a single design, the house is actually the product of a series of additions and renovations which occurred from ca. 1840 through the mid-1850s. This plantation house reflects the influence of the Romantic architects of the mid-nineteenth century such as A. J. Downing, A. J. Davis, and Samuel Sloan. It has been suggested by architectural historian Robert Gamble that this particular dwelling might have been based on the design of "Waldwic Cottage" by William H. Ranlett which appeared in vol. 2, 1851 of The Architect. In addition, three outbuildings located on the property also date from this period and are embellished with Gothic Revival detailing. The main house began as a story and a half cottage but the dwelling underwent a series of renovations in the early to mid 1850s.

Resting on a small rise at the end of a cedar lined drive and facing east, Waldwic is a one and a half-story frame dwelling covered in vertical sheathing and clapboarding. The structure is basically H-shaped with a side gabled central section (3-bays in width) with a roof monitor along the ridge. Located at either end of the main section are slightly projecting cross gabled end pavilions with bay windows. This particular arrangement, a three bay section with flanking slightly projecting end pavilions was also seen in other Canebrake houses, notably the Gayle-Locke house (HABS) in Greensboro. At Waldwic, the end pavilions flank a recessed porch supported by arched trellis work supports. A central second-floor chamber with front facing gable roof and balcony projects over the middle bay of the porch. The dwelling is embellished with pointed Gothic windows with diamond shaped panes in the three front facing gables. These front facing gables are embellished with cusped bargeboards and finials. A porch extends across the rear of the dwelling (west) and down the southern elevation. Originally, a kitchen was attached to the rear of the dwelling by a covered way. The kitchen was razed in the 1930s. The rear (west elevation) also features a gable roofed chamber projecting over the rear porch. This chamber opens onto the landing of the main stairwell.

The interior of Waldwic is based on a central hall plan with double flanking rooms on both sides. The hallway features a built in bookcase on the southern wall which is embellished with a sloped surround featuring a Greek Key or shoulder molding. The main staircase rises along the northern wall. During a restoration of the dwelling in 1973, the staircase was enclosed. The main rooms of the central section are separated by interior chimneys. To the left of the hallway are the dining room and kitchen while a den and bedroom are located to the right. The den was perhaps originally utilized as a library and contains built-in cabinets encased in the same sloping Greek Revival surround as the hall bookcase. The southern pavilion contains a parlor and a bedroom also separated by an interior chimney. The parlor is the most elaborately detailed room in the dwelling, containing door and window surrounds embellished with an acorn and thistle motif and naive "gothicized" woodwork. The bay window in the parlor is set in an unusual ogee arch. Windows in the parlor feature jib panels for easy access onto the front and side porches. A bathroom was constructed in the southeast corner of the bedroom in the southern pavilion.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Waldwic
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

The northern pavilion originally contained two bedroom chambers separated by a small hallway containing a staircase. During the 1973 renovation, the hallway was enclosed and the room arrangement slightly altered to accommodate the addition of modern bathroom facilities. Mantles and woodwork throughout the house are much simpler than the parlor room and are characteristically Greek or Gothic Revival in design.

The second floor of Waldwic contains a large central chamber and small attic rooms located above each of the end wings. A small chamber is located off the staircase landing and extends over the rear porch. The central chamber is connected to the end pavilions by the roof monitors, long narrow passages with bands of windows located beneath the eaves of the roof on both sides. The southern attic rooms appear to have been used exclusively for storage and are simple plastered rooms separated by the fireplace wall. The northern pavilion contains a storage room, separated from the small staircase by a latticed screen. The rear attic room was apparently inhabitable due to the inclusion of a fireplace and probably served as a servant's room. Today, the entire upstairs is devoted to storage.

Located directly behind the main house are three buildings which date from the time the main house was constructed and which are embellished with Gothic detailing such as bargeboard and sloped Greek key or shouldered moldings. The structure immediately behind the main house probably served as a slave dwelling. This structure is one and a half stories in height with a central chimney and a two room plan. The structure which lies slightly southwest of the main house was a combination smokehouse and slave dwelling. The one and a half storied structure contains an interior staircase which rises from an exterior door located on the north elevation and pitches through the structure. The smokehouse is located in the rear half of the structure and rises the full height of the building. A one story carriage house lies slightly to the northwest of the main house and contains a single large room.

Included in the nomination are several modern outbuildings including a modern caretakers dwelling and several agricultural buildings including a dairy, metal shed and silo/granary complex. The Waldwic nomination includes 4 contributing buildings, 9 non-contributing buildings and 4 non-contributing structures. The non-contributing buildings include modern barns, sheds, a garage and a contemporary overseer's house. The non-contributing structures included four silos.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Waldwic
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Criterion A: Agriculture

Waldwic is eligible to the National Register under Criterion A for agriculture. As part of the multiple property nomination of Plantation Houses of the Alabama Canebrake and their associated outbuildings (1818-1942), Waldwic conveys a sense of the formation and development of the plantation and plantation system in Alabama and more specifically, the Canebrake region. Waldwic has been continuously owned and operated as working plantation by members of the related Gracey-Steele-Spencer family since 1839 and therefore, provides valuable, tangible evidence about the formation and operation of the agricultural way of life in the Canebrake region of Alabama from 1818 to 1942. The buildings of the plantation complex possess evidence about the formation and operation of agricultural life in the Canebrake region of Alabama. Waldwic is an excellent example of an antebellum plantation complex and provides valuable information concerning the settlement and development of the Canebrake region from 1818 to 1942.

Criterion C: Architecture

The main house at Waldwic is a significant example of a Canebrake plantation house in the Gothic Revival style while the contributing outbuildings are equally significant as rare examples of mid-19th century slave dwellings and agricultural buildings embellished with Gothic Revival detailing. The main house exemplifies the use of mid-19th century pattern books and the adoption of prevailing Romantic architectural styles such as the Gothic Revival. The main house and three contributing outbuildings yield information regarding the styles, forms, construction methods, techniques, and craftsmanship utilized by residents of the Canebrake from 1830 - 1942. The main house and outbuildings retain a high degree of integrity to design, materials, workmanship, feeling and setting. Although the nomination includes a number of non-contributing structures, they are placed at such as distance from the main house or are appropriately screened from the main house, as not to distract from the overall sense of time and place.

Historical Summary:

Waldwic plantation was formed in 1838 by Robert Sinclair Gracey of Iredell County, North Carolina. The core of the main plantation house is believed to date from this time and the dwelling consisted of a simple central hall plan cottage with two rooms flanking the hall on either side. After the death of Gracey in 1843, the plantation passed to his brother Minor Winn Gracey and his wife, Mourning (Smith) Patterson. It is believed that the Minor Gracys enlarged the house with the addition of the outriding end wings. After the death of Minor Gracey in 1853 (the result of the yellow fever epidemic which swept through Demopolis), Mrs. Gracey married General Willis Boccock, Attorney General of Virginia in 1858. Reputedly, the couple toured the Hudson River Valley, an area rich in Gothic Revival architecture, and upon their return embellished Waldwic with Gothic Revival detailing. The renovation included the embellishment of three outbuildings with similar detailing. These designs or renovations might possibly have been inspired by the work of architect, William Ranlett who published a plan for Waldwic cottage in his pattern book, The Architect (1851). Upon the death of Mourning Smith Patterson Gracey Boccock in 1886, title to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Waldwic
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Waldwic passed to Sinclair N. Steele, nephew of Minor Winn Gracey. Sinclair Steele married Bettie W. Smith, sister of Mourning Smith Gracey Bocoock. The plantation eventually passed to the Steeles' daughter Bertha Gracey Steele Spencer, wife of William M. Spencer. Today, Waldwic is owned and beautifully maintained by Mr. William M. Spencer, III of Birmingham and Gallion. ¹

Archeological potential

Although no formal archeological survey has been made at Waldwic, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens and other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

¹James and Emogene Armstead, "Pioneers of Marengo County" series appearing in the Demopolis Times, #190- February 17, 1977, #191 - February 24, 1977, #192 - March 3, 1977; Richard S. Jones and Elizabeth Jones to Robert S. Gracey, deed dated April 10, 1838, Deed and Tract Books for Marengo County, Marengo County Probate Office, Linden, Alabama.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 5

Waldwic
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Bibliography

Armstead, James and Emogene. "Pioneers of Marengo County." Series Appearing in the Demopolis Times.

Office of Probate, Marengo and Hale Counties. Various deed and tract books. Marengo County Courthouse, Linden, Alabama and Hale County Courthouse, Greensboro, Alabama.

Verbal Boundary Description

That tract of land, comprising 160 acres being the entire southeast quarter of Section 31 lying in Township 18 North, Range 4 East belonging to William M. Spencer, III of Birmingham. Tax information on file at the Hale County courthouse in Greensboro, Alabama. For exact boundary locations, please see tax map.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were drawn to include the tract of land which contains the historic resources associated with Waldwic.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Photographs _____ Page 6 _____

Waldwic
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama

Photographs

The information in items #1-5 is the same for all photographs. There have been no changes to the property since a site visit on August 21, 1993.

1. Waldwic
2. Gallion vicinity, Hale County Alabama
3. Jeff Mansell, Photographer
4. August, 1993
5. Negatives on file, Alabama Historical Commission

Photograph #1, facade, camera facing west

Photograph #2, facade and southern elevation, camera facing northwest

Photograph #3, facade and northern elevation, camera facing southwest

Photograph #4, facade, detail of central block, camera facing west

Photograph #5, facade, detail of northern pavilion, camera facing west

Photograph #6, detail of northern wing, camera facing north west

Photograph #7, detail of front entrance, camera facing west

Photograph #8, rear elevation, camera facing northeast

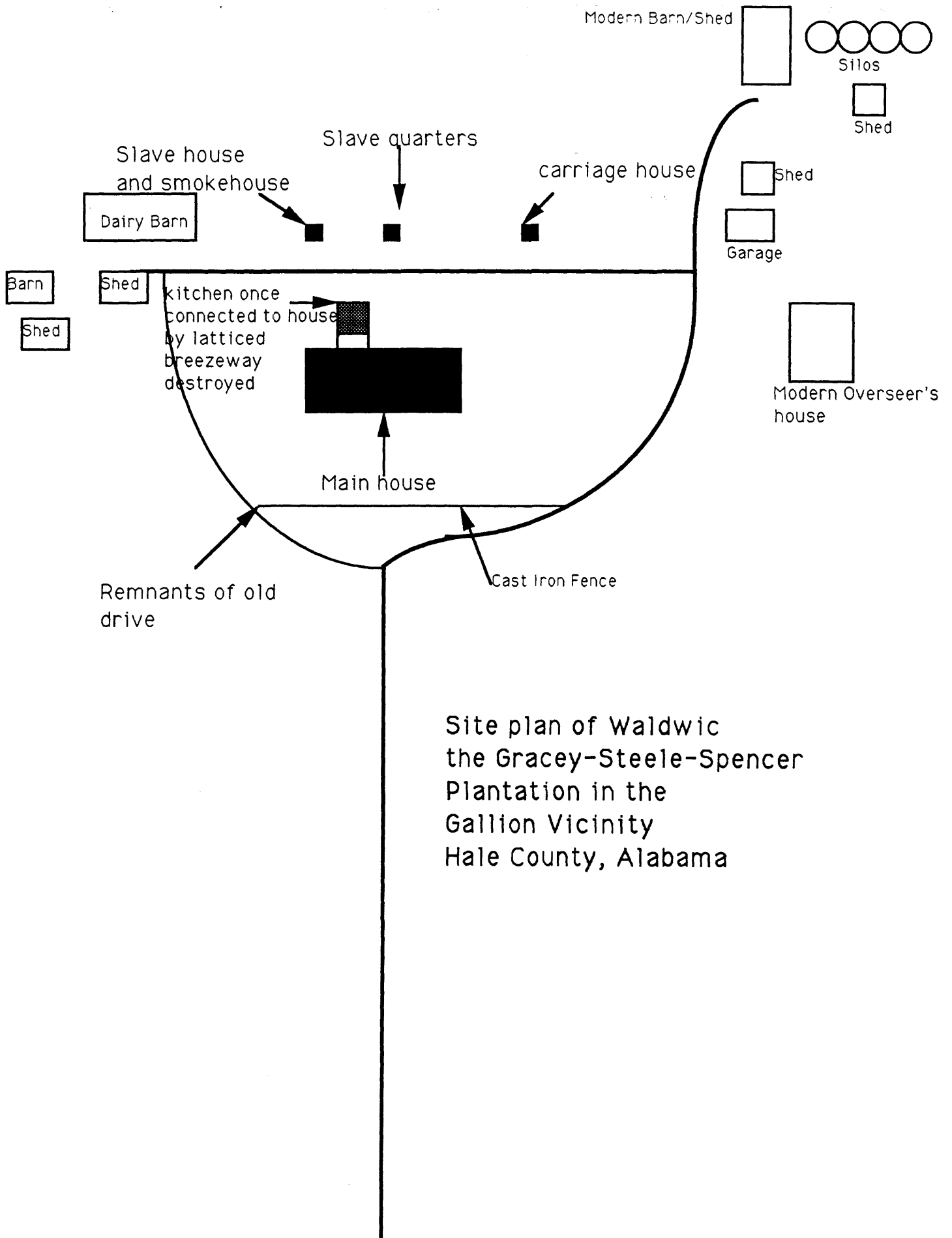
Photograph #9, slave quarter, camera facing northwest

Photograph #10, rear of slave quarter, camera facing east

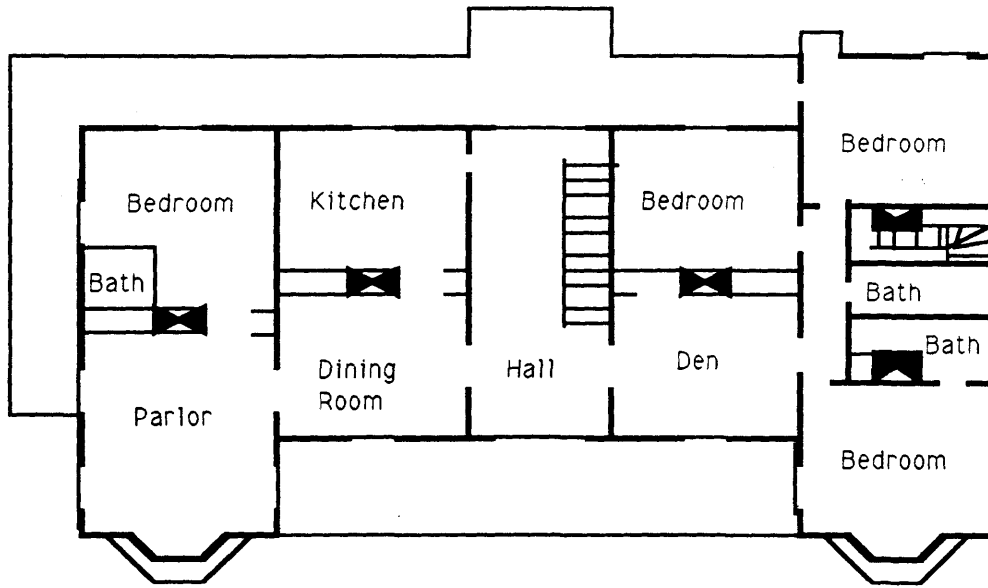
Photograph #11, slave quarter and smokehouse, camera facing southwest

Photograph #12, side of slave quarter and smokehouse, camera facing south

Photograph #13, carriage house, camera facing north

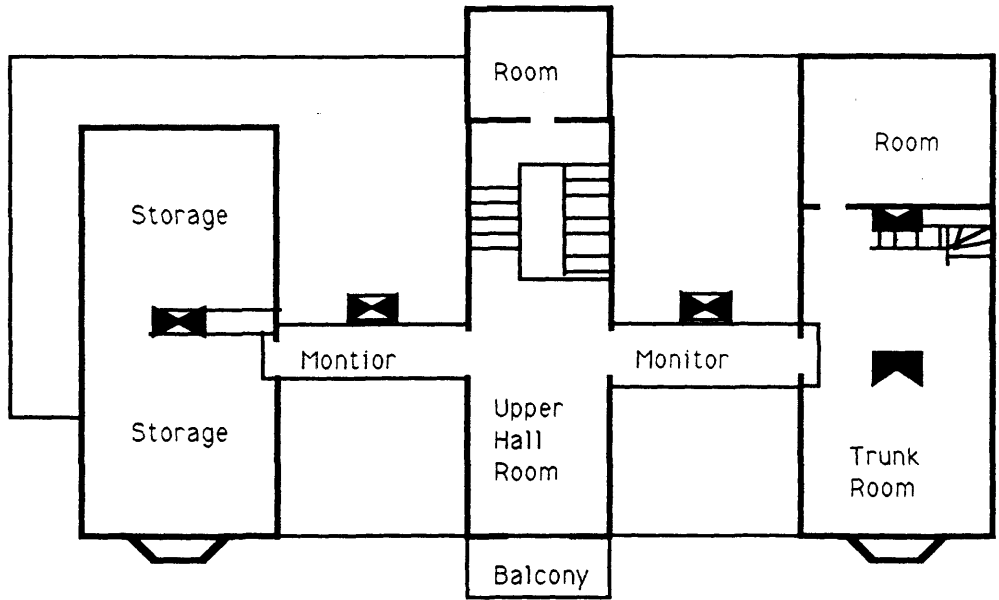


Site plan of Waldwic
 the Gracey-Steele-Spencer
 Plantation in the
 Gallion Vicinity
 Hale County, Alabama



First Floor Plan

Waldwic
Gracey-Steele- Spencer house
Gallion vicinity
Hale County, Alabama



Second Floor Plan

Waldwic
Gracey- Steele - Spencer House
Gallion Vicinity
Hale County, Alabama