

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Name of Property

County and State

Section number _____ Page _____

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08000198

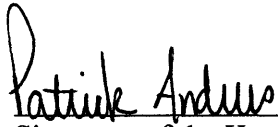
Date Listed: 3/13/08

Property Name: Simmons & Wright Company, The

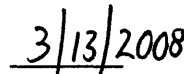
County: Lauderdale

State: MS

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.



Signature of the Keeper



Date of Action

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 10

The nomination form is hereby amended to correct the UTM coordinates.

The UTM Coordinates for the property should read: Zone 16, 364720 Easting 3588220 Northing

The Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

RECEIVED 2008 OMB No. 1024-0018 198
FEB - 4 2008
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: The Simmons & Wright Company
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 5493 Hwy 11/80 not for publication ___
city or town: Kewanee vicinity X
state: MS code: MS county: Lauderdale code: 75 zip code: 39364

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] Date 1-22-2008
Signature of certifying official

State Historic Preservation Officer
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 Date of Action
Patricia Andrews 3/13/2008

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

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

Category of Property: Building

Contributing

8

Noncontributing

4

buildings
sites
structures
objects

8

4

Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register**

N/A

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE: general store; AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: processing;
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: storage

Current Functions: COMMERCE/TRADE: general store

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s): No Style

Materials:

foundation: Concrete

roof: Flat tar roof

walls: Brick

other: Wooden front porch awning

Narrative Description: See continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- X **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.

Areas of Significance
COMMERCE**Period of Significance**
1926-1957**Significant Dates****Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- 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.

Significant Person(s)**Cultural Affiliation(s)****Architect/Builder****Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography 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
- Name of repository:
-

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 2.40

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
	16	364820	3588220

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title:	Robert A. Pickett	date:	10/25/07
organization:	N/A	telephone:	239-682-5294
street & number:	368 New York Drive	zip code:	33905
city or town:	Ft. Myers	state:	FL

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(s)

name:	Gary Pickett	telephone:	601-632-4268
street & number:	6566 J.O. Thomas Rd.	zip code:	39364
city or town:	Toomsaba	state:	MS

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 obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7 Page: 1

Simmons & Wright, Co.
Lauderdale County, MS

Narrative Description:

The Simmons & Wright Company at 5493 Hwy 11/80 in Lauderdale County, Mississippi, is a two-story brick mercantile store and associated agricultural outbuildings. The store is located off Hwy 11/80 in rural Kewanee, MS on the N.W. corner of Hwy 11/80 and Kewanee-Lauderdale Road.

The general store is 2-stories and is made of red brick on all 4 sides. The front (south) façade has a porch with two single pane commercial windows on either side of the front door entry. The door is a single leaf glazed commercial door with three-light side lights and a single light transom. A ribbon of eight double windows stretch across the second floor and are configured in a 3/2/3 pattern. A wood awning suspended with cables attaching to the front of the building extends over the front porch. A concrete belt course runs the width of the second floor level with the tops of the windows. A concrete frieze runs above the belt course. The "Simmons & Wright Co." sign is painted on the second story above the frieze. The roof has a parapet wall capped with a concrete belt that peaks in the center. The roof is flat and tarred.

The east façade is all brick with three pairs of 6/6 second story windows. A bathroom addition with a shingle hipped roof was added around the mid 1950s. The shed has a single wood door facing south. There are two single pane windows on the east face. The addition houses a restroom. Three metal gutters exit below the parapet wall and carry run off through metal downspouts.

The rear (north) façade is all brick w/ windows on the second story and a rear entry door. There are two sets of double windows centered in the top, middle 1/3 of the building and two sets of double windows directly below the second story set. The rear access door is offset to the right of the building. The left (west) side façade is all brick w/ 6 windows on the second story.

The interior of the building consists of many wood shelves and wood & glass show cases used in storing and displaying merchandise. A prominent feature of the interior is the wrap around balcony on the second story. Other than the balcony and shelves/show cases the store is open and is not divided in any other way. The staircase leading up to the balcony is located toward the rear of the building. Near the staircase is the only separate room in the store. This is the office that also has a walk in safe. Everything in the store is wood, except for the brick walls and concrete floor. The upstairs balcony has a closet at the rear of the building. There is a wood burning stove on the first floor that has a pipe running to the roof so smoke can escape.

The Simmons & Wright Company general store retains a high degree of integrity. It has not been significantly altered and retains its original floor plan and original materials.

A warehouse exists to the rear of the store. It was a major contributor in the daily activities of the Simmons & Wright Company. The warehouse was built circa 1926 and its construction is vastly different from the store. It is built on brick pilings and is constructed of wood and aluminum. An access point exists on the south and north sides of the building and a loading dock is on the west side. Windows are found on all four sides of the building. Also on the south side of the building near the access point is a brick enclosure that was used to store ice for the store. The Warehouse, although deteriorating, retains sufficient integrity for National Register listing.

Outbuildings on the site include a cotton gin, blacksmith shop and multiple seed storage buildings of various sizes that were utilized in the production of cotton, which was a significant part of the commercial activity of the business for most of its existence. The buildings are made primarily of wood or tin and are located on the accompanying site map. The cotton gin, seed bin, two seed houses and a blacksmith shop are all contributing resources. An older

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7 Page: 2

Simmons & Wright Company
Lauderdale County, MS

cotton gin, a shed and a grist mill have mostly collapsed and lack sufficient integrity to contribute to the significance of the mercantile enterprise. A sawmill, located near the northeast corner of the property, is also non-contributing due to advanced deterioration.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 3

Simmons & Wright, Co.
Lauderdale County, MS

Narrative Statement of Significance:

Originally established in 1884, the Simmons & Wright Company is locally significant under Criterion A for Commerce. The building is a great example of a historic general mercantile store. The front sign of the building reads as "The Simmons-Wright Company" but the store has always been referred to as the "Simmons & Wright Company."

Simmons & Wright is located off Hwy 11/80 in Kewanee, MS on the N.W. corner of Hwy 11/80 and Kewanee-Lauderdale Road. Although Simmons & Wright Co. has been in business for over 100 years the height of its years was from the date of its establishment in 1884 to the 1960s. Simmons & Wright Co. was a business that relied highly on the cotton industry and the many farmers that needed supplies in the Toomsaba and Kewanee, Mississippi and west Alabama area.

The store was originally built in 1884 by William Simmons and Tom Wright. William Simmons and Tom Wright were the first to operate day to day business activities. Changes in ownership include C.H. Ryan buying 52% ownership of the store in the early 1950s and Rowena, Bo and Jean Simmons assuming the other partnership roles as it was left to them in the will of William Simmons. Bernice Simmons took over the store in the mid 1970s and ran it until she passed away in 1998 at the age of 96. She lived in the Kewanee area all of her life except for while attending college, but then returned to the area to be the Simmons & Wright's book keeper. After Bernice died the store was left to Gary and Manning Pickett in Bernice's will and is currently being run by Gary and Janice Pickett.

Simmons & Wright Company represents part of Mississippi's past that is seen very little anymore. The production of cotton and sale of general merchandise made Simmons & Wright Co. a thriving business in its time. Its location was most likely chosen because of its close proximity to the railroad where the trains would stop and unload cargo for local farmers. When the store was first established Hwy 11/80 was not yet in existence (the highway was built in 1932), so the proximity to Alabama was most likely a contributing factor in its location. Since horse and buggy was a primary means of transportation highways were not available until later.

Surrounding the store is a warehouse, cotton gin, blacksmith shop and a couple of other buildings used for storage or to assist in the production of cotton. Most of these buildings are showing their years, but you can imagine how bustling this area once was. It almost seems frozen in time. The outbuildings illustrate the importance of rural mercantile stores in the cotton-based economy that existed for much of the 20th century in Mississippi.

The store burned down in 1926 but was re-built in the same year of brick instead of the wood it was originally built from. No pictures exist of the original store nor do we know who re-built the store in 1926. Documentation does not exist in local newspapers regarding the fire of 1926 because of the rural location.

A modern addition to the store was the installation of gasoline fueling tanks that were located in front of the store along the highway. These were removed in the late 1980s.

Cuba, AL, is about 5 miles to the east of Kewanee. Within this small town there are a couple of general stores that resemble Simmons & Wright architecture and style. For the town of Kewanee, MS and surrounding areas, this is the only one of its kind.

(Rev. 10-90)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 9, 10

Page: 4

Simmons & Wright, Co.
Lauderdale County, MS

Major Bibliographical References:

N/A

Verbal Boundary Description:

The subject property lies off Hwy 11/80 in Kewanee, MS on the N.W. corner of Hwy 11/80 and Kewanee-Lauderdale Road. Township 7N, Range 18E (Southeast), Section 27

Legal description as given on recent tax bill:

PT NW ¼ N Rd Gin & Store lot less R/W.

18

DB 1414 DP 249

Boundary Justification:

The description encompasses the Simmons & Wright building as well as the supporting structures, as described in the narrative description of section 7 which were historically associated with the commercial activities of the Simmons & Wright Company.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: Photography log

Page: 5

Simmons & Wright Co.
Lauderdale County, MS

For all Photographs:

1. Simmons & Wright Co.
2. Lauderdale County, MS
3. William M. Gatlin, MDAH
4. November 21, 2007
5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Photograph 1: West elevation, facing east

Photograph 2: North elevation, facing south

Photograph 3: West elevation, south elevation, facing northeast

Photograph 4: Warehouse, northwest elevation, facing southeast

Photograph 5: Interior, office, facing southeast

Photograph 6: Interior, mezzanine, sales floor, facing west

Photograph 7: Interior, mezzanine, sales floor, facing west

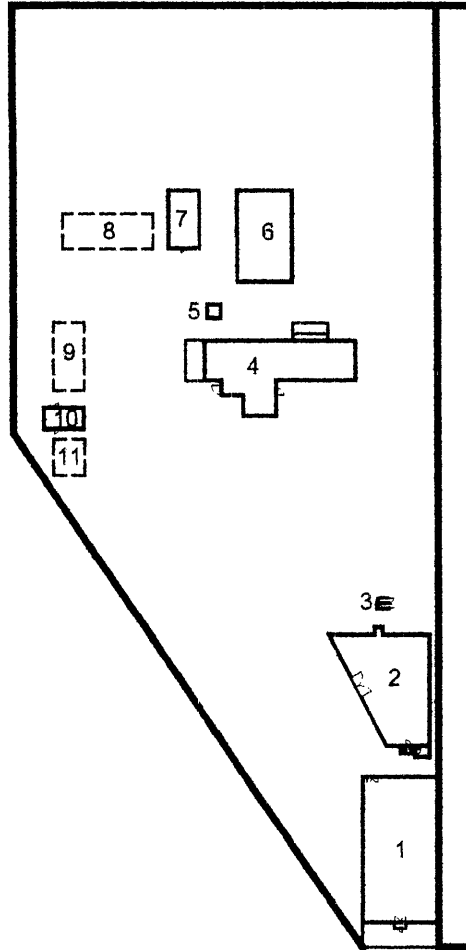
Photograph 8: Cotton gin, facing southwest

Photograph 9: Seed bin, facing south

Photograph 10: Seed house, facing south

Simmon & Wright Historical Register Nomination

Kewanee, Mississippi



1. Simmons & Wright Store
2. Warehouse
3. Outhouse
4. Gin
5. Seed Bin
6. Seed House
7. Seed House
8. Old Gin (collapsed)
9. Shed (collapsed)
10. Blacksmith Shop
11. Grist Mill (collapsed)

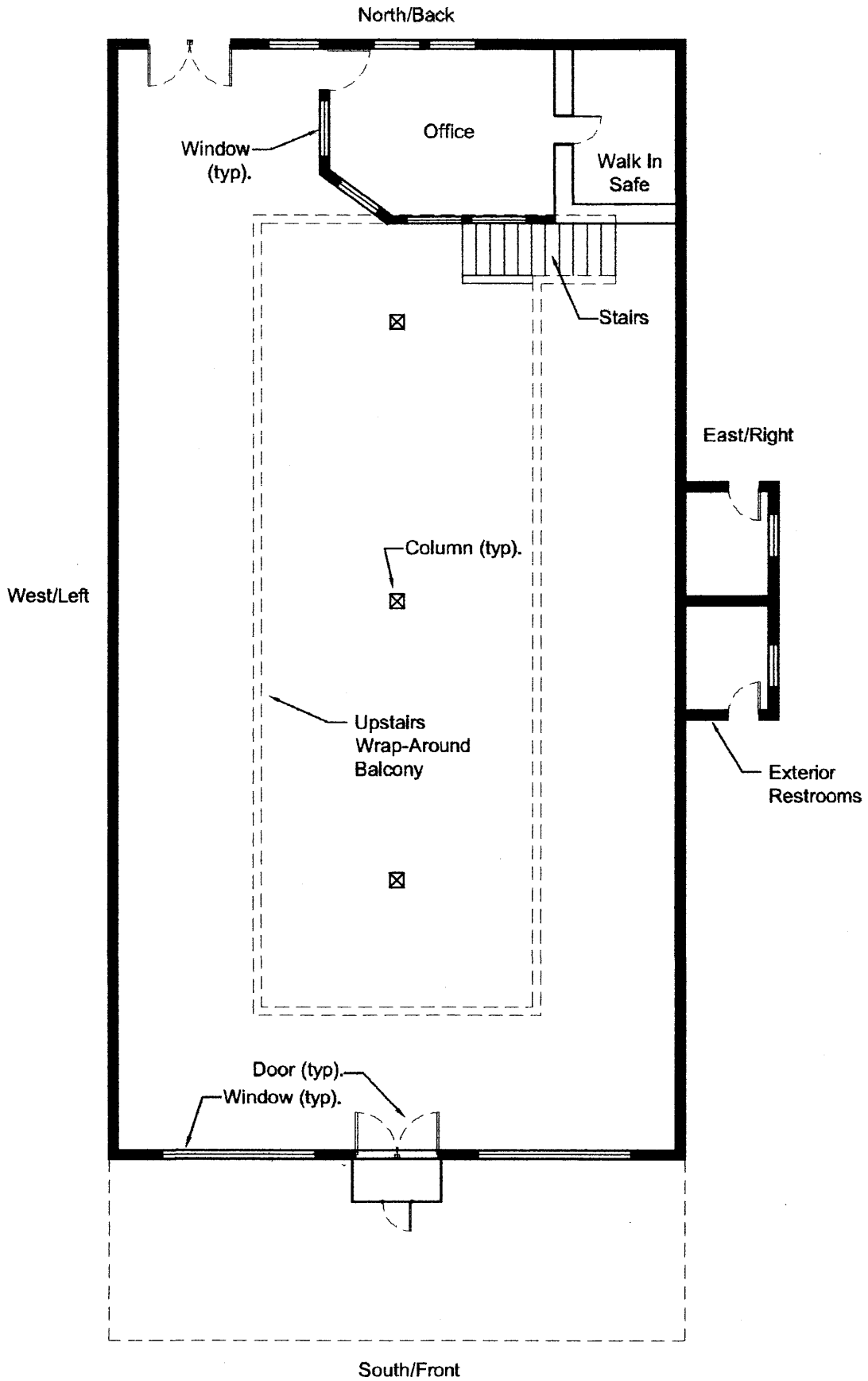
Site Map

Date: 6/17/07
Filename: 100.8 map sketch.dwg



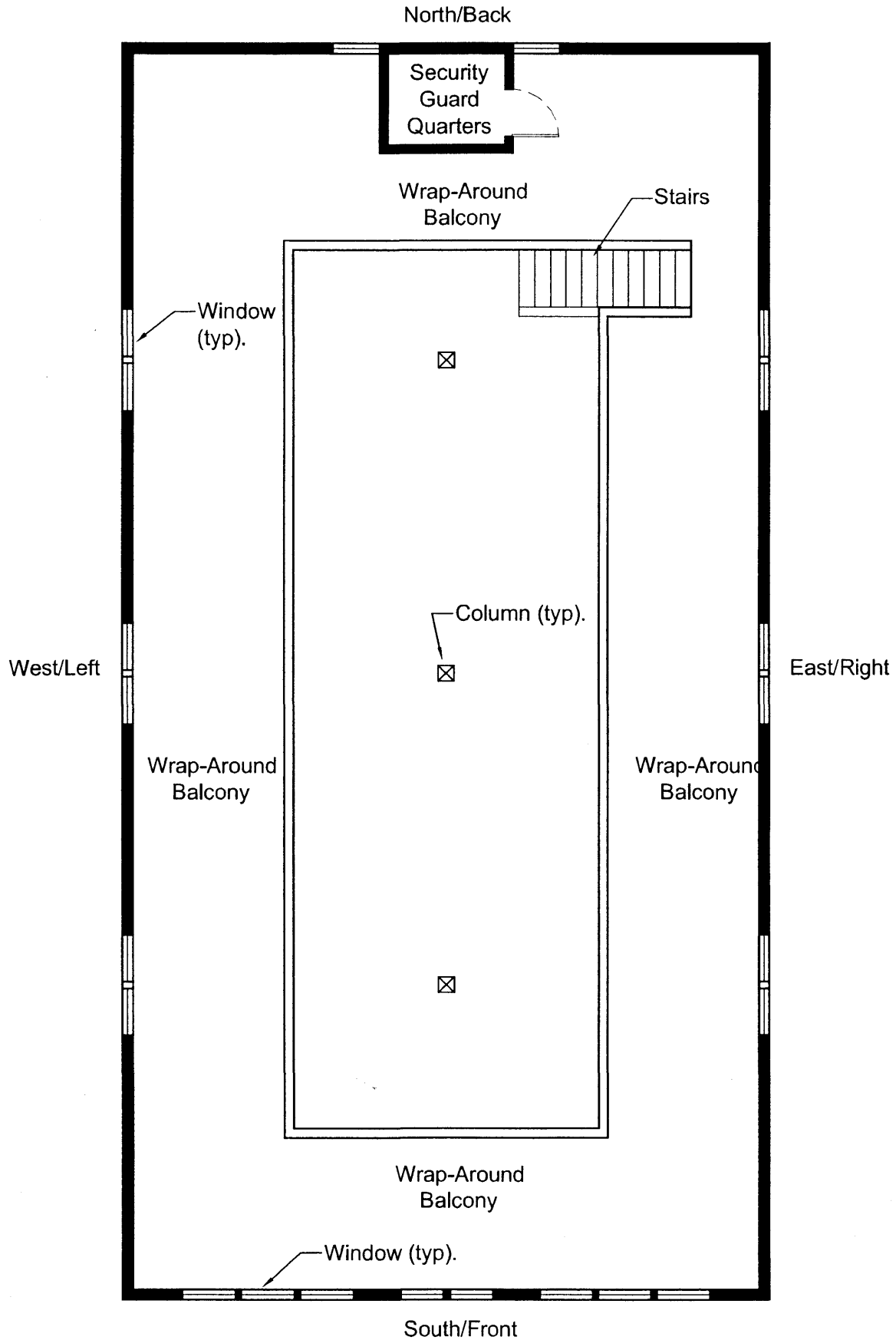
Simmons & Wright Company 1st Floor Floorplan

(please note this drawing is not to scale)



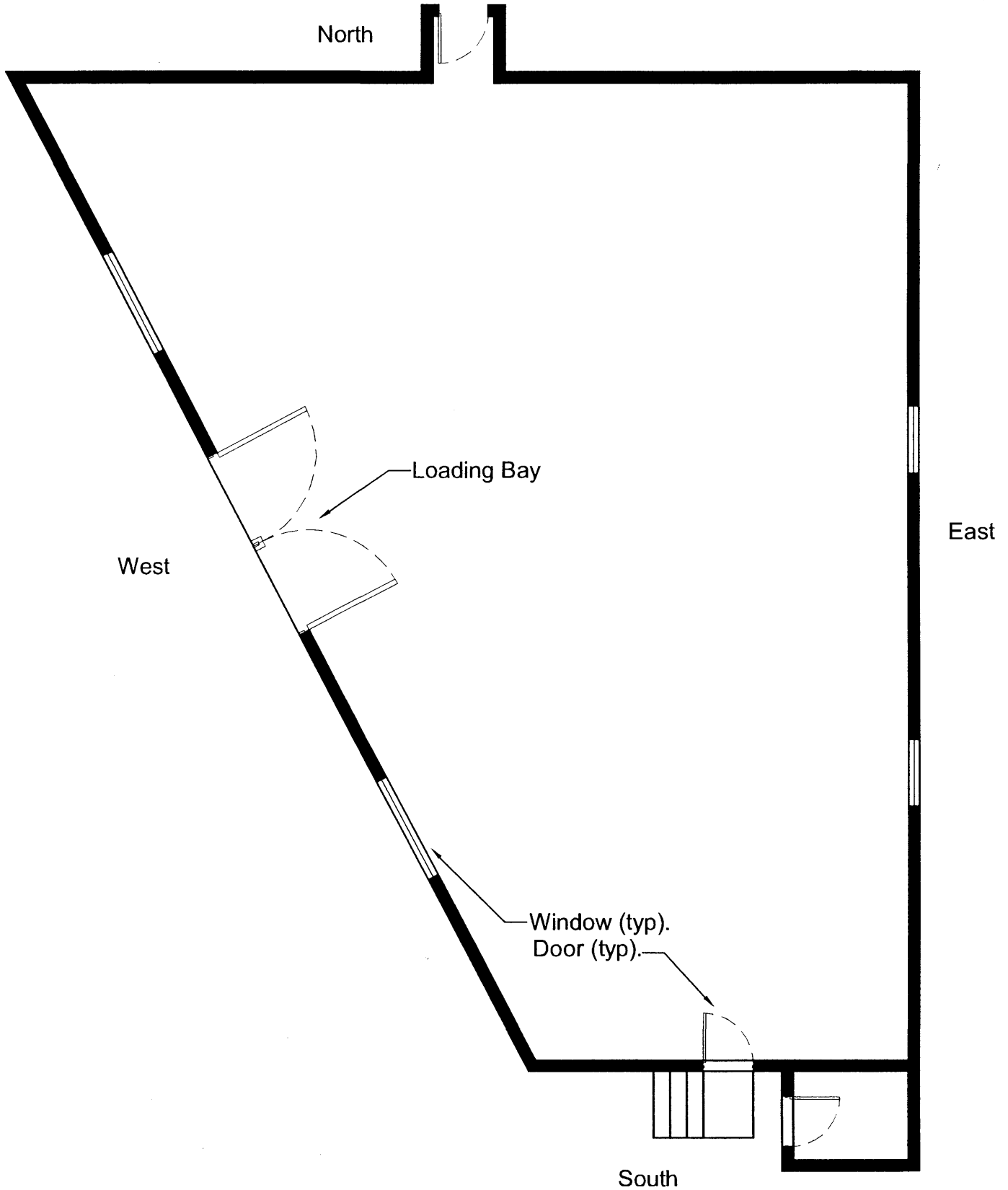
Simmons & Wright Company 2nd Floor Floorplan

(please note this drawing is not to scale)



Simmons & Wright Company Warehouse Floorplan

(please note this drawing is not to scale)



Blacksmith
Shop

Cotton Gin

Storage
Warehouse

Simmons &
Wright



To Lauderdale



North

Kewanee Rd



To Meridian &
I-20/59

Hwy 11/80

To Alabama



Railroad

Kewanee Rd