
7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input 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

Situated at the end of a quarter-mile long farm lane, Woodside faces due west. Beyond the house some 500 feet to the east runs Limestone Creek, bordered by the fringe of woodland which gives the residence its name. Fields spread away to the east, north, and south, while the parent residence -- Belle Mina -- is visible on a low knoll to the southwest. The village of the same name borders Woodside's fields to the north.

The house measures 52 feet across a three-bay front, with an overall depth of 62 feet excluding porches at the front and along the south side. The formal portico sheltering the main entry is composed of a slightly advanced central pavilion with a bay to either side. Pilasters, engaged at the lower part of the shaft of each column, carry the upper gallery. There is a full entablature, while a rondel pierces the tympanum of the pediment. These features, as well as the turned balustrade of the upper gallery, represent the early 20th-century renovation. Behind the portico, a longitudinal gable buttressed by brick exterior end chimneys covers the original two-story section of the house. Changes and additions have produced a highly irregular roofline to the rear of this main gable.

A pair of large rooms lies to either side of the 14-foot wide hallway which bisects both floors of the house. To the left of the lower hall is a double drawing room with sliding doors between; to the right, a parlor and dining room. Beyond, in the single-story extension, is the present kitchen and a large bedroom, with a den -- formerly a recessed screened porch -- between.

The stairway at the end of the main hall rises from the right to a transverse landing, thence in reverse flight to the second floor, around a rectangular well. Both the form of the stair, as well as the balustrade, are characteristic of the area. The latter has a three-quarter round bannister, ramped at the landing, and terminates at the foot of the stair in a short, abrupt upsweep, capping a slender turned newel. Greek Revival-style architraves -- eared, slightly battered, and accented by a plain raised backband -- frame two vertical panels, faceted on one side and plain on the other. Mantelpieces, too, repeat the provincial Grecian motif. That in the parlor breaks into crossettes beneath the mantel-shelf; those in the drawing rooms were pilastered, although a cast-iron mantelpiece has replaced that in the front drawing room.

Midway of the downstairs hall floor, a noticeable break indicates the location of the original back wall, prior to the early 20th-century enlargement of the house. Changes since that time have been minor.

There are seven dependencies, two of which are original: the "cook's quarters" and, opposite it to the north, an abandoned structure used in the early 1900's as a smokehouse. These stand opposite each other, about 45 feet from the main house. Both are small, rectangular, weatherboarded and gabled buildings. The cook's quarters has a narrow front porch, and a massive chimney abutting the east side. Attached to the northwest corner of the second building is a small brick cubicle which, before the house was electrified, contained a gas plant that provided carbide lighting. In the 19th century, the cook's quarters and adjacent building were part of a four-structure

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Woodside

Item number 7

Page 2

service complex immediately back of the "big house." The two additional buildings survived past the turn of the century, when they were razed to make way for the enlargement of the main residence. One of them was presumably the kitchen.

A brick cistern, formerly protected by a latticed superstructure, is located between the northwest corner of the house and the old smokehouse.

Standing in a pasture approximately 100 yards northeast of the dwelling complex is a ruined barn. Beneath metal siding, its walls are of hewn-log and frame construction -- raising the possibility that it may be contemporary with the main house. A small tenant dwelling a hundred yards to the southeast of the house completes the ensemble of 19th and early 20th century ancillary structures. Still occupied, the circa 1900 tenant house is a two-room gabled building with a leanto kitchen and porch.

Other dependencies postdate 1945. These include two large metal barns, north and slightly east of the smokehouse; and a henhouse, immediately south of the cook's quarters.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 ca. 1861, ca. 1904 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Woodside is a key element in the cluster of historic buildings centering about the villages of Mooresville and Belle Mina. Although threatened by uncontrolled development along the Decatur-to-Huntsville transportation corridor, this ensemble still affords a cohesive picture of pre-industrial plantation and village life in the Tennessee Valley of Alabama. Woodside is one of the two large plantation houses that form part of this group, the other being Belle Mina -- the Governor Thomas Bibb mansion. The latter is linked historically to Woodside, from which it is still visible across the fields, in an undisturbed setting.

Although Woodside's original appearance has been substantially modified, the early 20th century renovation itself represents an epoch which has passed into history; the nostalgic romanticization of Southern plantation life, with its architectural beau ideal of the white-columned mansion. It was this image that determined Woodside's present appearance. First built for one of Thomas Bibb's granddaughters on a portion of the Bibb plantation, Woodside is also a tangible reminder of the link which an agrarian existence forged between various generations of the planter families of the Old South.

* * * * *

In 1818, Thomas Bibb acquired the 2500-acre tract on which, in 1826, he built a baronial residence. Thirteen years later, the house and plantation descended to his son, Porter Bibb. It was he who erected Woodside for his daughter, Mary Chambers Bibb, upon her marriage to William Fleming Eggleston in 1861. The new house stood at the northeast corner of the plantation, half a mile from the patriarchal seat.

As finished, on the eve of the Civil War, Woodside followed a provincial late Greek Revival format commonly seen in this area of Alabama, as well as in neighboring Middle Tennessee. A two-story, three-bay facade was dominated by a tall pedimented portico, composed of two pairs of closely spaced square pillars flanking a central doorway. Above the door was a small balcony, and inside there was the conventional center-hall plan. Parallel single-story wings extended to the rear of a one-room deep main block, with an open court between. Beyond lay the dependencies: a kitchen, smokehouse, work-room, house servant's quarters, and other essential structures.

The Eggleston family owned Woodside until 1904 when, having outlived his wife by three decades, William Fleming Eggleston, together with his children, sold Woodside to John R. and Nettie Lou (Estes) Witt. The new owner, born in Conway, Arkansas, had come to Alabama as a young man, about 1880. He settled in Limestone County and eventually became one of the area's largest landholders. It was for the Witts that Woodside was renovated under the supervision of a Huntsville architect.

The house was doubled in size by raising the rear wings to two full stories and enclosing the space between as an elongation of the upper and lower hallways. The graceful original

9. Major Bibliographical References

Axford, Faye A., and Chris Edwards. The Lure and Lore of Limestone County.
Tuscaloosa: Portals Press, 1978.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 18.384

Quadrangle name Greenbrier

Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A

16	511480	3834380
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

16	511720	3834380
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

16	511700	3834040
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

16	511480	3834040
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

Zone	Easting	Northing

F

Zone	Easting	Northing

G

Zone	Easting	Northing

H

Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point midway of the line between Secs. 31 & 32, T.4S, R.3W, thence due N 300' to a pt., thence due E 1400' to the True Point of Beginning: thence due E 800' to a pt.: thence N 1000' to a pt.; thence due W 800' to a pt.; thence due S 1000' to the True Pt. of Beginning. Includes hse. & related dependencies.

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

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert S. Gamble, Architectural Historian
 (for) organization Alabama Historical Commission date May 1981
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205-832-6621
 city or town Montgomery state AL 36130

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 [Signature]

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 1-6-82

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 [Signature] Entered in the National Register date 2/19/82
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: [Signature] date
 Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places
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Continuation sheet Woodside

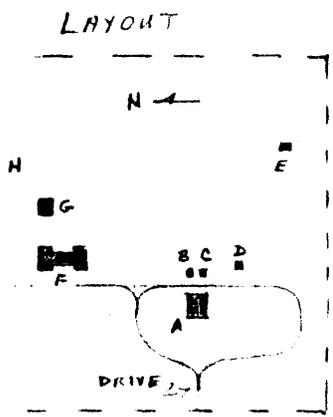
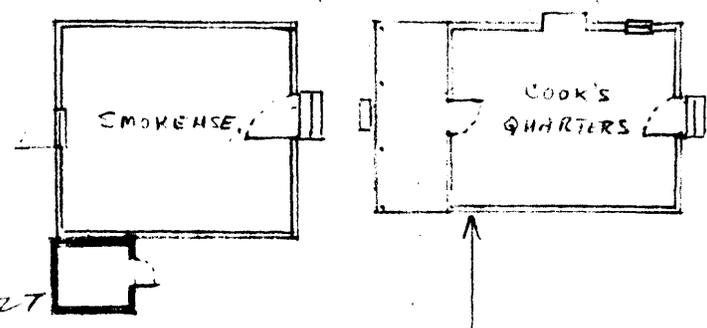
Item number 8

Page 2

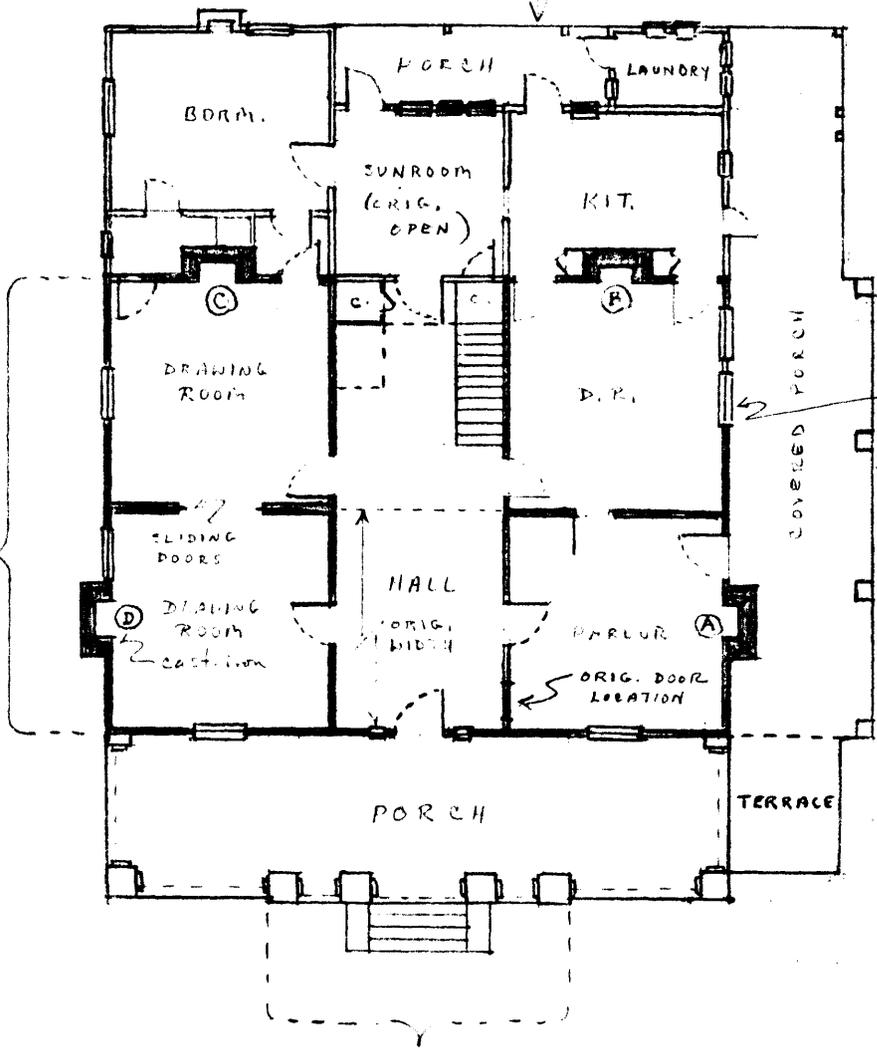
stair was moved intact to the back of the lengthened hall. At the same time, a one-story extension was built across the rear of the house to accommodate a kitchen, a plantation office, and a screened porch between. In front, the original portico was elongated and enlarged by the addition of a single bay to either side. A full-width upper balcony was then enclosed by a turned balustrade. An open terrace linked the enlarged porch to a wide veranda built along the south side of the house. Much of the clapboarding was replaced at that time, while a beveled glass door framed by sidelights and a semielliptical transom. In spite of such sweeping changes, the fundamental neo-classical character of the house was respected. New door and window surrounds carefully copied the old eared architraves, which were for the most part retained.

After Witt's death in 1940, his daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert G. White, moved from the nearby "Cave Place" to make their home at Woodside. The Whites made a modern kitchen out of the plantation office and added a small laundry room. The adjacent screened porch was also enclosed as a den. These mark the only significant changes in the house since the early 20th century renovation.

The Whites' daughter, Mrs. Raymond Pepper, inherited Woodside in the early 1970's. She and her husband now make their home there. The surrounding land is still farmed, and forms a contiguous acreage with the parent estate, Belle Mina, which also remains a working plantation.



- = HOUSE (c. 1860)
- = SMOKEHOUSE (c. 1860)
- = COOK'S QUARTERS (c. 1860)
- = HEN HOUSE (c. 1945)
- = TENANT HOUSE (c. 1944)
- = BARN (c. 1945)
- = " (c. 1945)
- = " (19TH C.)

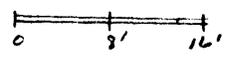


ORIGINAL PORTION OF HOUSE

WINDOW ADDED c. 1904

ORIGINAL WIDTH OF PORCH

- (A) EARED MANTELPiece
- (B) PLAIN MANTEL WITH SHELF
- (C) PILASTERED MANTEL
- (D) CAST IRON MANTEL (ADDED)



MEASURED BY R GAMBLE
12 - 90