

PH0034223

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Alabama
COUNTY:	Perry
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 21 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
"Westwood"

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
"Westwood"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: *N of Uniontown*  
Alabama Highway 61

CITY OR TOWN:  
Uniontown *via* Congressional District: 7th

STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama	01	Perry	105

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Adele Davidson Ellis Glass

STREET AND NUMBER:  
"Westwood"

CITY OR TOWN:  
Uniontown

STATE:	CODE
Alabama	01

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Perry County Courthouse, Probate Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Marion

STATE	CODE
Alabama	01

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

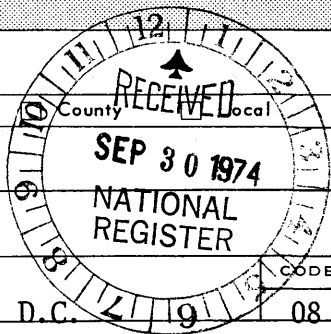
DATE OF SURVEY: 1935  Federal  State

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:	CODE
D.C.	08



STATE:

COUNTY:

ENTRY NUMBER 1974

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

"Westwood" is an ante-bellum residence located on a hill just outside the northern corporate limits of Uniontown, Alabama. The house faces south and the grounds fall away from the site in every direction, giving a good view of the surrounding countryside. The house is two stories, wooden and always painted white. It pursues the light and airy architecture of the Italian school, and the varying projections and recesses of the structure are revealed in the contrast of light and shadow across the facade.

Although "Westwood" is symmetrical in basic design, the exterior is distinguished by a porch leading to the entrance hall and a bay window in the parlor. On the first floor, four reception rooms form the center of the house: the hall and parlor in the front and the library and dining room in the rear. On either side of that square and set back from the main facade is a bedroom wing each with its own porch and two walk-in closets. Behind the eastern wing is a butler's pantry which previously was connected to the "cook-house" located in a separate building. The curving staircase in the entrance hall leads to the second floor. There is also a unique spiral staircase in the center of the house to give access from the butler's pantry to the upstairs without passing through the reception rooms. On the second floor there is a hall and five bedrooms, following the same floor plan as the first floor. The east and west wings also have walk-in closets and these are topped by four square turrets on the four corners of the roof.

The rooms measure about 20' x 20' on the average. The ceilings of the first floor are fourteen feet high and those of the second floor twelve feet. Ten of the rooms are served by fireplaces. All rooms are finished with plaster, and the ceilings of the reception rooms were ornately decorated with plaster mouldings, most of which still exist. The windows are floor-to-ceiling, and the ones upstairs have decorative wrought iron grills which match the wrought iron pillars on the porches of the first floor bedrooms. The shutters are hand-made, with movable blinds, and painted green.

"Westwood" is furnished with many of the antique pieces which were originally used there, several of which have mammoth proportions. Of particular interest are the sideboards in the dining room and the beds and marble-topped dressers.

Major alterations to the house include the addition of the kitchen and laundry area, pantry and back porch to the original butler's pantry; the addition of the screened sleeping porch to the east wing; and the conversion of three closets to bathrooms. All of these were added in the late 1800's.

Clustered near the house are a number of secondary buildings. Still in existence are the smokehouse, the coalhouse, the dairy and the cottonhouse. There is also an underground coldstorage cellar which was used to preserve perishables.

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**SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture  | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Art          | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                             |  | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |  |  | _____  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The house, which has always been called "Westwood", was erected by James Lewis Price between 1836 and 1840. It is situated on a hill which is along the highest point of the watershed that drains into the Alabama River on the east and the Tombigbee River on the West. "Westwood" is a unique example of ante-bellum architecture, its classic simplicity revealing the influence of the Italian school. The graceful proportions of the house harmonize with the artistically landscaped grounds.

"Westwood" was built for entertaining in the elegant plantation manner. At its zenith it was noted for the magnificence of its receptions. It has been referred to as "the mecca of Canebrake society", the Canebrake being the favored region of the Black Belt, which dominated Alabama politically, socially and industrially during the first forty years of the life of the state (1819-1859).

Agriculturally, the "Westwood" plantation was renowned for the quality of its crops and livestock. The main crop was cotton and the plantation supported many tenants in connection with its raising. Horses and hogs were also an important asset. A cotton gin and warehouse were operated by the family in conjunction with the farm. At one time, the plantation comprised over 4700 acres around Uniontown.

The original owner of "Westwood", James Lewis Price, was from Virginia, having been reared in Richmond by his kinsfolk of the Lewis family associated with the family of General Washington. He married Louisa Adele Shearer, daughter of General Schuyler Shearer of Albany, New York, descendant of the Schuyler and Van Rensselaer families of that state. James Lewis Price graduated from the University of Virginia. He was president of the Alabama and Mississippi Rivers Railroad Company.

Maria Overton Price, one of their three children, married Alexander Caldwell Davidson in 1860, and he purchased "Westwood" from his father-in-law as a wedding gift for his bride. Alexander Caldwell Davidson was a native of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and a descendant of the Davidson and Caldwell families, founders of Davidson College and signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. Alexander Caldwell Davidson's parents were Martha Caldwell and John Howard Davidson, and they came to Alabama in 1835. Alexander Caldwell Davidson graduated from the University of Alabama in 1848, and studied law. He participated in the first battle at Manassas and had a distinguished career as the commander of a regiment in the

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

HB 15  
451640  
2291300

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Alabama Portraits Prior to 1870. Compiled for the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama. Gill Printing and Stationery Co., Inc.: Mobile, 1969.  
 Barnett, Frank Willis. "Pitts Folly One of Ante-bellum Homes Around Uniontown Which Writer Describes", The Birmingham News - Age-Herald, Jan. 24, 1932.  
 Carmer, Carl Lamson. Stars Fell on Alabama. Farrar & Rinehart, Inc: New York, 1934.  
 DuBose, John Witherspoon. "Chronicles of the Canebrake", The Alabama Historical Quarterly, Vol.9, No. 4. State Department of Archives & History.

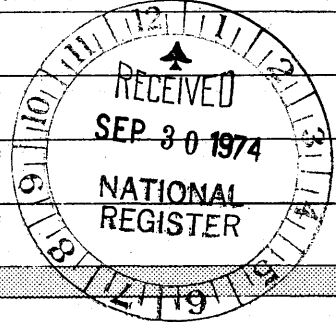
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	0 ' "	0 ' "		32 ° 27 ' 34 "	87 ° 30 ' 52 "	
NE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SE	0 ' "	0 ' "				
SW	0 ' "	0 ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **9 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director**  
 ORGANIZATION: **Alabama Historical Commission** DATE: **Sept. 20, 1974**  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
**725 Monroe Street**  
 CITY OR TOWN: **Montgomery** STATE: **Alabama** CODE: **01**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**      **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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 National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:  
 National  State  Local   
 Name *Neil B. Howard Jr.*  
 Title *SHPO Ala.*  
 Date *September 23, 1974*

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.  
*A. B. Montrose*  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
 Date *11/21/74*  
 ATTEST:  
*W. M. ...*  
 Keeper of The National Register  
 Date *11-13-74*

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8. Significance (continued)

Confederate Army, with the rank of Colonel. After the Civil War, he superintended much of the railroad building in western Alabama. He became heir of his father's plantations and was one of the large cotton planters of the Canebrake. He entered each branch of the State Legislature: House of Representatives, 1880-81; Senate, 1882-85. From 1885 to 1889, he served as a member of the United States House of Representatives.

Alexander Caldwell and Maria Price Davidson had four sons and one daughter: James Price Davidson, John Howard Davidson, Alexander Caldwell Davidson, Louis Overton Davidson and Adele Caldwell Davidson. The four sons, all graduated of the University of Alabama, were prominent in the civic and cultural development of the area.

The daughter, who married Perkins Ellis of the Ellis family of Virginia, died at the age of 27 after the birth of her only child, Adele Davidson Ellis.

"Westwood" was willed by Maria Price Davidson to her bachelor son Louis, who in turn bequeathed it to his niece, Adele Davidson Ellis. She married Julius Franklin Glass and she and her children and grandchildren reside there now. The house, then, has been in possession of the Price family and its descendants for over one hundred years.

The ancestral portraits which hang in the entrance hall are attributed to Nicola Marschall, who is said to have resided at "Westwood" while he painted them. They represent Alexander Caldwell Davidson, Maria Price Davidson, Adele Caldwell Davidson Ellis and Colonel Leigh Richmond Terrell.



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STATE	Alabama
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9. Major Bibliographical References

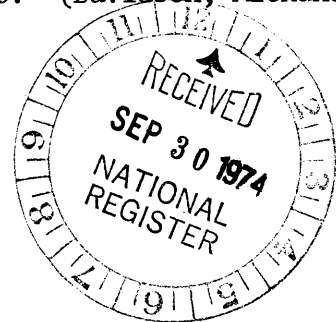
Winter Issue, 1947.

Kidd, Reuben Vaughan. Soldier of the Confederacy. Violet Bank, Petersburg, Virginia, 1947.

"Westwood Farm," The Canebrake Herald (Uniontown, Alabama), Vol. XXII, No. 25, January 12, 1912.

Who Was Who in America. Revised edition. Historical Volume 1607-1896. Marquis, 1936, 1967. (Davidson, Alexander Caldwell)

Who's Who in America. Historical Volume 1607-1896. (Davidson, Alexander Caldwell).





ALABAMA HIGHWAY 61 NORTH TO GREENSBORO

ALABAMA HIGHWAY 183 NORTH TO MARION

UNIONTOWN-NEWBERN RAILROAD SPUR

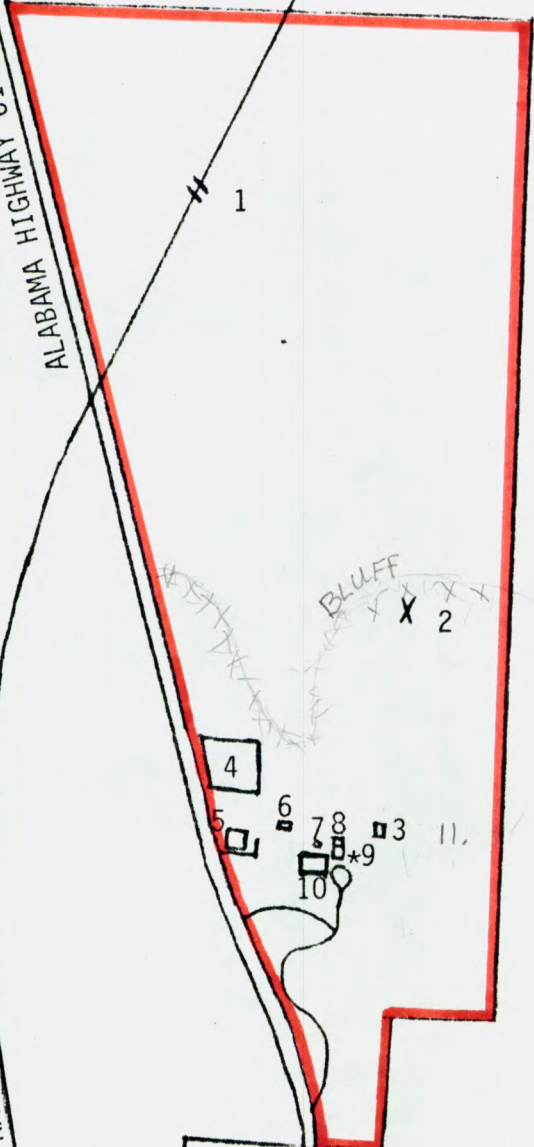
OLD UNIONTOWN-GREENSBORO ROAD  
(RABBITTARD ROAD)

City Limits

CITY OF UNIONTOWN

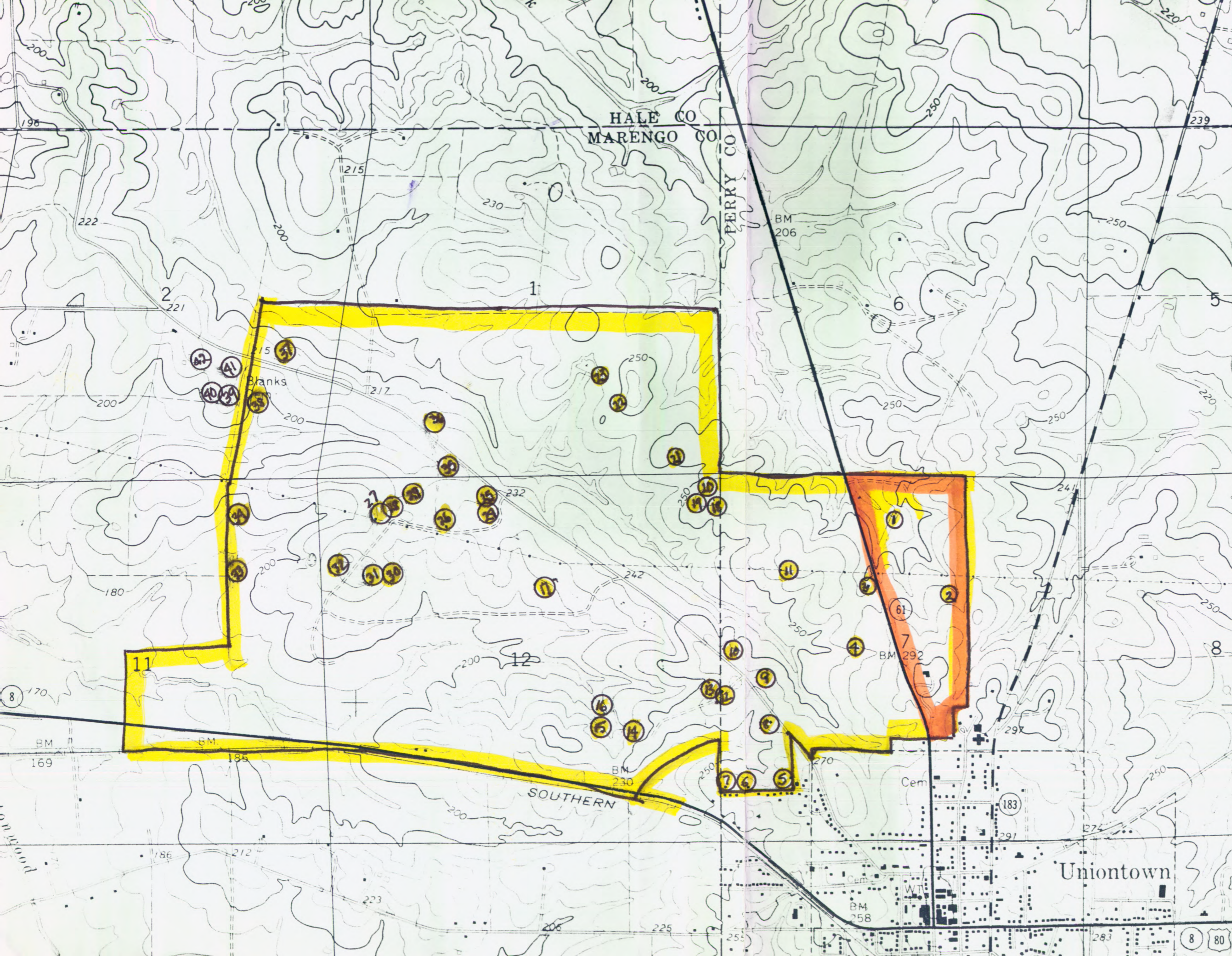
WEST TO DEMOPOLIS

U.S. HIGHWAY 80 EAST TO SELMA



KEY:

- \*1 Handmade brick railroad trestle
- \*2 Site of broken pieces of china
- \*3 Site of old barn
- \*4 Garden plot
- \*5 Site of large barn
- 6 Cottonhouse
- 7 Dairy
- 8 Smokehouse & carriage/coalhouse
- 9 Underground cold storage cellar
- 10 "WESTWOOD"
- \*11, Miscellaneous brick foundation contemporary with house
- \* Sites not included in current nomination



14 MI. TO  
3594  
T. 18 N.  
T. 17 N.  
900 000  
FEET  
3592  
8  
27'30"  
3591  
BROWNS 8 MI.  
SELMA 28 MI.  
3590

Ellen Mertins  
261-3184  
Alabama Historical Com.