

21. EDWIN REESE HOUSE
244 Wilson Avenue

Mrs. Julian Phillips
244 Wilson Avenue
Eutaw, Alabama 35462

Lot #102 Tax Map: 35-18-08-33-3-401-23 1.08 acres (217' Wilson x 228')

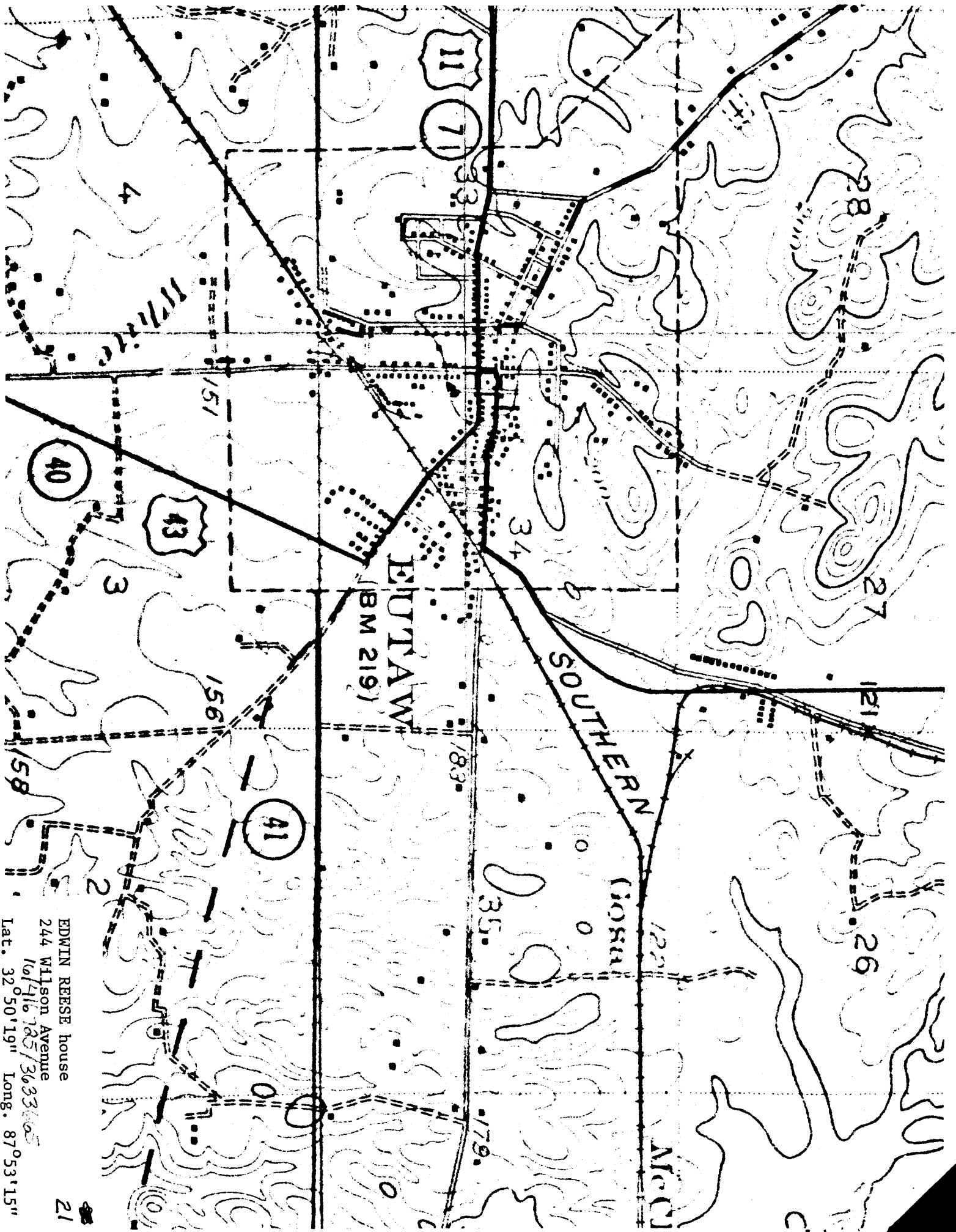
Latitude: 32° 30' 19" Longitude: 87° 53' 15"

late 1850's Architect/builder: unknown

SIGNIFICANCE: One of the group or four mansion style houses that survive in Eutaw, this is an excellent example of the home of an upper class businessman who prospered in Eutaw during its plush antebellum times. Stylistically, it is derived from the same house type as the Asa White House with its cut-under porch treated with a full height Ionic columns instead of the double gallery of the White House. Constructed by a prosperous carriage manufacturer, it retains more of its original elements than other similar houses in the city.

DESCRIPTION: This residence is about a foot larger in breadth and depth than the already listed and earlier Coleman-Banks House. Outside it differs in having a balcony only over the doorway and with a cutout design instead of banisters, a peaked enframement with "Greek Ears" about the lower windows, and a small portico or porch on the south flank. The last has octagonal piers like those to the rear gallery. An unexpected but logical detail is the stairway on the back side of the porch set at an angle in order to clear the stepped base of the southeast chimney. The notable difference inside is the straight flight of steps to the side of the main hall. There is an enclosed service stairs rising from near the door to the side porch to the upstairs hallway.

Remodeling: It is within the area of the southeast room, the function of which presents interesting speculation, as it had two doors to the front room, one to each of the two porches, but none to the hall. The arrangement suggests that of the corresponding room in the Asa White house (#3), and like it, this may have been meant for a serving room to the dining room in front. It now is a kitchen, and a doorway has been cut to the hall. A set of steps at the back of the gallery replaces those at the ends, and a shed has been built at the north extremity. The siding on the front portico has been changed; but on the whole the Reese house has retained more of its proper elements than either of its sister houses. Its main change has to do with setting, the loss of fences that enframed the premises in the 19th century.



EDWIN REESE house
 244 Wilson Avenue
 16/416 185/3633665
 Lat. 32°50'19" Long. 87°53'15"