

3. ASA WHITE HOUSE
314 Mesopotamia Street

Mrs. Warren G. Colson
419 Eatman Avenue
Eutaw, Alabama 35462

Tax Map: 35-18-08-33-1-3-15

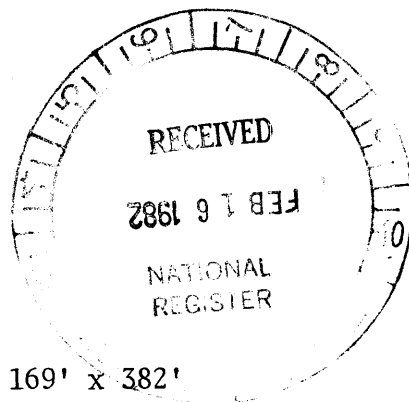
1.38 acres, 169' x 382'

Latitude: 32° 50' 30"

Longitude: 87° 53' 2"

Date of Construction: c. 1838
Minor alterations only

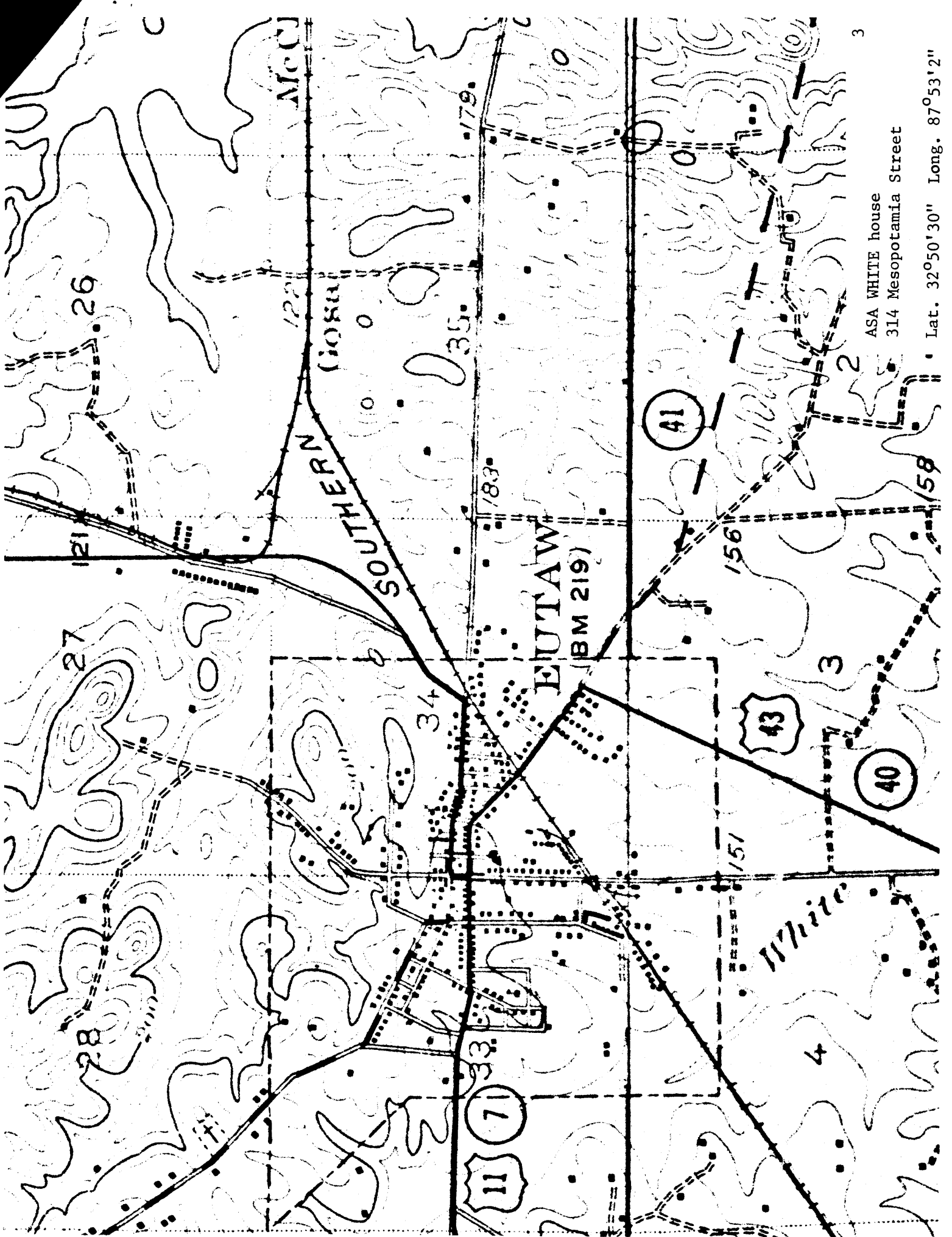
Architect/contractor: unknown



SIGNIFICANCE: This is a well-developed version of one of the early house-types brought from South Atlantic area to Eutaw by early settlers. The type is characterized by a gable roof covering the open gallery as well as the house proper, and this structure is the only one in Eutaw with an original 2-tiered gallery employed. The placing of the chimneys is not in strict balance with the gable. Stepping out of the brickwork at the base of the chimneys also occurs in earlier houses in Georgia, but the feature became more of a hallmark in the Eutaw area.

DESCRIPTION: The Asa White house is a stylistic mixture of Federal and Greek Revival details. Federal are the complex chimneys, chairrailing - which exists in the downstairs hall and throughout the entire second story - and the door and window enframements, all of which were to survive in Eutaw, as archaisms, into the 1850s. Wood trim is heavier than in the Grassdale group. Shutters are of the early type, without jalousies. Classic or Greek Revival are the staircase newel post supporting the vertical volute at the base of the handrail, recessed windows with paneled apron, 10-inch high baseboards (without chairrailing throughout most of the first story), and pilastered mantels. Two types of doors are employed, without apparent reason for the alternative choice. One (as between hall and parlor) has six equisized panels, like those in the Duncan Dew house, and the other, a few inches taller, has two almost square panels below a pair of four times their height. The latter are provided with transoms where they open on the gallery. With six doorways to the front porches, the Asa White house gives the impression of a tavern; and perhaps the owner intended that it would be a center where people would be coming and going continuously.

The dramatic structure inside is the staircase that winds around a 5-by-6 foot well from first to third story. The newel post and banisters have elongated round baluster shapes. The top floor has a separate room at the east end, but otherwise it is a large space evidently meant for entertaining, with open railing around three sides of the stairway, linked with the vertical volume of the stairhall. The parlor and dining room on the first floor are each approximately 20 feet square. The parlor, on the west side, opens only to the hall and front gallery, whereas the dining room also connects with the smaller room behind. The little back room has a fireplace, and access to the former rear gallery but none to the adjoining hall. It would seem to have been used as a serving room. The fourth room downstairs must have been a bedroom or office; or perhaps the rear hall, with closet under the stairs, served the latter purpose. It seems strange that there were no back stairs, as the three smaller rooms along the north side of the house on the second floor could be reached only by going through the large front chambers over parlor and dining room, but they may have had access to a former upper gallery. There were, of course, a detached kitchen and other dependencies behind the house.



ASA WHITE house
314 Mesopotamia Street

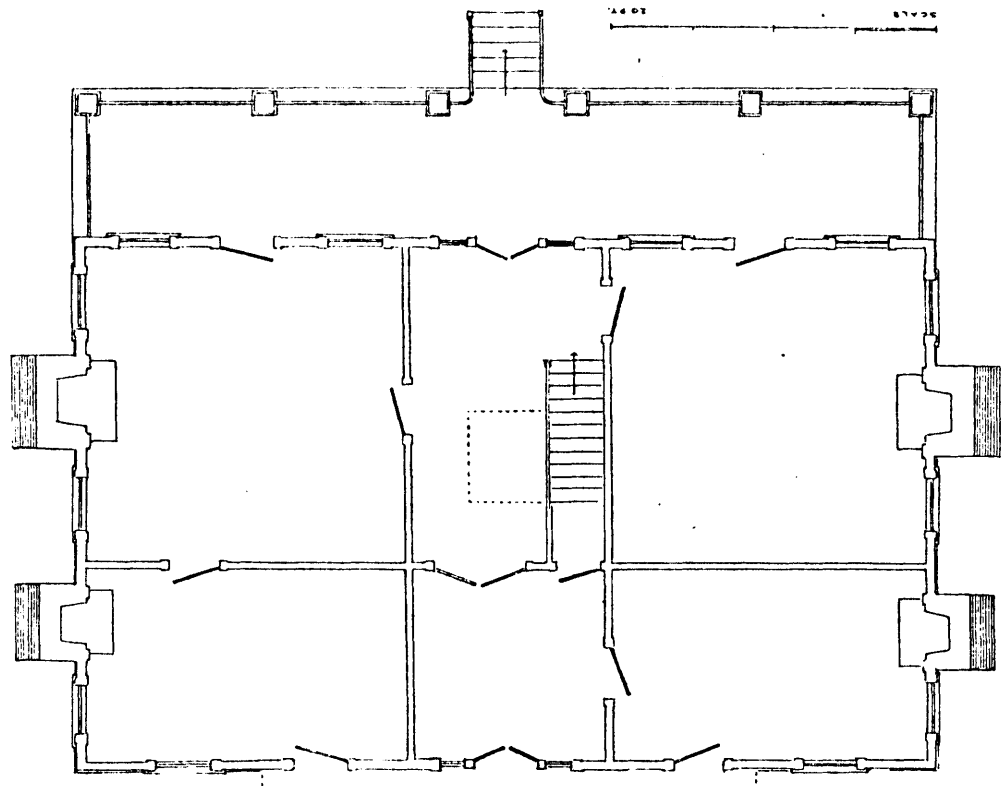
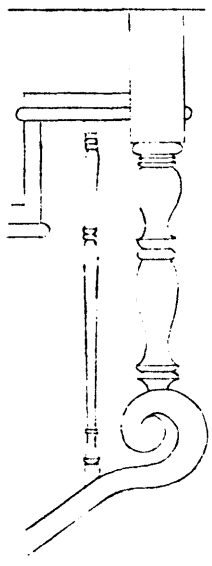
Lat. 32°50'30" Long. 87°53'2"

1-14-82

0-7-78

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

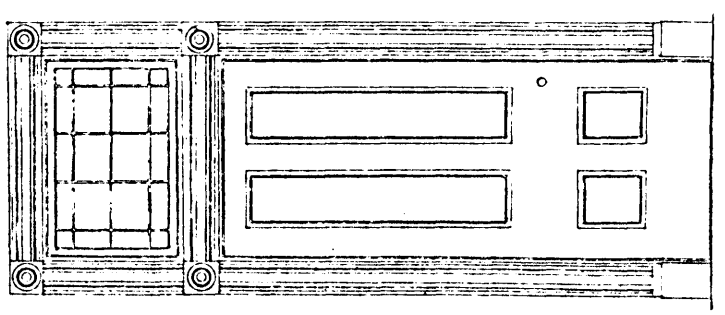
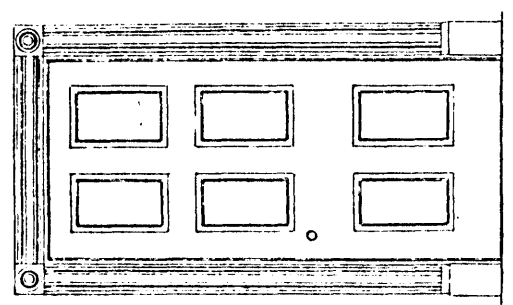
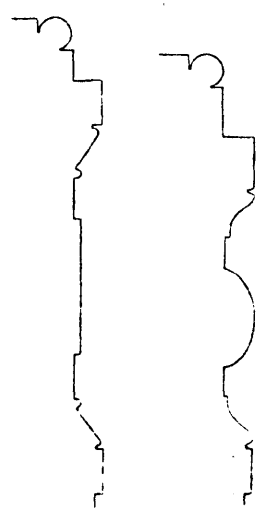


ADDRESS: WASHINGTON - 1000 CAPITOL

RECEIVED
 FEB 18 1982
 NATIONAL REGISTER

SCALE

1/8" = 1'-0"



SCALE

1/8" = 1'-0"