

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Lowry House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 1205 Kildare Avenue not for publication N/A
city or town Huntsville vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Madison code 089 zip code 35801

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] 8/29/01
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
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
Entered in the National Register 10/29/01

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)	Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-state	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> 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
<u> N/A </u>	<u> N/A </u>

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant/not in use Sub: _____

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

 Mid-19th Century

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

roof asphalt

walls wood

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- 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.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

- 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Period of Significance circa 1860-1870 circa 1890-1900 circa 1905

Significant Dates N/A _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder N/A _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS) N/A

- 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: N/A

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other state agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository

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10. Geographical Data
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Acreage of Property less than one

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>537700</u>	<u>3844760</u>	<u>3</u>	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	<u>4</u>	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
=====

name/title Robert Gamble, State Architectural Historian; Trina Binkley, National Register Coordinator
organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 1, 2000
street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone 334-242-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130-0900

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Additional Documentation
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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)

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Property Owner
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Louie Tippet
street & number P O Drawer 33 telephone 256-533-7163
city or town Huntsville state Alabama zip code 35804

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Lowry House
Madison County, Alabama

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Section VII: Description

Although now surrounded by a typical inner city landscape dominated by connector roads and mixed commercial and deteriorating working-class residential character, the Lowry House was, in the 19th century, the centerpiece of a large farm, one of several "genteel" farms or estates along Meridian Pike north of Huntsville. Neighboring farms (or rural "villas") included Abingdon Place to the south and Kildare to the north. The imposing Italianate brick mansion at Abingdon Place was razed in 1970; however, the large stone Victorian-era residence at Kildare still stands almost within sight of the Lowry House. As suggested by the orientation of its facade, the Lowry House originally faced Meridian Pike, to which it was linked by a long private lane, but with new subdivision developments in the 1960s, it is now situated on a grided street system and oriented to Kildare Avenue.

With an original T-shaped floor plan composed of a central hall with a single room on one side and a pair of rooms on the other, the Lowry House is two stories with an L-shaped facade and integrated porch with screened sleeping porch above. The multi-gabled asphalt shingle roof with wide, shallow eaves caps the wood frame dwelling; a continuous brick foundation serves as its base. Two interior and one exterior brick chimneys are still extant.

As built by John Tate Lowry, the house consisted of the present two-story, gabled nucleus. A single-story wooden porch or piazza similar to one at the Banister House, the old rectory for the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, screened two-thirds of the L-shaped facade. A parallel porch at the back probably connected with a semi-detached dining wing. Two subsequent remodelings, one nearing the end of the 19th century and the other around 1905, produced the present appearance of the house.

In the first remodeling (circa 1890-1900), original 6-over-6 sashes were largely replaced by 2 over 2 windows; however, some of the earlier sash still survives on the north side of the house. At or about the same time the present one-story gabled dining and kitchen wing, as well as smaller rooms to accommodate baths and pantries, were added across the rear. The wing itself is flanked on the north by a deep inset porch, partially latticed, and on the south by a shed porch that dies into the southwest rear corner of the original structure.

During the second renovation (circa 1905), a brick-piered "bungalow" veranda, enclosed by an openwork brick coping and surmounted by a screened sleeping porch, replaced the former front gallery. At the same time the original main door gave way to the present glazed entry with oblong sidelights. To the left of the main door, the parlor windows were also changed out for a one-over-one double window arrangement. A sunroom, adjoining the parlor, was also added to the south side of the house.

The same sequence of changes can be traced inside the house. In the front hall – later extended toward the rear – the handsome original stair survives, with its octagonal newel, turned balusters, and foliated relief trim beneath each tread. The upper run, however, was obviously changed -- with the resulting insertion of an Eastlake-style intermediate newel -- during the first renovation. Placed high on the rear wall in order to light the stairwell, a large rectangular window with latticed muntins probably dates from the same period. As part of the circa 1905 renovation, a simple Craftsman-style rear service stair was inserted into the back hallway, rising to the second floor at the top of the front stairway.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7/8 Page 2

Lowry House
Madison County, Alabama

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Woodwork throughout the house is essentially a mixture of three periods. Only one original (circa 1860-70) door survives: the heavily-molded door leading from the kitchen into the rear bathroom. Re-hung at its present location during the first remodeling of the house, its former location is unknown. Most other doors -- likewise four-paneled -- are late Victorian-era in character, as are their facings and surmounting transoms. During the second renovation, horizontally paneled doors were installed in the present dining room. Similarly paneled pocket doors were also installed in the wide opening created at that time between the living and large dining room. Four original retardaire Greek Revival mantelpieces (possibly derived from the later builders' handbooks of Minard Lafever) survive: one in the northwest rear room and three in each of the upstairs bedrooms. The downstairs northeast room, possibly a library or master bedroom at one time, has a heavy Eastlake-type mantelpiece with bas-relief iron grate cover. Mantelpieces in the parlor and dining room directly behind have been removed. Overall characteristics of key elements of the interior include wood floors, plaster walls, plaster ceilings, wood baseboards and window and door surrounds, wood doors with transoms, and some historic light fixtures (dating from the second renovation period).

Archaeological Component: Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the house and its surrounding area. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens or other outbuildings.

Section VIII: Statement of Significance

The Lowry House is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for architecture as an early and important example of a gable front, T-plan house. Although its precise date of construction is unknown, architecture elements suggest a date from the 1860-1870 period with significant renovations around 1890-1900 and circa 1905. It also expresses the trend in which home owners and builders began turning away from neoclassicism toward a more eclectic and irregular domestic architectural form. In the late 1840s and early 1850s, A. J. Downing's vigorous promotion of the picturesque country "villa" as an ideal American house type began to be reflected in the architecture of suburban and even rural Alabama -- especially around larger and more sophisticated communities such as Huntsville. Along with Kildare (listed on the National Register 7-15-82), the Lowry House stands as one of the earliest surviving expressions of this ideal in the Huntsville area. Its form, a T-plan composed of a central hall with a single room on one side and a pair of rooms on the other and characterized on the exterior by a two-story L-shaped facade, finds its closest counterpart in the Banister house (circa 1858) at 702 Adams Avenue and finds parallels in at least two other local dwellings of the 1850s: the Smith-Dilworth house (circa 1855), 706 Adams Street; and the Mayhew house (circa 1850) at 512 Eustis Street. All three houses are located in Huntsville's oldest and most prestigious neighborhood, the Twickenham Historic District.

Historic Summary

John Lowry moved with his family from Virginia to the Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, area prior to statehood in 1809, purchasing land on the Meridian Road (Meridianville Pike) north of town the same year. Lowry was the contractor for Huntsville's first courthouse, beginning work in 1811, and it was his grandson, John Tate Lowry (born 1821, died 1886), who constructed the nominated house sometime around 1860 to 1870. John Tate Lowry, a successful merchant with Lowry-Hamilton and Company and a farmer, married three times, a victim of widowhood the first two. Lowry's second wife died in 1850 during the birth of their son Samuel

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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Section 8/9 Page 3

Lowry House
Madison County, Alabama

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Hickman Lowry. Samuel Lowry grew up in and would eventually inherit the family home north of town on Meridianville Pike (now 1205 Kildare Avenue). Lowry, a well-respected local doctor with a degree from the University of Virginia and a Doctor of Medicine from Bellevue Medical College in New York (1873), established a private infirmary in a house in Huntsville at the corner of Randolph and White Streets. Samuel Lowry took a wife late in life, marrying Lucy James Pulley – “Miss Jimmie” -- in 1890 and purchased a house in town a year later, supplementing his family house north of town and a summer house atop Monte Sano Mountain east of town. In 1902, a tract of land was drawn around the family house being nominated and it was sold to a Mr. Sidney Terry. It is very likely that the Terry family, ten in all, made some of the early 20th century physical changes to the house. In June 1906, during the Terry’s ownership, Dr. Lowry died; however, his wife Jimmie retained the house in town until her death in the 1940s. Terry sold the house to Dr. Hawkins Westmoreland, Dr. Lowry’s business partner, in April 1910, and he in turn transferred/sold it back to Mrs. Jimmie Lowry. Mrs. Lowry apparently paid taxes on the property for several years, then sold it out of the family to Miss Mary Virginia McCormick, a large area landowner and owner of nearby Kildare, another rural farm with an impressive villa just north of the Lowry’s family house on Meridianville Pike. Miss McCormick spent only a few months in Huntsville each year, if at all; however, she was responsible for much philanthropic work in town, especially with respect to the three surrounding mill villages, their workers, and their working and living conditions. Upon her death in the early 1930s, McCormick’s brother and trustee, Cyrus McCormick Jr., sold both Kildare and the Lowry House and a great majority of the surrounding land and subdivided it in 1932 into numerous smaller lots as McCormick and Kildare Estates. The plot with the Lowry House was sold to John F. Childress in 1933, who in turn sold it to C. A. Tate in 1954. The Tates lived there until 1979; afterward, the property changed hands several times until its current owner, Mr. Louie Tippett purchased it in 1998. At that time the building was scheduled to be razed, however, with its new owner, the house will once again be put back in use, hopefully taking advantage of the federal investment tax credits.

IX. Bibliography

Chapman, Elizabeth Humes. Changing Huntsville, 1890-1899. Huntsville: Historic Huntsville Foundation, 1989.

Gandrud, Pauline Jones. Marriage, Death, and Legal Notices in Newspaper, 1819-1893. Easley, South Carolina: np, 1981.

Gandrud, Pauline Jones. Superior Court, Madison County, Mississippi Territory, Record, November 1815, “Alabama Records,” Vol. 86-6. Easley, SC: np, 1981.

Huntsville Democrat. December 1, 1897.

Johnson, Dorothy. Madison County Orphans Court Minutes. Huntsville: Johnson Publishing, 1972.

Lowry Family Bible.

Madison County, Alabama, Deeds.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10/photos Page 4

Lowry House
Madison County, Alabama

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X. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description: The Lowry House is located at 1205 Kildare Avenue in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, as represented on Madison County tax maps as 3-1W-25.00-L-69A.

Boundary Justification: The nominated boundaries contain land historically associated with the Lowry House currently under single ownership. While there was additional land historically associated with the house, over time it was sold and developed and no longer maintains association with the nominated property.

Photographs

Lowry House

Madison County, Alabama

Photographer: Robert S. Gamble

Date: May 2, 2000

Location of negatives: Alabama Historical Commission

1. Facade, looking W, showing projecting one-bay N unit and adjoining two-tiered porch which replaced original single-story veranda in early 20th century. Sunroom wing at left dates from same period.
2. Facade, looking W by SW, showing early 20th- century two-tiered porch.
3. Main door (early 20th century), looking W.
4. Front porch, looking SW.
5. Front porch and sunroom (early 20th century), looking NW.
6. Front porch, second floor screened sleeping area, looking S by SW.
7. Partial view of facade and N side of house, looking SW, showing late-19th century two-over-two upstairs sashing (left) and original six-over-six sashing (right) with flanking lowered blinds.
8. Rear elevation, looking E by SE, showing dining and kitchen wing.
9. Rear elevation looking SE toward inset rear porch of dining/kitchen wing.
10. Partial view of rear W elevation, looking SE and showing addition to original house. Note oblong stairwell window beneath eaves.
11. South elevation looking NE, showing boarded-up windows and doorway of dining room.
12. South elevation looking E. Note freestanding brick stack above shoulders of chimney, a holdover from 18th and early 19th-century regional practice.
13. Front hall looking W by SW from main doorway.
14. Main stairway looking W by SW (opening beneath marks locale of original back door. Rear hall beyond added late 19th century).
15. Looking W by SW into rear hall from front hallway.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section photographs Page 5

Lowry House
Madison County, Alabama

16. Rear hall looking W, with back door (left) and rear stair (right).
17. Parlor (SE room) looking SW toward fireplace and door to sunroom. Note glazed brick tile fireplace opening (mantel has been stolen).
18. Looking W by NW from parlor (SE room) into dining/kitchen wing at rear of house. Note early 20th century pocket or sliding door. Dining room fireplace is beyond (mantelpiece stolen). Door in background leads through pantry to kitchen.
19. Dining room, looking S by SW toward door onto S side porch. Note paneled aprons beneath windows.
20. Dining room, looking S by SW toward S porch. Note early 20th-century hanging light fixture.
21. China cupboard in pantry between dining room and kitchen, looking SE.
22. Kitchen, looking SW toward rear wall. Note chimney flue for iron range.
23. Kitchen, looking SE. Door is only original door surviving in house; original location unknown.
24. NE front room, looking N by NW. Eastlake mantelpiece probably dates from first renovation.
25. NE front room, looking N toward N side of house and showing original 6-over-6 window.
26. NW downstairs room, looking NE and showing original Greek Revival-style mantelpiece and later closet.
27. Upstairs hall looking NW toward main stairwell and door connecting to rear stair.
28. Upstairs hall looking from stairwell into S bedroom.
29. Upstairs S bedroom, looking S from hall door and showing original mantelpiece.
30. Upstairs S bedroom, looking E toward upstairs front porch. Window dates from first renovation circa 1890-1900); door from c 1905 renovation.
31. Looking from S upstairs bedroom NW into hallway, showing stairwell.
32. Upstairs NE bedroom, looking W by NW and showing original mantelpiece and adjoining closet.
33. Upstairs NW bedroom, looking NE toward fireplace (with original mantelpiece) and adjoining corner closet.

Loretta Spencer
Mayor



"The Space to be
in the 21st Century"

RECEIVED

OCT 3 2000

Ala. Historical Commission

20 September 2000

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Ms. Brown:

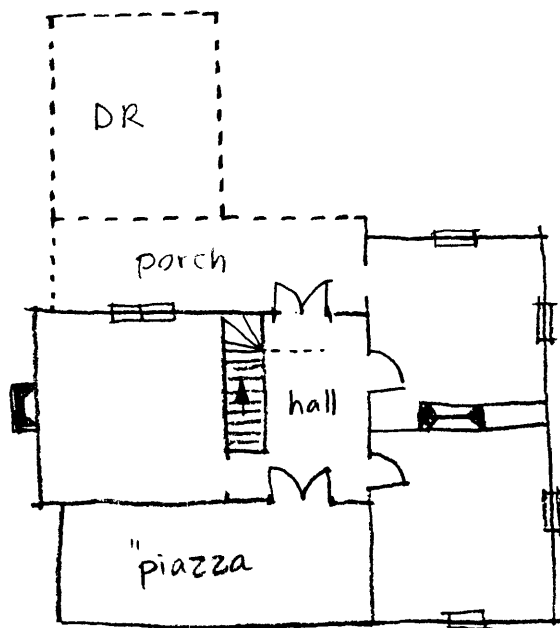
This is to let you know that the city supports the nomination of the Lowry House at 1205 Kildare Avenue in Huntsville, Alabama, to the National Register of Historic Places. We are very proud of our historic resources and pleased to have them recognized.

Sincerely,

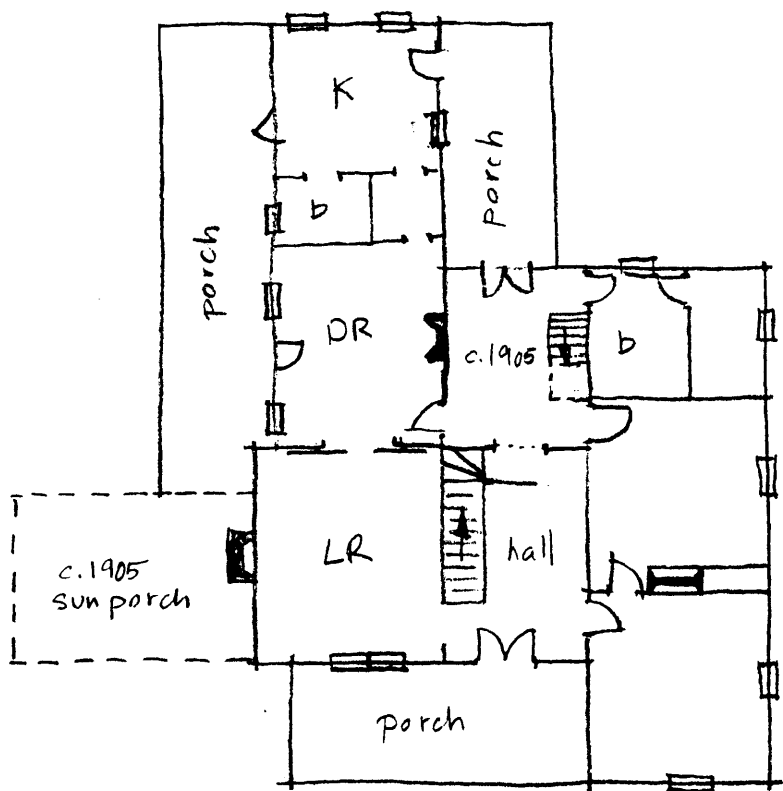
A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loretta Spencer".

Loretta Spencer
Mayor

* note: rear configuration based on local precedents that often configured a semi-detached dining "ell"

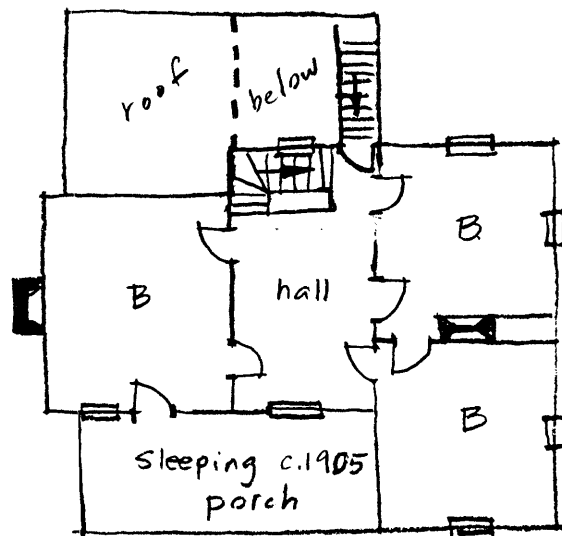


circa 1860-70



as enlarged circa 1890-1900 and circa 1905

FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR

LOWRY HOUSE, MADISON COUNTY, ALABAMA
not to scale