

PH0365181

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED APR 12 1976
DATE ENTERED MAY 19 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

* HISTORIC Cedars Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

Cedars Plantation or Williams Home Place

LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 1 Box 31 - 3 miles west of Oak Ridge on Morehouse Parish Hwy. 5503

CITY, TOWN

Oak Ridge

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th - Otto Passman

STATE

Louisiana

CODE

22

COUNTY

Morehouse

CODE

067

CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mrs. Jane Williams Cabuk

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 1 Box 31

CITY, TOWN

Oak Ridge

VICINITY OF

STATE

Louisiana

LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Morehouse Parish Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Bastrop

STATE

Louisiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Morehouse Parish Resources and Facilities

DATE

1952

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Morehouse Parish Library

CITY, TOWN

106 East Jefferson Avenue, Bastrop

STATE

Louisiana

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Cedars Plantation is an example of a typical early Louisiana bluffland house. The bluffland house type is a one-and-a-half story frame house with outside end chimneys, gallery, and ell. It is a variation of the dog-trot house type, because it has a wide central hall, although in the bluffland house the hall is enclosed.

Structural evidence, family tradition and deduction from known documents indicate that the main part of the house was built no later than the early 1840's, while additions and changes were made around 1870.

The basic floor plan of the Cedars Plantation consists of a central hall with two rooms on either side on the lower floor. The front rooms on either side of the hall measure 18' x 18' and have 9' 4" high ceilings. The rear rooms are smaller, even with the additions added in later years. Steep stairs in the front hall lead to the upper floor which has one room on either side of the hall. A kitchen ell extends to the right rear of the house. It was added around 1870. (For more information on the floor plan, refer to Sketch Sheets 1 and 2.)

The exterior of the main part of the house is sheathed in clapboards of milled cypress $\frac{1}{2}$ " thick and 6-3/4" wide with 6" to the weather. The kitchen ell has board and batten siding. The original roof had hand-split cypress shingles laid on wide random-width boards. These shingles are still present under the tin roof which now covers the house. Brick chimneys on either end of the house originally provided fireplaces for the upstairs and downstairs rooms in the front of the house, but these chimneys have been removed. Huge cypress blocks served as the original foundation of the house, but these have been replaced by stucco-covered brick piers. The front gallery originally had square cypress columns, but these were replaced by milled turned columns around 1870. Fifteen-light (9 over 6) windows are found on the lower floor. Except for a few replacements due to breakage, the 10" x 12" lights are still of the early bubble glass. Original cypress louvered shutters remain across the front and one side of the house. The heavy front door is surrounded by side lights and a transom overhead. Originally a solid four-panelled door, the upper panels were damaged in a storm and have been replaced with glass.

The sills of the house are of rough hewn cypress. The floor joists are also cypress and are notched on the ends to fit in the sills. The other major framing timbers are pegged with mortise and tenon joints, while square nails were used elsewhere. Rough 7" wide pine boards are used to seal the walls of the lower floor, while the upper floor has random-width rough pine boards on walls and ceiling. Flooring is of 5-1/4" wide heart pine boards.

The two front rooms have plain moulding on windows and doors, and all other woodwork is plain. Doors are heavy four-panelled doors, with all original thumb bolt hardware remaining. The hall stairway has hand-planed details. An unusual 18" wide plain pine board dresses the wall under the balusters and covering the ends of the risers. The balusters, hand rail and newel post are also plain. The stairs originally rose from the rear of the hall, but in 1952 were turned around so that they now rise from the front. Upstairs and downstairs mantels show influence from the Greek Revival and Victorian periods.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

7. Description

The Cedars Plantation is surrounded by approximately four acres of land. A gravel drive encircles the house and there is a pond on the rear of the property. Trees consist of pecans, oaks, gums, mulberries and cedars. Outbuildings which still exist are a 24' x 16' frame carriage house, a 12' 3" x 10' log smoke house, a 10' x 12' frame milk house and a cotton house. The smoke house and milk house are still roofed in hand-split shingles. These outbuildings cannot be positively dated, although family tradition dates them to the pre-Civil War era. Other early outbuildings no longer exist, and a double carport, shop, and pump house have been added in more recent years. (See Sketch Sheet 3)

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 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 type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cedars Plantation is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places because of its significance to Morehouse Parish in the areas of Architecture and Exploration/Settlement.

The Cedars Plantation is architecturally significant because it is believed to be the oldest remaining house in Morehouse Parish and is the only early settler's house that remains in the Parish. Although the exact date of construction is not known, structural evidence, family tradition and deduction from known documents indicate that the main part of the house was built no later than the early 1840's, while additions and changes were made around 1870. The form and stylistic details are typical of the area and the time periods involved. Adding importance to the Cedars Plantation are its early outbuildings (carriage house, log smoke house, milk house and cotton house) which still remain. Also of significance is the fact that members of the same family have used the house as a home since it was first built. The present owner is the great granddaughter of John Williams who settled the land and built the house.

In 1828 John and Elizabeth Wooding Williams of Pittsylvania County, Virginia moved their family and possessions to 500 acres of land which John had acquired in the Prairie Jefferson section of the Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. These early settlers and their descendants contributed to the development of this section of Ouachita Parish which later became Morehouse Parish in 1844.

Settling along what was known as Gum Ridge for all the gum trees present, John and Elizabeth Williams built a single-room log cabin as their first home. In 1833 Williams added another 500 acres to his holdings. According to family tradition, soon thereafter slaves were sent with ox-drawn wagons on the twelve-day round trip to Natchez, Mississippi to procure milled timber and lumber to build a more suitable dwelling, which resulted in the present house. The original log house became a detached kitchen, but it has not survived to the present day. However, other early outbuildings which were added - a milk house, carriage house, smoke house and cotton house - still remain.

John Williams soon entered into the affairs of the settlement of Point Jefferson, a steamboat landing on the Boeuf River. He was a charter member of the Masonic Lodge, Brookville Lodge #161 F. & A. M. of the Grand Lodge of the State of Louisiana, which was established in the 1850's. According to family tradition, Williams acted as a Baptist lay minister when called upon in the absence of a circuit rider preacher. He supported the church financially and entertained visiting clergymen. John Williams died in 1856.

His son, Thomas Wooding Williams, inherited the family home and became a community leader. He served as a private in the army of the Confederate States of America, but was captured and held prisoner by the Union Army. He was paroled at Monroe, Louisiana on June 9, 1865. Thomas Williams served on

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Ouachita Parish Land Conveyance Records, Book G, p. 199 (deed to land bought in 1828); Book H, p. 68 (deed to land bought in 1833).
Records of Louisiana Confederate Soldiers and Louisiana Confederate Commands, Vol. III, Book 2 (compiled by Andrew B. Book) p. 1109.
 Report of the Secretary of State, 1879-1882. State Library, Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

(con't)

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 11 611 4,0,0 3,610,91,0,0
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Mrs. Jane Williams Cabuk

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sept. 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Rt. 1 Box 31

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Oak Ridge

Louisiana

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

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 National Park Service.

SIGNATURE

Keith L. LeCompte

TITLE

Assistant State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

April 7, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Acting

DATE

5/19/76

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

5.19.76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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CONTINUATION SHEET 2

ITEM NUMBER 8

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8. Significance

several important committees when the Louisiana Baptist Convention was held at the Oak Ridge Baptist Church from June 30 - July 3, 1871. The convention attracted representatives from throughout the state, as well as from Arkansas and Mississippi. The Cedars was the scene of social activities planned for visiting clergymen and delegates. From 1879-1882 Thomas Williams served as a representative in the State legislature, representing Morehouse Parish.

Although the original acreage of the Cedars Plantation has been divided through inheritance and donation deeds to family members, the house itself, with it associated outbuildings, remains in use as a residence presently owned by the great granddaughter of John Williams.

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CONTINUATION SHEET 3

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 2

No. 9 Bibliographical References

U. S. Census. 1820, 1830, 1840 for Ouachita Parish, Louisiana. 1820, 1830
for Pittsylvania County, Virginia.

Secondary Sources

Cooper, J. Wesley. A Treasure of Louisiana Plantation Homes. Natchez:
Southern Historical Publications, Inc., 1961. pp. 147-150.

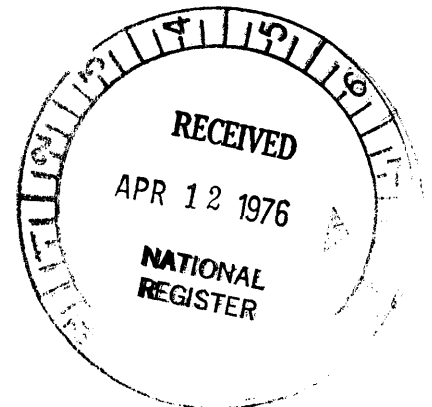
Davenport, C. C. Memoirs of Early Settlement in Morehouse Parish.
Privately printed, 1911. p. 33.

Greene, Glen Lee. A History of the Baptists of Oak Ridge, Louisiana, 1797-
1960. pp. 89, 92, 94, 98.

Number 1 Sketch Sheet

The Cedars Plantation

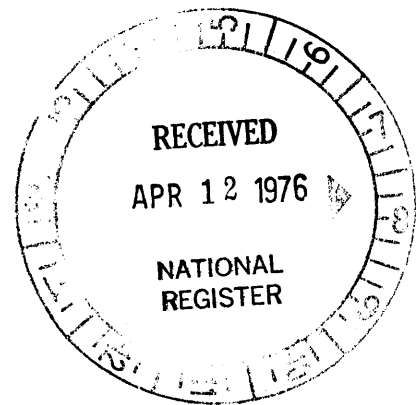
1. Front bedroom -- original 18' x 18' x 9' 4" ceiling
2. Parlor -- original 18' x 18' x 9' 4" ceiling
3. Back bedroom -- original to black line 16' x 8' 4" x 9' 4"
red area add on -- 16' x 6' 6" x 8' to 7' gambrel ceiling
4. Dining room -- original to black line 16' x 9' 4" x 9'
red area add on -- 16' x 6' 6" x 8'
5. Front Hall -- original 18' x 10' 6" x 9' 4" ceiling
6. Back Hall -- original 15' x 9' 6" x 9' 4" ceiling
7. Small back gallery -- original 15' x 6' 6"
- 7-A. center of floor removed and two small closets enclosed
each end of porch. Removed section has cement floor
added.
- 7-B. Gallery circling kitchen - 8' wide -- added with kitchen.
8. Kitchen -- added on according to family history in 1870.
18' 8" x 14' x 11' ceiling
- 8-A. Pantry -- 4' 6" x 4' 4" x 7' 6" ceiling
9. Bathroom -- added on -- in 1920 -- 10' x 8' x 7' ceiling
- 9-A. Front Gallery -- original -- 10' wide x 46' 6" length
Gable roof slopes down to cover gallery.
Originally had six 12" square cypress board
columns. These replaced by milled turned solid
columns. Date unknown.
10. Brick chimneys each end of house with openings on upper and lower
to serve rooms #1 - 2 lower and #10 - 12 upper



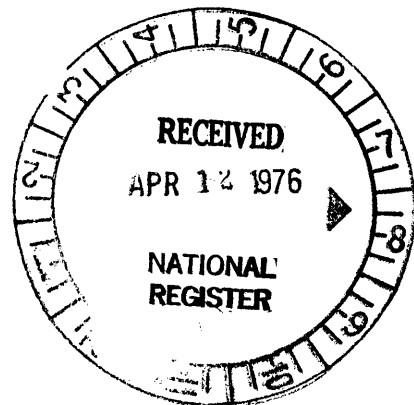
Number 2 Sketch Sheet

The Cedars Plantation

10. Bedroom -- original -- 18' x 18' x 7' 6" x 6' 4" gambrel
11. Hall -- original 18' x 9' 9" x 7' 6" x 6' 4" gambrel
12. Bedroom -- original 18' x 18' x 7' 6" x 6' 4" gambrel
13. Attic over front gallery -- original
14. Attic -- original
15. Attic -- added when additions made



1. Main house
2. Carriage house -- original 24' x 16'
3. Log smoke house -- original 12' 3" x 10'
4. Pond
5. Graveled drive way
6. Trees - century old pececans; also oaks, cedars, gum, mulberry
7. Milk house -- original 10' x 12' -- moved from original site
but available.
8. Log kitchen -- original 30' x 24' with large colonial fire place for
cooking. Family lived in this cabin until original
dwelling was complete. This building no longer exists.
9. Double car port -- 24' x 24' -- added in 1950
10. Shop -- added 1930 - 12' x 14'
11. Pump house -- added -- 5' x 10' x 7'
12. Cotton house -- original 8' x 10' -- this crib was used to store
cotton in the field until a bale was picked.

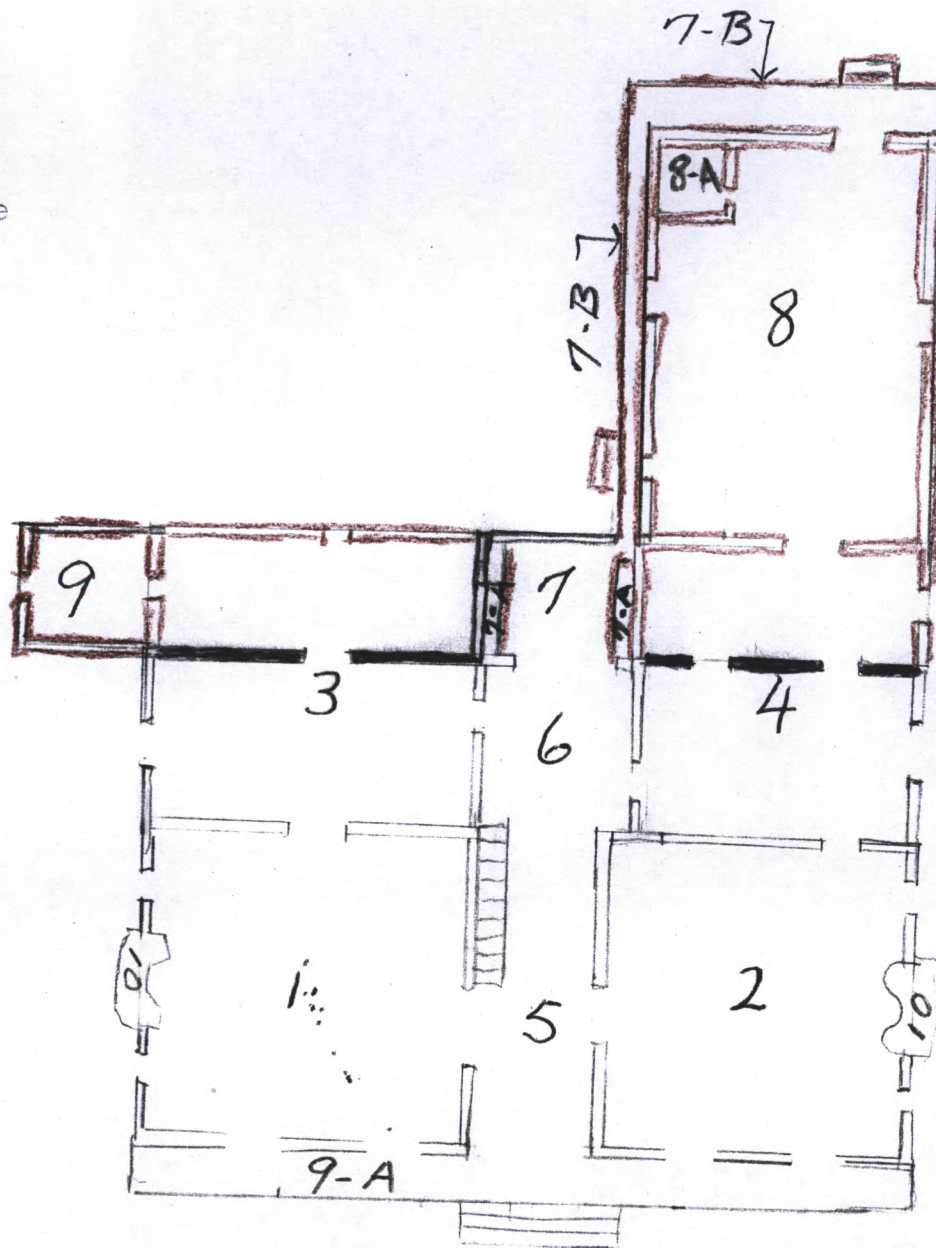


The Cedars Plantation

Lower Floor Plan

Number 1 Sketch Sheet

Sketch Is Not To Scale



Red lines : Additions

Front --- Southeast

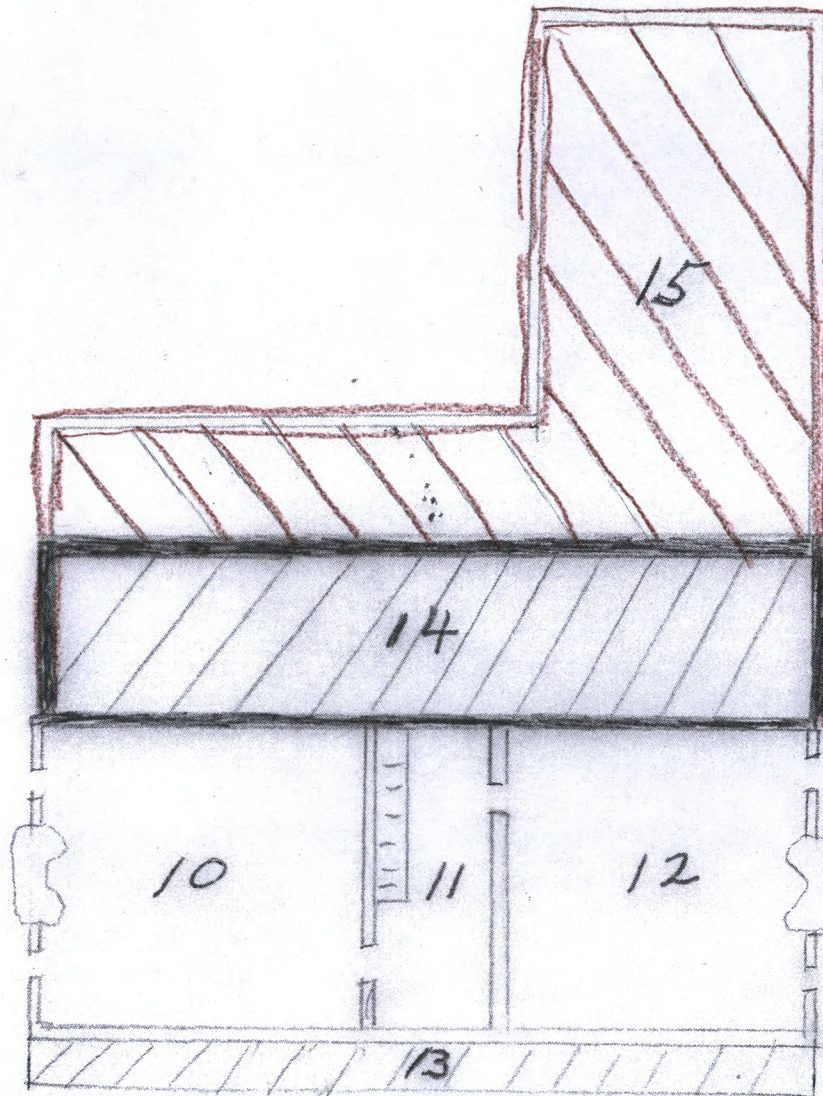
Black lines : Original partitions removed
to enlarge 2 back rooms

Number 2 Sketch Sheet

The Cedars Plantation

Upper floor plan

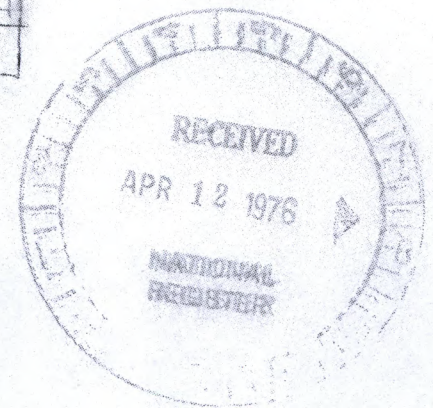
Sketch Is Not To Scale



Front --- Southeast

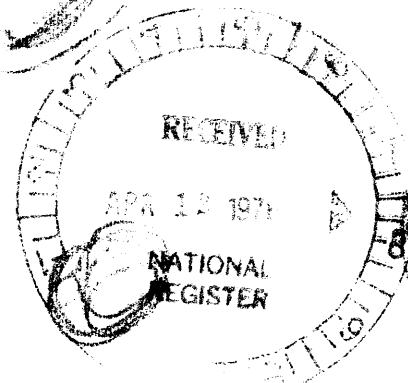
Red area : // // // // Attic

Black area ; // // // attic



12

4



3



2



8

10

11

9



7



1



6

5



Sketch Not To Scale

Number 3 Sketch Sheet

The Cedars Plantation

Approx, 4 acres in grounds