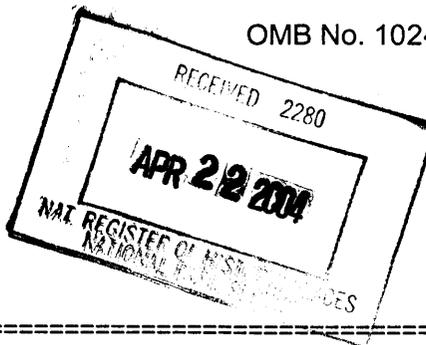


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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name Carter, Clyde House
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 300 Lime Kiln Road not for publication N/A
city or town Ford City vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Colbert code 033 zip code 35661

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

April 14, 2004
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] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action
Edson H. Beall

[Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

=====

5. Classification

=====

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.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</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

N/A

N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Secondary structure</u>	<u>garage</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>agricultural fields</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
<u>Secondary structure</u>	<u>garage</u>
<u>Agriculture</u>	<u>agricultural fields</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Spanish Eclectic Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls stucco-clad
other terra cotta, glass

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

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

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.)

- 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)

agriculture
architecture

Period of Significance 1924-1953

Significant Dates 1924, 1930

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Bernard, Louis
Fortuna, Natale

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

=====

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)

- 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:

- 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 24 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	16	451680	3849880	3	16	451950	3849650
2	16	451960	3849880	4	16	451680	3849660

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.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title Linda Ford, Preservation Consultant/Christy Anderson/ AHC Reviewer

organization Ford Consulting/Alabama Historical Commission date August 12, 2002

street & number 26 Cherokee Hills/468 S. Perry Street telephone 205/556-5388 334/242-3184

city or town Tuscaloosa/Montgomery state Alabama zip code 35404/36130-0900

=====

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)

=====

Property Owner

=====

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

name Mrs. Robert (Bettye) Freeman

street & number 1925 Greenvale Road telephone _____

city or town Hoover state Alabama zip code 35226-3608

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

Nestled in an agrarian setting, the Clyde Carter House is a finely articulated example of a Spanish Eclectic cottage. Located in Ford City outside the North Alabama tri-city area that includes the cities of Florence, Muscle Shoals and Sheffield, the Clyde Carter House is located on Lots 5 and 6, and the South Half of Lot No. 7 in what was originally called the Bernard Subdivision of Ford City. An interesting farmhouse, the dwelling sits amidst some 24 acres of farmland. Today it is a working farm as it has been for more than fifty years.

The Spanish Eclectic cottage showcases such articulation as a parapeted roof with brickwork ornamentation, hollow tile ventilators, and limestone piers. The interior of the home has original crown molding replete with pendants, baseboards, oak flooring, and wood panel doors with brass hardware.

A typical Spanish influenced flat roof of asphalt shingles and parapeted walls crowns the home. The parapet is ornamented with a decorative belt of brick. At the South end of the house is an exterior chimney that is clad from the base to the roofline with stucco. The same brick band that trims the parapet emphasizes a transition from the stucco to an exposed brick chimney above the roofline. The chimney has an elaborated brick cap. Hollow tile ventilators punctuate the space beneath the parapet.

Two off center wood panel doors are on the façade of the house. The main entry, to the North, is accentuated with a stonework surround. This type of doorway is common in the Spanish Eclectic style. The main door has a sidelight and flanking single pane windows. An ornate metal storm door along with an iron open rail balustrade mimic the iron grilles found on doors, windows and balconies of Spanish Eclectic residences.

The base of the façade is clad with stucco and scored to create an illusion of a stone finish similar to the limestone supports of the porch. The screened porch with a front gable roof was destroyed by a tornado ca. 1972. At this time the screened porch was partially enclosed to create a sunroom. The limestone piers were left exposed; the concrete floor was also left intact and a shed roof was added to the exterior. Half of the shed roof has exposed rafters as a pergola echoing the porte cochere on the South end of the house. The shed roof also serves to imitate the Spanish Eclectic trait of accentuating the picture windows on the façade as well as the doorway.

On the North end of the façade is a renovation measuring a little over eight feet that is covered with board and batten siding. This variation became necessary after a tornado caused damage to both the porch and front bedroom of the house. The North side of the house includes one double hung sash window and one picture window. Original stucco-clad walls still exist and are punctuated with three 3/1 double hung sash windows.

The East side or back of the house has a kitchen and utility room extension with a shed roof. Two 3/1 double hung sash windows pierce the exterior of the Carter home. A multiple pane picture window is found on the rear addition and an off center wood and glass door. A wooden deck spans about one half of the rear of the house.

Five 3/1 double hung sash windows pierce the South side of the house. The first window toward the façade is separated from the other four windows by the exterior, stucco-clad chimney. A porte cochere extends from the house with brick piers and closed rail balustrade. A lattice wood roof covers the configuration. The porte cochere today serves as a courtyard garden that

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

encloses a native dogwood tree and Confederate jasmine that twines around the brick supports. This garden harkens to the courtyard gardens typical of Spanish Eclectic homes.

When entering the main doorway of the façade one enters the sunroom. The space is easily read as a porch. The limestone supports are exposed and the original woodwork and wooden porch furniture decorate the space. Two sets of paired doors with glazed, multiple panes of rectangular glass open into the homes' interior. Compressed arches of stucco cap the doors with original brass hardware to adorn them. These doors are typical of those found in the Spanish Eclectic genre that often led to exterior gardens, patios and balconies.

The paired doors on the North side of the sunroom lead into the front bedroom. Suspended ceilings that were added during the seventies have been removed. All of the rooms inside the house now have nine feet ceilings of plaster as they did when the house was built. The bedrooms, as all of the rooms in the house, are highlighted with original woodwork that includes baseboards and crown molding. There are wood panel doors with original hardware throughout the house and oak floors. The North end closet was converted tastefully into a small bathroom. Hereby the room remains in scale with the rest of the house.

The double doors on the South end of the sunroom link it to the central dining room. The room is replete with all the aforementioned details plus wide, elegant baseboards and a chair railing with a deep lip. There are no hallways to connect the dining room to the breakfast nook or two back bedrooms. Moving clockwise the dining area connects to the breakfast nook. This room was once the kitchen. Although the wall has been patched, the flue for the old iron stove is still visible. Behind the nook are the kitchen and utility room additions.

Once again from the dining room, moving clockwise, a wood panel door connects to a back bedroom. The panel doors are inconsistent from one room to the other and vary between one type with a single vertical panel over two horizontal panels or a single vertical panel over three horizontal panels.

On the South end of the house is the sole hallway that leads to the original bathroom. Part of the hall has been transformed into a dressing room that connects to the bath. Both rooms have a vinyl floor covering and original woodwork. You enter the second bedroom through the dressing room. Both back bedrooms have similar dimensions with identical baseboards, crown molding and oak floors.

The living room concludes the South end of the cottage. A large brick fireplace accentuates the south wall along with the 3/1 double hung sash windows. The second exterior wood panel door pierces the west wall.

Behind the Carter House sits a wood frame garage. Although not the first garage on this lot, it has existed for some 58 years. It was built after the original garage burned. The two story, wood frame building has a side gable roof of asphalt strips, weatherboard siding and 4/4 double hung sash windows. The façade has a large wooden garage door and an off center wood panel door. Beyond the garage is a field that is part of the Carter House property.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

In front of the house on the other side of Lime Kiln Road is another field belonging to the farm. This field was once laid out with sidewalks to transverse the Bernard Subdivision of Ford City. To the north of the Carter House is a non-contributing wood frame building that serves as a residence. It has a side gable roof of asphalt strips, weatherboard siding and a full width, shed roof porch with a wooden closed rail balustrade.

Archaeological Component

Although no archaeological survey has been conducted in association with the Clyde Carter House, there exists the potential for subsurface remains on the property.

Significance

Criterion C: Architecture

Built in 1924, the Clyde Carter House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion C in the area of architecture as an example of a Spanish Eclectic cottage. The style is rare in the North Alabama region and a modern anomaly of metropolitan life in its agrarian setting. The stucco-clad walls and its articulation emphasize its unique place as a farmhouse in northern Alabama.

The twenties exploded onto the American landscape with their ebullient flappers, The Charleston, Lucky Lindy, Clara Bow, Cecil B. De Mille and new styles of architecture. Most residential sections of the tri-city area are filled with the early twentieth-century mainstay, the bungalow. Yet the Clyde Carter House is Spanish Eclectic in style. Spanish Eclectic architecture was conceived in 1915 at the Panama-California Exposition held in San Diego.

Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue was the exposition designer and was originally a student of Spanish Colonial architecture. Goodhue wanted to expand his milieu by including richer variations of Spanish motifs that harkened to the great Spanish churches of Mexico and Arizona. These extensions of the Spanish Colonial ideal inspired architects viewing the exhibit to look beyond the Mission examples of the New World to Spain for their inspiration.

Spain is an ancient country filled with diverse architectural traditions including Mediterranean motifs brought by the Moors across Europe; Byzantine, Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque styles. The Spanish Eclectic style was so named for its extensive borrowing from the aforementioned styles whose only cohesive element was their Spanish ancestry.

Following World War I this blended style was used for mansions and substantial residences. The twenties saw the style become prominent in communities in Florida and California (Massey and Maxwell, 59). Yet vernacular examples can be found throughout the United States. The Exposition received extensive publicity that spread the movement quickly and it reached its apex in the 1920s and early 1930s.

The Spanish Eclectic style emanated from the Exposition via an awakened interest in Colonial architecture (Gamble, p. 151). Until 1915 Colonial Revival had been the stronghold of the East coast with weatherboard and dormers as hallmarks. After the 1915 Exposition, Colonial Revival took on a richer vocabulary with its adaptation of Spanish Colonial designs originating in Europe and spanning the globe to marry with Native American traditions. This eclectic style thrived in the prosperous twenties, a time when fanciful escapism was prevalent.

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Section 8 Page 4

Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

Another mode of transportation for the Spanish Eclectic style was via the motion-picture industry. After World War I, motion picture production, distribution and exhibition became a major national industry and more importantly a national obsession. The stars made massive amounts of money and were heavily publicized in publicity stills and fan magazines. Movie stars of the 1920s were royalty to their American public. What they wore, ate and where they lived mattered to their fans. In the 1920s stars began building homes to meet their fan's fantasies. One popular architect of Hollywood was Wallace Neff, who specialized in the period style of Spanish Eclectic. Neff's first big commission was for screenwriter Frances Marion who wanted a Spanish style home to sit atop twenty-four acres of land. Neff designed Marion "a California vision of Spain with white stucco walls with wide arches, flanking a shady courtyard with a tiled fountain" (Webb, p. 40). At this retreat Marion threw lavish Hollywood parties and the most famous celebrities visited the house.

Prestigious directors such as King Vidor lived in lavish Spanish Eclectic splendor. Director Cecil B. De Mille's home was classically inspired and his good friend Charlie Chaplin bought a similarly styled home next door. When Chaplin left the house in 1926, De Mille bought the property and commissioned architect Julia Morgan to design a conservatory to link the two properties.

Julia Morgan was famous for Spanish styled San Simeon built for William Randolph Hurst. Morgan designed a conservatory that included many elements that define Spanish Eclectic architecture including arched colonnades with terra cotta tile roofs, and an open courtyard and garden that De Mille frequently used for publicity stills for his motion pictures (Webb, 138-139). Considering De Mille was one of the most powerful forces in Hollywood, these promotional stills were seen by millions of fans.

Although the Spanish influence was felt in other sections of the South in public buildings such as train depots most homes were not as strongly influenced by the style except in Florida. Florida's affinity for the Mediterranean and reputation as an escape from the cold weather of the north supported the fanciful Spanish Eclectic style. Louis Bernard, builder of the Clyde Carter House and owner of the Bernard Subdivision, resided in Miami, Florida. This indicates a possible familiarity of the Spanish Eclectic style of homes.

The Clyde Carter House is distinguished in the region in two ways. First it is stylistically notable. A similar example of a more global style is The Fowler-Dr. William and Charlotte Reid House in Muscle Shoals. The home is a locally significant example of Academic Revival Architecture. The Fowler House blends Spanish Colonial Revival and English provincial architecture. The home boasts fieldstone veneer as well as ceramic tile roof, stone chimney, wrought iron trim and stone door surround. Although not identical in style to the Clyde Carter House, it has a comparable history. Fowler, the builder of the home, was also a developer who parlayed the finished Wilson Dam into a profitable enterprise. The home was built some ten years after the Clyde Carter House ca. 1935 (Ford, 33). The Fowler-Dr. William and Charlotte Reid House and the Clyde Carter House bring originality and a degree of sophistication to a vernacular landscape.

The Spanish Eclectic style was common along ocean front communities. Spanish Eclectic cottages were abundant in areas comparable to the Mediterranean such as California and Florida. Such a style is rarely found in rural Alabama. During the twenties bungalows are the more common architectural style built in the Deep South. These houses can be found in rural and urban

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
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settings. Spanish Eclectics, on the other hand, are located in urban settings such as Birmingham, Alabama or Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

The second distinction that the Clyde Carter House holds is one of age and durability. It is one of the few remaining homes of its age in Ford City. The Gerber, Sherman, and Donagan Houses, comparable in age, are gone.

Criterion A: Agriculture

The Clyde Carter House is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places based on Criterion A in the area of agriculture as an intact example of a small farm from 15-25 acres in size and family owned. Clyde Carter farmed the Carter farm from 1930 until the mid-fifties with crops of cotton and corn. These crops are still farmed today on the same land. Most family-owned farms are no longer in existence and were bought out by corporate farming years ago. County and City Data books from 1994 indicate that the average acreage for Colbert County farms is 258 acres. Thirty-five percent of farms in 1994 were less than 50 acres. These statistical comparisons should enlighten us further. In 1930 the total number of farms in Colbert County was 2,904 and in 1950 the total was 2,122 and in 1994 the total number was 563 farms.

History:

The history of Ford City begins in the second decade of the twentieth century. The Muscle Shoals area's prospects were optimistic when it was learned that the Shoals were selected as the site for a hydroelectric dam and two nitrate plants in 1916. Critical to the development of munitions, the nation's nitrate supply, which was supplied by South America, was threatened by Germany. Thus, it was deemed necessary to establish a domestic supply at the outbreak of World War I. The Muscle Shoals area was an ideal choice for the dam and nitrate plants (Friends of the Sheffield Public Library, 1985). In 1917 construction began on two nitrate plants; Nitrate Plant No. 1 was established on the west side of Sheffield; Nitrate Plant No. 2 on the east side of town. The two plants, dam, construction of which began in 1918, and support facilities attracted an additional 30,000 people to the area (Friends of the Sheffield Public Library, 1985).

Ford City lies in Colbert County where agriculture was the most important business and had been since 1836 when the Cherokee Indians were removed from the territory. The fertile valley was cleared and planted with cotton. Plantations sprang up since cotton could be transported easily on the nearby Tennessee River. These plantations evolved in the eastern portion of the county while the mountainous parts of the county were later developed by individual farmers.

By 1920 around 12,000 people, some 40% of the county population, were farmers. The introduction of the nitrate industrial complex and its implications was monumental in Colbert County (Industrial Development, 7).

World War I ended two weeks before the two nitrate plants were completed and Wilson Dam still was unfinished by war's end. The complex was no longer an asset and the question of ownership by the government or the private sector raged. Henry Ford, automobile manufacturing magnate, visited Muscle Shoals in 1921 to contemplate a scheme to purchase the Wilson Dam complex for \$5 million. This proposal ignited a speculation development in the Shoals. Real estate investors began buying up 25 foot lots and putting in sidewalks and street lights when they learned that

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
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Ford envisioned a metropolis with factories to employ some 1 million workers and a complete transformation of the agricultural area into a modern industrial landscape.

Ford made his offer to the Secretary of War in July 1921. Along with the five million dollar offer came a proposal to pay the federal government of \$1,700,000 annually for the power to be produced by Wilson Dam. Ford agreed to produce \$40,000 tons of nitrogen as calcium cyanamide fertilizer with restricted profits to 8 percent. A national conflict arose over whether the complex should remain public or become a private concern.

This notion of public versus private was due to the fact that the nitrate was essential to making munitions but could also be used to create fertilizer. Should the government turn over such a commodity to the private sector? Also the initial cost of Wilson Dam had been 46.5 million dollars and this had to be considered within the context of Ford's offer. Ford campaigned and took Thomas Edison with him aboard his private rail car "Fair Lane". Ford presented the idea that his plan would lead to replacing the "gold standard, the real cause of wars," by "energy dollars". Ford followed this up with the thought that waterpower and other energy resources would be a real basis of monetary exchange and would breed the stronghold of Wall Street on everyone (Colbert County 29).

After Ford returned to Detroit, he announced his plan to build a 75 mile long city along the Tennessee River, the focus of which would be various industries including those to produce steel, aluminum, fertilizers and chemicals. Real estate investors from Detroit, Chicago, and New York, and other areas flocked to the area to buy and develop real estate (Friends of the Sheffield Public Library 1985).

A February 10, 1922 *Florence Times* article documented the transactions of a number of out of state developers. A J. L. Rae of Chicago purchased 40 acres for a subdivision on Huntsville Road; a Glasgow, Kentucky syndicate purchased 100 acres on Huntsville Road adjacent the Wilson Dam reservation with plans of developing a subdivision. With like intentions, an out of town syndicate came to terms on 54 acres on the Jackson Highway. Bernard Home Building Company of Baltimore, Maryland purchased lots in an area named Ford City in 1924. Dissatisfied with a Chicago firm's proposal for a development on a bluff overlooking the Tennessee River, W.F. McFarland contracted to bring the McFarland and McFarland Heights Subdivisions in the southwestern section of Florence to fruition in 1924 (*Florence Times* 1976).

One of the biggest Sheffield real estate transactions during the 1920s involved Mr. John J. Nyhoff of Troy, New York. An entrepreneurial mogul, Nyhoff it seems made a career of capitalizing on Ford's and others' industrial plants. He created nine large developments in Troy, New York where Ford was in the process of building a \$15,000,000 tractor factory (*Sheffield Standard* 1922 a). Nyhoff, a March 3, 1922 (a) *Sheffield Standard* article asserted, was quite assured that Ford would get the Muscle Shoals properties, and Sheffield would become the largest city in the South. Toward that goal, Nyhoff purchased a fifteen-acre site sandwiched between Nitrate Plant No. 2 and the Tennessee River at the eastern edge of Sheffield. With its proximity to Wilson Dam and Nitrate Plant No. 2 and the passage of the Jackson Highway and electric carline through it, the property was ideally situated.

Nyhoff developed a subdivision with a series of streets on the north and south sides of Jackson Highway. In 1924 (a), the *Sheffield Standard* carried the headline "Nyhoff Properties Steadily Improving." The article stated that waterline taps to 23 lots had been completed. A 1928 Sanborn map records the status of the Nyhoff Subdivision in the late 1920s. In all, 39

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
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dwellings, many of which are of the bungalow typology, were scattered about Nyhoff's development.

One real estate developer who rushed into the progress of the Shoals area was Louis Bernard. According to public records, the Bernard Home Building Company was organized under the laws of the state of Maryland and Baltimore was the location of most of the business' transactions. Bernard, the President of the company, gave his address as the Fairview Hospital in Miami, Florida. Bernard speculated in Ford City with the proposed Bernard Subdivision.

The Bernard Home Building Company bought property in what was known as the Ford City Subdivision in the early twenties. The Bernard Subdivision was laid out in a grid pattern with avenues and streets to divide the lots. Lee Avenue, Boston Avenue, Grenada Street, and Houston Avenue were planned to run through the subdivision. The Spanish Eclectic Clyde Carter House was appropriately on a lot beside Grenada Street that harkened to its international origins. The twenties saw the Spanish Eclectic style become prominent in subdivisions in Florida and California (Massey and Maxwell 59). Yet vernacular examples can be found throughout the United States. Although uncommon in southern states outside of Florida, an exceptional pocket of such homes exists in the Parkhaven neighborhood in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

In the Shoals area only a few examples of Spanish influenced architecture exist. James G. Gauntt, architect, designed a Spanish Colonial home for C. W. Ashcraft on Wood Avenue, Florence in 1915 (Florence Times 1915). The normal residential construction associated with the nitrate plant boom is synonymous with the bungalow. Hundreds of these residences with their distinctive low pitched roofs, emphasis on craftsmanship, and ample porches were built in this era. The bungalow genre represents the largest classification of buildings identified in recent residential surveys of Florence.

The subdivisions proposed in the extant cities of Florence and Sheffield capitalized on the automaker's vision for the Muscle Shoals area. But Ford's plans for the Muscle Shoals area were never realized. Senator George Norris of Nebraska strongly opposed the plan for privatizing government facilities (Friends of the Sheffield Public Library 1985). Norris attempted to thwart Ford's efforts to acquire Wilson Dam and the nitrate plants by authorizing the Norris Bill, which called for government operation of the facilities. Although President Hoover vetoed the bill, Ford tired of Norris' opposition and withdrew his proposal in 1924.

Two small communities called Ford City and Nitrate City never materialized as planned and the areas remained, as they had ever been agricultural districts. Without the infrastructure of a city, the vision of Ford City languished and the Bernard Home Building Co. is a poignant example of this demise.

In the Abstract for the Clyde Carter House, the Bernard Home Building Co. purchased the deed for the property on which the house sits on May 31, 1924. A mortgage on said property was filed soon thereafter. The Bernard Home Building Co. began the construction of a dwelling house on said lots (Lots 5, 6, and 7) from June 1924 and until February 1925 (Abstract 20, 21) with Natale Fortuna carrying out the construction. Fortuna filed a Mechanics Lien on Lots 5 and 6, and the South Half of Lot No. 7 in block B. The lien was claimed on the building and improvements on the lots. In Circuit Court in Equity, Colbert County, Alabama on July 21, 1925. A Bill of Complaint against Mr. Bernard and his company stated that Fortuna was entitled to a lien for the amount of \$2,200.00 with interest for materials and labor spent on lot improvements and constructing the dwelling house on the aforementioned lots. Fortuna's complaint also asserted that the Bernard Home Building Company was not qualified to do business

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

in the state of Alabama. This portion of the complaint was based upon the fact that the corporation had no agent or officers residing in the state of Alabama. Bernard, who resided in Miami, was the party executing contracts and business for the company. The court granted the lien to Fortuna and the Bernard Home Building Company was forced to sell the house and lots. Natale Fortuna and R. T. Simpson purchased the property and house for \$2,465.37 in March of 1926. It seems that the Bernard Home Building Company was in a state of decline.

After Henry Ford pulled out of the plans for the city and plants, the entire Shoals vicinity experienced a decline. Repeated efforts were made to salvage the power and nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals. In 1926 W. B. Bell of New York, president of the American Cyanamid Company made an offer on the complex before a house and senate joint committee. This offer became the Wright Bill that was defeated and the power source remained dormant.

The Spanish Eclectic Cottage in Ford City was left incomplete and in 1930 Clyde Carter and his wife, Cleo, bought the cottage. The mortgage was defaulted on and Carter had the highest bid of \$735.89. The Carters acquired two and a half lots, a home together with all the improvements thereunto belonging. Some of the improvements included sidewalks within a field that today is a farmed field across the road from the Carter House. The home was still incomplete when Clyde and his wife, Cleo, purchased the home. The interior was unfinished and it had no porch.

When built the Spanish Eclectic cottage was the height of style. It competed with the tastes of the royals of Hollywood and houses that dotted the coasts of California and Florida. However Ford had pulled out of the area, the Great Depression had hit and the developer's dream of Bernard Subdivision, a section of the Ford City metropolis was dead. The Spanish Eclectic cottage remained as a distinguished farmhouse.

Bettye Freeman, granddaughter of the Carters and present owner, lived in the house in the early thirties. Her parents ran a corner grocery store and Bettye spent much of her day with her grandparents. Mrs. Freeman feels that after moving into the house, her grandfather added the screened porch. The porch's front gable roof was to make it fit in more with other farmhouses in the area. The homes built in the vicinity were vernacular cottages and homes cast in the Craftsman vein that was then popular nation wide. Spanish Eclectic cottages did not proliferate in Florence or the remainder of the Shoals area. From the Abstract it seems that the house was not purchased due to its unusual architecture but due to its availability, cost, and the farmland that accompanied it. There had been a default on the mortgage and the land was publicly auctioned in front of the United States Post Office in the City of Sheffield.

Carter bought the lots for farmland. He planted the typical corn and cotton as cash crops. In 1928 the farmers of Alabama raised cotton on 45,000 acres, or nearly half the total farmed acres. Corn was the second most important crop in Colbert County (Industrial Board, 8). The 1930 census shows that Colbert County had 2,904 farms with 306 farms with 10-19 acres. The Carter farm was around fifteen acres at this time. The Carter farm was typical in that beside cash crops they grew most of their own food and kept two milk cows for their own use. Even though the family grew much of its own food, farmers felt the depression.

The cost of living for an average farm family in 1933 was \$966.00 per year. These numbers were based on a family of 4.5 members in the state of Alabama and in 1934 the Carter family increased from two to five. The Carter's two daughters, Lucille C. Gargis and Evelyn Streit, moved into the house in the early thirties along with Bettye, Lucille's daughter. Two-thirds of the family food was produced on the farm, with approximately 34% of total expenses going to food. Operating expenses totaled 17% and housing came in at 11% (The Florence Times, Oct. 7, 1933, 4).

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In 1930 the nitrate plants in Muscle Shoals still stood vacant. The Great Depression was in full swing; Carter continued to plant his crops and feed the family. The idle nitrate plant, as was pointed out in a local newspaper, affected Ford City and other local farms. Farmers were forced to buy their fertilizer from Chilean suppliers. If the Muscle Shoals plant were active American farmers would be paying six cents per pound. Since it was inactive farmers were paying twenty cents per pound. Such hardships only made farmers feel the Depression more.

Through the 1930s, the Shoals attracted some manufacturing enterprises. In 1932, the Robbins Tire and Rubber Company announced that it would acquire the erstwhile Rubber Products Corporation in Muscle Shoals City (Sheffield Standard 1932 a). The Robbins Tire and Rubber Company employed 100 men, a handful when compared to the earlier promises of Henry Ford with his 1 million jobs. Numerous bills and debates continued in congress over who would own and run the facilities. Finally in 1933 President-Elect Franklin Roosevelt came to the Shoals area with answers.

Roosevelt pledged to put Muscle Shoals "back on the map" and to bring the Tennessee River basin into its own right. These promises had been made over and over again for the past fifteen years. According to the news the people of the area had "become used to hardships, disappointments and failure" (The Florence Times, Jan. 24, 1933, 1). The district felt that the plan was in good hands and that finally promises were going to be fulfilled.

Roosevelt's pledge included the prominent Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). Established in 1933, the TVA addressed a six fold mission: improve manageability of the Tennessee River and provide flood control by the construction of dams; generate electrical power for the Tennessee River Valley; reforest denuded lands; provide for agricultural and industrial development; operate Muscle Shoals properties for national defense; and manufacture fertilizer (Headrick and Schafer, 1993). The nitrate plants and Wilson Dam went into full production. Construction of Wheeler Dam several miles east of Wilson Dam began in earnest in 1933. TVA provided a boost to the Shoals economy in the 1930s.

Many in the Shoals district credited the New Deal with resuscitating the local economy. "Yesterday, depression, Today, a New Deal, and more business, more employment, and more money circulating," claimed a Sheffield Standard (1934a).

In December of 1934 there were 210 farmhouses connected to TVA power. F. F. Beauchamp, TVA electrical engineer, announced that nearly 500 more farmers were targeted to connect along rural lines. Mrs. Freeman lived in the Clyde Carter home in 1934 and there was no electricity when she and her mother moved there. But by the end of 1934 her grandparents were some of the first in the area to have electricity (Florence Times, 4).

In April of 1935 fertilizer sales had far exceeded fertilizer sales of April 1934. This meant an increased yield in crops, better prepared soils, and cheaper fertilizer being produced in the nitrate plants at the Shoals. That same year corn production was up in Alabama. National the corn crop was at its lowest level since 1881, yet in Alabama farmers harvested their largest crop ever produced (The Florence Times, September 22, 1934). Thus the economy was improving for farmers as well as others in the Shoals area.

In 1940, the TVA resumed production of ammonium nitrate at Nitrate Plant No. 2 and initiated construction of a new synthetic ammonia plant. The War Department required the chemicals for the production of munitions. The direct link between the Shoals' TVA facilities and the

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
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Reynolds Aluminum plant built in 1941 and national defense kept life bustling in the area. But Ford City changed very little and still did not develop into a town, much less a city.

For many areas nation wide, the end of World War II meant the end of the war industries that fueled the economy. Such was not the case for the Muscle Shoals. In 1944, the U.S. Department of Labor predicted a roseate future for the Tri-Cities (*Sheffield Standard*, 1944). TVA's fertilizer development facilities would be instrumental in helping feed the world's hungry. Farming continued to be germane to the area.

After the war on September 18 and 29, 1947 Clyde Carter acquired approximately 7.88 acres of land from Lucia Caretti, a widow (Abstract, 39). The farm now was around 24 acres in size. In June 1948, the Clyde Carters "vacated the map thereof" of the Bernard Subdivision of Ford City in Book 2, page 315, "and do by this vacation of said map divest all public rights in the streets, alleys, and public grounds set forth on said map, and do hereby set aside and destroy forever the force and effect of the recordation of said map" (Abstract 40). The dream of Ford City was gone.

In 1949 Bettye left the Clyde Carter House to become Mrs. Robert Freeman. By 1950 small farms were decreasing. The total number of farms in Colbert County was down to 2,122 and there were 182 farms with 20-49 acres. Clyde Carter worked the farm until the mid-fifties and he died in 1958. Mrs. Clyde Carter, Cleo, lived in the house until 1972. A non-family member then worked the farm but Lucille Gargis lived there until her death in 1989. Her sister, Evelyn Streit lived there until 2000 when Bettye Freeman inherited the home.

The Shoals area continued to prosper in the decades after the war. The TVA and Reynolds plant helped drive the economy as new businesses and industry located in Florence. Many residential developments were added to the growing housing stock in Florence, Sheffield and Muscle Shoals over the last five decades. Ford City developed little. The area was never incorporated and commercial development is limited to a few restaurants, gas stations and convenience stores. Today the area is once again featured in a development plan. The Robert Trent Golf Course is planned for the neighborhood. It threatens to erase the traces of the visionary Ford City planned so long ago by Henry Ford and futuristic developers like Louis Bernard.

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

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Name of Property: Carter, Clyde, House
County and State: Colbert, Alabama

Verbal Boundary Description

The Clyde Carter House resides on Lots 5 and 6, and the South Half of Lot No. 7 in what was originally called the Bernard Subdivision of Ford City. The house has 24 acres of farmland associated with it. It lies in the W1/2 of SW1/4 of Section 18, Township 3, South, and Range 9 W.

Boundary Justification

Approximately 24 acres has been historically associated with the Clyde Carter House from the original 1926 land acquisition and the 7.88 acres added in 1947.

Photograph Log

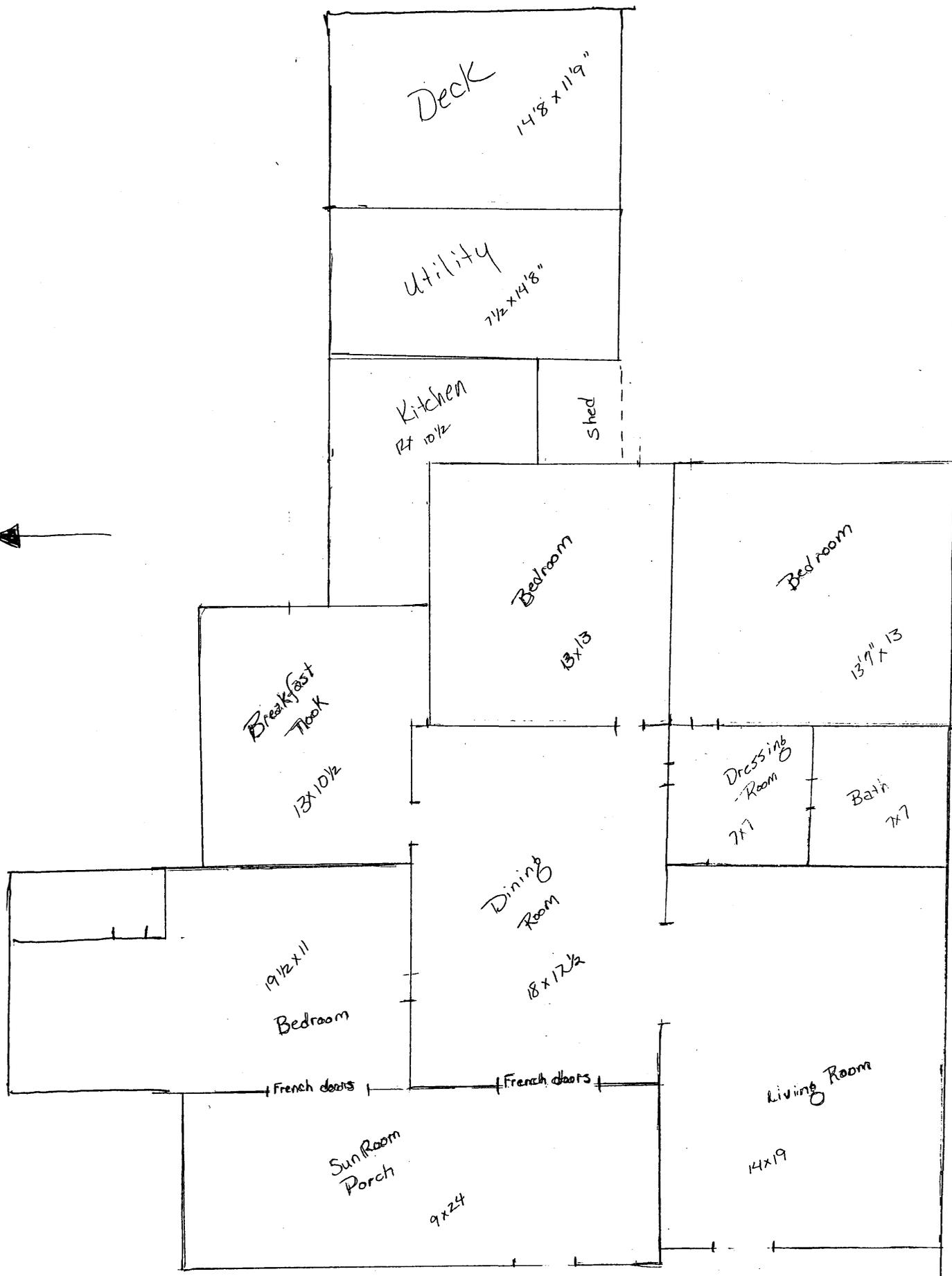
- Photograph 1. West (façade) of the Clyde Carter House facing northeast.
- Photograph 2. South side of the Clyde Carter House facing north.
- Photograph 3. Detail of porch on the facade facing north.
- Photograph 4. Detail of porte cochere on South side, facing north.
- Photograph 5. South side of house facing north.
- Photograph 6. Detached garage on East side of Clyde Carter House, facing northwest.
- Photograph 7. Interior showing central dining room, facing east.
- Photograph 8. Interior detail of French doors with segmented arch, facing east.
- Photograph 9. Interior detail of pendants in crown molding corners, facing south.
- Photograph 10. Interior showing bedroom facing southeast.
- Photograph 11. Interior showing sunroom facing north.
- Photograph 12. Interior showing bedroom facing northeast.

The following information is the same for each photograph:

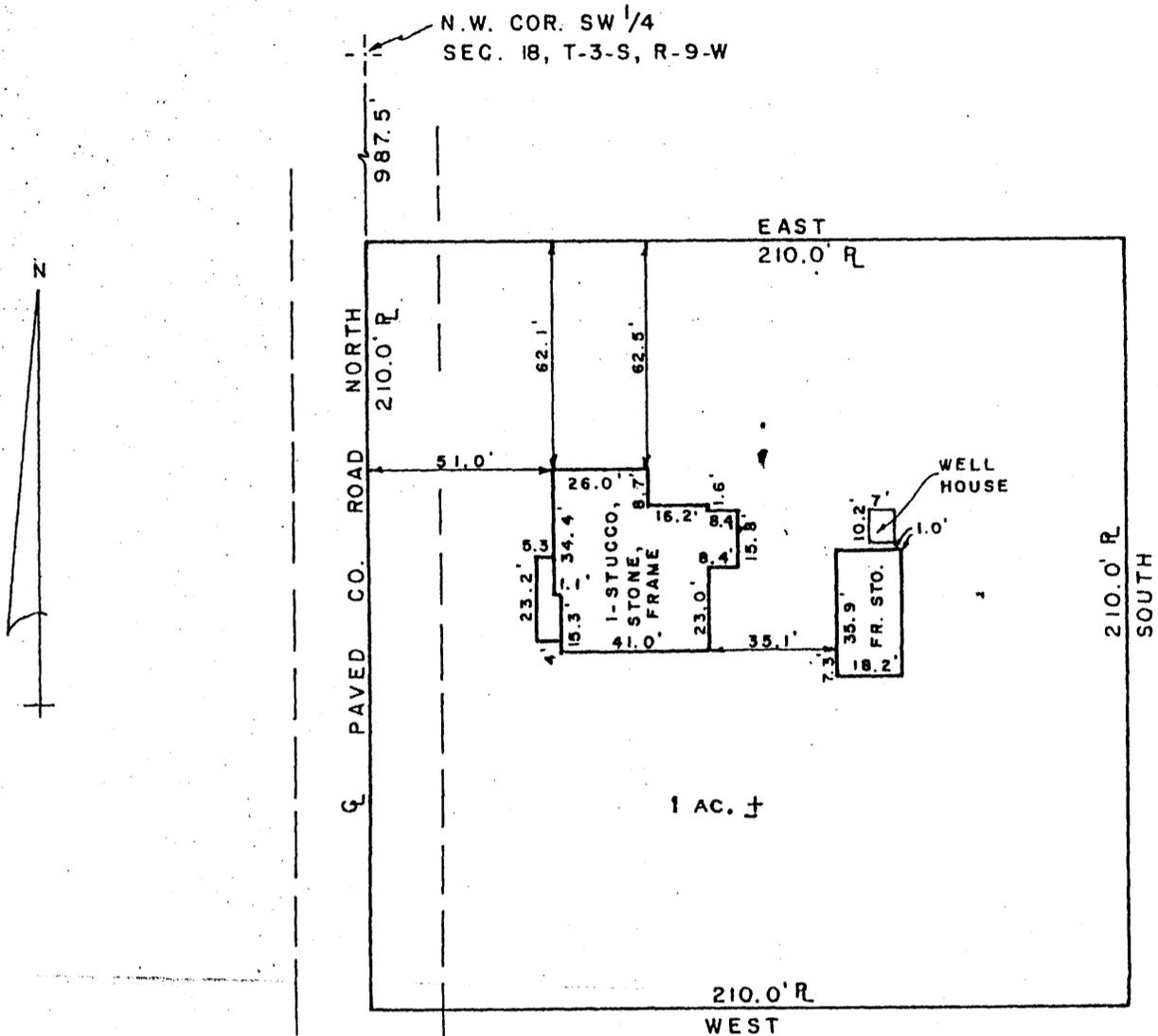
Name of Photographer: Gene A. Ford

Date of Photograph: January, 2003.

Location of Original Negatives: Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900



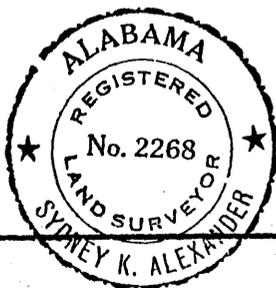
COUNTY, ALABAMA



STATE OF ALABAMA
COUNTY OF LAUDERDALE

CERTIFICATE

I, S. K. ALEXANDER, A REGISTERED LAND SURVEYOR, HEREBY CERTIFY THAT SHOWN HEREON IS A TRUE AND CORRECT MAP OR PLAT OF A TRACT OF LAND IN THE SW 1/4 OF SECTION 18, T-3-S, R-9-W, COLBERT COUNTY, ALABAMA, AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: COMMENCE AT THE NW CORNER OF THE SW 1/4 OF SAID SECTION 18; THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 987.5 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT OF LAND HEREBY DESCRIBED; SAID POINT OF BEGINNING LYING IN THE CENTERLINE OF A PAVED COUNTY ROAD; THENCE EAST A DISTANCE OF 210.0 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 210.0 FEET TO A POINT; THENCE WEST A DISTANCE OF 210.0 FEET TO A POINT IN THE CENTERLINE OF SAID PAVED COUNTY ROAD; THENCE ALONG SAID CENTERLINE, NORTH A DISTANCE OF 210.0 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE TRACT OF LAND HEREBY DESCRIBED; SAID TRACT OF LAND CONTAINS 1 ACRE, MORE OR LESS, AND IS SUBJECT TO A RIGHT-OF-WAY FOR A PAVED COUNTY ROAD ON THE WESTERNMOST PROPERTY LINE THEREOF; THAT ALL THE BUILDINGS NOW ERECTED THEREON ARE WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE SAME; THAT THERE ARE NO EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY OR ENCROACHMENTS OVER OR ACROSS SAID PROPERTY, VISIBLE ON THE SURFACE EXCEPT AS SHOWN; THAT THE CORRECT MAILING ADDRESS IS _____, ALABAMA; ALL ACCORDING TO MY SURVEY, THIS THE 30TH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 1977.



[Signature]

S. K. ALEXANDER, REG. LAND SURVEYOR
ALA. CERTIFICATE No. 2268

W.O. No. 985

SKA

SCALE 1" = 50'
DATE 11/28/77

S. K. ALEXANDER MAPS & SURVEYS

4008 HATCH BOULEVARD

SHEFFIELD, ALABAMA 36860

DRAWN BY	CHECKED BY	SHEET
BS	SKA	1 OF 1

R. 11/21/77

NORTH ALABAMA ABSTRACT & GUARANTY COMPANY

TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA

FOUNDED 1905

ABSTRACTS

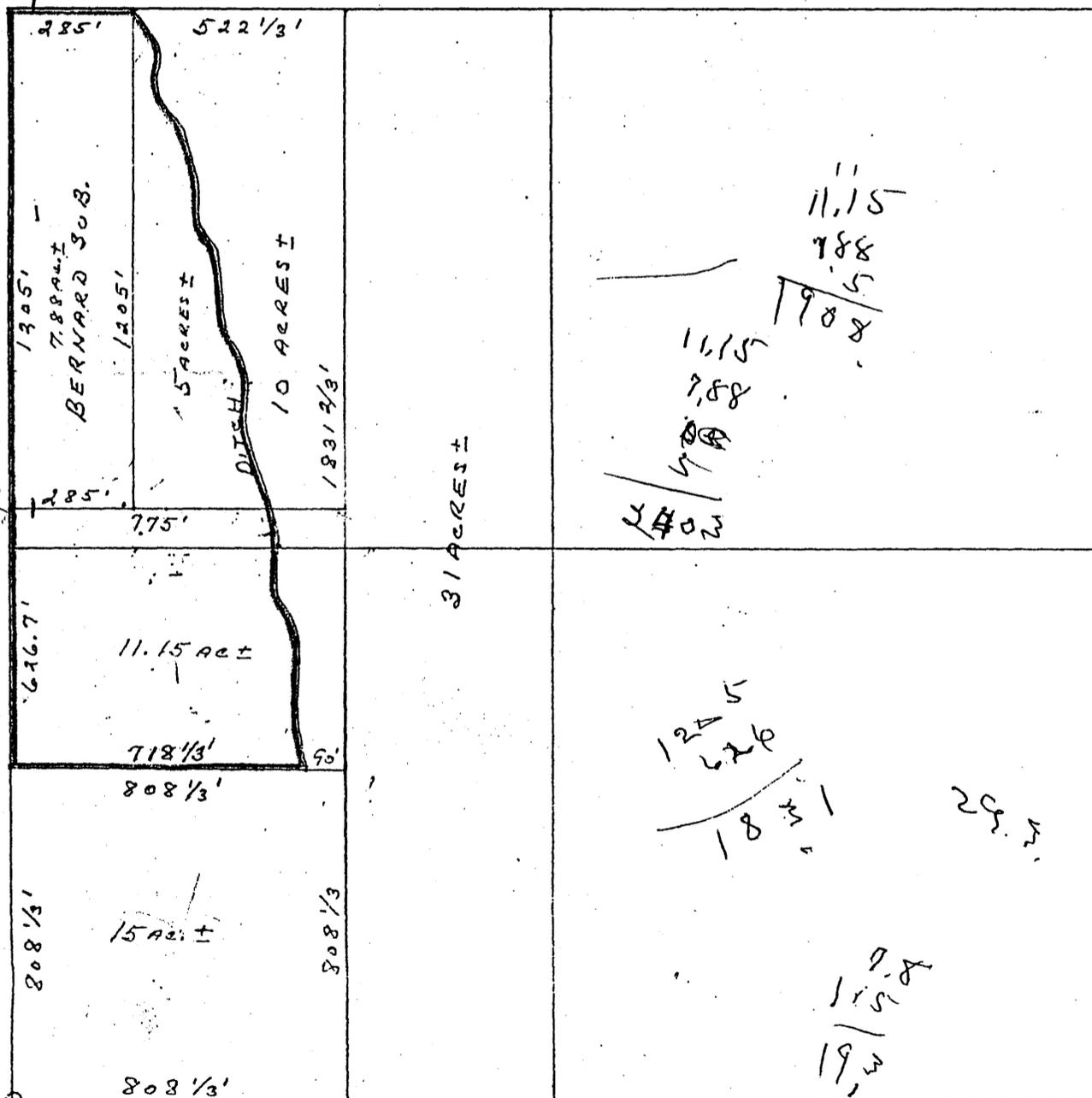
TITLE INSURANCE

ESCROWS

ABSTRACT NO. 103,277.

PREPARED FOR

Clyde Carter, Estate,
c/o Mr. John C. Martin, Atty.,
Tuscumbia, Alabama.



SCALE: - 1" = 400'

S.W. CORNER OF
SEC. 18-3-9-W.

NOTE:- The above plat represents the South West 1/4 of Section 18, Township 3, South, Range 9, West, Colbert County, Alabama. The property covered by this abstract is shown enclosed in Red lines.