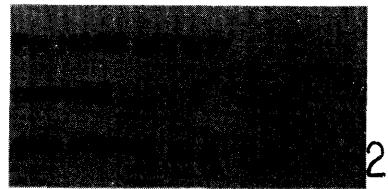


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic John and Archibald Christian House
and/or common Lindsay House, Christian-Lindsay House, Tennessee Valley Country Club

2. Location

off U.S. 72
SW 1/4 of SW 1/4, Section 9 Township 4S, Range 11W
street & number 0.2 mi. N of U.S. 72, 0.1 mi. E of Indian Dr. intersection not for publication
(on grounds of Tennessee Valley Country Club)
city, town Tuscumbia vicinity of _____ congressional district 5th
state Alabama code 01 county Colbert code 033

3. 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 type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" 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:

4. Owner of Property

name Tennessee Valley Country Club, Inc.
street & number P. O. Box 866
city, town Sheffield vicinity of _____ state Alabama 35660

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Office, Colbert County Courthouse
street & number Main Street, between Third and Fourth
city, town Tuscumbia state Alabama 35660

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no
date March 1934 federal state county local
depository for survey records Division of Prints & Photographs, Library of Congress
city, town Washington state D. C. 20540

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 Christian house faces northward, overlooking the town of Tusculumbia. Past the circular drive in front of the house, the land falls away gradually across the surrounding golf course to Spring Creek, a quarter-mile distant, and Big Spring Park beyond. A few old cedars mark the original approach to the house: a straight, tree-lined avenue running south from the creek to the hillock where the dwelling itself is situated.

The structural evolution of the Christian house currently remains something of an enigma. Initially, it seems to have been a two-story rectangular edifice measuring forty-two feet across the front, and thirty-two feet deep. At the southeast rear was a low, semi-detached service wing, approximately eighteen feet square. The house was fronted by a two-tiered central pedimented portico, with attenuated columns and Roman Doric detailing. The superimposed columns have been replaced by a single pair of square, paneled columns carrying a second-floor gallery. On either side, the portico was flanked above and below by a single large window, filled with 12-over-12 sashing. Windows of the side elevations had (and still retain) 9-over-9 sashing. It is this subsequently altered core which forms the front part of the present building and the main country club kitchen behind. Brick walls enclosing this portion of the house, as well as the bisecting partition within, are 13 inches thick, and rest on an irregular ashlar foundation. The facade is laid in Flemish bond. It should be noted that a few irregular patches of Flemish bond brickwork in the west wall hint that this elevation, too, may have once been laid in this decorative pattern and was inexplicably rebuilt in common bond at some early date. (This may have been the result of a structural flow, since there is also a star-shaped tie-rod in the west wall.)

Beneath the east side of the building, there is a basement room with fireplace, entered by means of an outside stair at the northeast corner of the house. A small cellar is also located beneath the old service wing (at the present southeast corner of the building).

From the portico, a pair of transomed, side-by-side doorways open respectively into the two main rooms. Each contains a well-executed Adamesque mantelpiece, with slender paired colonnettes and molded mantel shelf. There is also a paneled dado. The deep, paneled window reveals are splayed, and could be based on Plate 43 in Asher Benjamin's The Practical House Carpenter (1833). Door and window surrounds are fluted, while the wide doors themselves are unusually fine, with their twelve-panel design and corresponding reveals.

The off-center fireplaces, together with the elongated proportions of the rooms (each 20 by 30 feet), indicate that there was once perhaps a transverse partition across the rear of each chamber--possibly to form adjoining stairhalls. The fact that the dado has no break where the partition would have been suggests that the interior woodwork itself was rearranged when the partition was removed.

Except for the door facings, all upstairs woodwork and partitions have been removed. Formerly, there was probably a central hall, opening onto the upper gallery through the double-leaf doorway which remains.

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82

Continuation sheet

Item number

7

Page

2

At some undetermined date, the rear of the house was extended 16 feet to form the present transverse back hall. A Federal-period mantelpiece frames the fireplace at the west end of the hall, although other trim is plain. The two-flight stair in the southeast corner of the hall dates from the early 20th century. The installation of the stair may coincide with the construction of a second rear extension which incorporated the early service wing and brought the structure to its present size except for a one-story cinderblock lean-to added in the late 1930's.

Until about this date, a small brick dependency stood southeast of the house, where putting green #1 is now located. All of the original dependencies have since disappeared.

Other changes, pre-dating 1934, include the addition of two parapeted brick-and-concrete terraces to either side of the portico, and the construction of a screened porch with a deck roof on the east side of the house, opening into the east room through a series of French doors. While the nucleus of the house remains intact but for these changes and the interior alterations specified above, only an extensive structural examination, including removal of 20th-century cosmetic accretions, can reveal more precisely the physical history of the building.

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 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 c. 1835 **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Despite a number of incompatible additions and modifications, including removal of the two-tiered Roman Doric portico, the Christian house still reflects in form, proportion, and materials the pronounced Jeffersonian influence seen in a number of early Tennessee Valley buildings. The surviving Roman Doric entablature at front and sides, fashioned in stylized form of wood, indicates that this affinity extended to exterior details as well. The house is also noteworthy for its unconventional two-room first-floor arrangement, rarely seen in a house of such size and refinement.

* * * * *

The plan lends credence to the tradition that the house was built as the joint residence of two brothers, John and Archibald Christian, in the 1830's. The house site itself was among the lands ceded by the U. S. Government of the University of Alabama on January 23, 1824, for re-sale as a source of revenue. Presumably, the Christians purchased the land not long thereafter, although destruction of early county records makes determination of the exact date impossible.

John and Archibald Christian, and the latter's wife, Paulina Lewis Christian, were among a number of Virginians, most of them from the Piedmont section about Charlottesville, who settled in and near Tuscumbia during the 1820's and thirties. That the Christians occupied this tract in the 1840's appears to be verified by the existence of several family graves dating from that decade and located in the now-obliterated private cemetery west of the house. John Christian and his wife, Anna, died of yellow fever while in New Orleans prior to the Civil War. By the 1860's, Archibald Christian was living at another house, Violet Hall, in Tuscumbia.

During the late 19th century, the Christian house became for a time the home of Robert Lindsay, the Scottish-born Reconstruction-era governor of Alabama. The center of a dairy farm during the early 1900's, the house and fifty surrounding acres were acquired by the Tennessee Valley Country Club in 1923. For a brief period between 1941 and 1945, the house was again privately occupied as the home of Dr. Hilliard Whitlock. But at Whitlock's death, it reverted to country club ownership. The acreage around the house to the east and north in particular have since been developed into a nine-hole golf course. Second-floor partitions in the original portion of the house have also been removed to create a single large social room, while the caretaker's quarters are situated in the wing to the rear.

Photographs of the house made for the Historic American Buildings Survey in March of 1934 reveal that the house had assumed its present appearance, except for the cinderblock wing across the rear, by that time. Stylistically, the house is related to at least two other houses in the same area, Belmont and Saunders Hall, also recorded by HABS.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Holder, Eleanor. "Historic Old Home Part of Country Club Complex." Colbert County Reporter (Tuscumbia). October 28, 1971.
 Tennessee Valley Historical Society. Historic Muscle Shoals. Florence: no publisher listed, 1976.

NOT VERIFIED
 NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property _____ 0.27 acres

Quadrangle name Tuscumbia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000 or 7 1/2

UMT References

A

1	6	4	3	5	5	6	0	3	8	4	1	8	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H

Zone		Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a rectangular lot 100' by 120', bounded on all sides by the grounds of the Tennessee Valley Country Club, Inc.

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 Robert Gamble , Architectural Historian

organization for Alabama Historical Commission date Jan. 1981

street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621

city or town Montgomery state Alabama 36130

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Chilo B. Toward Jr.






title SHPO Alabama date 10/6/81

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>William H. Bravman</u>	date <u>2.4.82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest: <u>Wm. Subie</u>	date <u>2/4/82</u>
Chief of Registration	

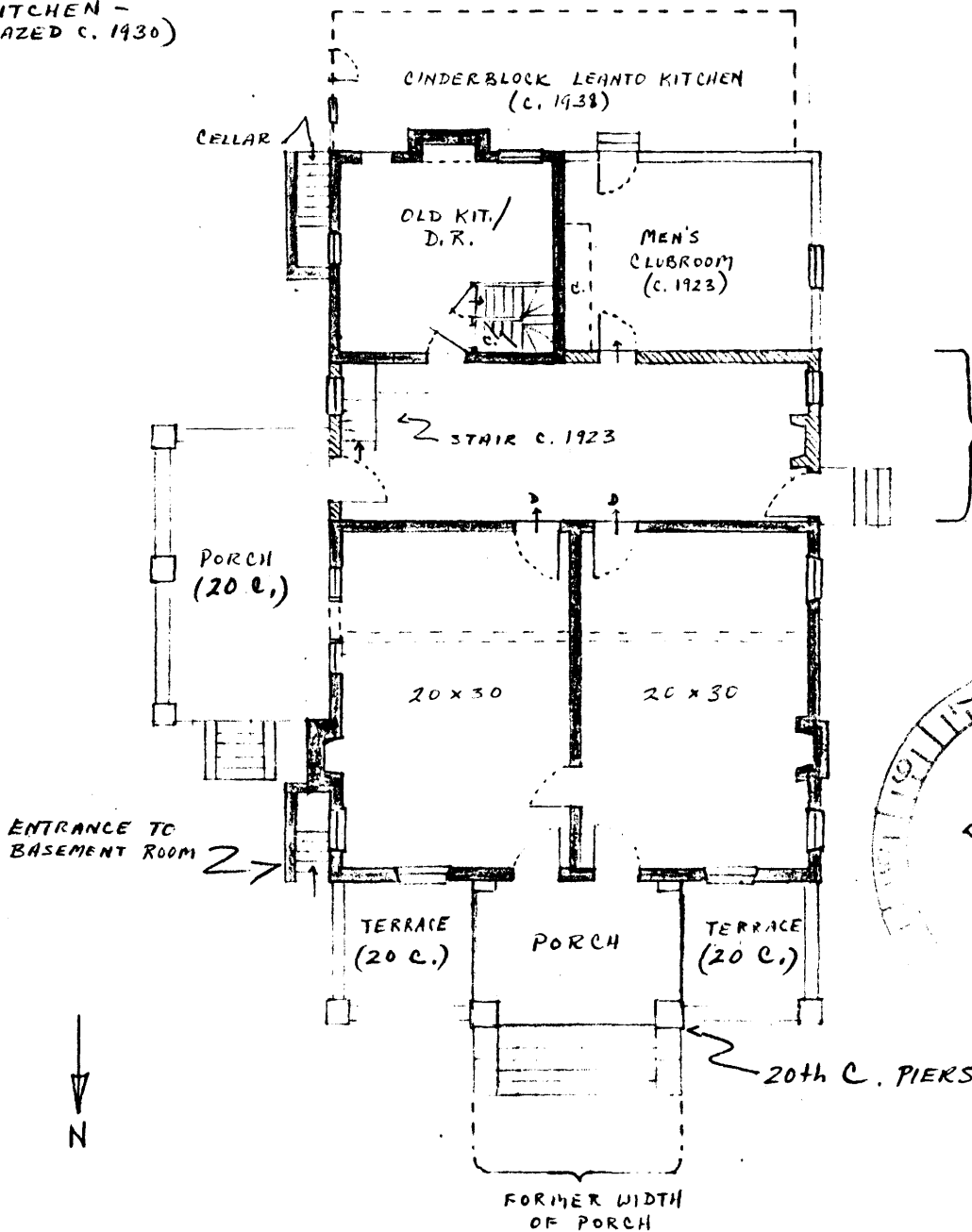
MEASURED 2.18.80

CHRISTIAN HOUSE
TUSCUMBIA, ALABAMA

LEGEND

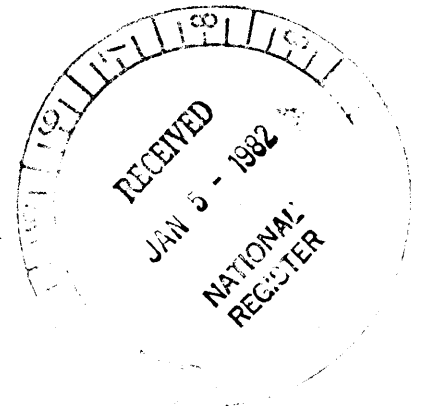
-  ORIGINAL STRUCTURE
-  FIRST EXTENSION
-  C. 1923 EXTENSION
-  CONJECTURAL EARLY PARTITION
-  C. 1938 CINDERBLOCK ADDITION

GREEN # 1
- SITE OF OUTSIDE
KITCHEN -
(RAZED C. 1930)



FIRST EXTENSION

FEB 4 1982



SCALE

