

# The Historic Huntsville Quarterly

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## The Winston-Orgain-Sammons House Historic Huntsville Quarterly

Harvie P. Jones

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**The Winston-Orgain-Sammons House**  
**Historic Huntsville *Quarterly*,**  
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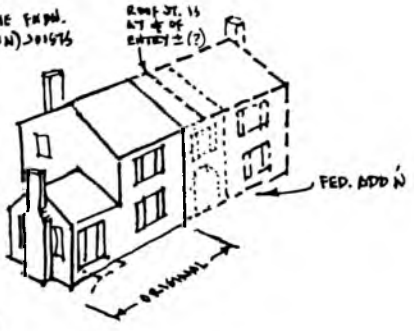
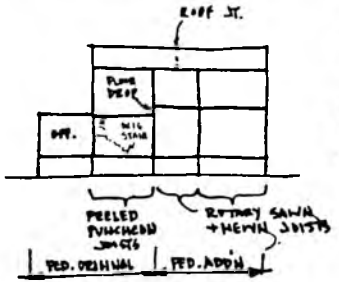
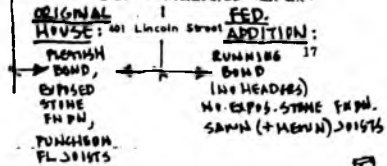
**Introduction**

This reprint features only Harvie P. Jones' drawings of one of Alabama's earliest houses, the circa 1815 Winston-Orgain-Sammons house, 401 Lincoln Street. Harvie made the drawings in 1984 and 1985 when, as preservation architect, he researched and restored the Federal-style house for the Calame Sammons family.

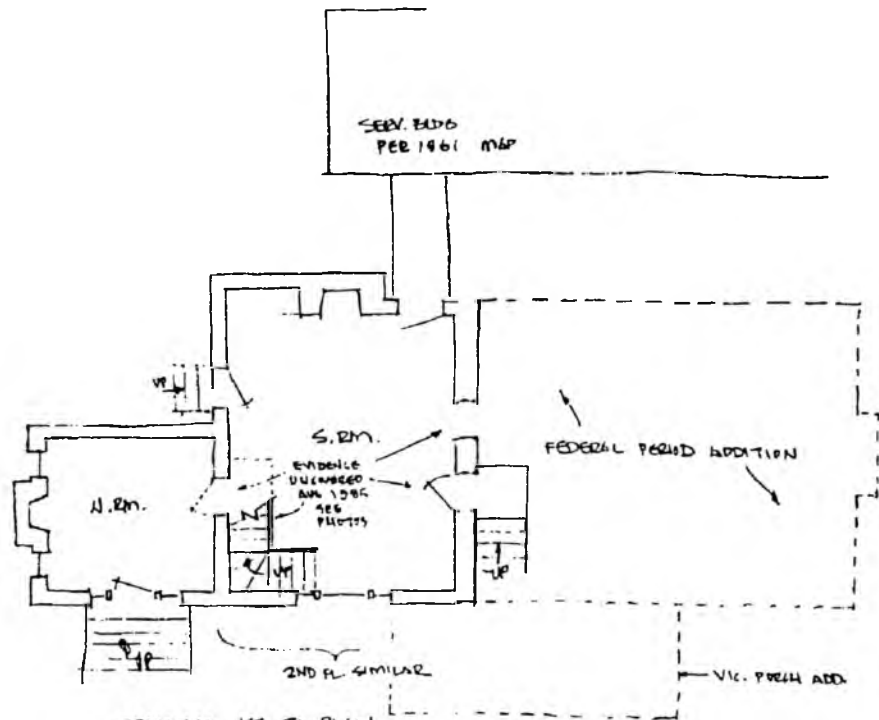
Studying Harvie's drawings, it is possible to trace the evolution of the house from the circa 1815 half-house (one room down, one up, at the north end of the present structure) to a symmetrical two-story residence. Several years after the original construction, another pair of rooms and a connecting stairhall were built to the south of the half-house, and a one-story office was added on the north side. In the late Victorian period, a bracketed front porch and two closets were built; a large enclosed back porch was added after 1913.

Discovery of interesting details confirming the house's history afforded some reward for the tedium and mess involved in opening the sealed fireplaces and removing wallpaper and plaster. The Sammonses lived in the house during restoration and did much of the preliminary work themselves, fully experiencing the challenges of restoring an old residence. Their pleasure in their accomplishment is vividly conveyed by writer Aida Reinbolt, whose article on the house's evolution and restoration accompanied Harvie's drawings.

As Reinbolt notes: "Tracing the outlines of a historic home is similar to solving a mystery." Harvie's preliminary visualization, she noted, proved gratifyingly correct when "the old wallpaper and plaster were removed and the floorboards taken up during renovation." The drawings of the Winston-Orgain-Sammons House prove once again Harvie P. Jones' remarkable abilities as an architectural sleuth.



3117 N. 199A  
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 Revis. 7 Sept '85

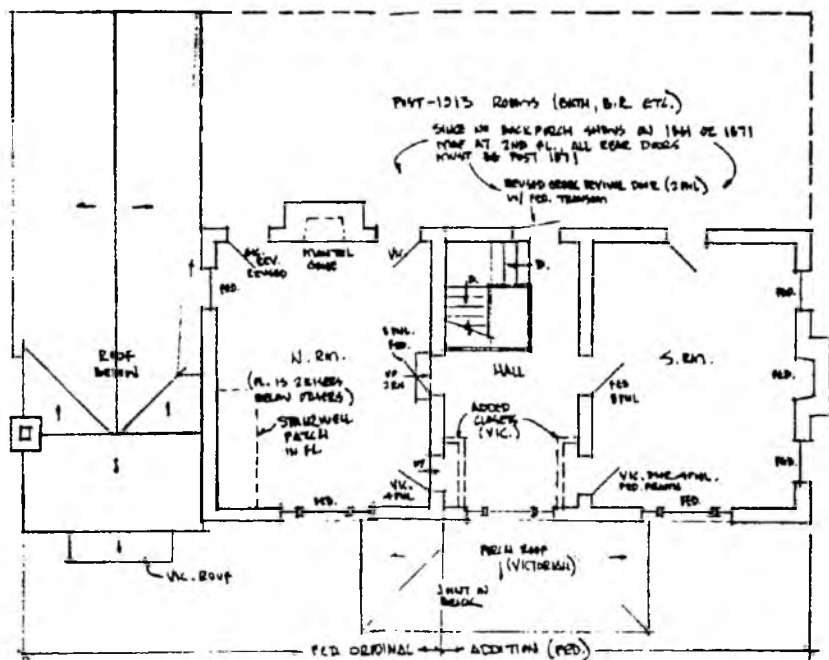


ORIGINAL 1<sup>ST</sup> FL. PLAN

WIS WINKLIN-OGGIN HOUSE  
401 LINCOLN ST., HUNTSVILLE, AL.  
NO SCALE - APPROX. 1/8" = 1 FT.  
7 SEPT. 1985 H.P. JONES, PH.D.







1815 WINSTON - ORIGIN 1841 - 401 LINCOLN ST., HUNTSVILLE, AL.  
 SKETCH 2ND FL. - NO SCALE (APPROX. 1/8" = 1 FT) 24 MAR. 1944 H.P. JAMES, F.A.I.A.  
 BEVIS, 2 SEPT. 85 LJJ