

25
Years

ETOWAH VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Volume 26, 1997

P.O. Box 1886, Cartersville, Georgia 30120, Phone (770) 606-8862

TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES NOVEMBER 1ST & 2ND

Once again, fall is in the air and our Tour of Historic Homes is close at hand. On Saturday, November 1 and Sunday, November 2, "Come Harvest our History" as we converge with our friends, neighbors and guests at the intersection of Cherokee and Cassville Road. There we will enjoy the splendor and beauty of six magnificent homes considered some of the finest Cartersville has to offer. All are steeped with both tradition and history.

The EVHS gratefully acknowledges our community sponsors for this year's tour. They are *Phoenix Air; Julius and Terry Shaw; Bartow Paving Company; Corwin, Tilley & Deems, P.C. and Henderson-Bowen Companies*. Many thanks to Tricia Simmons and her committee for doing and excellent job.

More information on the tour can be found inside.



TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

Saturday, November 1
10:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

~ AND ~

Sunday, November 2
12:30 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

TICKET COST

\$8 In Advance At Courthouse
Or By Mail

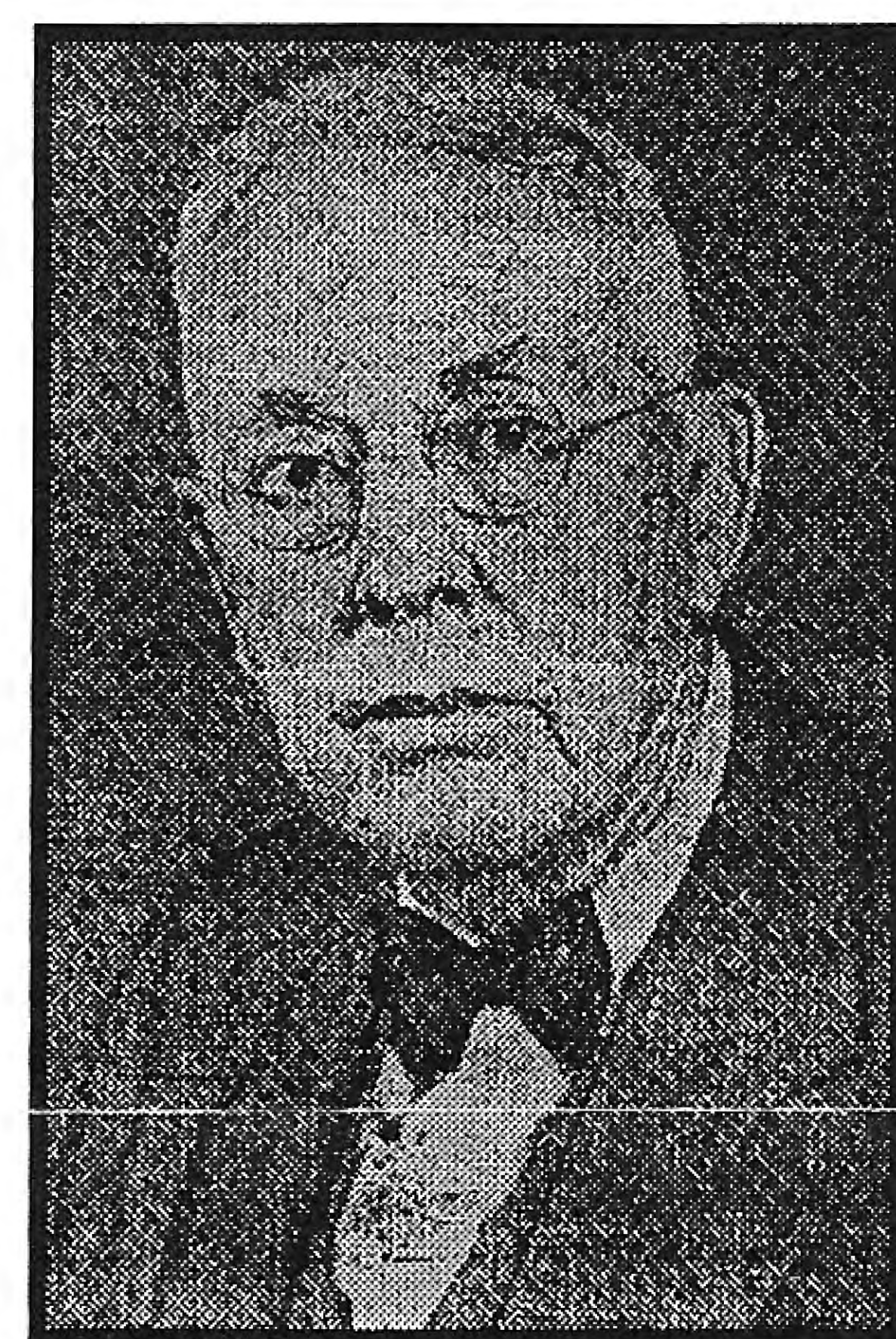
\$10 Day Of Tour
May Be Purchased At Courthouse

~ Sponsored By ~
Etowah Valley Historical Society
Cartersville, Bartow County, Georgia

WALTER AKERMAN

Editors Note: This article was written by Thad Holt of the Atlanta Constitution and was taken from the January 6, 1938 edition of The Weekly Tribune News. This article originally appeared under the title "Walter Akerman Marvels at Changes Made In Football In Past Fifty Years".

As he talked of football the way he played it at Princeton

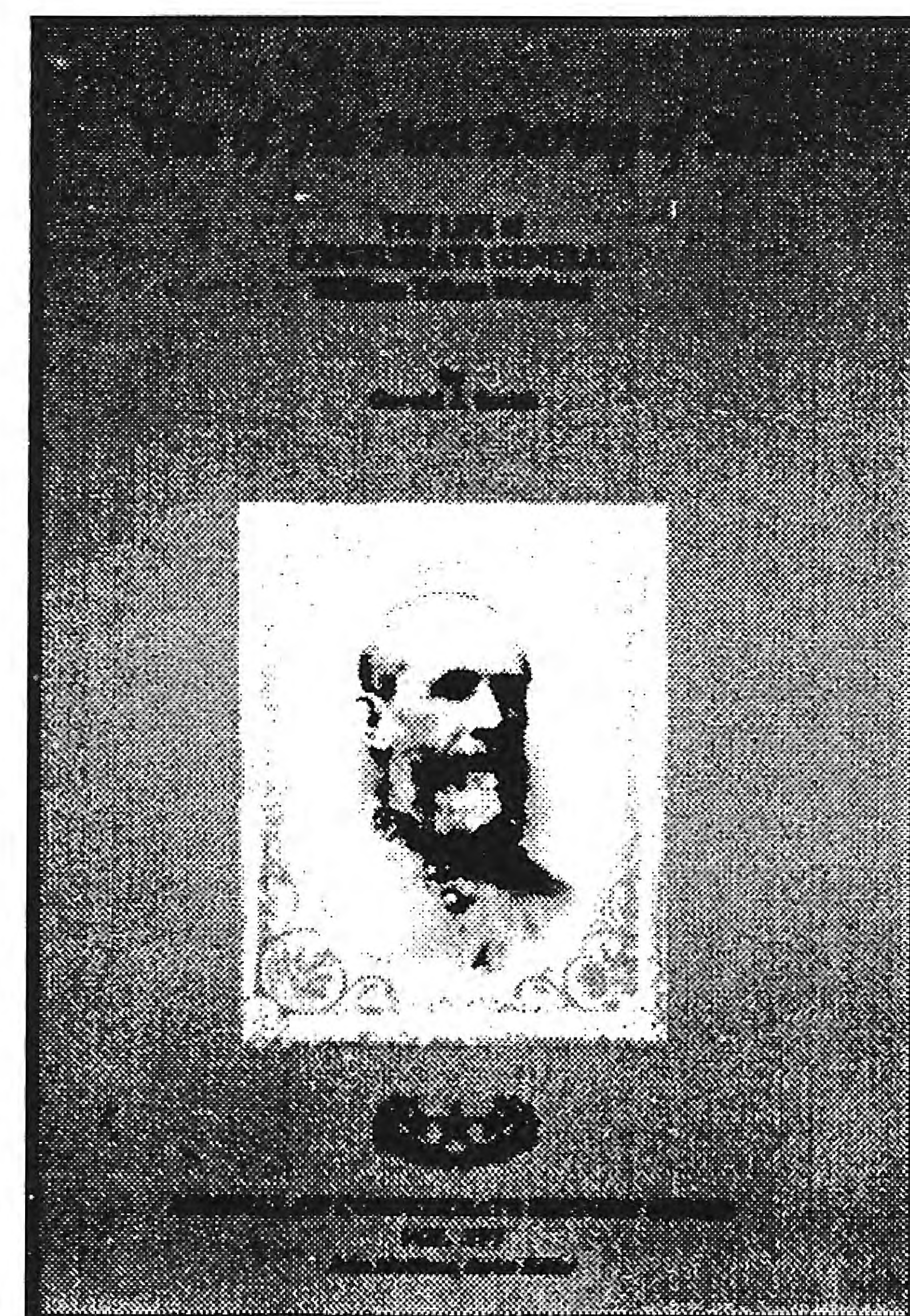


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NOW AVAILABLE!

This exciting new book is available for sale now at the EVHS office in the 1903 Gold Dome Courthouse. The cost is \$18 (plus \$3 shipping, if mailed). We still have a limited number of signed copies by author, Dr. Gerald J. Smith and by Dwight Harley, Sr., General Wofford's great-grandson.

This is a very well written biography of Bartow County's own General William Tatum Wofford, one of two Confederate Generals from Bartow County (formerly Cass).



"Walter Akerman" Continued

in 1887-1888, I for once was sorry I was born in the twentieth century and felt quite sorry for myself that I was not there to see him play for and against Alonzo Stagg, Pudge Hoffelfinger (the only man who could ever break up the flying wedge), Hector Cowan and the other old warriors of pioneer football.

Not by straining and stretching the imagination to unprecedented limits is one able to picture some old timers of today as star athletes of yesterday, but Walter Akerman's carriage, fine physique, his fire and remarkably preserved features tell you without the asking that he was a helluva tackle in his day.

Walter Akerman was born in Elberton, Georgia and has lived all but three of his 68 years at Cartersville, although his position in the public relations department of a large railway company takes him many places.

"Yes," he said, in answer to our question, "football has come a long way since my day. And yet I love it as much as ever, probably more, although I wish they would restore the goal post at least as close to the goal line as two feet. The game has been robbed of one of its brightest features, kicking. When I played, a field goal counted five points, the same as a touchdown. And an artistic foot won many a ball game."

I asked him to point out a few differences in the game as played then and now and he did.

"Passing was not allowed, of course", he said. "We lined up on the scrimmage line right against one another and not some four feet apart as they do today. This enabled us to get in plenty of biffs and socks without the

knowledge of the referee. Crawling and piling on were popular practices."

"We were tough. We had to be. A player went into the game knowing that he would have to finish, barring



Princeton baseball team. Walter Akerman in middle row, far right. Photo courtesy of Mark Akerman.

nothing short of a broken neck. I believe we stressed conditioning then even more than today. Prizefighters were engaged to look after our training. Jim Robertson, former British heavyweight champion, attended to those chores during my day at Princeton."

"The center, in snapping the ball back to the quarterback, must first put his foot on the ball. The quarterback had to either touch or pass the ball to a third man before running with it. Alumni served as our coaches, working without pay."

"That flying wedge was our pet play. Upon one of our members receiving the kickoff, we immediately formed a wedge around him in the shape of a V. In fact, we called it the "Flying V". Then we smashed our way toward the opposing goal. It was a touchdown nearly every time."

"However, this Heffelfinger, of Yale whom Grantland Rice called greatest of all football players, mastered the technique of smashing the wedge. Tall and powerful and weighing 220, the Yale guard would run and dive into the wedge over our heads and then he'd nail the man with the ball."

Two of Akerman's teammates were Edgar Allen Poe, nephew of the great American poet, and Hector Cowan, tackle who made Grant Rice's All-Time All-American and Walter Camp's first All-American. Poe, he said, was a superb quarterback, smart on the



1888 Princeton football team. Walter Akerman is reclining on ground. Edgar Allen Poe's nephew, with the same name is holding the ball. Photo courtesy of Mark Akerman.

Continued on following page

"Walter Akerman" Continued

field and a pacemaker in the classroom throughout his college career. Poe was a brilliant captain, and weighed only 150 pounds.

Alonzo Stagg, dean of American coaches, who is now College of the Pacific mentor despite his 78 years, played end for Yale and his smart performances are vividly recalled by Akerman.

Akerman refereed the second college football game in the south played at Piedmont Park here in 1892 between Georgia and Auburn. The Tigers won 10-0. A few months later Akerman coached at Georgia for a few weeks. He did it gratis.

"I was at a game not so long ago", the Cartersville gentleman recalled, "and was making quite a fuss following a particularly scintillation play. A drunk edged up to me menacingly and harped-'Shay, partner, who you for noway?'"

"Well", I said, "played at Princeton. My father graduated at Dartmouth. Four of my brothers and one of my sons went to Georgia. Another son graduated at Florida and my daughter attended a Woman's College at Milledgeville. I came here today to see a ball game and I'm seeing it."

Follow Up on Walter's Life:

Walter Akerman, born March 8, 1869, was the second of seven sons born to Amos T. and Martha Akerman. (See EVHS newsletter article on the former U. S. Attorney General, Amos Akerman, Volume 24, 1997). Born in Elberton, Georgia, the family moved to Cartersville when Walter was three. He attended a prep



Walter (standing) in uniform with his brother Clem. Photo courtesy of Mark Akerman.

school for boys at Lawrenceville, New Jersey and then entered Princeton University, graduating in 1890.

Not long after graduation, Walter was appointed the new postmaster in Cartersville and served four years. On October 27, 1892, Walter married Susan Young, the daughter of Mrs. and Mrs. James C. Young. Together they had four children, Hugh, born in 1894; Joseph, born in



A younger Walter Akerman just beginning his professional career in Cartersville. Photo taken from The Tribune News, Cartersville Jan. 6, 1938.

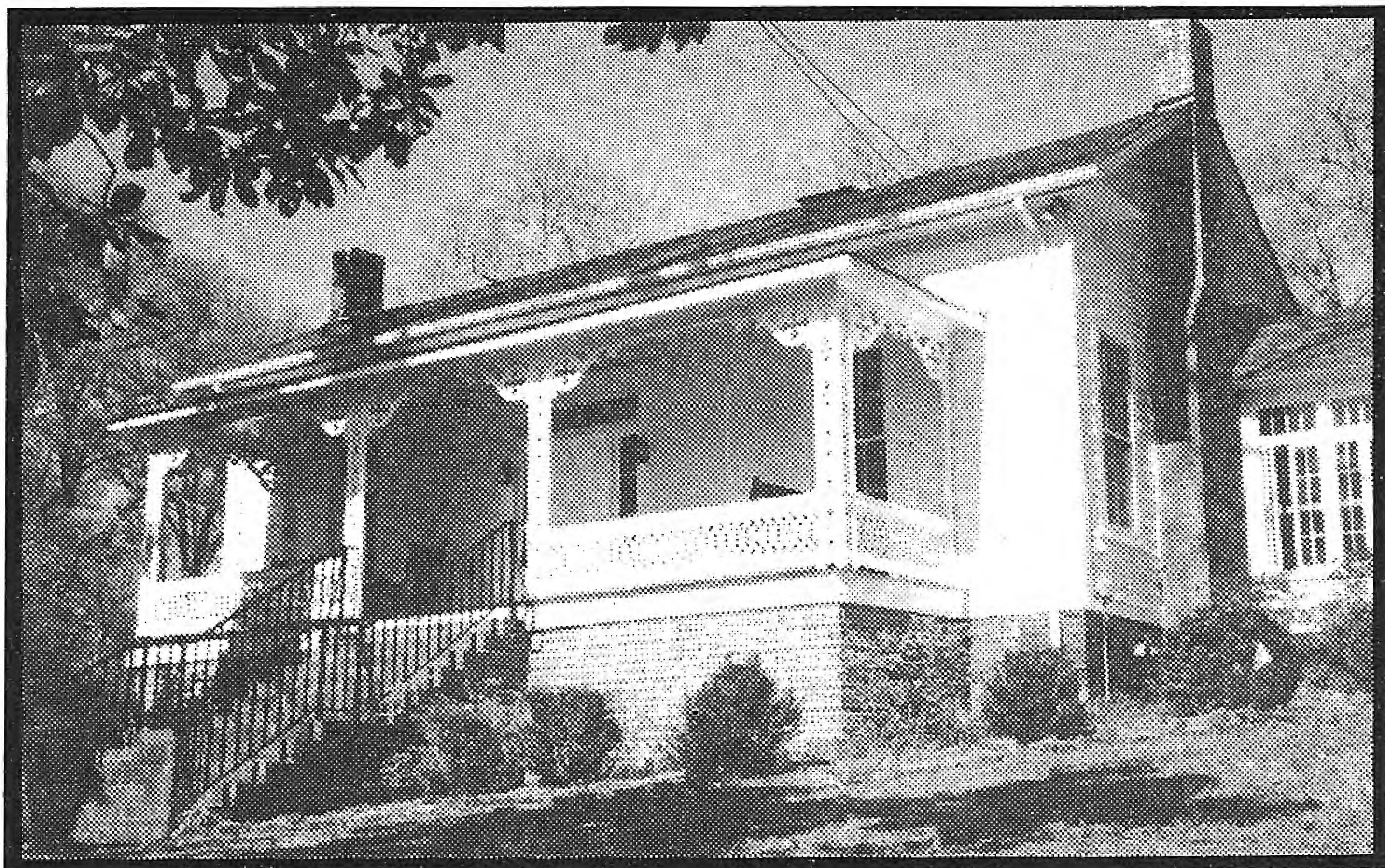
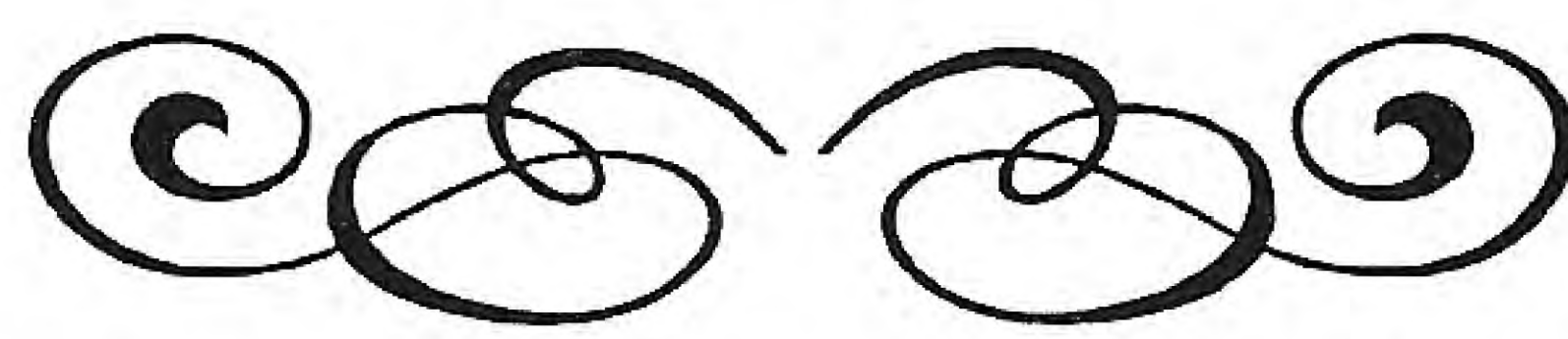
1899; Martha, born in 1903 and William, born in 1910.

Following Walter's first appointment as Postmaster, which ended in 1894, he served as principal of both the East and West Side public schools in Cartersville. Walter was again appointed Postmaster in 1898 and served for twelve consecutive years under appointments from Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft. In 1908 he was honored by his fellow postmasters with the position of President of the Georgia Association of Presidential Postmasters. His next job was as principal of Cartersville High School, which he gladly accepted in 1910. In 1918, Walter entered military service and was stationed in France. Upon his return, Walter served as superintendent of the public schools of Chatsworth and Melo. It was in 1921 that Walter accepted an appointment to the position of United States Marshal for the northern district of Georgia. His final position before retirement was as a public relations special agent for the Seaboard Air Line Railroad.

Walter was very active civically, serving many years on the Cartersville School Board, an active member of both the Masonic and Odd Fellow Orders and served over fifteen years as chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of the Seventh Congressional District.

Walter passed away April 29, 1951 and is buried at Oak Hill Cemetery, along with his wife.

1997 TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

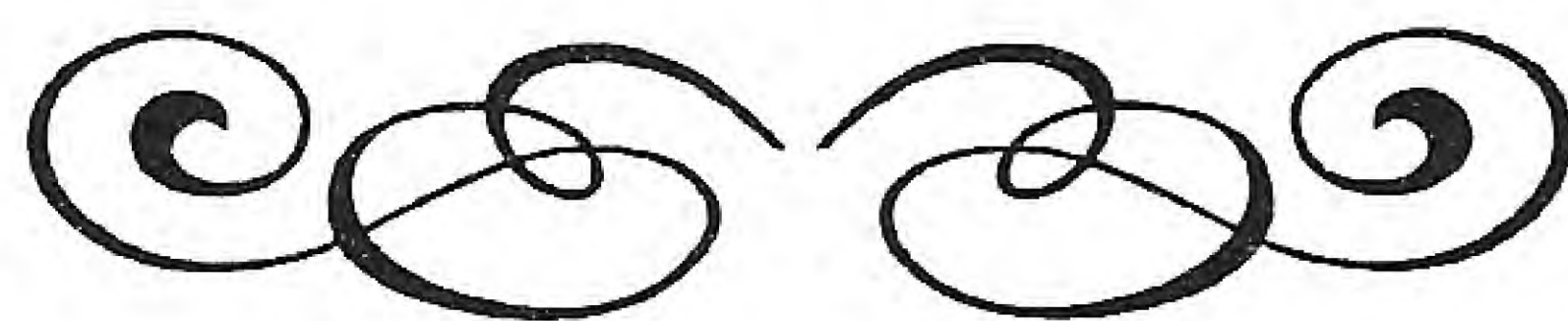


MILAM-WHITE HOME

23 Cassville Road ca. 1860

This home is owned by Vandi and Harry White. The exterior features Folk Victorian applied ornamentation. Gothic Revival inspiration is evident in the jigsaw porch trim, entry door and mantelpieces in the front two rooms. Lindsey Johnson is recorded as the original owner ca. 1860. Several families have lived in this historic home, including Charlie Milam, president of a local bank; Carl Leachman; and Ronald Davis. Vandi and Harry bought the property in April of 1988 and live here with their three daughters.

The interesting interior includes paneling under the windows and the especially ornate mantelpieces. The dining room, hall and front living room chandeliers are original to the house. The original rooms of the house - front hall, living room, dining room and study are furnished with period pieces in keeping with the style of the house.

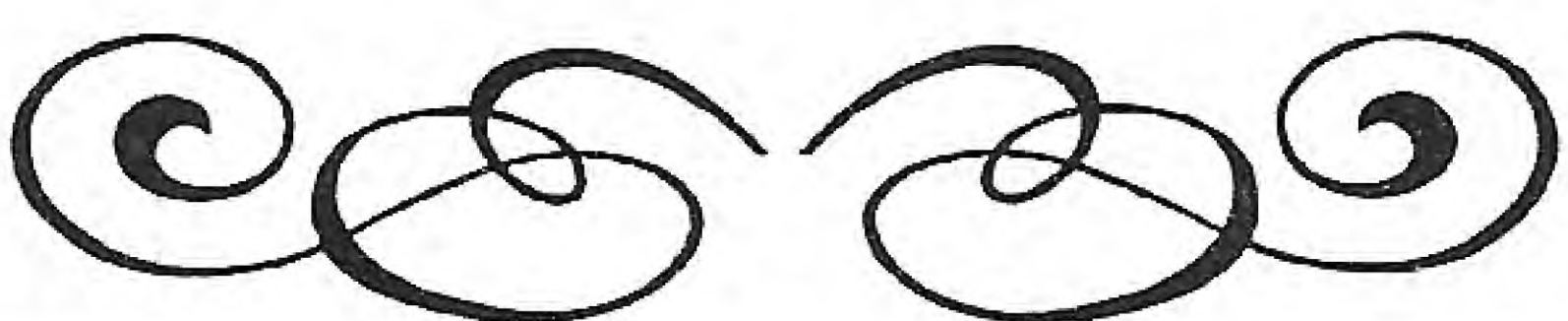
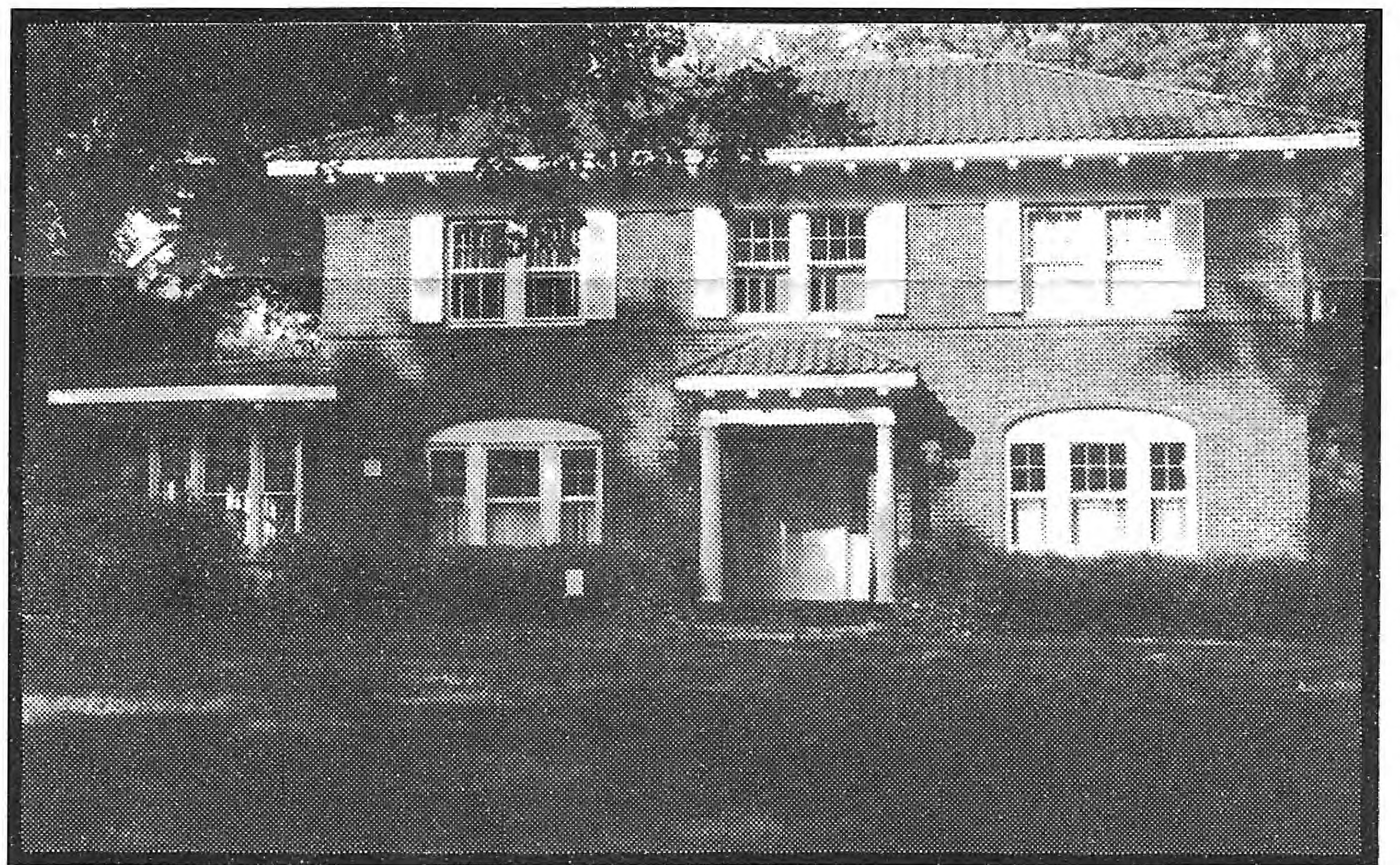


GILREATH-JOLLY HOME

18 Cassville Road ca. 1926

Linda and Joe Jolly own this two-story, brick, Italian Renaissance Revival style house. This home has a ceramic tile, hipped roof, widely over-hanging boxed eaves with decorative brackets, and a small entry porch accentuated with classical columns. J. W. Vaughan sold three lots to Ben C. Gilreath in 1925. Gilreath built the home in 1926 and lived there with his wife, Estelle, until their deaths. Linda and Joe bought the property in 1972. Only two families have lived here since the home was built.

The Jollys have furnished their home with many antiques including chandeliers in the den that once were fixtures at the Braban Hotel in Cartersville. Few major changes have been made through the years and original steam radiators are still used for heating.



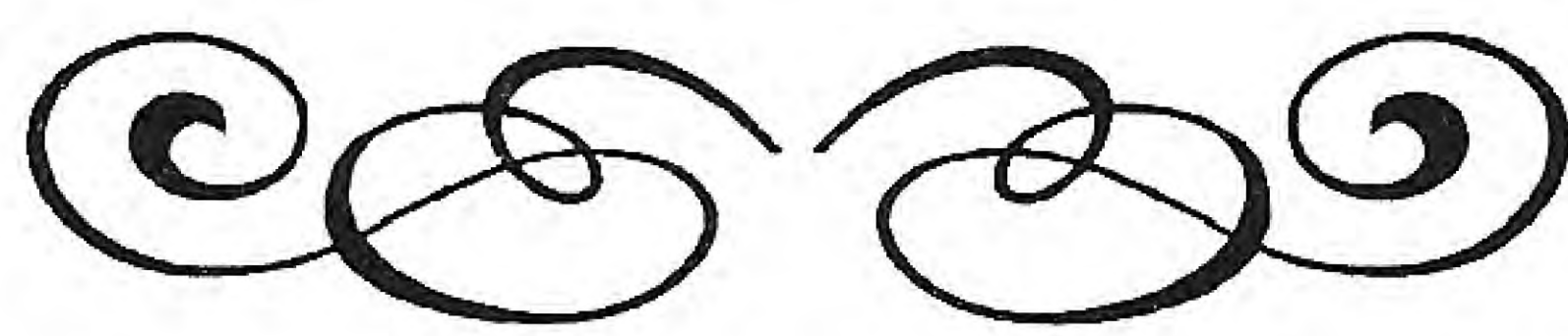
MOSS-ANTONIO HOME

15 Cassville Road ca. 1928

Candace and Marion Antonio own this one-story, brick home. The architectural style is an eclectic mixture of Federal and/or Colonial Revival and English Vernacular Revival elements. Corinthian columns support the entry portico. The side porch has segmentally arched openings. McClarra S. Moss purchased the property in April, 1928 and hired Eugene Smith to build the house. The Antonios bought the home in September of 1994.

Candace and Marion have done extensive cosmetic renovation, including taking up carpeting to expose oak hardwood floors, removing thirteen layers of wallpaper in the dining room and scraping at least one inch of paint off the front columns before repainting. The Antonios show their love of antiques with a mixture of primitive antiques, a rope bed in the guest room, old quilts, and turn-of-the century collectibles.

1997 TOUR OF HISTORIC HOMES

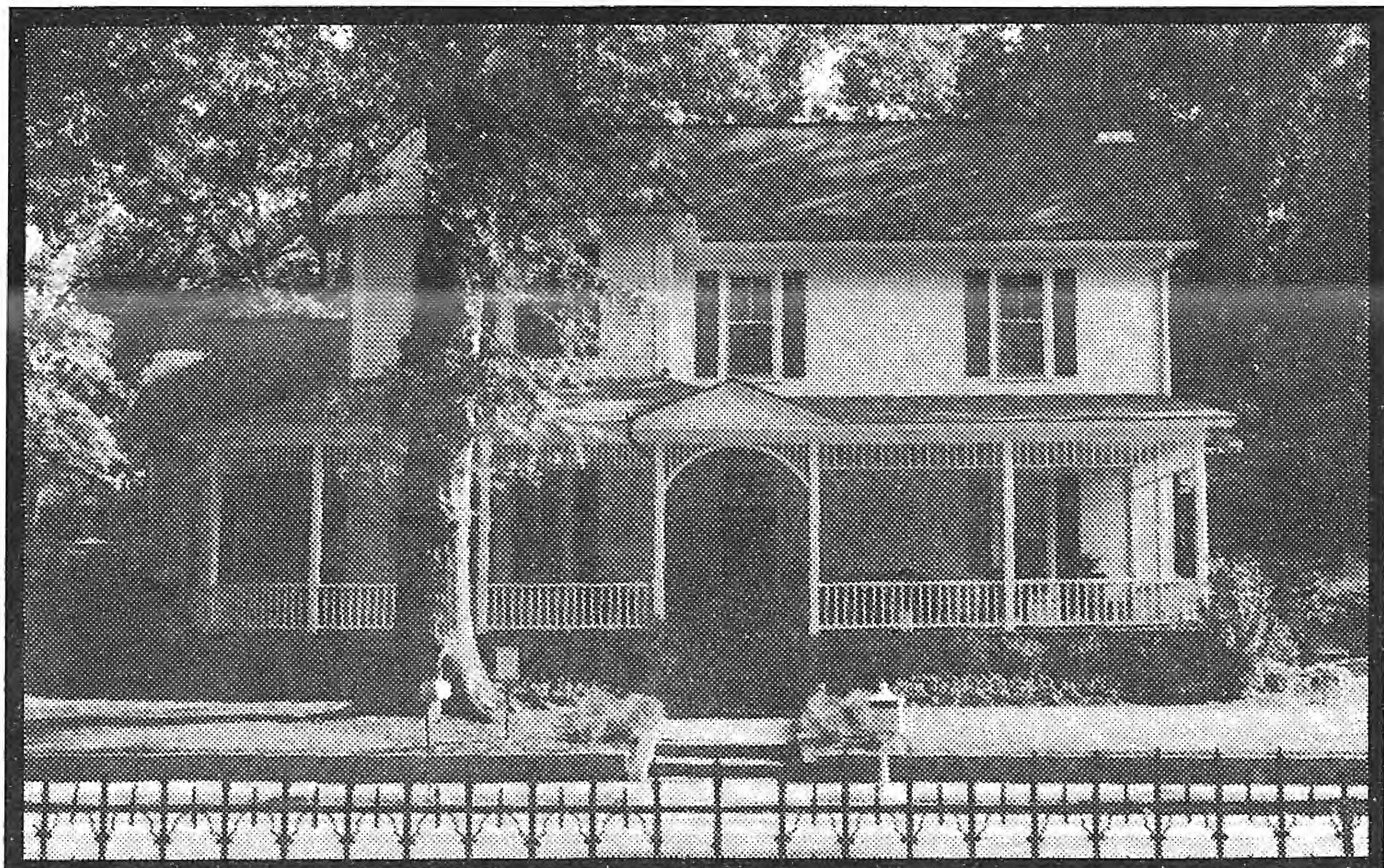
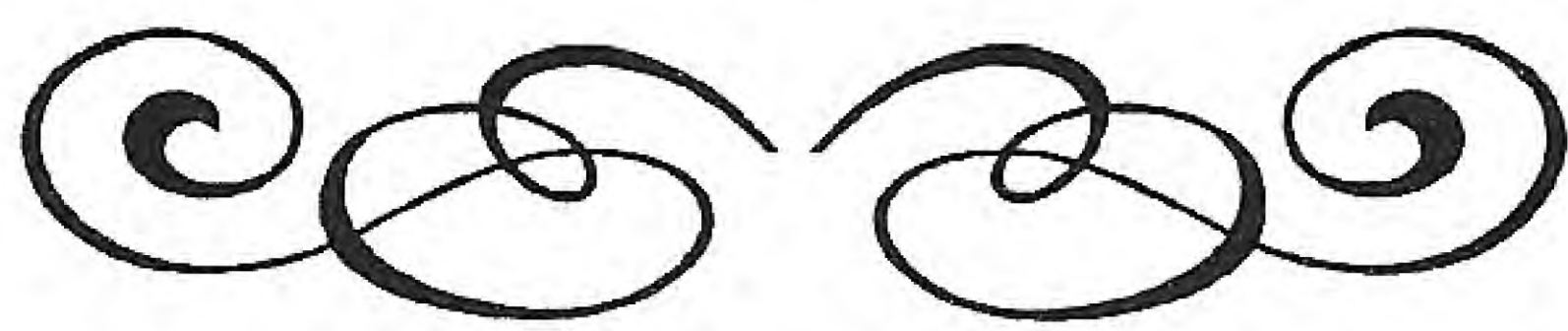
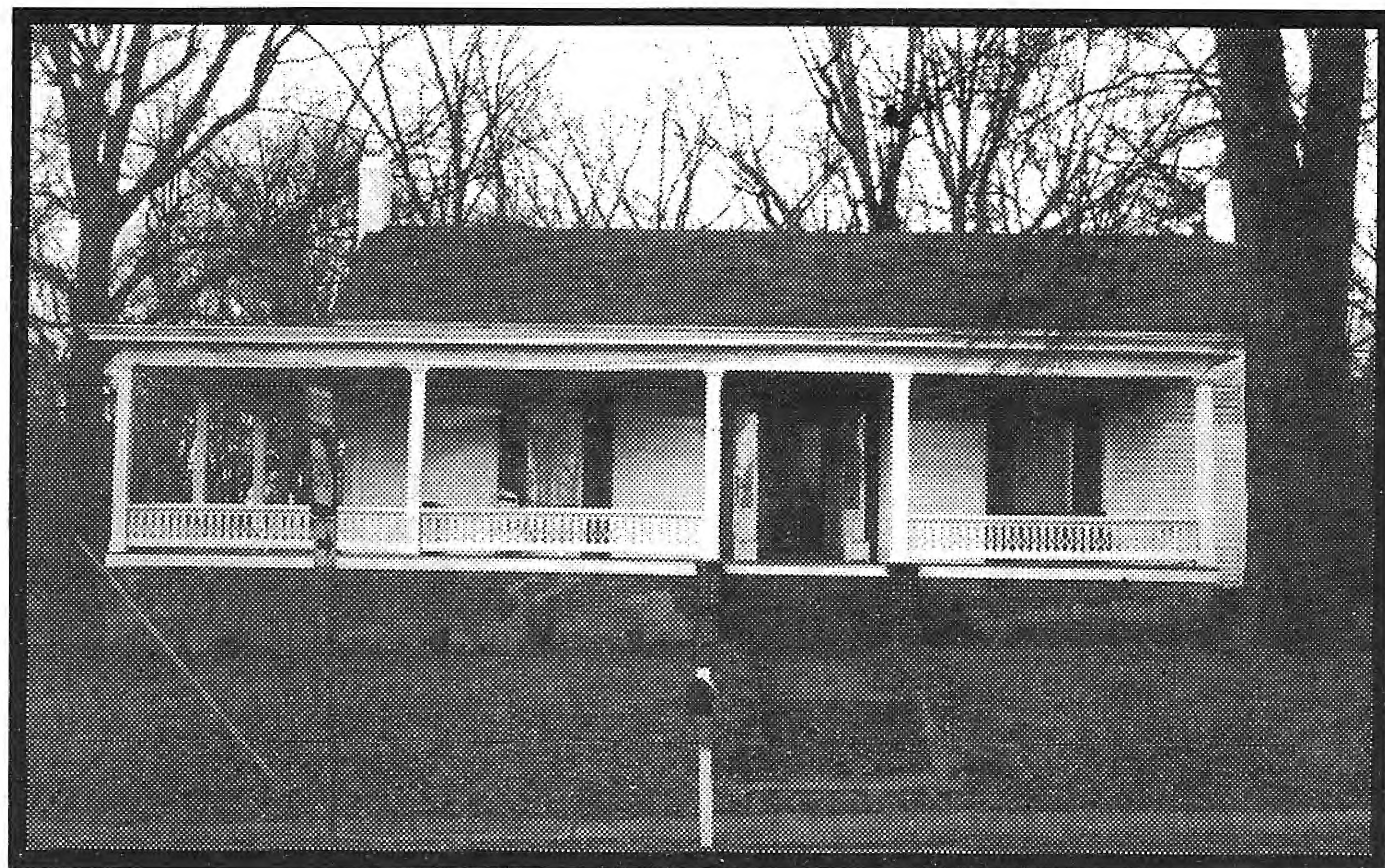


VEAL-SMITH HOME

301 West Cherokee Avenue ca. 1865-85

Hal and Emily Burgess live in this central hallway type house. The entry has sidelights and simple entablature (cornice and frieze). Full-length triple-hung sash windows on the front also feature partial entablature, which is a Greek Revival influence. The interior has ten-foot ceilings and heart pine floors. Additions include the master bedroom, dining room, kitchen and den.

Hal and Emily have furnished their home with several family antiques. Emily's great-grandmother was a relative of Sydney Lanier and her grandfather was Judge Claude Pittman. An antique humpback trunk, wardrobe, quilt and lace table cloth once belonged to Emily's great-grandmother. A trunk used today as a coffee table was bought by Judge Pittman and given to Emily's grandmother, Emily Daves, for a hope chest prior to their marriage.

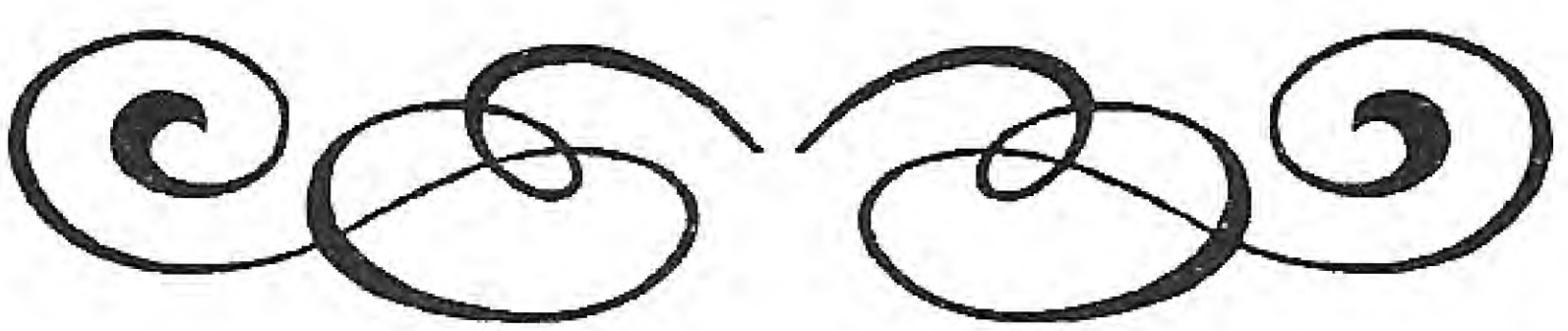


1900 BAPTIST PARSONAGE-BARRETT HOME

223 West Cherokee Avenue ca. 1900

The two-story gabled ell house is owned by Brad and Susan Barrett. The house is listed on the February, 1900 Sanborn Map. Most houses of this type were built in the last quarter of the 19th century for well-to-do occupants, more often in Georgia's towns and cities. Located next door to the Baptist church, which was erected in 1869, this house was used as the Baptist parsonage.

The entry hall features vertical board wainscot and a closed-string, quarter-turn stair with landing. Susan and Brad purchased this home in July of 1993 and have done extensive renovation. Many of the antiques used in furnishing their home are family pieces.



ROSELAWN

224 West Cherokee Avenue ca. 1860's

Roselawn is the former home of renowned Methodist Evangelist Sam Jones and is also known as the Gilreath-Jones-Parmenter home. It is presently owned by Bartow County and is operated as a house museum. This interesting house began as a small, one-story structure in the 1860's. It is believed the attic area was converted to bedrooms about 1872. A two story wing was added in the early 1880's. In 1895, construction began to raise the existing two floors and add a third floor underneath. When the renovation was complete, Roselawn stood as an eighteen-room, three bath mansion and was considered an architectural wonder.

Nelson Gilreath designed and built the first small house on the property. The Rev. Sam Jones bought the property in the early 1880's. Emried Dargon Cole brought his bride, Marie Gilreath, to live here in March, 1927. Mrs. Marie Cole Bell Parmenter lived in the house until her death in October, 1968. Bartow County purchased the property in 1974.



MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT NOBLE HILL

JUNE 28, 1997

The Etowah Valley Historical Society (EVHS) met on Saturday evening, June 28 for a membership meeting and dinner at the Noble Hill-Wheeler Memorial Center. EVHS president, DiAnne Monroe, welcomed guests and acknowledged those persons associated with Noble Hill that were in attendance. Several announcements were made including a schedule of upcoming meetings and events. The resource room at the courthouse has received many new books including county histories. Additional microfilm rolls have been received, expanding our collection of newspapers and genealogical information.

Michael Garland reported that In and Out of the Lines is ready for reprint as soon as the copyright number is received. Joe Head reported on his book The General: The Great Locomotive Dispute and how he was inspired to do the second edition with additional information and pictures. Diane Mooney reported that the project at Allatoona Pass was progressing well. Trails are all but complete and signs have been



(L-R): Marian Coleman, Susie Wheeler, Kathleen Washington, Joe Weems, DiAnne Monroe, and Joe Head.

ordered. The Comprehensive Preservation Plan being completed by Robert & Company is well underway with an expected completion date of October.

A wonderful buffet dinner prepared by Unique Catering was then enjoyed by the approximately 45 members and guests in attendance. Following dinner, EVHS Vice President, Joe Head, introduced our speaker,

Dr. Susie Wheeler. Dr. Wheeler and her late husband, Dan, have worked very hard to make Noble Hill a reality. She had many slides which showed the progression of preserving this unique structure. Noble Hill was erected in 1923 in the Cassville Community, as the first school for black children, built to standard specifications in the Bartow County School System. The school was closed in 1955 when all schools for black children in Bartow County were consolidated to form the Bartow Elementary School. The center now includes historical information of all schools for blacks from the early 1900's, artifacts and pictorial resources of the community and lifestyles.



EVHS President DiAnne Monroe opening the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP MEETING AT HARDY-WATKINS HOME

SEPTEMBER 12, 1997

A large crowd of about 100 members and guests gathered at the old Weston C. Hardy home in Cassville to experience what can only be described as a unique and fun filled evening. Mr. Mack Watkins, the current owner of this grand ole southern home welcomed one and all as the crowd gathered on a Friday evening at 6:00



p.m. There was not an extra chair on the lawn as a delicious meal was served to all following a trip down memory lane as each in attendance wandered through this beautiful old home built in the 1850's.

Following dinner, EVHS president, DiAnne Monroe, recognized the wonderful turnout and thanked all those in attendance. Mack Watkins, our gracious host, was then called upon for a brief history of his home. He told of ghosts, which have been known to visit, bullet holes in the house received during Civil War skirmishes around Cassville and the fact that the old house was saved from the torch only because it served as a hospital for both sides during the war. Dr. Hardy had his office there and treated many a soldier. For his kindness, the house was spared.

Tour of Homes Chairman, Tricia Simmons, followed with an exciting update on this year's tour. She reported that everything is falling into place nicely. Detailed informational brochures and posters are available at the EVHS office. More of these posters and brochures need to be distributed.

J. B. Tate reported that the book, In and Out of the Lines, was selling well. Approximately 180 copies have been sold to date. The cost is \$18, which includes sales tax.

Guy Parmenter followed by reporting that the program for the October 4 annual meeting would be representatives of Robert and Company, the architectural and

engineering firm preparing the Comprehensive Preservation Plan for the Allatoona Pass Battlefield.

Guy followed this report by introducing the evening's special guest, Dr. Gerald J. Smith, author of an exciting new book titled, "One of the Most Daring Men"; The Life of Confederate General William Tatum Wofford. Dr. Smith is currently serving as a Professor of English and Chair of the Division of Humanities at Paine College, Augusta, Georgia. He lectures widely in American Civil War history and publishes regularly in such fields as Methodist history, Civil War history, philately, literature and folklore. Dr. Smith proceeded to tell all about the life of General Wofford, one of Bartow County's true pioneers. General Wofford was one of two Confederate Generals from our county, the other being P. M. B. Young. Wofford was a brilliant thinker, a gallant leader and a true humanitarian.

As Dr. Smith summed up, he encouraged everyone to read his book. We should all be proud of General Wofford, "One of the Most Daring of Men". Dr. Smith introduced a guest he had brought, Dwight Harley, Sr., the great-grandson of Wofford. Dwight told how happy he was to visit with us and be able to walk in this home as his great-grandfather had done over 100 years before. Mr. Harley was obviously very proud of General Wofford, as the family still possesses parts of his uniform, his sword, wallet and personal papers. Dwight promised to return soon and bring all their memorabilia with him. Both our guests and our host for the evening were presented with various books as gifts. At the end of the program, Dr. Smith stayed to autograph his new book and answer all those with questions.



(L-R): Dwight Harley, Sr., Dr. Gerald Smith, EVHS President DiAnne Monroe.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Mrs. Rebecca H. Boyle, Kennesaw, GA

Mrs. Mardean DeShazo &

Mrs. Katie Williams, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Erickson, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Doug Ferguson, Emerson, GA

Ms. Truth A. Gamblin, Rome, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Holt, Cartersville, GA

Ms. Mary Sheelar Hopper, Colorado Springs, CO

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Jeffrey, Adairsville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. William A. Jones, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Dan Jolly, Kingston, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Danny Jolly, Kingston, GA

Mr. & Mrs. James Maxwell, Taylorsville, GA

Mrs. Carol H. McLean, Woodstock, GA

Mr. Donald H. Monroe, Birmingham, AL

Mr. Peter Olson, Kennesaw, GA

Ms. Rachel Owen, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Ozbilen, Atlanta, GA

Dr.'s James & Tracy Potts, Cartersville, GA

Ms. Janet M. Poynter, Cincinnati, OH

Mr. & Mrs. Jack H. Ray, Cartersville, GA

Ms. Susan Sexton, Elberton, GA

Mr. & Mrs. David Sherrouse, Tyler, TX

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Stein, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Scott Taylor, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Valdez, Cartersville, GA

Mr. & Mrs. Jim Whiteman, Marietta, GA

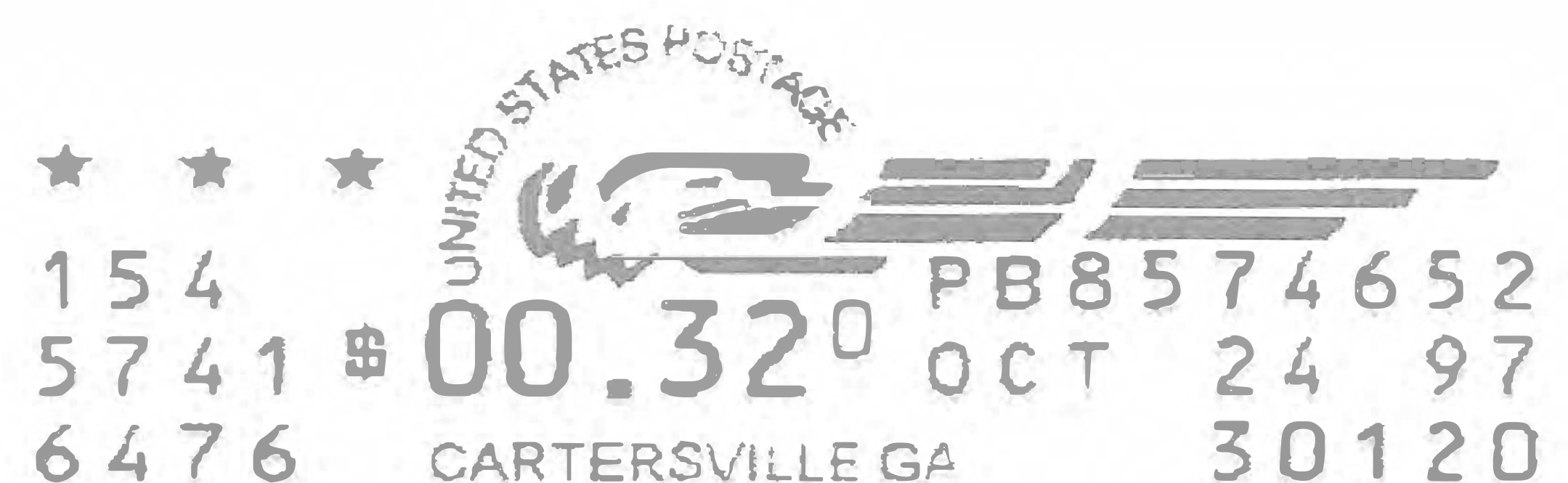
Mr. & Mrs. Rob Wilson, Cartersville, GA

Etowah Valley

Historical Society

P. O. Box 1886

Cartersville, Georgia 30120



INSIDE:

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- Walter Akerman and much more!

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