

(J. WIGGERS)  
Clay House  
Huntsville, Ala.  
Madison Co.

ALA  
HABS No. ~~25~~-408  
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PHOTOGRAPHS  
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey  
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer  
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

THE J. WITHERS CLAY HOME  
Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owners: Clement Comer Clay.  
Previous Owners: Huntsville Female Seminary,  
original owner. House was  
originally built for the  
boarding home for teachers  
and out of town students,  
by Isaac Williams for use of  
the school. Sold to Board of  
Trustees of school in 1836.  
(1) Preston Yeatman bought  
property in September 1836.  
(2) John H. Lewis and family  
owned home from 1836 to 1869.  
(3) Clement Comer Clay and family  
1869 to present time.

Date of Erection: 1830.

Architect: George Steele.

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Brick walls. Wood columns,  
wood trim.

Additional Data: Isaac Williams bought land from  
Leroy Pope, the founder of Huntsville and  
once owner of all its lands in 1827. He  
paid \$1,300 for this lot plus lot on east  
on which he built the Seminary Class Room  
Building.

Preston Yeatman: Prominent merchant of Huntsville.

John H. Lewis: A Virginian, married Mary Fenwick  
Betts. Added brick outhouse to building which  
contained kitchen, servants quarters, smoke-  
house and wine cellar, and contained more  
rooms than the dwelling itself. Built by  
George Steele Architect, to pay Lewis bet  
won on presidential election.

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Additional Data: cont'd.

Clement Comer Clay: United States Senator.  
Governor of Alabama.  
Gave house to son,  
J. Withers Clay, in 1870.

J. Withers Clay: Born in Huntsville January 11, 1820  
Attended Old Green Academy, University  
of Alabama, University of Virginia.  
Editor of the Democrat newspaper.  
The Democrat was established Oct. 18,  
1823 by Phillip Woodson, a kinsman of  
Clay's. Clay bought the paper in 1859 and  
was its editor untill his death in 1899.

Senior Warden in Church of Nativity for  
40 years.

Suzanna and Clementine Clay, daughters of J. Withers Clay,  
continued work on the Democrat until  
the paper ended its career in 1919.

Clementine Clay died before paper ended.  
Suzanna Clay died in 1928, the last of the Clays to live  
in the old house.

Source of Material: Historic Homes, by Pat Jones, published  
in Huntsville Times. June 18, 1933.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd.  
Auburn, Alabama.  
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Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.  
Auburn, Alabama.

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