

MURPHY HOUSE, NOW
Elks' Club
Bibb Street
Montgomery, Ala.
MONTGOMERY Co.

HABS No. 16-603.

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA.
District No. 16

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

ELK'S CLUB - THE MURPHY HOUSE
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: The Elks Club.
Previous Owners: The Elks Club.

Date of Erection: 1851.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: John Murphy. (A COTTON FACTOR)

Present Condition: State of preservation very good. In remodeling the building, the original staircase was removed when the wing was added across the rear.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: The foundation of the house is made of brick. The front porch floor is marble laid off in squares. The floors of the interior of the house were originally pine but are now hardwood. The exterior walls are brick with the exception of the front which is stucco over brick. The interior walls are plaster over wooden laths. The ornamental ceiling work is made of plaster. The roof is metal with standing seams.

Other Existing Records: There is a picture of the Elk's club in Art Work of Montgomery, Part V. This volume was published by H. W. Kennicott and Company of Chicago in 1884. It is in the Department of Archives and History at the State Capitol.

An article appeared in the Birmingham News, June 24, 1934. "Alabama Possessor of Rich Heritage", By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E. Walter Burkhardt)

Additional Data: "The Elk's Club is of the Greek Revival type of architecture. The proportions are very good. It is a parallel to the Pollard house, the State Capitol, and the Loretta Academy. As is usual in this style, the proportions of the windows and other openings are very good both in relation to themselves and to the building. The original cornices have been destroyed and replaced by the present one which is much more detailed. The parapet is much higher. The original one story portions in the rear, in which were the dining room and serving portions, and also the staircases, have been removed but the main body of the house remains the same. The large drawing room on one side and a double parlor on the other side is very typical of the pretentious homes of that day. The ornamental window lintels, the balcony rails and the interior plaster are particularly nice in detail." (Lutz)

Source of Material:

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Date:

7-6-1936.

MURPHY HOUSE or ELK'S CLUB
Bibb Street
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

This building was selected for measurement and photographing since its situation in the business district of Montgomery may cause its removal or destruction.

Six two-storey high Corinthian columns form the front portico. The frieze and cornice of brick and stone are additions. The original appearance of the front façade is shown on the drawings.

The Lounge or Sitting Room has an elaborate plaster ceiling and cornice, decorated with rinceaux, leaves, plumes and other ornamental motifs.

(Revised and rewritten at HABS
Headquarters - Feb. 1936 -
H.C.F.)

(Original sheet in field notebook)