

129 Academy Street (House)
Jefferson Ashby Redevelopment Area
Americus
Sumter
Georgia

HABS No. GA-2286

HABS
GA
131-AMER,
7-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Building Survey
National Park Service
Southeast Region
Department of the Interior
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDING SURVEY

129 Academy Street (House)

HABS No. GA-2286

HABS
GA
131-AMER,
7

Location: 129 Academy Street, Americus, Sumter County Georgia.

Significance: Example of a cottage-style house typical of residential houses of the area ca. 1920.

Description: This saddlebag house with its central fireplace was originally two rooms wide and one room deep with a front door into each room. The gabled roof is metal standing seam, and a flat-roofed addition extends across the rear. The front porch has been enclosed halfway up; wood siding is exposed on the porch but aluminum siding has been added elsewhere. The structure is raised on brick piers with masonry steps to porch. Some interior bead boards walls remain.

History: As early as 1926, B.E. Turner sold property to Mary Lanier. Through the years, this property was conveyed, bought or sold until it was acquired by Ely Lanier and Maggie R. Felton. This property has been deeded to the current owners, Altha Benita Brown Majors and Ely Lanier Jr. Although the Majors and Laniers still own the lot, the City of Americus bought the house and demolished it in accordance with the Jefferson/Ashby Redevelopment Project and reconstructed another house.

This house was located in the McCoy Hill neighborhood, encompassing Academy, McCoy, Poplar, Winn, Jefferson and Ashby streets. It was originally the residential property of a prominent antebellum attorney and Confederate general, Henry Kent McCay. The modern misspelling results from the name's pronunciation not matching its own spelling.

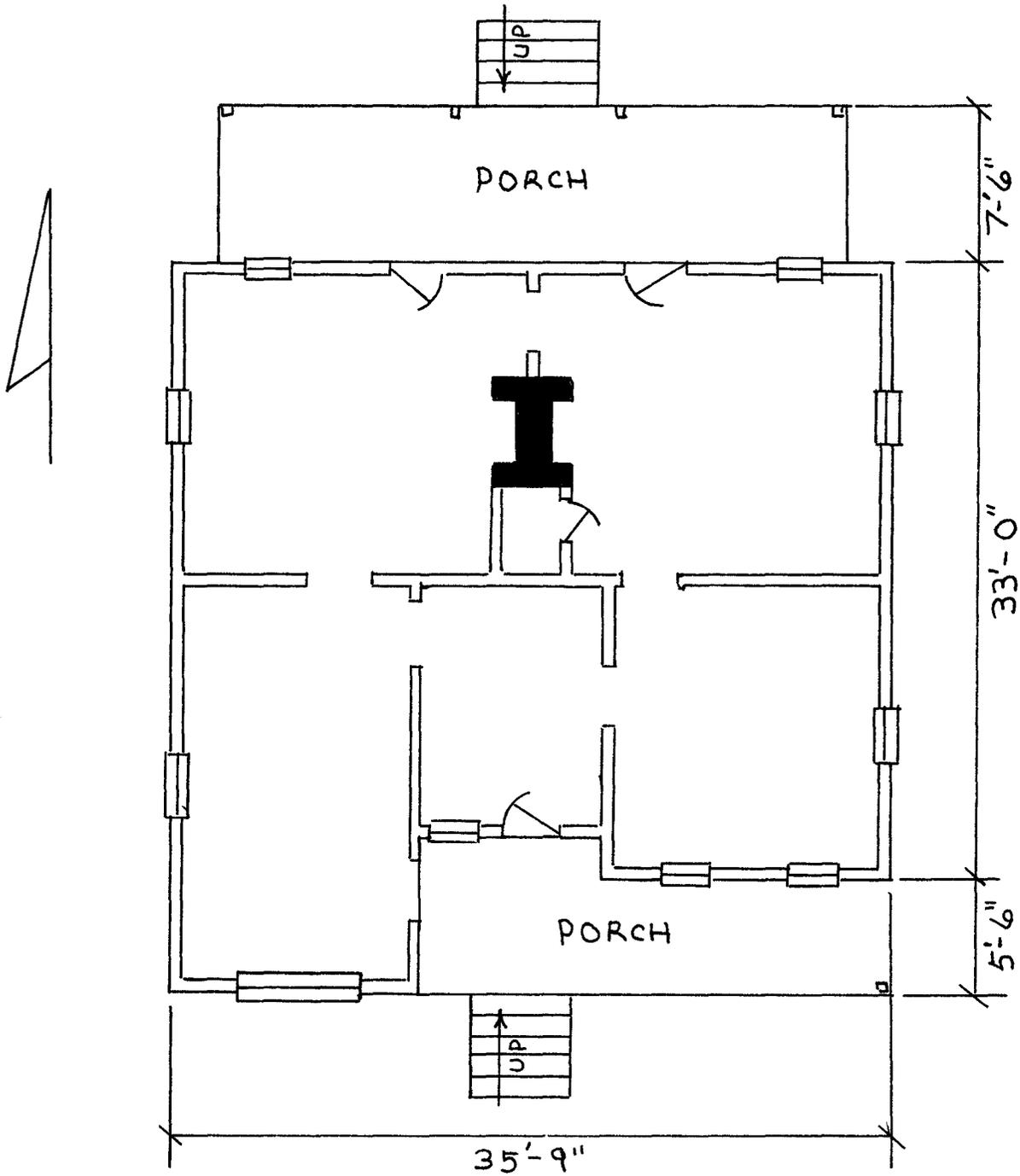
During the Reconstruction Era in the 1870's the site was used for public executions even as freedmen were establishing a black residential neighborhood in the immediate vicinity.

After the destruction of the old McCay home in the early 1880's, the site became the location of the city's first public school for blacks, McCoy Hill School, built in 1884. With the earlier addition of Mt. Olive Baptist Church in 1882, the neighborhood boasted the residences of many of the black community's professional class. For example, two of the city's preeminent black educators, Professors George W.F. Philips and Alfred S. Staley, were homeowners there.

For almost 130 years, the McCoy Hill neighborhood has nurtured generations of Americus' black citizenry.

Sources: Sumter County, Georgia. Deed Book 12 p. 367; Deed Book 43 p.174; Deed Book 39 (1950), p. 422 & 423
Sanborn Fire Maps (1912-1924).
1924 Americus City Directory

Historian: Alan Anderson, Sumter Historic Preservation Society Historian and Archivist
Meda Krenson, Architect
Desi L. Wynter, Acquisition and Relocation Coordinator



8 DECEMBER 1994
TIM LITTLEFIELD