



WASHINGTON COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY, INC.

129 Jones Street  
Sandersville, Georgia 31082

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NEWSLETTER

APRIL, 1990

SECOND QUARTERLY MEETING OF HISTORICAL SOCIETY, MONDAY, APRIL 23, 1990, AT 7:30 P.M.  
CIVIC ROOM OF WASHINGTON EMC

YOUR MUSEUM AT WORK:

A committee from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation met at the museum in February. Its chairman was Dr. Phinzy Apalding, Professor of History at the University of Georgia. (He was very complimentary on the Societies' activities, and said the history book is marvelously well done!)

CHOATE HISTORIC DISTRICT PROGRESS REPORT:

The State Historic Preservation Office is fine-tuning the Choate Historic District Nomination to go before the Georgia Review Board at the earliest possible meeting.

Richard Cloes, state chief for this work, met with Dale Jaeger and Jo Cummings in late March when the entire nomination had been studied. Some clarifying details are needed to smooth its path.

Our Choate thematic nomination--geographically scattered structures linked by a common bond in their designer--is the pioneer effort of this kind for the State of Georgia. This, and the large volume of detailed study involved, have contributed to its slow progress toward National Register status.

PINK RIBBON TIME!!

Historic Preservation Month is observed nation-wide during May. Locally we want to repeat our ritual of marking buildings 50 years old or older during that month.

This flagging has increased interest in and awareness of our structural resources locally. Outsiders have become interested as well.

Enclosed for Washington County members is about 2 yards of pink surveyors' tape. Please support our efforts by using it to mark 2 buildings--commercial or residential--you or someone knows to be old enough.

PUT IT UP BY APRIL 27 to benefit our Tour of Homes' visitors on APRIL 28.

TAKE IT DOWN BY MAY 31. We want to observe it for ONLY one month annually.

Additional ribbon can be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce office, Moyer's Pharmacy, or the museum.

NORMAN DAVENPORT ASKINS, P.C.  
ARCHITECT

April 26, 1990.

Mr. Cecil Hodges, Chairman  
Brown House Committee  
Washington County Historical Society  
Sandersville, GA 31082

Re: Brown House Restoration  
Sandersville, Georgia

Dear Cecil:

It has been a pleasure to meet you and your committee and to visit the historic Brown House. I join your committee in its enthusiasm regarding the preservation of this important ante-bellum structure.

The house, from a cursory glance, seems to be a large, rather typical turn-of-the-century dwelling which might be found throughout the rural South. Totally unexpected is the mid-nineteenth century house which survives within its exterior skin, a virtual incapsulation of this earlier architectural form. Still surviving is a 4 square, 2-story, 5-bay Greek Revival house complete with original pine floors, moulded trims, classical mantelpieces, grained doors, and elegantly moulded and decorated parlor plaster cornice.

About 1905, the house was extensively renovated to accommodate a large 2-story addition to the rear. The roof was rebuilt, chimneys removed, porch and cornice rebuilt, then-fashionable bay windows added - all in the somewhat outdated late Victorian taste.

To preserve the Brown House, I believe you have two choices: restore the house to its Civil War form (remove all later alterations and additions), or retain the house as an additive structure - ante-bellum-cum-early 20th century. The first choice reduces the house to four rooms and a central hall and possibly a detached kitchen building. While this notion has great historical merit, it would necessitate rebuilding the roof, two chimneys, front porch, and so forth.

The intended use of this property is still under consideration, but the consensus seems to recommend that the building not be preserved as a static historical shrine: period rooms with period furnishings, to be seen but not used. I wholeheartedly concur. The Brown House, I believe, should become a vital part of the community - an active structure, historically correct, filled with tourists, school children, local citizens, business people. The four original rooms main floor would lend themselves to be restored and partially furnished to their mid-nineteenth century appearance, ideal for entertaining, receptions,

(over)