

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NOV 01 1989

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Propertyhistoric name Lewis, Ervin, House

other names/site number _____

2. Locationstreet & number 5461 Old Byram RoadN/A ☐ not for publicationcity, town ByramN/A ☐ vicinitystate Mississippicode MScounty Hindscode 49zip code 39212**3. Classification**

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

11 2

Noncontributing

1 buildings sites structures objects1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/ANumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this
☒ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the
National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool
Signature of certifying officialOctober 20, 1989
DateMS Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureauIn my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☒ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined eligible for the National
Register. ☐ See continuation sheet.
☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.☐ other, (explain:) _____Melores Byrum12/1/89for
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick piers

walls Weatherboard

roof Asphalt shingles

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Located on the Old Byram Road, north of the town of Old Byram, is the Ervin Lewis House, a two-story, five-by-two bay, gabled, frame building constructed in the Greek Revival style. The house has braced frame construction and rests on brick piers, and the walls are finished with lapped weatherboard and horizontal flushboard. The property consists of seven acres, one-half of which is wooded, with Trahon's Creek forming part of the northern boundary. In the front yard of the house are two magnolia trees--the larger being four feet six inches in diameter at breast height--an ancient crape myrtle and a large water oak.

Facing southeast, the main facade is a symmetrical, eave-oriented five-bay elevation dominated by a full-width integral porch (Photos 1 & 3). The porch configuration is unusual, featuring a two-story-height colonnade superimposed over a one-story colonnade. The porch roof is supported by six detached two-story Doric box columns resting on concrete piers, and the second colonnade is composed of six slender one-story Doric box columns resting on the wooden porch deck and supporting a balcony enclosed by a balustrade having plain balusters and rails and square newel posts. At the central main entrance, the paired four-panel doors are crowned by an eight-light transom and framed by three-light sidelights set above molded panels. On each side of the entrance are two jib windows, which are composed of six-over-six, double-hung windows set above molded, panelled jib doors opening onto the portico. The upper level of the main elevation features a central entrance having paired four-panel doors framed by floor-length, five-light sidelights. On each side of this entrance are two floor-length, six-over-six, double-hung windows that are suspended in a manner that permits both sash to be raised into a well in the attic area, thus creating an unobstructed opening. All of the window and door openings are trimmed with plain surrounds, and the windows are framed by louvred shutters. The main facade is finished with horizontal tongue-and-groove flushboard.

The roof is pierced by two interior end brick chimneys and is trimmed with a molded cornice with partial returns. Two exterior end brick chimneys which served the back rooms on each side of the house were removed in 1954 because they had partially collapsed.

The northeast and southwest (side) elevations are identical with the exception of an attic louvre in the southwest (Photos 2, 3, & 4). The elevations are asymmetrical, clad in horizontal lapped weatherboard, and have a slight eave, with only sufficient overhang to accommodate the cornice molding. There are two six-over-six, double-hung sash windows for the front rooms on each story. The back rooms have no windows in these elevations.

The rear (northwest) elevation has five bays on the upper story, and the lower story originally had five bays but now has seven. A shed-roofed porch, added between 1954-1955, extends across two-thirds of the width of the lower story and features shiplap siding and screening (Photo 4). A screened door at midwidth provides entry.

Evidence indicates that the rear elevation originally featured a one-story, one-bay wide, central recessed porch. The weatherboard on this elevation of the house is not continuous but is divided into three equal sections by two vertical boards similar to the corner boards. The siding is all of the lapped pattern with the exception of the central

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Continuation Sheet

Lewis, Ervin, House, Byram, Hinds County, Miss.

Section number 7 Page 1

section of the first floor, which has shiplap siding. The shiplap siding, while definitely not original, was installed before 1954. (The portion of shiplap siding above the porch addition but below the doorway of the second story was replaced with lapped siding in 1962 for appearance's sake.) Recently, a piece of the shiplap was removed for investigation. Both the exterior and the interior wall surfaces are attached with wire rather than cut nails. The studs are toe-nailed with wire nails also, whereas original studs are mortised. There is no evidence of a fire or other damage that would require replacement of the wall. To lend further credence to this belief, the three interior walls of the area enclosed by the shiplap-sided wall have lapped exterior siding.

Occupying the shiplap-sided section of the lower story is a panelled entrance door flanked by four-over-four, double-hung windows, none of which are original. There were originally two six-over-six, double-hung windows on each side of the recessed porch, but in 1954 the two windows to the northeast were altered, one to accommodate a panelled door with fifteen lights and the other was reduced in length.

The central bay of the upper story contains double doors crowned by a five-light rectangular transom. These doors appear to have been for ventilation only, as there is no evidence of an exterior stairway or balcony, and across the lower portion of the door opening are three horizontal rails for safety. The doors are a crude batten type and are probably replacements, as their interior surfaces are smooth and do not contain the hand plane marks that are visible on all original interior woodwork. The exterior of this opening has been covered with corrugated fiberglass panels to prevent rain leakage. Two six-over-six windows for the rooms on each side of the doors complete this elevation.

The interior floor plan consists of two rooms on each side of a central hall in both stories. The hall is divided into two areas by a partition with double doors. Downstairs the ceiling height is twelve feet while upstairs it is ten feet. There is almost no ornamentation. Baseboards, window casings, and the remaining coal burning fireplaces are plain. The front central hall features a single-flight, open-string stairway with plain newel posts and balusters, and a curved handrail (Photo 5). Originally all of the rooms and the front halls had plastered walls but the present kitchen area was panelled with western knotty pine lumber in 1954. In contrast, the back halls have weatherboard on their three interior walls while downstairs the exterior wall has simulated maple paneling and upstairs the exterior wall has its original plaster. Between 1954 and 1955, partitions were added to the interior of the house to provide bathrooms and closets.

An underground brick cistern is situated just to the northeast of the house. The opening on the surface is six feet in diameter but underground it domes out to eight feet. The depth is not known since the cistern has been filled with earth. Directly behind the house is a small, gabled, clapboard clad, one-bay wide shed that was constructed in 1954. It is a noncontributing building. In addition, approximately 300 feet from the northwest back corner of the house, in a northwesterly direction, is a private cemetery located in a grove of cedars on a bluff overlooking Trahon's Creek. There are seven graves containing members of the Ervin Lewis family. The oldest grave is dated 1850 and the most recent 1881.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1860

Significant Dates

ca. 1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ervin Lewis House is significant because of its architectural character (Criterion C). The Greek Revival plantation house has a porch configuration which is unique in Mississippi. The porch features two colonnades: (1) a detached two-story colonnade supporting the roof, and (2) a one-story colonnade resting on the porch floor and supporting the upper balcony. The statewide survey files of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History indicate that this is the only house thus far known to have a porch of this configuration in the state of Mississippi. The house retains a high degree of architectural integrity.

Architectural historians from the southeast region were consulted, and it was learned that this was a common house form from 1800 to 1860 in the northeastern section of Southern Carolina, in the PeeDee River area (Andrew W. Chandler, National Register Manager, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, interviewed by Brenda Rubach, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Little Rock, AR, July 28, 1989). Houses of similar configuration also appear in North Carolina. This porch type has not been found in Louisiana, Georgia, or Arkansas, and only one-story examples of double colonnades occur in Alabama along the coast, but these feature one colonnade supporting the main roof and the second colonnade supporting a flat or shed-style roof.

Although John Coon, who was from New York, had the house built, it is possible that Ervin Lewis, who was originally from South Carolina, had some influence on its design. At the time the house was constructed, Ervin Lewis owned a sawmill in Byram and may have supplied lumber for the construction of the house.

In an attempt to discover the origins of the Lewis House, the archival collections of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson were consulted. Three manuscripts were found, and the following information was obtained. The Lewis House was built by a northerner, John Coon, prior to the Civil War. An exact construction date is not given. WPA records indicate that in the later years of the Civil War the Confederate line of retreat went directly through the Byram area. The pursuing Union army destroyed many houses along this route but the Lewis House was spared when it was learned that John Coon was a Yankee. One paper even claims that a detachment of Union soldiers was stationed around the house to prevent any destruction or looting (WPA Record Group 60, Box 291, Assignment #15, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). Shortly after the war the house was sold to Ervin Lewis.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Chandler, Andrew W., National Register Manager, South Carolina Dept. of Archives & History, Columbia. Interviewed by Brenda Rubach, architectural historian with the Miss. Dept. of Archives & History, Jackson, at Little Rock, AR, July 28, 1989.

Hinds County, Mississippi, Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 27 and 29.

Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History, Jackson. Byram Folder, "Byram, Hinds County," Ethylene Crews.

Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History, Jackson. Byram Folder, SR-7741, "Cities, Towns, Communities - Byram," Hattye B. Sturkey, 1940.

Mississippi Dept. of Archives & History, Jackson. WPA Record Group 60, Box 291, Assignment #15, 1936.

☐ See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 7 acres

UTM References

A 15 759910 3563670
Zone Easting Northing

C

B
Zone Easting Northing

D

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at the southwest corner of the southwest quarter of Section 18, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, Hinds County, Mississippi and run north 660 feet; run thence east 210 feet to the point of beginning of the property herein described; run thence south 24 degrees 30 minutes west 266 feet along a fence line; run thence south 53 degrees 30 minutes east and along a fence line a distance of 602 feet to a point on the west line of a public road;

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains seven (7) of the original ten (10) acres historically associated with this property, which is that portion owned by the present occupants.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John E. & Harriet Griffith, Owners (edited by Brenda Rubach, MDAH)

organization _____ date 6/19/89

street & number 5461 Old Byram Road telephone (601) 372-4316

city or town Jackson state MS zip code 39212

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Hinds County, MississippiSection number 8, 10 Page 1

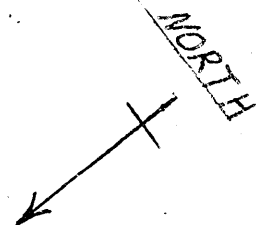
A search of the recorded deeds in the Hinds County, Mississippi, Chancery Clerk's office revealed that John Coon purchased ten acres of land from the heirs of John Byram for \$250 in 1859 (Hinds Co., Miss., Deed Book 27:255). The boundaries of the present homestead are within this area. In 1866, John Coon sold the same ten acres and three small lots in the town of Byram to Ervin Lewis for \$6500 (Hinds Co., Miss., Deed Book 29:723). The tremendous increase in the value of this property, actually greater when the depressed condition of the southern economy at this period is considered, must have been due to the addition of the house. The construction date is probably 1860 or 1861. Ervin Lewis seemed to have survived the war financially and continued to purchase land in the Byram area until 1870. No explanation was found for the two graves in the Lewis family cemetery that predate his purchase of this property.

10. Geographical Data (Verbal Boundary Description)

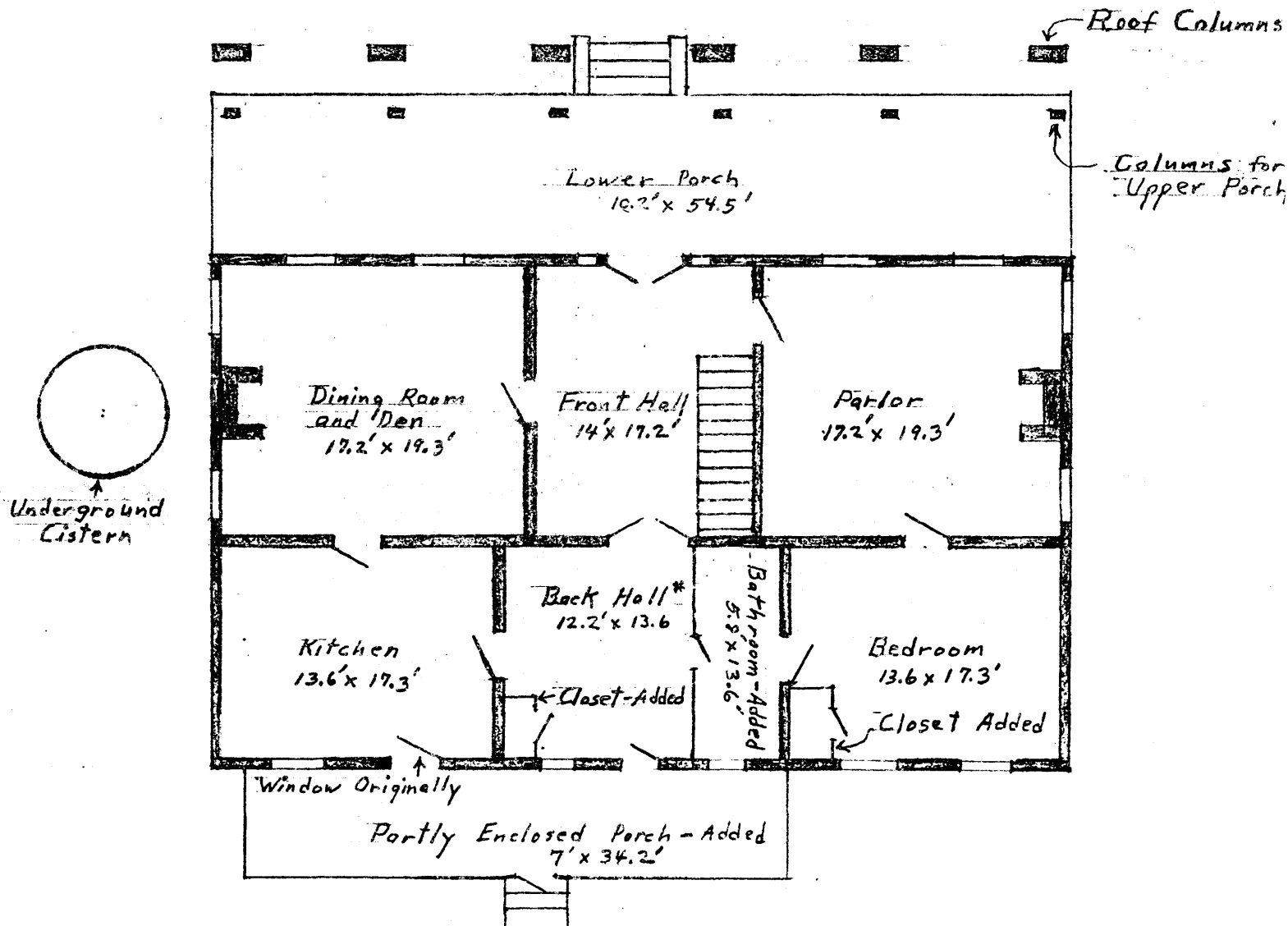
run thence north 38 degrees east along the west side of said road a distance of 103 feet; thence north 27 degrees 30 minutes east along the road a distance of 137 feet; thence north 29 degrees 30 minutes east along the road a distance of 100 feet; thence north 37 degrees east along said road a distance of 230 feet to a point on the southern side of Trahon's Creek; thence north 42 degrees west along the southwestern side of said creek a distance of 165 feet, more or less, to a point that is 575.5 feet east of the point of beginning; run thence west 575.5 feet to the point of beginning.

LEWIS HOME

Byram, Hinds Co., MS



FRONT



* May have been a recessed porch

FIRST FLOOR

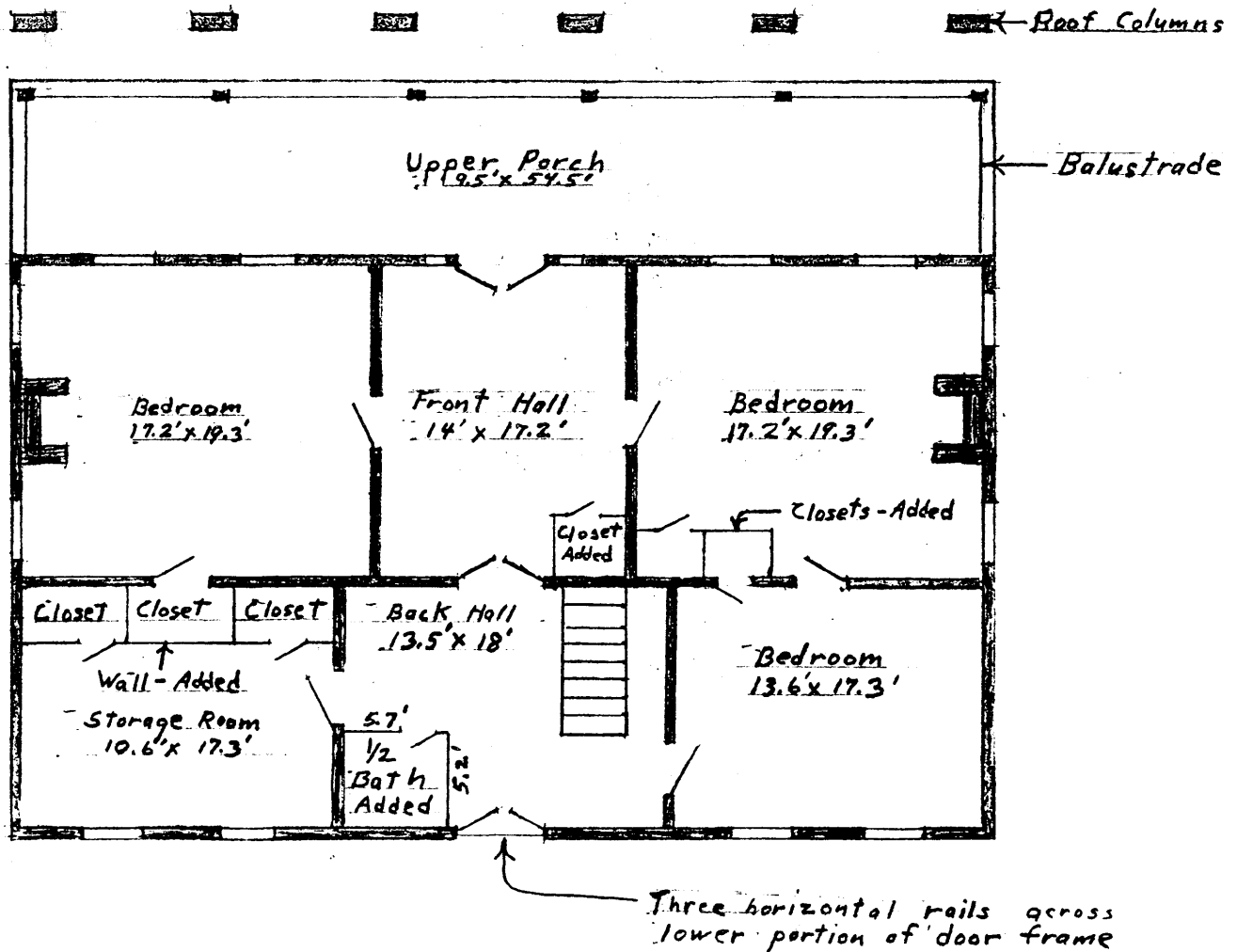
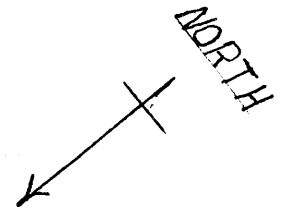
Scale 1" = 10'

8-16-1988

LEWIS HOME

Byram, Hinds Co., MS

FRONT



SECOND FLOOR

Scale 1" = 10'

8-16-1988



Lewis Home

Byram, Hinds County, Mississippi

Harriet Herrin

Feb 1989

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Front Elevation, view to West

Photo 1 of 5



Lewis Home

Byram, Hinds County, Mississippi

John Griffith

July 1988

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Northeast (side) and Northwest Elevations, view

to South

Photo 2 of 5



Lewis Home

Byram, Hinds County, Mississippi

John Griffith

July 1988

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Southwest (side) and Front Elevations, view to
North

Photo 3 of 5



Lewis Home

Byram, Hinds County, Mississippi

John Griffith

July 1988

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Northwest (rear) and Northeast Elevations, view

to South

Photo 4 of 5



Lewis Home

Byram, Hinds County, Mississippi

John Griffith July 1989

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Front hall stairway and one of double doors
into back hall

Photo 5 of 5