NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 Property

historic name McGeehee-Ames House

other names/site number Hardscrabble

2. Location

street & number Magnolia Drive — N/A not for publication

city, town Macon — [X] vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Noxubee code 103 zip code 39341

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property: Contributing	Noncontributing	
[X] private	[X] building(s)	1	0	buildings
[ ] public-local	[ ] district	0	0	sites
[ ] public-State	[ ] site	0	0	structures
[ ] public-Federal	[ ] structure	0	0	objects
	[ ] object	1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number 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 [X] 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 [X] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. Pool — June 1, 1992

Signature of certifying official — Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In 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:) _____

~~Entered in the~~ National Register

Helen Byers — 7/10/92

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)
Domestic: Single Dwelling	Domestic: Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)	Materials (enter categories from instructions)
Greek Revival	foundation brick walls weatherboard roof asphalt composition shingles other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The McGeehee-Ames House is a three-bay, one-and-one-half story Greek Revival house with horizontal lap siding. The undercut three-bay gallery has square Doric columns. Windows have six-over-six, double-hung sash. The central hall plan is two rooms deep, and attached kitchen and bathroom ells at the rear frame a two-bay porch with box columns and balustrade with turned balusters.

Interiors are characterized by wood board floors and by plaster board walls and ceilings that had been papered but have now been finished with gypsum board and papered. Mantelpieces are vernacular Greek Revival. The stairway has a one piece round handrail with tapered rectangular balusters and a half-fiddle shaped bottom newel post. The railing returns to form a guard rail at the stair opening in the attic. Door and window mouldings are quirk-ovolo shape in the front right room. Door and window mouldings in the corridor are chamfered with a chamfered ceiling moulding in all rooms and around the stair well. The stairway opens to an unfinished but partially floored attic and one finished room at the right (south) end.

The framing lumber in the house exhibits widely spaced (approximately 0.71 inches) curved saw blade marks that are characteristic of a "peck" saw. This was an adaptation of a circular saw that used a rectangular blade with a tooth at each end. The radius of the saw marks on the lumber on this building is 18 inches, which would indicate a blade length of 36 inches and probably a blade width of 6 inches. This type saw was most likely the origin of the term "peckerwood" saw mill which describes a small portable saw mill used to saw lumber at or near the timber cutting site. These "peckerwood" mills now use circular saw blades. (Tyson, 55, 57)

The house has recently undergone extensive repairs due to settlement and termite damage. Bathrooms on the rear porch and in the place of a double fireplace between the two south rooms were added during the rehabilitation.

☐ See continuation sheet

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)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	ca. 1835	ca. 1835

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 McGeehee-Ames house derives its significance from its architectural character and method of construction (Criterion C). It is one of the earliest surviving vernacular Greek-Revival houses in Noxubee County and is a rare example of the use of "peck" sawn lumber. Of the other six identified Greek Revival cottages in Noxubee County, only three have an undercut front gallery like the McGeehee-Ames House. They are the Cline House (1854), the Morris House (1847) and the Ferris House (1837). (Macon, Statewide Survey). The Morris and Ferris Houses also have square columns like the McGeehee-Ames House.

The exterior and interior of the house have undergone some alteration since its construction. The wallpaper with cheesecloth backing has not survived and may not have been original, but the interior moldings, floor finishes and mantels are intact except at the south rear bedroom where the flooring was badly damaged and was replaced with new flooring, the old flooring being salvaged for small repairs in other parts of the house. The adjoining fireplace was removed to allow installation of a bathroom, but the mantels have been installed in their original locations, although without the operable fireplace. The stairway is an excellent example of simple Greek Revival detailing, with its plain round rail, half-fiddle shaped newel post and tapered rectangular balusters. Other moldings throughout the house are characteristic Greek Revival moldings of the period.

The use of "peck-sawn" lumber is highly significant in that the "peck" saw was an ingenious frontier adaptation of the circular saw that allowed the use of a rectangular saw blade that could be fabricated by a local blacksmith. The invention of the circular saw is variously attributed to an Englishman named Miller in 1777 (World), a Frenchman, A. C. Albert in 1799 (Inventions), and an American, Benjamin Cummins in 1820 (Horn, 135), but it was not until the invention of the inserted tooth in the 1840's that this type saw was practical for sawmilling (Hickman, 24). The "peck saw" blade freed the mill operator from dependence on delivery of circular saw blades in a time of poor or intermittent transportation. At the same time, the "peck" saw allowed a more mobile mill than the earlier sash saw which required a large, permanent installation.

☒ See continuation sheet

The name of this type saw survives in the term "peckerwood saw mill", which denotes a small mobile steam or gasoline engine powered saw mill, usually located at or near the source of timber and relocated when the timber source is depleted.

The building site is part of a 320 acre tract that was purchased by Federal Land Patent in December, 1834 and April 1835, by Thomas McGehee.(Perkins) The house was apparently built shortly after the Patent purchase in 1834/35. On November 3, 1834, the Noxubee County Police Board voted to establish a road from Macon to Columbus.(Sledge, 57) This road, beside which the house is located, was probably on the route of "Jackson's Military Road" which had been surveyed in 1816, and constructed in 1819. (Young)

On February 12, 1853, the property was sold by William F. Tripp and wife, of Putnam County, Georgia, to Thomas M. Sargent of Noxubee County, Mississippi for $1804.16, with Thomas McGehee acting as agent for the Tripp's. (Perkins) The house may have served as an overseer's house since the Tripp's were absentee owners when the property was sold.

On August 11, 1894, it was sold to C.E. Hynes and then on June 7, 1912, to Sally N. Noffsinger. On November 22, 1919, part of the property was purchased by John Fisher Ames and subsequently conveyed by will to his son William Minor Ames and then to William Ames' sons John Fisher and William Minor, Jr. Fisher Ames Rhymes purchased the house and one acre of land from the widow of John Fisher Ames in October 1989.(Perkins)

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Commence on iron stake set at fence corner, being NE corner NW 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 22, Township 15, Range 17, Noxubee County, MS. Run thence North 726.99 feet thence West 1130 feet to Iron Stake on fence on East side Magnolia Drive. This being Point of Beginning this description. Run N 11 degrees 06 minutes E along fence and East right of way Magnolia Drive 210.04 feet to iron stake on old fence, thence S 78 degrees 54 minutes E 210 feet to iron stake, thence S 11 degrees 06 minutes W 210.04 feet to iron stake, thence N 78 degrees 54 minutes W 210 feet to iron stake at point of beginning this description. All being part SW 1/4 NW 1/4 Section 22, Township 15, Range 17, Noxubee County, MS. Containing 1 (one) Acre more or less.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hickman, Nollie, Mississippi Harvest, Lumbering in the Longleaf Pine Belt, 1840-1915, The University of Mississippi, 1962.

Horn, Stanley F., This Fascinating Lumber Business, Bubbs-Merrill, New York, NY, 1943.

Inventions, The World Almanac Book of, World Almanac Publications, New York, NY, 1885.

Macon, Noxubee County, Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Perkins, Charles, Attorney, Abstract of Deeds from Noxubee County, Macon, MS.

Sledge, Broox, Dancing Rabbit, Noxubee County Historical Society, 1986.

Tyson, John Anderson, Historical Notes of Noxubee County, MS, Macon, MS, 1928.

World Almanac, World Almanac Publications, New York, NY, 1986.

Young, Hugh, "Survey of the Military Road from Madisonville, La., to the Tennessee River," Sept. 30, 1817, typescript located in the Natchez Trace Archives, Tupelo, MS.

☐ 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 one acre

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	354900	3667840
B			
C			
D			

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

These are the limits of the property as presently owned.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Samuel H. Kaye

organization Samuel H. Kaye, Architect date January 31, 1992

street & number 114 5th Street South, P.O. Box 48 telephone (601) 327-6241

city or town Columbus state MS zip code 39703

★U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

The following information is the same for all photographs:

(1) McGhee-Ames House
(2) Macon, Noxubee County, Mississippi
(3) Samuel H. Kaye
(4) November 1991
(5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1--(6) Exterior, view from the West

Photo 2--(6) Exterior, view from the South

Photo 3--(6) Exterior, view from the East

Photo 4--(6) Exterior, view from the North

Photo 5--(6) Hallway, looking West

Photo 6--(6) Hallway, looking East

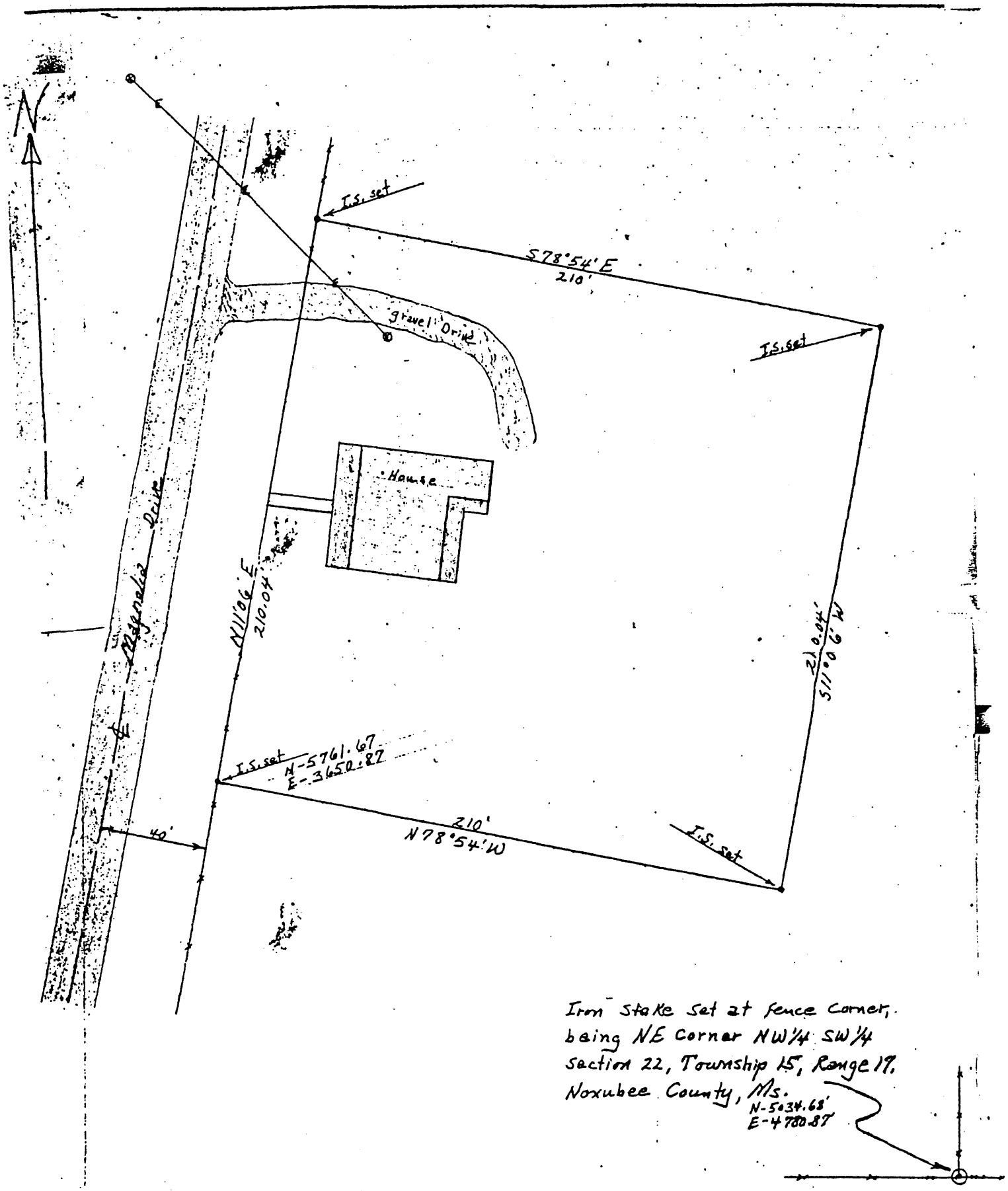
Photo 7--(6) Parlor looking Southeast

Photo 8--(6) Dining Room looking Northwest

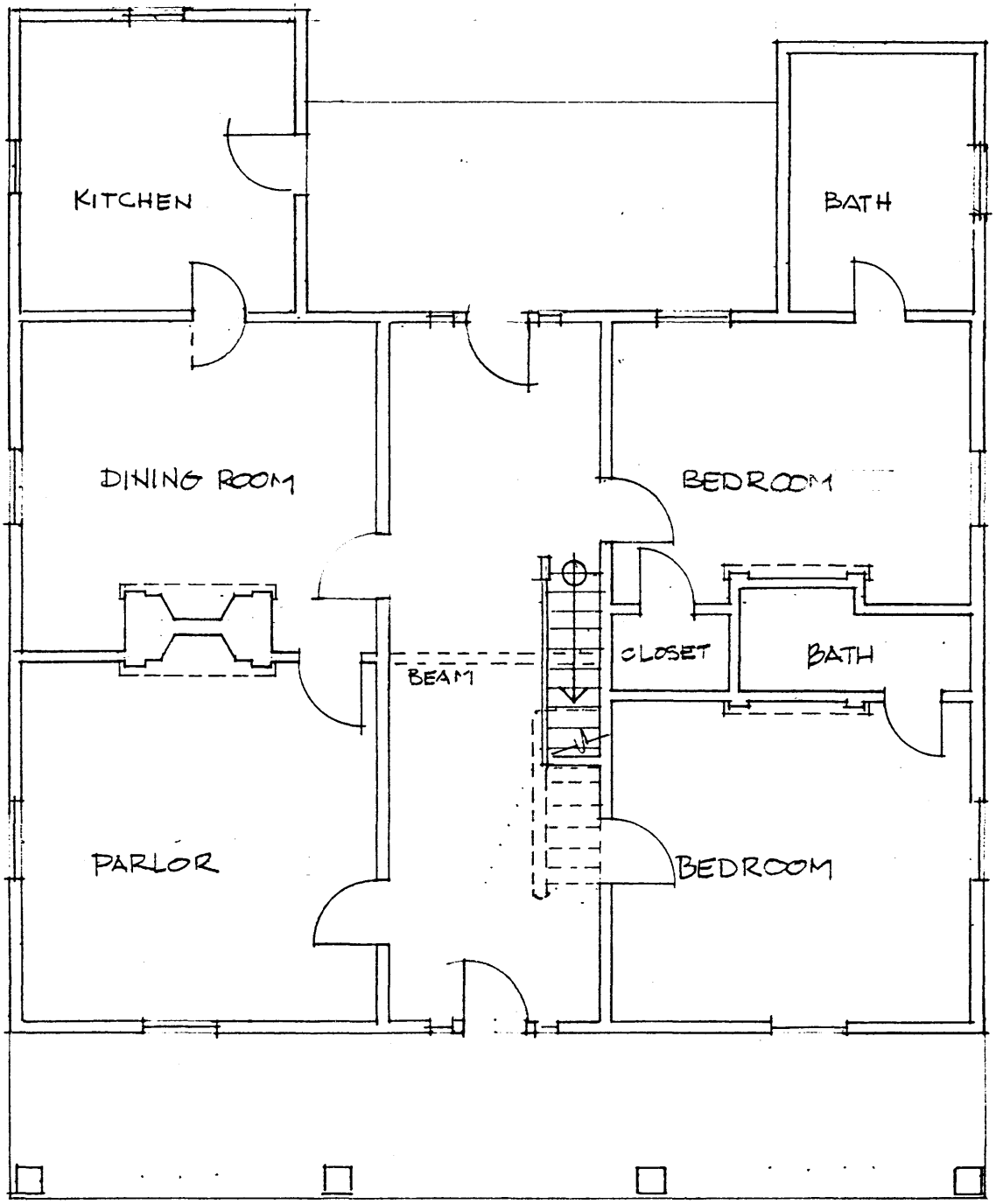
Photo 9--(6) Front Bed Room looking Northwest

Photo 10-(6) Upstairs Bed Room looking Southeast

Photo 11-(6) Attic fireplace looking Southeast

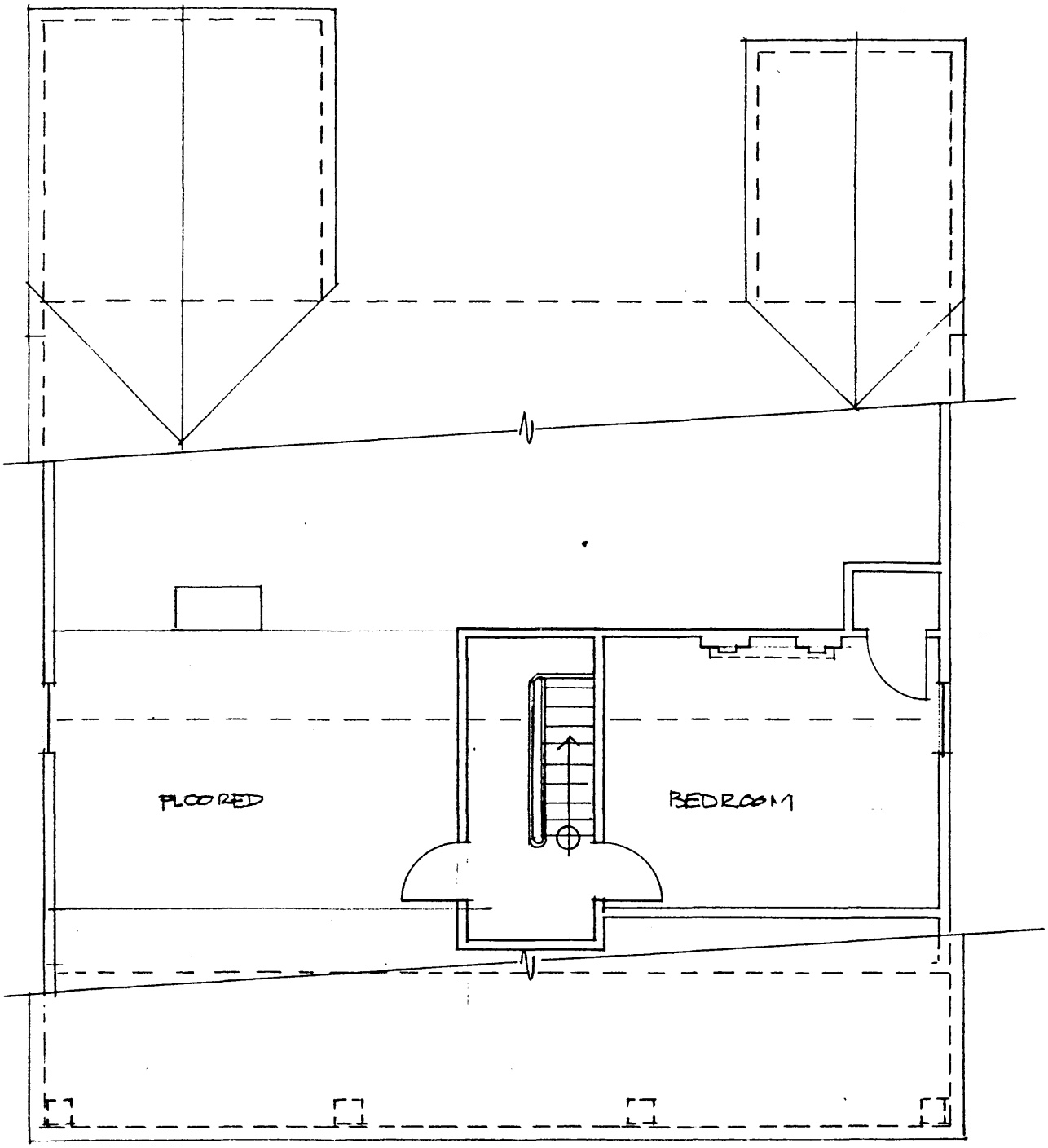


McGeehee-Ames House
Macon vicinity, Noxubee County, Mississippi



FIRST FLOOR
1/8" = 1'-0"
N

MC GEEHEE-AMES HOUSE
Macon vicinity, Noxubee County, Mississippi



ATTIC
1/8" = 1'-0"
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MC GEEHEE-AMES HOUSE
Macon vicinity, Noxubee County, Mississippi

McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co. MS
Photo 1 of 11

McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co. MS

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McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co. MS

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McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co. MS

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McGeehee - Ames House Noxubee Co. MS

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McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co. MS

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McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co MS

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McGeehee - Ames House Noxubee Co MS
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McGeehee - Ames House Noxubee Co MS
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McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co MS

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McGeehee-Ames House Noxubee Co MS
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