

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NCRS use only

received JUL 14 1980

date entered OCT 16 1980

1. Name

historic Short's Hill

and/or common Fairhill

2. Location

street & number 203 Childress St. ___ not for publicationcity, town Sardis ___ vicinity of congressional district Firststate Mississippi code 28 county Panola code 107

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
☐ district	☐ public	☒ occupied	☐ agriculture	☐ museum
☒ building(s)	☒ private	☐ unoccupied	☐ commercial	☐ park
☐ structure	☐ both	☐ work in progress	☐ educational	☒ private residence
☐ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	☐ entertainment	☐ religious
☐ object	☐ in process	☒ yes: restricted	☐ government	☐ scientific
	☐ being considered	☐ yes: unrestricted	☐ industrial	☐ transportation
		☐ no	☐ military	☐ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Lewis E. and Judith Holland

street & number 203 Childress

city, town Sardis ___ vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Panola County Courthouse

street & number 211 Pocahontas

city, town Sardis state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes ___ nodate May, 1980 ___ federal ☒ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition☐ excellent☒ good☐ fair☐ deteriorated☐ ruins☐ unexposed**Check one**☐ unaltered☒ altered**Check one**☒ original site☐ moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in Sardis (pop. 2,391), the two-story, clapboard house faces east on a sloping and casually landscaped lot containing several mature trees. The foundation is of brick and varies in height from ground level in front to a four-foot height in the rear. There is a one-story rear ell with an attached kitchen and a two-story sunroom and sleeping porch.

The gable-roofed building is of Italianate design, having segmental hood molds with console brackets over all windows in the house's two-story section and similar brackets at intervals under the deep eaves. The entrance has sidelights and a segmental transom and hood mold. The current entrance porch is not original, and though there is evidence of an earlier porch, its exact appearance is not known. There are five interior chimneys, four of which date from the construction of the house around 1871.

On the interior, the first floor contains nine rooms and the second floor has four rooms with a center hall. Some of the important interior features are the quarter-turn staircase and the Italianate doors with segmental panels.

Though the building retains its historical and architectural integrity, the following alterations have been made:

- A. Early 1900s - the south wall of the first-floor center hall removed to make larger parlor; pine floors covered with hardwood (except for second-floor north bedroom); parlor fireplace enlarged from coal size to wood and a large Greek Revival mantel placed there from Melrose, the Short plantation house.
- B. 1934 - the long open back gallery enclosed and made into large hall; in the right angle of the ell and the house's two-story section, a small two-story addition was made with a sunroom on the first level and an open sleeping porch on the second; the three rooms in the ell changed their original uses, the kitchen becoming a servant's wing, the dining room a kitchen, and the bedroom a dining room. (See drawings of original and present floor plans.)

The three outbuildings on the property are recent structures (see site plan). There are no nineteenth-century dependencies remaining.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
☐ prehistoric	☐ archeology-prehistoric	☐ community planning	☐ landscape architecture	☐ religion
☐ 1400–1499	☐ archeology-historic	☐ conservation	☐ law	☐ science
☐ 1500–1599	☐ agriculture	☐ economics	☐ literature	☐ sculpture
☐ 1600–1699	☒ architecture	☐ education	☐ military	☐ social/ humanitarian
☐ 1700–1799	☐ art	☐ engineering	☐ music	☐ theater
☒ 1800–1899	☐ commerce	☐ exploration/settlement	☐ philosophy	☐ transportation
☐ 1900–	☐ communications	☐ industry	☐ politics/government	☐ other (specify)
		☐ invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Fairhill was designed sometime between 1870 and 1871 by Andrew Johnson (1844–1921), one of the few formally educated, resident architects in northern Mississippi during the second half of the nineteenth century. Along with approximately ten other extant buildings in the immediate area, the house is a unique example in predominantly Anglo-Saxon Mississippi of the contributions of a Scandinavian immigrant to the architectural history of the state. Although Fairhill, like Johnson's other buildings, does not show any specific Scandinavian influences, the sophistication of the house is exceptional in the surrounding area.

Andrew Johnson was born in Sweden in 1844, the son of Anna Persdotter and Johns Persson. While studying architecture at Uppsala University, he won an important design competition and was awarded a trip to America. After his arrival in New York City in 1865 and his marriage the following year, Johnson decided to make the United States his home. He soon travelled to Chicago where he was granted a contract by the Illinois Central Railroad to construct several depots along the company's rapidly expanding rail network in the South. By the 1870s the Illinois Central Railroad was becoming a major factor in the economy of Mississippi, and Johnson soon settled in Sardis near the center of the state's rejuvenating cotton production, an important source of business for the railroad.

Research has not yet uncovered information on the railroad depots Andrew Johnson constructed, but among the significant buildings he designed in Sardis are the Ballentine-Seay House (1870), the Johnson-Tate Cottage (1873), and St. John's Catholic Church (1872) in Como. Possibly his finest public building was the Second Empire First Sardis courthouse (ca. 1878), which unfortunately has burned.

9. Major Bibliographical References

McMullen, Mrs. W. D., descendent of second owner. Interviewed by Judith Holland at Sardis, Ms., April 1980.

10. Geographical Data

UTM NOT VERIFIED
ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Acreage of nominated property 3 1/4 acres

Quadrangle name Sardis, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification

see also deed plat

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith D. H. Holland

organization

date May, 1980

street & number 203 Childress

telephone 601-487-2774

city or town Sardis

state Mississippi

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert B. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date July 7, 1980

For HCRS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Keeper of the National Register

date

10/16/80

Attest:

Carol Dubois

date

10/16/80

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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Continuation sheet Fairhill

Item number 8

Page

Fairhill is a significant example of the early Mississippi work of Andrew Johnson, an architect-builder who brought a degree of architectural sophistication to the otherwise vernacular tradition of north central Mississippi. Buildings designed by Johnson in Panola County are characterized by the generous and often creative use of stock mill-work decoration. Generally, these frame dwellings are larger and more richly decorated than the prevailing vernacular buildings constructed in the area during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Fairhill, one of the architect's earliest works in Sardis, illustrates several of his most favored decorative details such as arched windows with bracketed hood molds, and delicately scrolled-and-pierced paired cornice brackets. It is, however, the only known Johnson design which features a center front gable in the A. J. Downing tradition. His later residential buildings are limited largely to single-story L-shaped cottages with richly-decorated porches and gable ends, and in the 1890's and early twentieth century, particularly exuberant Queen Anne designs. Fairhill offers an important contrast to these latter works and serves to illustrate the development of Johnson's career as architect and builder.

Pamela G. Guren
Architectural Historian
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Item number 9 - 11

Page 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Married," Southern Reporter. (Sardis), September 27, 1871, p. 3.

"A Tribute to Andrew Johnson," Heritage Review. Sardis: Panola Pilgrimage, 1976.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - (Verbal Boundary Description and Justification)

The proposed boundaries are roughly those of the original site, and so their inclusion is important in the preservation of the building's early setting.

11 - FORM PREPARED BY

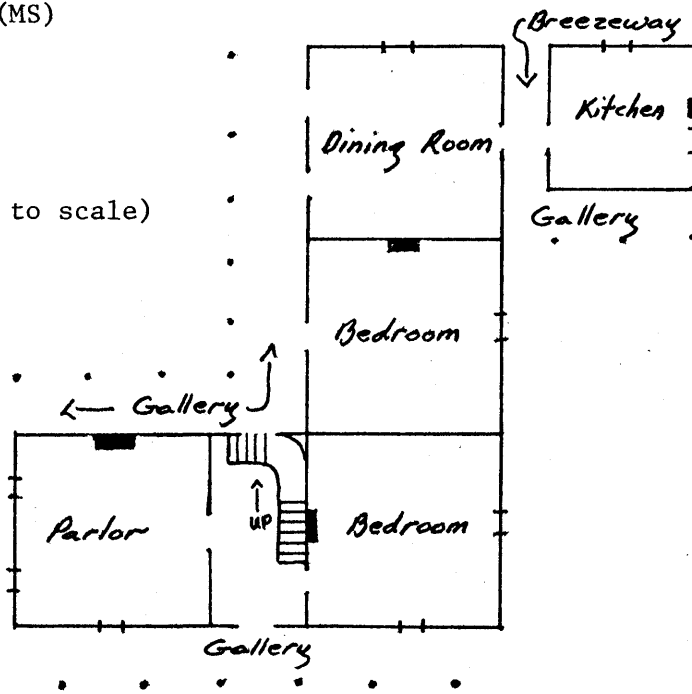
Lloyd Ostby
P. O. Box 571
Department of Archives and History
Jackson, Ms. 39204

FAIRHILL (MS)

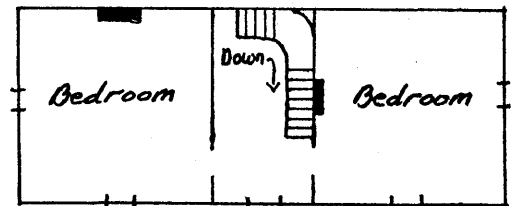
Floor Plan

Ca. 1870

(Not drawn to scale)



Second floor

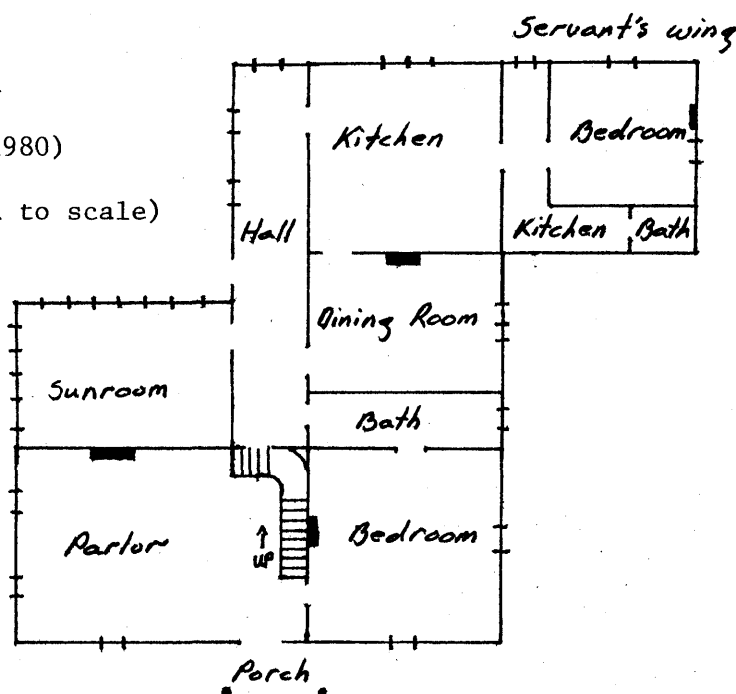


The above floor plan of ca. 1870 is based on old photographs and the recollections of early occupants and visitors. Further research may alter some aspects of the plan.

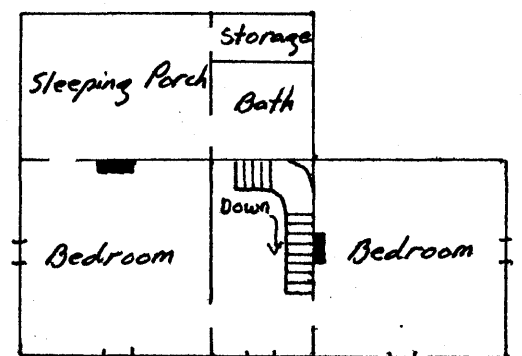
Floor Plan

Present (1980)

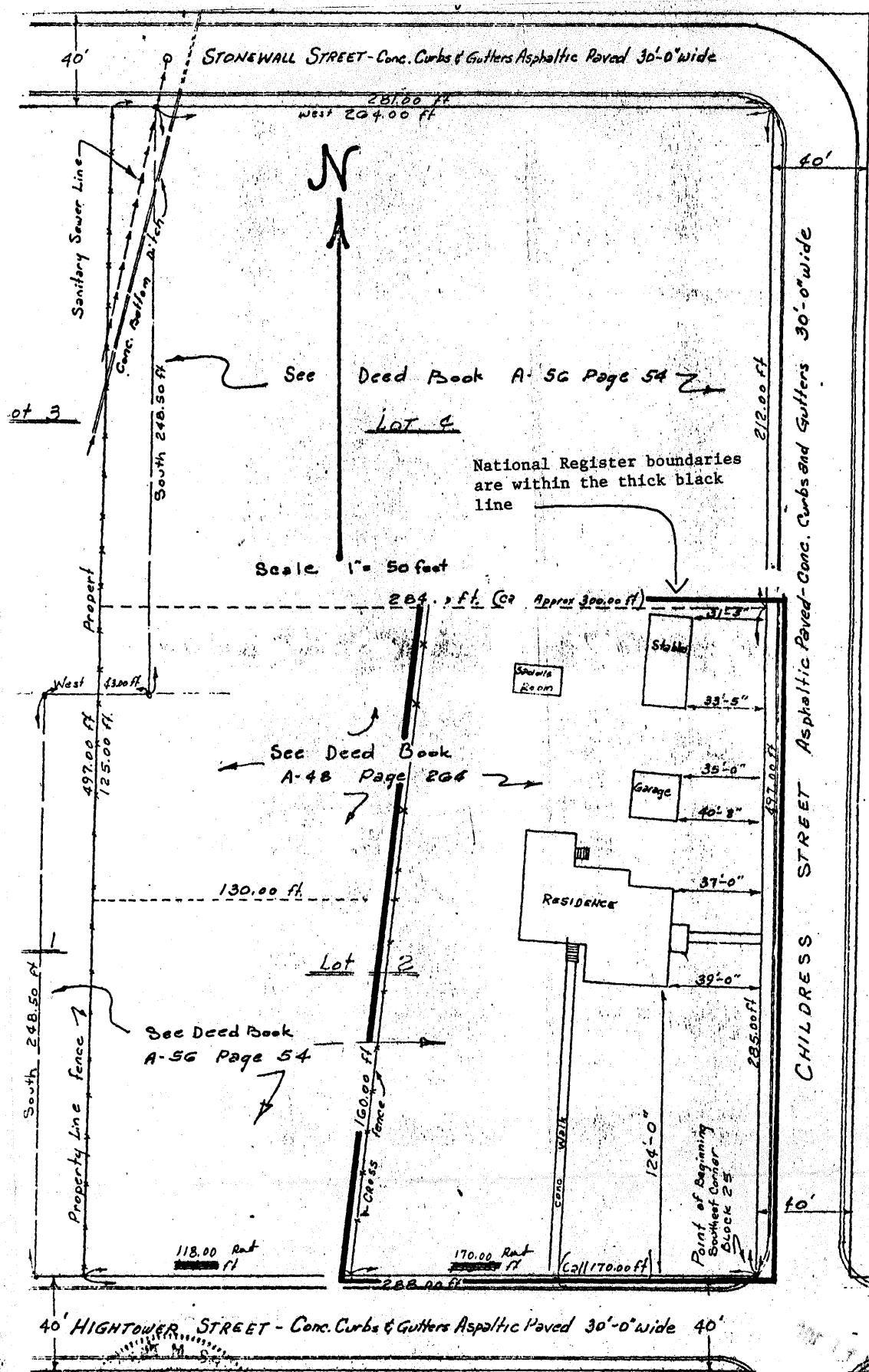
(Not drawn to scale)



Second Floor



JUL 14 1980



Historic Sites Survey

Inventory No. 14



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION: Short's Hill is a two-story, gable-roofed, symmetrically fenestrated, picturesque clapboard residence of Italianate influence on three-acre lot facing east. The roofline displays a characteristically A. J. Downing bracketed front gable. The entrance is a paneled single-leaf door with sidelights and a round-arched transom with hood mold. The present arcaded entrance porch, with shallow hip roof and Tuscan columns is not original, although the exact appearance of the original entrance is unknown. The central bay is flanked on the lower story by two six-over-six segmental-arched windows with elaborate hood molds carried on console brackets. Second-story fenestration includes a large six-over-six round-arched window centered beneath the ornamental gable, flanked by two one-over-one round-arched casement windows. All second-story windows have hood molds with console bracket stops. Each window on facade has shutters which were cut to accommodate the console brackets. Specific traits in Short's Hill common to Johnson are the arched windows with bracketed hood molds, pairs of delicately scrolled-and-pierced brackets, and the paneled single-leaf door.

ALTERATIONS: Altered early 1900s by parlor enlargement; in 1934 with enclosure of back gallery and enlarged with a sunroom and two-story sleeping porch.

OUTBUILDINGS: No nineteenth-century outbuildings; extant present outbuildings include stables and tack room.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Located on historic three-acre tract. Formal garden on south lawn; stables and pasture to north of house.

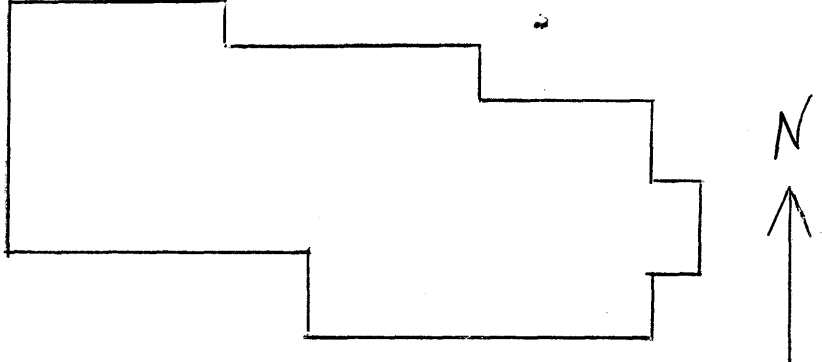
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: Short's Hill is a significant example of the early Mississippi work of Andrew Johnson. As one of his earliest residences in Sardis, Short's Hill illustrates several of Johnson's most favored decorative details such as arched windows with bracketed hood molds and delicately scrolled-and-pierced paired cornice brackets. While Johnson's later buildings are either single-story, L-shaped cottages or exuberant Queen Anne residences, Short's Hill offers an important contrast to these later works and serves to illustrate the development of Johnson's career as architect and builder. Short's Hill was listed on the National Register in 1980.

NAME: Short's Hill (Fairhill)
STREET NO: 203 Childress Street
TOWN/VIC: Sardis
COUNTY: Panola
BLOCK/LOT: See Verbal Boundary Description
PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Judy Holland
ADDRESS 203 Childress Street, Sardis, Mississippi
PRESENT USE: Residence 38666
FORMER USE: Residence
DATE: 1870
STYLE: Italianate-influenced vernacular
ARCH/BUILDER: Andrew Johnson
SOURCE OF DATE:
ENVIRONMENT: Three-acre pastoral lot amidst quiet
nineteenth-century neighborhood
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE
NEIGHBORHOOD
LOCAL X
STATE
NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:



CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good

THREATS:

None

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

R. W. Crump Survey of 1871, Town of Sardis
Res and Fraction Lots 2 & 4 Blk 25 Sec 35 T7 R7

ACREAGE: 3 acres

UTM REF:

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

P. Ana Gordon, Historian
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Jan. 1983



Short's Hill (Fairhill) (#14), view to the
southwest

The Architecture of Andrew Johnson in
North Mississippi

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi
Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

P. Ana Gordon

October, 1982

Photo 21 of 28



Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,
Mississippi 38666

April, 1980

East elevation, view to west

Photo No. 1/7

JUL 14 1980



Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,
Mississippi 38666

April, 1980

East elevation, view to west, front
entrance

Photo No. 2 ~~7~~

JUL 14 1980



Fairhill
1870

Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,
Mississippi 38666

April, 1980

East elevation, bracket details

Photo No. 3/7

JUL 14 1980



Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,
Mississippi 38666

April, 1980

East elevation, window details

Photo No. 4/7

JUL 14 1980



Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,

Mississippi 38666

April, 1980

South elevation, view to northeast

Photo No. 5

~~JUL~~ 14 1980



Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,
Mississippi 38666

April, 1980

West elevation, view to east

Photo No. 6

JUL 14 1980



Short's Hill (Fairhill)

Sardis, Panola County, Mississippi

Judy Holland, 203 Childress, Sardis,
Mississippi

April, 1980

North elevation, view to south

Photo No. 7/7

JUL 14 1980