

AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF SELECTED ANTE-BELLUM HOUSES, INCLUDING
FURNITURE, OF THE CHEROKEE AND CHOCTAW NATIONS,
1830-1850

By

CHARLES FRANKLIN SCOTT

Bachelor of Science

Oklahoma State University

Stillwater, Oklahoma

1956

Submitted to the faculty of the Graduate School of
the Oklahoma State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE
May, 1963

JAN 8 1964

AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF SELECTED ANTE-BELLUM HOUSES, INCLUDING
FURNITURE, OF THE CHEROKEE AND CHOCTAW NATIONS,
1830-1850

Thesis Approved:

Maie Aggen

Thesis Adviser

Leevers Pepin

Christine J. Salzman

Lowell MacVicar

Dean of the Graduate School

542171

PREFACE

The purpose of this study was to gather and compile information pertaining to the architecture and furniture of five selected antebellum houses of the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations, now Eastern and Southeastern Oklahoma. A biography of the master of each of the five houses has been included.

The writer wishes to thank Dr. Maie Nygren, Professor and Head of the Department of Housing and Interior Design, Oklahoma State University, for her guidance, helpful suggestions, and criticisms. Indebtedness is also acknowledge to Miss Leevera Pepin, Assistant Professor of Housing and Interior Design; Mrs. Christine Salmon, Associate Professor of Housing and Interior Design; and Mrs. Kathryn Greenwood, Assistant Professor of Clothing, Textiles and Merchandising who also guided the study. The writer also acknowledges his indebtedness for their interviews and/or correspondence to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr., and Robert Bruce Ross, IV, of Park Hill, Oklahoma; Dr. T. L. Ballenger of Tahlequah, Oklahoma; Mrs. Lee Good of Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mr. Martin A. Wegner, Librarian, Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa, Oklahoma; Mrs. Rella Looney, Mrs. C. E. Cook, and Mrs. O. J. Cook of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Mrs. Sidney B. Love, Sr., and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Love of Idabel, Oklahoma; Mrs. Sidney Jewett of the Georgia Historical Commission, Atlanta, Georgia; Mrs. Ann E. Lewis, Editor and Publisher of

Georgia Magazine, Decatur, Georgia; Miss Helen Donart and Mrs. Cecil Howland, Oklahoma State University Library; and Dr. Berlin B. Chapman, Professor of History, Oklahoma State University. Gratitude is expressed also to Mrs. Kay Nettleton who typed the manuscript.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter	Page
INTRODUCTION	1
I. THE JOSEPH VANN HOUSE	4
Joseph Vann.	4
The Joseph Vann House.	8
II. "ROSE COTTAGE" - THE HOUSE OF JOHN ROSS	24
John Ross.	24
"Rose Cottage"	30
III. "HUNTER'S HOME" - THE HOUSE OF GEORGE MICHAEL MURRELL	38
George Michael Murrell	38
"Hunter's Home".	43
IV. THE LEWIS ROSS HOUSE AT GRAND SALINE.	73
Lewis Ross	73
The Lewis Ross House at Grand Saline	75
V. "ROSE HILL" - THE HOUSE OF ROBERT M. JONES.	86
Robert M. Jones.	86
"Rose Hill".	90
SUMMARY	99
SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY	101

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

Plate	Page
I. Cherokee and Choctaw Nations, 1830-1850.	2
II. Joseph Vann.	5
III. Figure 1. North (Front) and East Elevations, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia	11
Figure 2. South (Back) and East Elevations, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia	11
IV. First Floor, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia. . .	12
V. Second Floor, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia . .	13
VI. Third Floor, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia. . .	14
VII. Figure 1. Staircase, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place," Georgia	18
Figure 2. Parlor Fireplace, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia	18
VIII. Figure 1. Dining Room, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia	20
Figure 2. Master Bedroom, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia	20
IX. John Ross	25
X. "Rose Cottage"	34
XI. George Michael Murrell	39
XII. Figure 1. Front (North) Elevation, "Hunter's Home"	48
Figure 2. Main Entrance, "Hunter's Home".	48
XIII. Figure 1. East Elevation, "Hunter's Home"	49
Figure 2. West Elevation, "Hunter's Home"	49
XIV. Figure 1. South Elevation, "Hunter's Home".	50
Figure 2. Springhouse	50
XV. First Floor, "Hunter's Home"	51
XVI. Second Floor, "Hunter's Home".	52

Plate		Page
XVII.	Figure 1. Front Entrance, First Floor Hall, "Hunter's Home".	57
	Figure 2. Staircase, First Floor Hall, "Hunter's Home".	57
XVIII.	Figure 1. Parlor Fireplace, "Hunter's Home".	60
	Figure 2. Parlor Sofa, "Hunter's Home"	60
XIX.	Figure 1. Bed, Master Bedroom Suite, "Hunter's Home" . . .	64
	Figure 2. Armoire, Master Bedroom Suite, "Hunter's Home" .	64
XX.	Figure 1. The Cherokee Orphan Asylum at Grand Saline (Formerly the Lewis Ross House) as Seen From the Southwest.	77
	Figure 2. The Cherokee Orphan Asylum at Grand Saline (Formerly the Lewis Ross House) as Seen From the Southeast.	77
XXI.	Robert M. Jones	87
XXII.	Figure 1. South (Front) Elevation of "Rose Hill"	93
	Figure 2. Dining Table Once Used at "Rose Hill".	93

INTRODUCTION

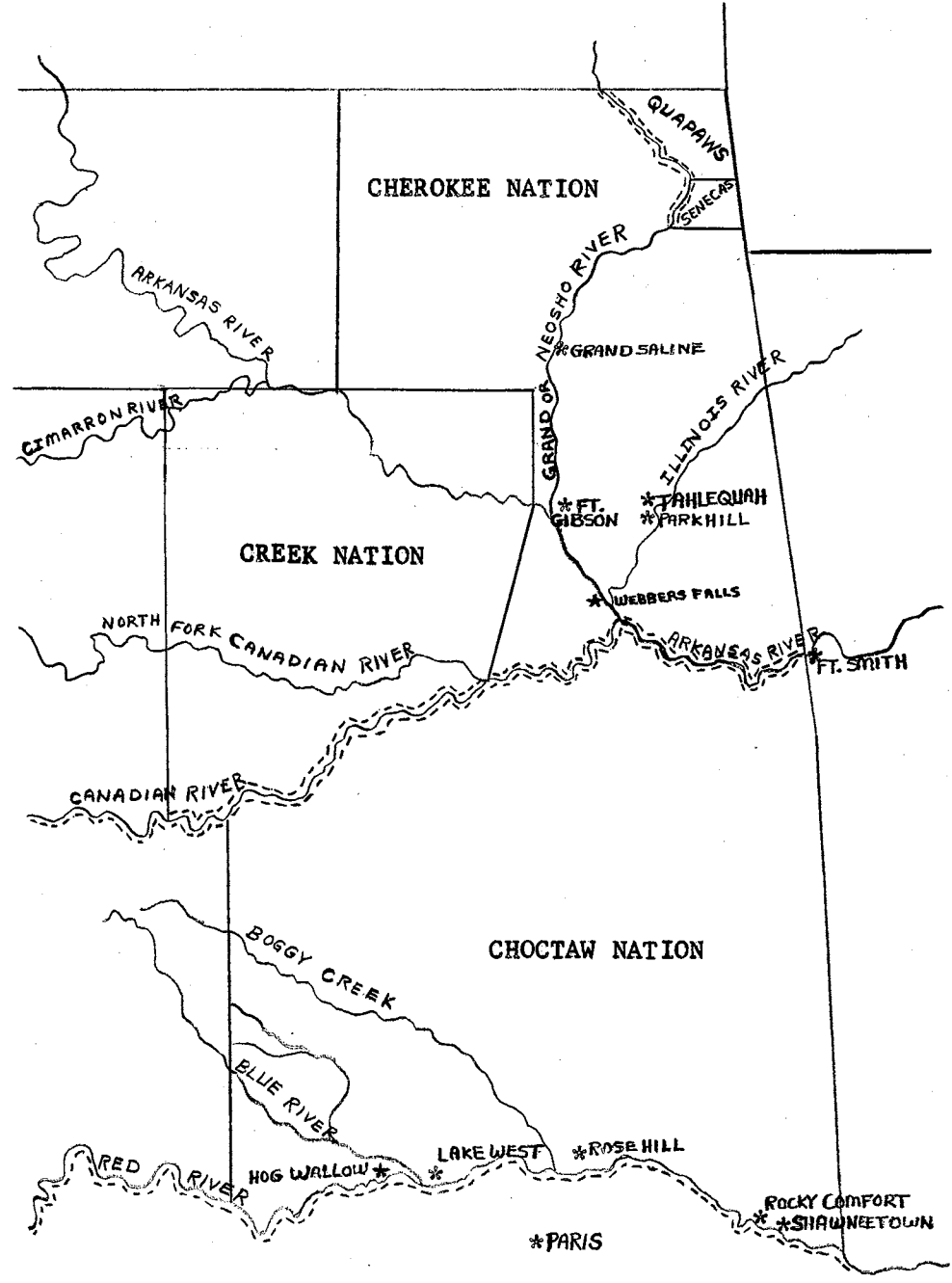
If it were not for the American Civil War, the architectural heritage of Oklahoma would be as rich as that of many southern states. Few people know that a number of beautiful ante-bellum houses were built by prosperous planters and merchants in the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations in the Indian Territory, now eastern and southeastern Oklahoma. The houses, with few exceptions, were built by Indians who had been driven out of the southern states by the United States Government in the 1820's and 1830's. During the Civil War, however, most of the houses which exemplified southern culture in the Indian Territory were looted or destroyed.

Another little known fact is that prior to the Civil War more than six-thousand slaves were owned by the Indians and whites living in this Indian Territory.¹ These slaves were used to work the fields, tend the cattle, and carry out domestic duties for their masters.

Because the writer is an admirer of ante-bellum architecture and furnishings and is also interested in history, he selected to study five of the finest ante-bellum houses built prior to the Civil War in the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations. The houses and approximate dates of construction are: The Joseph Vann House, 1840; John Ross' house, "Rose Cottage", 1843; George M. Murrell's house, "Hunter's Home", 1844; the Lewis Ross House at Grand Saline, 1846; and Robert M. Jones' house,

¹U. S. Census Office, Preliminary Report on the Eighth Census, 1860, Executive Document No. 116, 37th Cong., 2d Sess., May 20, 1862, pp.10-11.

Plate I



Cherokee and Choctaw Nations, 1830-1850

"Rose Hill", 1847. The main purpose of this study was to gather and evaluate data, plans, and pictures of these houses and furnishings. Four of the five houses studied in this investigation have been destroyed by fire and the people that knew these houses during the ante-bellum period are of course gone. The major sources of data, therefore, have been books, newspapers, civil records, pictures, personal interviews, and personal correspondence. There are very few detailed accounts about these houses and even fewer people who can supply information about them. It is hoped that this study in some way will help others who are interested in the architectural heritage of Oklahoma. It is hoped also that sources overlooked by the writer will be discovered and thus provide the information needed to answer many questions about the ante-bellum houses of Indian Territory.

In the discussion that follows, the architecture, floorplans, decor, and furnishings are described. A biography of the masters of each house also is included. The houses are discussed in chronological order according to dates of construction. It is hoped, therefore, that the reader will be able to see the architectural and decorative transition that took place over that span of time.

CHAPTER I

THE JOSEPH VANN HOUSE

Joseph Vann

Joseph Vann was born in 1796 in Georgia. His father, James Vann, a minor Cherokee Chief, of Scotch and Cherokee descent, had killed his brother-in-law, John Falling, and in accordance with an Indian vengeance custom, James Vann was killed in 1809 by Falling's relatives.¹ It was Vann's wish that his son, Joseph, would inherit his holdings.² The Council of Chiefs intervened to divide the property equally among the widow and all the children, but somehow Joseph Vann and his mother acquired the house, "Spring Place", and most of the property.³

Vann was a more resourceful businessman than his father and as a young man acquired the nickname "Rich Joe" among the Indians and whites. The Reverend W. J. Cotter of Griffin, Georgia, met Vann in 1833 and later wrote an account of that meeting. He related: "He was six feet and six inches tall, a man of wealth, fond of horses and racing."⁴ In 1826 Vann was chosen to represent his district at the Cherokee

¹C. E. Gregory, Chief Vann House, (Atlanta, 1960).

²Ibid.

³Ibid.

⁴Leola Selman Beeson, "Homes of Distinguished Cherokee Indians," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XI (1933), 931.

Plate II



Joseph Vann

National Council (lower house of the Cherokee Legislature).⁵

Around 1834 Vann hired a white man to oversee his estate but, according to a new Georgia law, for an Indian to hire a white man was unlawful.⁶ Two white men, Spencer Riley and William N. Bishop, each laid claim to the house on March 2, 1835.⁷ Their rival claims resulted in a shooting battle within the house and the Vann family took refuge on the third floor.⁸ Riley took cover on the second floor and Bishop set fire to the staircase in hopes of smoking out Riley.⁹ Riley surrendered, the fire was extinguished, and Bishop drove the Vanns from their home.¹⁰ The Vann family and 100 slaves went to Tennessee where Vann owned a farm.¹¹ The Federal Government later paid Vann \$19,605 for his brick house, 800 acres of land, six barns, 42 cabins, five smokehouses, a saw mill, a grist mill, a blacksmith shop, eight corn cribs, a shop and foundry, a trading post, a peach kiln, a still, 147 apple trees, 133 peach trees and other property at Spring Place, Georgia.¹²

The Cherokee Census of 1835 lists Joseph Vann as living in Hamilton County, Tennessee, and owning one farm, one mill, one ferry boat and

⁵Henry Thompson Malone, Cherokees of the Old South, (Athens, 1956), p. 84.

⁶Gregory.

⁷Grant Foreman, Indian Removal, (2d ed., Norman, 1956), p. 251.

⁸Gregory.

⁹Foreman, Indian Removal, p. 251.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Beeson, p. 932.

¹²Gregory

110 slaves (55 of each sex).¹³

In 1838, Vann, his family of fifteen, and his 110 slaves left Tennessee and settled near the present town of Webber Falls, Oklahoma.¹⁴

In 1839 he was chosen Assistant Principal Chief of the Cherokees but, later, resigned his office in 1840. He became President of the National Committee of the Cherokees in 1841.¹⁵ Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock met Vann in the Cherokee Nation and described him as follows:

Mr. Vann the President of the Committee is 45 years of age, came to this country 10 or fifteen years ago; dresses in a frock overcoat, wears a kerchief in a turban form on his head, vest, pants, and boots, speaks perfect English and is a clear minded sensible man.¹⁶

Vann ran against John Ross in 1842 for the office of Principal Chief, but he was unsuccessful in his bid. Aside from being in politics, Vann also ran his plantation near Webbers Falls, bred horses, and apparently was a successful merchant for he owned a side-wheeled steamboat which was manned by Negro slaves from his plantation. The steamboat was named after his famous race horse, Lucy Walker, which was acclaimed the fastest quarter-mile horse in the world. Her colts reputedly sold for \$5,000 each.¹⁷ The steamboat exploded and sank near New Albany, Indiana, on

¹³Cherokee Census 1835, XIV, p. 20. In the Archives Collection at the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

¹⁴The Daily Oklahoman, October 30, 1946, Sec. D, p. 9.

¹⁵Ethan Allen Hitchcock, A Traveler in Indian Territory, ed. Grant Foreman (Cedar Rapids, 1930), p. 53.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Muriel H. Wright, "Early Navigation and Commerce Along the Arkansas and Red Rivers," Chronicles of Oklahoma, VIII (1930), 73.

November 1, 1844.¹⁸ Years later Vann's grandson, R. P. Vann¹⁹ of Webbers Falls, met one of the slaves who had worked on the Lucy Walker. The following account of how the Lucy Walker sank is reported by young Vann as the story told by the Negro slave:

He said that my grandfather was on the top deck, entertaining the passengers at a ball and dinner and there was a good deal of drinking. They were having a race with another boat on the river and though they were a little ahead of the other boat my grandfather came down to the boiler deck drunk and he told the negro to throw another side of meat on the fire in order to get more steam so that they could gain on the other boat. The negro told him that the boat was carrying every pound of steam that it could stand and Joe Vann pulled his pistol on the negro and told him if he did not obey him he would shoot him. The negro threw the side of meat on the fire as he was ordered and then turned and ran to the stern of the boat and jumped into the river, and he had not much more than got into the water when the boilers blew up. He never saw my grandfather after that time.²⁰

Fifty persons, including Vann and his son-in-law, Preston Mackey, were killed in the explosion.²¹ Mackey's body was returned to the Cherokee Nation and buried near Webbers Falls, but Vann's body was never found.²²

The Joseph Vann House

The Joseph Vann house was situated one mile south of the present

¹⁸Grant Foreman, The Five Civilized Tribes, (Norman, 1934), pp. 377-378.

¹⁹Mr. R. P. Vann was a grandson of Joseph Vann.

²⁰Grant Foreman, "Reminiscences of Mr. R. P. Vann, East of Webbers Falls, Oklahoma, September 28, 1932," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XI (1933), 838.

²¹The Daily Oklahoman, October, 1946, Sec. D, p. 9.

²²Grant Foreman, Chronicles of Oklahoma, XI, 838.

town of Webbers Falls, Oklahoma.²³ At one time, the plantation on which it was located contained five or six-hundred acres and supported three or four hundred slaves.²⁴ It is not known exactly when the house was constructed, but because Vann did not arrive there until 1838 and he died just six years later, it had to be built sometime between 1838 and 1844. The house was a duplicate of his home at Spring Place, Georgia. It was of modified Georgian style, built of brick and it had a basement.²⁵

After Joseph Vann's death his widow decided the Webbers Falls house was too large for her to maintain. She had a house built ten miles east of the present city of Muskogee, Oklahoma and named it "Spring Place", the name of the Vann's Georgia home.²⁶

John S. Vann, Joseph's son, moved to Webbers Falls after his father's death to administer the Vann estate.²⁷ On June 5, 1845, the Cherokee Advocate advertised a sale to be held June 17, of that year, and listed 30 or 40 "likely young negroes and part of the Blooded Horses, belonging to the estate of Joseph Vann, deceased."²⁸

²³Ibid.

²⁴Ibid.

²⁵The Vann's Spring Place house of modified Georgian design was built by Robert Howell for James Vann in 1804. C. E. Gregory, Chief Vann House, (Atlanta, 1960).

²⁶Grant Foreman, Chronicles of Oklahoma, XI, 838.

²⁷Ella Robinson, "Spring Place, Canadian District, Cherokee Nation," Indian-Pioneer History, (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, VIII, 515.

²⁸Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "A Cherokee Pioneer," Chronicles of Oklahoma, VII (1929), 370-371.

In August, 1863, John S. Vann left Webbers Falls and spent the duration of the Civil War in Texas.²⁹ According to Stahl, Sallie Vann Vore, daughter of Joseph Vann, occupied her father's plantation at Webbers Falls during the Civil War.³⁰ There is a fable that gold was buried on the Vann Plantation and Union soldiers tried to force Sallie to tell where the gold was buried, but as the story goes she never told them.³¹ The Vann house was burned to the ground by Union troops in the summer of 1863 and was never rebuilt.

There are no pictures or plans of Vann's Oklahoma house, but Vann's Georgia house, "Spring Place", has been restored by the Georgia Historical Commission. Since the Vann house near Webbers Falls was a duplicate of the house at Spring Place, pictures, plans, and descriptions of "Spring Place" will be used in this report to give the reader some idea of Vann's house near Webbers Falls. The bricks, handwrought nails, and hinges were made on the Vann place.³² Hand-carved replicas of the Cherokee Rose are a predominant motif of the house inside and out.³³

The house, which faced north (Plate III), was built upon a two feet thick foundation. The facade (Plate III, Figure 1) measures 46 feet-six inches wide and 37 feet-nine inches from the ground to the top of the cornice that extends across the front of the house.³⁴ Six stucco pilasters

²⁹Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "Early History of Webbers Falls," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIX (1951), 462.

³⁰Ella Robinson, *Indian-Pioneer History*, VIII, 518.

³¹The Daily Oklahoman, October 20, 1946, Sec. D, p. 9.

³²Ibid.

³³Ibid.

³⁴All measurements and details of the architectural features of the Spring Place house, unless indicated otherwise, were taken from a set of plans acquired from the Georgia Historical Commission, Atlanta, Georgia.

Plate III

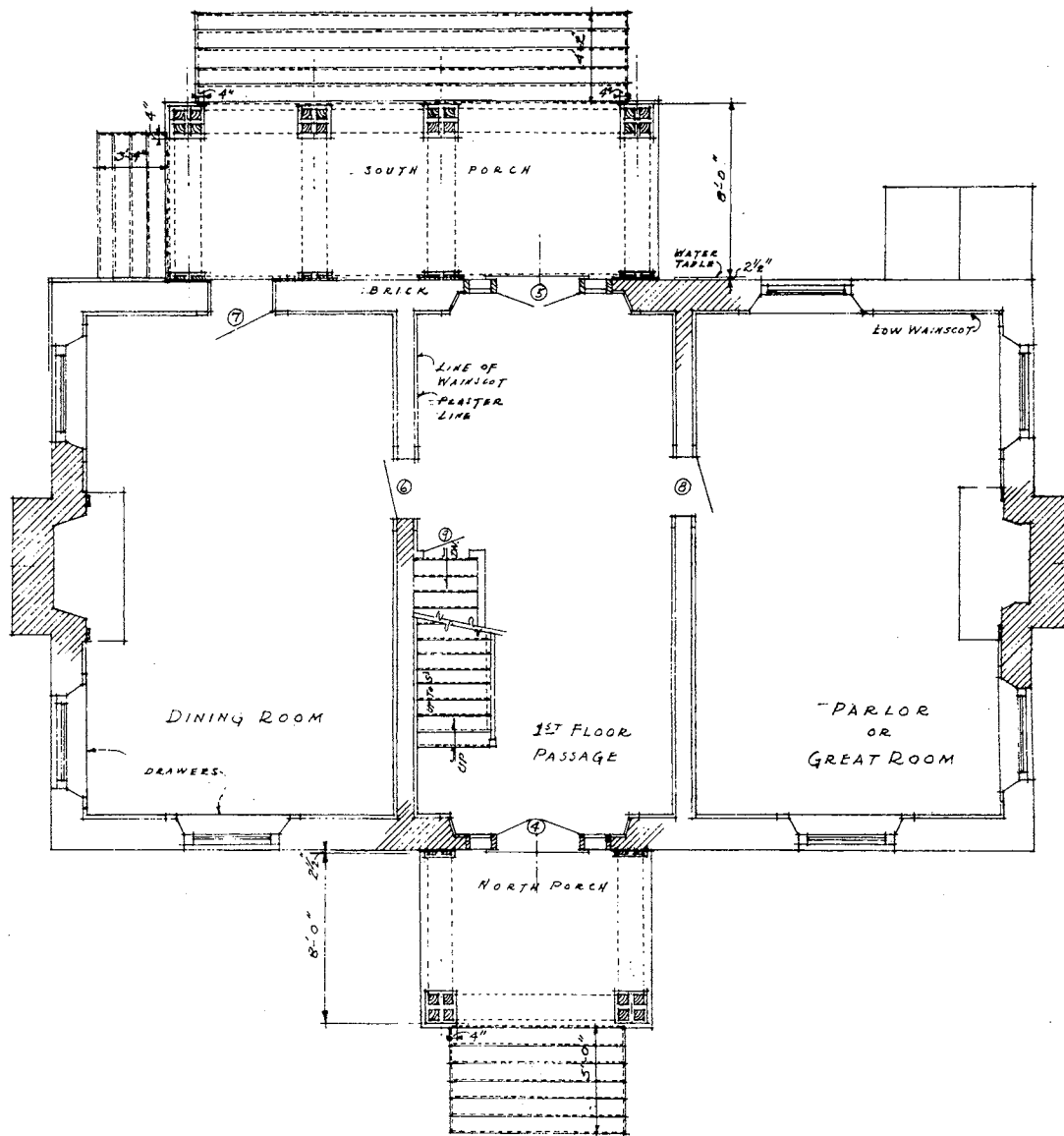


Fig. 1. North (Front) and East Elevations, Joseph Vann House,
"Spring Place", Georgia



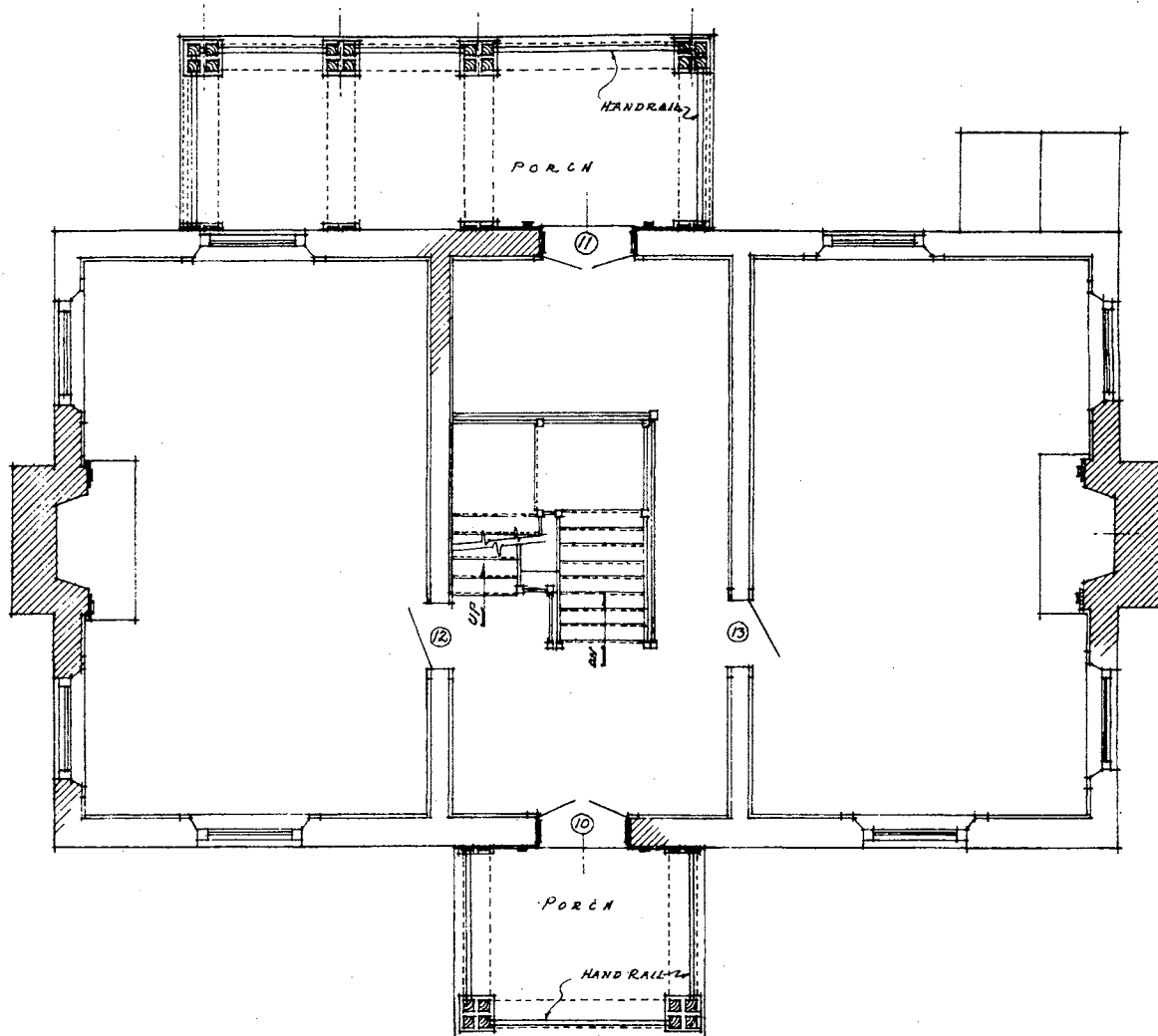
Fig. 2. South (Back) and East Elevations, Joseph Vann House,
"Spring Place", Georgia

Plate IV



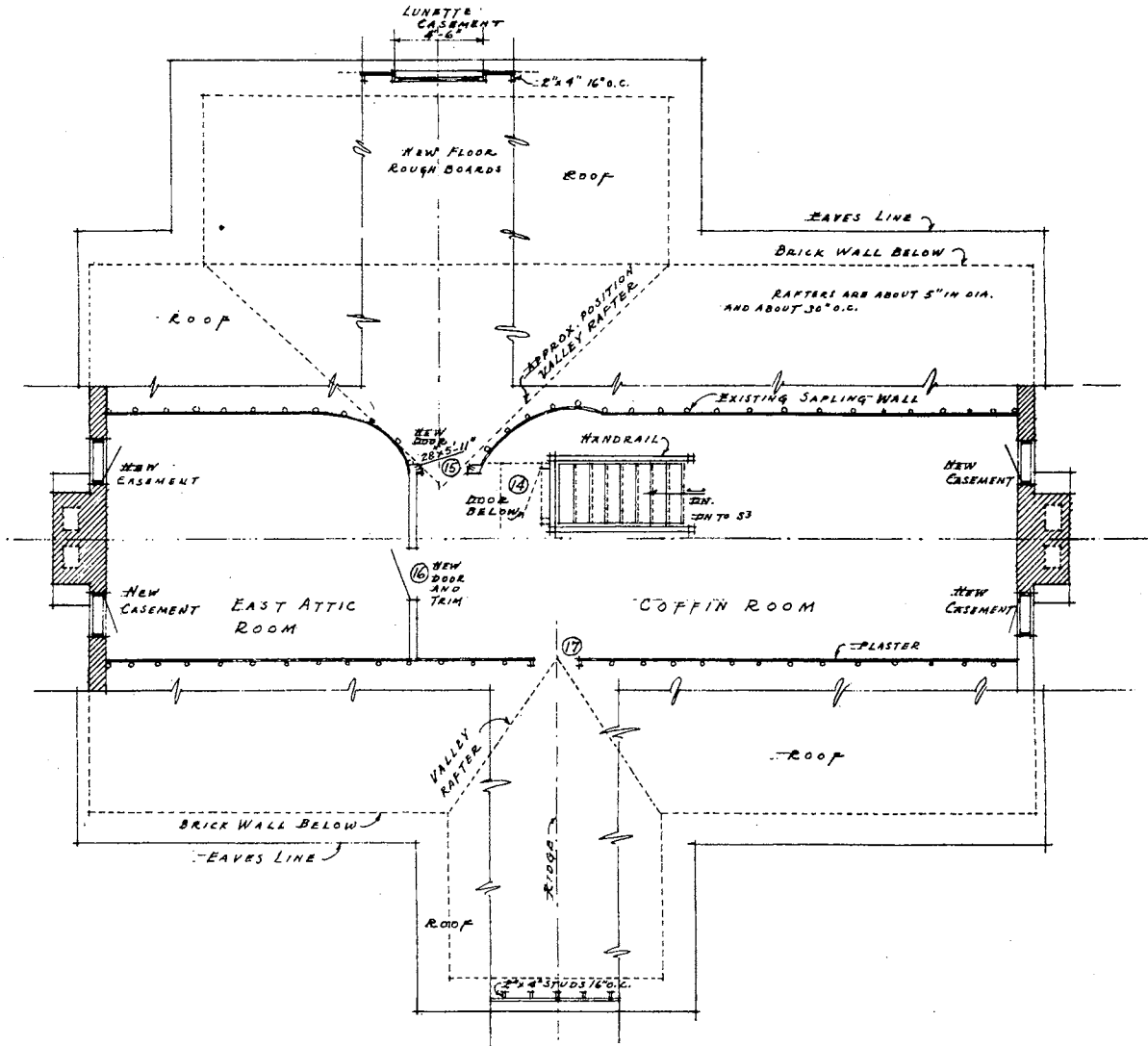
First Floor, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia

Plate V



Second Floor, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia

Plate VI



Third Floor, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia

on the facade extend from the foundation to the cornice. Stucco lintels cap the two casement windows on the first and second floors. The wooden twelve-on-twelve casement windows measure three feet-six inches by six feet-seven inches. The front entrance has double, panelled doors, each door measuring two feet by eight feet-six inches. A five-paned side light flanks both sides of the double door. A multi-paned lunette transverses the double doors and side lights. On the second floor level above the main entrance is another double door which leads onto the second-floor porch. Each door measures two feet by six feet-six inches. These doors do not have side lights, but are transversed by a multi-paned lunette. An elaborate cornice supported by pilasters frame the doorway and the lunette. The cornice that extends across the front of the house below the roof line is made up of a series of moldings and a row of dentils.

The front porch is also built upon a brick foundation and measures eight feet-three inches by 11 feet. The porch has six wooden front steps which are eight feet-two inches wide. Four square wooden columns, resting on square-based pedestals, two feet-four inches in height, and located at the two front corners of the porch, support the second floor porch. The unadorned capitals of the columns are about two inches thick and eight inches square. A pilaster on the two back corners of the porch resemble the column complexes on the front corners. The second floor porch resembles the first floor porch, but the columns and panelled bases are shorter, and the second floor porch is enclosed with a decorative balustrade. The decorative cornice across the front of the house also extends around the porch at the base of the roof line. The gable that forms the roof of the porch and the decorative cornice around the front of the gable form a simple, but beautiful pediment.

The east and west ends of the house are similar in plan. Each end has a chimney measuring 44 feet-six inches in height and six feet-nine inches in width at the base which is flanked by two twelve-on-twelve casement windows on the first and second floors. Barred windows are on each side of the chimneys at the basement level, and two four-paned in-swinging casement windows flank the chimneys on the third floor. The first and second floor windows have stucco lintels and the basement windows have brick lintels. A decorative molding extends along the base of the roof line.

The back (Plate III, Figure 2) is similar to the front of the house except for: (1) a second doorway on the first floor level, (2) a basement entrance on the ground level, (3) a larger porch, and (4) the back window of the parlor is off-set to the right, probably because of the basement entrance. The single, panelled door on the first floor opens into the dining room. The four large upper panels in the door are of glass and a glass-paned transom is over the door. The back porch measures eight feet by 23 feet-six inches. The architectural detail of the porch is the same as that of the front porch, but it is larger and has twice the number of columns (i.e., four sets). The back porch has five front steps, 20 feet-six inches wide, on the south, and four steps, seven feet wide, on the east. The pediment, which is much larger than that of the front porch, contains a multi-paned lunette.

The entrance hall measures 12 feet by 23 feet-seven inches and the height of the ceiling is 12 feet, as are all the ceilings on the first floor. The front door is at the north and the back door is at the south end of the hall. The staircase, which is located to the left of the main entrance, leads to the second and third floors and is the outstanding

architectural feature of the house. Much of the staircase (Plate VII, Figure 1) is free-standing. It is considered the earliest cantilevered construction in the State of Georgia.³⁵ Panelled wainscoting extends around the hall and along the wall up the staircase. Burned places on the flooring can still be seen where Bishop set fire to the house in 1835.³⁶

The parlor is located to the right of the entrance hall and measures 14 feet-six inches by 23 feet-seven inches. The room has one south window, one north window, and two west windows. A door two feet-nine inches wide opens into the parlor from the entrance hall. The fireplace (Plate VII, Figure 2) has an arched opening four feet-three inches wide and one foot-four inches deep. The hearth and the interior of the fireplace, as are all four fireplaces in the house, are built of brick. The hand-carved mantel, which extends from the floor to the ceiling, is painted red, blue, green, and yellow. It consists of rectangular and arched panels with moldings, dentils and pilasters. The rosettes on the capitals of the pilasters are simulated Cherokee Roses. Panelled wainscoting extending around the room is three feet high and painted red, blue, and green.

The dining room is located to the left of the entrance hall and measures 14 feet-seven inches by 23 feet-seven inches. A door two feet-nine inches wide opens from the entrance hall into the dining room. A door two feet-11 inches wide on the south wall leads onto the covered back porch of the house. This latter door was used when food was brought

³⁵Gregory.

³⁶Ibid.

PLATE VII



Fig. 1. Staircase, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place," Georgia



Fig. 2. Parlor Fireplace, Joseph Vann House, "Spring Place", Georgia

to the dining room from the log kitchen house which was located southeast of the main house and connected to it by a brick sidewalk.³⁷ The dining room has one north window and two windows flanking the fireplace on the east wall. A drawer was built into the walls beneath the north window and beneath the east window north of the fireplace. It is believed that these drawers were used for storing silver and other valuables.³⁸

The dining room fireplace has an arched opening that measures four feet-ten inches wide and one foot-six inches deep. It is nearly identical to the parlor fireplace, but does not have panelling above the mantel shelf. The mantel is painted green and does not seem as evident as the multi-colored fireplace in the parlor. The wainscoting in the dining room measures three feet high and extends around the walls. In Plate VIII, Figure 1, the wainscoting does not appear to be panelled, but merely consists of a wide molding at the top and a baseboard along the bottom.

The upstairs hall measures 12 feet by 24 feet-three inches and the height of the ceiling is 11 feet, as are all the ceilings on the second floor. A double-door at each end of the hall leads onto covered porches. Each of the double doors measures two feet by six feet-six inches. The lunettes above the double doors are the only windows in the second floor hall. The staircase continues on to the third floor.

The east bedroom (Plate VIII, Figure 2) measures 15 feet by 24 feet-three inches. A door that measures two feet-11 inches wide opens from the hall into the bedroom. It is probable that this was the master bedroom, since it is the larger of the two bedrooms on the second floor. One north window, one south window, and two east windows flanking the fire-

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid.

Plate VIII



Fig. 1. Dining Room, Joseph Vann House,
"Spring Place", Georgia



Fig. 2. Master Bedroom, Joseph Vann House,
"Spring Place", Georgia

place, provide light and ventilation for the room. A molding at window sill level, (i. e., three feet), extends around the room and forms the wainscoting. The fireplace in this room is not as elaborately carved as the fireplace on the first floor. The arched fireplace opening measures four feet wide and one foot-five inches deep.

The west bedroom on the second floor measures 14 feet-seven inches by 23 feet-seven inches. A two feet-11 inches wide door opens from the hall into the bedroom. One north window, one south window, and two windows on the west wall flanking the fireplace, provide light and ventilation. A picture of this room could not be obtained, but it is probably similar to the east bedroom.

The third floor (Plate VI) contains two rooms. The stairway terminates in the west room, which measures 12 feet-one inch by 29 feet-nine inches. The highest point of the hipped ceiling is six feet from the floor. The shape of the room and the lines of the ceiling were factors contributing to this room being called the "Coffin Room."³⁹ The room was used for meetings and probably it was used also as a sleeping area for some members of Vann's large family. The north and south walls of this room are of a thin construction and the studs are saplings. A four-paned in-swinging window one foot-nine inches wide and two feet-four inches high flank each side of the chimney on the west wall. A door at the east end of the south wall opens into the gable of the back porch which was probably used as a storage area. A door on the east wall opens into the east attic room. This room measures 12 feet by 15 feet-one inch and the ceiling measures 6 feet-one inch at the highest point. Four-paned in-swinging windows,

³⁹ Ibid.

one foot-nine inches wide by two feet-four inches high, flank each side of the chimney on the east wall.

The basement measures 27 feet-three inches by 24 feet and the height of the ceiling is six feet-six inches. The basement can be entered from a closed stairway at the back of the main entrance hall and under the stairway leading to the second floor. There is also an outside entrance into the basement that is located near the southwest corner of the house. A number of barred windows along the foundation of the house provide ventilation and natural light for the basement area.

The colors used to decorated "Spring Place" were red, yellow, blue and green. These colors represent the red clay of Georgia, the green trees, the yellow-ripened grain and the blue skies.⁴⁰ When "Spring Place" was being restored, layers of paint and grime were removed and the wood-work was treated with oil to bring out the original colors.⁴¹ The paint used in the restoration was matched with the original color pigments.

"Spring Place" does not have any of the original Vann furniture, but it is furnished with pieces of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Not one piece of the Vann furniture that once graced the Georgian mansion can be found.⁴²

It is probable that the furniture once used at the Vann house near Webbers Falls was burned when the house was razed by Union soldiers. The Oklahoma Historical Society does not know of any pieces of furniture in existence that once belonged to Joseph Vann.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Letter to the writer from Mrs. Sidney B. Jewett, Executive Secretary of the Georgia Historical Commission, Atlanta, Georgia, March 16, 1962.

⁴² Letter to the writer from Mrs. Jewett dated June 18, 1962.

Thus, all is gone that was once one of the finest plantation houses in the Cherokee Nation; and only a depression in the earth near Webbers Falls marks the site of Joseph Vann's house in the West.

CHAPTER II

"ROSE COTTAGE" - THE HOUSE OF JOHN ROSS

John Ross

John Ross was born at Rossville, Georgia, on October 3, 1790. His father, Daniel Ross, was a Scotch immigrant and his mother, Mary McDonald, was one-fourth Cherokee.¹ John and his brother, Lewis Ross, were educated at an academy in Kingston, Tennessee.

In his adulthood, John Ross served as adjutant of the Cherokee regiment which cooperated with General Andrew Jackson during the Creek War (1813-1814). In 1817, when he was 27 years old, Ross was elected a member of the National Committee of the Cherokee Legislature. Two years later he became president of the National Committee.² In October, 1828, John Ross was elected Chief of the Eastern Cherokees and he held that office until their removal to the West in 1839.³

John Ross arrived in the Cherokee Nation in the spring of 1839. In June of that year, three of his political opponents, Elias Boudinot, Major Ridge and John Ridge were assassinated. Friends and followers of Boudinot and the Ridges accused Ross of instigating the assassinations,

¹U. S. Bureau of American Ethnology, "Notes to the Historical Sketch," Nineteenth Annual Report, XIX (1897-1898), pt. 1., p. 224.

²Ibid.

³John Bartlett Meserve, "Chief John Ross," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XIII (1935), p. 428.

Plate IX



John Ross

but this was never proven. In September, Ross was elected Assistant Principal Chief of the Cherokees and served in that office until his resignation the next year.⁴

The following is an account describing Ross which was sent by Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock to the United States Secretary of War. It was sent from Tahlequah, the capital of the Cherokee Nation. Hitchcock wrote:

I have said nothing of John Ross the principal chief of the Nation, who will head the delegation. Much is said of him in the States, and like other conspicuous men he has been variously spoken of, in terms of great praise and great censure. He resides five miles from this place on a beautiful prairie in sight of Park Hill - is of mixed blood between 45 and 50 years of age - is under size and his manners, unless excited, have a dash of diffidence in them - is not of ready speech - speaks English principally and will not trust himself to address his own people in Cherokee - is a man of strong passions and settled purposes which he pursues with untiring zeal; is of undoubted courage unless it be that he fears that defeat of his plans more than the loss of life and would preserve the latter to execute the former. After much observation I am of the opinion that John Ross is an honest man and a patriot laboring for the good of his people.⁵

In 1843, John Ross defeated Joseph Vann in an election held by the Cherokees to name their Principal Chief.⁶ Except for a brief period during the Civil War, he held that position until his death in 1866.

John Ross' first wife was Quatie Martin, a full-blood Cherokee who died in March, 1839 at a Little Rock, Arkansas, boat landing during the removal of the Cherokees to Indian Territory. She left Ross with

⁴Ibid., p. 432.

⁵Ethan Allen Hitchcock, A Traveler in Indian Territory, ed. Grant Foreman (Cedar Rapids, 1930), p. 234.

⁶Ibid., p. 41n.

several children. His second wife was Mary Brian Stapler, an 18 year old student, whom he met in 1844 while visiting his daughter and a niece at their boarding school in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. Within a very short time after meeting Mary, Ross wrote John Stapler, Mary's father, asking for his daughter's hand in marriage. In September of that year, their wedding was held in the President's parlor at Hartwell's Washington House (hotel) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.⁷ Miss Stapler, a Quaker, was dismissed from the Friends' Society because of her marriage to Ross who was a Methodist convert.⁸ Ross brought his new bride to the Cherokee Nation and "Rose Cottage" in November, 1844.

The following account, given by a former student at the Cherokee Female Seminary at Park Hill, shows with what esteem John Ross was held by his fellow Cherokees.

The principal chief himself not infrequently attended the preaching service at the female seminary, his arrival and departure always proving the most interesting and exciting event of the day. His coming, viewed with far more interest than that of the preacher, was heralded by the students through hall and corridor, and groups of eager, bright eyed Indian girls filled every available window and doorway to view the splendid spectacle as the negro coachman drew up the team of blacks at the entrance with a flourish. And when the courtly chief, clad in broadcloth, descended to conduct

⁷Conflicting dates are given for the wedding. In Foreman's Park Hill on p. 28 is a quoted letter from John Ross to Colonel T. L. McKenny dated August 25, 1844, which states that he is to be married September 3, 1844. On p. 29 of Park Hill there is an account taken from the September 5, 1844 issue of the New York Tribune, which states that the wedding took place on September 2, 1844. The October 5, 1844 issue of the Cherokee Advocate on p. 3, col. 1, states that the wedding took place September 3, 1844.

⁸Effie S. Johnson, "An Interview with Mrs. Roy Bradshaw," Indian-Pioneer History (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, CIV, p. 136.

the first lady of their land, arrayed in rich silk
and real lace, into the seminary chapel their pleasure
and pride bordered on ecstasy.⁹

In 1849, John Ross entered the mercantile business at Park Hill but two years later his firm, John Ross and Company, was dissolved.¹⁰ Besides income from this enterprise and his farming, Ross also received a yearly salary of about \$600 for being Chief of the Cherokees. In 1859, the Cherokee National Council raised his stipend to \$900 a year.¹¹

The 1860's brought dilemma and bloodshed to the Cherokee Nation. The Cherokees were divided in their allegiance to the United States and to the Confederate States of America. On May 17, 1861, Chief Ross issued a proclamation of neutrality, but unrest continued among the Cherokees.¹² On October 7, 1861, Chief Ross signed a pact with the Confederate States of America.¹³

On July 14, 1862, Union troops took possession of Tahlequah, the Cherokee capital.¹⁴ At this time John Ross requested and was granted a military escort to give himself and his family safe conduct to the United States. On the afternoon of July 27, 1862, he and his family left Rose Cottage under the escort of Colonel William F. Cloud of the Second

⁹Rachel Caroline Eaton, John Ross and the Cherokee Indians (Menasha, 1914), p. 170.

¹⁰Grant Foreman, The Five Civilized Tribes (Norman, 1934), p. 406.

¹¹Gaston L. Litton, "The Principal Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XV (1937), 269.

¹²Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill (Muskogee, 1948), p. 118.

¹³Ibid., p. 120.

¹⁴Meserve, 434.

Kansas Calvary.¹⁵ From Park Hill the party went to Grand Saline where they were joined by Lewis Ross and his family. They arrived at Fort Scott, Kansas, on August 7, 1862. One week later Chief Ross, his family and relatives left by train for Pennsylvania.¹⁶

The Union occupation of Tahlequah was short-lived and within a short time the Confederates reoccupied Tahlequah. With the Cherokee government again in the hands of Confederate sympathizers, Ross was deposed and replaced by Stand Watie as Principal Chief. On the night of October 29, 1862, Watie and a group of raiders known as the Knights of the Golden Circle, burned "Rose Cottage". The house did not have any military significance, but it is believed that Stand Watie committed this act because of his hatred for John Ross.¹⁷

For the duration of the Civil War, John Ross and his family made their home at old "Colonial House" on Washington Square in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The house had been inherited by the second Mrs. Ross and she died there on July 20, 1865. John Ross returned to the Cherokee Nation in September, 1865, a widower with his fortune depleted, his home burned, and his estate in a ruinous condition, although at one time his personal fortune was estimated to have been between \$500,000¹⁸ and \$700,000.¹⁹

¹⁵Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "Alice Ross Howard," Chronicles of Oklahoma XXIII (1945), 250.

¹⁶Ibid., 251.

¹⁷Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 129.

¹⁸New York Herald Tribune, September 5, 1844, quoted in Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 29.

¹⁹U. S. Congress, Senate, Committee on Claims, Report on Claims of Annie B. Ross, 81st Cong., 2d Sess., April 20, 1870, p. 7.

In 1866, Chief Ross went to Washington, D. C. because the Cherokees were dissatisfied with an order issued by the United States Government which required them to adopt their former slaves into tribal membership. While in Washington he became ill and died at the Medes Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue on August 1, 1866.²⁰ His funeral was held at the John W. Stapler²¹ home in Wilmington, Delaware. A Methodist-Episcopal service was held later and he was buried at Brandywine Cemetery next to his wife, Mary, in the Stapler burial ground. On October 17, 1866, the Cherokee National Council passed an act providing funds to bring John Ross's body to the Cherokee Nation.²² His body was returned to the Cherokee Nation and on June 1, 1867, interred in the Ross Cemetery overlooking his "Rose Cottage" estate.²³

"Rose Cottage"

Upon arriving in the Cherokee Nation in 1839, John Ross bought a story-and-a-half log house from an early settler.²⁴ The house was located on the north bank of Park Hill Creek. John Howard Payne, the noted composer of "Home Sweet Home", visited there in 1840. In a letter to John Watterson dated December 2, 1840, Payne describes Ross's first Park Hill home as follows:

²⁰Meserve, 435.

²¹John Ross's brother-in-law.

²²Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 140.

²³Ibid., p. 141.

²⁴Ibid., p. 26.

There is no lack of dirt anywhere; but those who are particular can choose the cleanest. Mr. Ross and I occupy as our sleeping room and study the demi-floor of the log house up to which every now and then stalks a silent Indian, stands awhile & stares, and then stalks down again, no matter how one is situated,-- whether in bed or up or idle or at work. At night, if two four-post bedsteads in each of the main rooms, on the ground floor are insufficient for the guest, beds are spread in the center, or those who have blankets, spread them; and the rooms once filled, an open passage between the two is blanketed all over by the remaining visitors, who repose with only a shed canopied them from the wind and weather. Men, women, and children, thus lodge indiscriminately; and, as I gather myself in my own bed, I hear them laughing and talking themselves to sleep.

At meals, as many as the table can accommodate sit down indiscriminately; and outside the door, which stands always wide open, two or three dogs are intently eyeing the table from the threshold, and Indians, in their blankets as earnestly watching in silence, and waiting their turn to be invited in. Group after group was called and the poor housekeeper never knew how many guests she had to feed. Twenty-five or fifty were lodged and fed and sometimes a meal was skipped as supplies had run out. There were no lamps and candles were scarce so the people went to bed early.

As I unclose my eyes some nights, I discover the bright Heavens over head through the yawning shingles of the roof; and when the cold blasts drive the snow in which has lingered the last storm. . .²⁵
the cabin reels and rocks in the howling wind. . .

According to Graebner, this log house described by Payne was known as "Rose Cottage".²⁶ The log house was replaced in 1843 by a fine Greek Revival styled mansion, which was also called "Rose Cottage". Since the new house was far from being a cottage, it is quite possible that the name was a carry-over from the log house.

²⁵ Grant Foreman, "John Howard Payne and the Cherokees," The American Historical Review, July, 1933, quoted in Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, pp. 17-18.

²⁶ Norman Arthur Graebner, "Provincial Indian Society in Eastern Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XIII (1945), 325.

"Rose Cottage" was located on an estate of more than 1,000 acres²⁷ which was maintained by as many as 70 Negro slaves owned by Ross.²⁸ His estate, or plantation, was nearly self-sufficient, producing most of the food, clothing, and tools that were needed.²⁹ Outbuildings included a smokehouse, dairy, kiln, laundry, blacksmith shop, stables and slave cabins. Since the kitchen is not mentioned in any source as being among the outbuildings, it must have been in the main house. The estate also had a kitchen garden and a fine orchard which contained 1,000 apple trees.³⁰

The grounds at "Rose Cottage" were well-kept, and the house was surrounded by a rose-covered fence. Carolyn Foreman found evidence to indicate that: "The house was approached by a driveway one-half mile in length which was bordered with many varieties of roses bought by Ross during his many travels."³¹

"Rose Cottage", a two-storied frame house with a "T"-shaped floor plan, faced north. Included among its rooms were guest rooms, family rooms, a library and a parlor.³² A wing extended from the south side of the house. According to Meigs, this wing had a full-length porch on one side.³³

²⁷Eaton, p. 165.

²⁸Ibid.

²⁹Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 30.

³⁰Ibid.

³¹Ibid.

³²Elizabeth Ross, "Interview with R. R. Meigs, Park Hill, Oklahoma," Indian-Pioneer History (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, CVII, p. 209.

³³Ibid.

Four doric columns supported the simple classic architrave and pediment which covered the front entrance of the house. Judging from the scale of the figures in Plate X, this portico was probably approximately 20 feet long.

The front entrance of "Rose Cottage" had panelled double doors flanked by side lights with diamond-shaped window panes. The front doors and side lights were transversed by a transom which also had diamond-shaped panes. In Plate X, a shadow obscures the wall area above the entrance, making it impossible to ascertain the architectural treatment of that part of the house. Ante-bellum architecture typical of that period usually had either a window or a doorway with a balcony; however, it also was not uncommon for the wall to be without an opening. Except for the side lights flanking the doorway and the transom, the windows at the front of the house were six-on-six casements. Shutters completed the window treatment.

A huge chimney of cut stone was located at each end of the main part of the house,³⁴ and it is possible that another chimney might have been at the back of the house.

No accounts appear to exist regarding where the materials used in building "Rose Cottage" were acquired. It would be safe to assume, however, that the finished lumber, glass and hardware were imported from the United States, since no record can be found of these materials being produced in Indian Territory in 1843.

Cunningham estimates that the furnishings at "Rose Cottage",

³⁴Ibid.

Plate X



"Rose Cottage"

which were shipped from the east, cost around \$10,000.³⁵ Most of the furniture was made from rosewood and mahogany.³⁶ Accounts describing the actual pieces of furniture which once graced "Rose Cottage" are lacking. Robert Bruce, Jr. believes that all the furnishings must have burned with the house in October, 1862.³⁷

John Ross apparently observed the open house policy at "Rose Cottage" for frequent dinners were given there on a grand scale with imported china and beautiful silver. Hitching posts which could accommodate as many as fifty horses were located near the house; and it is said that the house could hold forty guests in comfort.³⁸ John Max Stanley, a noted 19th century portrait painter, is reputed to have stayed at "Rose Cottage" in 1844, while he painted portraits of various members of the Ross family.³⁹ General Albert Pike, a Confederate general was also a visitor at "Rose Cottage", his mission being to pay Lewis Ross, Treasurer of the Cherokee Nation, a sum of \$220,000 which was stipulated in the alliance treaty between the Cherokee Nation and the Confederate States of America. According to the U. S. Senate Reports of 1869-1870, \$70,000 of this amount was paid in coin and the remainder in Confederate treasury notes.⁴⁰

³⁵Frank Cunningham, General Stand Watie's Confederate Indians (San Antonio, 1959) p. 28.

³⁶Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 30.

³⁷Interview with Robert Bruce Ross, Jr., Park Hill, Oklahoma, December 23, 1961. Mr. Ross is a great-grandson of Chief John Ross.

³⁸Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 30.

³⁹Ibid, p. 95.

⁴⁰Report on Claim of Annie B. Ross, p. 5.

On display at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City is a silver napkin ring used at "Rose Cottage". John Ross' initials, J.M.R., are engraved in Spencerian script on the outer surface of the ring. A breakfast plate and a dessert plate that belonged to John Ross is in the possession of Dr. T. L. Ballenger of Tahlequah, Oklahoma, but he is not sure whether they were used at "Rose Cottage" or at Ross' home in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.⁴¹

In 1860, "Rose Cottage" was the setting of a tragic incident. One day during the winter, Miss Mary Jane Stapler, a cousin of Mrs. Ross who was the governess of the Ross children, stood too close to an open fireplace and her dress caught fire. She panicked and rushed outside, enveloped in flames. The flames were extinguished, but not in time to save her life. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the Ross Cemetery.⁴²

On the afternoon of July 27, 1862, the Rosses left "Rose Cottage" and fled to the United States under military escort.⁴³ Three months later, Stand Watie and a group of raiders burned the house to the ground.⁴⁴ During the Civil War years Union troops, as well as Confederate troops and civilians, stripped the fields and looted anything that could be of any use or value.

When John Ross returned to his "Rose Cottage" estate in September, 1865, he found it in ruins. On June 16, 1866, he made out an itemized

⁴¹Personal correspondence with Dr. T. L. Ballenger, Tahlequah, Oklahoma, April 29, 1962.

⁴²Elizabeth Ross, "A Fatal Burn," *Indian-Pioneer History* (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, LII, p. 447.

⁴³Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "Alice Ross Howard," 250.

⁴⁴Meserve, 434.

account against the United States Government for property claims amounting to \$53,150.31 and for interest at 25 per cent which made a claim of \$66,437.88.⁴⁵ The claim listed 82 items which included his house, household furniture, library, works of art, outbuildings, the orchard, growing crops, farm products and farm implements.⁴⁶ John Ross died less than two months later and never received a penny of the claim. In a letter from Colonel William A. Phillips to John B. Henderson, Chairman of the Indian Committee, United States Senate, dated January 24, 1869, Phillips claimed that Ross's property was worth at least three times the amount of the claim filed by Ross.⁴⁷

John Ross, Jr., son of John Ross and his second wife, Mary, inherited the "Ross Cottage" estate, but the house was never rebuilt. Today not a trace of ruins marks the site of "Ross Cottage" which time, the elements and man have stripped from the face of the earth.

⁴⁵ Report on Claim of Annie B. Ross, p. 1.

⁴⁶ Ibid.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

CHAPTER III

"HUNTER'S HOME"- THE HOUSE OF GEORGE MICHAEL MURRELL

George Michael Murrell¹

George Michael Murrell was born April 8, 1808, near Lynchburg, Virginia. He was the youngest child of John Murrell and Elizabeth Diedrick. In the late 1830's, Murrell was a clerk in a Cleveland, Tennessee mercantile store owned by Lewis Ross.¹ He later went to Athens, Tennessee, where he joined his brother, Onslow Glenmore Murrell, in the mercantile business.² It was in Athens that George Murrell met Minerva Ross, eldest daughter of Lewis Ross and Fanny Holt and they fell in love. The Rosses were against their daughter marrying Murrell, but on July 7, 1834 Minerva eloped with Murrell from Forest Hill Academy where she was attending school.³ They were married at the home of Onslow Glenmore Murrell at Athens, Tennessee.⁴ Minerva was 15 years and Murrell was 26 years old at the time of their marriage. The Ross family was unhappy about the marriage, but later accepted Murrell as a part of the family.⁵

¹The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1950, Sec. A., p. 24.

²The Oklahoma Almanac (Norman, 1960), p. 35.

³Interview with Mrs. Lee Good, Tulsa, Oklahoma, March 24 and 26, 1962.

⁴Ibid.

⁵The Tulsa Tribune, April 13, 1956, Sec. III, p. 35.

Plate XI



George Michael Murrell

In 1839, Murrell was appointed by the United States Government to assist in the removal of the Cherokees from Tennessee to the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory.⁶ He settled at Park Hill after arriving in the Cherokee Nation.

Murrell's mother died in 1841, and his father in 1842.⁷ It is probable that the money inherited from his parents' estate was used by Murrell to help build 'Hunter's Home'.

On March 23, 1844, Murrell was appointed fourth postmaster of Park Hill and part of his store served as the post office.⁸ He also had a mercantile store at Tahlequah, the Cherokee capital, but the date of its establishment could not be determined. On May 6, 1844, Murrell was appointed first postmaster of Tahlequah.⁹ Other business enterprises of Murrell were two mills. One mill, located behind his house on Park Hill Creek was used for grinding corn.¹⁰ The other, which was steam-powered, was located near Barren Fork and the present town of Welling, Oklahoma.¹¹

In 1844, construction was started on Murrell's new house at Park Hill which he named 'Hunter's Home' because of his love for the hunt.¹² Fox hunting was Murrell's favorite pastime and it is reputed that he

⁶The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1950, Sec. A., p. 24.

⁷Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

⁸Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill (Muskogee, 1948), p. 51.

⁹Grant Foreman, Advancing the Frontier (Norman, 1933), p. 205n.

¹⁰Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 94.

¹¹Ibid., p. 52.

¹²The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1950, Sec. A., p. 24.

had the finest pack of hounds in the Cherokee Nation.¹³ According to Mr. S. W. Ross a strange occurrence took place on one of the fox hunts. He relates:¹⁴

Hour after hour the hounds circled and trailed and then dashed away in the long close pursuit. Finally the pack began to tire but continued to run until the gray gloom of approaching morning came, when the horsemen put spurs to their horses and came up with the hounds and then there was revealed to their vision a most strange object--what appeared to be a small and dwarfish human being, with long hair floating wildly in the breeze, running just ahead of the foremost hounds. Despite their best efforts the hounds could not gain an inch more. They remained about three yards in the rear of the strange man, thing, or whatever it may have been. Murrell urged his big horse to a spurt and then the object disappeared--vanished as if into the thinnest of atmosphere.¹⁵

The May 22, 1845, issue of the Indian Advocate carried a notice that a \$50 reward would be paid for the capture and return of Spencer, Murrell's Negro coachman and butler.¹⁶ Grant Foreman related:

When last heard of he was "clothed in a pair of Janes pants. . . a brown Janes coat, three-fourths worn, a silk hat, brim lined with Bombazin. He took with him also a blue cloth frock coat, with velvet collar--also a black dress coat and two blankets."¹⁷

Mrs. Murrell was only 36 when an intermittent fever caused her death at "Hunter's Home" on January 14, 1855.¹⁸ She is buried in the Lewis Ross

¹³The Tulsa World, March 3, 1929, Sec. IV, p. 7.

¹⁴Shorey W. Ross was a Cherokee writer and historian. He is not a direct descendant of Chief John Ross.

¹⁵The Tulsa World, March 3, 1929, Sec. IV, p. 7.

¹⁶Grant Foreman, The Five Civilized Tribes (Norman, 1934), p. 382.

¹⁷Ibid.

¹⁸Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

family plot at Ross Cemetery near Park Hill. It was also in 1855, that Murrell inherited Tally Ho Plantation near Bayou Goula, Louisiana, from his bachelor brother, John Dobbin Murrell, who had died in 1854.¹⁹

Murrell married Amanda Melvina Ross, his first wife's younger sister, at Grand Saline on March 25, 1857. Whereas Murrell's first marriage was childless, his second produced seven children of which two died in infancy.²⁰ Carolyn Thomas Foreman claims George and Amanda Murrell had four children, two sons and two daughters.²¹

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Murrell was commissioned a captain to serve in Drew's Regiment,²² but for some unknown reason he never served.²³ A bulletin published by the Oklahoma Historical Society reports that the Murrells returned to Virginia in 1862.²⁴ On his return to Virginia, Murrell was commissioned as Major in the Quartermasters Corps in the Confederate Army.²⁵

After the Civil War, the Murrells resided at Tally Ho Plantation in Louisiana where, prior to the Civil War they had spent a part of each year. Although the Murrells never returned to "Hunter's Home", they maintained the property for a number of years.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 51.

²² Colonel John Drew, a Cherokee, was in command of Drew's Regiment. This regiment was authorized by order of the Cherokee National Council and its purpose was to serve as a home guard for the Cherokee Nation.

²³ Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

²⁴ Historical Museums and Monuments (Oklahoma City, no date).

²⁵ Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

George Murrell died March 31, 1894, at the St. Charles Hotel in New Orleans.²⁶ His body was taken to Lynchburg, Virginia and interred in Spring Hill Cemetery.²⁷ Mrs. Murrell, who remained in Louisiana, never recovered from the shock of her husband's death. She died there less than two years later on December 7, 1896.²⁸ Her body was taken to Virginia and buried next to that of her beloved husband.

"HUNTER'S HOME"

The Murrell's first home at Park Hill was a log house given to them by Lewis Ross, Mrs. Murrell's father.²⁹ The house probably was built by an early settler. The property east of his cabin was particularly attractive to Murrell because of the fine clear water spring. The property belonged to Jack McCoy and, although he claimed he would not sell the property for \$2,000, he quickly changed his mind after Murrell counted out the money.³⁰

Murrell's second house was built around 1844 and was called "Hunter's Home".³¹ At one time Murrell's estate consisted of 800 acres.³² The yard around the mansion, "Hunter's Home", was planted in blue grass.³³ A road ran by the front (north) of the house. North of the road Murrell

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ The Oklahoma Almanac (Norman, 1960), p. 35.

²⁹ Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 51.

³⁰ Ibid., p. 52.

³¹ Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

³² Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

³³ Ibid.

planted a fine apple orchard.³⁴ A smokehouse and springhouse were located behind the mansion.

A brick smokehouse, now standing at the southwest corner of "Hunter's Home", was built around 1897.³⁵ It measures 16 feet-one inch by 18 feet-one-half inch and the walls are one foot thick. It is entered through a door on the east and does not have any windows. The pitched roof is covered with wooden shingles.

The original springhouse (Plate XIV, Figure 2) stands next to Park Hill Creek, approximately 155 feet south of the mansion. It measures 13 feet-ten inches by 14 feet-one inch, and has walls almost one foot-six inches thick. The pitched roof is covered with wooden shingles. A window opening measuring two feet-six inches wide and three feet-three inches tall is on each of the east, west and south walls. Seven stone steps measuring five feet-three and one-half inches wide lead down to the doorway which measures five feet-nine inches high on the north wall. The floor is covered with spring water that overflows through an opening near the base of the south wall and runs off into Park Hill Creek.

The slave quarters were located across the creek on a wooded hill southwest of the mansion.³⁶ The number of slave cabins is unknown and only traces of a few stone foundations can be seen today.

East of the mansion is a retaining wall of cut stone that extends from the road in front of the mansion to within a few feet of the creek. The barn, which had rafters of black walnut, was located southeast of

³⁴Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

³⁵Ibid.

³⁶Ibid.

the mansion.³⁷ An overseer's house was located southeast of the mansion.³⁸ It is no longer standing and its size and date of construction are unknown.

A two-story mill was located behind the Murrell house,³⁹ but its exact location could not be determined. The mill used for grinding grain was not operated by waterpower, but instead was operated by a treadwheel driven by oxen.⁴⁰

There are controversies as to where the material used in the construction of "Hunter's Home" was acquired. Robert Bruce, Jr. claims that all of the finished lumber used in construction of the house was brought by steamboat from New Orleans via the Mississippi and Arkansas Rivers to Fort Gibson and then by wagon to Park Hill.⁴¹ Rough lumber, cut from surrounding woods, was used for studs, joists, laths, etc.⁴² In the parlor a small section of the plaster has been removed so that the crude hand-hewn studs and hand-made laths can be seen. The large hand-hewn joists supporting the first floor can be seen from the basement. Jeanne Ross Cobb⁴³ claimed that the lumber used in the building of "Hunter's Home" was felled and cut at a mill owned by Murrell.⁴⁴ She also claimed that wild cherry trees in the vicinity of the house were cut down and made into a banister for

³⁷Elizabeth Ross, "Murrell House School," *Indian-Pioneer History*, (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, LXXXII, p. 184.

³⁸Interview with Mrs. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

³⁹Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 94.

⁴⁰Ibid.

⁴¹Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Jeanne Ross Cobb was a sister of Robert Bruce Ross, Jr. The late Mrs. Cobb was at one time custodian of "Hunter's Home".

⁴⁴The Tulsa Tribune, April 13, 1956, Sec. III, p. 35.

the main staircase.⁴⁵ The oxen-powered mill on the Murrell estate probably could not have cut lumber even if it had been in existence when the house was built. Murrell owned a steam-powered mill about five miles from Park Hill, near the present town of Welling, Oklahoma,⁴⁶ but it is not known whether or not this mill was in operation in the 1840's, or if it milled lumber. If Murrell actually had owned a mill around 1844, in the vicinity of Park Hill, which could produce the high-quality milling seen in the siding and woodwork at "Hunter's Home", then why would it have been necessary to use hand-hewn lumber and crude hand-made laths in the construction of the mansion? The siding and woodwork was either bevelled or grooved and it seems improbable that a frontier mill would have had the equipment needed to produce this type of finished lumber.

The stone used for the foundation, piers, fireplaces, chimneys and outdoor steps was quarried from the nearby hills.⁴⁷ The hand-made, wrought iron, square nails used in the construction of the mansion were made in England. The double front doors still have the original English wrought iron locks. All windows across the north side of the house had irridescent glass panes, also imported from England.⁴⁸ This glass permitted a person within the house to see out, but someone on the outside could not readily see through the glass into the house. There are only a few of these panes left at "Hunter's Home".

According to Robert Bruce Ross, Jr., Hunter's Home was copied after

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Statement of William H. Ballentine quoted in Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill, p. 52.

⁴⁷ Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

an ante-bellum house in Natchez, Mississippi.⁴⁹ The first floor plan of "Hunter's Home" (Plate XV) would be "L"-shaped if it were not for the library and storeroom extensions on the west side of the mansion. The second floor plan (Plate XVI) is "L"-shaped. The mansion has ten rooms counting the storeroom and the servants' loft above the kitchen.

There are four cut-stone chimneys that serve eight woodburning fireplaces. All the chimneys are concealed within the walls of the mansion except for the extension of the chimneys above the roof line. The chimneys at the east and west ends of the front portion of the mansion have stone and concrete buttresses.

The front (north) of the house (Plate XII, Figure 1), which is symmetrically balanced, measures approximately 51 feet across. Two six-on-six casement windows measuring three feet-one inch wide are on both sides of the front porches on the first and second floors.⁵⁰ A two-storied frame porch is centered on the north facade. Three stone steps lead up to the first floor porch which measures ten feet-two inches by 12 feet-five and one-half inches. A pair of columns, each composed of four square posts are set back from the front corners of the porch. A balustrade of vase-shaped, wooden splats and a simple wood banister extend between the columns and pilasters on both sides of the porch. At present a wooden planter is placed on each of the two front corners of the porch and a wooden bench has been placed on both sides of the doorway. The set-back of the columns on the first-floor porch makes the floor area of the second-floor porch smaller. The second-floor porch is enclosed with a

⁴⁹ Letter from Robert Bruce Ross, Jr., Park Hill, Oklahoma, dated March 15, 1962.

⁵⁰ All the measurements given in this report were taken by the writer in December, 1961.

Plate XII



Fig. 1. Front (North) Entrance, "Hunter's Home"

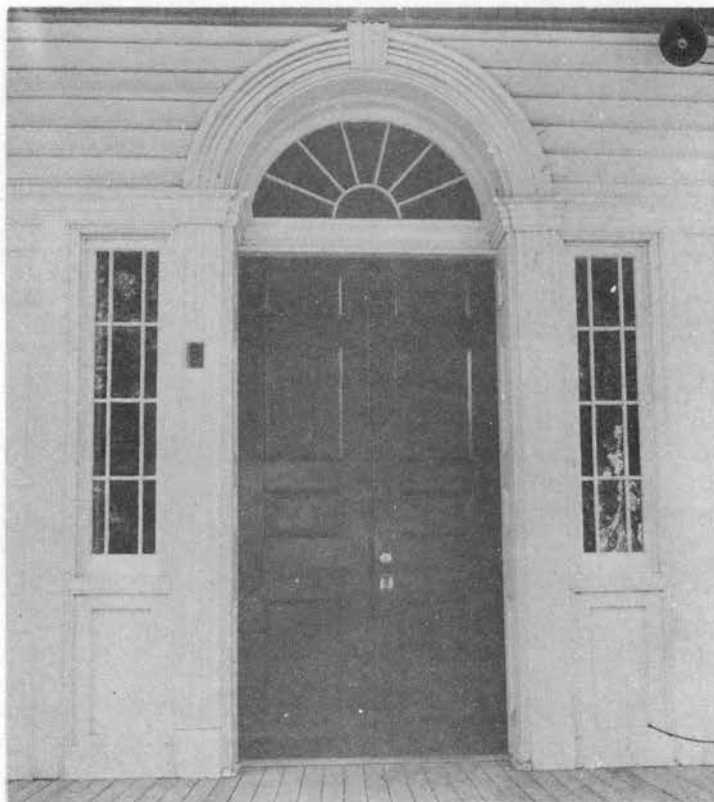


Fig. 2. Main Entrance, "Hunter's Home"

Plate XIII



Fig. 1. East Elevation, "Hunter's Home"



Fig. 2. West Elevation, "Hunter's Home"

Plate XIV

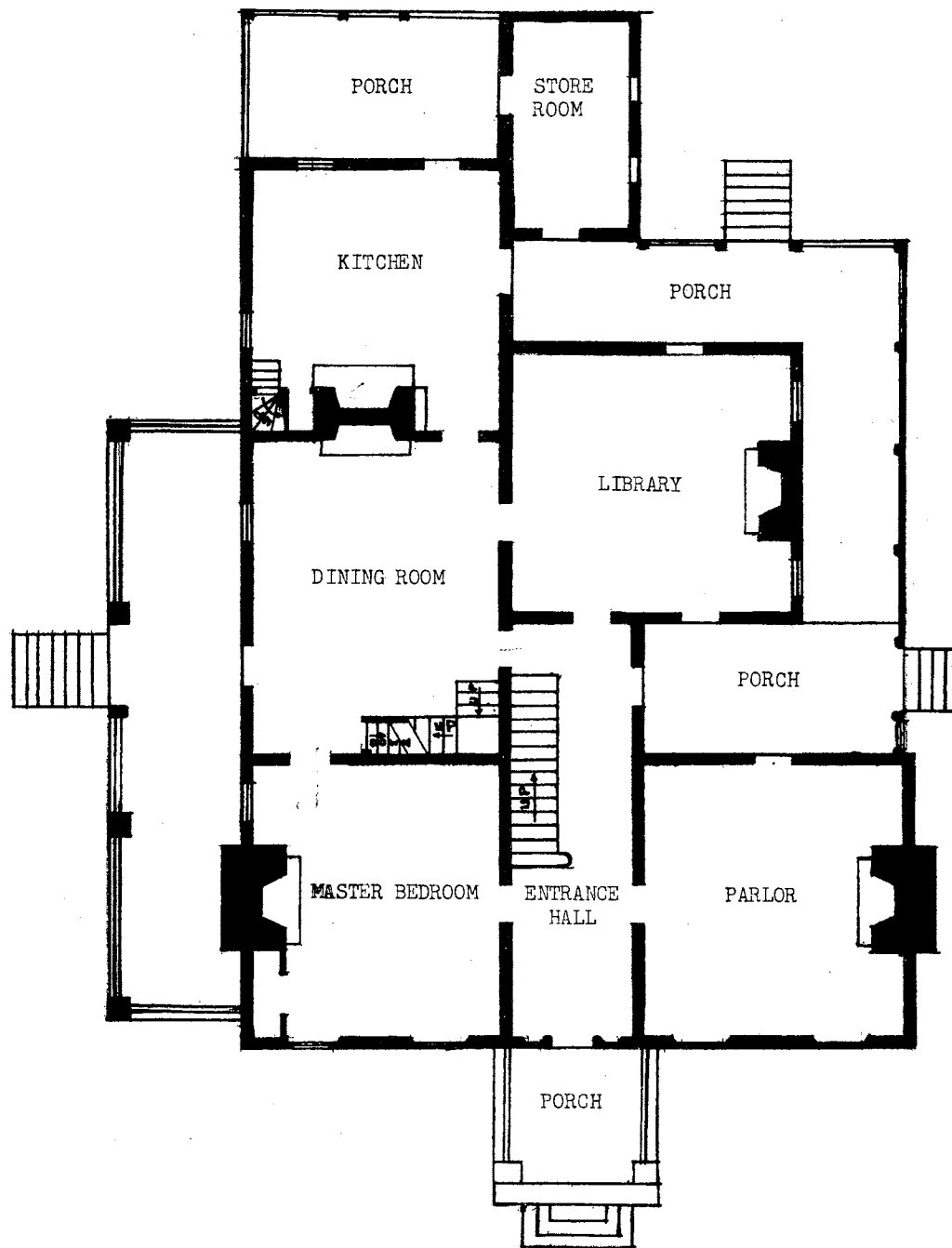


Fig. 1. South Elevation, "Hunter's Home"



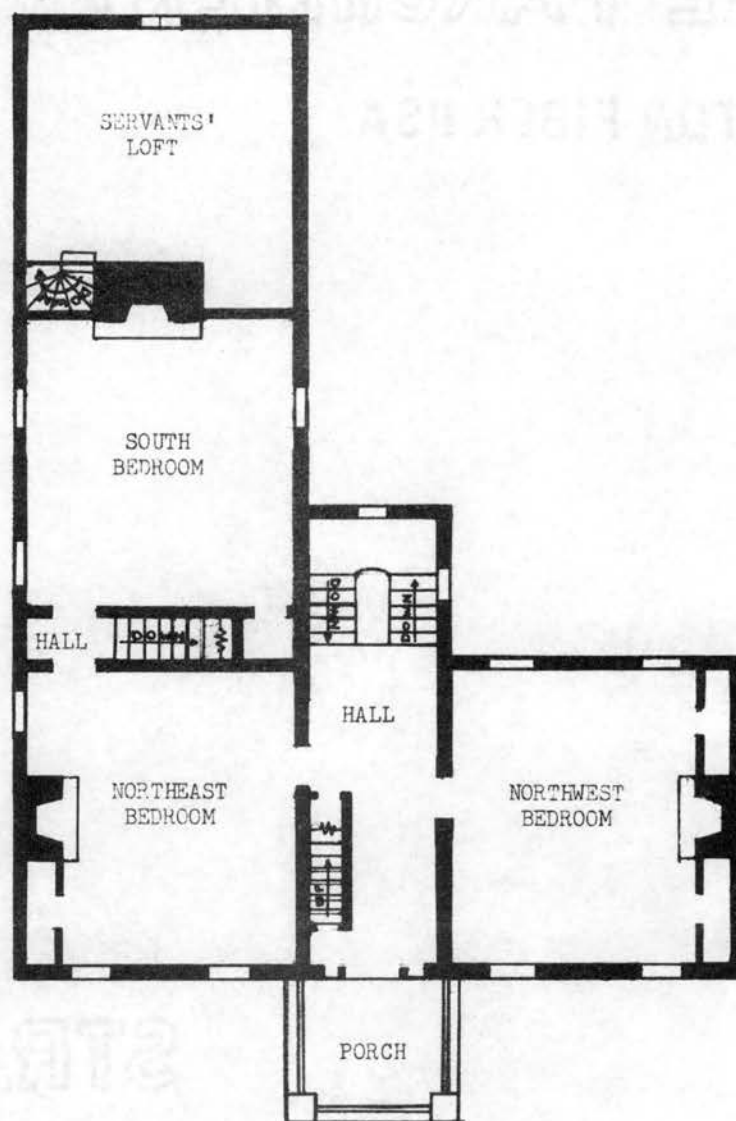
Fig. 2. Springhouse

Plate XV



First Floor, "Hunter's Home"

Plate XVI



Second Floor, "Hunter's Home

balustrade like that on the first floor. The columns are like those of the first-floor porch, but are shorter and they support the pitched roof of the porch. A simple cornice across the front of the house extends along the two sides of the roof of the porch and end before meeting at the base of the unadorned pediment.

The main entrance (Plate XII, Figure 2) has four-panelled, double doors and each door measures one foot-11 and one-fourth inches wide and seven feet-six inches high. The doors are recessed a few inches in an arched and panelled alcove. The beautiful arch has a simulated keystone of grooved wood. An elaborate grooved cornice above the door supports an eight-paned lunette.

The doorway on the second floor porch is more simple in design. A single, wide, panelled door opens into the second-floor hall. The woodwork around the doorway is simple. The doorway is flanked by twelve-paned side lights. A fifteen-paned transom supported by a wooden lintel extends across the tops of the door and side lights.

A frame, one-story porch ten feet by 45 feet extends across the two-story portions of the east side of the house (Plate XIII, Figure 1). The porch is supported by four stone piers. Seven stone steps five feet-six inches wide lead up to the porch. The roof slopes to the front of the porch and is supported by four square wooden columns. The balustrade across the ends of the porch and across the front, except at the steps, is of the same design as that of the front porch. Old photographs of the 1895-1905 period show that the northeast corner of the east porch was curved and the north end was flush with the north side of the house.⁵¹ The

⁵¹ Photograph collection of Mrs. Lee Good, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

porch at that time had nine square columns and the balustrade had square balusters.⁵² Five six-on-six wooden casements, three on the second floor and two on the first floor, are on the east wall of the two-story wing. The panelled door on the first floor opens into the dining room. A six-paned transom extends across the top of the door. The cornice on the east side is the same as that on the front of the house. The one-and-a-half-story wing on the east side of the house contains the kitchen, with the servants' quarters above, and the back porch. The six-on-six casement window on the east wall is smaller than the other casement windows on that side of the house.

The west side of the house (Plate XIII, Figure 2) is complex. The two-story wing extending to the west does not have any windows or doors on the west wall. The south wall of the west wing has two six-on-six casement windows on the second floor. An extension of the roof line from the south wall covers the stairwell of the main staircase. This extension has two casement windows, one on the west wall and one on the south wall, measuring one foot-11 inches high and two feet-four inches wide. The first floor of this wing has a panelled door that opens into the parlor from a covered porch.

The two-story wing that extends south from the front portion of the house has one six-on-six casement window on the west wall.⁵³ The first floor portion of this wing has one panelled door on the west wall between the parlor and the library which opens off the end of the main entrance hall. The library wing is one-story and extends west from the two-story

⁵²Ibid.

⁵³The window is obscured from view by the chimney of the library in Plate XIII, Figure 2.

south wing of the house. A covered porch extends along the north, west and south sides of the library. Two six-on-one casement windows are on the west wall of the library. The roof of the porch slopes to the west and south and is supported on the west by six wooden posts and on the south by three wooden posts. The area beneath the banisters around the porch are filled in with vertical planks of grooved lumber. Stone steps lead up to the west and south ends of this porch.

The west side of the one-and-a-half-story extension at the back of the house does not have any windows on the second floor. A panelled door on the west wall opens into the kitchen. The west wall of the storeroom on the southwest corner of the house has two small four-on-four casement windows. A door opens into the storeroom on the north wall and leads onto the covered porch on the south side of the library.

A covered back porch and a storeroom extend across the south end of the house. A small four-on-four casement window is on the south wall of the second floor. On the first floor a door opens into the kitchen and there is a small six-on-six casement window on the south wall under the covered porch of the kitchen wing. Six stone piers support the back porch of the kitchen and the storeroom on the southwest corner of the kitchen wing. A door on the east wall of the storeroom leads onto the back porch. Three wooden square posts support the sloping roof of the porch; and three wooden planks and a banister form a balustrade enclosing the porch. A photograph taken of the house between 1896 and 1905 shows wooden steps leading up to the south side of the back porch.⁵⁴ The floor of the back porch provides a covered entry for the door opening into

⁵⁴Photograph collection of Mrs. Lee Good, Tulsa, Oklahoma.

the two-room basement.

The entrance hall (Plate XVII, Figures 1 and 2) measures nine feet-one inch by 30 feet-nine inches and the ceiling is ten feet-ten inches high, as are all of the ceilings on the first floor. A lunette above the front doors, side lights, and two windows above the landing of the staircase furnish natural light for the hall. The two side lights have indoor panelled shutters that swing back against the wall. The baseboards and moldings around the doors and windows are of grooved lumber and painted white. The wall area below the first fifteen steps of the staircase consists of seven bevelled wood panels also painted white.

The staircase (Plate XVII, Figure 2) is to the left of the main entrance. The first fifteen steps lead to a landing which measures four feet-two and one-half inches by nine feet-one inch, and to the right of the landing six more steps at a 90 degree angle, lead to the second-floor front hall. The steps are three feet-six inches wide, one foot-one inch deep and the risers are six and three-quarters inches high. The balusters are round and unadorned and grouped two to a step, except for the bottom step. The banister is made of cherry and extends from the east wall in the upstairs hall and terminates in an horizontal volute supported by a group of five balusters on the bottom step. The balustrade is now painted reddish-brown. Wainscoting along the staircase and landing is covered with wallpaper. The hall was re-papered during the restoration of the house. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr. claims that the wallpaper in the rooms on the first floor is similar in design to that which was on the walls when his father lived in "Hunter's Home" from 1896-1905.⁵⁵

There are six panelled doors in the entrance hall, not counting the

⁵⁵ Interview with Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

Plate XVII



Fig. 1. Front Entrance, First Floor Hall, "Hunter's Home"

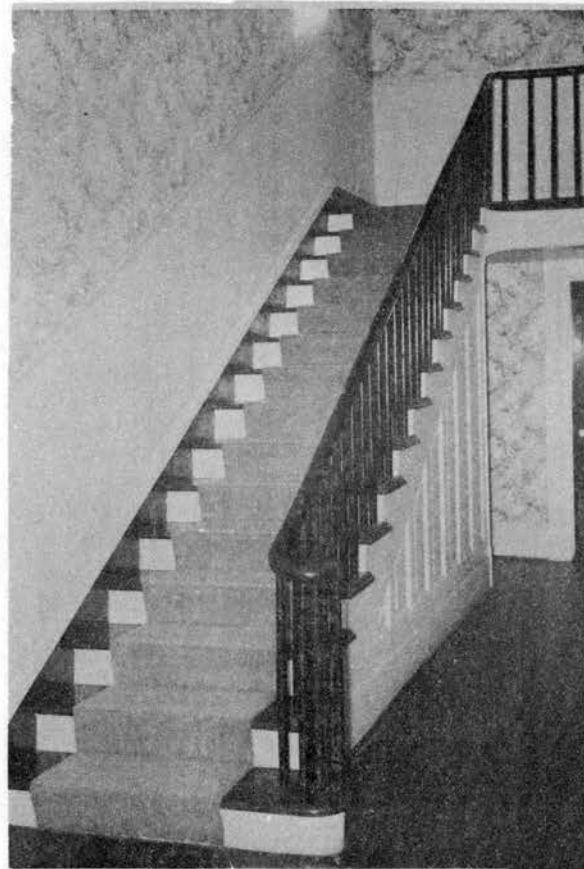


Fig. 2. Staircase, First Floor Hall, "Hunter's Home"

double doors at the main entrance. These doors lead to the parlor, west porch, library, dining room, master bedroom, and a closet under the staircase. Most of the doors on the first floor measure two feet-11 inches wide and seven feet tall. A metal and glass chandelier is now hanging in the entrance hall, however, Mrs. Good claims that prior to restoration there was a plaster medallion on the ceiling where a chandelier hung at one time, but it is not known if the medallion dated back to the construction of the house and its whereabouts are unknown at this date.⁵⁶

The hall, as all the rooms except the library, have the original floors made of random width boards measuring five and six inches in width⁵⁷ and two inches thick.⁵⁸ The library was re-floored around 1948 during the restoration of the house.

The parlor which is to the right of the main entrance, measures 19 feet-eight inches by 20 feet-four and one-half inches. Each of the two, six-on-six casement windows are set into panelled, recessed areas 11 inches deep on the north wall. The two panelled doors in the room lead to the entrance hall and to the porch on the south side of the parlor.

The parlor fireplace (Plate XVIII, Figure 1) has a classic wood mantel of the doric order. The face of the opening of the fireplace, now painted white, and the interior are made of cut stone. The fireplace opening measures three feet-eight inches wide and one foot-seven inches deep.

The mantel shelf, supported by the doric columns, is seven feet-

⁵⁶ Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

⁵⁷ Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce, Jr.

⁵⁸ The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1950, Sec. A., p. 24.

two and one-half inches long and is five feet-three inches above the hearth. Carolyn Foreman relates that during the Murrell's occupancy large mirrors hung over the mantels and the andirons and "fireplace fixtures" were made of burnished brass.⁵⁹ The grooved baseboard extending around the room measures 11 and one-eighth inches high. Woodwork framing the doorways and windows is also of grooved wood. All of the woodwork in the parlor is painted white. The chandelier now hanging in the parlor is not the original, but merely a contemporary stock reproduction. The whereabouts of any of the original chandeliers at "Hunter's Home" is unknown.

The only piece of furniture in the parlor that was among the original furnishings of the house is the Empire sofa (Plate XVIII, Figure 2). This sofa is made of rosewood and was ordered from France by Murrell while "Hunter's Home" was under construction.⁶⁰ The over-all measurements of the sofa are six feet-four inches long, one foot-ten and one-half inches from front to back, one foot-eight and one-fourth inches from the floor to the top of the back. The seat of the sofa is one foot-eight and one-fourth inches deep and four feet-eight and one-half inches long. The legs of the sofa are carved to simulate winged lions' feet and are nine and three-fourths inches high. The front panels of the rolled arms are carved to resemble acanthus leaves, volutes, and fruit. A graceful curve of simulated acanthus leaves terminate in a volute at each end of the straight, unadorned rosewood piece that extends across the top of the sofa back. The sofa was recently re-covered with a gold and pale grey-green brocade

⁵⁹ Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 52.

⁶⁰ Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

Plate XVIII



Fig. 1. Parlor Fireplace,
"Hunter's Home"

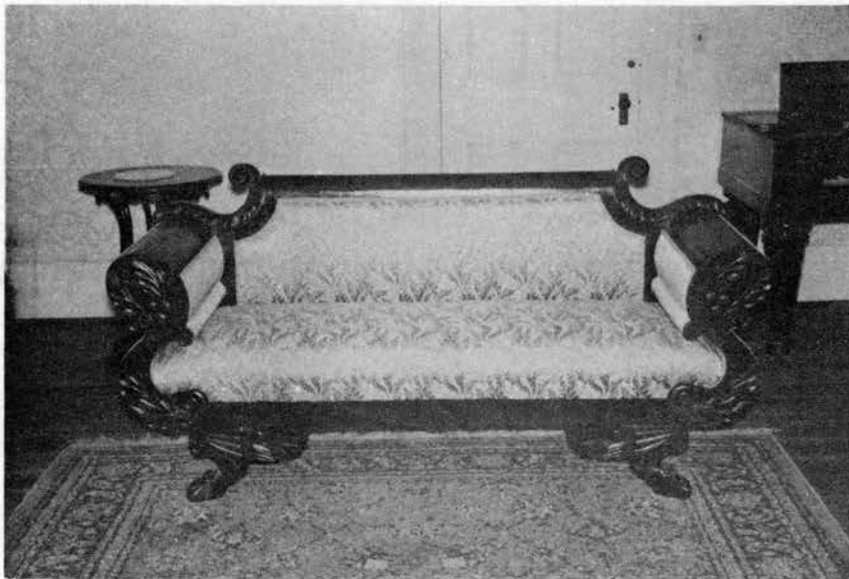


Fig. 2. Parlor Sofa, Hunter's Home"

which closely matches the original.⁶¹

"Hunter's Home" is reputed to have had an aviary. Robert Bruce Ross, Sr.⁶² related:

Between the parlor and sitting room there was a screen room where they had birds and flowers. At one time there were a hundred canaries in there among the flowers. It was a beautiful sight. They had those shades made of slats.⁶³

The porch between the parlor and the room which is now designated as the library must have been the location of the aviary. The porch measures nine feet-six inches wide and 19 feet-six inches long and the floor level is a few inches higher than the continuation of this porch on the south and west sides of the library.

The library measures 19 feet by 21 feet. The two, six-on-one casement windows in the room flank the fireplace on the west wall. The mantel is simple and the shelf is seven feet-six inches long. The fireplace opening is three feet-nine inches wide and three feet-two inches high. There are four panelled doors in the room, one each leading to the main entrance hall, dining room, a side porch between the library and parlor, and to a side porch between the library and storeroom. It is probable that this room was the sitting room that Robert Bruce Ross, Sr. referred to when he described the aviary. Carolyn Thomas Foreman related that "Hunter's Home" had red plush furniture,⁶⁴ but it is not known whether it was used in the parlor or the sitting room.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² Robert Bruce Ross, Sr. was a grandson of Chief John Ross and he lived at "Hunter's Home" from 1896-1905.

⁶³ Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 51.

⁶⁴ Ibid.

The room to the left of the main entrance is called the master bedroom. It measures 16 feet-six inches, not counting the alcove at the south end of the fireplace, by 20 feet-six inches. A closet is built in the alcove north of the fireplace. There are two six-on-six casement windows in 11-inch recessed, panelled areas on the north wall and one six-on-six casement window on the east wall south of the fireplace. There are three panelled doors in the bedroom. One leads into the entrance hall, another into the dining room and the third into a closet. A fireplace is on the east wall and is similar in size and design to the parlor fireplace, but not as fine in architectural detail as the parlor fireplace.

The bed, armoire,⁶⁵ a marble-topped table, and a wooden table in the master bedroom are part of the original furnishings of "Hunter's Home".⁶⁶ The bed and the armoire are the only pieces left of the Murrell's bedroom suite,⁶⁷ which also was made of rosewood and was purchased in New Orleans by the Murrell's soon after the house was completed.⁶⁸ It is reputed that the bedroom suite cost \$5,000.⁶⁹

The rosewood bed (Plate XIX, Figure 1) is seven feet-three inches long and five feet-five and one-fourth inches wide. The measurement between the headboard and footboard is six feet-four and three-fourth inches. Posters that flank the panelled headboard are seven feet high. A tester that spanned the two posters is missing. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr., claims the tester was sent with the rest of the bedroom suite to Murrell's

⁶⁵ Armoire - a wardrobe.

⁶⁶ Interview with Mr. Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

⁶⁸ The Tulsa Tribune, April 13, 1956, Sec. III, p. 35.

⁶⁹ Ibid.

Tally Ho Plantation with one of the many shipments of Murrell furniture, but when the bedroom furniture was recently returned, the tester was missing, and its whereabouts is unknown.⁷⁰ It is probable that the tester was similar in design to the top of the armoire (Plate XIX, Figure 2).

Robert Bruce Ross, Jr., related that the tester was lined with green tufted velvet.⁷¹ The headboard has an elaborate carving between the two portions of the bonnet-shaped broken pediment. The footboard is three feet-six and three-fourth inches high and the ornamentation consists of curves and volutes that do not duplicate the design or motifs of the headboard. The siderails of the bed have three decorative panels and an elaborately carved wooden bracket that connects to the poster on the headboard on both sides of the bed. The legs of the bed are short, square, unadorned blocks.

The armoire (Plate XIX, Figure 2) is seven feet-five inches high, four feet-nine inches wide and one foot-ten inches deep. Each of the mirror-panelled doors is five feet-ten inches high and two feet wide. One side of the interior of the armoire is for hanging clothes and the other side has shelves. Two large drawers with carved handles are located below the mirror-panelled doors. Carved figures of flowers, fruit and acanthus leaves are applied to the panels across the front and the bevelled corners of the armoire. It is capped with an elaborate, carved pediment flanked and centered with carvings of flowers, fruit, leaves, and spirals. The bracket-footed base is trimmed with a curved molding and the center of the base is ornamented with applique.

The dining room is located south of the master bedroom. The room measures 23 feet-five inches by 19 feet-eight inches. The only window

⁷⁰ Interview with Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

⁷¹ Ibid.

Plate XIX



Fig. 1. Bed, Master Bedroom Suite,
"Hunter's Home"

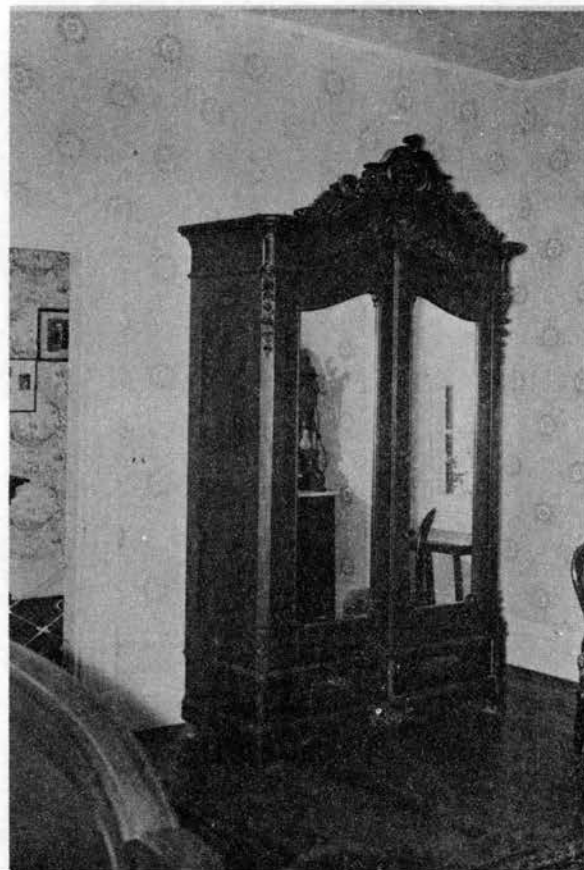


Fig. 2. Armoire, Master Bedroom
Suite, "Hunter's Home"

in the room, a six-on-six casement, is on the east wall. Six, panelled, doors open into the dining room. A door on the east with a six-paned transom, leads onto the east porch, a door on the north leads into the master bedroom, one beneath the dining room staircase leads to the basement, and another on the south provides access to the kitchen. There are two doors on the west wall, one leading to the back part of the entrance hall and the other to the library.

The fireplace is on the south wall, but does not extend into the room like the fireplaces in the other rooms. The mantel shelf measures seven feet-eight and one-half inches long. The opening and stone facing of the fireplace, although now boarded over, measure five feet-one and one-half inches wide and three feet-six inches tall.

The dining room staircase extends along a portion of the west wall and most of the north wall. The staircase leads to a small hall on the second floor between the northeast and south bedrooms. The wooden balustrade consists of square, unadorned balusters and a simple banister. The balustrade, as all the woodwork in the dining room, is painted white.

In December, 1961, the wallpaper (not the original) had been removed, the walls were being repaired and the woodwork was being repainted white. The color or design of the original wallpaper in this room is unknown.

During the Murrell occupancy, 24 painted panels or paintings of an English fox hunt, entitled "The Queen's Hunt", were hung about the room.⁷² The paintings were sent to Tally Ho, the Murrell's Louisiana plantation,

⁷²Elizabeth Ross, p. 183.

with a shipment of furniture in 1906.⁷³

The kitchen is located south of the dining room and measures 19 feet-ten inches by 20 feet-two inches. There are two six-on-six casement windows in the room, one on the east wall and one on the south wall. The kitchen has five doors. Three doors on the north wall lead to the dining room, a small pantry, and the staircase to the servants' loft. The latter two doors are of plank construction. A door on the west leads to the side porch between the storeroom and library, and a door on the south opens onto the back porch.

Wainscoting in the kitchen is made of horizontal wooden planks bordered with a molding at window-sill level and a baseboard at the base. The woodwork in the kitchen is now painted brown and yellow, but it is not known whether these were the original colors. The plaster in the kitchen has been removed from the wall and the hand-made laths are exposed.

A large stone fireplace is on the north wall of the kitchen and it measures seven feet-four and one-half inches wide and five feet-five and one-half inches from the hearth to the narrow mantel shelf which is supported by a pair of wooden pilasters and a simple wooden entablature. The hearth inside the fireplace measures one foot-eight inches deep and extends two feet-seven and one-half feet beyond the front of the fireplace. The fireplace opening measures four feet-eight inches wide and three feet-11 inches high. An iron crane in the interior of the fireplace is equipped with iron hooks to hold kettles and pots over the fire.

⁷³ Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

The kitchen is, or was, supposedly haunted by a ghost. Lackey related:

It seems that a very fat slave cook became angry at another in the kitchen back before the Civil War, and advanced on her with a butcher knife while she was seated grinding coffee. But before she struck the hapless coffee grinder she was seized by apoplexy and fell to the floor, dying a few minutes afterward. For years the Murrell slaves claimed they heard the sound of a coffee grinder in the kitchen at midnight, and no amount of discipline could get them to go there alone.⁷⁴

A store room measuring approximately eight feet-six inches by 15 feet-six inches is situated at the southwest corner of the kitchen wing. It is entered by way of doors on the north and east walls. Two four-on-four casement windows are on the west wall.

The servants' loft is located above the kitchen and can be reached by way of an enclosed spiral staircase entered from the kitchen. The loft measures approximately 16 feet-six inches by 19 feet-six inches. One small four-on-four casement window on the south wall is the only source of natural light in the room. This room does not have a fireplace.

The upstairs hall measures nine feet-one inch by 22 feet-four and three-fourths inches, not counting the stairwell which measures nine feet-one inch by eight feet-four and one-fourth inches. The height of the ceiling is eight feet-11 inches, as are all the ceilings on the second floor. Panelled doors on the east and west side of the hall open into the northeast and west bedrooms. A wide, panelled door on the north wall, flanked with side lights and topped with a transom, leads onto the second floor front porch. A panelled door under the staircase to the attic opens into a closet. All of the doors and grooved woodwork in the hall are painted

⁷⁴The Tulsa World, May 14, 1939, Sec. III, p. 1.

white. Two windows, each measuring two feet-four inches wide and one foot-11 and one-half inches high, are on the south and west walls above the stairwell.

The west bedroom on the second floor measures 17 feet by 20 feet-one inch. The two six-on-six casements which are on both the north and south walls of the room provide natural light and ventilation. A panelled door on the east wall leads into the main upstairs hall. A panelled door on each side of the fireplace on the west leads into a closet.

The fireplace measures five feet-three and one-fourth inches wide. All of the woodwork in the room, including the mantel, is painted white.

The massive bed in this room is one of the original pieces of furniture used at "Hunter's Home".⁷⁵ The overall measurements are seven feet-one-fourth inch long, five feet-four inches wide and the posters are seven feet-eight inches tall. The base of the hexagon-shaped posters are square. The whereabouts of the canopy is unknown. The siderails and footboard of the bed extend to the floor.

This must have been one of the beds mentioned by Robertson⁷⁶ who spent a night at "Hunter's Home". She related:

I remember spending the night there as a little girl, and having to climb up the steps to the great four-poster (by the ladder) that even grown folks had to use, and which was big enough for several people to sleep in comfortably.⁷⁷

Foreman also mentions the "lovely imported curtains around the beds."⁷⁸

⁷⁵ Interview with Robert Bruce Ross, Jr.

⁷⁶ Alice M. Robertson was the daughter of a missionary in the Creek Nation. She was elected to the U. S. House of Representatives in 1920. She died July 1, 1931 in Muskogee, Oklahoma.

⁷⁷ Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 104.

⁷⁸ Ibid., p. 52.

The northeast bedroom on the second floor measures 16 feet, not counting the alcove south of the fireplace, by 20 feet-six inches. There are three six-on-six casement windows in the room, two on the north wall and one on the east wall. There are three panelled doors in the bedroom. One on the west wall leads into the main second floor hall. The door on the south wall leads into the small hall at the top of the staircase leading up from the dining room. A panelled door on the east wall opens into the closet. The fireplace is on the east wall. The panelled mantel is more handsome than the others on the second floor. This room has not been restored and is currently being used for storage.

The south bedroom on the second floor measures 18 feet-six inches by 20 feet. The room has three, six-on-six casement windows, two on the east wall and one on the west wall. Two panelled doors open into the room, one leading to the small hall atop the dining room staircase and the other into a closet. The fireplace is on the south wall and has the smallest mantel in the house. A plain mantel shelf measuring five feet-eight inches across and the entablature are supported by two wooden pilasters, capped with a simple molding. A narrow grooved molding frames the cut stone facing around the opening of the fireplace. All the woodwork on the mantel is finished with a walnut stain. The grooved baseboards, moldings, and panelled doors in the room are painted white. The walls of the room are covered with vertical strips of fiberboard. This was done prior to 1948, when the State Planning and Resources board bought the house and made it a museum.

There are many more pieces of furniture in the house not mentioned in this report. Only pieces originally used at "Hunter's Home" are described.

The north basement room can be entered through a door on the south wall, which leads into the south room, or by a stairway leading down from the dining room. When Chief John Ross was preparing to leave the Cherokee Nation in July, 1862, he took some important papers, including the Cherokee Patent from the United States Government, to "Hunter's Home".⁷⁹ The papers were hidden behind a loose stone in the north basement room and remained there until the war was over.⁸⁰

Prior to the Civil War, "Hunter's Home" was a center of social activity. On June 16, 1847, Lieutenant Delos B. Sacket,⁸¹ who was then stationed at Fort Gibson, and Amanda Fields, a Cherokee maiden, were married at "Hunter's Home".⁸² Verbal and written accounts of such famed visitors as Jefferson Davis, Zachery Taylor, Robert E. Lee and Samuel Houston, coming to "Hunter's Home" proved to be false. Davis, Taylor, or Houston were not in the Cherokee Nation after the completion of "Hunter's Home".⁸³ Robert E. Lee was at Fort Gibson for three days in November, 1855, but no written accounts of a visit to "Hunter's Home" could be found.

On October 7, 1861, a treaty of alliance between the Cherokee Nation and the Confederate States of America was signed at Murrell's estate.⁸⁴ Jennie Ross Cobb told Mrs. Lee Good that the alliance treaty was signed in the Murrell apple orchard, about two-hundred feet north of

⁷⁹The Tulsa World, May 14, 1939, Sec. III, p. 1.

⁸⁰Ibid.

⁸¹Delos B. Sacket later became Inspector General of the United States Army.

⁸²Carolyn Thomas Foreman, pp. 63-64.

⁸³Grant Foreman, A History of Oklahoma, (Norman, 1954), p. 86.

⁸⁴Ibid., p. 120.

"Hunter's Home".⁸⁵

After the Murrell's left the Cherokee Nation during the Civil War, Mrs. Murrell's aunt, Mrs. Eliza Ross and her cousin, Eliza Jane Ross, were left in charge of "Hunter's Home".⁸⁶ The house was invaded by bush-whackers on one occasion, but Miss Ross told them that Murrell had given the house to her and they left without burning the house.⁸⁷ It is said that \$50,000 belonging to the Cherokee Nation was buried in the Murrell apple orchard.⁸⁸ The money was supposedly dug up and moved during the Civil War because of a rumor that armed men were coming after the treasure.⁸⁹ In 1880, one of the smaller rooms in the house was used for a school and the dining room was used for study and recitation.⁹⁰

In 1896, one of Murrell's sons visited Park Hill and said his parents wanted Robert B. Ross to have "Hunter's Home".⁹¹ The Robert Bruce Rosses lived at "Hunter's Home" from around 1896 to 1905.⁹² After that "Hunter's Home" was owned by several persons before it was acquired by the State Planning and Resources Board in 1948. The house was purchased from Mr. Purd McKee for \$11,500 and the remainder of the \$15,000

⁸⁵ Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

⁸⁶ Carolyn Thomas Foreman, p. 135.

⁸⁷ Ibid.

⁸⁸ "Hunter's Home", The Murrell Mansion, (Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board).

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Elizabeth Ross, p. 183.

⁹¹ The Tulsa Tribune, April 13, 1956, Sec. III, p. 35.

⁹² Interview with Mrs. Lee Good.

appropriated by the State Legislature for its purchase was used to start restoring "Hunter's Home".⁹³ Much of the house has been restored and a number of the original furnishings have been returned, but more research, work, and money will have to be expended to restore "Hunter's Home" to its pre-Civil War elegance.

⁹³Gaston Litton, History of Oklahoma (New York, 1957), II, p. 223.

CHAPTER IV

THE LEWIS ROSS HOUSE AT GRAND SALINE

Lewis Ross

Lewis Ross was born February 26, 1792, at Rossville, Georgia. His father, Daniel Ross, was a Scotch immigrant and his mother, Mary McDonald, was one-fourth Cherokee. Lewis and his older brother, John Ross, received their early formal education at home, where their father had established a school on his property.¹ Later, however, both Lewis and John Ross were sent to an academy at Kingston, Tennessee.

Following the War of 1812, Lewis Ross, his brother John, and John Meigs (son of the Cherokee Indian Agent) established a trading post at Ross's Landing, Tennessee. Lewis Ross was a slave holder; and in 1824, two men who were found guilty of "harboring neagroe" belonging to him had to pay Ross \$92.50.² Sometime during the 1820's Ross served as a justice of the Cherokee Supreme Court, however, the dates of his tenure could not be established. It may have been prior to 1826 because, in that year, he was elected a representative to the Cherokee Constitutional Convention and was a signer of the Constitution which was ratified by that Convention on October 31, 1829.³

¹Henry Thompson Malone, Cherokees of the Old South (Athens, 1956), p. 55.

²Ibid., 85.

³Ibid., p. 84.

Lewis Ross, his wife, and children came to the Cherokee Nation in Indian Territory during the removal of the Cherokees from Georgia and Tennessee in 1839. They settled at Park Hill and their house was known as "Prairie Lea". In 1839 Ross was chosen treasurer of the Cherokee Nation.⁴ He owned a store near his house and operated it from 1840-1842.⁵

In 1844, Lewis Ross and his family left Park Hill and went to Grand Saline, which was forty miles northwest of Park Hill.⁶ There he ran the salt works and a store, and engaged in farming. In 1859, Ross had a well drilled in hopes of increasing the output of saline.⁷ Instead of finding saline, oil was struck and flowed at the rate of ten barrels a day.⁸ The oil was allowed to flow into the Grand River. No accounts could be found to indicate that the oil was used for commercial purposes.

Mrs. Lewis Ross died at Grand Saline in October, 1860, and is buried at Ross Cemetery near Park Hill.

In March, 1862, Lewis Ross, as Cherokee National Treasurer, went to his brother's home, "Rose Cottage", where he received \$70,000 in gold and \$150,000 in Confederate bills from General Albert Pike.⁹ This money was paid to the Cherokee Nation for forming an alliance with the Confederate States.

⁴Morris L. Wardell, A Political History of the Cherokee Nation (Norman, 1938), p. 34.

⁵Elizabeth Ross, "Neighborhood Stores," Indian-Pioneer History (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, LXXXII, p. 119.

⁶Grant Foreman, "Salt Works in Early Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma, X (1932), 493.

⁷Muriel H. Wright, "First Oklahoma Oil Was Produced in 1859," Chronicles of Oklahoma, IV (1926), 322.

⁸Ibid.

⁹Carolyn Thomas Foreman, Park Hill (Muskogee, 1948), pp. 120-12.

Although Ross was a slave holder, he was sympathetic with the Union cause. When the Union army occupied Tahlequah and Park Hill in August, 1862, Lewis Ross left the Cherokee Nation with John Ross and other relatives under United States Army escort.¹⁰ He spent the duration of the Civil War in Pennsylvania. In 1864, after Union troops reoccupied Tahlequah, Ross was selected as National Treasurer of the Cherokees. Following the Civil War he returned to the Cherokee Nation to find his Grand Saline estate looted, but the house was not destroyed. Lewis Ross died at Grand Saline on February 15, 1870, at the age of 77 years. He is buried in Ross Cemetery near Park Hill.

The Lewis Ross House at Grand Saline

The name, "Grand Saline," was given to the salt springs on Grand River (near the present town of Salina, Oklahoma) by the French in the early 1800's. Joseph Revior, a French trader, settled at Grand Saline in 1817.¹¹ In 1822, Pierre Augustus Choteau acquired the Grand Saline holdings after the death of Revoir. Choteau built a two-story log house and called it, "La Saline".¹² In 1828, Sam Houston acquired Grand Saline in hopes of becoming wealthy, but later sold his holdings to Thompson and Drennan and left for Texas.¹³ Captain John Rogers acquired the property next and

¹⁰Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "Alice Ross Howard," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIII (1945), 250.

¹¹T. L. Ballenger, "A College Tour to Points of Historic Interest," Chronicles of Oklahoma, IX (1931), 206.

¹²Kathleen Garrett, The Cherokee Orphan Asylum (Oklahoma A. & M. College Arts & Sciences Studies, Humanities Series No. 3 [Stillwater, 1953]), p. 8.

¹³Grant Foreman, "Salt Works in Early Oklahoma," Chronicles of Oklahoma, X (1932), 492.

called his house, "Grand Saline".¹⁴ His Grand Saline holdings were taken from him in 1843 by Cherokee law, which prohibited private ownership of the salt springs. Rogers left Grand Saline in March, 1844, and it was then acquired by Lewis Ross.¹⁵ Ross leased the salt springs from the Cherokee Nation for \$1,600 a year under a ten year lease.¹⁶ He apparently had a large operation at the salt springs for in 1845, he commissioned Daniel B. Whitlow, a cooper, to make 1,500 barrels,¹⁷ and in an 1849 issue of the Cherokee Advocate he advertised several-hundred barrels of salt for sale at fifty cents a barrel.¹⁸ Ross was reputed to have had more than 200 slaves whom he worked at his salt works in several shifts of forty-five men each.¹⁹

The construction date of the Lewis Ross' Grand Saline house could not be established. It was built of red brick faced with white stone, was three stories in height, and contained thirteen rooms. Information about where the materials were acquired, the floor plan, or the name of the architect is not available. The architectural style can best be described as Victorian since it was of that period and did not make any attempt to duplicate a style of an earlier period. Plate XX, Figures 1 and 2, are pictures of Ross' Grand Saline house after it was converted into the

¹⁴Grant Foreman, Indians and Pioneers (Norman, 1936), p. 62.

¹⁵Grant Foreman, "Salt Works In Early Oklahoma," 492.

¹⁶Ibid.

¹⁷Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "North Fork Town," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIX (1951), 83.

¹⁸Grant Foreman, The Five Civilized Tribes (Norman, 1934), p. 400.

¹⁹Joseph Bradfield Thoburn, A Standard History of Oklahoma (Chicago, New York, 1916), I, p. 252n.

Plate XX

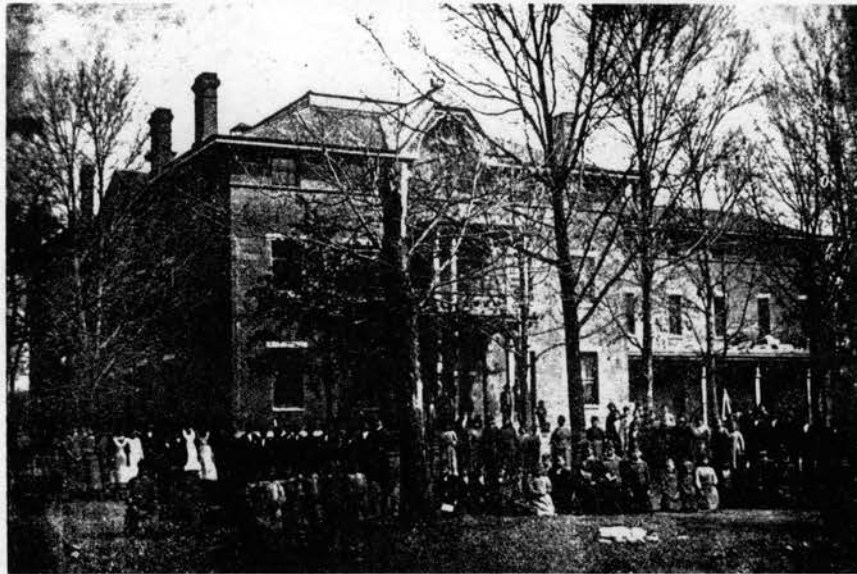


Fig. 1. The Cherokee Orphan Asylum at Grand Saline
(Formerly the Lewis Ross House) as Seen
From the Southwest

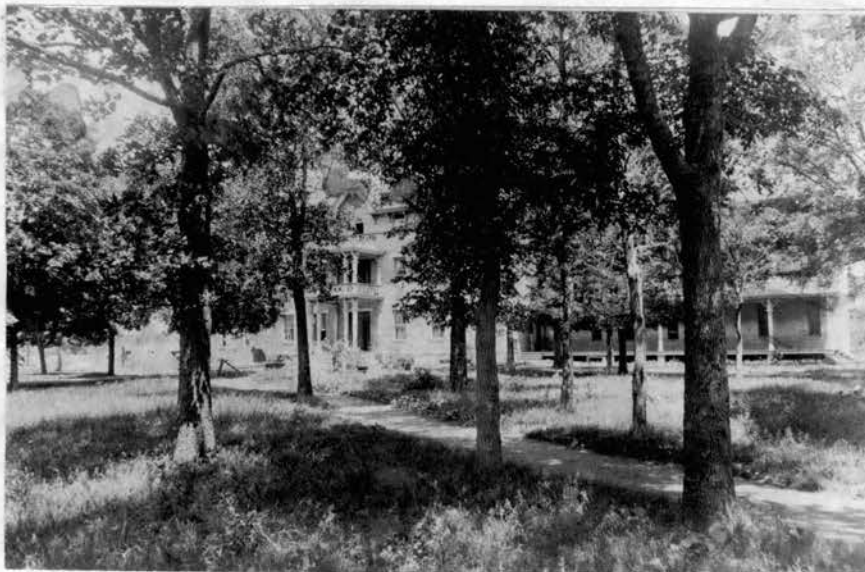


Fig. 2. The Cherokee Orphan Asylum at Grand Saline
(Formerly the Lewis Ross House) as Seen
From the Southeast

Cherokee Orphan Asylum in 1875.

The main entrance of the house faced south. A stone porch at the front entrance had three wide stone steps, with slender columns at each side supporting a second story porch. Garrett claims that the columns were of stone,²⁰ but because of the slender proportions it is possible they were made of wood. The porch above the front entrance was entered from a door that possibly led into the second floor hall. The second floor porch was enclosed with a balustrade and the roof of the porch was supported by a pair of columns at each front corner.

Garrett relates the following amusing account about the front porch of the house.

There was on the stone porch of the Asylum building²¹ a slight depression the size of a man's shoe heel. Legend placed the making of the depression back in Lewis Ross' time and attributed its being made to a young beau who had come to ask for the hand of one of the Ross daughters in marriage. He was a very shy young man, and the effort to do so was almost unbearable. He turned and twisted in nervousness on his heels, making the depression.²²

The front door was panelled. It was flanked by leaded glass side lights and transversed by a rectangular transom which contained rectangular-shaped glass panes.²³ A lintel of white cut stone transversed the transom and all the windows on the first two stores of the house. Because the overhang of the roof shadowed the third floor windows in the available photographs of Lewis Ross' house, it could not

²⁰Garrett, The Cherokee Orphan Asylum, p. 12.

²¹The Lewis Ross house at Grand Saline was converted to the Cherokee Orphan Asylum in 1875.

²²Garrett, The Cherokee Orphan Asylum, p. 10.

²³Ibid., p. 12.

be determined if the windows had stone lintels. The window in the clipped gable at the front of the house appears to be the same size as the windows on the first and second floor levels. It is framed by an arched member of undetermined material, however, rather than an horizontal beam.

Except for the side lights and transoms, the windows on the first two stories of the house were frame casements with rectangular six-on-six glass panes. The windows on the third floor, except for the windows in the gables, were frame casements with rectangular three-on-three glass panes. From pictures of the house that are available one can discern a gable in the east and west sides. In all probability, there was one on the north also. The east and west gables were not clipped. The roof had an overhang, thus forming a wide cornice which was supported by a series of console brackets. The roof was hipped, but had a flat top enclosed with a balustrade, giving the impression of a captain's or widow's walk.

The chimneys, located at the east and west ends of the house, were built of brick and were placed flush with the exterior walls as can be seen in Plate XX, Figure 1.

The house was built on a foundation which was capped by a projecting band of white cut stone upon which the red brick walls were built. A row of brick formed a molding that stretched around the house at window-sill level of the third story. Photographs show some type of decorative panels between the console brackets under the roof line.

Accounts about the interior of the house as it was during the occupancy of Lewis Ross could not be found. Garrett gives the following account of the interior of the house after it became the Cherokee Orphan Asylum:

The front portion²⁴ contained on the east a parlour and guest room, on the west the office (and post office) and the living quarters of the superintendent and his family.

Halls cut the building²⁵ in all four directions and across to the north were dining room, kitchen and storerooms. The hall to the east and west led to classrooms.

A stairway led up from the hall in the front part--a stairway from all descriptions which must have been an imposing affair. It went along one wall to a landing the width of the hall; from the landing, passageways curved back into an inverted U to allow access to teachers' rooms above the parlour and office.

From below, the inverted U with its scores of balusters must have given a great-house appearance suggestive of the Murrell house at Tahlequah,²⁶ the one "great house" of several pre-Civil War Indian Territory houses to survive.²⁷

Although accounts about the interior of Ross' Grand Saline house could not be found, an inventory of his estate dated in 1870 indicates the nature of his furnishings. This document can be found at the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City. The furnishings were listed with an assessed valuation as follows:

SOFAS

1 Sofa	velvet cushion	\$ 30.00
2 Sofas	(hair seats)	30.00

²⁴The front or central portion of the Cherokee Orphan Asylum was originally Lewis Ross' Grand Saline house.

²⁵Refers to the portion of the Asylum that was originally the Lewis Ross house at Grand Saline.

²⁶The Murrell house was at Park Hill which is three miles south of Tahlequah.

²⁷Garrett, The Cherokee Orphan Asylum, p. 12.

CHAIRS

2 Chairs (fancy worked backs)	\$ 14.00
4 Chairs, hair seats, high backs	12.00
9 Chairs, velvet cushions	45.00
10 Chairs, hair seats	10.00
1 Chair, (wood) high back	8.00
1 Set common chairs	1.50
1 Hair rocking chair	6.00
9 Arm dining chairs, wooden seats	9.00
10 Cane bottom chairs (dining)	15.00

TABLES

1 Pier table	5.00
3 Tables (1 pier)	15.00
1 Marble-top table, varigated	30.00
2 Tables, small	12.00
1 Mahogany table, large drawer	12.00
2 Small wall tables (cherry)	14.00
1 Chess table, cast iron, broke	3.00
1 Folding leaf table, cherry	12.00
1 Extension dining table	15.00

SIDEBOARDS

1 Sideboard in dining room	10.00
----------------------------	-------

BEDS AND BEDDING

1 Bedstead	12.00
1 Cherry bedstead, pine rails	8.00
1 French bedstead	30.00
1 Maple bedstead (for cord)	5.00
1 Single bedstead, walnut in part	8.00
1 Single bedstead, cherry	5.00
2 Bedsteads, cherry low posts	30.00
1 High post bedstead	35.00
2 Feather beds and bedding	40.00

BUREAUS

2 Bureaus, 1 marble tops 35-20	55.00
1 Marble tops bureau, mahogany	40.00
1 Bureau with looking glass	35.00
1 Cherry bureau	15.00

WARDROBE

1 Wardrobe	\$ 25.00
------------	----------

WASH STANDS

1 Wash stand, cherry	1.00
3 Wash stands, walnut and cherry	12.00
1 Wash stand, mahogany, plain	8.00
1 Wash stand, cherry, small	3.00
1 Marble top wash stand with back	15.00

BOOKCASES

1 Mahogany bookcase	25.00
1 Bookcase with drawer	30.00

HAT STAND

1 Hat stand	5.00
-------------	------

CARPETS AND MATTING

2 Carpets say about 90 yards	90.00
1 Lot matting on floor about 35 yards at \$.10	3.50

FIREPLACE EQUIPMENT

2 Pre-cast andirons	5.00
1 Pair bronze andirons and fenders	15.00
3 Brass fenders	18.00
3 Wire fenders	15.00

KITCHEN EQUIPMENT

1 Cook stove (incomplete)	10.00
Churn and other kitchen equipment	3.50
Lot of Queensware	8.50
Kitchen safe	10.00

The total assessed value of these household goods amounted to \$926.

This inventory of the Lewis Ross estate fails to mention the Chickering piano that the Rosses once owned. Colonel Ethan Allen Hitchcock

mentions Ross' daughter, Mary Jane, playing the Chickering piano for him while visiting in the Ross house at Park Hill in 1842.²⁸ The Rosses moved to Grand Saline and it seems probable that they would have taken the piano with them because of its value and Mary Jane's apparent fondness for the instrument. Garrett seems to think that the piano was moved to Grand Saline and may have been destroyed while the Rosses were in the United States during the Civil War.²⁹

The slave quarters were built of brick and according to Garrett consisted of approximately twelve apartments. Since Ross had more than 200 slaves, there must have been additional facilities elsewhere. If so, they might have been built of timber and either torn down or allowed to fall into ruin.

The spring house was built in the early 1840's, after Ross acquired the property. It was octagonal in shape and built of cut stone. The roof was octagonal and came to a peak. A photograph of the spring house shows that the entrance was covered with a pitched roof porch supported by two columns. One rectangular, barred window is shown in the picture.

Garrett relates that the Asylum had many out-buildings including a blacksmith shop, washhouse, and woodsheds,³⁰ but she does not state whether these buildings were standing when the Cherokee Nation acquired the Ross house or were built after acquisition. Since the 1870 inventory listed 1,449 pounds of half-cured bacon valued at \$.15 per pound, it is probable that there was a smokehouse on the Ross estate previous to his death.

²⁸ Ethan Allen Hitchcock, A Traveler in Indian Territory, ed. Grant Foreman (Cedar Rapids, 1930), p. 45.

²⁹ Kathleen Garrett, "Music on the Indian Territory Frontier," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXXIII (1955), 45.

³⁰ Garrett, The Cherokee Orphan Asylum, p. 13.

Accounts of social functions at the Ross house do not appear to be available. The Rosses probably did entertain, however, because of their wealth, social standing and political position. Although the Grand Saline house was forty miles from Park Hill, the Cherokee cultural center, the two places were connected by a road which was maintained by slave labor.³¹

While Lewis Ross and other members of the Ross family were in exile in the United States during the Civil War, the Grand Saline house was looted by white soldiers. The Indians, however, were accused of the looting. After Ross returned to Grand Saline some of the furniture which was plundered at that time was traced as far away as Fort Leavenworth, Kansas.³²

The Grand Saline house was vacated after Ross' death in 1870 and, by his request, his entire estate was divided equally among his named heirs.³³ The household possessions, crops, livestock, hardware, and other equipment were sold.

In December, 1873, the Cherokee Council purchased the Lewis Ross estate at Grand Saline for the sum of \$28,000.³⁴ The Grand Saline house was converted to the Cherokee Orphan Asylum in 1875.³⁵ Although it could not be determined when the east wing was added to the Orphan Asylum, this wing appears in pictures made of the Asylum in the 1870's. The west wing appears in pictures of the late 1890's.

³¹The Tulsa Tribune, April 13, 1956, Sec. III, p. 49.

³²Carolyn Thomas Foreman, "Alice Ross Howard," 251.

³³The Will of Lewis Ross is recorded in the District Judge's Records of Saline District, Cherokee Nation, 1866-1871, p. 40, at the Oklahoma Historical Society.

³⁴Carl T. Steen, "The Home for the Insane, Deaf, Dumb and Blind of the Cherokee Nation," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXI (1943), 403.

³⁵Garrett, The Cherokee Orphan Asylum, p. 12.

On November 17, 1903 the Cherokee Orphan Asylum was razed by fire. Not one of the 145 children or one of the staff died as a result of the fire.³⁶ Garrett relates:

On November 17, 1903, Mr. Whiteday and his helper, Johnson, were putting in ventilators. One they put in the sick room, but back of it was a room used for storage (old mattresses, etc.). The ventilator flue melted, the pipe dropped down and sparks fell on the bedding, all unknown to anybody.

Twelve minutes to twelve the fire was discovered; by one o'clock the Asylum was "just walls".

The fire came down the stairs, driving out those attempting to save furniture and household goods. A piano was abandoned on the stairway.

After the fire, Mr. Whiteday was on guard for sixteen days. That first night as he was patrolling he heard "the most beautiful singing" coming out of the walls. At first he thought it was "a haunt," but it was "Aunt Che-au-ka" Vann, the laundrywoman, singing to a little sick boy who had been moved to an upstairs room in the wash house. The sound was magnified and made mysterious as it vibrated through the ruined walls of the Asylum building.²⁶

The Cherokee Orphan Asylum was never rebuilt at Grand Saline. All that remains today is the ruin of the octagonal spring house and one of the many large sugar maple trees that once lined the walk between the road and Lewis Ross' Grand Saline house.

³⁶Ibid., p. 37.

³⁷Ibid.

CHAPTER V

"ROSE HILL" - THE HOUSE OF ROBERT M. JONES

Robert M. Jones

Robert M. Jones, of Choctaw blood, was born in Mississippi in 1808. At the age of nineteen he was sent to Choctaw Academy in Scott County, Kentucky where he remained three years and received a certificate. After returning to Mississippi, Jones was given \$1,800 by his ward.¹ Jones invested this money in merchandise and began trading. He also made money by recovering stolen children from wild Indians and collecting rewards.² In 1832, he was employed by the United States Government to assist with the removal of the Choctaws from Mississippi.

Jones' first home and store in Indian Territory were at Pleasant (or Pheasant) Bluff on the Arkansas River near the present site of Tamaha in Haskell County, Oklahoma.³ About 1835, Jones and a French Canadian by the name of Berthelet operated a trading post at Skullyville, but later the main operation of this post was moved to Doaksville, the Choctaw capital, and was known as "Berthelet and Heald." Jones supposedly invested

¹The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

²Alexander White Neville, Red River Valley, Then and Now (Paris, Texas, 1948), p. 41.

³Charles Evans, Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIX (1951), 132n.

Plate XXI.



Robert M. Jones

the profits from his mercantile business in slaves.⁴

In 1842, Jones was living at Boggy Depot when he was solicited, by request of President Sam Houston of Texas to act as an intermediary in making peace between the Republic of Texas and the Caddo Indians.⁵ Jones carried out this assignment with peaceful negotiations resulting.

Some insights regarding the character of Jones are contained in a letter written by the Reverend James B. Ramsey dated July 16, 1846, which appeared in The Foreign Missionary Chronicle of that year. Ramsey wrote:

Captain Jones also, who you may be aware is one of our trustees,⁶ a very intelligent man and of polished manners, and a partner of Mr. Heald, brought his family along in a very handsome coach, the only thing of the kind I have yet seen in the nation.⁷

Jones was quite an entrepreneur. In 1847 he bought two plantations located in Indian Territory from a John McDounough of New Orleans.⁸ The transaction included 56 Negro slaves, and all equipment and products (except cotton in bales) on the plantations.⁹ By 1849, he owned four plantations on the Red River and operated several stores.¹⁰ In

⁴William B. Morrison, Military Camps and Posts in Oklahoma (Oklahoma City, 1936), p. 57.

⁵Grant Foreman, Advancing the Frontier (Norman, 1933), pp. 167-168.

⁶Robert M. Jones was a trustee of Spencer Academy.

⁷Grant Foreman, The Five Civilized Tribes (Norman, 1934), pp. 65-66.

⁸Neville, p. 41.

⁹Ibid.

¹⁰Grant Foreman, A History of Oklahoma (Norman, 1945), p. 59.

1849, his plantation reputedly produced 700 bales of cotton.¹¹ At this time he also was involved with the marketing of slaves.¹² According to Morrison, when the Civil War erupted, Jones had six plantations along the Red River from Lake West in what is now Bryan County, Oklahoma, to the Arkansas state line. They were known in order from west to east as the Lake West, Boggy, Rose Hill, Root Hog, Shawneetown, and Walnut Bayou plantations.¹³ Accounts describing the sizes, names, and locations of these various holdings of Jones conflict, however. An account by Frank B. Tucker makes the following claims about Jones' holdings. Placed in order of location from west to east they are:

Hog Wallow	S. of Bennington, Okla.	5,000 acres
Lake West	9 miles S. of Boswell, Okla.	6,000 acres
Rose Hill	S.E. of Hugo, Okla.	Not listed
Rocky Comfort	S.W. of Idabel, Okla.	10,000 acres
Shawneetown	S. of Idabel, Okla.	7,000 acres ¹⁴

Whereas Morrison named six, Tucker listed only five plantations and the names and locations of them differ from those given by Morrison.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, Jones was reputed to have been worth one million dollars.¹⁵ He was appointed to represent the Choctaw Nation at the Confederate Congress at Richmond, Virginia. After the Civil War he continued to maintain "Rose Hill" and a mansion in Paris, Texas, valued at \$35,000. The Paris mansion burned in 1872.¹⁶

¹¹Gaston Litton, History of Oklahoma (New York, 1957), p. 152.

¹²Edwin C. McReynolds, A History of the Sooner State (Norman, 1954), I, p. 152.

¹³The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

¹⁴Hazel B. Green, "Interview with Frank B. Tucker," Indian-Pioneer History (unpub., 1937), ed. Grant Foreman, XI, p. 32.

¹⁵Morrison, p. 57.

¹⁶Neville, p. 42.

Jones was married three times. His first wife, Judith Walker, was a sister of Colonel Tandy Walker, a Confederate officer of Civil War fame. There were three children by this marriage, but all three died in infancy.¹⁷ Jones' second wife was Susan Colbert, a member of the well-known Chickasaw family. Morrison described her as wealthy and democratic, presiding with much grace at "Rose Hill", and always in the latest New Orleans' fashions.¹⁸ There were two children by this marriage, a son who died in infancy and a daughter, Frances. Jones' third wife was Elizabeth Earle, a Cumberland Presbyterian missionary at nearby Armstrong Academy. Five children resulted from this marriage but only two reached maturity, Robert, Jr., and Mary. It is not known what happened to Jones' first two wives or when they died.

Robert M. Jones died February 22, 1873. Much of his fortune was gone, but he had a \$30,000 insurance policy and several persons owed him large amounts of money, most of which was never collected.¹⁹ Jones was buried in the family burial ground, not far from his "Rose Hill" mansion.

"Rose Hill"

"Rose Hill", home of Robert M. Jones, was located three miles southeast of the present town of Hugo, Oklahoma, at the former site of Old Providence Mission.²⁰ The second Mrs. Jones, Susan Colbert, selected the rose-covered hillside site, which provided the name for both the house and the plantation.²¹ The date of construction of "Rose Hill" is unknown.

¹⁷ The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Neville, p. 42.

²⁰ McReynolds, p. 171.

²¹ Hazel B. Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XI, p. 32.

In a letter written to his brother, dated July 23, 1847, the Reverend P. P. Brown²² mentions that he was a guest at Jones' Lake West Plantation and at Jones' "new home" thirty miles east of Lake West.²³ It is probable that the "new home" Brown mentioned was "Rose Hill", since the distance between "Rose Hill" and Lake West is approximately 30 miles.

The grounds around "Rose Hill", which contained several flower gardens, covered several acres and were bordered with a cedar hedge. A walk made of marble slabs led across the lawn to the military road west of the house.²⁴ Another walk of native stone extended from the front steps of the house across the lawn to the south.²⁵ Adjoining the lawn was a deer park with a high fence around it.²⁶ South of the house was a fine orchard, and southwest beyond the road were the log²⁷ slave cabins.²⁸ Other buildings on the estate were a steam-powered cotton gin, a grist mill, and a large store and warehouse located near Red River where the steamboats landed,³⁰ and it is possible that there were more out-buildings at one time.

²²Rev. P. P. Brown was a missionary who visited the Choctaw Nation in 1847.

²³Grant Foreman, "Notes From the Indian Advocate," Chronicles of Oklahoma, XIV (1936), 68.

²⁴William B. Morrison, p. 58.

²⁵Hazel B. Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XI, p. 33.

²⁶The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

²⁷Green, "Interview with Maude Hall Carter," Indian-Pioneer History, XIX, p. 225.

²⁸The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

²⁹Ibid.

³⁰Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XI, pp. 33-34.

"Rose Hill" was a fifteen room frame house.³¹ Plate XXII, Figure 1, shows "Rose Hill" as it was around 1900.³² Although the photograph shows the building in dilapidation, the reader can obtain an idea of the size of the house and some of its architectural details. The main entrance faced south and a one-story columned porch extended across the front. The porch was of frame construction with a foundation and front steps made of natural stone.³³ Six fluted columns resting on tall square bases supported the sloped roof of the porch. The capitals of the columns were square and unadorned except for horizontal bands of molding. A railing extended between the three columns on each side of the front steps of the porch. According to Carter,³⁴ porches were along all sides of the house.³⁵

The double doors at the main entrance contained imported English glass panels "carved"³⁶ with figures and baskets of flowers.³⁷ Photographs show the main entrance flanked by side lights of square and rectangular panes of glass. The double doors and side lights were transversed with a rectangular transom. The side lights and transom were framed with a wide, grooved molding. Photographs also show that there was a single, panelled, door

³¹Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XI, pp. 33-34.

³²Plate XXII is a copy of one of the three known existing pictures of "Rose Hill". All three pictures are in the photograph collection of the Oklahoma Historical Society, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

³³Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XI, p. 33.

³⁴Maude Hall Carter lived at "Rose Hill" when she was a child and her brother was overseer at "Rose Hill".

³⁵Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XIX, p. 225.

³⁶It is possible that because etching was typical of this period, the glass was etched rather than "carved".

³⁷Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XIX, p. 225.

Plate XXII



Fig. 1. South (Front) Elevation of
"Rose Hill"



Fig. 2. Dining Table Once Used at
"Rose Hill"

between the two front windows of each of the two front rooms on the first floor.

A triple window consisting of one six-on-six casement, flanked on both sides by a narrow twelve-on-twelve casement, was on the center front of the second floor and in alignment with the main entrance of the house. The remainder of the windows across the front of the house were six-on-six casements and were in alignment with each other. Shutters were used on the windows.

The overhang of the roof of the house formed a wide cornice which was supported by a console bracket at the east and west ends of the front of the house. A molding and dentils joined the cornice and the simple architrave extending across the front of the house.

A stone chimney was located at the east and west ends of the house, and a stack chimney was located between the two rooms at the back of the entrance hall. It accommodated fireplaces in those two rooms as well as in the two rooms located directly above.³⁸

A wide entrance hall was located between the two large rooms at the front of the house.³⁹ Portraits of all the presidents of the United States were hung in the entrance hall and a stairway of marble led to the second story.⁴⁰ Morrison describes the stairway as "colonial".⁴¹

Although floor plans of "Rose Hill" could not be located, it was typical of domestic architecture of that period for one or two rooms located

³⁸ Green, *Indian-Pioneer History*, XI, pp. 33-34.

³⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 33.

⁴⁰ Green, *Indian-Pioneer History*, XIX, p. 225.

⁴¹ Morrison, p. 58.

at the front of the house to be used as a parlor and probably this was the case at "Rose Hill". Very little information exists about the furnishings of "Rose Hill", but Morrison reports that the furniture used there was imported from New Orleans and Europe,⁴² and Wright tells of a piano imported from France being at "Rose Hill" as early as the 1840's.⁴³

A dining table (Plate XXII, Figure 2) used at "Rose Hill" is now in possession of one of Jones' heirs.⁴⁴ It is made of cherry and measures 81 inches long, 48 inches wide, and 29 inches high. The dining chairs were ladder back style and had leather seats.⁴⁵

According to Carter, bookcases and oil paintings lined the walls of the library. The bookcases and other furniture were of black wood and the chairs were large and tufted. A candelabrum on wheels could be rolled about the library to provide adequate light.⁴⁶

One candlestick of hammered brass was made to resemble a stump and hammered to look like bark. It could hold four to five dozen candles and was about eighteen inches in diameter and each knot on it held a candle and the knots were all over it. The roots were on wheels.⁴⁷

⁴²Ibid.

⁴³Muriel H. Wright, Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXXIII (1955), 348n.

⁴⁴The table is now in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Love of Idabel, Oklahoma. Mr. Love is a grandson of Robert M. Jones.

⁴⁵Green, Indian-Pioneer History, XIX, p. 226.

⁴⁶Ibid.

⁴⁷Ibid.

The bedrooms had marble-topped dressers and wash stands.⁴⁸ Carter relates that there were some four-postered beds in the house and that a staircase went "up" from one of the front bedrooms,⁴⁹ probably leading to an attic.

Although it was typical of Southern houses to have the kitchen as an outbuilding, the kitchen at "Rose Hill" was located in the mansion. An adjoining pantry contained a staircase which led to a room over the kitchen where the maid and the housekeeper lived.⁵⁰

Only sketchy accounts describing the rooms could be found. Morrison relates that: "Each of the rooms of the first floor was finished with a different kind of wood--such as walnut, mahogany and maple,"⁵¹ and Green tells of all the mantels throughout the house, except for the one in the kitchen, being made of marble and adorned with bronze and brass candlesticks.⁵² Another account mentions that crystal chandeliers imported from Europe graced some of the rooms.⁵³

"Rose Hill" was always open to wayfarers and nearly every day a number of strangers were at the dining table, where meals were served from imported china and cut glass.⁵⁴ Jones was apparently a very democratic

⁴⁸Mrs. W. R. Whitter, Sr., of Idabel, Oklahoma is in possession of one of the marble-topped bedroom suites that was used at "Rose Hill".

⁴⁹Green, *Indian-Pioneer History*, XIX, p. 227.

⁵⁰Ibid.

⁵¹Morrison, p. 58.

⁵³Mark of Heritage (Oklahoma City, 1958).

⁵⁴Morrison, p. 58.

person, for if the guests could not be accommodated at the dining table, Jones would see to it that the humble full-bloods were served first.⁵⁵

After the death of Robert M. Jones, Sr., members of the Jones family rarely resided at "Rose Hill" for any length of time.⁵⁶ The house gained a reputation of being haunted and stories of ghostly sighs within the house and shadowy figures moving up and down the staircase were common tales among the Negroes and whites of the area. These stories probably arose as a result of tragic circumstances that followed Jones' death. His widow had married Dr. Samuel Bailey, the plantation physician, one year after Jones died, and they made Boggy Plantation their home.⁵⁷ According to Morrison, in the fall of 1882, Jones' son, Robert M. Jones, Jr., shot and killed his step-father, Dr. Bailey, in an argument about young Jones' inheritance, but sentiment was in favor of Jones and he was never reprimanded for this deed.⁵⁸ The following year Dr. Bailey's overseer attempted to arrest Jones for the death of Bailey, but friends of Jones interfered and in the shooting that took place, the overseer was killed. Young Jones fled from the Choctaw Nation and went to St. Louis, Missouri where he died a short time later. His body was taken to Paris, Texas, for burial, but later was moved to the family cemetery at "Rose Hill".

The trouble and sorrows that befell the Jones family and "Rose Hill" were attributed to the cedar trees that bordered the grounds of the mansion and cast shadows across the family cemetery. According to a

⁵⁵The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

⁵⁶Ibid.

⁵⁷Ibid.

⁵⁸Ibid.

superstition held by Negroes at that time, cedar trees brought trouble as soon as the trees grew tall enough to cast shadows across a grave. During the 1880's, "Rose Hill" was occupied by a number of overseers and tenants and by the 1890's was deserted and falling into decay. The furniture was hauled away through the years⁵⁹ and a dining table and a bedroom suite are the only pieces of furniture that can be accounted for at this date. After the house was vacated it was used for country dances and other social events by the people living in that area.⁶⁰ The notorious Belle Starr came to one of these country dances and one "old-timer" recalled: "The last time I was in this room⁶¹ I danced with Belle Starr; she was a mighty bad woman, but sure a good dancer."⁶²

In 1912 a fire of undetermined origin razed "Rose Hill" and a number of the out-buildings. All that remains of that once-fine ante-bellum estate is the Jones Cemetery and a few large cedar trees which were a part of the cedar hedge that enclosed the grounds of "Rose Hill".

⁵⁹Green, *Indian-Pioneer History*, XIX, p. 230.

⁶⁰The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

⁶¹He was referring to the parlor of "Rose Hill".

⁶²The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928, Sec. D., p. 1.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this study was to gather and compile data about the finer ante-bellum houses, including furniture, of the Cherokee and Choctaw Nations built in Indian Territory during the period from 1830-1850. Four houses of the Cherokee Nation and one house of the Choctaw Nation were selected for study.

A study of these five houses reveals that a transition of architectural styles occurred, beginning with the Joseph Vann's modified Georgian house built in the late 1830's or early 1840's continuing through the architectural styles of John Ross' Green Revival house, George M. Murrell's modified Greek Revival house, Lewis Ross' ornate Victorian house, and Robert M. Jones' simple Victorian house built about 1847. The houses varied in size from Vann's five-roomed house (not counting the attic room) to Jones' fifteen-roomed "Rose Hill". Joseph Vann's and Lewis Ross' houses were built of brick and the other three were built of lumber. Native stone or brick was used for the foundations and chimneys of the various houses. Some of the materials used in the five houses were brought into Indian Territory from the United States or Europe.

There are very few pieces of furniture in existence that once graced these houses. Not one piece of furniture from the Joseph Vann, John Ross, or Lewis Ross houses has been located. It is probable that all the furniture in the Joseph Vann house and John Ross' "Rose Cottage" was destroyed when these two were burned during the Civil War. The estate of Lewis Ross was auctioned after his death and the whereabouts of any of his furniture is

unknown. George Murrell's "Hunter's Home", which has been restored, contains several of the original pieces of furniture, ranging in style from the French Empire sofa in the parlor to the Victorian master bedroom suite. The Victorian dining table and marble-topped bedroom suite are the only known pieces of furniture in existence that were once used at "Rose Hill".

Wallpaper, wood panelling, grooved woodwork, and paint were used to decorate the interiors of the houses. Portrait and landscape paintings were also used to decorate the walls. Other accessories were chandeliers, mirrors, fireplace equipment, china, and silver.

The masters of these five houses were political leaders of their respective Indian nations, except for Murrell who was not an Indian. All five of these men were born in the South, came to Indian Territory during the various Indian removals from the South, and became entrepreneurs. It is not unusual, therefore, that they built houses similar to the fine houses of the South and lived like Southern gentlemen. Their fine estates were maintained by slaves either brought by them during the removals or acquired at a later date.

Resource materials used for this study were books, journals, newspapers, documents, pictures, interviews, correspondence, and visitation to the sites of two of the houses discussed in the study.

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ballenger, T. L. "A College Tour to Points of Historic Interest." Chronicles of Oklahoma, IX (September, 1931), 264-67.
- Beeson, Leola Selman. "Homes of Distinguished Cherokee Indians." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XI (September, 1933), 927-41.
- Cunningham, Frank. General Stand Watie's Confederate Indians. San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1959.
- The Daily Oklahoman, March 11, 1928.
- The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1950.
- Eaton, Rachel Caroline. John Ross and the Cherokee Indians. Menasha: George Banta Publishing Company, 1914.
- Foreman, Carolyn Thomas. "Alice Ross Howard." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIII (Autumn, 1945), 249-53.
- _____. "A Cherokee Pioneer." Chronicles of Oklahoma, VII (December, 1929), 364-74.
- _____. "Early History of Webbers Falls." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIX (Winter, 1951-52), 444-83.
- _____. "North Fork Town." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIX (Spring, 1951), 79-111.
- _____. Park Hill. Muskogee: The Star Printery, Inc., 1948.
- Foreman, Grant. Advancing the Frontier. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1933.
- _____. The Five Civilized Tribes. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1934.
- _____. A History of Oklahoma. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1942.
- _____. Indian Removal. 2d ed. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953.
- _____. Indians and Pioneers. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1936.

- _____. "Notes From the Indian Advocate." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XIV (March, 1936), 67-83.
- _____. "Reminiscences of Mr. R. P. Vann, East of Webbers Fall, Oklahoma, September 28, 1932." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XI (June, 1933), 838-44.
- _____. "Salt Works in Early Oklahoma." Chronicles of Oklahoma, X (December, 1932), 474-500.
- Garrett, Kathleen. The Cherokee Orphan Asylum. Stillwater: Oklahoma A. & M. College Arts & Sciences Studies, Humanities Series No. 3, 1953.
- _____. "Music on the Indian Territory Frontier." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXXIII (Autumn, 1955), 339-49.
- Graebner, Norman Arthur. "Provincial Indian Society in Eastern Oklahoma." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIII (Winter, 1945-46), 323-37.
- Green, Hazel B. "Interview with Frank B. Tucker." Indian-Pioneer History. Ed. Grant Foreman, XI (Unpub., 1937), pp. 32-39.
- _____. "Interview with Maude Hall Carter." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, XIX (Unpub., 1937), pp. 225-31.
- Gregory, C. E. Chief Vann House. Atlanta: Georgia Historical Commission, 1960.
- Historical Museums and Monuments. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, n.d.
- Hitchcock, Ethan Allen. A Traveler In Indian Territory. Ed. Grant Foreman. Cedar Rapids: The Torch Press, 1930.
- Johnson, Effie S. "An Interview with Mrs. Roy Bradshaw." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, CIV (Unpub., 1937), pp. 132-44.
- Litton, Gaston. History of Oklahoma. Vol. I: New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1957.
- _____. "The Principal Chiefs of the Cherokee Nation." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XV (September, 1937), 253-70.
- McReynolds, Edwin C. Oklahoma, A History of The Sooner State. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1954.
- Malone, Henry Thomason. Cherokees of the Old South. Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1956.
- Mark of Heritage. Oklahoma City: Oklahoma Historical Society, 1958.
- Meserve, John Bartlett. "Chief John Ross." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XIII (December, 1935), 421-37.

Morrison, William B. Military Camps and Posts in Oklahoma. Oklahoma City: Harlow Publishing Corp., 1936.

Neville, Alexander White. Red River Valley, Then and Now. Paris: North Texas Publishing Co., 1948.

The Oklahoma Almanac. Norman: Oklahoma Almanac, Incorporated, 1960.

Robinson, Ella. "Spring Place, Canadian District, Cherokee Nation." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, VIII (Unpub., 1937), pp. 515-18.

Ross, Elizabeth. "A Fatal Burn." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, LII (Unpub., 1937), pp.447-48.

_____. "Interview with R. R. Meigs, Park Hill, Oklahoma." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, CVIII (Unpub., 1937), pp. 207-211.

_____. "Murrell House School." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, LXXXII (Unpub., 1937), pp.183-85.

_____. "Neighborhood Stores." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, LXXXII (Unpub., 1937), pp. 117-19.

_____. "Some Old Farms." Indian-Pioneer History, Ed. Grant Foreman, (Unpub., 1937), 488-91.

Steen, Carl T. "The Home for the Insane, Deaf, Dumb and Blind of the Cherokee Nation." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXI (December, 1943), 402-17.

Thoburn, Joseph Bradfield. A Standard History of Oklahoma. Vol. I: Chicago and New York: American Historical Society, 1916.

The Tulsa Tribune, April 13, 1956.

The Tulsa World, March 3, 1929.

The Tulsa World, May 14, 1939.

U. S. Bureau of American Ethnology. "Notes to the Historical Sketch." Nineteenth Annual Report. Vol. XIX. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1900.

U. S. Census Office. Preliminary Report of the Eighth Census: 1860. Executive Document No. 116, 37th Cong., 2d Sess., May 20, 1862. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1862.

U. S. Congress. Committee on Claims. Report on Claims of Annie B. Ross, 81st Cong., 2d Sess., April 20, 1870. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1870.

Wardell, Morris L. A Political History of the Cherokee Nation. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1938.

Whaley, C. M. "Elizabeth Jacobs Quinton, Centenarian." Chronicles of Oklahoma, XXIX (Summer, 1951), 126-136.

Wright, Muriel H. "Early Navigation and Commerce Along the Arkansas and Red Rivers in Oklahoma." Chronicles of Oklahoma, VIII (March, 1930), 65-68.

_____. "First Oil Well was Produced in 1859." Chronicles of Oklahoma, IV (December, 1926), 322-328.

VITA

Charles Franklin Scott

Candidate for the Degree of

Master of Science

Thesis: AN HISTORICAL STUDY OF SELECTED ANTE-BELLUM HOUSES, INCLUDING FURNITURE, OF THE CHEROKEE AND CHOCTAW NATIONS, 1830-1850.

Major Field: Housing and Interior Design

Biographical:

Personal data: Born March 27, 1934 in Guthrie, Oklahoma, the son of Kenneth P. and Florence Evelyn Scott.

Education: Attended Central Grade School in Guthrie, Oklahoma; graduated from Guthrie High School, May, 1952; received Bachelor of Science degree from Oklahoma State University in May, 1956; completed requirements for the Master of Science degree in September, 1962.

Professional experience: Entered the United States Air Force in June, 1956; received honorable discharge from active duty in June, 1960.