NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received AUG 9 1983
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Irby-Henderson-Todd House

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 112 Todd Ave~~nue~~ NA not for publication

city, town Laurens NA vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state South Carolina code 045 county Laurens code 059

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. John J. Reid

street & number 112 Todd Avenue

city, town Laurens NA vicinity of state South Carolina 29360

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Laurens County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Laurens state South Carolina 29360

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1979 ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located on a large tree-shaded lot in Laurens, South Carolina, the Irby-Henderson Todd House displays an architectural evolution from antebellum farmhouse to classical revival mansion with Victorian details added later. The original farmhouse, which was probably built by James H. Irby ca. 1838, is believed to have been enlarged by William B. Henderson ca. 1855 and modified by Rutherford P. Todd ca. 1880. Although the Irby-Henderson-Todd House was built in three stages, the architectural features of the preceding period(s) were not concealed when the additions and alterations were made. In addition, the house possesses historical significance for each of the periods illustrated.

Additional Information

The original portion of the house is a rectangular, two-story, gable-roofed section with a single story shed wing across the rear. It rests on brick piers which have been stuccoed and scored and are infilled with cement blocks. The roof is covered in metal and has a boxed cornice with returns. The facade (west elevation) is divided into five bays, featuring a central, single door entrance on the first story. Nine-over-nine windows with louvered shutters flank the entrance and are located in each bay of the second story. The ca. 1880 addition has obscured the northernmost bay, but the remainder of the facade retains its original appearance. A one-story portico with a low gabled pediment supported by four wooden pillars and two pilasters shelters the central bay. The house is sheathed in weatherboarding and has flush paneling beneath the portico. Of the two original exterior end chimneys, only the south chimney remains. This chimney is flanked by nine-over-nine-light windows on each story. A nine-over-six window is located in the north and south elevations of the shed wing. The second story rear (east elevation) is divided into three bays, each with a nine-over-nine window and louvered shutters. A shed roof porch has been added to the east elevation of this shed wing. This porch and the west portico have sawn balustrades, probably added ca. 1855.

The house was doubled in size by the addition of a two-story wing along its north elevation ca. 1855. This addition changed the orientation of the house to the north, and gave the entire house an "L" shape. This section, also sheathed in weatherboarding, rests on stuccoed and scored piers infilled with underpinning which is also stuccoed and scored. The metal-covered gable roof has a boxed cornice with returns. There are two exterior end chimneys. The facade is divided into three bays. A central, double-door entrance on each story has mullioned sidelights and transom framed by a fluted molding with bull's-eye corner blocks. This central bay is flanked by six-over-six windows with sidelights on each story. Each window has louvered shutters and is framed by a molding with bull's-eye corner blocks. Two gutter boxes display the date 1855. Dominating the central bay is a two-story pedimented portico with sawn brackets, supported by four massive wooden columns which are minutely fluted. Beneath the portico is flush paneling and a second story balcony. A single story porch was added ca. 1880; this porch, located

Continued.

8. Significance

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

Specific dates ca.1838, ca.1855, ca.1880 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Irby-Henderson-Todd House is situated on a large tree-shaded lot in a quiet residential section of Laurens, South Carolina. The original portion of the two-story, frame classical revival style house is believed to have been built by James H. Irby ca. 1838. It was greatly enlarged, evidently by William B. Henderson ca. 1855 and further additions are believed to have been made by Rutherford P. Todd ca. 1880. Built in three stages by three different owners, the house is significant for its visual depiction of the evolution of architecture in the area. The Irby-Henderson-Todd House also has historical significance for its association with Irby, Henderson, and Todd, locally prominent lawyers who were active in state politics and government.

Additional Information

According to members of the Irby and Henderson families (now deceased), Colonel James Henderson Irby built the original portion of the Irby-Henderson-Todd House.[1] The land on which the house is located was evidently part of the Andrew Todd estate, which was sold ca. 1837.[2] The Laurens County land records are not complete, but it is believed that Irby purchased the property and built the house around that time. Stylistic features and construction techniques used in building the house are in accord with a ca. 1838 date. The house, as originally built, was a two-story, gable-roofed, central-hall farmhouse with a small gabled portico.

By 1850 William Bias Henderson had moved to Laurens County to become the law partner of Irby, who was his cousin.[3] Available Laurens County land records indicate that Henderson owned and lived on the Irby-Henderson-Todd House property but do not reveal when he acquired the property.[4] Stylistic features of the front addition and portico and the date of 1855 which is found on the guttering on the facade suggest that the house was enlarged around that date. Since the 1858 gravestone of Henderson's son located on the property indicates that Henderson was living in the house at least by that date, it is believed that Henderson enlarged the original farmhouse ca. 1855.[5] The size of the house was doubled by the addition of a large two-story section, which became the main block of the house. A two-story portico was built on the west elevation (facing Laurens) of this block and this elevation became the new facade.

In 1868 Colonel Rutherford Pressley Todd came into possession of the house and forty-eight and one-half acres; he owned the property until his death in 1886.[6] Architectural details indicate that the front porch was added, the foyer was extended, and the present main staircase was built during Todd's ownership. Following the death of Todd's widow in 1897, the property passed to their son, Samuel R. Todd. He had the property subdivided in 1905, leaving six and one-half acres in the homeplace tract.[7]

Continued.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 2.5

Quadrangle name Laurens South

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	405321	3816905	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundary of the Irby-Henderson-Todd House nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Irby-Henderson-Todd House, Laurens, S.C." and drawn to the scale of 1 inch equals 200 feet. The nominated property includes the house and smokehouse and the immediate setting of the house while excluding adjacent non-historic buildings.

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

state	NA	code	county	NA	code
state	NA	code	county	NA	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John C. Blythe, Jr., Historic Preservation Planner — Mary Watson Edmonds, S.C. Department of Archive and History

organization Upper Savannah Council of Governments — date May 16, 1983

street & number Post Office Box 1366 — telephone (803) 229-6627

city or town Greenwood — state South Carolina 29646

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national ___ state X local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Charles E. Lee

title Charles E. Lee, State Historic Preservation Officer — date 7/25/83

For NPS use only

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

for Delores Byers — Entered in the National Register — date 9/8/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: — date

Chief of Registration

Description, continued.

beneath the portico, extends across the length of the facade and has Tuscan columns with a Victorian era balustrade. An identical balustrade was placed around the balcony and extends along the porch roof line. Granite steps lead to the porch. The east and west elevations are identical, each having a central chimney flanked by six-over-six windows on the first and second stories. These windows have louvered shutters and bull's-eye corner block molding. Small rectangular windows to each side of the chimneys light the attic.

A small two-story section with a metal-covered pyramidal roof was added ca. 1880 in the crook of the "L" where the two earlier sections joined. On its west elevation is a tripartite two-over-two window on the first story and a nine-over-nine window, taken from the original house, on the second story. The south elevation has a double-door entrance with a three-light transom on the first story and a six-over-six window with sidelights and louvered shutters on the second story, both taken from the ca. 1855 addition.

Interior

The original portion of the Irby-Henderson-Todd House has a central-hall plan with one room to each side on each story and a shed wing extending across the rear. The original downstairs hall has been converted into a kitchen, but retains its original flushboard paneling and ceiling and high baseboards. The original parlor (south room) has an enclosed quarter-turn staircase leading to the upstairs hall. This room has a flushboard ceiling and its original mantel with fluted pilasters. The dining (north) room was renovated when the ca. 1855 wing was built. It has its original ceiling, and wide crown molding which was added at the time of the addition. The end chimney was removed at this time and the fireplace replaced by French doors leading to the present parlor. The shed wing has been expanded and partitioned through the years and now contains a pantry, bath, small hall, and breakfast room. The second story of the ca. 1838 portion has two bedrooms divided by the central hall. The south bedroom retains its original mantel with simple pilasters and has a false staircase to the attic. The north bedroom has been partitioned to add a closet and a bath, but has the original ceiling and floors. The hall also retains its original paneling, ceiling, floor, and staircase balustrade. Most of the walls were covered with beaverboard in the 1920's, but the original six-panel doors remain throughout.

The ca. 1855 wing was also built as a central-hall plan with a room to each side on each story. The ca. 1880 addition lengthened the foyer and upstairs hall to give them their present dimensions. Floors and ceilings are of the original wide boards throughout. Each downstairs room has high baseboards and decorative crown molding. Window surrounds are reeded and have corner blocks. Doors feature two long vertical panels. The spacious foyer is dominated by a single flight, closed string staircase. At the two landings, the balustrade displays

Continued.

Description, continued.

the same decoration found in the porch balustrade, indicating a similar date of construction. It is probable that at the time of construction of this wing, the staircase was much smaller and less ornate and that the ca. 1880 addition was built to accomodate the construction of this staircase. Tuscan columns add support and decoration at the point where the ca. 1855 and ca. 1880 additions adjoin on each floor. The library (west room) has its original mantel, which is approximately five and one-half feet high and features simple pilasters. A bathroom has been added by carefully partitioning off a corner of this room. The parlor (east room) mantel was destroyed in a fire and has been replaced. The second floor has been changed very little. Both mantels are original, as are the ceilings and floors. An enclosed staircase leads from the second story hall to the attic. Walls in this portion were also covered with beaverboard in the 1920's.

Surroundings

The Irby-Henderson-Todd House is located on a four-acre tract of land. It is surrounded by a large yard, which is shaded by many old trees. The nominated acreage also includes a nineteenth century well house (smokehouse) and a nonhistoric garage.

Significance, continued.

In the following years the house has passed through several owners.[8] It is currently owned by John J. Reid.

Architecture: When the original section of the Irby-Henderson-Todd House was built ca. 1838, the site was outside the town limits of Laurens. Although simple, the house did display fine points of workmanship, which are best exemplified by the two hand-carved mantels which remain. The portico, nine-over-nine windows, and six-panel doors are also noteworthy.

The ca. 1855 classical revival section indicates the desire of the owner to have a more pretentious home. Distinctive features include the two-story portico, fine window and door surrounds, carved mantels, and wide crown moldings.

The third stage in the evolution of the house was the addition ca. 1880 of a front porch and an elegant main staircase. The single story porch and staircase have similar Victorian period balustrades.

Politics/Government: James H. Irby was active in local and state politics for many years. He was a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, 1826-30, 1832-40, 1848-52; lieutenant governor, 1852-54; and state senator, 1854-60.[9] William B. Henderson served in the state house of representatives in 1854 and 1855.[10] Rutherford B. Todd was in the state house of representatives from 1877 to 1880 and 1884 to 1885.[11]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, 1855. Columbia, S.C.: E.H. Britton and Co., 1855.

Laurens, S.C. Laurens County Courthouse. Records of the Clerk of Court and Probate Court.

Laurens, S.C. Laurens County Library. Laurens County Equity Court Bills [Microfilm] and Bessie Royal Scrapbook.

Laurens, S.C. Personal Files of Betty Jean Reid. C. Richard Sanders, Durham, N.C. to Betty Jean Reid, 14 April 1981 and Analysis of Title.

Perry, Benjamin Franklin. Reminiscences of Public Men, With Speeches and Addresses. Greenville, S.C.: Shannon and Co., 1889.

Population Schedules of the Seventh Census of the United States, 1850: South Carolina. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1964.

Reynolds, Emily Bellinger, and Faunt, Joan Reynolds, eds. Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina. Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964.

Footnotes

[1]C. Richard Sanders, Durham, N.C., to Betty Jean Reid, 14 April 1981, Personal Files of Betty Jean Reid, Laurens, S.C.

[2]Will Book 1, p. 66 and Box 333, Pack 8, Probate Court, Deed Book N, pp. 53, 232, Clerk of Court, Laurens County Courthouse, Laurens, S.C.; Laurens County Equity Court Bills, 1837, No. 4, Laurens County Library, Laurens, S.C.

[3]C. Richard Sanders to Betty Jean Reid; Population Schedules of the Seventh of the United States, 1850: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1964), microcopy 432, roll 855 Laurens District, p. 231 .

[4]Analysis of Title, Personal Files of Betty Jean Reid; Deed Book R, p. 203, Clerk of Court, Laurens County Courthouse.

[5]Box 151, Pack 1, Probate Court, Laurens County Courthouse; Bessie Royal Scrapbook, Laurens County Library, Laurens, S.C.; Laurens City Cemetery, Laurens, S.C.

[6]Analysis of Title.

[7]Ibid.

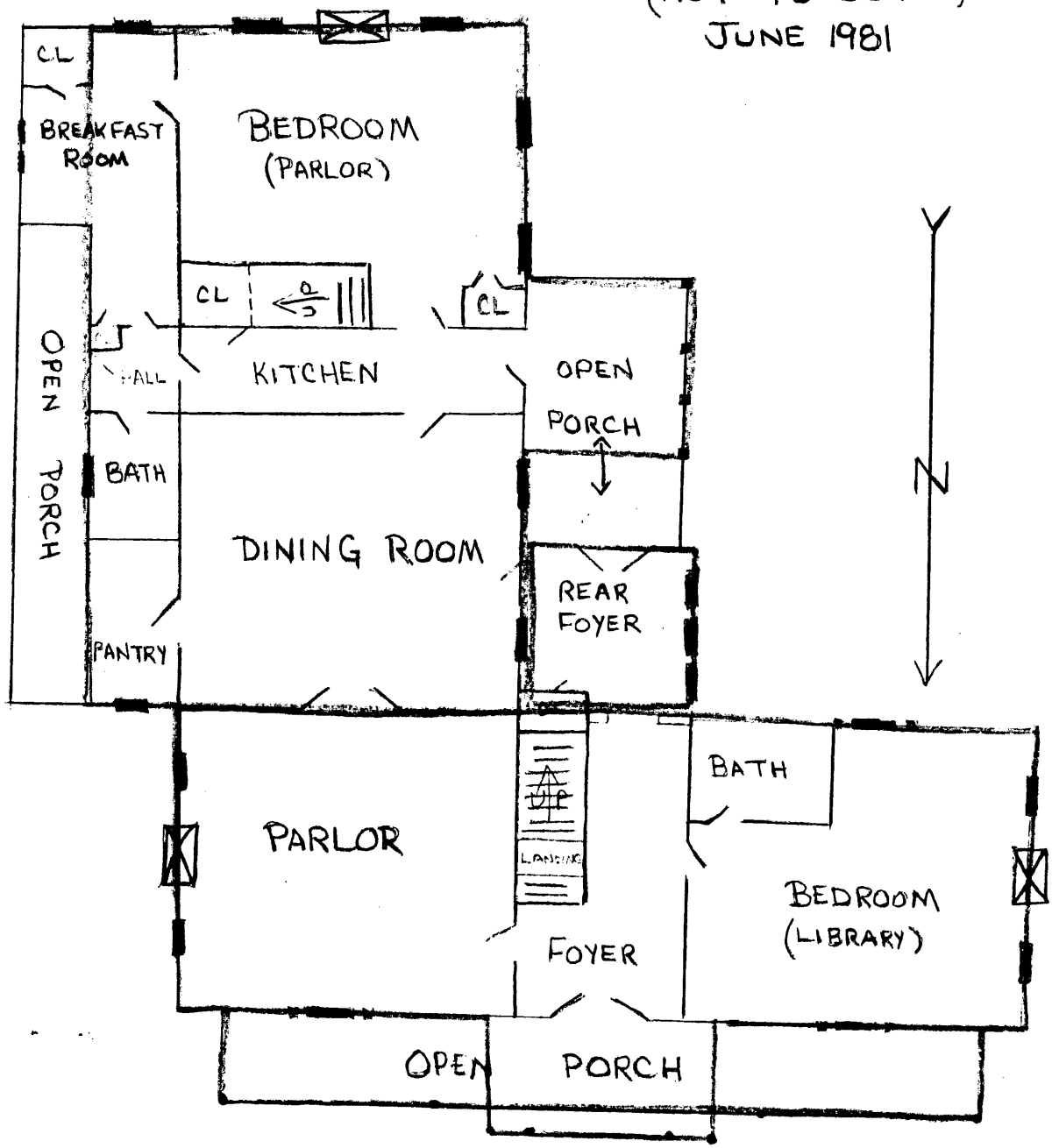
[8]Ibid.

[9]Cyclopedia of Eminent and Representative Men of the Carolinas of the Nineteenth Century (Madison, Wisconsin: Brant and Fuller, 1892), pp. 219-20; Walter B. Edgar, ed., Biographical Directory of the South Carolina House of Representatives, vol. 1: Session Lists, 1692-1973 (Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, 1974), pp. 314-15, 318-19, 326-27, 330-31, 334-35, 338-39, 358-59, 362-63; Benjamin F. Perry, Reminiscences of Public Men, With Speeches and Addresses (Greenville, S.C.: Shannon and Co., Printers, 1889), pp. 123-28; Emily Bellinger Reynolds and Joan Reynolds Faunt, eds., Biographical Directory of the Senate of the State of South Carolina, 1776-1964 (Columbia, S.C.: South Carolina Archives Department, 1964), p. 244.

[10]Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, 1854 (Columbia, S.C.: R.W. Gibbes and Co., 1854), pp. 3-5; Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, 1855 (Columbia, S.C.: E.H. Britton and Co., 1855), p. 3.

[11]Edgar, pp. 397-400; Reynolds and Faunt, pp. 322-23.

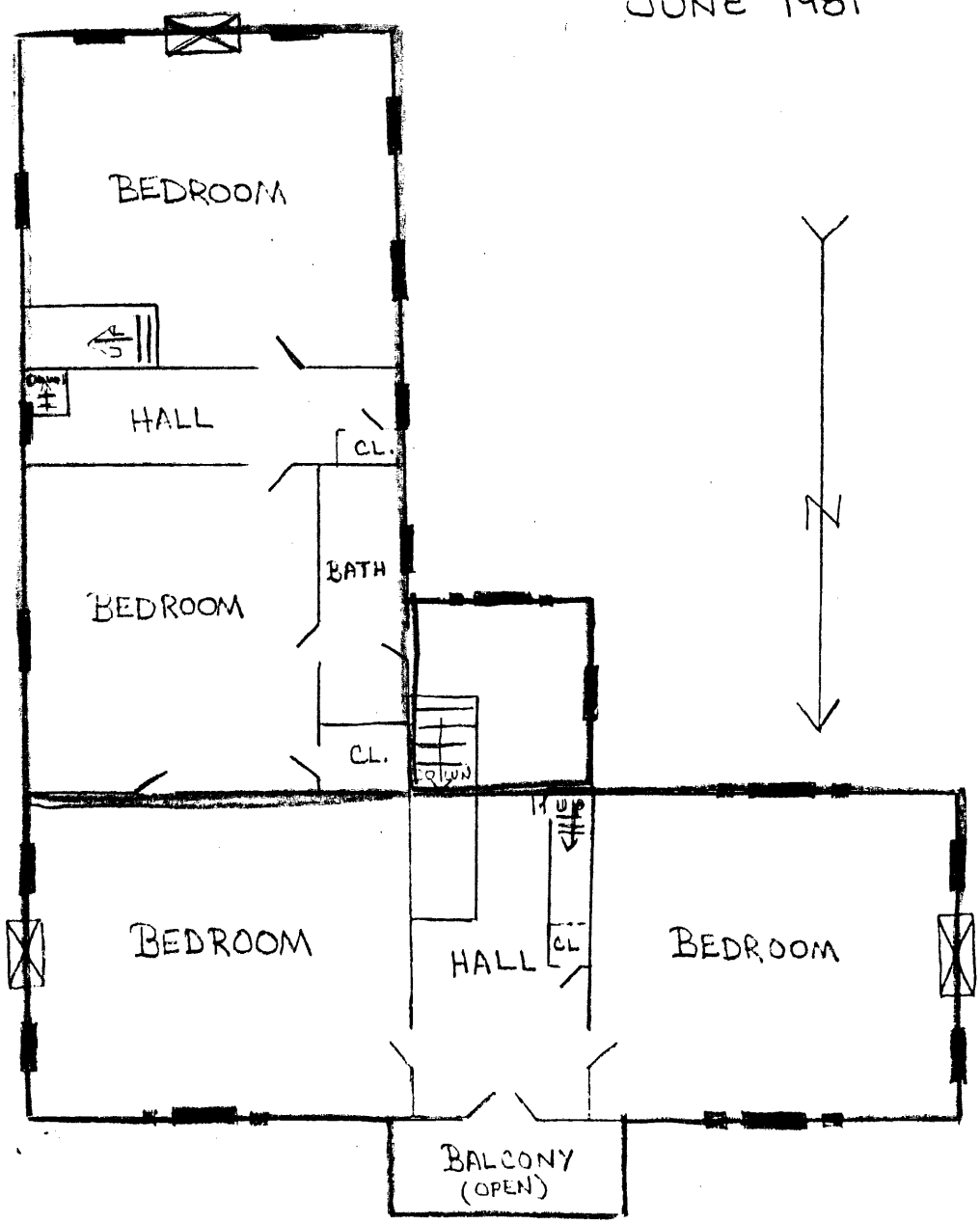
IRBY-HENDERSON-TODD HOUSE
LAURENS, S.C.
FIRST STORY FLOOR PLAN
(NOT TO SCALE)
JUNE 1981



— c. 1838
— c. 1855
— c. 1880

JCB

IRBY-HENDERSON-TODD HOUSE
LAURENS, S. C.
SECOND STORY FLOOR PLAN
(NOT TO SCALE)
JUNE 1981



c. 1838

c. 1855

c. 1880

JCB