

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0698156

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 26 1979  
DATE ENTERED APR 24 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Mountain Shoals Plantation (preferred)

AND/OR COMMON James Nesbitt House, Mountain Shoals Plantation

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER Junction U.S. 221 & South Carolina 92  
CITY, TOWN Enoree VICINITY OF 4th  
STATE South Carolina CODE 045 COUNTY Spartanburg CODE 083

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Martin E. Meek & Frank A. Coleman ✓  
STREET & NUMBER Jct. U.S. 221 & S.C. 92, P.O. Box 16  
CITY, TOWN Enoree VICINITY OF STATE South Carolina

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Spartanburg County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER Magnolia Street  
CITY, TOWN Spartanburg STATE South Carolina

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina  
DATE 1979  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS South Carolina Department of Archives & History  
CITY, TOWN Columbia STATE South Carolina

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

## CHECK ONE

## CHECK ONE

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

UNALTERED

ORIGINAL SITE

GOOD

RUINS

ALTERED

MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Constructed in the early 1800s as an upcountry farmhouse, Mountain Shoals is a notable example of a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style of architecture.

Exterior: Mountain Shoals is a two-story frame residence set over a raised brick basement. Supported by eight granite pillars, the frame of the house rests upon a brick basement stuccoed to resemble granite. The majority of the house is clapboard, but flushboard is located underneath the one-story porch on its front facade. This porch is supported by six wooden columns and features a notable "wheat design" balustrade. Main entry to the house from the porch is through a centrally located double door with transom and sidelights with elliptical tracery. A chairrail is located on the flushboard siding of the porch. Access to the porch is provided by a flight of 13 cut granite steps, each of which is a single stone measuring 7 feet 14 inches wide and 8 inches high. (Both rear and side entrances also have cut granite steps.) All three levels of the front facade feature tripartite windows.

Originally there were four brick chimneys and eight fireplaces in the house. Two chimneys were dismantled; one in the 1890s and one in the 1950s. The right rear chimney which was razed in the 1950s has been restored. The two other exterior chimneys, located at either end of the gable roof, remain original. A kitchen and dining room wing was originally located to the north of the house and was believed to have been connected to the house by a latticed breezeway. Although large granite foundations remain, the wing itself is no longer extant. In 1975 a projecting gable containing two baths was added to the rear of the second floor.

Interior: The first floor of Mt. Shoals features a central hall area flanked on each side by two rooms. Entry is made into a paneled central hall which features wainscot and a dog-leg staircase with Federal balustrade. Directly to the right of the entry hall is the parlor which is plaster with a paneled wainscot, wooden ceiling and a simple deep cornice. The wainscot retains its original maple deceit painting, and the baseboard is stippled to resemble granite. Especially notable is the mantelpiece with its ornately detailed Federal overmantle. This mantel and a similar one, found in the dining room, were originally located in a twin house (no longer extant) which was located 11 miles to the north of Mountain Shoals and is believed to have been constructed by the same builder. Also saved from this house was the finely detailed paneled wainscot now in the Mt. Shoals library. The parlor, dining room and the library have plaster walls and wainscot. The parlor and dining room also feature window and door surrounds with corner block medallions. The kitchen (formerly a bedroom) has walls and ceilings of wide boards. Tradition indicates that a stair originally led from the dining room to the left upstairs bedroom. This stair was removed circa 1870. At present access to the second floor is provided by the original staircase in the central hall.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the small community of Enoree, South Carolina, Mountain Shoals is significant both for its associations with prominent individuals in Spartanburg County and as an example of a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style of architecture.

The exact construction date of Mountain Shoals is uncertain. Tradition indicates that the building was constructed between 1818 and 1823 by James Nesbitt. However, evidence shows that James Nesbitt did not purchase the Mountain Shoals property until 1836. In between the years 1818 and 1823, the Mountain Shoals tract was owned by Daniel McKee, who operated a mill near the site. McKee had received the land from a state grant in 1817. He continued to own the Mountain Shoals tract until 1823 when he lost the property, and it went up for sheriff's sale. Mountain Shoals was subsequently purchased in 1836 by James Nesbitt and Leonard Hill. Nesbitt and Hill were both early manufacturers in Piedmont, South Carolina and were co-partners in the South Carolina Manufacturing Company. In 1837 James Nesbitt became the sole owner of Mountain Shoals, and the plantation became his permanent residence. It is James Nesbitt's name which remains most intimately associated with Mountain Shoals. In addition to his role as an early manufacturer, Nesbitt was a large landholder who owned property in several states. James Nesbitt was also a merchant, a prosperous farmer, and an active participant in local civic affairs. He lived at Mountain Shoals until his death in 1875. His widow, Caroline Brewton Nesbitt, subsequently sold Mountain Shoals to James L. Hill in 1877. James Hill, son of Leonard Hill, was both a manufacturer and a farmer. Mountain Shoals remained in the Hill family until 1924 when it was purchased by Dr. William H. Irby, a pharmacist who operated the Enoree Drug Company. The house was occupied by the Irby family until 1973. Mountain Shoals subsequently remained vacant until 1975 when it was purchased and rehabilitated/restored by Martin Meek, AIA and Frank Coleman of Spartanburg.

Architecture; Mountain Shoals is a notable example of a vernacular interpretation of the Federal style. Especially notable decorative elements include the use of tripartite windows, the unusual "wheat design" balustrade on the front porch, the notable interior overmantels and paneled wainscot. The structure is also significant for its use of interior deceit painting, as a decorative element in imitation of maple, mahogany, and granite.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Death of James Nesbitt" Carolina Spartan, March 30, 1875.

Estate Records of Spartanburg County. "Will and Estate of James Nesbitt."  
File 2828 originally Book E p.552, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

Federal Census of the United States, Spartanburg District, South Carolina,  
Washington, D.C. 1850 (p.309), 1860 (p.116), 1880 (p.14).

continued.....

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.75

QUADRANGLE NAME Enoree, S.C.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 411680 3834740

B               

C               

D               

E               

F               

G               

H               

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that tract or parcel of land in the County of Spartanburg, State of South Carolina at Enoree containing 2.75 acres being fully shown on a plat of survey for W.H.Irby Est. dated September 29, 1975, prepared by Joe E. Mitchell, Registered Land Surveyor

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Julie Burr, Historic Preservation Division

(Martin E. Meek & Frank Coleman)

ORGANIZATION

South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE

January 10, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P.O.Box 11,669, Capitol Station

TELEPHONE

(803) 758-5816

CITY OR TOWN

Columbia

STATE

South Carolina

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL ✓

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Charles E. Lee*

TITLE Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/9/79

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4.24.79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE April 24, 1979

ATTEST: *Bill Johnson*  
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The second floor of the house contains a large paneled central hallway, flanked on each side by one bedroom. The mantels in each bedroom are original, and the right bedroom is especially notable for the original granite deceit painting found on both its mantel and baseboard. Both bedrooms feature paneled wainscot and plaster walls and ceilings. A small bathroom added in 1975 is located to the rear of each bedroom. Located on the north side of the central hall is a small (2' wide) staircase which leads from the second floor to the attic.

Work is still in progress in the basement floor of Mountain Shoals. The basement is generally divided into two large rooms, each with its own 5-foot wide fireplace. Walls are constructed of handmade brick as are the eight-inch square floor pavers. The main house beams (12" x 12") are exposed, and four of the granite pillars supporting the house are visible.

Surroundings: Located on a high slope overlooking the Enoree River, Mountain Shoals retains much of its original setting. The original one-story frame well house and cut granite well are still intact. Located on the property is a ca. 1815 one-story log cabin which was recently moved to Mountain Shoals from a neighboring property. The nominated acreage also includes the early garden area associated with the house which is enclosed by a fence featuring granite posts and portions of the original spindle and picket railings. The granite foundations of several of the structure's early outbuildings also remain located within the nominated acreage.

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Landscape Architecture: Mountain Shoals continues to retain the form of its early garden, one of the few -if any-such gardens remaining in Spartanburg County. Although the designer of the garden is unknown, the form of the garden and its use of granite indicate that it was probably built during the same time period as the house. Located on a slope, the property is terraced by a retaining wall constructed of cut-granite blocks. The garden area measures eighty-five feet in width and one hundred and forty feet in length. It is enclosed by a fence which features forty-seven four foot high by eight inch square cut granite posts and original portions of the spindle and picket railing. Within the fence, patterns in the forms of circles, hearts, diamonds and other geometric shapes are marked off with granite field stones. Two boxwood allees, portions of which are over six feet high, form the focal points of the garden. One allee runs thirty feet and is perpendicular to the house. The other parallels the structure and is eighty-five feet in length. The garden is well maintained and continues to feature various bulbs, shrubs and trees. (see attached sketch map).

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PAGE 3

"Home Reflects 1800s Mood." Greenville News and Piedmont, Greenville, S.C.,  
Oct. 17, 1976

Interview with Frank Coleman and Martin Meek, December 5, 1978.

Landrum, J.B.O. History of Spartanburg County. Atlanta, Georgia: Franklin  
Printing and Publishing Company, 1900. p.242.

Mills, Robert, Atlas of the State of South Carolina, Baltimore, Md.:  
F. Lucas, Jr., 1825.

"Nesbitt Home stands for 125 Years." Spartanburg Herald Journal, Spartanburg, S.C.  
July 6, 1952, Page D-3.

"Nesbitt House Stands on Solid Rock of Past." Greenville Piedmont,  
Greenville, S.C., November 1, 1955.

"Obituary of Dr. W.H. Irby." Greenville News, October 22, 1933.

Probate Records of Spartanburg County, Probate Papers of Josephine Irby,  
File No. 29122, Spartanburg County Clerk of Court, Spartanburg County,  
South Carolina.

Records of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book N p.149, Deed Book N p.198, Laurens County  
Clerk of Court, Laurens County, South Carolina.

Records of Mesne Conveyance, Deed Book V pp.196-197, Deed Book NN pp.633-634,  
Deed Book CCC p.540, Deed Book VVV p.238, Deed Book YYY p.5, Deed Book 5-U p.124,  
Deed Book 7A p.50, Deed Book 8N p.212, Deed Book 43E p.506, Spartanburg County  
Clerk of Court, Spartanburg County, South Carolina.

State Plat Book. "Plat of land granted to Daniel McKee," Vol.44, p.471, South Carolina  
Department of Archives and History.

Works Projects Administration (Writer's Program), A History of Spartanburg County.  
Spartanburg, S.C.: Band and White, 1940. pp. 73-76, 91, 131, 147.

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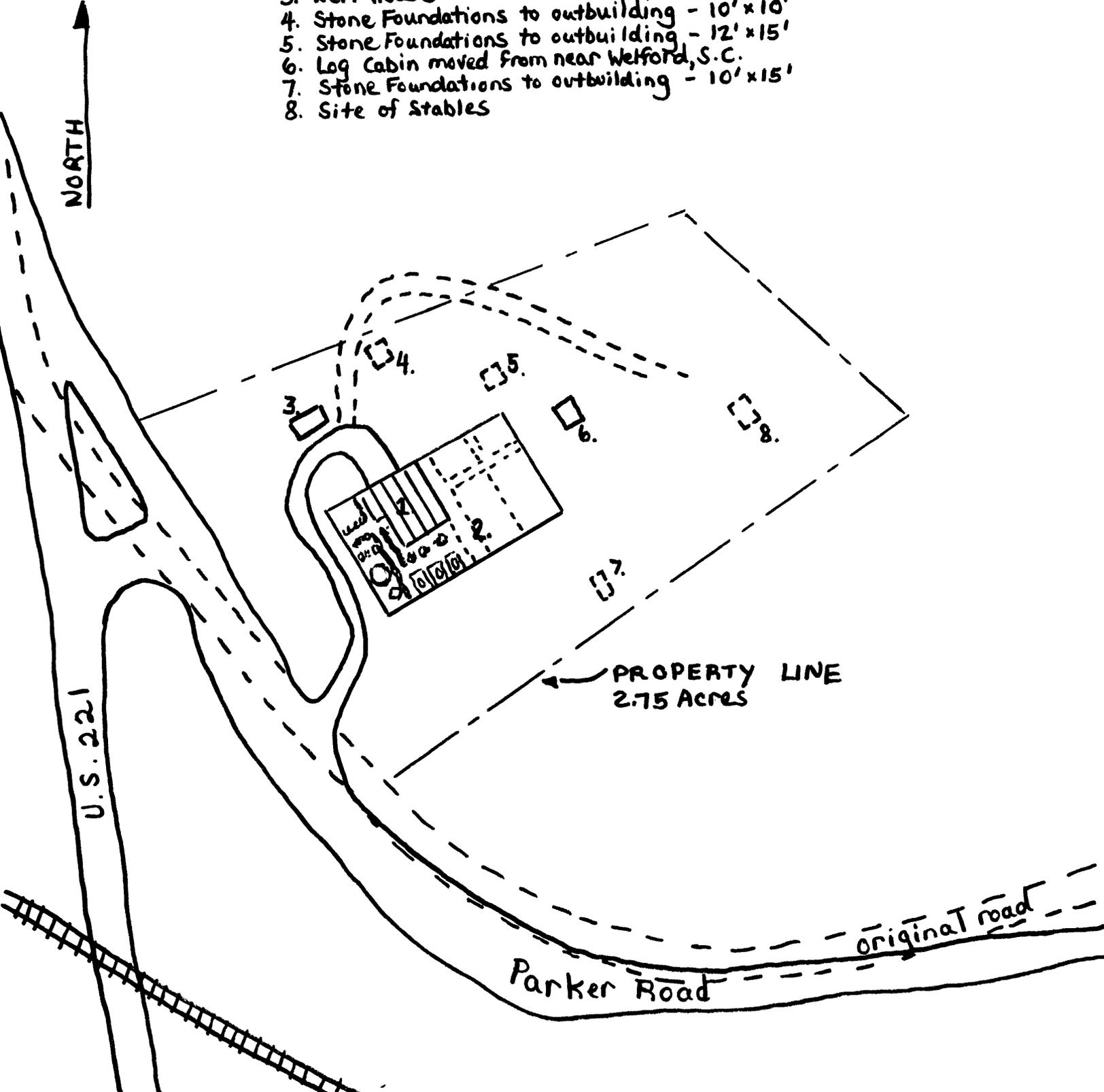
and being more fully and Particularly described as beginning at an iron pin on the northeastern edge of Parker Road joint front corner with Katie W. Miller and running thence N 68-58 E 432.5 feet to an iron pin joint corner with Enoree Baptist Church running thence S 47-38 E 227.2 feet to a concrete monument; thence S 57-33 W 496.7 feet to a pin on the edge of Parker Road; thence along and with Parker Road N 29-58 W 305.1 feet to the point of beginning.

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REGISTER

# SITE PLAN OF MOUNTAIN SHOALS PLANTATION SPARTANBURG COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

1. Main House
2. Garden Area
3. Well House
4. Stone Foundations to outbuilding - 10' x 10'
5. Stone Foundations to outbuilding - 12' x 15'
6. Log Cabin moved from near Welford, S.C.
7. Stone Foundations to outbuilding - 10' x 15'
8. Site of Stables

NORTH ↑



PROPERTY LINE  
2.75 ACRES

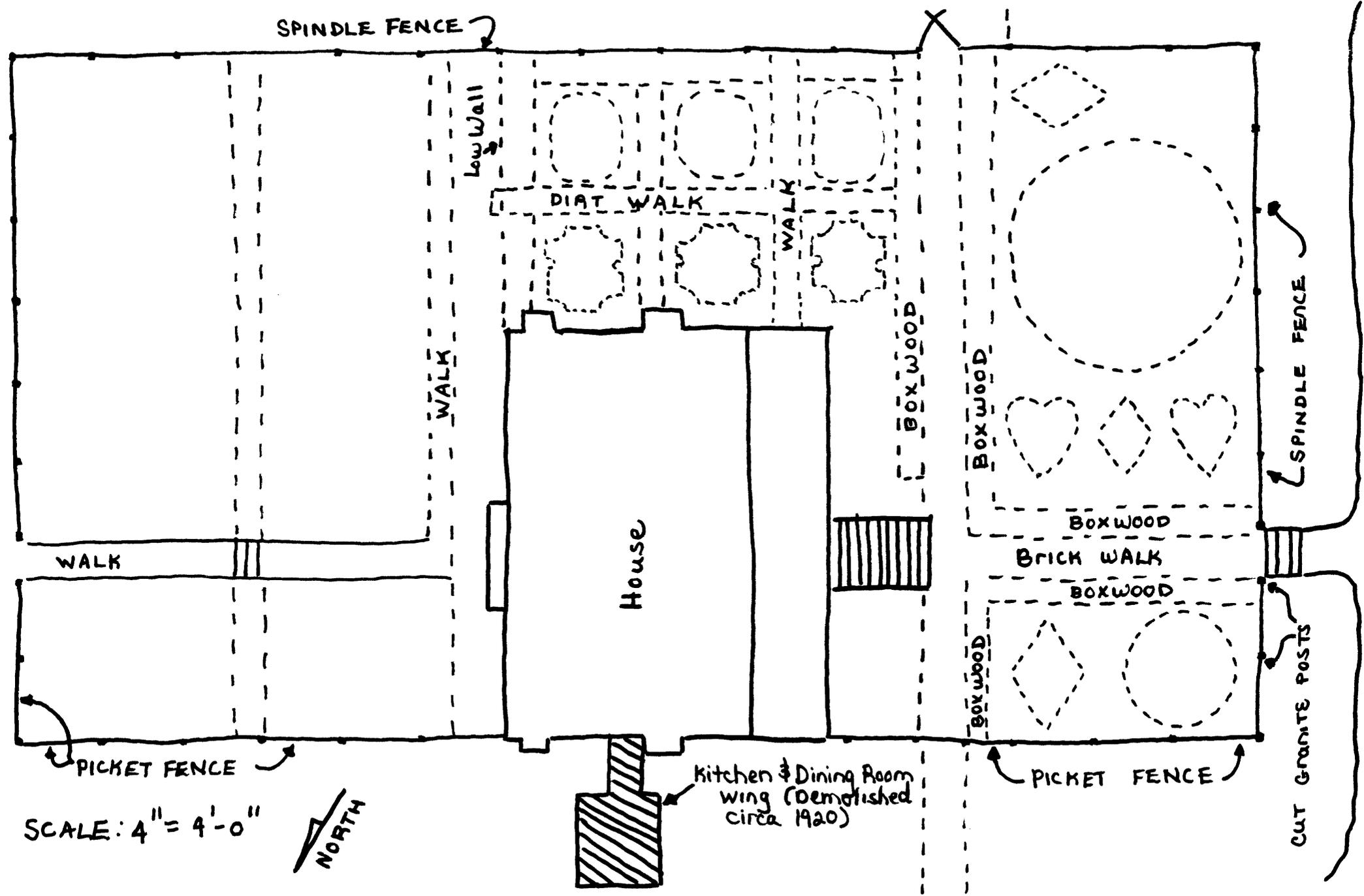
Parker Road

original road

U.S. 221

Supplemental Enclosure  
Site plan of Mountain Shoals  
Plantation, Spartanburg County,  
South Carolina 1979 S.C. Dept. of  
Archives & History

# Garden Plan for Mountain Shoals Plantation, Spartanburg County, South Carolina



SPINDLE FENCE

low Wall

DIAT WALK

WALK

WALK

BOXWOOD

BOXWOOD

SPINDLE FENCE

WALK

BOXWOOD

BRICK WALK

BOXWOOD

BOXWOOD

CUT GRANITE POSTS

House

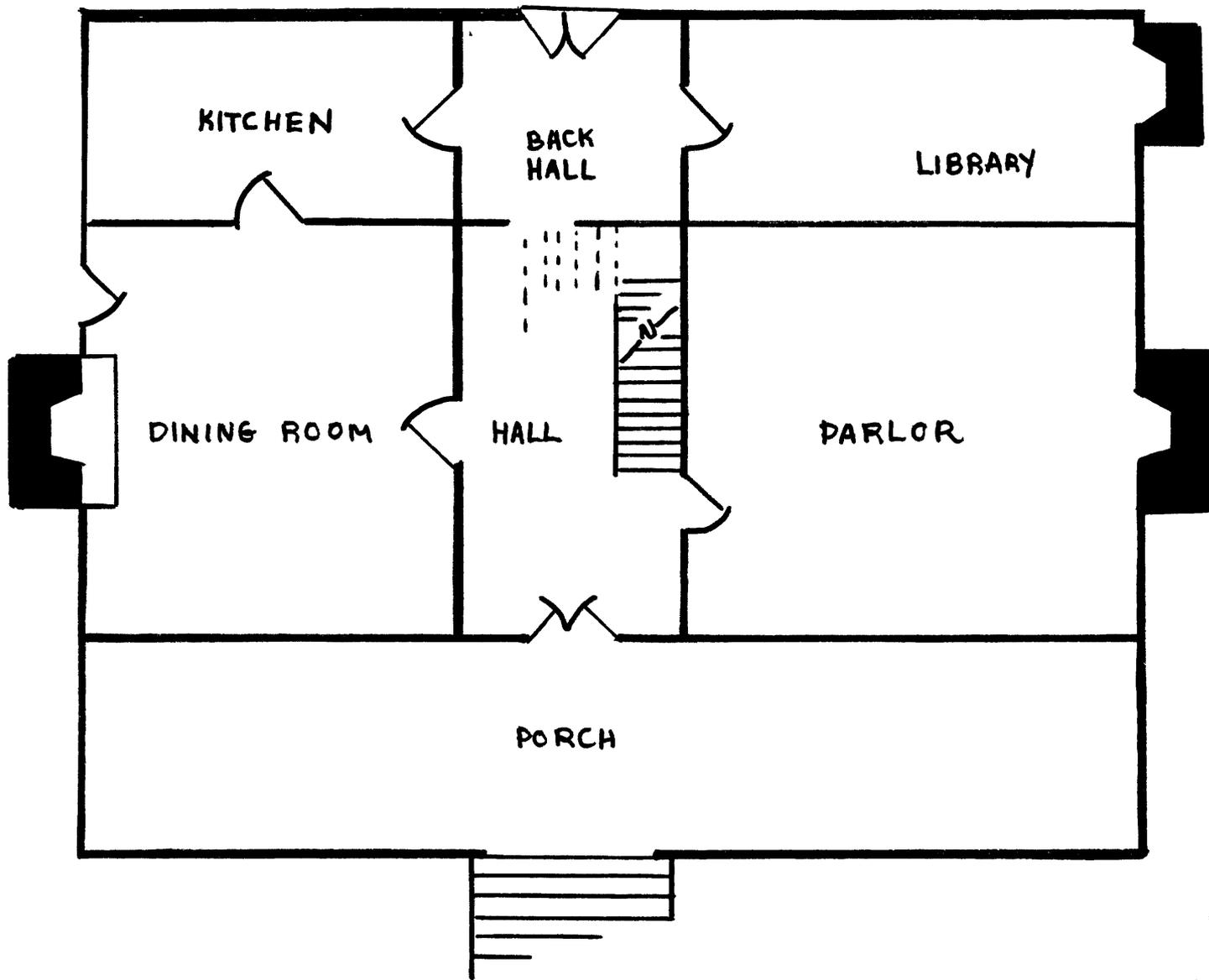
Kitchen & Dining Room wing (demolished circa 1920)

PICKET FENCE

SCALE: 4" = 4'-0"

NORTH

Supplemental Enclosure  
Garden Plan for Mountain Shoals  
Plantation, Spartanburg County  
South Carolina 1979 S.C. Dept. of  
Archives and History



Mountain Shoals Plantation  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
Plan of First Floor 1979

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NOT TO SCALE

Supplemental Enclosure  
Sketch plan for first floor of  
Mountain Shoals Plantation,  
Spartanburg County, South Carolina  
1979 S.C. Dept. of Archives &

History