

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

### **Charles Mouton Plantation House**

**HABS LA-#210**

**Location:**

338 N Sterling Street  
Lafayette, LA 70501  
Lafayette Parish  
United States of America

The Charles H. Mouton Plantation property is located in Lafayette Parish, in the Sterling Grove Historic District in the City of Lafayette. From Interstate 10, take exit 103 and head south on the Evangeline Thruway/Highway 167. Turn left onto Mudd Avenue/Highway 90. Sterling Street is on the right. The property is approximately 1500 feet from the highway on the left side of Sterling Street. The property is currently occupied as a bed-and-breakfast and includes the following structures: Charles Mouton Plantation House (LA-210), Overseer's House, Carriage House, and Guest House.

**Significance:**

Also known as Shady Oaks, the location on which the French Creole/ Greek Revival style house lies was once part of a three-hundred-acre plantation owned by Jean Mouton (1754-1834). Mouton founded the city of Vermillionville (now Lafayette) on the banks of the Vermillion River. His son, Charles (1797-1848), constructed the house, which combined French Creole type with Greek Revival details in 1848 after acquiring the plantation from his father. Charles and his wife, Marie Julie Latiolais, parented son Charles Homer who was elected Louisiana Lieutenant Governor in 1855. The Mouton family inhabited the house until the 1860s. In 1979, Lafayette Mayor Kenneth F. Bowen purchased the house and lived there until 2016. For its inhabitants and its unique combination of French Creole with Greek Revival architecture, the Charles H. Mouton house is significant to both state and local communities.

**Description:**

The Mouton Plantation house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The gable-roofed structure is two-and one-half stories with two-story galleries on the front elevation. On-site investigation revealed the original floor plans of the then two-story house. Gallerie-facing rooms with French doors on both first and second floor open into two large rooms (at present the music room and living room) with a center hall. The stair located in this center front room features treads that vary from ten (10) inches wide at the banister side to twelve (12) inches along the wall creating a fanned perspective view from the living room. Rooms at the rear matched the earlier French influence of large center room opening into *cabinets* at either side. Floor and support beam patches in this rear center room reveal the possible location of a previous stair along the south wall opposite the fireplace from the current second floor sitting room. All three (3) rear rooms opened onto a two-story rear gallerie, although this area has been completely enclosed into the current conditioned area of the house. Stairs along the northeast walls of the first floor sunroom and second floor laundry room appear original to the house in location and design. Typical of Greek Revival structures in Louisiana, the first floor of the house comprises masonry bearing walls with a wood colombage structure and bousillage infill second floor. Original windows have sashes of nine (9) over six (6) lites. Front dormers have Greek Revival details with six (6) over six (6) lites.

Wall locations match in plan from first to second floor with a center hall at the front opening via pocket doors into the rear sitting room. With the conversion of the attic into a third floor, an additional stair in a center hall provides access to two bedrooms and a bath. On the first floor, the rear gallerie was expanded on the east to form a sunroom. This space also provides access to the kitchen wing addition on the northeast corner as well as a patio and outdoor fireplace between the house and parking area.

The house interior has exposed beaded ceiling beams, tongue-and-groove floors, and angle-arched window header moldings.

The only known documentation of additions or changes to the house are indicated in historic photos (see attached Historic Photo Log).

The Overseers House, located to the southeast of the house, is believed to be original to the plantation property but was not included in the current documentation. The Carriage house and the Quarters are mid-twentieth century additions to the property. There are no other known surviving plantation buildings on the property.

**Sources:**

Lafayette Parish Consolidated Government Court House, Tax Assessor and Records Department. Lafayette, Louisiana.

Mouton Plantation Bed and Breakfast, History. 2017. <http://www.moutonplantation.com/history>.

Preservation Alliance of Lafayette, *The History of Sterling Grove National Historic District, Lafayette, LA*.

<https://preservationalliancelafayette.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/sterling-grove-historic-district-tour-book3>.

Ravi Daggula, RPJ Hospitality, Interviews and photo album. January through March 2018.

U.S. Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places, *Inventory Nomination Form - Charles H.*

*Mouton House*. May 28, 1980. <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail?assetID=a08698d9-9200-46eb-ab03-69db7e32e4ce>.

**Attachments:**

Legal Description

Historic Photo Log and Photographs

**Historians:**

Joseph Livings and Brandon Joseph, students; Karen JS McKinney, Architect, AIA / Graduate Assistant; Corey Saft, Architect, AIA, LEED/ Professor. Report completed 5/15/2018.

**Project Participants:**

Derek Broussard, Quoc Minh Dang, Kadi Dartez, Francisco Ferrera, Luke Habetz, Brandon Joseph Historian, Joseph Livings Historian, Louis McCall, Son Nguyen, Trevor Payne, Nathan Pierce, students; Corey Saft, Architect, AIA, LEED/ Professor; Karen JS McKinney, Architect, AIA/ Graduate Assistant. University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

This project has been financed in part with federal funds from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior through the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation. However, the contents and opinions do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation, nor does the mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendation by the Department of the Interior, Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism, Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation.

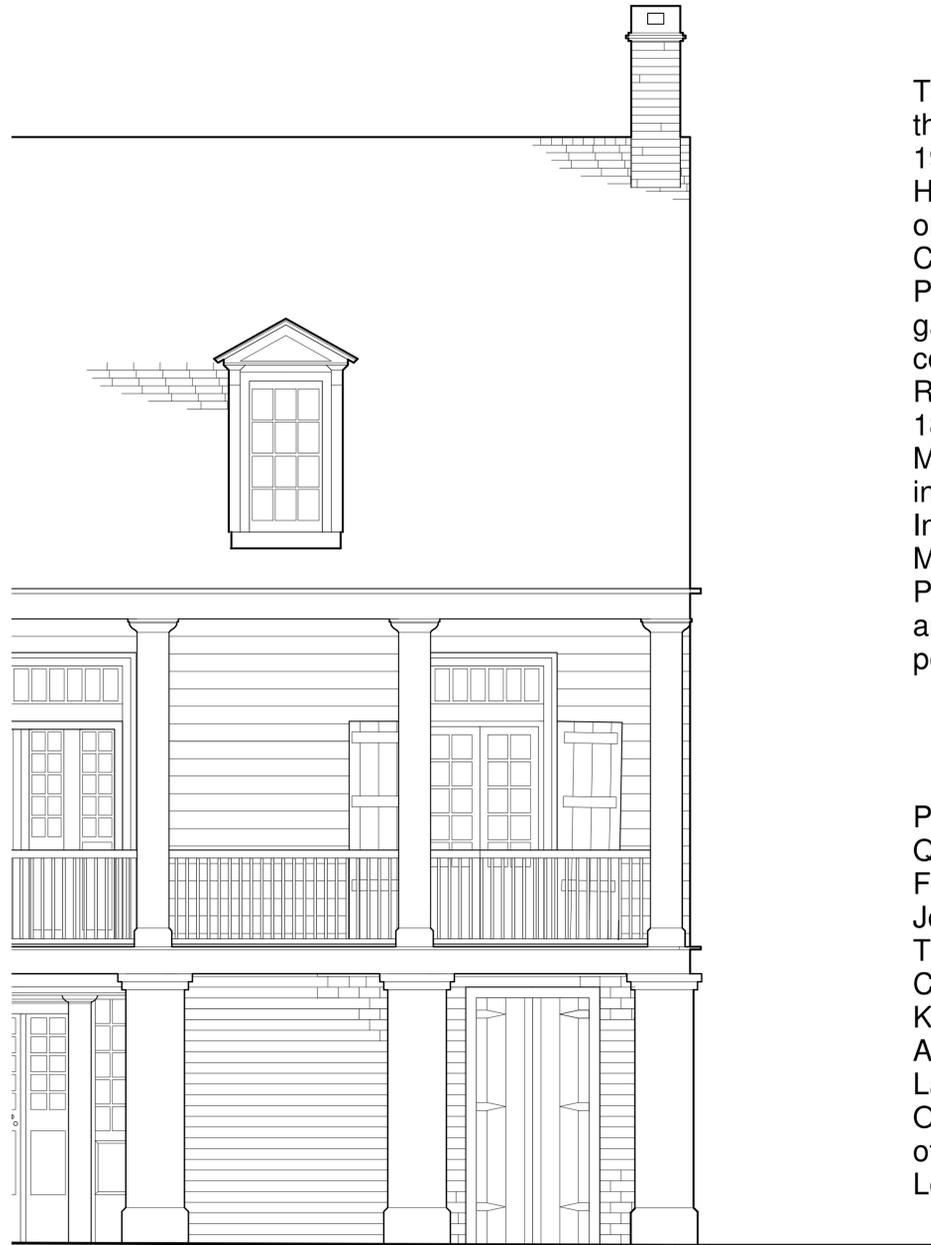
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**Legal Description: CHARLES MOUTON HOUSE, 338 STERLING STREET, LAFAYETTE, LOUISIANA 70501**

The following described property, to-wit:

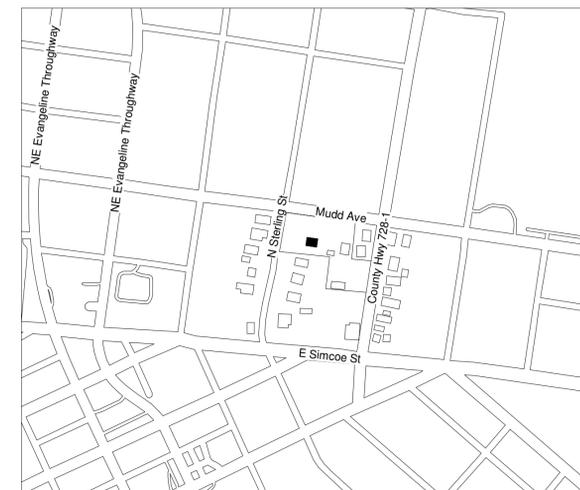
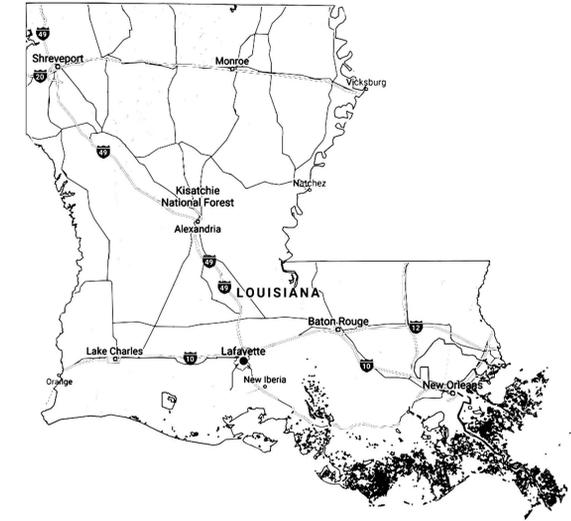
1. That certain lot or parcel of ground, together with all improvements thereon, situated in the parish of Lafayette, Louisiana, having a width east and west between parallel lines of sixty-six (66') feet, by a depth North and South between parallel lines of sixty (60') feet and being bounded now or formerly as follows: North and East by property of Lyle Givens Williams, or assigns, South by the property of Mattie Givens Belle, or assigns, and West by property of Louise Givens Clegg, or assigns. The said lot being more fully shown between the letters F, G, I and J on plat of survey of Fred L. Colomb, dated November 17, 1953, a copy of which is attached to and made a part of Act No. 295290. For derivation of title see Acts #295290, 424579 and 616967 of records of the Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court's office, Lafayette, Louisiana.
2. A certain parcel ground situated in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, measuring sixty (60') feet front on Moss Street by a depth of one hundred and fifty (150') feet and being bounded now or formerly as follows: North by Givens Jr., or assigns, East by Moss Street, and west by property of Louise Givens Clegg, or assigns. For derivation of title see Acts #140471, 424579 and 616967. LESS AND EXCEPT: That certain portion of Land expropriated by the State of Louisiana, Through the Department of Highways under Act #341075 as shown on a plat of survey filed of record in Suit No. 44092 of the same suit record.
3. A certain parcel of ground situated in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, measuring ten (10') feet front on Moss Street, by a depth of two hundred and thirty-three (233') feet and being bounded now or formerly as follows: North by property of Louise Lyle Givens Williams, East by Moss Street and West by property of Catherine Givens Holmes. For derivation of title see Acts #140471, 424579 and 616967 of records of the Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court's office. For derivation of title see Acts #140471, 424579, 616967 of the Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court's, Lafayette, Louisiana. LESS AND EXCEPT: That certain portion of land expropriated by the State of Louisiana, Through the Department of Highways under Acts #541075 as shown on plat of survey in Suit No. 44092, of the same said records.
4. A certain parcel of ground situated in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, measuring seventy-five (75') feet running North and South by depth of two hundred and thirty-three (233') feet running East and West and being bounded now or formerly as follows: North by property of Mrs. Martha T. Greig, or land of J. C. Nickerson, or assigns and West by property of John S. Givens, or assign being the same property acquired by Louise Lyle Givens by Act No. 55335. For derivation of title see Acts #55335. LESS AND EXCEPT: that parcel of ground expropriated by the State of Louisiana, Through the Department of Highways under Act #540515 as shown on plat of survey in Suit No. 43973, all of the records of Lafayette Parish Clerk of Court, Lafayette, Louisiana.

# Charles H. Mouton House



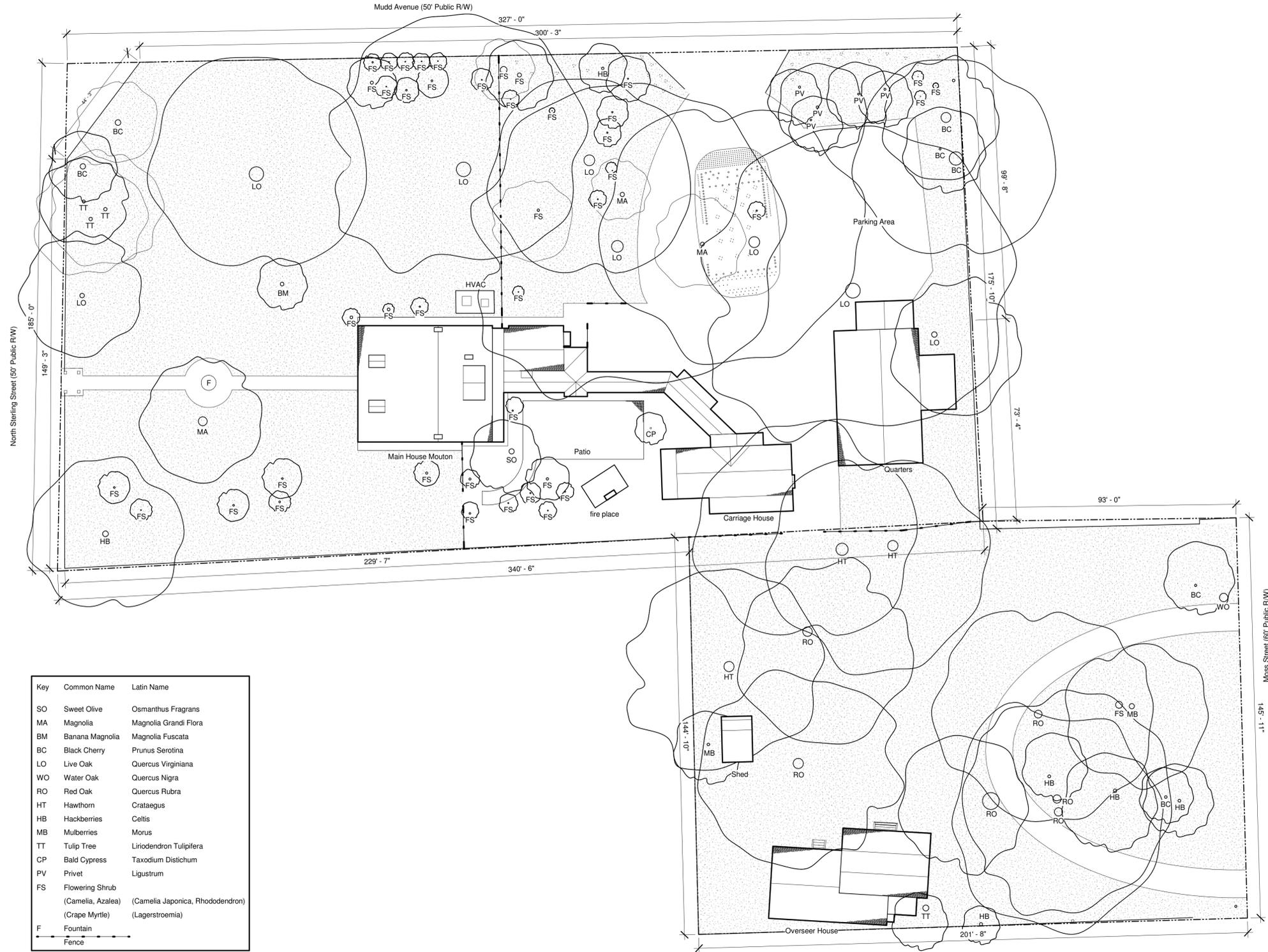
The Charles H. Mouton House was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980 and is located within the Sterling Grove Historic District. The property includes the original Overseer's House as well as a Carriage House and Guesthouse. The Plantation house, fronted with double galleries and paired doors, reflects a combination of French, English, and Greek Revival influences. It was constructed circa 1820 by the son of Lafayette's founder, Jean Mouton (1754-1834). The Mouton family inhabited the property until the Civil War. In 1899, it was purchased by Lafayette Mayor Kenneth F. Bowen. The Mouton Plantation House holds significance both architecturally and for the locally significant persons who inhabited it.

Project Participants: Derek Broussard Jr, Quoc Minh Dang, Katie Dartez, Francisco Farrera, Luke Habetz, Brandon Joseph, Joseph Livings, Louis McCall, Son Nguyen, Trevor Payne, Nathan Pierce, students; Corey Saft, Architect, AIA, LEED/ Professor; Karen JS McKinney, Architect, AIA/Graduate Assistant. University of Louisiana at Lafayette; State Historic Preservation Office, Office of Cultural Development, Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, State of Louisiana.



**Disclaimer/Funding Statements:**

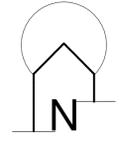
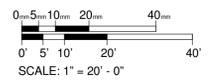
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Key	Common Name	Latin Name
SO	Sweet Olive	Osmanthus Fragrans
MA	Magnolia	Magnolia Grandi Flora
BM	Banana Magnolia	Magnolia Fuscata
BC	Black Cherry	Prunus Serotina
LO	Live Oak	Quercus Virginiana
WO	Water Oak	Quercus Nigra
RO	Red Oak	Quercus Rubra
HT	Hawthorn	Crataegus
HB	Hackberries	Celtis
MB	Mulberries	Morus
TT	Tulip Tree	Liriodendron Tulipifera
CP	Bald Cypress	Taxodium Distichum
PV	Privet	Ligustrum
FS	Flowering Shrub (Camelia, Azalea) (Crape Myrtle)	(Camelia Japonica, Rhododendron) (Lagerstroemia)
F	Fountain	
---	Fence	

**Site Plan**

1" = 20'-0"



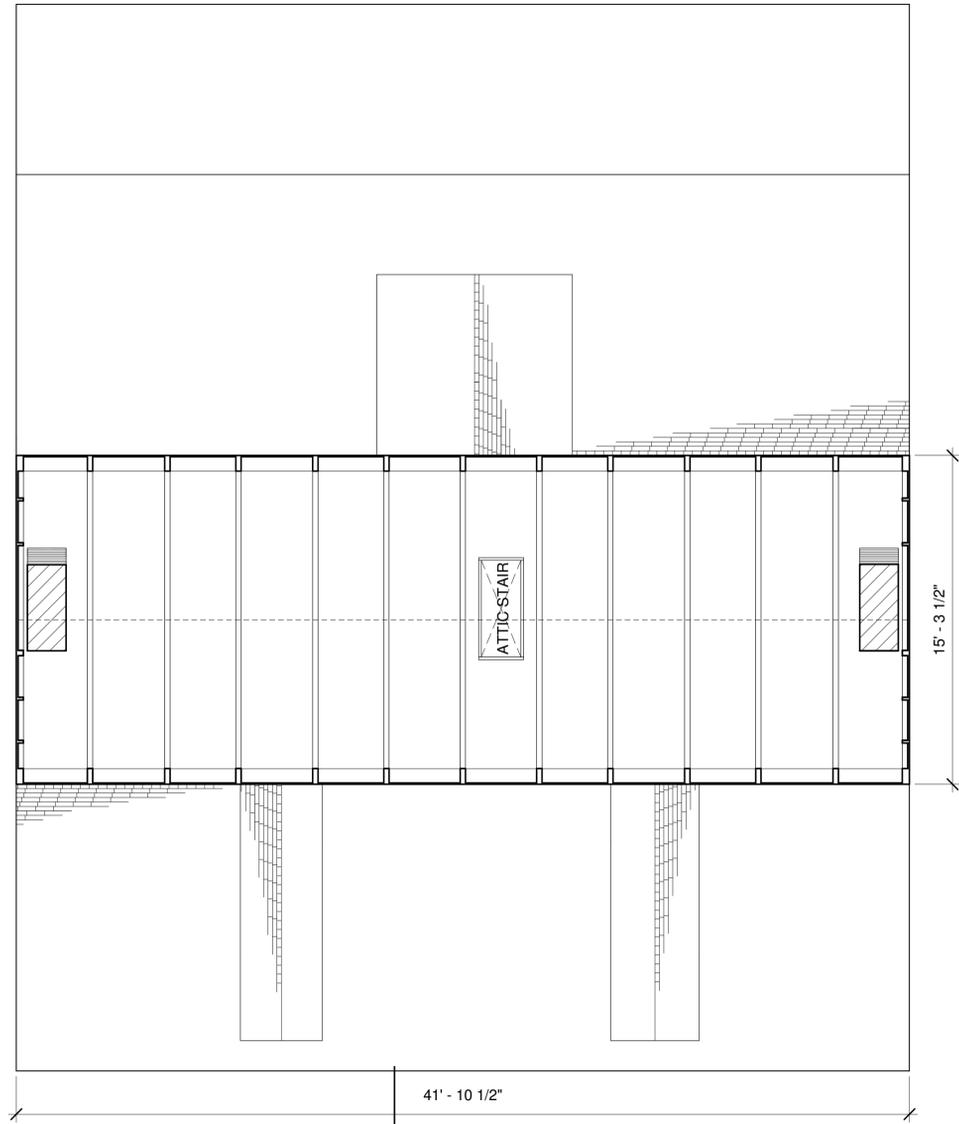
DRAWN BY: Son Nguyen, Luke Habetz, Trevor Payne, Joseph Living

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

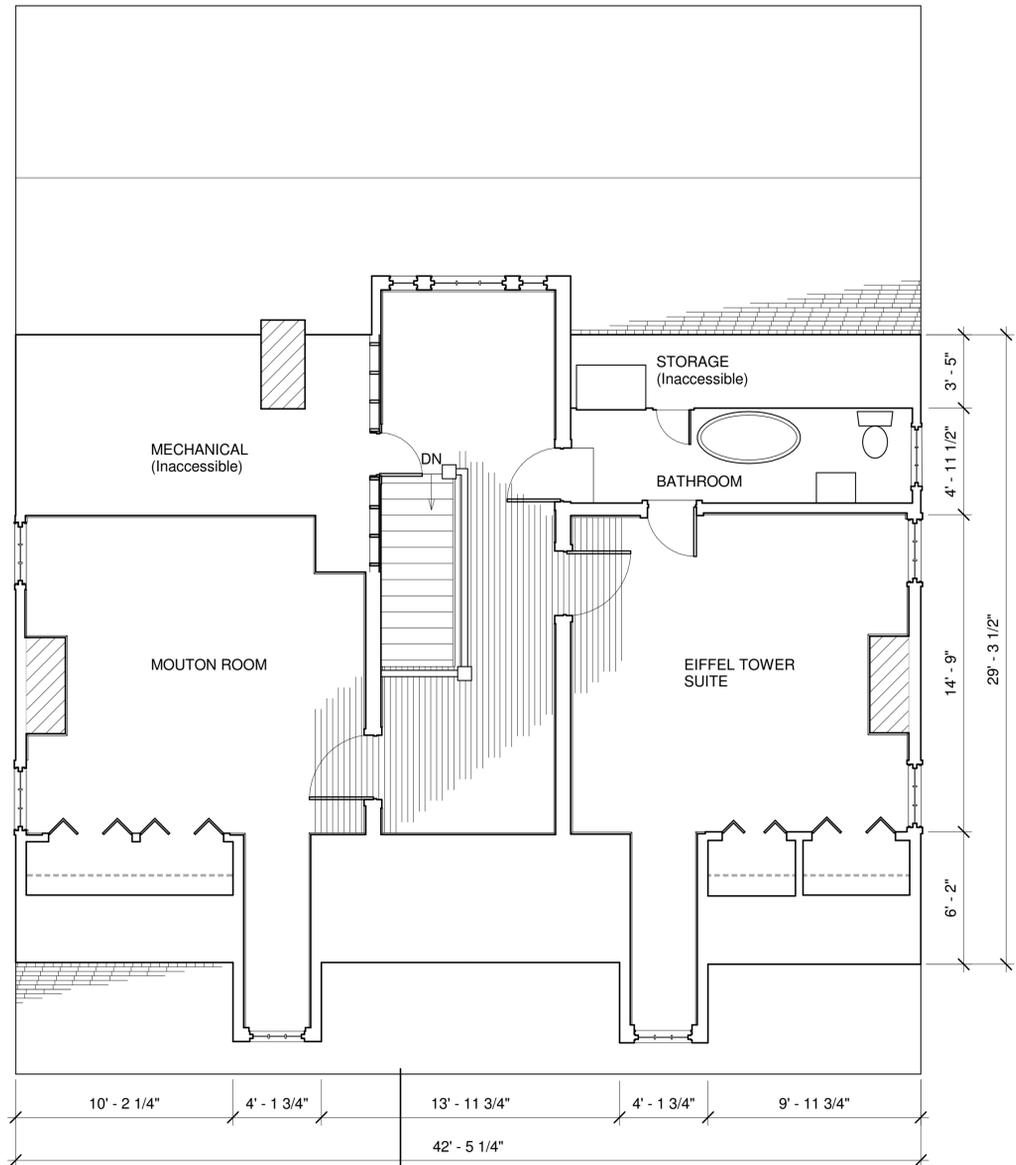
**CHARLES MOUTON HOUSE**  
338 NORTH STERLING STREET LAFAYETTE LAFAYETTE PARISH LOUISIANA

LA-210  
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY SHEET 2 OF 10 SHEETS

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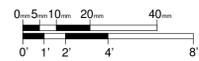


Attic Plan



3rd Floor Plan

1/4" = 1'-0"



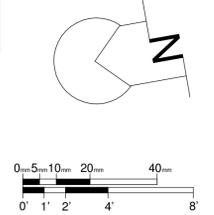
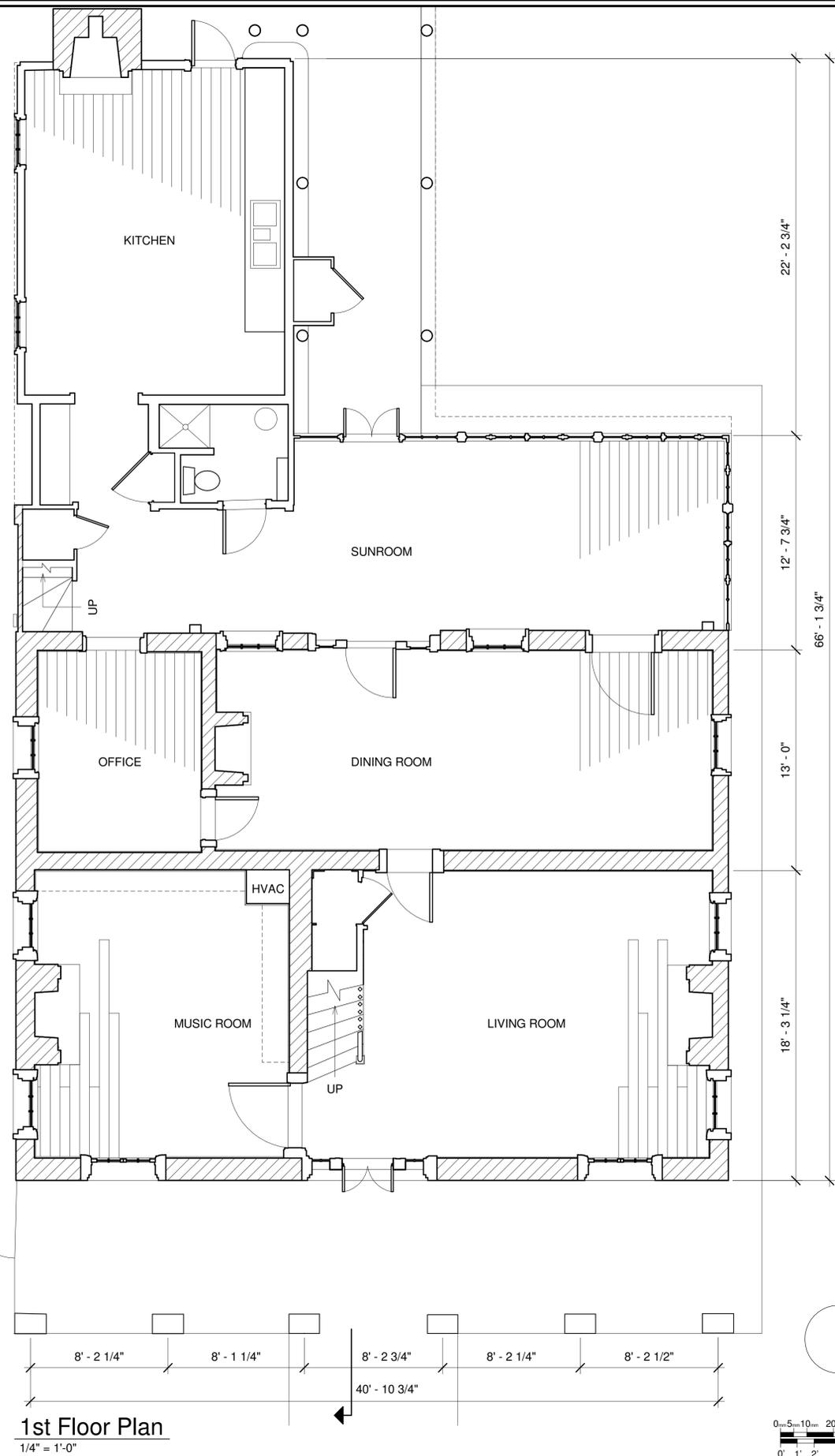
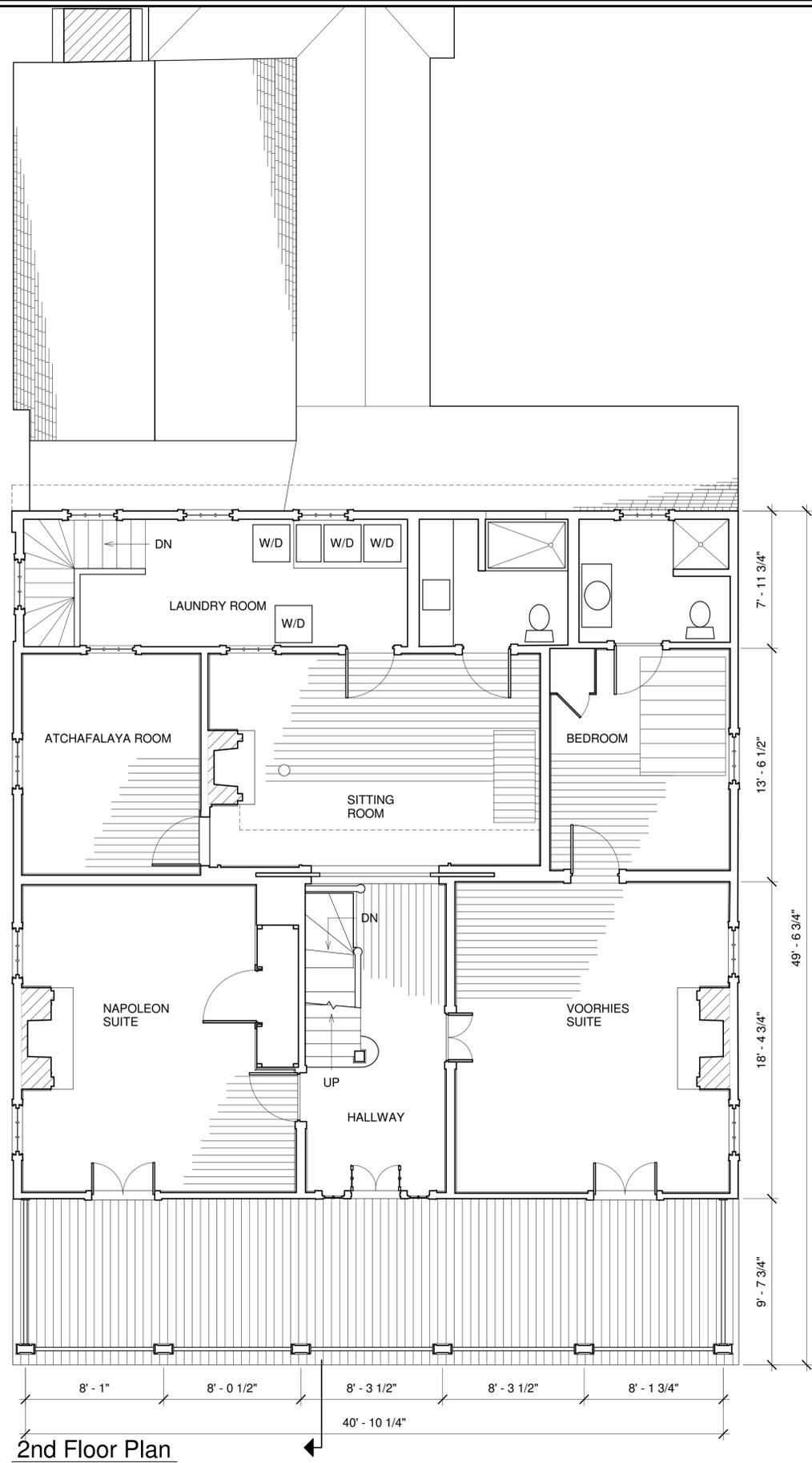
DRAWN BY: Derek Broussard Jr., Kadi Dantez  
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CHARLES MOUTON HOUSE  
 338 NORTH STERLING STREET LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA

HISTORIC-AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
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338 NORTH STERLING STREET LAFAYETTE LOUISIANA

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
LA-210 SHEET 3 OF 10 SHEETS

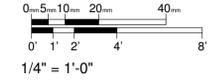
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West Elevation

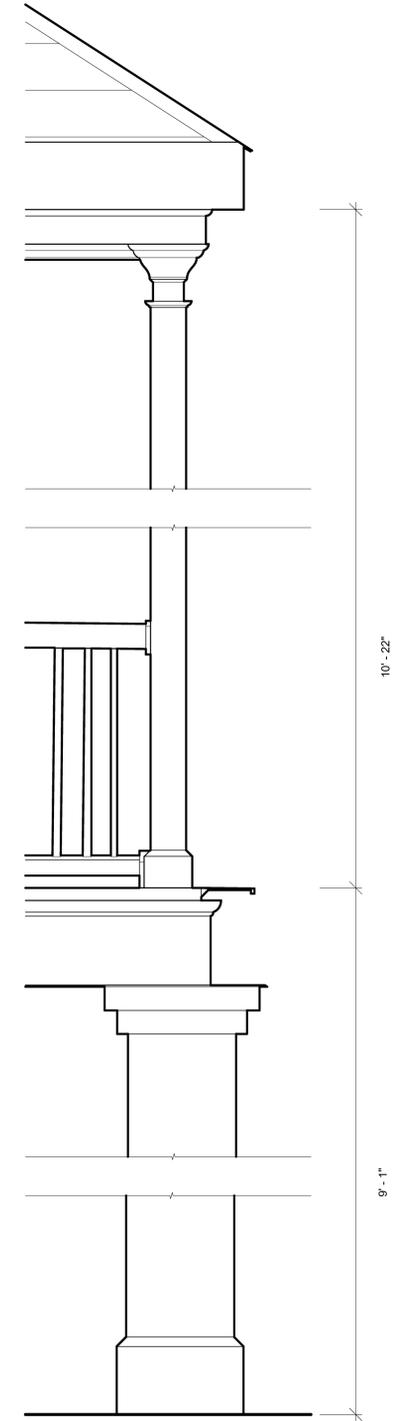
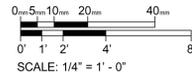


East Elevation

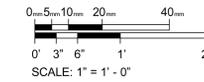




North Elevation



Front Gallery Column Detail



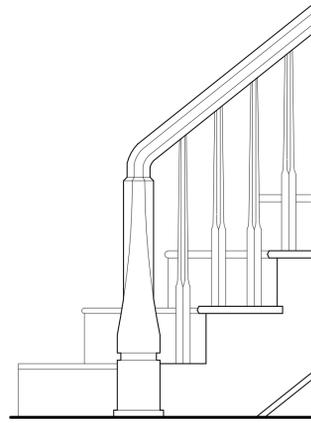
DRAWN BY: NATHAN PIERCE AND QUOC DANG

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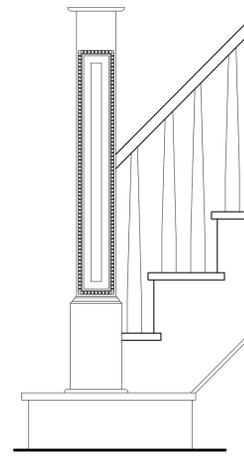
CHARLES MOUTON HOUSE  
338 NORTH STERLING STREET LAFAYETTE LAFAYETTE PARISH LOUISIANA

HISTORIC-AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 6 OF 10 SHEETS

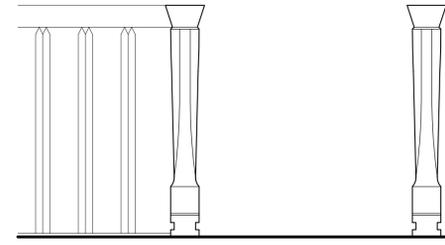
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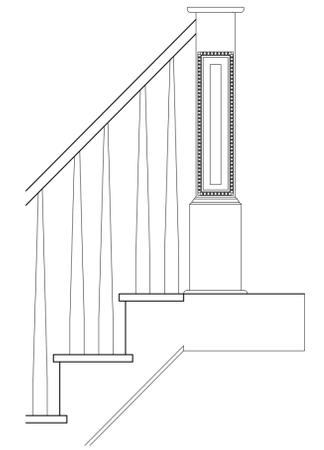
FIRST FLOOR LANDING



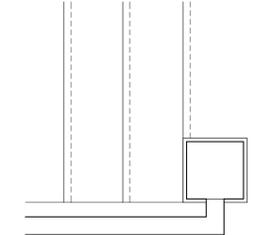
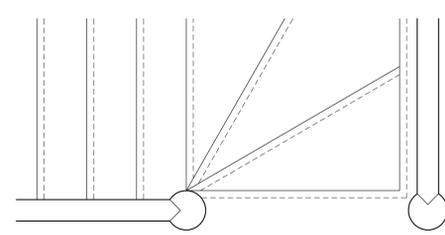
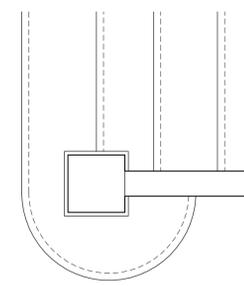
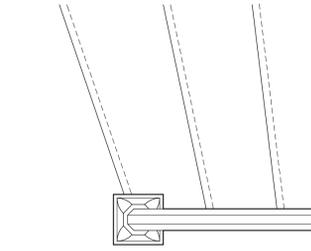
SECOND TO THIRD FLOOR LANDING



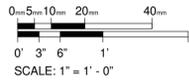
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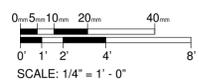
THIRD TO SECOND FLOOR LANDING



STAIR DETAILS



SOUTH SECTION



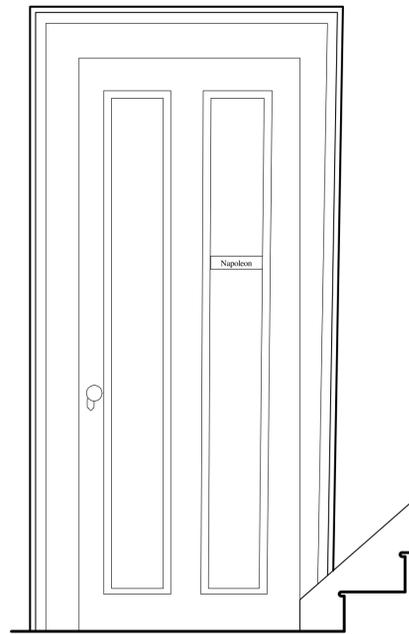
DRAWN BY: NATHAN PIERCE AND LOUIS MCCALL  
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CHARLES MOUTON HOUSE  
 338 NORTH STERLING STREET LAFAYETTE PARISH LOUISIANA

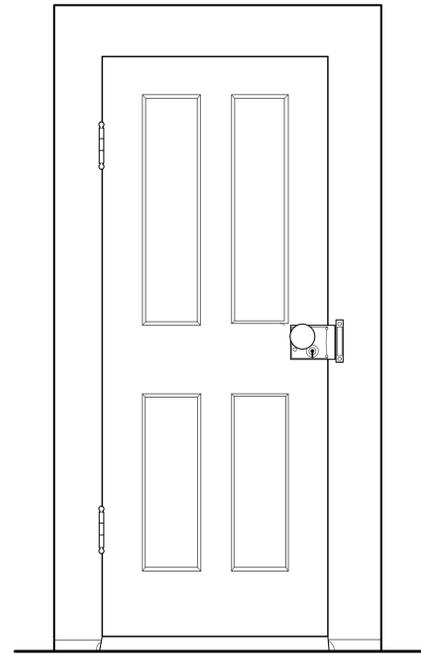
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
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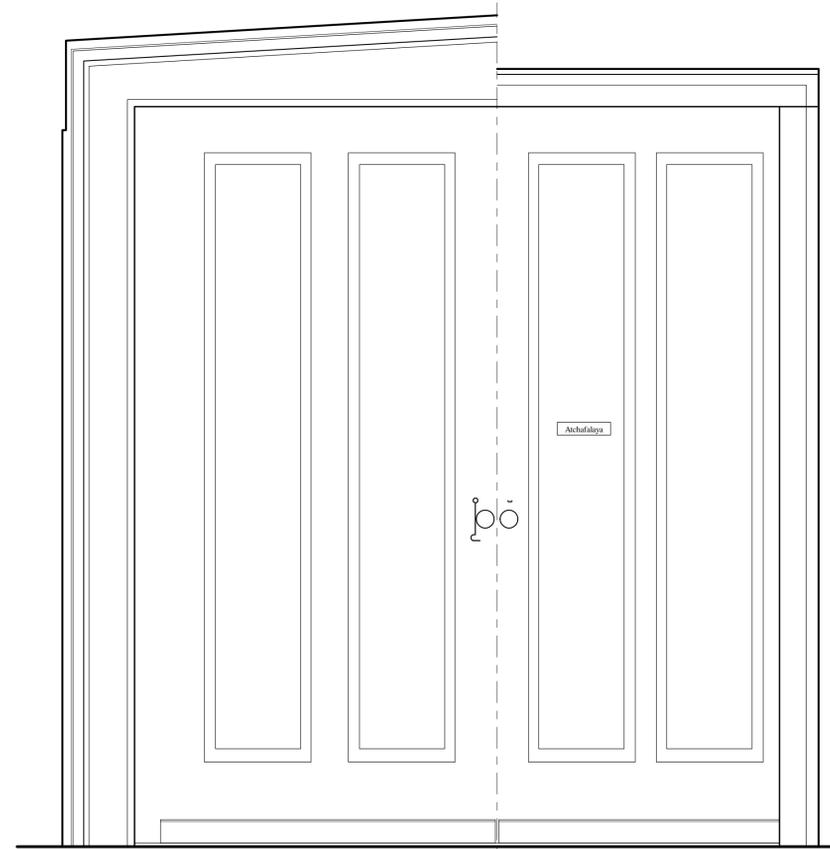
Second and Third Floor



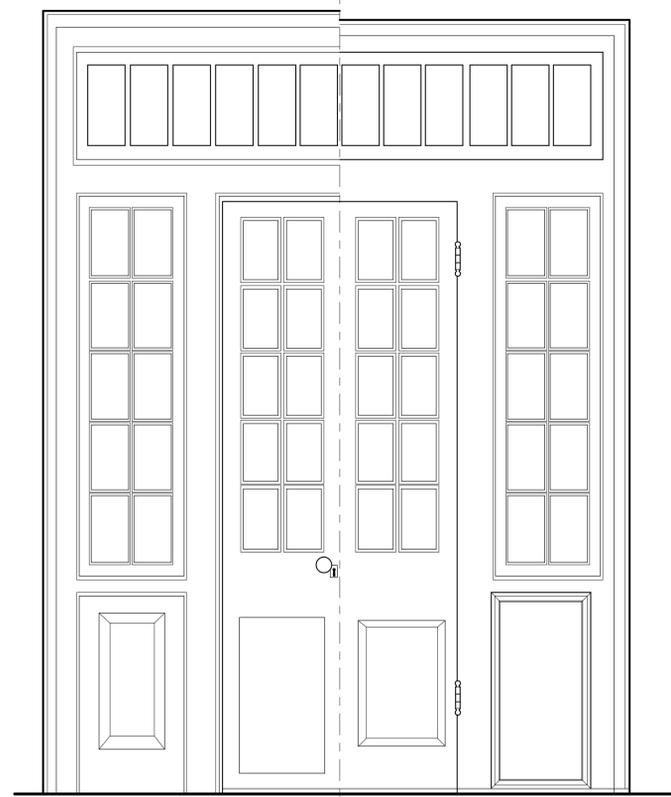
Door at Napoleon Suite Details



Typical Door on Third Floor Details

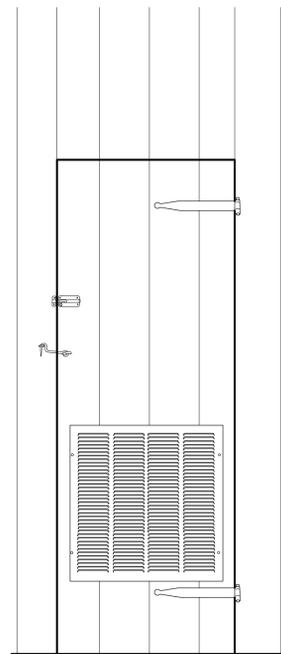


Door at Lounge to Hall Details Lounge | Hall

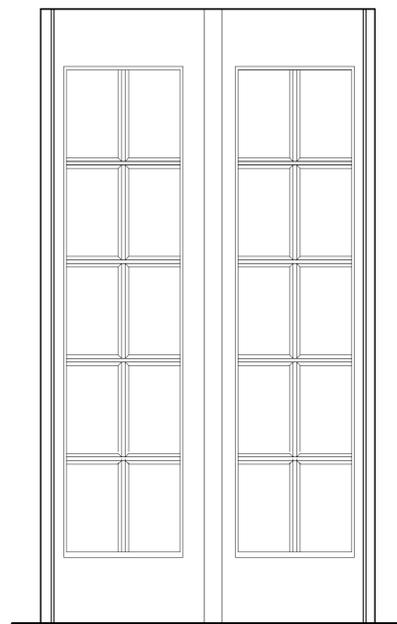


Entrance Doors at Gallery Details Gallery | Hall

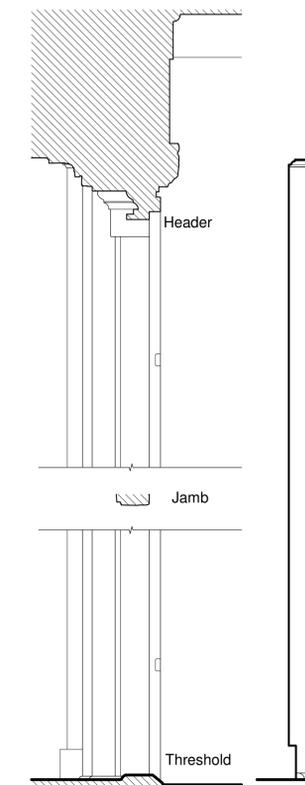
First Floor



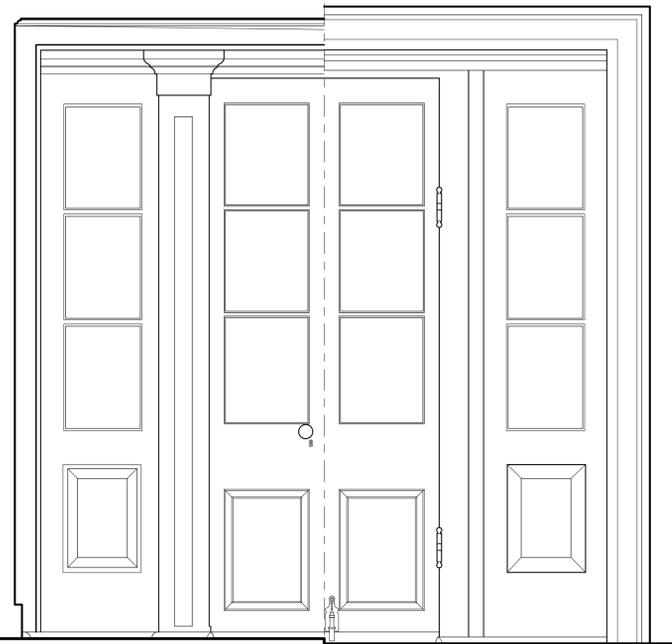
Door at A/C Closet Details



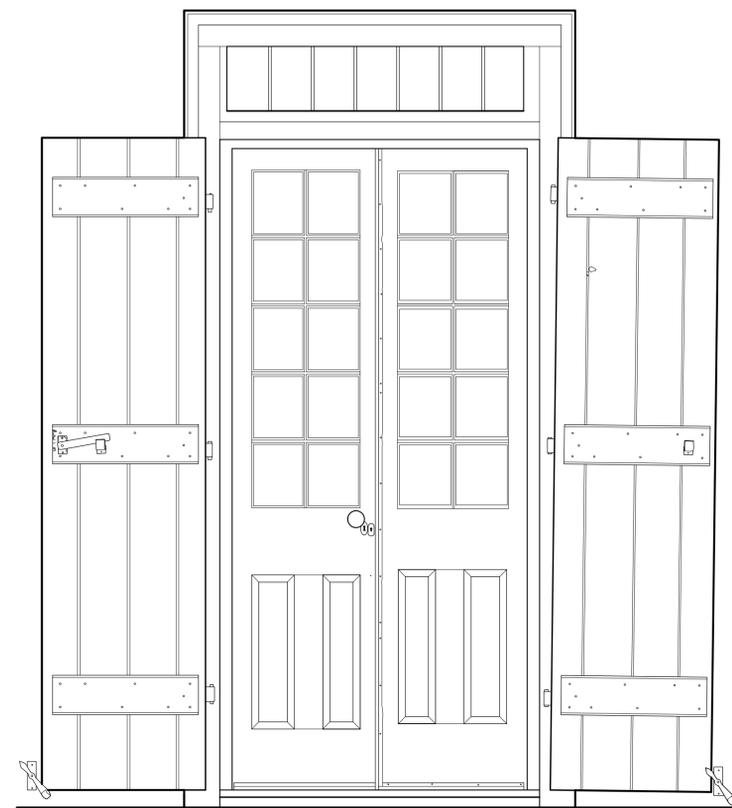
Door at Sun Room Details



Sun Room | Dinning Room  
Door at Sun Room To Dinning Room Details

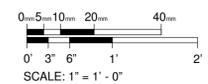


Sun Room | Dinning Room



Side Entrance

Door Details



DRAWN BY: Quoc Dang

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338 NORTH STERLING STREET  
LAFAYETTE

LOUISIANA  
LAFAYETTE PARISH

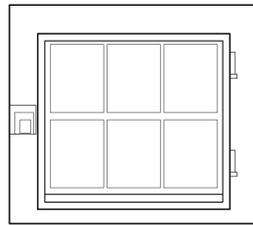
HISTORIC AMERICAN  
BUILDINGS SURVEY  
SHEET 8 OF 10 SHEETS

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA  
ARCHITECTURE

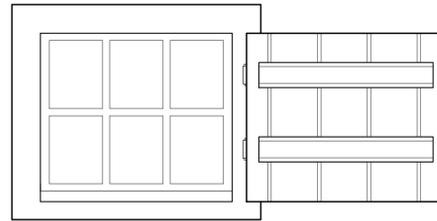
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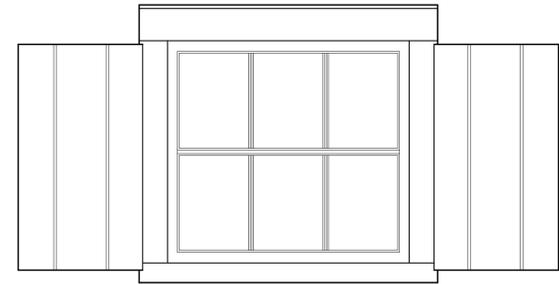
Window C at North & South



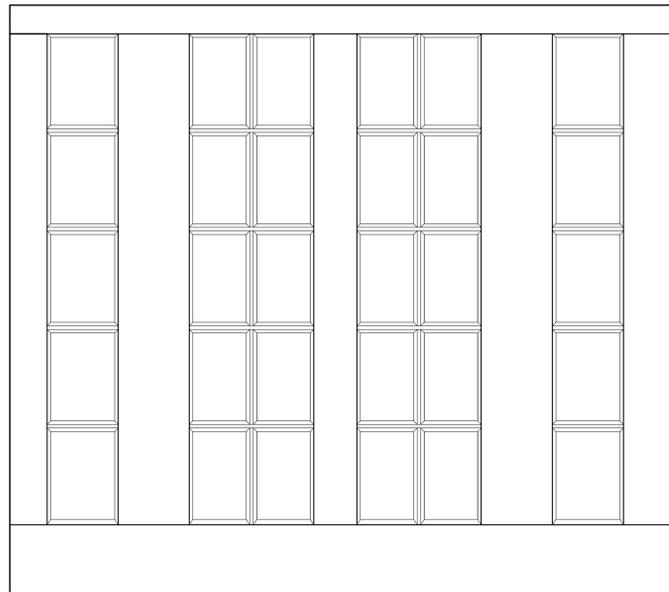
Window B at Kitchen



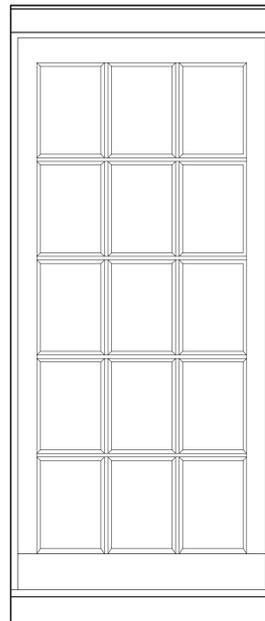
Window A at Kitchen



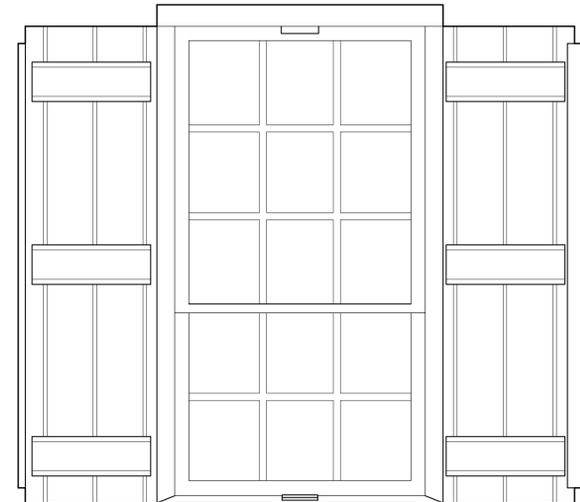
Window B at North & West



Window A at Sun Room

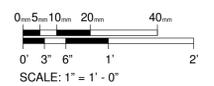


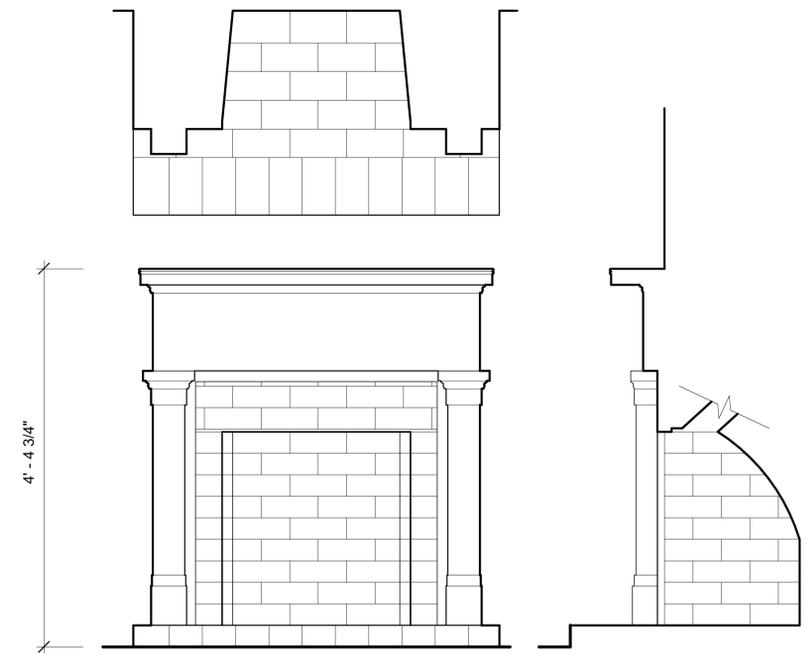
Window B at Sun Room



Window A at North & West

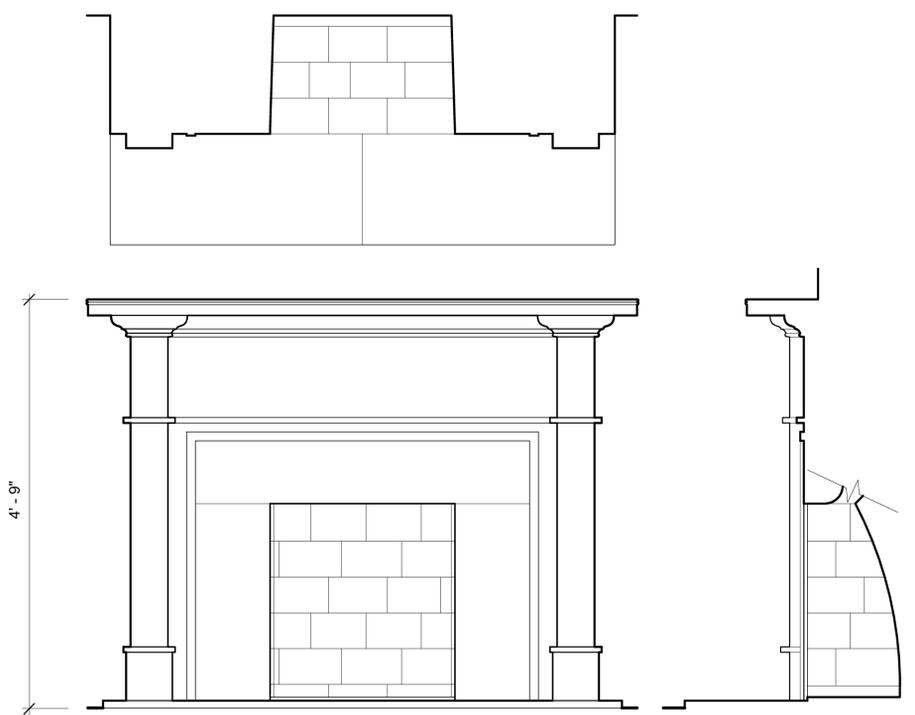
Window Details





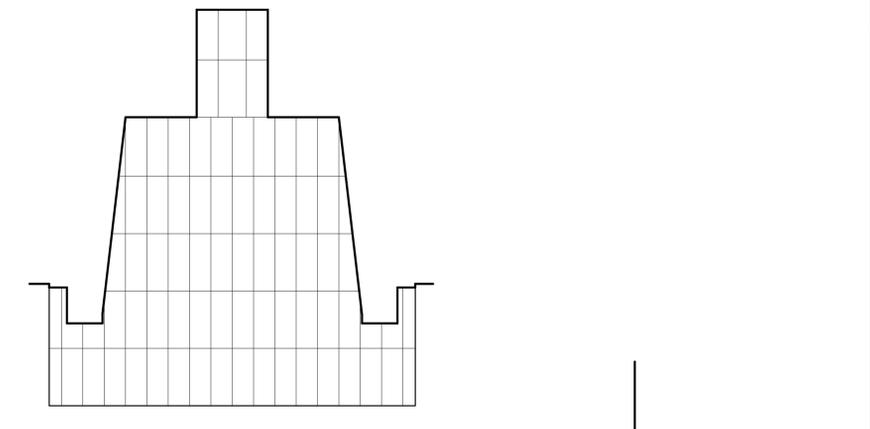
Alchafalaya Room

4' - 4 3/4"



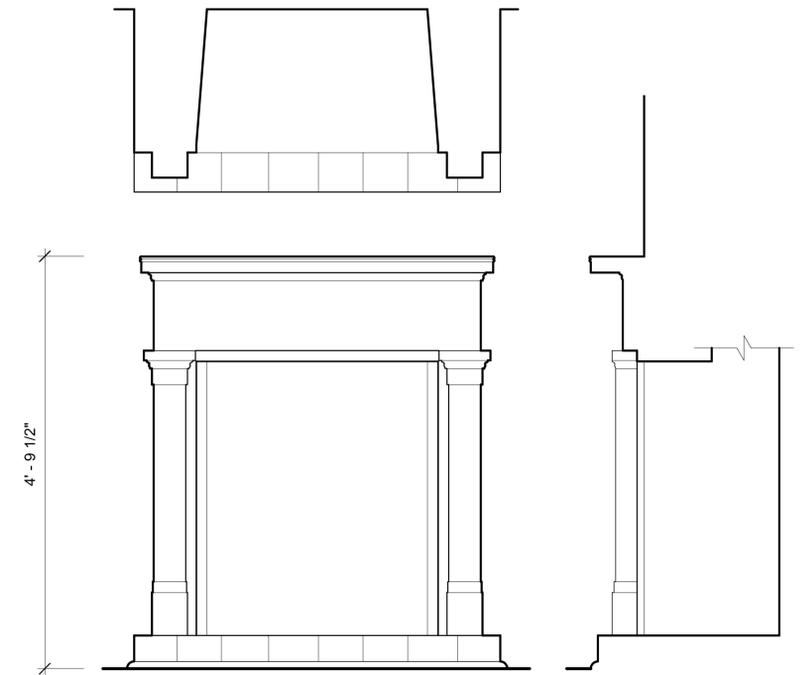
Voorhies Suite

4' - 9"



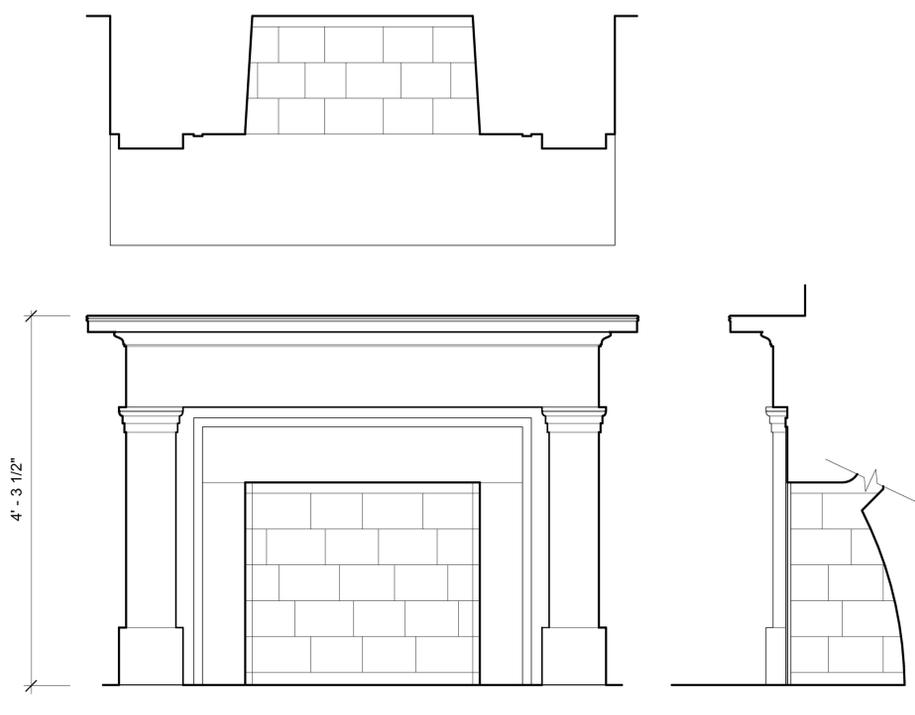
Kitchen

4' - 1"



Dining Room

4' - 9 1/2"



Living Room

4' - 3 1/2"

Mantel Details

