National Park Service
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Media Development Group
Harpers Ferry Center

Historic Furnishings Report

Natchez National Historical Park
Natchez, Mississippi

Melrose



APPROVED:

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August 30, 2000

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Natchez, Mississippi

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Staff Curator

Media Development Group
Harpers Ferry Center
National Park Service, 2004

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Descendants of the McMurran and Davis families provided photographs and documents that made the writing of this document possible. Mrs. Marian Ferry tirelessly answered hundreds of questions about the furnishings at Melrose and her life there. John and Betty Callon shared thoughts and information concerning their renovation of and residence at Melrose.

I would also like to thank Mimi and Ron Miller for their willingness to answer any and all questions and for their insight into furnishings in Natchez.

Administrative Information

Natchez National Historical Park was established by Congress on October 7, 1988, by Public Law 100-479. The National Park Service purchased Melrose in 1990 from Mr. and Mrs. John Callon. At that time, Melrose consisted of a circa 1848 house, approximately 80 acres, and a large collection of furnishings dating from the early 19th century to the late 20th century. The furnishings included many objects acquired by the original owners of the house. The house has unusual historic value not only because of its large collection of original furniture but also because of the survival of original window treatments and two original floorcloths, items that do not generally endure from the mid-19th century. One of the floorcloths is an exceptionally large one block-printed to mimic a floral-patterned Brussels carpet. Many items of furniture are marked not only with the family's name but also with the name of the manufacturer or the retailer, which makes the collection a valuable resource in the study of American decorative arts.

Another unusual and valuable characteristic of this site is the existence of two 19th- and two 20th-century inventories and a large body of correspondence written by the McMurran family, the original owners. This information gives us excellent documentation for the historic furnishing of the rooms and provides an incredibly rich source of interpretive material about the people who lived at Melrose.

Lastly, Melrose is favored with the enthusiastic interest of several people who actually lived in the house during the 20th century. Mrs. Marian Ferry grew up at Melrose, attended public school in Natchez, and has many fond memories of the years she lived there. Mrs. Ferry's recollections of how Melrose was furnished in the first half of the 20th century are corroborated by a large number of photographs taken of the downstairs rooms during Pilgrimages. The Pilgrimages are tours of Natchez homes held three times a year, jointly sponsored by the three main garden clubs in Natchez—the Natchez Garden Club, the Pilgrimage Garden Club, and the Auburn Garden Club. Fred Page, who has been at Melrose since 1950, has shared his experience of living and working there during the 20th century from an African American perspective. John and Betty Callon spent many years rehabilitating Melrose and have eagerly shared their thoughts about their work there.

The Callons completed their renovations in 1978 and offered tours of Melrose to the general public from 1978 to 1990. After the National Park Service acquired Melrose in 1990, the guided tours continued. Uniformed rangers normally give these tours. Special events are also held at the house, including living history presentations and special thematic tours. The staff at Melrose also participate in community-wide events, such as the Natchez Pilgrimages, the Natchez Antiques Forum, and the Natchez Literary Celebration.

The implementation of the furnishings plan recommended in this report will require some physical changes to the structure, including painting, wallpapering, and hanging draperies, pictures, and other objects. Section 106 compliance procedures will be required for a number of these recommendations.

Interpretive Objectives

In Natchez National Historical Park's enabling legislation, the National Park Service is directed to

- preserve and interpret the history of Natchez, Mississippi, as a significant city in the history of the American South;
- preserve and interpret the sites and structures associated with all the peoples of Natchez and its surrounding area, from the earliest inhabitants to the people of the modern era, and including blacks, both slave and free;
- preserve and interpret the region's social, political, and economic development, with particular emphasis on the pre- and post-Civil War eras; and
- preserve and interpret the region's commercial and agricultural history, especially in relation to the Mississippi River and cotton.[1]

The period of interpretation for Melrose has been a subject of much discussion, inside and outside the National Park Service. The draft General Management Plan (GMP)/Development Concept Plan (DCP)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) outlines three alternative proposals, but all three alternatives essentially define the same period of interpretation for the house. Under alternative 1, "visitors would learn about Melrose and the workings of the estate household—the story of a rich cotton planter's life and urban slavery."[2] Alternative 2 expands the interpretation at the park to include "the larger story of Natchez and its beginnings"[3] However, most of the larger themes and stories would be covered at the other sites in the park and at the visitor center located in downtown Natchez. "The story at Melrose would show how a wealthy cotton planter lived and tell how this wealth depended on cotton crops and the slave labor system on plantations that were outside of Natchez."[4] Under alternative 3, "development and use at Melrose would be much the same as in alternative 2," except that a visitor contact station would be constructed at Melrose to include exhibits that "would introduce the various owners of Melrose and focus on the relationship of Melrose to the cotton plantations owned by John T. McMurran and the relationship of Melrose to other wealthy cotton planters' estates in Natchez."[5]

Three potential periods of interpretation exist for Melrose, corresponding with three ownership periods. The first period, c. 1843–65, corresponds with the construction of the house and its occupancy by the McMurran family. The collection contains many McMurran objects, and the house remains almost exactly as built, with changes largely confined to the decorative finishes. Much site-specific evidence exists, including an inventory taken in 1865, a journal written by a member of the McMurran family, and a large body of correspondence by various family

1 National Park Service, *Draft General Management Plan, Development Concept Plan, and Environmental Impact Statement, Natchez National Historical Park, Mississippi* (Denver: U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Denver Service Center, March 1993), 3.

2 Ibid., 32.
3 Ibid., 45.
4 Ibid., 46.
5 Ibid., 73–74.

members. The second possible period of interpretation would cover the ownership of the house by George Malin Davis, his daughter Julia Davis, and her husband Stephen Kelly, dating from 1866 to 1883. Although an 1883 inventory exists, research indicates that George Malin Davis occupied the house only until 1869, and his daughter and her family may not have resided at Melrose full-time. Even the accretion of wax on the interior finishes indicates that Melrose was in a dormant, "maintenance" period during this time.[6] The final period of interpretation considered was the period of occupation by George Malin Davis Kelly, his wife Ethel Kelly, and their daughter Marian (c.1904–1976). This is the first period for which good interior photographs exist. A 1976 inventory and Mrs. Marian Kelly Ferry's descriptions of the rooms during her residence at Melrose provide evidence for this period.

Staff from the park, the Southeast Regional Office, and Harpers Ferry Center met a number of times to discuss the period of interpretation. Regional staff wanted to make sure that the interpretation at Melrose would not exclude a discussion of the families who lived there after the sale of the estate in 1865. Harpers Ferry Center staff stressed that if the main focuses of the interpretation at Melrose were to be McMurran and the life of a wealthy cotton planter, the furnishings and interior finishes at Melrose should represent the period of the McMurran occupancy, 1848–65. Regardless of the period of interpretation, many decisions concerning interior finishes have to be made, and many objects have to be introduced to the interiors to come close to reproducing a particular period in Melrose's past.

On December 12, 1995, a meeting was held at Natchez National Historical Park that included representatives from the park, the Southeast Regional Office, Harpers Ferry Center, the Historic Natchez Foundation, Ann Beha Associates,[7] and several Beha subcontractors. After an extensive and wide-ranging discussion of the architectural, interior finish, landscape, and historic furnishings evidence, the "general conclusion was to set the Period of Significance of Melrose to 1848–1865."[8]

This Historic Furnishings Report recommends a period of refurnishing dating to approximately 1848–65. The author believes that this period most closely fulfills the interpretive goals as described in the draft General Management Plan. Excellent evidence for furnishings exists for this period, including original objects (many of which are marked with McMurran's name) and an 1865 room-by-room inventory that lists objects sold with the house. No major alterations have occurred to the house that would affect an interpretation to this period. Sufficient information exists from paint analysis and documentary evidence to duplicate the original decorative finishes inside and out. Unsurpassed interpretive material exists from period correspondence by family members and friends and a nearly contemporary journal. Moreover, since room use and many of the furnishings did not change during the extended occupation of Melrose, choosing an 1848–65 period of furnishings does not preclude discussion of the Davis and Kelly families and their use of the house. Interpreters can include information on all of the families during their tours, as they do now. In addition, park staff have suggested that the dairy building might be an appropriate place for an exhibit on the Davis and Kelly families, incorporating any family objects that would no longer be appropriate for the interior of Melrose. In this way, the period of furnishing can be seen as distinct from the period of significance of the site.

6 Ann Beha Associates, *Historic Structures Report, Melrose Estate, Natchez National Historical Park*, vol. II (Boston, Mass.: Ann Beha Associates, November 1996), 7.

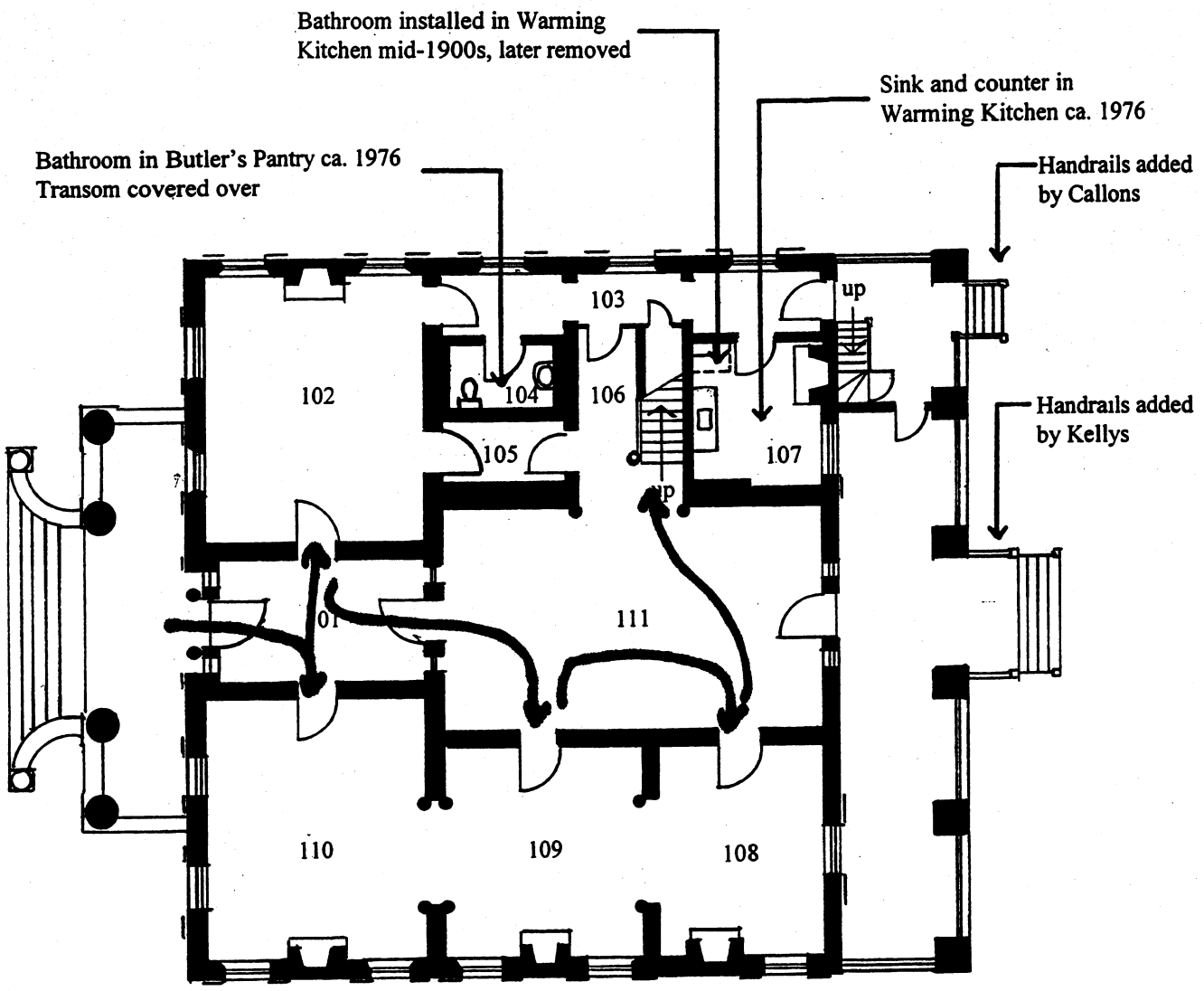
7 Ann Beha Associates is the name of an architectural and engineering firm in Boston. The firm was awarded an umbrella contract to produce the historic structures report, the cultural landscape report, and the historic resource study.

8 Meeting notes, submitted by Betsy Sandidge, Ann Beha Associates, December 14, 1995, 9.

Operating Plan

Melrose is open to the public seven days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed only on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day. Except for special events, the interior of Melrose is accessible only by guided tour. Uniformed rangers lead tours every hour for most of the year, beginning at 9:00 a.m.; the last tour leaves at 4:00. (During Pilgrimages, tours begin every half-hour.) Tours start on the front or back porch, depending on the time of day and the weather. Tours entering the house from the back proceed directly to the front hall and follow the regular tour route. All tours begin with an introduction to the property, then continue inside on the first floor, viewing the rooms in the following order: front hall, drawing room, dining room, back hall, parlor, and library. The tour continues up the stairs and visitors view the rooms on the second floor as follows: upper back hall, upper front hall (Carrie McMurran's room), north front bedroom (Mr. and Mrs. McMurran's room), west front bedroom (John and Alice McMurran's room), middle bedroom (Farar and Mary Elizabeth Conner's room), and east corner bedroom (Fazee and Loulie Conner's room). Visitors then exit through the second floor rear door onto the balcony and descend the outside staircase to the rear yard. Figure 1 shows this tour route, showing the location of pathways designated by visitor carpeting, at the end of this section. A reproduction floorcloth covers the original floorcloth in the front hall downstairs, with a protective pad between them. Brussels carpeting reproduced in the same pattern as the floorcloth covers the original floorcloth in the back hall. (A rug pad under the carpet protects the original floorcloth). The Brussels carpet absorbs the impact of visitor traffic while maintaining the historic appearance of the space. The floral-patterned Brussels carpet used as the visitor pathway is also an interesting interpretive tool: the original floorcloth was printed in imitation of the more expensive Brussels carpet available during the period, but now a Brussels is being used to protect the priceless original floorcloth!

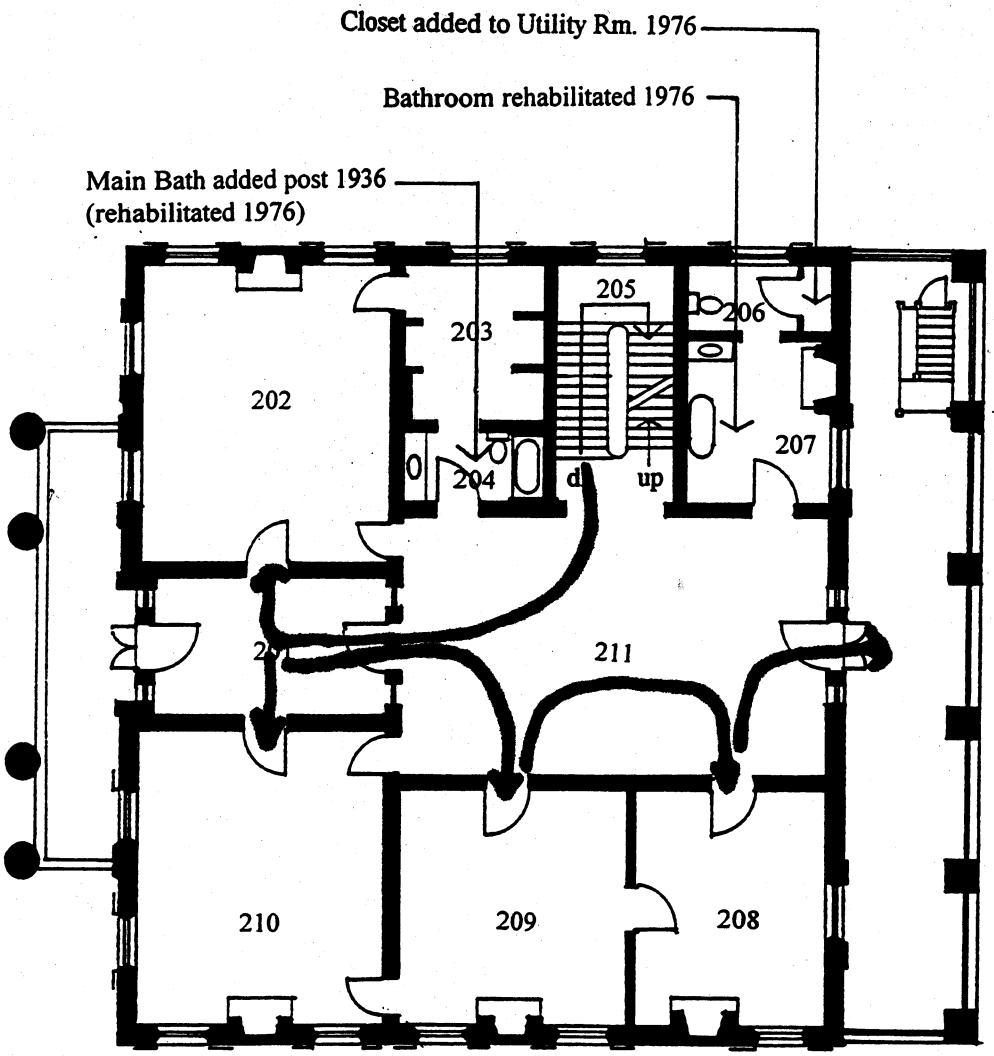
The lower stair hall (Room 106) and the floor of the service hall (Room 103) will contain a floorcloth in a faux parquet wood pattern copied from a piece of period floorcloth found in the attic at Melrose. The staircase will be carpeted between the first and second floors only in a period Brussels carpet. Modern gray commercial carpet will be used to protect the carpeting in the areas just inside the doors of each furnished room where visitors will stand to view the room. Gray carpeting will also be used for visitor pathways on the second floor.



First Floor Plan

MAIN HOUSE

ca. 1911-1995



Second Floor Plan

MAIN HOUSE
ca. 1911-1995

Prior Planning Documents

Melrose Main House IDLCS No. 90310.

Draft General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Environmental Impact Statement, Natchez National Historical Park, March 1993.

Historic Structures Report, Melrose Estate, Natchez National Historical Park, Vols. 1–3, by Ann Beha Associates, Boston, MA, November 1996.

Historic Resource Study, Natchez National Historical Park, by Ann Beha Associates, Boston, MA, November 1996.

Cultural Landscape Report, Melrose Estate, Natchez National Historical Park, by Ann Beha Associates, Boston, MA, November 1996.

Historical Information

A Note on Sources

The history of Melrose and Natchez has been documented in a number of National Park Service reports, including the Historic Structures Report, the Historic Resource Study, and the Cultural Landscape Report. Complete citations for these reports can be found in the bibliography.

The following sources were examined during the preparation of this report:

Collection of McMurran Furnishings at Melrose

A large amount of furniture known to have belonged to the McMurrans still survives at Melrose. Some of it is signed "McMurran"; some is exactly as described in the 1865 inventory. This furniture gives the most accurate insight into Mr. and Mrs. McMurran's taste in furnishings. Extant objects are the most direct and irrefutable evidence for furnishings (provided the provenance is accurate). The decorative details of extant objects provide a benchmark that we can use when selecting other furnishings.

Inventories

Inventories for Melrose exist for the years 1865, 1883, 1976, and 1990. These inventories provide the basic documentation for furnishing. The 1865 inventory is not complete, since it lists only the objects sold to the Davises with Melrose. The McMurrans retained books, pictures, and some furniture. The 1883 inventory, taken after the death of G. M. Davis, also seems to lack small decorative objects and may reflect the furnishings of a house that had not been occupied for several years. The 1976 inventory contains more accessories; however, it is known from interviews that the descendants of Mrs. Kelly retained ownership of a number of items. The 1990 Accountability Study includes items sold by the Callons to the NPS and, again, does not reflect the complete contents of a house.

Correspondence

Considerable correspondence exists detailing the lives and interests of the McMurran family. The bulk of Mr. McMurran's correspondence deals with his legal and plantation business, but there are occasional references to family and even furnishings. Mrs. McMurran wrote copiously to her sister, Fanny Conner, to Eliza Quitman (wife of John Quitman), and to her daughter-in-law Alice Austen McMurran. This correspondence contains much interpretive information and a fair amount of furnishings information. Topics include room use, family life, lists and discussions of various furnishings, and all areas of 19th-century life, including birth, death, marriage, religion, war, medicine, social customs, and other topics. McMurran correspondence is located in a number of institutional collections as well as in private hands. (See individual letters for exact locations.) Photocopies of most of the correspondence are on file at Natchez NHP. Other corre-

spondence consulted during the research for this report included letters written by Louisa Quitman and the other Quitman children, Alice McMurran, James Carson, and the McMurran's children, Mary Elizabeth and John, Jr. Davis and Kelly correspondence reportedly exists but is in private or family hands and is unavailable for research at this time.

Alice Austen McMurran's Journal

Alice Austen McMurran began her diary in May 1864 but wrote retrospectively beginning with her marriage in September 1856. She describes her arrival in Natchez, her impressions of Melrose, and her introduction to life as a plantation mistress. She continues through the war, detailing where she lived and what her family and friends did, and how she traveled back to her home in Maryland in November 1863. The journal ends in 1878. The location of the original diary is unknown. A photocopy of a typed transcription, made by Loring Dodds, grandson of Alice McMurran, is on file at Natchez NHP.

Interviews

Mrs. Marian Kelly Ferry (1976, 1990, 1993, and 1994)
Mrs. Betty Callon (1994)
Detailed interviews with Mrs. Marian Kelly Ferry describe lifestyle and room use during the period that the house was occupied by the Kellys. Mrs. Ferry describes furniture placement and the changes that took place inside the house during the first three-quarters of the 20th century. Mrs. Betty Callon describes the work she and her husband did at Melrose, placement of furniture during their residence, and details of room use.

Photographs

Exteriors - late 19th century
Exteriors - 1905–10
Interior - early 20th century, showing rear hall
Interiors -1930s (show downstairs rooms only)
Exteriors - 1930s–60s, taken during Pilgrimage
Interiors - 1930s–60s, posed photos taken in drawing room during Pilgrimage
Interiors - 1948 (drawing room only)
Exteriors and interiors - 1968, color snapshots
Interiors - 1976 (at time of transfer from Kelly to Callon; mostly downstairs but some views of the bedrooms)
Interiors - 1976–78 (during restoration by Callons)
Interiors - 1970s and later (during occupation by Callons)
Interiors - 1991–92 (after NPS acquired the site)
Interiors and Exteriors - 1992, taken by Historic American Buildings Survey

Very little visual information is available about the interiors of Melrose in the 19th century. Late 19th-century exteriors show venetian blinds, curtains on the sidelights, and slipcovers on furniture in the drawing room. One early 20th-century interior shows the rear hall. A number of excellent pictures survive from the 1930s showing the placement of furniture and accessories in most of the downstairs rooms. Photos taken during Pilgrimage and at the time of the presentation of the Melrose silver in 1948 only show the drawing room. Photos taken in 1976 when the house was sold to the Callons illustrate the downstairs

rooms and a couple of the bedrooms. Many photographs were taken by the Callons to document the restoration work that was performed from 1976 to 1978. Photographs taken at the time of the transfer from the Callons to the NPS document the appearance of the house when occupied by the Callons. The interiors taken in 1992 document early NPS changes to the interiors. Because of the large number of 20th-century photographs that exist, not all of the photographs have been reproduced in this report.

History of Melrose

Melrose was completed in 1848 for John T. McMurran, Natchez attorney and cotton planter, and his wife Mary Louisa McMurran. McMurran had purchased 133 acres on the outskirts of Natchez in 1841 for $5,000.[9] This property was located an easy carriage ride from town, in an area populated by the grand houses of other members of the Natchez planter elite. Jacob Byers, a native of Hagerstown, Maryland, reportedly designed and built the house, together with a pair of two-story brick outbuildings used as kitchen, dairy, and slave housing.[10] The McMurrans lived in the house until December 1865, when they sold Melrose and most of its contents to Elizabeth Davis, the wife of Natchez attorney and planter George Malin Davis.[11] The McMurrans retained only Mr. McMurran's "library, pictures, and some small lots of furniture &c."[12]

The Davises apparently made Melrose their primary residence for at least a few years, since there is correspondence between Mr. Davis and Mrs. McMurran concerning the disposition of various paintings and pieces of furniture. The Davises' primary residence, Choctaw, was occupied by Union forces from 1863 until at least 1865, which may explain why they purchased another home.[13] The Davises moved back into town by the middle of 1869, and Melrose probably remained largely unoccupied for the next 40 years.[14] During that time, former Davis house slaves Alice Sims and Jane Johnson cared for the property.[15]

9 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 23; footnote 101 (Deed Book DD:155).

10 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 3; *Mississippi Free Trader*, 16 June, 1852, 2. Natchez, MS.

11 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 41.

12 Petition of Executrix for allowance of 1st Annual Accounts & to dispense with inventory. Filed April 30, 1868. Estate of J. T. McMurran, Dec'd. Adams Probate Court of April Term 1868. Adams County Courthouse, P. Box 174, estate of John T. McMurran.

13 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 43 cites Melanie Mayer Frank (new information indicates that the correct author is probably Clara L. Moses), "John Mayer and his Wife, Jeanette Reis," *Aunt Sister's Book* (New York: n.p., 1929), 11. Photocopy at Historic Natchez Foundation. An inventory of Choctaw dated 1865 taken by Union troops indicates that the military still occupied the Davis' property at that time (*Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 45 cites "Inventory of home of George Malin Davis," National Archives, photocopy at Historic Natchez Foundation). Charles G. Dahlgren, a Natchez planter, was in Washington in 1865 petitioning on behalf of Davis for the return of his house. Herschel Gower, "Charles G. Dahlgren of Natchez: A Yankee as Planter, General, and Dynast," unpublished manuscript on deposit at the Historic Natchez Foundation, 140.

14 James Carson to Mary McMurran, 4 February 1869, NLU SC 81-11, item 239; Mary McMurran to Mrs. Elizabeth Davis, 5 February 1869, NLU SC 81-11, item 241; James Carson to Mary McMurran, 31 May 1869, NLU SC 81-11, item 277.

15 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 47. An 1886 city census places Jane Johnson in the 1st Ward (where Choctaw was located) rather than in the South Suburban Ward (which contains Melrose). However, the same census places Stephen and George M.D. Kelly in the 1st Ward, so perhaps Jane Johnson lived at Choctaw only when the Kellys were in residence. "City of Natchez, Mississippi, August 1886 Census of Inhabitants, Buildings, Churches and Schools, Orphan Asylums and Hospitals, and Manufacturies." Typed transcript at George W. Armstrong Library, Natchez, Miss. Original 6 volumes at Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson, Miss. (North Suburban, South Suburban, 1st Ward, 2nd Ward, 3rd Ward, and 4th Ward). Jane Johnson is listed on p. 87 of the 1st Ward. Stephen and George Malin Davis Kelly are listed on p. 91 of the 1st Ward.

In 1883, George Malin Davis Kelly, grandson of George Malin and Elizabeth Davis, inherited Melrose. G. M. D. Kelly was only seven when he inherited the property and did not spend significant amounts of time at Melrose until he moved into the house with his new bride Ethel Moore Kelly in 1901. The Kellys chose to rehabilitate Melrose and retain most of the original furnishings, supplemented with items from their other homes, Choctaw, Cherokee, and Concord. Very few changes were made to the house aside from the overpainting of decorative finishes and the installation of city electricity and water in the 1920s and natural gas in the 1940s.[16] A detailed description of these changes can be found in the Historic Structures Report.

On October 19, 1909, the Kellys' only daughter, Marian, was born. Marian was raised at Melrose and attended public school in Natchez. G. M. D. Kelly died April 6, 1946, but his widow Ethel continued to live at Melrose until her death in 1975 at the age of 97.[17] Melrose was sold to John and Betty Callon in 1976. The Callons updated the mechanical systems at Melrose, insulating the wall cavities, replumbing and rewiring the house, and installing central heating, air conditioning, and a music system. The interior woodwork received new painted finishes, the interior doors were chemically stripped, then sanded and regrained, the walls were either repainted or wallpapered, and the historic floorcloths were overpainted.[18]

The Callons sold Melrose to the National Park Service in 1990. Aside from a new heating and cooling system and repair of a structural fissure in the south wall, very few changes were made to the building prior to the completion of the Historic Structure, Cultural Landscape, and Historic Furnishings Reports.[19]

16 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 46–48; Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald Miller, 4 May 1976; Fred Page, interview by Kathleen Jenkins, 27 May 1998. At Natchez NHP)

17 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 58.

18 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 60.

19 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 62.

Analysis of Historic Occupancy

John T. McMurran, the original owner of Melrose, was born near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, in 1801. After reading law under his uncle, John Thompson, in Chillicothe, Ohio, McMurran moved to Mississippi in about 1821, joined the law practice of William Griffith and John Quitman about 1826, and was promoted to partner in the firm after the death of William Griffith in 1827.[20] Over the next 30 years, McMurran formed and dissolved partnerships with two other Natchez attorneys, R. H. Bruckner and James Carson, Jr.[21]

In 1831, McMurran married Mary Louisa Turner, daughter of Edward Turner and double first cousin of his law partner John Quitman. In 1832, Edward and Eliza Turner deeded to their daughter and son-in-law a property now called Holly Hedges, located in downtown Natchez on the southwest corner of Washington and South Wall streets.[22] The McMurrans had three children while living at Holly Hedges. Mary Eliza McMurran was born October 16, 1831, but died July 31, 1833.[23] John T. McMurran, Jr., was born October 1, 1833, and his sister Mary Elizabeth was born on December 28, 1835.[24]

The Activities of Daily Life

The pleasures and obligations of family ties were of paramount importance to these early residents of Natchez. Members of extended families depended on each other for support in good times and bad. John Quitman, who spent a great deal of time away from his family pursuing his roles as soldier and politician, wrote to his wife Eliza in 1842 that "Mr. McMurran will return in a few days and then you can[,] should any thing occur[,] request his advice & assistance."[25] Eliza wrote back in 1846 that "Mr. McMurran . . . seems to me now as my best and only friend, the only one I can look to for support and protection."[26] Indeed, Eliza Quitman was delighted when the McMurrans purchased a tract of land in 1841 on the outskirts of Natchez near their own home, Monmouth, and proceeded to build a fine new house.[27] "McMurran[']s family are well, his house, is going up finely," wrote Eliza Quitman in 1847. "We are all making great calcu-

20 *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi*, vol. 1 (Spartanburg, SC: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1978), 1230. Reprint of the 1891 edition published by Goodspeed Pub. Co., Chicago, Ill.

21 For more information on John T. McMurran's legal career, see Joyce Broussard, "Profile: John T. McMurran—The Economic and Sociopolitical Life Cycle of a Lawyer and a Planter in the Old South," unpublished report (Natchez, Natchez NHP/U.S. Department of the Interior, 1992).

22 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 16.

23 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. 1, 16–17.

24 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. 1, 17.

25 John Quitman to Eliza Quitman, 25 January 1842, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 23.

26 Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, 18 November 1846, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 47.

27 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 23.

lations about the happiness we shall have in being such near and good neighbours as we intend to be."[28] Mrs. McMurran frequently cared for the Quitman children for extended periods of time, and John McMurran and John Quitman co-signed loans for each other regularly.[29]

After a construction phase that lasted six years, the McMurrans finally moved into Melrose between November 1848 and January 1849.[30] John, Jr., was 15 years old and his sister Mary Elizabeth was 13 years old when the family moved into Melrose. The Quitman and McMurran children frequently visited back and forth. Louisa Quitman, daughter of John and Eliza and resident of Monmouth, describes a typical day for a young woman in the upper class of Natchez.

In the first place, I give little "Canary" his breakfast, . . . then I practise on the guitar, paint in oil colours every other day, read some history or occasionally a novel, sew & at two or three-o'clock we dine. I then read again or go & see some of my young friends or take a ride on horse back . . . . After tea, if we have no visitors, which we do have sometimes, I sometimes play a little & sing for the amusement of the children, or sew or, as more frequently is the case, after we have pored over the newspapers, I generally produce a book, & read aloud until bedtime, which is ten or eleven o clock . . . . On fine days Mother & I usually go out to see our acquaintance. I have come to the determination of confessing my aversion to visiting & intend with the New Year to turn over a new leaf, as the old saying is, & be more sociable.

The occupants of Melrose engaged in many of the same activities. Mrs. McMurran also kept a canary. The bird lived in her bedroom, and she was fooled one night by a mockingbird who

perched on the cedar in front of my window, kept me awake in 'the small hours of night' by trying to imitate . . . the wheezing of my little Canary. So perfect was the sound I was on the point of getting up to see if my pet was sick . . . .[31]

Mrs. McMurran shared Louisa's aversion to visiting people outside of her extended family. "I enjoy my quiet days at Melrose so much that I give them up with reluctance to pay morning calls, but it is a duty for all our society, and the sacrifice must be made occasionally."[32] Participants in this social exercise clearly considered this an obligation and apparently kept a running scorecard, if only mentally. Mrs. McMurran actually looked forward to rainy days, because they provided a respite from the never-ending rounds of visits. "I . . . take advantage

28 Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, 2 September 1847, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 53.

29 See, for example, Antonia Quitman to Eliza Quitman, 31 January 1848, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 55 and Mary L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman, 1 February 1848, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 55 for a description of Mrs. McMurran's care of the Quitman children. See John T. McMurran to John Quitman, 31 January 1857, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (MDAH), Quitman papers, Z66, box 5, folder B, for an example of the intertwining of McMurran's and Quitman's business affairs.

30 John Quitman to Eliza Quitman, 14 January 1843, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 30 reports that "one of McMurran's new buildings had been burned down." Mary L. McMurran to Lemuel P. Conner, 21 November 1848, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 1:3 was written from Natchez, while Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 25 January 1849, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 1:4 is the first letter in which "Melrose" appears in the heading.

31 Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., 28 February 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

32 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 18 September 1849, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 1:6.

of a showery morning, as insuring me a quiet hour to write to you. I commenced yesterday paying off my round of visits, of which I have a great number on my list."[33] Mrs. McMurran's daughter Mary Elizabeth must have agreed but had a very practical solution to the problem. Her mother writes that "Mary commenced today the much dreaded paying of bridal visits, returned quite elated in having paid twelve in one morning, three of them being in the country."[34]

Mrs. McMurran preferred more solitary pursuits, such as gardening, and she and Mr. McMurran devoted much time to overseeing the selection of plants for the grounds at Melrose.

Now, our pride of all trees, the Magnolia Grandeflora is in full bloom. It is well named, tree & flower are magnificent, and the fragrance so delicious, one flower will pervade a suit of rooms with its refreshing aroma; not luscious, not sickening, but most agreeable. My Husband planted a young tree near our own room – it is now about twenty feet high, and I counted more than fifty buds last week; today sixteen are fully expanded. I cannot express to you its loveliness.[35]

The Victorian love of flowers and desire to bring the exterior indoors bloomed fully in the McMurran family.

I wish I could give you a sight of my green-pit now, it is really brilliant with the show of geranium, cactus &c, the garden is beginning to look quite spring like too; the roses promise to be unusually fine, if there is no frost to check them . . . Mr. McMurran took us last evening to a favourite nook of his – the ground was perfectly carpeted with flowers, quite a variety – too, but nearly all of the same colour – blue –. Mary & I came home loaded with huge boquets [sic], which today make the vases look gay.[36]

Other flowers grown at Melrose, which may have been brought into the house, include violets, roses, redbud, yellow jessamine, hyacinths and scarlet lilies.[37] Family and friends frequently shared plants and seeds. Mrs. McMurran writes to her sister Fanny that she is "very much obliged to [her] for the beautiful plants of Oleander which Abe has just brought"[38] In return, Mrs. McMurran offers plants for Fanny to use around her newly built house.

I think Evans has some running plants in boxes for you, that you can place around the galleries for shade and coolness – you can also get some cypress vines from the shrubbery at Melrose. There should be some come up from seed around the camellias near the dining room front windows where they grew last year . . . . Send to Melrose whenever you wish fruit, vegetables, flowers or anything there you wish for.[39]

33 Mary L. McMurran to Louisa Quitman, 19 November 1850, LSU, Quitman papers, B-8, folder 1:3.
34 Mary L. McMurran to Alice Austen, 4 March 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
35 Mary L. McMurran to Alice Austen, 10 May 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
36 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 7 April 1857, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:30.
37 Mary L. McMurran to Alice Austen, 7 July 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC (violets and roses); Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 21 February 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC (red bud and yellow jessamine); Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 5 March 1857, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:29 (hyacinth); Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 8 April 1859, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC (scarlet lilies).
38 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 20 January 1854, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:21.
39 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 18 June 1854, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:21.

A variety of fruits and vegetables as well as flowers were available at Melrose, including cherries, apples, pears, peaches, strawberries, tomatoes, figs, nectarines, and melons.[40] All appeared on the table at Melrose in both fresh and canned form.

Other activities enjoyed by members of the McMurran family were also very common mid-19th-century pastimes. The sheer volume of correspondence uncovered during the course of this research indicates that writing was a daily pastime for most family members. In the days before multimedia entertainment, reading was also a mainstay for the evening hours. Mr. McMurran "prized his Books above all his possessions, and used to say, looking fondly at the loaded shelves, 'they are the last things I will part with.'"[41] Mrs. McMurran wrote to her son in 1867 after her husband's death that "it had been your dear Father's custom (since I have not been able to go to Church particularly) to read a sermon to me every Sabbath."[42] Mr. and Mrs. McMurran particularly enjoyed the novels of Sir Walter Scott, and named Melrose after Melrose Abbey, which figured prominently in Scott's *The Lay of the Last Minstrel*. In fact, the McMurrans made a pilgrimage to Melrose Abbey during their 1854 European tour.[43] John McMurran presented Mary with a copy of Scott's book during their visit, inscribed, "Purchased and presented/to M. L. McMurran,/in Melrose Abbey,/by her husband,/August 5, 1854." This book is now in the park's collection.[44]

Mr. McMurran presumably spent most of his days downtown in his law offices working on cases. However, correspondence suggests that at least some bookkeeping concerning the plantations was done in the library. John McMurran, Jr., writes to his wife Alice in 1858 "Just up darling from the library where Father & I have finished settling our last years account of the plantation . . . . I am glad the account is now settled and we are selling our cotton very well."

Evening was typically a time for reading, sewing, and reciting lessons. John McMurran, Jr., wrote a note to his mother "at her table sewing present" when he was 12 years old.

> *I now write you a few lines. We are all very busy doing some thing or other. I have now got my lessons and am writing you a note. I am going to write a note like this to aunt Fanny. I am well you are talking about Cousin Quitman's please answer this small note Good by your son J T McMurran.*

Perhaps suspecting that his mother would be too distracted to send him a prompt reply, John added this postscript: "PS answer this note this evening if you please."[45]

Sewing was an important task when there were small children in the house. Although undoubtedly some sewing at Melrose was of a decorative nature, much was utilitarian in scope. "I have finished the purple sac for [Fanny, Mrs. McMurran's niece], and she will find it very

40 Mary E. McMurran to Rosalie Quitman, 23 June 1856, LSU, Quitman papers, B-8, folder 1:4 (cherries, apples, pears, peaches); Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 5 March 1857, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:29 (strawberries—Peabody variety); Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, 20 July 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC (tomatoes, figs, nectarines, and melons).

41 Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 8 March 1867, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

42 Ibid.

43 M.E. McMurran to Charlotte Calhoun, Melrose, Scotland, 4 August 1854, LSU, J. T. McMurran papers, series S-120, #1403, folder 1.

44 NATC Catalog number 12089.

45 John T. McMurran, Jr., to M. L. McMurran, 14 January 1846. Addressed to "Mrs. L.M. McMurran [*sic*] at her table sewing present," McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

comfortable the next cool day."[46] After the birth of her son, Mrs. McMurran's daughter Mary busied herself keeping her growing boy clothed.

> *I have been wishing for the last week to write to you, in answer to your welcome letter received about ten days ago but have been so busy making up some fall clothes for Fazzie [*sic*] [her son] that I have not found time to do so. A very cold spell, the end of last month reminded me that he was not prepared for cool weather. As he did not walk until Spring all his fall things were long, and when this cool snap came so unexpectedly upon us he was obliged to wear his long wrapper to his infinite annoyance, so I was determined to be ready the next time.*[47]

Perhaps in an effort to keep up with the backlog of work, Mary acquired a sewing machine. "Mary has a sewing machine," her mother writes in 1857, "but has not yet learned to manage it well. It is rather warm exercise for such hot weather."[48]

Another popular evening activity and an important part of a young woman's education was music. Mrs. McMurran writes her sister:

> *I have only time to write you a few lines by Sandy, to say we are all well, and to ask you if you will lend Mary 'Bertini's' Exercises or Studies, which Mrs. Brown wishes for her and any of your Studies or pieces you have loose, and think will suit her. She is improving rapidly in her Music, and I have not pieces, or very few . . .*[49]

Social gatherings also prominently featured music. Louisa Quitman describes an evening with the McMurrans at Holly Hedges in 1847:

> *We had a very pleasant party, & the table groaned under the weight of all kinds of "good things" as the children say, when the cloth was removed, the wine produced, & the glasses filled, a toast is called for, Mr. McMurran, proposed, "to our absent friends." I added "in Mexico," several others were then given after which we adjourned to the parlour. Cousin Fanny then played upon the piano. I then prevailed upon Cousin Mary to give us several of those fine old airs that she plays with so much taste, among the number were the White Cockade, & the Banner Song.*[50]

Parties, Weddings, and Travel

Social gatherings were a larger scale and more formal extension of daily visits. The social calendar of Natchez revolved around the seasonal peregrinations of the planter class. Mrs. McMurran tried to explain this lifestyle to a somewhat baffled Alice, her future daughter-in-law.

46 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 18 September 1849, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 1:6.
47 Mary E. McMurran to Rosalie Quitman, September, 1858, LSU, Quitman papers, B-8, folder 1:4.
48 Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, 20 July 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
49 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 25 January 1849, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 1:4.
50 Louisa Quitman to John Quitman, 2 January 1847, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 48. Louisa added "in Mexico" because her father, General Quitman, was at that time away from home fighting in the Mexican War.

You ask about my Sister's "summer house." It is near us, only about five minutes walk from house to house. Her winter home is on the plantation on Lake St. John, Louisiana. The planters fear to keep their families in the low lands in the hot months, and, until the recurrence of yellow fever in '53, they resorted to the neighbourhood of Natchez for health and society at that season . . . . There are many planters, too, who never live on their plantations, but make their winter homes here, and go North in the summer. It is pleasant either way – but for myself I love home best at all times.[51]

Although Mrs. McMurran professed to love home best, the McMurran family summered in the North at least five times between 1851 and 1860. Earlier in the decade, their most common destinations were McConnelsburg [*sic*], Pennsylvania, to visit John McMurran's sisters; Philadelphia and New York for shopping and more visiting; Newport, Rhode Island for the bathing and sea air; and Niagara Falls for the scenery and walks.[52] The McMurrans even made a grand tour of Europe in 1854. Frequently, the stated reasons for these trips were to improve one's health and to escape diseases that thrive in hot, humid conditions; certainly escaping from the oppressive heat of a Mississippi summer, sightseeing, shopping in the most fashionable stores, and socializing with friends and relatives were strong motivations as well. Travel was also used as an antidote for depression; frequently, trips were commenced abruptly after the death of a very close loved one.[53] In any case, those planters who endured the loneliness of life on an isolated plantation would have welcomed the opportunity to associate with other members of their class during the summer, whether in Natchez or in the North.

Even the loneliness of plantation life was relieved by special celebrations, such as Christmas and weddings. Christmas in Natchez involved, naturally, visiting friends and relations, attending parties, and frequently, even in the early 1850s, the display of a Christmas tree. "We went to Melrose for Christmas, dined there, & spent the evening at Linden, where a Christmas Tree was displayed in fine Taste,"[54] wrote Eliza Turner in 1851. Mrs. McMurran wrote in 1847 that "Mary is busy making up little fancy articles for the Christmas Tree."[55] Even in the lean years following the Civil War, families made a real effort to celebrate Christmas in the old familiar way. Antonia Quitman Lovell describes her Christmas in 1866:

You ask about our Christmas – We had for these times quite a merry one, as Storrow insisted upon every ones dining with us. Lidie & I had to yield and we had quite a dinner – a table gleaming beneath my good fellows' provisions which he provided himself for the occasion – Then too we had a Christmas tree for the children – Storrow's merry heart was overflowing to every one – In fact he quite broke his treasury department on the occasion. Had it not been for him our hearts would have been sad indeed . . . . The little folks went wild over

51 Mary L. McMurran to Alice Austen, July 7, 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

52 Mary L. McMurran to Frances Conner, 2 July 1851, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 1:10; Eliza Turner to Sarah Fyler, 24 September 1852, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 73; Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 18 June 1854, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:21; Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr.'s diary, 14 July 1858, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC; Mary L. McMurran to Louisa Quitman, 9 June 1860, LSU, Quitman papers, B-8, folder 1:5.

53 Alice McMurran and her mother-in-law Mary L. McMurran left for Maryland a week after the death of Alice's daughter, Mary Louise, in 1858. Alice McMurran's diary, 14 July 1858, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.

54 Eliza Turner to Eliza Quitman, 1 January 1851, LSU, Quitman papers, B-8, folder 1:3

55 Mary L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman, 20 December 1847, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 54.

the Christmas Tree at which a venerable personage with cotton wig and slouched hat with ruddy mask presided bestowing gifts in the name of Santa Klaus – The Tree was brilliant with wax candles ingeniously fixed on by Storrow in fact for awhile it seemed quite gay . . . .[56]

Christmas was also an important holiday on the plantation, for as Alice McMurran describes, the slaves could expect "the giving out of presents, dresses to all the women and children, hats to all the men and boys and flour and sugar to all, killing of beef, dinner and so forth."[57]

Weddings were also important celebrations in the African American community. Mrs. McMurran describes one slave wedding held at Melrose in 1856:

I have been wishing to write you, dearest Alie, every day since the receipt of your last most welcome letter, but have had a busy week, each day bringing its not-to-be-put-off engagements. First we were preparing for the marriage of two of our young servants [Patrick & Mime]– two we have reared and trained in the family – the children of old and favourite servants. They were married last Thursday, in our presence, and behaved extremely well with perfect dignity and propriety. They then retired and passed the evening with some invited friends, and had a fine supper, as happy and merry a company as one would wish to see.[58]

The year 1856 was an important one for weddings in the McMurran family, since both McMurran children married that year. The Quitman daughters wrote colorful descriptions of the marriage of Mary Elizabeth and Farar Conner. The ceremony, which took place at Melrose on January 24, 1856, was a gala event. Louisa Quitman wrote that

Melrose was brilliant with lights & gay dresses, & never appeared to better advantage. Our host & hostess were quite sad particularly the former who was so much overcome by his feelings, that he retired for sometime on the plea of a violent headache so poor cousin Mary had to bear her burden quite alone. The Bride never looked prettier, & seemed quite happy under the glances of her Bridegroom. She bore her own honors, with much graceful sweetness & dignity.[59]

Rosalie Quitman contributed additional details:

[Before the ceremony we were] all in the Bride's room taking our farewells of her maidenhood, & earnestly hoping her a happy future. She looked smiling & happy all around looked bright . . . . We descended to the parlor, where I amused myself in seeing the different persons that arrived every minute. The folding doors were drawn back, & there stood the Bride,

56 Antonia Quitman Lovell to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., 10 February 1866, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
57 Alice McMurran, Alice McMurran's Diary, winter 1859, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC
58 Mary L. McMurran to Alice Austen, 4 August 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
59 Louisa Quitman to John Quitman, 14 February 1856, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 87.

*Groom, & the bride's maids & groom's men ranged according to their ranks on either side & the Bridal couple . . . . Mr. Reighly read the service which joined the birds of different feathers together. And then came the congratulations, after which followed the bridal cotillion . . . . When the friendly clock chimed out twelve, immediately each knight with his lady by his side marched in solemn order to the bridal supper where was spread a sumptuous & sweet repast, numerous toasts were drunk to the future health & happiness of the bridal couple . . . . The table was beautiful, at one end stood a temple of [Newgor?] while at the other was a temple of Neptune all made of candy, the base of this was of sugar made to represent sea-foam, in which were sailing six swans, behind each of these was a white column in whose tops rested the heads of six dolphins, from the nostrils & mouths of those fish, came jets of water made of spun candy . . . . This temple was surmounted by a fountain whose water came noiselessly dripping down. In the centre of the table was the pyramiday [*sic*] bride's cake . . . . An hour after supper the guests departed.*[60]

In an amusing postscript, Rosalie wrote to her father John Quitman that

Tonie [Rosalie's sister] was first bridesmaid, & stood up with Henry Conner, who praised her courage & fortitude, because she neither fainted nor screamed, it being the fashion for ladies nowadays to do either one or the other of these, whenever they are in company.[61]

Mary's brother John McMurran, Jr. was married in September of the same year at Filstone, his bride's home near Baltimore, Maryland. Mrs. McMurran was deeply disappointed at having to miss the ceremony.

I suppose John's affair will take place early in Oct[ober] and Mary wishes much to be present. I feel it a great privation to be kept at home at such a time, but Mr. [McMurran] thinks it impossible to leave his business, – his plantations and establishment here, – so I must be content in believing "it is all for the best."[62]

Mr. McMurran was deeply in debt in 1856 due to the purchase of a new plantation in 1855.[63] Perhaps he felt that leaving his business for a month or two would leave the family's finances in too precarious a position.

Alice McMurran Joins the Family and the Arrival of Grandchildren

Mrs. McMurran did not have to wait long to meet her son's new bride. Alice Austen McMurran came to Natchez in November 1856 and recorded her impressions in her journal and in this letter to her mother:

60 Diary of Rosalie Quitman, 1856, UNC, Quitman Papers, Box 20, subseries 3.1, folder 240, volume 15.
61 Rosalie Quitman to John Quitman, 24 February 1856, UNC, Quitman Papers, subseries 1.1, folder 87.
62 Mary L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman, 11 August 1856, UNC; Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 89.
63 John T. McMurran to John Quitman, 28 February 1856, UNC, Quitman Papers, subseries 1.1, folder 87.

*We drove up to what I could see was a splendid house and the next moment I was in Mrs. McMurran's arms welcomed as "daughter" . . . . We talked over our fire until late . . . . After cake and wine brought in by Marcellas the second waiter – we were brought up into our room – and a glorious one it is – I like it better than any – four tremendous windows – one opening on gallery – high ceilings – and very hansomely [*sic*] furnished, walnut Large high post bedstead[,] hansome [*sic*] curtains to it white embroidered – & pink ribbons in profusion – then a couch – or what we would call little french bedstead[,] little writ[ing] table – large handsome square table covered with hansome [*sic*] cloth – writing desk – bureau – easy chairs in abundance – & little reception chairs – toilette fixings – this dear Mamma with bright fire & bed already turned down you may imagine how inviting and home like it looked . . . . Next morning[,]Friday[,] my first waking up at Melrose – bright fire burning in the grate[,] little pitcher of warm water sitting on hearth.*[64]

Interestingly, Mrs. Marian Ferry remembers having pitchers of hot water brought to her room in the 1910s and 1920s, a custom that apparently survived into the 20th century.[65]

Having grown up a "plain farmer's daughter," Alice was overwhelmed by the size and grandeur of Melrose and the wealth of Natchez society. Alice's excited chatter tumbles off her pen in one of her first letters home after moving to Mississippi:

*Melrose is beautiful – very elegant one of the hansomest [*sic*] place [*sic*] I have ever seen North or South – and everything in such perfect order system papa in everything ['nine' – scratched out] ten servants in the house and you would never know of there [*sic*] being there excepting that they are always ready for orders – I never saw so perfectly arranged household. John says tis owing to his father – everything bears the stamp of wealth in doors and out – all their table arrangement – great deal of silver and very handsome – but withal father the most simple unpretending family I ever knew – gentle, refined, cultivated, and such a spirit of love & kindliness [*sic*] – . . . But we that think the south behind the times – certainly so far I have seen nothing to prove it beautiful residences well kept grounds fine – and certainly the elegant establishments that have driven up to door at Melrose – dressing – magnificent hundred dollar dresses – but I have looked in wonder and ashtonishment [*sic*] certainly in the forty calls I had before leaving I never saw so much beautiful taste & such richness – . . . There is a great wealth mostly planters – having residences around Natchez – O these grandees, I wonder if they would be so polite, so wondrous prompt in their attentions if they knew Mrs. McMurran was a plain farmer's daughter.*[66]

On January 20, 1857, Mrs. McMurran welcomed her first grandchild to Melrose, Benjamin Farar, nicknamed Fazee, born to her daughter Mary and husband Farar Conner. Mrs. McMurran's letters are filled with intimate details of Fazee's first months. Her great joy in her new role as grandmother and her love of children sparkle from the pages of her letters.

64 Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen; 13 November 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

65 Mrs. Marian Ferry, interview by author and Kathleen Jenkins, Melrose, 23–24 August 1994, Natchez NHP.

66 Alice McMurran to George Austen, November [1856], McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

*Today our Baby Farar is half a year old. I wish you could see him; he has grown and improved so much, knows and notices a great deal, and has so many pleasant little "ways." He can kiss most vigorously, pull hair to perfection, tries to call the dogs, and pat his little hands. He is very good too, frets very little even from the heat, which he seems to feel more than usual, for a baby. He wears, now, only a thin slip, and has a broad pallat [*sic*] on the hall floor, where he rolls about or sits up as he pleases. Mary bought him, in New Orleans, a beautiful little open carriage, in which he takes his airing over the garden & shrubbery walks, drawn by his nurse, or one of the children; he loves it very much, and holds out his arms to his little carriage whenever he sees it.*[67]

Not long after, John and Alice McMurran had a daughter named Mary Louise after her grandmother. Mary Louise was born in New York City, her parents having spent the summer of 1857 up north.[68] Once again, Mrs. McMurran was delighted. "Oh! Alie, how I long to see the little pet; how I shall love her, do love her now. Bring her to me, dear daughter, as soon as you can."[69] Mrs. McMurran was especially pleased at the birth of a healthy grandchild, since little Fazee had apparently been born with a club foot or some other birth defect: "Oh, Son," she wrote, "how thankful I am you have a health[y], perfectly formed child. I never appreciated this great blessing until now, when my heart is so sorrowful over Mary's sweet babe."[70]

In August 1857, Fazee's parents took him to New Orleans for surgery. Mrs. McMurran was heartsick.

The time draws near when the dear child is to be put in the hands of the surgeons, that they still may give what nature has denied him, the use of his feet. Little unconscious one, he is so happy and merry, in blessed ignorance of his present condition and future pain. He is a strong, healthy child, and this, the surgeons say, will much facilitate the recovery; still he must be tortured for days, perhaps weeks & months ere entirely healed. Whether his tender age will permit him to endure it we know not, even the operators cannot be certain until he is tested, though they say there is no danger from the operation, even though it does not restore the feet to perfect form and use. They have now two similar cases on treatment in New Orleans, in both which they have been, thus far, successful, though the Children have been delicate, so we have everything to encourage in the result; still the pain, the suffering must be endured by poor baby, and that is so distressing to know. Would I could take it all myself, if he could be spared! But it is God's will, and this should give us strength and patience to bear it . . . . One thing is certain, it is a very present trouble to me, and my only strength is obtained in prayer and trust in God's help and great mercy.[71]

Mrs. McMurran was despondent without her grandson. "I miss my sweet little Farar so much. I am completely spoiled, and feel so lost without a baby in the house. What sunshine they shed around them, – bright rays from a holier sphere . . . ." Even Grandpa was not exempt from Fazee's charms. "He is fond of children, and will be very happy in his little grandchil-

67 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, 20 July 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
68 Alice McMurran's Journal, 3 or 4 August 1857, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.
69 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 28 August 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
70 Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 23 August 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
71 Ibid.

dren. Little Farar is already a privileged character with him, and pulls his hair with great glee to them both. I do miss [Farar] so much, and cannot yet see his crib empty, his carriage and toys, without dew eyes."[72]

Between 1859 and 1868, Mrs. McMurran rejoiced in the births of five additional grandchildren. In addition to Fazee, Mary Elizabeth and Farar Conner became the parents of Mary Louise, also named after her grandmother (born in 1859 and nicknamed Loulie), and John (born 1861), named after his grandfather. John T. McMurran, Jr., and his wife Alice were blessed with four girls in all, Mary Louise (mentioned previously), Carrie (born 1859), Alie (born 1861), and Georgeanna (born 1868). The McMurrans' adult children and grandchildren stayed at Melrose frequently.

The Civil War

The final years of the 1850s were filled with momentous events for the nation at large, as well as for the McMurrans personally. Before the outbreak of the war, most planters in Natchez were antisecessionists. Notable exceptions were John Quitman (who died in 1858) and George Malin Davis.[73] John McMurran belonged to the "wealthy, influential Whig minority" that existed in Natchez in the 1850s,[74] as evidenced by his prized possession of portraits of Whig leaders Zachary Taylor and John C. Calhoun. Mary Louise McMurran summed up the feelings of her husband and son-in-law when she described an event staged by the rival Democratic party:

> *Last night the Democrats had a grand torch light rejoicing (that is as grand as they could have in Natchez, which always has been Whig) and from the close approach of the sound of drum & fife, and the cheering, they must have marched to Monmouth to give the general a blast for victory. Farar says it hurts him—it makes him mad—to hear and see a Democrat. Husband feels it too, but as usual, says but little. They say now it is doubtful if even Maryland has gone for Fillmore. I shall be sorry if it is so—Maryland stood alone true to the old faith, and I felt proud of your state, Alie, that it was so. There is scarce a doubt now Buchanan is to be our next President. Well, if they will but hold together our glorious Union we minorities must rest content.*[75]

Once it became clear that the two sides could not resolve their differences, war broke out, and most planters, including McMurran, threw in their lot with the Confederacy . Both John McMurran, Jr., and his brother-in-law Farar Conner fought in the Confederate army.

> *In May John left for Pensacola, the war spirit caught, but never approving of secession, in Captain Lovell's "Quitman Artilliery [*sic*]." In June Farar enlisted in famous "Natchez Troop" of Captain Martin. Lt. Conner and Richard and Henry Conner all in the same and left for Virginia.*[76]

72 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 28 August 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
73 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 37.
74 D. Clayton James, *Antebellum Natchez* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968), 278.
75 Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, 12 November 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
76 Mrs. John T. McMurran's diary, May 1861, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.

Alice McMurran writes of preparations for the war with an interesting combination of fear, calm, hope, pride, and disgust.

> *War is now upon us—God only knows when & how to end. That the South can ever be conquered I do not for one moment dream & this is the opinion of Mr. [McMurran][,] calm[,]far seeing, & a strong Unionist so long as [there] was hope. But all the distress & tumble—& the enmity from what I or my children will never see ended. Why could we not have gone in peace. And what a pitiable spectacle for the world to gaze & comment upon. A fearful account will the originators have to render in the last day[,] be they from North or South . . . . We are an united people—The best commanders & an army of . . . fine material . . . & I believe with right & justice on our side. How can we fail? . . . but in any event—the spirit of the Boston tea party is the feeling of all . . . . The Natchez Troop left yesterday week . . . all our young aristocrats proud[,]rich & lazy, unaccustomed to any hardships[,] in fact nothing but luxury—yet with a spirit to do & sacrifice anything rather than submit.*[77]

Alice's perspective on the war seemed different from that of her Mississippi friends and relations, perhaps because she was brought up in a border state. She did not share the enthusiasm that was widespread in the South at the beginning of the hostilities but had a more realistic understanding of the personal limitations of her husband and the hardships that were imposed on all the participants in the conflict.

> *When—when—all this is to end God alone knows—Here as in the the [*sic*] North preparations for the worst are going on. John has written Captain Lovell for place in his company of artillery—now at Ft. Pickens—& waits his reply to be off . . . . For John I fear the exposure to hard work his powers of endurance strong as he looks are very slight. This I think is the fear of both his Father & mother—but this is no time to hold back a willing arm even for a mother devoted as Mrs McMurran. Mrs Conner (Farar's mother) has three sons & three sons in law all going—one leaves a little new born baby—the other a wife to be confined & yet they urge them off—'tis a desperate spirit those republicans have raised—& must meet—when their almo should be the sufferers.* [78]

Yet, in a letter to her parents Alice implies some of the reasons these young men rushed off to war:

> *Farar looked splendid in his full dress the morning he left & so full of life & spirit as he rode off—poor Fellow how may he return. It was a sad good bye his wife in her condition not capable even of fretting much—not as much as she would the loss of some favorite article of hers—his little children laughing & playing round his horse only ma & I to feel his going. To him a "relief" from the bondage & affliction of his kind. Poor fellow.*[79]

77 Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mr. & Mrs. George Austen, 17 June 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

78 Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. George Austen, Melrose, May 7, 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

79 Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to Mr. & Mrs. George Austen, Melrose, June 17, 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

Alice concludes in her diary: "And so it was from every family, all rushing on as if for some holiday sport thinking the war would soon end. 'The Yankees would never fight.'"[80]

Less than two months later, Mary Louise McMurran had quite a different perspective:

> *You can imagine with what a thrill of joy and gratitude the late victory was received. And in such a beautiful spirit by our whole people. "Glory to God"! "Do good to your enemies"! These are the feelings of our people—not hatred or cursing. It seemed the impulse of all to bow down and thank God, giving Him the praise and glory. All seem to feel the issue is with Him, that we act and move as He directs & wills. I never knew or read of anything like it. Even those who have been utterly indifferent to holy things are inspired to the same devotion. No wrath, no malice, but an humble looking to God, and dependence on His power. We believe our cause is just and will succeed, yet expect to endure and bear much loss and privation.*[81]

One Melrose slave, Bill Taylor, accompanied John McMurran, Jr., during his six-month stint in the army. Mrs. McMurran reports in 1861 that

> *We learn John is doing his duty faithfully and is making a fine, hardy soldier. He endures the privations and hardships bravely, and having Bill Taylor to cook & wash, and messing with the officers of the Company, he fares better than the other privates.*[82]

John McMurran, Jr., was released from the Confederate Army August 6, 1862, on a certificate of disability for "Deafness of Long standing."[83] Since McMurran was attached to an artillery unit, his hearing may have been damaged by his proximity to the cannon.

Southern women contributed according to their abilities, as unquestioningly devoted to the cause as their men. Alice McMurran describes their efforts in her diary:

> *The ladies [*sic*] delicate dainty hands that never held coarser work than embroidery now sitting from early morning to night making check shirts, pants and all that a soldier's life called for. Knitting coarse woolen socks as fancy work. A common sight to see beautiful girls sitting behind liveried servants knitting whilst riding. Such untiring energy and devotion on the part of the women of the south, I could never have imagined[,] and then the bitterness that afterwards marred their heroism had not yet risen.*[84]

This bitterness resulted not just from the disappointment at military losses but more specifically from the personal losses and humiliation experienced directly by many Southerners. Many who lived in the suburban villas outside Natchez were forced from their homes. Alice McMurran related her experience in Natchez during her flight from Riverside on her way back to Maryland.

80 Mrs. John T. McMurran's diary, May 1861, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.

81 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. [Pattie] Gilbert [Alice McMurran's sister], Melrose, 6 August 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

82 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. [Pattie] Gilbert, 6 August 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

83 "Certificate of Disability in case of J. T. McMurran Jr. A Conscript of Wilkinson County, 2nd District, So. Miss. Approved T. R. Barrett Chf. Surg. 2d Sub. Dist. S. trip/HdQrs 2nd Sub. Dist Dist of Miss/Fayette Miss Aug 6th/62/Approved By Order Brig Genl Beall/[ill.]," McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

84 Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, May, 1861, Moseley papers.

That night we stayed at Grandma's Woodlands[85] *for in order to reach Melrose we had to pass out of the lines as the Picket was stationed at the Melrose gate and we had no "Pass." How strange, how like a dream, it all seemed. The Pickets, then the long rows of white tents and many soldiers and Woodlands, beautiful Woodlands, a cavalry tramping ground and Mrs. Ogden's beautiful grounds, an artillery camp, her elegant house as "Headquarters." The noisy din of the camp and roll of the drum at different hours. The dining room at Woodlands, that room in which so many bright happy family gatherings had been, occupied by a Yankee Captain and a guard patrolling the walks.*[86]

Personal tragedy struck the McMurran family in 1864 when Mr. McMurran was shot by a Negro picket while attempting to pass through the lines to get to Melrose. A contemporary newspaper account related the incident in an article titled "Shocking Affair":

Our citizens received a terrible shock yesterday morning on learning of the shooting of JOHN T. MCMURRAN, Esq., for many years an honored resident of this place. From what we can gather of the affair, we learn that Mr. McMurran approached the negro pickets while on his way home, Wednesday evening last, on horseback, and on being refused to pass, he turned, and was in the act of riding away, when one of the pickets fired at him—the ball striking him near the right temple and coming out near the eye.

From his infirm health, and the age he has arrived to, we learn that his attending physician regards it as a very dangerous, though not necessarily fatal wound.[87]

Amazingly, McMurran recovered from this wound, which probably resulted in the loss of his eye. In a letter to her son, Mrs. McMurran agonized over her husband's impending disability. "You know, John, what the loss of an eye would be to your sensitive Father, and so dependent as he is on reading for his greatest enjoyment."[88]

The Treatment of Illness in the Mid-19th Century

Mr. McMurran's injury was only the last in a series of personal tragedies and losses suffered by the McMurran family in the period immediately before and during the Civil War. In July 1858 John and Alice lost their 11-month-old daughter Mary Louise to whooping cough. Alice was heartbroken. "She suffered much, but until her little hands were chilled by death we did not realize our darling was passing away."[89] "They would not let me see her die, though she asked for 'my mamma' almost the last sound from her little lips, & since[,] it has been a constant silent struggle putting her away from my own thoughts."[90] Immediately afterward, Alice, John, and Mrs. McMurran left for a short visit to Maryland, therapy for hearts sick with the loss of a firstborn child.

To prevent such a terrible occurrence, many parents tried to shield their children from illness entirely. Just as the planters tried to avoid malaria and yellow fever by changing resi-

85 Woodlands was the home of Eliza Turner, Mary Louise McMurran's mother. It was located on the outskirts of Natchez, across the bayou from the front gates of Melrose.

86 Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, November 1864, Moseley papers, photocopy at park. Monmouth was also occupied by Union army forces, with the Quitman children in residence forced to live upstairs.

87 Undated newspaper clipping enclosed in a letter from Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 1 January 1865, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

88 Ibid.

89 Mrs. J. T. McMurran's diary, 14 July 1858, Moseley collection.

90 Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. George Austen, 10 Dec. 1858, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

dences seasonally, frequently parents would pack their children off to the countryside to avoid the worst childhood illnesses like whooping cough or scarlet fever. Mrs. McMurran was looking after Eliza Quitman's children in 1848 when a wave of illness swept through Natchez. Antonia wrote her mother

> *The scarlet fever is very bad in town[,] so much so that Cousin Mary is very fearful of it and we are going out to Franklin tomorrow. One of Dr. Davis's children is very ill of it. Good dear Cousin Mary is taking every precaution to keep us from it.*[91]

Unfortunately, children and adults did get sick, and female relatives had to call on all of their nursing skills, sometimes running back and forth between family members. Mrs. McMurran wrote to her son in 1856

> *Since the morning after you left I have been with the sick, but our patients are doing finely today – taking quinine. You left dear little Fanny with fever; that evening her Father took her home, and she was very ill until yesterday morning, when the fever left her for the first time; it returned yesterday noon but was subdued again before morning. Poor Sister was so distressed, not being able to leave her own bed [*she had just given birth*]. Mama was there until she got sick – happily it was only from fatigue & anxiety, and rest has restored her. I was there nursing until called home by Farar's increased illness, so it has been since you left.*[92]

Mid-19th-century children were subjected to a range of potentially serious illnesses that are not as threatening to us in our time of myriad vaccinations. Whooping cough, measles, mumps, scarlet fever, and many others were potentially fatal illnesses in the 19th century, but today, even when contracted, they are easily treated with antibiotics. People living in the South also frequently contracted yellow fever, malaria, and dengue fever, all spread by mosquitoes in tropical regions, not to mention dysentery severe enough to cause death in an era before the availability of treatment with intravenous fluids.

Mrs. McMurran was responsible for the black families at Melrose as well as the white one.

> *Last Saturday Mary had a return of her intermittent, which prevented our leaving home in the early part of the week . . . and this morning Rachel, my cook, is sick. I find she is near her confinement, which I was not aware of before, supposing it would be a month later, but I anticipate her present indisposition will result in that, and of course I must remain at home.*[93]

Mrs. McMurran was a strong advocate of homeopathy, "a system of medical practice that treats a disease especially by the administration of minute doses of a remedy that would in healthy persons produce symptoms of the disease treated."[94] Dr. Davis was the homeopathic physician who treated the McMurran family over the years, and Mrs. McMurran was very distressed when he made plans to move away.

91 Antonia Quitman to Eliza Quitman, 31 January 1848, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 55. Franklin Place was the plantation belonging to Mary Louisa McMurran's parents, Edward and Eliza Turner.

92 M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., 10 August 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

93 J .L. McMurran to F. E. Conner, 22 February 1850, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 2:25.

94 *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary* (Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam Company, 1977), 547.

Since the mild weather my health has improved, though still far from well. Dr. Davis has me under constant medical treatment, and I think his remedies are proving beneficial; but our good Doctor is going to leave us very soon, to go to live in California . . . . It is a source of deep regret to the many who have depended on his skill so long, and become accustomed to the Homeopathic treatment.[95]

Mary Elizabeth McMurran's Illness and Death

Mrs. McMurran's daughter Mary suffered from a variety of illnesses beginning in girlhood, including coughs and colds as well as more serious illnesses such as dengue fever and possibly malaria. Dengue fever

started with languor, chills, and pain in the joints. These symptoms were followed by a burning head and redness or rash of the skin, pains in the muscles of the limbs, with vomiting and nausea. A fever continued for 1–3 days and the disease usually terminated by copious perspiration. We now know that this disease is caused by a virus and transmitted by a mosquito . . . . The disease was self limited and rarely fatal.[96]

In the late 1850s, Mary's health began to decline. Alice McMurran wrote in May 1861 that Mary's

*disease is spinal cord affecting the brain & they now think hopeless as from the very first I think it was – Her condition is a mortification to all – Farar feels it deeply as he might – she stays in her room for most part, only will see company – & wants to go every where – & this is torture to her mother . . . . Poor creature – She does not anger one as she did & I should hate myself if I could have any other feeling than pity . . . . Her mind fails & is like a little childs [*sic*].*[97]

Mrs. McMurran added in August of the same year that "Mary's health is about the same, only she is more helpless, and rarely moves except from her bed to her couch in the hall."[98] Mary most likely suffered from pernicious anemia, an often fatal disease now treated with injections of vitamin B_{12}.[99]

The final vigil came at the end of March 1864. Mrs. McMurran captured the events of her daughter's passing:

All the winter she has been wasting & declining perceptibly – and about two weeks ago had a severe attack of spasms. This prostrated her more rapidly, appetite failed, and for a week we nourished her almost wholly on cream – a few spoonsful at a time. Then for a few days she seemed to notice more, her eyes retaining their soft lustre all the time. On Wednesday

95 Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 17 April 1868, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

96 F. Terry Hambrecht, M.D. to Carol A. Petravage, 13 May 1996. Dr. Hambrecht is a neurologist with expertise in Civil War-era medicine with whom the author consulted for a diagnosis of Mary's illness.

97 Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. George Austen, 7 May 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

98 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. [Pattie] Gilbert, 6 August 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

99 F. Terry Hambrecht, M.D., to Carol A. Petravage, 13 May 1996. Dr. Hambrecht states that "other possible but less likely diagnoses are a pan-encephalitis of the spinal cord and brain, neural syphilis, a breast tumor with metastases to the brain and spinal cord, and multiple sclerosis."

(March 30th) we observed a sinking; so perfectly quiet was she and her breathing so soft & faint we thought often it had ceased . . . . About nine o'clock her breathing became stronger, more laboured, and we knew our darling was dying. What a night that was! Not an eye was closed, but the dear, unconscious little ones. Poor dear Mama sat by the bedside the whole night watching. Mamey Helen, Rachel, Eliza, Emily – all . . . watched that night, the perfect stillness only broken by those hard drawn breaths – shall I ever forget the sound! Father & I calm as we are now though we knew our precious Mary was passing away! How wonderfully are we strengthened under these trials. How ever near and good to His feeble ones is our Heavenly Father! The dawn of day revealed to us the face of our child, oh, so changed! Not our Mary any more! Soon the struggle was over – and the last rites were to follow, all that was left us to do for one we loved better than life.[100]

Heartbroken, the McMurrans arranged for Mary's burial.

Eleven o'clock, April 1st, was named as the funeral hour – ere that[,] the precious clay was robed in white, in simple but full dress of swiss muslin – kind friends sent beautiful flowers – a crown of white Azaleas encircled her head, a bunch of snowdrops in her hand and then strewn with other pure white flowers – it was like decking a bride – but the bride of death! Though wasted to a skeleton almost, something of the old look came back, with such a sweet, calm smile, such as I had not seen for years on that dear face – how I loved to look at it, to kiss it, but oh, I had to leave it at last . . . .[101]

Only our few relatives, and a few friends who had known our dear one, were present and saw her laid away from the light of day. I could not go out, nor Mama, . . . so poor Father had to go without one of the nearest to support him . . . . And now it is all over, and the absorbing duty of the past four years is to me like a closed volume. [102]

Mrs. McMurran was shattered. "But oh, the aching void, the longing for one more embrace, and the agony of heart to know this can never be more on earth, only a parent can feel in its fullness."[103] Yet her next task was clear to her.

A new life is before me to train and care for these Motherless ones, in addition to the general duties of life – when I think of the task my heart fails me, but it will be a labour of love and I pray God to support, strengthen, and guide me to do right. Fazee & Loulie grieved for their Mother more than I thought they would, . . . but soon they will cease to weep and in time almost forget one whose care as a Mother they never knew, or cannot remember.[104]

Moreover, Mrs. McMurran knew her place in the cosmic order.

It is only when we realize it as God's will, and all events are in His hands, and think of our dear child as an angel in Heaven – happy, rejoicing forever, that we feel consoled, and sincerely say "we would not recall her if we could."[105]

100 M. L. McMurran to Mr. & Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 7 April 1864, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
101 Ibid.
102 Ibid.
103 Ibid.
104 Ibid.
105 Ibid.

Tragedy Haunts Melrose

Death did not stray far from Melrose over the next year. Less than two months later, Mrs. McMurran lost the second granddaughter that had been named after her. Alice McMurran described the death of her niece in her journal.

> *June 8th brought a letter from Father McMurran telling of dear little Loulie Conner[']s death. She died of malignant dysentery prevailing in Natchez. She was in high health when taken sick. Only one week's illness and on the 20th of May 1864 she breathed her last and was laid beside her mother who died in March. There too lays our little Mary Louise[,] both named for their Grandmother McMurran . . . . Loulie died at Woodlands where she was taken for medical advice as Melrose was beyond the lines and the Doctor could not pass without taking the oath which he would not consent to.*[106]

Exactly a year later, Mary's third child John died of the same disease. John's father Farar Conner, having been away fighting in the war for four years, "reached home just two days before his boy died, having walked four hundred miles."[107]

The African American Community at Melrose and Riverside

McMurran family members were not the only people who suffered and rejoiced over the years at Melrose. Enslaved African Americans mentioned in family correspondence and diaries included Laura, Rachel, Marcellus, Marice, Charlotte, Patrick, Mime, Wesley, Charles, William, Bob, Mamey (or Mammy) Helen, Adaline, Bill Taylor, Eliza, and Emily. Although these men and women also lived at the Melrose estate, we have no pictures of them, and none of their words survive in correspondence or diaries.[108]

One of the earliest mentions of Melrose in correspondence involves the death of the McMurran's Negro servant girl Laura. Eliza Quitman wrote in 1844 that "the McMurrans have lost their servant girl Laura. She died on Tuesday last – and was buried at Melrose. Did you know that McM[urran] had a graveyard already prepared and planted with Evergreens out there?"[109] Eliza's daughter Louise added that Laura had quite a large funeral. Since the McMurrans had not even begun building the main house in 1844, the existence of a graveyard for slaves at Melrose is interesting. It may indicate that slaves were living at Melrose for several years before the McMurrans moved in, perhaps building the main house and outbuildings. On the other hand, it may just indicate that as an intended permanent family home, McMurran chose to bury his slaves there. In either case, the McMurrans apparently had sufficient foresight and thoughtfulness concerning their slaves to provide them with a landscaped burial site. Although providing a burial site may seem like a rather gruesome way to show one's affection, at a time when both whites and blacks succumbed regularly to yellow fever and a variety of other plagues, providing a final resting place for the slaves' loved ones shows a tangible respect for their dignity and religious feelings.

Providing a gravesite is also an example of the responsibility white slave owners felt towards their slaves. Alice McMurran speaks of this feeling during her descriptions of her first arrival at Riverside, her husband's plantation in Wilkinson County on the east bank of the Mississippi River, at the border of Mississippi and Louisiana.

106 Mrs. J. T. McMurran's diary, 20 May 1864, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.
107 Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, 5 June 1865, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.
108 See "List of Slaves, Servants, Later Freedmen," unpublished manuscript compiled by Kathleen Jenkins, October 1997, Natchez NHP.
109 Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, 12 May 1844, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 36.

[I am] now far far away from you all[,] mistress of Plantation[,] a hundred & fifty souls in some measure responsible for – & dependant upon – for although little more [than] twenty four hours here – I see & feel how many many items a mistress[,] and she alone[,] must govern & provide.[110]

Alice goes on to describe her arrival.

We left [Natchez] Saturday Afternoon five o'clock in the Princess . . . [and] landed in the early morning . . . . The boat stops just in front of the cabins[–]nice little white washed house[s] – in a long line about twenty feet apart – and large noble trees in front[,] the effect is very pretty, all having "galleries."[111]

The next day "party after party came up 'to the house to see their mistress' each in their best, many bringing their offerings of Pecauns as they call them – Bella the cook was mistress of ceremonies."[112] However, the responsibility and affection a white family had for their slaves usually did not prevent the family from selling them if that became financially expedient, or when work was light at Riverside, from leasing 10 slaves and moving them wholesale to live and work on another plantation for a year.[113]

Slave labor allowed white Southern society to function smoothly and efficiently. Alice McMurran noted this when she wrote her first impressions of Melrose.

Melrose is beautiful – very elegant [–] one of the handsomest places I have ever seen North or South – and everything in such perfect order[,] system[,] papa[,] in everything[,] ten servants in the house and you would never know of [their] being there excepting that they are always ready for orders – I never saw so perfectly arranged household.[114]

As difficult as it may be to comprehend, many slaves, particularly house slaves, seemed to develop a genuine affection for their master and his family. When Mrs. McMurran was taking care of some of the Quitman children in 1847, she wrote to Eliza that "Old Dicey [a Quitman slave] has been in twice to see the Children, and though she complains of her rheumatism she seemed pretty smart. She says she misses you all 'dreadfully' and 'wants to see her child mighty bad.'"[115] The striking difference between the attitude of black field hands and house servants became very apparent during the Civil War. Alice McMurran notes in 1863 that her washwoman and eight field hands ran off, as well as the entire force of a neighbor. However, she writes that

110 Alice Austen McMurran to George Austen, [no date] November [1856], McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
111 Ibid.
112 Ibid.
113 John T. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 9 March 1858, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
114 Alice Austen McMurran to George Austen, [no date] November [1856], McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
115 M. L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman, 20 December 1847, UNC, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 54.

Our house servants went on the same quiet faithful obedient ways, if anything trying harder to please. This continued up to the time of my leaving though all around was change, excitement and confusion. I wish it was in my power to give them some return for their good conduct and attachment. Some wanted to come with me, but I had not money enough to bring them.[116]

Even after Emancipation and the end of the war, many servants stayed with their former masters. Mrs. McMurran writes to her son in 1868 that

Mammy has been sick recently but is better, she always sends her best love to "Mas John," as do all the other old servants. William is going to Kentucky next month to take Eliza's Mother home to her other Children there. He will return to me again immediately, and says he will never leave my service. He & Eliza have been truly devoted to me in all my long illness; and ever, speak of you with the greatest affection. It is very pleasant to have these kind, humble friends.[117]

Mrs. McMurran's words in this letter are typical of her attitude towards her "servants." In numerous letters home over the years, Mrs. McMurran inquires after the health and well-being of her house servants and sends her love and affection.

My love to our Cousins, when you see any of them, also to the family at Linden, D'Evereux – Rebecca & Margaret & families.

To my good Helen, Julia &c &c ever my kind wishes – and also the same from William & Eliza to them, and their Mother.[118]

Indeed, unless the reader knew from another context that Helen and Julia were former slaves, there is no way to distinguish Mrs. McMurran's inquiries about her white family from those concerning her black family. In return, some of the McMurrans' slaves seemed truly devoted to the family, nursing them through sickness, mourning their deaths, and even choosing to stay with the family after emancipation. There is no way to know whether the feelings of these servants were typical of house slaves or a result of unusual respect and affection on the part of the McMurrans for their black dependents. No concrete data exist on how the McMurrans treated their slaves. However, Mrs. McMurran's letters seem to reflect genuine affection for the slaves under her care. Certainly, other white families did not show the same respect and concern for their slaves that the McMurrans apparently did.[119]

116 Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, February–June 1863, Moseley papers, photocopy at park.

117 M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., 17 April 1868, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

118 Mary L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, 15 August 1867, LSU, L. P. Conner papers, series 1, folder 3:50.

119 Antonia Quitman Lovell wrote to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., on 10 February 1866 [McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC]:

> But our great trouble is for servants. It is too far in the country for the delicate constitutions of the American Ladies of African descent, to walk into church and too retired from the gaieties of town – so have been most of the time minus both cook and dining room servant, as Billy our main-stay has been sick – Imagine me dearest Alie cooking dinner, cleaning rooms &c all of which pastimes I have enjoyed since being at Elmscourt – very conducive to health no doubt, but it mars the flesh of my bones sadly . . .

After the War

The emancipation of the slaves and the Civil War ended for all time the old Southern way of life. Mr. McMurran writes to his son in 1866 that

> *If there were to be another general overflow [of the Mississippi], or the army worm appear in time to destroy the crop, I think it would end the ruin of the old resident planters, who are not ruined already. And if cotton continues going down in price for the next four months, as it has for the last four, the heavy, very heavy expenses of planting now will swallow up about what will be made on most places, where full rent is paid for the land.*[120]

For many southerners the combination of crop failure and bitterness convinced them to emigrate either to the north, or in more extreme cases, to Europe and elsewhere. Antonia Quitman Lovell was particularly venomous in her bitter hatred of the Yankee soldiers.

> *Much as I hated the [Yankee soldiers] before, I feel a ten fold bitterness to them now. I cannot grow familiar with the sight of them, the glimpse of that uniform fills one with loathing & horror, and I feel as I ever shall do that they are our bitter foes forever – With me there is no forgetting the past, indeed the present keeps it continually in remembrance – This galling yoke is more than we can bear, and now the brightest hope we have is to get away from this downtrodden country.*[121]

In another letter, Antonia laments that "Our hearts are broken with the ruin of our beloved Country[,] alas we have now no Country – and . . . my great longing now is to go far away where I can never see again the face of one of our oppressors.[122]

Discouraged by crop failures and heartsore at the loss of their daughter and three grandchildren, the McMurrans decided to join the exodus of planters. On December 8, 1865, Mr. McMurran sold Melrose to Elizabeth Davis, wife of George Malin Davis, moving with Mrs. McMurran to Woodlands for the rest of the winter with the intention of moving permanently to the North in the spring.[123] Antonia Quitman Lovell writes in February of 1866, "Yes it was a great shock to us when Melrose was sold – The place Cousin Mary had for years centered all her hopes and taste upon – I know of no sadder lesson of the fallibility of human plans and hopes than is taught in the history of that place and its inmates – In former years it was the ideal of peace & happiness in a home."[124]

According to Davis family oral tradition, George Malin Davis loaned McMurran a large sum of money during the Civil War, and Melrose was used to secure the loan. According to this oral tradition, McMurran could not pay Davis what he owed him after the war, and Davis was forced to foreclose on Melrose.[125] Although no mortgages on the property have ever been

120 John T. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 30 April 1866, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
121 Antonia Quitman Lovell to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 10 February 1866, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
122 Antonia Quitman Lovell to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 1 October 1865, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
123 Emma Hewitt to Mrs. E. Turner, 27 April 1866, LSU, Edward Turner Papers, series S-120, #1403, folder 12; Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., diary, 9 September 1865, Moseley papers, photocopy at NATC.
124 Antonia Quitman Lovell to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 10 February 1866, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
125 Mrs. Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993. NATC.

located, Davis did loan McMurran $12,000 before the war. John T. McMurran wrote to John Quitman describing his financial situation in 1857.

> *I have received a note from G. Malin Davis, stating that he would have the controul [*sic*] of a portion of the fund, coming from Newman as Conner &c in Surget v. Dunbar et al. and that he would be glad to renew or continue loans to you and me on same terms for such [ill.] amounts as we had from Newman – though at the high interest of 10 per ct. I find it necessary with my engagements at this time to accept of his terms, as he asks none of the principal for three years, and then in instalments [*sic*], so that I can readily meet them. You will perceive that I propose going in for $12,000 – interest annually, and principal in 3, 4, & 5 years – and must ask of you the favor to sign (as security) the enclosed notes, and return them to me. It is the only paper of mine you will be on.* ***If you are as bad off as I am****, and wish to go in, Mr. Davis will readily accomodate [*sic*] you for your $6,000, paid Newman, or more, for the same time and on same terms with mine – and you know I will with pleasure add my name to your notes, and leave the funds deposited as you may direct. If you go into it my notes will give you the form. [*Bold italics are the author's.*]*[126]

Depending on how the interest was compounded, if McMurran was unable to pay any of the principal or interest in the intervening years, by January 1866 he would have owed Davis in excess of $28,000. No documentation exists to indicate whether McMurran was able to pay Davis back in part or in full, but the $38,000 purchase price listed in the deed of sale for Melrose may have included money to offset McMurran's debt to Davis.[127]

Although the McMurrans did indeed travel north in the spring, they apparently returned to Natchez sometime in the fall. The final blow to Mrs. McMurran's happiness occurred on December 30, 1866, when Mr. McMurran died as a result of injuries sustained during a steamboat accident. Mrs. McMurran's sister Fanny described the sad event in a letter to Alice McMurran.

> *[Brother] died in New Orleans on the 30th of December of injuries received in jumping from the burning steamer 'Fashion'. He left Natchez on the night of the 26th for New Orleans, and the next day about half past three in the afternoon the cotton on board was discovered on fire, and soon the boat was enveloped in flames. She was run into shore and the staging thrown out. Brother was in the front of the boat and jumped from eight tier of cotton bales, no doubt expecting to reach the shore – but he struck the staging, breaking his right thigh and injuring his hip & back. He fell into the water where he remained perfectly helpless until some one draged [*sic*] him out . . . . He was placed in a blanket and taken on the steamer Magenta [to] New Orleans . . . . He seemed to be doing pretty well until Sunday morning [when] the Doctor found he was sinking . . . . After [*partaking of the Sacrament*] he remained perfectly calm and resigned, saying that he was ready to die. The only thing which troubled him was his great desire once more to see his dear wife. This however, God was pleased to deny him. Sister reached there several hours after he died.*[128]

126 John T. McMurran to John Quitman, 31 January 1857, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Quitman papers, Z66, Box 5, folder B.

127 Deed Book NN:617–18, in *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 41.

128 Fanny E. Conner to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., 6 January 1867, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

Mrs. McMurran was completely crushed, her health shattered. Having lost a daughter, three grandchildren, and now her beloved husband, she did what many in her situation have done in the past: she turned to God for comfort. She wrote to her son 10 weeks after the death of her husband:

> *What dear, loving ones have gone before us, ready to welcome our coming, and how they watch and wait for us. O, let us do nothing to peril that meeting, but pray without ceasing for God's grace to pardon our sins and help us do right. And He will pardon and save and bless those who truly turn to Him & trust His promises. What would I be in this dark hour without God's goodness and support. I cling to Him as my only hope and strength, and how wonderfully He kept me up! I need it all, for your dear Father is never absent from my mind, and I miss him every way. Sometimes my strength fails and I would gladly lay me down in his cold bosom. But when I look up and cry from the depths of my [soul], the ready arm is extended to raise me up, and give me peace and help again to go on, . . . but oh, Son, it is so, so sad to be without him!*[129]

Mrs. McMurran never moved to the North; she and her grandson Fazee Conner remained with her widowed mother at Woodlands. Mrs. McMurran died in 1891 while still residing at Woodlands.

The Davises and Kellys at Melrose

The Davises may have moved directly into Melrose after they purchased it . Their primary residence was Choctaw, a house in town, which they had purchased from Stephen Odell in 1855.[130] The Union Army had occupied Choctaw since about 1863.[131] The Davises were definitely in residence at Melrose before February 1869, as indicated by correspondence between Mrs. McMurran and Mrs. Davis concerning the disposition of some of the portraits at Melrose.[132] Indeed, the Davises moved back into Natchez by May of 1869.[133] Melrose may have remained empty until 1873, when the Davises' daughter Julia married Stephen Kelly in New York City. The Kellys probably divided their time between New York and Natchez. When in Natchez, they may have lived at Melrose or at Choctaw, considered to be the main family home.[134] According to family tradition, Melrose was a wedding present to Julia Davis Kelly from her parents.[135] Julia and Stephen Kelly's son George Malin Davis Kelly was born in New

129 M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., 8 March 1867, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
130 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.
131 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 43 cites Melanie Mayer Frank (new information indicates that the correct author is probably Clara L. Moses), "John Mayer and his Wife, Jeanette Reis," "Aunt Sister's Book (New York: n.p., 1929), 11. Photocopy at Historic Natchez Foundation. An inventory of Choctaw dated 1865 taken by Union troops indicates that the military still occupied the Davis' property at that time (*Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 45 cites "Inventory of home of George Malin Davis," National Archives, photocopy at Historic Natchez Foundation). Charles G. Dahlgren, a Natchez planter, was in Washington in 1865 petitioning on behalf of Davis for the return of his house. Herschel Gower, "Charles G. Dahlgren of Natchez: A Yankee as Planter, General, and Dynast," unpublished manuscript on deposit at the Historic Natchez Foundation, 140.
132 Mary L. McMurran to Elizabeth Davis, 5 February 1869, NLU, SC 81-11, item 241.
133 James Carson to Mary L. McMurran, 31 May 1869, NLU, SC 81-11, item 277.
134 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
135 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.

York in 1876 but was baptized in Natchez by Episcopal Bishop William Green later that year.[136] The playhouse that still stands at Melrose was built for little Georgie.

Elizabeth Davis died of cancer in 1877.[137] In 1883, Julia Davis Kelly contracted tuberculosis from a servant and died in Natchez. Later that year her father also died.[138] With no close family remaining in Natchez, Stephen Kelly moved back to New York City with his young son. Except for occasional visits, George Malin Davis Kelly spent little time at Melrose until he returned as an adult in 1901.[139]

During the nearly 20 years when its owners did not occupy Melrose, Jane Johnson and Alice Sims cared for the property and house. Usually referred to as Aunt Jane and Aunt Alice, Johnson and Sims were former slaves owned before the Civil War by George Malin Davis. Alice Sims and her husband Reuben lived with their five children above the former dairy. Reuben Simms and Washington Macklin are both recorded as tenant farmers on the Melrose property in the 1870s, holding leases from George Malin Davis. In addition to their rent (paid in bales of cotton), they were required to maintain all of the hedges on the property.[140] Although no written documentation places Jane Johnson at Melrose during the 19th century, oral family tradition states that she lived in the three-room slave cabin.[141] The many layers of wax discovered on the woodwork during the paint analysis attest to the dedication of these women in keeping the interior of the house in good condition during their long tenure as caretakers.[142]

On November 8, 1900, George Malin Davis Kelly married Ethel Moore, a New York City debutante with whom he had been acquainted since childhood. As part of their extended honeymoon, G. M. D. Kelly took his bride to see "a little property" he owned in Natchez. Riding in a surrey up to a Melrose bathed in moonlight, the new Mrs. Kelly fell in love with the house. The young couple decided to restore the house and occupy it as their primary residence.[143]

The Kellys remained in Natchez for a few months seeing to the repair of the roof and getting the other renovations underway. They then left on an extended hunting trip out west, leaving orders for the rest of the repair work. Over the next few years, the Kellys lived in their apartment in New York City when they were not traveling. By 1904, the house at Melrose was livable, and the Kellys probably split their time between New York and Natchez. However, after their daughter Marian was born in 1909, the Kellys moved to Melrose permanently.[144] Giving up their apartment in New York, the Kellys chose to live most of the year in Natchez, summering in Maine and spending the Christmas holidays in New York City with relatives.[145]

Marian Kelly Ferry described a typical day's routine. Aunt Jane arose early and was making biscuits by 6:00 a.m. Breakfast was eaten around 8:00 a.m., after which Mr. Kelly drove

136 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976, Melrose Site File, Historic Natchez Foundation. In a telephone interview with Carol Petravage in 1993, Mrs. Ferry said that G.M.D. Kelly was born February 26, 1877.
137 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 46.
138 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.
139 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
140 Mark Groen, "Behind the Big House: A Survey of the Servants and Tenant Farmers of Melrose Plantation, Natchez, Mississippi, 1843–1890." Unpublished manuscript, 1998, Natchez NHP, 14–15.
141 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Mary W. Miller, 8 June 1990. NATC.
142 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. II, Paint and Concrete Analysis, 7.
143 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.
144 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
145 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.

Marian to public school in Natchez, which started about 8:45 or 9:00 a.m. Marian ate a brown bag lunch at school. After school let out at 2:00 p.m., her father picked her up and brought her home, where dinner was served in the early afternoon. The servants all left for the day at 3:00 p.m., but would prepare a cold supper of salads, sandwiches, or cheeses for the family first and leave it in the green food safe in the back pantry. The family would then put together their own supper later in the day.

Mr. Kelly's days were spent in a small old building he owned on Main Street next to the Eola Hotel in Natchez. He rented out the upstairs to doctors or other professionals. Mr. Kelly had two rooms that he used as an office in one side of the building. Mr. Kelly met with representatives from plantations in this office and conducted his business affairs from there. He would also regularly have friends stop by for coffee, and Marian and her friends also occasionally stopped by and persuaded him to take them out for ice cream.

After picking Marian up from school, Mr. Kelly would eat dinner with his family, then take a nap, read, and walk around the grounds of Melrose to check on the daily activities. Mrs. Kelly was involved in the Garden Club, in the Pilgrimage, and in church work.

As soon as school let out for the summer, the Kellys all went to Grandfather Moore's house on an island in Maine and didn't return until just before school reopened. By the late 1920s, Mr. Kelly stopped going to Maine in the summer because he was bothered by motion sickness and didn't feel like making the long trip. Mrs. Kelly went to New York City for six weeks at Christmas. Mr. Kelly stayed in Natchez with Marian until her school vacation started, then the two of them would travel to New York for the duration of her break.

Marian had two nannies during her youth, both named Annie. After Marian outgrew the need for a nanny, the second Annie stayed on at Melrose and became a personal maid for Mrs. Kelly, doing sewing and upstairs work. In addition to Annie, a number of others worked on the Melrose estate. Jane Johnson continued on at Melrose as the cook. The kitchen was in the building located immediately to the northeast of Melrose. The servants ate at a big table in the main kitchen. The other room on the first floor of the kitchen building was called Aunt Alice's kitchen. It contained a wood stove and several chairs. Alice Sims stayed on at Melrose as the upstairs cleaner. The butler served meals, cleaned the downstairs rooms, helped the men outside, and carried firewood. Mrs. Kelly had originally engaged a maid to serve meals, since that was what she was accustomed to in New York City. However, after the maid, carrying a heavy tray of food from the outside kitchen, tripped and dropped the whole meal, Mrs. Kelly realized that she needed someone stronger for that job.

A young man named Jamie Dottery, who was raised on or near the Melrose estate, worked with the cows and the mules used for pulling carts and keeping the fields clean. Fred Page came to work at Melrose when he was a teenager, in 1950, worked there continuously for the Kellys and the Callons, and retired from his final position as a park guide for the National Park Service.

The head man, also known at various times as the overseer or the superintendent, lived in the Superintendent's house(the north slave cabin), which is located to the west of the slave quarters. Ed Barland was the headman during the 1920s. Together with Lewis Alexander, who later became headman himself, Barland installed the original electrical system in Melrose during that decade.

Before the installation of electricity at Melrose, the family used portable kerosene lamps for lighting. Candles were only used for parties.[146] The Kellys must have installed the candle boards used above the doorways in the front and rear hallways since they do not appear in a photograph of the back hall taken around 1901.[147] A large furnace was installed at Melrose, in the center of the house's basement, before 1933. There were large registers in the downstairs rooms but no registers upstairs. In the morning, Alice Sims at first, and then later Phoebe Carter, would come upstairs and light fires and open shutters in each occupied bedroom. The shutters were always closed at night.

Mr. Kelly occupied the north front bedroom (room 202) and Mrs. Kelly the west front bedroom (room 210). Marian's room was the east corner bedroom (room 208). The rooms occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Kelly and the small bedroom (room 207) all had iron stoves installed in the fireplaces during the winter. A large wood box on the back gallery held fuel for the stoves. The middle bedroom (room 209) was the guest bedroom.[148]

Two major redecorating campaigns seem to have occurred at Melrose. The first occurred after the renovations to the house were complete, in the first decade of the 20th century. The second occurred about 1936, when Mrs. Kelly inherited some money from her father and decided to use some of it to redecorate Melrose.[149] When the Kellys arrived at Melrose in 1901, the furnishings in the house were essentially as they had been when the inventory was taken in 1883 upon the death of George Malin Davis. The small furnishings were packed away in barrels and the silver was stored in a large chest behind the signed McMurran empire sofa, to the right of the back door in the large downstairs hall.[150]

In 1901 the walls of the green drawing room (room 110) were covered with gold and white wallpaper. Mrs. Kelly removed the wallpaper because it had suffered extensive water damage. Marian Kelly Ferry has donated a large piece of this original wallpaper to Natchez NHP.[151] Mrs. Kelly kept the original green and gold draperies in place. The drawing room furniture was recovered in the 1930s with a fabric similar in color and pattern to the draperies. Until the 1940s, the Kellys had an oriental area rug on the floor of the drawing room. But since it was too small for the room, green throw rugs were placed near the doors to cover up some of the bare floor. In the late 1940s, Mrs. Kelly decided to reproduce a small flowered rug that was located in the middle bedroom. The reproduction rug was made to cover the drawing room floor wall-to-wall. The Callons later removed the rug and donated it to the Natchez Garden Club for use in the parlors at Magnolia Hall.[152]

Mrs. Kelly chose to replace whatever furniture was in the parlor in 1901 with pink and gold brocatelle draperies and a matching parlor set from Choctaw. The parlor set can be seen in a post-Civil War photograph of the interior of Choctaw.[153] Mrs. Kelly had the pink and gold fabric reproduced in order to reupholster the chairs and replace the curtains for the parlor. The fabric was also reproduced during the 1930s. Shortly after moving into Melrose, Mrs. Kelly had a pink rug with a gold border made to match the fabric. The whereabouts of the rug and the original draperies are unknown; the reproduction draperies are currently in museum

146 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
147 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 50.
148 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
149 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
150 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.
151 NATC #12315.
152 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
153 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. 1, 58.

storage at Natchez NHP.[154] The parlor had no ceiling fixture when the Kellys moved into the house. Visiting relatives offered Mrs. Kelly the crystal chandelier that currently hangs in the parlor. The chandelier originally hung in the Daniel Fanshaw mansion in New York City. Mrs. Kelly accepted the offer, and the chandelier was shipped to Melrose and hung in the parlor until 2002.[155]

The bookcases in the library are original to the house. The chairs in the library may be original or they may have come from Choctaw, which also had a set of leather-covered library chairs. Mrs. Kelly reupholstered the chairs in dark blue leather. The library had no draperies when the Kellys moved into Melrose. Mrs. Kelly obtained the services of her grown daughter's decorator from Michigan to help with the redecoration of the library. The decorator obtained the leather for the chairs and also picked a floral brocade fabric with a tan background for draperies for the library. On the floor was a very old and worn oriental rug, in shades of blue, which had been purchased in New York City.[156]

The Kellys retained most of the original McMurran furniture in the dining room, including the chairs, sideboard, and pier table. The Kellys replaced the table in the dining room with a round table that took additional leaves. The whereabouts of the original table are unknown. Mrs. Kelly installed draperies in the dining room that had originally hung in Choctaw. Because the draperies were too small for the windows at Melrose, they were enlarged with dark blue velvet panels and valances.[157] The Kellys purchased a rug at W. & L. Sloan in the early 1920s for the dining room. The rug had an all-over pattern of flowers on a black background with a black border.

Two pantries were located on the first floor to supplement the outside kitchen. The front pantry, located in room 104, held cupboards and shelving that housed china, silver, and household goods. The back pantry had one large cypress cupboard, a pie safe that held nonperishable foodstuffs, and an icebox. Mrs. Kelly removed the cupboard in the alcove and installed a half bath.[158]

When the Kellys moved into Melrose, the original McMurran floorcloths were still in place in the front and back halls (rooms 101 and 211). An oriental rug, said to be the best in the house, covered the floorcloth in the front hall. The rug was rolled up every year at the time of Pilgrimage to protect it from heavy foot traffic. The floorcloths were shellacked or varnished every year since the 1930s, when the Pilgrimages began.[159] At least a half dozen furs lay on the floor in the back hall downstairs, hunting trophies such as mountain goat and different kinds of bears, all with heads still attached. Every summer these furs were packed away in trunks with mothballs. In the 1930s Mrs. Kelly bought a very large oriental rug for the back hall. The Callons moved the rug to the upstairs back hall when they turned that room into a family room. The staircase was covered with a flowery patterned runner held in place by stair rods.[160] The stair rods are silver plated, as is all door hardware in the primary rooms downstairs and are presumed to be original to the house because they resemble stair rods from other Natchez villas of the 1840s.[161]

154 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
155 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Mary W. Miller, 8 June 1990.
156 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
157 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by Ronald W. Miller, 4 May 1976.
158 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 9 November 1993.
159 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by author and Kathleen Jenkins, 23–24 August 1994.
160 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
161 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. II, 4.

When the Kellys lived at Melrose, the upstairs back hall was carpeted with at least a dozen small American Indian rugs scattered around the floor, which were also packed away during the summer. The bedrooms had more modest floor coverings, consisting of a variety of Olson rugs, which were made from reprocessed wool scraps. When the new parlor rug was purchased, the oriental rug from that room was moved upstairs to the middle bedroom (room 209). Marian Kelly's room (room 208) was wallpapered in the 1920s in colonial-style wallpaper with blue and white baskets.

In the 19th century, the room between Mr. Kelly's bedroom and the staircase (room 203) probably housed an original or early bathroom. Mrs. Ferry recalls her parents used it as a large linen closet and hanging closet for Mr. Kelly's clothes. After about 1939, when Mr. Kelly became increasingly ill, part of this closet was made into a modern bathroom.

Every summer while the family was in Maine, the servants took up the rugs and cleaned the house. The drawing room was closed up, and the exterior shutters were closed for the summer. Newspapers were saved all year to place, along with mothballs, between the large rugs, which were taken up from the rooms and laid one on top of the other in the drawing room.[162] The furniture was covered with linen slipcovers early on. When those covers wore out, they were replaced with covers made of a flowery cretonne fabric.[163]

Mrs. Kelly passed away in 1975 at the age of 97, surviving her husband, who died in 1947, by almost 30 years.[164] John and Betty Callon purchased Melrose on June 15, 1976.[165] When the property was sold to the Callons, the two parties agreed that the large furniture, such as beds, armoires, and sets of chairs and sofas, would remain in the house but Mrs. Ferry and her family would take whatever smaller furniture and objects they wanted, such as glassware, ceramics, pictures, etc.

The Callons at Melrose

The Callons started renovating the house in August, with the intention of updating the electrical and plumbing systems, adding central heating and cooling, and installing a music system. The structural changes made by the Callons are detailed in the Historic Structures Report.[166] The Callons did not make major alterations in room use, with the exception of converting the front pantry into a half bath. Mr. and Mrs. Callon used room 202 as their bedroom, and their daughters Anna and Carol used rooms 208 and 209, respectively. After the completion of the renovations, Melrose was opened to the public as a bed and breakfast. All of the upstairs bedrooms except room 202 functioned as guest rooms when not occupied by family members. Guests shared the bathroom located in room 207.

The Callons did make a number of changes to the decoration and furnishing of the rooms. Furniture was reupholstered and moved from one room to another and a number of pieces were added to the rooms. These changes are noted in Appendix G.

Decorator Linda Hootsell assisted the Callons in their efforts. Ms. Hootsell designed the curtains installed by the Callons, based on period window treatments seen in various museums she visited. The Callons chose the fabric and trims, Ms. Hootsell designed the curtains, and local women sewed them. The Callons replaced the window treatments throughout the house, except for the drawing room. The Callons started to have one set of the original green

162 Marian Kelly Ferry, telephone interview by author, 8 November 1993.
163 Marian Kelly Ferry, interview by author and Kathleen Jenkins, 23–24 August 1994.
164 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 58.
165 Betty Callon, interview with author and Kathleen Jenkins, 24 August 1994.
166 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 59–62.

and gold draperies backed and restored but never completed the work. Ms. Hootsell also arranged for the Callons to purchase a number of rugs for the house, some of which were woven in Spain. Most of these rugs were not exact reproductions, with the exception of the rug in the drawing room, which was based on a carpet remnant from Arlington, another suburban villa located near Melrose.[167]

Some of the furniture in the drawing room was partially reupholstered using reproduction fabric left over from the reupholstering done in the 1930s by Mrs. Kelly. The fabric for the curtains and upholstery in the parlor was chosen based on the McMurran inventory. The Callons also redid the hangings on many of the beds and hung new wallpaper in the front entry, upstairs in the bedrooms, and in bathrooms throughout the house.[168]

When the Callons moved into Melrose, the patterns on the floorcloths were barely discernible due to the many layers of yellowed varnish that had built up over the years. The Callons realized the importance of the floorcloths and decided to try to restore them. They hired Jim Cyphers of Port Gibson to strip off the old varnish and overpaint the worn areas. Two small areas of the floorcloth were replaced because they were beyond repair.

The Callons found a number of objects in the attic which they brought down, cleaned up, and put into use, including the portrait of two cherubs (NATC 1406), a pair of lithographs of children (NATC 1382 and 1384), a mirror (NATC 1471), two rockers, and the curtain rods in the West Front bedroom (room 210).

Mrs. Callon sent some items to Magnolia Hall for use there, including "the large-pattern floral rug created by Mrs. Kelly for the Melrose drawing room, a half-tester rosewood bed, the original blue and gold Choctaw drapes used by Mrs. Kelly in the Melrose dining room, and the reproduction pink and gold drapes (based on Choctaw originals) used by Mrs. Kelly in the Melrose parlor. Currently, Magnolia Hall has two sets of Betty Callon's gold drapes on loan: [those] from the Melrose dining room and [those from the] library."[169]

The National Park Service acquired Melrose in 1990. Since then, some of the furnishings have been moved from room to room or put into storage in order to address interpretive themes or protect sensitive items. To date, the largest furnishings projects have centered on the windows. The Park removed the modern draperies from the library and the dining room and installed venetian blinds throughout the house based on a letter from John McMurran to John Quitman.[170] They also removed the original draperies from the windows in the drawing room due to their extremely sensitive condition. Reproduction draperies and trim were fabricated and installed in November 1997.

167 This carpet remnant is now in the collection of the Historic Natchez Foundation.
168 Betty Callon, interview with Carol Petravage and Kathleen Jenkins, August 24, 1994.
169 Kathleen Jenkins, conversations with author, 13 January 2000 and June 2000.
170 John T. McMurran to John Quitman, 30 January 1850, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Quitman papers, Z66, box 3, folder 1.

Evidence of Room Use and Furnishings

*A note about this section: Misspellings and errors of punctuation, grammar, and capitalization have been reproduced from the original handwritten documents. Where it seems a word has been spelled according to an older spelling or a very common, easily deciphered spelling, "*sic*" (to denote misspelled words) has been omitted. "*Sic*" has been included only after words that are so completely misspelled or so close in spelling to another word that their real meaning is obscured.*

In 19th-century inventories, quotation marks (") are generally used in place of the word "ditto" and are used as shorthand to indicate the repetition of a word or words that appear on the line above. This effect is difficult to produce in a typed document, therefore some slight reformatting of the original inventories has been done to promote clarity. For example, the second entry in the inventory below would read, "6 Walnut chairs, green & gold cover."

Inventory of Melrose furnishings sold with the house, 1865. Typescript of original in possession of Mrs. Marian Kelly Ferry.

[page one]

Drawing room furniture original cash $

1 Walnut Tete a Tete sofa, green & gold cover 85.
6 " chairs " " " " 180.
[100?]
1 " large arm chair " " " " 45.
1 " Ladies low arm chair " " " " 35.
1 " revolving sofa " " " " 85.
1 " oval back chair in Moquette " " 35.
1 " high oval back chair in green & plush 15.[18?]
1 " Etigere [*sic*] 65.
1 Rosewood sofa table Brocadilla Marble top 95.
1 Bouquet table, Brocadilla Marble top 30.
Linen covers for sofas & chairs – 25.
1 mantel Mirror 240.
1 Pier " 220.
Curtains, cornices, &c, &c 545.13
1 pair candelabras, bronze 35.
1 " " , gilt 40.
1 carpet & rug velvet 199.85
1 centre china vase for Mantel 40.
1 large centre chandelier
1 Sofa table, black & white marble top 50.
2 fancy cane seat chairs 5.
1 steel fire set

Parlor furniture

1 Piano, stool & music stand
Curtains for parlor, being 2 windows
1 carpet and rug velvet
1 centre table, black & white marble top
1 sofa table " " " " "
3 Rosewood lounges, covered with Marron velvet
1 pair arm chairs " " " "
1 walnut rocking chair " " " "
6 chairs rosewood " " " "
1 Walnut ladies escritoire
1 small walnut boquet [*sic*] table
1 Stuffed arm chair " "
1 steel fire set
3 bronze mantel lamps, with glass pendants.

[page two]

Library furniture

2 Walnut book cases
1 " Sofa green Morocco
2 " large armchairs " "
2 " low chairs " "
1 old carpet & rug
1 Library table
~~3 Walnut book cases, in out room~~, XX
1 Steel fire set.

Front Hall

1 mahogany table, folding top
1 " hat rack
one oil cloth

Centre or back hall, 1st story or floor

2 large mahogany sofas, hair cloth seats.
2 " " arm chairs " " "
6 common size mahogany chairs " " "
1 walnut arm chair, green morocco
1 Mahogany table, folding top.
1 " pier table, black marble top
2 bamboo arm chairs
1 Walnut refreshment table
2 Solar lamps
1 gilt clock
1 pair vases, cornucopia shape
1 oil cloth

XX In lieu of these 3 cases, any two of the three paintings of Calhoun, Taylor & C. J. Marshall to be selected.

[page three]

Dining Room

1 Mahogany Sideboard
1 Set " Dining Tables.
1 doz. " Chairs, hair cloth seats.
1 " Sofa, " " "
1 " Pier Table, black marble top.
1 " Dumb Waiter.
1 steel fire set.
2 prs. Lamps
1 ingrain carpet & rug, –much worn.

=
Pantry
Tables, closets, safes & oil cloth of passage

Glass & China
1 very full Dinner Set = blue & gold china
1 doz. Coffee Cups & saucers, white & gold "
1 " Tea " " " " " " "
1 Tea pot - 1 Coffee pot " " " "
1 Slop bowl " " " "
=2 large bowls " " " "
4 Shells " " " "
5 Fruit Stands " " " "
3 Cake plates v " " " "
Lot of Dessert & Tea plates " " " "
=
3 large Bowls, cut glass
3 Sauce Dishes, " "
4 sweetmeat ", " "
4 covered ", " "
1 1/2 doz Goblets, " "
2 " Wines, " "
2 " Champagnes, " "
2 " Hocks, green " "
1 " Liquer [*sic*], " "
1 ½ " Lemonade, " "
Decanters, " "
2 prs Salt Cellars, " "
2 Celery Stands, " "
1 pr water Pitchers, -wedgewood-
1 set plated castors -worn-
1 set japanned waiters -worn-
1 set wine covers
1 pr. spittoons white china
Eleven finger bowls, apaque [*sic*] blue glass

[page four]

North Front Bed room

1 Walnut Bedstead,
Mattress, bolster & pr pillows
1 " Couch, " " " "
1 " Dressing Bureau, white marble top.
1 " Wash stand, white marble top
1 " Armoir. -
2 " Hair-cloth seat Chairs
1 " " " " Arm "
1 " Small Stand or table.
1 " close " , white marble top.
1 Mahogany Table, folding top.

1 " Hair-cloth seat rocking Chair.
1 Toilet Set — green & gold china
1 pr Silver plated candle sticks.
1 Steel fire set.
1 Ingrain carpet & rug.
=
West Front Bed room

1 Mahogany Bedstead, Spring Mattress, bolster & pillows
1 " Couch, Mattress, bolster & pillow
1 " Washstand, white marble top.
2 " Armoirs,
1 " Table, folding top.
1 " Light Stand
1 " Hair cloth rocking chair
1 " " " Ladies "
2 walnut small stands or tables
1 Toilet set, purple & white china
1 Steel fire set.
1 Ingrain carpet & rug/
=
Centre hall, second story

1 Mahogany Table, folding top.
1 " Sofa, hair cloth seat.
2 Walnut clothes presses.
== =
2 Mahogany dressing Bureaus?
1 " washstand, white marble top
1 doz cane or rush bottom chairs
1 stained pine clothes press.

[page five]

East corner room

1 Mahogany Bedstead, mattress, bolster & pillows
1 " Dressing Bureau
1 " Wash stand, black marbel [*sic*] top.
1 Toilet Set. 1
1 Towel rack.
1 walnut small stand or table.
1 velvet Carpet. worn.
=
1 large mahogany bed stead, not put up.
=
1 " Pier galss [*sic*]. ?

Natchez, Novr 3d 1865

J. T. McMurran

Received payment in full
of the above articles, set forth in
the foregoing list - December 9, 1865
J. T. McMurran

Inventory of Melrose taken 1883, at the time of the death of George Malin Davis

In re Estate of G. Malin Davis Dec'd.

Inventory

Property at Melrose, formerly of Mrs. G. M. Davis, whereof 1/2 belongs to the Estate herein.

Library	
1 carpet (brussels)	20.
1 Library table	8.
1 Sofa, 2 Arm chairs & 3 chairs	20.
2 Book cases, partly filled with old books	75.
3 Engravings	10.
Parlor	
2 marble top tables	40.
2 Large Lamps (lard oil),	
3 Lamps [lard oil]	5.
1 Music rack	
1 small table	2.
~~6 family portraits~~	
~~2 likenesses~~	
2 arm chairs, 6 chairs	15.
1 velvet carpet	30.
Forward	225.
[next page]	
Forward	225.00
~~Dining Room~~	
~~1 Dining table~~	
~~1 marble top table~~	
~~1/2~~	
Drawing Room	
1 Marble top table	20.
1 Marble table	
1 stand	10.
1 sofa, 1 vis a vis	15
1 arm chair & 10 chairs	30.
1 matting	5.
2 Candelabra	10.
Saloon	
2 marble top tables	30.
2 tables	30.
1 small table	10.
1 hat rack	1.
1 safe	10.
1 book case with school books	20.
1 Colored ~~painting~~ print	8.
2 lamps	1.00
1 oil cloth	50.
Hall	
1 oil cloth	15.
4 colored prints	10.
Dining Room	
1 Dining table, 1 drugget	15.
1 side board	10.
1 marble top table	15.
4 lamps	1.00
3 colored prints, 1 Engraving	10.
1 clock	
2 arm ~~leather covered chairs~~ &	
1 doz. hair chairs	20.
	526.00
[next page]	
Butlers Pantry	
1 dresser containing glass	50.
1 " " china	25.00
Store Room	
1 store room press	5.

Upper Saloon

2 tables	10.
1 sofa	5.
2 armoirs containing old curtains and odds & ends	10
4 cane bottom chairs	
2 Prints	

Bachelor's Room

1 table (broken), 1 carpet, 2 lard oil lamps	5.00

Childrens'[*sic*] Room

1 Bedstead & spring bed	20.00
1 wash stand & part of wash set	8.
1 Bureau	2.00
1 arm chair	2.
1 carpet	5.
1 armoir	7.
1 cane bottom chair, 1 looking glass	10.
1 small table	1.

Middle Room

1 Bedstead	15.
2 Prints & 2 Photographs	1.
1 carpet, 1 Rug	10.
1 wash stand & wash set (incomplete)	10.
1 Bureau	15.
1 small table	1.
4 cane bottom chairs	2.
	795.00

[next page]

Front Room (South)Forward	195.00
1 Rocking chair, 1 arm chair,	5.00
5 Engravings, 2 Prints, 1 Crayon	2.50

Hall Bedroom

1 small bed stead	2.00
1 table	5.

Front Room (North)

1 Bedstead & 3 Mattresses	20.
1 Armoir	10.
2 Tables	5.
2 chairs	2.
1 Bureau	2.
1 commode, 1 wash stand	15.
2 Pitchers	
1 Engraving, 2 Prints	5.

Dressing Room

1 small table, 1 cane bottom chair	1.

Bath Room

1 wardrobe and stair carpet on stairs	5.
Total	874.50
1/2 of Amt.	437.25

Excerpts from correspondence written by McMurran family and friends

Note that the entries from the McMurran-Austen Family Papers do not have folder or box numbers because the author researched these papers before they were donated to LSU.

Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mr. George Austen, Newport, [Rhode Island] Aug. 16, no date [must be after Jan. 1859 because Alie mentions her daughter Carrie] [no envelope][I think there may be parts of two letters here.]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA (hereafter, McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU)

*Father I am very foolish you will say (or wont [*sic*] you) but I long for Filstone & cannot get rid of a lost time sort of feeling. See to [*sic*] little of you six months in the year – I think it makes me not quite so grateful for the "Charms" of Newport as I should be. But I am having a very pleasant time & they say getting fat!! Much lost item is of course beyond even a vivid imagination to picture, after the bare bones of so long standing. Carrie brown you can imagine a perfect little ball & this with sunburn makes her not nearly so pretty I think. Newport is crowded now & they say never fuller – & it seems to me all Natchez is here, at least almost all of our friends & acquaintances. Mrs McMurran is not visiting at all but Mary & I do. Mollie has not been so well the last few days so I expect after this I shall have to go alone, which to the [illegible] I do most heartily dislike. Tonie & Captain Lovell have been here for more than a week – much to the increase of my pleasure for they are my favorites of all John's family relations, outside of the immediate ones. They have spent two days with us. We are talking now of getting up a party to Point Judith about 1 hours sail & there spending the day with some friends of Mrs McMurrans, who are passing the summer there. This has been quite a gay week for the fashionables – Commoder [*sic*] Stevens & Squadron here – parties in the water & off the water – "Clam bakes"& what not Father, to kill time & spend money . . . .*

I wish I could report Mary Conner better but I am not at all satisfied with her state. They are about consulting Dr Warner. It preys upon me Father & Mother & is depressing to the whole house. Farar is very devoted to her & I like him better this summer than I ever have done; there is more in him. Poor fellow tis a hard blow.

*Mr. McMurrans health is good. The heat of the south still continues intense – & no rain – Of course short crop – Not pleasant after an expensive summer but the gentlemen in a measure let it "be out of sight out of mind" out of talk at [*least?*] – we hear refreshingly little of "cotton bales" not being a planter you cant [*sic*] appreciate the rest . . . .*

[probably from another letter, but included with the previous pages]

*. . . or no change – but after I left Natchez – & up the river she was [*loose?*], so from that there has been an improvement – "Tis the brain Sister Anna that is threatened – & Mrs McMurran told me the other day that the Physician had given Farar & Mr McMurran but little hope – he advised the trying of Newport but I imagine more as a comfort to them. There is something heart sickening to see her growing so fat, such an appetite & yet so trembling, going up & down stairs like an old woman – & in mind more like a little child. Mrs McMurran bears this as every other trial not with her own strength – I would need no*

greater truth of the truth & power of Christianity. Mr McMurran will be bitterly disappointed I fear – he hoped so much from this change. If really the brain I suppose tis only a question of time. All this with other things is depressing & I have hard work often to throw off the Maggie feeling "Life is very difficult." . . .

*In Natchez the distress from drought has been great here months without rain – cistern dry & depending many families upon the river for water. This accompanied with the most intense heat they have known for years. Thermometers standing for days in the 90's that in the coolest part of the house at Melrose – No cessasion [*sic*] day or night. Mr McMurran was brought to say – "He or she are wise men & women who leave this when they can"– John left Friday expecting to meet his Father in Richmond to day – They may go to Virginia, or come directly on – I should not be surprised if the latter – Mr McMurran must be very anxious to see his family.*

M. L. McMurran to Elizabeth Frances Turner, no place or date [must be before 1848 because Fanny married L. P. Conner that year]. Box 1:16, Series S-120, Edward Turner and Family Papers, Mss. 1403, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA (hereafter, Turner Family Papers, LSU).

*Natchez is full of a variety of entertainments now. Last night there were three or four places of amusement open to the public. We attended one – the concert of the Misses Arnold. It was a novel kind of Music to us, and we were quite entertained. Tonight there is a concert of another kind of Music but we preferred staying at home and I giving Mr McMurran a few of his favourites on my Piano. I missed the "Empress Henrietta's Waltz"– have you taken it home. If so send it in to me by the first good opportunity, as I find I cannot play it without the notes, and you can. I received "[*Sweet After?*]" by Charles last evening . . . .*

Mary is well again and busy on her patchwork. She has cut out all her material and made her squares today, she tells me . . . .

Please speak to Clara and tell her I want some of her large Hens eggs for setting, and would like them sent in as soon as convenient. I will pay her for them. I am also in want of Hens for Melrose. Please ask Mama to try and get me a dozen or two of young Hens for setting from the Quarter Negroes, or any that have them to spare. I have been trying for some time to get them in Market here, but cannot.

[List of furniture and other items, probably written by M. L. McMurran, possibly detailing a group of items sent to her son John T. McMurran, Jr., either at Riverside or Filstone. Might date from the time of the sale of Melrose. Perhaps this was the furniture from the middle bedroom, which might explain why that room does not appear on the inventory. Or this could represent a list of furniture sent from Riverside to Filstone. No date.]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Sett of Cottage chamber furniture & 1 mattress
Child's bed or crib & two mattresses
Secretary & bookcase
Small narrow bookcase or closet
1 mahogany bureau
1 sett extension dining tables
1 spanish chair

1/2 doz bamboo seat walnut chairs
1 large walnut armoir
1 mahogany ladies work table
Lot of picture frames
some books
1 couch
Large black trunk, filled with various articles – some few pieces of table silver
==========

A lot of China & glass ware, all that was left there, except what was needed for use in the house, came up last winter, with Alie's chair. – No comforts, blankets, and only a few pieces of house linen, came.

[On the other side of this list is written:]

There are a number of old Letters &c in the Secretary. What shall I do with them?

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. E. B. Turner; undated. Folder 15, Series S-120, Turner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I lost one of my gauntlets coming home. Did I leave it in Sister's room, or have you seen anything of it – dark thick kid with black grayed leather top tied with black ribbon.

Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to her sister, Riverside, Dec. 8, no date [but must be at least 1859 because Carrie was born in Jan. 1859] [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Sometimes the burden presses heavily – The dark forbodings for the future. How all these troubles will end. In case of cesession [*sic*] – our home is the far South & Sister I cannot bring myself to feel either happy or contented in the prospect – my heart is so little in it all – Nature never meant me for a slave holder. I do not think it wrong, but for myself I would not be one . . . .*

To think Christmas is only two weeks off from tomorrow. We spend it quietly here. I fear the times are too gloomy to give the people their usual present of dresses & hats – & this I regret very much, 'tis their one time in the year & they have worked faithfully this season . . . .

*I longed for her able fingers to put the finishing touch to my scarf that I knit & sent to Mr McMurran last week – a [*illegible*] make out in the fringe but it was my first [best?]. Mr McMurran goes in early in Jan. so it comes opportunely. Ask Abby please to write one . . . .*

Not more than Carrie it makes me feel badly to hear her constant cry for the children –– "Where's Carrie's Auntie" "Where's Abby." She dwells constantly on Filstone & those there – her only playfellow is little Chris Charlottes child & how she views her you may judge from this "Get up Christie from Miss Carrie's chair."

Notes written in back of volume entitled "Private memoranda of J. A. Quitman." Sub-series 3.1, vol. 6, Quitman Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC (hereafter, Quitman Family Papers, UNC).

Written in 1829

[p. 36]
John T. McMurran in 1832.

> *Mr. M. will be married on the 17th of Feb'y 1830 to a young lady of a fine disposition, great intelligence & black eyes. He will be the father of a fine girl on the 3d of March 1831, who will be remarkable for a striking resemblance to its Mother, he will be a candidate for the chancellorship of the state, the present incumbent [*i.e., Quitman*] having been elected to the Senate of the U.S. a few months before. He will be about 5 feet 7 inches in height, rather thin & quite grey headed. Mrs. Mac. will be very fond of her husband & of pickled peppers. The baby will have brown hair, a short nose & be rather colicky. Mr. M. will be a little pompous upon legal matters, but very modest as regards every other subject. He will be rich for a young man & suffer a great deal from a bilious cholic, brought on by eating green fruit at Claypoole's wedding – His general health will be good, tho' he will never cease to be fond of green corn onions & cucumbers.*"

July 19, 1838. Subseries 1.1, Folder 15, Quitman Family Papers, UNC

> *We have been here a week and are all much better than when we arrived. It is becoming [*illegible*], but we are so fortunate as to have the most desireable [*sic*] location on the place. There have been great improvements since we were here before; many beautiful private residences have been put up, which add very much to the appearance of the place. There are few invalids here if we judge from appearances, but quite a display of fashion, though I am sorry to add not of beauty – I do not think I ever saw so many really homely persons as are congregated here. There is a fine band of music, and most of the young Ladies and Gentlemen meet in the ballroom every evening and have a dance. The weather here is cool, and sometimes too cool for the season; we have had fire almost every day since [illegible] before breakfast. Our only annoyance here is the flies, we keep up a constant battle from daylight until sundown.*
>
> *We have not decided yet when we shall leave this. Papa & Mama do not find the Sulphur waters to agree with them so they have no inducement to remain much longer, except on our account. And I am getting very anxious to continue our journey as far as McConnellsburg so I do not think we will remain a month here, as we thought of doing at first.*
>
> *Mr. & Mrs. Walker were here day before yesterday on their way home; he looks very badly. We have very few acquaintances here, only Robert Dunbar's family, Lewis Bingaman and Frank Surget from Natchez. I suppose you seldom go into town now, so do not know how my deserted house looks; though perhaps Mr. Quitman does. I sometimes picture to myself how everything looks, all solitary, dusty, and drooping . . . .*
>
> *We parted from Aunt at Guyandotte, and expect to meet again in Philadelphia the last of August . . . .*
>
> *We have been very fortunate in our servants, they have all given us much satisfaction and no trouble. My Children like their nurse very well; they have been very well throughout the journey, and Mary is fattening very much; they enjoy themselves very much, and seldom think of home.*

We derive much pleasure from our walks about here, rambling over the mountains, enjoying the views, and gathering wild flowers;

Elizabeth Turner to Margaret Biggs; Guilford, August 20, 1838. S-120, Turner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*From there we went to McConnelsburg [*sic*], found Rebecca very low indeed, slowly recovering from a severe spell of nervous fever. She seemed somewhat improved during the weeks that we spent with them. I hope the cool weather comeing [*sic*] on will improve her. The rest of Mr. McMurrans [*sic*] family were well, I was much pleased with all of them. Rebecca is very pleasantly & comfortably situated in the town, Mr. Hoke is quite an agreeable man. We spent our time with them during our stay in McConnelsburg [*sic*] except when we were visiting other members of the family. Mrs. McMurran lives three miles from town & Mrs. Jordan nine . . . .*

When we return to Philadelphia we will make our purchases for the winter

Sarah Turner to Eliza Quitman; Guilford, August 31, 1838. Subseries 1.1, Folder 15, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

My Dear Eliza,

My last letter to you was from Saratoga, we left soon after & came by [illegible] New York to this place where we have been for 2 weeks past, we were quite glad to exchange a place of so much bustle & excitement as [illegible] Springs for the quiet & solitude of Old Guilford. When we reached this who should we find here located here but George & Annie very much to our surprise & gratification, they had left Saratoga the day after they arrived in consequence of not being well accommodated at Congress Hall, & went directly on to Long Branch where they were equally unfortunate in gaining comfortable lodgings in the boarding house, had to walk about half a mile to their room. The throng of company being so great that every place that could be occupied for lodging was taken up – they remained but a short time & came on to this place & had been about ten days here, were just on the eve of departure when they heard we would shortly arrive. They remained with us nearly two weeks longer & went to N.York undetermined what course they would take from there, but I have just heard they started for the Falls of Niagara about three days ago, they were both much improved in health . . . .

*Your Aunt & Uncle are with us at this place, they arrived the day that George left about ten days since – they were quite worn down & exhausted with their journey, they spent three weeks at the Virginia Springs had travelled over all that mountainous country to McConnelsburgh [*sic*] in the hottest part of the summer & by the time they reached Phila – were almost worn out – they did not much like the Springs, the children got sick with cold, Fanny had the croup slightly & little Mary McMurran had chill & fever – when they arrived at McConnelsburgh [*sic*] they found Rebecca very ill of nervous fever & some doubt was entertained I believe of her recovery, they spent a week with their relatives & left Rebecca rather improving, after getting through another week of fatigue in Phila. by shopping & visiting they came up to New York where the two families separated. McMurrans went on to the Falls of Niagara to return again to N.York on their way home – your Uncle gets along rather badly with the monotony of Guilford his health is not very good, seems to be dyspeptic [*sic*] & debilitated & indeed almost done up, I think we shall not be able to keep him here more than a few days longer. If he could rest a while satisfied I think his health would soon*

begin to improve. The weather here is beginning to be quite cool so much so that we are obliged to add a blanket more to our beds – your Aunt's health is not altogether restored yet but I think she is improving, has no chill & fever – & is generally ready to pay her respects to the fine fish & oysters which present themselves before us every day & seems to be entirely satisfied to remain a while in this salubrious atmosphere – but I think it is probable we shall all be in Phila by the middle of Sept.

M. L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman; Philadelphia, Sept. 19, 1838. Subseries 1.1, Folder 15, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*We expect to leave here on the 26th inst for McConnellsburgh [*sic*], where we intend remaining a few days, and then go on to Louisville and wait for a rise in the Ohio to take us home. . . .*

I do not know whether you have been informed of poor Louisa's illness; she was taken ill on Saturday night, and after extreme suffering gave birth to a dead infant on Sunday night. Her life was in great danger for four hours. This is the third day and she is doing well, and we hope she will soon be herself again. Henry is very much afflicted at her illness and the loss of the child – he says he never had such a disappointment in his life. The baby was a girl . . . .

We have not been able to hear of a Teacher for you, but I believe Mama has some prospect of getting one, but does not know certainly yet . . . .

. . . bout a month since we left here and went over to New York, together with Papa & Mama – finding no one at home but Uncle Looe we only remained a few days and then separated; Papa & Mama going to Guilford, and Mr. McMurran & myself on an excursion to Niagara. We had a delightful, and very gratifying trip – and returned to New York after an absence of two weeks.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, May 10, 1840. Subseries 1.1, Folder 18, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*Your office too is go[*ne? edge missing*] Mary had all the books and papers removed to her ho[*use? edge missing *] She was more fortunate than her neighbours, having [*edge missing *] her chimneys . . . .*

*I cannot but feel thankful th[*at? edge missing*] and M-M. happened to be absent at the time, it is [*edge missing *] escape in my opinion.*

Louisa T. Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Dec. 16, 1840. Subseries 1.1, Folder 19, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

The evening that you left, we had a very pleasant party of little ladies, and gentlemen, Cousin Mary, and Miss Mary Jane Smith, played upon the piano and we danced . . . . the party broke up about eleven o-clock.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Nov. 14, 1841. Subseries 1.1, Folder 22, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.
[Talking about visiting people]

I do not like so much distance and ceremony however. Mary McM. is just as bad. I have paid her three visits and she complains that I do not come to see her.

John Quitman to Eliza Quitman; Jackson, Jan. 25, 1842. Subseries 1.1, Folder 23, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

McMurran will return in a few days and then you can should any thing occur request his advice & assistance.

John Quitman to Eliza Quitman; Jackson, Jan. 14, 1843. Subseries 1.1, Folder 30, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

I was sorry to hear this evening a report that one of McMurran's new buildings had been burned down. I hope it is not so – It is a little alarming that these fires take place in our neighborhood & makes me uneasy.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Jan. 18, 1843. Subseries 1.1, Folder 30, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Kent has not yet commenced work here, he is rebuilding McMurran's house he told me that McM. insisted upon his going to work immediately.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Nov. 20, 1843. Subseries 1.1, Folder 34, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Mr. McMurran's horses ran off with his Barouche yesterday morning and injured the carriage very much. Charles was on his way out to Melrose to take his mistress to church, when the horses took fright and ran away.

John Quitman to Eliza Quitman; Jackson, May 6, 1844. Subseries 1.1, Folder 36, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

McMurran arrived today & will probably leave here tomorrow . . . .

*This section of the country is in a [*illegible*] situation. There are more than 2000 suits on the docket, involving an immense amount of property. I begin to feel quite at home in my old profession. I shall have no desire to leave it until I am entirely relieved from difficulty.*

Louisa Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, May 10, 1844. Subseries 1.1, Folder 36, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

On Tuesday cousin Mary's negro girl Laura expired and was interred on Wednesday morning at Melrose she had quite a large funeral.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, May 12, 1844. Subseries 1.1, Folder 36, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

The McMurrans have lost their servant girl Laura. She died on Tuesday last – and was buried at Melrose. Did you know that McM. had a graveyard already prepared and planted with Evergreens out there?

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth ,May 5, 1845. Subseries 1.1, Folder 40, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Eliza says she intends to take family to Franklin – to get away from Monmouth after death of Mary in April.

Louisa Quitman and Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, June 11, 1845. Folder 20, Quitman Papers, Acc. #38-343, Special Collections Department, University of Virginia.

*It seems as if we were doomed never to have a well family again. I find it my melancholy duty to communicate to you nothing but bad news, after you left us little Eliza became worse in the afternoon. Mother sent for Dr. Cartwright, he left a prescription and promised to call again in the morning, he came and thought her better, but in the afternoon she became worse and we immediately sent for the doctor, when he arrived he found her extremely ill, he ordered her to be put in a warm bath, and gave her [*Seninac?*] tea every two hours, we had great difficulty in making her take it. After the bath she seemed much relieved, got up & walked about the room, the Doctor came again yesterday morning and said that she was much better than he had expected to find her, but in the afternoon she slept constantly, frequently starting up suddenly, after tea her mind appeared to be wandering. Mother became alarmed and sent again for the Doctor, he told us that her head was affected and that leeches must be applied. He gave her a dose of medicine which she threw up, with a slimy tough looking [*illegible*], he prescribed castor oil and spirits of wormwood to be taken twice, and also some powders, he was so uneasy about her that he remained here all night and is here still, she rested pretty well during the night, and this morning is so much better, that I am in hopes that she will soon be well again.*

This morning Sarah was taken with fever, accompanied with a sick stomach, and deranged bowels. She vomits the same kind of mucus that Antonia did when she was last attacked. The Doctor has been giving her emetics, & they are preparing a bath. He thinks that she is extremely ill. I have no doubt that the bath will greatly relieve her. Mother will add a few lines. In haste your ever affectionate daughter Louisa

My dearest John,

We have had some severe illness in our family since you left us – dear Little Lida has been extremely ill. She is now thank God much better and I hope will do well. Our dear Sarah too, has been seized with the same illness which took away our blessed Mary – she is now greatly relieved and the Doctor thinks is doing as well as she can – he calls it "milk sickness" he thinks the sickness may be attributed to the milk which they have eaten and says that they must not partake of any more.

My dearest husband I hope you will believe my assurance to you that our dear children are better and that I hope and believe they will recover through the goodness of God and the skill and attention of Dr. Cartwright – I shall ever feel the deepest gratitude to him for his kindness and attention

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Jan. 10, 1846. Subseries 1.1, Folder 43, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

. . . John McMurran came out last evening and passed the night and greater portion of the day with Henry.

John T. McMurran, Jr., to M. L. McMurran, January 14, 1846. Addressed to "Mrs. L. M. McMurran [*sic*] at her table sewing present." Scrap of paper accompanying letter reads "Given me by Ma McMurran at Melrose – Johns [*sic*] when a little boy." McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4796, LSU.

My ma at home.

I now write you a few lines. We are all very busy doing some thing or other. I have now got my lessons and am writing you a note. I am going to write a note like this to aunt Fanny. I am well you are talking about Cousin Quitman's please answer this small note Good by your son J T McMurran

PS answer this note this evening if you please.
yours
J T McMurran

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Oct. 29, 1846. Subseries 1.1, Folder 47, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

McMurran has just recovered from a very severe attack of inflammation of the brain.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Nov. 18, 1846. Subseries 1.1, Folder 47, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Mr. McMurran's health I am sorry to say does not improve – they say he looks miserably and seems drooping that he feels generally very badly. Mary, his wife, appears in very low spirits about him. I do hope he may be restored to his health for he seems to me now as my best and only friend, the only one I can look to for support and protection.

Louisa Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Jan. 2, 1847. Subseries 1.1, Folder 48, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Yesterday we all, including Mr. Waldo, dined at dear Cousin Mary's. Uncle Farrar, Cousin Fanny & William were all there . . . .

*We had a very pleasant party, & the table groaned under the weight of all kinds of "good things" as the children say, when the cloth was removed, the wine produced, & the glasses filled, a toast is called for, Mr. McMurran, proposed, "to our absent friends." I added "in Mexico," several others were then given after which we adjourned to the parlour. Cousin Fanny then played upon the piano. I then prevailed upon Cousin Mary to give us several of those fine old airs that she plays with so much taste, among the number were the White Cockade, & the Banner Song [*see Claiborne's Quitman biography, pp. 142–3 for lyrics*]* [171]. . . .

*We remained to tea, [*in town?*], & had a delightful moonlight ride out home.*

171 Claiborne, J.F.H. Life and Correspondence of John A. Quitman, Major-General, U.S.A., and Governor of the State of Mississippi. N.Y.: Harper & Brothers, 1860, pp. 142–3.

Louisa Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, February 1847. Subseries 1.1, Folder 48, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*I must tell you how I usually spend my time quite "a la philosophe" I assure you. In the first place, I give little "Canary" his breakfast, he is [*illegible*] a good deal, & sings charmingly, then I practise [*sic*] on the guitar, paint in oil colours every other day, read some history or occasionally a novel, sew & at two or three-o'clock we dine. I then read again or go & see some of my young friends or take a ride on horse back . . . .*

*After tea, if we have no visitors, which we do have sometimes, I sometimes play a little & sing for the amusement of the children, or sew or, as more frequently is the case, after we have pored over the newspapers, I generally produce a book, & read aloud until bedtime, which is ten or eleven o clock. Our reading is diversified, [*illegible – 'this evening was'?*] [*illegible – 'Message'?*] Park's travels, Life of Napoleon, Pollock's course of time, & some of Scott's & Miss Edgeworth's novels, interspersed, with [*illegible – 'Antonian's'?*] Life of our [*illegible*], Sanford & [*illegible – 'Martonia'?*], & Rosy's old Mother Goose's Melody. Sometimes Mr. Waldo will converse with us for hours . . . .*

On fine days Mother & I usually go out to see our acquaintance. I have come to the determination of confessing my aversion to visiting & intend with the New Year to turn over a new leaf, as the old saying is, & be more sociable.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, Monmouth, April 2, 1847. Subseries 1.1, Folder 50, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*I thought I had mentioned receiving those daguerotypes [*sic*] from New Orleans in some of my letters. They were presented me by Cousin Mary McMurran upon my arrival at home. I made my selection gave one to the McM's. according to your request, and the other I will forward to your sisters by the first opportunity . . . .*

Mr. McMurran is rapidly progressing in building his new house at Melrose; they expect to live in it in the course of next year. I should be much pleased were they residing there now. They have been exceedingly kind to us. Mr. McM. is now looking in fine health, and his spirits as a necessary consequence are excellent.

John A. Quitman to J. T. McMurran, Puebla, June[14?], 1847. B-8, Folder 1:2, Quitman Family Papers, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University Libraries, Baton Rouge, LA (hereafter, Quitman Family Papers, LSU).

My dear friend,

*By some good luck your late valuable letter escaped the Mexican guerrillas which infest the road between this and Vera Crus [*sic*]. I know not how to express my grateful feelings for your kindness and efficient attention to my affairs. I knew however that would do every thing in your power to protect my interests during my absence, all I fear is that you will so load me with friendly obligations, that I will never be able to repay them.*

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, Monmouth, Sept. 2, 1847, Subseries 1.1, Folder 53, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*McMurrans [*sic*] family are well, his house, is going up finely, the brick work is nearly done, we are all making great calculations about the happiness we shall have in being such near and good neighbours as we intend to be. Mary and children have been at Franklin for the past two months and will stay till October or probably later.*

M. L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman, Natchez, Dec. 20, 1847. Subseries 1.1, Folder 54, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

We were pleased to hear from you through Henry, from New Orleans, and also by letters from Mobile, that you had accomplished this much of your journey in safety and in health, and hope the remainder may be equally pleasant. Dear Little Rosa was delighted with her beautiful doll, and has named it Eliza. She misses you and the children, but we try to divert and amuse her as much as possible. Her cold proved to be a troublesome one, giving her fever and sore throat, but with the assistance of Dr. Davis, and I flatter myself, my good nursing, she is now well again, and looking forward to her Christmas at Franklin with much glee.

*Antonia is quite as well as when you left and, with Mary, is busy making up little fancy articles for the Christmas Tree. Mr. Waldo gave her four lessons last week, and I believe his holliday [*sic*] does not commence until Thursday next. The box was duly and safely received but it is so nicely packed I will not open the articles until the time for distribution arrives.*

Old Dicey has been in twice to see the Children, and though she complains of her rheumatism she seemed pretty smart. She says she misses you all "dreadfully," and "wants to see her child mighty bad." . . .

Mr. McMurran is absent at Riverside, but I expect him home today.

M. L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman, Natchez, January 25, 1848. Subseries 1.1, Folder 55, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.
[Contains description of Fanny's wedding.]

Mr. McMurran has gone to Jackson for three weeks.

Antonia Quitman to Eliza Quitman, January 31, 1848. Subseries 1.1, Folder 55, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

The scarlet fever is very bad in town so much so that Cousin Mary is very fearful of it and we are going out to Franklin tomorrow. One of Dr. Davis's children is very ill of it. Good dear Cousin Mary is taking every precaution to keep us from it. . .

Cousin Mary Cousin Fanny and her husband are gone out to Melrose. Mr. McMurran went up to Jackson a week or two since.

Eliza B. Turner to Sarah Fyler, Franklin, November 13, 1848. Subseries 1.1, Folder 58, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.
[Tells of the birth of Fanny Conner's first child.]

Mary McMurran, Mrs. Conner & Daughter are with us at present the former will remain until Thursday with us.

Mary L. McMurran to Lemuel P. Conner; Natchez, Nov. 18, 1848. Series 1, Folder 1:3, Lemuel P. Conner and Family Papers, Mss. 1403, Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collections, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA (hereafter Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU).

I wrote to Papa last evening informing him of Mary's illness. She is now we hope better, the fever seems abating, and she is in good spirits.

Mary L. McMurran to Lemuel P. Conner; Natchez, Nov. 21, 1848. Series 1, Folder 1:3, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*Mary is better today. She tried to sit up yesterday, but it made her feel sick and she has kept her bed since. These attacks of [*Dengue?*] are very debilitating you know. She is quite cheerful and amuses herself by reading. Happily she has had no headache, the pain being confined to her back & limbs.*

Invoice. Series S-120, folder 1, John T. McMurran Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*Invoice of plate [*received?*] from New York Dec. 4th, 1848*

*1 [*illegible*] castors*
2 dozen table spoons
1 doz dessert spoons
2 doz tea spoons
2 doz dinner forks
*2 doz [*break*]fast forks*
2 doz silver knives
2 doz steel dessert knives
[3?] pairs salt spoons
2 sugar ladles
1 pair of sugar tongs
1 soup ladle
1 mustard spoon
*Fish knife [*illegible*]*
1 pair chamber candlesticks

For Mrs. McMurran & other articles

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner; Melrose, Jan. 25, 1849. Series 1, Folder 1:4, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I have only time to write you a few lines by Sandy, to say we are all well, and to ask you if you will lend Mary "Bertini's" Exercises or Studies, which Mrs Brown wishes for her and any of your Studies or pieces you have loose, and think will suit her. She is improving rapidly in her Music, and I have not pieces, or very few . . . .

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner; Melrose, Jan. 27, 1849. Series 1, Folder 1:4, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

My dear Sister

It is such a pleasure to me to receive a note from you, and I thank you for the one just received by Sandy, and also for the Music. I hope Mary will benefit much by the use of it. She has two hours of instruction every day from Mrs Brown, and does it how very cheerfully, – at first she disliked it. She is much pleased to go to school at home, but regrets she has not some one of her own age to study with, and excite some emulation. I think Mrs Brown an excellent teacher in other branches as well as (we know) she is in Music. Every day I rejoice Mary is able to remain at home and pursue her studies to so much advantage. Her Father has limited her to certain studies, which he wishes her to thoroughly understand before she commences others. It may be a slower method, but we think a better one for a solid education . . . .

I have given her and Mary each, a piece of ground for flowers, and they are much interested in them, spending most of their play time there when it is not too wet . . . .

I cannot be in the house this lovely weather, but when I am not superintending am rambling about over the place. There is so much planting and laying off to do besides putting the grounds in order, that I am almost in despair sometimes, for we have but two hands, and the farm work must be attended to first. However when Mr McMurran returns he will put some additional force here, and then we will improve more rapidly.

John T. McMurran to [?], Natchez, March 2, 1849. Series 1, Folder 1:5, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

A portion of the window glass for my dwelling house was got by the painter, Mr Wadsworth of G. A. Mazza, no 109 Chartres St. N.O. – and a part of McClannen of the same city, the no of his store not recollected, but on Canal St.

But the cheapness of it was owing I think a good deal to the management of Mr Wadsworth, &c

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner; Melrose, Sept. 7, 1849. Series 1, Folder 1:6, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

It is time now to take up plants, and repot for the winter, and the gardener has most of mine repotted. It makes the borders look pretty bare at present, but the vacancies will soon be replaced by other flowers.

This change of weather is very delightful, and will make our usual afternoon rambles even more pleasant. How often I wish we were near each other, that we might enjoy them together, but I hope you and Brother will come and make us a good long visit this fall and that would be charming, and give so much pleasure to us both.

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner; Melrose, Sept 18, 1849. Series 1, Folder 1:6, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

We are enjoying our dear Willie's visit. He accompanied Mr. McM. John & myself to a little musical party at Routhland last Friday evening – which we found very agreeable. And we have in contemplation a call at Auburn this morning.

I enjoy my quiet days at Melrose so much that I give them up with reluctance to pay morning calls, but it is a duty for all our society, and the sacrifice must be made occasion-ally . . . .

I have finished the purple sac for her, and she will find it very comfortable the next cool day . . . .

My double white Cammelia is blooming – All my cammelias are full of buds and look in beautiful order but they will bloom too early. What a pity!

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, Monmouth, Oct. 9, 1849. Subseries 1.1, Folder 61, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*We are all well. Mr. McMurran is laid up with [*crisipelas?*], it has made him quite sick. I believe Little Mary has had a return of chills and fever. I have nothing I believe of any interest to say unless it may be that Mr. Conner has purchased the lot of ground adjoining Melrose for the purpose of building one of these days, so that we may chance to have him for a neighbour.*

John T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850. Z66, Box 3, Folder 1, Quitman (John A.) and Family Papers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS (hereafter Quitman Family Papers, MDAH).

Dear General

I reached home on Monday, and found my family well, though Mrs. McMurran is suffering at this time with a pain in the face from cold. Mary has quite recovered once more from her attack of chill and fever.

The manufacturer of my inside venetian window blinds at Melrose was B. J. Wilhams, No 12, North Sixth Street, Philadelphia. The 12 blinds for parlor and other rooms below cost in Phila. $126. and the 15 for the bedrooms cost $112 50/100. The difference in the price must be chiefly in the trimmings, I imagine – the trimmings for the parlor and dining room blinds being of silk, and those for the bedrooms of worsted. The color of the blinds is, I believe, called French green.

*I concluded not to send your keg of whiskey, [*illegible*], &c until I should learn that the [*illegible*] train was repaired, and the [*London?*] train running again, for until that time, the articles could only remain in storage at Vicksburg.*

John Quitman to John T. McMurran, Jackson, Feb. 4, 1850. Subseries 1.1, Folder 62, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

*You will greatly oblige me by looking in at Monmouth occasionally. I have told James to report to you confidentially if any thing should go wrong. Have you several hundred small [*laureamundas?*] to spare? If so or if you know where they can be had, please direct McNamara to put them up carefully with moss in bundles, lable them and send to me care of Laughlin Learles & Co.[*illegible*]. I wish to make a hedge round the Ex. Mansion here. Let*

him also put up with them half a dozen of my best peach trees. If you desire any of the latter, take them.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Feb. 22, 1850. Series 1, Folder 2:25 [misfiled], Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*Last Saturday Mary had a return of her intermittent, which prevented our leaving home in the early part of the week, and we had [*illegible*] today to go down, when last night it rained very hard, and this morning Rachel, my cook, is sick. I find she is near her confinement, which I was not aware of before, supposing it would be a month later, but I anticipate her present indisposition will result in that, and of course I must remain at home.*

E. Turner to Eliza Quitman, Franklin Place, Apr. 4, 1850. Subseries 1.1, Folder 63, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Fanny was safely delivered of another fine daughter yesterday. We had the assistance of Mrs. Cecil, & Mrs. McMurran & Mary Brawn were present. All doing well.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 18, 1850. Series 1, Folder 1:7, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Please tell Mama I send her Cap, by Papa, and the pincushion, which Mary has covered very nicely . . . . Mary has a bad cold & cough, but I hope it will soon be better.

Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, Monmouth, May 27, 1850. Subseries 1.1, Folder 63, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

I find a great change for the worse in this society within the last two years, we are in a fair way of losing all our deserved reputation for frankness and courtesy of manners, it is anything in the world but pleasant to mingle with the fashionable world now. I think the importations we have had from the north of late years have had a decidedly injurious effect upon the manners and customs of our society.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Sept 3, 1850. Series 1, Folder 1:8, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*We made our visit to Franklin, and returned yesterday morning. [*They were there from at least Saturday to Sept. *2] . . . I had a visit from Cousin Annie Turner yesterday morning . . . . In the afternoon Mrs. Conner and Rebecca called, and we spent a very pleasant hour in cheerful chat.*

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner; Melrose, Sept. 10th, 1850. Series 1, Folder 1:8, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

In three weeks you will be with us. I do hope you will all preserve your health, and there may be nothing to mar the pleasure of our meeting. This is such a trying month in regard to health. The system – human – seems to be undergoing a change after the enervation of hot

summer, to prepare it for the cold of winter, and is more liable to attacks from disease. They are quite afflicted just now by sickness at Franklin. It is a sort of Influenza, or colds. Papa had it whilst we were there, and Mama since, but she is better of it. Many of the Negroes are ill with it, and Papa was prevented coming in yesterday by having so many cases on hand. It is attended by fever and cough, – poor Netty is very ill with it, worse off than ever. We have had some of it too. Jane and Mary both have been sick since we returned, afflicted in the same manner, but are now pretty well . . . .

*There was a soire [*sic*] at Routhland week before last, and another given by Mrs. Urquhart last week to both of which Mr. McM. & I were invited. We could not go to Routhland but had the pleasure of attending the latter, and a more agreeable party there could not be; the music was fine, Mrs. U. most charming, and the entertainment elegant, – the Ices, salads &c delicious . . . .*

The Children have resumed school, with, I believe, many good intentions for the future. Yesterday John commenced an extra Greek lesson, and will not be at home now until four o'clock in the afternoon. If he studies faithfully he must improve, his Teacher is so devoted. Yesterday, to, Mary commenced Italian, and I hope will learn it as readily as she has done French, as far as Mrs. Brown can take her.

M. L. McMurran to Louisa Quitman, Melrose, Nov. 19, 1850. B-8, Folder 1:3, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

I received your kind letter a few days since and take advantage of a showery morning, as insuring me a quiet hour to write to you. I commenced yesterday paying off my round of visits, of which I have a great number on my list, and that seems to be the beginning and the end of the Chapter, for the clouds are threatening us at last with a plentiful moistening – most welcome after such a drought. I do not complain, but fear it may prove only a threat . . . .

We returned from Franklin week before last. Mary became so much indisposed there I brought her in to her physician, she is now almost well, but requires care, to prevent a renewal of her cough, and cannot yet resume her studies.

[I have included the following paragraph to illustrate the different, less religious way MLM looked at illness before most of her family died.]

I believe all our absentees have returned, but I have seen very few of them yet. Mr. & Mrs. John Ker are up, staying at Kenilworth. They must all be very sad at Mrs. Ker's. Poor Lizzy Hart is a young widow; she buried her husband at Linden about ten days since. He died suddenly of congestive chill. David Ker & bride are at Montrose, both sick – he dangerously so of dysentery. What an afflicted family!

Mama was in a few days last week. We went together on Saturday to Oakland to call on the bride Mrs. James Bailey. They were married on Tuesday, and came immediately down, and on Thursday night Mrs. Bailey (Senior) gave them a large party – You were all invited – The bride is very good looking, and was very tastefully dressed. They are to reside near Port Gibson, on a plantation of the groom's father . . . .

We have had some very cold weather, and nipping frosts – all the roses and other outdoor flowers are spoiled, and there are very few blooming in the green house. We have not a green vegetable for the table, – I do not think I ever saw the gardens look so bare and rusty . . . .

P.S. The little birds are quite sprightly but will not sing, reserving all their melody for their mistresses, I suppose.

John Quitman to John T. McMurran, Jackson, Dec. 20, 1850. Subseries 1.1, Folder 66, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

I have just received your letter of the 15th and hasten to reply that I may have the advantage of tomorrow morning's mail. I am sorry to say that I will wish the loan from Montgomery for another year. I therefore enclose my note for $5000 with a check for $400, also a dft for $191.29 2/3, and my endorsement of your & Judge Turner's notes. I also send a draft at 40 days for the note due to F. Surget. Not knowing that I shall be in funds to settle up with the Dennistoun's entirely this year, I send my note for $6000 to be forwarded to them in renewal of the note they now hold with you as my surety. Please to sign it, and enclose to them in renewal of my note now due in their hands.

Louisa Quitman to Eliza Quitman [mother], Melrose, Dec. 29, 1850. B-8, Folder 1:3, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

Cousin Mary was so delighted to see us & oh dearest mother she is so truly kind to us all treating us more like her own children. I do wish that you & Father could come & spend two weeks at Melrose it is so cheerful, so pleasant, so much affection.

E. Turner to Eliza Quitman, Franklin Place, Jan. 1, 1851. B-8, Folder 1:3, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

We went to Melrose for Christmas, dined there, & spent the evening at Linden, where a Christmas Tree was displayed in fine Taste

Antonia Quitman to Louisa Quitman, Monmouth, Feb. 25, 1851. B-8, Folder 1:3, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

Cousin Mary arrived yesterday morning in the "Natchez" before breakfast, after which she sent over some beautiful bananas & a delicious pineapple as a present . . . .

I was at Melrose both yesterday evening & this evening. Dear delightful Melrose! It is to me like a haven of rest into which I can retire and be free from all care & sorrow – can lay aside all unpleasant feelings & be for a time perfectly happy. But it is like taking chloroform, at first so delightful & after the influence has passed away the reaction is so great so after I have passed the boundaries of Melrose the reaction begins to take place.

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner; Melrose, Mar. 29, 1851. Series 1, Folder 1:9, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I have had such a pleasant week with dear Mama; she did not return to Franklin with Papa on Monday, but has been spending that long promised week with us. We had one or two real quiet days together, reading, sewing, chatting, walking &c, and then some visiting days.

M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, Melrose, April 12, 1851. Series 1, Folder 1:10, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Nothing preventing, we will be with you next Thursday. Our arrangement is to take the Princess on that morning to Rifle point, or where the landing is there, and we will then depend on your kindness for a conveyance to Innisfail . . . .

*This afternoon we took a stroll over your grounds, and tried to imagine your various locations there, where the house would be – where the garden – the [*illegible*]. Then will all this be realized! Ere many seasons pass over us I hope. How pleasant it will be – we would be able almost, to wish each other "good morning" without leaving our houses. We might certainly wave a salute. We discovered several little volunteer pines, growing in the sedge grass. They grow so rapidly on this soil they will be quite conspicuous by the time you will need them. Your Magnolias are doing very well, thus far, in their new location: our large oaks are in vigorous foliage, so Mr. McMurran is in high hope of his winter's transplantation succeeding.*

M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner; Melrose, April 28, 1851. Series 1, Folder 1:10, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

We had a short and pleasant trip down, meeting some friends on board the boat, and found John & Thomas well as usual, but for the last week we have had quite a trying time with sick servants. Four of the house servants are down with dysentery, – Marcellus was the first case; her was very ill but is recovering, – Marice the second case, is in a very critical condition, about the worse case of the disease I ever saw, except one which proved fatal. Charlotte & Rachel are not so ill, and I hope will soon be relieved.

M. E. McMurran to Charlotte B. Calhoun; Philadelphia, June 29, 1851. Series S-120, folder 1, John T. McMurran Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.
[Tells Charlotte to direct letters to the care of L. Baker, Esqr. 19 Bond street New York.]

M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner; McConnellsburg, July 2, 1851. Series 1, Folder 1:10, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

We arrived here safe and well yesterday, having left New York on Saturday, rested Sunday in Phila, from which place I wrote to Mama. Our journey was resumed on Monday, and the distance accomplished that day although 163 miles was not fatiguing – the Cars & roads were fine, and the scenery varied, and showing us the richest agricultural districts or counties in old Penn. We slept in Chambersburg the same night, and in the morning took a commodious hack to this place . . . .

After leaving Chambersburg almost every mile seemed to revive old reminiscences with Mr. McM. and he was pointing out to Mary & I localities where such events had occurred and where such persons lived, and the road that led to his school house, where "he was a boy." Altogether it was a day long to be pleasantly remembered by us, who enjoyed it. So reviving after the depression which had weighed down our spirits so long.

John's was the first face to greet us, as we drove up to sister Martha's residence. He had been awaiting our arrival most impatiently; he is very well. Thomas not so well as when he left us, but better than when he arrived. Sister Martha is looking well, and we think just the

same as when she left us. Her husband is an excellent kind man, with a large family of children, all grown except one son. We have seen them all now but I began to think there would be no end to the arrivals and introductions. Sister Rebecca is looking quite as well as I expected, though her health is indifferent and she has a nervous affection in one eye which is distressing. Her husband is at present an invalid, from a severe attack of inflammatory rheumatism, and his friends fear it may become chronic. He lost his father from a sudden illness about three weeks since, and no doubt his distress had a prejudicial effect in his then weak condition. He is naturally a man of robust constitution.

*Sister Jane's family I have not yet seen but we go there tomorrow. They live about four miles up the [*illegible – 'road'?*] . . . .*

We expect to remain here until next [line missing] York; – stopping a day in Phila. if it is not too hot there, – then to Newport on the 15th, where we will remain until the first of August if we like it and where we hope to meet Mr. & Mrs. Elliot. Dr. Calhoun's family are there.

M. L. McMurran to Louisa Quitman, Philadelphia, July 10, 1851. B-8, Folder 1:3, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

His banishment over, John's just begins. What a hard trial to leave him, but we believe it is for the best. He says he is home sick already & that he has seen no place he likes so well, and if he lives to return will never leave it. He went through his examination and was admitted without any difficulty – they told him with a very little more study he might have entered the Sophomore class. This I would have preferred, but it is now too late, and he must go through the whole course.

We return to New York on Saturday, and on Monday expect to go to Newport. The length of our visit there will depend on the benefit we derive, and the quiet and comfort to be obtained.

*Tomorrow I will take your ring to Bailey [*Str?*] to be reset – and hope they will do it in a satisfactory manner.*

Louisa Quitman to John Quitman, Monmouth near Natchez, July 25, 1851. Subseries 1.1, Folder 68, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

John McMurran has been admitted in Princeton College. Cousin Mary wrote that he was becoming homesick already, poor John! What will he do when his parents bid him adieu & he is left alone among strangers! Mr. Jordan has been quite sick since his return, he will have to come back next winter to Melrose.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; New York, Sept. 12, 1851 [have photocopy; folder number is correct, letter was misfiled in collection in 1857 because of misread of date on letter]. Series 1, Folder 2:31, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I believe I have not written to you very recently, but Mary did last week; we try to send a letter to some one of our dear relatives every week, but are prevented sometimes by having engagements and travelling about. I wrote to Brother I think from the Catskill Mountain house, where I was sick all the time of our stay – from thence we went to Westpoint – a most delightful place, and one of great interest – from its association with events in our Revolu-

tionary War, and its present Military Academy. We were there from Monday until Friday, and I became perfectly well, and have so continued since. Mr. McMurran & Mary are also quite well, the latter is fatter than I ever saw her the picture of health. This summers tour has been of great benefit to us all. If we can only return as well, how thankful we well be. I dread the passage down that miserable, low, Ohio river. We expect to try it the first week in October, leaving this on the first day of that month, and taking the new Dunkirk route. Mr. & Mrs. Elliot expect to leave about the same time and we may go together and join our dear Parents & friends at Louisville about the 6th Oct. . . .

New York contains now a large portion of our friends from the neighbourhood of Natchez, but we see very little of them – all are intent on their own affairs.

I have done most of my shopping – have executed Mama's commissions and bought some pretty things for our little pets, Fanny & Jane – which I believe, dear Sister, was the extent of your very moderate request.

Annie Rosalie's diary (Anna Rosalie Quitman born 1841), entries for 1852. Series 3.1, vol. 13, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.
[p. 7]

January 20, 1852. After dinner we went up stairs where I stayed till John Mc came to tell us good bye as he is going back to college.

*Saturday 31 Jan. 1852. After Tonie had written her letter she came in our room & told me to dress as she wanted me to go with her to spend the day at Cousin Mary's. After I had put on a another [*sic*] dress Tonie & I set off with Ben. We reached Melrose safely. When we got up to the front door we saw a carriage & so we went round the back way where we saw Cousin Mary on the gallerry [*sic*]. She said that Charlotte & Marther [*sic*] Calhoun had come to see little cousin Mary so we went into the parlor where we saw little cousin Mary. After we had stayed in there some time Charlotte Calhoun said that she would like to see some of little Cousin Marys Christmas presents. After she had shown them to us we returned again to the parlor where we spent the time till the two Calhouns went away. After that dinner was soon ready. After dinner we went into the parlor where we stayed till Tonie & Cousin Mary & I went into the garden. After we came in from the garden we went into the parlor we had been there a few seconds when we were surprised by a ring at the M. doorbe[ll – edge of page missing] then we ran out of the parlor when we saw Sam come after us then we got ready to go home then we set out so when we got in the lane old major came on right after us then the cows were in front of us until we got to our home . . . .*

[p. 50]

Monday 8 March 1852

. . . then the men came with the piano that Cousin Mary lent Mama then they fixed it in the room.

[p. 79]

Saturday 1 May 1852

This morning after breakfast Little Cousin Mary came here to spend the day with Tonie . . . .

[p. 86]

Sunday 13 June 1852

They said that they saw Mr. Leacock going to Melrose to christen little Mary of Cousin Fanny. . . .

[p. 87]

Saturday 19 June 1852

*Then I got ready to go to Cousin Marys as they were going to the North on Tuesday then while we were there Mrs. Brown & Lotte Boyd & Bell B came there Janey Brown did not come because she went to the dancing school then we went up stairs & Cousin Mary gave me some shells & stones, but I forgot to say that Tonie had staid [*sic*] there all night then Mrs. Brown went away & we went down in to the garden & afterwards went away.*

. M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, no date (prob. late January 1852). Series S-120, folder 1:16, Edward Turner Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.Mr. McMurran has gone down to visit his new purchase of part of the "Moro place." He and a Mr. Vardeman (who is to reside on and manage the place) purchased the lower half, about twelve or thirteen hundred acres, with some fifty negroes. They take possession and go to work immediately. It is said to be a valuable place, and Vardeman is another O'Bryan. Mr. McMurran has known him for many years as a correct-man and first-rate manager. The place is nine miles below Vidalia.

M. E. McMurran to Charlotte B. Calhoun; Newport, July 24, 1852. Series S-120, folder 1, John T. McMurran Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*[*Talks about being with Charlotte the previous summer in Newport.*] "After leaving Niagara we went over Lake Ontario and down the St. Lawrence to Montreal." [*Later they*] "came down to Burlington Vermont . . . . Remaining there on Sunday we continued up Lake Champlain the next day to Ticonderogo [*sic*] where we changed boats and went up Lake George to Caldwell a small village, and remained there a few days . . . . From Caldwell we went to Saratoga and spent a day there very pleasantly . . . . We saw Mrs. Duncan, Mrs. Davis, Mrs. Pringle, and other Natchez friends at Saratoga . . . . From Saratoga we went to New York and remained there a few days . . . . we left for Newport that evening [*Tuesday*]."*

E. Turner to Sarah Fyler, New York, Sept. 24, 1852. Subseries 1.1, folder 73, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

We are all well. Your sister & Mr. McM. & the two Marys went to visit Wm. C. Baker & family at Morristown on the 22nd & are to return to day . . . .

I leave for home, with Mr. McM. & family on the 29 or 30th inst.

M. L. McMurran to Frances E. Conner, Melrose, Dec. 7, 1852. Series 1, folder 1:12, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Evans has put up a variety of cuttings for you, which are now in readiness for your messenger. I hope they will grow, and afford you much enjoyment.

*He has also boxed your little peccan [*sic*] and we will take care of it until you wish to plant it permanently on the Hill. May that be soon!*

I sent for your trunk yesterday, – it was not finished but is promised for today.

Mary is quite troubled about those pattern shoes. She cannot find them and fears if you do not furnish the measure soon the slippers will not be done in time and so her work will be "love's labor lost." Please attend to it – by your first opportunity.

M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner; Melrose, March 14, 1853. Series 1, folder 2:14, Conner Famiy Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

It will give me pleasure to make any purchases you may desire. Only give me full directions . . . .

In regard to your bonnet I think your idea of using it for spring wear is a good one. I intend doing the same with mine, and have kept it for a Spring bonnet . . . .

Some of my new bulbs are blooming – tulips & hyacinths – they are beautiful, bright colours.

Good-bye dearest Sister, I am not yet through with this horrible dentistry, and must go now to have a sitting.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Sept. 7, 1853. Series 1, folder 2:16, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

How glad I am to have a note from you today, and to learn, although yourself and dear little Mary have been sick, you are now well.

This is truly the sickly season, and we must expect attacks from the invisible enemy, but i pray our share may be light. What a pleasure could we be sufficiently near to see each other sometimes, particularly in sickness & distress . . . .

Wesley & Charles have both had chill & fever this week, but are now doing well again . . . .

*I learn the fever is even more malignant in Natchez, and it is in nearly or all the houses out to the Forks of the road, even in the brick house (Mariner's) on the Monmouth Road, near the O. Asylum. It is thought to be a different type from our old yellow fever – more malignant – what is sometimes called the African fever. Blacks are quite as liable to it as whites. Poor [*Hetteringham?*] is dead of it.*

Eliza Quitman to Mr. Jordan; Monmouth, Dec. 17, 1853. Subseries 1.1, folder 81, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Your uncles' family at Melrose have all remained quite well, that is the white family. The servants have not been so fortunate. Charles has gone to Live Oaks for his health, and Wesley is dead.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Dec. 23, 1853. Series 1, folder 2:20, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

The ducks Dave delivered me last night are beautiful and will be duly enjoyed by us. How much Brother must have enjoyed the sport.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Jan. 20, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:21, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I am very much obliged to you for the beautiful plants of Oleander which Abe has just brought – . . . The birds are also very well & acceptable, some of Brother's killing, I suppose.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Niagara, June 18, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:21, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

We have just returned from a pleasant ramble over goat Island, and viewing the Falls from different positions; of this we never tire . . . .

I suppose by the end of the month you will be busy arranging your new buildings for occupancy. I shall try to imagine you in them. I think Evans has some running plants in boxes for you, that you can place around the galleries for shade and coolness – you can also get some cypress vines from the shrubbery at Melrose. There should be some come up from seed around the camellias near the dining room front windows where they grew last year. They are easily transplanted, by shading and watering when first set out, and run very rapidly. Send to Melrose whenever you wish fruit, vegetables, flowers or anything there you wish for. Use it, dear Sister, just the same as though it was your own.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; New York, July 7, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:22, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.
[Written on the eve of the McMurrans' journey to Europe. They plan to be away until November. Crossing on the Atlantic and are accompanied by cousin Henry Turner and Thomas; both "will make excellent traveling companions, neither being subject to sea sickness."]

John & Mary are anticipating this trip with much pleasure as you may suppose and I trust it will prove a benefit to them both as well as to the rest of the party.

Mr. McMurran had a pleasant visit to Wash. City – excepting that the heat was oppressive.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; London, July 23, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:22, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.
[Long, chatty letter about trip and sightseeing]

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Leamington, Warwickshire, England, July 30, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:22, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.
[Another chatty sightseeing letter]

M. E. McMurran to Charlotte Calhoun; Melrose, Scotland, Aug. 4, 1854. Series S-120, folder 1, John T. McMurran papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*You see by the heading of this letter we are tonight at the village of Melrose visiting the places around it that Scott has made so interesting to travelers. As we only reached here this evening we have visited only Dryburg Abbey, the burial place of Scott. They say it is four miles from here, but I think they are the longest four miles I ever rode; real Scotch miles. After riding this distance, wether [*sic*] it be four or six mile you reach the river Tweed, which is crossed in a row boat very nicely. We expected to see the ruins just on the other side but had to walk for some distance before we reached them. You approach it through an old*

orchard in which the grass had just been mown, and scented the air with its pleasant perfume . . . . Sir Walter Scott is buried in one part of the chapel which he himself chose. We cannot wonder at the wish of such a man as he to rest in so romantic a spot as this . . . .

We have not an opportunity to view Melrose Abbey by the 'pale moon-light' as that luminary is very much obscured by clouds tonight besides which it is too cold to be quite comfortable in an old ruin at night so we will see it tomorrow by daylight. We will visit this and Abbotsford in the morning returning to Edinburg and go to Sterling in the evening.

John T. McMurran, Jr., to Fanny Conner, Bristol, England Aug. 20, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:23, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

How do you like your new house, and are you not glad that you are going to live so near Melrose.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Cologne, Aug. 26, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:23, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.
[Another long, chatty sightseeing letter]

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Paris, Oct. 1, 1854. Series 1, folder 2:24, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I am rejoiced you find your new home so pleasant and sincerely unite with you in the hope that next summer may find us living near each other. To know that Melrose has contributed in the least to your comfort in our absence is a gratification to us.

M. E. McMurran to Charlotte Calhoun; London, Oct. 15, 1854. Series S-120, folder 1, John T. McMurran papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I was very glad to receive your pleasant letter of 14th Sept. on our arrival here two days ago, and will reply to it now, though I know it will go by the same steamer that we do still it will go on to you immediately and I might not be able to write you from New York. We have to remain there a week after our arrival and I will try and write you from there, but may not have time as we will be very anxious to reach home and will try and leave N.Y. as soon as possible.

*My last letter to you was written from Cologne. [*Details visit to Switzerland – were there two weeks. Were touring with 'brother and Cousin Thomas.' Are supposed to arrive in Natchez by Nov. 15th.*]*

John T. McMurran to John Quitman, New York, October 31, 1854. Z66v, box 4, folder 6, Quitman Family Papers, MDAH.

Dear General

I telegraphed the Judge yesterday on our arrival and trust he has received the dispatch by this time, knowing the deep anxiety you will all feel in our being safely here. We embarked at Liverpool on the 18th, as I advised you from Paris we would, and arrived yesterday morning, making a voyage of just twelve days. We had very rough weather the first eight days, with constant head winds retarding the speed of the vessel, sometimes blowing a very stiff gale, and on two occasions producing very heavy seas. The last four days were calm and

*pleasant – we encountered no fog, nor was the weather at any time so cold as I had been led to suppose it would be. Mary and I were quite uncomfortable from the motion of the vessel during the first eight days, but little Mary suffered but slightly the three first days and was entirely well the rest [*illegible*] of the voyage. William, our servant, stands the sea like an old salt, not affected the least throughout the voyage, except by an increased appetite – and he was a very great service in attendance on us during the voyage.*

*I received at Liverpool a letter from John of the 9th inst at Florence. He and his cousin Thomas were in good health and very much interested in their visit. They would go thence to Rome, Naples &c having been at Milan, Venice and that region. They sail from Liverpool on the 29th Novr. (as I may have [*illegible*] you) and will doubtless be with us by Christmas.*

I am in strong hopes that my sister Rebecca will accompany us home, and spend the winter with us, which would be of much service to her health, which is far from good.

I expect to be detained here in attending to some little matters a week to ten days, but certainly not later than the 10th, and hope to be able to make home by the 18th to 20th Novr. And you can imagine the joy we will have in visiting you again. If the Ohio river be in a fair stage, I will go by railroad to Cincinnati, and thence down – but if not, then, most likely, by railroad to St. Louis. We are decidedly impatient to set home.

I have regretted to hear of the prevalence of yellow fever at Vicksburg and other places on the river as well as in the large seaport southern cities – but most happy to hear that our little City continues exempt, and that the general health of the country is so good. I have most sad accounts of the shortcoming of the cotton crop. My interests, from letters, must be cut short one third.

We have most disagreeable weather, a good deal of rain, with a sultry, heavy atmosphere – warm enough for N. Orleans at this season.

A hasty line is all my friends will look for now, and so adieu, with our love to the family, till we meet.

Truly Yr friend
J. T. McMurran

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Feb. 8, 1855. Series 1, folder 2:25, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

John is at Riverside and will be there some time. He likes plantation life thus far quite as well as he anticipated, and is, I hope, daily gaining useful and necessary knowledge. I miss him very much, but must be reconciled to that which is inevitable.

Mr. McMurran has commenced tree planting with this fine weather.

Edward Turner to John T. McMurran, Jr., Franklin Place, May 4, 1855 [addressed to JTM "near Fort Adams"]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

You have a splendid plantation, combining Hills, bottom, & river – & must succeed, by health, perseverance, &c – All now depends on yourself and we all hope & believe, you will prove equal to the position you have assumed. Calm, steady, upright conduct, will insure you success.

Louisa Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, Feb. 14, 1856. Subseries 1.1, folder 87, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

No doubt you smile and wonder what could possibly engage so much of my time. Well – to begin – first was Mollie Mac's wedding – in preparations for it & getting Tonie and the girls ready for it. The important evening at length arrived. Melrose was brilliant with lights & gay dresses, & never appeared to better advantage.

Our host & hostess were quite sad particularly the former who was so much overcome by his feelings, that he retired for sometime on the plea of a violent headache so poor cousin Mary had to bear her burden quite alone.

The Bride never looked prettier, & seemed quite happy under the glances of her Bridegroom. She bore her own honors, with much graceful sweetness & dignity. What a sweet little rosebud she looked like & how often that evening did I wish for my dear Father. John did the honors admirably with Henry's assistance.

The following Tuesday the new married pair received the congratulations of their friends & acquaintances. Everything went off well, all had a look at the Bride & Groom & a taste of wedding cake & then drove off & Melrose soon settled back into its old quiet – but how changed to all its inmates! It must be a terrible trial to a parent to give up a daughter to the keeping of another, don't you think so dear Father? It seems so strange to see that Little Mollie is now a married woman, how hard it must be to her parents to realize that she is no longer a little girl to contribute to their comfort & enjoyment.

*But here is the strangest [*illegible*] from my [*illegible*] bag. Should you guess forever you would never arrive at the truth so I will not keep you in suspense any longer. Would you believe it Mother gave the Bride, Mrs. Farrar B. Conner a party.*

M. L. McMurran to Miss A. L. Austen, Melrose, Feb. 22, 1856 [addressed to "Miss A. L. Austen/Phoenix/Balto & Susquah. R. Road/Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Has he told you of my wish to have your daguerro [*daguerreotype photograph*] if convenient to have it taken I should like it very much. I could see you then every day. And in the bracelets of his hair which he is going to trouble you to have done for Mary & me, we would like some of yours braided too . . . .*

John is my Father's only male descendant, so you may imagine how very precious he is to them, as well as to ourselves. Alie, there is a little world of love and fond hopes centered in our dear boy. I try to love him not too well, but prayerfully, and as a precious gift from my Heavenly Father.

Rosalie Quitman to John Quitman; Monmouth, February 24, 1856. Subseries 1.1, folder 87, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

No doubt Tonie has given you a description of Cousin Mary's wedding, so I will only say, that she was married, & is now quite like a married lady! The Bride Groom goes on hunting excursions, & rides into town quite often. Tonie was first bridesmaid, & stood up with Henry Conner, who praised her courage & fortitude, because she neither fainted nor screamed, it being the fashion for ladies nowadays to do either one or the other of these, whenever they are in company.

J. T. McMurran to John Quitman; Natchez, Feb. 28, 1856. Subseries 1.1, folder 87, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

Mary and I thank you for the garden seeds, flower and vegetable, which you have been so kind as to send us. We will give them a fair chance from cultivation if the season affords it . . .

*Is there any well founded ground to apprehend a difficulty with England, growing out of the Enlistment question, which seems to be still unsettled, or the Central American question? I am satisfied that a war with that [*Coun.?*] would be most distressing and paralyzing to the cotton planting interest. And if there is any certainty of such an event occurring in the next twelve months I would dispose of some of my property at the present high prices to meet my debts – which are very heavy growing out of my purchase last spring [*illegible*], in Concordia Parish, altogether on a credit. Such a war would most seriously embarrass, if not sacrifice me, with my debts running at heavy interest. I am no [croaker?]or alarmist, but looking my own affairs right in the face, as a business matter in the event of such a contingency occurring in a year or two. You are where you can form a pretty good opinion, with the lights you have and with your [*debit?*] rate judgment in such a matter. The views you communicate are of course designed by me solely for my guidance and in my private affairs, with the debt on my lands, referred to.*

M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, Melrose, Mar. 4, 1856 [Addressed to "Miss A. L. Austen/Phoenix/Balto. & Susquah. R. Road/Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*I am glad you are pleased with the daguerre [*daguerreotype photograph*], and wish now that of John's Father had been with it.*

*Like many other things it was put off to the last moment and then there was too much haste to reflect. Perhaps it is best so, for I have never had a daguerre [*daguerreotype photograph*] of my dear Husband that pleased me . . . .*

Mary commenced today the much dreaded paying of bridal visits, returned quite elated in having paid twelve in one morning, three of them being in the country.

M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, Melrose, May 10, 1856 [addressed to "Miss A. L. Austen/Phoenix P.O./ Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, LSU.

One morning he took me through the plantation, to portions of it I had never seen before, far into the Cypress swamp, where is being put up a steam engine for draining and sawing . . . .

Now, our pride of all trees, the Magnolia Grandeflora is in full bloom. It is well named, tree & flower are magnificent, and the fragrance so delicious, one flower will pervade a suit of rooms with its refreshing aroma; not luscious, not sickening, but most agreeable.

My Husband planted a young tree near our own room – it is now about twenty feet high, and I counted more than fifty buds last week; today sixteen are fully expanded. I cannot express to you its loveliness . . . .

The season of departure has arrived. We are bidding farewell to friends "going north" – always a sad time, particularly to those remaining – yet I feel no desire this summer to leave home; every year I love its sweet quiet more.

Mary E. McMurran to Rosalie Quitman, Melrose, June 23, 1856. B-8, folder 1:4, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

*I hope you are enjoying the cherries this summer. They are not a particular favourite of mine, but do very well when fruit is scarce. We have the greatest quantity of apples, so many that I am tired of seeing them, and now we have some very nice pears coming in. I have not seen a ripe peach yet, but next month is our best for fruit and we have a very good prospect. We have had a good deal of showery weather lately, and it is so sultry today, very likely we will will [*sic*] have more this evening. I hope on account of the fruit and crops it will be drier next month.*

*I d'ont [*sic*] think there is any of that comoddity [*sic*] called "new" to be had about Natchez, or if there is, I have not heard it. Every one keeps pretty quiet as we generally do here in summer thought [*sic*] the temperature has been more than usually pleasant. I have felt the heat very little.*

I suppose you meet with very few of our Natchez travellers, as they generally strike immediately for New York and thence to some watering place or other.

M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, Melrose, July 7, 1856 [addressed to "Miss A. L. Austen/Phoenix P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Family Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I am glad you liked the flowers, withered tho' they were. I do so love them; life would not be near so bright without those beautiful objects, so pure, so elevating – "God's smiles" as some poet calls them. In sorrow or sickness, in joy or health I always find solace in the companionship of flowers – simple as it may seem, those silent yet eloquent friends have soothed many a heart-ache for me. I cannot remember the time when I did not love them. To know that another loves them is a bond of sympathy at once. When dear John is at home he often places a sweet, dew-gemmed rose or bunch of violets on my breakfast plate, well knowing what a grateful offering it is to "Mother." A kind, loving child he has ever been to me, Alie, and O, how near my heart he is, deep nestled in its most loving depths! . . .

*Porter is an excellent tonic, so is horseback exercise – but would not mountain air, or the seashore atmosphere be beneficial also? And for flesh, Alie, you know the old adage "laugh and grow fat," to assist in this let me recommend an occasional chapter from the "Sparrowgrass papers," – very provokative [*sic*] to one's risibles, as we have found in our hottest days . . . .*

*You ask about my Sister's "summer house." It is near us, only about five minutes walk from house to house. Her winter home is on the plantation on Lake St. John, Louisiana. The planters fear to keep their families in the low lands in the hot months, and, until the recurrence of yellow fever in '53, they resorted to the neighbourhood of Natchez for health and society at that season. Natchez is situated on a high bluff – the country back beautifully rolling and hilly; it is thickly occupied with handsome residences, and highly cultivated grounds and gardens. That epidemic created a panic for a time, and many wished to dispose of their property and seek residences where they would not be subject to such visitations; but that feeling has passed in a great degree, the spirit of improvment [*sic*] has revived – and this summer there is much activity in that way. There are many planters, too, who never live on their plantations, but make their winter homes here, and go North in the summer. It is pleasant either way – but for myself I love home best at all times.*

You are quite right in thinking the planter's life best suited to John. I never imagined he would be a lawyer, and would have regretted any effort on his part to become one, well knowing it would not suit his disposition and taste in any way. His Father was fond of his profession, was esteemed and distinguished in it (candor will permit me to say so without vanity) and it was a natural wish that his only son should take his place. But – I knew it could not be. It would be struggling against nature. He always loved an active life in the sun, open air, the confined, sedentary life of a student would have been detrimental to health of body & mind.

It is generally thought the life of a planter is one of indolent ease, – not so, if they discharge faithfully their duties. It is one of great responsibility, wherein some of the kindliest, best feelings of our nature may be exercised. It requires talent, too, and knowledge to be a successful planter.

M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, Melrose, Aug. 4, 1856 [addressed to "Miss A. L. Austen/Phoenix P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I have been wishing to write you, dearest Alie, every day since the receipt of your last most welcome letter, but have had a busy week, each day bringing its not-to-be-put-off engagements. First we were preparing for the marriage of two of our young servants – two we have reared and trained in the family – the children of old and favourite servants. They were married last Thursday, in our presence, and behaved extremely well with perfect dignity and propriety. They then retired and passed the evening with some invited friends, and had a fine supper, as happy and merry a company as one would wish to see. Would Mrs. Stowe could have viewed the scene, perhaps it might have changed some of her erroneous opinions.

The very next morning I was sent for to my dear Sister, who was quite ill, but in a few hours presented her husband with a fine boy – the first after five girls; . . .

I do not yet give up the hope of being present when you are married, for I know if it is possible for Mr. McM. to arrange his business so as to enable him to leave he will do so. He fears it will not be possible, but cannot yet determine. If we go it will be with Farar & Mary the first of Sept. They will go, should nothing unforeseen occur to prevent, but do not delay beyond October, dear Alie. I still hope nothing may prevent our all going. Mr. McMurran has been very well for him and in fine spirits the last two weeks – and is going tomorrow with Mary to have their ambrotypes taken for John to take with him. I hope the effort will be successful, but I have never seen a daguerre of him that was good.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Aug. 10, 1856. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Since the morning after you left I have been with the sick, but our patients are doing finely today – taking quinine. You left dear little Fanny with fever; that evening her Father took her home, and she was very ill until yesterday morning, when the fever left her for the first time; it returned yesterday noon but was subdued again before morning. Poor Sister was so distressed, not being able to leave her own bed. Mama was there until she got sick – happily it was only from fatigue & anxiety, and rest has restored her. I was there nursing until called home by Farar's increased illness, so it has been since you left.

Mary L. McMurran to Eliza Quitman; Melrose Aug. 11th 1856. Subseries 1.1, folder 89, Quitman Family Papers, UNC.

The past month has given me an unusual amount of occupation & anxiety in nursing the sick and family cares . . . .

I suppose John's affair will take place early in Oct. and Mary wishes much to be present. I feel it a great privation to be kept at home at such a time, but Mr. M–M thinks it impossible to leave his business, – his plantations and establishment here, – so I must be content in believing "it is all for the best." . . .

Peaches & pears are now passing their prime. We have enjoyed some of the finest I ever tasted. The figs & watermelons have been excellent and abundant . . . .

A portion of the servants were here a few evenings since, to attend the wedding of Patrick & Mime. Viola was bridesmaid. They were married in our presence, behaved with perfect propriety, and they all seemed very merry and happy over their games and supper afterwards.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Melrose, Aug. 14, 1856. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Farar & Sis have gone to Linden for a few days; both are looking decidedly better, and Sis has her bright happy face again. What a dismal look her ambrotype wore, just because Farar was away; but one consolation, dear Alie will like her sweet face all the more from contrast with the ambrotype – and Papa's too . . . .

It was Bob's wedding night. From his shiney visage, and white rolling eyes last night, – I supposed he had attained the summit of earthly happiness! Bob is a good fellow, but "not a gifted man." Marey is well, and sends you her best how d'y's.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Sept. 4, 1856. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

The distribution of your cards after the wedding will, doubtless, be all right. Only be careful not to omit any who might feel neglected by not receiving the attention. . . .

He requested me to say to you he does not wish the whole edition of Sterne's works. It was but the one work he wanted – the one named in his list . . . .

I hope much from this trip in improving the tone of Mary's health; she has been so thin & pale during the summer.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Sept. 11, 1856. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

But politics, politics is the theme now, eclipsing even the cotton crop – Your Father is deeply interested for Fillmore; he wishes to have you send him some of the Whig Baltimore papers, if you can conveniently do so. He wrote to you last week, (or this) to New York, to care of Mr. Gilbert, as you requested, enclosing the draft you wrote for. He wishes you to try again for "Massillon's Sermons," he wishes the book very much, says he saw it advertised at Stanford & Swords bookstore, Broadway, N.Y.– and it is probable it can be procured there. If not perhaps at some of the bookstores in Phila. or Baltimore. Try and get it, Son. He does not wish Stern's works.

Alice Austen McMurran to George [?] Austen [her father], Boston, Sept. 26, 1856. Friday Evening [Envelope is inscribed "letters to be coopted [*sic*] about Grandma coming as a bride to Melrose." Actually, this letter is about her honeymoon trip, not her arrival at Melrose.] McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

. . . sister Anna gave me John's & her own present – a set of cameo & pearls, beautiful pure & bridelike.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Sept. 27, 1856. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Your Father is in town attending the Fillmore celebration. The association inaugurate and raise their flag, Col. Bingaman giving an address on the Bluff – they then proceed to the court House to hear the speech of Mr. [*Timrall?*], said to be one of the finest orators of the season, in the Whig or American party. This evening a speech is expected from Mr. Wilcox; all to close with a grand torchlight procession. Much enthusiasm prevails here for Fillmore, and sanguine hopes are indulged of success for the good cause when voting time comes – The Demos here are very quiet. Little McDonald seems to be the only champion in the field and his is a weak pin, if the tongue is sharp and bitter sometimes. Brother Lemuel and others of his family were "hesitating," when you left, on the question of "expediency"– No hesitation now, they are warm advocates for Fillmore, will vote for him, "sure." . . .*

From the booming of cannon the flag must be floating, I do not hear, but can imagine the cheers of the crowd, their faces bright & hopeful, as there were three orators for the day your Father reserves himself for a future occasion, which I do not regret – He is so well now I fear to have him expose or over exert himself.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Sept. 29, 1856 [Addressed to "Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr/Fort Adams/Wilkinson County/Mississippi"– I don't think this is the correct envelope, because I don't think J. T. & Alie were in Mississippi yet]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dearest Son

By last Saturday's mail your Father received a note from Dr. Austen, accompanying the package of cards for distribution here, which he said Mr. & Mrs. Conner had overlooked in the hurry of departure. We are much obliged to him for his thoughtful kindness in forwarding them. They came safely, and shall receive due attention. I think you have remembered wonderfully well, considering you have been so little at home in the last five years – but there are so many omissions of those to whom I should like to have cards sent – and some have grown up and "come out" since you knew them, in families to whom you have directed cards – I have taken the liberty, dear Son, of enclosing you a long additional list that you may have prepared and sent on. I will reserve those already sent until I can hear from you. There will be plenty of time to have it all done, if promptly attended to, and have them all distributed ere you return. I am thus particular as those who do not receive cards will be prevented from calling, and may justly feel slighted. And I earnestly desire our dear Alie may be welcomed by all, and I doubt not all our friends and acquaintance are now disposed to do so with the kindest feelings and with every attention we could desire. But should a por-

tion only receive cards, those who do not may feel chilled and slighted and a disagreeable feeling be produced.

I should have thought of this before and given you a full list, with my views and wishes, but "better late than never." If you think with me, dear John, in this matter, send the cards as promptly as possible and I shall attend to them with the greatest pleasure. Could the cards be engraved here, and the envelopes stamped, I would not trouble you, but such work is above the capacity of our little City.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s Diary, November 1856. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

I shall never forget my first impressions of the South . . . . The first arrival of moonlight at Natchez, the servants awaiting and the ride out and John's pointing out in the dim starlight the different places: Monmouth (Gen. Quitman) Linden, (Mrs. Conners) Sedge Hill, (Aunt Fanny's) Woodlands, (Grandma Turner's) and last in a quiet corner, beautiful Melrose.

The first impression the following day of that quiet elegant household, the most perfect in its arrangement I ever saw, Grandma and Grandpa Turner, Mrs. McMurran's parents, full of the milk of human kindness. Aunt Fanny and her little band, not thirty herself, fresh and handsome followed by Fanny, Janie, Mimmie, and little Willie. The entertainment so elegant and all made beautiful by the peace and family love so strong. The walks and drives through that beautiful county. Bright beautiful flowers and such luxury and numbers. All seemed like fairy land . . . .

Then our first trip to the Plantation, the coming on Sunday of the negroes, nearly two hundred, in their best clothes to see their "new mistress." How they looked and how they stared! The feelings of fearful responsibility that came over me in the new life before me. All is stamped indelibly upon my mind.

Alice Austen McMurran to George Austen, Riverside, November, no day, no year [1856?] [Envelope addressed to "Mr. Colgate Gilbert/67 Fulton St/New York"; with "Phoeniz [Skor?] 29" in the upper left-hand corner. Either Alie's father was staying with Gilbert or this is the wrong envelope for this letter. Writing on back of envelope reads "kept for my children & grandchildren of Alice's Southern [illegible] & plantation," and in a different hand, "First letters from the South after Alie's Marriage 1856"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*. . . and now far far away from you all mistress of Plantation a hundred & fifty souls in some measure responsible for – & dependant upon – for although little more that [*sic*;* should be 'than'?*] twenty four hours here – I see & feel how many many items a mistress and she alone must govern & provide – But you can imagine some of my feelings yesterday as party after party came up "to the house to see their mistress" each in their best, many bringing their offerings of Pecauns as they call them – Bella the cook was mistress of ceremonies – And I am sure you could distinguish as well as I between the smiles – Margerets – Bellas – Jacks – and every name under this sun whereby man & woman are distinguished & few here & there strongly marked characters I would recognise – but these are few & far between. "Among them" a family of "Guinies" "as black as black can be." Bella the cook a member of said species. Father I wish you could see Riverside tis a magnificent place – its natural beauties – fortunately nature has been most bountiful here – stretching along the river some two miles reaching back to the high hills that bound the place – almost mountains the tops of which end John's plantation. We left Nachez [*sic*] Saturday Afternoon five o'clock*

*in the Princess – one of the finest boats on the river. Carries Mr. M. & John's cotton – we landed in the early morning – sun shining brightly – in Riverside and for a first impression this was well. Owing to the river being so low (lower than it has ever been known to be before) we had steep bank to climb. Mr. Wickwire the overseer & a number of the hands were waiting. The boat stops just in front of the cabins nice little white washed house – in a long line about twenty feet apart – and large noble trees in front the effect is very pretty, all having "galleries" – We walked to the house – The "log hut" that John has talked so much of – a house papa which in the hands of an Austen would soon be turned into a large two story house and without a single additional room – though I think John does wisely in deciding to tear down and build a new house entirely – a little above this – he has not your talent pa for renovating – twould be twice the labor & cost – then again the foliage is so dense here that tis damp & to cut down any of these beautiful trees would be too bad. Forest trees growth of so many years – tho' the ground is higher and just trees enough about twenty yards above this – with little labor Riverside can be made a lovely spot I mean grounds around the house. Nature has done so much. Some grand old trees almost as green now as in summer – Many of them covered with moss – to my eyes one of the most beautiful sights – tis hung in such graceful festoons. But papa I can give you know [*sic*] idea of the richness & luxuriance of vegetation here – every hour almost bringing some new wonder to light – And now in November to see everything green & bright. The Gloria Monda is my delight – The roses I think mamma would go crazy almost at Melrose – and even Riverside boast some beauties I went out yesterday and brought in a large bunch – one Madam something one of the finest I ever saw – they were planted by Mrs. O'Brian, lady that lived here some years.*

*I shall have good laugh at John when he comes in – ever since our marriage John says he has been promised the time was just coming when we should be alone together and that it has not come yet – but he felt sure of Riverside this morning Dicy said – O mistress I forgot to tell Marster that Di Taylor said he would be over to see him this morning short time after Bella came up stairs Mistress Mr. Branden sent his compliments and piece of venison for you. I was truly grateful for the venison – though I fear Mr. Brandon may think it necessary to pay his respects. Tis a bachelor cross the river – friend of M-M-'s – Di Taylor is a cousin. John started off directly after breakfast – to cotton field there is stil [*sic*] some two hundred bales to be picked so I shall have an opportunity of seeing this and ginning. Mr. [Humason?] an engineer is still here tending the draining machine. I ride over tomorrow – tis three miles from house will try dear papa to give you some little idea if possible – John has six ditchers at work. The health now is excellent and cotton though between season and storms is but half crop [*'is stil' – crossed out*] has brought good returns so far – prices bring proportionally higher – John I think is agreeably disappointed for the prospect at one time was gloomy enough But father you must come and see this plantation life for yourself and Riverside I can give you but poor descriptions, and just now that every hour almost brings something new under the sun to light – I feel somewhat like the old woman in the shoe – if my letters partake of this confusion & jumble you cannot wonder – Not quarter of Melrose had I seen when I was transplanted here where all 'tis entirely different & new features in southern life.*

*Melrose is beautiful – very elegant one of the hansomest [*sic*] place [*sic*] I have ever seen North or South – and everything in such perfect order system papa in everything [*'nine' scratched out*] ten servants in the house and you would never know of there being there excepting that they are always ready for orders – I never saw so perfectly arranged household. John says this owing to his father – everything bears the stamp of wealth in doors and out – all their table arrangement – great deal of silver and very hansome [*sic*] – but withal father*

*the most simple unpretending family I ever knew – gentle, refined, cultivated, and such a spirit of love & kindlyness – Mrs. McMurran is one of the loveliest women – and in him father I have been most agreeable disappointed – picture to yourself a man about Coley's height – slender very – a face bright with intelligence – looks about forty five – long straight open lip with expression of decision and might be [*severely? severity?*] high forehead with the most beautiful eye – clear & bright black as night – Father he is a remarkable man – I love & respect him sincerely – and to me truly he has extended a daughter's welcome – between his manner to Mollie & myself I cannot disern [*sic*] the faintest shadow of a difference. I fear he is failing, and what wonder – such devotion to his business – John told me yesterday that for years his father's practice yielded him thirty thousand. Of grandfather & mother what shall I say – towards the old gentleman father I feel such reverence – upwards of seventy nine – bent & his hair white as snow – yet a mind bright and I verily believe without a single unkind thought or feeling to living being – Mr. [*Humason?*] the engineer has just been talking of him I will give you his own words "I dont believe there is a man except Washington that is so looked up to so reverenced by all that know him as Judge Turner – the whole family. Most families have some spot some to regret but of all the Turners I believe there is not one." And father did you know these two dear dear old people you would not wonder at such praise – I feel proud, happy whenever I think that John is his grand child – and so much of his blood is in his veins. He cannot but make a noble man – and John is strikingly like his Grandfather – you see it despite the great difference of age. We dined with them last week – Sat [*crossed out*] Friday all were invited to Melrose – but Aunt Fanny little ones were sick – she to [*sic*] is a Turner and when I say that father you will understand – From one and all have I received a warm kind welcome – as much attention as though I were an heiress & pretensions of "first family in Maryland" Of them all I will talk in spring – But we that think the south behind the times – certainly so far I have seen nothing to prove it beautiful residences well kept grounds fine – and certainly the elegant establishments that have driven up to door at Melrose – dressing – magnificent hundred dollar dresses – but I have looked in wonder and ashtonishment [*sic*] certainly in the forty calls I had before leaving I never saw so much beautiful taste & such richness – mamma – we that think of Southern dress in connection with red ribbons & yellow roses you can imagine. There is a great wealth mostly planters – having residences around Natchez – O these grandees, I wonder if they would be so polite, so wondrous prompt in their attentions if they knew Mrs. McMurran was a plain farmer's daughter. I wish I could introduce you to some of them – but dearie O, my poor tongue I was tired and worn out and glad enough, John had to leave for a short time – a succession of carriages from half past elevn [*sic*] to half past two – I am glad talking is not a burden – My great desire now is that you and dear mamma may see & know all for yourself – I am sure if you knew John's family you would feel perfectly at rest. I feared I might become worldly minded – but there is something in the air of Melrose utterly opposed to it, so simple, true & kind; if I do not grow farther from it each day – I should think myself a hopeless character*

Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to Pattie Gilbert [her sister], Riverside, Nov. 11, [no year given, but probably 1856, since Allie first arrived at Riverside in 1856] [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Wednesday Morning

Not a line dear Pattie have you had since my lead pencil letter from Columbus – and so much & so different has been the scenes since then – I feel like the old woman in her shoe –

*my budget is so big I dont know where to commence – each day at Melrose I thought to write but the rush of company callers upon Mrs Mc Jr you may imagine Pattie – getting up from breakfast table about ten upon average – company commencing half past eleven until nearly three our dinner hour – nearly five when we finished – I tried writing at night once but my eyes were so streaked next morning John was unwilling to have it done second time, so one letter to Mamma was all accomplished in the letter line before leaving which we did Saturday afternoon – reaching Riverside bright & early Sunday morning. I was glad my first impression should be such a bright one – we landed in front of the lower quarters and I had the pleasure of seeing real [*eighty?*] cabins looking very pretty – freshly whitewashed & a large china tree in front of each. They are quarter of mile from the house, which we soon walked and I found myself in my own house – sounds grand dont it Pattie, it might be made a fine house, the rooms are large, ceilings good height and a fine hall – but I think John is wise in determining to build – I dont think he has any of the Austen talent of "fixing up," and the foliage is so dense around this damp, yet I could not bear to see any of these fine trees cut down. Pattie the richness, luxuriance of vegatation [*sic*] you can have no idea of – every old stump covered with beautiful vines – Then the spanish moss – wreathing itself so gracefully in the trees. To me everything is so entirely new – I get tired out by time night comes [illegible], admiring for this beautiful exceedingly this South – Nature has done all she could to make up for the fevers of summer. I long for you all to enjoy this glorious (Coley not by) weather – yesterday I rode in Open barouche (mule cart) three miles, with nothing over my shoulders, excepting my blue Chintz morning wrapper. But we have had cold frosty days since I came – what they call "so cold." Sounds strange enough – Everything so green still. Riverside is a noble place – runs along the river for two miles three quarters then back bounded by high hills. Yesterday I rode to the saw mill & draining machine – a building John had put up this spring – he has commenced draining the lake – if sucessful 'twil give him five hundred additional acres and rich as rich can be. The Irish ditchers are at work – and certainly this done beautifully this almost a canal the main ditch five feet deep nineteen broad at the top – But certainly I did not commence this with the intent of giving a description of ditchers & ditching – Like another member of family when work is to be done – do least important. This too strange – Sunday great many of the plantation hands came up dressed in their best to "see mistas" [*sic*] Bella the cook acting as mistress of ceremonies – I hope they did not know how afraid I was of them. I have nearly barrell [*sic*] of "Pecauns" which they brought. But the hardest of all was to order dinner next day – I could not get John to say what he wanted even "I give it up entirely to you Alie anything you want." Yesterday I made some noodles. Bella the cook is an excellent hand – & I think teachable –"Guinie"[*sic*] which means very black. But tis too funny I order venison stake [*sic*] for breakfast come down in morning find stake, sausages hash, chicken – hominy biscuits, cakes, cornbread & what not. John says this the way with plantation cooks they think this doing things in the most stylish way, greater the number of dishes, the more elegant. But the Melrose servants, Pattie for once I have seen perfect system – 'this tremendous house. Ten servants apart from coachman & footman, yet you would never know there was one in it, so quiet, respectful and well ordered. Ma is my beau ideal of a housekeeper, and indeed Pattie of woman if I told you just what I think of her on paper twould seem like exaggeration so I will leave it to tell only she is just what her letters made you think of her, & most dearly do I love her – to me she is indeed a mother – & Mr. McMurran too so kind, not a shade of difference in his manner to Mollie or myself. I called him father from form – I am fast feeling it. Indeed Pattie all are so kind & good to me – Aunt Fanny Grandpa & Ma – I would be the most ungrateful of girls if I did*

*not love each one most dearly – though I think next to John's mother comes his grandfather – an old man seventy nine [*bent?*] & grey haired – who has held the highest position his state could give him – how imensely [*sic*] wealthy at times and yet passed through it all as simple as a little child – I verily believe he has not an unkind thought to living being – generous to a fault – Ma's description of them was true "so full so brimful of the milk of human kindness." Mr. Humas the gentleman John has tending his machine, was speaking of them or rather Judge Turner it was very exaggerated and yet Pattie will show you how loved they are "I dont believe there lives the man Washington hardly accepted [*sic*] that is so looked up respected & loved as Judge Turner everybody rich & poor have not a hard thought towards him. Most families have someone to feel ashamed of "but I dont think he has a single one in the family that are not perfect" It made me feel very happy. I knew it was not blarney & John is his Grandson, strikingly like him in face and some of these noble traits he must have. If you only knew these dear old people Pattie Woodlands their place is just adjoining Melrose and I expect to spend many of my mornings there. Melrose is beautiful very elegant and the grounds as is the house perfectly kept. A lovely home to be taken to – and I feel just as much at home as though I had lived there for years.*

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Nov. 12, 1856 [Envelope addressed to "Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr./Ft. Adams/Wilkinson Co/Miss." Also written on the envelope is "First letter at Riverside/November 12th 1856/Answered"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Of the three plantations I prefer Riverside myself; would rather reside on it than either of the others. Being so near the river, and seeing boats passing so constantly, takes from the feeling of loneliness a lady is apt to feel in plantation life, unless thoroughly interested in all its daily business & routine . . . .

On my return in the afternoon I found another heap of cards left for you by visitors – Mrs. Shipp, Miss Davis, The Misses Mandeville, Mrs. J. T. Butler – I am keeping a faithful register – so you will be sure not to miss any . . . .

Last night the Democrats had a grand torch light rejoicing (that is as grand as they could have in Natchez, which always has been Whig) and from the close approach of the sound of drum & fife, and the cheering, they must have marched to Monmouth to give the general a blast for victory. Farar says it hurts him – it makes him mad – to hear and see a Democrat. Husband feels it too, but as usual, says but little. They say now it is doubtful if even Maryland has gone for Fillmore. I shall be sorry if it is so – Maryland stood alone true to the old faith, and I felt proud of your state, Alie, that it was so. There is scarce a doubt now Buchanan is to be our next President. Well, if they will but hold together our glorious Union we minorities must rest content.

Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, Melrose, November 13, [no date, but probably 1856 because describes first arrival as bride at Melrose] [Envelope addressed to "George Austen Esq/Phoenix/Baltimore/County/Md" and in another hand "Letter on my bridal trip."]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*the first thing he heard was "Mars John" – and Mamma the first to greet & welcome me in Nachez [*sic*] was William – I like him as perfect a gentleman as I ever saw – I think there*

*were half dozen darkeys – "Mars Johnny" & in a few minutes we were safely tucked away in carriage – William following in the waggon with baggage – Farar Conner had waited until ten, then coming to conclusion that we could not get through "Hole in the Wall" bad place about twenty miles above Nachez [*sic*] – he had gone out to Melrose again – How I felt riding those two miles you may imagine Mamma – We drove up to what I could see was a splendid house and the next moment I was in Mrs McMurran's arms welcomed as "daughter" Mother she [was] perfectly lovely – all I imagined her & more – very like her daugerr [*sic*] – & very unlike – O she was so excited her voice trembled so she could scarcely talk – and I was cool as cucumber – I suppose from the very excess of excitement – so far dear Mamma – when Mrs McMurran came in and we talked over our fire until late they all went into town to see torch light procession except Mrs McMurran & myself And your humble Servant [back?] prevented her – "pa" did not care to go – so I even I poured out his tea and talked – he is very different from what I expected – so kind and gentle, handsome, the finest dark eyes I ever saw, like Mary's only a world of intelligence & [*punctuation?*] – But O so quiet – you would not wonder at John's quiet if you knew his father – He had gone to bed indeed all except Mrs M who [*illegible*] to my story but it must be short this time Mamma for this Sunday night and this must be mailed in morning.*

*After cake & wine brought in by Marcellas the second waiter – we were brought up into our room – and a glorious one it is – I like it better than any – four tremendous windows – one opening on gallery – high ceilings – and very hansomely [*sic*] furnished, walnut Large high post bedstead hansome [*sic*] curtains to it white embroidered – & pink ribbons in profusion – then a couch – or what we would call little french bedstead little write table – large hansome [*sic*] square table covered with hansome [*sic*] cloth – writing desk – bureau – easy chairs in abundance – & little reception chairs – toilette fixings – this dear Mamma with bright fire & bed already turned down you may imagine how inviting and home like it looked – and Mrs McMurran warmth of manner – Farrar Conner was right – I feel perfectly at home – they are all so so kind – next morning Friday my first waking up at Melrose – bright fire burning in the grate little pitcher of warm water sitting on hearth – and such a beautiful day – John & I got up and "took a look" this beautiful, beautiful, and very elegant – lovely as good taste and full purse can make place – leave scarcely touched, in finest trees no perceptable [*sic*] change and the roses – you would go crazy – such a variety and so fine – hedges and without end – perfectly kept – but mother I never saw such system in everything – house grounds – we that have thought of "broken down South" I look in amazement "– and as for being behind the times – but I must close shortly twil take a year to tell all only I was sick, & this with excitement of seeing family [*illegible*] I dressed in white wrapper – scarlet cape and went down – Mr Mc met me most warmly – Mollie & Farrar – & a "Melrose breakfast" bright, cheerful & very elegant. After breakfast. "Grandpa" a good warm kiss & welcome – then dear little "grandma" just the dearest little woman – I understand Mrs Pringle's expression the dearest old people "so much love & kindness for all" Aunt Fanny & her band of girls soon came & Mr Conner – a warm hearty welcome from all – the servants all coming to "pay their respects" "Mars John's" wife full of more importance in the world than she ever did before – Good night dear Mamma & papa this a kind beautiful lovely home – and I am tenderly watched & cared for – but dear dear old Filstone I love it better each day – simple plain I find no place I love better – and now that I have seen & know Melrose though this very elegant and everything throughout thoroughly sustained, I feel satisfied would have them all stay and [*illegible*] nothing love to all from Alie*

John T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 8, 1857. Z66, box 5, folder 13, Quitman Family Papers, MDAH.

I thank you for the Report of the Smithsonian Institute, and the 3d vol. Perry's Japan Expedition. If Government will, with an overflowing treasury, expend largely in publications, it might publish much less useful works

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Jan. 16, 1857 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Jr/Riverside Plantation/3 miles below Ft Adams/Wilkinson Co/Miss."]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I was so sorry not to be able to write you on Wednesday – but Father sent Pat to town too early for me to write, and William was engaged with the bell hanger so I could not send in to the P.O. I knew you would feel disappointed in not hearing from Melrose yesterday. I had a bell hung for you in Alie's room . . . .

I have sent for the Tea, of the kind you wish, by the bye, what tea drinkers you must be at Riverside, – my box commenced at the same time is not exhausted yet . . . .

*I have had the trunk packed with clothes, Hops Tea (it is the same kind you had before but not put up in a box), and am only waiting to put up some fresh bread to have the trunk closed – in it I will put the papers & letters, believing you will receive the latter more promptly than by mail. Eliza says she put up the shaving aparatus [*sic*] in the small side box in the tray – of the trunk you took with you. She has found some additional articles of the kind, however, in your room and put them in the trunk.*

I sent William in with the cart early Thursday morning – but no Hog – do not forget to reserve a barrel of Lard for Melrose.

John T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 31, 1857. Z66, box 5, folder B, Quitman Family Papers, MDAH.

Dear General

I thank you for the additional volumes of Perry's Japan Expedition, as well as your other favors. I have not the pleasure of a copy of your late speech, which I hear most highly spoken of, but shall ere long give it a deliberate perusal.

On my return yesterday from my plantation below, I found a note from Mr. McDonald, enclosing a letter to him from the Auditor, regarding your taxes. I telegraphed Mr. McAfee to pay them and send me the amt. and I would remit him. He says the time will be up today for paying to the auditor. I thought it was the first of March. Mr. McDonald advised me it would be right to pay on the same as last year – And no doubt it will all be right. I shall attend to the matter and advise you.

*I have received a note from G. Malin Davis, stating that he would have the controul [*sic*] of a portion of the fund, coming from Newman as Conner &c in Surget v. Dunbar et al. and that he would be glad to renew or continue loans to you and me on same terms for such [illegible] amounts as we had from Newman – though at the high interest of 10 per ct. I find it necessary with my engagements at this time to accept of his terms, as he asks none of the principal for three years, and then in instalments, so that I can readily meet them. You will perceive that I propose going in for $12,000 – interest annually, and principal in 3, 4, & 5 years – and must ask of you the favor to sign (as security) the enclosed notes, and return*

them to me. It is the only paper of mine you will be on. If you are as bad off as I am, and wish to go in, Mr. Davis will readily accommodate you for your $6,000, paid Newman, or more, for the same time and on same terms with mine – and you know I will with pleasure add my name to your notes, and leave the funds deposited as you may direct. If you go into it my notes will give you the form . . . .

I also take pleasure in saying to you that I am now a Grandpa – Mary having given birth ten days ago to a fine little boy – and both doing well.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Feb. 21, 1857 [envelope addressed to "Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr/Fort Adams/Wilkinson Co/Missi"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I have been out this morning, superintending gardening, and setting out of some shrubs from the nursery beds. Everything is budding & growing – it is so pleasant out, I should like to spend the whole day in the open air. I observe the red bud (Judas tree) is beginning to put on its sanguine robe, some indication of the approach of spring – the yellow jessamine, too, is showing golden cups full of sweets . . . .

Baby grows, but does not gain much flesh – we feed him now with arrowroot – Mary not giving sufficient nourishment for the poor little one – she still nurses him, and will continue to do so, though she has not much strength to spare in that way. He is almost ravenous sometimes, tugging away, where there is poor return for his labor – It is a real misfortune not to give plenty of milk for one's baby – only the breast will fully satisfy the infant. This is a great drawback to both Mary & the infant, and is a source of much anxiety to me . . . .

The military companies are today celebrating "the 22nd" then the "Phoenix Ball" comes off, and there is an end to gaiety (!!) until after Lent, which commences next Wednesday. After Easter the gentlemen of the Club are to open the new Club House to the Ladies, in a Grand Ball. They will then have in the gas-fixtures, and illuminate the whole house.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Feb. 28th, 1857 [envelope addressed to "Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr/Ft. Adams/Wilkinson Co/Missi"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

They are really noisy in their vocalization – the mocking birds especially. Night before last one, seemingly perched on the cedar in front of my window, kept me awake in "the small hours of night" by his vocal exercises. He seemed to be trying to imitate every imaginable sound; even the wheezing of my little Canary. So perfect was the sound I was on the point of getting up to see if my pet was sick, when the provoking bird changed his note to one more [hoity?] and betrayed the imposter . . . .

Those same hills must begin to look beautiful, with us the yellow jessamine is coming into full bloom – if you cannot go to them, make the servants bring you some of the long sprays of flowers – they are so fragrant. With us the roads are becoming quite good again, but Mary has been deprived of her drives by a boil which has kept her prisoner since last Saturday. It has now broken and she will try a drive this afternoon, if baby is well, but he has colic in the afternoon sometimes, so that she cannot go out at all. She is improving, but needs fresh air and exercise greatly. Baby grows and likes his arrowroot feed, but Mama's milk best. Mary is yielding more for him now.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Mar. 4, 1857 [Envelope addressed to "Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr/Fort Adams/Wilkinson County/Mississippi," although the letter is clearly directed to her son; the envelope may be with the wrong letter.] McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*I know you must have been greatly annoyed in making those changes amongst the negroes – it is one of their strong traits – love of the old locale – or dislike to leave a place they have long lived in, even if it is for their own benefit. It is so gratifying to learn all is again healthy on the plantation – even old Dick improving – I do hope the old man may live to be servicable [*sic*] again, it would be a trouble to him to know he was only to be a burthen [*sic*] the balance of his life – I was glad, too, to learn Herring had planted a garden, of which the negroes would have the benefit. In my estimation, it is all important to vary their food with vegetables; it is conducive to health as well as cheerfulness, and this latter is as essential in getting work from them as the former . . . .*

*Poor Sis does not improve as we would like, she no sooner is rid of one ailment than some other appears – yesterday she was threated [*sic*] with a swollen breast – there is a hard lump formed in it which will require medical treatment, I fear; poor child, it is so disheartening to her, she loses all spirit sometimes. Baby grows and thrives on his arrowroot.*

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Mar. 5th, 1857 . Series 1, folder 2:29, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Thank you, dearest Sister, for your kind note, received last week, and for the sweet flowers, both very welcome.

We have heard from you twice since, through your notes to Woodlands, and I have received the plant of geranium in excellent order. It looks very thrifty and I hope will grow well in its new home – I am much obliged to you for it, dear Sister. Your Hyacinths far outbloom mine showing the vigor of the soil at Innisfail. How is it with the strawberrys? Ours never looked better, or gave more promise of early fruit. The "Peabody's" have increased so that we now have quite a large bed of them, full of bloom and fruit set . . . .

I had a letter from John last Monday. They are expecting a visit from me ere they come up – and as Mr. McM – speaks of going down on Saturday I should like much to go with him, but cannot leave Mary, I fear, particularly alone, unless better & stronger than she now is. After being so much better last Saturday & Sunday – able to be about as usual she is now in her room again with a lump in one of her breasts. It was produced partly from a bruise and partly from cold I think. We are using remedies to disperse it, but I much fear it will come to a head. Poor Mary, it is hard for her to suffer so much, and so uncomplainingly. I know more by the expression of her face than by words, how she does suffer. Baby is getting some flesh at last, and looks so much better; too pretty for a boy. His features are so perfectly formed, yet in a delicate mould – Still, he looks the boy. He has grown heavy enough to make Mary's arms ache in nursing him.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857. Series 1, folder 2:30, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I wish I could give you a sight of my green-pit now, it is really brilliant with the show of geranium, cactus &c, the garden is beginning to look quite spring like too; the roses promise to be

*unusually fine, if there is no frost to check them . . . . Mr. McMurran took us last evening to a favourite nook of his – the ground was perfectly carpeted with flowers, quite a variety – too, but nearly all of the same colour – blue –. Mary & I came home loaded with huge boquets [*sic*], which today make the vases look gay.*

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, July 17, 1857 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Jr/Care of C. Gilbert Esqr/67 Fulton St/New York City/N.Y"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.
[John and Alie have gone up north to await arrival of their first baby, Mary Louise, ultimately born Aug. 3 or 4, 1857.]

We are busy now putting up tomatoes, and preserving figs & peaches. The latter come from Moro and Killarney; we have none here this year. You may be sure you & Alie will be remembered, and have a good store for next winter. Marey is quite happy in showing her skill in this way. She sends her affectionate remembrance to you both.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Melrose, July 20, 1857 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

When I wrote last to John his Father had gone to New Orleans to see the Pump & Draining machine establishments there, and investigate the practicability of applying them to the thorough drainage of Clark's Lake. He seemed full of hope when he left, but figures, like facts, "are stubborn things," and I do not think he is as favourably impressed as he wished to be – but he has written to John and, no doubt, told him more and better than I can about it.

*Father told me the servants had done some preserving for you: he saw a jar of nice looking Pears put up. We are busy here, too: caning [*sic*] Tomatoes & peaches, preserving peaches & figs. We get peaches from Moro & Killarney, and some most beautiful Nectarines from the former place. We are abounding in fine fruits and vegetables now. Melons are excellent.*

Today our Baby Farar is half a year old. I wish you could see him; he has grown and improved so much, knows and notices a great deal, and has so many pleasant little "ways." He can kiss most vigorously, pull hair to perfection, tries to call the dogs, and pat his little hands. He is very good too, frets very little even from the heat, which he seems to feel more than usual, for a baby. He wears, now, only a thin slip, and has a broad pallet on the hall floor, where he rolls about or sits up as he pleases. Mary bought him, in New Orleans, a beautiful little open carriage, in which he takes his airings over the garden & shrubbery walks, drawn by his nurse, or one of the children; he loves it very much, and holds out his arms to his little carriage whenever he sees it. I will send a kiss from him to "Aunt Alie and Uncle John." Mary & Farar are very well, and send love to you both. Mary has a sewing machine, but has not yet learned to manage it well. It is rather warm exercise for such hot weather.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, August 3 or 4, 1857. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

We spent the summer of '57 up North and in New York our little girl was born, Mary Louise McMurran, named for her grandmother. In the fall we returned with our beautiful child . . . .

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Aug. 13, 1857 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Jr/Care of C. Gilbert Esqr/67 Fulton St/New York/N.Y–"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Father wrote you a few days since, in answer to your letter of the 1st inst. I do not know whether he said anything about the plastering of your house, but he told me he would attend to it the first time he went to Riverside. I will attend to the sowing of seed for fall garden. I do not know whether I will go there this month or not. – I suffer so much during the warm season I find it necessary to be quiet at home. I have not been to town for two months, even to church, only drive late in the evening, and only visit Woodlands and Monmouth . . . .

What a strange season it has been and still is. Never have I had so much trouble with my preserved fruits. As the dryest, coolest place they were stored away in the wine cellar. To my utter vexation I found nearly the half in a state of fermentation, the work to be all "done over." Now they are in good condition, again, but for how long who can tell. I have had put up many more than usual, so as to supply Alie & Mary next winter. Marney is preserving figs today, but the season is unfavourable for them, they are few and small.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Aug. 23, 1857 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Jr/Care of C. Gilbert Esqr/No 67 Fulton St/New York/N.Y–"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Oh, Son, how thankful I am you have a health [*sic*], perfectly formed child. I never appreciated this great blessing until now, when my heart is so sorrowful over Mary's sweet babe. The time draws near when the dear child is to be put in the hands of the surgeons, that they still may give what nature has denied him, the use of his feet. Little unconscious one, he is so happy and merry, in blessed ignorance of his present condition and future pain. He is a strong, healthy child, and this, the surgeons say, will much facilitate the recovery; still he must be tortured for days, perhaps weeks & months ere entirely healed. Whether his tender age will permit him to endure it we know not, even the operators cannot be certain until he is tested, though they say there is no danger from the operation, even though it does not restore the feet to perfect form and use. They have now two similar cases on treatment in New Orleans, in both which they have been, thus far, successful, though the Children have been delicate, so we have everything to encourage in the result; still the pain, the suffering must be endured by poor baby, and that is so distressing to know. Would I could take it all myself, if he could be spared! But it is God's will, and this should give us strength and patience to bear it. Farar & Sis expect to leave for New Orleans on Wednesday, their return will depend on the time this operation will take to be complete, it may be weeks, it may be months, no one can tell. One thing is certain, it is a very present trouble to me, and my only strength is obtained in prayer and trust in God's help and great mercy.*

*They think of taking a house, or private rooms, and have their meals furnished from a restaurant, in preference to being in a hotel. At best the arrangement must be disagreeable to Mary who is so fond of home, the country, and quiet life. She bears it bravely, but I know it wears on her spirits, she is very thin. [*several words crossed out*] Farar's very devoted to her and baby, and will devote himself entirely to the care of them during this trial. Baby is very fond of him and loves his [*illegible*] nursing. Dr. Chopin, the operating surgeon, is now at Linden, to see poor little David Conner, he found him in a better condition in regard to the*

*disease, than he expected, but the poor child is loosing [*sic*] strength to bear up under the treatment, – and disease together, and may sink off at any time. Farar & Mary are to go down with the Doctor. I wish it was so I could be with Mary in this trouble, but I do not like to leave your Father alone. He is at present at Riverside, and will return next Thursday. I sent the seed by him, with directions about sowing, and he is to see about the roofing and plastering of the house, whilst down this time . . . .*

Mama asked me to request you to have your little Mary's initials engraved on the silver set. I told her I had written you about a cup for her like the set, and mentioned about the initials.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, Aug. 28, 1857 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Oh! Alie, how I long to see the little pet; how I shall love her, do love her now. Bring her to me, dear daughter, as soon as you can. What a comfort she would be to me now, when I miss my sweet little Farar so much. I am completely spoiled, and feel so lost without a baby in the house. What sunshine they shed around them, – bright rays from a holier sphere. Do you not feel it to be so? I try to picture your little darling, from the descriptions John has given me, until I fancy I should know her at once. How beautiful her hair must be. Mary's was just so long and black, when an infant. I was so much pleased you sent me a piece of it. I love her name, too, – for your affectionate remembrance of me in giving her my name, dearest Alie. I cannot tell you how pleased and honored I feel. Precious little one, how very dear she is to me as the child of my beloved John & Alie. What a sweet and tender tie it is to us all. Kiss her many times for me and for Grandpa, too. He is fond of children, and will be very happy in his little grandchildren. Little Farar is already a privileged character with him, and pulls his hair with great glee to them both. I do miss him so much, and cannot yet see his crib empty, his carriage and toys, without dew eyes. They left for New Orleans on Wed. eving. [*sic*] – to be absent an indefinite time. . . .*

Father had the house examined for plastering, concluded the lower rooms could not be done without putting in an entire frame inside to plaster to, the logs are so uneven, and the cutting and hammering might endanger the stability of the whole, so he will have the upper rooms plastered and leave the lower until John comes home, and he can then determine as he thinks best about it. The house will be reroofed, the first thing.

J. T. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Aug. 30, 1857 [Envelope addressed to "Mr. J. T. McMurran Jr/Care of C. Gilbert Esqr/67 Fulton St./New York City/N.Y."]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dear Son

I returned from the plantation Thursday. Dixon and Robert will get to covering the dwelling this week after Mr Henry attends to bracing the gin building which is indispensable. I was afraid to miss the lathing & plastering of the lower rooms, and will leave that for your action after your return, as Alice and Baby can remain home till it is done, if you determine on it. I will have the two upper rooms and passage prepared for lathing and plastered as soon as possible after the Boys have covered the house. I hope this will be done by your return; being weatherboarding, there is no difficulty.

The prospect of the cotton crop at Riverside is anything but favorable. I was much disap-

*pointed in the old field and [*Kohlen's?*] crop generally. The bolls for a moderate crop is not on any part of it, and it seemed to be pretty much done growing. Henrys [*sic*] cotton, what he has left, has more on it, and is [illegible]. From the appearance of his, if he had plenty of land out of water, with all the rains, he would have made, with a favourable fall, something of a crop. But you know, he has not third land for his force, out of water, in cotton. And the swamp has been so bad, and weather, that he has cut but little wood. We have no steamboat wood whatever, to help run a short crop. The corn crop is a very full one. The fodder of course was greatly damaged, in saving it, by the rains. When I say that the Lake is still full of water, that the [*piece?*] of cotton ground you thought so much of in 1855, is still under water and that all the cypress stump [*sluices?*] are covered with water up to their heads or upperwards you can know fully well the state of the lower place as to water. Kohlen will have to ford the creek with what little cotton he has to hand. When you return, we can determine whether to put up another bridge or not. There is some sickness on the place, more with Herring, fevers, and chills and fevers &c. They would commence a little picking, the cotton end of last week. The last ten days have given us more dry weather than we have had since the flood in June. And those who have cotton will have it opened rapidly now, the wind being cool and from the north.*

Mr Vardeman does not expect to make more than half a crop; at the same time some others in that parish will make full crops, allowing for the lateness of the season.

*I hope you will have time before you leave the North, to ascertain information regarding Gwymil's Centrifugal pump, which I wrote you about – not that I contemplate we will be likely use it [*sic*], but the information I wish to have.*

Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to Pattie Gilbert [Alie's sister], Melrose, January 4, [no date, but must be 1858, because letter refers to Alie's first child Mary Louise, born 8/1857 and died 7/1858]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*It was eleven o'clock when we reached Natchez – but a beautiful moonlight night so we had no trouble in getting out – [*May?*] as sound asleep when we reached Melrose as when I put her in the [*illegible*]. Ma was waiting for us such a warm welcome as we always find – & Mamie this well she dont [*sic*] understand all the fuss that is made over her – or no child could stand it. She is considered a nonesuch I assure – grand mother, great grandmother, Aunt Fanny one & all pronounce her a "splendid child." And of course I heartily agree – her complexion is beautiful clear white & red – deep blue eyes – and just as fat as she can be – little Farrar & she are perfect.*

*So far Pattie when Ma come in to say she was going to make some Jelly if I wanted to watch – so I went down & now 'this dinner time. Saw Mamie making her nice baked custards – Pattie while I think of it there is such a nice way Rachel (the cook) has of preparing chicken – I am sure you would like it – & then 'this a change something new that I order breakfast dinner & supper day after day I have learned to appreciate – cut your chicken up – just as you would for the ordinary stew – season with little onion (chop up) – peper [*sic*] – salt & tomatoes I expect about a cup full out of a can would be enough – little butter & water – no flour – & let it stew until done – I prefer it to the fricasee [*sic*].*

John T. McMurran to John T. McMurran Jr., Natchez, March 9, 1858 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Dear Son

*Mr. Vardeman writes me he is willing to take the [*lot?*] of Riverside we [*illegible*] on hire for Moro the balance of the year. I will instruct the Princess to come to for them and bring them up to Moro Landing on tomorrow week (the 17th) so that you can have them in readiness, and advise Mr. Vardeman when you ship. I shall instruct him to be ready for them at that time. I suppose you will inform them that it is for the year for want of land at home.*

The list will be

Cyrus & Phebe his wife
Lige & Maria his wife
Frank & Sallie his wife
Lawrence,
Maria,
Mary Slaughter &
Ginny (instead of Tilda,)

*I wrote you on saturday my reasons for desiring the change as to Ginny for Tilda. If you think you you [*sic*] might really want a couple of them to cultivate the crop, I suggest to keep Frank & Sallie, as the weakest pair – but I hope you can conveniently spare the whole of them, according to your list, with the single change named –*

*I wish you would send up Diven [*Dixon?*] to me here when you send up the other negroes. He may as well bring his tool chest and some clothing, as I may send him up the river before he goes back. Give him a pass that will carry him, by day & night, out to me, and leave his tool chest marked for Harris' wharf boat, so that it may not be misplaced there.*

*I hope to hear from [*Bruckner?*][*illegible*] about the [*peas?*] on thursday so that I can order up the gunny bags for you for the [*peas?*] on the Princess at the time she takes the negroes on.*

I suppose you supplied some time ago the spring shoes –

You have had fine weather for 3 to four weeks – and hope it may continue – all well here, and with love to Alie, Yours affectionately J. T. McMurran

Pattie [Alie's sister?] to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Lexington Avenue 234, April 7, 1858 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Alie what did you think of my not sending your black scarph [*sic*] by Coley? – I never thought to put it into his trunk; I will send it you by express if you so – I can have it fixed so that it will not fall so far off your shoulders & if you did not think it appropriate for yourself you could give it to "Aunt Fanny" I have also a little linen cambric dress you left me as a patern [*sic*] I will take good care of it for you.*

Coley [Gilbert?] to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., New York, April 22, 1858 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Allie,

*I don't know that I have but one prominent wish as to any change in your position, friends, or surroundings & that one is that John was a Christian – this I do most earnestly wish for and pray for. Since I left Riverside he has frequently been the subject of my thoughts in this connection. If he were only an avowed disiple [*sic*] of our Lord & Saviour Jesus Christ what a happiness it would be to him to you & to us all. We will pray for him Allie & I feel sure you will try to exemplify the religion of Christ in your [*walk?*] & life day by day.*

John T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, April 28, 1858. Z66, box 5, folder 18, Quitman Family Papers, MDAH.

Dear General

I wrote you some short time since, enclosing a copy of an argument I had made with Col Fall for a sale of a portion of your Crawford land. The judge has made no further sales that I am advised of, and with the overflowings of the Mississippi above, I would not look for anything further this season.

Judge Jayne was in here, while I was absent, so that I did not see him. Mr. Koontz told me he pressed him in every way to pay even the interest, but he could not get a cent out of him. I have not been treated as badly for years in any act of the kind, as by Judge Jayne in this matter. I will have to execute your and my note to Britton & Co. & take up Jayne's, for they do not want his name any more – and when you return we can determine what course to take with the paper, or rather with Jayne.

*I thank you for the many valuable volumes of Congressional publications you have been so kind as to send me – apart from the speeches you have [*handed?*] me. I lately received, (with others) two copies of the First volume of "Commercial Relations," and one of the Third volume. I thought it may have been a mistake in sending two of the 1st volume, and that one of them may have been intended for the second. The second treats of "Comparative Tariffs" and I would like to have it, as I think this set of the Publications is valuable for present use and future reference. If there has been a mistake in sending me two of the 1st volume I will make what disposition you desire of one of them – and will be under additional obligations, if you could send at any time to me the second volume, so as to make my set complete. You could, for instance, forward with any lost you may be stopping to Monmouth, or by mail.*

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, June 3, 1858. Series 1, folder 2:32, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.
[Contains recipe for making strawberry syrup.]

Our household is all together once more

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, July 14, 1858. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

. . . the following June at Melrose she had whooping cough and died on the 14th of July, 1857. She suffered much, but until her little hands were chilled by death we did not realize our darling was passing away . . . . The following Thursday Tonie, Ma McMurran, John and self left for Maryland where we made a short visit.

Mary E. McMurran to Rosalie Quitman, Linden, Sept. 1858. B-8, folder 1:4, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

*I have been wishing for the last week to write to you, in answer to your welcome letter received about ten days ago but have been so busy making up some fall clothes for Fazzie [*sic*] that I have not found time to do so. A very cold spell, the end of last month reminded me that he was not prepared for cool weather. As he did not walk until Spring all his fall things were long, and when this cool snap came so unexpectedly upon us he was obliged to wear his long wrapper to his infinite annoyance, so I was determined to be ready the next time.*

John T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, October 1, 1858 [envelope addressed to "Mrs J. T. McMurran Jr/Phoenix P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Just up darling from the library where Father & I have finished settling our last years account of the plantation. What think you pet that we have spent for sixteen months $3900 – I spent just $140 above my third of the income. Well I am glad it was no worse, you darling have been economical while I have spent entirely too much money for a poor man I am glad the account is now settled and we are selling our cotton very well thus 12 1/4 is the highest sale yet but I hope to see 12 1/2 – . . . .

*I find darling such a comfort in my bible, if I only knew when to find these places which are suited to me and I cannot go to any one else to learn more but my own sweet good wife – and wont she teach me & show me those passages which are such a comfort to poor sinners on this sinful earth – O what must it be to die in ignorance of the Lord a sinner, where will these go who know him not O, Alie to you darling do I look to assist and advise to lead me to that goal when we may never know sin [*more?*]. O what would I not give to have you counsel me now –*

Receipt from Baltimore store for goods purchased by J. T. McMurran, Jr., McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Baltimore November 27th 1858
*J. T. McMurran Jr Eq. [*sic*]*
Bought of P.Tiernan & Son, No. 12 N. Charles Street

*1782 [*pentagus?*] cigars a. $75.—*	
*[*for 1000*]*	*133.65*
1 bottle Whiskey	*.75*
1 case Otard Dupery & Co. Cognac	*24.00*
1 Magnum Jamaica Rum 225.	*13.50*
1 case Château La. Rose Claret	*12.00*
1 " " Margaux "	*15.00*
1 " " Haut. Bron "	*12.00*
1 " Clos de Vougeot	*30.00*
1 " Amontillado Sherry	*15.00*
1 " Louis Philippe " Victoria	*24.00*
1 " Blandy [Hebrew star with dot in center] Madeira	*30.00*
1 " Stein Wine "beux boutelle" 10/12	*10.42*
1 cask Younger's Ale	*17.00*

3 Jugs White Curacoa [sic][@] 2.50	*7.50*	
1 Jar Chow Chow 1 do Cauliflower	*.62*	
1a picalilli	*.31*	
1 quart bottle Worcestershire Sauce	*1.25*	
1 bottle Essence of Shrimp 37 1 do Anchovy 38	*.75*	
a Anchovy [paste?]	*.37*	
1 " Walnut Catsup	*.37*	
2 Jars East India Ginger [@] 1.50	*3.00*	
1 " Orange Marmalade	*.50*	
1 pound apricots, 2 " cherries, 2. Strawberries, 1 " Lemon	*4.50*	
1/2 chest. Ooloong [sic] Tea 49/ 13 36 lbs a 75	*27.00*	
1 box queen Chop. " Green 14/2 200	*29.00*	
1 chedder [sic] cheese 8 15/16 [@]50	*4.47*	
3 Safr. Sage cheeses 3 lbs. 183	*.56*	
6 large Tins Pelet pois	*6.00*	
2 Jars Moutarde de Maille 37/2	*.75*	
3 " Olives 37/2	*1.13*	
6 " Salad Oil 800	*4.00*	
2 tins Truffles [@] 2.50	*5.00*	
3 bologna Sausages 7 8/16 [@].50	*3.75*	
3 patent Cork Screws [@] 2.00	*6.00*	
6 cases Lobster 600	*3.00*	
6 " Salmon 900	*4.50*	
1 case Green Seal champagne	*18.00*	
2 bottles Bitters	*2.50*	
1 cask 20 Gallons O Rye Whiskey [@] 2.50	*50.00*	
1 bag [BWelleal?]	*1.00*	
2 dozen Jars Table Salt [@] 2.50	*5.00*	
11 cases. 4.12 Cartage 113	*5.25*	
1 Jug Curacoa [sic] Cordial	*2.50*	
1 bottle Anisette	*1.25*	
100 Concha Valentina Cigars6.00	*543.15*	
Insurance 543.15 54.31 597 46/100 2%	*11.94*	
	555.09	

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Dec. 4, 1858. Series 1, Folder 2:33, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I enclose you the $60.00 due for the mantilla with many thanks for giving me the means of purchasing it so readily . . . . John & Alie expect to go down this evening if the weather will permit.

Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. George Austen, Riverside, Dec. 10, 1858 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Saturday Evening

*The "last day of the week" dear Mamma! & it finds me nearly fixed for our two months of plantation life; then to stow away again & off to Natchez. I regret exceedingly this movement in February it makes our time so broken & short. But I feel thankful I have such a kind home to go to. It seemed a great relief to Mrs. McMurran when I told her my decision. Either place it was her intention to be with me; but I think she dreaded the responsibility of being off here no good doctor nearer than ten or twelve miles & only the plantation granny to officiate. Still ma you can appreciate my dislike at this time to be anywhere but home. So much care & so much that seems only for home & home servants. If nothing occurrs [*sic*] to prevent we leave hear [*sic*] the 1st of February. I will take Bella up with me*

*Ma engages Mrs. Cecil; the [*illegible*] of Natchez; when little Fazie [*sic*] was born she had delivered 2300 babies! Tis only for this she comes though if not called away will sometimes stay a week; always come for three days. She is a female Doctor – Gentlemen unless in cases of danger are only in the house, & many do not even have them near . . . .*

*Dear mother it has been a sore trial this coming home. I think the first night at Melrose was the worst. It seemed so desolate so lonely. I knew what it must be, but could not talk of it. Indeed I do not know why but since the first week or two immediately after the dear ones death I have never felt I could talk of Mamie. I have tried not to think lest it might affect years of anothers life – if a mother's thoughts & feelings mold the character of the unborn life within. They would not let me see her die, though she asked for "my mamma" almost the last sound from her little lips, & since it has been a constant silent struggle putting her away from my own thoughts. Yes dearest Mother she has joined the angel band of the dear ones gone before. Spared all sin & sorrow & trial. And when our summons comes God grant we may be be [*sic*] prepared to meet them. Poor Mary Dungan – she too mourns for her child that is not her first born & only one. My heart aches for her. I am glad they have taken her away from the house – every part so connected as it must be with he [*sic*] little Clara . . . .*

*I have been almost to [*sic*] busy this week – packing & unpacking – getting things in order – & in the midst came a freeze which was taken advantage of for hog killing. So I had the additional cares of lard & sausage etcetera. But tis all through with now – except the feet for jelly & that I must do next week. How I long for you & dear Father to share of our superabundance just now. Ducks & birds without number – [*illegible*] fish from New Orleans – & such splendid oranges fresh from the coast. They are unusually fine this year. Then I found when I came to unpack my box – a drum of figs & fresh jar of prunes – John sent for some Malaga grapes for me; so you see mother dear we abound in the fruit line. If you and Father were only here to enjoy them with us. I thought of you in helping "mock turtle" to day mamma 'twas so nice & what I made for you was not nearly as good as it might have been . . . .*

For Filstone & all pertaining I take the same interest & pride as the day I left for a southern home. I think I love it better than any place else. John has just come in from shooting reports "glorious sport." He goes out almost every day. Such an abundance of game this winter. We sent an immense bunch of ducks up on the Princess Wednesday for Melrose.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, January 30, 1859. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

In the winter of '58 at Melrose our little Carrie was born, six days after Mary's little Loulie and in adjoining rooms. It was a month after the explosion of the "Princess" took place on

board of which was Farar Conner and to the shock of which some attributed the first failing of poor Mary Conner's health for it was then it first commenced.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. George Austen, Melrose, Jan. 31, 1859 [envelope addressed to "Mrs George Austen/Care, Mr. Edward Austen/49 East 20th Street/New York." Also written on the envelope in another hand is "January 30th [*sic*] 1859/Written at Carrie's birth/by Grandma McMurran/to Grandma Austen/Alicia's great grandmothers"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dear Mrs Austen

*We have this morning sent you a telegram announcing the birth of a fine daughter to our beloved Alie. She was safely delivered yesterday morning, two minutes past eight, having suffered but three or four hours. She took us all by surprize [*sic*], for she was not expecting her confinement to take place for two weeks. The evening before we had company to tea, and Alie was with us until after ten o'clock, looking remarkably well. She & John had appointed next Wednesday to come up from Riverside, but our persuasions and some of her symptoms induced her to come a week earlier. Was it not Providential! A week later and she would have been caught on plantation, and without female assistance. As it is, she was so confident her time would not be up until Feb. John returned on Saturday, intending to come up again on Wednesday, and does not yet know of the birth of his daughter. What a happy surprize it will be for him. Our dear Alie is doing remarkably well thus far, and rejoicing over her little darling. She is a large, healthy child, – we think very like John – has a fine suit of hair. Her only trouble as yet is to satisfy the demands of a hearty appetite. Alie sends so much love to you. I wish you could see how bright & happy she looks – May our Heavenly Father be pleased to realize all her fond hopes, bless & keep her and the precious babe! . . .*

I must not omit to tell you of Mary's happiness in the birth of a daughter, – born last Monday, 24th inst. They are both very well; she calls the babe for me, Mary Louisa, but the latter name we will use, "Louisa."

Little Fazee is the picture of robust health – lives out of doors. He is delighted with his Sister & Cousin, wishing to share his toys with them already.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, April 8, 1859 [envelope addressed to "Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr./Ft Adams/Wilkinson Co/Missi"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*I am glad your roses are blooming so finely, they must be all the more sweet as John's morning offering – and I am quite sure, dear One, you would prefer the "log cabin," brightened with such love gifts, to a palace without them. The cool moist weather proves favourable to the flowers – I have never seen them more beautiful. For this week I have only enjoyed them from the windows, my cold has kept me from the garden; – that is better now, only a troublesome cough & hoarsness [*sic*], which will only depart with drier weather, I fear.*

My scarlet lilies are blooming, (very early) I never see them that I do not wish to send a bunch to your dear Mother, but I hope the roots you took on last summer are growing, and she will see them bloom at Filstone. – dear Filstone! if it was not for leaving Father how I would love to go on north with you again; I will never forget my pleasant visit last summer, saddened as it was, and the hearty kindness of your family, dear Alie.

Adaline has promised to be ready to go with you. She says she does not mind being in the country, quietly, – it is the same to her wherever she is. I hope you will find her a good servant & nurse.

How does my little darling Carrie now? I hope the medicine is having a good effect; if not John had better write to Dr. Davis again,

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, June [?] 1859. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

That summer we spent in Maryland and New York and I made a visit to Bessie MacLaren in New Jersey.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, winter, 1859. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

The following winter was spent on the Plantation. Christmas was a great day there. The giving out of presents, dresses to all the women and children, hats to all the men and boys and flour and sugar to all, killing of beef, dinner and so forth.

Mrs. JTM Jr.'s diary, summer 1860. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

That spring Grandpa Turner died in May. We said good-bye to him but he did not recognize us and the day afterwards he breathed his last. We came to Maryland a few days afterwards, Mr. McMurran, Mary Conner, Farar and their children followed and took a cottage at Newport, "On the Cliffs," delightfully situated. We joined them in July and were there until September. Dear Newport . . . .

We all returned to New York and took rooms at the New York Hotel.

M. L. McMurran to Louisa Quitman, New York Hotel, June 9, 1860. B-8, Folder 1:5, Quitman Family Papers, LSU.

We expect to go there to Newport next Tuesday, and occupy the "Hazzard Cottage" near the Cliffs & Forty Steps. Mary has much improved since we left home and I have every hope of her entire recovery. The Children are quite well too, though Loulie was not well the whole journey, and added greatly to my care and fatigue.

I cannot say much for my own improvement in health & strength. I have had so much anxiety (besides my own heavy sorrow) in the charge of Mary & the Children. I look to Newport as my panacea, it has never failed me yet . . . .

John is with me; he left Alie & Carrie well. John will remain with us and accompany us to Newport, then return to his family.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Sweet Springs, Sept. 9, 1860. Series 1, folder 3:36, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*[*McMurrans taking another tour of the springs. Plan to return Oct. 1.*]*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, Nov., 1860 through April 1861. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

We spent a short time at Filstone and then said good-bye in November, little thinking how long it would be before we again met and the mighty changes. The winter of '60–'61 we passed on the Plantation, never leaving there until the last of April when we left for Melrose frightened off sooner by smallpox. A few days afterwards Mrs. McMurran, May and family returned after a year north and their poor invalid worse far than when she left, unable to walk alone and mind much weaker.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, May, 1861. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

*In May John left for Pensacola, the war spirit caught, but never approving of secession, in Captain Lovell's "Quitman Artilliery [*sic*]." In June Farar enlisted in famous "Natchez Troop" of Captain Martin. Lt. Conner and Richard and Henry Conner all in the same and left for Virginia. And so it was from every family, all rushing on as if for some holiday sport thinking the war would soon end. "The Yankees would never fight."*

The ladies delicate dainty hands that never held coarser work than embroidery now sitting from early morning to night making check shirts, pants and all that a soldier's life called for. Knitting coarse woolen socks as fancy work. A common sight to see beautiful girls sitting behind liveried servants knitting whilst riding. Such untiring energy and devotion on the part of the women of the south, I could never have imagined and then the bitterness that afterwards marred their heroism had not yet risen.

Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. George Austen, Melrose, May 7, 1861 [Rosalie Quitman married Wm Duncan in June 1861][envelope addressed to "Mrs George Austen/Philopolis Post Office/Baltimore County/Maryland." Also written on the envelope is "First summer of war before Alie's with Melrose."]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Tuesday Morning – I am afraid now dear mother I shall not be able to write for I hear a step in the gallery – & think tis Mr. Lovell – At home on short leave of absence – & tis such a lovely day I know there will be company & this afternoon ma & I are going to Aunt Fanny's & Monmouth – Mary – Henry Quitman's wife is now up to attend Rose's wedding – who is to be married the 4th of June to Mr Duncan of New Orleans – I have not heard mother from you since your letter just after the Ft Sumpter [*sic*] battle – but still the mails are not really stopped – must be soon – thoughts mother are now of nothing else – through the papers we know of the terrible state of affairs in Baltimore – When – when – all this is to end God alone knows – Here as in the the [*sic*] North preparations for the worst are going on. John has written Captain Lovell for place in his company of artillery – now at Ft. Pickens – & waits his reply to be off. The Cap' has written for Tonie to come over he has a house for her & the the [*sic*] baby will go & stay so long as all remains quiet there – Tis a healthy spot & very pleasant. For John I fear the exposure to hard work his powers of endurance strong as he looks are very slight. This I think is the fear of both his Father & mother – but this is no time to hold back a willing arm even for a mother devoted as Mrs McMurran. Mrs Conner (Farar's mother) has three sons & three sons in law all going – one leaves a little new born baby – the other a wife to be confined & yet they urge them off – 'tis a desperate spirit those republicans have raised – & must meet – when their almo should be the sufferers. Farar cannot go in Mary's present state & Mr. Lemuel (Aunt Fanny's) husband is raising an artillery*

*company for home defence a brave man & of indominitable energy. Mother what is Maryland going to do – alas! She has proved herself weak & vacillating – I will not believe, until I must that she can fight against her now – but there seems a deep seated Republican taint that she did not decide in the early part of this trouble I felt proud – but now all is changed & her present policy will make her contemptible to both sides. Here all is quiet & going on in the old fashion. Poor Mary Conner, what a wreck – & failing – death if it will come a blessed relief – but she may live for years & helpless burden to herself & others – She is to be confined in Oct – & how to give birth to a child I cannot tell – the disease is spinal cord affecting the brain & they now think hopeless as from the very first I think it was – Her condition is a mortification to all – Farar feels it deeply as he might – she stays in her room for most part, only will see company – & wants to go every where – & this is torture to her mother. We are going to slip off this evening – Poor creature – She does not anger one as she did & I should hate myself if I could have any other feeling than pity. Of Farar as yet she has not given these old symtoms [*sic*]– I will watch & keep out of his way in case of returning – it would be cruel to add one pain that could be helped to such a poor helpless sufferer. Her mind fails & is like a little childs. The children are well taken care of. John & I went over to see Grandma yesterday my first visit – It looks mighty cheerful – Oh how I miss Grandpa – One of Aunt Fanny's children generally spend the night with Grandma – Aunt Fanny continues very depressed – & was completely overcome in meeting ma – What a day! I wish you could have seen the servants they were beside themselves with joy – crying some of them – I wished for an army of abolitionists to witness that scene. To John & I who came a few days before the greeting too was as warm & cordial as possible – & from all we have been made to feel no difference. So much kindness & consideration — if I am unhappy it will be [*illegible*] – but home & home faces Mother my heart aches for what may be in store for us all – the long separations – . . .*

*I have engaged Mrs Cecil for middle of August, may get Adaline to nurse me – she will have no opportunity of leaving no one is going away. I am glad Mary Dans has engaged – I will have every care & attention mother & of climate – that is in Gods hands – I may keep perfectly well – or suffer – I will will [*sic*] be prudent & for the rest trust – Keep a good heart about me – John went to Riverside this morning for a parting visit will be up Friday – & then may be off for Pensacola any day.*

Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mr. & Mrs. George Austen, Melrose, June 17, 1861 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Monday Morning

*Mrs. [*Trahern?*] has just sent me word dearest Mother & Father that she has a opportunity – reliable, of mailing letters for me this week – a gentleman leaving who will forward after crossing the line. I will write a little to all as I know not when again I shall be so privileged. I know by my own feelings what this silence is – & though my fears for you are entirely different – yours of climate are none the less hard to bear. It has been three weeks now & more since my last tidings from any one of the family – & sometimes I feel desperate – I think if I can I will telegraph once a month how we are. If you will answer this darling Mother will be a great relief – & all now [*illegible*] chances we can hope for – & once the fighting commences in good earnest – I fear even this mode may be cut off. War is now upon us – God only knows when & how to end. That the South can ever be conquered I do not for one moment dream & this is the opinion of Mr. M-M calm far seeing, & a strong Unionist so long*

*as their [*sic*] was hope. But all the distress & tumble – & the enmity from what I or my childrens will never see ended. Why could we not have gone in peace. And what a pitiable spectacle for the world to gaze & comment upon. A fearful account will the originators have to render in the last day be they from North or South . . . .*

*For us, mother believe nothing you hear by papers – We are an united people – The best commanders & an army of as fine material as ever did [*illegible*] & I believe with right & justice on our side. How can we fail? Neither are we starving or like to – crops are as promising as generally & with large extra planting of corn universal I believe – but in any event – the spirit of the Boston tea party is the feeling of all. I had a long letter from John this morning from Pensacola "Quitman Battery." His company is "Quitman Light Artillery." Capt. W. S. Lovell Tonie's husband. Tonie is now at Pensacola which is about eight miles from camp. The Capt going up once or twice a week. John writes in good spirits – Tis rough life but that he expected & did not go for pleasure – They have pleasant breeze from bay their battery about a mile or greater from Ft. Pickens. He likes his company much & I feel assured will in the Capt find the best of friends in every way. He enlisted for a year but in event of a long war would I think go through if life is spared. The Natchez Troop left yesterday week – Calvary [*sic*] composed as an old negro said of the "bloom of the county." Which means all our young aristocrats proud rich & lazy, unaccustomed to any hardships in fact nothing but luxury – yet with a spirit to do & sacrifice anything rather than submit. Mrs. Conner (Farar's Mother) had four sons in it Farar one – & a son in Calv Capt Martins – her eldest son 1st Lieutenant William Conner – Richard Sargent Farar & Henry privates – Farar looked splendid in his full dress the morning he left & so full of life & spirit as he rode off – poor Fellow how may he return. It was a sad good bye his wife in her condition not capable even of fretting much – not as much as she would the loss of some favorite article of hers – his little children laughing & playing round his horse only ma & I to feel his going. To him a "relief" from the bondage & affliction of his kind. Poor fellow . . . .*

*Carrie keeps well though getting thin from the heat. We now have peaches – pears plums apples & vegatables [*sic*] in abundance. All conducive to health – John writes of his pork & greens with great coolness, finds Bill Taylor of so much help. I hardly think he will be able to get leave of absence at least before fall – So I shall be again alone in the time of trial but dear Ma's kind & willing presence & Mother & John will be spared a great trial. They say June is the warmest month here I hope so – tis past any Northerners [*sic*] conception. I could not wish the Lincolnites a harder thing than to be transported to the midst of it. But so far healthy we hear of no yellow fever in New Orleans. I hope the Blockade will keep it out. One favor at least from this second Washington!! Poor Mary Conner grows more helpless – disease of the of the [*sic*] spinal cord & helpless. Mr. & Mrs. M-M were left in entire charge of her children by Farar – I do not see how she is to go through a confinement but no one can tell – & certainly to all death would be a release – I cannot help wishing it may come, feeling as I do she will never be restored. Grandma keeps well & is busy knitting woollen socks for the soldiers – Aunt Fanny scraping lint & rolling bandages & has commenced canning tomatoes & pickling to send. Both so excellent for health. Mr. M-M has contributed liberally – all seem to do to their utmost – & sons & husbands & brothers go without one detaining voice . . . .*

I have engaged Adaline for a nurse may keep her through the winter – She was out this morning – Expects to be sick from the 10th to Sixteenth. Good bye now darling Father & Mother should this be my last chance & death come to separate us – forgive me all my short comings so many & great – & for all your goodness & love & indulgence I have no words for –

*If no more on earth – God grant us a meeting in Heaven never more more [*sic*] to part – To his care now I find my only comfort & commiting [*sic*] all things. Good by my dearest Mother & Father Your loving daughter Alie*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, July 31, 1861. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

On July 31st little Alie was born at Melrose and a few days later I received from home my last letter for a year. All mail intercourse stopped.

M. L. McMurran to Mrs. [Pattie] Gilbert [Alie's sister], Melrose, Aug. 6, 1861 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dear Mrs. Gilbert

A quiet, rainy day gives me the wished for opportunity of writing, and congratulating you on the birth of another son, giving you & Mr. Gilbert our very best wishes; at the same time I am truly happy to inform you of the good health of our dear Alie & babe, as well as that of Carrie.

The latter's delight on the birth of a "little Sister" is beautiful to see. No jealousy, but love and devotion in full measure. All her toys and treasures are brought for Baby to share, even "mama's" caresses excite no displeasure. We thought it might be otherwise, Carrie is so petted.

*Alie gave us such a surprize [*sic*]! We were not expecting the advent of the little lady until about the 10th inst., and she came the 30th of July. (As I hope you learned by Mr. McMurran's telegram to Mr. Gilbert). Fortunately Alie had everything in order and readiness. She breakfasted with us as usual, and Mr. McMurran had started for town ere I knew anything was the matter with Alie. At half past two o'clock Miss Alie McMurran had arrived! A week ago today, and thus far all has gone well with both mother & babe.*

How thankful we are, to have it well over; you can scarce imagine our anxiety on Alie's account, although, I expect, she has never been better in every way than this summer. But John's absence, and having none of her own family near, has caused us to feel added responsibilities.

The baby is a fine one, healthy, strong, and very good. Sleeping and eating are her principle employments, and Alie's bountiful supply of milk enables her to gratify a good appetite. She has a fine suit of black hair, and we think her eyes are blue.

Poor John deplores his absence now from Alie, but hopes to obtain a furlough next month. When he left he expected to be able to return by the time of Alie's illness and spend a month, but he finds it a more difficult matter to gain permission to leave Camp than he supposed. And at this time when every man is wanted at his post, not knowing when an attack will be made. Ft. P is said to be well fortified and manned. Our batteries are also in admirable order.

We learn John is doing his duty faithfully and is making a fine, hardy soldier. He endures the privations and hardships bravely, and having Bill Taylor to cook & wash, and messing with the officers of the Company, he fares better than the other privates. His only regret is the separation from his dear ones; his greatest pleasure is in writing home. We have letters regularly from him three times a week, and he as often from us. Mrs. Lovell (Antonia) is at Pensacola, to be near the Capt. About two weeks ago she visited the Camp and writes everything is in beautiful order – as neat as a lady's boudoir.

You can imagine with what a thrill of joy and gratitude the late victory was received. And in such a beautiful spirit by our whole people. "Glory to God"! "Do good to your enemies"! These are the feelings of our people – not hatred or cursing. It seemed the impulse of all to bow down and thank God, giving Him the praise and glory. All seem to feel the issue is with Him, that we act and move as He directs & wills. I never knew or read of anything like it. Even those who have been utterly indifferent to holy things are inspired to the same devotion. No wrath, no malice, but an humble looking to God, and dependence on His power. We believe our cause is just and will succeed, yet expect to endure and bear much loss and privation.

We are blessed with an unusually pleasant summer; frequent showers keep vegetation green & fresh like spring. Fruits & crops of all kinds are abundant and promising. We have just seen some beautiful flour, the first ever ground and bolted in Natchez. The wheat grown in Tennessee. So much for our prospect of starving . . . .

Mary's health is about the same, only she is more helpless, and rarely moves except from her bed to her couch in the hall. Her Children are very well, and grown much since her return. Fazee sends his love to his young friends, particularly "the pretty little girl"– Carrie does not forget her little Cousins and asks sometimes where they are, she wants to see them.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, Oct 11, 1861. Series 1, folder 3:37, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Mary had a fine boy, and all right & well so far. Will Brother please telegraph Farar if he thinks best as Mr. McMurran is not at home. He went to Moro yesterday.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, November, 1861 through April, 1862. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

In November John returned from Pensacola compelled to resign on account of his hearing and we left directly after for Riverside remaining through the winter and going again to Melrose in April on the last passenger boat from New Orleans as Confederate possession.

F. E. Conner to L. P. Conner; At home, May 6th, '62; Tuesday night. Series 1, folder 3:38, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

My very dearest Husband,

*Our little ones are all asleep and I take advantage of the quiet time to prepare a few lines to send you by Mr. Dunbar. I have not heard from you since you left and feel very anxious to hear but cannot do so now I suppose while I remain here. The telegraph operator has moved off with his fixtures and I suppose the river mails will be stopped in a few days. The last news we had from [*Corinth?*] was of fighting there, but we have not learned the result. I feel intensely anxious to hear from you, and pray that you have not been engaged in the battles [*illegible*]. I feel perfectly lost without you dear Husband. Sometimes I feel as if I would become deranged. And especially in such a troubled time as this do I miss you. You know how I dislike to annoy others with my troubles. I have had a very busy time since you left, preparing to go. I thought we should have gone this morning as we heard of the gunboat being at Bayou Lord, but brother Henry does not think it necessary to leave until they reach this place. I am all packed, even the servants' bedding has been sent out, and as it is very un-*

*comfortable both to me and to them to live in this way I think I shall go out tomorrow. Mama was ready to leave today, but waited for me. She is with Sister tonight, Mrs. Carter being at Woodlands. J. M. Hewet & family went out this morning. [*illegible*] He has been very kind in coming out and keeping me informed of the approach of the gunboats.*

I wrote to Mrs. Eustis last evening offering her the use of our place. But she prefers at this time to remain with her Father. I heard today that Mrs. Ogden said she thought Sarah Dorsey would like to come here and that she would write to her about it if I wished, to which I most gladly acceded. Oh! This is a sad, sad time, you my good, noble & most dearly loved Husband you in the army, and I compelled to leave my house under such painful circumstances. May God grant us brighter days and may He in His infinite mercy preserve you from all harm. Oh! my dearest dearest Husband you do not know how my heart is wrung. I feel so desolated. I am very anxious to hear from you.

*Our dear children are well except little Sissy who has been suffering with tooth ache for three days. I think I will send for Dr. Sellers before I have to [*see?*] it.*

The children miss you so much. Eddie misses his play when he comes in, in the morning.

Your bottle of ginger & ball of darning cotton were left. Mr. Dunbar will take them to you.

*Wednesday morning. Mr. Baker wrote to me this morning that the gunboats anchored at Mrs. Sanderson's last night and were expected here about noon today. Mama & I leave for Franklin in a few hours. God grant we may all return to our homes in peace & happiness. God bless you my beloved Husband. Do not I beseech you expose yourself unnecessarily. Mama & Sister send their best love to you. Our dear children send you love & kisses. The servant howdy. And from myself my precious Husband accept warmest kind affection, and believe me [*illegible*] your devoted wife Fanny E. Conner.*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, August 1862. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

In August, 1862, the bombardment of Natchez took place. John was on the Plantation and I was sitting quietly by my window just after dinner when the report of heavy guns and some balls went crashing through the branches in the little woods between Aunt Fanny's and Melrose. And then another and another and so it went on. Soon a note came from Monmouth saying a ball had just fallen in their yard and Tonie came over with Jack and Star leaving them with us as farther off and safer. It continued until sun down. It was brought on by the madness of a few private citizens firing on a boat crew sent ashore for ice and molesting nothing. The valiant Douglas Walvorth leading the ['horses' crossed out*] huns. It was terrible to the poor citizens, the fright, though not one life was lost and little damage done to the houses. I shall never forget that afternoon nor the whizzing sound of the balls as they passed through the air.*

Certificate of Disability in case of J. T. McMurran Jr. A Conscript of Wilkinson County, 2nd District, So. Miss. Approved T. R. Barrett Chf. Surg. 2d Sub. Dist. S. trip/HdQrs 2nd Sub. Dist Dist of Miss/Fayette Miss Aug 6th/60/Approved By Order Brig Genl Beall/ [illegible]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I Certify that I have carefully examined J. T. McMurran Jr and find him unable to perform military duty because of Deafness of Long standing.

I recommend that he be released from the requirements of the Conscript Law.
Fayette, Miss., Aug 6th 1862. W. C. Walker Post Surgeon

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, Fall 1862. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

In the fall we returned again to Wilkenson County. John rented a house five miles back from the river adjoining his own plantation. It was one famed for its beauty but when we took possession in most dilapidated condition and I called it "Old Fields" from the old worn out lands around. But there we passed a quiet undisturbed year though surrounded by war and in daily sound of the firing at Port Hudson and Red River. No molestation but living in daily, hourly dread and expectation of we knew not what. Learning outward quiet or rather apathy, but constant wear upon mind and body such as those who have never gone through can form no conception of.

*Our intercourse with Natchez was only by horseback and that at long intervals. Food up to war prices; flour, two hundred dollars a barrel; shoes, thirty, forty, fifty dollars a pair! Some few poinds [*sic*] of flour I kept for sickness until it soured. Ladies tanned squirrel skins for shoes and made their hats and bonnets of Palmetto and some even wore the home spun dresses. And yet, as far as my observation went, there was an abundance of the necessities of life. All kinds of cakes and puddings were concocted out of cornmeal sifted.*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, February 1863–June 1863. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

In the February before we had lost our first slaves. Gun boat landing taking on cotton for fortifying the boat against Port Hudson shells. Our entire lower Plantation was impressed and after it was over some were missing, two of them young girls. They left father, mother and all and left when there were only soldiers on board.

I shall never forget the afternoon the first report brought us, the intense excitement and waiting. Then until the following May or June not one left there. Nancy, my washwoman, and eight field hands left. Shortly after my nurse and that night the entire force of our neighbors Mr. Pettiman. Our house servants went on the same quiet faithful obedient ways, if anything trying harder to please. This continued up to the time of my leaving though all around was change, excitement and confusion. I wish it was in my power to give them some return for their good conduct and attachment. Some wanted to come with me, but I had not money enough to bring them.

Pass written on scrap of lined paper, dated Nov. 7, 1863. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Head Quarters Post
Natchez Miss Nov 7th 1863.

*Permission is hereby granted Mrs McMurren [*sic*] to proceed from this place to Baltimore MD & take with her 2 children Servant and Baggage*

By order of

Brig Genl WL Gresham
Comdg Post
Gen S Babbett
A A Ay

Military pass for J. T. McMurran, Jr., dated Jan. 30, 1864. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*W.D.D. Choctaw [*a gunboat*]*
Off Mouth of Red River
Jan'y. 30th 1964

Mr. J. T. McMurran Jr. has permission to go from his place to Natchez and to take with him his silver (spoons, forks, &c) and baggage.

Franklin Ramsay
Lt. Commander
Comd'g 3d Dist. Miss. River

M. L. McMurran to Mr. & Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Melrose, April 7, 1864. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Thursday:

Father's letter to John, if duly received, my dearest Children, will have informed you of the death of our dear Mary. This morning a week ago, at half past six o'clock she calmly ceased to breathe. A happy release to her, poor dear sufferer, and we cannot but be thankful for her release from long continued suffering, without hope of recovery. But oh, the aching void, the longing for one more embrace, and the agony of heart to know this can never be more on earth, only a parent can feel in its fullness. It is only when we realize it as God's will, and all events are in His hands, and think of our dear child as an angel in Heaven – happy, rejoicing forever, that we feel consoled, and sincerely say "we would not recall her if we could." All those long, dark years of her disease and suffering seem to me, now, like a horrible dream, and my mind goes back to that happy period when she was so bright, so gladsome, bringing sunshine with her presence. How sweet, how dear she was to me; and all that knew loved her. You, my Alie, never knew her in her full health and brightness for after the birth of Fazee she never was quite herself in health and strength. Poor dear, she is now at rest!

All the winter she has been wasting & declining perceptibly – and about two weeks ago had a severe attack of spasms. This prostrated her more rapidly, appetite failed, and for a week we nourished her almost wholly on cream – a few spoonsful at a time. Then for a few days she seemed to notice more, her eyes retaining their soft lustre all the time. On Wednesday (March 30th) we observed a sinking; so perfectly quiet was she and her breathing so soft & faint we thought often it had ceased; yet she still took the cream we put in her mouth at intervals, (more to soften & moisten than to nourish), and would notice her Father whenever

*he came to the bedside (but no one else; I imagined she was looking for her Husband she would look so eagerly whenever her Father was over her). About nine o'clock her breathing became stronger, more laboured, and we knew our darling was dying. What a night that was! Not an eye was closed, but the dear, unconscious little ones. Poor dear Mama sat by the bedside the whole night watching. Marey Helen, Rachel, Eliza, Emily – all all [*sic*] watched that night, the perfect stillness only broken by those hard drawn breaths – shall I ever forget the sound! Father & I calm as we are now though we knew our precious Mary was passing away! How wonderfully are we strengthened under these trials. How ever near and good to His feeble ones is our Heavenly Father! The dawn of day revealed to us the face of our child, oh, so changed! Not our Mary any more! Soon the struggle was over – and the last rites were to follow, all that was left us to do for one we loved better than life.*

*Eleven o'clock, April 1st, was named as the funeral hour – ere that the precious clay was robed in white, in simple but full dress of swiss muslin – kind friends sent beautiful flowers – a crown of white Azaleas encircled her head, a bunch of snowdrops in her hand and then strewn with other pure white flowers – it was like decking a bride – but the bride of death! Though wasted to a skeleton almost, something of the old look came back, with such a sweet, calm smile, such as I had not seen for years on that dear face – how I loved to look at it, to kiss it, [*handwriting is getting very uncontrolled here*] but oh, I had to leave it at last. God gave me strength to bear it – but how desolate I felt – it was wrong I know – and I have prayed Him to forgive the forgetfulness of the hand that chastened, in a Mother's agony!*

Only our few relatives, and a few friends who had known our dear one, were present and saw her laid away from the light of day. I could not go out, nor Mama, and Sister Fanny had been too sick to ride so far, though she left her bed to come here, so poor Father had to go without one of the nearest to support him – how we missed our dear John, he could have been such a comfort! but I rejoice he is in a place of safety and with his dear family. There would be no rest for him here. And now it is all over, and the absorbing duty of the past four years is to me like a closed volume. A new life is before me to train and care for these Motherless ones, in addition to the general duties of life – when I think of the task my heart fails me, but it will be a labour of love and I pray God to support, strengthen, and guide me to do right. Fazee & Loulie grieved for their Mother more than I thought they would, and thought and spoke of their Father very tenderly and lovingly, how he would be grieved – but soon they will cease to weep and in time almost forget one whose care as a Mother they never knew, or cannot remember.

Dear Alie, last Saturday I received two letters from you – one of the 17th Feb. telling of your beloved Mother's death and one of the 11th March, after John's arrival – for both thank you dear daughter, now my only one. I have written you before, giving my heartfelt sympathy in your great loss – but was glad to get your letter, and respond to all your distress in those most bitter moments of the departure of one so loved, so lamented.

*On the same day Father had letters from Sister Rebecca and Col Francis Jordan – the former had been very sick but was nearly well; she spoke of her pleasure in receiving a letter from John, from Filstone, and her & the families' deep sympathy in all our trials. I was so glad John wrote to his kind Aunt, who has always loved him. Francis mentioned he would do all in his power for John, and hoped to be able to offer him a clerkship. Should John think well to accept I trust it will all be for the best, and he be able to fulfil [*sic*] faithfully the duties of the office. Oh! my dear Son, how my heart yearns for you, and I pray you may be spared to comfort our now declining years, broken more by grief than by time. Remember you are our all now, and pray to God to help you do right in all things. He will hear and He only can*

help! Kiss my precious Carrie & Alie for Granpa & Ma McM – I think of them, of you all every day.

Grandma Turner, Aunt Fanny & family – all at Monmouth, always send best love. Eliza Hewitt has returned – she & Emma were here the other day, inquired for and send love to you all. My love to dear Marnie & all the family, those you see & those you write to.

The servants always love to hear from and send kind remembrances to both yourselves & children. Ever my own dear ones – your loving Mother.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, May 20, 1864. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

June 8th brought a letter from Father McMurran telling of dear little Loulie Conners death. She died of malignant dysentery prevailing in Natchez. She was in high health when taken sick. Only one week's illness and on the 20th of May 1864 she breathed her last and was laid beside her mother who died in March. There too lays our little Mary Louise both named for their Grandmother McMurran. Loulie was born at Melrose just six days before Carrie in adjoining rooms in January of '58, a beautiful child. Farar to receive the tidings a prisoner but a few weeks a widower. Loulie died at Woodlands where she was taken for medical advice as Melrose was beyond the lines and the Doctor could not pass without taking the oath which he would not consent to.

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington, D.C., May 29, 1864 [envelope addressed to "Mrs Jno T. McMurran Jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Well darling a week ago last evening since we said good bye and a long time it has seemed to me, & I feel as tho it will be hard & long to get used to being from you. I think of you and the dear children all the time more so at night when I come up to my room I feel desperate almost. But I hope in another week to see you I will not promise but will say I intend to come unless too hard pressed.

[Long series of letters written from John McMurran, Jr., in D.C. to his wife in Maryland] John T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington City, May 30, 1864 [may have been in same envelope as May 31 letter]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*I was quite busy Saturday writing which I would rather do than look thro the list for some poor wounded chap. One thing I find that room rent is awful here $15 a month but may be the Dr. or the other clerk will go in with me when I will have only to pay half I had calucated [*sic*] to get on 1/2 my salary here for all expenses & give you the other half but these figures leave little for clothing sundries –*

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington, May 31, 1864 [envelope addressed to "Mrs Jno T. McMurran Jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore Co/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Yesterday I was very busy out of town, went out to Finley hopital [*sic*] to see some wounded to get information so as to reply to letters,*

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington D.C., June 10, 1864 [Envelope addressed to "Mrs. Jno T. McMurran Jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland." Also written on the envelope is "June 13 [*sic*] 1864/Telling of Loulie Conners death"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*Cousin Francis got a letter dated 30 May from Mother telling of dear little Loulies death. She did not state the time but suppose she has written us at Philopolis as she speaks of me as still being there, letters you know come more direct to [*illegible*] than to [*illegible*] offices. She died of Camp Dysentery, a very malignant form Mother says is going round Natchez. O these dear Parents of mine how my heart sorrows for them in their many sore afflictions, & now in their declining years.*

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington D.C., June 12, 1864 [envelope addressed to "Mrs. Jno T. McMurran Jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore Co/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*I am making out lists alphabeticaly [*sic*] of all the Wounded Penn since 3 June, and I can assure you pet it is a little the hardest & constant work I have, yet I got now about a thousand nearly arranged & can now keep up with the lists as they are brought in each day from the Hospitals, they are to be published is the reason why they are so arranged.*

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington D. C., June 13, 1864 [envelope addressed to "Mrs Jno T. McMurran Jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore Co/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

*. . . brought back most vividly those evenings dear one when we went to church at Princeton and irisisibly [*sic*] I was carried back there & thought of those days of hope fear & joy – Does it seem like ten years ago darling since we left there & now more than twelve since I first new [*sic*] Alie Austen, as rather "Miss Austen." How well I recollect it, and all the circumstances, and my first sight of you, when you looked me so hard thro' that blue veil, and out of that white sun bonnet. Mine was truly love at first sight, and I did not know who you were & had never heard yr name till after seeing you that morning – . . . .*

Darling I never told you the number & Street I live in here, it is well for you to have it in case of sickness, wanting to telegraph, or to tell anyone where it is, it is 487 Eleventh Street between E. & F –

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington City, June 22, 1864 [with same envelope as 6/10/64 letter]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

How I long for the country of cool shades & smiling looks. I do not believe I was made for a town tho I was born in one and live in one until I was sixteen years old.

Military Pass, dated June 30, 1864. Series S-120, folder 12, Edward Turner Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Mrs. Turner is permitted to pass and repass the lines of this Command for one month to visit the families of Mrs. McMurran & Mrs. Conner.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, July 14, 1864. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

No tidings from John for whom I feel most anxious. Regret deeply his leaving the South.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, July 15, 1864. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

Mail came up by pike. John safe but so excited for self and little ones.

J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Washington D.C., Aug. 26, 1864 [envelope addressed to Mrs. Jno T. McMurran Jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

One day more gone darling, five more days in this office, I never was more glad to leave a place than I am to take my departure from Washington & after shaking its dust off of my shoes I never want to see the place again, it is the jumping off place I think . . . .

Wont you write three times a week when I go to New York, and I will try to write you darling as I have done here. Every morning but expect I will have to do it at night because the mornings in winter are so very short I wont have much time to spend. Alie darling wont you please give my woolen socks an overhauling and see how they stand. I will need them this winter, if New York a cold place. I know I suffered very much the day I was there after landing from the vessel in Feby, but I was all out of gear & had just come from a warm place . . . .

Only four more letters darlings and then our Washington correspondence ceases may we keep up the New York one especially as well is my wish.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, November 1864. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

On Tuesday morning November, 1864, Mrs. Gittings of Baltimore, Carrie, Alie, myself, nurse and coachman, faithful Bill Taylor, left Old Fields in the carriage for Natchez, our baggage following in two light carriages . . . .

[Relates journey of approx. three days]

That night we stayed at Grandma's Woodlands for in order to reach Melrose we had to pass out of the lines as the Picket was stationed at the Melrose gate and we had no "Pass." How strange, how like a dream, it all seemed. The Pickets, then the long rows of white tents and many soldiers and Woodlands, beautiful Woodlands, a cavalry tramping ground and Mrs. Ogden's beautiful grounds, an artillery camp, her elegant house as "Headquarters." The noisy din of the camp and roll of the drum at different hours. The dining room at Woodlands, that room in which so many bright happy family gatherings had been, occupied by a Yankee Captain and a guard patrolling the walks.

We spent but a few days at Melrose and then under charge of General Lawrence left Natchez on board the "Empress" a fine packet . . . . Miss Ienhines, Mrs. Gittings, Miss Ludelph, self, little ones and Addie for nurse were the party . . . .

[Relates journey upriver and by rail to PA]

He reached Harrisburg at one o'clock Tuesday night and no Ned. Then we took the train for Filstone! Changed cars at Parkton and at half-past seven Wednesday morning the 18th November 1863, after three years absence, found the little milk cart waiting and rode up through drizzling rain . . . .

We found the Filstone house unoccupied. Father and Mother in the little Bengo house. I drove up, not a sound, opened the kitchen door and there sat Mamma doubled up before the fire, her head resting on her brows. She looked up and such a face, "My God, Alice" was her exclamation and I was in her arms. Then Father and all meeting.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, November 1, 1864. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

While in New York letters arrived from Natchez saying cotton sold! Debts paid! This at a point when funds were running low. John out of employment and with no prospect of any and often my heart felt anxious! . . . This cotton was a portion of a crop of 1860 and which at the time of the general burning we were permitted by the Provost Marshal to put among the Riverside Hills and to haul it away when the river went down (but we hid it and never moved it until sent to market). There for four years it remained unmolested!

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, November 1, 1864. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

On January 10, 1865, came a letter from Ma McMurran telling of the shooting of Pa McMurran on the 28th of December '64 by a Negro picket. Pa rode up and was refused passing and had turned and was riding away when the wretch fired. The ball took effect just below the temple passing round the lower socket of right eye and coming out at the upper part of the nose, the eye they fear is gone. Up to latest dates he is improving. This was Ma's first letter of the New Year, '65. She speaks of the kindness of "old and new friends." Every facility afforded by the Commandant of the Post, Gen. Brayman and also attention of Mrs. Brayman. Dr. Davis attending physician. The Picket court-martialed and hung. Pa had the most beautiful large dark brown eyes I ever saw.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Jan. 1, 1865 [no place]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

A Mother's blessing be with you & your dear ones, my beloved son, and the best wishes for all good to be bestowed upon you on the New Year just opening upon us.

May a merciful Providence watch over and be your acknowledged guide in all your ways!

Very, very sad news I have to tell you of your precious Father.

He received a gunshot wound on coming from town last Wednesday noon (the 28th inst) – it took effect just above the cheek bone, missing the temple by half an inch, the ball passed through the lower part of the eye socket and came out at the junction of the eye & nose, not injuring the latter, however.

He is of course very prostrate, but is doing as well as possible, as far as we can judge at present. Our greatest apprehension is that he will lose his eye (the right eye it is), and this seems to depress him very much. The swelling is so great and the part so sensitive the Physicians have not yet ascertained the extent of the injury in that respect.

If only his life is spared I shall be so thankful, but you know, John, what the loss of an eye would be to your sensitive Father, and so dependent as he is on reading for his greatest en-

joyment. I pray ever God may sustain & be with him in this great trial, and with us all – for it is only He that can do it. We receive the deepest interest & sympathy from every one – old friends & new, for he is universally esteemed & loved by all who know him.

Please write to your Aunts in McCon. and to Cousin Francis Jordan in Wash City, for us, as I feel unequal to the task. Also please inform Dr. Duncan our very excellent friend, should you be in New York – also Cousin Wm. C. Baker. I will write again soon. Dear Grandma is with me, and sends best love. Do not come on unless I write for you; if the case takes a more serious turn than we have reason to expect at this time I will do so. Kiss your dear Wife & Children for me.

Ever, dear Son, your most loving Mother

Do you know Cousin George W. & Annie Turner are in New York? George has been South and saw your Father in town the very day he was shot. George was on his way to New Orleans on his return. See them if you can when in New York. George can tell you all about us. You can ascertain where they are staying from Mr. Leverich, I expect.

[Enclosed in the letter is the following newspaper clipping:]

Shocking Affair.

Our citizens received a terrible shock yesterday morning on learning of the shooting of JOHN T. MCMURRAN, Esq., for many years an honored resident of this place. From what we can gather of the affair, we learn that Mr. McMurran approached the negro pickets while on his way home, Wednesday evening last, on horseback, and on being refused to pass, he turned, and was in the act of riding away, when one of the pickets fired at him – the ball striking him near the right temple and coming out near the eye.

From his infirm health, and the age he has arrived to, we learn that his attending physician regards it as a very dangerous, though not necessarily fatal wound.

Mr. McMurran was a gentleman of most amiable manners, a ripe scholar, fine jurist, and had long held the esteem of his fellow-citizens.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Jan. 3, 1865 [no place]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dearest Son

I wrote you a few days since of the misfortune which had befallen your dear Father in receiving a gunshot wound. It will be a week tomorrow since he was wounded, and although all pronounce his case favourable he still suffers great pain and is depressed about his own condition. His great anxiety is about the loss of his eye, or the sight of it. And of this no one can yet judge. Dr. Davis is his attending Physician, but several others have seen him, and he receives every possible attention. Still the suffering is his own and none can bear that for him. How gladly would I take it all myself, could he be spared one pang.

Dear Grandma is with us every day, and insisted on sitting up two nights. Aunt Fanny, too, comes often, but her sickly family demands her constant attention. Both Grandma & Aunt Fanny send best love to you & Alie.

Your Father's gentlemen friends are very kind in seeing and nursing him, particularly Mr. C. P. Huntington, the gentleman who leased Moro last year.

Your Father esteems him very highly, and he is a most kind, attentive friend in every way. We will never forget his kindness, particularly at this time. To General Brayman (our pres-

ent Post Commandant) and Mrs. Brayman we feel most grateful for the deep and sympathizing interest they take in the sad case; visiting & granting us every facility – in obtaining us any necessary comforts and allowing friends to come out to help nurse, &c.

Your dear Father is very prostrate and requires constant attention. In the last twenty four hours the wound has begun to suppurate which is considered favourable – but it is a dreadful looking wound, and so near the brain. As you may imagine my distress & anxiety is great, but I bear up wonderfully and endure more fatigue than I supposed possible from my ill-health, though in the past month that had greatly improved. My Heavenly Father does not leave me alone in this dark hour of affliction, but gives me grace to look to Him, and strength to bear what He sees fit to inflict.

Dear Son, I today received your kind letter of the 15th Ulto (and one to your Father of the 21st) which comforts me much by its affectionate tone, and by the assurance of the dear Children's recovery from Chicken Pox. Kiss the darlings many times for me, and my dear Alie, too.

I can write no more tonight, my darling Son, but will leave my letter open to give you the latest news in the morning.

Our little boys are well, and fast asleep, just now. Happy little souls they are!

Wed. morng. Your dear Father was more easy after ten o'clk last night and feels quite comfortable this morning. He has a good appetite, and having had no fever can take nourishing food – such as oysters, eggs, jelly, &c which he relishes.

Mr. Pettibone is with us, and his health is better than it was a month ago.

I will try and write by every mail, which is twice a week "via New Orleans."

Farewell, my own dear Son, and take a heart full of love from Mother.

John T. McMurran's last will and testament, dated February 5, 1865. Series S-120, #1403, folder 1, John T. McMurran papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

McMurran leaves "to my beloved wife Mary L. McMurran and her heirs all my estate real personal and mixed." He also makes her executrix of the will.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, June 5, 1865. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

June 5th: Tonight came tidings of dear little Johnnie Conner's death. My letter was dated the 23rd. He had died the Saturday before and been buried Sunday. Up to within a week of his death he was well. All devotion that could be, had been lavished upon the boys. Such pride had his grandparents taken and Farar, after a four years absence, through all the war fighting bravely and nobly for what to him was a just and noble cause, reached home just two days before his boy died, having walked four hundred miles.

*Johnnie was a most remarkable child, so bright, so full of fun and life, the joy of the house, and now! May God help those poor mourners. Just a year to a day, the 20th of May, passed darling Loulie of the same disease, Dysentary [*sic*]. Fazie [*sic*] lies very low.*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, August 1, 1865 [This entry doesn't make sense; perhaps Alie has the date wrong and she means 1866?]. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

John rents Filstone for five years from the 1st of August 1865.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Oct. 1st, 1865. Series 1, folder 3:46, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

Can you wait until tomorrow for the Bibles you write for? If they are here they are put away with my valuable illustrated books where they cannot currently be reached today. But if you wish them especially today I will try and get them for you.

"Cousin Tonie" (probably Antonia Quitman Lovell) to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., "Parsonage," October 18th 1865 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I fear you will not again return to our once lovely South – such a desolated Country as it now is – Our hearts are broken with the ruin of our beloved Country alas we have now no Country – and very my great longing now is to go far away where I can never see again the face of one of our oppressors – Storrow & have still some castles, I hear you exclaim "What! has not sad Experience taught you how baseless are such airy fabrics!" But know dearest Alie that Hope, which I thought truly was dead within our hearts with the fall of our Confederacy, will not die, a heaven born gift it truly is, for notwithstanding all our troubles & adversities, we still look for brighter days – It may the sunny reflection from my dear Storrow's spirit, which sheds still a glow on my saddened heart, but I can still turn from our own dear and desolated old home, and hope to see a bright little one, humble though it is, but in a land where the wicked cease from trembling. What think you dearest Alie, in place of the James River Castle, of a sweet embowered cottage in Old England? There after a few years of toil & patient endurance in this our still dear but downtrodden South – we hope to spend the rest of our lives in humble but peaceful enjoyment – Storrow was delighted with England – and I feel certain I too would love to live there – so we have made up our minds to go thither if we are spared to carry out our plans as soon as possible & shape all our plans to that end – Do not think this too airy I beg of you, for it is a plan as truly as any human plan can be – so you will always be welcome to our little Cottage in the Mother Country –

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, November 1, 1865. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

The 1st of November John took possession of Filstone, renting for a year from Father.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, September 9, 1865. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

Ma McMurran writes Melrose will be given up the 1st of January, 1866. Where they will go this winter I know not. Probably not come North until the spring then doubtless as a permanent home.

List of Furniture &c in Dwelling House at Riverside, January 27, 1866. SC-81-11, Box 2, McMurran Family Letters & papers, Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, Louisiana (hereafter NLU).

1 centre table, and a small stand
1 sofa
1 rocking chair, hair bottom
1 writing desk, with drawers
1 common table

2 arm chairs, cane seats - and 4 cottage chairs
shovel, tongs, and fire irons

1 old side board & 1/2 dozen old chairs in passage

1 cherry press
1 bedstead - moss mattress and bolster
1 mahogany dressing bureau
1 wash bowl, wash stand, pitcher, &c.
shovel & tongs & fire irons - and chairs

north room upstairs

1 mahogany bedstead, 1 mattress, bolster, pillows & 2 comforts
1 mahogany dressing bureau and glass
1 wash stand, & small stand, wash bowl, & broken pitcher
2 rocking chairs & 2 common small chairs
1 set shovel tongs, & irons

south west bed room upstairs

1 common bedstead, wash stand & looking glass
1 woolen mattress, & a thin pair blankets & comforts
1 bolster & pillows - & 3 chairs

Antonia Quitman Lovell to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Elmscourt, Feb. 10, 1866 [envelope addressed to "Mrs J. T. McMurran jr/Philopolis P.O./Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Yes Elmscourt is now my home for awhile – We will make no permanent investments in this country as we intend leaving at the earliest possible time. The house is partially furnished. Most of the furniture in use is our own, some we got from Monmouth and some recently purchased from Frank Surget – old fashioned but very nice – so we are very comfortably fixed. But our great trouble is for servants. It is too far in the country for the delicate constitutions of the American Ladies of African descent, to walk into church and too retired from the gaieties of town – so have been most of the time minus both cook and dining room servant, as Billy our main-stay has been sick – Imagine me dearest Alie cooking dinner, cleaning rooms &c all of which pastimes I have enjoyed since being at Elmscourt – very conducive to health no doubt, but it mars the flesh of my bones sadly- . . . .

You ask about our Christmas – We had for these times quite a merry one, as Storrow insisted upon every ones dining with us. Lidie & I had to yield and we had quite a dinner – a table gleaming beneath my good fellows' provisions which he provided himself for the occasion – Then too we had a Christmas tree for the children – Storrow's merry heart was overflowing to every one – In fact he quite broke his treasury department on the occasion. Had it not been for him our hearts would have been sad indeed – We all thought and spoke of you & yours dear Alie – The little folks went wild over the Christmas Tree at which a venerable personage with cotton wig and slouched hat with ruddy mask presided bestowing gifts in the

name of Santa Klaus – The Tree was brilliant with wax candles ingeniously fixed on by Storrow in fact for awhile it seemed quite gay – . . . .

Freddie and Lidie are well. Lidie also I met going to town. She had just been to Woodlands and seen Aunt & Cousin Mary – They are both well and seem much happier for living together. Yes it was a great shock to us when Melrose was sold – The place Cousin Mary had for years centered all her hopes and taste upon – I know of no sadder lesson of the fallibility of human plans and hopes than is taught in the history of that place and its inmates – In former years it was the ideal of peace & happiness in a home . . . .

*All is peace this mild spring-like day – It makes one look back to one year ago – when we passed through such fearful scenes and the month of privation & anxiety which followed – Sometimes when we had litterally [*sic*] no bread to eat and Storrow far away in Europe – Those days have told sadly upon all who passed through them together. Twas on the night of the 7th Feb. when we were exposed to the fury of sixty thousand friends in the shape of Yankee soldiers. Much as I hated the race before, I feel a ten fold bitterness to them now. I cannot grow familiar with the sight of them, the glimpse of that uniform fills one with loathing & horror, and I feel as I ever shall do that they are our bitter foes forever – With me there is no forgetting the past, indeed the present keeps it continually in remembrance – This galling yoke is more than we can bear, and now the brightest hope we have is to get away from this downtrodden country – Forgive me this outburst dearest Alie, these are the feelings we all have every day of our lives – and I wrote them down almost without knowing it – But I feel that your deepest sympathies are with us – and I expect that with you too the iron rod is felt –*

John T. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., April 30, 1866 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Jr Esq/Philopolis/Baltimore County/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dear Son

I was glad to receive your kind letter of the 10th inst, and to learn that you were all so well, and getting on as well with your farm operations. I have no doubt it is the most healthy and pleasant pursuit in life, and am happy you are so fond of it. But for my [pursuing?] a laborious profession, I would have been equally so.

I am glad your furniture arrived safely, which must add to your household comforts. True, the expenses on it was very heavy – but as you needed it, that could not be avoided. . . .

*If there were to be another general overflow, or the army worm appear in time to destroy the crop, I think it would [*end?*] the ruin of the old resident planters, who are not ruined already. And if cotton continues going down in price for the next four months, as it has for the last four, the heavy, very heavy expenses of planting now will swallow up about what will be made on most places, where full rent is paid for the land . . . .*

We expect to leave between the middle and end of May, but I cannot yet fix the precise time – nor have we positively determined whether we will go by sea or up the river, though most likely the latter way. So that it will hardly be worth while for you to write us here after your receipt of this.

We will visit Alice and you first, of course, and then endeavor to select a place on the seashore, on your Ma's account, where we can live quiet and cheap. Indeed the benefit of sea bathing and air for your Ma, is the great object of our going away this season, or until we could leave this country entirely if that day should ever come.

Mrs. Elizabeth Turner to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., August 13, 1866 [envelope addressed to "Mrs. J. T. McMurran Jr./Philopolis /Baltimore County/Maryland." Also written on envelope in another hand is "From Grandma Turner written when [illegible] to be kept for children." McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dearest Allie

*I cannot express to you my pleasure & satisfaction at receiving your most kind & welcome letter of the 21 July. It came to hand, at the time I was so very anxious about your dear Mothers health. I knew she was ill, & not able to write, although your father did not say so, in his letter to me, but I knew from the tenor of it she was so. You may immagine [*sic*] my relief, on receiving yours, to learn she was recovering, if but slowly. I then in a few days, had the pleasure of receiving a nice long letter from herself, in which she said she was only just then beginning to feel a little like herself, & heard they expected to go in a few days to Newport, for the benefit of sea air & bathing. I trust she will be entirely restored by it. The fact is, dear Allie, her strength and constitution were so shattered & broken down by sorrow, care & affliction, that the journey was too much for her. I hear her illness greatly mared [*sic*] the pleasure she anticipated in the enjoyment of her beloved children & their sweet & beautiful home. She gave us a description of it in one of her letters, how delightfully you were situated, surrounded by such an abundance of every thing, that is nice & delicious, & the dear little Children like rose buds, & darling Allie, with her [*illegible*] and lap full of flowers. I am so glad dear John is enjoying his present mode of life & is so successful in it. I am sure it must suit him better than the way in which things are conducted here at present. The Southern planters [*sic*] life is any thing but a satisfactory one, and the longer John pursues his farming business, the better he will like it.*

Charles Clark, Chairman. Resolutions of the bar on the death of McMurran [undated, probably 1867]. Series S-120, folder 1, John T. McMurran papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*The Members of the Bar of the High Court of Errors and Appeals have heard with profound regret that since the last adjournment of this Court their friend and Brother the Hon James T. McMurran has departed this life, – Eminent as a lawyer, occupying for many years the position of a leader at the bar in this Court. Distinguished for uniform courtesy of manner, and high professional and social integrity. Having filled positions of distinguished [*illegible*] as State Senator, from the County of Adams, and member of the Convention that remodeled the Constitution of the State in 1832. No Member of the Bar of this State ever more truly exhibited – during a long professional life – those qualities, that make up the best model of a man – a Christian lawyer – true to the trust of his Clients – courteous, and kind to his adversaries – and unwilling to pervert the law to the maintenance of wrong. The State has never lost a worthier son – the Bar can lose no abler member. His memory will be cherished while professional honor – gentlemanly courtesy, and Christian purity of character retain their place among men, – the members of this Bar –*

Therefore –

*Resolve, That in the decease of John T. McMurran they have lost one of the best and [*illegible*] of their members, – whose life was an ornament to the profession of his choice – whose death leaves a void in our ranks, which no other can so worthily fill and whose memory will be cherished, as having given in his life, the [*illegible*] model of a lawyer – a Christian gentleman – faithful to every trust confided to him*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, January 1, 1867. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

*1867: That the first written in the book this year should be such a dreadful event! On Wednesday evening the 2nd of January as John sat by my bed side talking I heard a strange rough voice below my window. Again the cry came louder and rougher and I told John it sounded like a drunken man outside, but I did not like his voice and not to go out alone. In a few minutes he came up and I heard him groaning "O Alie, O Alie I am ruined." I thought he was injured, had been hurt in some dreadful way by the man outside but he staggered up to the bedside and gave me the telegraph "Mr. McMurran died the 30th. Tell John to come at once to Natchez." This was all. How, from what cause, all is unknown only this dreadful truth. Only that afternoon we had had a letter from Ma written on the 20th saying "Father and Fazie [*sic*] are well." It must have been very sudden or some telegraph would have come of his illness.*

*John left yesterday morning on the milk train taking the nine o'clock express through to Pittsburg. Ought to be by this time on the cars to Louisville or resting over at Cincinatti [*sic*]. He goes by rail to Memphis then to Natchez by steamboat! We are all alone . . . .*

A spotless name. A life free from all impurity, citizen, husband, father, true, upright, honest as I have learned to know few men are, respected by all. John now is the only representative.

Letters have brought tidings of the particulars and I keep those letters for the children in this book. Pa was one of the unfortunate passengers on the steamer "Fashion." He embarked for New Orleans on the night of the 26th. The boat took fire just above Baton Rouge on the afternoon of the 27th and burned to the waters edge. Pa was in the front of the boat and was one of those who sought refuge by jumping from eight tiers of cotton bales. He doubtless thought to reach the bank but fell short striking the staging that had been thrown out, breaking his thigh and injuring his back. He fell into the water which was icy cold and lay there for some time. He was then taken out, wrapped in blankets and placed on board the "Magenta" which steamer took up the unfortunate passengers. Surgical care was procured at Baton Rouge.

*Many friends of Pa's were on board and everything was done for his comfort that could be. On reaching New Orleans he was taken to the infirmary of Dr. Stone by his own request. He was one of the finest surgeons and an old friend of Pa's. Until Sunday morning he seemed to be doing very well then a slight hemorrage [*sic*] of coagulated blood took place and shortly after the Dr. saw him sinking. Kindly he told him of his condition. Pa immediately sent for his man of business and arranged his worldly affairs. Then he asked for a clergyman. Dr. Leacock was called and after some conversation Pa asked if he might be permitted to take the communion. "Certainly, I know none better prepared," and there surrounded by old friends dear Pa communed, they joining in the solemn service. At six o'clock, peacefully and quietly as a little child going to sleep, Pa died. His only wish was to see Ma once more before dying, but it was God's will to deny him this great boon and he felt perfectly submissive and expressed himself as willing to die and no fear. Twelve hours afterwards dear Ma arrived!!*

The remains were brought to Natchez and buried from "Trinity" the following Friday the 4th of January. One of the largest funerals, John writes, ever in Natchez. Revered and loved by all who knew him.

Telegraph from Edward Austen to P. H. Austen, New York, Jan. 2, 1867 [envelope is addressed to "John T. McMurran Jr Esq/Philopolis P.O./N.C. Rway." Also written on envelope is "Mr. Parson, will please send this immediately to Mr. McMurran as it contains a Telegram announcing the death of his father and requires his instant action Respect'ly P. H. Austen"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

Telegraph is dated New York, Jan. 2, 1867, received at Balto Jan. 2, To P. H. Austen

Sharp St

*Following dispatch just recd send it up tonight Mr. McMurran died on thirtieth 30 tell John to come immedy [*immediately*] to Natchez SR Walker*

Ed. Austen

Fanny E. Conner to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., Near Natchez, Jan. 6, 1867 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dear Alie –

*You have already heard by telegraph the distressing news of Brother's death. He died in New Orleans on the 30th of December of injuries received in jumping from the burning steamer "Fashion." He left Natchez on the night of the 26th for New Orleans, and the next day about half past three in the afternoon the cotton on board was discovered on fire, and soon the boat was enveloped in flames. She was run into shore and the staging thrown out. Brother was in the front of the boat and jumped from [*eight?*] tier of cotton bales, no doubt expecting to reach the shore – but he struck the staging, breaking his right thigh and injuring his hip & back. He fell into the water where he remained perfectly helpless until some one draged [*sic*] him out dear Alie only think of this for one so feeble and delicate. He was placed in a blanket and taken on the steamer Magenta where he found many of his Natchez friends who gave him every attention. When they reached New Orleans, at his own request he was taken to Dr. Stone's Infirmary. Many friends in the city, ladies and gentleman, came to him and nursed him to the last. Our old friend Mrs. Sarah Dorsey – Cousin Eliza Walker and her husband – Mr. & Mrs. John Minor – Mr. Samuel Newman and others were devoted to him. He seemed to be doing pretty well until Sunday morning. He had been throwing up congested blood and the Doctor found he was sinking. Very kindly he told him of his condition. Brother at once sent for Mr. Newman and arranged his worldly affairs – he then asked to see a clergyman. Dr. Leacock came and talked with him. Brother asked if he might take the sacrament. Dr. L. told him certainly – he had never known one better prepared for it. He then administered it to him – the friends who were with him also partaking. After that he remained perfectly calm and resigned, saying that he was ready to die. The only thing which troubled him was his great desire once more to see his dear wife. This however, God was pleased to deny him. Sister reached there several hours after he died.*

About six o'clock Sunday evening he passed away calmly and peacefully – without a struggle or a moan. A few minutes before he died a hemorrhage took place from the mouth showing that he had received internal injuries.

His remains were brought to Woodlands, whence they were removed to Trinity Church, and were buried beside little Johnnie.

Dear Alie you know how dreadful this is for my poor Sister. You know how long and devotedly they have loved each other. It will be so hard for her to live without him. She is com-

pletely crushed. She was very much exposed on her trip to & from the city – the weather was intensely cold – sleet & snow – and Sister is now in bed.

We are expecting John tomorrow or the next day. Sister had a dispatch from him yesterday from Louisville. She sends a great deal of love to you and the children.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Woodlands, Feb. 15, 1867 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Esqr/Philopolis/Baltimore Co/Maryland"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dearest Son,

Last Saturday evening, after my letter was mailed, I received the welcome telegraph from Baltimore telling of your safe return to your dear family.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Woodlands, Mar. 8, 1867 [envelope addressed to "J. T. McMurran Esqr/Philopolis/Baltimore Co/Maryland." Also written on envelope is "Gift of Audabon [*sic*] & the Encyclopedia to John"]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

My dearest Son,

*I am in receipt of your most affectionate letter of the 24th ult. A comfort indeed, to my bruised spirit to have such precious words from you, my ever darling son. May you be enabled to fulfil all you desire to be to me, all your dear, good Father would wish you to be. You know how fond "Mother" ever has been of you, darling, and now earth holds nothing, living, more precious to me. Daily I pray to Our Father to bless you in every way He knows is best, and that He may direct & keep you in the way that leads to everlasting peace and happiness. That when this painful life is ended we may all meet in that heavenly home to live together in love and joy, with the blessed Saviour, forever and ever! What dear, loving ones have gone before us, ready to welcome our coming, and how they watch and wait for us. O, let us do nothing to peril that meeting, but pray without ceasing for God's grace to pardon our sins and help us do right. And He will pardon and save and bless those who truly turn to Him & trust His promises. What would I be in this dark hour without God's goodness and support. I cling to Him as my only hope and strength, and how wonderfully He kept me up! I need it all, for your dear Father is never absent from my mind, and I miss him every way. Sometimes my strength fails and I would gladly lay me down in his cold bosom. But when I look up and cry from the depths of my [*soul?*], the ready arm is extended to raise me up, and give me peace and help again to go on. Ten weeks today since his loved body was given to its kindred dust – I number the days as they come 'round. The holy Sabbath is doubly sacred to me now, and in its quiet readings and communings I have more enjoyment than on any other. The holy scenes of that last day of my loved one on earth are present with me & I thank God with an overflowing heart for giving him such peace and hope and sweet assurance of pardon and acceptance. It had been your dear Father's custom (since I have not been able to go to Church particularly) to read a sermon to me every Sabbath. It is a sweet, sad pleasure to me now to review them on each holy day, and think of the dear voice and presence I so delighted in, but oh, Son, it is so, so sad to be without him! . . .*

*Time is speeding on, and in a little while I must be looking out for my boat. I hear the "R. E. Lee" is expected to go up to Louisvill [*sic*] in April, sometime, if so I could not have a better opportunity of going that far on the journey . . . .*

I have had the boxes made for the books and will try and have them ready to ship next week. I will see they are carefully packed, insured, and sent through Messrs. Brickner & Co. to your agent in Balto. Mr. Patterson. I hope they will arrive safely, and I know you and our dear Alie will take good care of them for me, and they will be a source of great pleasure and instruction in the reading. They are very precious to me, in connection with the memory of your dear Father. He prized his Books above all his possessions, and used to say, looking fondly at the loaded shelves, "they are the last things I will part with." So they are to me most dear, for his sake; and I know you have the same feeling with our dear love.

The large Cyclopaedia and the copy of Audubon's birds of America were my own, and I give them to you, my dear one, as you will see I have written in them. The other books I must call mine whilst I live, for the sake of the dear giver, but they will be with you, and you will enjoy them with me just the same. I think all have been selected from the shelves your list called for except Massillon's sermon (borrowed more than a year ago by Mr. Pettibone) Motley's Dutch Republic, now with Miss McGrath, and Eveline by Miss Barney, I cannot find.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; At Cairo Ill.; Steamer R. E. Lee; May 5th, 1867. Series 1, folder 3:50, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I wrote a few lines to our dear Mother from Memphis which I hope she received. We arrived here today at one o'clk P.M. having had a safe & pleasant trip, as far as a fine boat & kind attention could make it so to us.

James Carson to Mary L. McMurran; Natchez; May 14th 1867 [addressed to "Mrs. Mary L. McMurran/Philopolis/Baltimore County/Maryland"]. SC-81-11, Box 2, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

*Your very kind letter of the 5th inst. from Cairo, was brought to me by the "Lee" on the 11th inst. and I was glad to learn that you had had a comfortable & safe trip to Cairo, and that you & Miss Eliza had recovered from your temporary indisposition. Your previous letter to your mother from Memphis, had advised us of your safety that few [*far?*], & before your letter to me was received, your sister had informed me of your safe arrival at Baltimore, as she had learned by telegraph. And I suppose from Thursday or Friday last you have been quietly settled down with John & his wife & children, and by this time are realizing it is not all a dream. I hope your niece enjoyed her trip & that she will improve in health & come home looking almost as rosy as her mother. We are all much pleased with her & her elder sister, and I shall take quite an interest in knowing how she was impressed with the [*illegible*] sight she saw & with steamboat & railroad travel. Ask her if she wont let me have a peep at her journal, when she comes home.*

The ladies are having more tableaux this week, & Henry & Lyde are at the Hall tonight, but you will hear about these matters from your other correspondents & so I will turn my attention to business.

*The "Quitman" brought part of the corn ordered from A. Mackie & Co. Cairo, & not feeling authorized to draw on the firm name, I sent work to Mr. Permenter, who drew for $552. [*illegible*] exchange & requested me, as his time was now so fully occupied at Moro, to attend to these matters for him. The "Lee" brought the balance of the corn ordered, & tomorrow I will draw for that & the freight, and it is not probable, there will be any more*

drafts soon. These are on McMurran & Permenter. Mr. P. says, he has five hundred acres planted, the water is falling very fast now, I hope you may yet make a good crop.

I have made a copy of your list of silver plate sent to Mr. Leverich, and also of the pieces retained by you, which I thought you might need for reference.

I paid, the day you left, the account of Tiernan & Son against John with interest, $308.42 & the "Quitman" brought the tax receipt for Washington Co. for $107 & some cents, which I also paid both with your checks on Britton & Koontz, which as yet, are the only sums I have had occasion to draw for, upon your individual account. I enter the checks on your check book & place the receipts, I take, in it, keeping all in the longer box in bank.

As yet, I have heard nothing from Mr. A. P. Rodney, & I wrote to him again today for an explanation. He may be absent, as he said he was engaged in planting. I have heard nothing from Mr. Dowty since you left.

I hope Fazee is having a fine time with his little cousins. I almost envy John's stirring, active farmer life, away from the cares and anxieties of town life. Mrs. Carson & the girls join me in the kindest regards to you & Mrs. Alice McMurran & John & the children, & to Miss Eliza Conner.

Expecting soon your promised letter from your son's farm.

[Written in margin:]

I forward with this, a letter, which I think is from McConnellsburg & so do not open it. I have engaged 100 bbls. coal to be delivered to Woodlands for 90 cents per barrel.

List of silver plate to care Chas. P. Leverich Esq 111 Pearl St. New York City from Natchez (April 13th 1867) through Messrs. Buckner & Co. New Orleans, by Adams Express.

1 silver plated Epergne - with sockets for candles.
2 cut glass bowls - one large bowl for the center four
small bowls for the arms.
2 Standard silver double dishes
1 " " warmer polished inside & out.
with top to receive cover & silver splash rice dish
chased to fit inside warmer.
4 best Sheffield plate, silver mounted dish cover with
silver handles.
3 Silver urns - Coffee, Tea & Water.
1 " covered milk pitcher.
1 " cream —
2 " Sugar bowls, with silver tops.
1 " Slop " .
2 " Water pitchers
1 " plated large waiter, or tea tray.
2 " " smaller waiters.
2 " gravy spoons - large.
1 " " " - small.
1 doz. " table "

1 " " dessert "
1 " " tea "
1 " " dinner forks
1 doz. silver breakfast forks
1/2 " " dessert knives
1 " " soup ladle
1 " mustard pot, blue glass
2 prs " plated candlesticks
1 " Copper bronze flat "
1 silver berry spoon.
1 " pie knife.
1 " plated ice pitcher.

[Note in margin of first page of list:]

This list is made partly from memory, and there may be other articles not remembered. (signed) M. L. M.

Silver plate in my possession.

1 pr. candlesticks
1 soup ladle
1 fish knife & fork
1 pr. sugar tongs
1 small sugar or gravy spoon
1 cake basket
1 sugar "
1 egg boiler
1 doz.table forks
1 " breakfast "
1/2 1/2 " dessert knives
1 " & 10 table spoons
2 " dessert "
1 " tea "
1 pr.asparagus tongs
nutcrackers & steel picks
*1 cheese scoup [*sic*]*
1 butter knife
1 pickle knife & fork
2 prs. salt spoons

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, June 25, 1867. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

*Mrs. McMurran left Thursday for McConnelsburg [*sic*] to be gone until the last week of September. They expect to return the middle of October to Natchez if no yellow fever, but this is raging now in Texas! The Army now has destroyed the prospect for crop on Mora [*sic*] and Riverside Plantations. They have discharged most of the hands and only some able bodied*

men retained to cut wood on shares. Riverside is worked on shares consequently no discharging. Thousands will be totally broken up during this coming fall owing to crops failing now for three years.

M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Filstone; Aug. 15, 1867. Series 1, folder 3:50, Conner Family papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

It has debilitated me very much, but it cannot be long now, ere the coolness of Autumn sets in, and we hope to accelerate its arrival by going to the mountains next week.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, December 25, 1867. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

Christmas eve the tree was at Old Fields and the little ones stayed there, John away.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, December 27, 1867. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

On Friday John returned home from New York, Dec. 27, 1867.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, January 15, 1868. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

On the 15th of January 1868, John left Filstone going to New York to seek employment. Utter failure of crops South and non-payment of Mr. Dowty making it seem to him out of the question to retain the lease of Filstone which Father kindly took back at the quarter ending January 1868. Giving up to Father stock for payment of last three quarters. Father retains the place, keeps Jimmie, garden, orchards, corn patches and rents the fields.

Neddie gives me Jack paying from February 1st 1868. Pattie has a girl. Father and I living together. I am keeping up the house expenses with such little aid as he may feel able to render me. Sold my diamond cross, Farar's and Mary's gift, in January.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, April 15, 1868. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

This month, April 1868, John came from New York, the 15th, and on the 18th I was taken sick with a low nervous fever. Little or no pain, but pulse almost gone. Doctor said it seemed as if there was scarce vitality enough for the blood to flow through my veins. Carrie McCulloh came and stayed and took charge of the house and little ones.

On the 15th of May, John left Filstone and on the 29th reached Natchez. On the 22nd at ten minutes past three my little daughter was born, the fourth little girl. "Twas Father's seventieth birthday and had she lived Father wished her called "Georgeanna" but on Sunday morning the little one was born and Friday about ten o'clock she sickened and at twelve the little life went out. A short Baker face, beautiful dark eyes and hair and a mouth that promised rare beauty. I think she looked like Ma McMurran. Organic disease of the heart, Dr. Thompson said, and had she lived 'twould only have been for suffering. I was long in recovering. The snow lay on the ground when I went to my room and the first summer flowers had bloomed and faded ere I left.

M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Woodlands, April 17, 1868 [no envelope]. McMurran-Austen Papers, Mss. 4795, LSU.

I fear you will get nothing from Mr. D. and hope you will be able to find some occupation to engage your time, even if it brings but little or no direct remuneration, and try to be patient until next Autumn. If Moro makes a crop I may be able then to help you in some way. And if we can get clear of Mr. & Mrs. D. we may be able to sell the places to some good purchaser. As it has turned out it was a mistake not to have released the Ds last December and taken the place back, but the future was hidden then and we did not feel it was best at the time. Afterwards, when the Misses Herring wished to purchase he put it on such terms (asking more than half again what he agreed to pay you) as convinced me there would be trouble in getting rid of them (the Ds.) He has not come up or offered to make the least showing or settlement of accounts, or enter into a written contract for this year. I have been advised to take active steps to bring him to a settlement, and one means may be to close your Mortgage on them, and so get possession and control again, that we may act jointly in the management or disposal of the places. For this purpose it may be necessary for Mr. Carson to retain the notes, deeds, &c, but I do not know – I do not know if he has sent them; if he did it was probably to New York, to your then address . . . .

I have this winter paid off nearly everything of the old Estate debts. A great relief, but reducing my stocks in N.Y. to a low figure. I am also carrying on Moro by those means this year, hoping for success. So far the season could not be better, & although the river is pretty high there is but little apprehension of an overflow. Mr. Permenter is hopeful & energetic, and is going to employ some of the men in wood cutting, which proved quite a help last year. Do not give way to despair, my dear John. I do hope to be able to help you, if only we can weather through the present year . . . .

Mammy has been sick recently but is better, she always sends her best love to "Mas John," as do all the other old servants. William is going to Kentucky next month to take Eliza's Mother home to her other Children there. He will return to me again immediately, and says he will never leave my service. He & Eliza have been truly devoted to me in all my long illness; and ever, speak of you with the greatest affection. It is very pleasant to have these kind, humble friends.

R. A. Dowty to Mary L. McMurran; Riverside; May 21, 1868. SC-81-11, box 3, McMurran Family Letters and Papers, NLU.

Madam.

*In accordance with request in your favor of 9th I ship today pr Wild Wagener [*sic*] to care Walworth Buckner & Co Natchez, the following packages of furniture viz*

2 Bedsteads in 8 pkgs
2 Bureaus 1 wardrobe
*3 pkgs. (6) [*chairs?*]*
2 cane arm chairs
2 rockers do. 1 walnut stand
*1 sofa 1 roll carpet 1 centre table 1 roll bedding (1 matrass [*sic*] & 2 bolsters)*
1 side board
1 wash stand
3 pr fire irons & 3 pr tongs into pkg

in all 25 packages

*The writing desk I have in use & would like to have if you do not need it. One bed stead one rocking chair & some old chairs, table, matrass [*sic*] 1 pr pillows 2 comforts & 1 broken pitcher & bowl, are down at the overseers house in use & as we had no furniture to spare would like them to stay a wool matrass used by the workmen last year is so worn (& soiled) we did not think it worth sending. The wool is [*illegible*] The shovels are all broken & not worth sending also. The old chairs, the other things I have not mentioned have been stolen by the negroes when the old house was torn down it was impossible to save all of them.*

Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. [Elizabeth] Davis; Woodlands; Feb. 5, 1869. SC-81-11, box 4, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

Some time since I requested Mr. Carson to speak to you about the three pictures left at Melrose, and of which Mr. Davis was to make choice of one. Mr. Carson tells me he did so, and that you informed him, Mr. Davis had no choice and that I could remove either two I preferred.

It would give me pleasure to leave with Mr. Davis & yourself the one you might like best, and would rather you made choice yourselves. But if it is really immaterial to you I will leave the portrait of General Taylor, which though much prized, was not so long with us, and has not the same associations of memory with me as the other two. It is considered one of Mr. Lambdin's best paintings, & a fine likeness of the brave old general.

I would not trouble you at this time but I have learned you had left Melrose and that the house would be closed and think it best to send for the pictures ere that is done.

I trust the change may benefit Mr. Davis whose impaired health I most truly regret.

Feb. 9th

*on Mr. Carson's seeing Mr. Davis he found Mr. D. had a mema: made at the time (about Nov. 1865) from which it appeared Mr. D. was to have choice of two of the pictures, instead of one as I supposed. He has chose Genl. Taylor and Hon. J. C. Calhoun, leaving me Chief Justice Marshall which I have [*now?*] presented to Mr. Carson.*

James Carson to Mary L. McMurran; Natchez; Feb. 8, 1869. SC-81-11, box 4, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

*I was at Mr. G. M. Davis' on Saturday, and while there, the inventory of furniture & c. sold him (which he had sent to "Melrose" for) was handed to him, and he referred to it, and opposite the words, "3 Black Walnut Book Cases" (which was erased) there was a reference to a note at the foot of the page upon referring to which, we found in Mr. Davis' handwriting, in substance as follows, "I am to have any two of the three pictures (Taylor, Calhoun, & Marshall), in exchange for these book cases." This memda: [*memorandum*] made at the time, I suppose, shows what Mr. D's. understanding was, whether it was in accordance with Mr. McMurran's intentions or not, and he expects therefore to retain two of the pictures (Genl. Taylor & Mr. Calhoun) and will send you, Chief Justice Marshall, which he said was the largest of the three.*

James Carson to Mary L. McMurran; Natchez; Feb. 11, 1869. SC-81-11, box 4, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

*Your kind note of this date has just been received. I shall cherish the picture of Chief Justice Marshall as a memento of my best friend and as your gift, more so then [*sic*] if it were a painting by one of the old masters.*

James Carson to Mary L. McMurran; Natchez; Feb. 16, 1869. SC-81-11, box 4, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

Mrs. Davis informed me yesterday that the picture at Melrose, had been taken down from the wall for you, & was ready to be delivered to you whenever you sent over to Melrose for it. She asked me to say to you, that she did not reply to your note, because in the hurry of moving, she had brought in no writing materials.

James Carson to Mary L. McMurran; Natchez, April 11, 1870. SC-81-11, box 4, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

Mrs. G. M. Davis is moving the furniture & c. from Mr. Davis' office, as one of his sisters is about to occupy it. It will therefore be necessary to move all Mr. McMurran's papers (and as the paper case & desk is claimed by Mr. Davis) boxes & baskets will have to be provided for putting the papers in. This should be done this evening or in the morning . . . . The keys John & I used for opening the paper cases should be sent in when you send for the papers.

James Carson to Mary L. McMurran; Natchez; April 13/70. SC-81-11, box 4, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

Last evening, I recd. the enclosed note from Mrs. Davis. When, therefore, the cart comes in today I will send out the paper cases . . . Since writing the above, Mrs. Davis has come into the office with the keys of the desk, which enables me to get the papers out of it, which I now send you. I make and attach to the bundles the labels on the pigeon holes, from which I took the papers. I asked Mrs. Davis to let me get Mr. Stewart to value the paper case as I knew you would pay any price for it, but she said no! that you were welcome to it, and it gave her pleasure to let you have it, as she knew exactly how much you would appreciate, while it was to her of no value.

G. M. Davis to Mary L. McMurran; 122 East 27th St., New York; Dec. 18/71. SC-81-11, box 5, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

I beg to trouble you with the following:

In the chapter of accounts I find that I may need a statement from you, as to the genuineness & originality of the two portraits of J. C. Calhoun & Genl. Taylor, the former by Rembrandt Peale and the latter by Lambdin.

I understand, when purchasing them, from Mr. McMurran, that they were painted for him or for Genl. Quitman from actual sittings of the then living originals of the respective artists. I clearly remember that Mr. Lambdin he said, went to Baton Rouge at his (or Gen.' Q's) request to paint Genl. Taylor . . .

Mary L. McMurran to G. M. Davis; Natchez; Dec. 27th, 1871. SC-81-11, box 5, McMurran Letters and Papers, NLU.

I received your letter of the 18th inst. by our last mail, and with pleasure give you the information desired in regard to the portraits of Hon. J. C. Calhoun and Genl. Z. Taylor.

That of Mr. Calhoun was painted in Wash. City by Rembrandt Peale for Mr. McMurran, between 1835 and 1840 I think. I do not remember the exact year. Mr. McMurran admired Mr. Calhoun and wished to have his portrait, as one of our great Statesmen, and made the request through one of our representatives in Congress to which Mr. C. most obligingly complied with. Some years after a son of Mr. C. visiting Natchez saw the portrait and recognized it as a good likeness of his Father. It has always been considered a fine painting.

The portrait of Genl. Taylor after the Mexican War was also taken for Mr. McM. by Mr. J. R. Lambdin who visited Baton Rouge for that purpose, that also was considered a good likeness . . .

Note, dated April 8th 1874. Series S-120, folder 13, Edward Turner papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

*Received of Mrs. E. B. Turner Two Thousand and Five Hundred 00/100 Dollars, for which I am to pay her Ten per cent interest, annually. Mary L. McMurran, Woodlands, April 10th 1874. [*Envelope is addressed to Mrs. E. B. Turner from Mrs. M. L. McMurran on a loan for $2500 00/100.*]*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, end of September, 1876. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

Ma McMurran was here, but left the next day.

Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. E. B. Turner; McConnellsburg, Sept 18th 1877. Series S-120, Edward Turner papers, Mss.1403, LSU.

My visit here is drawing to a close, and Fazee & I expect to leave on Thursday/20th/ and go to Harrisburg to visit Francis Jordan & family and so on to Filstone by Saturday, where we will be until the close of the month. The P.O. there is "Glencoe, Baltimore Co. Maryland" where letters will find me until the 1st October.

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, October, 1877. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

*In October Ma and Fazie [*sic*] came for ten days*

Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, August 15, 1878. Private collection, photocopy at NATC.

*Ma and Fazie [*sic*] on the 15th for six weeks*

L. P. Conner, Jr., to F. E. Conner, Natchez, July 24th, 1892. Series 1, folder 10:115, Conner Family Papers, Mss. 1403, LSU.

I was out at Woodlands a few days ago, and saw only cousin John, Fazee having gone up to the "Island" which is beginning to emerge from the water. The former is terribly out and disgusted with the latter; says he can't get one word of explanation as to what was done with all the money for which the estate is now so heavily in debt, and that he wants to know and must know how it was spent. Also that the young man is "good for nothing except to raise cats." I told him he had had excellent opportunities for 15 months to judge the young man's character, and it seemed he had not wasted the opportunities. If Fazee had the least particle of spirit, there would surely be a row; but he has not the gumption of a toad; so nothing will come of it.

Furnishings Plan

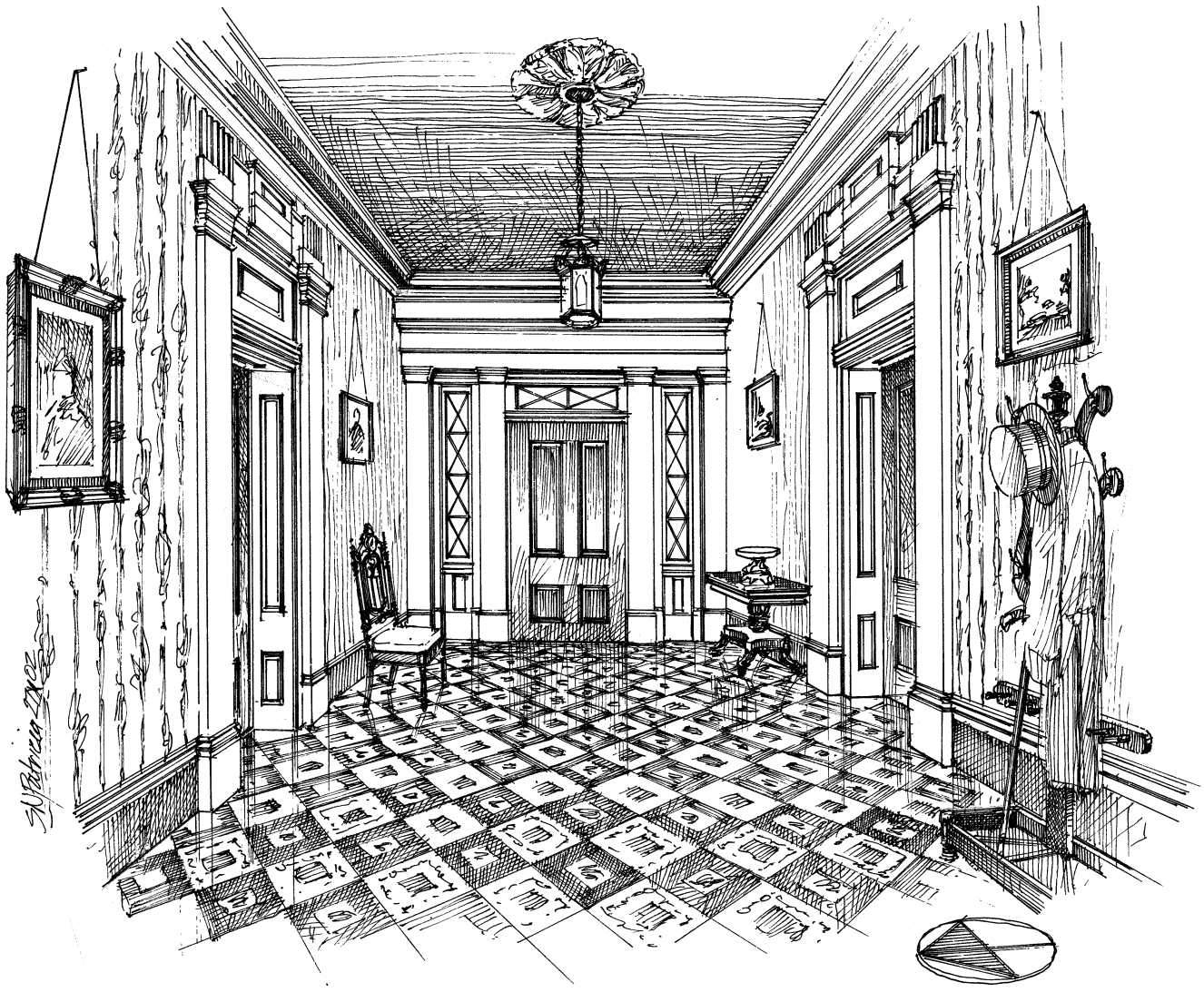
List of Recommended Furnishings with Working Drawings

Front Hall (Room 101)

Walls: The Historic Structures Report, p. 54, states that room 101 probably originally had wallpaper. Remove Zuber wallpaper and install period stock reproduction wallpaper.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol., II, p. 7).



Front Hall—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Curtains, sheer; shirr onto rods at top and bottom of sidelights and transom window of exterior door.	Curtains appear in the earliest photos of Melrose taken in 1889.	Acquire reproduction sheer cotton curtains and install on reproduction rods.
Floorcloth, geometric pattern.	Original floorcloth still in place	Use reproduction floorcloth (NATC 12419); use pad between reproduction and original (NATC 16209) to protect original. Cut away one corner of reproduction and pad to show original.
Prints, 4, colored, framed; hang two on north wall to right of door to dining room, and two on south wall on either side of door to drawing room.	1883 inventory lists "4 colord prints for $10."	Acquire original prints in reproduction frames. Hang from porcelain-headed nails with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Lamp, hanging; hang in center of ceiling.	1994 Ferry interview	Remove lamp from room 105 and rehang in 101.
Side chair, gothic style; place on north wall, to right of door to dining room.	Gothic chairs were very popular furnishings for entry halls in the 1850s. See Davis Choctaw inventory (1883) and Henderson inventory (1866).	Use NATC 12370. Reupholster.
Doorstop, marble; place on floor holding open door to room 111.	Natchez houses commonly used white marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire period piece.
Table, mahogany, folding top; place along south wall to left of door to drawing room.	1865 inventory lists "1 mahogany table, folding top."	Use NATC 337.
Card holder; place on folding top table.	Coley Gilbert to Mrs. George Austen, Melrose, July 27, 1858. See also Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 83 (shallow circular green bowl).
Hat rack, mahogany; place on south wall to right of door to dining room.	1865 inventory lists "1 mahogany hat rack."	Use NATC 482A-B.
Hats, 3**, coats,** 2**, mantilla,** 1**, cane,** 1 **and umbrellas,** 2**; place on hat rack.**	These items would customarily have hung on hat racks.	Acquire reproductions.

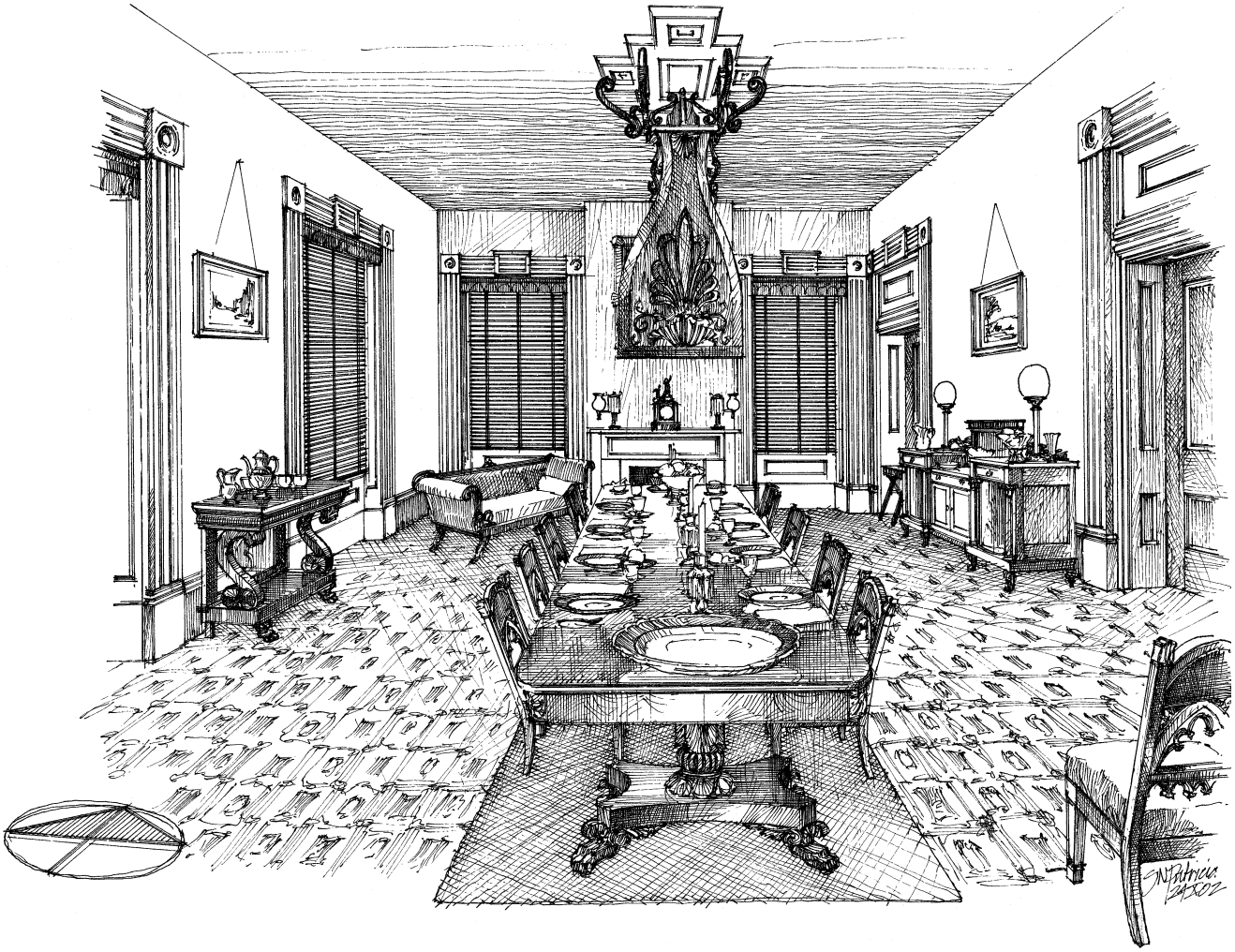
Dining Room (Room 102)

The McMurran family took most of their meals in the dining room. The food was prepared in the kitchen building and brought into the house through the back door and carried down the service hall (room 103) to the dining room. A dumbwaiter placed in front of the fire kept plates warm until the food was served and probably kept food warm during the meal. A bell pull was located near the fireplace so that the family could call for a servant when needed. The dining room is arranged as it would look between meals.

Walls: The walls of the dining room should be "finished with a translucent, rose-colored glaze applied over a white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 5).

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).



Dining Room—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, ingrain; install wall to wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 ingrain carpet & rug, -much worn."	Use reproduction ingrain carpet in the "Maple Leaf" pattern (NATC 16113).
Drugget, green baize; place on floor underneath table.	1883 inventory lists "1 drugget." Druggets were used to protect the wall-to-wall carpeting in a dining room from damage by crumbs or grease. See Winkler and Moss, pp. 84–85.	Acquire reproduction.
Doorstop, marble; place on floor next to door to room 101.	Natchez houses commonly used white marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire period piece.
Engravings, 2, framed; hang to left and right of door to front hall.	Paintings and engravings frequently ornamented the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848). Mrs. Ferry mentions that engravings of Paul and Virginia hung in these spaces in the early 20th century.	Acquire period steel engravings of Paul and Virginia and place in reproduction frames.
Side chairs, 12, mahogany; place four along south wall (two on either side of door), and four along each long side of dining table.	1865 inventory lists "1 doz. Mahogany Chairs, hair cloth seats."	Use NATC 322–333. Reupholster in horsehair.
Armchairs, 2, mahogany, upholstered in haircloth; place one at north end of dining table and one in front of south window on west wall.	1865 inventory lists "2 large mahogany arm chairs hair cloth seats" for the center hall. Presumably these were the armchairs that match the set in the dining room and had been temporarily placed in the hall during the inventory.	Use NATC 320–321. Reupholster in horsehair.
Venetian blinds, 4, green, with decorative cornices; hang one set at each window.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850. No curtains are listed for this room on the 1865 inventory.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12221–24) and cornices (NATC 14728–31) installed 1997
Table, pier, mahogany with black marble top; place against west wall between windows.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Pier Table, black marble top."	Use NATC 335.
Beverage service, silver, consisting of coffee pot, teapot, hot water urn, sugar bowl, cream pitcher, and tea tray; place on pier table.	"List of silver plate to care Chas. P. Leverich . . . ," prepared by M. L. McMurran, April 13, 1867, lists "3 Silver urns - Coffee, Tea & Water/1 Silver cream pitcher/2 Silver Sugar bowls, with silver tops . . . 1 Silver plated large waiter, or tea tray."	Use NATC 357–61A-B; acquire silver-plated tea tray.
Tea caddy; place on pier table.	The McMurrans were avid tea drinkers. Mrs. J. T. McMurran to George Austen, November 13, [1856]; Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., January 16, 1857.	Use NATC 85.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Engraving of *Oliver Cromwell Dictating to the Earl of Savoy,* framed; hang on west wall above pier table.	Paintings and engravings frequently ornamented the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 2908A-B (***Oliver Cromwell Dictating to the Earl of Savoy***). Conserve print and frame. Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Sofa, mahogany, with haircloth seat; place in northwest corner, angled slightly.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Sofa, hair cloth seat."	Use NATC 95. Replace missing carved elements under seat rail and reupholster with haircloth.
Painting of still life, oil, framed; hang above fireplace.	Paintings and engravings frequently ornamented the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 368 (still life) and NATC 369 (frame). Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Lamps, 2, argand (whale oil), on lamp mats; place on mantel.	1865 inventory lists "2 prs. Lamps."	Use NATC 342–43. Acquire lamp mats.
Clock, mantel; place on mantel between lamps.	1883 inventory lists "1 clock."	Use NATC 344.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel to right of clock.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Use NATC 80.
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were needed to hold logs in a fireplace.	Acquire period pieces.
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into room.	Acquire period piece.
Fire set, consisting of poker, tongs, shovel, and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 steel fire set."	Use NATC 365, 365, and 13958. Acquire hearth brush and stand.
Hearth rug, ingrain; place on floor in front of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 ingrain carpet & rug, -much worn."	Make hearth rug out of scrap of reproduction ingrain acquired for room.
Plate warmer, metal; place in front of fireplace on the right side.	Plate warmers were commonly used in nineteenth century houses, and this plate warmer has a history of use at Melrose.	Use NATC 768.
Tray, mahogany, on X-shaped stand; place near door to hall (room 103).	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Dumb Waiter."	Use NATC 14762 (stand) and NATC 16235 (tray).
Portrait of Mary Magdalene, oil, framed; hang on east wall above sideboard.	Paintings and engravings frequently ornamented the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 202 (Mary Magdalene)and NATC 203 (frame). Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Sideboard, mahogany; place along east wall between doors.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Sideboard."	Use NATC 334.
Lamps, 1 pair, solar, on lamp mats; place on sideboard.	1865 inventory lists "2 prs Lamps."	Use NATC 340–341. Acquire lamp mats.
Decanter and 4 wine glasses, glass, on silver-plated tray; place on left side of sideboard.	1865 inventory lists "Decanters, cut glass and 2 doz Wines, cut glass"; List of silver plate, dated April 13, 1867, lists "2 Silver plated smaller waiters."	Use NATC 11849 (decanter) and NATC 12083 (wine glasses). Acquire period tray.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Water pitcher, silver, and **tumblers**, 6, cut-glass; place on marble center section of sideboard.	List of silverplate, dated April 13, 1867, lists "2 Silver Water pitchers"; 1865 inventory lists "1 1/2 doz Lemonade, cut glass."	Acquire period pieces.
Dining tables, 3 piece, mahogany with cherry top; place in center of room.	1865 inventory lists "1 Set Mahogany Dining Tables."	Use NATC 403.
Epergne, silver-plated, with candles and artificial flowers; place on dining table.	List of silver plate, dated April 13, 1867 lists "1 silver plated Epergne - with sockets for candles. 2 cut glass bowls - one large bowl for the center four small bowls for the arms."	Acquire period piece.
Punkah, mahogany, with silk pull cord and tassel; hanging from center of ceiling	Punkah is original to house.	Use NATC 12418 (punkah) and NATC 481 (pull cord and tassel).

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; Use to cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting;. lay over carpet in summer
Slipcovers, white linen; place one on each item of furniture.	1865 inventory lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs" for drawing room furniture.	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; use to cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent.

Service Hall (Room 103)

This hall is not on the usual tour route for visitors. However, since the door between rooms 106 and 103 is sometimes left open and the space is therefore visible to visitors, the furnishings plan recommends the placement of a floorcloth in this space.

Walls: The walls of the service hall should be finished with a "distemper paint in a light grey-rose color," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 6).

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

Floor: Cover wall to wall with a reproduction floorcloth in a faux wood pattern reproduced from sample found in Melrose attic (NATC 13772).

Windows: Install off-white lawn curtains shirred onto brass rods (at top only).

Dining Room Side Hall (Room 105)

The large glass-doored cupboard in this room was placed here by the Callons. Since the 1865 inventory clearly indicates that the McMurrans used the butler's pantry (room 104) for the storage of glass and china and does not indicate any furnishings for this hallway, no furnishings are recommended for this space.

Walls: The walls of the dining room side hall should be finished with "a light rose, translucent glaze . . . applied over a thin, white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 6).

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

Floor: Cover wall to wall with a reproduction floorcloth in a faux wood pattern reproduced from sample found in Melrose attic (NATC 13772).

Acquire two plain marble brick doorstops to hold open the doors to rooms 102 and 106.

Stair Halls (Rooms 106 and 205)

Walls: The walls of the stair halls should be finished with "a light rose, translucent glaze . . . applied over a thin, white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 6).

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

Floor: Cover wall to wall with a reproduction floorcloth in a faux wood pattern reproduced from sample found in Melrose attic (NATC 13772).

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, Brussels; lay a strip of carpet on the stairs held in place by silver-plated stair rods.	HSR, Vol. I, p. 72.	Use appropriate reproduction brussels carpet pattern (NATC 16172). Continue the carpeting as a strip in room 205 (stair landing). End carpeting at top of stairs on second floor, following outline of tack marks. Do not continue carpet up stairs to attic. Use existing stair rods (NATC 12425–50).
Floorcloth; cover floor wall to wall in room 106.	The original floor covering for this space is unknown. However, two other hall areas in Melrose were covered with floorcloths, and since they were common in hallways in Natchez in the mid-19th century, a floorcloth has been designated for this space.	Acquire reproduction floorcloth in faux wood pattern based on sample found in Melrose attic.
Mirror, in gilt frame; hang on west wall in room 106.	Mirrors were frequently hung in passages. See Wilkins inventory (1849) and Minor inventory (1844) for examples.	Use NATC 796. Blind hang.
Thermometer; hang on west wall in room 106.	Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, 16 August (year unknown, but between 1859 and 1863)	Acquire period piece.
Table, black marble top; place along west wall. underneath mirror	Tables were frequently placed in stair halls to hold lighting devices.	Use NATC 601.
Lamp, whale oil; place on black marble top table.	Lamps were commonly kept on tables near stairs for use at night.	Use NATC 309.
Doorstop, marble; place on floor near door to room 103.	Natchez houses commonly used marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire plain marble brick (period or new).
Curtains, sheer, pair; shirr onto rods at top of window.	Simple gathered sheer curtains can be seen in the earliest photos of Melrose taken in 1889.	Acquire reproduction sheer cotton curtains and install on reproduction rods.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, gauze should be placed over the gilt mirror frame and matting should be placed wall to wall on the floor over the brussels carpet.

Library (Room 108)

Mr. McMurran conducted plantation business and probably oversaw the household accounts in this room. McMurran loved to read; he had an extensive library and was very fond of his books. Mrs. McMurran wrote that he prized his books above all his possessions, and used to say, looking fondly at the loaded shelves, "they are the last things I will part with."[172] His law books were housed in his law office in town, where they would be convenient for research.[173] The books in this room included fiction, histories, and other works read for pleasure. The McMurrans took their books with them when they sold Melrose. Many of these books descended in the Conner family and have been acquired by the Park.

No draperies are listed in the 1865 inventory for this room, and therefore none are recommended.

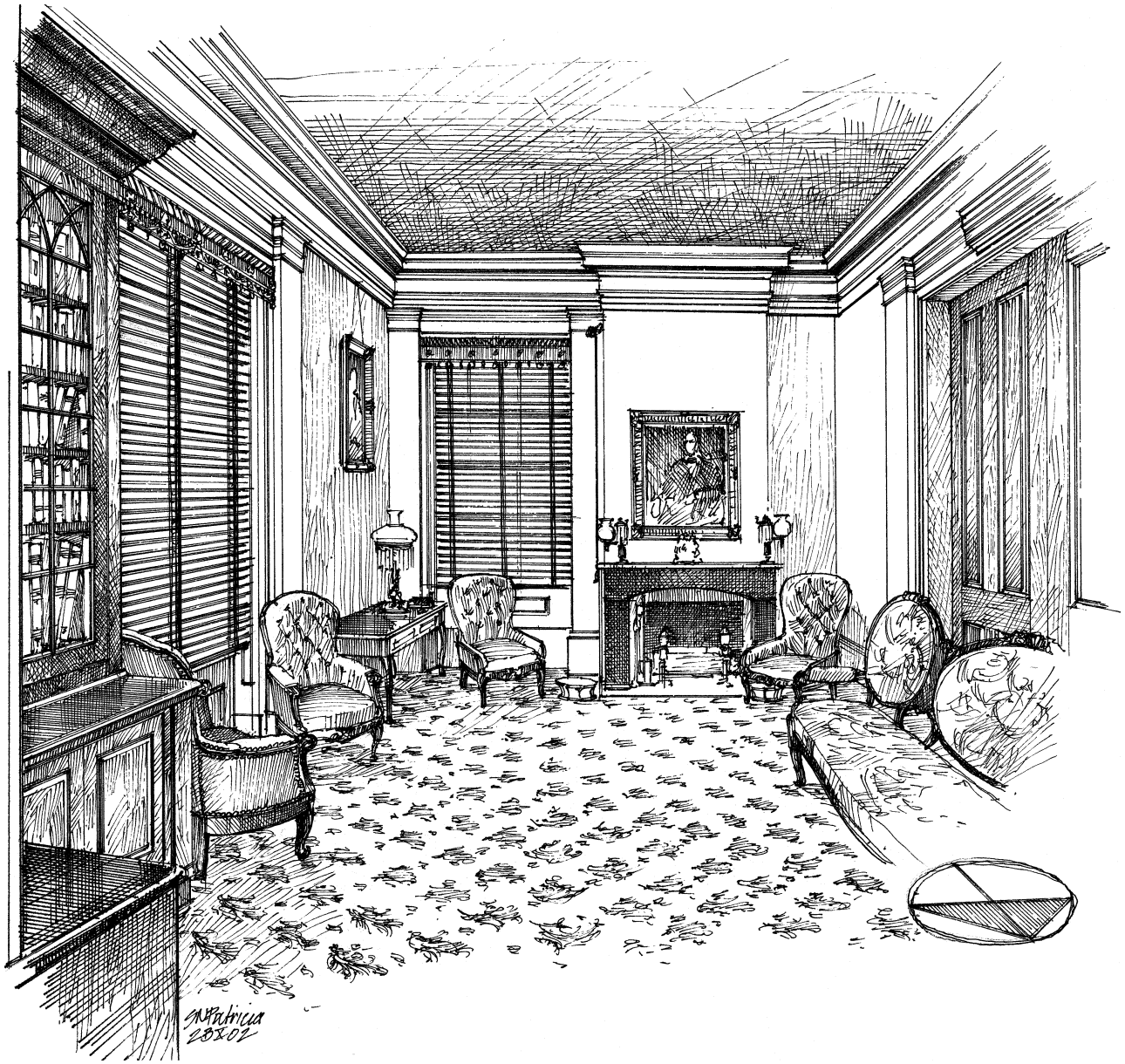
Walls: The walls of the library should be "finished with a translucent, rose-colored glaze applied over a white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 5).

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

172 M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., 8 March 1867, McMurran Papers, photocopies at NATC.

173 Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, 10 May 1840, UNC Chapel Hill, Southern Historical Collection, Quitman papers, subseries 1.1, folder 18.



Library—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, Brussels; install wall to wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 old carpet & rug."	Reproduce brussels carpet in pattern documented to period acquired in 1999 (NATC 16112).
Bookcases, 2, walnut; place one in northeast corner and one against north wall to left of door to hall.	1865 inventory lists "2 Walnut book cases."	Use NATC 174 and 175.
Books, approximately 92 linear feet; arrange in bookcases.	M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., Mar. 8, 1867.	Use pre-1865 books in NATC collection.
Armchairs, 2, walnut, upholstered in green leather; place one in front of window in east wall and one in front of library table.	1865 inventory lists "2 Walnut large armchairs green Morocco."	Use NATC 168 and 169; reupholster in green leather.
Newspapers, 2; place on armchair to left of window.	M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, July 7, 1856; M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., September 4, 1856; J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, December 3, 1856.	Acquire reproductions of the Natchez *Courier* and New Orleans *Daily Delta, Daily Crescent,* or *Commercial Bulletin* dated 1860.
Venetian blinds, 2 sets, green, with decorative cornices; hang one set at each window.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12231–32) and cornices (12410–11) installed 1997.
Portrait, oil, in gilt frame; hang on east wall to right of window.	1865 inventory lists "three paintings of Calhoun, Taylor & C. J. Marshall"; James Carson to Mary L. McMurran, Natchez, Feb. 8, 1869; M. L. McMurran to G. M. Davis, Natchez, Dec. 27, 1871.	Acquire reproduction of Calhoun portrait currently in possession of Mrs. Marian Ferry; use reproduction gilt frame. Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Library table; place against east wall in southeast corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Library table."	Use NATC 596.
Lamp, solar; place on lamp mat on library table.	Lamps are required for supplemental lighting wherever reading and writing occur.	Use NATC 574. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Ledgers, 2, and 1 **account book**; place on library table.	J. T. McMurran, Jr., to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., October 1, 1858. Two ledgers for Riverside plantation survive in the collection at Northeast Louisiana University (NLU); volume of Administrator's Record of Accounts at Louisiana State University (LSU) includes financial records for Riverside, Langside, and Moro Plantations.	Acquire reproductions of ledgers and account books at NLU and LSU.
Inkstand, steel pen, blotter, writing paper, box of wafers, correspondence; place on library table.	Writing accoutrements are required for conducting correspondence and keeping business records.	Use NATC 189A–E; acquire period steel pen and blotter and reproduction writing paper, wafers, and correspondence.
Books, 3; place on library table.	McMurran had an extensive library. Many volumes are owned by the Park.	Use three volumes owned by the Park.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Bell pull; hang from slave bell lever to left of fireplace.	An original bell pull mechanism is installed in this room.	Use NATC 11712.
Spittoons, white china, on small oilcloth mats; place on floor to left and right of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 pr. spittons [*sic*] white china."	Use NATC 12374 and acquire one period white ceramic spittoon. Reproduce oilcloth mats using NATC 13772 as prototype.
Portrait, oil, in gilt frame; hang above fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "three paintings of Calhoun, Taylor & C. J. Marshall"; James Carson to Mary L. McMurran, Natchez, Feb. 8, 1869; M. L. McMurran to G. M. Davis, Natchez, Dec. 27, 1871	Acquire reproduction of Taylor portrait currently in possession of Mrs. Marian Ferry. Use reproduction gilt frame. Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Lamps, argand, pair; place on lamp mats on mantel.	Adequate lighting is vital in a library.	Use NATC 1412–13. Acquire reproduction lamp mats.
Statue; place on mantel.	Small statues and other ornaments were frequently displayed in mid-19th-century parlors. See Elliot (1855) and Linton (1848) inventories.	Use NATC 8046 [Scottish courting couple]
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel to right of statue.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Acquire period piece.
Humidor, with cigars; place on mantel.	Smoking and chewing tobacco were common mid-19th-century pastimes. See Garrett, p. 67.	Use NATC 190.
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were required to hold logs in a fireplace.	Acquire period pieces.
Fender, iron; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into room.	Use NATC 178.
Fire set, consisting of poker, tongs, shovel, and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 Steel fire set."	Use NATC 181–84. Acquire hearth brush.
Hearth rug, Brussels; place on floor in front of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 old carpet & rug."	Hearth rug made out of scrap of reproduction brussels acquired for room.
Chairs, 2, low, walnut, upholstered in green leather; place on either side of sofa.	1865 inventory lists "2 Walnut low chairs green Morocco."	Use NATC 166 and 167. Reupholster in green leather.
Sofa, walnut, upholstered in green leather; place along west wall in front of doors to parlor.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Sofa green Morocco."	Use sofa acquired from St. Elizabeth's (HFC Registration No. 11251.0003); reupholster in green leather.
Book; place on sofa.	The McMurrans were very fond of Sir Walter Scott. M. E. McMurran to Charlotte Calhoun, August 4, 1854.	Acquire period copy of *Lay of the Last Minstrel*. Use NATC 12089 (signed McMurran copy) on special occasions.
Doorstop, shell; place on floor next to door to room 111.	Natchez houses commonly used white marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire large shell.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; use to cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting; lay over carpet in summer.
Slipcovers, white linen; place one onto each item of furniture.	1865 inventory lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs for drawing room."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; use to cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent.

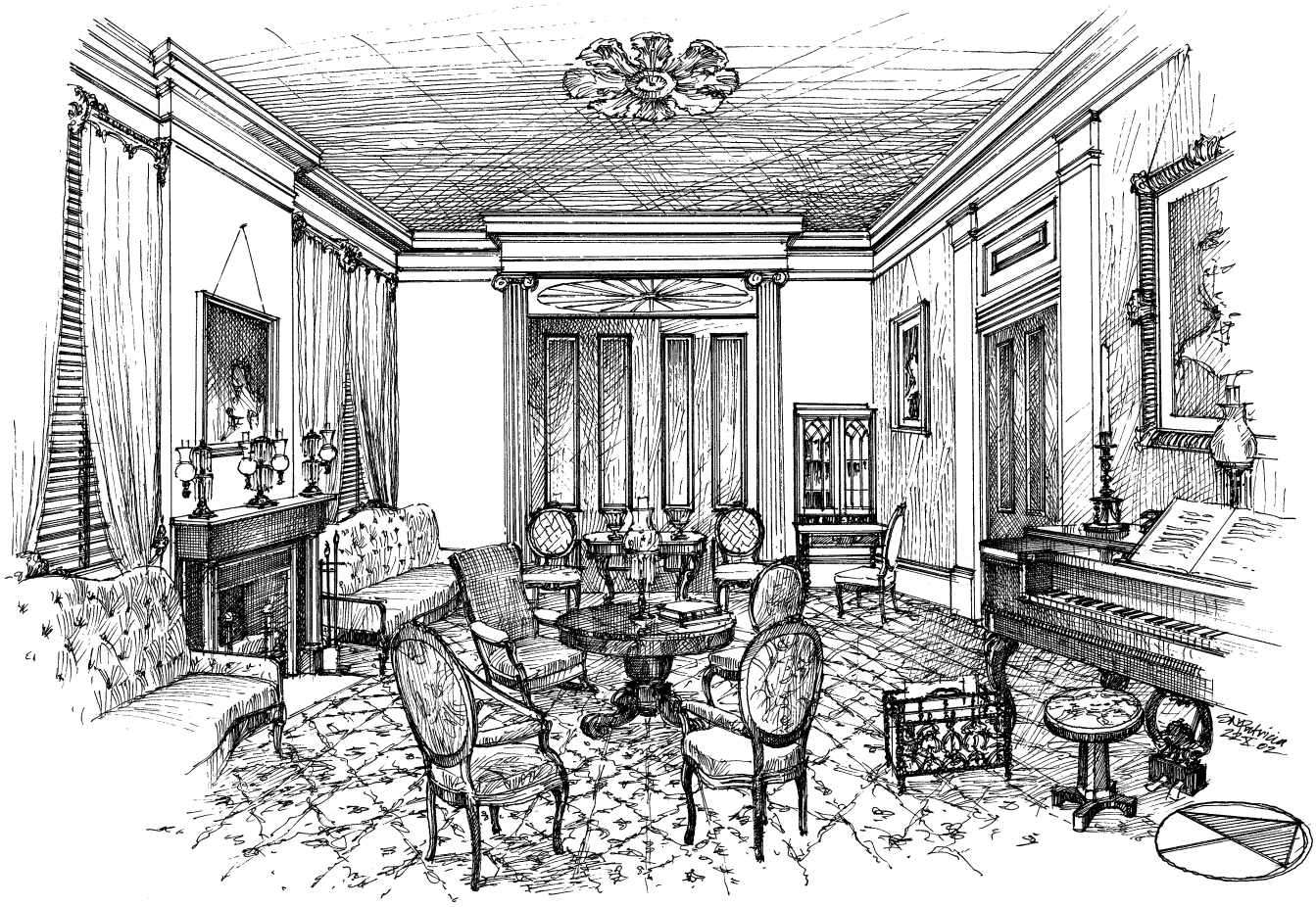
Parlor (Room 109)

Family members spent most of their evening hours in this room. Leisure activities such as reading—both aloud and privately—writing letters and school lessons, playing quiet games, playing the piano, and singing were all enjoyed in this room. This was probably the only room with a fire in the evening during the winter, so all the family would have gathered here for warmth, light, and companionship.

Walls: The walls of the parlor should be "finished with a translucent, rose-colored glaze applied over a white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 5).

Baseboards: Translucent white over dark gray in imitation of marble, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).



Parlor—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, velvet; install wall-to-wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 carpet and rug, velvet."	Acquire reproduction carpet in same pattern as drawing room.
Portraits, 2, Edward and Elizabeth Baker Turner, in gilt frames; hang on north wall to right and left of door to front hall.	Inventory and Appraisement of the estate of Mary L. McMurran, August 3, 1891, lists 4 family oil portraits. The Report of sale of Personalty, June 29, 1892, states that M. M. B. (Mary Macrery Britten) Conner purchased 2 Oil Paintings for $200.00. Descendants of Eliza Conner Martin [daughter of M. M. B. Conner] own oil portraits of Edward and Elizabeth Baker Turner. In a petition filed by Mary L. McMurran concerning the estate of her late husband, Mrs. McMurran states that Mr. McMurran "not very long before his death, sold his residence, furniture &c. reserving only his library, pictures, and some small lots of furniture &c." These portraits may have come to Woodlands with the McMurrans after the sale of Melrose.	Acquire or reproduce portraits in possession of Eliza Conner Martin descendants. Hang from porcelain-headed nails with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Piano; place against north wall beneath portrait.	1865 inventory lists "1 Piano, stool & music stand."	Use NATC 113.
Candlesticks, 1 pair, silver-plated; place on piano.	List of silverplate, dated April 13, 1867.	Acquire period pieces.
Carcel lamp, on lamp mat; place on piano.	This lamp has a history of use at Melrose and is appropriatea to the period.	Use NATC 100. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Piano stool; place in front of piano.	1865 inventory lists "1 Piano, stool & music stand."	Use NATC 218.
Music stand; place in front of piano on right side.	1865 inventory lists "1 Piano, stool & music stand."	Use NATC 114.
Sheet music, 6 pieces; place one piece of music on piano, and five on music stand.	M. L. McMurran to Elizabeth Frances Turner, before 1848; Louisa Quitman to John Quitman, January 1, 1847.	Reproduce individual pieces from NATC 16188. Acquire other period pieces as available ("Empress Henrietta's Waltz," "Sweet After," "The White Cockade," "The Banner Song").
Chairs, side, rosewood, covered in maroon velvet; place two along east wall on either side of bouquet table, two along west wall on either side of sofa table, one in front of desk in northwest corner, one pulled up to center table in middle of room.	1865 inventory lists "6 chairs rosewood covered with Marron velvet."	Use NATC 1379–80, 1459–62; reupholster in maroon velvet.
Bouquet table, walnut; place along east wall in front of doors to room 108.	1865 inventory lists "1 small walnut boquet [*sic*] table."	Acquire small round walnut pedestal table.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Engraving, in frame; place on bouquet table.	Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, April 2, 1847 indicates that the McMurrans and Quitmans exchanged images.	Use NATC 11846 (engraving) and 11822 (frame).
Vase, with artificial flowers; place on bouquet table.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period piece.
Easy chair, covered with maroon velvet; place in southeast corner in front of lounge.	1865 inventory lists "1 Stuffed arm chairs."	Use NATC 721; reupholster in maroon velvet.
Lounges, 2, rosewood, covered with maroon velvet; place against south wall, one in front of each window.	1865 inventory lists "2 Rosewood lounges, covered with Marron velvet."	Use NATC 1376 and 1429; reupholster in maroon velvet. (These sofas match other parlor furniture to be used in this room.)
Curtains, with tiebacks, valances, and gilt cornices; hang at each window.	1865 inventory lists "Curtains for parlor, being 2 windows."	Use original cornices (NATC 12412–13) and tiebacks (NATC 127–30); acquire reproduction curtains and trim.
Venetian blinds, 2 sets, green; install one set in each window frame.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12229–30) installed 1997.
Portrait, oil, in gilt frame; hang above fireplace.	Original portrait descended in McMurran family.	Use NATC 371 (reproduction of painting of Mary L. McMurran) and NATC 372 (frame). Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Mantel lamps, 3, bronze, with glass pendants; place on lamp mats on mantel.	1865 inventory lists "3 bronze mantel lamps, with glass pendants."	Use NATC 171–73. Acquire reproduction lamp mats.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel to right of central lamp.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Use NATC 84.
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were needed to hold logs in a fireplace.	Acquire period pieces.
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into room.	Acquire period piece.
Fire set, consisting of poker, tongs, shovel, and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 steel fire set."	Use NATC 72–75. Acquire hearth brush.
Hearth rug; place on floor in front of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 carpet & rug, velvet."	Make hearth rug out of scrap of reproduction carpet acquired for room.
Rocking chair, walnut, upholstered in maroon velvet; place to right of fireplace in front of lounge.	1865 inventory lists "1 walnut rocking chair covered with Marron velvet."	Use NATC 703; reupholster in maroon velvet.
Table, sofa, black and white marble top; place along west wall in front of doors to drawing room.	1865 inventory lists "1 sofa table black & white marble top."	Use NATC 23.
Vases, 1 pair, with imitation flowers; place on sofa table.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Use NATC 136–37.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Statue, bronze; place on sofa table between vases.	Small statues and other ornaments were frequently displayed in mid-19th-century parlors. See Elliot (1855) and Linton (1848) inventories.	Use NATC 311 (copy of Michelangelo's *Moses*).
Daguerreotypes or **Ambrotypes**, 3, framed; place on sofa table.	M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, Aug. 4, 1856.	Copy images of Mr. and Mrs. McMurran and John McMurran, Jr. Use reproduction frames.
Desk, lady's, walnut; place against west wall to right of doors to drawing room.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut ladies escritoire."	Acquire reproduction of gothic style walnut desk owned by McMurran descendants. If unable to obtain reproduction, use NATC 207, empire-style mahogany secretary.
Desk accessories, e.g., inkwell, steel pen, blotter, sheets of writing paper, envelopes, letters; place on desk.	Mary McMurran's voluminous correspondence attests to the fact that she spent significant amounts of time reading and answering correspondence.	Acquire period inkwell, steel pen, and blotter. Acquire reproduction writing paper, envelopes, and letters based on prototypes at Louisiana State University.
Doorstop, shell; place on floor next to door to room 111.	Natchez houses commonly used white marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire large shell.
Table, center, black and white marble top; place in center of room.	1865 inventory lists "1 centre table, black & white marble top."	Use NATC 111.
Lamp, solar; place on lamp mat on center table.	Solar lamps were frequently found on center tables, particularly if people read or wrote at the table.	Use NATC 602. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Books, 4; place on center table.	M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, July 7, 1856.	Use NATC 11034 (*Poetry of the Fields*; inscribed "For my dear Little Mary/from Grandmother/Nov. 1st 1860"), NATC 11031 (*The Summer-Land: A Southern Study by a Child of the Sun*, inscribed "McMurran/ May/55"), and NATC 11029–30 (*Memoirs of Napoleon, His Court & Family, Vols. 1 & 2*), inscribed "J. T. McMurran/Nov. 1855"
Armchairs, 2, upholstered in maroon velvet; pull up to center table.	1865 inventory lists "1 pair arm chairs covered with Marron velvet."	Use NATC 1377 and 1378; reupholster in maroon velvet.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the curtains should be taken down and stored and the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; use to cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting; lay over carpet in summer.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Slipcovers, white linen; place one on each item of furniture.	1865 inventory lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs for drawing room."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; use to cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent.

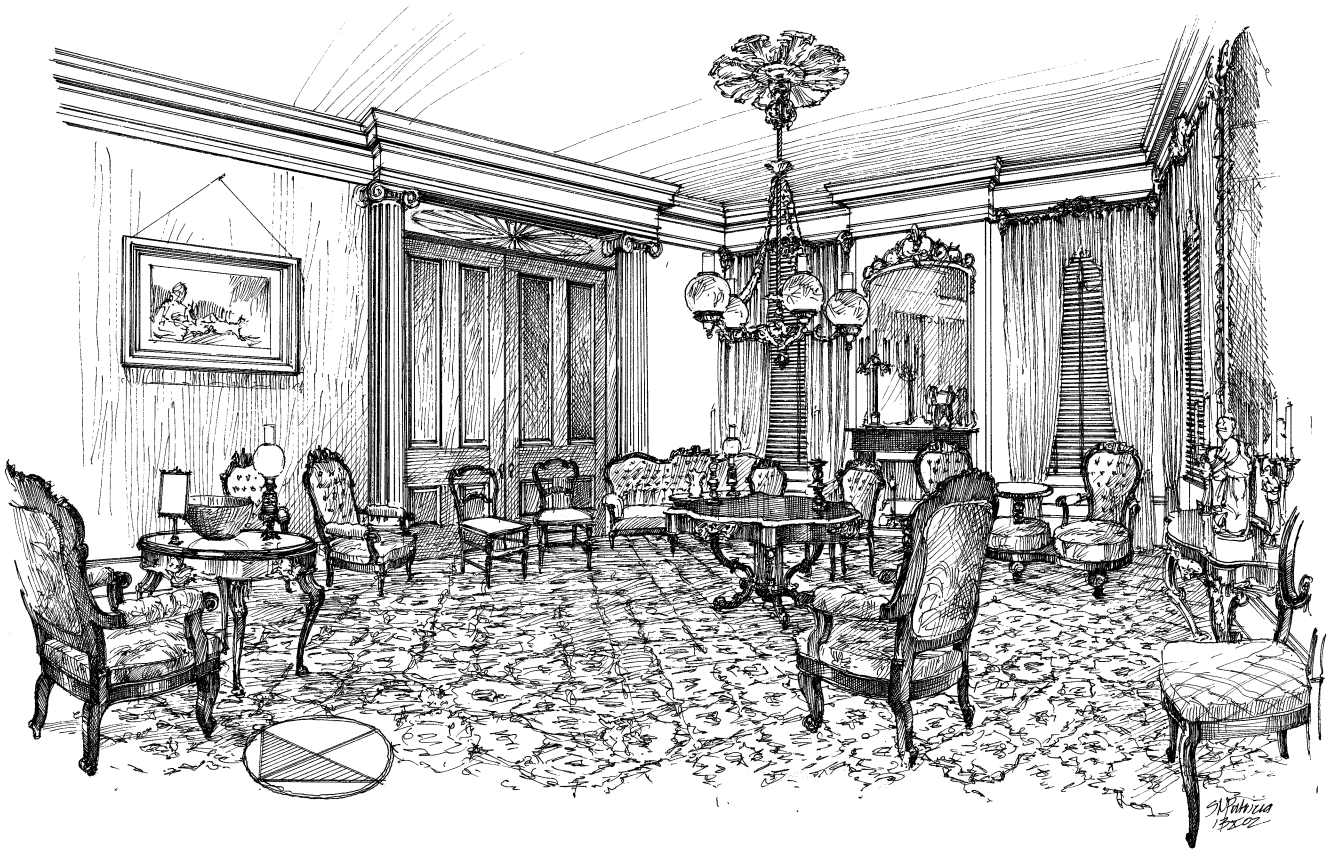
Drawing Room (Room 110)

The drawing room is the most formal room in the house and was used primarily for entertaining guests. The wedding of Mary Elizabeth McMurran to Farar Conner took place in this room, with guests looking on from the parlor. The fireplace in the drawing room was originally fitted with a coal grate (See HSR, Vol. I, p. 81). This was the only room in the house set up to burn coal.

Walls: The Historic Structures Report states that "remnants of a cotton paper were found on the east wall at the cornice level" (Vol. II, p. 7). The walls in the drawing room should be covered with an exact reproduction of the gold-on-white wallpaper that originally hung in this room (NATC 12315). More than a full repeat of the pattern survives intact, so the reproduction involves only a minimum of conjecture.

Baseboards: Translucent white over dark gray in imitation of marble, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: The ceiling and decorative plaster should be left unfinished, as they were originally (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).



Drawing Room—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, velvet, wall to wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 carpet and rug, velvet."	Acquire reproduction carpet in a stock pattern documented to the 1840s.
Portrait of Frances Davis, oil, in gilt frame; hang on north wall to right of door to front hall.	Paintings and engravings frequently ornamented the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 115 (Frances. Davis)and NATC 116 (frame); hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels
Portrait, oil, Stephen Kelly as a boy, with his dog, in gilt frame; hang on east wall to left of door to room 109.	Oil paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 25 (Stephen Kelly as a boy, with his dog) and NATC 26 (frame). Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Armchair, walnut with green and gold upholstery; place along north wall to right of door to front hall.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Ladies low arm chair green & gold cover."	Use NATC 15; reupholster in reproduction fabric.
Chair, walnut, oval back, upholstered in green and gold plush; place in northeast corner of room.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut oval back chair in Moquette green & gold cover."	Use HFC Registration no. 11252.0005 (chair acquired from Saint Elizabeth's). Upholster in green and gold plush.
Chairs, 6, walnut with green and gold upholstery; place one along east wall under portrait, two in front of north window in west wall, one along north wall to left of door to front hall, and two pulled up to south side of sofa table in center of room.	1865 inventory lists "6 Walnut chairs, green & gold cover."	Use NATC 12, 13, 16–19; reupholster in reproduction fabric.
Chair, walnut, high oval back, upholstered in green and gold plush; place along east wall to left of door to parlor.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut high oval back chair in green & plush."	Use HFC Registration no. 11251.0006 (chair acquired from Saint Elizabeth's). Upholster in green and gold plush.
Table, with marble top; place in northeast corner in front of chair grouping.	1865 inventory lists "1 Bouquet table, Brocadilla Marble top."	Use HFC Registration no. 11251.0004 (acquired from St. Elizabeth's).
Bowl, porcelain, with artificial flowers; place on marble-top table.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Use NATC 206.
Lithophane; place on marble-top table.	Decorative objects were common in mid-19th-century homes. (See Linton 1848 inventory for examples.)	Use NATC 191.
Carcel lamp, on lamp mat; place on marble-top table.	This lamp has a history of use at Melrose and is appropriate to the period.	Use NATC 99. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Side chairs, 2, cane seats; place in front of doors to parlor.	1865 inventory lists " 2 fancy cane seat chairs."	Use NATC 12371 and 12372.
Sofa, walnut with green and gold upholstery; place diagonally in southeast corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Tete a Tete sofa, green & gold cover."	Use NATC 20; reupholster in reproduction fabric.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Table, sofa, black and white marble top; place in front of sofa in southeast corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Sofa table, black & white marble top."	Use NATC 21.
Vases, 1 pair, old Paris and parian, with artificial flowers; place on sofa table.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Use NATC 88 and 89; acquire artificial flowers.
Carcel lamp, on lamp mat; place on sofa table.	This lamp has a history of use at Melrose and is appropriate to the period.	Use NATC 98. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Curtains, with tiebacks, valances, and gilt cornices; hang at each window.	1865 inventory lists "Curtains, cornices, &c, &c."	Use original cornices (NATC 12414–17) and tiebacks (NATC 31–38). Reproduction curtains and trim (NATC 12201–20) installed 1997.
Venetian blinds, 4 sets, green; install one set in each window frame.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12225–28) installed 1997.
Mirror, gilt; hang over mantel.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mantel Mirror."	Use NATC 28.
Vase, old paris; place in center of mantel.	1865 inventory lists "1 centre china vase for Mantel."	Use NATC 67.
Candelabras, 1 pair, gilt; place one at each end of mantel.	1865 inventory lists " 1 pair candelabras, gilt."	Use NATC 68–69.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel to right of central vase.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Use NATC 79.
Coal grate; place in fireplace.	Kelly family tradition states that coal was used in drawing room fireplace, wood elsewhere.	Use NATC 16237 (part of original cast iron fireplace surround). Acquire or reproduce coal basket and coal grate.
Fire set, steel, consisting of coal shovel, coal tongs, bellows, and hearth brush, with a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 steel fire set."	Use NATC 7–99, 121–123. Acquire hearth brush.
Coal box, tole; place to right of fireplace.	A coal hod would have been required to store coal handy for burning.	Use NATC 11715.
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	A fender is required to protect the carpet from sparks.	Acquire period piece.
Hearth rug; place in front of fender.	1865 inventory lists "1 carpet & rug velvet."	Have hearth rug made out of scrap of reproduction purchased for room.
Sofa, revolving, walnut with green and gold upholstery; place diagonally in southwest corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut revolving sofa green & gold cover."	Use NATC 10 and 11.
Mirror, pier, with pier table, gilt; place between windows on west wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 Pier Mirror."	Use NATC 29 and 30.
Candelabras, 1 pair, bronze; place on pier table.	1865 inventory lists "1 pair candelabras, bronze."	Acquire period pieces.
Statue, parian; place on pier table between candelabras.	Decorative objects were common in mid-19th-century homes. (See Linton 1848 inventory for examples.)	Use NATC 78.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Étagère, walnut; place against west wall near northwest corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Étagère."	Use NATC 24.
Vases, 2 pairs; **parian statuettes or objects**, 3, **shells**, 2, **decorative glassware**, 4; place on shelves of étagère.	Anna Rosalie Quitman diary, June 19, 1852 (shells and stones). M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857 (vases).	Use NATC 155 (parian figurine "Babes in Woods"); NATC 140 and 141 (reticulated bowls); NATC 77 (parian statue of Mercury); NATC 798–99 (old paris "rollicking peasants" vases); NATC 1527–28 (old paris reticulated compotes). Acquire the balance.
Doorstop, marble; use to hold back door to room 101.	Natchez houses commonly used white marble bricks or large seashells as doorstops.	Acquire period piece.
Table, sofa, rosewood, brocatello marble top; place in center of room beneath chandelier.	1865 inventory lists "1 Rosewood sofa table Brocadilla Marble top."	Use NATC 22.
Candlesticks, 1 pair, silver-plated, with candles; place on sofa table.	List of silverplate to care Chas. P. Leverich, dated April 13, 1867, written by M. L. McMurran.	Acquire period candlesticks and reproduction wax candles.
Pamphlet; place on sofa table.	The McMurrans were very fond of Sir Walter Scott; Melrose was named after Melrose Abbey. M. E. McMurran to Charlotte Calhoun, August 4, 1854.	Use NATC 11474. (*The Baronial and Ecclesiastical Antiquities of Scotland*, opened to entry for Melrose Abbey).
Armchair, walnut with green and gold upholstery; place on north side of center table.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut large armchair green & gold cover."	Use NATC 14; reupholster in reproduction fabric.
Chandelier, gilt; hang from center of ceiling.	1865 inventory lists "1 Large centre chandelier."	Use NATC 12399, original chandelier still in place.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the curtains should be taken down and stored and the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; use to cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting; lay over carpet in summer.
Slipcovers, white linen; place one over each item of furniture.	1865 inventory lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; use to cover chandelier, gilt candelabra, and gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent.

Center Hall (Room 111)

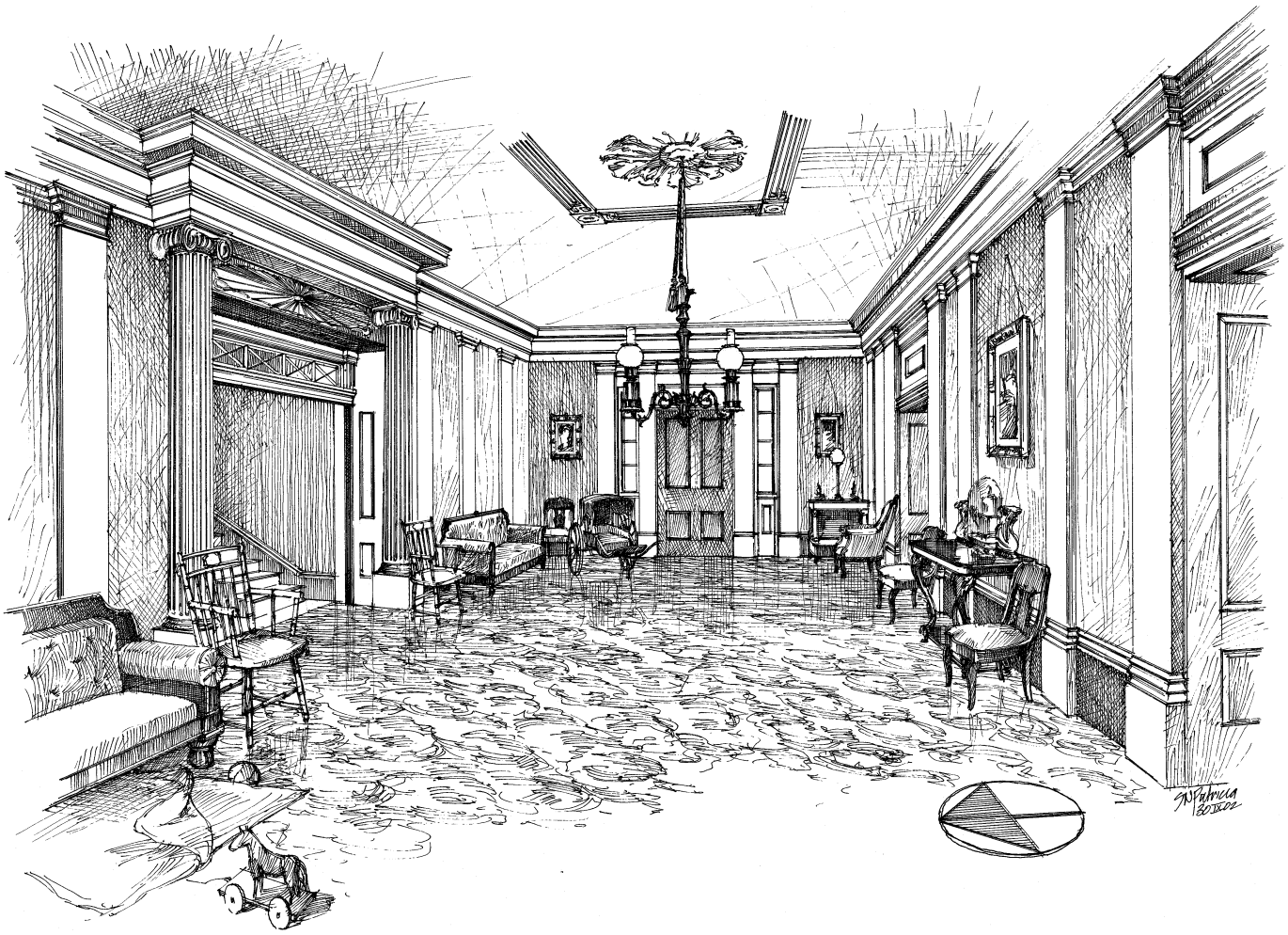
The upper and lower center halls were used as circulation spaces, as places for entertaining large numbers of guests, and as a refuge from the worst heat of the summer. The lower center hall was probably the coolest part of the house in the summer. Baby Fazee played on a pallet on the hall floor during the summer after his birth.[174] Mary Elizabeth, in the last stages of her illness, left her bed only to spend time on her couch in the hall.[175] Being in the hall allowed one to interact with the rest of the household as they went about their business and was less isolating than staying in one's own bedroom.

Walls: The walls of the center hall should be finished with "a light rose, translucent glaze . . . applied over a thin, white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 6).

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

174 Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., 20 July 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.
175 Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. [Pattie] Gilbert [Alie's sister], 6 August 1861, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.



Center Hall—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Oil cloth, with brussels carpet in same pattern used as visitor pathway; place on floor.	1865 inventory lists "1 oil cloth."	Leave original oilcloth in place (NATC 12420). Oilcloth pattern reproduced in brussels carpet and installed as visitor pathway in 1999 (NATC 16187).
Side chairs, 6, mahogany, upholstered in haircloth; place two on west wall on either side of door to front hall, one along east wall to left of door to porch, two along south wall on either side of refreshment table, one along south wall to right of door to parlor.	1865 inventory lists "6 common size mahogany chairs hair cloth seats."	Use NATC 1403 and 1404; acquire four more chairs to match.
Barometer; hang on west wall to right of door to front hall.	This barometer is a family piece.	Use NATC 16231.
Sofas, two, mahogany, upholstered in haircloth; place along north wall to left and right of door to stair hall.	1865 inventory lists "2 large mahogany sofas, hair cloth seats."	Use NATC 165 and 96; reupholster in haircloth.
Pallet, covered with sheet and with two blankets; place on floor in front of sofa in northwest corner.	M. L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., July 20, 1857.	Acquire reproductions.
Toys, two; place on pallet.	M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., August 28, 1857.	Acquire inexpensive reproduction doll, stuffed animal, and/or other small toy.
Engravings, four; place two on east wall and two on west wall.	1883 inventory lists "4 colord print [*sic*] for $8." Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Acquire period engravings and mount in reproduction frames. Hang from porcelain-headed nails with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Armchairs, two, imitation bamboo; place along north wall to immediate left and right of door to stair hall.	1865 inventory lists "2 bamboo arm chairs."	Acquire period pieces.
Baby carriage, with pillows and blankets; place to left of door to porch.	M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, July 20, 1857.	Acquire period carriage and reproduction textiles.
Curtains, sheer; shirr onto rods at top and bottom of sidelights and transom window.	Curtains appear in the earliest photos of Melrose taken in 1889.	Acquire reproduction sheer cotton curtains and install on reproduction rods.
Table, pier, mahogany, black marble top; place along east wall to right of door to porch.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany pier table, black marble top."	Use NATC 16173.
Lamps, two, solar, on lamp mats; place 1 on pier table and 1 on folding top table.	1865 inventory lists "2 Solar lamps."	Use NATC 338 and 339; acquire reproduction lamp mats.
Armchair, walnut, upholstered in green leather; place against south wall to left of door to library.	1865 inventory lists "1 walnut arm chair, green morocco."	Use NATC 732; reupholster in green leather.
Table, walnut; place against south wall centered between doors to parlor and library.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut refreshment table."	Use NATC 170.
Clock, gilt, under glass dome; place on walnut table.	1865 inventory lists "1 gilt clock."	Use NATC 1381.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Vases, porcelain, cornucopia-style, with artificial flowers; place on walnut table on either side of clock.	1865 inventory lists "1 pair vases, cornucopia shape."	Use NATC 118 and 119; acquire artificial flowers.
Portrait, oil, in gilt frame; hang on south wall above walnut table	1865 inventory lists "three C. J. Marshall"; James Carson to paintings of Calhoun, Taylor & Mary L. McMurran, Natchez, Feb. 8, 1869; M. L. McMurran to G. M. Davis, Natchez, Dec. 27, 1871.	Acquire reproduction of Marshall portrait; use reproduction gilt frame. Hang from porcelain-headed nail with picture wire and decorative cording and tassels.
Table, folding top, mahogany; place against west wall in southwest corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany table, folding top."	Use NATC 573.
Chandelier; hang from center of ceiling.	Halls frequently had hanging lamps for illumination. Lamp currently hanging in hall is probably original.	Use NATC 12400, original chandelier still in place.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, linen slipcovers should be placed over the upholstered seating furniture. No matting should be used in this room. Gauze should cover any gilt picture frames.

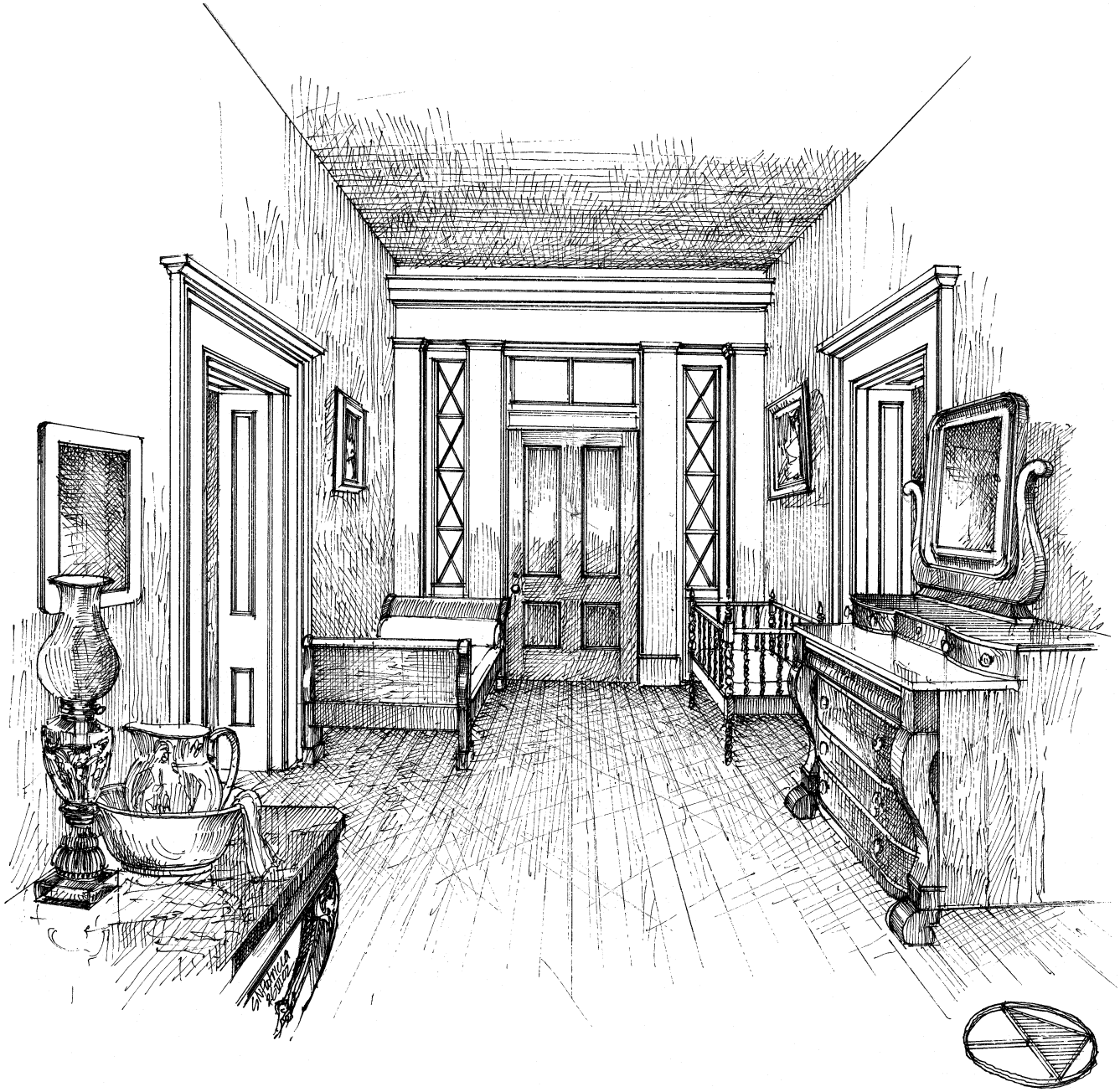
Upstairs Front Hall (Room 201-Carrie McMurran's Nursery)

No specific evidence indicates that Carrie McMurran slept in this room as an infant. However, Carrie's parents, John and Alice McMurran, did use the west front bedroom (room 210), and it is logical that Carrie would have slept nearby. Since the house is being interpreted to the time of its fullest occupancy, the middle bedroom (room 209), which opens onto the other side of the west front bedroom, is interpreted as the bedroom of Mary and Farar Conner, and so would be unavailable for Carrie.

Walls: The walls will be covered with reproduction wallpaper in a pattern documented to 1840–50, since the Historic Structures Report states that the walls in this room were covered with wallpaper in the 19th century (Vol. II, p. 6). Install picture rail at ceiling level.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: The ceiling and decorative plaster should be left unfinished, as they were originally (Vol. II, p. 7).



Upstairs Front Hall—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Ingrain carpet; install wall to wall on floor.	Tack holes and tacks with fibers trapped underneath located at the edges of the floor near the walls indicate the presence of a wall-to-wall floor covering.	Acquire reproduction ingrain in documented period pattern.
Doorstop, marble; place on floor near door to room 211.	Natchez houses commonly used marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire plain marble brick (period or new).
Engravings, three; hang one on south wall over bed and two on north wall on either side of door to 202.	Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Acquire period engraving in reproduction frame. Hang with picture wire and brass hook from picture rail.
Dressing bureau, mahogany; place against north wall to right of door to room 202.	1865 inventory includes "2 Mahagony [*sic*] dressing Bureaus" in list for Centre Hall, second story. Since these items are separated from the rest of the items in the list by double lines and since there is no list for the front hall, perhaps these items were located in this space.	Use NATC 1433.
Pad, quilted Marseilles; place on top of dressing bureau.	The dressing bureau would have been a convenient place to change diapers, and a pad would have protected the top of the bureau and provided cushioning for the infant. Quilted pads were frequently used on dressing tables (see Garrett, p. 128).	Acquire reproduction.
Diapers, 10, folded; place on top of dressing bureau.	The dressing bureau would have been a convenient place to change diapers.	Acquire reproductions.
Straight pins, 8, stick into quilted pad on top of bureau.	Pins were required to fasten diapers; frequently, padded table covers were used as impromptu pincushions (see Garrett, p. 128).	Acquire period pieces or reproductions.
Crib, with mattress, crib sheet and crib quilt; place against north wall to left of door to room 202.	List of furniture, probably written by M. L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., no date, lists "Child's bed or crib & two mattresses." In 1859–60 Carrie would have been too small to sleep in a bed.	Acquire period crib and reproduction bedding.
Curtains, sheer; shirr onto rods at top and bottom of sidelights and transom window at both east and west ends of room.	Curtains appear in the earliest photos of Melrose taken in 1889.	Acquire reproduction sheer cotton curtains and install on reproduction rods.
Bed with accessories: mattress, pillow, pillowcase, two sheets, blanket and quilt; place along south wall to right of door to 210.	1883 inventory calls this room "Hall Bed Room" and lists "1 small bed stead."	Use NATC 1431. Acquire reproduction bedding.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Mirror, small, in mahogany frame; hang on south wall above washstand.	Mirrors were frequently located above washstands to aid in dressing. See Fyler (1853), Conner (1843), and Minor (1844) inventories.	Acquire period piece. Hang from picture rail.
Washstand, mahogany, white marble top; place against south wall to left of door to room 210.	Inventory of 1865 includes "1 Mahogany washstand, white marble top" in list for Centre Hall, second story. Since these items are separated from the rest of the items in the list by double lines and since there is no list for the front hall, perhaps these items were located in this space.	Substitute NATC 1375, white marble top commode.
Washbowl and pitcher, ceramic; place on washstand.	All of the other bedrooms on the 1865 inventory contain toilet sets.	Acquire period pieces.
Hand towels, two; place on washstand.	Hand towels are required for drying hands after washing up. See Linton (1848) and Fyler (1853) inventories.	Acquire reproductions.
Fluid lamp and **lamp mat**; place on washstand.	Lighting devices were used in bedchambers during evening hours. See Nylander, p. 108.	Acquire electrified period lamp and reproduction lamp mat.
Night light; place on washstand.	Night lights were used in the 19th century to provide enough light to attend to a crying baby. See Nylander, p. 108.	Acquire reproduction.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Mosquito bars and netting; place mosquito bars over bed and crib, and suspend netting from them.	Mosquito netting was used almost universally in the south to protect sleepers from insects. See Garrett, pp. 200–202.	Acquire reproduction mosquito bars and a modern equivalent for netting.

North Front Bedroom (Room 202-Mr. and Mrs. John T. McMurran's Bedroom)

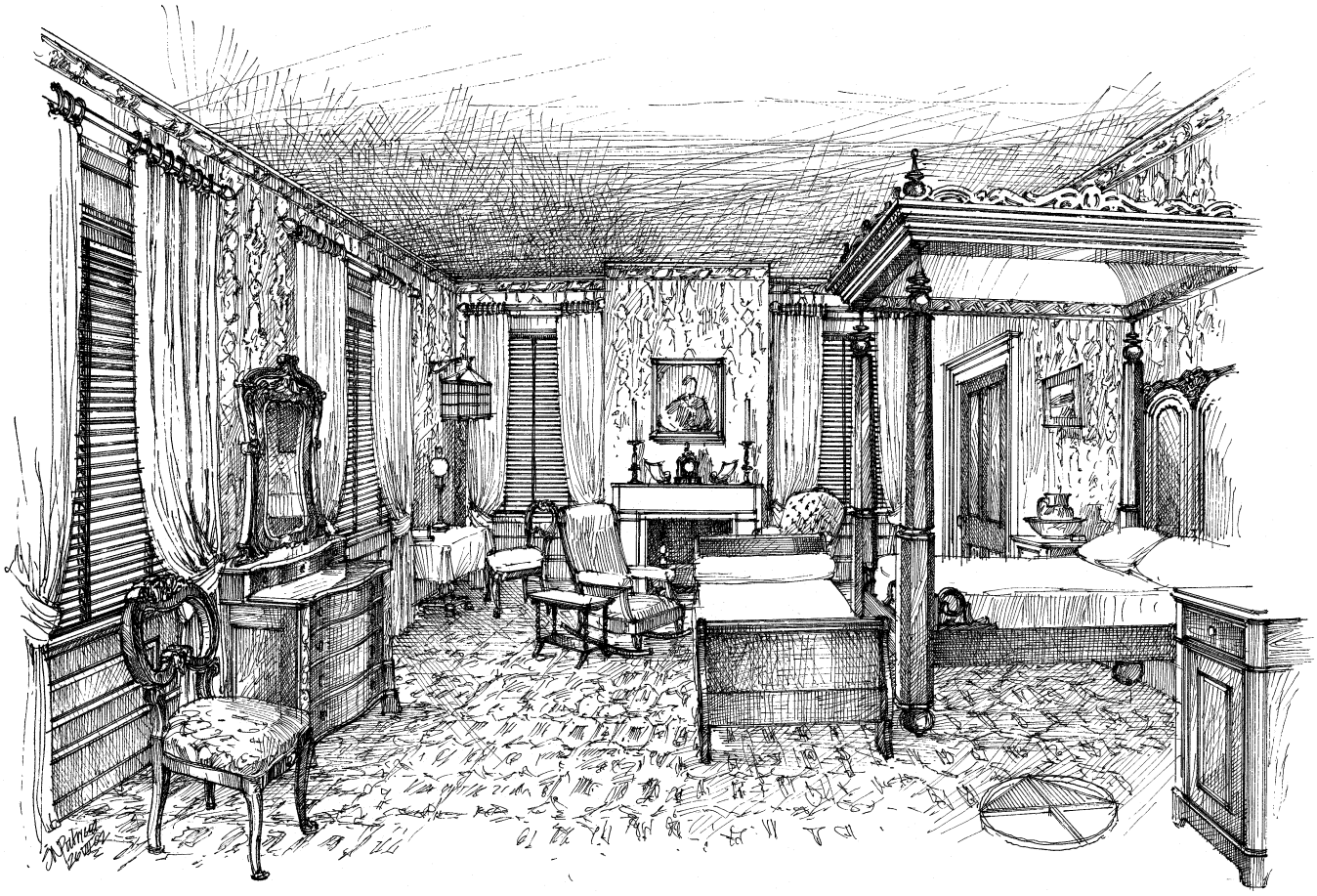
This room is believed to have been the bedroom of Mr. and Mrs. McMurran because it is the only suite of rooms on the second floor and because of landscape evidence.[176] In the warmer months, bedrooms were frequently used for activities such as writing, sewing, or even receiving family and close friends. Mrs. McMurran mentions in a letter that her canary lived in her bedroom. We know from period illustrations that birdcages were often placed near windows.

Walls: The walls will be covered with reproduction wallpaper in a pattern documented to 1840–50, since the Historic Structures Report states that the walls in this room were covered with wallpaper in the 19th century (HSR, Vol. II, p. 6). Install picture rail at ceiling level.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: The ceiling should be left unfinished, as it was originally (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

176 "Now, our pride of all trees, the Magnolia Grandeflora is in full bloom . . . . My Husband planted a young tree near our own room it is now about twenty feet high, and I counted more than fifty buds last week; today sixteen are fully expanded." Mary L. McMurran to Alice Austen, 10 May 1856, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC. The earliest photographs of Melrose show a large magnolia tree planted next to the north front bedroom (room 202).



North Front Bedroom—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, ingrain; install wall to wall, except for visitor pathway.	1865 inventory lists "1 Ingrain carpet & rug."	Acquire reproduction ingrain carpet in "Maple Leaf" pattern. Leave unsewn and fold back piece(s) where visitors will walk. Cover visitor pathway with modern carpet in neutral color.
Engravings, three; hang one on west wall above folding-top table, two on east wall on either side of bed.	1883 inventory lists "1 Engraving/ 2 Prints." Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Acquire period engravings; mount in reproduction frames. Hang with picture wire and brass hooks from picture rail.
Armoire, walnut; place against south wall to right of door to front hall.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Armoir [*sic*]."	Use NATC 730.
Venetian blinds, four, green; hang 1 set at each window.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12233–36) installed 1997.
Curtains, 4 pairs, muslin; hang 1 pair at each window.	Bedroom curtains appear on a number of comparative inventories from Natchez. See Elliot (1855), Henderson (1866), Conner (1843), and Minor (1844) inventories.	Acquire reproductions. Hang from reproductions of original curtain rods (NATC 1392–95).
Dressing bureau, walnut, with mirror; place against west wall between windows.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Dressing Bureau, white marble top."	Use NATC 729.
Side chairs, two, walnut, seat upholstered with haircloth; place one in front of dressing bureau, one in front of folding-top table.	1865 inventory lists "2 Walnut Hair-cloth-seat Chairs."	Use NATC 734 and 735.
Dressing box, filled with pincushion and pins, combs, and brushes; place on dressing bureau.	Garrett, pp. 128–29.	Acquire period pieces.
Toilet bottle; place on dressing bureau.	Garrett, pp. 128–29.	Use NATC 158A–B.
Gloves, kid, dark gray; place on dressing table.	M. L. McMurran to Mrs. E. B. Turner, undated.	Acquire reproductions.
Birdcage, with imitation canary, food and water dishes, and newspaper lining the bottom; hang from a bracket on the wall above the folding-top table.	M. L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., Feb. 28th, 1857	Acquire period birdcage and dishes and reproduction canary and newspaper.
Table, folding top, mahogany; place against west wall in northwest corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Table, folding top."	Use NATC 02.
Tablecloth; place on folding-top table.	The folding-top table in Alice McMurran's room was covered with a "hansome cloth," Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13 (prob. 1856).	Acquire reproduction tablecloth.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Lamp, oil or burning fluid, on **lamp mat**; place on folding-top table.	Small oil or burning fluid lamps were frequently used in bedrooms. Freeman, p. 118.	Acquire electrified period lamp and reproduction lamp mat.
Writing case, with ink bottle, pen, blotter, writing paper, and letters; place on folding-top table.	Mary McMurran's voluminous correspondence attests to the fact that she spent significant amounts of time reading and answering correspondence.	Use NATC 1494A–G; acquire period pen, and reproduction writing paper and letters.
Vase, small, with artificial flowers; place on folding-top table.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period piece and artificial flowers.
Painting of Melrose Abbey, oil; hang above fireplace.	The McMurrans were very fond of Sir Walter Scott's novels and named Melrose after one of his works. M. E. McMurran to Charlotte Calhoun; Melrose, Scotland, Aug. 4th, 1854.	Use NATC 492(painting) and NATC 493 (frame). Hang with picture wire and brass hook fro picture rail.
Vases, pair, with artificial flowers; place on mantel.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Use NATC 564–65; acquire artificial flowers.
Candlesticks, silver-plated, pair; place on mantel.	List of silverplate dated April 13, 1867.	Acquire period pieces.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Use NATC 16108.
Daguerreotypes, four; place on mantel.	The McMurrans both received daguerreotypes as gifts and had images made of themselves. Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, April 2, 1847; M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, March 4, 1856; M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, August 4, 1856.	Acquire reproduction daguerreotypes of Fanny Conner, Alice Austen, and the Turners.
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were required to hold logs in a fireplace.	Use NATC 16238–39.
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into the room.	Acquire period piece.
Fire set, consisting of poker, tongs, shovel, and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 steel fire set."	Use NATC 789, 8026, 11706, and 11707. Acquire hearth brush.
Hearth rug, ingrain; place on floor in front of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 Ingrain carpet & rug."	Make hearth rug out of scrap of reproduction ingrain acquired for room.
Rocking chair, mahogany, upholstered with haircloth; place in front of fireplace on left side.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Hair-cloth seat rocking Chair."	Use NATC 724. Reupholster in haircloth.
Book; place on rocking chair.	M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, July 7, 1856.	Use book from collection, rotate with others to aid conservation.
Table, small, walnut; place to left of rocking chair.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Small Stand or table."	Use NATC 186.
Book; place on small table.	The McMurrans were avid readers. M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., March 8, 1867.	Use book from collection. Rotate with others to aid conservation.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Sewing basket, with pincushion and pins, thread, scissors, and thimble; place on small table.	M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, September 18, 1849; M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, March 29, 1851.	Acquire period pieces.
Baby dress, unfinished; place on sewing basket.	Relatives, especially grandmothers, frequently made baby clothes for the smallest members of the family. M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, September 18, 1849.	Acquire reproduction.
Armchair, walnut, upholstered in haircloth; place in front of fireplace on right side.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Hair-cloth seat Armchair."	Use NATC 733. Reupholster in haircloth.
Washstand, walnut, with white marble top; place along east wall to left of bed.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Washstand, white marble top."	Use NATC 2909.
Washbowl, pitcher, soap dish with soap, toothbrush holder with two toothbrushes and slop jar, place pitcher on hearth in front of fireplace, slop jar on floor next to washstand, other pieces on washstand.	1865 inventory lists "1 Toilet set—green & gold china."	Use NATC 1472–74. Acquire balance of ceramics in period pieces. Acquire reproduction soap and toothbrushes.
Hand towels, two; place on washstand.	Handtowels are required for drying hands after washing up. See Linton (1848) and Fyler (1853) inventories.	Acquire reproductions.
Bedstead, walnut, **with accessories**: mattress, feather bed, bolster, two pillows, two sheets, bolster cover, two pillowcases, blanket, Marseilles quilt and bed hangings; center head of bed against east wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut Bedstead, Mattress, bolster & pr pillows." Marseilles quilts were popular bed coverings; see Wilkins inventory (1849) and Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 1370, replace fretwork on tester. Acquire reproduction bed hangings to match curtains, bedding, and quilt.
Commode, walnut, with white marble top; place along east wall to right of bed.	1865 inventory lists "1 Walnut close Stand, white marble top."	Use NATC 1470.
Lamp, oil or burning fluid, on **lamp mat**; place on commode.	Small oil or burning fluid lamps were frequently used in bedrooms. Freeman, p. 118.	Acquire electrified period lamp and reproduction lamp mat.
Book; place on commode.	The McMurrans were avid readers. M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., March 8, 1867.	Use book from collection. Rotate with others to aid conservation.
Doorstops, marble, two; place one on floor near door to room 201 and one on floor near door to room 211.	Natchez houses commonly used marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire plain marble bricks (period or new).
Couch, walnut, with **mattress, bolster, two pillows, bolster cover, two pillowcases, two sheets, blanket, and Marseilles quilt;** place at foot of bed.	Inventory of 1865 lists "1 Walnut Couch, Mattress, bolster & pr pillows."	Use NATC 1432; acquire reproduction bedding and quilt.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the curtains should be taken down and stored and the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; use to cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting; lay over carpet in summer.
Slipcovers, white linen; place one on each item of furniture.	1865 inventory for drawing room lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; use to cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent.
Mosquito netting; hang from canopy and cover entire bed.	Mosquito netting was used almost universally in the South to protect sleepers from insects. See Garrett, pp. 200–02.	Use NATC 1523 (mosquito bars for 1370). Acquire modern equivalent for netting.

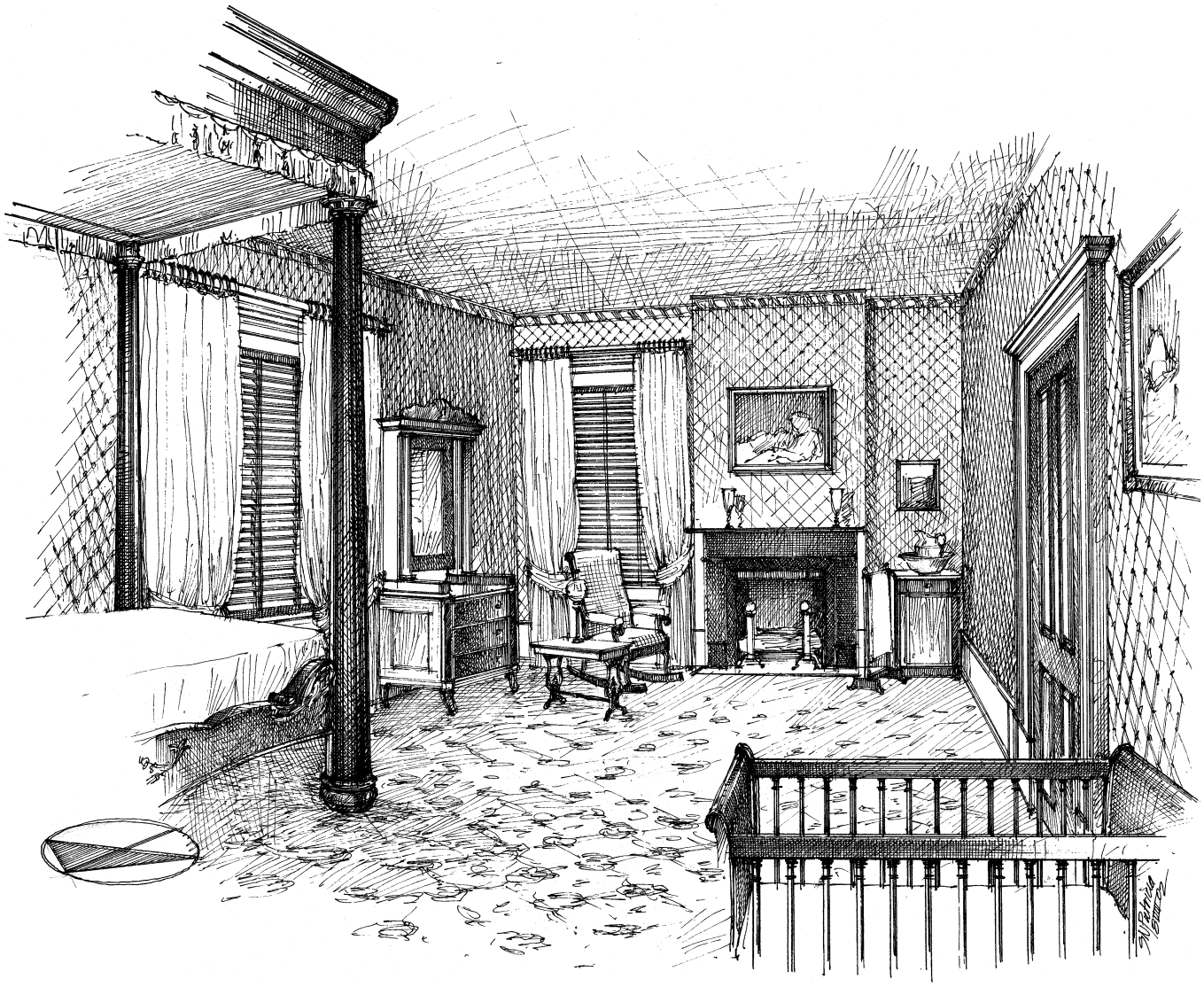
East Corner Bedroom (Room 208-Fazee and Loulie Conner's Room)

This room opens directly off of Mary Eliza and Farar Conner's room and therefore is a logical choice for a bedroom for their children Fazee and Loulie. In 1860, Fazee was three years old and Loulie was a year old.

Walls: The walls will be covered with reproduction wallpaper in a pattern documented to the 1840s and 1850s, since the Historic Structures Report states that the walls in this room were covered with wallpaper in the 19th century (Vol. II, p. 6). Install picture railing at ceiling level.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: The ceiling should be left unfinished, as it was originally (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).



East Corner Bedroom—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, velvet; install wall-to-wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 velvet Carpet, worn."	Acquire reproduction carpet. Fold back (or remove and save) portion of carpet where visitors will stand and view the room. Carpet that section with visitor pathway carpeting.
Bedstead, mahogany, mattress, feather bed, bolster, two pillows, two sheets, bolster cover, two pillowcases, blanket, coverlet, and bed hangings; place in northeast corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Bedstead, mattress, bolster & pillows."	Use NATC 727; acquire reproduction mattress, feather bed, bolster, pillows, bed linen, and calico bed hangings.
Venetian blinds, two sets, green; hang one set at each window.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12440–41) installed 1997.
Curtains, two pairs, calico, short; hang one pair at each window.	Bedroom curtains appear on a number of comparative inventories from Natchez. See Elliot (1855), Henderson (1866), Conner (1843), and Minor (1844).	Acquire reproductions. Hang from reproductions of original curtain rods (NATC 1392–95).
Dressing bureau, mahogany; place against east wall to right of window.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Dressing Bureau."	Use NATC 1463.
Diapers, 10, folded; place on top of dressing bureau.	The dressing bureau would have been a convenient place to store diapers.	Acquire reproductions.
Pincushion, with 8 **straight pins**; place on top of dressing bureau.	Pins were required to fasten diapers.	Acquire period pieces or reproductions.
Rocking chair; place in front of fireplace, on left side.	Rocking chairs were commonly found in bedrooms and would have been a useful piece of furniture in a nursery. See Davis (1883), Henderson (1866), Minor (1844), Linton (1848), and Wilkins (1849) inventories.	Acquire period piece.
Stand, walnut; place next to rocking chair.	1865 inventory lists "1 walnut small stand or table."	Use NATC 188.
Lamp, oil or burning fluid, on **lamp mat**; place on stand.	Small oil or burning fluid lamps were frequently used in bedrooms. Freeman, p. 118.	Acquire electrified period lamp and reproduction lamp mat.
Book; place on stand.	Inscribed "Fazee Conner/from his dear Mother/Melrose/Jan. 20th 1859."	Use 11035, *Tales About Animals*, by John Tillotson, given to Fazee by his mother on his 2nd birthday.
Baby bottle with nipple and pap boat; place on stand.	Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, Jr., February 21, 1857. Fazee's diet was supplemented with arrowroot soon after his birth; Loulie's may have been supplemented, also. The need for extra feedings may have been related to their mother's illness.	Acquire period pieces.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Toys, e.g., pull-toy, small wagon or wheelbarrow, stuffed animal, simple puzzle; arrange on floor in front of window and fireplace.	Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. George Austen, January 31, 1859.	Acquire reproductions. Exact selection of toys will be determined by what reproductions are available.
Painting, oil, of two cherubs, framed; hang above fireplace	Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Use NATC 1406 (painting) and 1407 (frame).
Books, 2, place on mantel.	These books were inscribed to children in the McMurran family.	Use NATC 11050, *Gammer Gurton's Pleasant Stories* (inscribed "From Christkrinkle/to the/Dutiful little Mary/December 25, 1846"); NATC 11062, *Kriss Kringle's Christmas Tree . . .* (inscribed in part "Fazee").
Vases, 1 pair, with artificial flowers; place on mantel.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period vases and artificial flowers.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Use NATC 16109.
Night light; place on mantel.	Night lights were used in the 19th century to provide enough light to attend to a crying baby. See Nylander, p. 108.	Acquire reproduction.
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were required to hold logs in a fireplace.	Use NATC 1437–38.
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into room.	Acquire period piece.
Fire set: poker, tongs, shovel and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	Fire tools were required to tend the fire.	Use NATC 1440, 8027 (poker), 8028 (tongs) and 8029 (shovel). Acquire hearth brush.
Hearth rug; place on floor in front of fireplace.	Hearth rugs protected the carpeting from sparks.	Acquire period or reproduction rag rug.
Towel rack; place in front of fireplace, on right side.	1865 inventory lists "1 Towel rack."	Acquire period piece.
Hand towels, 5; place three on towel rack, two on washstand.	Hand towels are required to dry hands.	Acquire period pieces.
Washstand, mahogany, black marble top; place against south wall to right of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Wash stand, black marbel [*sic*] top."	Substitute NATC 1405, black marble top commode.
Washbowl, pitcher, soap dish with soap, toothbrush holder with one toothbrush, and slop jar; place pitcher on hearth in front of fireplace, slop jar on floor next to washstand, other pieces on washstand.	1865 inventory lists "1 Toilet Set."	Acquire period pieces.
Mirror, framed; hang on south wall above washstand.	Mirrors were frequently located in bedrooms to aid in dressing. See Fyler (1853), Conner (1843), and Minor (1844) inventories.	Acquire period piece. Hang from picture rail.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Doorstops, two, marble; place on floor near doors to rooms 209 and 211.	Natchez houses commonly used white marble bricks or large seashells as doorstops.	Acquire white marble bricks (period or new).
Crib with mattress, crib sheet, and crib quilt; place head of crib against west wall to right of door to middle bedroom.	In 1859–60 Loulie would have been too small to sleep in a bed.	Acquire period piece.
Print; hang on west wall to right of crib.	Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Acquire period print in period or reproduction frame.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the curtains should be taken down and stored and the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting;. lay over carpet in summer
Slipcovers, white linen; place one on each item of furniture.	Inventory of 1865 for drawing room lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent. [delete if no gilt frames used]
Mosquito bar and netting; place mosquito bar over crib and hang netting from bar and from bed canopy, covering entire bed.	Mosquito netting was used throughout the South to protect. sleepers from insects. See Garrett, pp. 200–02.	Acquire modern equivalent

Middle Bedroom (Room 209-Mary Eliza and Farar Conner's Bedroom)

This room is believed to have been Mary Eliza and Farar Conner's bedroom, since it is larger than room 208, the only remaining bedroom left unassigned. Also, a new doorway was cut into the west wall at the southwest corner in 1860.[177] This doorway may have provided additional access to room 209 to attend to Mary Eliza during her long illness, or it may have provided access to 210, if that room was used as a nursery for Mary Eliza's children after John and Alice moved to Riverside.

The 1865 inventory does not list any furnishings for this room. The room may have been dismantled after Mary Eliza's death in 1864.

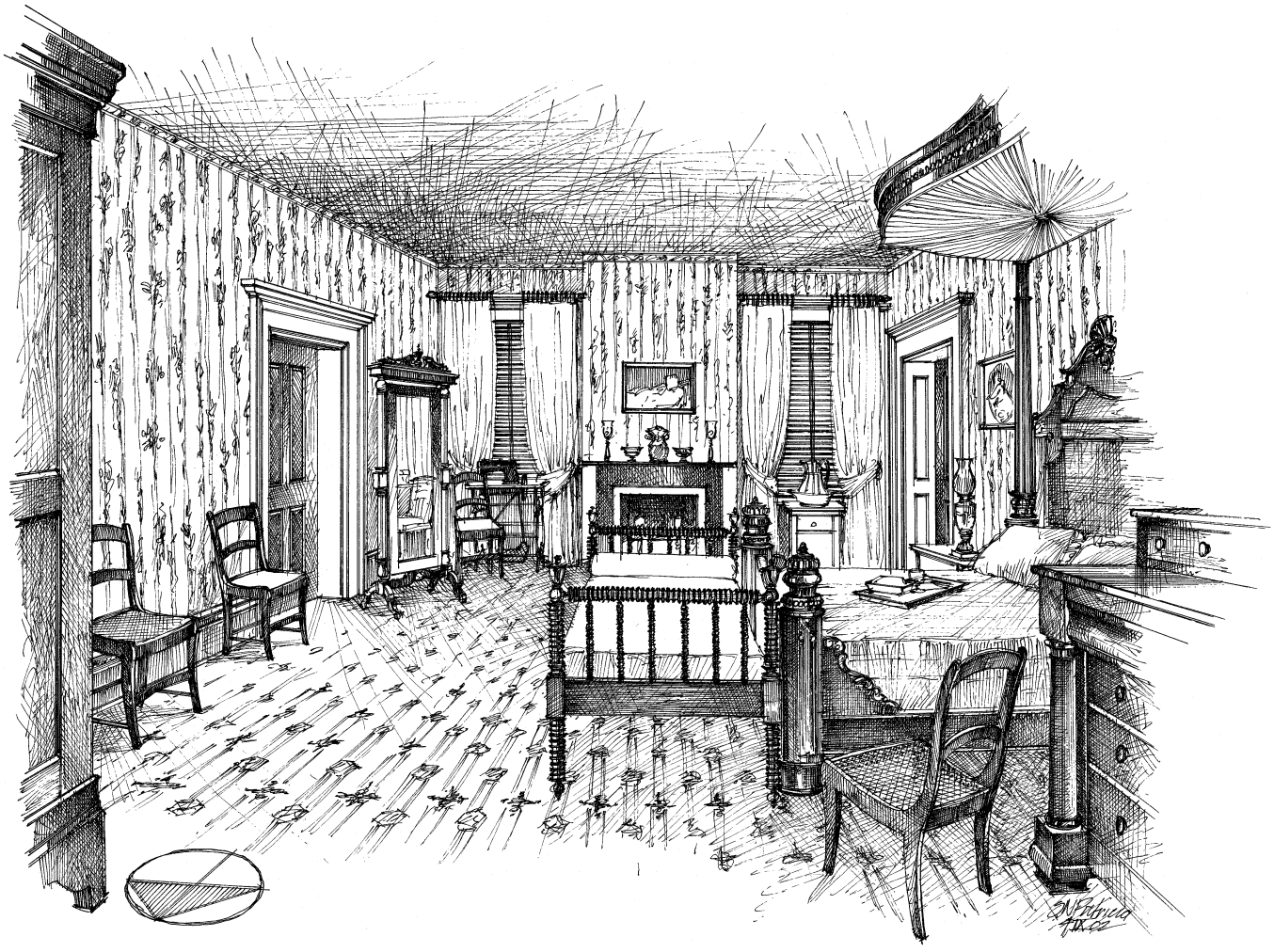
Mary Eliza acquired a sewing machine in 1857.[178] The sewing machine is displayed in her bedroom since women frequently did this kind of work in their rooms. It is placed in front of the window for maximum light.

Walls: The walls will be covered with reproduction wallpaper in a pattern documented to the 1840s–50s, since the Historic Structures Report states that the walls in this room were covered with wallpaper in the 19th century (Vol. II, p. 6). Install picture rail at ceiling level.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: The ceiling should be left unfinished, as it was originally (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

177 *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 43–44.
178 M. L. McMurran to Mrs. J. T. McMurran, 20 July 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.



Middle Bedroom—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, ingrain; install wall to wall.	1883 inventory lists "1 Carpet." Two other bedrooms on 1865 inventory contain ingrain carpets.	Acquire reproduction ingrain in "Lindenwald" pattern. Fold back ingrain in area near doorway where visitors will stand. Cover this area with visitor pathway carpeting.
Armoire; place against north wall to right of door to center hall.	Two other bedrooms on 1865 inventory contain armoires.	Use NATC 1371.
Prints and engravings, four; hang one on east wall, two on west wall on either side of bed, and one on north wall to left of door to center hall.	Inventory of 1883 lists "2 Prints & 2 Photographs." Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Use NATC 1382 (print) with 1383(frame) and 1384(print) with 1385(frame) on west wall; use NATC 577 on north wall; acquire one period print or engraving in period or reproduction frame. Hang with picture wire and brass hooks from picture rail.
Side chairs, four; place two along east wall to left of door to east corner bedroom, one along south wall in front of sewing machine, one near bureau pulled up to bed.	1883 inventory lists "4 cane bottom chairs."	Use NATC 12453–56.
Pier glass; place along east wall to right of door to east corner bedroom.	1865 inventory lists a pier glass under the heading East Corner Room, but the pier glass is separated from the other 'East Corner Room' entries by a double underline.	Use NATC 1374.
Venetian blinds, two sets, green; hang one set at each window.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12242–43) installed 1997.
Curtains, two pairs, calico; hang one pair at each window.	Bedroom curtains appear on a number of comparative inventories from Natchez. See Elliot (1855), Henderson (1866), Conner (1843), and Minor (1844) inventories.	Acquire reproductions. Hang on reproductions of original curtain rods (NATC 1392–95).
Sewing machine; place along south wall in front of window to left of fireplace.	Mary L. McMurran to Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., July 2, 1857.	Use NATC 12118.
Infant's gown, partially made; **spool; thread and scissors***;* place on sewing machine.	M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, September 18, 1849; M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, March 29, 1851.	Acquire reproduction gown and period sewing accessories, including oil cans and attachment boxes, HFC Reg. no. 11263.002–006.
Vases, pair, with artificial flowers; place on mantel.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period vases and artificial flowers.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Acquire period piece.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were required to hold logs in a fireplace.	Use NATC 1409–10.
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into room.	Acquire period piece.
Fire set, consisting of poker, tongs, shovel, and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 steel fire set."	Use NATC 120 (stand), 790 (tongs), 791 (poker). Acquire shovel and hearth brush.
Hearth rug, ingrain; place on floor in front of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 Ingrain carpet & rug."	Make hearth rug out of scrap of reproduction ingrain acquired for room.
Painting, oil, *Bubble Blowers;* hang above fireplace.	Oil paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 354.
Washstand; place along south wall in front of window to right of fireplace.	1883 inventory lists "1 wash stand & wash set (incomplete)."	Acquire period piece.
Washbowl, pitcher, soap dish with soap, toothbrush holder with two toothbrushes, and slop jar; place pitcher on hearth in front of fireplace, slop jar on floor next to washstand, and other pieces on washstand.	1883 inventory lists "1 wash stand & wash set (incomplete)."	Acquire period pieces.
Hand towels, 2; place on washstand.	Hand towels are required for drying hands after washing up. See Linton (1848) and Fyler (1853) inventories.	Acquire reproductions.
Commode, with white marble top; place against west wall to left of bed.	1883 inventory lists "1 small table."	Use NATC 2910.
Fluid lamp and lamp mat; place on commode.	Lighting devices were required to provide light for a bedridden person to read or write; Nylander, p. 113.	Use HFC Acc. no. 11320.002. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Book; place on small table.	This book is inscribed with the name Farar Conner.	Use NATC 11057, *Washington & His Generals* (vol. 2 of 2) by J. T. Headley (inscribed "Farar Conner/Clifford, March 10th/49").
Bed with mattress, feather bed, two pillows, bolster, two sheets, two pillowcases, bolster cover, blanket, calico coverlet, and calico bed hangings; center against west wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 large mahogany bed stead, not put up." This entry appears under the east corner room heading, but is separated from the rest of the entry by a double line. Perhaps this bedroom was dismantled after Mary Eliza McMurran's death. 1883 inventory lists "1 Bedstead."	Use NATC 1340; replace brackets, cresting, and finials to tester. Acquire reproduction mattress, feather bed, pillows, bolster, bed linen, and hangings. Display bed with covers folded back.
Tray with tea cup and saucer; breakfast plate holding imitation bread, biscuits, and ham; small dish with imitation jam and small spoon; small dish with imitation butter and butter knife; teapot; strainer; knife, fork, and spoon; and linen napkin; place on bed.	Mary Eliza McMurran was frequently bedridden as a result of her illness. 1865 inventory lists a teapot and dishes. List of silver plate dated 1867 lists silver and silver-plated flatware.	Acquire period wooden tray, period gold and white china dishes, period silver-plated flatware and strainer, period or reproduction napkin, and imitation food.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Spool bed, walnut; place at end of bed.	Two other bedrooms listed in the 1865 inventory have couches. Couches or sofas are common items in bedrooms. See Fyler (1853), Henderson (1866), Conner (1843), and Linton (1848) inventories.	Use NATC 14760.
Bureau, walnut with white marble top; place against west wall in northwest corner.	Inventory of 1883 lists "1 Bureau."	Use NATC 1402.
Fluid lamp, on **lamp mat**; place on bureau.	Lighting devices were required to provide light for a bedridden person to read or write; Nylander, p. 113.	Acquire electrified period lamp and reproduction lamp mat.
Shaving apparatus, consisting of razor, shaving cup, shaving brush, and box of shaving soap; place on bureau.	Farar would have required these objects for personal hygiene	Acquire period pieces.
Tray, japanned, with **5 medicine bottles, 3 packets of powders, water tumbler, and spoon**; place on bureau.	1865 inventory lists "1 set Japanned waiters - worn." Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., April 17, 1868. Dr. Davis, the family physician, was a practitioner of homeopathy.	Acquire period pieces.
Book; place on bureau.	Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., April 17, 1868. Dr. Davis, the family physician, was a practitioner of homeopathy.	Use NATC 2782, *The Homeopathic Domestic Physician*.
Vase with **artificial flowers**; place on bureau.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period vase and artificial flowers.
Ladies' comb and brush; men's pair of brushes; pincushion with pins; cufflinks; place on bureau.	Dressing accessories for both Mary Eliza and Farar Conner would be located on the bureau.	Acquire period pieces.
Doorstop, shell; place on floor near door to room 211.	Natchez houses commonly used marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire large shell.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the curtains should be taken down and stored and the following items should be added to the room:

Straw matting; cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer; see Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting; lay over carpet in summer.
Slipcovers, white linen; place one on each item of furniture.	Inventory of 1865 for drawing room lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent (delete if no gilt frames used).
Mosquito netting; hang from canopy, to cover entire bed.	Mosquito netting was used almost universally in the South to protect sleepers from insects. See Garrett, pp. 200–202.	Acquire modern equivalent.

West Front Bedroom (Room 210-John T. and Alice McMurran's Bedroom)

The west front bedroom is believed to have been the bedroom of John and Alice McMurran because of correspondence indicating that a servant's bell was added to this room after the completion of the house.[179] The bell in this room is a retrofit, indicating that this is the room referred to in the letter.[180] Alice McMurran described this room in great detail in a letter written to her father shortly after her marriage to John McMurran and her arrival in Mississippi. This letter particularly describes the textiles adorning the bed.[181]

The sewing table near the window is a copy of the table at which Alice McMurran was seated during the bombardment of Natchez, an event she describes in her journal.[182]

Walls: The walls will be covered with reproduction wallpaper in a pattern documented to 1840–50, since the Historic Structures Report states that the walls in this room were covered with wallpaper in the 19th century (Vol. II, p. 6). Install picture rail at ceiling level.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: The ceiling should be left unfinished, as it was originally (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).

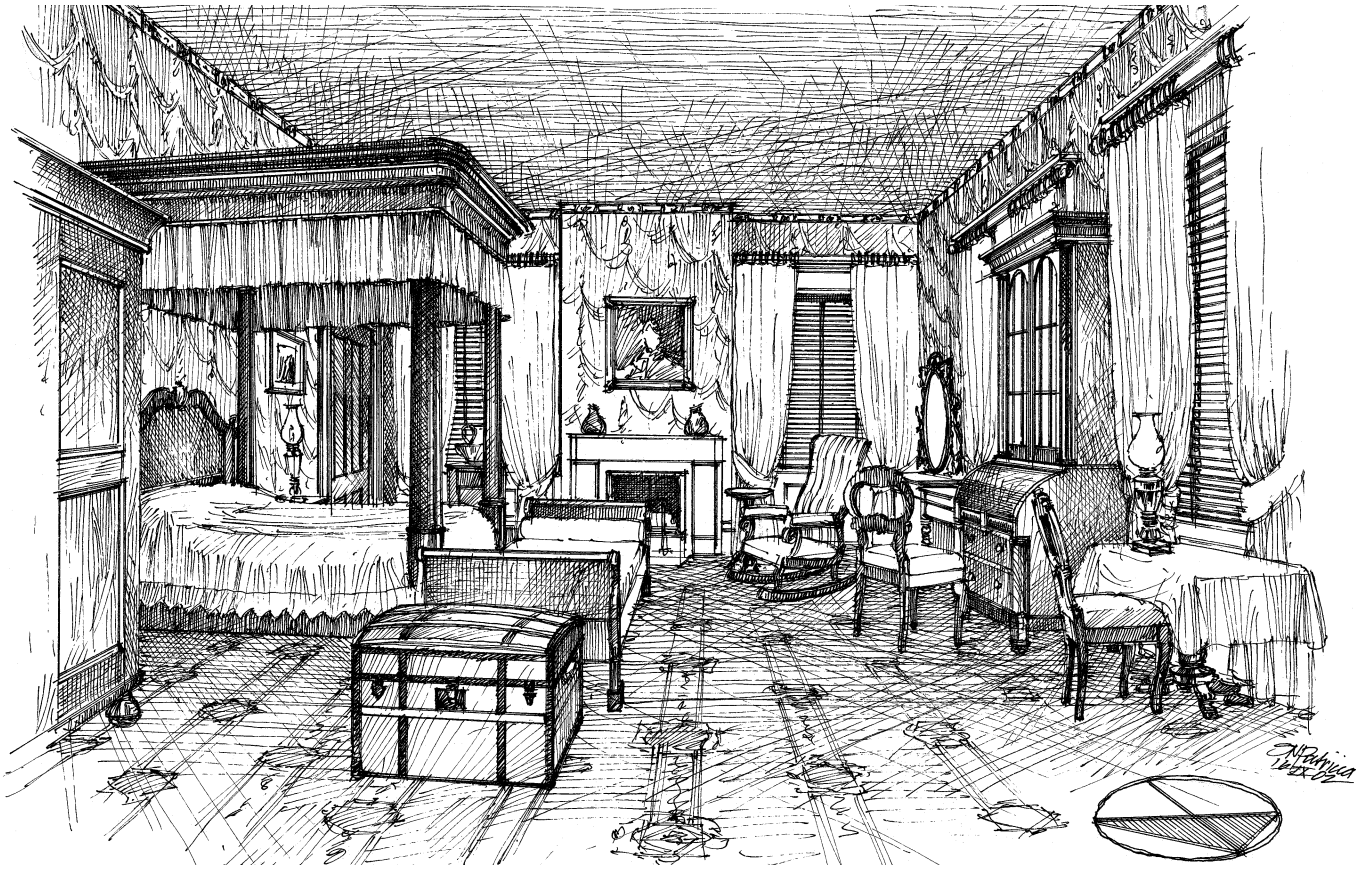
179 Mary L. McMurran to John T. McMurran, Jr., 16 January 1857, McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

180 The installation of a later bell indicates that John and Alice McMurran's bedroom was the southwest corner bedroom, where the servant bell is operated by a bell pull rather than an original bell crank. *Historic Structures Report*, vol. I, 44.

181 Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, 13 November [prob. 1856 because describes first arrival as bride at Melrose], McMurran papers, photocopies at NATC.

182 Alice A. Moseley, 3 June 1948. This letter is kept in the sewing table. Alice Moseley states that the sewing table "was the property of my grandmother Alice Latimer Austen McMurran. She used it as a sewing table, and was seated beside it in her room at Melrose Natchez, Mississippi, when Natchez was bombarded by Union gunboats." Alice McMurran wrote in her journal:

> In August, 1862, the bombardment of Natchez took place. John was on the Plantation and I was sitting quietly by my window just after dinner when the report of heavy guns and some balls went crashing through the branches in the little woods between Aunt Fanny's and Melrose . . . . It continued until sun down . . . . I shall never forget that afternoon nor the whizzing sound of the balls as they passed through the air.



West Front Bedroom—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Carpet, ingrain; install wall to wall, except for visitor pathway.	1865 inventory lists "1 Ingrain carpet & rug."	Acquire reproduction ingrain carpet in "Lindenwald" pattern. Leave unsewn and fold back piece(s) where visitors will walk. Cover visitor pathway with modern carpet in neutral color.
Doorstops, shell, 2; place on floor near door to room 201 and near door to room 211.	Natchez houses commonly used marble bricks or seashells as doorstops.	Acquire large shells.
Armoires, two, mahogany; place one on east wall to left of bed, one against north wall to left of door to front hall.	1865 inventory lists "2 Mahogany Armoirs [*sic*]."	Use NATC 1434 and 705.
Bed, mahogany, with spring mattress, feather bed, two pillows, bolster, two sheets, two pillowcases, bolster cover, blanket, coverlet, and bed hangings; center against east wall.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Bedstead, Spring Mattress, bolster & pillows." Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Use NATC 1299; acquire reproduction mattress, feather bed, pillows, bolster, bed linen, and hangings (white embroidered curtains with pink ribbons).
Couch, mahogany, with mattress, pillow, bolster, two sheets, pillowcase, bolster cover, blanket, and coverlet; place at foot of bed.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Couch, Mattress, bolster & pillow." Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr. to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Acquire period couch and reproduction mattress, pillow, bolster, and bed linen.
Trunk; place at north end of couch, with lid open, as if in the process of being unpacked.	John and Alice McMurran traveled back and forth between Melrose and their plantation, Riverside.	Use NATC 11717.
Gown, ladies, and underclothes, place in trunk.	Trunks were used to transport clothes and personal effects.	Acquire reproductions.
Morning wrapper, blue chintz; place on couch.	Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to Pattie Gilbert, November 11, 1856.	Acquire reproduction.
Tables, two, walnut; place one against east wall to right of bed and one next to rocker.	1865 inventory lists "2 walnut small stands or tables."	Use NATC 701 and 702.
Table scarves, two; place on walnut tables.	Table scarves prevented damage to tabletops from spilled candle wax or oil and other substances. See Garrett, p. 129.	Acquire reproductions.
Engravings, two; hang one on east wall above stand, and one on west wall to right of folding table.	Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical painting and engravings.	Acquire period engravings in reproduction frames. Hang with picture wire and brass hooks from picture rail.
Venetian blinds, four, green; hang one set at each window.	J. T. McMurran to John Quitman, Natchez, January 30, 1850.	Reproduction venetian blinds (NATC 12244–47) installed 1997.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Curtains, four pairs, white muslin; hang one pair at each window.	Bedroom curtains appear on a number of comparative inventories from Natchez. See Elliot (1855), Henderson (1866), Conner (1843), and Minor (1844) inventories. Curtains for bed described in Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Acquire reproductions to match bed hangings. Hang from reproductions of original curtain rods (NATC 1392–95).
Washstand, mahogany, with white marble top; place against south wall in front of window to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Washstand, white marble top."	Use NATC 1466.
Washbowl, pitcher, soap dish with soap, toothbrush holder with two toothbrushes and slop jar; place pitcher on hearth in front of fireplace, slop jar on floor next to washstand, other pieces on washstand.	1865 inventory lists "1 Toilet set, purple & white china." Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Acquire period pieces.
Hand towels, two; place on washstand.	Hand towels are required for drying hands after washing up. See Linton (1848) and Fyler (1853) inventories.	Acquire reproductions.
Bell pull; place to left of fireplace.	An original bell pull mechanism is installed in this bedroom.	Use NATC 11713.
Side chairs, four; place one in front of fireplace on left side, one in front of workstand, one in front of desk, and one along west wall near folding table.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Hair cloth Ladies chair." Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Use NATC 1317, 1369, 12457, and 12458. Reupholster in haircloth.
Stand, round, with tripod base; place in front of fireplace next to side chair.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Light Stand."	Use NATC 725.
Lamp, fluid, and lamp mat; place on stand.	Light stands held lighting devices; Nylander, p. 113.	Use HFC Acc. no. 11320.001; acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Book; place on stand.	Reading was a popular pastime in the McMurran household.	Use book from collection; rotate with others to aid in conservation.
Vases, pair, with artificial flowers; place on mantel.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner, Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period vases and artificial flowers.
Vase, small, with small twists of paper for lighting fires (spills); place on mantel.	Vases filled with spills for lighting fires were frequently located on mantels.	Use NATC 16111.
Daguerreotypes, two; place on mantel.	The McMurrans received daguerreotypes as gifts and had images made of themselves. Eliza Quitman to John Quitman, April 2, 1847; M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, March 4, 1856; M. L. McMurran to Alice Austen, August 4, 1856.	Acquire reproductions of Mr. and Mrs. George Austen; mount in period or reproduction cases.
Lamp, oil or burning fluid, on **lamp mat**; place on mantel.	Small oil or burning fluid lamps were frequently used in bedrooms. Freeman, p. 118.	Acquire electrified period piece and reproduction lamp mat.
Andirons, cast iron; place in fireplace.	Andirons were required to hold logs in a fireplace.	Use NATC 1822–23.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Fender, brass; place in front of fireplace.	Fenders were required to keep logs from rolling into room.	Acquire period piece.
Fire set, consisting of poker, tongs, shovel, and hearth brush on a stand; place to left of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 steel fire set."	Use NATC 1818–20. Acquire shovel and hearth brush.
Hearth rug, ingrain; place on floor in front of fireplace.	1865 inventory lists "1 Ingrain carpet & rug."	Make hearth rug out of scrap of reproduction ingrain acquired for room.
Painting, oil, of Nauvoo, IL, framed; hang above fireplace	Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century room. See Linton inventory (1848).	Use NATC 575 (painting) and 576 (frame).
Chair, rocking, mahogany, upholstered in hair cloth; place in front of fireplace on right side.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Hair cloth rocking chair."	Use NATC 1430.
Bureau, with white marble top; place against west wall in southwest corner.	Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Use NATC 1373.
Bureau scarf, dressing box, and toilet bottle; place on bureau.	Garrett, pp. 128–29.	Acquire period pieces.
Shaving apparatus: razor, shaving cup, shaving brush, and box of shaving soap; place on bureau.	M. L. McMurran to J. T. McMurran, Jr., January 16, 1857 mentions John's shaving apparatus. Later photographs of John McMurran, Jr., show him as clean-shaven.	Acquire period pieces.
Necklace and earrings, cameo and pearls; place on bureau.	Alice Austen McMurran to George Austen, Sept. 26, 1856.	Acquire period pieces.
Vase, with **artificial flowers**; place on bureau.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period vase and artificial flowers.
Work table; place along west wall in front of south window.	Mrs. John T. McMurran Jr.'s diary, August, 1862. Melrose: Natchez, Mississippi, by Alice Moseley, p. 2.	Acquire reproduction of original table or use NATC 208.
Unfinished infant's gown; scissors, thread, thimble and pincushion; place on work table.	M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, September 18, 1849; M. L. McMurran to Frances Conner, March 29, 1851.	Acquire reproduction gown and period sewing accessories.
Desk and bookcase; place against west wall between windows.	Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Use NATC 1386.
Inkwell, pens, blotter, writing paper, envelopes, correspondence, box of wafers, and ledger book; place on desk.	John T. and Alice McMurran, Jr., each corresponded regularly with friends and family.	Acquire period inkwell, steel pen, blotter, and box of wafers. Acquire reproduction writing paper, envelopes, letters, and ledger based on prototypes.
Books; place in bookcase.	Inscriptions indicate that John McMurran, Jr., owned a number of books.	Use books from NATC collection.
Table, mahogany, folding top; place along west wall in front of north window.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Table, folding top." Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Use NATC 01.

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Tablecloth; place on folding-top table.	Alice describes it as a "hansome cloth," Mrs. John T. McMurran, Jr., to George Austen, November 13, [prob. 1856].	Acquire reproduction tablecloth.
Lamp, oil or burning fluid, on lamp mat; place on folding-top table.	Small oil or burning fluid lamps were frequently used in bedrooms. Freeman, p. 118.	Acquire electrified period piece.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, the curtains should be taken down and stored and the following items should be added to the room:

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Straw matting; cover entire carpet from wall to wall.	Matting replaced carpets in the summer. See Winkler and Moss, p. 83. See also Fyler inventory (1853).	Acquire reproduction matting; lay over carpet in summer.
Slipcovers, white linen; place one on each item of furniture.	1865 inventory for drawing room lists "Linen covers for sofas & chairs."	Acquire reproductions.
Gauze, white; cover gilt frames.	Gauze protected gilt surfaces from insect damage. See Winkler and Moss, p. 84.	Acquire modern equivalent [delete if no gilt frames used].
Mosquito netting; hang from tester to cover entire bed.	Mosquito netting was used almost universally in the South to protect sleepers from insects. See Garrett, pp. 200–202.	Acquire modern equivalent.

Center Hall (Room 211-Second Floor)

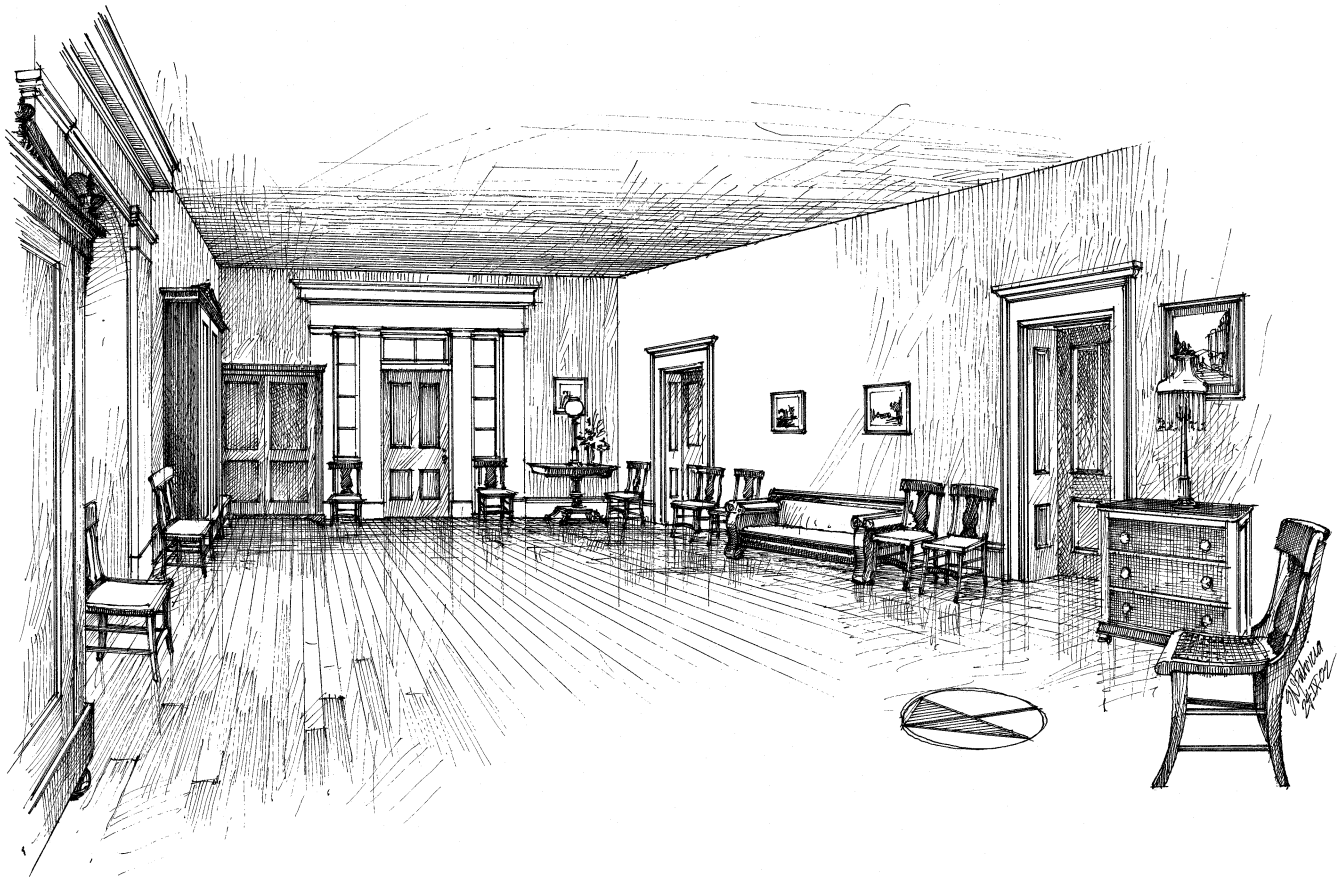
No evidence has been uncovered concerning the floor covering for this room. The floor may have been bare in the mid-19th century, or it may have been covered by a rug or floorcloth. Until further evidence is uncovered, no floor covering is recommended for this space.

If a floor covering is required for protection of the wood floors, three options exist. The floor could be covered wall to wall with a reproduction floorcloth in the faux wood pattern used in rooms 103, 105, and 106. Such a floorcloth would be extremely expensive and very heavy. It would probably have to be lifted through a second floor door with a crane. A reproduction ingrain carpet could be installed. Ingrain would be less expensive than a floorcloth but would not wear very well under constant visitor traffic. Both a floorcloth and ingrain are historically appropriate for this space. A visitor carpet could be installed wall to wall or as a pathway. A neutral color would be best if the park selects this option. None of these options are perfect solutions, but in the absence of convincing historic documentation, this planner feels that either bare floors or the visitor pathway option would be most sensible.

Walls: The walls of the second floor center hall should be finished with "a light rose, translucent glaze . . . applied over a thin, white base coat," which is the original finish as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. II, p. 6). Install picture rail at ceiling level.

Baseboards: Red-brown glaze in imitation of wood graining, as described in the Historic Structures Report (Vol. I, p. 67 and Vol. II, p. 5).

Ceiling: Leave unfinished (HSR, Vol. II, p. 7).



Center Hall—List of Furnishings

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Side chairs, twelve, caned seats; place two along north wall (one on either side of doorway to stairs), two on east wall(one on either side of door to porch), six along south wall (one to left of door to east corner bedroom, two to left of sofa, two to right of sofa, and one to right of door to middle bedroom), and two along west wall (one on either side of door to front hall).	1865 inventory lists "1 doz cane or rush bottom chairs."	Acquire period pieces with either caned or rush seats.
Clothes presses, two, walnut; place one on either side of doorway to stairs (next to chairs).	1865 inventory lists "2 Walnut clothes presses."	Use NATC 1300 and 1401.
Clothes press, pine; place against east wall in northeast corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 stained pine clothes press."	Use NATC 8065.
Curtains, sheer; shirr onto rods at top and bottom of sidelights and transom window.	Curtains appear in the earliest photos of Melrose taken in 1889.	Acquire reproduction sheer cotton curtains and install on reproduction rods.
Table, folding top, mahogany; place against east wall in southeast corner.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Table, folding top."	Use NATC 336.
Lamp, solar; place on lamp mat, on folding-top table.	Lamps were frequently located in halls. See Fyler inventory (1853) and Elliot inventory (1855).	Use NATC 310. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Vase, with artificial flowers; place on folding-top table.	M. L. McMurran to F. E. Conner; Melrose, April 7, 1857.	Acquire period piece.
Sofa, mahogany, upholstered in haircloth; place against south wall centered between doors to east corner bedroom and middle bedroom.	1865 inventory lists "1 Mahogany Sofa, hair cloth seat."	Acquire period piece, upholster in haircloth, or substitute NATC 96 upholstered in black damask.
Bureau, with white marble top; place against south wall to right of door to room 209.	1865 inventory lists "2 Mahogany dressing Bureaus."	Use NATC 741.
Lamp, solar; place on **lamp mat**, on bureau.	Lamps were frequently located in halls. See Fyler inventory (1853) and Elliot inventory (1855).	Use NATC 1526. Acquire reproduction lamp mat.
Engravings, four, framed; hang one on east wall and one on south wall to right of door to middle above folding table, two on south wall above sofa, bedroom.	1883 inventory lists "2 Prints." Engravings and paintings frequently decorated the walls of mid-19th-century rooms. See Linton inventory (1848) for list of typical paintings and engravings.	Acquire period pieces and mount in reproduction frames. Hang with picture wire and brass hook from picture rail.

If Melrose is to be interpreted in summer dress, linen slipcovers should be placed over the upholstered seating furniture. No matting should be used in this room. Gauze should cover any gilt picture frames.

Galleries

OBJECT AND LOCATION	EVIDENCE	RECOMMENDATION
Wood boxes, two; place one on upper and one on lower east galleries, next to doors to center halls.	Wood boxes were located on the east galleries during the Kelly occupation. Since the east galleries are at the rear of the house, they are the logical places for wood boxes	Acquire reproduction wood boxes based on local prototype.
Benches, eight; place two on each of all four galleries; place against house.	Benches were common furnishings for galleries and will serve as resting spots for visitors. See Fyler (1853) and Minor (1854) inventories.	Acquire reproduction benches based on local prototype.

Illustrations

List of Illustrations

Figure 1 Melrose, ca. 1890. Photograph in private collection [also NATC Photograph Accession number MDAHHP.I.1]. Inscription on frame as follows:

Melrose Near Natchez Mississippi Grandpa McMurran's house where my daughter Caroline and Alice McMurran were born[,] where I was taken as a bride in 1856

for Carrie and Frank their crystal wedding August 25 18_5 [probably 1895; they were married in 1880 and a crystal anniversary is 15 years] Sacketts' Harbor

Figure 2 John T. McMurran, probably 1840s. Louisiana State University, Edward Turner Collection, S-120, box 1, folder 19.

Figure 3 John T. McMurran, probably late 1850s–early 1860s. Louisiana State University, Edward Turner Collection, S-120, box 1, folder 19.

Figure 4 Mary Louise McMurran, probably late 1850s–early 1860s. Gandy collection.

Figure 5 Mary Louise McMurran, probably late 1870s–early 1880s. Louisiana State University, Edward Turner Collection, S-120, box 1, folder 19.

Figure 6 John T. McMurran, Jr., probably 1865–70. Gandy collection.

Figure 7 Probably Alice and Carrie McMurran, ca. 1860s. Gandy collection (4).

Figure 8 Detail of photograph of unidentified ladies in front of Melrose, probably late 1880s–early 1890s. Note the curtains shirred on rods at the top and bottom of the sidelight. Gandy collection, NATC Gandy II.A.3.

Figure 9 Detail of photograph of unidentified ladies in front of Melrose, probably late 1880s–early 1890s. Note the venetian blinds in the windows and the back of a slipcovered chair seen through the open window on the left. Gandy collection, NATC Gandy II.A.3.

Figure 10 Entry hall, room 101, west wall (looking towards front door), ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (4).

Figure 11 Entry hall, room 101, east wall (looking towards back hall), ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (1).

Figure 12 Entry hall, room 101, east wall (looking towards back hall), 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.29. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #285-7.

Figure 13 Entry hall, room 101, north wall (looking towards dining room), 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.28. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #285-4.

Figure 14 Dining room, room 102, south wall (looking towards entry hall), ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (32).

Figure 15 Dining room, room 102, northwest corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.20. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #284-5A.

Figure 16 Service hall, room 103, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (33).

Figure 17 Drawing room, room 110, south wall, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (22).

Figure 18 Drawing room, room 110, west wall, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (19).

Figure 19 Drawing room, room 110, south wall, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (21).

Figure 20 Drawing room, room 110, northeast corner, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (20).

Figure 21 Drawing room, room 110, northwest corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.39. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #287-6.

Figure 22 Drawing room, room 110, southwest corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.24. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #284-19A.

Figure 23 Drawing room, room 110, southeast corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.40. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #287-7.

Figure 24 Drawing room, room 110 (foreground), looking into Parlor, room 109, and Library, room 108, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (25).

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Figure 26 Drawing room, room 110 (foreground), looking into Parlor, room 109, and Library, room 108, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (30).

Figure 27 Library, room 108 (foreground), looking into parlor, room 109, and drawing room, room 110, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (24).

Figure 28 Library, room 108 (foreground), looking into parlor, room 109, and drawing room, room 110, ca. 1930s[?]. Note the absence of curtains in the drawing room, possibly indicating that this photograph was taken during the summer. Gandy collection (16).

Figure 29 Parlor, room 109, south wall, ca. 1930s[?]. Note portrait of Julia Davis over fireplace. Gandy collection (13).

Figure 30 Parlor, room 109, with drawing room (110) in background, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.44. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #287-20.

Figure 31 Parlor, room 109, with library (108) in background, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.41. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #287-12.

Figure 32 Library, room 108, southeast corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.37. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #286-16.

Figure 33 Library, room 108, northeast corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.27. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #285-3.

Figure 34 Back hall, room 111, northeast corner, ca. 1930s[?]. Gandy collection (5?).

Figure 35 Back hall, room 111, north wall, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.46. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #288-7.

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Figure 38 Middle bedroom, room 209, west wall, date unknown. NATC GANDY III.F.1.

Figure 39 West front bedroom, room 210, southeast corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.35. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #286-8.

Figure 40 North front bedroom, room 202, southeast corner, 1976. NATC MDAHHP I.34. Reynolds & Allen photo, 2/1976, #286-5.

Figure 41 Dining Room, room 102, northwest corner, showing curtains installed by Mrs. Kelly, photograph taken ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.B.1.

Figure 42 Dining Room, room 102, northeast corner, showing curtains installed by the Callons, photograph taken ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.B.19.

Figure 43 Parlor, room 109, south wall, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.I.28.

Figure 44 Drawing Room, room 110, southeast corner, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.J.2.

Figure 45 Back Hall, room 111, looking west, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.K.1.

Figure 46 Bedroom, room 202, southeast corner, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.M.12.

Figure 47 Bedroom, room 210, southeast corner, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.V.18.

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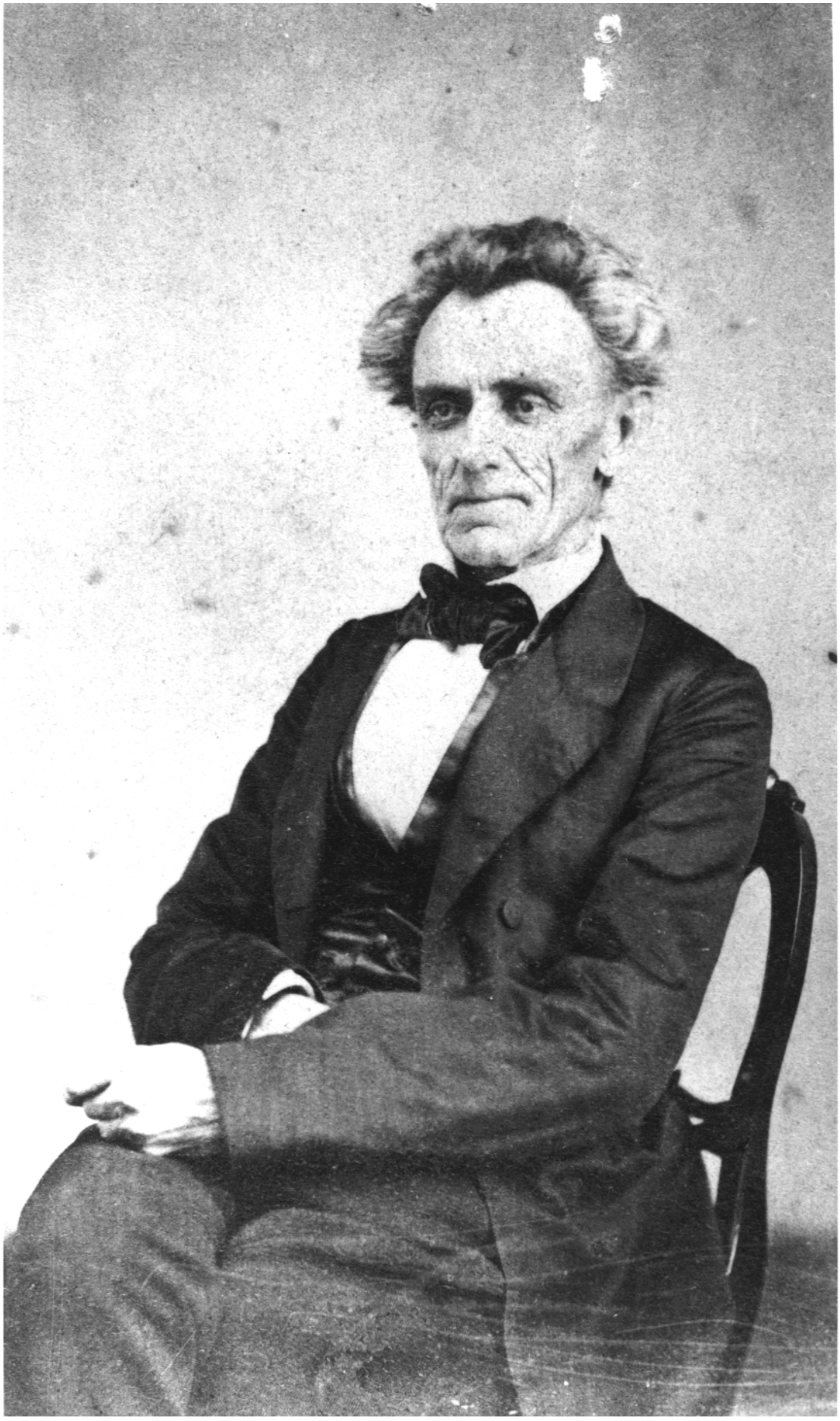


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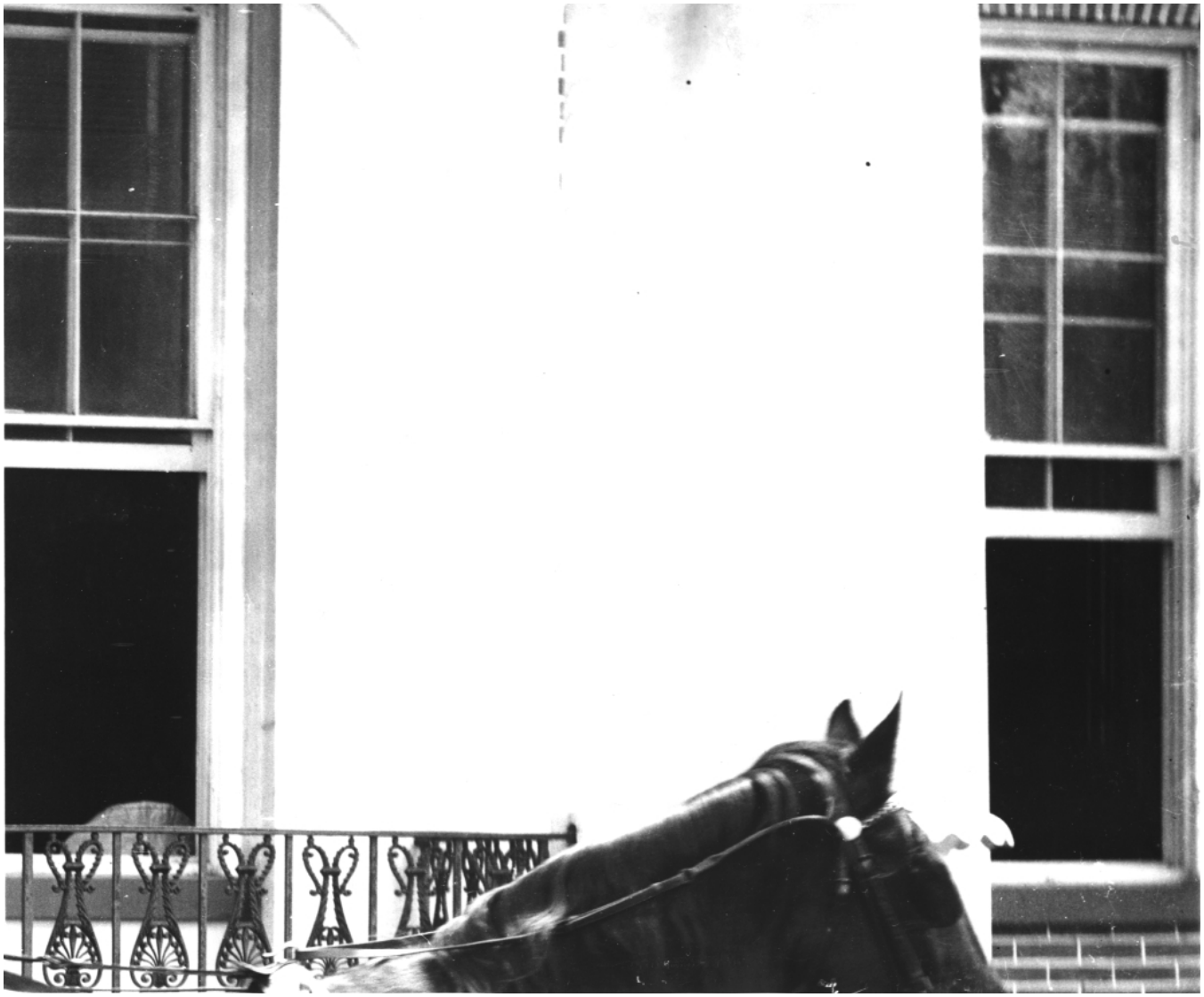


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Figure 43 Parlor, room 109, south wall, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.I.28.



Figure 44 Drawing Room, room 110, southeast corner, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.J.2.



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Figure 45 Back Hall, room 111, looking west, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.K.1.



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Figure 46 Bedroom, room 202, southeast corner, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.M.12.



Figure 47 Bedroom, room 210, southeast corner, ca. 1976. NATC Callon II.V.18.



Figure 48 Choctaw, parlor, late 1880s. Gandy collection (7).



Appendixes

Appendix A

McMurran/Turner genealogy

John Thompson McMurran (4/19/1801-12/30/1866) m. (1/11/1831) Mary Louisa Turner (1/7/1814-5/10/1891)

Parents:
(his) Francis McMurran (b. ca. 1770, d. ca. 1825) m. Martha Thompson (b. ca. 1775, d. 9/5/1843)

(hers) Edward Turner (11/25/1778-5/23/1860) m. (**1** – 9/5/1802) Mary West (d. 2/18/1811)
1. Theodosia Lavinia Turner (b. 1805, d. 2/19/1827) m. (5/12/1823) William Griffith (d. 1827)
2. Martha Ann Turner (b. 1807, d. 10/29/1827)
3. Mary W. Turner (b. 1809, d. 1811)

(**2**) Elizabeth Baker (1/20/1789 – 9/16/1878)
1. Mary Louisa Turner
2. Edward Turner (11/3/1815 - 8/24/1823)
3. Elizabeth Frances Turner (8/6/1827-7/17/1828)
4. Elizabeth Frances "Fanny Eliza" Turner (12/4/1829 - 1910) m. (1/6/1848) Lemuel Parker Conner (9/30/1827 - 3/24/1891)
   a. Elizabeth Frances "Fanny Eliza" Conner (11/11/1848 – 9/28/1860)
   b. Jane Gustine "Janie" Conner (4/3/1850-9/24/1944)
   c. Mary Louisa "Minnie" McMurran Conner (11/1/1851, d. 1863)
   d. Elizabeth "Zizie" Conner (b. 1854, d. 1913)
   e. William Edward "Willie" Conner (8/1/1856 – 12/5/1863)
   f. Theodosia Turner Conner (b. 1858, d. 1909)
   g. Edward Turner Conner (3/3/1860 – 11/1/1871)
   h. Lemuel Parker Conner, Jr. (11/28/1861 – 10/16/1943)
   i. Elizabeth Frances "Little Auntie" Conner (b. 1864, d. ?)

Children:
1. Mary Eliza McMurran (10/16/1831-7/31/1833)

2. John Thompson McMurran, Jr. (10/1/1833- ?) m. (9/17/1856) Alice Latimer Austen (d. 1899)
   a. Mary Louisa McMurran (b. 1857, d. 7/14/1858)
   b. Caroline McMurran (1/3/1859 - ?)
   c. Alice "Alie" McMurran (7/31/1861 - ?)
   d. Unnamed infant (5/22/1868 – 5/26/1868)

3. Mary Eliza McMurran (12/28/1835-3/31/1864) m. (1/24/1856) Farar Benjamin Conner (2/19/1834-3/25/1904)
   a. Benjamin Farar "Fazee" Conner (1/20/1857 - ?)
   b. Mary Louisa "Soulie" Conner (12/28/1858-5/20/1864)
   c. John McMurran Conner (b. 1861, d. 5/21/1865)

Appendix B

1976 inventory of Melrose furnishings, taken upon the sale of Melrose by the heirs of Ethel Moore Kelly to John and Betty Callon. Schedule A, dated March 26, 1976, included in the 1978 appraisal of Melrose by H. Philip Troy.

SCHEDULE A

294 March 26, 1976

Furnishings
Melrose
Natchez, Mississippi

Front Yard and Veranda
Other Personal Property

2 Green painted benches, 4'-0" long

FIRST FLOOR

Entrance Hall
Hangings

3 Gathered door panels

Furniture

1 1-candle iron chandelier

1 Spool turned Gothic Victorian side chair with cut velvet seat.

1 Pair mid Victorian 4'-0" flip-top console tables, claw feet (chipped veneer)

1 Pair 7-candle arm electrified puto base candelabra

Pictures

1 Old print, "Les Noces de Cana" 40" x 32" with glass and gold leaf frame (foxed)

1 Cutler engraving "The United States Senate, 1850", 45" x 42" with glass, gold leaf frame (needs repair)

Other Personal Property

2 Tapestry table scarves, 45" x 18"

Carpeting

1 Item approximately 45 sq. yards of floral carpeting, installed wall to wall

Hangings

4 Pair white lace curtains

4 Pair lined green draperies with gilt cornice and hold-backs.

Furniture

1 Dore 5-arm ceiling chandelier

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1 Pair 4-scroll are wall sconces

1 Pair mid Victorian gilt frame wall mirrors, 54" x 90"

1 Floral carved mid Victorian green damask suite, consisting of:
- 1 sofa
- 6 side chairs
- 1 open armchair
- 1 ladies hoop skirt chair

1 Similar tete-a-tete with swivel circular seats, ottoman center

1 Mid Victorian gold leaf scroll caned 2-legged wall console, 40" wide with white marble top with matching pier mirror, 36" x 120"

1 Victorian table with black marble serpentine top, 48" x 20" x 30"

1 Victorian table with tan marble serpentine top, 48" x 20" x 30"

1 Gold leaf wall mirror, pierced scroll and leaf mount, 60" x 90"

1 Pair gilt metal 4-scroll arm candelabra, 21" high

1 Mid Victorian bowfront cabinet, one drawer over two pierced panel doors with fabric insert, with 3-shelf etegere top, 80"high

1 Floral inlaid curio cabinet, 64" high (loose brass trim)

1 Pair electrified French repousse "Carcel" lamps, with leaf pedestals

1 Knable Gachle & Company rosewood "square" spinet with padded stool to match suite above (not in playable condition)

1 Antique brass pierced fire fender, tassel feet, 52" wide

1 Colored print of hunting dogs at rest, 30" x 21" with glass

Music Room

Rugs

1 Rose broadloom rug with yellow inner border, approximately 14' 6" x 14' 6"

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1 Rose broadloom rug with yellow inner border, approximately 3' 0" x 6' 0"

Hangings

2 Pair lace curtains similar to those in Drawing Room

2 Pair rose and gold damask lines draperies with gilt cornice and hold-backs

Furniture

1 Mid Victorian New York mahogany suite to match draperies, consisting of:
- 1 3-section oval-back sofa
- 2 Ottomans
- 4 Oval-back side chairs
- 2 Oval-back open armchairs
- 1 Sleigh sofa raised padded center, diamond quilted

1 Victorian style 36" square permanent game table (base has veneer ships)

1 Brass ceiling chandelier with 12 arms, crystal drops

1 Mid Victorian rococco sideboard, scalloped apron drawer bowfront with two shelves with 2-shelf mirrored back and top, 6' 0" high

Musical Instrument and Music

1 Steinway & Sons ebony finished old baby grand piano

Other Personal Property

1 Pair cast iron andirons, approximately 28" high

1 5-panel mesh fire screen

1 Pair pink Spode china vases with cloisonne bust cartouche, 14" high (each base with bad chips)

Library 297

Hangings

2 Pair lined floral jacquard draperies, 3 widths

1 Butler's pull

Furniture

1 Mid Victorian low front floral tapestry sofa, tufted back

1 Item consisting of:
1 bronze 21" urn with two tiers of crystal drops and two arms, electrified, frosted cut glass shades; 1 pair matching 1-arm lamps

1 Pair Victorian French style tufted back blue leather armchairs

1 Victorian flip-top card table, gadrooned, with claw feet

1 Bronze base oil lamp, frosted cut glass shade with crystal drops, electrified

1 Victorian scroll leg library table shaped black marble top, 24" x 48"

1 Item consisting of:
1 early Victorian 4-door corner bookcase, 11' 0" high
1 matching 2-door left section bookcase

1 Carcel lamp on stand, similar to pair in living room, electrified

1 Pair black iron andirons, 30" high

1 Fire Screen

Great Hall

298

Rugs
1 Red Kirman rug, approximately 12' 0" x 22' 0"

Hangings
2 White window panels

Furniture
1 2-arm electrified oil lamp chandelier

1 Early Victorian tan square back sofa

1 Black marble top Victorian console table, 48" x 24" x 36"

1 Pair brass column oil lamps, striped ball glass shades, electrifie

1 Bird inlaid white marble table, 36" dia.

1 Tan Square-back sofa

1 Similar sofa, red with roll cushion arms

1 Black marble topped 3-scroll leg Victorian
36" dia. centerpiece table

1 Gadrooned console table, similar to pair in Entrance Hall

Other Personal Property
1 Engraving, Christ blessing little children, 36" x 30" with glass and gold leaf frame

1 Item consisting of:
1 Mezzotint of the creation, 40" x 30", with glass and gilt frame
1 Nativity, Mezzotint

1 Mezzotint of horse shoeing 32" x 40", with glass and gilt frame

1 Mounted Moose Head

Dining Room

299

Rugs
1 Floral Axminister rug with black border

2 Black Throw rugs, 2' 0" x 4' 0"

Hangings
4 Pair white lace curtains

4 Pair blue velvet and brocade floor length draperies, with scallaped lambrequins

Furniture
1 Pair mahogany Victorian drop leaf console tables,with end units for table in Center Hall

1 Round extension dining table

1 Item consisting of:
1 item of 12 Victorian Gothic style side chairs
2 matching open armchairs

1 Victorian sideboard, mirror back with center marble top, four drawers, four doors, 75" x 26" x 60"

1 Black marble topped mirror back Victorian console table, 40" wid

1 Pair brass column lamps, similar to those in Great Hall, frosted shades

Pictures
1 Wright engraving of Washington, 21" x 36", with glass and painte frame (chipped)

1 Fred engraving, "Shakespeare and His Friends", 36" x 30"

Other Personal Property
1 Fire Screen

1 Pair black iron andirons, 36 " high

Schedule "A" Continued

Pantry

Rug
300 1 Brown woven rug 9' 0" x 12' 0"

Hangings
1 Lace window

Furniture
1 Green painted screened pie safe

Side Hall From Dining Room

Rug
1 Black carpet runner, 3' 0" x 10' 0"

Staff Hall

Rug
1 Rose runner, 3' 0" x 27' 0"

Butler's Pantry

Rug
1 Old brown fiber rug

Furniture
6 Old dish cupboards

1 Set dining room table leaves

SECOND FLOOR

Stairs

Rug
1 Bordered floral runner

Hangings
1 Pair white gathered curtains

301

Great Hall

Hangings
3 White curtains

1 Pair 30' brass ribbon 2-scroll arm wall sconces

1 Victorian 2-door secretary desk, 9' 0" high

1 Drop leaf dining table, turned legs, matching drop leaf end in Dining Room

Pictures
1 Print of Madonna and Child, gilt frame, 36" dia.

Main Bathroom

Rugs
3 Braded Rugs

Hangings
2 Pair white gauze cutains

Furniture
1 Plantation table

1 Gold leaf wall mirror, 48" x 30"

1 Mahogany dresser, with mirror

Small Guest Room

Rug
1 Woven area rug, 8' 0" x 10' 0"

Hangings
1 Pair white lace curtains

3 Pair floral closet curtains

Furniture
1 Dresser with white marble top

302

1 Matching 3/3 sleigh bed, with fittings

1 Item consisting of:
1 oval-back Victorian open armchair
1 matching side chair

Picture
1 Framed print of Cromwell

Mr. Kelly's Room

Rugs
1 Item consisting of:
1 red woven rug, 9' 0" x 15' 0"
3 matching throw rugs

Hangings
3 Pair white lace curtains

Furniture
1 Item consisting of:
1 open armchair, as above
4 matching side chairs

1 Old pine wood chest

1 Over sized plantation bed, with fittings

1 Similar 7-drawer dresser with mirror, 2 section white marble top

1 Armoire by door to front upstairs hall

2 Open oval-back Victorian side chairs matching ones in Mrs. Kelly's room

Pictures
1 Oil on canvas Italian, woman, with gilt frame

Other Personal Property
1 Pair cast iron andirons

1 5-section fire screen

Bedroom Hall - Front Upstairs Hall

Hangings
2 White curtains

Furniture
1 White marble topped oval centerpiece Victorian table 45" x 22"

Other Personal Property
1 Old gold picture frame

1 Concord bookcase

303

Mrs. Kelly's Room

Rugs
1 Set of blue rugs: matching those in Mr. Kelly's Room

Hangings
4 Pair lace curtains

Furniture
1 Side chair to match one in Small Guest Room

3 Open back chairs to match one in Mr. Kelly's room

1 Victorian 2-glass door top secretary

1 Item consisting of:
1 Rosewood plantation bed
1 similar dresser
1 similar armoire

2 Victorian tufted tapestry lounge chairs

1 Victorian flip-top card table

1 Victorian white marble topped washstand

1 Pair iron andirons,

1 Fire screen

304

Mrs. Ferry's Bedroom

Rugs
4 Area rugs

Hangings
2 Pair white curtains

Furniture
1 Item consisting of
1 plantation bed
1 similar armoire
1 similar small dresser

1 Marble top table

Middle Bedroom

Hangings
2 Pair white curtains

Furniture
1 Item consisting of:

1 Over sized Lincoln Rocker
1 Plantation bed
1 Similar armoire
1 Similar dresser
1 Similar end table with black marble top

Back Veranda

1 Old green bench

FIRST FLOOR

Entrance Hall

Pictures

1 Oil on canvas of Mr. Stephen Kelly as boy with dog, unsigned, 60" x 48", with gilt frame (painting and frame are chipped)

305

Music Room

1 Set of Andirons in Music Room

1 Fire Screen in Music Room

1 Pair brass 30" garnitures, 5-scroll arms with crystal drops, electrified.

1 Brass 15" clock, floral painted with women reclining on pedestal, on gold leaf base with glass dome (not in working order).

Library

1 Pair matching smaller hoop skirt blue chairs

Great Hall

1 Chinese bronze urn, 16" high

1 Chinese bronze oil jar, elephant handles, 17" high

1 Late Chinese red thousand figure bowl, 18" dia. (repaired)

Dining Room

1 Black finish French mantel clock with cast metal mount of dueling knights (not in working order)

Side Hall From Dining Room

.1 Old Floor Safe

306

Middle Bedroom - Upstairs

1 Empire Table

1 Auburn dressing table with marble top

1 Little Princess Picture over mantel

1 Victorian Style chair, carpet covered

2 small Empire Chairs

Mrs. Ferry's Room

1 Child's picture over mantel

Dairy Building

Metal Tub - Footbath

1 Wooden Cupboard

Annie's Room - Upstairs

1 Armoire
1 Dresser
1 bed

Next Room - upstairs

1 bed (walnut)

1 old dresser

Barn

1 Wagon

Kitchen Building

1 Dresser with marble top

Entrance Hall

1 Pair English Victorian black with gilt tracing side chairs, cane seat 307

1 White marble figure of boy with monkey, signed Firenze A. Frillis 45" High (Begger Boy) and pedestal.

Drawing Room

2 Vases on console

1 Davenport Vase

Music Room

1 Music Stand

Bedroom Hall - Front Upstairs Hall

2 Bookcases -

Mrs. Kelly's Room

1 Victorian Tilt mirror

Dining Room

1 2-panel Oriental floor screen - red and black lacquer with applied ivories - 74" high

4 sets of fire place tools are to be left with Melrose.

Appendix C

1990 inventory of Melrose furnishings, taken upon the sale of Melrose by the Callons to the National Park Service. On file at Natchez NHP.

Original Callon

309

PORTICO

Original:

English or American hanging metal light fixture with etched glass panels, ca. 1845 (included in real estate appraisal)

Pair of large cast-iron urns, probably American, ca. 1845-50 [redacted]

FRONT OR ENTRY HALL

Original:

Floorcloth (McMurran--1865 inventory) [redacted]

Pair of matching card tables, probably Philadelphia, with gadrooning (McMurran or Davis--documented in 1901 photograph of grand hall, or "saloon") [redacted]

Marble pedestal (verde antico) with statue of monkey and beggar boy, late nineteenth century (Kelly--its purchase by Ethel Moore Kelly's parents is documented in a letter) Italian [redacted]

Callon:

Blown, cut, frosted, ceiling light (original front hall light now hangs in the hallway from the dining room to the stair hall) (included in real estate appraisal)

Zuber wallpaper from old blocks [redacted]

Rococo Revival Old Paris vase with polychrome female figure by a wall with a vase [redacted]

EXHIBIT "B"

DRAWING ROOM

310

Original:

Rococo Revival parlor furniture covered in green and gold (McMurran--documented in 1865 inventory--tete-a-tete now in middle parlor and upholstered in red and gold was apparently originally in drawing room and covered in green and gold)

"Revolving sofa" with duck head arms and game table which can be placed in ottoman section of sofa [redacted]

Rococo Revival parlor suite which includes sofa, six side chairs (2 in attic), large arm chair and "lady's" chair [redacted]

Rococo Revival sofa table with black marble top and pedestal on scrolls (probably McMurran and one of the three "sofa table [s] with black & white marble top" in the parlor and drawing room on the 1865 inventory), American [redacted]

Rococo Revival sofa table with brown marble top and pedestal with dolphin brackets on scrolls (probably McMurran--1865 inventory--"sofa table with Brocadilla marble top"), [redacted]

Rococo Revival sofa table with black marble top and cabriole legs on plinth (probably McMurran and one of the three "sofa table [s] with black & white marble top" in the parlor and drawing room on the 1865 inventory), American [redacted]

Rococo Revival etagere cabinet--probably New Orleans (probably McMurran--1865 inventory-- the "etique" listed in the drawing room) [redacted]

Mid-nineteenth-century portrait of Dr. Stephen Kelly as a boy with dog; attributed to James Hamilton Shegogue (born 1806 in Charleston and died 1872 in New York) by Estill Curtis Pennington on 3/20/89 (Kelly) [redacted]

Rococo Revival gilt mirror over mantel (McMurran--1865 inventory) American [redacted]

	Original	Callon
Rococo Revival gilt pier mirror over gilt console table with white marble top (McMurran--1865 inventory) American	[redacted]	311
Set of six stamped-brass gilt window cornices/with the other two being in the parlor (McMurran--1865 inventory) American or European	[redacted]	
Four pairs of glass and gilt tiebacks, one damaged (McMurran--1865 inventory) ($750.00 ea.) probably French	[redacted]	
Four pairs, original green and gold brocatelle curtains with cords & tassels (McMurran--1865 inventory)($4,000 per window)	[redacted]	
Four pairs lace curtains (Kelly--Mrs. Ferry may have brought these lace curtains from Michigan) ($2,000 per window)	[redacted]	
Large Old Paris vase on pier mirror console table with three-quarter Near Eastern polychrome maiden with bell flower pendants (probably McMurran--1865 inventory--"centre china vase")	[redacted]	
Pair of gilt candelabra on mantel shelf, Ceres (probably McMurran--1865 inventory list two pairs of candelabra--one pair is gilt and one is bronze; a second pair of gilt candelabra is on the mantel shelf in the master [north] front bedroom), French	[redacted]	
Pair of cast-iron andirons like others in house (probably Kelly) American, Arts and Crafts, late 19th Century	[redacted]	
Fire tool set, one of several matching sets (McMurran--described in 1865 inventory as "steel fire set") English or American	[redacted]	
Five panel fire screen/one of several matching (Kelly), American, Late 19th Century	[redacted]	
Parian statue of Mercury (probably McMurran or Davis--no inventory documentation)	[redacted]	

		Original	Callon
312	Parian statue "La Source" (McMurran or Davis--no inventory documentation), French	[redacted]	
	Pair of small Parian spill holders (McMurran or Davis--no inventory documentation)	[redacted]	
	Rare and very important Cornelius & Company oil chandelier, patented 1845 (McMurran--1865 inventory--"large centre chandelier") (included in real estate appraisal) Philadelphia		
	Pair of green glass vases, machine blown, parcel-gilt and white enamel, ca. 1875 (Davis or Kelly)	[redacted]	
	Green opaline bowl on gilt bronze foliate stand, marked EB, French 1850-60, rare color (McMurran or Davis)	[redacted]	
	Gilt bell crank (McMurran), probably American, circa 1845	[redacted]	

Callon:

Parian spill holder (on etagere)/1860-70		[redacted]
Chinese export tea box with pewter fittings, ca. 1830		[redacted]
Small framed copy of portrait of Mary Louisa McMurran		[redacted]
Ostrich egg with engraved steamboat and cotton picking scene, nineteenth-century		[redacted]
Pair of biscuit and glazed. parcel-gilt Old Paris flare vases, ca. 1845-60		[redacted]
Astral lamp with fluted brass shaft, stepped marble base, prisms, probably American, ca. 1845		[redacted]

PARLOR

313

Original:

Rococo Revival parlor furniture upholstered as suite in red and gold damask:

"Tete a Tete sofa" (McMurran--1865 inventory--originally in front parlor) ca. 1845-1855 probably Philadelphia

Parlor suite that includes three-section oval back sofa, four side chairs, and two armchairs (Davis from Choctaw--family tradition--probably the parlor set in 1883 Choctaw inventory that was located in the north parlor) ca. 1845-1855

Matching pair of ottomans (Davis from Choctaw--1883 Choctaw inventory in South Parlor--"large spring bottom stools") ca. 1850

New York maghogany centre table with pedestal on scrolls, attributed to Meeks, once identified as a labeled piece but label now missing (McMurran or Davis--documented in 1901 photograph)

Rococo Revival etagere with drawers, ca. 1845-55 (McMurran or Davis--possibly "fancy stand" from 1883 Choctaw inventory that was located in the south parlor)

Knabe Gaeble & Company (Baltimore) rosewood-veneered piano, ca. 1850 (Probably McMurran--1865 inventory)

Piano stool, ca. 1850 (now in grand hall with later grand piano) (McMurran--1865 inventory)

"Music stand," ca. 1845-60 (McMurran--1865 inventory--called "music rack" in 1883 Melrose inventory) American

Mid-nineteenth-century portrait of Frances Davis, age 4 (Davis)

	Original	Callon
314 Exceptional English brass and crystal chandelier, ca. 1835 (Kelly--from Ethel Moore Kelly's maternal grandmother's house in New York) (included in real estate appraisal)		
Pair of Old Paris and biscuit flare vases with polychrome and parcel-gilt, river god and goddess, ca. 1850-55 (McMurran--1865 inventory--"pair vases, cornucopia shape" originally located in back hall)	[redacted]	
Fireplace tools/one of several matching sets (McMurran--1865 inventory--described as "steel fire set") English or American	[redacted]	
Pair of cast-iron andirons, similar to several other pairs (probably Kelly) Arts and Crafts, late 19th Century	[redacted]	
Five-panel fire screen/one of several matching (Kelly), American, late 19th Century	[redacted]	
Two pairs of gilt tiebacks with grape motif (probably McMurran) (250.00 ea.) probably European	[redacted]	
Two pairs of lace curtains (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly--from attic) (500.00/panel)	[redacted]	
Small mid-19th century basket from attic (McMurran or Davis--similar to basket in portrait of Frances Davis)	[redacted]	
Gilt bell crank, American	[redacted]	
Callon:		
Ceramic triangular tray with pink ground and marine landscape, Heroldt style, Royal Porcelain Manufactory, Meissen, ca. 1890		[redacted]
Pair of small, polychrome, Limoges vases in Old Paris style, on etagere, ca. 1845		[redacted]

Original Callon

Pair of glass posey vases with floriform decoration and silver dolphin stands, ca. 1900 315

Old Paris, round, ruffled edge, reticulated compote in parcel-gilt and white, ca. 1850-60

Old Paris, oval, ruffled edge, reticulated compote in parcel-gilt and white, ca. 1850-60

Pair of blown and cut candelabra and four candle sticks with parcel-gilt and white enamel, Bohemian or French, ca. 1845

Carl Thieme, recticulated, porcelain footed container with flowers, ca. 1900

Two pairs (two windows) gold and red damask, reproduction curtains

English Parian "Babes in the Wood" with minor imperfections, ca. 1850

Pair of wooden pedestals with water leaf decoration, American or English, circa 1870

Porcelain cologne bottle with pink ground, Thuringian, pseudo-Sevres marks

Porcelain casket box with bronze mounts and pink ground, Porcelain Factory, Kalk, Eisenberg, Sevres style, ca. 1905

LIBRARY

(nal:

Empire sofa covered in tapestry fabric, probably New York (McMurran--beneath fabric, written in pencil, is the name Jno. McMurran--this sofa was once in grand hall

		Original	Callon
316	Set of four, restrained Rococo Revival armchairs (two large and two smaller that are covered in blue leather with tufted backs) (McMurran--1865 inventory--described as upholstered in "green Morocco") American	[redacted]	
	Rococo Revival sofa or library table with black marble top and cabriole legs on plinth (probably McMurran--could be one of the three sofa tables or the library table)	[redacted]	
	Three-part set of argand lamps, Messenger, London and Birmingham (McMurran--1865 inventory--originally located on mantel shelf in middle parlor and described as "3 bronze mantel lamps, with glass pendants")	[redacted]	
	Mahogany-veneered matching bookcases, four-door corner unit and two-door single unit, Lower Mississippi Valley (McMurran--1865 inventory)	[redacted]	
	Fireplace fender with bronze lions (probably McMurran) probably English, circa 1845	[redacted]	
	Pair of cast-iron andirons/one of several similar sets (probably Kelly), American, Arts and Crafts, late 19th Century	[redacted]	
	Fireplace tools/one of several matching sets (probably McMurran--1865 inventory mentions steel fire sets) English or American	[redacted]	
	Five-panel fire screen/one of several matching (Kelly) Arts and Crafts, American	[redacted]	
	Small table with spool turning, rectangular top, and shaped apron (McMurran or Davis) American	[redacted]	
	Small table with spool turning, serpentine top, no apron (McMurran or Davis) American	[redacted]	
	Small rosewood table with lyre ends and turned stretcher with rectangular top (McMurran or Davis) American	[redacted]	
	Metal ink stand/patinated spelter/"Hunting boy with Dog", ca. 1865 (probably Davis and possibly the "fancy metal inkstand" listed in the 1883 Choctaw inventory as located in the library)	[redacted]	

Original Callon

317

Metal cigar stand/"Jolly Toper"/(probably Davis and probably the "metal cigar holder" listed in the 1883 Choctaw inventory as located in the library) American [redacted]

Lithophane with especially fine metal stand and frame, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis) (value source: Laurel Blair, Toledo, Ohio, Blair Lithophane Museum) [redacted]

Blue Thuringian jardiniere in Sevres style/ca. 1890 (Davis or Kelly) [redacted]

Water color in original frame, three Italian cardinals, "The Difficult Question," signed Giuseppe Signorini [1857-1932] (Value source: Sotheby's and Christie's-- 3/21/89 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Books constituting the library of McMurran, Davis, and Kelly (many of the books are inscribed)

Bell crank with cord and tassels, probably American [redacted]

Callon:

Two pairs of yellow silk window treatments with trimmings and glass curtains ($6,500 per pair) [redacted]

Gilded reproduction window cornices (made in the 1970's) [redacted]

Four gilt reproduction tie backs [redacted]

Library reproduction carpet [redacted]

Solar lamp with lobed pedestal and floriform font, ca. 1845, New England [redacted]

Cornelius of Philadelphia solar lamp with bronze and gold finish, unfluted shaft and wreathed pedestal, ca. 1845 [redacted]

Original Callon

318 Bronze statue of Michaelangelo's Moses, probably French, ca. 1850-60 [redacted]

Late Federal, small drum table, probably Baltimore, with turned pineapple pedestal and sabre legs, period pulls, ca. 1820, "as is" [redacted]

Italian marble pedestal, verde antico, ca. 1875-80 [redacted]

Art Deco patinated spelter bookends, marble footed statues of "The Readers," missing one ivorine head, ca. 1925 [redacted]

GREAT HALL OR SALOON

Original:

Empire sofa upholstered in green and gold with cresting on sofa back, paw feet, scroll arms, and bolsters, probably New York, ca. 1825 (probably McMurran) [redacted]

Empire box sofa upholstered in gold damask with tufted back and bolster arms, probably Boston, ca. 1830 (probably McMurran) [redacted]

Marble center table with inlay (from Choctaw according to family tradition/probably the "marble table" (as opposed to "marble top" tables in the same room) in the Davis 1883 inventory of Melrose--1883 inventory locates the table in the drawing room. No marble table appears in the 1883 inventory of Choctaw nor in the 1865 inventory of Melrose, which leads to the conclusion that the table was moved from Choctaw to Melrose between 1865 and 1883) [redacted]

Carcel pendant ceiling fixture (probably McMurran--appears in the 1901 interior photograph of great hall--no hanging fixtures are listed in either of the two Melrose inventories or the Choctaw inventory except for the Cornelius chandelier in the drawing room which is described in the 1865 inventory as a "large centre chandelier." Although values are placed on the other objects located in the drawing room in the 1865

Original Callon

319

inventory, no value is assigned to the chandelier. Perhaps Mrs. McMurran realized that the chandelier was properly considered part of the real estate and didn't value it and then did not bother to list the chandelier in the rear hall) (included in real estate appraisal)

One pair of matching carcel lamps on either side of sofa, period shades but do not match, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis) French [redacted]

One pair of matching carcel lamps, one not electrified, Dardonville of Paris, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis) French [redacted]

Floorcloth, wall to wall, in a Brussels carpet pattern (McMurran--documented in 1865 inventory and in 1901 photograph of the rear hallway) [redacted]

Oil painting of Mary Magdalene/Signed M.T. Franga-Pinxit/ Firenze 1835 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Renaissance Revival armchair with needlework upholstery, late nineteenth century (Mrs. Kelly's sisters did the needlework) (Davis, or Kelly) [redacted]

Grand piano, Steinway, ca. 1900 (wedding present to George Malin Davis Kelly from his mother-in-law), New York [redacted]

Chinese porcelain punch bowl, red ground with polychrome floral and crane decoration, 1820-25 [redacted]

Callon:

American mohogany secretaire abatant with gilt mounting, Charles X style, Boston, American secondary woods, fitted interior, drawer bottoms tacked in American manner, ca. 1820 [redacted]

Two-drawer work table with pedestal and paw feet, probably Boston, ca. 1825, in manner of Timothy Hunt [redacted]

	Original	Callon
320 Three-drawer work table with pedestal and paw feet, original brasses, probably Philadelphia, ca. 1825-35		[redacted]
American Empire centre table on pedestal with stenciling, attributed to Anthony Quervelle of Philadelphia, ca. 1825-35		[redacted]
Tall case clock with inset column corners and swan's neck pediment, Winchester, Va., dated 1836		[redacted]
Oil portrait of Hannah Blair Crossman, signed T.S. for Thomas Sully [1783-1872], ca. 1840, companion portrait of husband is located in the Philadelphia Museum of Art, listed in Biddle and Fielding (confirmed by Estill Curtis Pennington, 3/20/89)		[redacted]
English, double ratchet foot stool, mahogany, William IV, ca. 1835		[redacted]

DINING ROOM

Original:

Set of 14 Gothic Revival dining chairs, ca. 1845, Philadelphia, almost definitely the greatest surviving set of American Gothic dining chairs (12 side chairs and two armchairs) (McMurran--1865 and 1883 inventory--originally were covered in "hair cloth")		[redacted]
Empire sideboard labeled Charles White of Philadelphia, ca. 1835-45 (McMurran--1865 and 1883 inventory)		[redacted]
Empire pier table with black marble top, probably Philadelphia, ca. 1845 (McMurran--1865 inventory and 1883 inventory)		[redacted]

	Original	Callon
Set of three unusual matching tables (two are in dining room and the third is in the stair hall) with folding tops, pedestals, hollow-sided plinths, and paw feet, attributed to Charles White by Anthony Stuempfig of Philadelphia, ca. 1835-45 (McMurran--almost definitely the "set mahogany dining tables" that are listed in the 1865 inventory of the dining room--the dining table that was in the dining room in the twentieth century was purchased by Mr. Kelly for $100.00; supporting the assumption that these tables are the original dining tables is their attribution to Charles White who also made the dining room sideboard)	[redacted]	321
Important pair of matching Cornelius of Philadelphia solar lamps with fluted column shafts (Probably McMurran--1865 inventory describes two matching pairs of lamps in dining room)	[redacted]	
Pair of matching solar lamps with Ionic column shafts--need to check under felt on the base for possible stamp (McMurran--1865 inventory describes two matching pairs of lamps in dining room) American	[redacted]	
Pair of English argand (Lewis Veron of Philadephia, retailer) lamps on mantel shelf, ca. 11835 (McMurran or Davis--probably not one of two pairs in dining room in 1865 inventory since the other argands, now in library, were described in the 1865 inventory as bronze mantel lamps with glass pendants)	[redacted]	
French mantel clock with spelter knights atop black marble base, ca. 1855 (McMurran or Davis--could be mantel clock in the dining room in the Melrose 1883 inventory)	[redacted]	
Four pairs of lace curtains (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly) (750.00 for each panel x 8)	[redacted]	
Genre oil painting above mantel piece by Florentine artist Giuseppe Magni, ca. 1885 (1869-1956), "Bubble Blowers" (value source: Christie's and Sotheby's 3/20/89, includes tassel and cord (probably Davis)	[redacted]	
Elaborately carved mahogany punkah, finest in America, Natchez, includes cord and tassel, ca. 1845 (McMurran)	[redacted]	

		Original	Callon
322	Silver service on pier table:		
	four pieces (coffee, tea, covered sugar, cream) unmarked (Probably McMurran or Davis)	[redacted]	
	William Gale (1850-54) of New York hot water urn (urn added by Ethel Moore Kelly)	[redacted]	
	Pair of cast-iron andirons, lion heads, Arts and Crafts style, one of two such pairs (probably Kelly) American, late 19th Century	[redacted]	
	Fire tools, one of several matching sets (McMurran--1865 inventory lists steel fire sets) English or American, ca. 1845	[redacted]	
	Five-panel fire screen, one of several matching (Kelly), American, late 19th Century	[redacted]	
	Callon:		
	Silver plated, Rococo Revival oval center piece with scroll feet, ca. 1885-90, probably English		[redacted]
	Still life oil painting (7,500) above the sideboard (signed Alphonse Sesport), ca. 1850-65, includes cord and hanger (200.00)		[redacted]
	Copy of portrait of Mary Louisa McMurran (1,600) with ropes and tassels (200.00)		[redacted]
	Four pairs of gold silk curtains with ropes and tassels ($6,500 per window)		[redacted]
	Four pairs of reproduction curtain tie-backs (125.00 ea.)		[redacted]
	Wool reproduction rug in 19th-century design		[redacted]
	Three part dining table with three pedestals and paw feet, probably New York, cherry top, Empire -- 1835		[redacted]

Original Callon

Four weighted silver candle sticks with hurricane shades, London, 1880-81 Mark "CT" untraced [redacted] 323

English glass fly catcher, blown, cut, and frosted, ca. 1840 [redacted]

American Brilliant Period water pitcher, 1885-90 [redacted]

Pair of Tiffany sterling pepper mills with ivory terminals, Charles II style, New York [redacted]

~~Pair of~~ One small, Art Nouveau dishes, blown, engraved, and parcel-gilt (225.00 each) [redacted]

One pair of footed sterling and silver gilt salts, 1777, and a second similar pair of footed sterling salts, 1785; London, maker's mark abraded ($225.00 each) [redacted]

HALL FROM DINING ROOM TO STAIR HALL

Original:

American cherry cabinet with glazed upper doors and deeper base with drawers and doors, probably Natchez, ca. 1830's (probably McMurran) [redacted]

English or American hanging metal Gothic Revival light fixture, ca. 1845 (in front hallway when Callons purchased Melrose) (probably McMurran) (included as part of real estate [redacted]

SERVICE HALL

324

Original:

Hall stand or hat rack with urn finial and scroll arms, stenciled "107 Royal Street" (partially abraded stencil) New Orleans, ca. 1845 (McMurran--probably the "hat rack" in the front hall in the 1865 inventory; listed as "hatrack" in the rear hall in the 1883 Melrose inventory) [redacted]

Callon:

Four pairs of reproduction cream-colored cotton window curtains with fringe (2,000 pair) [redacted]

Oil painting of Melrose Abbey, signed Phyllis Dennison, 1882 [redacted]

POWDER ROOM (FORMERLY PANTRY)

No Original/all Callon

New gold leaf mirror [redacted]

American Rococo Revival black marble top, rosewood sofa table with cabriole legs, ca. 1850 [redacted]

Cornelius of Philadelphia solar lamp with marble base, altered, ca. 1850 [redacted]

WARMING KITCHEN/PANTRY

lnal:

Two-part American Empire cypress cabinet on cabinet, ca. 1845 (probably McMurran) [redacted]

	Original	Callon
Splayed leg oak table, ca. 1900 (Kelly)	[redacted]	
American caned bottom chair, ca. 1880 (Davis, or Kelly)	[redacted]	
Framed cartoon about historic house touring (Kelly)	[redacted]	
Reticulated Turkish brass bowl/1895-1900	[redacted]	

Callon:

Pair of linen curtains with trim		[redacted]
Mantel clock, English cast-iron front, American wooden case, mother-of-pearl and parcel-gilt, C.J. Poole, ca. 1850		[redacted]

STAIR HALL

Original:

Astral lamp, probably English, with baluster shaft on Ionic pedestal (lamp=1,800; prisms are not original but worth 2,400 [30 prisms x $80.00)	[redacted]	
Silver plated stair carpet rods (27 x 100.00 ea.)	[redacted]	

Callon:

American oil landscape of Nauvoo, Illinois, Hudson River style, ca. 1855		[redacted]
American framed engraving of Nauvoo, Illinois, source of oil painting of Nauvoo		[redacted]
English tea box on table with Mother-of-Pearl decoration papier mache, sarcophagus form, William IV, ca. 1830		[redacted]

LANDING

326

No Original/all Callon:

American Empire slipper sofa, ca. 1845 [redacted]

Battenburg lace runner and 12 placemats, ca. 1880
(12 x 125.00 plus 300.00 for runner) [redacted]

GRAND HALL/SECOND STORY

Original:

Japanese screen with cinnabar lacquer surrounds, applied carved ivory and mother-of-pearl, birds and floral foliage, Meiji Period, ca. 1880 (Kelly) B [redacted]

Moorish inlaid folding chair (George Malin Davis Kelly) ca. 1880-1900 B [redacted]

Very rare and important Sheraton cherry bookcase with glazed mechanical doors, drawers, and turned legs, ca. 1820-30, probably Natchez, brought from Concord E [redacted]

English writing or library table with black leatherette top and turned legs, ca. 1830 (McMurran or Davis) E? [redacted]

Tole jardiniere converted to lamp, resting on griffon stand with Grecian Key rim, 1870's (Davis or Kelly) B [redacted]

Large Sarouk rug, ca. 1900, 13 1/2 x 25 1/2 (located in the grand hall on the first story atop floorcloth during Kelly ownership) [redacted]

Square centre table with wood top, tapered square pedestal on plinth with ogee feet, in the manner of John Hall of Baltimore, ca. 1845, slightly nicked (McMurran or Davis) E? [redacted]

Original Callon

Pair of matching small tables with spool turnings and scalloped aprons, ca. 1850-60 (McMurran or Davis) (450.00 ea.) American — E? — [redacted]

327

Rocking chair upholstered in blue velvet with bow front and scroll arm, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Davis) — E — [redacted]

Rocking chair upholstered in cut velvet with goose neck arms, arched legs, and turned stretchers, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis), American — E — [redacted]

Opaque blue glass, coal-oil metal lamp with foliate decoration in white enameled and parcel-gilt, Berlin (metalwork), Bohemian (glass), 1870-80 (Davis or Kelly) — B — [redacted]

Small Empire armoire with ball feet and coved cornice, maghogany, probably Natchez, ca. 1835 rail chipped (McMurran or Davis) — E — [redacted]

Small Chinese table with brown marble top, late nineteenth century (probably Kelly) — B? — [redacted]

Framed photographs: [redacted]

- Framed photograph of Ethel Moore Kelly on the occasion of her ninety-first birthday (Kelly) — B
- Framed photograph of moose killed by Ethel Moore Kelly and decorated for the occasion of her ninety-first birthday (Kelly) — B
- Framed photograph of three Melrose generations—George Malin Davis Kelly, his wife Ethel Moore Kelly, daughter Marian Kelly Ferry, her husband Dexter Ferry, and three Ferry children (Kelly) — B

Patinated spelter putti bookends/ca. 1890-1900 (probably Kelly) — B — [redacted]

Kelly books in bookcases — B

Callon:

328

Framed English map of Mississippi River, 1775, Lieuftenant Ross, "Course of the Mississippi" E

English rosewood two-door cabinet, William IV, 1825-35 E2

English Renaissance Revival library or writing table with brown leather top, ca. 1870 E

English portable standish with fitted interior and original bottles with mother-of-pearl and parcel-gilt, 1840-50, double-hinged lid and handle

Mid-19th century upholstered armchair with tufted back and scroll feet, ca. 1845, probably Philadelphia, original upholstery

American Empire work table, mahogany with brass inlay, similar to White House example, attributed to Samuel Carter of New York by Anthony Stuempfig, ca. 1825-35

English Rococo Revival silver plated and footed waiter

MASTER BEDROOM

Original:

Two matching, Rococo Revival full tester beds, mahogany, stamped C. Lee of New Orleans, ca. 1845-55 (McMurran or Davis--appear in a ca. 1880 interior photograph of Choctaw from the Norman/Gandy collection)

American Rococo Revival mahogany center table with white marble top, ca. 1855 (McMurran or Davis)

Rococo Revival dresser with white marble top, serpentine front, and canted corners and feet, probably Philadelphia, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Davis)

Original Callon

Important American Rococo Revival armoire with outstanding pierced cresting, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted] 329

Two matching, American mahogany armchairs with tufted backs, scroll feet, and cresting, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis) ($2,000 each) [redacted]

Set of six, American Rococo Revival balloon-back side chairs, probably Phildelphia, dogwood motif, ca. 1850 (two in upper small hall/study, one in this bedroom, one in master dressing room, and two in guest bathroom) (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Pair of gilt candelabra with clustered column shafts, ca. 1840-45 (McMurran--probably "gilt candelabra" from 1865 McMurran inventory and listed as being in the drawing room) French, Louis Philippe style [redacted]

Bronze and black marble mantel clock with cherubs, "Roblin" is clock maker, ca. 1855 (McMurran or Davis) ($3,500=bronze and $750=case) early Renaissance Revival, French [redacted]

Pair of andirons, lion heads match those in dining room (probably Kelly) Arts and Crafts, American, late 19th Century [redacted]

Callon:

Three-drawer chest stenciled Quervelle with white marble top, altered, ca. 1825, Philadelphia, Empire style [redacted]

Four pairs of reproduction window curtains ($6,000 per window) [redacted]

Pair of Scalamandre silk-lined testers with crocheted, festooned, and tasselled, double-colour fringe ($3,000 each) [redacted]

Four new window shades ($125.00 each) [redacted]

Two new matching bedspreads ($150.00 each) [redacted]

		Original	Callon
330	Fire tools and Rococo Revival stand that contains some steel tools that are probably part of original steel fire stands, American or English, mid-19th century		[redacted]
	Custom mattresses		[redacted]
	American Rococo Revival oval mirror with gilt frame and beveled glass, ca. 1850		[redacted]
	English brass lamp standard, 1830's, annular converted to kerosene then to electricity, prisms		[redacted]

DRESSING ROOM

No Original/Callon

One pair of new curtains at windows		[redacted]
One new window shade		[redacted]
English dressing stand, mahogany, Sheraton, ca. 1800		[redacted]

BATHROOM

No Original/all Callon

Mirror (new)		[redacted]

STUDY OR FRONT HALL

Original:

American Empire cherry bookcase on cabinet with step back, drawers and coved cornice, probably Natchez, ca. 1835 (McMurran or Davis)	[redacted]	

Original Callon

Bookcase on cabinet with turned feet and swan's neck pediment, Sheraton style, ca. 1820-30 [Marian Kelly Ferry says this bookcase is original to Concord (non-extant)] 331

Extremely rare and important, American Empire mahogany bookcase on desk with hinged slant top, arched panel wood doors, ogee bracket feet, made in New Orleans, labeled C. Flint and Jones of New Orleans with G.M.Davis also on the label, ca. 1845 (Davis)

American "plantation" desk with turned legs, leatherette top, and bead & reel molded panel doors flanking central book shelves, ca. 1850, labeled Wm. McCracken of New Orleans (George Malin Davis's desk from Choctaw according to family tradition)

[illegible]ion:

Reproduction wool carpet

Three sets reproduction cords and hangers ($250.00 each)

American Renaissance Revival small table with lift-off top brought by John Neal of Tennessee to Melrose in 1970's

FRONT (SOUTH) OR GUEST BEDROOM

Original:

Rococo Revival mahogany bed with vaulted, full tester top, ca. 1855, New Orleans (family tradition maintains that George Malin Davis died in the bed and George Malin Davis Kelly was born in it)

American Rococo Revival rosewood armoire with cresting and bracket feet, ca. 1850 (family tradition maintains that the armoire is a Shunk piece [maiden name of Mrs. George Malin Davis])

Original Callon

American Rococo Revival mahogany dressing table with white marble top and ormolu mounts, probably New York, ca. 1845
332 (McMurran or Davis)

American Rococo Revival mahogany cheval mirror with cresting having central urn (Probably McMurran and possibly the "pier glass" in the rear bedroom/east in the McMurran 1865 inventory and the "looking glass" in the same room in the 1883 Melrose inventory)

American mahogany white marble top commode, 1845-50 (McMurran or Davis) late Empire

Set of American Rococo Revival rosewood parlor furniture, probably Philadelphia, ca. 1845, that includes two sofas, two armchairs, and six side chairs scattered throughout the second story bedrooms (Probably McMurran--appears to be the set that was in the parlor (middle) in the 1865 inventory before the Choctaw furniture was brought to Melrose)

French domed gilt mantel clock surmounted by reclining Sultana, polychromed enamel decoration, 1840-45, Charles X - Louis Philippe style (McMurran or Davis)

Pair of companion lithographs of children, heightened with china white and gouache, ca. 1855 (McMurran or Davis)

American Empire mahogany bookcase on desk with coved cornice and upper doors with arched, glazed panels, possibly Boston or Philadelphia, ca. 1835 (McMurran or Davis)

One unusual American Rococo Revival rosewood side chair with upholstered back, exaggerated cabriole legs, ca. 1855 (McMurran or Davis)

Four mid-19th century curtain rods with brass finials (McMurran or Davis) ($500.00 each)

Original Callon

Callon:

Reproduction wool carpet	[redacted]	333
Four pairs reproduction linen and silk curtains ($6,000 per window)	[redacted]	
Vaulted Scalamandre silk-lined tester with ribbon tape and five-layer crocheted outer fringe	[redacted]	
Four new window shades ($125.00 per window)	[redacted]	
New "Marseilles" bedspread	[redacted]	
Mosquito netting, one bed is fabricated; mosquito barres for four beds, and bolt of unfabricated netting	[redacted]	
American Empire three-drawer work table with pedestal and paw feet, probably Philadelphia, 1830's	[redacted]	
Solar lamp, Cornelius of Philadelphia, with plain shaft and black marble base, missing prisms, ca. 1850	[redacted]	
Solar lamp, Cornelius of Philadelphia, with plain shaft with white marble base and prisms, 1849	[redacted]	
Pair of gilt and white, Charles X, Old Paris reticulated compotes/ca. 1825	[redacted]	
American oil portrait of seated gentleman, ca. 1850, probably New Orleans	[redacted]	
Mahogany fire screen with oval framed Berlin work, probably English, stand damaged, ca. 1835	[redacted]	
Pair of nearly matching footstools, possibly Massachusetts, 1840's, rare form	[redacted]	

MIDDLE BEDROOM

334 Original:

American full tester Rococo Revival mahogany bed with Gothic panels on the posts, mosquito barres and netting, ca. 1845-1860 (McMurran or Davis).

American Rococo Revival mahogany armoire with pierced cresting having central and end urns, canted corners, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis)

American Rococo Revival mahogany armoire with pierced cresting having central urn only, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis)

American Empire mahogany dresser with octagonal columns, manner of John Hall of Baltimore, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Davis)

Two matching American Empire side chairs with sabre legs and pierced splats, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Davis) (250.00 ea.)

American Empire mahogany commode with black marble top, chain veined, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Davis)

American oil painting of two cherubs over mantel piece, 1820-40, (McMurran or Davis)

Pair of andirons, Arts and Craft style, ca. 1890-1910 (probably Kelly)

Five-panel fire screen, ca. 1890-1910 (Kelly) American

American mahogany Empire rocking chair with scroll arms and pink and red plaid upholstery, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Davis)

Callon:

Pair of English argand lamps, ca. 1830's, back cut Albert prisms not original but fine [redacted]

Anglo-American tole clock, English cast-iron front and English movement, ca. 1850 [redacted]

~~English Elizabethan rosewood desk with barley twist legs/ ca. 1845-50~~ [redacted]

~~Chinese rug (10' x 14'), contemporary~~ [redacted]

Two pairs of reproduction chintz curtains ($6,000 per pair) [redacted]

Reproduction bed hangings that match chintz curtains, dust ruffle, tester, and fringe en suite, Brunschwig et Fils, Scalamandre silk tester lining [redacted]

Two new window shades ($125.00 each) [redacted]

~~Cloak pin fleurette, modern~~ [redacted]

REAR BEDROOM

Original:

Nearly matching pair of American sleigh beds, probably Natchez (Possibly McMurran and listed in the 1865 inventory as "couch, with mattress, bolster & pillow"--two of these were listed with each front bedroom having one)

plainer bed [redacted]

slightly better executed bed with applied boss at return and mosquito fittings [redacted]

Rare and important American Empire mahogany dresser with marble top and adjustable mirror, step back with bowed drawers, probably Baltimore (McMurran or Kelly) [redacted]

	Original	Callon
American mahogany armoire with Gothic panels in doors, probably New Orleans, carcase damage, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Kelly)		
336		
French, Art Nouveau small walnut table with bell flower ends and shelf stretcher, ca. 1890, French walnut (Kelly)		
American walnut bedside commode without pot, 1865-70 (Davis or Kelly)		
Pair of iron andirons, Arts and Craft style, ca. 1890-1900 (probably Kelly)		
Five-panel fire screen, ca. 1890-1910 (Kelly)		
Fire stand/no tools (probably McMurran; matches others in house; steel fire tools mentioned in 1865 inventory) nglish or American		

allon:

American Empire round centre table, probably Philadelphia, with pedestal and paw feet/ca. 1835, "as is"		
~~Chinese contemporary rug (8' x 10')~~		
Two windows of reproduction taffeta curtains ($1,500 a window less $250 for stain)		
Two new window shades ($125.00 each)		
Two reproduction dust ruffles		
~~Ogee clock with Melrose Abbey painted Eglomise, ca. 1845-55, New Haven Clock Company, 30 hour movement~~		
~~r of English brass argand lamps with foliate designs d outstanding standards, ring and burner replaced ca. 1810, "as is"~~		

NOT DELETED FROM TRANSFER

~~Two new bedspreads ($200.00 each)~~ [redacted] 337

BATHROOM

Original:

Dresser with pie crust molded panels, cresting, and white marble top, probably Baltimore and in the manner of John Hall, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Kelly) [redacted]

Porcelain Zsolnay (Hungarian) bowl, ca. 1875 [redacted]

American Rococo Revival white marble top table with shaped stretcher, ca. 1845 (McMurran or Kelly) [redacted]

American Rococo Revival wash stand with serpentine front, white marble top, and marble splash, ca. 1845, plumbed (McMurran or Kelly) [redacted]

English or American brass soap and sponge dish, ca. 1900 [redacted]

Metal foot tub, American, ca. 1845-75 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Metal hip bath, American, ca. 1845-75 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

European gilt wall sconce, ca. 1880 (one of pair; other in attic) (McMurran or Davis--($600 for the pair) [redacted]

Lamp/polychromed white opaline/probably English/ bird in flight/broken stencil etched globe/ca. 1875-80 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

American Midwest simple Rococo Revival, mahogany commode stand with white marble top, ca. 1860 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

American Rococo Revival mirror over mantel, restored. ca. 1855 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Original Callon

338 Three-piece Old Paris chamber set, ca. 1840-50 (Possibly McMurran--1865 inventory mentions a green and gold toilet set in a bedroom) [redacted]

Callon:

~~Old Paris garniture vase with Italian polychrome scene, ca. 1825~~ [redacted]

~~Haviland Limoges shaving mug/"J. D.Could"/architectural decoration, ca. 1855~~ [redacted]

~~Limoges,Guerin racing cup, 1898/"C. F. Keil/rim chip~~ [redacted]

~~Limoges shaving mug/"C. C. Harmon"/train scene, ca. 1855 rim chip~~ [redacted]

~~Chinese export sweet meat stand, ca. 1885-90~~ [redacted]

Rare argand chandelier, gilt bronze, William IV, ca. 1835, rings altered (included in real estate appraisal) English

Two windows of reproduction linen curtains with trim ($4,000 per window) [redacted]

Two new window shades ($125.00 each) [redacted]

~~Chinese rug, contemporary~~ [redacted]

BASEMENT

339

Original:

Mid-19th-century iron safe, made in St. Louis, fully operational (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Six-door cypress cupboard, probably Natchez made, ca. 1845-55 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Two-door cypress cupboard, probably Natchez made, ca. 1845-55 (one/half in basement room and other half in basement area beneath the great hall) (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Large pine or cypress work table with untapered legs and dark brown paint, locally made, ca. 1855-75 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Large poplar work table with tapered legs, refinished, ca. 1845-55 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Large poplar work table with tapered legs, painted white, ca. 1845-55 (McMurran or Davis) American [redacted]

Pine or cypress store table with turned legs, refinished, ca. 1855-70 (McMurran or Davis) American (local) [redacted]

One andiron, mid-19th century (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Cypress store table with turned legs, smaller than others, legs have been cut, ca. 1845-70 (McMurran or Davis) American (local) [redacted]

Trunk, ca. 1855 (basement room under drawing room) (McMurran or Davis) American [redacted]

Work table (capenter's bench), long and narrow, cypress or pine, with bored holes, ca. 1910 (basement room under drawing room) (Kelly); antique vise, ca. 1845-50 attached to work table ($250.00 of the value) [redacted]

Original Callon

340 Assorted containers, metal and glass (principally early twentieth century) (Kelly)

Two covered wooden boxes in area under the drawing room, "Cooks" and "Evinrude" (Kelly) ($50.00 each) American

One uncovered box in area under the drawing room (Kelly) American

European gilt tooled green leather blotter and ink well, early 20th century (Kelly)

Japanese clock/missing side and back panels/Meiji period, ca. 1880 (Kelly)

Three tri-part type wooden shore duck decoys flotillas, signed Coudon & Co., Akin, Maryland, early twentieth century ($400.00 each) (Kelly)

Twelve polychrome sheet metal articulated shore decoys (Kelly) ($400.00 each) American

One single andiron, rather plain, cast-iron, Arts and Crafts style, 1890-1910, American

Assorted bottles and cans (probably Kelly)

Contents of basement room under the front or entry hall which is filled with valuable cypress wood and other odds and ends having value like boxes, pans, bottles, and other memorabilia (McMurran, Davis, and Kelly)

American Renaissance Revival cast-iron brackets for oil lamps, ca. 1874 (Davis or Kelly)

Callon

~~Japanese Meiji period, blue lacquer with bone and mother-of-pearl decoration, screen panel, ca. 1880~~ 950

~~Japanese Meiji period, black lacquer screen panel of birds, ca. 1880~~ [redacted]

~~Japanese Meiji period pair of cinnabar lacquer screen panels with bone and mother-of-pearl/some damage, ca. 1880 ($1,200 each)~~ [redacted]

~~Indian Moghul style embroidery/gold and silver/late nineteenth century~~ [redacted]

Parlor lamp, probably American, with hand-painted grape decorated shade, ca. 1890 [redacted]

Six American (Pennsylvania) repainted plank bottom chairs, ca. 1835-45 [redacted]

ATTIC

Original:

Two-door painted poplar armoire, probably Natchez, ca. 1845 (probably McMurran) [redacted]

Two-door cupboard with step back, tulip poplar grained to resemble mahogany, probably Natchez, ca. 1840 (probably McMurran) [redacted]

Assorted glass bottles, different periods (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly) [redacted]

Assorted tins, different periods (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly) [redacted]

Three-light prism-hung girandole, Louis XVI style, reproduction (probably Kelly) [redacted]

Eleven period travel trunks (Davis and Kelly) American [redacted]

Mid-19th century curtain panels with assorted trim (tassels and cord) (McMurran, Davis [illegible] Callon) [redacted]

DELETED FROM TRANSFER

342 ~~Wood bellows, grained, marked St. Louis Bellows Company, c.1885-1890 (Davis or Kelly)~~ ~~125~~

Twenty lace curtain panels, assorted but similar to those in parlors, Victorian, damaged, price "as is" (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly) [redacted]

Five Victorian turkey feather fans, ca. 1900 (probably Kelly) [redacted]

Calico quilt, ca. 1800-1900, damaged, "as is" (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly) [redacted]

Upholstered chair seats, red & gold, tassels, gimp were once used in the middle parlor and made from reproduction fabric ordered by Mrs. Kelly in the 1930's [redacted]

Buggy lap robe, black caracol, ca. 1900 (Davis or Kelly). [redacted]

Portiere panel, Louis XVI style, ca. 1875 (Davis or Kelly) [redacted]

Wrought-iron hall lantern, possibly Mexico, ca. 1900 [redacted]

Rattan baby carriage with lace parasol, ca. 1880 (was used by George Malin Davis Kelly when a baby according to Marian Ferry) American [redacted]

Hanging cabinet, carved and mother-of-pearl inlaid, shesham wood, Morocco, ca. 1895-1900, damages and losses, priced "as is" [redacted]

Wooden hoop baby walker, ca. 1910, apparently used by Marian Kelly Ferry, American [redacted]

Toy carpet sweeper, ca. 1920 (Kelly), American [redacted]

Set of 88 brass curtain rings, ca. 1850-80 (McMurran or Davis) ($5.00 each), American or French [redacted]

Original Callon

343

Elaborate brass portiere bracket, ca. 1890 (Davis or Kelly), American [redacted]

Hard pine armoire, ca. 1850 (Davis or Kelly), local [redacted]

Set of ten glass chimneys, Bohemian, early twentieth century (Kelly) [redacted]

Britannia thermos jug, early twentieth century (Kelly), American or English [redacted]

Britannia thermos jug, monogrammed "GMDK", early twentieth-century (Kelly), American or English [redacted]

DELETED FROM TRANSFER MBRC

~~Cilt iron doorstop, vasiform, ca. 1870-1910 (Davis or Kelly), probably American~~ [redacted] KP MBRC

OUTSIDE KITCHEN

Original:

Cypress, marble top table with tapered legs, ca. 1850-55 (Probably McMurran), local [redacted]

Pair of andirons, Arts and Crafts movement, ca. 1900 (kitchen section) (probably Kelly), American [redacted]

Pair of andirons, Arts and Crafts movement, ca. 1900 (dining section) (probably Kelly), American [redacted]

Cypress table with spool turned legs, ca. 1850 (original to kitchen and probably McMurran), local [redacted]

Ladder back chair on gallery, ca. 1850-90 (McMurran or Davis), local [redacted]

Pair of cypress benches/one located on gallery of each two-story dependency building, ca. 1850 (Probably McMurran) ($500.00 each), local [redacted]

Callon:

344

Pair of small American benches, pine, ca. 1870 ($300.00 each) [redacted]

~~Wood holder (made for movie production BEULAH LAND) 150~~

Seven windows of curtains ($350.00 per window) [redacted]

Seven window shades ($90.00 each) [redacted]

English or American steel fire set for coal, ca. 1845-50 (McMurran--1865 inventory lists steel fire sets) [redacted]

Framed photograph of Jane Johnson, former slave of George Malin Davis who cared for Melrose during the absence of the family [redacted]

~~River steamboat scene painting, painted by Henry Lewis (1819-1904) who painted Mississippi River towns 1846-48 and later moved to Dusseldorf, Germany, where many of these paintings were reproduced as prints (John Callon has several of these lithographs) 10,000~~

SECOND STORY/KITCHEN

American sleigh bed, mahogany, probably Natchez made, ca. 1845 (originally in room above the kitchen) (probably McMurran) [redacted]

American Empire commode with marble top and drawer, ca. 1845 (originally in room above the kitchen) (probably McMurran) [redacted]

American Renaissance Revival dresser with candle holders, adjustable mirror, and foliate pulls, ca. 1875-80 (probably Davis) [redacted]

Original Callon

American, late Empire wash stand with white marble top and splash,two drawer and two door, ca. 1850 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted] 345

Spode white condiment tray, 1910-15 (in drawer or on top of dresser) (Kelly), English [redacted]

Callon:

Cypress bench on upper gallery, ca. 1860, local [redacted]

American card table with turned legs and beaded panel on apron, late Sheraton, ca. 1825-30, "as is" [redacted]

~~Oil still life/signed Carroco/Paris 1960 500~~

~~Paintings by contemporary Mississippi artist Jennie Lee Corbon~~

~~six in kitchen building/similar size ($1,250 ea.) 6,250~~

~~one larger in second story of dairy 1,500~~

~~one larger in quarters guest house 1,500~~

~~Bathroom framed mirror 400~~

Seven pairs of window curtains ($350.00 per window) [redacted]

Seven new window shades ($95.00 each) [redacted]

English, Staffordshire "Scottish courting couple" in bookcase, ca. 1860 [redacted]

Blue and white Neo-classical Revival covered sugar bowl in bookcase, Yorkshire [redacted]

346

American Empire mahogany bookcase on desk, pillar and scroll, ca. 1845-50 [redacted]

~~Oil portrait of actress Genevieve Bujold who starred in movie BEULAH LAND filmed at Melrose 100~~

DAIRY

Original:

Green painted pie safe with 1840's moldings, screen replaces original gauze, metal-lined baffles for feet, American, probably Natchez (probably McMurran) [redacted]

Butter churn, American earthenware, ca. 1850-80 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Broiler or toaster, wrought iron, 19th century (McMurran or Davis), American [redacted]

Five blue granite ware pans, American, ca. 1850-90 (McMurran or Davis) ($65.00 each) [redacted]

Stool near pie safe (used by Mrs. Kelly to sit while working in garden), early 20th century, local [redacted]

American jug with painted decoration, early 20th century (Kelly) [redacted]

Art Moderne Philco radio, ca. 1930 (behind cupboard) (Kelly), American [redacted]

Cupboard, painted red and cream, with three doors and no cornice (originally in dairy room), ca. 1845, probably Natchez (McMurran) [redacted]

Group of framed pressed flora/three large and three small (Kelly) ($100.00 each for large; $75.00 each for small) [redacted]

Original Callon

347

Callon:

~~Painted wood cow, 20th century folk art, American~~ ~~175~~

All paddles and butter molds, 19th and early 20th century, American

Larger churn, 19th century, American

Tall, narrow wooden churn, 19th century, American

Lot of assorted dairy equipment, 19th and 20th centuries, American

DAIRY/SECOND STORY

Original:

Plain pine or cypress trunk, ca. 1900 (Kelly), local

Octagonal polychromed middle Eastern table, ca. 1900 (Kelly)

Small carnival glass plate, Northwood Glass Company, West Virginia, early 20th century

Callon:

American Empire mahogany bookcase on desk with glazed upper doors, octagonal wooden panels in doors, ca. 1845 (poor repair to writing surface, hinges reversed)

Pair of English ladder back chairs, late nineteenth-century (one in basement and the other upstairs in the dairy) ($100.00 each)

~~Bathroom mirror, modern~~ ~~100~~

Seven windows of curtains (350.00 per window)

Original Callon

348 Seven new windows shades ($95.00 each) [redacted]

~~Framed watercolor, "Geese" by B. Van Der Vele, School of Amsterdam, early 20th century 450~~

~~Framed watercolor, "Man and Sheep" by C. R. De Broock, School of Amsterdam, early 20th century 350~~

EXTERIOR FURNITURE, SLAVE BELLS, YARD FURNITURE

Original:

Seven slave bells, bronze and wrought iron (three in basement, three on second-story gallery, one on first story gallery) (McMurran) (7 x $350.00), American [redacted]

* Three Civil War cannon balls (one with documented fuse dated 1861/U.S. Navy by Fort Polk) (McMurran)

Cypress bench with wood slats, Chicago Iron Works, 1880's (near quarters/office) (Davis or Kelly) [redacted]

Cypress bench in yard nearer parking lot, ca. 1850-80, probably Natchez (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Original cast-iron net posts for clay tennis court (other tennis equipment in stable) (Kelly), American [redacted]

Cast-iron bench, marked Atlanta Stove Works, Neo-classical decoration in back splats, 19th-century (McMurran, Davis, Or Kelly) [redacted]

Suite of three cast-iron Rococo Revival chairs, "Morning Glory" pattern, ca. 1850 [redacted]

Large pair of cast-iron urns on hexagonal plinth, marked Wood & Perot of Philadelphia, ca. 1850 [redacted]

Small pair of American cast-iron classical urns, ca. 1850 [redacted]

Original Callon

349

Ornamental patinated bronze elephant-handled vessel, Chinese, late nineteenth-century [redacted]

Callon:

Pair of cast-iron garden benches (original garden), "Vintage" pattern, ca. 1850, American [redacted]

~~Fluted aggregate pedestal for sun dial (in original garden area), modern, American~~ ~~250~~

~~Reproduction sun dial on double dolphin plinth, probably Italian (located in original garden area)~~ ~~2,000~~

Wooden rocking chairs with rush seats (two on quarters guest house porch, two in stable, six on lower gallery of main house, and four rocking chairs on upper gallery), reproductions (14 at $300.00 each), American [redacted]

Wicker porch furniture on upper and lower galleries of main house: American

One compartmental wicker library table, ca. 1920, damaged [redacted]

One demilune wicker console table, ca. 1920-25 [redacted]

One oval occasional wicker table, ca. 1900, "as is" [redacted]

One wicker rectangular "sofa" table, ca. 1900 [redacted]

One tabouret, wicker, ca. 1880-90, "as is" [redacted]

One tiered wicker and oak table, ca. 1910 [redacted]

One wicker hamper, ca. 1890-1900 [redacted]

~~Pair of Chinese porcelain garden seats, ca. 1860-80~~ ~~8,000~~

350 Poplar and oak narrow bucket bench, ca. 1840-60, local [redacted]

GUEST HOUSE/SLAVE QUARTERS

Original:

Fire stand with steel tools (probably McMurran--sets of steel fire stands are listed on 1865 inventory) English or American [redacted]

Cast-iron andirons, folk style, 1820-1880, "as is", American [redacted]

on:

Seven pairs of reproduction curtains ($250.00 per window) [redacted]

Six new window shades ($75.00 each) [redacted]

Fire stand only (steel tools are part of original McMurran steel fire stands located throughout the house), ca. 1870-80, American or English [redacted]

~~Old Paris nineteenth-century apothecary jar with decorative flowers and "Melrose," converted to lamp 250~~

~~English slipper chair, Arts and Crafts movement, ca. 1895-1915 500~~

~~American 19th-century spinning wheel 450~~

~~Elizabethan Revival oil painting of mother and child, signed E. Crooke or Rooke and dated 1866, "as is", English 3,000~~

Ladder back rocking chair, poplar and hickory, ca. 1830-70, American [redacted]

Pair of braided area rugs, contemporary [redacted]

	Original	Callon
~~William and Mary style table, partially antique, English~~	~~800~~	351
~~Miniature portrait of black child in original frame, ca. 1835, American~~	~~2,000~~	
American oil portrait of lady with spectacles, northeast coast, ca. 1835-40, gilt frame	[redacted]	
~~Genre oil painting, "Smoker With Animals," signed Henry Ritter (1816-1853), dated 1852, Dusseldorf School, painter was American~~	~~12,500~~	
~~Oil painting of street urchin, no frame, signed V. Teglini, Italian, early twentieth-century~~	~~1,200~~	

QUARTERS/OFFICE

Original:

Framed photograph of Stephen Kelly in front of Melrose, ca. 1880, photo damaged (Davis) [redacted]

Fireplace crane, wrought iron, ca. 1845 (McMurran) [redacted]

Set of fire tools, steel, ca. 1900 (probably Kelly) American or English [redacted]

American two-door cupboard with step back, probably Natchez (probably McMurran) [redacted]

Framed engraving of Cromwell by W. H. Simmons, gilt frame 19th century after 18th century painting, lemon gilt frame of excellent quality, English [redacted]

Chinese two-handled bronze vessel, 1900-05 (Kelly) [redacted]

Callon:

[redacted]

352 ~~English fancy chair with rush seat, Sussex type, decorated, ca. 1810-30, "as is" 185~~

~~American Queen Anne drop leaf table, New England, tiger maple, New England, toe damage, ca. 1760 3,600~~

American spinning wheel, 19th century [redacted]

~~Cast-iron griddle, marked "Never Break," ca. 1910 20~~

~~Engraving of Melrose Abbey, framed, 17th century, English, ca. 1830-45 frame 250~~

~~English work table, deal, with two drawers and tapered legs, ca. 1860-1900 300~~

~~Sterling silver ice bucket, Austrian, ca. 1900-10 1,000~~

~~American chocolate molds, early twentieth century~~

~~deep sea divers 175~~

~~seated poodle dogs 300~~

One Baltimore painted chair, ca. 1820 [redacted]

Pair of American (probably Pennsylvania) ladder back fancy chairs with stenciled decoration, ca. 1835 [redacted]

One Hitchcock chair with stenciled decoration and caned seat, New England, ca. 1830 [redacted]

Small tin whale oil lamp, probably Northeast coast, Nineteenth Century [redacted]

~~William IV breakfast table, calamander wood with tilt-top, "as is", English, ca. 1835 3,000~~

Pair of six-sided carriage lanterns, "as is,"
English or American, ca. 1860-80 ($200.00 pair) 353

Assorted tole items:

Two octagonal gallery trays, not matching, 1860's,
"as is" ($350.00 each)

~~English document box, ca. 1820-45~~

Two small round boxes with lids, American, ca. 1830's

apple decoration

floral decoration

Small American trunk with domed top and stylized leaves,
ca. 1830

American caster with handle, ca. 1850

Set of three covered canisters, English or American,
ca. 1860

~~Undecorated caster, 1870's~~

~~Two decorated casters, English or American, ca. 1850~~

~~English sander, early 19th century~~

NOT DELETED FROM TRANSFER

~~American or French tray with ochre ground and floral painting, ca. 1820~~

Two small American tole trays, early 19th century

one decorated with peaches

one decorated with cherries, "as is"

354 ~~American lunch box decorated with foliate scrolls and flowers, ca. 1845~~ 175

Cast-iron dolphin knocker, probably English, ca. 1820-45

Late 19th-century American pressed glass kerosene lamp

American wooden tool box, late 19th or early 20th-century

STABLE

Original:

Pressed metal hanging light, ca. 1850-60 (possibly original to back gallery or upper level of portico) (probably McMurran)

Three feed bins, large wooden boxes with lids (probably Davis) ($350.00 each), American, ca. 1870-1900

Chimney pots, ca. 1845 (probably McMurran), probably English

two large ($800.00 each)

two small ($600.00 each)

Cast-iron fireplace surround with anthemion decoration, ca. 1845 (probably McMurran and original to parlor), American or English

Two rather plain cast-iron fireplace surrounds (Davis or Kelly), American

More ornate surround, late nineteenth century

Plainer surround, late nineteenth century

	Original	Callon
Two wooden mantel pieces, painted black, original to the second story of the dairy and the kitchen buildings; they were removed when the bathrooms were installed ($750.00 each) (McMurran), local, ca. 1845	[redacted]	355
Rococo Revival metal egg warmer, ca. 1860 (McMurran or Davis), probably American	[redacted]	
Cast-iron cooking stove, manufactured by Garland in Michigan, ca. 1895-1905, damaged (Kelly)	[redacted]	
Lot of reticulated metal dish rings, late 19th or early 20th century (Davis or Kelly)	[redacted]	
Six matching small green blinds ($100.00 each) (McMurran)	[redacted]	
Lot of architectural elements, original or the period of Melrose (McMurran or Davis)	[redacted]	
One plain wooden mantel piece, ca. 1845, damaged (McMurran or Davis)	[redacted]	
Seven copper fire extinguishers, American, ca. 1920-40 (Kelly) ($175.00 each)	[redacted]	

Callon:

~~Large lot of window sash, nineteenth and early twentieth century, with old glass panes~~		~~5,000~~
Rococo Revival gilt mirror frame, ca. 1860-70, damaged		[redacted]
Custom built wooden floor for grand hall (built to protect floor cloth during movie filming)		[redacted]

Original Callon

CARRIAGE HOUSE

356

Lithograph of George Washington in walnut frame, damaged (Davis or Kelly), American, ca. 1875-80 [redacted]

36 compartmented drawers that were originally in garage portion of the dairy (Kelly), local [redacted]

Rococo Revival gilt frame, damaged (Davis or Kelly) [redacted]

Group of assorted window frames and doors and other architectural elements (McMurran, Davis, or Kelly) [redacted]

Mid-19th century lead bird feeder (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

SILVER

Original:

Silver-plated crumber and tray, early twentieth-century (Kelly) [redacted]

Silver-plated gravy boat and stand, Art Nouveau style, signed Kayserzinn, Austrian, ca. 1900 (Kelly) [redacted]

American silver-plated cake basket in the Rococo Revival style with swing handle, ca. 1860 (McMurran or Davis) [redacted]

Callon:

Sterling silver toast rack, armorial engraving, probably William Bateman (est. 1815), London, 1826 [redacted]

~~Silver-plated pair of English cache-pots, Victorian style, ca. 1850~~ ~~300~~

	Original	Callon
~~Flower bowl with flower arranging support, reticulated everted lip, sterling bowl, electroplate supports, Gorham, 1926, American~~	~~950~~	357
~~Sheffield plated coffee pot, National Silver Company, ca. 1930, American~~	~~275~~	
Coin silver ladle, Thomas Chester Coit, Natchez, 1825-1830, bowl damaged, price "as is"		
Coin silver ladle for soup or punch, script monogram: "MES," Edwin Stebbins (fl. 1828-1841), 265 Broadway, New York, c. 1825-1830		
Coin silver ladle for soup or punch, with Matthew Meyer, Utica, N. Y., or Maurice Meyeer, Philadelphia, ca. 1849-1851		
Coin silver pair of sugar tongs, claw terminals, "Fiddle Thread" pattern, heavy weight, James Thomson, New York, ca. 1834-1841		
Sterling silver stuffing spoon, "King's Shell" pattern, later presentation engraving, ca. 1825-1850		
Pair of sterling and enamel tongs, Pan-Slavic taste, unhallmarked, Russia, ca. 1900-10		
~~810 piece sterling flatware service, "Melrose" pattern, Gorham, 18 place settings, each consisting of: dinner knife and fork, luncheon/dessert fork, steak knife, cream soup spoon, ice cream forks, teaspoon, iced tea spoons, flat butter spreaders, cocktail fork, & demitasse spoons complete except for 1 luncheon/dessert fork plus serving pieces: carving set, pair of cheese knives, pastry server, large cheese slicer, salad servers, reticulated vegetable spoon, tablespoon, berry spoon, sauce ladle, and cold meat fork (missing one luncheon fork)~~	~~12,000~~	
Six sterling silver ice cream spoons, America, ca. 1900		

Original Callon

358 Pastry server with sterling silver handle, Reed & Barton, ca. 1930, American

Sterling silver demitasse spoons, monogrammed in Gothic "D," American, ca. 1900

Three sterling silver demitasse spoons, Denmark

Six sterling silver dessert spoons, "Tipped Fiddle Thread" pattern, Gothic monogram "CAB," Bigelow Brothers and Kennard, Boston, ca. 1845-60

Seventeen coin silver dessert spoons, William Gale and Son, New York, ca. 1835-45

Coin silver teaspoon, William Gale and Sons, New York (fl. 1823-1850), ca. 1835-45,

CUPBOARD ITEMS--MAINLY CERAMICS, GLASS, AND METAL

Original:

Royal Bonn chamber stick, ca. 1900, Islamic taste (Kelly) (cupboard upper front hall)

Pair of Old Paris garniture vases, Celadon ground in Chinese taste, ca. 1855-60 (McMurran or Davis) (cupboard upper front hall)

Sterling or coin silver napkin ring, ca. 1880, in eighteenth-century style, monogramed "EM" (Ethel Moore Kelly)(cupboard upper front hall)

Japanese lacquer wedding basket, Meiji period, ca. 1900 (Kelly) (cupboard upper front hall)

Matching English ceramic containers bearing Haviland and Company trademark, "Cable" pattern, ca. 1875 (Davis or Kelly) (outside kitchen) 359

Two white oval covered dishes ($350.00 each) [redacted]

One circular white dish with no lid, smaller than covered dishes [redacted]

Three nested platters ($375.00 each) [redacted]

Two nesting fruit baskets, foliated, probably Limoges ($300.00 each) (outside kitchen) [redacted]

English porcelain, perhaps Spode, blue and white, marked "2625," ca. 1845 (McMurran--1865 inventory lists blue and gold china) (displayed in dining room and stored in cabinet in the attic) Set includes:

tureen and stand

two foliate rimmed sweet meat dishes

pair of sauce boats and stands

oval platter (small)

covered sauce tureen and stand

covered vegetable tureen

oval shaped platter (larger)

nest of four oval platters

nest of two oval platters

360 pair of small oval platters

open oval vegetable dish

30 dinner plates

36 luncheon plates

6 broth plates

12 dessert plates

Old Paris double-handled sauceboat, "Botanical" pattern, ca. 1845-50, repaired, "as is" (McMurran or Davis) (warming kitchen)

Set of twelve dinnerware place settings (dinner plate, luncheon plater, saucer, cup, bread and butter), Royal Doulton Works, "Melrose" pattern, ca. 1905-1910 (warming kitchen), English

Set of twelve Cauldon fish plates, each with different hand-painted fish, by George Bisbeck Sr., retailer's mark of Higgins and Pfister, New York, ca. 1905 (McMurran or Davis) (warming kitchen)

Set of nine bouillon cups, Haviland, Limoges, ca. 1905 (Kelly) (warming kitchen)

Blue and white stoneware stein, pewter mounted, mask spout, Villeroy and Boch, Mettlach, 1899 (probably Kelly) (warming kitchen)

Pair of toothbrush holders, Staffordshire, ca. 1840-60 (McMurran or Davis) (warming kitchen)

Callon:

361

Suite of blown, cut, enameled and parcel-gilt stemmed ware, probably Karlsbad (school of Ludvik Moser), ca. 1890 (passage from dining room to stair hall)

14 red wines

14 finger bowls

14 liners

12 sorbets

14 white wines

13 hock glasses [redacted]

Set of 13 trembleuses (passage from dining room to stair hall)

11 Meinhold Brothers, Schweinsburg, parcel-gilt in eighteenth century style, 1899-1910 and one extra lid ($100.00) [redacted]

2 of yellow ground, marked Lamm, Dresden 1887 [redacted]

Suite of blown and engraved stemware with gold deposit, probably Venetian, ca. 1973 (passage from dining room to stair hall)

8 saucer champagnes

8 red wines

8 water goblets

8 champagne flutes 5,000

		Original	Callon
362	Three Imperial Vienna Porcelain Factory cabinet plates (passage from dining room to stair hall)		[redacted]
	Set of six plates, Royal Doulton, signed H. Piper, ca. 1900, one mended (passage from dining room to stair hall)		[redacted]
	Pair of Old Paris garniture vases, Rococo Revival in Honore style, polychromed flowers on white ground ($2,000 each) (passage from dining room to stair hall)		[redacted]
	Old Paris garniture vase with cerulean blue ground, ca. 1855, repairs (passage from dining room to stair hall)		[redacted]
	Dresden asparagus plate with two sauce boats in Meissen style, Reichmannsdorf, ca. 1905 (passage from dining room to stair hall)		[redacted]
	Suite of Royal Worcester Porcelain Manufactory, polychromed Chinese style pattern, ca. 1875-80, (passage from dining room to stair hall)		
	8 plates		
	10 soups		
	2 sauce boatrs		
	1 tureen		
	8 luncheon plates		[redacted]
	American punch bowl, blown and cut, Strawberry Diamond and Fan pattern, ca. 1890		[redacted]
	American cut glass condiment bowl, Pinwheel pattern		[redacted]
	Pair of vegetable dishes, Thuringian, ca. 1890 ($225.00 each)		[redacted]

	Original	Callon	
German, silver-mounted decanter, blown, cased, and engraved, silver is hallmarked		[redacted]	363
Solitaire, 18th-century Meissen style, Wolfsohn, Dresden 1886-1890 creamer, covered sugar, and shaped tray (second story hall)		[redacted]	
Six Wedgewood bone plates, "India Tree" pattern, ca. 1875-80, ($125.00 each) (scattered throughout the house)		[redacted]	
Pair of Chinese cloisonne Tazze (compotes), ca. 1880		[redacted]	
~~Single argand shade, blown, tooled, cut, and frosted, ca. 1825~~	~~475~~		
Chinese export condiment stand, ca. 1880-90		[redacted]	
Chinese export individual sauce stand, ca. 1890		[redacted]	
Small pair of Old Paris ornamental vases, "Rollicking Peasants", ca. 1820-25 (master bedroom mantel piece)		[redacted]	
Solitaire with teapot, two cups and saucers, Thuringian, transfer printed, ca. 1890 (upper grand hall)		[redacted]	
~~English, Staffordshire platter, "Butter Cup" earthenware, transfer printed (outside kitchen)~~	~~125~~		
~~Pair of English ironstone fruitstands, Liddle Elliot & Son, Staffordshire, British Registry Mark, potted 1865 (priced as a pair) (outside kitchen)~~	~~225~~		
~~Pair of lobed white footed porcelain fruit bowls, probably Limoges, ca. 1860 (outside kitchen)~~	~~350~~		
Staffordshire sweet meat or dessert stand, Moore and Company, piece is dated 1867, frieze of polychrome and lustre Neo-classical decoration (outside kitchen)		275	

364 ~~Set of ten porcelain place cards, Potschappel, Saxonian Porcelain Factory, 1905-10 (priced by the set) (dining room sideboard)~~ ~~500~~

~~Set of seven flat porcelain place cards, A. Lamm, Dresden Ca. 1900 (dining room sideboard)~~ ~~350~~

American Brilliant Period cut glass nappy, Strawberry pattern, ca. 1900 (dining room sideboard)

American Brilliant Period cut glass berry bowl, Hobstar pattern,, ca. 1895 (dining room sideboard)

American Brilliant Period cut glass berry bowl, Buzz pattern, acid stamp, Clark, ca. 1905 (dining room sideboard)

Suite of five goblets, American blown and acid plate etched, ca. 1910 (dining room sideboard)

~~Divided condiment server, Altwasser Porcelain, ca. 1875-80, mended (dining room sideboard)~~ ~~400~~

Cut "Floral" Period celery tray, American, ca. 1905, rim chips (dining room)

~~Pressed glass, Neo-classical ornamented cakestand, American Ohio River Valley, ca. 1876-80 (dining room)~~ ~~175~~

~~Nine Old Paris soup bowls, ca. 1840 (priced by the set) (dining room)~~ ~~300~~

~~English Staffordshire stoneware covered vegetable dish, Heller, Taylor & Company, ca. 1884-1900 (warming kitchen)~~ ~~200~~

~~English majolica teapot, no cover, ca. 1875-85, "as is" (warming kitchen)~~ ~~185~~

(Annamese) export porcelain spherical bowl, ca. 1750 (warming kitchen)

Four Bohemian porcelain soup plates, shaped rims, ca. 1880 (set price) (warming kitchen) 365

Heinrich & Company porcelain floral decorated bowl, Germany, ca. 1905-07 (warming kitchen)

Pair of Thuringian footed porcelain bowls, "Moss Rose" pattern (warming kitchen)

Graduated nest of three Thuringian porcelain platters including a large Well and Tree platter, ca. 1890 (set price) (warming kitchen)

Pair of Thuringian porcelain rectangular platters, en suite with above, ca. 1890

DELETED FROM TRANSFER 20 Bpe

~~Turn-Teplitz "Amphora" ware, floral, two-handled vase, Riessner, Stellmacher and Kessel Manufactory, ca. 1893-1905~~ 375

~~Jug, blue-ground polychromed and parcel-gilt, English, Staffordshire, Ridgeway & Company, Hanley, dated Oct. 1, 1835, repaired lip~~ 475

Covered pewter-mounted stoneware stein, "Illustrator" style, German, ca. 1890

Inside kitchen:

11 Minton's dinner plates, Caldwell, Philadelphia retailer's mark, ca. 1905-10

Set of 9 Minton's porcelain "Pheasant" dinner plates, ca. 1885-90 (3 broken and repaired) "as is"

Set of 10 Royal Berlin Porcelain Manufactory (KPM), 18th century style broth plates, ca. 1875-1880

Set of 22 Wedgwood "Bowknot and Festoon" creamware dinner plates and 20 butter plates, ca. 1880-90

Original Callon

366 ~~Set of 6 Wedgwood embossed "Ivy" pattern place card holder/ ashtrays,ca. 1920-25 (1 chipped), "as is"~~ ~~275~~

Set of 12 luncheon plates, 12 dinner plates, 12 pots-de-creme, 8 bouillon bowls, 10 bouillon cup liners, pair of relish trays, 35 demitasse saucers, 1 small oval platter, 1 sauce boat and stand, 11 demitasse cups, 11 butter plates [redacted]

~~Pair of pressed glass "Fleur-de-Lys" pattern compotes, American, Ohio River Valley, ca. 1885-1890~~ ~~200~~

~~Haviland, Limoges, open vegetable dish, "Canga" pattern, ca. 1910~~ ~~150~~

Pair of Davenport "Imari" footed sweet meat stands, England, Staffordshire, ca. 1850-70 [redacted]

~~Chinese porcelain "Bark and Bird" charger, ca. 1820~~ ~~350~~

Doulton blue and white transfer-printed "Melrose" pattern platter, ca. 1885 [redacted]

Set of twelve eighteenth-century style Dresden dessert bowls, Richard Klemm Manufactory, ca. 1888-1916, marked, ($85.00 each) [redacted]

Set of twelve "Equestrian Scenes" porcelain plates, probably Bohemia, ca. 1880-90 [redacted]

Set of eleven shell-form eighteenth-century style porcelain dessert dishes, Helena Wolfsohn, Dresden, ca. 1886 [redacted]

Set of seven Potschappel (Saxonian Porcelain Factory) porcelain custard ramekins, Germany, ca. 1888-1901 [redacted]

Sixteen Copeland "Landscape" dinner plates, England, ca. 1885, each different, marked [redacted]

Original Callon

367

Twelve Crown Derby Louis XVI style luncheon plates, two-colour gold on red ground Collamore retailer's mark, superb quality, ca. 1910, English [redacted]

Nine Potschappel reticulated porcelain dessert plates, floral cavettos, ca. 1888-1901 [redacted]

One Helena Wolfsohn, Dresden, reticulated sweet meat tray, ca. 1886-1890 [redacted]

Set of one blue-bordered "Peach" pattern Bohemian porcelain square berry bowl and five fruit plates en suite, ca. 1870-75, each plate border a different color [redacted]

Set of Coalport Porcelain Manufactory dinner ware: twelve dessert plates, eleven dessert bowls, two sweet meat trays, teapot, creamer, wastebowl, fourteen coffee cups, nine tea-cups, "Landscape" pattern, magenta ground with yellow foliate scrolls, ca. 1840-50 (two coffee cups with repaired handles), English [redacted]

Set of twelve Foley Porcelain Company "Imari" porcelain cups and saucers, Staffordshire, ca. 1905-10 [redacted]

~~Set of twelve saucers, eleven demitasses, six dessert plates, one open sugar bowl, ca. 1920~~ ~~1,800~~

Twelve W. Guerin, Limoges, dessert plates, Ovington, New York, retailer's mark, ca. 1910 [redacted]

Set of Twelve two-colour gold and ivory porcelain dinner plates, Royal Berlin Porcelain Manufactory (KPM), ca. 1900, sceptre mark [redacted]

Set of ten Royal Worcester Porcelain Manufactory, "Athena" pattern soup plates and eleven liners, ca. 1905, English [redacted]

George IV cut fruit bowl with detachable standard, ca. 1830-35, English [redacted]

George IV cut shallow fruit bowl en suite, with the bowl of the above, ca. 1830-35, English [redacted]

Original Callon

368 ~~Sideboard set of a compote and a pair of footed sweet meat bowls, pressed, "Diamond-Eye" pattern, Pittsburgh, ca. 1850-65~~ ~~400~~

~~English earthenware transfer-printed and polychrome over-glazed covered biscuit jar, raffia handle, ca. 1922-1939~~ ~~125~~

~~Unusual Old Paris calla-lily form vase, ca. 1850-60~~ ~~375~~

American Brilliant Period cut glass trumpet-form vase, ca. 1890-1895

~~English majolica pitcher, "Waterlily" pattern, ca. 1880-85~~ ~~32~~

Pair of English double-lipped cut colourless glass wine rinsers, ca. 1830-40

Pair of Chinese cloisonne vases, "Two Dragons Pursuing the Pearl of Wisdom"

Set of seven Spode porcelain bone dishes, monogrammed GJF in shield, ca. 1875-80

~~Fourteen Albert style prisms 7 1/2 inches long with headers ($25.00 each), probably Bohemia~~ ~~17~~

~~Pair of solar blown, cut, frosted lamp shades, ca. 1835 (attic cupboard), American~~ ~~1,00~~

LINENS

Original:

One embroidered crocheted "Pinwheel" bordered runner, ca. 1890-1900 (probably Kelly)

Callon:

~~Thirty-seven fingertip towels, embroidered and lace edged 740~~

~~Fourteen crocheted "Fleur-de-Lys" placemats and one runner 450~~

~~Eight embroidered Battenburg lace placemats, ca. 1890 640~~

~~One double tasselled picture hanger 250~~

ORIGINAL MELROSE ITEMS ON LOAN TO MAGNOLIA HALL

Two windows of pink and gold brocatelle that was reproduced ca. 1930 by Mrs. Kelly for the middle parlor at Melrose ($4,000 per window) [redacted]

Four pairs of blue and gold mid-19th century brocatelle curtains with trimmings that were original to Choctaw and were moved to Melrose ca. 1901 by Mrs. Kelly (Davis) ($6,000 per pair) [redacted]

Rococo Revival rosewood half tester bed with mosquito net poles, finials missing from tester, probably New Orleans, ca. 1855 [redacted]

ORIGINAL MELROSE MOOSE HEAD ON LOAN TO BRENT BOURLAND

One moose head, early twentieth-century, killed by Mrs. George Malin Davis Kelly on a Canadian or Alaskan hunting trip (was displayed during Mrs. Kelly lifetime on the southern wall of the first story Great Hall), mounted by well known New York taxidermist whose identity can be found on a plaque affixed to the base of the neck (value information obtained from Dr. Mark Hafner, Louisiana State Museum of Natural History, Baton Rouge, Louisiana) [redacted]

Appendix D

Comparative inventories from other Natchez houses
William C. Conner, 1843
Catherine Minor, Concord, 1844
Anna M. Linton, Clifton, 1848
Henry L. Conner, 1849
Catherine L. Wilkins, [probably Gloucester], 1849
Sarah Fyler [probably Woodlands], 1853
William St. John Elliot, Devereux, 1855
Frederick Stanton, Stanton Hall, 1859
George Malin Davis, Choctaw, 1865
Thomas Henderson, Magnolia Hall, 1866
George Malin Davis, Choctaw, 1883

A note about this section: Misspellings and errors of punctuation, grammar and capitalization have been reproduced from the original handwritten documents. Where it seems a word has been spelled according to an older spelling or a very common, easily deciphered spelling, *sic* (to denote misspelled words) has been omitted. *Sic* has been included only after words that are so completely misspelled or so close in spelling to another word that their real meaning is obscured.

William C. Conner inventory

Inventories & Appraisements 6, pp. 263–64

April 10, 1843

Values not transcribed for this inventory. No slaves, livestock, or farm implements transcribed.

In 19th-century inventories, the words "ditto" or "do" are sometimes used to indicate the repetition of a word or words that appear on the line above.

An inventory of the goods, chattles [*sic*] & personal of William C. Conner deceased.

[page 1, column 1]

Parlour

12 Maple chairs
5 Rocking ditto
12 Rush Bottom chairs
6 Small setting ditto 12 [pr.?]
2 Card tables " 12
1 Sofa
1 pr. Mantle Lamps
2 " plated Candle Sticks Tray [Snuf^{er}?]
1 " flower pots
1 brass fender 1 pr andirons 1 pr shovel & Tongs & bellows
2 Sett Window Curtains
1 Carpet 1 Rug 5 1 flore [*sic*] cloth
1 Barometer

Room No. 1

2 Bedsteads & Bedding
1 Toilet Table & Looking
1 Wash Stand & furniture
1 pr Chamber candle sticks
1 Glass shade
1 Fender & Andirons & Shovel & Tongs
1 Carpet & Rug
3 chairs
1 pr window curtains

Room No. 2

2 Beds & Bedding
1 Toilett Table &c ditto looking glass
1 Wash Stand & furniture
1 Carpet & Rug
1 Fender and 1 pr. andirons & do shovel & tongs & brush
3 Window curtains
3 chairs

[page 1, column 2]

Amt. Brot. forward

Dining Room

1 Sett Dining Tables
1 Side Board
1 Secretary
1 Candle Stand
1 pr astral Lamps
1 Fender 1 pr shovel & Tongs & ditto andirons
1 plate Warmer
1 pr flower pots
1 carpet & Rug & Crum [*sic*] cloth
3 Windsor Shades

Room No. 3

1 Bedstead & Bedding
1 Beaureau [*sic*] & Bookcase
1 Dressing Table & ditto Looking glass
1 Washstand & Furniture
1 Window Shade 1 Bookcase
Library containing Book Maps & charts

Room 4

2 Bedsteads & Bedding &c couch
1 armour [*sic*]
1 dressing Table & Glass
1 Wash Stand & furniture
1 Work Table
1 pr andirons 1 ditto shovel & Tongs & 1 fender
1 Carpet & Rug

Room 5

1 Bedstead & Bedding
1 Bureau & Looking Glass
1 Fender Shovel & Tongs & Andirons

[page 2, column 1]

Room 6

1 Clothes press
1 large (sick) chair
Bed & Wash Stand

[The following objects were not assigned to any room:]

1 Rifle & 1 double barrel shot gun
1 Side Board & 2 Wine Safes
2 1/2 doz Large Table spoons
1 11/12 " Tea " "
1 " Dessert " "
Salt spoons 1 silver ladle 1 desert ditto
2 doz Silver forks
2 Silver Fruit Baskets
. . .
1 pr Butter Knives (Silver)
China Crockery ware & Glass ware
damask Table cloths, Table napkins & Room do.

[rest of inventory is livestock, slaves, tools]

Catherine Minor Inventory and Appraisement

Inventories & Appraisements 6, pp. 339–48
August 1844
Taken at Concord, a house in Natchez

[No values transcribed.]

[page 339, column 1]

Inventory of the Effects belonging to the Deceased Mr. C. Minor of Concord July 22nd 1844

Small Bed Room Ground Floor

1 Bedstead
1 Bar
2 Mattrasses [*sic*]
1 pr. sheets
1 Quilt
2 pillow & cases
1 small cherry table
1 Mahogany dressing do
1 Mantle Looking Glass
1 Wash Stand Pitcher & Bowl
1 Mahogany Ward Robe
1 Fender & p. Fire Irons
1 Window Curtain & Drapery
1 Carpet & Rug

Dining Room

1 Mahogany Side-Board
2 knife cases
1 Rose wood side board
1 Mahogany Sofa
1 cherry table
1 Large looking Glass
18 Walnut Chairs
4 prs Window Curtains & drapery
4 Gilt ornaments
1 Eight day Clock
1 oil cloth
1 Dining Carpet & rug
1 Rosewood knife case containing 36 table knives

[page 339, column 2]

24 Desert knives
5 carving knives & forks
1 woolen Table cover
1 oil do do

3 cork screws
1 Dining Table under cloth
1 Brass Toasting fork
1 Old carpet & Rug
7 Tea trays and 4 smaller toasters

Medicine Room

1 Cherry Medicine chest and Medicines
1 cyprus Press containg Medicine
1 cane basket - 1 Willow

Passage

1 Mahogany Dining Table with cover complete
1 small Do Do
2 Looking Glasses
2 pictures
1 Thermometer
11 Rush Bottom chairs
1 Cherry Hat stand
2 cherry table & covers
1 Oil cloth

Parlour

2 Rosewood sofas
2 footstools
17 Hair bottomed Chairs

[page 340, column 1]

1 Looking Glass
1 Rosewood work Stand
2 Do Do card tables
1 Do Do Pier Table
6 prs Window Curtains and Drapery
6 Gilt Ornaments for Do
1 clock
2 corner ornaments
3 Lamps
1 pr bellows
1 Fender & Fire Set complete
1 Oil Cloth
1 carpet & Rug

Little Dining Room 2nd floor

1 Mahogany Ward Robe
2 Do Do card Tables
1 small writing Desk
8 Hair Bottom chairs
2 Window curtains & drapery
1 Oil cloth

Pantry

1 Buffet – 1 safe
1 cherry side Board
1 common Tea Tray
3 chairs – 1 chest
3 Linen crumb cloths
2 Woolen Do Do
2 cypress Tables, 1 Pine Press
3 small tubs, 1 pr scales
1 Ice cream freezer, 1 Lamp
1 cypress Table, 3 Brass candlesticks
4 Green Lamps
1 common Japaned Bread basket
2 Brittania Metal Coffee Pots
2 Tin steamers
2 common blue Bowls
1 Large china Do
1 White Tea Pot
1 Do Coffee Pot Gilt
1 small china bowl, 11 plates
5 Gilt Tea cups, 3 yellow covered Jars
1 spice Japaned Box
1 small spice Seive [*sic*]
3 Gilt china dishes, 1 Large tin canister
1 Blue Bowl, 3 cake patterns
12 small d Do 1 spice Mortar
2 cherry knifeboxes

[column 2]

1 Japaned cannister
9 glass pickled Jars
1 large Blue china bowl

Inside Stairs

1 Cherry Table
1 Stair Carpet, 1 Lamp

Drawing Room

2 Mahogany Sofas
18 Mahogany chairs
1 Rosewood centre Table
1 Do Do Pier Table
2 Looking Glasses
1 small Rose wood Table
2 Mirrors
1 Clock
1 Table ornament
7 Mantle Piece Ornaments
4 Footstools
2 Ottomans
1 Carpet & Rug
1 Hearth Brush, 1 pr bellows
1 Fender & set fire Irons complete
4 Window Curtains & drapery for Do
4 Gilt ornaments for Do
4 Bracketts, 1 Bust
1 mahogany reflecting Glass
1 Oil Cloth
1 pr card Tables

Small Bed Room 2nd Floor

1 Mahogany Bureau
1 Large Looking Glass
1 small Do Do
2 comb boxes
1 small Magnifying Glass
1 Wash stand bowl & Pitcher complete
1 Cherry Table
1 Mahogany Ward
1 Mahogany Ward Robe
1 Portable writing Desk
1 Easy arm chair
1 small stand–1 woolen table cover
1 kettle 1 Bedstead & Bar
1 Bedstead & Bar 2 Mattrasses [*sic*]
2 pillows
1 slop bucket

[page 341, column 1]

Small Bed Room

5 Rush Bottoms chairs
3 short Muslin window curtains
1 Fender, shovel, tongs & fire irons
1 Chinese Basket, 1 close stool
1 Large Basket, 1 Chamber Lamp
1 Oil can, 1 Large Willow Basket
2 small trunks, 1 Pin cushion 1 Hand bell
1 carpet & Rug

Yellow Room

1 Mahogany Ward Robe
1 Do Bedstead and Bar
2 Mattrasses, 2 pillows
1 cotton Blanket, 1 small Bedstead & Bar
2 Mattrasses [*sic*]
2 Pillows
2 cotton quilts & vallance [*sic*]
1 close stool
1 Spanish chair
1 Fancy arm chair
1 Mahogany Bureau
1 Dressing glass
1 small looking glass
1 cherry card table
1 small cushioned rocking chair
1 Plain arm rocking chair
1 chair, 1 wash stand with bowl pitcher &c
1 common Bowl, 2 window curtains
and Drapery
2 pr. ornamental shells, 1 small picture
4 Band boxes, 1 Green covered trunk
1 Red Cotton cover
1 Cypress Box

Yellow Room – Continued

1 Large Cane Basket
1 Oak Do, 1 Willow Do
1 Hair covered trunk, 3 night glasses
1 Pine Armour [*sic*], 1 carpet & Rug
1 Fender & Fire Irons

Attic Floor – Garret

1 small truckle [trundle] Bed
2 Cypress toilets, 2 old stands
1 trunk, 1 piece of oil cloth
5 Rush bottomed chairs
1 close stool

[page 341, column 2]

Miss C. Linton's Room

2 Bedsteads
3 Mattrasses [*sic*]
4 Blankets
2 Feather beds
2 Quilts
2 prs Sheets
2 pillows
2 pr pillow cases
3 chairs "
2 [Barrs?]
2 Looking Glasses
1 Wash stand pitcher & bowl
3 small cherry tables
1 coal scuttle
2 calico Window Curtains
1 cane Basket
2 Night Glasses
4 Table Cloths
1 Lamp & Oil can
1 candlestick
1 Fender shovel & tongs
and fire Irons
2 Old carpets

Green Room

1 Bedstead
3 Feather Beds, 3 Mattrasses [*sic*]
3 Blankets
1 Wash stand pitcher & bowl
1 Old Stair carpet
1 small piece yellow carpet
3 small tubs, 1 Bucket
5 chairs, 1 small cypress table
1 Brass crimping Machine
1 Old dressing glass, 1 do stand
1 Cypress table & [illegible – horse? house?]
2 night Glasses
2 Hair trunks, 5 conch shells
20 wax candles
1 Box window mounting
8 pictures 4 trunks lumber
1 pr old pistols
1 hair trunk lumber
1 Bag Coffee nearly full
1 Do Do half do
2 do containing 20 lbs
1 small stand

[page 342, column 1]

Nut-Room

1 Mahogany Bedstead
3 large Boxes wood
4 small Do Do
1 [Beditt?] " "
3 Nut Trays
1 Box with starch
1 small matrass [*sic*]
2 blankets, 1 Hearth Rug
1 champaigne Basket
1 Piece twilled Cotton " Loaf Sugar
1 Piece twilled Linen
1 Keg containing flour
1 Bbl crushed sugar
1 half sack coffee

Nut-Room Continued

1 Bundle Blankets
3 Broken Stands
3 Boxes containing some tea each
1 small oak chest 3 large hair trunks
2 small Do Do – 5 chairs

Small Front Room

1 cherry Ward Robe
125 Bottles of wine various sorts

1 chest sundries
2 chairs, 1 pr Brogans, 1 pine table
1 Band Box, 1 Basket

Library

2 cherry tables
3 pictures
2 Book cases

China Ware

1 White Gilt set, 10 cup & 11 saucers
1 sugar dish
Green Dinner set
164 plates 2 tureens, 44 dishes
2 fish stands, 4 sauce boats & dishes
4 Butter Do & 3 Do
2 sauce Do – 4 shells
2 sallad dishes

[page 342, column 2]

White Tea and Breakfast Set

2 Tea Post 1 coffee Do
1 sugar Dish
1 cream Pot 1 Butter Stand
24 cups & saucers, 26 Plates

White Gilt Dinner & Desert [*sic*] Set

30 Dishes
2 Tureens
2 Salad dishes
3 sauce Boats
130 Dinner plates, 4 shells
5 Butter Dishes
73 Desert [*sic*] Plates
14 Dishes Desert
2 Sauce Desert
3 Fruit Baskets

White Gilt Set – Do –

2 custard Stands
33 custard cups

French Set

54 Plates
6 Dishes
24 cups and saucers
1 Tea Pot – 1 Coffee Pot
1 sugar Dish – 1 slop bowl
1 Large Pitcher – 1 small Do
2 Fruit Baskets

Red Gilt Tea Set

24 cups & saucers
12 plates, 1 sugar Dish
1 Slop Bowl – 1 cream pot

Blue Breakfast Set

18 cups – 15 saucers – 17 plates

White Gilt Ridged

15 cups – 18 saucers – 1 sugar dish
1 cream Pot – 1 Tea-Pot

Tea-Set

24 Plates – 1 Tea Pot – 1 Slop bowl
1 sugar Dish – 12 tea cups
10 coffee cups

[page 343, column 1]

Miscellaneous

1 Large China Bowl – 1 cream pot
2 China mugs, 2 covered China Pitchers
1 Large Water Pitcher
2 Gilt China Do – 1 small White Do
1 Large Do Do
1 White Gilt covered Do – Pitchers
2 Butter coolers

Silver Plate Common Quality

27 silver soup spoons
17 Do desert [*sic*] do

9 do Tea "
8 Salt
1 cigar light holder
1 soup ladle

Best Quality

36 silver soup spoons
" Desert [*sic*] Do
" Tea Do

Silver Plate Best quality - Continued

24 Table Forks
1 pr sugar – 2 soup ladles
2 Butter knives
1 pr sugar tongs
2 desert [*sic*] Ladles
1 Fish Knife
1 castor
2 Coffee Pots – 2 tea Do
3 sugar Dishes – 2 cream pots
1 slop bowl – 3 Pitchers

Plated Ware

1 cake Basket
2 plated Candelebras
2 Do Candlesticks
4 Do double do
2 Do Candle branches
6 Do Candlesticks
4 Do Snuffers & trays
2 Do do large trays
2 Do Do small Do
2 1/2 Doz Do knives & forks
1 Do Fish knife
1 Do per bedroom
" " Candlesticks
" Do Cake basket

[page 343, column 2]

1 do Liquors stand
8 do Nut crackers
4 do bottle Stands

Glass Ware Best quality

28 Champaign glasses
20 Claret Do
23 Hock glasses
26 Madeiria [*sic*] Do
24 Finger glasses
7 candle shades
24 [Cresar?]
4 salt cellars
4 glass pitchers

Glass Ware second quality

9 salt cellars
9 liquor glasses
25 Thumbler
34 Do
85 odd glasses
8 tumblers
23 Lemonade glasses
8 sweet meat glasses
9 glass dishes
2 glass pitchers
29 decanters
1 Glass Celery Stand

Inside Cellar

29 common Blue plates
2 tureens – 2 salad dishes
4 sauce boats – 1 covered dish
1 custard Do
6 Bottles content unknown
7 small baskets
6 Bottles syrup
5 Bottles Porter
1 Jar of Lard – 2 do half full
9 forks three knives 1 steel
3 Bottles Honey
1 Tea case – 5 tin canisters
4 Japaned tin Boxes
1 Large chest
1 Do loafsugar
5 lbs do do
1 covered firkin 2 keelers
1 Brass hooped keeler – 1 wire safe

1 Bbl half full damage – flour
1 Demijohn vinegar

[page 344, column 1]

1 1/2 boxes sperm candles – 7 demijohns
7 Bottles sweet oil
13 pint bottles case claret

Inside Cellar Continued

1 wooden chest – 1 Plate basket
3 Boxes nearly full olives
1 large box tallow candles
1 stone jar – 1 champaign basket
5 Boxes – 3 Indian fanners
5 willow Baskets – 1 Oak basket
1 cane do – 22 Bottles Champaign damaged
8 Do cider – 8 Bars soap
1 Package chocolate – 1 Tin Milk can
1 Walnut tray & house
4 bbls emty [*sic*] bottles
1 4 lb weight
1 1 Do Do
16 Bottles Wine kind unknown
183 Madeira Do
82 Bottles table claret
74 Pint Bottles Do
4 Bottles Brandy

Table Linen

8 Dinner Table cloths
8 Breakfast Do
2 side Do Do
12 Table towels best quality
12 Do Do Brown damask
22 Table towels Blue edged
22 Do Do pantry uses

Common Cutlery

5 carving knives & forks
22 Dinner Do Do
12 Desert [*sic*] Do Do
2 Steels "

Gardners [*sic*] Room

2 single bedsteads – 3 Mattrasses [sic]
4 Pillows – 2 Blue coverlids [*sic*]
2 single blankets – 1 double do
3 pr. cotton sheats [*sic*] – 3 pillow cases
2 Linen bars – 2 tables
1 seed press – 1 dressing glass
5 chairs – 1 wash stand & basin
1 water pitcher 4 towels
2 dusting towels – 1 Lamp

[page 344, column 2]

1 Fire shovel tongs and fire irons
1 sugar dish – 1 tea tray
2 tea spoons – 2 table do
2 knives & forks –1 vinegar bottle
6 plates – 5 dishes – 1 brush

Mr G. Pierces Room

1 Bedstead – 1 chair
1 shovel tongs & fire irons

Gallery

3 Benches
2 Tables

Lumber Room

1 court Room Desk
1 Large chest – 1 sofa
9 Blankets – 2 Mattrasses

Lumber Room

2 pillows – 1 Red chest – 1 Lumber box
1 small bedstead – 2 Maps
1 piece matting – 1 cherry table
1 piece cotton – 1 piece linsey
1 wash basin & pitcher
1 bathing tub

Milk House

15 Milk Bowels [*sic*] – 2 churns
3 wooden Bowls – 1 Hair [search?]
1 Large cypress Table
2 Dairy spoons, 1 small table
1 Milk Strainer – 1 tub
1 Large Huney [*sic*] Bucket
1 Blue tureen
1 small fire bucket
1 Do Do Dipper
3 Butter prints – 2 Milk Pales [*sic*]
1 piggin
1 Bucket & tin clabber strainer

Outside Cellar

4 Westphalia Ham
5 Home cured Do
3 Flitches Do
3 Large Stone Jars
1 Doz. tin oil can
3 gallons lamp oil
30 lbs lye soap

[page 345, column 1]

1 part of a Barrel of Home cured beef
1 part of a bbl of Pork
1 bbl of Pork

Outside Cellar

1 third of a barrel of home cured pork
1 Demijohn
1 cake of tallow
6 small Stone Jars
4 Bell Metal Kettles
1 sack of salt
1 Large glass Demijohn
7 Bottles of Huney [*sic*]
450 Bottles different sizes empty

Brick Room

3 common Ironing tables
1 sett of fire Irons
1 willow clothes basket
6 smoothing Irons
1 Large clothes pot
1 Damaged kettle
6 wash tubs
1 clothes line

Gallery

1 cypress Table

Kitchen

1 Large Meal Chest
1 Do cypress table
1 small Do Do
1 safe – 1 S dish tub
3 tin coffee pots
1 large tin coffee boiler
2 tin pans – 3 water buckets
4 tribbets
1 coffee mill – 1 flesh fork
1 Bread toasting iron
1 gridiron – 1 skinner
3 wafle [*sic*] Irons – wafer Do

Kitchen continued

1 saussage stuffer 3 prs pot hooks
8 small cooking pots
1 Large Do – 2 Tin Canisters
5 [?] with covers – 2 do [?] & covers
3 Skillets with covers 1 do without do
1 Sauce pan 1 Tin dipper
[page 345, column 2]
2 sifters – 2 kitchen knives
2 cleavers – 2 cooking spoons
1 Griddle – 1 water bench
1 Set of five Irons
1 crane – 6 trammels, 1 tea kettle
2 stone Jars 1 shovel & tongs
6 large Muffin rings
12 small Do

Kitchen Pantry

Common White set of China valued before
18 Dishes – 33 dinner plates
12 Desert [*sic*] plates – 8 odd Do

2 sauce boats – 1 Tureen
7 Odd common dishes
4 common baking Do
1 cast iron furnace – 2 stone jars
2 brass chafing dishes
1 dinner bell & cypress table

Miscellaneous

1 Cherry Side Board
2 stone cake moulds
2 chinese Lamp
7 White cups & saucers
17 new [hoes?]
2 sheep shears
1 wheel Barrow – 1 Glazier's Diamond
1 Bed Key – 1 screw driver "
1 Hand saw
2 planes – 1 Whip saw – 1 Grind stone
1 Bridle & 2 saddles
1 Brass Mounted Carriage
1 Old Yellow do do
Sundry broken pieces of harness
1 Harness press
7 waggon Loads of Fodder
20 bbls corn – sundries broken sash
1 Old wooden bathing tub
1 Brick trowel – 1 plastering Do
1 Garden Do

[Stock, tools, and slaves are included in inventory but were not transcribed.]

Anna M. Linton inventory
January 14, 1848
Inventories & Appraisements 6
pp. 438–51
Taken at Clifton, a house near Natchez

[Slaves, stock, carriages, and tools were included in inventory but were not transcribed.]

Contents of Garret

Three Straw Floor Mats
One Box Sugar containing 31 Loaves
Eight Demijohns of Grape Juice
One Bag Java Coffee
One do Green Coffee
One Refrigerator
One lot sundries in Garret

Contents of upper Entry

One Iron Safe
One Oil Cloth
Two Sofas Covered with hair cloth
One Mahogany Armoir
Three Cane bottom Chairs
Five Straw bottom do
One Small sewing table
One side Table
One Glass Lamp

Contents of Front Bed Room

One Brussels Carpet new
Four Inner Blinds
Two Double Bed Steads and Bedding
One Trundle Bed and Bedding
One Brussels Carpet
One Rug
One Mahogany Toilet Table
One Marble Top Wash Stand & appurtenances
Eight Cane bottom Chairs
One Small Wooden Chair
One Towel Rack

Contents of Back Bed Room

One double Bed Stead and Bedding
One Brussels Carpet
One Rug
One Mahogany Armoir

On Mahogany Couch or Lounge
One Marble top Wash Stand &
appurtenances
One Mahogany Dressing Table
One China Slop Bucket
One Work Table
One Small Side Table
Three large rocking chairs, covered hair cloth

[page 441]

One Small ditto ditto
Three Cane Bottom Chairs
Two Carpet Covered Foot Stools
One towel Rack
One pair Mahogany Bed Steps
One (Old) Easy chair
Two Inner Blinds

Contents of Third Bed Room

Four Inner Blinds
Two double Bed Steads and Bedding
One Ingrain Carpet
One Mahogany Armoir
One do Dressing Table
One Small Writing Tables
Two Marble top Wash Stands &
appurtenances
Two China Foot Buckets
One plush Covered Rocking Chair
One Small hair cloth covered ditto
Five cane bottom Chairs
One small Wooden Chair
Two Reading Lamps 1 Gilt, 1 Bronze

Contents of lower Entry including Stair Case

One stair Carpet
One oil Cloth
Two Sofas Covered with hair Ditto
Eleven Straw bottom chairs
Two cane bottom Rocking Chairs
One Mahogany Table & Cover (with leaves)
Two do Card Tables
One Hat Rack
One English Clock
One Bronze Entry Lamp
One pair Gilt Brackets
Four small Door Mats

Contents of Front Parlor

Two Sofas covered with purple velvet
Seven Chairs ditto ditto
One arm Chair ditto ditto
Two do do ditto Crimson velvet

[page 442]

Two Fancy Chairs
Two Fancy Ottomans
One Marble Top Center Table
On do do Pier Table
One Mantle Glass
One Pier Glass
Three Mantle Lamps
Two China Mantle Vases
One papier Maché Fire Screen
One pier Lamp
One Silver plated Branches
One pair Gilt Brackets
One Saxony Carpet and Rug
Four Crimson and Four White Curtains
Four Inner Blinds

Contents of Back Parlor

One Saxony Carpet and Rug
Two Sofas Covered with purple Velvet
Five Chairs ditto ditto
Three Arm Chairs ditto ditto
One Fancy Ottoman
One Marble Top Centre Table
One do do Pier Table
One Piano
One Music Stool
One papier Maché Fire Screen
One Music Stand
One Mantle Glass
One Pier Glass
Three Mantle lamps

Two China Mantle Vases
Two Mantle Fire Screens
One pier Lamp

One pair Pier Brackets, bronze
One China Card Basket
One pair Gilt Brackets
Four Crimson and four white Curtains
Four Inner Blinds

Contents of Boudoir

One Scotch Carpet (old)
One Centre Table Marble top
Ten Chairs covered with Blk hair Cloth

Contents of Dining Room

One Brussels Carpet
One Oil Cloth (under the carpet)
One crumb cloth
One mahogany Dining Table
One Cloth cover for ditto

[page 443]

One Mahogany Side Table
One cover for ditto
One Mahogany Side Board, marble Top
One Sofa Covered with hair Cloth
Two foot Stools covered with Carpet
Twelve chairs covered with hair Cloth
Two Rocking Chairs ditto
Two arm Chairs ditto
One Small cane bottom Chair
One set or nest of small Tables
One Fire Screen
One Mantle Glass
Three mantle lamps
Three China Mantle Vases
Two Astral Lamps
Three Inner Blinds

Contents of Library

One Brussels Carpet and Rug
One Centre or Library Table
One Cloth Cover for ditto
One Pier Table
One Mantle Glass
Three plaster paris Mantle Ornaments
Two China Mantle Vases
One Sofa Cov'd with hair Cloth
Four arm chairs ditto
Two Small ditto ditto
Eight chairs ditto ditto
Two foot Stools ditto ditto
One library arm chair
One Mahogany Book Case
Two Silver plated Astral Lamps
One Mantle Lamp
Four Inner Blinds

Contents of Pantry & Lock Cupboard

On Wire Safe
One Moveable lock cupboard
One common Table
One dinner Tray and Stand
One knife box
One teakettle
One Tin Bucket
Seven wire Covers
Eight Tin ditto
One Tea set Consisting of 24 cups & saucers, 24 plates small size & 3 large
One Breakfast set consisting of 14 cups & saucers and 20 plates

[page 444]

Two Dinner and Desert [sic] Sets
One "Cashmere" Tea set
Glass Table Furniture, consisting of Tumblers, Wine, Egg, & Jelly Glasses &c
Forty Eight large Table Knives
Twenty two Small ditto
Four papier Maché Trays
Four Japan Trays
Two Bronze Table Branches
Five Carvers and Five Forks
Six large Glass Bowls

Silver and Plated Ware

Eight Silver vegetable Dishes
Two Silver Tureens
Four Silver Soup Ladles
One Silver Tea Pot
One Silver Coffee Pot
One Silver Water Pot
Two Silver Sugar Bowls
One Silver Tea Caddy
One Silver Cream Pot
One Silver Pitcher
One Silver Slop Bowl
One Silver Strainer
One Silver Cup
One Syphon
Twenty four Silver desert [*sic*] Spoons
Twenty three do Tea do
Four do Salt do
Four do do
Four do Vegetable do
Twenty four larger size Silver forks
Twenty four Silver Desert Forks
Two Silver Cake Baskets
Two large Silver Pitchers
Twenty four Silver Table Spoons
One Silver Pap Cup
One do Cake Basket
One pair Silver Sugar Tongs
One Silver fish Knife
Six do Goblets
One plated Nutmeg Grater
One do Cheese Scoop
One do Castor
One Do Liquer [*sic*] Stand
One Silver Asparagras [*sic*] Tongs
Five plated Nutcrackers
Four do Carver rests
Four do Coasters
Twenty six plated knives

[page 445]

[illegible]

Nine do Candle Sticks
Three large plated Trays
Two Medium Size ditto
Two Small do do
Five Silver Wine Labels

Table Cloths, Sheetings &c

Twenty six Table Cloths
Sixty Two do Napkins
Sixty Doilies
Fifty Plate Towels
Two under Table Cloths
Twenty pair of Sheets
Forty eight Pillow Cases
Seventy hand Towels
Ten Marsailles Quilts

Five quilted comforts
Ten Mosquito Bars
Ten pair Blankets

Contents of Wine Cellar

Twenty seven Bottles Claret
Twelve do Malmsey
Twenty four do Liquers [*sic*]
Five Demijohns Sherry
Three do Madeiria [*sic*]
Two do Brandy
One do Whiskey
One do Grape Juice
Seven Baskets Champagne
Eight Boxes Soap
Tour do Candles
One do Olives
Eleven Bottles Sweet Oil
One Barrel Lamp Oil
One do Vinegar
Three Barrels Brown Sugar
One Barrel Crushed Sugar
One Chest Green Tea
One do Black do
Two Ice cream Freezers
One Cooking Stove

Contents of Dairy

Sixteen Milk Pans
Two Stone Jars
Two churns
Three curds Strainers
One Bathing Tub

[page 446]

Contents of Lock Pantry

One Barrel Salt
One do Flour
Seven Jars Pickles
Forty Jars Preserves
Four cake pans
Two Tin Cake Boxes
One Marble Mortar & Pestle
Two preserving Kettles
One Small Clay Furnace
One Common Table and Chair

Contents of Wash Room

Three large Wash Tubs
One Ironing Table
One boiling Kettle
One Clothes Horse

A large lot of Kitchen Furniture too difficult to enumerate

Contents of 1st Bed Room on Wing

One old Brussels Carpet
One Bed Stead and Bedding
Two Common Tables
One Wash Stand & Appurtenances
Three Wooden Chairs
One do Arm Chair

Contents of 2nd Room on Wing

One Bed Stead and Bedding
Two Window Seats covd. with hair Cloth
Seven cane bottom Chairs
One pier table and Dressing Glass

Painting and Engravings

Morgar and Ishmeal oil painting
St. Cecil oil painting
Washington a portrait in Oil
Maddison [*sic*?]ditto
Adams ditto
Marshall ditto
Leigh ditto
Chapman ditto
Clay ditto
Village politicians an oil painting
Sun Set ditto
The Coronation a painting
Declaration of Independence, framed
Battle of Bunker Hill, Engraving
Bunker Hill Monument do
Lafayette do
View of Yorktown an oil painting

[page 447]

Beatrice do
Monroe a Portrait in Oil
J. Q. Adams do
One Musical clock

[Long list of books not transcribed.]

[page 451]

One Billiard Table
Two Sofas (Straw bottoms) in Billiard Room

A lot of Shovels, Tongs & Pokers say 8 sets

Henry L. Conner inventory
December 29, 1849
Inventories & Appraisements 6

pp. 551–54

[Slaves, stock, and tools not transcribed.]

_____ Household furniture &c

[page 553, column 1]

10 pair blankets
1 " Cot. do
6 hair mattrasses
5 feather Beds
2 Cot. mattrasses
4 moss do
1 Wool do
26 feather pillows
12 " bolsters
9 pr linen sheets
6 " " " (much worn)
3 " " " older
5 " cotton "
14 " pillow cases
10 Calico comforts
3 marseilles quilts
4 " " old
1 Calico bedspread
300 [caper?] towels
20 " " (old)
36 Napkins
36 " (worn)
12 " (old)
4 marseilles quilts for child. cribs
3 damask table Cloths
2 " " " (white)
6 " "
6 " "

In Parlor

2 Sofas
4 ottomans
30 hair bot. chairs mahog.

[page 553, column 2]

1 Centre Table
2 Card Tables
1 Piano Stool
1 Piano (Rosewood)
1 Large Extension Table
1 Mahogany Side-board
2 Setts Mantle lamps (3 in ea sett)

1 Large Solar Lamp
2 Small do
1 marble paper weight
1 Large panorama & Engravings
1 Back Gammon board
2 Carpets
2 Rugs
Fender Andirons shovel & Tongs &c
4 Curtains & Rods
1 Cast Iron Hat Rack

In Dining Room

1 Sideboard
24 bamboo chairs
12 Rush bot. "
4 Small bamboo "
2 " Rockg. "
1 old bamboo rockg. chair
2 " wooden " "
2 " mahog dining Tables
2 Mantle lamps
1 Set Japaned waiters
1 Barometer
1 Thermometer
1 Old Solar lamp (without Shade)
1 Small do (with shade)
6 old plated candlesticks

1 Snuffer without tray
1 Crumb Cloth & Oil Cloth

In Library

1 Sofa
1 Cherry Table
1 Book Case &c
Books in Library, say, 130 vols & pamphlets &c
4 large Maps
1 Galvanic Battery
Fender Andirons shovel & Tongs
4 Brittania Spittoons
1 Small Shot Gun
1 Large Do
1 Rifle

[page 554, column 1]

1 pr. pocket pistols, dirk, Sword & cartridge box, Shot pouch & flask
1 Carpet

In Bedroom No. 1

2 mahogany bedsteads
Washstand, basin, pitcher & slop-tub
1 plain dressing bureau 1 carpet 1 Candlestand
Andirons shovel Tongs & fender
2 brittania candlesticks

In Bedroom No. 2

2 mahogany bedsteads
Wash stand, basin, pitcher & Slop Tub
1 Carpet 1 Candle Stand
Andirons, Shovel, Tongs & Fender
2 brittania Sticks 4 small bags do

In Bedroom No. 3

1 Carpet 1 Fender
Wash Stand, pitcher &c
Dressing attached to No. 3

1 old cherry bedstead
1 medicine chest & contents & 1 old ditto
2 cupping boxes without glasses

In Bedroom No. 4

1 Mahog. Bedstead 1 mahog. bureau
Washstand pitcher
Andiron Shovel Tongs &c

In Bedroom No. 5

1 Bed Stead Washstand & Washstand carpet
2 small looking glasses

In Bedrooms Nos. 6 & 7

2 Bed Steads wash Stand
Fender & fire brass

School-Room

1 Bedstead wash Stand Fender & firedogs

1 Lot Kitchen Furniture

_____ Silver-Ware &c

3 doz large Silver Table Spoons
3 " " " forks
18 Small desert [*sic*] forks (silver)
3 doz large Ivory handle Knives
18 Small do do
1 doz Steel nut pickers
6 plated Nutcrackers
1 doz large Silver tablespoons old
1 " " " " " very light

[page 554, column 2]

21 Silver Teaspoons 1 large Silver ladle
2 Silver Salt Spoons
1 White & Gilt China Tea Seat
1 plain white " dinner sett
4 Cut glass decanters (no stoppers)

4 " " " broken
18 " " tumblers 18 champagne glasses
2 doz wine glasses 1 doz claret glasses
23 glass Goblets 2 doz lemonade glasses
2 custard bowls & 2 small fruit bowls
2 glass pitchers 2 china pitchers
4 cut glass salt-stands
1 Sett castors

Catherine L. Wilkins inventory
August 29, 1849
Inventories and Appraisements 6
pp. 533–36
Probably taken in Gloucester, a house near Natchez

[Slaves included in inventory but not transcribed here.]

[page 533, column 2]

Parlour Furniture

2 Sofas
2 Card tables
1 Centre Tables [*sic*]
18 Chairs
4 Foot Stools

4 Ottomans
8 Flower Pots, china
1 Brussels Carpet
1 ditto Rug
2 Silver Platter candle sticks
1 do Branches
1 do Chandelier
Shells Basket & Glass

[page 534, column 1]

2 Large cut Glass Lamps
4 Crimson Satin damask Curtains
2 Large Mirrors
1 Pier Table

Dining Room Furniture

19 Chairs
1 Side Board
1 Sofa Table
1 Dining table
1 Wooden Clock
2 Mantle Clocks
2 China Vases
1 Childs chair
2 Silver platted [*sic*] candlesticks

Entry Furniture

1 Sofa
1 Small Table
2 Card Tables
2 Foot Stools
1 Pier table
1 Hat stand
2 Small Mirrors
2 Pictures
2 Round Mirrors
35 Yellow cane bottom chairs
1 Silk curtains Dining Room
1 Brussels Carpet do
2 prs Brass Shovel, Tong & poker
1 Hall Lamp

Bed Room Furniture

2 Bed steads
3 Mahogany Armours [*sic*]
2 Cypress do
1 large round table
2 Marble top wash stands
1 Beauro [*sic*] 1 small mahogany Box
2 Dressing tables
1 Work do, 1 writing Desk
2 common Wash Stands
5 Tables, 1 Small Rocking chair
2 Brass fenders

2 Wire do
1 Large easy chair
2 candle Stands
1 pr. of Shovel & Tongs
3 Small pitchers & Basins
3 Large do
2 Odd do
5 large Mattrasses [*sic*]

[page 534, column 2]

5 Small do
5 Feather Beds
16 do Pillows
2 Bolsters
7 prs of Blankets
6 odd do
7 Comforts
7 Moschetto Bars
12 prs cotton Sheets
6 Linen do
10 pr of Cotton Pillow cases
7 Linen do
2 White Toilet Covers
2 Dressing Glasses
16 Table Cloths
3 doz damask Table napkins
12 blue bordered do
18 fruit napkins
18 Towels
2 doz Pantry towels
11 Marsailles Quilts
2 Wooden Boxes, 3 Willow Baskets

Glass

17 Lemonade Glasses
7 Cordial do
30 Cut Glass Tumblers
18 ditto
19 champagne Glasses
5 Glass Dishes
2 do Pitchers
1 do Celery Stand
1 Silver Plated Castors
1 ditto old
30 Wine Glasses
5 Glass sweet meat Dishes
5 Salt sellers
27 odd Tumblers
1 Desert [*sic*] sett plain Gilt edges
22 large Plates
24 Small do
2 Custard Stand & cups
1 Cream pot
2 Sugar Dishes
2 large Shells
4 Small do
6 sweet meat dishes
2 strawberry bowl
3 fruit stands

[page 535, column 1]

China Tea Sett marked W.
4 doz Plates
1 Slop Bowl
23 Tea Cups
21 Coffee do
47 Saucers
1 Large Strawberry Dish
1 Milk Pitcher
1 Coffee Pot
1 Tea do

Gilt edge Tea sett
25 plates
18 cups & saucers

1 Strawberry Bowl & cream Pitcher
1 Cream Pot
1 Sugar Dish
1 Slop Bowl

16 odd Coffee Cups
7 do saucers
7 Blue China Plates
14 do cups
14 do saucers

White China Blue leaf
22 plates
7 Saucers
5 Cups

1 Slop Bowl
1 Cream pot
1 Butter Dish
1 Milk Pitcher
White China Dinner sett
3 Tureens
3 Salad Dishes
4 Pickle do
5 Gravey Dishes
6 covered Vegetable Dishes
30 Soup plates
65 Plates
11 Meat Dishes

Pantry

Safe
Old Side board
Cypress Press
Table
2 Coal scuttles
Tea Kettle
Candlestick
14 Large Knives
12 Small Knives
a carving knife & fork
5 waiters

[page 535, column 2]

[Livestock and tools included in inventory
but not transcribed here.]

Library Furniture

2 Book cases
1 Center Table
1 Rocking chair
1 Music Stand
1 mantle Glass
1 old Carpet

Silver

2 Coffee Pots
1 Tea do
2 Large Pitchers
2 Cake Baskets
1 Slop Basin
4 Sauce Ladles

[page 536]

6 Decanter stands
1 Cream Pot
2 doz large Spoons
2 doz dessert do
2 doz Small forks marked
1 doz small do
2 doz large do
6 Salt Spoons
2 Soup Ladles
2 Sugar Tongs
2 Sugar Dishes
23 Small Spoons
1 doz nut crackers
2 large old Spoons
2 Small do

Silver in bracketts [*sic*]

1 Silver watch

Kitchen

A cooking stove
2 Kettles
2 Tables
2 Water Buckets
2 Large Iron Kettles
4 Wash Tubs
1 large bathing Tub

Sarah Fyler inventory
1853
Quitman Papers
Southern Historical Collection, UNC-Chapel Hill

Probably taken at Woodlands, a suburban villa near Natchez

[First page, first column]

Negroes

Oliver	$1000.
Sarah	400.
Mary	500.
Armsted	750.
	2650.

~~5 Cows at Springfield~~
~~21 Calves)1 Cow 2 calfs~~
~~1 sow)4 heifers~~
~~2 pigs)~~

[First page, second column]

<u>In the Parlor</u>

1 Mantle Clock	$20.
2 Vases	7.50
1 Piano	60.
1 Landscape painting	5.
1 Flute	2.50
1 sofa	25.
1 Pier table	15.
3 Green window blinds	20.
1 Mirror	25.
1 Mahogany table	9.
2 Rocking chairs	15.
12 chairs	36.
2 ottomans	6.
1 Music stand	3.
1 Piano stool	5.
1 Carpet	30.
1 Pair Bellowes	1.
1 Shovel Tongs & poker	2.50
1 Hearth brush	1.25

In the Long Room

47 chairs different kinds	30.
5 Rocking chairs	10.50
1 spanish chair	1.50
1 Bureau	7.
1 sideboard	7.
1 wash stand	.25
1 Lounge	5.00
1 stand	5.
1 Large looking glass	10.
1 small Ditto	.50
1 Do mahogany Table	15.
1 Do pine Table	.25
1 large Do Do	.50
1 Cherry ~~table~~ bedstead	5.00

[Second page, first column]

<u>Dining Room</u>

9 Pairs Andirons	$9.00
8 Do Tongs, 5 Shovels	5.00
5 Fenders	10.00
1 Side board	10.00
1 Sofa	5.
2 Wash stands	.50[c]
2 stands	4.00
5 Dining Tables	30.00
1 chair	10 cts.
11 waiters	2
1 Plate warmer	4
1 Fire screen	.50 [c]
2 glass shades	2.00
7 Lamps	5.00
1 Hearth brush	.10 cts.

Small bedroom

2 Poplar bedsteads	4.00
1 wool matress	X
1 Dressing Table, 1 Looking Glass,	
1 small table	1.00
1 Hair Mattress	X
2 Bolsters	X
1 chair $8	

Bed Room

2 Bureaus	10.
2 Tables	5.
1 sofa	2.50
1 Cherry Bedstead	3.50
1 Feather Bed, 1 Hair Mattress,	
2 Pillows	2.00
4 Candle sticks, 1 Urn	4.00
3 Wardrobes	20.00
Hat rack	3.00
1 Hall Lamp	5.00
1 Bureau	2.50

[Second page, second column]

Library Room

1 Mahogany Bedstead	$15
1 sofa	5.00
1 Bureau	2.50
~~1 old clock~~	—
1 stove	$5
1 Lot of Books	$50
~~1 old hair trunk~~	
~~1 old cane knife~~	

Back Gallery

3 pine Table
4 Benches & safe

Up stairs left hand room

1 Bedstead (cherry) X	2.50
1 Bureau	3.00
2 Dressing Tables	50 cts.
3 Wash stands	4.00
1 Tea table	1.50
~~1 small table~~	
2 Parlor stoves	7.00
2 Globes	10.00

3 Feather beds, 1 Large mattress,
1 small mattress, 7 Pillows, 1 Bolster $10.00

Right hand room

1 mahogany bedstead	$10.
1 Do Bureau	12.
1 Do table	5.
1 Wash stand	2.00
2 Looking glasses	7.
2 Feather Beds, 6 Mattresses,	
4 Pillows, 2 Bolsters	$12.00
1 Fireboard, 6 candle sticks,	
2 snuffers & 3 trays	4/$3
6 carpets, 1 stair carpet & rods,	
7 Rugs & 1 Roll Matting,	
1 crumb carpet & door mat	$40.

[Third page, First column]

Upstairs Hall

1 Table, 2 Astral Lamps	$5.

Kitchen

1 Table & bench, 5 pots & 2 ovens,
1 wash kettle, 1 skillet & 2 tea kettles,
1 marble mortar, 1 Brass Kettle,
2 Dog irons & tongs, 2 sifters & griddle $10

Dairy

5 Tubs 2 Buckets & piggin, 3 stone jars
& 5 milk pans, 1 Butter bowl, 1 churn
& strainer $2.50

Store Room

~~2 Bbls partly full of vinegar~~	
~~1 cask with some meat~~	
4 stone jars 2 empty bottles	.50[c]
99 Bottles wine	99.
~~9 Jugs cider~~	
1 Keg of Lard	2.
1 part box candles	2.
Linen sheets=15 pairs	$10.
Pillow cases = 12 Do	4.
Towels–4 dozen	3.
Napkins–4 dozen	3.
~~Counterpanes=~~	
~~Blankets~~	

[Third page, second column]

Lot of Dishes–plates, Pitchers–cups–saucers, Bowls &c	$75

Silver Ware

1 Doz desert spoons	$19.
17 Tea spoons	6.
29 Table spoons	30.
1 soup Ladle	5.
2 Pairs nut crackers	.50
1 coffee pot	5.00
1 Tea Do	2.50
1 Cream cup	1.50
1 sugar dish	2.50
1 slop bowl	2.50
2 Butter Knives	1.00
24 Forks	36.00
2 sugar Tongs	2.00
2 Castors	$15.
1 Lot knives	3.
Lot Blankets & Bedclothes	$40 =
	246.50

[additional figuring]

Amt. of appt. $4158.20

William St. John Elliot inventory
Taken at Devereux, a house near Natchez
1855
Adams Co. Probate Box #138

[may be incomplete]

	amount brot. forward	$13,172.

Wine Cellar

3 baskets Champagnes $36 7 Demijohns Sherry $100	136.
3 boxes [Quarts?] P. Sherry $36 17 bottles Peach brandy $20	56.
1 box Chateau Margaux $18 1/4 Cask Madeira March $80	88.
10 gals. Sup. Madeira $50 8 [do?] Brown Sherry $32	82.
6 " Grape Juice $24 8 do old Madeira $40	64.
5 " Irish whisky $15 2 boxs Amontiliado [*sic*] Sherry $72	89.
1 Lot Claret $60 broken cask Sup. port wine $120	180.
1 box Quarts Gold Sherry $18 2 doz. bottles Sup. brandy $48	66.

Remnants in wine cellar 20.
Articles in Dairy & Cellars 10.

Front Parlor

2 sofas $100 2 reception Chairs $50 12 Chairs $120 270.
2 mirrors $400 1 center table $50 2 stools $2.00 452.
1 side table $50 1 Chinese work stand $25 2 vases $30 105.
4 Candelabras $60 3 brackets $30 1 carpet & Rugg $60 150
4 Shades $30 4 Curtains Cornices &c 430.
Books &c in parlor $100 Shovel tongs & stand 5 105.
Fancy articles on mantel & table 20.

Back Parlor

2 sofas $60 6 chairs $30 7 do $12 4 arm do $60 162
1 writing chair $30 1 old piano stool & cover $150 180.
Carpet & rugg $60 book cases $100 books $150 310.
1 stool $5 1 stand $2 4 shades $30 Shovel &c $5 42.
2 stools $2 mirror broken $5 Mantle ornaments $30 37.
Audubon's Quadrupeds N.A. $40 Burkes Passages 15 55.
[Barringtons?] Memoirs $20 2 Brackets $3 23.
1 Engraving [Caragnac?] 42 2 plaster busts $2 4.
4 curtains &c 240.

North East Bed room

Bedstead & Bedding $100 1 wardrobe $50 1 do $100 250
Dining table $40 Carpet & Rugg 15 55.
Washstand & broken Chamber sett 20.
1 work stand $10 Candle do 3. 4 chairs 5 18.
Trunk $5 1 bonnet box $1 Shovel $c $3 9.
4 curtains $20 Mantel articles $10 30.
amount 16928.

[page 2]

Continued

Amt Brot forward 16 928.

North west bedroom

1 bed & bedding $50 1 bed & bedding $50 100.
dressing table & fancy articles $30 1 side table $10 40.
Wash stand $5 Chamber set $10 1 do $10 225.

Shovel tongs &c $3 Mantel ornaments 20		23.
Carpet & Rugg $30 4 chairs $5 4 Curtains $100		135.
South West bedroom		
1 bedstead & bedding $100 1 do $100 Trundle do 15		215.
dressing table $30 Wash stand $15 Chamber sett $10		55.
1 Bureau old $5 stand $3.00 4 chairs $4		12.
Articles on Mantel 5 Shovel tongs &c 3		8.
Carpet & Rugg 15 4 curtains &c $100		115.
South East Room (bed)		
1 bed & bedding $30 dressing table $15 Wash stand 5		50.
Chamber sett $10 Carpet & Rugg $10 4 Chairs 3		23.
Shovel & tongs &c $2 3 Curtains $5		7.
Hall 1st Floor		
19 chairs $57 2 rocking do 6 Hassack [*sic*] $10		73.00
1 marble top table $15 1 table $20 1 lamp 10		48.
2 table tamps $5 Engraving The Union $10		15.
[illegible] $25 Basket stand $4.		29.
Candle stand $2 books $10 [Doz spittoons?] $7		19.
Carpet ruggs & mats		20.
Hall 2nd Floor		
Walnut wardrobe $50 Mahogany do 20		70.
2 couches $30 Carpet 10 2 Rocking Chairs $10		50.
Lot bed furniture $300 Table do 150		450.
Garrett		
Miscellaneous articles broken &c		150.
Pantry		
[illegible] & tea sett fine Green & Gold China		400.
Dining sett white & Gold		150.
" broken [illegible]		50.
Cut glass wine glasses & Goblets &c		50.
18 Cups & Saucers Gold & white		15.
Miscellaneous articles		50.
	Amt	$19375

[page 3]

Continued

	Amt Brot forward	$19,375.

Dining Room

13 chairs $130 1 reception do $15 1 pr sofas $30	175.
[illegible] $50 Carpet & rugg $40	90.
Crumb cloth $4 [illegible] Napkins 5.	9.
stools & brushes $10 4 shades $12 Curtains &c $120	142
Silver Service Tea $250 2 Doz. table spoons $72	312.
34 Doz. Spoons $68 2 doz Tea spoons $24	92.
18 Coffee " $18 " Egg " $6	24.
3 old "$3 2 large gravy " $20	23.
3 small ladles $12 Soup Ladle $10 Fish Knife $5	27.
30 Forks $90 30 small do $60 2 butter knives $4	154.
4 salt spoons $2 1 sugar do 2 2 Pickle Knives & forks $2	6.
Silver cup $5 5 plated Spoons $1 1 plated tea pot $5	14.
1 plated Bowl $5 plated sugar dish $5	10.
1 " egg boiler $12 1 silver Cigar lighter $10	22.
1 " toast rack $3 2 large plated waiters $70	73.
3 small waiters $15 4 [illegible – wine?] stands 12	27.
18 fruit knives plated $18 24 table Knives 16	34.
24 small Knives $12 29 old " " 8	20.
22 Doz " $ 5 7 carving forks 10	15.
1 butter stand $15 1 sett Casters $15	30.
18 nutt crackers $14 18 picks $5.00	19.
1 Cheese Knife $2 3 silver napkin rings 6	8.
2 pitchers $10 2 do $2 2 waiters $1	13.
2 Goblets $6 clock $15 pair Candelabras $20	41.
pair candle sticks $10 Bell $2 Cigar box $1	13.
Shovel tongs &c $5 Sideboard $50	55.
Glass Pitcher $15 Decanters $50 24 Claret glasses $24	89.
1 Extension table $75 Book Case 25	100.
Etagere $25 Mahogany tray stand 10	35.
Kitchen furniture $50	50
Total amount	$21,207

Frederick Stanton inventory

Inventory and Appraisement of the Goods, Chattels and Personal Property of Frederick Stanton, Deceased– June 29, 1859
Taken at Stanton Hall, a house in Natchez
Copy in Stanton Hall file at the Historic Natchez Foundation

PARLORS FURNITURE		
2 large mirrors	800.00	
2 mantle mirrors	600.00	
Curtains for nine windows	2200.00	
One Carpet for Parlor & Hall Trm'gs (Trimmings?)	787.41	
Twenty four chairs	1340.00	
One Divan	400.00	
3 Sofas	800.00	
One small table	20.00	
4 Light Chairs	8.00	6955.41
HALL (LOWER) FURNITURE		
2 Sofas	240.00	
One settee	150.00	
8 chairs	320.00	
1 Hat rack	100.00	
(2) reclining chairs	60.00	
Matting	27.00	897.00
PASSAGEWAY FURNITURE		
1 Hat rack	50.00	50.00
LIBRARY FURNITURE		
8 chairs	80.00	
2 Arm chairs	100.00	
2 Book Cases & books	600.00	
Writing desk	10.00	
One table	90.00	
One sofa	120.00	
One clock	100.00	
Bronze Statues	100.00	
One large mirror	400.00	
One mantle mirror	300.00	
Curtains for four windows	400.00	
Carpet	150.00	
Matting	9.00	
Window shades	40.00	2499.00
DINING ROOM FURNITURE		
One Dining table	175.00	
4 Arm-Chairs	112.00	
8 Dinner Chairs	128.00	
One Settee	125.00	
2 Sideboards	200.00	
6 Rocking Chairs	18.00	

2 Childrens Chairs	3.00	
	761.00	10401.41
Amt. brot fowd	761.00	10401.41
3 Candelabras	20.00	
4 Vases	6.00	
2 Candlesticks & trays	3.00	
Carpet	75.00	
1 Work table	6.00	901.00
PANTRY FURNITURE		
Crockery & Glassware	75.00	
2 chairs	1.00	
Silver ware	250.00	
1 Table	4.00	330.00

[page 2]

KITCHEN FURNITURE	20.00	20.00
SERVANTS HALL	100.00	100.00
Furniture in Servants Room No. 1	15.00	15.00
Furniture in Servants Room No. 2	20.00	20.00
Furniture in Servants Room No. 3	35.00	35.00
Furniture in Servants Room No. 4	15.00	15.00
FURNITURE IN BED-ROOM NO. 1		
Bed & bedstead	500.00	
2 Wardrobes	300.00	
1 Wash-stand & fixtures	80.00	
1 Night-stand	20.00	
1 Dressing Table	135.00	
	1035.00	11837.41
Amt. brot fowd	1035.00	11837.41
1 Table	60.00	
3 Arm-chairs	190.00	
2 setting chairs	40.00	
4 window shades	40.00	
Matting & sofa	100.00	
Carpet	150.50	1615.50
FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 2		
Bed and Bed-stead	75.00	
Bureau	15.00	
Sofa	10.00	
Washstand & furniture	10.00	
Carpet & Matting	15.00	125.00

FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 3		
Bed & Bed-stead	75.00	
Wardrobe	50.00	
Bureau	15.00	
Washstand	10.00	
Carpet & Matting	15.00	165.00
FURNITURE IN NURSERY		
1 Couch & bedding	10.00	
1 Armoir	10.00	
1 Bureau	5.00	25.00
FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 4		
Bed & Bedding	150.00	
Wardrobe	135.00	
Washstand & Toilet set	50.00	
Table	20.00	
Dressing case	70.00	
Piano & stool	50.00	
7 chairs	15.00	
1 Night stand	15.00	
Carpet	116.80	
FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 5		
1 Bed & Bedding	150.00	
Wardrobe	135.00	
Washstand & Toilet set	50.00	
Table	20.00	
Dressing case	70.00	
Piano & stool	50.00	
7 chairs	15.00	
Carpet	116.80	621.80
FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 5		
1 Bed & Bedstead	50.00	
1 do & do	50.00	
1 Wardrobe	40.00	
1 Dressing Table	10.00	

[page 3]

1 Arm chair	3.00	
1 setting chair	5.00	
Carpet	119.00	
1 Table	10.00	287.00
FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 6		
Bed & Bedding	250.00	
Curtains	150.00	
	400.00	14676.71
Amt. brot fowd	400.00	14676.71
Wardrobe	200.00	

Table	25.00	
Dressing Table	100.00	
Washstand, Nightstand	50.00	
1 sofa	20.00	
1 Arm chair	10.00	
2 setting chairs	10.00	
Carpet	169.50	
Matting	15.00	999.50
UPPER HALL FURNITURE		
1 Table	35.00	
1 Book Case & Books	75.00	
18 setting chairs	90.00	
6 Arm Chairs	48.00	
2 Settees	75.00	
Carpet	284.40	
11 light chairs	5.50	
12 Mahogany hair chairs	18.00	
1 Mahogany sofa	7.50	
2 Card tables	8.00	
Pillows	18.00	
12 pr. sheets & sheeting	60.00	
3 paintings	15.00	
3 rocking chairs	2.00	541.40
FURNITURE IN BED ROOM NO. 7		
Bed & bedstead	100.00	
Wardrobe	75.00	
Washstand & fixtures	20.00	
Carpet Matting	45.00	
Chair	.50	
1 Table	8.00	248.50
		$16466.11
Amt. brot. forward		$16466.11
CARD ROOM		
1 Sideboard	80.00	
2 Card tables	100.00	
Carpet	35.00	
Chairs	106.00	321.00
BILLIARD ROOM		
Billiard table & fixtures	485.00	
Carpet	45.00	
Chairs	10.00	540.00
NAMES OF NEGROES		
Jacob	1600.00	
Catherine 1000 William 1200	2200.00	
Sarah 800 Isaiah 200	1000.00	
Matilda 800 Sarah Jane 1100	1900.00	
Bige (?) 1100 Selah 1100	2200.00	

Amos 1500 Joe 1600	3100.00	
Eliza	750.00	16400.00

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2 Horses 400 1 Mare 125	525.00	
2 Carriages 750 1 Old buggy 50	800.00	
1 Waggon 50 2 Carts 60	110.00	
1 Cow 25 1 Calf 10	35.00	
1 Bull 30 1 New buggy 125	155.00	1625.00
Contents of Cellar (wine) valued at	400.00	400.00
		35752.11

Inventory of Choctaw, home of George Malin Davis
Taken 1865 by the Union Army
Inventory located at the National Archives, copy at Historic Natchez Foundation

List of Furniture in the house occupied by Brig. Gen'l M. Brayman as Head Quarters (G. Malin Davis)

1 Bedstead, Rosewood
1 " , Painted
1 " , Cot
1 Spring Mattress
6 Hair "
1 Feather Bed
3 Prs Pillows and Cases
4 " Sheets
1 " Blankets
1 Counterpane
2 Mosquito bars
6 Book Cases
8 Chairs, Satin bot.
2 " " " , Rocking
2 " " " , Arm
2 Stools, " "
1 Childs Chair " "
8 Chairs, Green Morrocco
4 " Arm " "
16 " Cane Bot.
4 " Rattan
1 " Rocking "
1 " Arm, Kitchen
5 " "
1 " Garden
2 Sofas
11 Tables
2 " Side
1 " Dressing and Mirror
1 " Card
2 " Kitchen
3 " Laundry
2 Counters
2 Stands
1 Sideboard
1 Stand Table leaves
1 Hat stand
6 Carpets
5 Hearth Rugs
1 Door mat
3 Floor Cloths Oil Cloths
2 " " Matting
1 Crumb cloth
3 Wardrobes
3 Washstands
3 Bureaus
2 Pier Glasses
1 Piano and Stool
3 Whatnots
8 Portraits, Oil

6 Paintings, "
5 " Water Color
14 Engravings
12 " Colored
1 Dauguerreotype, Family Group
12 Prs. Window curtains, Satin
18 " " " Tassels & loops
2 Bell Ropes
4 Window Blinds
4 Statuettes, Plaster
4 Towel Screens
1 Candle Stand
2 Chamber Pots
3 Spittoons
2 Mantel Clocks
1 Refrigerator
1 Card basket
Plated Tea Set
1 Coffee Pot
1 tea pot
1 sugar bowl
1 Slop bowl
1 cream jug
11 Asiettes
Green China Set
36 Dinner Plates
13 Soup "
22 Dessert "
4 Corner Dishes
1 Turreen
2 Gravy Bowls
2 Pitchers
3 Fruit Baskets
2 Cream Mugs
2 Fruit Dishes
2 Pickle "
2 Oyster " large
2 " " small
2 Side "
1 Butter Plate
1Sugar Bowl
23 Tea Plates
24 Supper "
24 Tea Cups
25 Saucers
12 Custard cups & covers
1 Punch Bowl Large
1 " " small
1 Cake Plate and Stand
Purple China Set
25 Preserve Dishes
24 Tea Cups
24 Saucers
23 Dessert Plates
12 Finger Glasses
1 China Cup & Saucer
2 Decanters, Green
2 Claret Jugs
2 Trays, Iron
1 Stoneware Vase, broken
1 White Pitcher "
1 Cream Jug
4 Salt Cellers
6 Champaign Glasses
7 Wine Glasses
1 Pistol Case, Rosewood
2 Coal Scuttles, Copper
2 " " Japanned
1 Set Fire Irons
2 Foot bath
2 Slop Buckets
1 Toilette Powder Box
2 Cash Boxes, Tin
1 Bathing tub
8 Candlebras
4 Candlesticks
1 Argand lamp, old
1 Oil " "
1 Hall " Pendant
1 " " Oil
1 Map, U.S.
2 Water Buckets
2 Watering Pots
1 Kitchen Range & Furniture
1 Cooking Stove
1 Cupboard, Kitchen
9 Stoneware, Jars
3 " Jugs
2 Demijohns
1 Ice Cream Freezer
1 Water Cooler
12 Jelly Glasses
2 Cake Patterns
2 Jelly "

7 Glass Jars
1 Egg Boiler
5 Flat Irons
6 Washtubs
1 Tin Oil Can, large
1 " " " small
1 Pr. House Steps
1 Iron Kettle
1 " Pot
2 " Press
1 Clothes screw, large
1 " " small
1 Washboard
2 Spades
3 Hoes
2 Casks
12 Barrels
2 Broiling Irons
1 Butter Pail
1 Butter Stamp
5 Stoneware Milk pans
1 Milk Pail
1 Pr. Spring Steelyards
1 hand pump
1 Ironing Furnace
2 packing Cases
29 Bottles and Vials
1 masons Frowel
1 mint Safe
1 ice Box
1 Bucksaw
1 Hearth Broom
1 Box Hardware
1 " Tobacco, broken
2 Paint Brushes
1 " Pot
1 Iron Safe
8 Chafing Dishes
5 Window Sashes
1 Squirrel Cage
7 Iron Rods for Bed Curtains
1 Spirit Level
1 Baby Table
1 " Chair, broken
8 Blowers, Sheet Iron
8 Summer Pieces, for Grates
1 Box Scrap Iron
20 Window Blind Rollers
9 " " Slats
1 Spinning Wheel
2 Boxes Window Glass
1 Pr. Saddle bags
1 Tin Wafer Box
15 Old Ledgers
49 Vols. Bound newspapers
12 Numbers, Indian Tribes of America
2 Door Locks, old
2 Hose Joints
1 Loom Ratchet
3 Ink Stands
1 magnifying Glass
2 Spring lancets
1 Claw Hammer
1 Sickle
1 Pr. Garden Shears
1 " Lasts
12 Shovel Plows
1 Coal box
1 Pile Slate
1 Mason's Level
3 Shovels
1 Grindstone
1 Ladder
1 Harness Case, broken
1 Iron pump
Pieces of Loom
1 Bbl. Lime
1 Pile Cedar Posts
2 Lengths, Rubber Hose
Lot of Lumber
1 Spring Wagon
1 Ox Wagon
1 Double Carriage, landau
1 Set Double Harness, Silver Mounted

The above property turned over to Brig. Gen'l J. W. Davidson, Commnd'g Dist of Natchez—Jany. 1865.

Thomas Henderson inventory
Filed June 1, 1866
Taken at Magnolia Hall, a house in Natchez
Adams Co. Probate Records

A true & perfect inventory and appraisement of the goods chattels & personal estate of Thomas Henderson deceased

Library Room

Carpet 60$ Rug 5$ Two bookcases 125$ each = 250$	315.
One Sofa 75$ Two arm chairs for 20$ four chairs for 32$	127.
One Center table 50$ Two Flower Stands for 30$ 1 Engraving 2.50	82.50
One Candelabra 5$ Two Silver candlesticks for 2.50 1 Fire stand 3$	10.50
Contents of Small book case $69.25 Contents of large library 50$	119.25

Hall No. 1

1 Oil cloth 40$ 2 Hat racks for 30$ 2 chairs for 5$	75.

Room No. 2

1 arm chair 1$ 1 Table 2$	3.

Room No. 3

1 Side board 15$ 7 chairs for $10.50 1 bookcase 30$	55.50
1 Dining table 40$ 1 side Table 20$ 1 market table 10$	70.
1 oil cloth 20$ 1 Rug 2$ 2 mats for 1$ Window shades 10$	33.
1 Fire stand Shovel & tongs	3.

Room No. 4

1 Beadstead [*sic*] 40$ 1 Beaureau 40$ 1 washstand 15$	95.
1 Commode 8$ 1 mahogany chair 2.50 Window shades 10$	20.50

Carriage house

One old barouche & harness incomplete	75.

Room No. 5

2 Window Shades for 5$ 1 Wash stand 5$ Beadstead & Carpet 20$ Armoir 15$	45.
Amount forward	1129.25

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Amount forward	1129.25
1 beaureau in room No. 5	20.
Room No. 6	
4 Window Shades for 10$ 1 Carpet 20$ 1 Sofa 80$	60
5 Rosewood chairs for 50$ 3 Mahogany chairs for 7.50 Fire stand 3$	60.50
Room No. 1. Upstairs	
1 Sofa 15$ 1 dressing table 10$ 1 Beadstead 15$	40.
1 Table 15$ 1 towel stand 50$ 1 Carpet 25$	40.50
Room No. 2	
1 Couch 8$ 1 secretary 15$ 1 damaged clock 2$	25.
3 chairs for 3$ 1 Rocking chair 3.50 Carpet 10$ Carpenter Tools 10$	26.50
Room No. 3	
1 Sofa 20$ 1 Table 2.50 1 Carpet 20$ Fire stand 3$	45.50
1 Blower 25c Towel stand 50c Clock 20$	20.75
Room No. 4	
1 Armour [*sic*] 50$ 1 Beaureau 50$ 1 Beadstead 40$	140.
3 chairs for 3$ 1 Rocking chair 1.50 1 Carpet 35$ Firestand &c 2.50	42.
Room No. 5	
1 Beadstead 15$ 1 Trund$^{l.}$ Beadstead 2$ 1 Table 2.50 Carpet 20$ 1 S Cand$^{k.}$ 1$	40.50
Room No. 6	
1 Armour [*sic*] 25$ 1 Beadstead 35$ 1 Beaureau 25$ 1 Elegian 5$	90
1 Couch 5$ 2 Tables for 20$ 2 arm chairs for 40$	65.
4 Rosewood chairs for 40$ 1 Firestand 1.50 1 Carpet 35$	76.50
1 Rug 3$ 2 Window Shades for 5$ 4 [Trimd?] Curtains 20$ 1 Watch 50$	78.

Room No. 7

2 Sofas for 85$ 3 chairs for 30$ 1 armour [*sic*] 5$ 1 Trunk 2.50
1 Valise 2.50 1 Toilet Set 8$ 133.
1 Oil cloth in Hall No. 2 25.
Amount forward $2158.

[page 3]
Hall No. 2 Amount forward $2158.

1 Sideboard 15$ 1 Hat rack 5$ 1 sofa 15$ 1 chair 50c
Engraving 1.50 37.
2 paintings 3.

Wing Room No. 1

2 Safes for 10$ 1 cupboard 8$ 1 Table 1.50 1 Heater 1$ 20.50
1 Trivet 50c Dish pan 1$ Crockery 20$ 21.50

Room No. 2

1 Refrigerator 10$ 6 coal scuttles for 3$ 1 Table 1$ 1 Safe 1$ 15.

Kitchen

1 Stove 20$ 1 Table 1$ 1 cupboard 4$ 1 Kneading table 2$ 27.
4 Iron Beadsteads 10

Wash room

1 Ironing Stove 5$ 4 Ticks 2$ 8 Irons 4$ 11
1 Table 1$ 1 clothes horse 50c 1.50

Bedding

8 Mattresses for 50$ 1 Spring Mattress 10$ 3 couch Mattresses 6$ 66.
1 Feather Bed 30$ 15 pillows for 30$ 5 Bolsters for 20$ 80.
4 M. Bars 15$ 2 couch bars 5$ 20.

Linen Sheets

10 Coarse Sheets 20$ 8 fine Sheets 20$ 18 Medium Sheets 27$ 67.
4 Cotton Sheets 4$ 16 pillow case 8$ 4 Quilts 12$ 24.
1 old Quilt 50c 2 comforts 3$ 1 old ditto 50c 4.
2 couch comforts 1$ 2 fine blankets 6$ 1 common blanket 1.50 8.50

Table Linen

4 Table Cloths 12$ 3 old ditto 3$ 1 col'd ditto 3$	18.
3 old ditto 3$ 2 1/2 doz napkins 5$ 1 doz ditto 1.50	9.50
Amount forward	2601.50

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Amount forward	2601.50
1 Soup ladle 8$ 12 Table spoons 30$	38.
11 desert [*sic*] Spoons 20$ 14 Tea Spoons 14$	34.
2 preserve Spoons 3$ 2 Salt Spoons 2$	5.
4 Salt Shovels 2$ 18 dinner forks 45$	47.
17 Breakfast forks 34$ 1 pair Sugar tongs 2$	36.
1 Urn 10$ 1 Tea pot 5$ 1 Sugar dish 2.50	17.50
1 Spoon bowl 2.50 1 catsup Stand 5$	7.50
12 nutcrackers 6$ 18 plated knives 9$ 1 caster 10$ 1 do 2.50	27.50
(Twenty Eight Hundred & fourteen)	$2814.

George Malin Davis inventory, 1883

Taken at Choctaw, a house in Natchez

Photocopy in Melrose file at the Historic Natchez Foundation

Inventory
Personal Property at Residence

– office (basement)	
1 Matting (old & worn)	1.00
2 tables (do)	6.00
1 Desk (do)	10.
1 Book case & books (do)	300.
3 Maps (old)	3.
1 stove	5.
Room adjoining office (basement)	
1 old table	15.
1 broken sofa (worthless)	2.
1 old matting (do)	1.
North Parlor	
1 Piano	100.
1 Marble top table	10.
1 small wooden table	5.
1 Brussels carpet	20.
1 Parlor set, sofa, rocking chair, 2 arm chairs, 4 spring bottom chairs, 5 small chairs	50.00
~~1 Family Bible~~	
~~2 Portraits (Mr. & Mrs. G.M. Davis)~~	
3 Paintings	30.
1 Oil Portrait	20.
5 Mantel Ornaments	3.
	581.00

[page 2]

Forward	581.00
1 Rug	2.
1 Mantel Mirror	50.

— Library —

1 oak Library table	5.
1 ? bookcase desk	20.
1 stand	2.
1 sofa	15.
1 Mantel clock	1.
1 stove	2.
2 mantel vases	2.
1 coal vase	1.
1 fancy metal inkstand, 1 glass inkstand (broken), 1 metal cigar holder	1.00
1 Porcelain Lamp shade, 1 small Globe	1.00
1 Brussel's carpet	10.00
2 cane arm chairs, 2 oak leather bottom chairs, 2 cane bottom chairs, 1 office chair	15.00
1 marble top table	5.00
~~1 music box (old & broken)~~	
1 rug valued with carpet	
2 oil portraits	20.
3 engraved portraits	5.
1 shovel & tongs	1.00
Books in Bookcase & Desk	200.
Total forward	939.00

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Forward	939.00

South Parlor

1 Mantel Mirror	50.
1 fancy stand	20.
1 marble top table, 2 flower vases	15.
1 velvet carpet	20.
~~2 Rugs~~	
1 Parlor set (property of Mrs. Davis,) 2 sofas, 2 armchairs, 6 spring bottom chairs, 3 cane bottom chairs, 2 large spring bottom stools, (1/2 thereof belonged to Mr. G. M. Davis)	60.
~~1 fancy needle work (framed)~~	

Dining Room

1 oak dining table	20.
1 " side board	20.
1 doz. leather covered chairs, 2 arm leather covered chairs	10.
1 stove, 1 plate warmer	1.00
1 shovel & tongs	1.00
1 matting, 4 rugs, 1 Drugget	10.00
3 chromos	5.00
1 oil painting	5.00

Hall

1 Cane arm chair, 3 cane bottom chairs, 2 wooden hall chairs	10.00
6 small mats, 1 oil cloth	15.00
1 stair carpet	2.

Upper Hall

1 oil cloth, 3 small mats	1.00
1 old bureau	.50
2 marble top commodes	10.
1 cane arm chair	1.00
Total forward	$220.

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Forward	$220.

South Front Bed Room

1 bedstead, 1 Lounge	20.00
2 Bureau	30.
1 wash stand & wash set, 1 Commode	15.
1 armoir	8.
~~3 large rugs~~	

~~4 small "~~

1 stand	1.00
2 cane arm chair, 4 small chairs	6.
1 matting	5.
~~1 towel rack~~	
~~1 clock~~	

North front Bed Room

1 Victoria bedstead	30.
1 Armoir	15.
1 Bureau	15.
1 Bookcase desk with books	25.
1 wash stand & wash set	10.
2 mantel vases	1.
1 stove, 1 set shovel & tongs	5.
1 carpet	3.
1 spring mattress, 1 hair mattress, 1 bolster, 2 pillows	10.
1 old rug, 1 big arm chair, 2 cane bottom chairs, 1 cane bottom rocking chairs, 2 small rocking chairs	6
2 small wooden tables	1.00
clothes in bureau & lower part of desk, 1 Revolver, 1 Rifle	5.00

South back Bedroom

1 Armoir	8.
1 Bureau	10.
1 Bedstead	10.
1 wash stand & wash set, 1 towel rack	5.00
1 table, 1 small wooden table	3.
2 cane rocking chairs, 2 cane bottom chairs	4.
Total forward	1471.00

Appendix E

Notes from telephone interview with Marian Kelly Ferry by Carol Petravage, November 8, 1993.

***A note about this interview:** 'GMD' stands for George Malin Davis; 'GMDK' stands for George Malin Davis Kelly. The choppiness of the text reflects the interview process.*

Mrs. Ferry has a few letters from GMD—one or two from the Civil War when he was in the Mississippi militia stationed on the coast. Stephen Kelly wrote copiously to Mrs. Ferry's father (GMDK) about the care and management of the Kelly holdings in the Mississippi area.

According to oral family history, GMD loaned McMurran $40,000 during the Civil War because the McMurrans were short on funds, and Melrose was used to secure the loan. After the war, the McMurrans could not pay off the loan so GMD foreclosed and obtained Melrose. The Davis and Kelly families owned five large houses, but not at the same time. They owned Choctaw and Cherokee, which were originally on the same plot of land, until High St. was constructed, which cut through the property and separated the houses. They owned Concord, which burned in 1901. They owned Magnolia Hall for only 24 hours, long enough for Mrs. GMDK to dig up a white camellia tree and transplant it to Melrose. Mrs. Ferry doesn't know who was occupying Cherokee. Choctaw was the main family home. Dr. Stephen Kelly's father, Richard B. Kelly, founded the Fifth National Bank in NYC. Stephen Kelly lived in NYC before his marriage to Julia Davis (in 1873), then Stephen and Julia Kelly probably split their time between NYC and Natchez. Mrs. Ferry believes that the Kellys usually stayed at Choctaw when they were in Natchez. Julia died January 1883 at Choctaw. GMD died in October 1883. Stephen Kelly took GMDK back to NYC since he no longer had any relatives in Natchez. So, after 1883, both Choctaw and Melrose were basically empty except for occasional visits. Stephen Kelly and GMDK visited Natchez when GMDK was 12 and again when he was 17.

Choctaw became a college for young ladies (finishing school). Choctaw was sold to the Byrne family in the 1920s (?).

Mrs. Ferry has a letter of recommendation that Judge Edward Turner wrote for George Malin Davis. She also has a note from a Yale law professor recommending him. However, GMD was not a graduate of Yale. He was there long enough to be a member of the Clio Society. May have been studying certain subjects but is not listed on any of the class lists.

Mrs. Ferry has one or two letters written from the Davises to Julia while she was away at boarding school. Julia went to NYC in 1866. She went because of the Davises' connections in NY. They had friends called the Meeks. Mrs. Ferry doesn't know the name of the school. Uncle Charlie Meeks lived in White Wings, the house across from Choctaw.

About 1867 Julia wrote that she had been to a delightful dinner party at the Meeks' where she met Dr. Stephen Kelly. Mrs. Ferry doesn't know how long Julia was at school in NY. In 1873 Julia and Stephen Kelly were married. They spent a lot of time in NYC. GMDK was born Feb. 26, 1877 in NYC. Mrs. Ferry feels that Stephen and Julia did not live at Melrose much at all. Julia was at Choctaw the whole time she was ill (approximately six months) and she died there.

When Julia and Stephen were in NYC, they stayed at the home of Kelly's father, Richard B. Kelly, 3 E. 73rd St. Richard B. Kelly was originally some kind of judge. He founded the Fifth National Bank in 1855 (it may have been Richard B. Kelly's father who founded it). Dr. Stephen Kelly was president of the bank. Had medical training but never used it. Manufacturer's trust bought it out in the 1920s. GMDK never went into banking—not interested. Stephen Kelly died in the mid-1920s in NY.

Mrs. Ferry feels Melrose was empty from the time Davis acquired Melrose until 1901 (except, of course, for Aunt Jane and Aunt Alice).

When Mrs. Ferry's mother got to Melrose, all the small furnishings were packed into barrels.

Mrs. Ferry's parents traveled constantly until Mrs. Ferry's birth in 1909.

Dr. Kelly had a caretaker trustee, Mr. Burns, who met Mrs. Ferry's parents at the station in Natchez on their honeymoon trip. He drove them to Melrose in a surrey. Mrs. Kelly and her mother saw Melrose in the moonlight and fell in love with it.

When the Kellys first got to Melrose in March(?) 1901, there were snakes in the basement, bats in the attic, squirrels in the house, and holes in the roof. GMDK made the rounds of Cherokee, Concord, and Melrose and gave his wife the choice. She chose Melrose because of the neighborhood (liked the layout of Concord better but it was located near the railroad and factories).

The Kellys stayed in Natchez for a couple of months. The first thing they did was to have the roof secured. Then they left orders for the rest of the repair work and headed west for the rest of the year.

Mrs. Ferry's mother kept a diary on this trip west. They went up the coast of California to Seattle where they saw Cousin John. John outfitted them for a hunt—along the border of the Columbia River in the wilderness for two months. Went to NY in October.

In the meantime, Mr. Burns was supervising the renovation during their absence.

The Kellys went on other big game hunting trips.

The Kellys had an apartment in NYC. Mrs. Ferry was born in NYC.

Melrose became livable by 1904. She has photos of Grampa Moore looking at Melrose, which has scaffolding erected in front of it.

The Kellys lived at Melrose sporadically between 1904 and 1909. Mrs. Ferry thinks that they lived in a very makeshift way during this period when they were there.

Mrs. Ferry was born in 1909. The Kellys moved to Melrose permanently when Mrs. Ferry was three months old.

Mrs. Ferry says that she only has the McMurran inventory and a letter from M. L. McMurran to GMD.

Mrs. Ferry has a wedding photo that was very poorly done—makes the bridal couple look like Tom Thumb and wife. Julia was buried in her wedding dress.

Elmscourt made their own gas and had fireplaces in every room. Gas was never installed in Melrose.

A large furnace was installed at Melrose before Mrs. Ferry was married (1933). There were large registers in downstairs rooms but no registers upstairs. The only heat upstairs was any that drifted up the stair hall. The servants (Aunt Alice at first, then Phoebe Carter) would come into the bedrooms, light a fire, and open the shutters. The shutters were always closed at night. Mrs. Kelly was in the southwest front bedroom over the green parlor. GMDK was in the northwest front bedroom over the dining room. Mr. and Mrs. Kelly's bedrooms and the small bedroom (now the bathroom) had iron stoves. There was a large wood box on the back gallery. Mrs. Ferry's room was over the library. The middle bedroom between Mrs. Ferry's room and Mrs. Kelly's room was the guest bedroom.

They used portable kerosene lamps (never candles for regular use – only for parties). The Callons removed the candle boards over the main doors on the first floor. GMDK and Mrs. Kelly had the candle boards converted to electricity. There were four candle boards originally—one over the front door, one over the back door, and one on either side of the intermediate door, all on the first floor. These electrified candle boards were used just like regular light fixtures. Before the candle boards were electrified, they were not used.

When the Kellys moved in, there was no chandelier in the library or the middle parlor. In the 1930s Mrs. Ferry's cousin was visiting Melrose. He had inherited a crystal chandelier from the Fanshaw mansion, located at 92nd and 93rd St. in NYC. He felt it would look nice at Melrose and offered it to Mrs. Kelly, who accepted it enthusiastically. It was shipped to Melrose from NYC and installed in the middle parlor. Mrs. Kelly had a couple of prisms made for it, but it was otherwise OK.

Mrs. Ferry has photos of the Kelly side but not portraits. Portraits of George Malin Davis and Elizabeth Shunk Davis are at Mrs. Ferry's son's house in Grosse Point, Michigan. Julia Davis's

portrait is at Julia Ferry's house in Portland, Maine. The posthumous portrait of Julia's sister is still at Melrose. Melrose also had a portrait of Stephen Kelly with a dog.

GMDK was born in 1877 in NYC and was christened by Dr. Stratton in Mississippi.

[Aunt Jane and Aunt Alice were former slaves who stayed at Melrose as caretakers while Melrose was largely unoccupied during the last part of the 19th century.—CP] Aunt Jane died at age 103 in the 1930s(?) or early 1940s(?). Aunt Alice died in late 1920s or early 1930s. Alice's bedroom was over the dairy. Mrs. Ferry's nurse's bedroom was also over the dairy. The garage was the room on the first floor of the same building closest to the house (the room next to the dairy). Alice lived her last 10–15 years on N. Pine St.

Jane was the cook, but she could not read, so she cooked from memory. Mrs. Ferry said sometimes she would forget an ingredient and the result was less than satisfactory. The kitchen was in the building that faced the dairy.

GMDK put in the brick paths laid between the outbuildings.

The other room in the kitchen building on the first floor was Aunt Alice's kitchen, which had a wood stove and several rough sitting chairs. The servants ate at a big table in the main kitchen.

A young man named Jamie Dottery, raised on or near Melrose, worked with the cows and the mules used for pulling carts and keeping the fields clean.

The head man (known at various times also as the overseer or superintendent) lived in the Superintendent's house. The Callons made this house into a guest house. This house was located to the left of the slave quarters (if you are standing in the back yard of Melrose looking at them). Aunt Jane lived in the slave quarters.

Nanny (nurse) – Mrs. Ferry's nannies were both named Annie and were differentiated by being called old Annie and new Annie. After Mrs. Ferry outgrew the need for a nanny, new Annie stayed on and became kind of a personal maid to Mrs. Kelly – she did sewing and upstairs work.

Aunt Alice was the upstairs cleaner.

Butler (one was Johnny Mauck[sp. ?]) – cleaned the downstairs rooms. Helped the men outside, carried firewood. Mrs. Kelly originally engaged a maid to serve meals (since that was what she was used to in NYC) but realized that she needed to hire a man after the maid, carrying the heavy tray of food from the kitchen, tripped and dropped the whole meal. Mrs. Kelly realized that she needed someone stronger.

Mr. GMDK died in 1946.

Fred Page came to Melrose when he was 16, in about 1948.

Ed Barland was the head man. Lewis Alexander worked for Barland for a while before becoming the head man himself. Barland and Alexander were the ones who installed the electricity in Melrose.

Fred Page observed the changes, improvements, and maintenance over the years and is knowledgeable about all the systems in the house.

The Callons supposedly had record photos taken of the rooms both before and after restoration.

Melrose was livable by 1904, but the Kellys did not live there full-time until 1909.

The Kellys spent Christmas in NYC. Mrs. Kelly went for six weeks, then GMDK and Mrs. Ferry would come for the duration of Mrs. Ferry's school vacation. As soon as school let out for the summer, they would all go to Grandfather Moore's house on an island in Maine and didn't return until just before school reopened. By the late 1920s, GMDK stopped going to Maine in the summer because he was much troubled by motion sickness and didn't feel like making such a long trip.

Mrs. Ferry went to public school in Natchez; her father would drive her to and from school. She took a brown bag lunch. School let out before 2:00 p.m. She graduated from high school in 1926. High school took three years at that time. Because Mrs. Ferry was only 16 when she graduated from high school and couldn't start college, she went to Bradford Junior College for one year between high school and Vassar.

Every summer the furniture was covered with linen slipcovers. All of the rugs were taken up. The green parlor would be shut up and the shutters closed. Newspapers were saved all year to lay in between the rugs, which were all laid in the green parlor like sandwiches with layers of newspapers and moth balls.

There were at least a half-dozen furs on the floor in the great hall. They were hunting trophies—mountain goat, different kinds of bears—and all of them still had their heads attached. These were put away in trunks with mothballs for the summer.

Around 1936 Mrs. Kelly came into some money from her father and decided to spend some of it on Melrose. She bought a large oriental rug and put it downstairs in the great hall in the winter. The Callons moved the rug to the upstairs hall when they made that room into a family room.

In the library was a very old and worn oriental rug in shades of blue that had been purchased in NYC.

In the green parlor was an oriental that was too small for the room. A pair of small green throw rugs had been placed on either side of the doors to the pink parlor to cover up some of the bare floor. About 1948–49 Mrs. Kelly decided to reproduce a small Victorian flowered rug that was located in the middle bedroom. Mrs. Ferry doesn't know whether this rug was at Melrose in 1901 or if it was brought over from Choctaw. A reproduction was made to fit the

green parlor exactly, wall to wall. The Callons removed this rug and Mrs. Ferry doesn't know where it went (possibly Magnolia Hall?).

The Callons had another rug reproduced and put the same one in the pink and green parlors.

The Kellys bought a rug for the dining room which had an all-over pattern of flowers on a black background with a black border. The rug was purchased at W&L Sloans in 1921 or 1922. The Callons took that rug up, too.

The staircase had carpeting with a flowery pattern.

Mrs. Ferry believes that in 1901 there were no rugs upstairs.

The rug in Mrs. Ferry's room was an Olson rug made from reprocessed wool in an early American hooked rug type pattern. The oriental rug from the green parlor moved upstairs to the middle bedroom. Mrs. Kelly's room had Olson scatter rugs. GMDK's rug was an Olson rug that looked like quilted squares. The upstairs hall had at least a dozen small American Indian rugs laid on the floor. These were also taken up during the summer. Mrs. Ferry's family took these when they sold Melrose and sold them in NYC.

Mrs. Kelly kept diaries all through the years, from the age of 10. Mrs. Ferry has these.

According to Mrs. Kelly, the library never had proper draperies. Mrs. Kelly liked her daughter's decorator from Michigan. The decorator visited Melrose and offered to help with the library redecorating. The decorator sent new blue leather for the library chairs, which were upholstered locally by Mr. Baker.

The decorator also got an English brocade (neutral tan background with slightly embossed shadowy flowers), which was used for draperies for the library. These draperies, together with the pink draperies from the middle parlor and the gold and navy draperies from the dining room were given (or possibly loaned) to Magnolia Hall by the Callons.

When the Kellys moved into Melrose, Mrs. Kelly had a pink rug with a gold border made to match the draperies that they found hanging in the middle parlor. In 1936, Mrs. Kelly had the pink fabric reproduced for making new drapes and upholstery for the furniture. The pink rug and pink draperies were still there when the Callons bought the house. Mrs. Ferry doesn't know what the Callons did with the rug; the draperies are in the dining room at Magnolia Hall.

The Callons let the house be used for movies; the curtains were taken down many times and were considerably damaged as a result.

Mrs. Kelly reproduced the green parlor upholstery material in 1936 as well.

Mrs. Ferry has a piece of the pink brocatelle, but she doesn't remember whether the material is the original from 1901 or the original from 1936.

Mrs. Ferry also has a piece of wallpaper that was on the walls of the green parlor in 1901. Betty Callon may also have a piece. Mrs. Ferry's piece is about 12" long. The wallpaper in 1901 had suffered much from water leaks. [Note: This wallpaper is located at Natchez NHP now. -CP]

Mrs. Kelly painted all the walls in Melrose. Mrs. Ferry's room had colonial-style wallpaper with blue and white baskets that was installed in the 1920s.

Mrs. Ferry believes that only the green parlor was wallpapered in 1901.

The Kellys painted the walls in the first floor great hall a creamy pale yellow and painted the woodwork white.

Mrs. Ferry thinks that the middle and green parlor furniture was McMurran. The Library gothic chairs were from Choctaw. The "double-headed" bed is from Choctaw.

The room between GMDK's bedroom and the staircase was used as a huge linen closet and a hanging closet. From about 1939, when GMDK was ill, half of the storage and linen closet area was made into a bathroom.

On the first floor, the room that is currently the powder room was the front pantry. It had cupboards to the ceiling that were full of china, silver, and household goods.

The back pantry, currently the warming kitchen, held one large cupboard made of cypress. Mrs. Kelly got rid of the cupboard in the alcove and installed a sink. The room also held a "green safe," like a pie safe with punched tin insets (or screen?), which held non-perishable foodstuffs. They also had an icebox in this room.

The servants all left at 3 p.m. after serving dinner at 2 p.m. Before they left, they would prepare supper for the family and leave it in the green safe—it might be salads, sandwiches, cheeses, etc. The family would then "put together" their own supper later in the day.

Aunt Jane was making biscuits by 6:00 a.m. Breakfast was around 8:00 a.m. before school, which started around 8:45–9:00 a.m. Dinner was at 2:00 p.m.

There was a fairly major redecorating campaign around 1936.

Mrs. Ferry lived at Melrose from the age of three months until she married in 1933 and moved to Michigan. She went to the local public schools through high school.

Mrs. Kelly had nine (unclear whether Mrs. Ferry meant children or members) in her family. Family would visit, sometimes for months. Mrs. Kelly belonged to the bridge club and would host games. There were young people's parties. The Church Circle had meetings there.

Mr. Kelly owned a small old building in Natchez on Main St. next to the Eola Hotel. He rented out the upstairs (to doctors, etc.). Half of the building was an insurance agency; a dentist also had an office there. Mr. Kelly had two offices in one side of the building. The rear room had a bank vault. Mr. Kelly had at one point thought about starting a bank but was

talked out of it by his father. Mr. Kelly met with representatives from plantations in this office. Friends would stop by for coffee. Mrs. Ferry and her friends would stop by and be taken out for ice cream.

Mr. Kelly would pick Mrs. Ferry up at school, then drive home to Melrose for dinner at 2:00 p.m. Then he would take a nap, do some reading, and walk around the grounds of Melrose checking on the daily activities.

Mrs. Kelly was involved in the Garden Club, in the Pilgrimage (Melrose was a part of the Pilgrimage from the very beginning), and in church work.

Mrs. Ferry would visit during Pilgrimage and stay three weeks to help her mother prepare the house, especially after her mother got older.

Appendix F

Description and placement of furnishings objects at Melrose during the Kelly occupancy as remembered by Marian Kelly Ferry. Compiled from taped interview with Marian Kelly Ferry by Carol Petravage and Kathleen Jenkins, August 23–24, 1994. Tapes on file at NATC.

INTERVIEW WITH MRS. MARIAN FERRY
MELROSE FURNISHINGS
AUGUST 23–24, 1994
(* indicates objects no longer on-site at Melrose)

Room 101 – Front Entry Hall

A. Small striped throw rug. *
B. Beggar Boy statue (NATC 3) on dark green marble plinth (NATC 4)—from mother's house at 833 Madison Avenue. Souvenir of family trip to Europe.
C. Portrait of Stephen Kelly as a boy (NATC 25).
D. Victorian Gothic side chair with upholstered seat & back.*
E. Small dark throw rug.*
F. Cane-seat side chair with mother-of-pearl inlay (1 of 4).*
G. Steel engraving of classical subject.*
H. Coat rack (NATC 482).
I. Sidelights left bare—no shades or glass curtains.
J. Mahogany folding-top table (NATC 336, 337, or 573); with flat green bowl (NATC 83) for calling cars and Oriental lamp (NATC 1469).
K. Cane-seat side chair with mother-of-pearl inlay (1 of 4).*
L. Large greenish Grecian-shaped urn (NATC 354).
M. Oil painting: "Bubble Blowers" by Magni (NATC 354)
N. Floorcloth: shellac or varnish applied every year after traffic increased with first Pilgrimages in 1930s.
O. Oriental rug, said to be the "best" in the house. Rolled up every year to avoid Pilgrimage traffic.*
P. Cathedral ceiling light fixture, now located in Room 105.

Room 102 – Dining Room

A. Steel engraving, possibly someone addressing Parliament (looks like 17th century scene).*
B. Empire sideboard labeled Charles White of Philadelphia (NATC 334). Used to be set with silver tray * sitting on center marble inset and other mainly serving pieces.

C. Gothic revival side chairs (NATC 322–33); arm chairs (NATC 320–21) not specifically mentioned and do not show up in photos—have been recovered in textured deep blue/black leather.
D. Small dark throw rug.*
E. Small steel engraving of either Paul or Virginia.*
F. End piece of 3-part dining room table, either Sheraton or Hepplewhite, ca. 1810, with drop leaf turned to wall.*
G. Small dark throw tug.*
H. Small steel engraving of either Paul or Virginia.*
I. End piece of 3-part dining room table, either Sheraton or Hepplewhite, ca. 1810, with drop leaf turned to wall.*

J. Navy & gold drapes now hanging at Magnolia hall (NATC 1324–31). Originally hung at Choctaw, made taller with velvet panels and navy valance. Previously hung in Mrs. Kelly's bedroom. No glass curtains underneath. Before these, possibly only lace at windows. Pull-down shades throughout house.
K. Steel engraving of George Washington standing, with Mount Vernon visible in distance.*
L. Black marble-topped pier table (NATC 335). Silver service sitting on table (NATC 357–60) previous to house except for large urn (NATC 361) bought by Mrs. Kelly in New Orleans. The slop bowl to the silver set was damaged beyond repair.* The shelf underneath in front of the mirror held a pair of stuffed pheasants.*
M. Audubon landscape of Natchez.*
N. Mantel clock with knights (NATC 344) in center, Argand lamps with birds on either end (NATC 342–43).
O. Black metal plate warmer.*
P. Oriental standing folding screen. First one was 3-panel with embroidery.* Next was 2-panel screen of ivory on dark wood (NATC 590)
Q. New dining room rug bought c. 1920 from W. & J. Sloan in New York. Oriental strip carpet pieced together with border added.*
R. Round dining room table ($100 table) with leaves that could be added.* Often set with wild honeysuckle (wild azalea) for cascading effect. Everyday dishes were white with gold trim (NATC 1271–76).

Room 103 – Service Hall

A. Oversized tea cart.*
B. Olson rug running length of hall.*
C. Kerosene lamps on wall brackets.*
D. Grecian saber-leg chairs with cane seats, set of 6.*
E. Small 4-legged country serving table of plain wood (uncataloged table in Bally?).
F. Only pull-down shades at windows.

Room 103(a) – Closet Under Stairs

A. Shelves lined with jellies & sherry; trays kept to the back.

Room 104 – Pantry

A. China cabinet (either NATC 603 or NATC 2905, 2886 in basement).
B. China cabinet base with shelves above.

Blue & white McMurran china with gold trim; originally several pieces; divided between Mrs. Ferry and her children, about 2 dozen left for Callons. Only a few cups & saucers; Mrs. Kelly took 2 dozen covered custard cups to Tiffany for conversion into demitasse cups with handles attached.

C. China cabinet (either NATC 603 or NATC 2905, 2886 in basement).

Room 105 – Hall from Stairs to Dining Room

A. Iron safe (NATC 2904) with old-fashioned aquarium* on top.

Room 106 – Stair Hall

A. Oriental-type carpet,* possibly bought at same time as Dining Room rug. Held down by plated silver stair rods.
B. Small Oriental pattern throw rug.*
C. Oriental rug.*
D. Small table, either wooden (possibly NATC 188) or marble top (possibly NATC 728). Sometimes held Oriental lamp (NATC 1469)—note: a different Oriental lamp* appears in Gandy photos on Meeks table in back hall; since this one is kerosene, not electrified, it would be more likely for carrying up the stairs).
E. Three-chime dinner bell.*

Room 107 – Warming Kitchen

A. Straight chair. (?)
B. Glass curtains.*
C. Large utility sink with counter space on either side.*
D. Armoire.(?)
E. Green pie safe with legs sitting in water to keep out ants (NATC 1495).
F. Old-fashioned ice box.*
G. Tiny bathroom*
H. Low utility cabinet.*
I. Rug, probably Olson.*

Room 108 – Library

A. Arm chair, blue leather (NATC 166–169)
B. George Malin Davis legal desk (NATC 1351). On desk: lithophane (NATC 191), short 6-panel lithophane lamp,* standing telephone,* pair of silver ivy with Bohemian glass vases (cobalt & red)*. Bookcases were all empty when Davis family arrived; books had been packed away.
C. Over desk: Oil portrait of Zachary Taylor by James Reed Lambdin.*
D. Arm chair, blue leather (NATC 166–169).
E. Pull-down shades at windows. Early treatment heavier lace than parlors, later English tapestry-like material c. 1960.* Curtain tie-backs added by Callons.
F. Oil portrait of John C. Calhoun by Rembrandt Peale.*
G. 3-piece set of Argand lamps (NATC 171–73).
H. Oil painting from New York: "The Dragoon," by Delacourt (?), c. 1880s.*
I. Sofa with flowered covering (NATC 1376 or 1429).
J. Marquetry tea table & silver tea service.*
K. Arm chair, blue leather (NATC 166–69).

L. Arm chair, blue leather (NATC 166–69).
M. During Pilgrimage, mannequin in doorway between library and pink parlor wearing black hoop skirt belonging to Elizabeth Davis.*
N. Built-in mahogany bookcases (NATC 174–75).
O. Marble-top table* with Tiffany-type kerosene lamp (NATC 597).
P. Large Oriental rug from New York on floor with blue border, very worn.*
Q. Marble-top table (NATC 23). On it: small lap desk with mother-of-pearl inlay.*

Room 109 – Pink Parlor

A. Ottomans from Choctaw set (NATC 109–10) – (for parlor set, see Choctaw interior photo).
B. Small tinted-photo portrait of Davis family lady, same period as J.*
C. Etagere (NATC 112) with family souvenirs.
D. Pull-down shades on windows. Pink and gold drapes replaced c. 1936 in Brunschwig & Fils fabric, now at Magnolia Hall (NATC 1320–23). Glass curtains underneath. Gilt cornices to match green parlor. Gilt tie-backs with grape motif (NATC 127–30).
E. Parlor chair from Choctaw set (NATC 103–08).
F. Square center table (NATC 600).
G. Oval oil portrait of Julia Davis.*
H. On mantle: Gilt clock with glass cover (NATC 1381); two small Spode vases* on either side; tall gilt candelabra from New York with branches and prisms on either end (NATC 736–737).
I. Tete-a-tete or chaperone sofa (NATC 101).
J. Small tinted-photo portrait of Great-uncle Samuel Davis.*
K. Large oil portrait of Elizabeth Davis,* moved from wall shared with hall to wall shared with green parlor in 1930s.
L. Choctaw sofa with 3 ovals in back (NATC 102).
M. Standing music cabinet from New York.*
N. Large oil portrait of George Malin Davis.*
O. Piano in corner. Early upright; later Steinway grand (NATC 205). On piano: family photographs and pair of pink & gold ceramic vases.*
P. Early, swivel-top piano stool;* later, swivel chair.*
Q. Medium-size oil portrait of George Malin Davis's mother in Quaker garb.*
R. Pink carpet with inset gold border made in New York.*
S. Fanshaw chandelier, ca. 1920s.
T. Small throw rug.*
U. Coal boxes.*
V. Small throw rug.*

Room 110 – Green Parlor

A. Small green carpet.*
B. Wall sconces for candles.
C. Etagere (NATC 24), with bric-a-brac including pair of green vases (NATC 1457–58).
D. Window treatments: pull-down shades; gilt cornices to match pink parlor. Original green and gold drapes (NATC 39–46). Original glass curtains of appliqué on net,* like gossamer. Replacements from Moseley's linen store in Detroit; pattern sent to Belgium for reproduction; unacceptable quality. In 1959 upon father-in-law's death in Grosse Pointe 4 pairs

of lace panels discovered, 3 ½ yards long (NATC 59–66). Bohemian glass morning glory tiebacks (NATC 31–38).

E. Small round table (NATC 1373) with Tiffany lily lamp* or Mercury statue.
F. Green-upholstered ladies chair (NATC 15).
G. Gold leaf mirror over mantel (NATC 28).
H. On mantel: Small gilt clock* and Spode vases from pink parlor* (early); also tall gilt candelabra (NATC 68–69). Later: same candelabra with pair of Parian statues of Paul & Virginia.* Small coal grate in fireplace.*
I. Tole tin coal box.*
J. Marble table from Choctaw (NATC 97) with large vase (NATC 67); later marble-top table in this spot.
K. Revolving, or chaperone sofa (NATC 10).
L. Green-upholstered side chair (NATC 12–13, 15–19), others used in various places about the room.
M. Gold-leaf pier mirror (NATC 29).
N. Gold-leaf pier table with white marble top (NATC 30).
O. Small green carpet.*
P. Brown marble-top table (NATC 22), with Rebecca at the well Parian statue (NATC 78).
Q. Large rectangular gilded mirror from Choctaw,* simple with gadroon edge.
R. Small green carpet.
S. Knabe piano (NATC 113), with pair of simple brass candlesticks* and pair of mechanical lamps (NATC 98, 99, 100, 201).
T. Small wooden music rack (NATC 114).
U. Revolving top piano stool (NATC 218).
V. Oil portrait of Bishop Green.*
W. Clover-shaped glass curio cabinet from New York, filled with travel souvenirs.*
X. Small oil painting of two dogs reclining.*
Y. Early: bare wood around floor edges and Oriental orange carpet* in center bought by GMDK in New York. Later, after father's death copied Brussels carpet from Choctaw wall-to-wall* with bouquets of roses & tulips, made in Czechoslovakia 1933?
Z. Cornelius oil chandelier.

Room 111 – Back Hall

A. Dark green utilitarian roll-down shades in side lights for privacy.*
B. Pair of color lithographs of Biblical scenes, possibly Heaven & Hell.*
C. Marble table from Choctaw (NATC 97), moved to back hall from Green parlor.
D. Shunk needlepoint arm chairs.*
E. Tall pier table with marble top (NATC 1465). On it, large red Chinese bowl (NATC 206).
F. Moosehead.
G. Sofa (NATC 95).
H. Corner 5-shelf étagère* (see Choctaw interior photograph?).
I. Watercolor of Cardinals: "The Difficult Question" (NATC 192).
J. Mahogany folding-top table (NATC 336, 337, 573; or NATC 1–2).
K. Western painting: "Saving the Lieutenant."*
L. Sofa (NATC 165).
M. Assorted small Oriental or American Indian carpets.* Replaced in winter with bear and goatskins.*

N. Side chairs with cane seats and mother-of-pearl inlay; set of 4* (see Choctaw interior photograph?).
O. Barometers.*
P. Grandfather clock.*
Q. Steel engraving of Rosa Bonheur's "The Horse Fair."*
R. Sofa (NATC 96).
S. Dome-top trunk to hold lap robes.*
T. Painted floor cloth.
U. Meeks center table (NATC 111) with large Japanese vase with iris* or kerosene lamp with Oriental painting.*
V. Carcel ceiling fixture with mechanical workings.

Room 201 – Upstairs Front Hall

A. "Concord" bookcase still in place (NATC 1346).
B. Bookcase with curtained windows (NATC 1341).
C. Couch* with storage underneath.
D. Bookcase/cabinet (NATC 112).
E. Olson hooked-rug design.*

Room 202 – Mr. Kelly's Bedroom

A. Large tester bed (NATC 1370). Marseilles bedspreads and mosquito netting. Tester inside pleated silk with rosettes.
B. Shunk armoire (NATC 1371).
C. Marble-top bureau without wig cupboard belonging to Elizabeth Davis.*
D. Armoire (NATC 730).
E. Seascape, wedding present from cousin.*
F. Thin curtains with ball fringe, white.*
G. White marble-top dresser with mirror (NATC 729).
H. Shaving stand.*
I. Narrow sleigh bed.*
J. Pair of arm chairs (NATC 1377–78); 4 straight chairs also in room (possibly part of set (NATC 1379–80; 1459–62).
K. Pair of porcelain urns on mantle with enamel front and gilt tops.*
L. Set of 4 photos of Marian Kelly (Ferry) by Ira Hill of New York.*
M. Wood box (metal stove used in fireplace in winter).*
N. White marble-top washstand (NATC 2909?).
O. Small bedside table (?).
P. Olson scatter rugs in dark maroon; wallpaper installed late.*
Q. Leather-top writing table (NATC 596) with 2-armed brass studio lamp c. 1895 and green shades.*
R. Photograph.*

Room 203 – Small Bedroom

A. Twin-sized sleigh bed (NATC 1431–32).
B. Dresser (possibly NATC 1433).
C. Small armoire.
D. Chair (?).

Room 204 – Dressing Room

A. 3-sided clothes closet with curtains (hanging rod & shelf).*
B. Enclosed linen cupboard.*

Later alterations:
C. Sink.*
D. Toilet.
E. Bathtub.

Room 205 – Stair Landing

A. Julia Davis bustle dress on mannequin during Pilgrimage.*

Room 206 – Back of Rear Bathroom

A. Cedar chest filled with moth balls.*
B. Deep white porcelain sink.*
C. Shoe shine stand.*
D. Treadle-run sewing machine.*

Room 207 – Rear Bathroom

A. Chair with wicker seat and solid lyre back, set of 6 (see chairs in back hall in photo of dining room).*
B. Small oval marble-top table* (see Choctaw interior photo), with kerosene lamp.*
C. Simple dresser with mirror* (4 drawers for holding towels).
D. Large footed tub.
E. Wash basin*; over it, oval mirror with white border.*
F. Toilet with high water box and chain.*
G. Metal stove used in winter; stored in barn and donated to WWI scrap metal drive.*
H. Olson rug.*

Room 208 – Mrs. Ferry's Bedroom

A. In 1920s, blue & white New England wallpaper (marred by leaks in back corner).*
B. Simple dresser (NATC 1402).
C. Large tin wastebasket.*
D. Washstand* with brown flowery set.*
E. Varying groupings on mantle including one Staffordshire dog.*
F. Painted white bookshelves.*
G. Ca. 1890s glass-front bookcase from New York apartment.*
H. Child's folding table & chairs.*
I. Large 4-poster bed (?).
J. Spindly table (possibly NATC 186–87, 701–02).
K. Armoire (NATC 1434).
L. Small Windsor slant-top desk* bought by parents; kerosene lamp on top.*
M. Chair to accompany desk (?).
N. Olson rug like hooked rug with stripes in quilted pattern.*

Room 209 – Guest Room

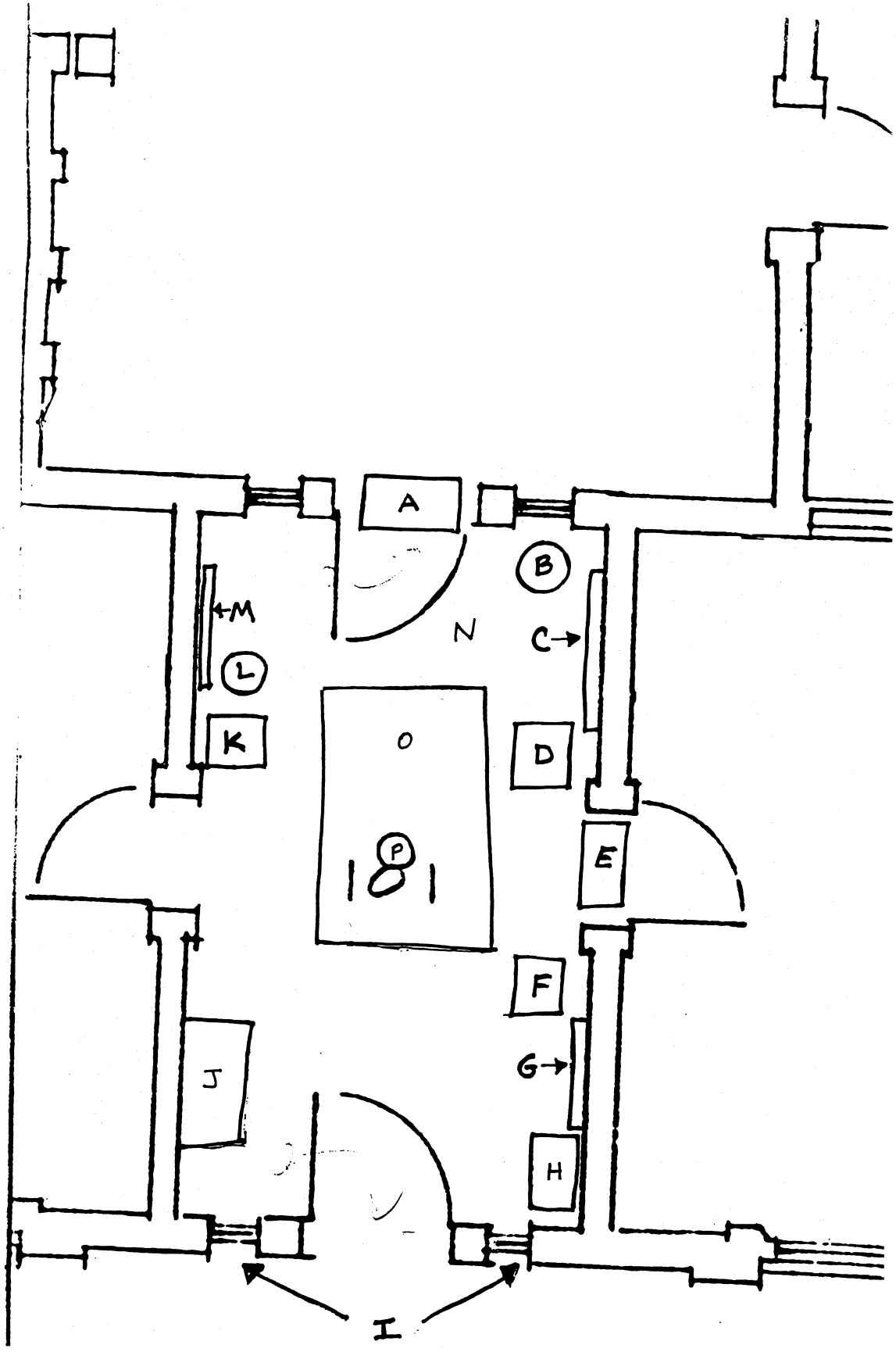
A. "Auburn" dressing table (NATC 1373).
B. Straight chair (NATC 1403–04).
C. Cotton sheers gathered on rod plus shades.*
D. Lithograph of cherub in front of mirror (NATC 1382).
E. On mantle: Royal Copenhagen doves*, clock with glass dome*.
F. Bed lamp on hooks.*
G. Small secretary-desk on bun feet, early 19th century.*
H. Large rocking chair (possibly NATC 724).
I. Footstool.*
J. Large 4-poster bed (?).
K. Black marble-top commode (NATC 1405).
L. Armoire (NATC 1401).
M. Small wood table with porcelain objets d'art and sandalwood box.
N. Dresser with wig cabinets on either side of mirror (?).
O. Rubber mat with slop jar.*
P. Washstand* with green & white chamber set (NATC 1472–74).
Q. Square wooden table (?).
R. Twin-sized sleigh bed (NATC 1431–32).
S. Area rug (better than Olson).*

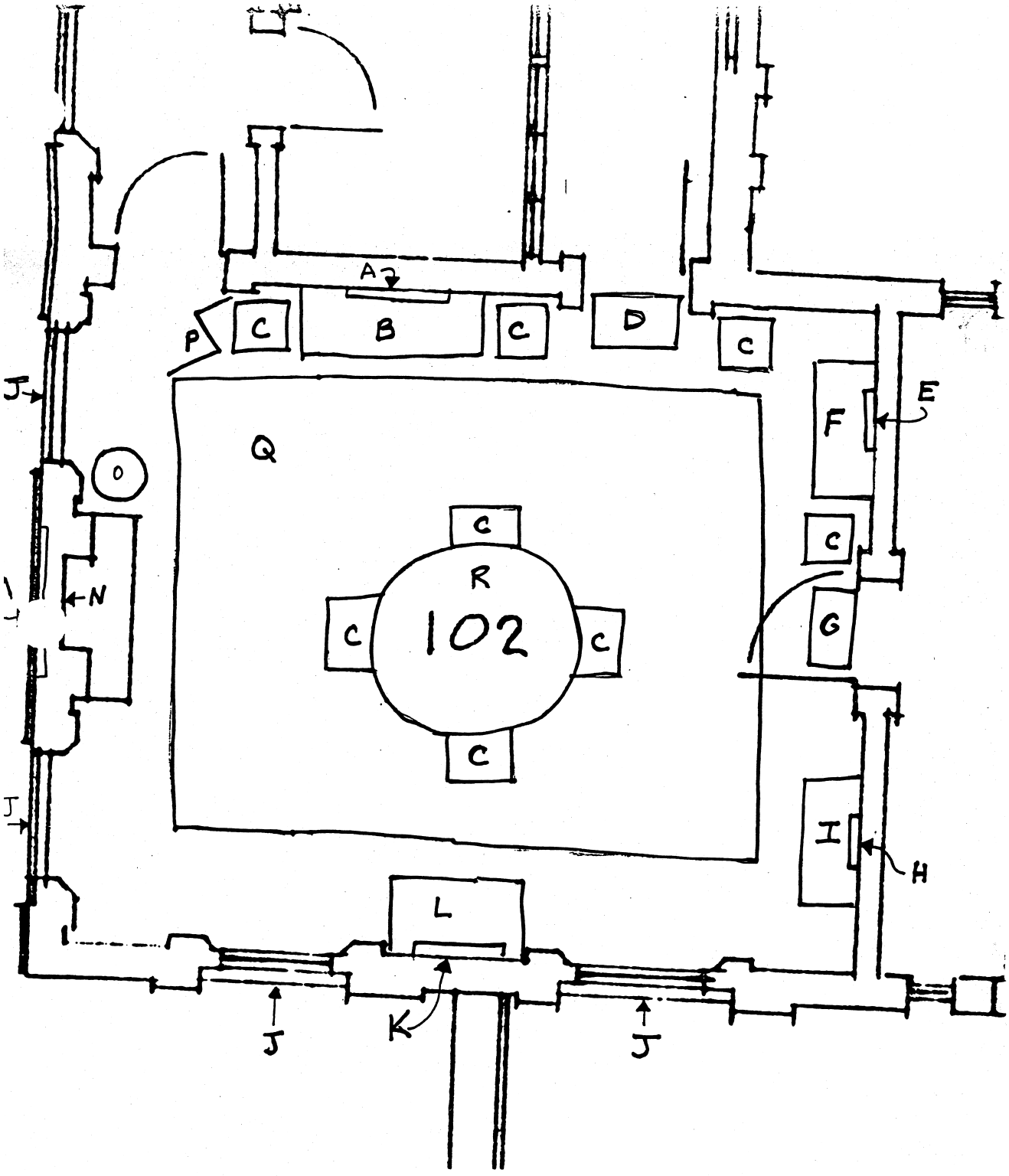
Room 210 – Mrs. Kelly's Bedroom

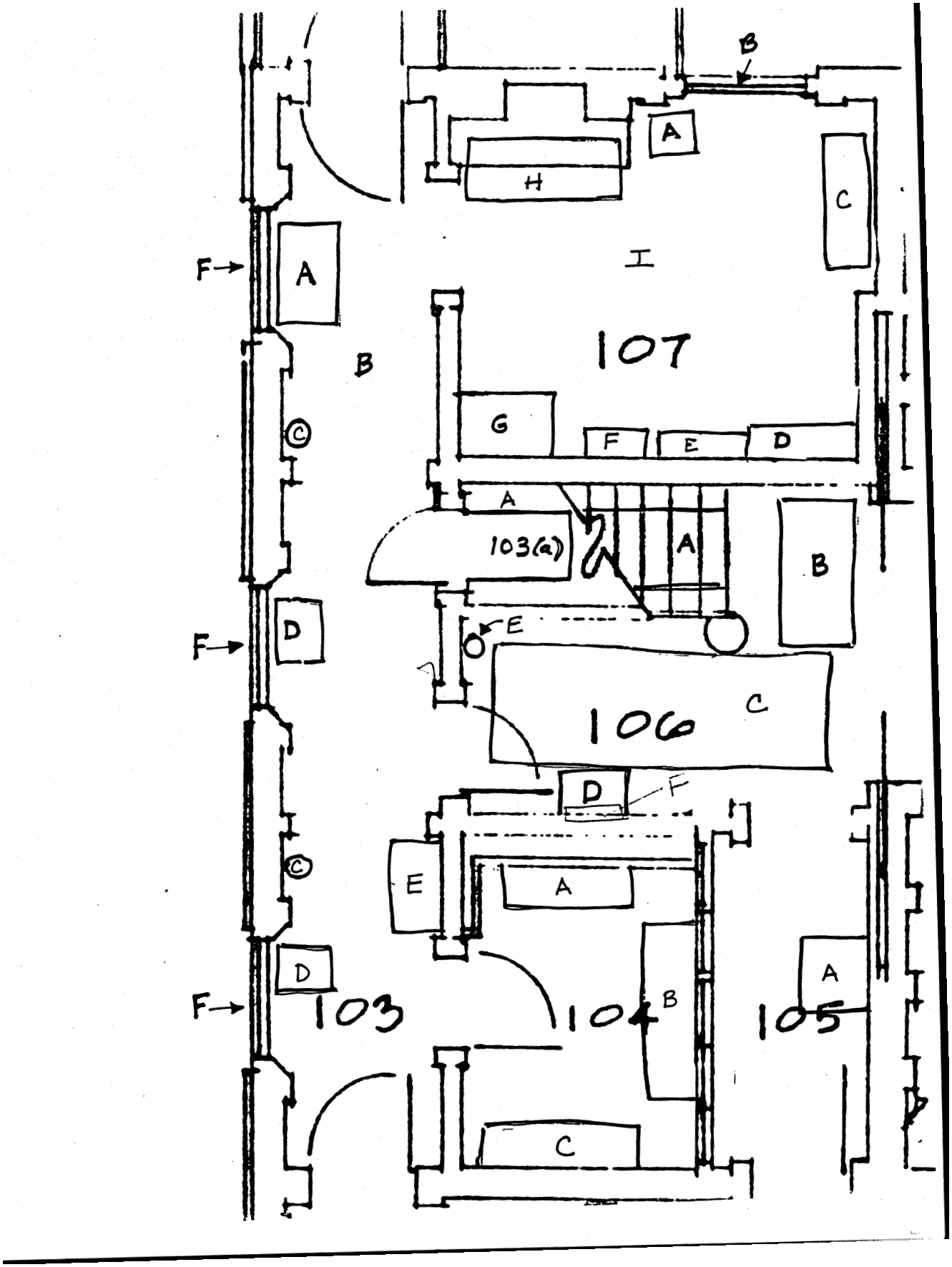
A. Large 4-poster bed (?).
B. Standing cheval mirror (NATC 1374).
C. Spooled daybed.*
D. Sheers with ball fringe and shades, tied back, only sill length.*
E. Small tilt-top table* with photographs.
F. Blue lady's rocking chair.*
G. Metal stove inset in winter.*
H. Seascape from Mr. Kelly's bedroom also hung here.*
I. Clock (NATC 738?).
J. New York blanket chest with crude carving on front panel.*
K. White marble-top washstand with shelf (NATC 1466); Delft platter on wall above.*
L. Slop jar.*
M. "Piecrust" dresser with wig cabinets (NATC 1463).
N. Sewing table with lyre base.*
O. Glass-front secretary (NATC 1386).
P. Armoire (NATC 1300).
Q. Small wooden commode with hinged seat (NATC 1436).
R. Small white marble-top table (?) with Norman photo of Kelly family on front lawn.
S. Square center table (?).
T. Arm chairs (NATC 732–33).
U. 2-toned blue Olson rugs.*
V. Balloon-back chairs used throughout room (NATC 734–35, 1317, 1369, 1491–92).

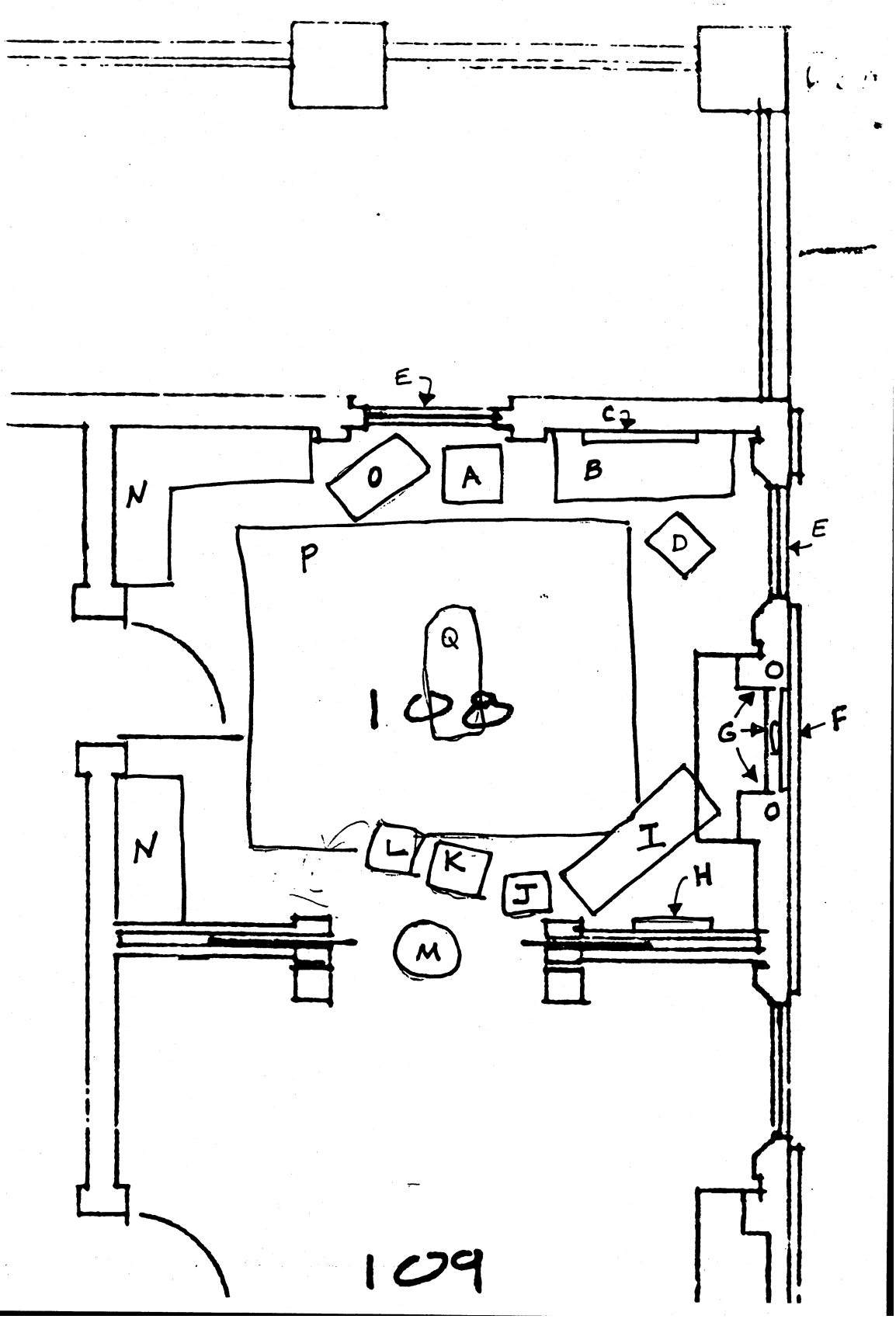
Room 211 – Upstairs Back Hall

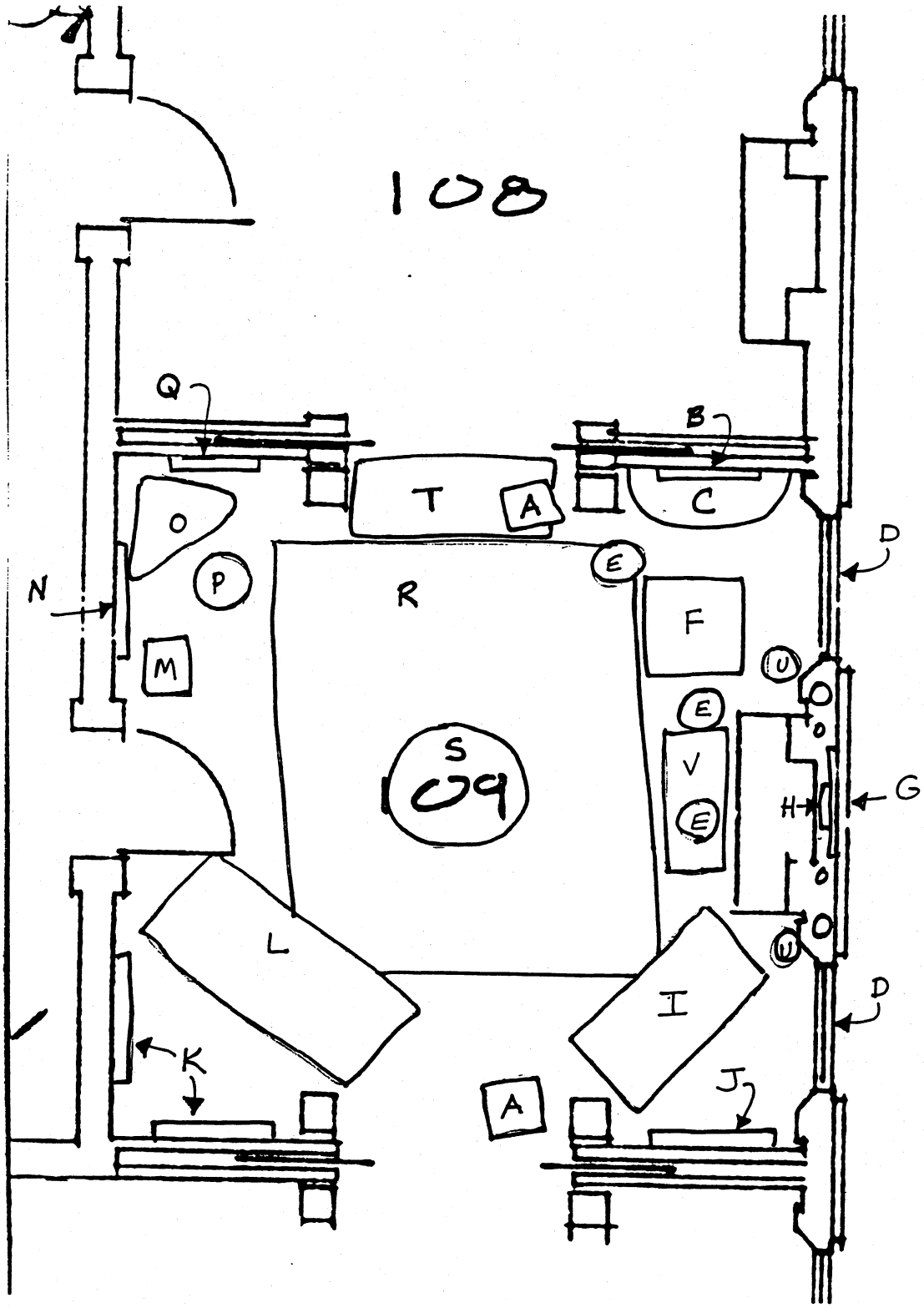
A. Oil painting, set of 4 seasons (either Winter or Autumn).*
B. Walnut armoire.*
C. Side chairs (?).
D. Large bookcase – reputedly blue poplar (NATC 592).
E. Small refrigerator.*
F. Davis secretary (NATC 1349).
G. Small wooden table (NATC 188) with Tiffany lamp* and parchment shade, original shade of silk and beads.
H. Oil painting of weeping Magdalene (NATC 202).
I. Walnut armoire.*
J. Oil painting, set of 4 seasons (either Winter or Autumn).*
K. Center of original dining table* with funny bust of lady with earrings.*
L. Unfinished floor (longleaf pine), in winter covered with goat skins and small Indian rugs.
M. Small sofa (NATC 1376 or 1429).
N. Portrait of Frances Davis (NATC 115).
O. Electrified wall sconces with eagles mounted between 2 brackets.*

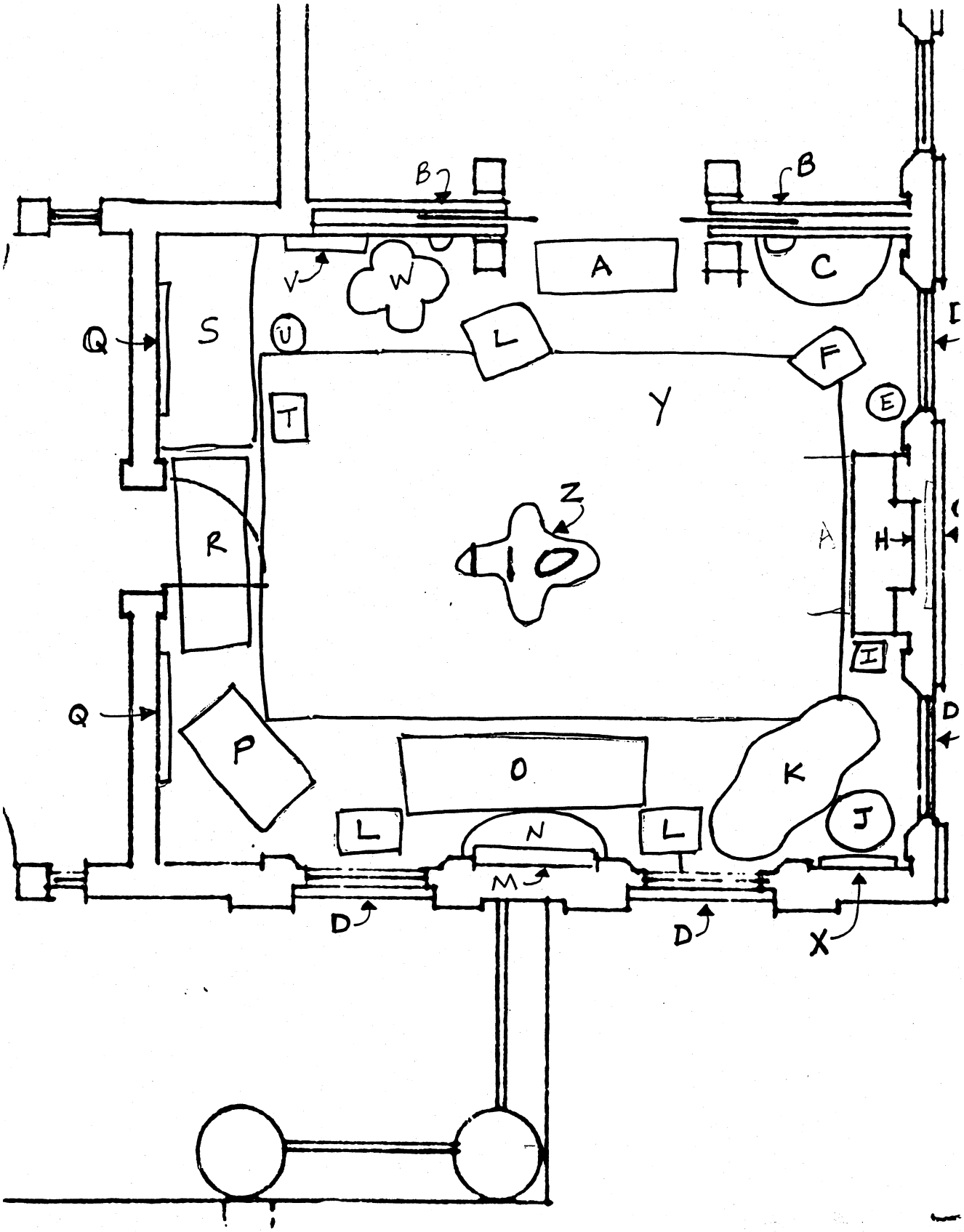

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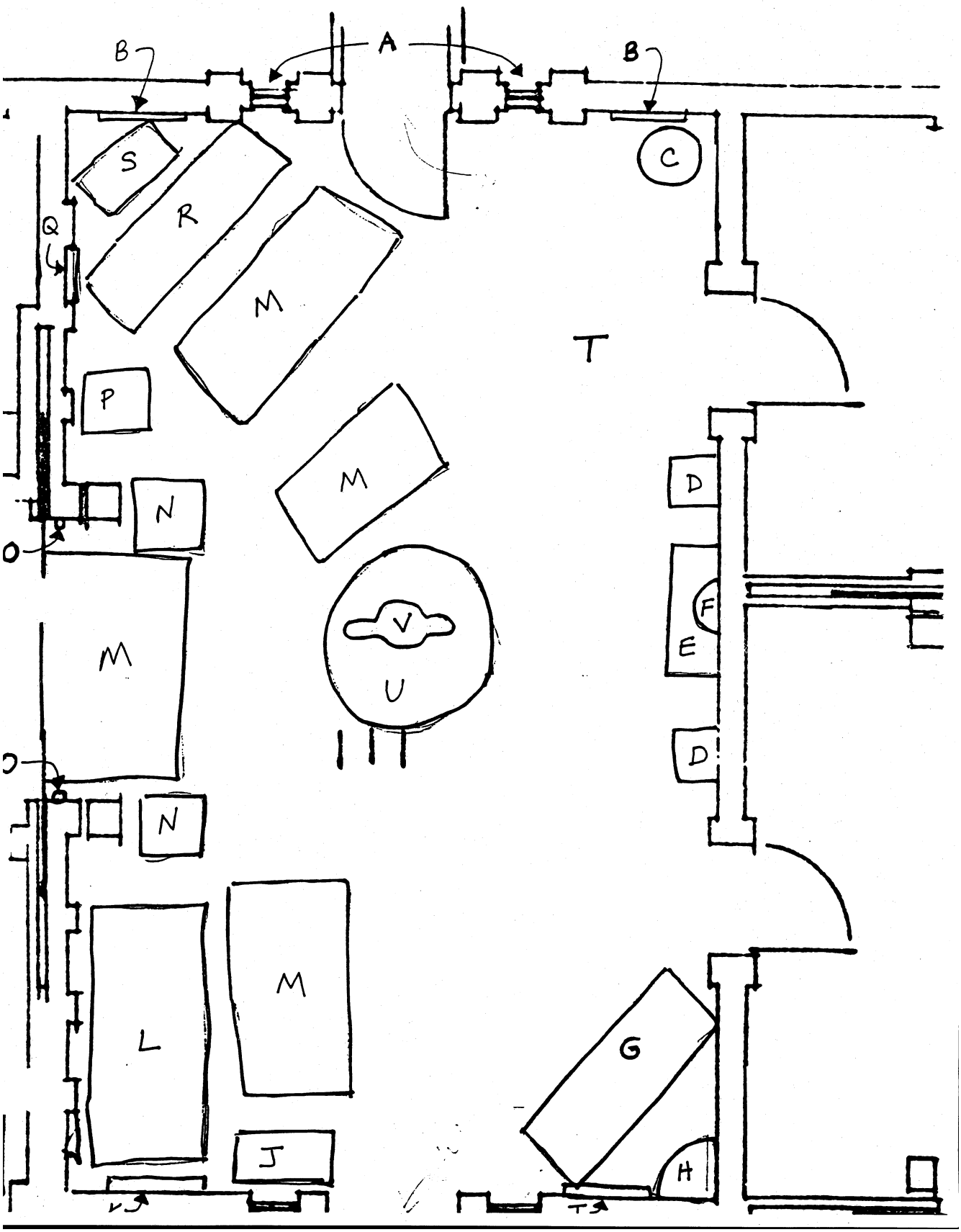

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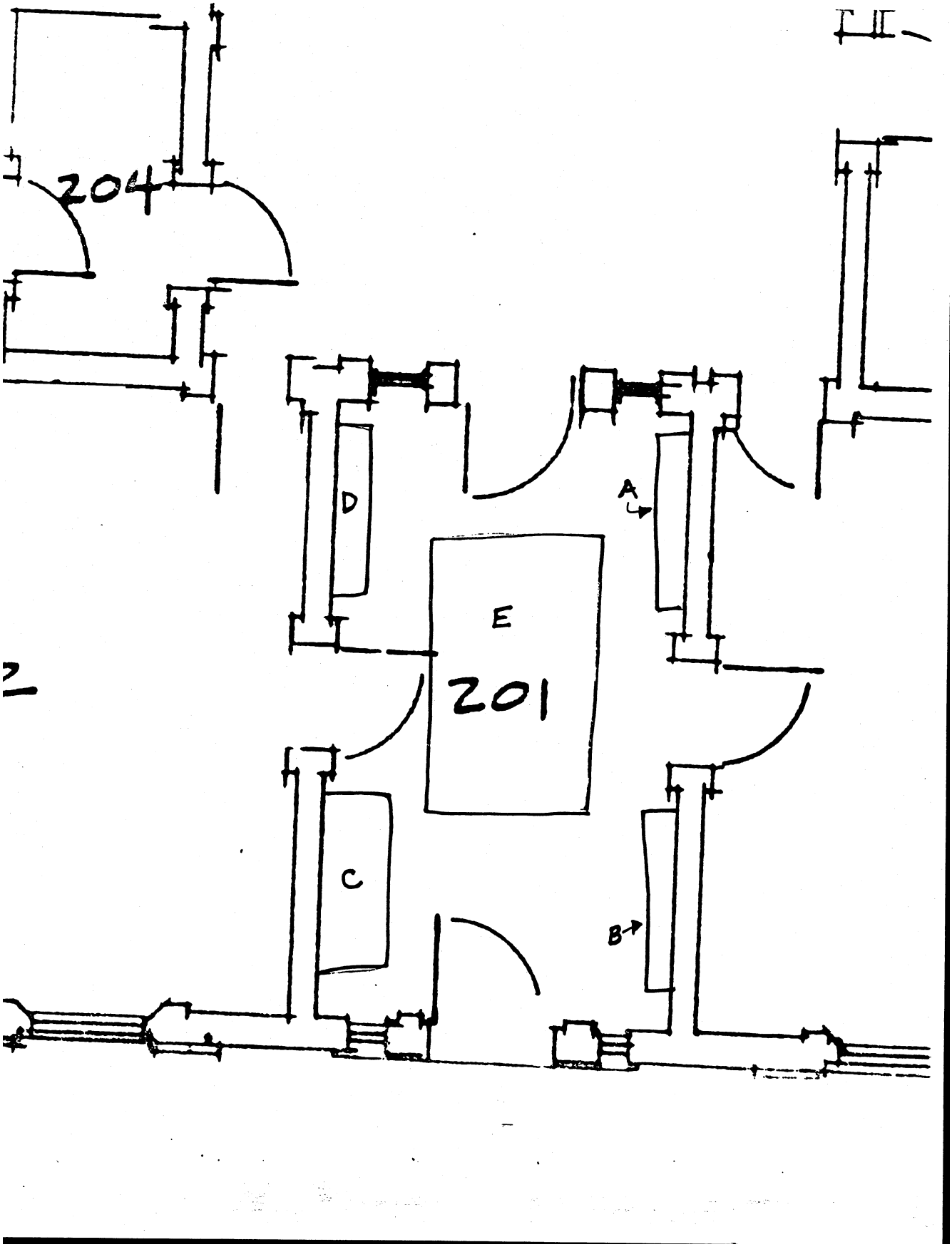

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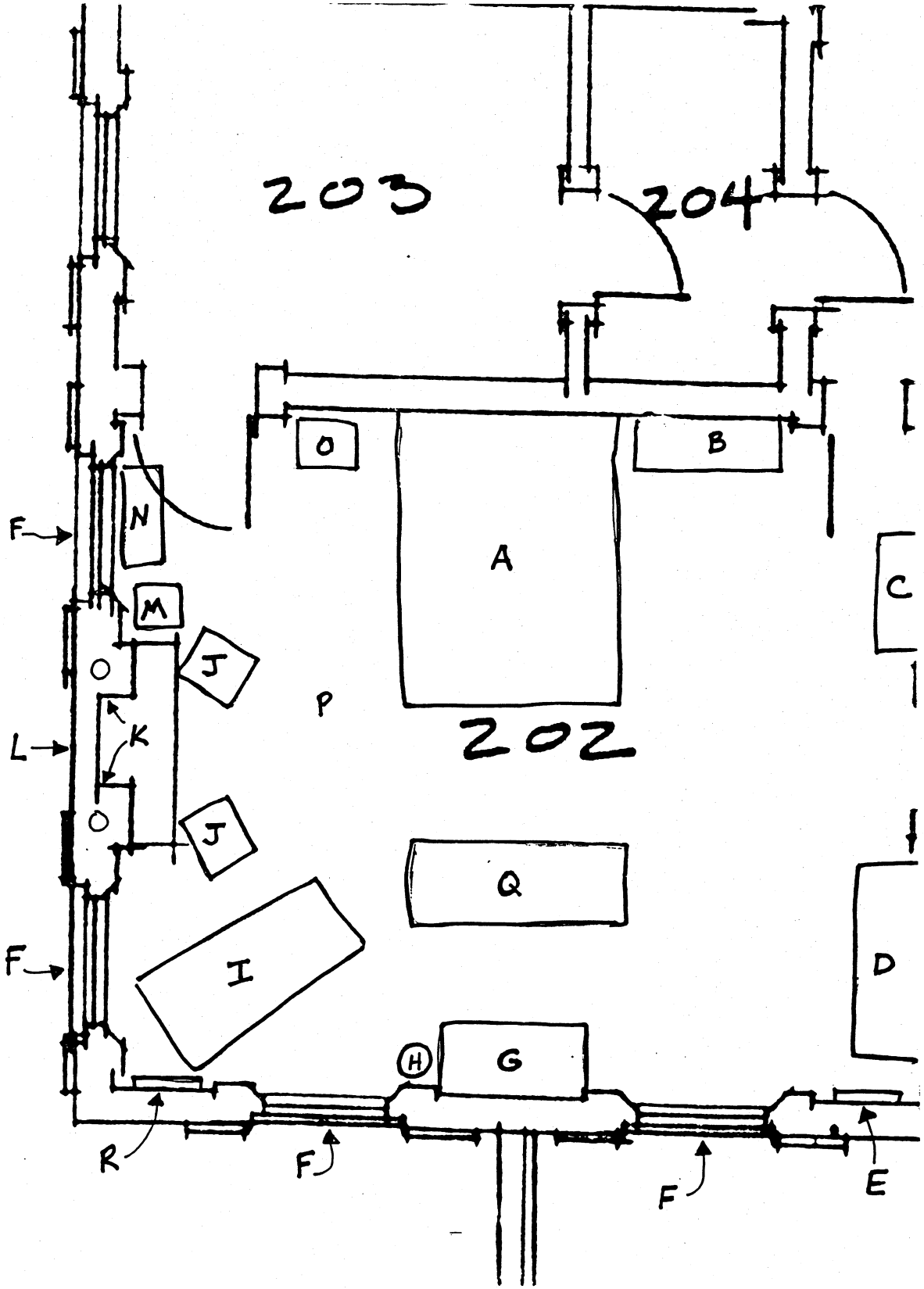

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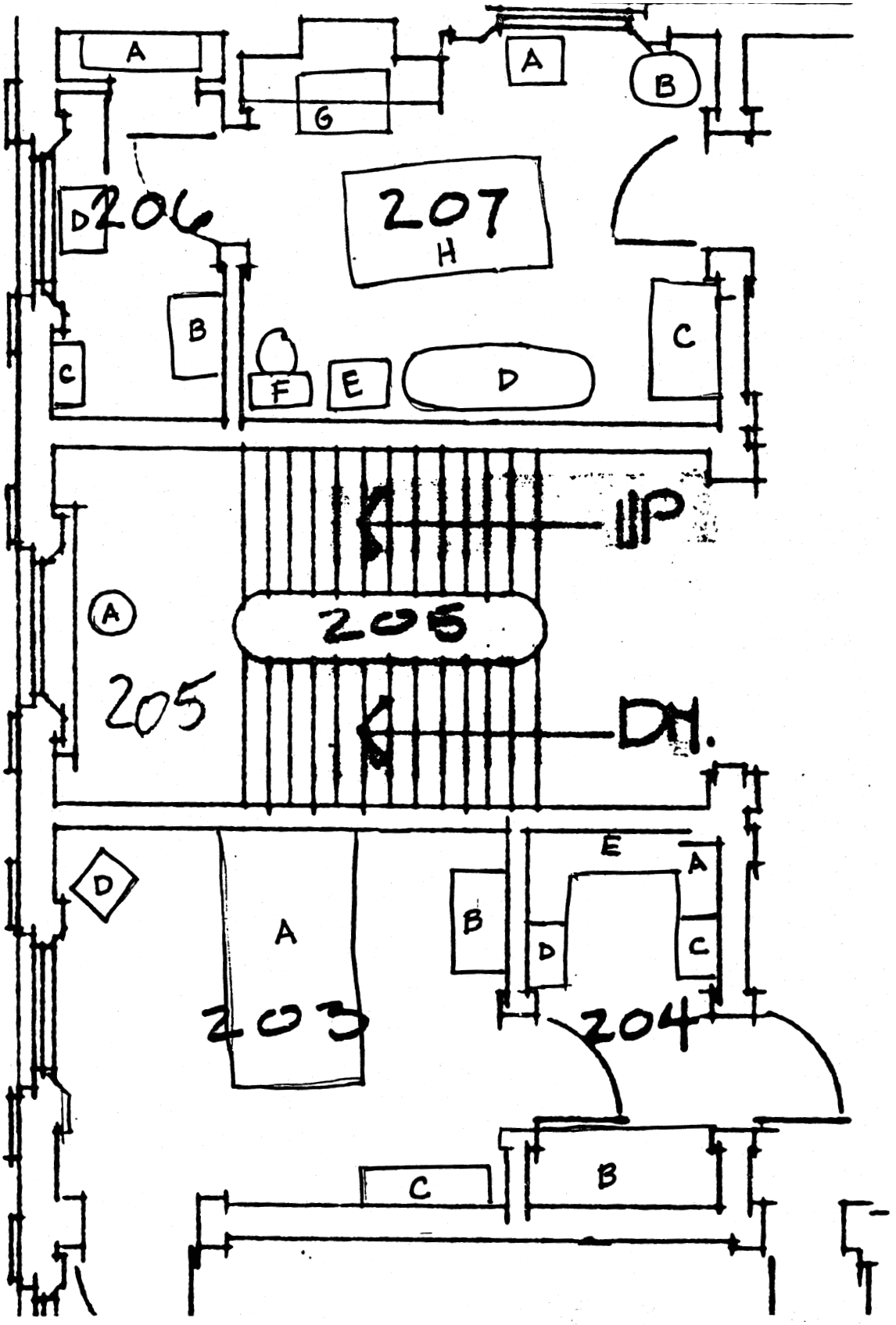

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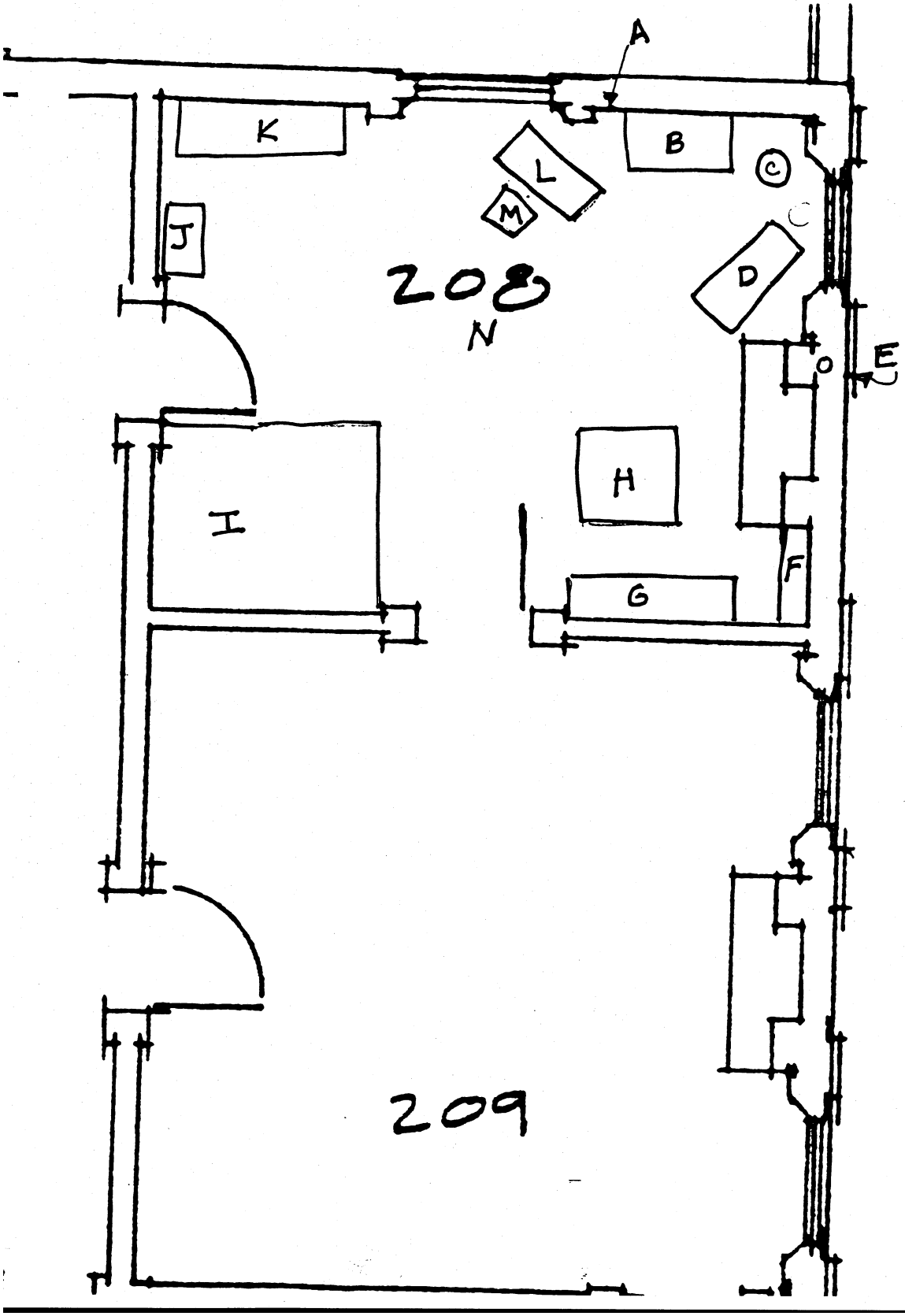

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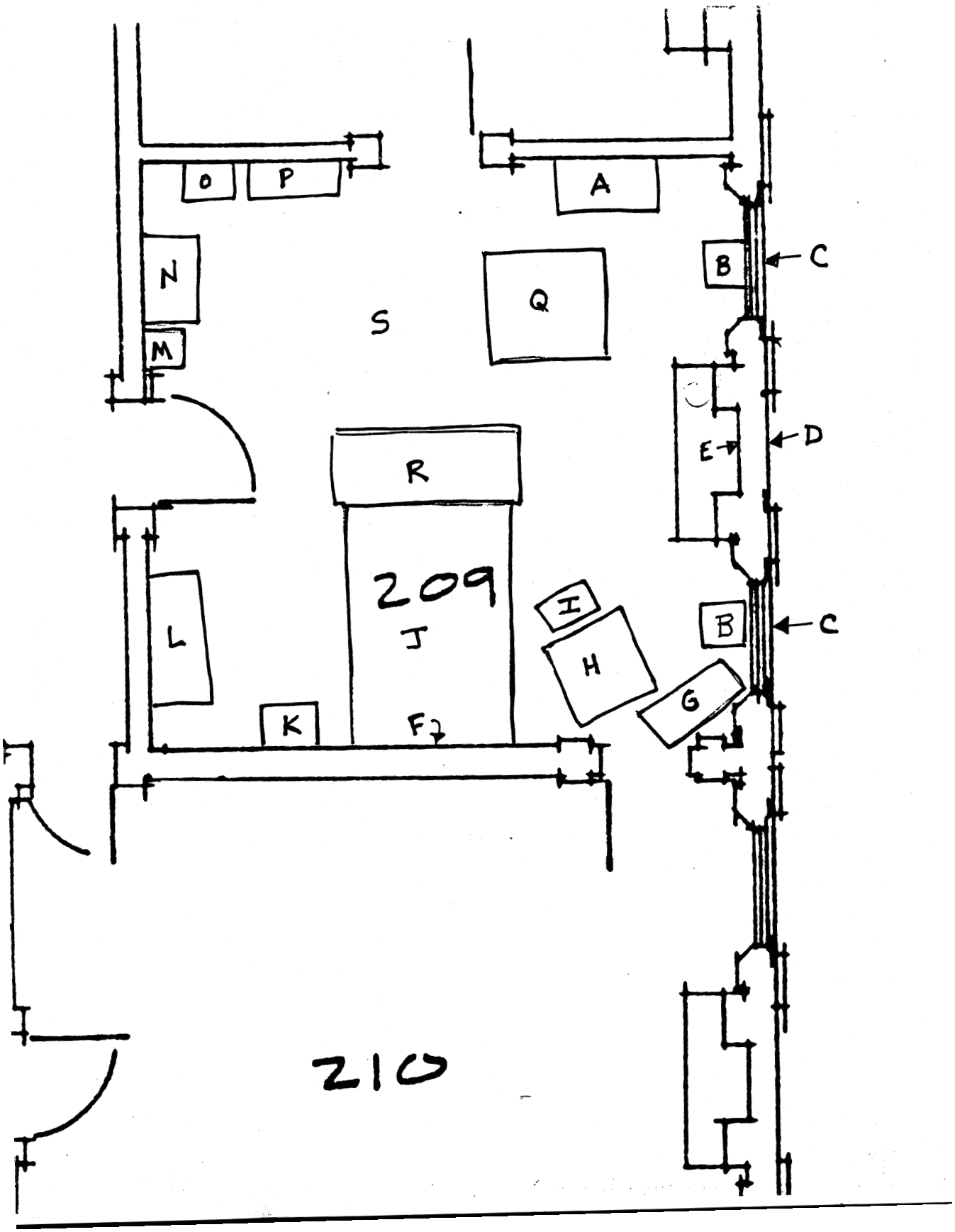

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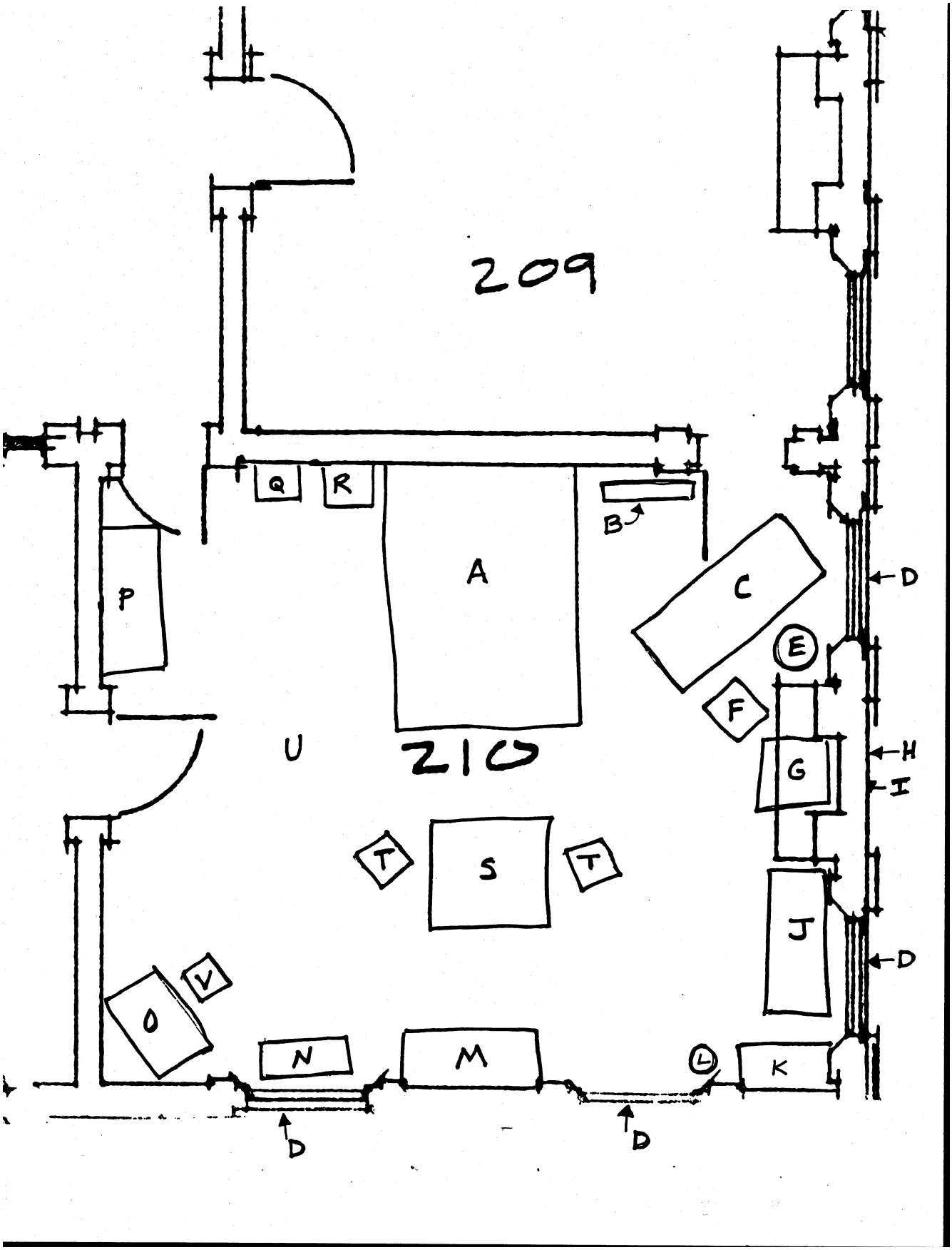

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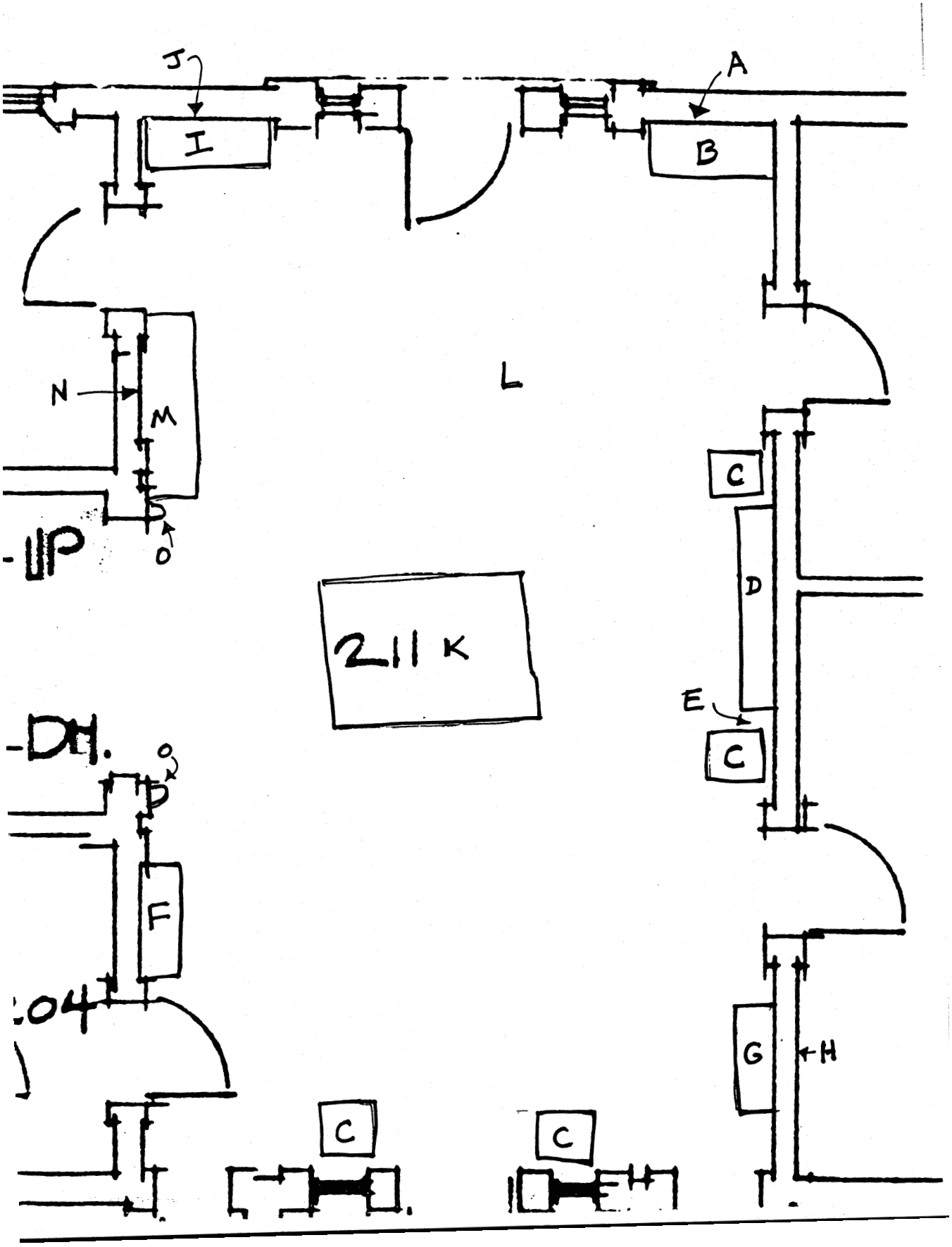


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Appendix G

Notes from taped interview with Betty Callon by Carol Petravage and Kathleen Jenkins, August 24, 1994. Tapes on file at NATC.

Floorcloths

The Callons realized the importance of the floorcloths and decided to restore them. Jim Cyphers of Port Gibson stripped off the old varnish and overpainted the worn areas. Only two small areas were replaced, due to the condition of the original.

The Callons scraped, sanded, and repainted the woodwork throughout the house.

A number of pieces were brought into Melrose by the Callons. These pieces are noted in the inventory included as appendix C to the Historic Furnishings Report.

Room 111-Back Hall

Two three-drawer stands were bought in New York. These were placed on either side of the green sofa.

Three big sofas were in this hall when the Callons bought Melrose.

The Callons placed the secretaire abbatante to the right of the back door; the grand piano was to the left of the back door.

Other furniture in the room included a tapestry-seated chair (found in the attic by the Callons).

Room 102-Dining Room

The Callons had four lamps in the dining room. Two were on the sideboard, two were on two folding-top tables.

The blue curtains installed in this room by Mrs. Kelly are at Magnolia Hall.

Linda Hootsell designed the curtains installed by the Callons based on period window treatments seen in various museums she visited. The Callons chose the fabric and trims, Hootsell designed the curtains, and they were made by local women.

The Callons had a number of rugs made in Spain, including the rug in the dining room. The dining room rug was not a reproduction.

Room 101-Front Entry

The hanging lamp was purchased by the Callons. The original lamp was moved to room 105.

The Callons installed the scenic wallpaper.

Two pier tables purchased by the Callons stood on either side of the door to the dining room. The coat rack stood in the back hall. The beggar boy stood in the corner to the right of the door to the back hall.

A shorter folding-top table was also in this room. This table had belonged to Mr. Callon's mother.

Room 110-Drawing Room

The Callons had the rug made in Spain based on a rug at Monmouth.

The Callons did not do anything to the curtains. They started having one set backed and restored but didn't complete the work.

The Callons had some of the furniture (e.g., the back of the large sofa) partially reupholstered using fabric left over from the Kelly reupholstering.

The gaming table stood in the southwest corner of the room. The large sofa stood between the doorway to the front hall and the doorway to the parlor.

The Callons had no furniture in the center of the room for a long time, then decided to put one of the marble-top tables in the center.

Callons had lots of greenery in the house—palm trees, etc., in baskets sitting on the floor, ferns on stands.

The picture of Melrose Abbey was given to the Callons by some friends.

The picture of the two children was in the attic, brought down by Mrs. Callon. The Stephen Kelly portrait hung to the left of the door to the parlor.

The two large mirrors on either side of the door to the front entry were taken down by the Callons and sent to Magnolia Hall.

The etagere in the drawing room was in the parlor to the right of the door to the library. The Callons moved it into the drawing room to the southeast corner.

Room 109-Parlor

The oval-back sofa stood in the corner to the right of the door to the library. The tête-à-tête sofa was angled in the corner to the left of the door to the drawing room, with ferns on stands behind it.

The box piano was in the drawing room when the Callons arrived. They moved it into the parlor. The grand piano, which was in the parlor, was moved to the back hall.

An etagere stood in the corner of the parlor to the left of the door to the back hall.

The Meeks center table was in the center of the room.

The fabric for the curtains and upholstery was chosen based on the McMurran inventory. It was not specially designed for Melrose.

Mrs. Ferry found a little basket in the attic just like the one in the portrait of Frances Davis. Mrs. Callon kept it near the portrait to show to guests.

Room 108-Library

The Callons had the curtains made for the library and had the copy of the portrait of Mary McMurran reproduced.

Furniture in the room included a tall library table with a marble top, a sofa, a marble-top table in front of the doorway in the center of the room, a round table in the corner to the left of the door to the parlor, with plants in the corner behind it, two armchairs on either side of the round table, a ladies chair by the library table, and several smaller tables around the room (one of them NARC 188).

Room 106-Stair Hall

Furniture in this room included a folding-top table (possible by Charles White), a lamp,

and the painting of Nauvoo, Illinois. The room was carpeted. There were no pictures hanging on the wall going up the stairs.

The pair of lithographs of children was found in the attic.

The slipper sofa was placed on the landing between the first and second floors.

Family pictures were hung on the wall of the stairs between the second floor and the attic.

Room 211-Upper Back Hall

The Callons moved the large oriental rug from the downstairs back hall up to this room. They had two modern sofas facing each other in the middle of the room. Behind one of the sofas was the leather-top table that was used by G. M. D. Kelly in his bedroom.

The large glass-fronted bookcase in the hall today was there when the Callons moved in and stayed there during their ownership.

Other furniture in room included a pier table, an armoire (to right of entrance to stair hall), plants, a rocker, and a two-drawer work stand with brass inlay, in the corner between the doors to the middle and front bedrooms.

Room 207-Bathroom

The Callons added the closet without changing the original walls and put in the toilet. NATC 1471 (a mirror) was in the attic in pieces. The Callons had it restored and hung it in the bathroom.

Other furniture in the room included a small marble-top stand with a drawer and a door.

Room 208-Back Bedroom

This bedroom belonged to Anna, the Callons' daughter.

Furniture in this room included the twin sleigh beds on either side of the door to the hall, the commode, which was used as a side table, the dresser with marble top (on east wall to the right of the window), an armoire (on the west wall to the left of the door to room 209), a wooden-top center table with four balloon-back chairs—all upholstered alike—and a small marble-top table in front of the window.

The current wallpaper and curtains in this room were installed by the Callons. On the floor was a small oriental rug that was purchased by the Callons and taken by them when they sold Melrose.

Room 209-Middle Bedroom

The bed currently in the room was in the room when the Callons lived there, placed against the west wall. A sofa with floral stripe upholstery was placed at the end of the bed. Two armories were placed on either side of the door to the back bedroom.

The dresser in the back hall was to the right of the bed against the wall. A rocker was between the door to the hall and the door to the back bedroom. There were three rockers that the Callons used in various rooms on the second floor. Two were found in the attic and one belonged to John Callon's mother.

There was a pair of matching chairs, one in front of each window.

The Callons had the bed rehung and bought an oriental rug for the floor.

Room 210-West Front Bedroom

The Callons applied canvas to the ceilings in some rooms to help consolidate the plaster.

The Callons used the bed currently in place against the east wall. A white marble-top

commode was to the left of the bed. A sofa upholstered in off-white was at the foot of the bed. The secretary with the roll top was against the north wall to the right of the door to the hall. To the left of the door to the hall was an armoire. The large cheval mirror was in the corner to the right of the fireplace. The same dresser was between the windows, with the heart-shaped chair in front.

Other furniture in the room included a worktable with drawers, a cradle, several chairs, and a rug made in Spain. The Callons installed the curtains in this room, but the rods came out of the attic. The bed was rehung with new fringe and fabric.

Room 201-Small Hall

Mrs. Callon used this room as her office.

George Malin Davis's secretary stood against the north wall to the left of the door to room 202, and the plantation desk stood against the south wall to the right of the door to room 210. The large glass-fronted bookcases were against the north and south walls, one to the right of the door to room 202 and one to the left of the door to room 210.

Room 202-North Front Bedroom

This room was Mr. and Mrs. Callon's room.

The two Charles Lee beds stood against the east wall between the doors, with the three-drawer Quervelle chest between the beds.

The armoire in the small hall was against the wall to the right of the door to room 201.

Between the windows was a large dresser (at the time of the interview it was disassembled and in room 210).

Small chairs were placed near windows.

In the northwest corner was a rectangular-shaped edged white marble-top table and a pair of chairs covered in rust-colored fabric.

An oval mirror hung over the fireplace.

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The following collections were particularly useful in the preparation of this report:

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  J. F. H. Claiborne Collection
  Slave census record
  Photograph and map records
  Albums of Kelly family photos

• *Louisiana and Lower Mississippi Valley Collection, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana*
  Lemuel P. Conner & family papers
  John T. McMurran papers
  John A. Quitman papers
  Edward Turner papers

• *Northeast Louisiana University, Monroe, Louisiana*
  McMurran letters & papers

• *Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina*
  Quitman papers

• *Historic Natchez Foundation*
  Melrose file
  Files of other Natchez houses and families

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