

Architecture - Bentonia, MS

Contents: Documents featuring architecture in Bentonia, MS

- 1. Undated-Author Unknown-Woodbine**
- 2. Undated-Yazoo Herald-Sonnora Plantation is for sale**
- 3. 1971-03-Yazoo Daily Herald-Woodbine at Bentonia**
- 4. 1972-03-21-Yazoo Daily Herald-Woodbine Plantation**
- 5. 1976-03-15-Yazoo Daily Herald-Bentonia's Main Street/ Antebellum Home**
- 6. 1991-Yazoo County Soil and Water Conservation District-Rose Hill Farm/ Home Place Farm**
- 7. 1999-09-29-Yazoo Herald-Historic Woodbine Restored to Its Original Beauty**

Location: Vertical Files at Ricks Memorial Library of the Yazoo Library Association | 310 N. Main Street, Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194

WOODBINE

Two miles west of Benton is Woodbine which was built in the 1840's. The house with green blinds stands on a rise in a beautiful woodland. Large square columns extend entirely across the front and up the full two stories.

The house has 14 rooms and four baths. It originally had three plaster medallions in the ceiling but now has only two, one being very elaborate.

Most of the material for the mansion was brought from St. Louis. Slaves made beams or beaming for the foundation from cypress logs cut off the land. The bricks for the house were made on the place. During the finishing of the house a plasterer was killed and buried there. From this incident the house acquired the name of being haunted.

After the Civil War many changes came to Woodbine. The more than 100 slaves were freed and in the course of time the master died.

Woodbine was built by John Johnson, maternal grandfather of Mrs. Lula Gibbs Kirk (mother of Mrs. Henry Haverkamp) and the late Lee Gibbs. About 35 years ago W. J. Kirk purchased the property. Fifteen years later it was left to his three sisters, Mrs. R. M. Whitehead, Mrs. J. A. Clark and Mrs. Hundley. Kirk Whitehead inherited the property from



his mother. It is now owned by Mrs. Kirk Whitehead.



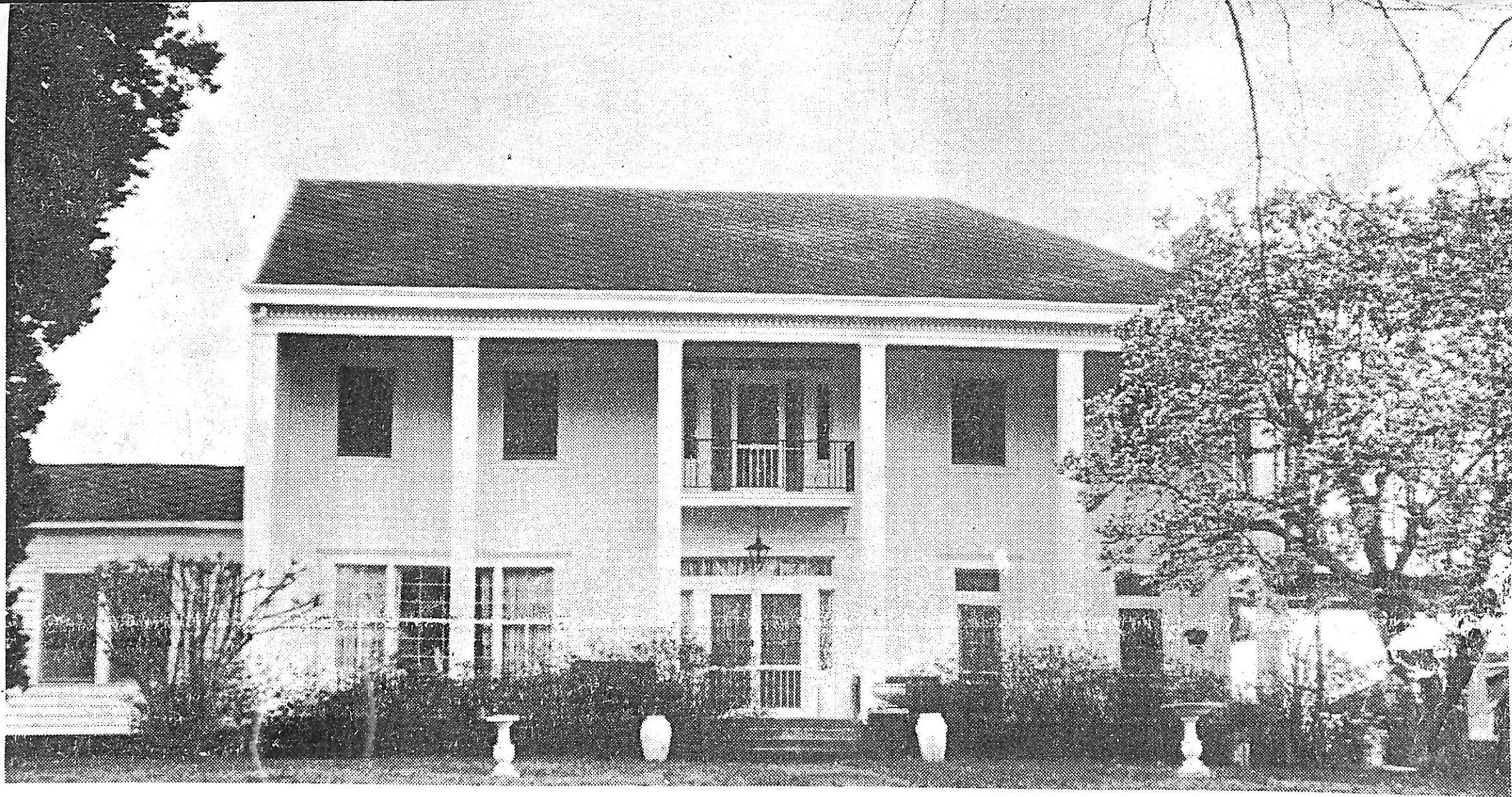
HOUSE FOR SALE

Bentonia Area

Beautiful Antebellum Home totally restored. 12 foot ceilings, awesome kitchen, screened in porch, 4 fireplaces and beautiful hardwood floors. Home overlooks 19+-acres fenced, cross-fenced with 2 stall barn & orchard with fruit trees. \$349,000

**Call Bryan Jameson with
Lee Hawkins Realty, Inc.
601-856-3898**

Sonora (moved from Hwy 3)



Woodbine at Bentonia

This impressive two-story home is set far back on a rolling hill off Mississippi Highway 433, just outside of Bentonia. The home is owned by Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Jensen who reside there. It was built in 1840 by the Johnson family and has been passed down through

the years from mother to daughter, except for one time when it was willed to a son. It will be open daily from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. during the pilgrimage tours. There is no admission charge.

Jaxco Herald March 1971

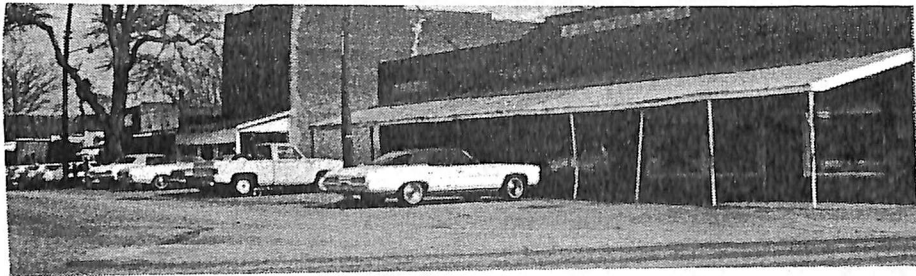


WOODBINE PLANTATION **Benton, Miss.**

(Approx. one mile off Hwy. 49 (toward Satartia on 433)
MAIN HOUSE, C. 1841, has some 5,000 sq., ft. space priced with approx. 200 acres around the house to include improvements, ponds, open pastures, woodlands etc. Approx. 814 total acres available. Call Mary Lou Mashburn, Broker, for details or appointment to see. Watch our ad for the date of a future open house at this property.

Yazoo Herald Mar 21 '92 p. 11
VERTICAL TILE - Architecture (Yazoo)

Mar 15 1976



BENTONIA'S MAIN STREET

Most of the town's businesses are on this street or on the street which faces it across the Illinois Central tracks.

B-6 Yazoo Daily Herald



ANTEBELLUM HOME

The old Sadler home, now occupied by the M. T. Kirk family, is one of the authentic antebellum homes in Bentonia.



On everything including

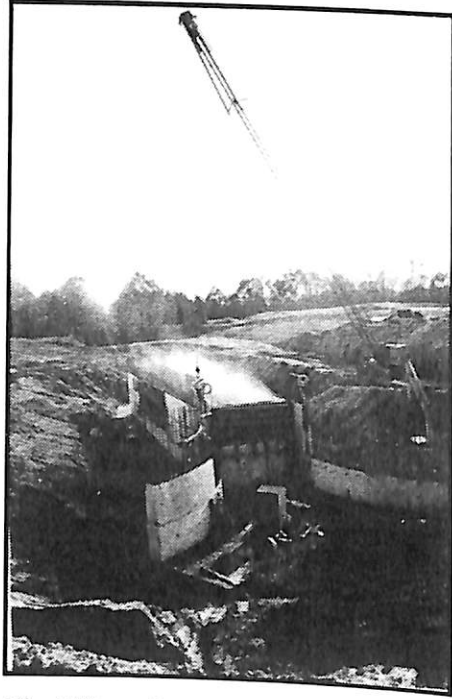
TILLERS

Power when you need it. John Deere three or six h.p. tillers make planting easier and better crops. Come





Pictured is the "before" construction on Willis Creek looking downstream from Graball Road. Foreground is Church's Fried Chicken, and in the background is Southern Heritage Antiques & Gifts.



The Ellison Creek Drainage District is in the construction phase of its 2nd Grade Control Structure located on Ellison Creek south of the bridge on the Vaughan-Linwood Road. The structure is being built to reduce channel degradation and streambank erosion. The structure is the second of five that are planned to be built in the Watershed. Funds for the \$950,000 grade control structure were provided by the Soil Conservation Service.



Mayor Hugh McGraw and Phyllis Gooch, owner of Southern Heritage Antiques, observe the completed channel work on Willis Creek. Upper Willis Creek from Graball Road to Honeycutt Road is scheduled to be stabilized in the spring of 1992.



All programs and services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

PICTURED AT LEFT (Left to right) Tim Manor, District Conservationist, explains how wetlands and farm wetlands were identified from maps produced from satellite photos to Pete Heard, State Conservationist SCS; William Richards, Chief of SCS; and Bob Cato, Yazoo County District Commissioner. Chief Richards visited with local farmers and the Yazoo County Soil and Water District Commissioners on May 23 at the home of John Swayze

Tom Shipp's Rose Hill Farm is located one and a half miles northeast of Bentonina between Highway 49 and Rose Hill Road. The farm consists of 830 acres: 500 acres in cropland and 330 acres in woodland and wildlife.

Tom started farming with his dad in 1977 in the Fugates Community. In 1980 his father retired and turned his farming operation over to Tom. Then, in 1984, Tom took a giant step for a young farmer by taking over all of the family's property which included his mother's Rose Hill farm.

Rose Hill was a farm that had been rented out for over 40 years. It had been abused and raped of its productive top soil from soil erosion. The farm's 600 acres of cropland is located on moderate sloping land that is very highly erodible. The farm had not been adequately protected to prevent the loss of over a foot of topsoil and to prevent the farm from being riddled with 4 to 6 foot gullies.

Rose Hill was not a pretty picture in 1984. Most people would have thrown their hands up, shaken their heads, and walked away because of the task it would be to get the farm back into production.

Tom had the "can do" determination

to turn Rose Hill around. His goals were to stop the erosion by implementing a soil and water conservation plan, start a soil building program, and improve the wildlife resources on the farm.

Today Rose Hill is a different farm, for it is recovering from the abuse of the past. Tom has installed gradient and parallel terraces, diversions, grass waterways, and sediment basins to control erosion. He is applying conservation tillage in planting minimum and no-till corn and cotton, rotates crops, and plants clover, wild winter peas, and wheat for cover and green manure crops. Tom has taken out of production



Tom Shipp standing beside pine trees that were planted in 1987.

Rose Hill Farm

150 acres of his most highly erodible cropland and planted it to pine trees.

Conservation practices that have been applied have greatly improved the wildlife habitat on Rose Hill. The fishing is one of the best spots in Yazoo County. Tom has two 40-acre lakes, stocked with bass, bream, and shell-crackers (redeer), on an aggressive management program developed by Soil Conservation Service. This includes proper balance of bass and panfish. Too, Tom is in the final stage of renovating an existing 17-acre pond which will be stocked with redear, bream, hybrid bream, and Florida bass.

Tom Shipp's hard work and dedication to conserving our natural resources is paying off. Soil erosion has been brought to an acceptable level. Crop yields have increased.

Deer, quail, rabbits, and doves are seen in numbers. The fishing is great, with 5 and 6-pound bass being caught along with large strings of bream.

Our hats are off to Tom in accomplishing the goals he set in 1984.

Swayze's Home Place, located in the Midway Community, is a self-sufficient farm where the land makes a financial return without damaging or losing the soil. Since production began in 1832, the Swayzes have been aware of the need for conservation, and it plays a major role in keeping Home Place productive.

The topography of the land ranges from nearly level to rolling hills. They utilize the land according to its best landuse—cropland, pastureland, and woodland.

Due to the highly erodible soils and Mississippi's rate of rainfall, erosion is the number one enemy of this farm. Conservation practices installed on the farm are terraces, diversions, overfall pipes, drop inlet structures, and grassed waterways.

Home Place was the first in the county, probably in the state, to install a parallel terrace system with tile outlets. The Swayzes are one of the few farmers in Yazoo County planting minimum and no-till cotton. This coming year they are planning to plant 800 acres of no-till cotton behind vetch and last year's cotton stubble. These combinations of conservation practices have

significantly reduced erosion on 1800 acres of cropland from 41 tons per acre to 6 tons per acre per year.

Swayze Home Place has 250 acres of catfish ponds ranging in size from 5 to 25 acres, utilizing and controlling run-off water. Not only has Harris Swayze turned a problem into a profit, he has also helped farmers and landowners below him by controlling run-off water.

In order to make a profit, they use everything and waste nothing. Each division of the farm is used to compliment the other. At one time, all of this farm was in row crops. Now Home Place is diversified with 1800 acres cropland, 1600 acres pastureland, 250

Home Place

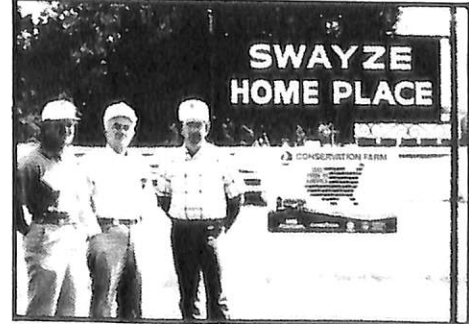
acres ponds, and 500 acres woodland. Land is now used within its capabilities.

Pasture management has a high priority. Eighteen hundred head of cows and calves are supported on 1600 acres of coastal bermuda grass. Clover planted with a no-till drill is not only used to provide cattle with food, but also to provide the bermuda grass with nitrogen. They systematically rotate cattle in order to keep grass production at its maximum.

Cottonland is also rotated on a 2-3 year basis to maintain productivity. Minimum and no-till corn and grain sorghum are rotated with cotton and used to provide silage for cattle.

This farm also has a cotton gin. The gin trash is not burned, but hauled and scattered on cropland to build up the soil's organic matter.

Farm Journal, *Mississippi Cattlemen's Association*, *Livestock Breeder Journal*, and *Farming Ranch* have featured Home Place, and it is visited by many individuals and tour groups.



(Left to right) John Swayze, H. S. Swayze, and Steve Swayze at their conservation farm.

John Bradley (Con't from Page 1)

John Bradley's talk was excellent for he covered all aspects such as the advantages of no-till, planting, planting equipment, seed placement, seedling diseases, fertilization, herbicides, insects, and economics.

I would like to review with you some of the main points. Field selection for no-till cotton should be on soils that are considered suitable for conventional tillage cotton. Subsoiling may be considered if extreme traffic or tillage pans exist. Normally three to four years with continuous no-till farming are needed to eliminate traffic pans.

Fields with heavy infestations of perennial grasses should be avoided. Soil temperature for germination and emergence should be 68 degrees Fahrenheit, two inches below the soil surface at 8:00 A.M. for three consecutive days. Plant populations of 2.5 to 3.5 stalks per foot.

Use planters designed for no-till. Planters should be equipped with heavy duty down pressure springs for each unit. The "rule of thumb" for coulter setting: the dryer the soil condition the deeper the coulter setting, the wetter the soil the more shallow the

setting. If it is too wet to disk, it is too wet to no-till.

The double disk openers should be followed by heavy duty press wheels with enough pressure to cover the seed firmly for good seed-to-soil contact.

A soil treatment of a fungicide plus a soil insecticide is a must. A good fertility program is always necessary. Soil test and apply lime, phosphate or potash as needed on the soil surface in fall or spring.

A complete kill of all vegetation prior to or at planting is essential. Post-directed sprayers with shields or fenders may be needed when cotton is less than 6 inches in height.

Research and field observations have shown no increases in populations or feeding activity or any insect when compared to conventionally grown cotton. A good scouting program throughout the growing season always pays.

It is possible in 3 to 5 years a farmer can pocket up to \$60 per acre from reduced equipment, labor, and fuel. It is recommended that cotton producers start no-tilling on a limited acreage the first year. Build on experience and expand in the coming years.

I strongly recommend producers interested in planting no-till cotton should come by the District office and receive a free video tape on John Bradley's talk on no-till cotton production.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Soil Conservation Service, assisting the District, provided planning and technical assistance to many Yazoo County landusers. Some of the accomplishments are:

Conservation Acres Planned . . . 3,500
Cooperators Assisted—Number . . . 549
Cropland Benefitted—Acres . . . 11,952
Terraces Constructed—Feet . . . 228,000
Pasture Benefitted—Acres . . . 1,416
Woodland Benefitted—Acres . . . 1,650
Wildlife Benefitted—Acres . . . 582

ANNUAL REPORT

October 1990 — September 1991
The Yazoo County Soil and Water Conservation District's objective is to implement a sound soil and water conservation program that will conserve, improve, and wisely use our resources.

The Commissioners submit this Annual Report, October 1, 1990, to September 30, 1991, which shows the accomplishments and activities of the District. While we are proud of our accomplishments, the District will continue improving our conservation program to meet the changing needs of Yazoo County.

The Commissioners wish to express their appreciation for the assistance provided the District by all agricultural agencies, units of government (especially the Board of Supervisors), landowners, and landusers in Yazoo County. Without the cooperation and support of these groups, our accomplishments would not have been possible.

Cooperation Turns Efforts Into Successes

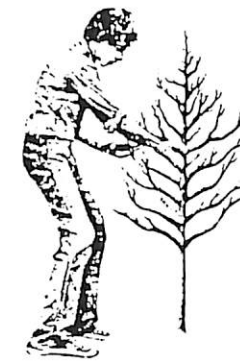
One of Yazoo County's greatest assets is the cooperation among individuals, groups, and agencies. Every activity the District promotes requires some type of assistance.

The local newspaper and radio stations can be relied upon to spread the word. The Extension Service and the Mississippi Forestry Commission work closely with the District to hold wildlife seminars, poster contests, and tree planting activities. The ASCS administers the ACP and the CRP programs.

The Yazoo City and Yazoo County Boards of Education include the District in leasing sixteenth section lands. The Yazoo County Board of Supervisors fund the District.

Garden clubs, scouts, and civic organizations are always supportive of the District's activities, but are especially helpful during Tree Planting Week.

There has never been a time that a request for assistance has not been filled or a need not been met. Our special thanks and appreciation to every individual, group, and agency who helped make this a successful year.



TREE PLANTING WEEK

Twelve thousand pine trees were given away this year during Tree Planting Week. The District also provided approximately 200 landscape trees that were planted at the intersections to beautify the entrances into the city. This project was carried out in cooperation with the Mississippi State Highway Department.

The tree planting activity is in conjunction with Mississippi's 17th annual Tree Planting Week. The statewide theme for 1991 is "Celebration of Trees."

1990 - 1991 Poster Contest Held

Students from the city and county schools took top honors in the 1990-1991 poster contest sponsored by the Yazoo County Soil and Water Conservation District. The theme that was selected this year was "The Earth Is Ours to Keep." This contest is open to grades 3-6.

We would like to congratulate the winners and all who participated. Also, the District would like to encourage everyone to participate in the 1991-1992 contest that is going on now.

7th Annual Wildlife Banquet

March 2, 1991, was the date for the annual wildlife banquet. The banquet was held at the National Guard Armory with approximately 300 persons attending. A delicious meal was served. Many door prizes were given away at the event.

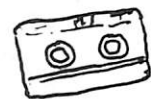
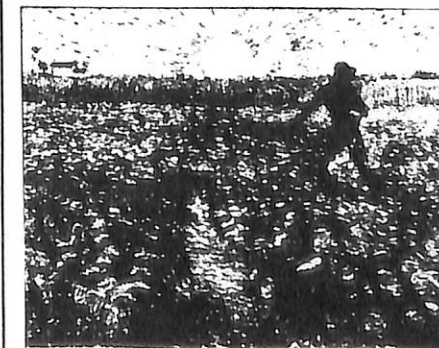
Jack Herring, Director of the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks, and David Whitehouse, wildlife ecologist with International Paper Company in Nacogdoches, Texas, were the guest speakers. Winners of the youth, gun, and bow division were recognized at the banquet.

The banquet was made possible through the joint efforts of the Extension Service, Mississippi Forestry Commission, and the District.



SOIL STEWARDSHIP WEEK

The District joined the National Celebration of Soil Stewardship Week. "At You Sow" was a timely theme for this celebration. Many churches in the city and county took part by using materials especially designed for this observance. These materials are free of charge upon request. If your church wishes to participate in the 1992 observance, call the District at 746-6736 for material.



FREE!
Video Tape
of John Bradley's
Talk on No-Till Cotton Production.
Available at the District Office.

Yazoo County Soil and Water



PUBLISHED BY
The Yazoo County Soil and Water
Conservation District
715 Jackson Avenue
Yazoo City, Mississippi 39194
601-746-6736

COMMISSIONERS

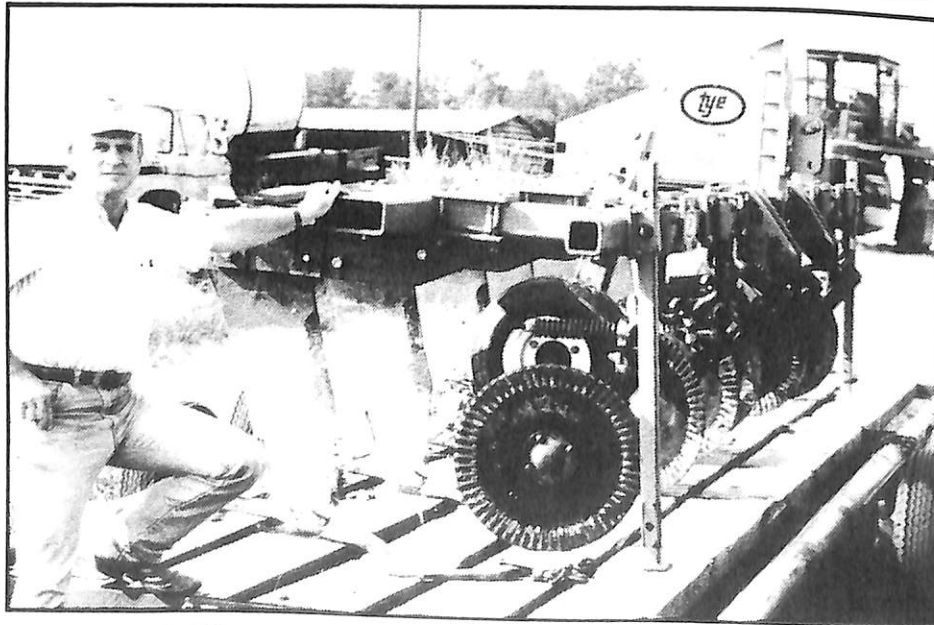
Bob Cato, Chairman
Thomas Johnson John Swayze
Billy Joe Ragland Tommy Woodard

DEPUTY COMMISSIONERS

Bill Harris Howard Hearst
Rob Hines Jean Baskin
Joe Bryan

STAFF ASSISTING DISTRICT

Tim Manor District Conservationist (SCS)
Perry Mason Soil Conservationist
Lane Kimbrough Soil Conservationist
Charles Davis Soil Cons. Technician
Ellen Davis District Clerk (SWCD)
Tim Ashley District Technician
Thomas Ward District Technician



PARATILL AVAILABLE FOR YAZOO COUNTY FARMERS

Charles Davis, Soil Conservation Technician is shown inspecting Yazoo County Soil and Water Conservation District's new Paratill. The Paratill is available to Yazoo County farmers. Farmers interested in renting the Paratill can contact the District office for additional information at 746-6736.

WE KNOW WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST



For help with these and other resource issues, call:
The Yazoo County Soil and Water Conservation District
at 746-6736.

The
Yazoo
Herald

Wednesday,
Sept. 29, 1999

Fall



Section
Fix UP B

Historic Woodbine restored to its original beauty

Whittington family restores antebellum house built in 1841

By Jane Norquist
Community Editor, The Yazoo Herald

Janet Whittington grew up in a family that loves old homes, and

That enthusiasm was evident as Mrs. Whittington recently gave the Herald a tour of her home, an old Yazoo County landmark, Woodbine, circa 1841, into which she, her husband and sons moved two years ago.

"Years ago," Mrs. Whittington recalled, "I realized everyone else in my family had an old home, and there I sat comfortably in Madison in a lovely, new home. My husband and I and our 10 year-old twin sons, Alex and Andrew, were perfectly happy with our situation, the community, our neighbors, the school, the horses and dogs.

"And then I became a woman with a mission. I had to have an 'old house.' Not just any old house; I had to find my old house, the one that was crying out for me to restore it.

"And here it is," she gleefully added as she held up her arms in an embrace of the entire farm—home, stables, horses, dogs, ponds, pastures and woods.

Any project involves a story and then evolves into a story in itself. This one is a story of determination.

Janet and Curtis Whittington began looking for their 'old house' around the Jackson area, where, as an ophthalmologist, he practices medicine. Even Janet didn't seriously contemplate making Curtis leave his practice by buying a house outside of driving range.

Locating Woodbine

And that is how they found Woodbine.

When No Mistake first went on the market about five years ago, Janet and Curtis drove up Mississippi Hwy. 49 to 433 and cut through to Satartia to look at No Mistake as the possibil-

"I took him at his word. The next day I jumped in the car and drove to the Yazoo County courthouse, and visited the chancery clerk's office. In response to my query, Catherine Prewitt said, 'I think there is an old house back in there, and I think the man who owns it is in California.'



FIVE YEARS AFTER FIRST SEEING WOODBINE near Bentonia, the Whittington family, left to right, Andrew, Janet, Curtis, and Alex, pause for a moment on the lawn in front of the restored landmark.

Photos by Jane Norquist

ding. Bottom line, Janet and Curtis wanted almost two years for Burford to contact every distant relative he could find, dismiss the idea of the family wanting it, decide he would give up the house and keep a little acreage on the farm, and negotiate the terms of the purchase with the

nest inside, rotten walls, plaster walls with little or no plaster, old wiring, old plumbing, generations of alterations to the original structure as baths were added, porches added and removed, and damage from four fires were all problems with which they had to deal.

and the entrance hall for five weeks as she cleaned and scraped them in preparation for their being repaired and painted. For the task she used dental tools and small brushes to scrape and clean the smallest crevices.

But the biggest physical task

involved: removing all the tacks, sanding the walls—sometimes hand-sanding, priming, filling the tack holes twice, sanding again, priming again, and painting the walls.

Enjoying Woodbine

That enthusiasm was evident as Mrs. Whittington recently gave the Herald a tour of her home, an old Yazoo County landmark, Woodbine, circa 1841, into which she, her husband and sons moved two years ago.

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Unfortunately, they realized by the time they arrived at No Mistake that the commute would be too long for Curtis.

"As we were returning to Madison via the same route, I was honestly rather teary," Janet continued. "I really felt I would never find the house I was looking for.

"Curtis was trying to cheer me up just about the time we came around the bend in front of Woodbine. He cheerfully commented, 'There are plenty of old homes. Just look at that wall-of-green and those old trees in the distance,' he said as he pointed to where we now stand. 'I bet you \$50 there is an old house up in there.'

"I took him at his word. The next day I jumped in the car, drove to the Yazoo County courthouse, and visited the chancery clerk's office. In response to my query, Catherine Prewitt said, 'I think there is an old house back in there, and I think the man who owns it is in California.'

"The gentleman, Duncan Burford, was actually in Billings, Montana, and he really wasn't excited about selling the house. He thought that maybe he would restore it one day, himself, or maybe one of his extended family wanted it," Janet continued.

"I soon managed to contact the caretaker who agreed to let me see the house with the owner's permission. Weeks later when I returned with Curtis in tow on a dreary, rainy day, he entered the long drive and wound through the overgrown brush before looking up at Woodbine with vines growing over and into it and said, 'You have got to be kidding!'

Janet Whittington wasn't kid-



Photos by Jane Norquist

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Restoring Woodbine

That was finalized three and a half years ago. The Whittingtons will have been in Woodbine two years in November.

First on weekends and in the summer, the family began clearing the house and immediate property of the overgrown 'wall-of-green.' The boys and their parents literally cleared the lot themselves.

The year and a half restoration of the house is full of the usual, and several unusual, problems people encounter in restoring old houses.

Huge bee hives and walls full of honey, a gigantic hornets'

nest inside, rotten walls, plaster walls with little or no plaster, old wiring, old plumbing, generations of alterations to the original structure as baths were added, porches added and removed, and damage from four fires were all problems with which they had to deal.

They hired Michael Collins as contractor because they knew his reputation and the fact that he specializes in and has a degree in preservation architecture. They knew they needed him; they were right.

Architectural details of the original structure were painstakingly preserved or repaired, as in the carpenters matching the original woodwork with table saws on site.

Another example of this effort was the Whittingtons' having nine molds made to restore the medallion in the parlor to its original condition. While those were being made to match the original pieces still intact, Janet Whittington lay on her back on the top of the scaffolding under the medallions in the parlor

and the entrance hall for five weeks as she cleaned and scraped them in preparation for their being repaired and painted. For the task she used dental tools and small brushes to scrape and clean the smallest crevices.

But the biggest physical task for the family was returning the back porch (two-story, enclosed) to its original appearance with the intact, beautifully hand-planed cypress.

Over the years, those walls had been wallpapered three times, each time with new cheesecloth under the wallpaper. As the Whittingtons ripped away the wallpaper and cheesecloth, they found over half a million cheesecloth tacks in the cypress.

They didn't change their collective minds at that point. They, all four, simply began removing tacks as the carpenters and plasterers worked around them.

When the project was completed and the cypress walls exposed, the process had

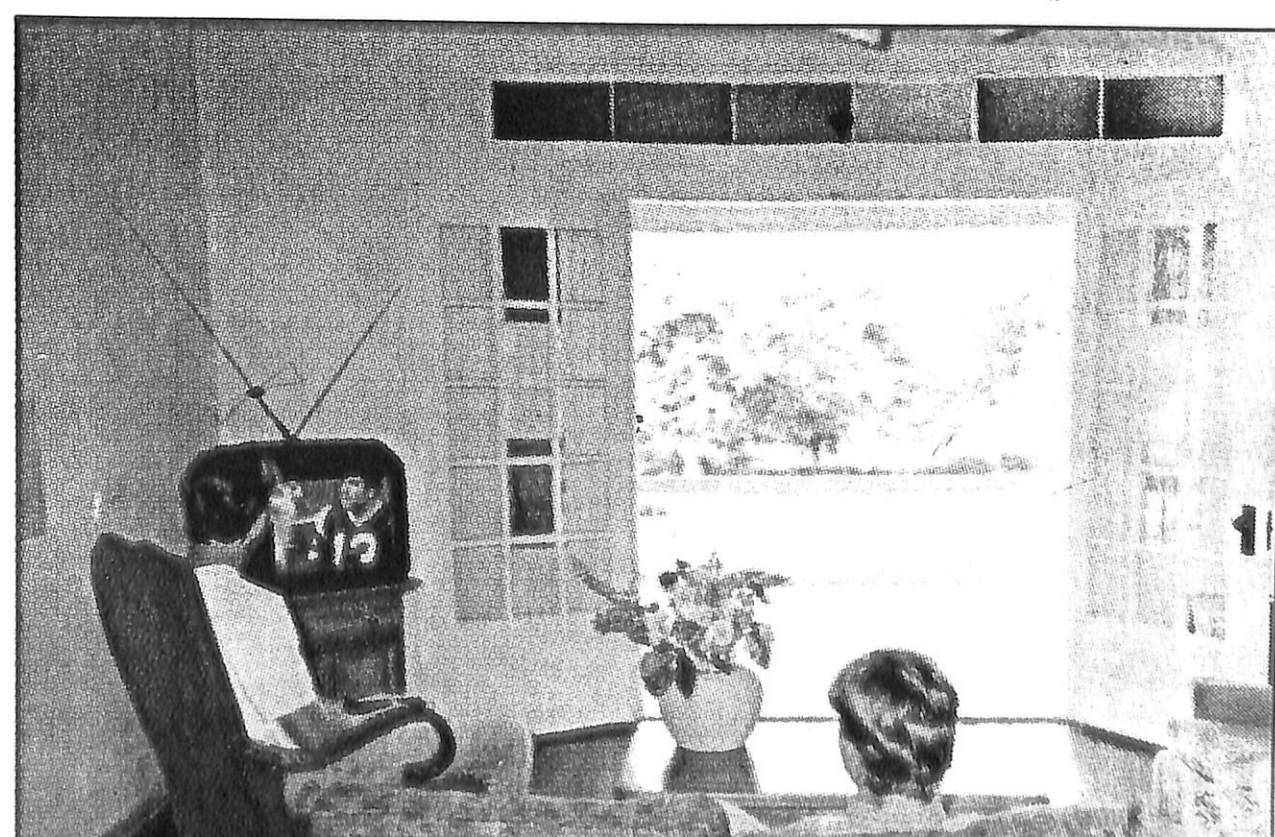
involved: removing all the tacks, sanding the walls -sometimes hand-sanding, priming, filling the tack holes twice, sanding again, priming again, and painting the walls.

Enjoying Woodbine

The result of all this effort in locating, purchasing, and restoring Woodbine is delightful. The home is nestled under the oaks, cedars, pears, and magnolias on the highest knoll between the Big Black and Bentonia. The huge trees and house dominate the vast, manicured grounds which fall away into pasture land, ponds, and then woods.

But perhaps the best part of the story is that the "old house" is home once again to an energetic family which thoroughly enjoys and appreciates every detail of both it and the farm—pasture land for the horses and woodland for hunting and riding both horses and four wheelers.

Please turn to page 3B



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"I took him at his word. The next day I jumped in the car, drove to the Yazoo County courthouse, and visited the chancery clerk's office. In response to my query, Catherine Prewitt said, 'I think there is an old house back in there, and I think the man who owns it is in California.'

"The gentleman, Duncan Burford, was actually in Billings, Montana, and he really wasn't excited about selling the house. He thought that maybe he would restore it one day, himself, or maybe one of his extended family wanted it," Janet continued.

"I soon managed to contact the caretaker who agreed to let me see the house with the owner's permission. Weeks later when I returned with Curtis in tow on a dreary, rainy day, he entered the long drive and wound through the overgrown brush before looking up at Woodbine with vines growing over and into it and said, 'You have got to be kidding!'

Janet Whittington wasn't kid-



Photos by Jane Norquist

FIVE YEARS AFTER FIRST SEEING WOODBINE near Bentonia, the Whittington family, left to right, Andrew, Janet, Curtis, and Alex, pause for a moment on the lawn in front of the restored landmark.

ding.

Bottom line, Janet and Curtis waited almost two years for Burford to contact every distant relative he could find, dismiss the idea of the family wanting it, decide he would give up the house and keep a little acreage on the farm, and negotiate the terms of the contract with the Whittingtons.

Restoring Woodbine

That was finalized three and a half years ago. The Whittingtons will have been in Woodbine two years in November.

First on weekends and in the summer, the family began clearing the house and immediate property of the overgrown 'wall-of-green.' The boys and their parents literally cleared the lot themselves.

The year and a half restoration of the house is full of the usual, and several unusual, problems people encounter in restoring old houses.

Huge bee hives and walls full of honey, a gigantic hornets'

nest inside, rotten walls, plaster walls with little or no plaster, old wiring, old plumbing, generations of alterations to the original structure as baths were added, porches added and removed, and damage from four fires were all problems with which they had to deal.

They hired Michael Collins as contractor because they knew his reputation and the fact that he specializes in and has a degree in preservation architecture. They knew they needed him; they were right.

Architectural details of the original structure were painstakingly preserved or repaired, as in the carpenters matching the original woodwork with table saws on site.

Another example of this effort was the Whittingtons' having nine molds made to restore the medallion in the parlor to its original condition. While those were being made to match the original pieces still intact, Janet Whittington lay on her back on the top of the scaffolding under the medallions in the parlor

and the entrance hall for five weeks as she cleaned and scraped them in preparation for their being repaired and painted. For the task she used dental tools and small brushes to scrape and clean the smallest crevices.

But the biggest physical task for the family was returning the back porch (two-story, enclosed) to its original appearance with the intact, beautifully hand-planed cypress.

Over the years, those walls had been wallpapered three times, each time with new cheesecloth under the wallpaper. As the Whittingtons ripped away the wallpaper and cheesecloth, they found over half a million cheesecloth tacks in the cypress.

They didn't change their collective minds at that point. They, all four, simply began removing tacks as the carpenters and plasterers worked around them.

When the project was completed and the cypress walls exposed, the process had

involved: removing all the tacks, sanding the walls—sometimes hand-sanding, priming, filling the tack holes twice, sanding again, priming again, and painting the walls.

Enjoying Woodbine

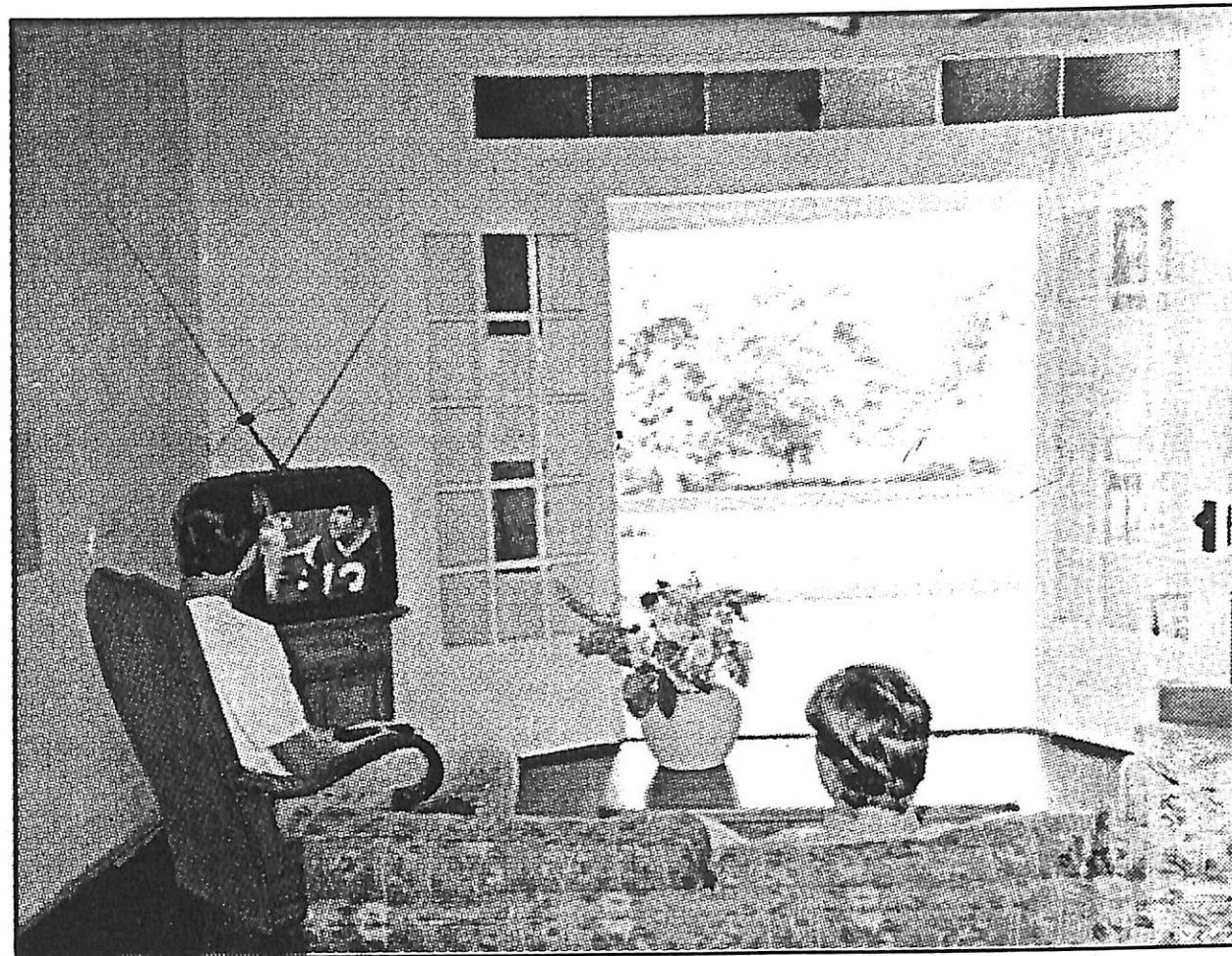
The result of all this effort in locating, purchasing, and restoring Woodbine is delightful. The home is nestled under the oaks, cedars, pears, and magnolias on the highest knoll between the Big Black and Bentonia. The huge trees and house dominate the vast, manicured grounds which fall away into pasture land, ponds, and then woods.

But perhaps the best part of the story is that the "old house" is home once again to an energetic family which thoroughly enjoys and appreciates every detail of both it and the farm—pasture land for the horses and woodland for hunting and riding both horses and four wheelers.

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ON THE SECOND FLOOR LANDING, STAINED GLASS WINDOWS now enclose the west side of the once-open back porch. One of the few details added to the structure by Janet Whittington in the restoration, the windows featured colors which repeat those of the original glass around the second floor, front porch door.



WHITTINGTON SONS, Andrew, left, and Alex enjoy the second floor of the restored Woodbine as their domain which includes an exercise room, billiard room, bedrooms, bath, and a sitting room—for television and computers—which opens onto the spacious front porch and lawn. The glass around the door is original to the house.

Woodbine House roots go deep into history of Yazoo County

Continued from page 1B

Yet, Woodbine is not only a story of a recent and successful renovation by new owners; the 158 year-old house was once a part of another family, the family which built it.

Woodbine was built in 1841 by John and Lorraine Johnson who had moved into the Bentonia area from the Carolinas in 1828 after receiving a land grant.

The Johnsons had one son, John Johnson Jr., and one daughter, Lorraine Johnson, and they each married, respectively, a sister and brother from Yazoo City. John Jr. married Louisa Gibbs and Lorraine married Washington Dorsey Gibbs Sr.

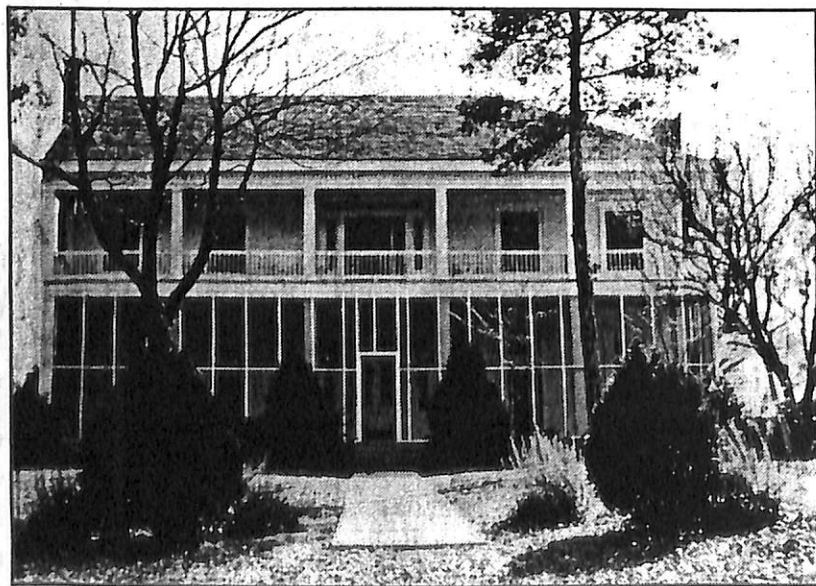
Unfortunately, Louisa Johnson returned to Yazoo City to visit her parents just when the yellow fever epidemic swept through town. Louisa and her parents all died within three days of each other only four months after Louisa had married John. Eventually, John remarried and moved to Texas.

Lorraine and W. D. Gibbs Sr., parents of four children, lived out their lives at Woodbine.

Needless to say, as with every early home and landgrant, the property was subsequently divided throughout the generations and the house changed ownership until it found its way into the hands of Burford. He sold it to the Whittingtons who, with patience, planning, and hours of toil have put the heart and soul back into a structure which lay dormant too long.



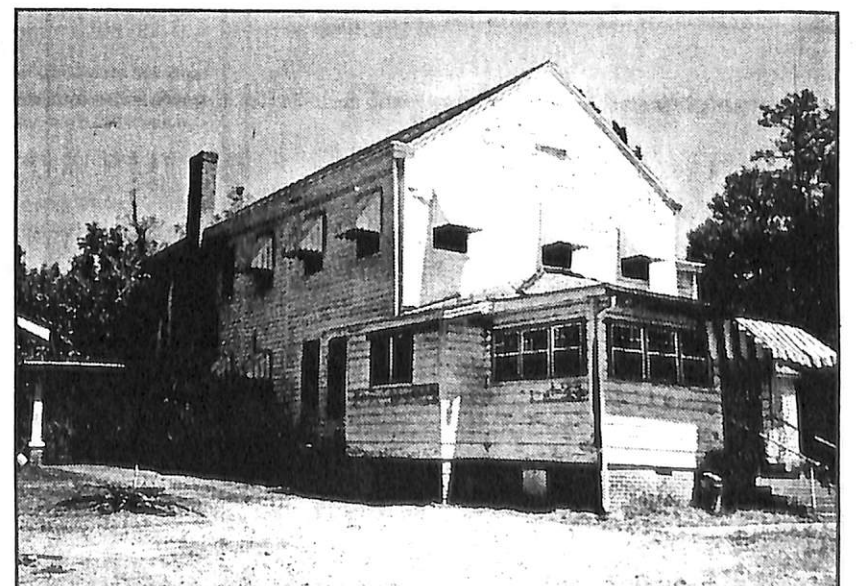
WOODBINE, CIRCA 1890, with the Gibbs family and heirs, including, back row from left: Q. D. Gibbs, W. D. Gibbs Jr., and Lee Gibbs Sr., sons of Washington Dorsey Gibbs, standing at right in front of the family pet. Seated from left, Nell Kirk Havercamp, her mother Lorraine (Lula) Gibbs Kirk- the only daughter of Lorraine and W. D. Gibbs Sr., and Lula's two other children, Louise Kirk Campbell, and Thomas Kyle Kirk. Lorraine Johnson Gibbs, wife of W. D. Gibbs Sr., who is pictured here, and a fifth child, John Gibbs, were deceased at the time of the picture.



WOODBINE, CIRCA 1915. The original structure remains intact. The porch is now screened and the landscaping has changed somewhat.



WOODBINE, CIRCA 1942. Barely visible at bottom left, a one floor wing has been added to accommodate additional family during the Depression. The front doors have been replaced and screen doors added. Also, the top veranda has been removed and the landscaping changes again.



WOODBINE, 1996. Photo taken when current owners Curtis and Janet Whittington signed the contract to buy the house and property. Rear view of the house showing the need for renovation.