

Allen Line Schoolteacher's House
On the old 'Marietta and Jacinto
Road' about 0.2 mi. N of its
intersection with the Old Natchez
Trace, about 200 ft. E of the
Prentiss-Tishomingo County line,
8.5 mi. SW of the intersection of
State Rte. 25 and 30
Tishomingo Vicinity
Tishomingo County
Mississippi

HABS No. MS-174

HABS
MISS,
71-TISHOMINGO,
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20243

HABS
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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MS-174

ALLEN LINE SCHOOL TEACHER'S HOUSE

Location: On the 'Marietta and Jacinto Road' about .2 miles north of its intersection with the Old Natchez Trace, about 200 feet east of the Prentiss-Tishomingo County line, 8.5 miles southwest of the intersection of State Routes 25 and 30, Tishomingo Vicinity, Tishomingo County, Mississippi.

USGS Paden SE 7 1/2' Quadrangle, UTM Coordinates: 16.377980.3826360.

Present Owner: Sidney Bruce Wilson (August 1978).

Present Occupant: Vacant.

Present Use: Storage.

Significance: The Allen Line School Teacher's House is a good example of a community's provision of housing near a rural school for a teacher, who was also expected to serve as custodian of the school building. It was built by neighboring farmers using a plan typical of tenant's houses and small farm houses in northeastern Mississippi during the first decades of the twentieth century.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: The house was built about 1926 for Harold Goodwin, principal and teacher at the Allen Line School, that stood 300 feet to the north, where the new Piney Grove Church was built about 1964.
2. Architect: Unknown.
3. Original and subsequent owners:

The house is located in the northwest quarter of Section 11, Township 6 South, Range 9 East, Tishomingo County, Mississippi. Reference to the title can be found in the Office of the Clerk of the Chancery Court, Tishomingo County Courthouse, Iuka, Mississippi.*

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1924 The land on which the house stands was sold by W.N. Adams to the trustees of the Allen Line School in a warranty deed dated October 21, 1924. Sale price was \$20 for the two acres conveyed. The tract is described as follows:

*Associated parcels lying in Prentiss County are described in Probate and Chancery Court Records, at Prentiss County Courthouse, Booneville, Mississippi.

"Begin at SW corner of said [northwest] quarter, Run East 70 yards, thence north 140 yards, thence west 70 yards thence south 140 yards to beginning," (Tishomingo Co. Deed Book p-19, page 17).

On this two-acre school tract, extending north from the line dividing the northwest and southwest quarters of Section 11, and taking in the fork of the road where the Allen Line School stood, a house for the new principal and teacher, Harold Goodwin, was built in the late summer of 1926.

1926 On September 15, 1926, J. M. (Mark) Wilson purchased from L. R. Paden about 160 acres adjoining the school tract. About 150 acres lay in the southwest and southeast quarters of Section 10 (i.e. in Prentiss County). The 10 acres in Tishomingo County lay immediately to the south of the school tract, in the southwest quarter of Section 11. (Prentiss Co. Deed Book 38, page 474; and Tishomingo Co. Deed Book P-20, page 306).

At some point, the line dividing the school tract and the Wilson tract (i.e. the line dividing the northwest and southwest quarters of Section 11) was resurveyed, and the school teacher's house was found to stand on the Wilson tract. From then on, the dividing line has been understood to run just north of the house. (No evidence has been found of any adjustment between the Allen Line School trustees and J. M. Wilson, nor of any rents received by Wilson from teachers or the school.)

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1960 The land on which the school teacher's house stands was included in the 166 acres willed by J. M. Wilson to his son, Sidney Bruce Wilson, on October 3, 1960. (Prentiss Co. Will Book 3, page 144).

The house stands on a 119-acre tract mapped for acquisition by the United States of America for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway.

5. Builder, contractor, suppliers: The house was built by men from nearby farms, probably including Mark Wilson, Huey Adams, Oscar Hunt, and Elijah Cunningham.
6. Original construction: The house has always had one main room, 16'-square, with rear room 16' by 8'. Originally there was a 16' by 6' front porch, entirely open. The house was constructed on sandstone piers, and the timber framing was sheathed with vertical planks. In the gable ends, studs resting on the end girt were sheathed with horizontal clapboards. (See floor plan, included with Part II., Architectural Information.)
7. Alterations and additions: In the 1940s, the right (north) half of the front porch was enclosed to make a 'side room' or 'junk room'. Its only access was by the door onto the porch. Since the mid-1960s, the house has been vacant, and various doors and windows have been boarded up.

B. Historical Events and Persons Associated with the Structure:

The Allen Line School originally met in the old Piney Grove Church. Early in the 1920s, a separate two-room school building was built next to the church. One room was a classroom, accomodating an average of 50 students, ranging from grade 1 to 8 (and later, grade 9). The other room was an 'auditorium.'

Students came from the nearby farms in both Tishomingo and Prentiss Counties. By the time the school teacher's house was built, the Allen Line School District encompassed most of the Tishomingo County farms lying along the Old Natchez Trace, between Mackeys Creek and the Prentiss County line, from Sections 35 and 36 on the north through Section 14 on the south--about 5 square miles and about 20 families.

The school year in most of the Tishomingo County rural schools expanded from only 3 or 4 months before the First World War to 5 or 6 months during the 1920s. The term generally began in mid- to late-October, after cotton picking, and ran until early- or mid-April, when there were spring chores to be done at home. One hundred days (or twenty weeks) was the standard annual school term.

The teacher's house was built in 1926 to provide accomodation near the school for the principal, or supervising teacher, whose duties included cleaning the school building and starting the heating stoves in the morning. There were also one or two assistant teachers assigned to the school, most of whom were wives or daughters or boarders from farms in the vicinity.

Harold Goodwin held the position of principal from 1926 to 1928 (or later). He was succeeded, both as principal and as tenant in the house, by B. G. Powell (1930-32), and later by Beryl and Nadine Sandy, who lived in the house with their widowed mother, Cora. The Sandy sisters began as assistant teachers in the school in the late 1920s, and they were the last teachers to occupy the house. The Allen Line School was closed after the 1948-49 school year, when elementary and junior high school students from the area began to attend classes in the town of Tishomingo.

Some time during the 1940s, S. B. (Sid) Wilson moved from the tenant house at the south edge of his father's fields into the school teacher's house. He lived there with his wife until the mid-1960s, when he moved into the bungalow his father had built as the main farmhouse in 1934.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Deed Records, Office of Clerk, Chancery Tishomingo County Courthouse, Iuka, Mississippi.

A. L. Riddle, Route 2, Tishomingo, Mississippi 38873. August 25, 1978. Riddle (born 1895) has lived in the area all his life. During the 1920s and 1930s, he drove the school bus for the Burton School District, just north of the Allen Line School District, and is generally familiar with the rural schools of Tishomingo County.

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R. B. Smith, Route 2, Box 148, Tishomingo, Mississippi 38873. August 11, 1978 and August 25, 1978. Smith (born 1889) has lived in the area all his life and is familiar with all the families associated with the house and the school.

John R. Trimm, Tishomingo, Mississippi 38873. August 8, 1978 and August 22, 1978. Trim (born 1900) served as postmaster and Mayor of Tishomingo and has also taught in the Tishomingo County Schools.

Dalton Ward, Route 6, Booneville, Mississippi 38829. August 22, 24, 1978. Ward (born 1902) has owned land in the vicinity of the Allen Line School for half a century. His wife-to-be (Grace McGee Ward, 1902-1967) taught at the school in 1924-25. His daughter (Betty Ward Smith) attended the school during the late 1940s.

S. B. Wilson, Belmont, Mississippi 38827. August 9, 1978. Wilson (born 1912) is the son of J. M. Wilson (died 1966), who was a trustee of the Allen Line School in the late 1920s and was probably one of the builders of the school teacher's house. S. B. Wilson lived in the house during the 1940s and 1950s, and is the last private owner of the house.

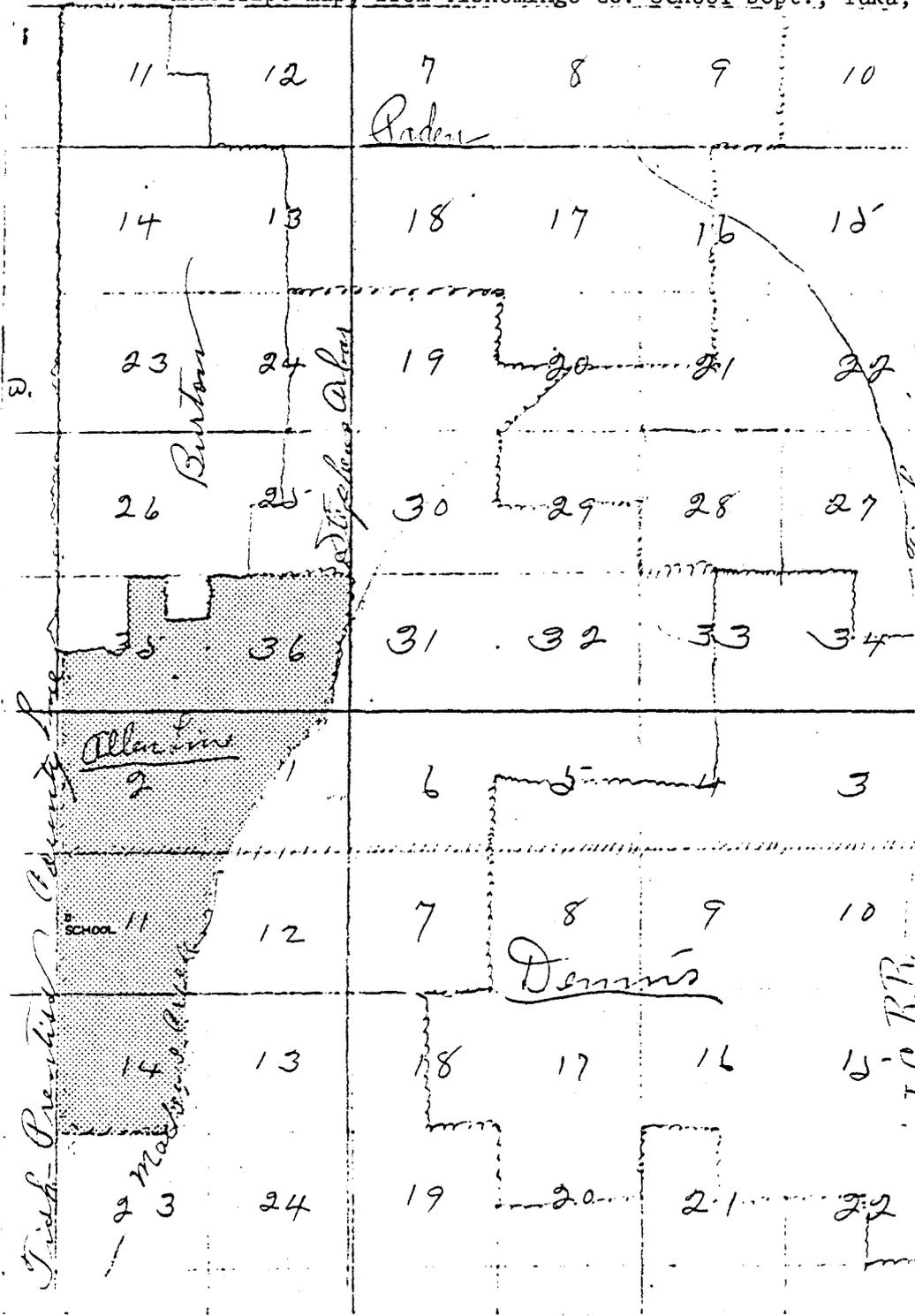
2. Secondary sources:

Mary Floyd Summers, "Tishomingo County, 1836-1860." M. A. thesis, University of Mississippi, 1957.

Prepared by: J. A. Chewning
Inventory Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings
Survey
August 1978

D. Supplemental Material:

1. Manuscript map, from Tishomingo Co. School Dept., Iuka, Mississippi



7/8 inch = 1 mile

• School Districts in Western Tishomingo County, c1927

2. Allen Line District School, Tishomingo County, Mississippi:
Summary of Attendance and Staff, 1919-32

Year	Average attendance	Principal	Assistants	Trustees
1919-20	50	Houston Crabb		
1920-21	?	M.T. Pardue	Lillian Davis	
1921-22	44	A.E. Sparks	Mary Morgan Louell Comley	
1922-23	60	T.G. Howell	Sallie Gable Mary Rogers	
1923-24	74	J.P. Wright	Mary Rogers Bessie Lee	
1924-25	76	J.P. Wright	Grace McGee Merle Allen	R.N. Henry
1925-26	49	M.T. Pardue	Bessie Lee Eunice Pace	W.R. Henry
1926-27	50	Harold Goodwin	Trillion Davis Ruby Davis	H.D. Short W.G. Aldridge
1927-28	50	Harold Goodwin	Nadine Sandy Ruby Davis	J.M. Wilson
1928-29	?	?	?	
1929-30	?	?	?	
1930-31	42	B.G. Powell	Thelma Davis Beryl Sandy	J.M. Wilson W.N. Adams W.T. Coats
1931-32	30	B.G. Powell	Nadine Sandy Beryl Sandy	

Based on County Superintendent's Records, Book No. 2 (1919-26) and Book No. 3 (1926-33), Tishomingo County School Department, Tishomingo County Courthouse, Iuka, Mississippi

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: This is an example of a house with one main room, with smaller rear room and front porch. Though adopted here for a school teacher's house, the plan is common in the area. It can be seen in tenant's houses, as well as in modest farm houses that may or may not have been expanded later to include two or more main rooms.
2. Condition of fabric: Abandoned; deteriorated in various parts.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: This one-story house is approximately 16'-0" (two-bay front) by 30'-0". It consists of one main room 16'-square; a rear room 16' wide by 8' deep; and a front porch 16' by 6' (7'-6" of this width is an enclosed 'side room').
2. Foundations: The sills rest on stacked blocks of sandstones except in the northwest corner of the main room, where the sill rests on a standing log.
3. Wall construction, finish, color: The walls are sheathed to 8' above the sills with 12" vertical boards that have 4" batten strips nailed over the joints between boards. Horizontal weatherboards, with 5" exposure, are used to fill in the gable ends. All the boards are unpainted and weathered.
4. Structural system, framing: The house is constructed of a frame of 2 x 4s, nailed together, and sheathed with vertical planks. The main room is carried on 6" by 8" sills that run parallel to the ridge line (i.e. north-south). Resting on the sills are the 2 x 8 floor joists, running from front-to-back (i.e. east-west) and spaced 2' on center. The rear room of the house is said to be original, though the method of joining it to the main room seems improvised: A 2 x 4 board is nailed to the planks that sheath the rear wall of the main room; 2 x 6 floor joists measuring span between this board and the rear sill of the rear room. The framing of the house consists of single and paired vertical 2 x 4s (used at the corners only, not as studs), and 2 x 4 plates and girts.

5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads: There is a porch 8'-6" wide and 6' deep at the southeast corner of the house. Its corner post is missing, as is some of the 1 x 3 tongue-and-groove flooring. An exterior door in the rear room is now boarded up, and no block has been found to ease the step from the floor level of the house to the ground level 30" below.
6. Chimneys: There are no surviving chimneys or flues. An exterior chimney, approximately 4' wide and 2'-6" deep once existed on the south elevation, centered on the ridge line.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main front door measures 32" by 68" and consists of five vertical boards joined by three 1 x 4 rails. The rear door measures 32" by 68" and consists of five vertical boards joined by three 1 x 4 rails. Both of these doors open inward. The door from the porch to the 'side room' measures 30" by 73" and consists of five vertical boards joined by three 1 x 4 rails. This door opens outward.
 - b. Windows: The double hung window next to the door on the front porch measures 22" by 45". Glazing and mullions are missing. There are windows, now boarded up, in the north and south ends of the rear room. The north window consists of a single fixed sash unit, 32" by 54", with nine 10" by 14" lights. The south window opening no longer survives, but a corrugated metal awning can be seen on the exterior. The main room has only one window, in the north wall opposite the fireplace. It measures 24" by 56" and has double hung, four-over-four glazed with 10" by 14" lights. A 2'-square opening with no sash or glazing has been cut in the east wall of the 'side room.' It is covered from the inside with a shutter consisting of five horizontal boards.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape, covering: The house has a broken-pitch gable roof with ridge running north-south. It is constructed of 2 x 6 rafters spaced 2' on center and is covered with 2' by 8' sheets of corrugated metal nailed to 1 x 4 purlins.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: The purlins extend about 10" beyond the house on the north and south elevations. On all four sides of the house, the metal roofing has an overhang of about 10".

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plan: The main room, 16'-square, is entered from the porch, 8'-6" by 6', at the southeast corner of the house. A smaller rectangular room, 16' by 8', adjoins the main room at the rear. There is no access from the main room to the 'side room,' 7'-6" by 6', at the front northwest corner of the house.
2. Flooring: 1 x 4s, spaced 2' on center are nailed north-south across the floor joists that run from front to back in the house (i.e. east-west). Tongue-and-groove soft wood 1 x 3 flooring is laid over the 1 x 4s, in an east-west direction.
3. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are unfinished, and the exposed 2 x 4 frame and exterior planking has never been painted. The ceiling joists are also unfinished, allowing a view of the rafters and roof.
4. Doorways and doors: The opening between the front and rear rooms is positioned south of the center line of the house, roughly opposite the front door. It measures 32" by 72", is framed with 1 x 4 strips, and has no door.
5. Decorative features and trim: The mantel has been removed, and there are no other notable interior details.
6. Mechanical equipment: The only heating would have been provided by the wood-burning fireplace. At one time the house was equipped with electric power. No well or privy was found near the house.

D. Site:

1. General setting and orientation: The house faces slightly north of the east and sits about 30 feet west of the road leading to the Piney Grove Church (site of the former Allen Line School). The ground slopes to the west, so that the porch sill is 6" above grade while the rear sill is 30" above grade. Behind the house, the ground continues to slope into the woods. About a quarter of a mile to the west is a small creek and a 30-acre parcel of cropland.

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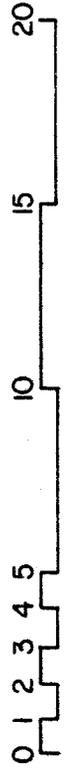
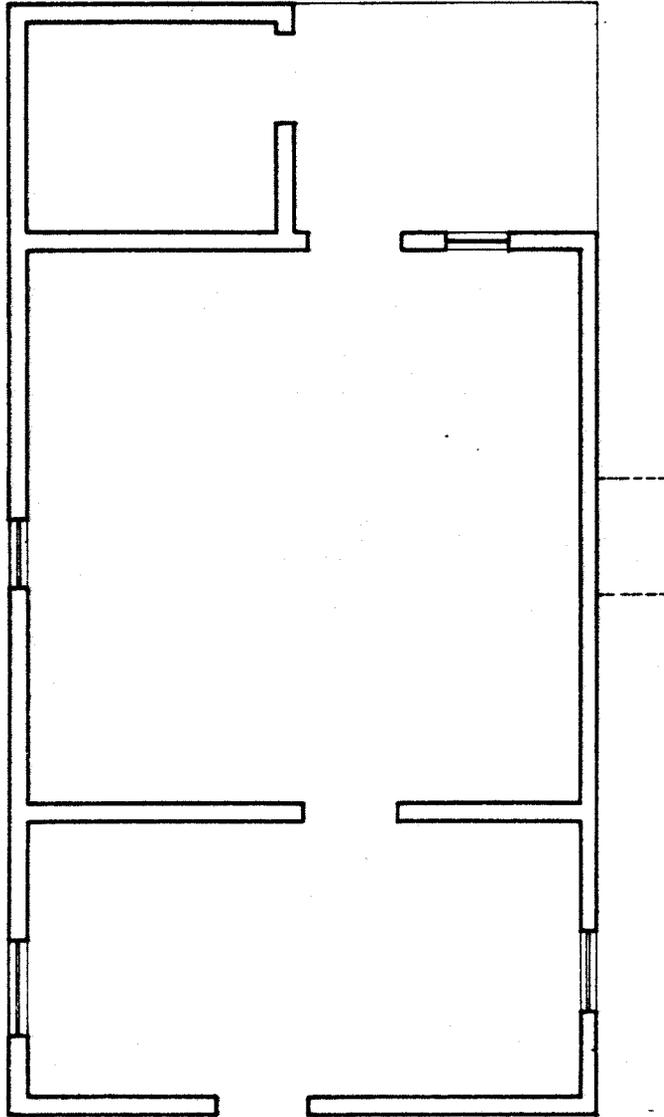
2. Outbuildings: There is a pig pen, in poor condition, about 10 feet southwest of the house. About 20 feet south of the house is a school bus, c1930.

Prepared by: J. A. Chewning
Inventory Project Supervisor
Historic American Buildings
Survey
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SCALE IN FEET

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

These records are part of the documentation done during the 1978 Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Project, undertaken by HABS in cooperation with the Interagency Archeological Services, Atlanta, and cosponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mobile and Nashville Districts, in compliance with Executive Order 11593, as a mitigative effort in the construction of the waterway. Records were made of eighteen historic sites and structures in the region between Gainesville, Alabama, and Iuka, Mississippi.

The project was executed under the direction of John Poppeliers, Chief, and Kenneth L. Anderson, Principal Architect, of the Historic American Buildings Survey. Project Supervisor was James Murray Howard of the University of Illinois. Project Historian was Betty K. Bird of the University of Virginia. The Assistant Historian was Michael Ann Williams (University of Pennsylvania). Foreman was Ruthie D. Wiley of the University of Florida. Student Architects who prepared measured drawings for the project were Carol J. Crandall (Carnegie-Mellon University), Richard J. Cronenberger (University of Miami), Peter G. Darlow (McGill University), Daniel M. Gaines (University of Tennessee), and R. Bradley Mellor (Rice University). The inventory of sites within the project area was carried out by Inventory Supervisor J. A. Chewing of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Assistant Historian for the inventory was Pamela J. Wolf (George Washington University). One structure was recorded during the winter of 1979 by project supervisor Peter G. Darlow (McGill University), Sally K. Tompkins, Project Historian, and Staff Architects Bethanie C. Grashof, Rudy Massengill, and Janet Hochuli (The Cooper Union). Drawings for this structure were completed during the spring of 1979 by staff Architects Peter G. Darlow, Janet Hochuli, James F. Speake and Reginald A. Berry (Howard University). Photographs were taken by David J. Kaminsky in the summer of 1978 and by Gil Ford in the spring of 1979.