Montebrier Hístorícal, remarkable design & construction, Brierfield, Alabama 1866-67

13 acres in Brierfield, Bibb CountyBeth Maynor205-533-1513

\$348,000 <u>#377</u> Cyprus Partners

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Along the banks of Mahan Creek in Bibb County in the year of 1866 a home that was remarkable for its time in the design and construction, was built by John Mallett, a former University of Alabama professor and recent Superintendent of Confederate Ordnance Laboratories, who agreed to help run the Brierfield Ironworks located nearby. A long porch over looking Mahan Creek is a place for gathering. There are two 1880's heart pine church pews and a joggling board to gather folks and keep the stories going.

The parlor has 20 foot cielings with stunning custom made pecky cyprus book shelves and a custom installed wurlitzer theatre pipe organ (1919). During the 1920's the home became a speakeasy known as the Montebrier Club with an expansive square dance floor.





The property has been extremely well loved and maintained since the 1960's when the current owners bought the property.

Quote: Josiah Gorgas

"Col. Mallet put in his money at his own request & against my judgment in order to gratify his own taste for a fine house."



The heart pine front doors as well as the extremely tall heart pine folding doors that separate the entrance from the den were custom made by the current owner. The very tall doors that lead to the den can be opened to expand the size of the parlor.

The side board that separates the dinning area and the entrance hall was built around a beautiful stained glass piece which dates to 1880.

The chimes are for the door bell.

There is a hidden closet lined with pacific cloth for keeping silver untarnished.

The light fixture in the cieling dates to 1880, and was bought at an auction in Thorsby.



The custom made book shelves are made from pecky cypress.

The Wurlitzer Theatre Pipe organ was custom installed by the owner - one of his many talents. All the pipes are behind the bookshelves and accessable from the closet at the end of the book shelves. There is a large blower in the basement below. In case you do not play the pipe organ it can play from a computer. *Quote: From when McCalley's lived in the home.* Bibb Blade [Six Mile, Alabama], Thursday, 17 March 1881

"On last Saturday night there was an informal sociable at Mr. McCalley's, at Briefield. Several young ladies and gentlemen met there, and passed the time very pleasantly till midnight in dancing, playing and singing. Mr. and Mrs. Grey aided greatly to the enjoyment of the crowd by their excellent music on the violin and piano, and all were sorry they left so early. Several quadrilles were danced, and those who could, gaily tripped the light fantastic toe to the entrancing music of the waltz, and seemed to do it with a will. All appeared to do their utmost to play the agreeable, but Mr. Gray Huckabee and his accomplished sister, the excellent hostess, were very happy in their efforts to please, and all who were there will long remember their splendid music and especially Mrs. McCalley's unrivaled singing."







The custom made dining table easily seats fourteen people. It is being left with the house. Under the dining

table is a beautiful rug from the Temple Theatre in Birmingham with a pattern that repeats Metro Goldwin from the 1920's

The stained glass in the custom made side board dates to 1880. This beautiful stained glass set the design for the dining room as it was one of the first purchases for the home. The cast bronze screen separating the main parlor from the dining room was originally a floor vent for a large building in New Jersey. It is suspended on pulleys in the attic.

There is a very convenient open pass through window from the kitchen to the dinning area. The tall heart



The spaceous kitchen has a wood burning stove to keep it cozy in the winter and a screened porch off to the side to enjoy warmer seasons.

The fireplace in the den backs up to the wood stove. It has custom stone work that incorporates a 44 inch millstone from the old mill that was across Mayhan Creek.

The sprial stair case goes to a very large loft room that was used as a bedroom. The door to the right of the fireplace is a small office.

The details in the house are more than one could put a fair value on.















Both bedrooms have wide plank heart pine floors, as well as modern large closets. The bathroom for the blue bedroom is the master bath around the corner. The red bathroom has fixtures from an old train car. The mantle in the red room is original to the house. The painting of the house in the blue room is left with the house as well as historical documents.











Everywhere on this property you find thoughtful details that are part of the inheritance of his home, from a well cared for old well to a great way to store firewood that keeps it dry and allows the old bark to fall down the hillside.



So many things about this home are thoughtful and graceful in a way that was once more common. The house sits gracefully on the knol over looking Mahan Creek. The other side of the house looks down on a two acre lake. The swing on the hill is a special place to sit and discuss the day or tell and retell stories.









The house sits graciously on the hill wrapped with a long narrow drive and expansive lawn to the west. The two acre lake is surrounded by a grassy meadow of oak trees. The barn is a short walk on the other side of the lake. The barn has several large workshop rooms with power and water. One end can store cars while the other end has a two stall horse barn and paddock. There are large areas to store a tractor and lawn maintanance equipment. The barn works like a complex including an office. The grounds are gently rolling with large trees surrounding the lake.









The 13 acres in a lot of frontage on Hwy 139 and well as both sides of Mahan Creek. The railroad tract is the border on the west side of the property. There is additional property for sale on the next map.



There is additional acreage for sale:

4 acre tract along Mahan Creek on the other side of the railroad tract 15 acres at the entrance to Brierfield Estates on the east side of Hwy 139 \$32,000 \$120,000