

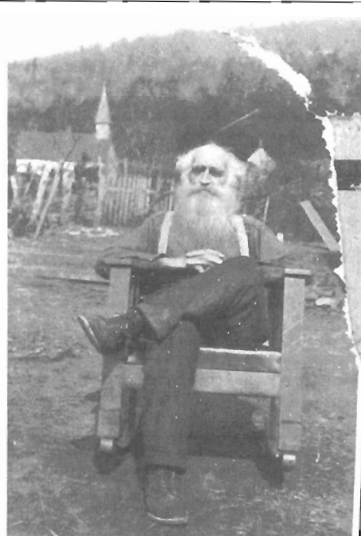
**Harris-Moody Brick Residence
Kyles Community, Jackson County, Alabama
Hollywood, AL 35752**

The *Moody Brick* residence, as it has been called for more than 100 years was until more recently known for its ghostly appearance (and hopeful ghost sightings) by Jackson County's young adults as it became a night time destination for . . . when it was unoccupied in the 1980s. But those ghostly features have now disappeared as this pre Civil War house has again become a family residence.

Historical Background:

The Brick was built c. 1848 (per John H. Brandon, now deceased, a local resident and history buff) for Carter Overton Harris (1800-1860) and his wife Mary Ann Hudson (1817-1897). The residence sits on land purchased from the Huntsville Land Office on July 9, 1830 by C. B. Hudson, father of Mary Ann. The residence is located in the Kyles Community of Jackson County, Alabama, about seven miles from Hollywood, and was originally on farm and timber land that totaled 2,200 acres. Adjacent to the house is the family cemetery that pre-dates the house.

The family cemetery includes more than 25 graves of which 14 are marked with headstones (5 are only rock) and rock slabs. Graves probably include the Hudson's, blacks that were family too, Moody's, farm sharecroppers, and neighbors. Vandals or now they call themselves 'Ghost Hunters', shattered headstones, turned over headstones, and pulled down two of the rock walls around one part of the cemetery. This vandalism has now been repaired and head stones replaced.



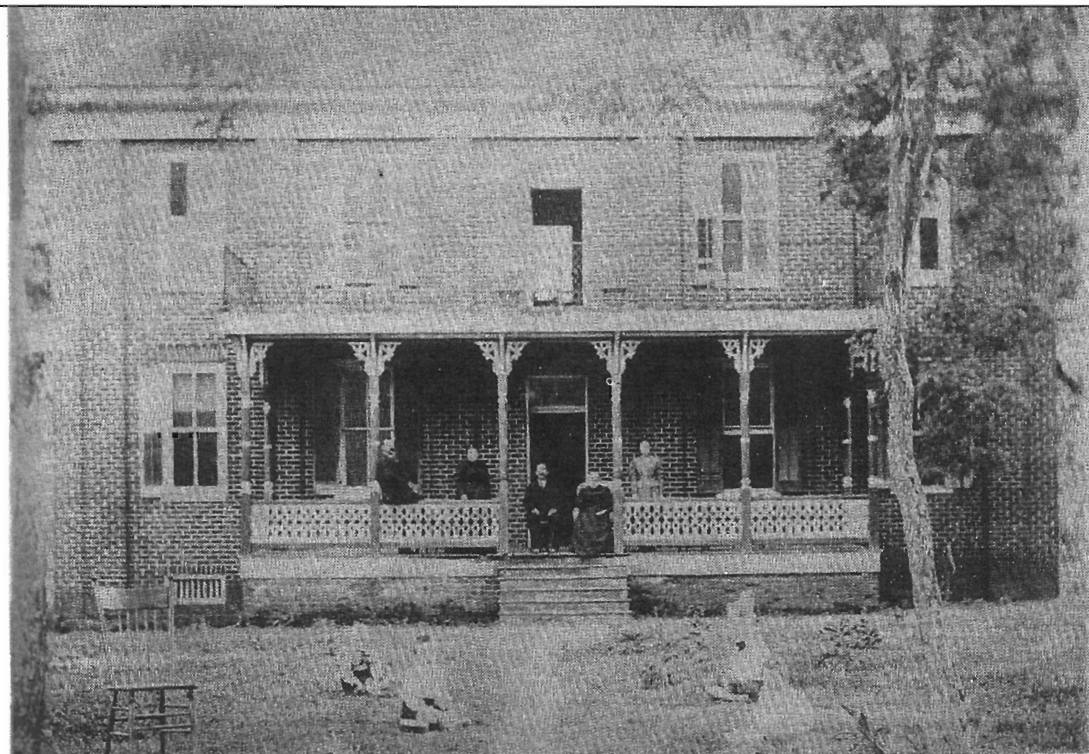
Pleasant Wyatt Sanders who is buried in the Harris-Moody Cemetery. Bethel Baptist Church, of Carnes is shown in the background. His wife, Josephine Moody, is buried next to him. She died while visiting the family at Christmas time and was buried there on Christmas Day, 1912. The weather was so cold and bad that they were not able to take her body home for burial. Miles Moody and his wife were her aunt and uncle. Their son, Charley is also buried beside them. He was married with one child when he died of pneumonia.

The house and farm sold to brothers Miles Norton Moody (1835-1912) and James Warren Moody (1839-1912) in 1872. The property was later purchased by Albert Henry Moody from his father (Miles N.) and uncle (James Warren). It was then passed along to Albert's son, James "Big Jim" Moody (1899-1977). In 1990, the house and an adjoining 20+ acre tract of land were purchased by Ron Lee from Moody heirs, Virginia Pitt and Marie Baker. During the next 25 years, the house was restored and modernized following consultations with and re-use plans by restoration architect Harvey Jones of Huntsville, Alabama, and landscape architect Hugh Dargan of Atlanta, Georgia.



Miles Norton Moody

The Moody Brick was originally of Federal period design but after it burned as a result of a chimney fire in February 1888. It was rebuilt in an Italianate design with brackets under the eaves and windows and windows of two over two style. Following the rebuild in the early 1890's, several changes and additions were made to the house in the early 1900s.



Moody Brick about 1897 shows the home after its rebuild following the 1888 fire. Pictured left to right are Albert Henry Moody, sister Laura Moody Staples, Miles Norton Moody, Rebecca Edwards Moody, Mattie Owens Hamlet with children Jephtha Moody, John Moody, Littleton Staples, and Bess Moody Lipscomb.

Daughter of Carter and Mary Ann Hudson, Mattie Kate, died in June 1862. Per talks with John H. Brandon, Mattie Kate was detained by Union General Mitchells troops on a rainy day while driving her buggy from Dolberry Hollow. General Mitchell captured Huntsville,

AL following the Union victory of Shiloh and then captured the railroad to Bridgeport. Although Mattie Kate was probably detained in the rain in April, she did not die until June.



The Albert H. Moody family photo of about 1905. Left to right are John Jones, Jeptha "Jep" Moody on mule, John Moody, James "Big Jim" Moody, Albert H. Moody (father), Paralee Moody standing in chair, Ursula "Jennie" (mother) holding Alex, Uncle Sam Campbell, Bess Moody (Lipscomb) on horse, and Sally Ann, the family cook, on the balcony.

Historical Significance:

The structure's walls, both exterior and interior, are built of three courses of brick. The front of the house has well proportioned pilasters, typical of work done by an early Alabama builder, Hiram Higgins. The brick used in the house was made from clay dug from behind the structure, using wood molds and fired on site by artisan slaves. The mantels in the front two rooms on the first floor are from the Federal period—possibly from the original house before it burned, the two mantles in the front two rooms on the second floor are Victorian, and the one in the dining room and the one in the room above it are of Italianate design. The original kitchen was immediately under the dining room, in the one-room basement. This kitchen had an exterior entrance, a cooking hearth, ventilators for air flow and to keep the chickens out, and a stairway that led to the dining room.

Typically construction crews of highly skilled slaves traveled throughout the South, to mold and fire brick and provide other skills necessary for building construction. Less than six of these pre Civil War brick residences exist today in Jackson County.

George Yarbrough's pre Civil War family, of South Alabama, had a construction company and plantation. George said that the family had a pressing construction job to start but the family had to stay and work in the fields with the farm worker slaves while the construction worker slaves were sent to start the new job. The Alabama law required a 'white man' to be on site with the slaves so the family sent his 7 year old grandfather to travel and be on site with the workers. This story shares light on who really ran the job and how the family extended trust to the workers.

In 1902, a one-story brick kitchen and smokehouse was added that connected to the dining room. Ornate stenciling and the wall and ceiling paintings in the house date to

1905 and are said to be the work of an Italian traveling artist, Alfonzo Lamante. Lamante also decorated the Scottsboro Presbyterian Church. The front portico was added in 1916. Unusual to find in Alabama was the construction of a smokehouse adjacent to the main house as well as these wall and ceiling paintings.

Restoration:

Under the guidance of architect Harvey Jones, the restoration approach taken was to disturb as little of the house as possible while allowing it to become a livable residence. Bathrooms, closets, and private porches off the bedrooms replaced the long porches on the rear of the house while only one window was changed to a doorway and another was covered with shutters. The fireplaces were restored to their original design with the exception of two as one was rebuilt before Mr. Jones took the project. Although not planned by Mr. Jones, the smokehouse was removed and rebuilt to the same dimensions to allow construction of a basement, but using Mr. Jones' re-use scheme.

The project was one of restoration and modernizing as opposed to remodeling. First, the house was stabilized—the windows, brick, roof, doors, chimneys, and flooring issues were addressed to prevent further deterioration. Once stabilized, work began in earnest on the inside of the house, yet rooms were not changed from their original design as the addition of closets and bathrooms were skillfully integrated into the re-use design by Jones.

In 1990, the house had been vandalized to the extent that the house had been set on fire three times, one of the three stair cases was missing; stair way balusters had been kicked out and broken. The windows were rebuilt to match their previous design and reinstalled as vandals destroyed the originals. Missing and broken stairway balusters and newel caps were duplicated. Replacement interior and exterior trim was duplicated to match the original. Interior and exterior doors were rebuilt. Two mantels were rebuilt with missing and damaged components replicated. The house was re-wired, three heating and cooling systems were installed, and 4-1/2 bathrooms were added which replaced the single shower and outhouse. Floors and floor joists were replaced on the first floor and the three chimneys received a lot of attention with one being completely rebuilt. Significant brick re-pointing and brick replacement was required. Every architectural item that could be salvaged and reused was especially brick and trim.

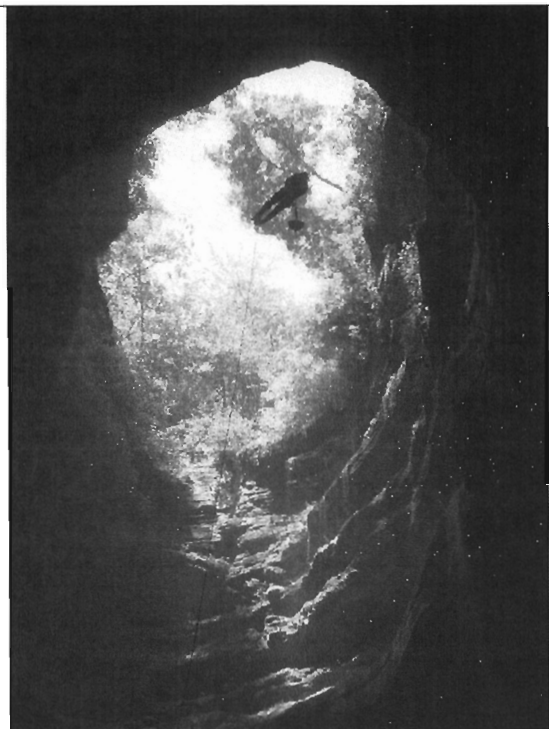
When the house clean up started in 1990, the vandals left their trip wires installed in the doorways, the stuffed dummy hanging from the back upper porch, graffiti inside walls and on the outside brick walls, and their truck loads of glass bottles and aluminum cans.

The landscape master plan was undertaken by landscape architect Hugh Dargan of Atlanta, following his firm's four-part master plan that skillfully matched the *Moody Brick's* setting within its historical context. The driveway approach, parking areas, and driveway arbor were designed to welcome the resident and guests while complementing the property. Dargan captures the "spirit" of the pre Civil War residence by incorporating an herb garden near the new kitchen—the original vegetable garden was located just east of the previous basement kitchen entrance. Brick walks further contribute to the timeliness of the property, as does the use of plant material to frame views just beyond the home. Overall, the drive and parking areas welcome residents and guests to the front door while the brick walks invite them to enjoy the outdoor experience as one moves through the property, relaxing and experiencing the timeliness of the home and its large trees.

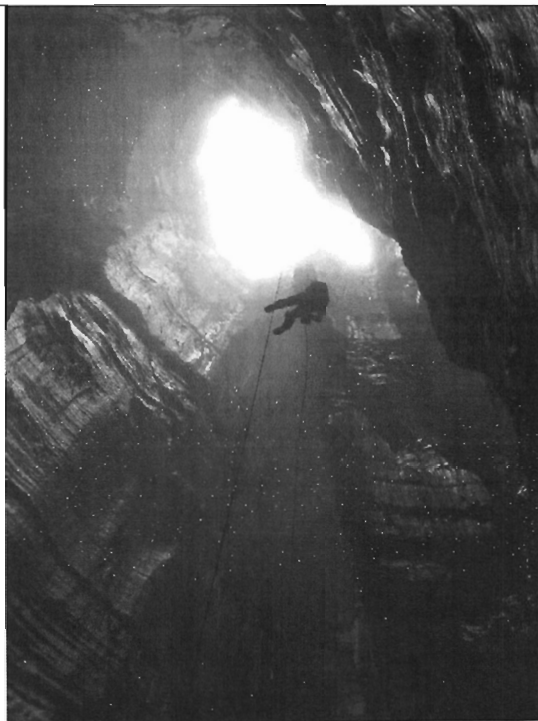
Other than the sight of electrical outlets and electrical switches, the inside of the main house looks much today as it probably did for more than 100 years. Yet, what had been the smokehouse are today a family and guest friendly kitchen and den. The kitchen design and installation was the work of Classic Cabinetry of Chattanooga. The large den windows flood the room with light while adding a relaxed feel as one looks over the expanse of the adjoining farm land. Hopefully, the property will provide a warm and

welcoming home for another 150 years as a tribute to the craftsmen that built and more recently restored it.

Today, the Kyles and Dolbery Hollow area offer several enjoyable areas by visiting the Kyles Spring and the three noted local caves—Never Sink on the mountain near Moody Hollow, Valhalia on the mountain in Goshen Hollow, and Blowing Cave in Dolbery Hollow.



Never Sink near Moody Hollow, 2008



Valhalia in Goshen Hollow, 2008