



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for INDIVIDUAL PROPERTIES

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 015-1045

1. General Property Information

Property name: Lacks House

Property address: 831 Cook Ave

City or Town: Brookneal

Zip code: 24528

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Campbell County

Category of Property (choose only one of the following):

Building X Site _____ Structure _____ Object _____

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 23 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town _____ Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural X

Briefly describe the property's overall location and setting, including any notable landscape features:

2025 VCRIS: The house is located about 100 feet south of the circular driveway, 935 south of Cook Avenue, 1,825 from the Staunton River, at its closest point, to the southwest; and 4,000 feet southeast of downtown Brookneal. The cemetery is located about 160 feet southwest of the house.

3. Architectural Description

Architectural Style(s): Federal/Adamesque, Greek Revival

If the property was designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: unknown

If the builder is known, please list here: unknown

Date of construction (can be approximate): ca 1750 (written data); ca 1790 (county real estate data); later additions and improvements

Narrative Description (Please do not exceed one page in describing the property):

Briefly describe the property's general characteristics, such as its current use (and historic use if different), as well as the primary building or structure on the property (such as a house, store, mill, factory, depot, bridge, etc.). Include the materials and method(s) of construction, physical appearance and condition (exterior and interior), and any additions or other major alterations.

Architectural Description: Main House

September 2025: On both the exterior and interior, the house is remarkably well preserved. It appears almost precisely as it was photographed and described in 1975. See July 1975 survey.

Exterior components

Windows: Windows Sash, Double-Hung Wood 6/6

Chimneys: Other Brick Bond, American Chimneys Central interior Brick Not Visible

Structural System and Exterior Treatment Frame: Wood Weatherboard

Porch: 2-story, 1-bay Wood

Other Foundation: Solid/Continuous Stone Rubble

Coursed Roof: Gable Slate Shingle

Architectural Description: Smokehouse

September 2025: The side-gabled smokehouse is located about 30 feet southwest of the southwest corner of the house's rear. One-story tall and nearly square in dimensions; its roof is sheathed with slate shingles, and most of its beaded weatherboards remain in good condition. Inside the smokehouse, the exposed mortise-and-tenon timber framing is well intact. Forming the corners of the building are L-shaped guttered corner posts with heavy down braces. The roof is built of common rafters with smoke-blackened collar ties and gable-end stud walls. The building's shallow eaves are carried by extended plates and tie beams

Exterior Components:

Structural System and Exterior Treatment: Wood Frame Wood Weatherboard

Foundation: Not Visible

Roof: Side Gable

Architectural Description: Cemetery

September 2025: The cemetery is located about 160 feet southwest of the house. It has been heavily overgrown in the past, and the stone wall has some damage, particularly a large gap in its north wall, near the west corner. Of note are the three steps built into the inside of the east wall, near the north corner, comprised of three flat, cantilevered stones projecting from the wall; perhaps obviating the need for a gated entrance. The wall itself is

leaning and otherwise failing in some places, having suffered numerous fallen trees or large branches. Currently, many graves cannot be easily located. About one dozen grave markers stand above heavy undergrowth.

Current Use: Family Historic

Religious Affiliation: unknown

Ethnic Affiliation: European Descent

Has Marked Graves: Yes

Has Unmarked Graves: Yes

Enclosure Type: Wall

Number Of Gravestones: 11 – 25

Significant Burial: Willa W. Berger Ca 1883 Ca 1912 ,Ann Mariah Nowlin Ca 1806 Ca 1845, Fanny W. Nowlen Ca 1808 Ca 1829, Peyton W. Nowlin Ca 1804 Ca 1860

In a bullet list, include any outbuildings or secondary resources or major landscape features (such as barns, sheds, dam and mill pond, storage tanks, scales, railroad spurs, etc.), including their condition and their estimated construction dates.

- Please see above regarding Smokehouse and cemetery (related details)
- Corncrib (ca 1840) Overall current condition poor

4. Property's History and Significance (Please do not exceed one page)

Briefly explain the property's historic importance, such as significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property.

If the property is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

A Glimpse into History

Step back in time and discover the story of this remarkable home—a testament to craftsmanship, heritage, and enduring beauty. From its humble beginnings as a log dwelling to its elegant transformation in the 19th century, this residence reflects the lives and aspirations of those who shaped its history.

Historic Home Overview

This distinguished residence achieved its present form during the mid-19th century, when the hall and living room were added, uniting the left and right wings into the elegant structure seen today.

Early Origins

Prior to 1750, an earlier log dwelling is believed to have occupied this site. Around that year, Michael Pruitt—one of the area's earliest settlers—constructed the original portion of the house. Today, this space serves as the kitchen, located at the rear of the home. A charming pie-step stairway leads to an upstairs room that retains its original woodwork, mantel, and fireplace.

Ownership and Expansion

The property passed from Thomas Scott to the Nowlin family around 1780. Between that time and 1860, the second section of the house was likely built. In 1860, William H. Cook, a native of the home, purchased approximately two acres for \$25,000. At or near this time, the hall and living room were added. The living room features a mantel of imported Italian marble, restored after decades of paint layers. The home also preserves its original wainscoting and windows—once a symbol of wealth, as glass panes were costly.

Timeline of Key Dates

- **Pre-1750:** Original log dwelling believed to have stood on the site.
- **1750:** Michael Pruitt constructs the earliest part of the house.
- **1780:** Property sold to the Nowlin family.
- **Mid-1800s:** Second section of the house added.
- **1860:** William H. Cook purchases the property for \$25,000; hall and living room added.

Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property, such as deeds, census and tax records, and/or published articles and books. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.)

-
-
-
-

5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local _____ Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

Current Legal Owner(s) of the Property (If the property has more than one owner, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Ian and Amy Lacks

organization: _____

street & number: 831 Cook Ave

city or town: Brookneal state: Va zip code: 24528

e-mail: amy.lacks@standard.com telephone: 434-444-3222

Legal Owner's Signature: Ian B Lacks Amy B Lacks

Date: 12/8/2025

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)

name/title: _____

organization: _____

street & number: _____

city or town: _____ state: _____ zip code: _____

e-mail: _____ telephone: _____

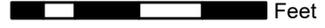
Date: _____

PLEASE DO NOT ATTACH CONTINUATION SHEETS TO THIS FORM. THANK YOU!

PIF BOUNDARY MAP

Lacks House
Campbell County, VA
DHR ID# 015-0145

 Proposed Boundary

0 400
 Feet











































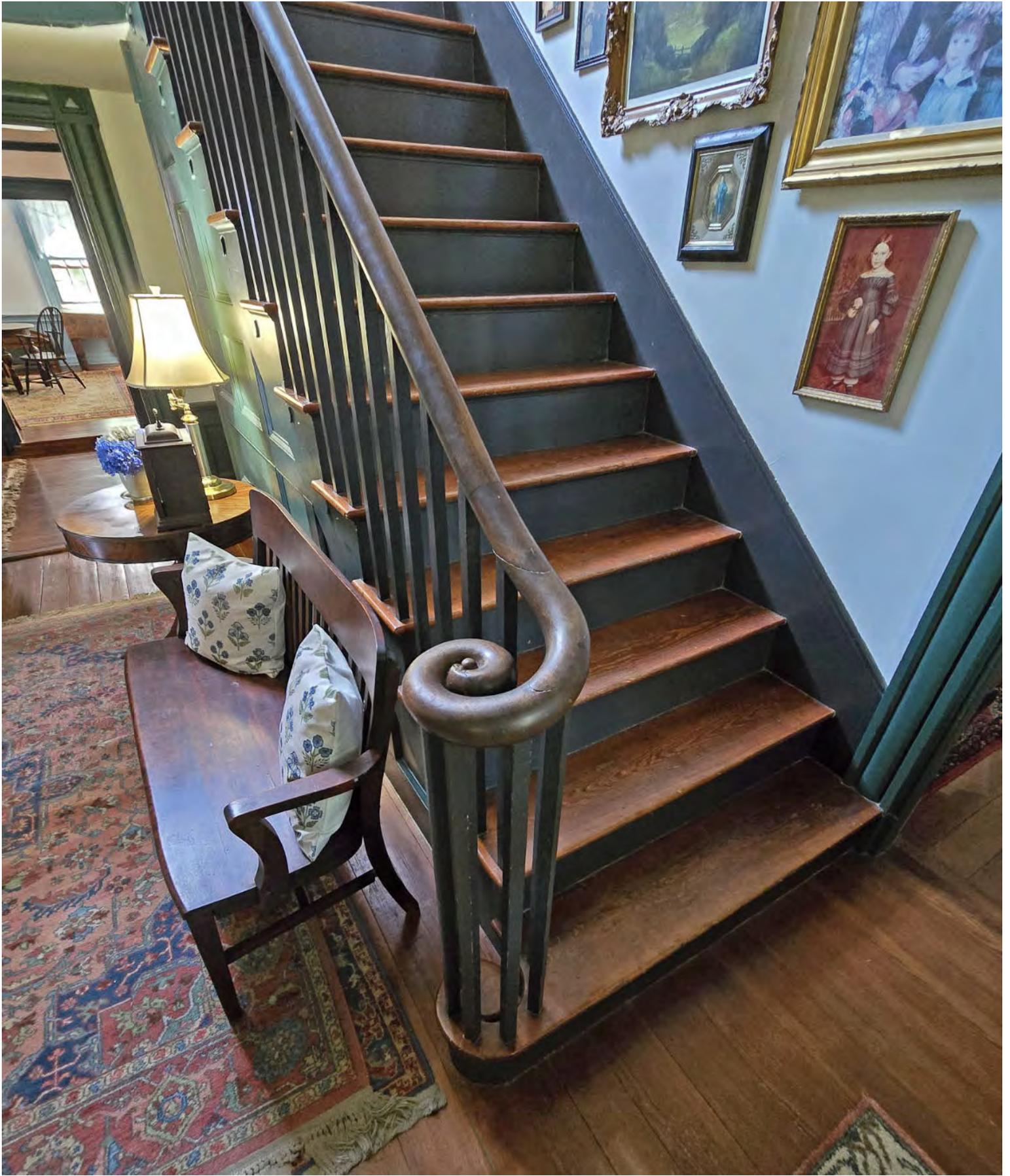














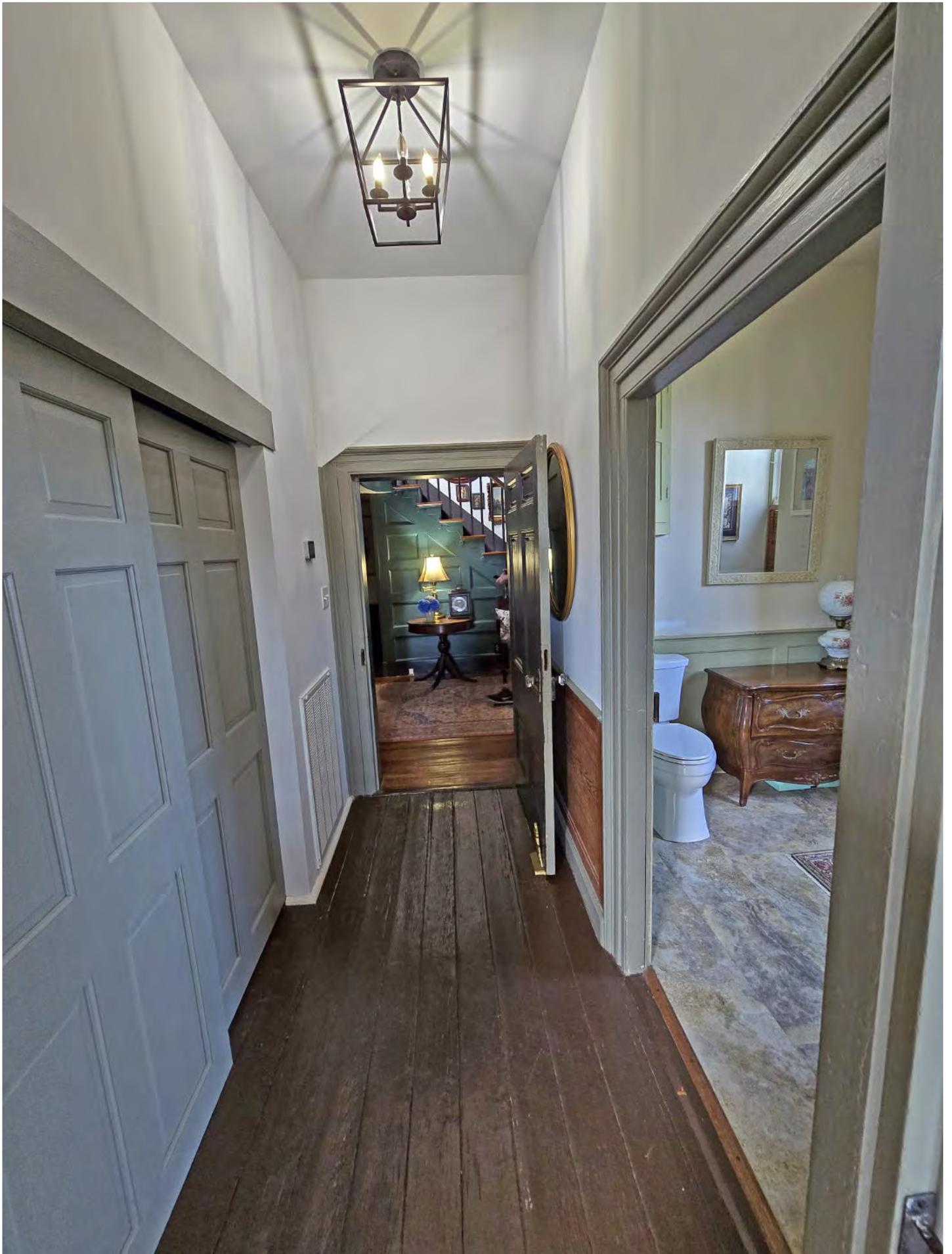






































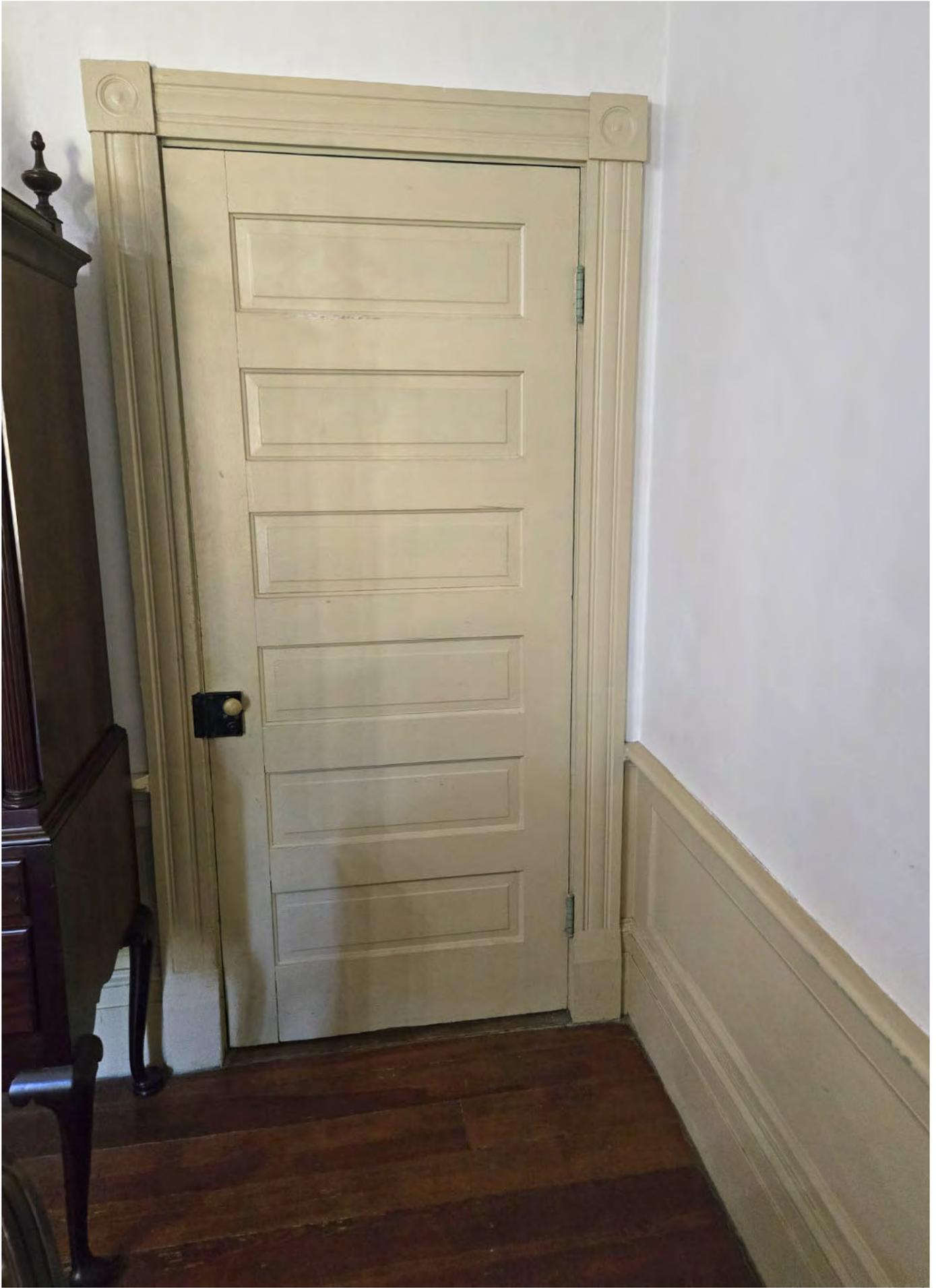










































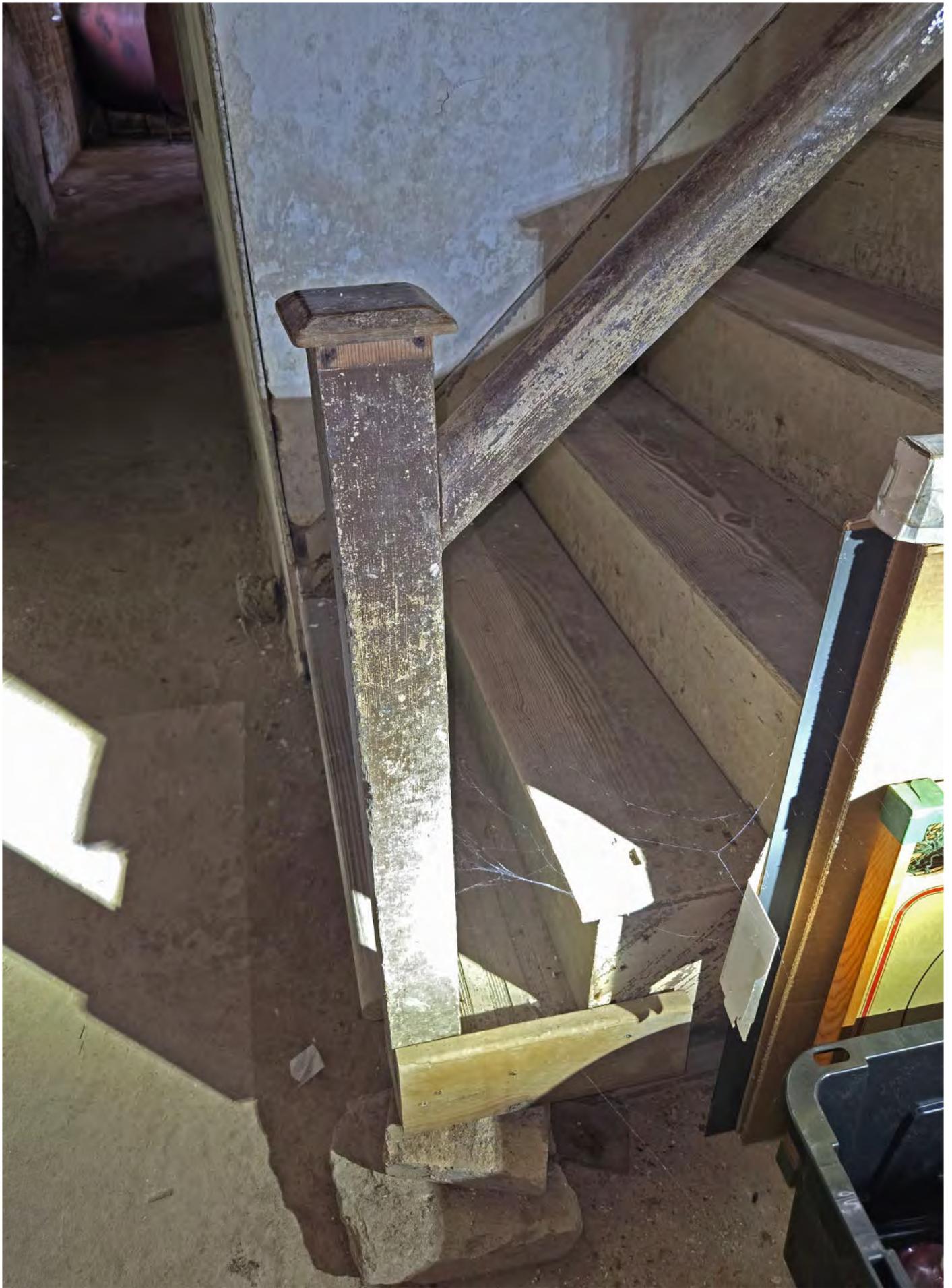




















































ANN MARIA NOWLIN
DIED
1866









