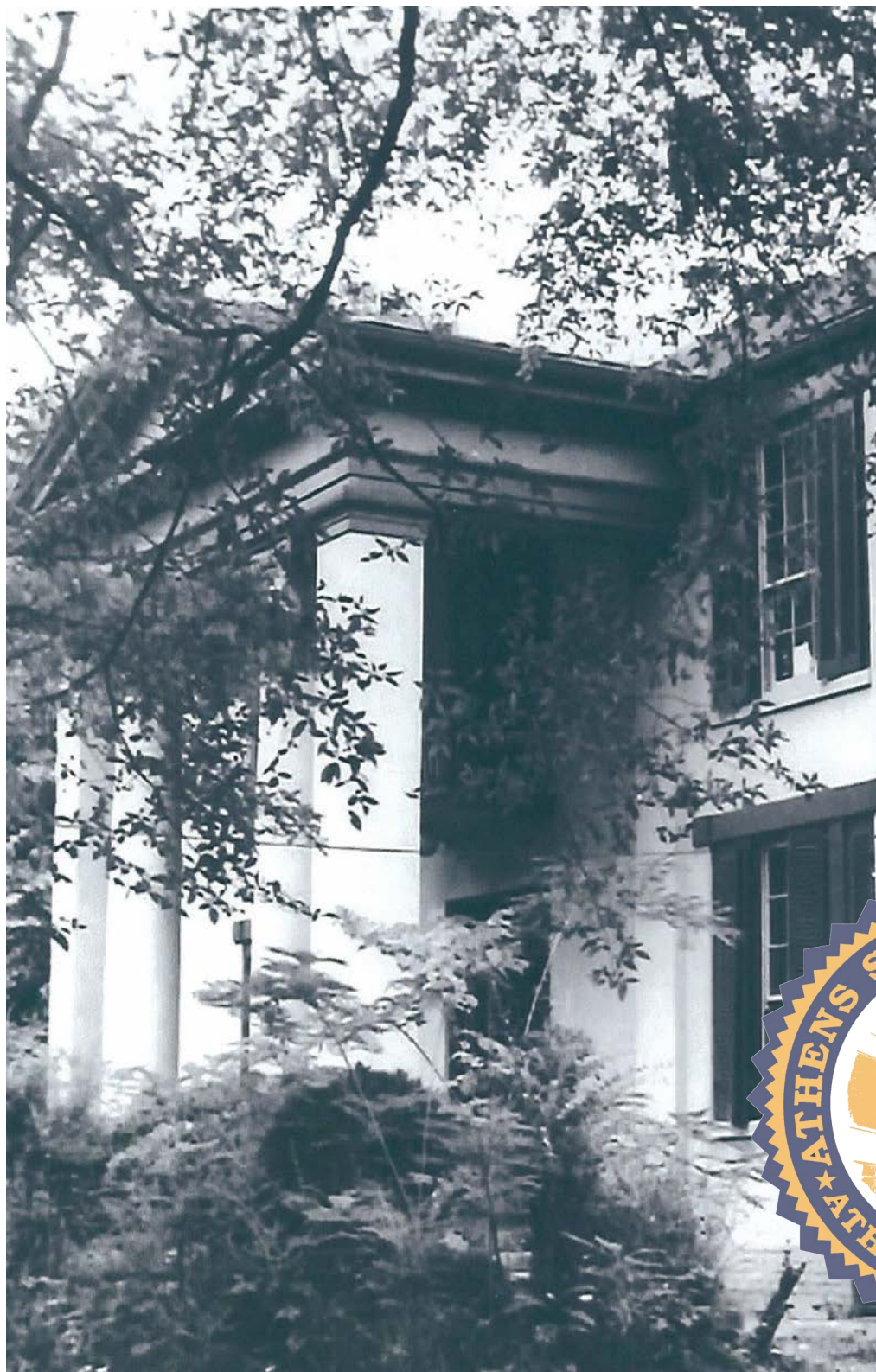


# THE CAMPAIGN FOR BEATY MASON

## ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY

ATHENS, ALABAMA



ONE OF OUR PRIORITIES ON THE ATHENS CAMPUS IS THE RESTORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S HOME.

BUILT BY ROBERT BEATY IN 1826, THE BEATY-MASON HOUSE IS THE COUNTY'S MOST FULLY DEVELOPED EXAMPLE OF THE GREEK REVIVAL IN ATHENS' RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE.

THE RESIDENCE HAS SERVED AS THE HOME OF THE PRESIDENT OF ATHENS STATE UNIVERSITY SINCE 1958.

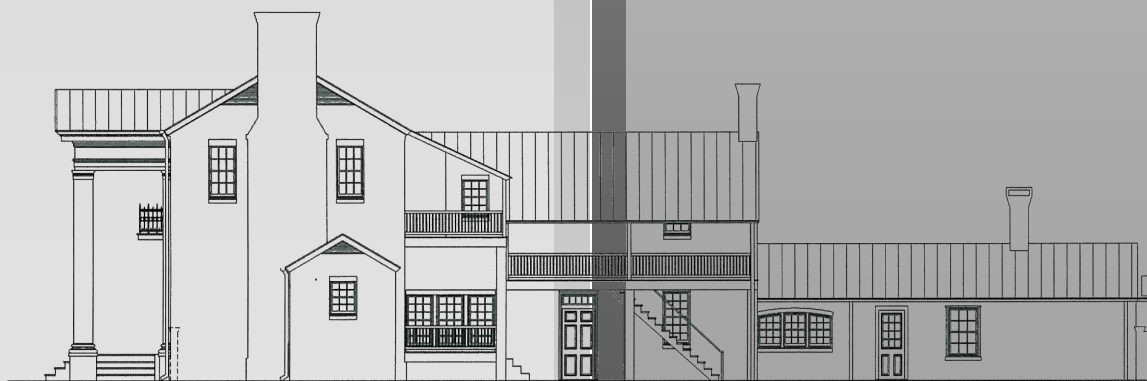


# ENSURING THE FUTURE OF THE BEATY MASON

The Athens State University Foundation Board and the University's continuing commitment to preserving the home has prompted the Foundation Board of Directors to initiate a campaign to restore the Beaty-Mason House. Following an architectural study by Architecture Works of Birmingham, Alabama, the Board has chosen to address the serious issues that confront the Beaty-Mason House, including:

- Stabilizing the brick foundation, exterior walls, roof, improving drainage, and structural safety
- Repaving driveways, repairing walkways, courtyard and updating landscaping
- Completing restoration, renovation, and repairs of the house
- Installing new mechanical, electrical, and HVAC systems
- Constructing new additions for a carriage house, kitchen/breakfast area
- Renovating and repairing the Cabin and "Pigeonniere"
- Establishing an endowment to underwrite future needs

To preserve this valuable educational and architectural resource for future generations, there is a need to create a Beaty-Mason Endowment. Although the Foundation and the Athens State budget provide funds for daily operation and maintenance of the property, additional sustainable income is needed to create a long-term stable financial fund. The Endowment will enable the University to manage future challenges and meet rising costs from a position of strength.



## Phase I

Exterior Stabilization ..... \$330,000  
 Foundation and storm drainage; back porch repair; utilities; tree removal, grading, and landscaping; roof and gable; and architectural and engineering fees.

## Phase II

Exterior Renovation ..... \$200,000  
 Removal of coating material; re-pointing the masonry, and painting

## Phase III

Renovation and New Construction ..... \$1,285,000

### Main House Renovations:

First floor renovations (dining room, parlors, and porches) totaling 3,715 square feet

Second floor renovations (family living areas and porches) totaling 2,600 square feet

### Main House Additions -1,890 square feet

New restrooms, kitchen/breakfast area, and family room

New Carriage House garage

New electrical, heating, cooling and plumbing

Hardscape Improvements - 4,600 square feet

New driveways, parking, repair courtyard, walks and steps to ensure ADA access and structural safety

Log Cabin Renovation - 750 square feet

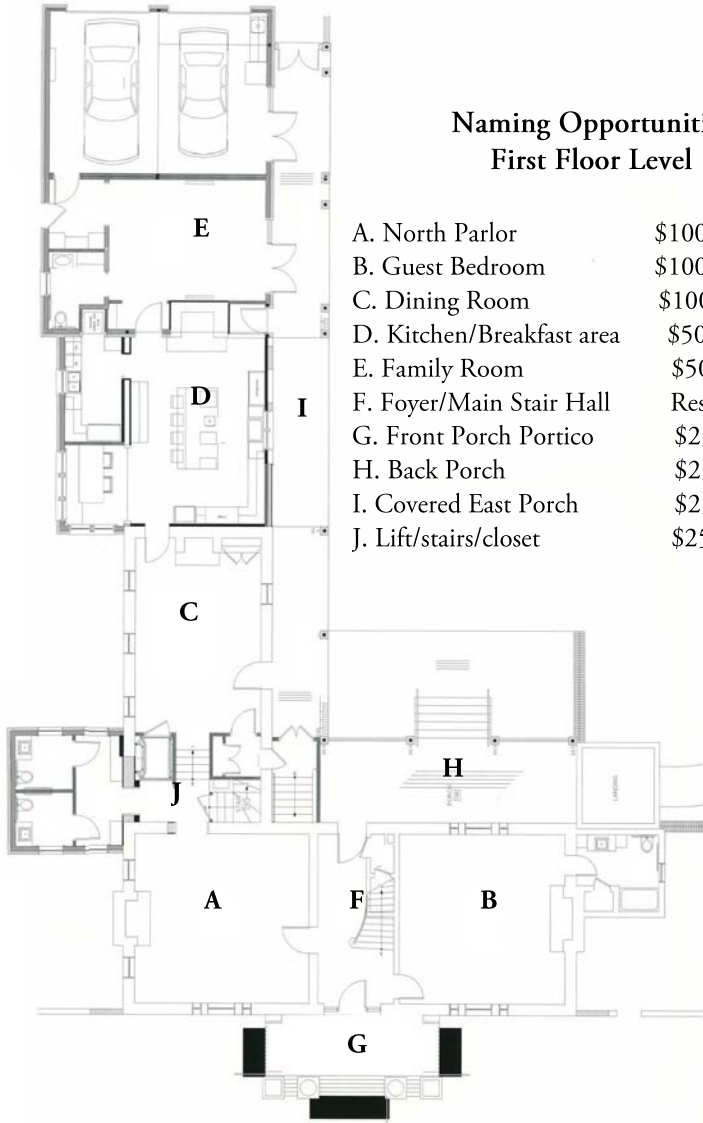
Pigeonniere/well house

## Phase IV

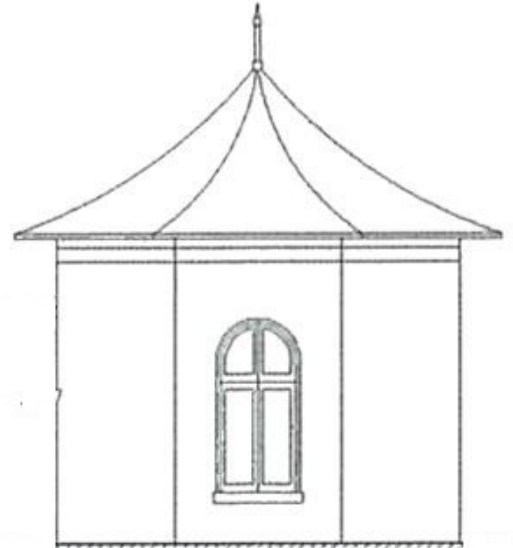
Beaty Mason Endowment..... \$200,000

**GRAND TOTAL ..... \$2,015,000**

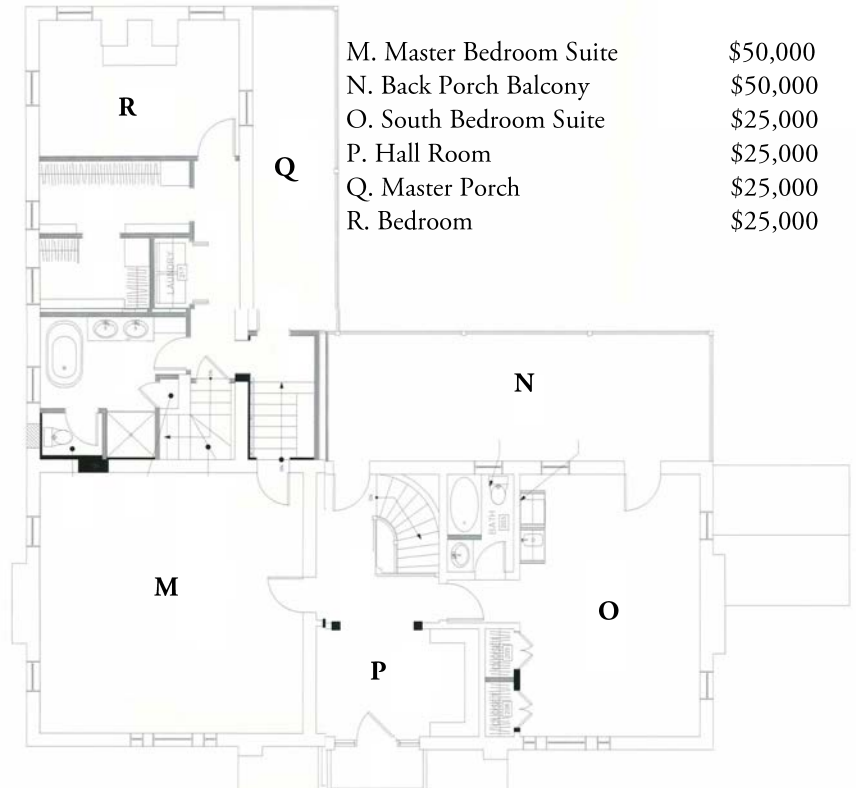
### Naming Opportunities First Floor Level



A. North Parlor	\$100,000
B. Guest Bedroom	\$100,000
C. Dining Room	\$100,000
D. Kitchen/Breakfast area	\$50,000
E. Family Room	\$50,000
F. Foyer/Main Stair Hall	Reserved
G. Front Porch Portico	\$25,000
H. Back Porch	\$25,000
I. Covered East Porch	\$25,000
J. Lift/stairs/closet	\$25,000



### Naming Opportunities Second Floor Level



M. Master Bedroom Suite	\$50,000
N. Back Porch Balcony	\$50,000
O. South Bedroom Suite	\$25,000
P. Hall Room	\$25,000
Q. Master Porch	\$25,000
R. Bedroom	\$25,000

### Naming Opportunities Grounds

Log Cabin/Guest House	\$50,000
Courtyard	\$25,000
Pigeonniere	\$25,000
Garden areas (several)	\$5,000

## ENDOWED WITH HISTORY

Across the face of a brass knocker on the door of the still stately Beaty-Mason House, is written in a nutshell the background and two most important dates leading up to one of the outstanding historic mansions of Limestone County. "Robert Beaty, 1826 - John R. Mason, 1845" reads the inscription, copied in the original signatures of the two men, who played the largest part in the construction of the dwelling.

In the halls of this mansion, passed down to succeeding generations, once sat two men prominent in Alabama history, one a co-founder of the town of Athens, the other man, General George S. Houston, who later served as governor of the state.

When Limestone County land was first offered for sale in 1818, Robert Beaty and John Carriel (or sp. Carroll) were among the first to purchase land and settle in the area. Moving from Madison County, Beaty did all in his power to advance progress in the new settlement. After Athens was incorporated later that year on November 19, 1818, he gave several lots for public use, including the town spring, the jail, cemetery, public school, and Athens Female Academy, the forerunner of Athens State University. The Academy was established December 9, 1822 and its first trustees were Beaty, Carriel, Beverly Hughes, Daniel Coleman, Andrew Foster, John W. Smith, and Joshua Martin.

In 1835 General George Houston, married Mary Beaty, one of the daughters of Robert Beaty and they lived in the house until 1845 when it was sold to Captain John Mason, who bought the remaining interest in the house for his new bride, Glorvinia, Robert Beaty's youngest daughter. General Houston was then a trustee of the College and went on to become Governor of Alabama, and later a United States Congressman.

Four generations of the Beaty-Mason family lived in the home until 1958 when Miss Mary Mason died with no children. The then Athens College, purchased the house from her estate for \$26,000 to be used as the President's home. Citizens of Athens donated antique furnishings to fill the home.

## ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Beaty-Mason House may have been originally planned as a school when it was built in 1826, although it was never used for that purpose. There were four rooms, it is believed, two upstairs and two down, with a stairway leading upon each side of the thick wall, which divided them. Rooms on the first floor had eight comparatively small windows.

The house was so well put together that the strongest wind of today does not shake it. Sleepers are of hewn logs. windowsills are doweled in with wooden pegs, while ceilings and floors are made of thick hand-planed boards. Flues are nine and one half inches through, instead of from four to six as is customary in present times.

It was remodeled in 1845 under the supervision of Hiram H. Higgins (1802-1874), who also designed Founder's Hall. The Kentucky born Higgins was the leading exponent of the Greek Revival in Limestone County and may well have been the architect who fostered local preferences for the paired column portico. Certainly he produced the most sophisticated version of it when, in 1845, Captain John Richardson Mason commissioned him to renovate the residence.

Higgins completely altered the façade of the dwelling; off came the porch that extended from one side of the structure to the other, and in its place was erected the handsome portico, in which, two robust ionic columns are each paired with a massive square pier, or *anta*, in a free spirited interpretation of the Greek *in antis* portico. On either side of the portico, Higgins replaced the original small windows with a single, large, window, of the panel type with solid stone sills. Wainscoting extending to the floor and colonial molding above, were substituted on the front and back sides.

Rooms in the main part of the house were 22 feet square, and were fitted with wide, low, Crusaders' cross pattern doors. chair boards were placed around the hallway and around each room. Stairways were removed from the individual room, a frame partition was added parallel to that of brick, to supply a wide hallway, and a single flight of steps was built at the back of this corridor.

It is possible that the ell at the back was added at this time. Everything was completed with the greatest of care. Even the two bottom steps leading to the huge cellar below the main part of the house were of limestone to prevent decay. Walkways about the home were of brick, bordered in limestone rock. Huge chunks of this rock were even embedded in the earth at spots where water dripped from the eaves of the mansion.

The Beaty Log Cabin is the only know Saddlebag (or central chimney) cabin in the county. It is reported to have been used for storing supplies and ammunitions by both forces during the Civil War. It was restored in the 1960's as a guest cottage for the College President's home.

The festive octagon shaped "Pigeoniere" which stands behind the Beaty-Mason house is an example of the Italianate architecture which was used in the late 1860's after the Civil War ended.

**For information on making a gift contact:**

Dr. Keith Ferguson

Office of University Advancement

Contact Me

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