

**REPORT ON THE INTERIOR PAINT COLORS  
OF THE GENERAL A.G. JENKINS HOUSE  
GREENBOTTOM WEST VIRGINIA**

**JANUARY 1989**

**PREPARED FOR THE  
US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
HUNTINGTON DISTRICT**

**Consultant:  
Michael Gioulis  
Historic Preservation Consultant  
612 Main Street  
Sutton, WV 26601**

This report is a result of investigation of the extant paint layering on interior surfaces of the Albert Gallatin Jenkins home in Greenbottom, West Virginia. The rooms investigated were the Parlor, Entrance Hall and Dining Room on the first floor, and the Stair Hall, East and West Bedrooms on the second floor. The intent of the investigation was to determine the approximate original color configuration of the house to assist in possible future restoration work. Other information obtained from the investigation included verification of or new information on the original configuration of the house and extant original fabric.

### General observations

One of the major disclosures concerned the plaster walls and ceilings. It was previously believed that the basement walls were reconstructed ca. 1935 and this may have included some of the wall surfaces on the first floor as well. The second floor was thought to contain original historic fabric. Unfortunately, the research indicates that all of the walls were stripped of their original plaster down to the brick structure and new expanded metal lath and two coat plaster applied. This is presumed to have occurred ca. 1938 following a major flood of the Ohio River. Consequently, no physical information on wall surfaces is available. This project did not include archival or other research, so recommendations for wall fabric are presented from generally accepted contemporary practice. Further research should be conducted if accurate restoration is desired. This should include removal of some of the plaster in each room to determine if there are nailers in the masonry for paneling, wainscoting or chair rails.

A related observation is the fact that most of the base trim in the house is also not original, and probably dates from the time of the wall replacement. The small remaining sections of original base are under the windows on the first floor, under the stair and in the stair stringer region; and some locations in the bedrooms. The accompanying sketch indicates the locations of these regions. The non original base trim appears to be of the Colonial Revival period of the late 1930's.

The two mantels in the bedrooms are believed to be original, with the parlor being a copy of one. This is documented by a photograph in the possession of Mr. and Mrs. Knight, former residents of the property. The only original doors discovered were the attic door and the east bedroom.

This includes the entrance doors which appear to have been relocated from another site.

The floors of the house appear to be original though they have all been sanded and refinished.

### Paint Observations

#### FIRST FLOOR

##### Entrance Hall

Base: The original base trim was painted a black gloss finish. This includes the plinth bases of the door trim and the bases under the sidelights.

Door trim: Yellowish Grey similar to Colonial Revival Ivory Sherwin Williams no. BM-73-17.

Doors: see recommendations for bedrooms.

Sidelight paneled trim: rails and stiles, Deep Reddish Orange; panels, same as door trim.

Sash in transom and sidelights: Yellowish Grey similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC172

Stair stringer and trim: Same as door trim. Note that the scroll brackets under each tread are not original to the stair. They are later additions, probably from the ca 1938 remodeling. Indications of previous brackets can be seen under close investigation.

Stair treads and baluster: oiled wood. Boiled linseed oil was probably used for this purpose. This may also indicate that the original floors were likewise finished.

Comments: There is a layer of Moderate Orange Yellow color immediately following the trim color on all locations where this occurs. It is believed that this is a light oak base color for graining. This may correspond to an early renovation in the Victorian Period ca. 1860-1870. There is also some concern about evidence on the sidelight of the rear entrance door in the basement stair enclosure. This was all the same color as the base trim. This would indicate that this space was always enclosed, though the door to the basement and the trim etc is not original fabric.

##### Parlor

Base: the original base trim was painted a black gloss finish. This includes the plinth bases of the door trim and

the bases under the windows.

Door trim: Yellowish Grey similar to Colonial Revival Ivory Sherwin Williams no. BM-73-17.

Doors: see recommendation for bedrooms.

Windows: paneled trim: rails and stiles, Deep Reddish Orange; panels, same as door trim; backband and other trim including stool, same as door trim.

Sash: there is no original sash remaining. Colors are presumed to be similar to the entrance hall sash in transom and sidelights, Yellowish Grey similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC172

Mantel: see bedroom recommendations.

#### Dining Room

Base: the original base trim was painted a black gloss

Door trim: Yellowish Grey similar to Colonial Revival Ivory Sherwin Williams no. BM-73-17.

Doors: see recommendation for bedrooms.

Windows: paneled trim: rails and stiles, Deep Reddish Orange; panels, same as door trim; backband and other trim including stool, same as door trim.

Sash: there is no original sash remaining. Colors are presumed to be similar to the entrance hall sash in transom and sidelights, Yellowish Grey similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC172

Mantel: This is not original to the house. It is a ca. 1870 cast iron mantel painted.

Comments: There is a layer of Moderate Orange Yellow color immediately following the trim color on all locations where this occurs. It is believed that this is a light oak base color for graining. This may correspond to an early renovation in the Victorian Period ca. 1860-1870.

#### SECOND FLOOR

##### Half

Base: the original base trim was painted a black gloss

Door trim: Yellowish Grey similar to Colonial Revival Ivory Sherwin Williams no. BM-73-17.

Doors: see recommendation for bedrooms.

Windows: paneled trim: rails and stiles, Deep Reddish Orange; panels, same as door trim; backband and other trim including stool, same as door trim.

Sash: there is no original sash remaining. Colors are presumed to be similar to the entrance hall sash in transom and sidelights, Yellowish Grey similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC172

Attic door: Light Neutral Grey similar to Benjamin Moore color no. HC171.

#### West Bedroom

Base: the original base trim was painted a black gloss

Door trim: Yellowish Grey similar to Colonial Revival Ivory Sherwin Williams no. BM-73-17.

Doors: This door is original to the house. It contains two layers of grain painting covered by numerous paints. The original graining appears to have been mahogany stiles and rails with light oak panels. The base coat for this is Moderate Orange Yellow similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC 52 or HC 54 and the glaze coat a Deep Reddish Orange similar to Dutch Standard no. 62 DC 10. The second layer of graining appears to only have been done on the stiles and rails and consists of a base coat of Pale Orange Yellow similar to the first and a glaze coat of Dark to Moderate Orange Yellow similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC 52.

Windows: paneled trim: rails and stiles, Deep Reddish Orange; panels, same as door trim; backband and other trim including stool, same as door trim.

Sash: there is no original sash remaining. Colors are presumed to be similar to the entrance hall sash in transom and sidelights, Yellowish Grey similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC172

Mantel: This is the original mantel used as a model for the one in the Parlor. It was originally painted gloss black.

#### East Bedroom

Base: the original base trim was painted a green/black gloss

Door trim: Yellowish Grey similar to Colonial Revival Ivory Sherwin Williams no. BM-73-17.

Doors: see recommendation for bedrooms.

Windows: paneled trim: rails and stiles, Deep Reddish Orange; panels, same as door trim; backband and other trim including stool, same as door trim.

Sash: there is no original sash remaining. Colors are presumed to be similar to the entrance hall sash in transom and sidelights, Yellowish Grey similar to Benjamin Moore no. HC172

Mantel: This is also original to the house. It was originally painted a Moderate Reddish Brown.

#### COLOR CHART

The colors listed below are what was uncovered as the first finish in each sample. The presentations follow the order of: location of sample; current designation name; National Bureau of Standards Name; US Standard Color Code number; approximate Munsell Color number; approximate current (1989) manufacturers color match.

Base trim on all rooms; Green/Black; na; B90 C60-70 Y00-10; 5PB4/2; Dutch Std. 61DC24

Window trim paneling and sidelight paneling; Red; Deep Reddish Orange; B40 Y60-80 M99; 7.5R 4/12

Sash; Off white/ivory; Yellowish Grey; B30 Y10 M00-10; 10Y7.5/1; Benjamin Moore HC172.

Attic door; Off white/grey; Light Neutral Grey; B30 Y00 C00; N8.0; Benjamin Moore HC 171.

Trim; Off white/grey; Light Neutral Grey; Y20 M10 C10-30; Sherwin Williams Colonial Revival Ivory BM 73 17

Mantels; Black; Black; B99 C10 Y00

Bedroom mantel; Red; Moderate Reddish Brown; B60 Y50 M99; 7.5R 3/6

Bedroom door base coat graining on stiles and rails; Brown; Moderate Orange Yellow; Y40 M30 C00-10; 7.5YR 7/6; Benjamin Moore HC52-54

Bedroom door glaze coat of graining on stiles and rails; Brown; Deep Reddish Orange; B40 Y80 M90; 7.5R 4/12; Dutch Std. 62DC10.

Bedroom door, panels first layer of graining and stiles and rails for second layer of graining, base; Light brown; Pale

Orange Yellow; Y30 M20 C00; 9YR 7.5/4

Bedroom door, panels first layer of graining and stiles and rails for second layer of graining, glaze coat; Light Brown; Dark to Moderate Orange Yellow; Y60 M50 C10; 7.5YR 7/6; Benjamin Moore HC52

### **Additional Recommendations**

#### **Walls**

As was discussed in the introduction, the plaster walls are not original to the house. No evidence was found as to the original finish. The following suggestions are based on commonly accepted practises of the construction period of the house and comparison with the known colors etc.

Entrance and Stair Hall. The walls should be sober or cool colors such as grey or a stone color. The ceiling should be a lighter shade of the wall color.

Parlor. The walls should be a light color such as pale pink or green. A rose color red or pink would go with the red rails and stiles in the window trim. The ceiling again should be a color similar but lighter.

Dining room. These colors can be similar to the parlor but in more rich tones and stronger or bolder.

Bedrooms. Light airy colors are appropriate for these rooms. The west room can be a medium green and the east a light green or buff color.

There is also the possibility that the walls were papered rather than painted. This may not be the case as there aren't other indications of decorative treatments such as marbelizing or granitizing on the woodwork.

#### **Non original colors.**

As indicated in the report there were numerous colors exposed from a number of paintings of the house through the years. The following is a brief outline.

Parlor. The walls which are presumed to date ca. 1938 have a rose color as the first color followed by red and white. There is also some indications of a wallpaper. Trim shows a white followed by beige and green.

Entrance Hall. The walls have a rose as the first color followed by red green and white. The trim has a light oak

graining followed by beige white and green.

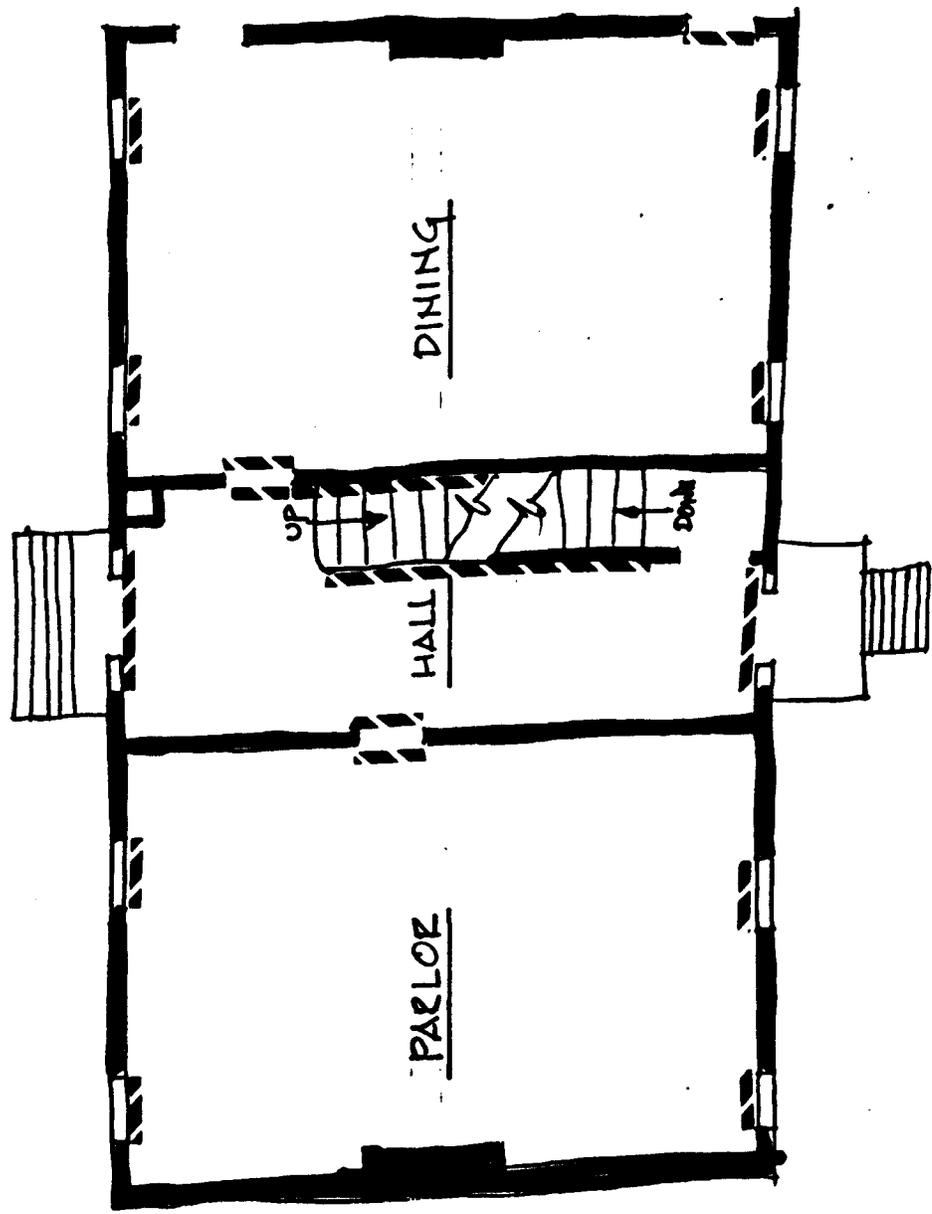
Dining Room. Walls were dark green, yellow, light green and white. Trim is the same as the Hall.

Stair Hall. Walls were brown then white. Trim was beige, white, green.

West Bedroom. Walls were pink, green, beige. Trim beige, white, green.

East Bedroom. Walls only have one coat of white paint. Trim is the same as the west bedroom.

In general, the doors follow the same colors as the trim.



NO SCALE

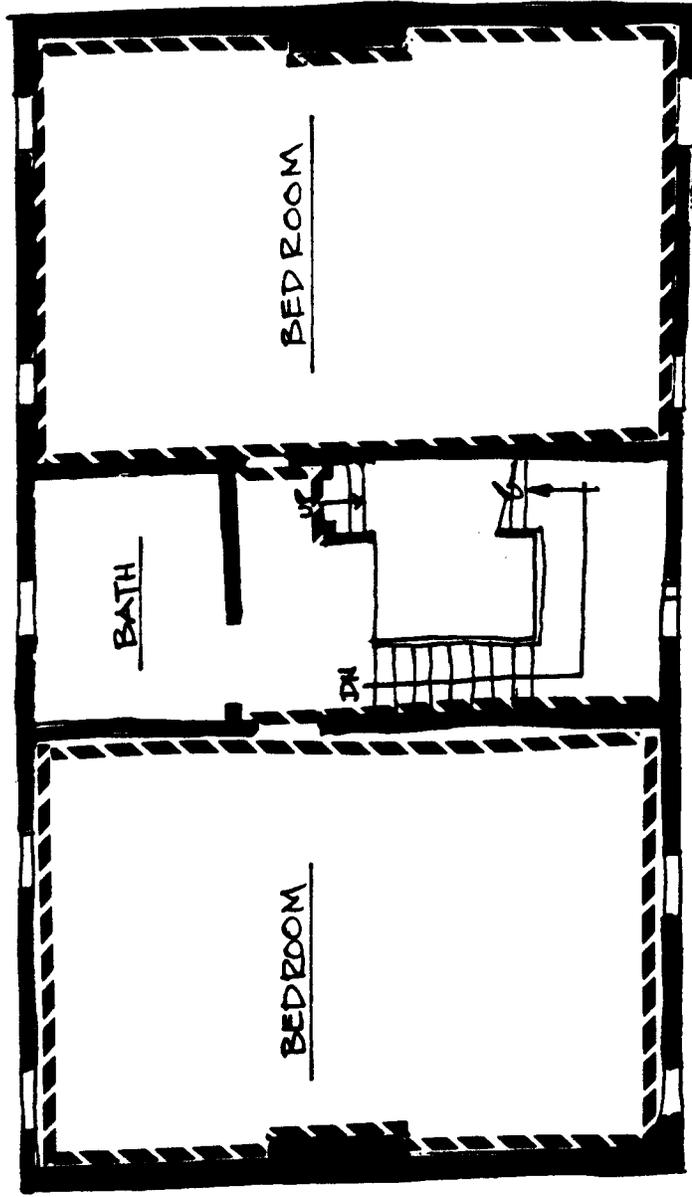
FIRST FLOOR PLAN



--- LOCATION OF ORIGINAL TRIM

A.G. JENKINS HOUSE

SKETCH 1 JAN 1989



SECOND FLOOR PLAN NO SCALE

(1)  LOCATION OF ORIGINAL TRIM  
 AG JENKINS HOUSE. N SKETCH 2 JAN. 1989