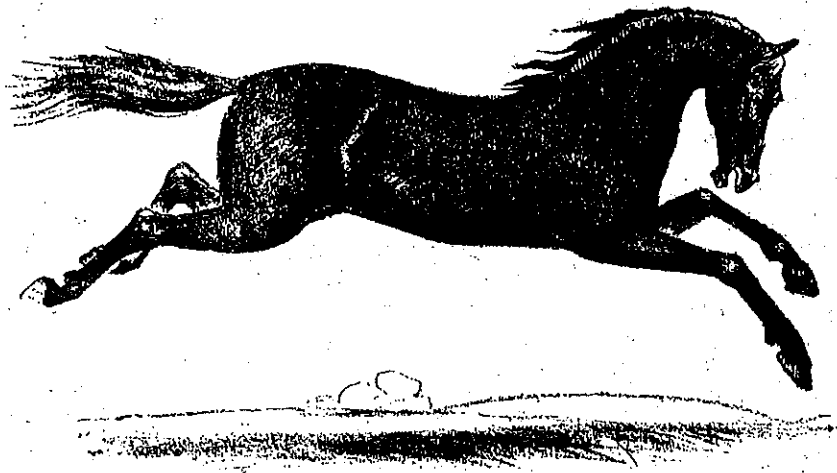


The Alexander Ewing House
Woodson Hall
cir. 1822



A copy of the unique mural of a galloping horse that adorns the wall of an upstairs bedroom in the historic old residence.

Listed on the
National Historic Register
1980

The stately Southern mansion known as the Alexander Ewing House, also called Woodlon Hall, is located about six miles north of downtown Nashville at 5101 Buena Vista Pike, along the west bank of White's Creek. The home, built in the early 1820's, has remained unchanged since its construction apart from the large poplar columns that extended above the balcony of the second story (as illustrated on the back). This has been replaced by a one-story porch. The doorway, with its broad side lights and beautiful fan transom, remain as it was when it was erected. The wide hallway, containing a spiralled staircase, shows proof of the master architects and skilled craftsmen that existed in the early days. The plan of the home is similar to many other brick mansions built in the vicinity of Nashville during the 1820-50 period.

The Alexander Ewing House was nominated for the National Register of Historic Places in 1979. Next door is the Frederick Stump House, built in 1797 and listed in the Historic Register in 1975. Alexander Ewing lived in the Stump house while his own was being built.

Ewing built his house shortly before his death in April, 1822. A native of Maryland, he served as Second Lieutenant in the Continental Army from 1777 to 1782, when he was promoted to Captain. Ewing, nicknamed Devil Alex, also served as Aid-de-Camp to Nathaniel Greene.

Captain Ewing was given 2,666 acres in Davidson County as thanks for his Revolutionary War Service. He moved to Nashville in 1786 and in 1792 started adding to his land, buying acreage in Middle and West Tennessee. The Davidson County Tax Roll for 1798 listed Ewing as owning 13 slaves.

The house passed from Alexander Ewing to his son, William Black, to his son, Randall Ewing. Randall left Nashville in 1850 and headed to California to find his fortune in the gold fields, he died there in 1853. Before he left, he sold the house to Cornelius Waggoner, who in turn passed it to his son, Benjamin F. Waggoner, upon his death in 1872.

After the Waggoners, the ownership of the home changed several times and fell into a state of disrepair.

When the present owners, Chuck Woody and Charles London, bought the house in 1973; they literally shoveled dirt from out of the windows. They are primarily responsible for the restoration work. The household is fortunate to possess several pieces of furniture believed to date from the Alexander Ewing era that includes an ornate dining room table, various chandeliers and several grand gold leaf mirrors.

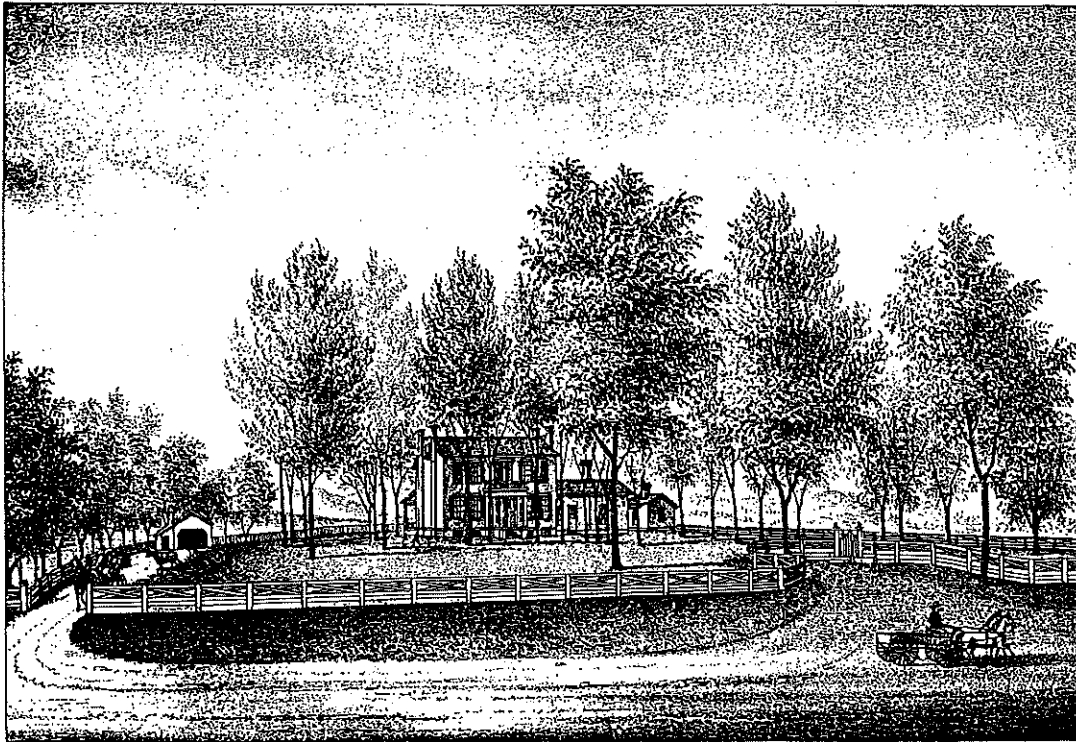
The home is an fine example of the early Federal Style plantations houses built in the Middle Tennessee region. It is constructed of brick, with a stone foundation. The interior features two rooms on each side of a wide central hallway. The first story contains a music room (originally the gentlemen's parlor), a study (originally the ladies' parlor), dining room and kitchen.

The second story originally contained four rooms, but a twentieth century remodelling enclosed the front part of the hallway resulting in an additional room.

Two outbuildings still remain, the carriage house and the servants' quarters. The carriage house, which has been converted to the garage, is clapboard. The servants' quarters is constructed of stone and logs covered with clapboard and is currently used as the gardener's quarters.

There are several legends connected with the Ewing House. One concerns a large mural (10'6" wide by 5'9" tall) of a galloping horse in one of the bedrooms. It is thought that a son of Randall Ewing painted it while confined to his room as punishment... Another legend is connected to a path of bloodstains that lay at the bottom of the staircase on the first story continuing to the backdoor. They are believed to be that of a confederate soldier, who was shot in the house. The historian of Woodlon Hall, Terry Gifford, discovered these stories while doing research work on the residence.

The Alexander Ewing House



An artist rendering (cir. 1880) of Woodlawn Hall