

found in this charming town, which is surprisingly rich with National Register districts and buildings. This year's Pilgrimage, April 5, 6, and 7, showcases homes from the mid 1800's to turn of the century Victorian. The Antebellum homes include typical Greek Revival style mansions as well as cozy cottages. The Victorian era is represented by homes large and small, but all beautiful examples of the expert craftsmanship of their long ago builders. You can enjoy the many interesting styles of homes during daytime and evening tours. Two tours are offered each day, morning and afternoon, with candlelight tours select evenings. Tickets are \$10.00 per 3 home tour. Individual home tickets can be purchased for \$5.00. Group and senior rates are available. For information contact Susan Evans, Pilgrimage Coordinator, P.O. Box 288, Aberdeen, Ms, 39730, 369-7002. Invite your friends and family to visit our area and Columbus, Aberdeen and Starkville will share their best kept secrets on the Bustles and Belles Tour. Don't miss Pilgrimage this year!



The Magnolias *An Aberdeen Family Heirloom*



BY SHARON WALLS MARTINEZ



The Magnolias Antebellum mansion in Aberdeen, Mississippi, is a beautiful example of the magnificence of the 1850's in this small but affluent cotton shipping port on the Tombigbee River. The Greek Revival mansion remained in the family of its' builders, handed down from mother to daughter until 1984, when it was purchased by Memphis philanthropist and Aberdeen native son, C.C. Day, to be presented to the City of Aberdeen in memory of his parents, Christine and

Clarence Day. Day repaired and redecorated the mansion, furnishing the main floor with authentic period pieces purchased in England. Only the pier mirrors over the mantel in the dining room and the light fixtures are original to the house. Day also included a few pieces from his parents' home. The Greek Revival mansion features a front veranda with six square columns. The double doors of the front entrance are enhanced by stained glass side lights. The centerpiece of the interior is a tri-level double stairway which ascends from both the front and back of the central hallway. The stairway was described by Mary Wallace Crocker, in her book Historic Architecture in Mississippi, (University Press, 1973): "Steps (right) rise from both the front and rear of the center hallway along the right wall, meet in the center, cross over to the opposite side of the hall, and then separate once again before continuing the ascent to the second level." The crystal banquet lamps on the newel posts



Photographs this pg by Sharon Walls Martinez

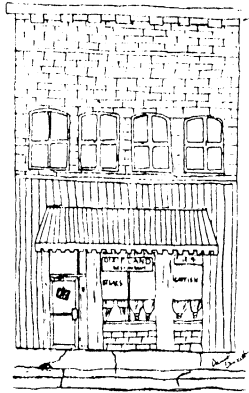
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of the stairway were originally in the First Methodist Church. The Baccarat crystal chandelier at the top of the stairwell, a gift to the city especially for the house from the estate of a local doctor, is said to have once hung in the Philadelphia White House. The Antebellum home was renovated in the 1930's by architect Frederick Smith (author of *White Pillars*), who modernized the structure by adding a kitchen, moving the dining room from the basement of the three story house to the main floor, and modernizing the indoor plumbing and bathroom. The dining room was originally in the basement, or first floor, for easy access to the detached kitchen. The old brick kitchen and wellhouse remain on the grounds. A formal garden with a tall ivy covered brick wall is laid out in the back of the house. The front walk is lined with the giant magnolias that give the mansion its name. The tract of land on which The Magnolias is situated was first deeded to Isaac R. Dyche by Charles W. Walton, Trustee of New Aberdeen, in 1838. William A. Sykes purchased the lot in 1846. Sykes, a wealthy planter whose land holdings at his death in 1873 totalled nearly 1500 acres, built The Magnolias around 1850. In the division of William Sykes' estate, his heir Thomas B. Sykes obtained the mansion and used it as his residence. In 1887, Thomas Sykes conveyed The Magnolias, along with the household and kitchen furniture, the lot, and other lands, to his wife Maria H. Sykes. Over the next four generations, the mansion was handed down from mother to daughter, for one dollar and "the love and affection which I bear for my daughter". Maria H. Sykes

conveyed the lot "on which is situated my residence" to her daughter, Mrs. Mary Dudley Walker, in 1924. Mrs. Walker conveyed the property to her daughter, Mrs. Corinne Walker Acker, in 1940. Mrs. Acker deeded the same to her daughter, Mrs. Corinne Acker Rogers, in 1968. On May 16, 1984, Mrs. Rogers deeded The Magnolias to her three children equally: James Acker Rogers of Florence, Alabama; Corinne Rogers Pettit of Memphis, Tennessee; and Percy Mims Rogers, Jr. of Killen, Alabama. C.C. Day purchased The Magnolias the following summer. He presented his gift to the City of Aberdeen in March, 1986, erecting a plaque in memory of his parents beneath the ancient magnolias near the front steps. Clarence C. Day, Sr., one of Aberdeen's leading citizens, was a real estate, timber and oil and gas speculator. He purchased timber and timberlands in Monroe and adjoining counties and in adjoining Northwest Alabama. His sons, Frank R. Day and C.C. Day, Jr., inherited his holdings and built their own personal fortunes. Clarence C. Day, Jr., is chairman of Day Companies, Inc., in Memphis, Tennessee, which is involved in timber, pulpwood, real estate and oil and gas properties and exploration. C.C. Day is also Chairman of the Day Foundation, a philanthropic organization. The Magnolias is cared for by the C.C. Day Commission, a board of Aberdeen residents responsible for maintaining and using the property for the Citizens of Aberdeen. Open for the 1991 Pilgrimage, the mansion at 732 West Commerce also contains offices of the Aberdeen-South Monroe Chamber of Commerce.

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<p>March 28 - April 7 Columbus</p>  <p>12 Antebellum Homes on Tour in Addition to Walking and Driving Tours, Riverboat Cruises on Tenn-Tom Waterway & Candlelight Tours</p> <p>For Brochure and Ticket information COLUMBUS CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU P.O. BOX 789 COLUMBUS, MS 39703 1 (800) 327-2686</p>	<p>April 5, 6, & 7 Starkville</p>  <p>Victorian Homes on Tour Gaslight Tours, Live Entertainment in Historic District, Period Costumes and More!</p> <p>For Brochures and Ticket Information STARKVILLE VISITORS & CONVENTION COUNCIL P.O. BOX 2720 STARKVILLE, MS 39759 (601) 323-3322</p>
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