

by Joanna Traylor, Ethel Chaffin, John Waters and others, led to organizing Athens-Clarke Heritage Foundation and saving the house. The city assumed ownership, and it was moved to its nearby present location at the corner of Thomas Street and rerouted Dougherty Street. The extensive restoration, completed in 1972, received local, state and federal funds and was overseen by Wilmer Heery, AIA, of the Atlanta firm, Heery Architects and Engineers. The house then became the Athens Welcome Center. In the same period, Congregation Children of Israel's first temple, built circa 1878 on a lot bought from the Brumby family on the northeast corner of Hancock Avenue and Jackson Street, was replaced with a larger temple in a new location.

The house was built for Dr. Alonzo Church and his wife, Elizabeth (Tripp) Church. Alonzo was from Vermont and had been teaching in Eatonton, Georgia, Elizabeth's home. It was perhaps through this young couple that the Pecks learned of opportunities in Athens. The date of 1820 given for the house in the National Register nomination by this writer in 1974<sup>5</sup> was based on Dr. Church's appointment to the faculty in 1819 and the valuable clue in the memoir of John Waddel, youngest son of Dr. Waddel. John writes that the Waddels boarded at the commons run by Mrs. Catherine Newton until the president's house on campus could be repaired, moved into it and then exchanged houses with the Churches:

[I]n 1819, except the house of the President, the Board had provided no residences for the other members of the Faculty. When Dr. Church was elected he at once proceeded to build a very excellent two-story framed house on a beautiful and large lot in the northern part of the town. Before, however, it was completed he accepted a proposition from Dr. Waddel to exchange places with him; that is, that Dr. Church should sell his house and lot to Dr. Waddel and occupy the President's house.<sup>6</sup>

We now know the building date was a little later. Dr. Church did not have his deed of purchase recorded at the courthouse, nor did Dr. Waddel. However, Dr. Waddel kept a journal, of which a typescript for only several later years (7 Sept. 1824 – 25 May 1826) has been available locally at the University of Georgia's Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library. In the course of carrying out a new furnishing scheme for the house, the committee in charge learned that the Library of Congress had the manuscript of Waddel's whole journal. Additional pages were transcribed for the committee's use in 2006 by Gary Doster. This information, in the public domain, was not earlier known in Athens.

The journal holds the key to dating the house and purchase. The dates below are those given in the transcription. I have included a bit of non-house material in order to hint at the flavor of these selected entries. Moses Waddel writes:

1822. June 24 . . . Mason's [sic] celebrated St. John's Festival & laid cornerstone for new College.  
 26 [ July 1822] . . . clear & dry . . . sought doz. plates. bought 10 yds curtains & table salt . . . got dishes etc. at Thomas' plates at Gahagan's & E. L. Newton's. Col. Newton told me about Crabb & Andrews & bad conduct at the Hall.  
 29 [July 1822] . . . Mr. Espy told me about some boys treating P. Puryear's waggoner ill . . . Misses Folker called at my room+ with