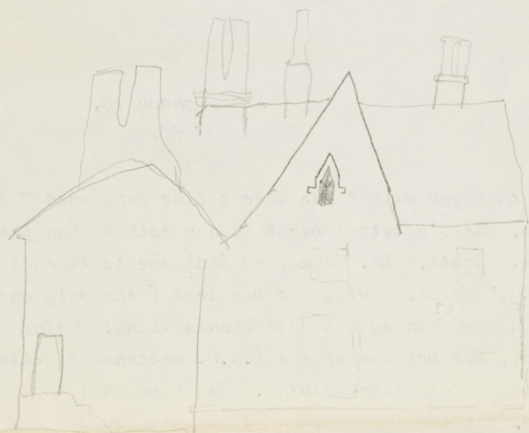


Monday 18,

Fall 1964

Dear Scott,

I'm afraid that you will lapse into a blue funk when I tell you this horrible news, but I'd better break it now rather than let you down when you get here. Scott, Dr. Meyer, my Shakespeare teacher dropped a bombshell on me today. We are having our big test (the only one that we have had so far) on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving! Originally it was set for this Friday, but because of the L.S.U. weekend he decided to put it off until the day before Thanksgiving. You know what that means, it means that the trip ^{to New Orleans} is literally off, and if I were you I would get plane tickets for FT. Worth. Scott, there is nobody that feels worse about this than me. I have talked with Dr. Meyer and there is no way that I can get out of this. I just can't skip the only test that we have had all year! I'll tell you this, that if you still want to come, you can still see a lot of houses. You would be amazed how close most of these places are to New Orleans. The only thing that would be out would be Natchez. I will have no classes on Tuesday (the day after you arrive) and we could leave very early in the morning (about six o'clock) and go up river road to see Ormond, Destrehand, Trudeau House. Houmas House, Ashland, Bocage, the Hermitage and Voison and several others. They are in easy proximity to New Orleans and we could make the trip all the way to St. Francisville easily in one day, you could sketch (but I don't think, paint) and we could make it back to New Orleans by that evening. I would take the test on the next day and we would leave New Orleans at eleven o'clock and go home via Opelouses where you might, if we have enough time, get to see Cretian Point Plantation which is something that you simply have to see, Scott, I'm not so depressed ~~not~~ as I was when I first started writing this letter. There is so much that you will be able to see. You will be in that hilly, beautiful Feliciana country. You will get to see most of the important houses that are in that book, " Ghosts Along The Mississippi. " That includes the trudeau House which you just must see. If you get home at a decent hour on Monday, I will drive you down to Braithwaite La. to see The Orange grove plantation which I saw just this weekend. Scott, I can't tell you how beautiful the evening light looks on that house, standing vacant and empty except for a wing. If you try you can remember the picture of the house, Its the one that looks so ~~Gothic~~ Gothic (see back of this page).



Very few people see the house because it is so hidden. You will be flabbergasted and I know you will want to paint it. In one wing of the house lives a French family. I took a beautiful photo (I hope) of the old woman with a ~~boy~~ Neutria that was sick in her lap. We will try to make it there on Monday if at all possible.

Scott, I would like you to come. I still think the trip would prove beneficial to you, inspite of the shitty blow that fate in the form of William Shakespeare has dealt us. I can't tell you how shitty I feel about the whole thing, though I think a lot still can be done. The Feliciana country ought to be in its full glory, the glory that I tried so ineptly to describe in Hannah Rowe. Its all there and its all waiting for you.

Will, be looking for you,

Stuart

P. S. I did put that onehundred and fifty dollars down as a deposite for the gun, and true to my promise I will put at least a hundred down when I sell my rifle over the Thanksgiving Holidays. I want to help you with this, but we must remain clandestine about it.

P.S. I am enclosing a couple of letters by Bill Gordon. They are a couple of weeks old but they will be entertaining I assure you.

P.S.S. Bring my photos with you. I must see them!!!