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# Alabama Register Property Information

NOV 15 1994

Ala. Historical Commission

added 6-30-95

**1. Name** The Chambless-Biggs House

CHAMBLESS, ROB, HOUSE

historic

and/or common BIGGS, HENRY & MARY, HOUSE

**2. Location** (Section 26 T2N R35)

street & number : 60433 JACK SPRINGS ROAD (On county road 47 <sup>1 mile</sup> south of the intersection of county roads 47 & 61)  
city, town LOTTIE  vicinity of (Lotties 25 miles north of Bay Minette)

state ALABAMA county BALDWIN

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

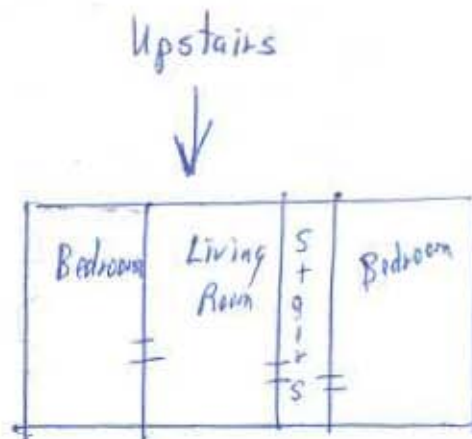
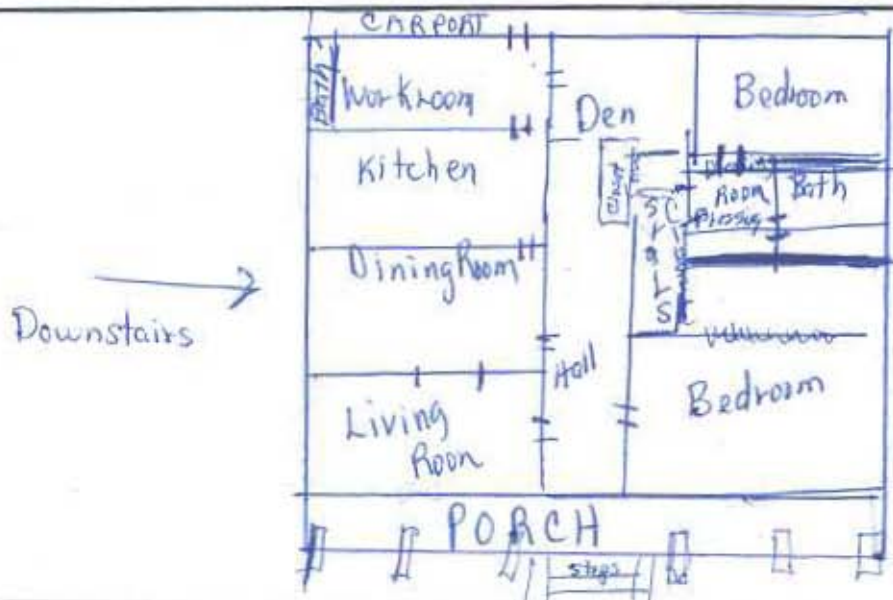
## 4. Owner of Property

name MARY EVELYN BIGGS

street & number STAR ROUTE A BOX 262

city, town ATMORE  vicinity of LOTTIE state ALABAMA 36502

**5. Please use space below to sketch floor plan/site plan.**



## 6. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

### Check one

unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The present structure is a 1½ story wood frame house with asbestos siding and an asphalt shingle roof with one gable. There are 10 rooms with 2 baths and 2 fireplaces. One of the fireplaces is rock and the other is brick. The present house has two porches--a large front porch and a small back entrance with an attached covered parking area. The front porch has brick columns with iron pipes that replaced wooden columns. There are stone steps with flanking columns.

The house is built above ground with rock blocks as a foundation and pine sills. The interior is wood frame. Some of the inside walls are a beaded lumber. Paneling has been added in the den and one bedroom.

The exterior has asbestos siding put on wooden lapped siding. The tin roof of the 1950's era was replaced with a shingle roof in later years. The earlier home had wood shingles.

There are two chimneys. One is on the north side off the living room, the other is on the south side from the main bedroom.

Two windows on the front porch, three windows on the back ~~carport~~ car port. Seven windows on the north side of the house (downstairs plus 2 more upstairs). ~~Five~~ windows on the south side of the house (downstairs plus 2 more upstairs). The backporch has three windows. Believe windows are casement.

The main entrance is on the front of the house from the highway. It is a single door with the top half glass. There are glass window panels on either side of the door.

The rear entrance is through the covered carport on a small porch made from concrete blocks with a railing.

Wooden mantels are original but other parts of the fireplace on northside were added.

From the main entrance hallway, the stairs are accessed from your ~~left~~ right. The stairs are enclosed. There is one wooden railing.

Flooring varies from original wood in main bedroom to tile and vinyl flooring in other rooms. Five of the rooms have original wooden walls, three rooms have beaded lumber. Three of the rooms and bathrooms have ceiltex. Other rooms have wooden ceiling.

One porch was made into an enclosed second bathroom. Another of the original three porches was closed and made into a den. A new rear entrance was added with the addition of a carport.

The setting is a lovely large yard with many flower beds and many trees. Other structures include a greenhouse, a barn, a car shed, and a machine shed.

# 7. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

According to the National Archives and Records Service in Washington D. C., the post office at Lottie, Alabama was established on February 12, 1903.

The first postmaster was Robert Mansfield Chambless who was appointed February 12, 1903. Mr. Rob Chambless served as postmaster for 29 years until he died on August 14, 1932. Mr. Chambless was also the original owner of this house submitted as a candidate for the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. Baldwin county courthouse records in Bay Minette list the house as being built in 1897<sup>1</sup> by Rob Chambless and remodeled in 1955 by John Henry Biggs and Mary Evelyn (Smith) Biggs. *Mr. Chambless died in 1932 at age 68. Surmise he was born in 1864. Courthouse records show he married Sarah Gray July 15 1883.* In order to establish a post office, the community had to decide on an official name. So prior to the 1903 establishment of the post office, all the names of young girls in the community were put in a hat and the name that was selected was Lottie Presley. Lottie Presley married a Rufous Mann. Mrs. Mann is buried in the Lottie Methodist Cemetery in Lottie.

The naming of the Lottie community was tied to the establishment of the post office which was in a store in the yard of the Chambless Home. Mr. Chambless also served as a Justice of the Peace and a merchant in addition to serving as postmaster. School teachers for the Langham-Lottie School also boarded at the Chambless home. Many marriages were performed at the home by Justice of the Peace Chambless.

Hope to see this building added to those of significance in Baldwin county.

## 8. Major Bibliographical References

Records were checked at the Baldwin County Courthouse. Copy attached.  
Interviews with Mary Evelyn Smith Biggs at home site in Lottie, Alabama, 1994.  
Memo from General Services Administration also attached.

"Lottie loses most Beloved citizen?" *The Atmore Advance* August 25, 1932,  
General Services Administration *H.S.P.* Memo Dated January 29, 1974.  
*Alabama Property Record Card Baldwin County Alabama, Copy enclosed.*

## 9. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 49 acres on the deed. 50 acres purchased but 1 acre  
deeded to the Lottie New Home Cemetery.  
Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ Quadrangle scale \_\_\_\_\_

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property ~~xxxxxxx~~ is on either side of county road 47, beginning  
north of road leading to New Home Cemetery and across the road.

## 10. Form Prepared By

name/title Evelyn Ann Biggs-Williams

organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 10-14-94

street & number 307 Alco Drive telephone 205-867-2445 (HM) 867-4832(WK)

city or town Brewton state Al 36426

11. Please submit color slides of the property with this form.

12. Please return ALABAMA REGISTER form to:

ALABAMA REGISTER COORDINATOR  
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY ALABAMA 36130

CHAMBLESS-BIGGS HOUSE

Lottie

Baldwin Co.

The Chambless-Biggs House is a one-and-a-half story frame structure located on a 49-acre tract of land in the community of Lottie, in Baldwin County. County Road 47 divides the property, and the house is situated on the road, facing west.

Constructed c.1896, the house is a side-gabled structure featuring a center front gable, a full-width shed roof porch, and exterior end chimneys (one brick and one rock). An original three-quarter width, hipped roof porch has been removed. The interior features a four-room center hall plan, but additions have been made to the rear of the structure.

The structure is eligible for listing on the Alabama Register under Criterion C, architecture. It is an example of a rural vernacular structure built at the close of the 19th century. The center front gable reflects the influence of the Victorian Style, but the overall style and plan are very simple.

The structure is also eligible for AR listing under Criterion A, settlement and communication. It was built by Robert Mansfield Chambless, the community's first postmaster. Chambless came to Baldwin County with his family from Berrien County, Georgia, around the age of 18. The Lottie Post Office was established February 12, 1903, and served the community until April 15, 1935, when the McCullough Post Office took over its duties. The post office was located in a store in the yard of the Chambless House. This structure no longer stands. Chambless operated the general store, served as post master, as well as being the local justice of the peace. He was a significant figure in the community at the time of its development.

Today the structure is in good condition, though several alterations have been made. Asbestos siding now covers the wooden clapboard, and the full-width porch replaces the original three-quarter width porch. Rear alterations include enclosing the original porch and adding a carport.

Outbuildings include a barn, a machine shop, a car shed and a green house. These all date from a more recent time than the home.

## 9 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

### A. Acreage

Individual structures located on city lots should include only the acreage of the lot. Give the measurements; we will figure the acreage.

Rural or isolated structures should include no more than the acreage immediately surrounding the house. If you should have questions about how much acreage to include, please consult with the staff.

### B. U.T.M. References

Our staff will complete this section.

### C. Verbal Boundary Description

Give a written boundary of the precise area to be included in the nomination. Lot and block numbers with measurements (180'x60') are sufficient for urban properties. Otherwise, either attach a survey plat showing the property in question with the boundary marked in red, or give a precise written description of the boundary.

EXAMPLE: Beginning at the intersection of Hurricane Road and a point 135 feet south of the southern edge of the Bone-Wilbourn House, proceed east approximately 300 feet along the edge of a driveway; then in a northerly direction proceed 416 feet; then west approximately 300 feet to Hurricane Road; then southerly 416 feet along said road to the point of beginning.

## MAPS

If the property includes more than one building, you should also submit a small sketch map showing the locations and relationships of the buildings.

