



**ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**  
**Preliminary Information Form**

The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) is used by the Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) to aid in the evaluation of properties for listing in the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage. The PIF is not an application to nominate a property for listing in the register; it is only used for judging eligibility. Listing a property requires in-depth research on part of the applicant. AHC staff will determine if a property is eligible before time, effort and cost are expended. After a PIF is received, AHC staff will review and evaluate the property as eligible or not eligible for the Alabama Register. Multiple photographs of the exterior and interior of the building are **REQUIRED** for staff to review a PIF. If eligible, an Alabama Register nomination will be sent to you to begin the second stage of the registration process. If you would like to nominate a cemetery to the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, do not fill out this form. Instead, contact Lee Anne Wofford (see contact info on the bottom of this page) or visit our website at <http://preserveala.org/cemeteryprograms.aspx>

<b>Name of Property:</b>		Harmon Farmhouse	
<b>Location/Street Address:</b>		34034 US Highway 431	
<b>City/Zip:</b>	Roanoke	<b>County:</b>	Chambers
<b>Your Name:</b>	David B. Schneider, Scheider Historic Preservation, LLC	<b>Telephone #</b>	256-310-6320
<b>Address:</b>	411 E. 6th St.	<b>City/State/Zip:</b>	Anniston, 36207
<b>Email:</b>	dbschneider@bellsouth.net		
<b>Do you own this property?</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>If not, give the name, address &amp; telephone number of the owner.</b>			
<b>Name of owner:</b>	Jimmie L & Betty M. Moore	<b>Telephone #</b>	
<b>Address:</b>	34034 US Highway 431	<b>City/State/Zip:</b>	Roanoke, AL 36274
<b>Is the property threatened in any way? If so, describe how or from what source the property is threatened. Attach additional sheets as needed.</b>			
No.			
<b>What is the construction date?</b>	ca. 1875	<b>Source for construction date:</b>	Documented, See Attached
<b>Is the property part of an area that contains many structures of the same age or construction type? (i.e. a neighborhood, downtown area, etc.)</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <b>If yes, please include multiple photos of the surrounding area.</b>			
<b>Has the property been altered in any way since originally constructed? If so, please describe these alterations in detail, including when they occurred. Attach additional sheets as needed.</b>			
Replacement porch, ca. 2000			
<b>Original use of property:</b>	Residence, Farm		
<b>Current use of property:</b>	Residence		
<b>In your opinion, why is this property important and why should it be considered for inclusion in the historic register? Attach additional sheets as needed.</b>			
Please see attached			
<b>Map Requirements: Attach a clearly labeled map indicating the precise location of the property. If available, attach a floor/site plan.</b>			
<b>Photography Requirements: Attach current photographs of the resource (both interior and exterior) and all outbuildings. It is essential that multiple photos be included to fairly and adequately represent the historic resource. Photos may be submitted in any size, finish, or color (Polaroid photos are not accepted) as long as significant character-defining features, including alterations and additions, are shown. CDs will be accepted. The photographs will not be returned, but will become a permanent part of our inventory records.</b>			

**Return this Form and Attachments to:**  
**Alabama Historical Commission**  
**Attn: Lee Anne Wofford**  
**468 S. Perry Street**  
**Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900**  
**(334)230-2659**  
[www.preserveala.org](http://www.preserveala.org)

## Harmon Farmhouse

34034 US Highway 431, Welch Community, Chambers County

Location: 34034 US Highway 431, Welch Community (Roanoke PO),  
Chambers County  
UTM: 16 / 653873 E / 3663943 N  
USGS Quad: Five Points  
Section 4, Township 24N, Range 27E

### Significance

The Harmon Farmhouse, constructed circa 1875, is architecturally significant as a good example of a modest post-Civil War Chambers County farmhouse. The house is representative of a third generation dogtrot form dwelling and is relatively unaltered.

### Narrative history

Design and architectural details suggest that the house was constructed circa 1875. Due to budget limitations of this project, a search of the property title was only able to trace the ownership back to 1956 when the property consisted of an assemblage of three formerly separate farms: "The Muldrew Place or farm," "The Buckalew land," and the "Lee Place or Farm."<sup>1</sup> The latter appears from circumstantial evidence to be the subject property. Pierce Lee purchased the 144-acre "Willis Jordan place" from the estate of John T. Lee in 1926.<sup>2</sup> The 1956 transfer records the property as containing 145 acres. A 1924 obituary for Willis N. Jordan indicates that he had lived for many years on a farm three miles south of Roanoke.<sup>3</sup> Jordan is listed in the 1900 census living in the Hickory Flat census district and that district included this area.

Jordan was born in Georgia in 1852 and died in Randolph County, Alabama, on December 5, 1924. He was married to Harriet Jane Arnett and the couple had four children. Harriett died on April 2, 1886.<sup>4</sup> The 1910 census lists W.N. Jordan, age 57, as a salesman in a dry goods store living in Lanett with his wife Catherine. By 1920, the census lists Jordan, age 67, living with then wife Mary in Lanett. Willis is not listed in Chambers County in 1880, although other Jordans from Georgia are recorded at Hickory Flat.

The property was acquired by Omer Harmon some time in the early 20th century. After Omer's death, his mother, Claudia Bell Harmon, and brother Arvin transferred ownership to Annice W. Harmon.<sup>5</sup> Annice Wheeler Harmon sold the property to Jim & Gwendolyn Murr on September 11, 1970. According to Mrs. Murr, Ms. Harmon lived in Roanoke. Her African-American housekeeper, Mae Allen, was living in the house at the time they

<sup>1</sup> Chambers County Judge of Probate, Lafayette, Alabama, Deed Book 132, page 517; an extensive search of the deed index books failed to identify a transfer of the property to O. L. Harmon.

<sup>2</sup> "John T. Lee Estate is Settles," The Roanoke Leader, August 1926.

<sup>3</sup> "Death of Mr. Willis N. Jordan Last Friday," The Roanoke Leader, December 10, 1924.

<sup>4</sup> Margaret Parker Milford & Eleanor Davis Scott, ed., A Survey of Cemeteries in Chambers County (Huguley, AL: Genealogical Roving Press, 1983), p. 143.

<sup>5</sup> Deed book 132, p. 517.

acquired the property and had been doing so as long as anyone could remember.<sup>6</sup> Mae walked back and forth to Roanoke each day to work for Ms. Harmon.

The Murrs sold the property to its current owners, Jimmie L. and Betty Moore in 1979.<sup>7</sup>

The Welch Community is a rural crossroads located approximately four miles south of Roanoke along U.S. Highway 431 at its intersection with Chambers County Road 278. A Post Office was established here in 1881 and it operated until 1933. At one time, at least two stores were located at the crossroads, with houses scattered in the immediate vicinity. A school was located in the community in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century but it closed in 1926 when it consolidated with the school at Five Points. The community historically had separate churches for its white and African-American residents.<sup>8</sup> The Central of Georgia railroad, now abandoned, ran parallel to the west side of the present-day highway. The highway itself originally ran through the community along the west side of the railroad.

#### Description

The Harmon Farmhouse is a one-story frame third generation dogtrot form dwelling with a high-pitched side-gable V-crimped metal roof. The house has a boxed cornice with returns, flanking exterior end brick chimneys on low stone bases, and a stone pier foundation. The house faces southwest and has a three by two bay core with a full-width rear shed extension. A less than full façade shed porch with wood posts is modern (ca. 2000). The façade has a central entrance flanked to either side by single wooden 4/4/4 triple hung sash windows. The entrance opening has seen at least two generations of blocking down and has a modern wood door. The north elevation of the core has similar windows flanking a chimney with a small loft window at the attic level with a vertical board shutter. A single replacement window (ca. 1950) centered within a partially infilled window opening similar to those at the core is centered at the rear extension. The south elevation of the core is similar and the rear extension has no openings. The rear elevation has an entrance at its northern bay that is flanked to the south by a small window opening with no sash and a single 6/6 wood double hung sash window. Exterior weatherboard siding boards have beveled edges.

The interior plan of the core consists of a formerly open dogtrot flanked to either side by single rooms. The rear shed extensions each contain a single room separated by an extension to the dogtrot. The southern room has an exposed ceiling and exposed walls. Remaining rooms have flush tongue and groove board ceiling and wall finishes. Interior walls at the dogtrot are finished with weatherboard siding. Wood floors are exposed throughout. Each of the rooms at the core retains a simple wood mantelpiece.

Construction and design details indicate that the core of the house and perhaps the shed room at the north side of the rear were constructed at the same time, circa 1875. Simultaneous construction is suggested by the lack of a vertical break between the two sections and the similarity between its historic window openings. The southern shed

<sup>6</sup> Interview, Mrs. James Murr, Welch, Alabama, March 25, 2011.

<sup>7</sup> Deed book D224, p. 629.

<sup>8</sup> Margaret Keelen Newman, There to Here and Here to There: A Travel Guide to Chambers County, Alabama. (N.P.: By the author, 1996), pp. 85-86.

room was likely added in the late 19th to early 20th century. The intermediate dogtrot extension is something of a mystery, as it is separated from the south extension by a vertical corner board. No similar board is found at the north extension, although there is a clear break in the siding at the upper level of the elevation. This could indicate that the dogtrot extension was originally open to the east and that the end wall was added later. The ghost of a possible shed roof along the core at this area suggests that a shed porch may have originally been located at this space. The presence of exterior siding within the dogtrot at the core suggests that it was originally open, although there is no evidence that its end walls have been modified. Both ends have door openings that were blocked down in size at a later date, suggesting that the door openings may have originally not contained doors.

The building is in generally fair condition.

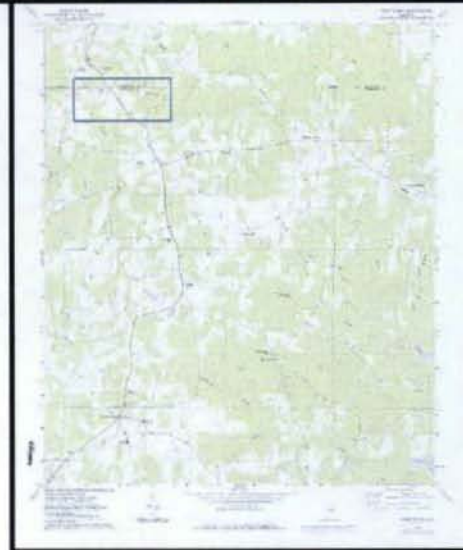
# HARMON HOUSE

Welch Community  
Chambers County, Alabama



U.S.G.S. Topographic Map  
Five Points Quadrangle

#	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	16	653873	3663943



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411 East 6th Street, Anniston AL 36207 • Phone: (256) 310-6320  
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[www.shphistoric.com](http://www.shphistoric.com)

# HARMON HOUSE

Welch Community  
Chambers County, Alabama

SITEPLAN  
Based on Scaled Tax Map



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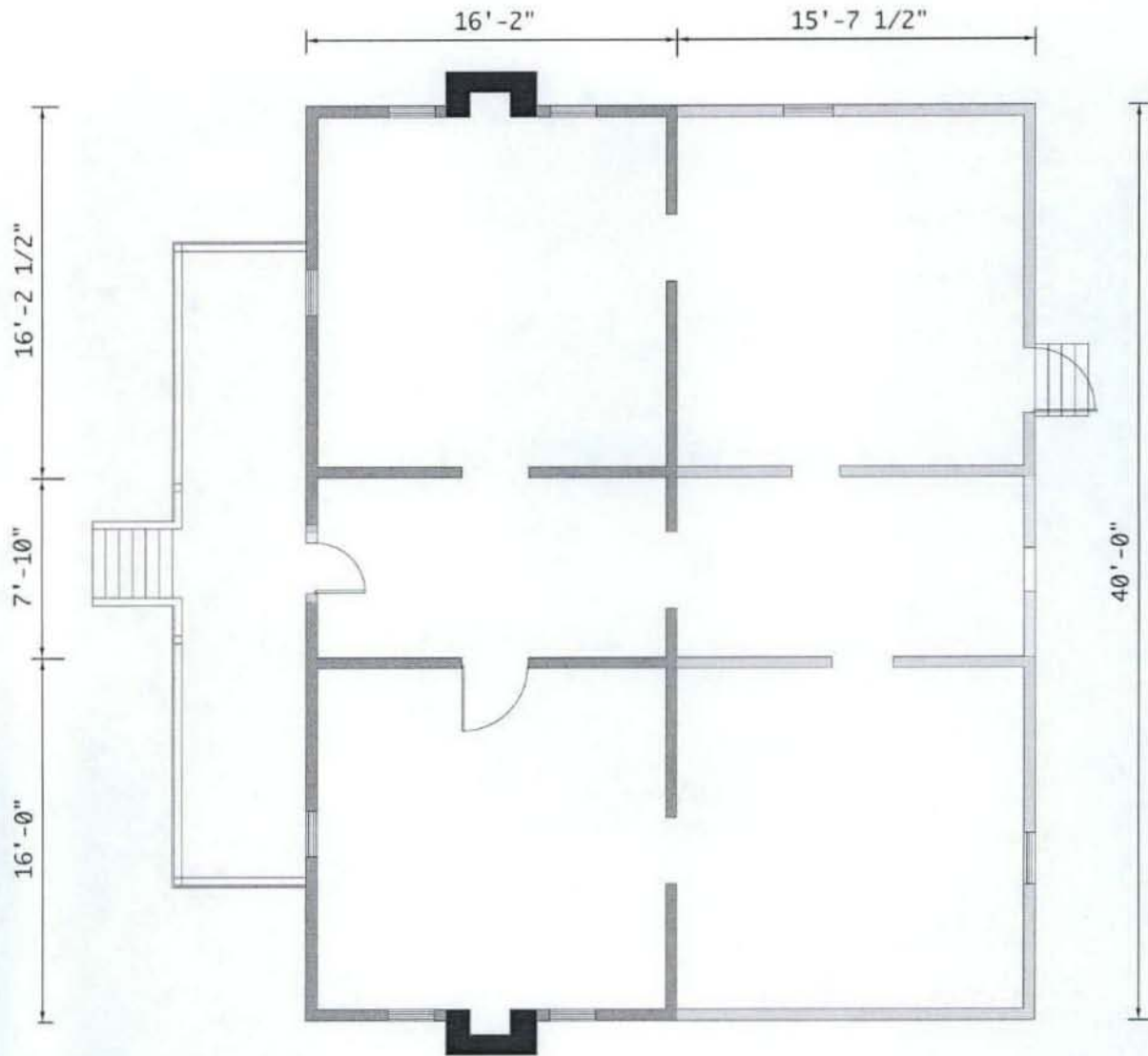
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# HARMON HOUSE

Welch Community  
Chambers County, Alabama

## FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Scaled Drawing, Electronically Reduced, See Graphic Scale



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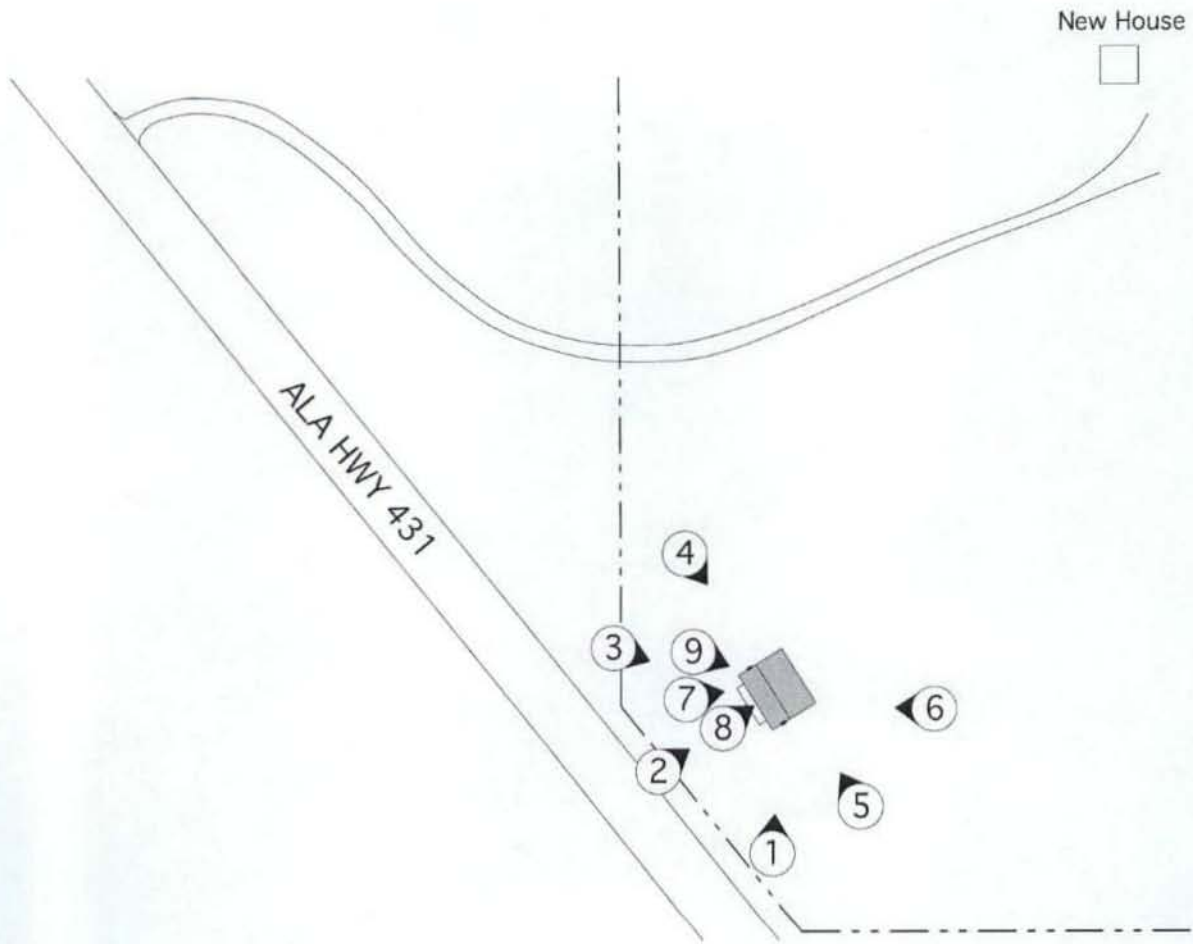
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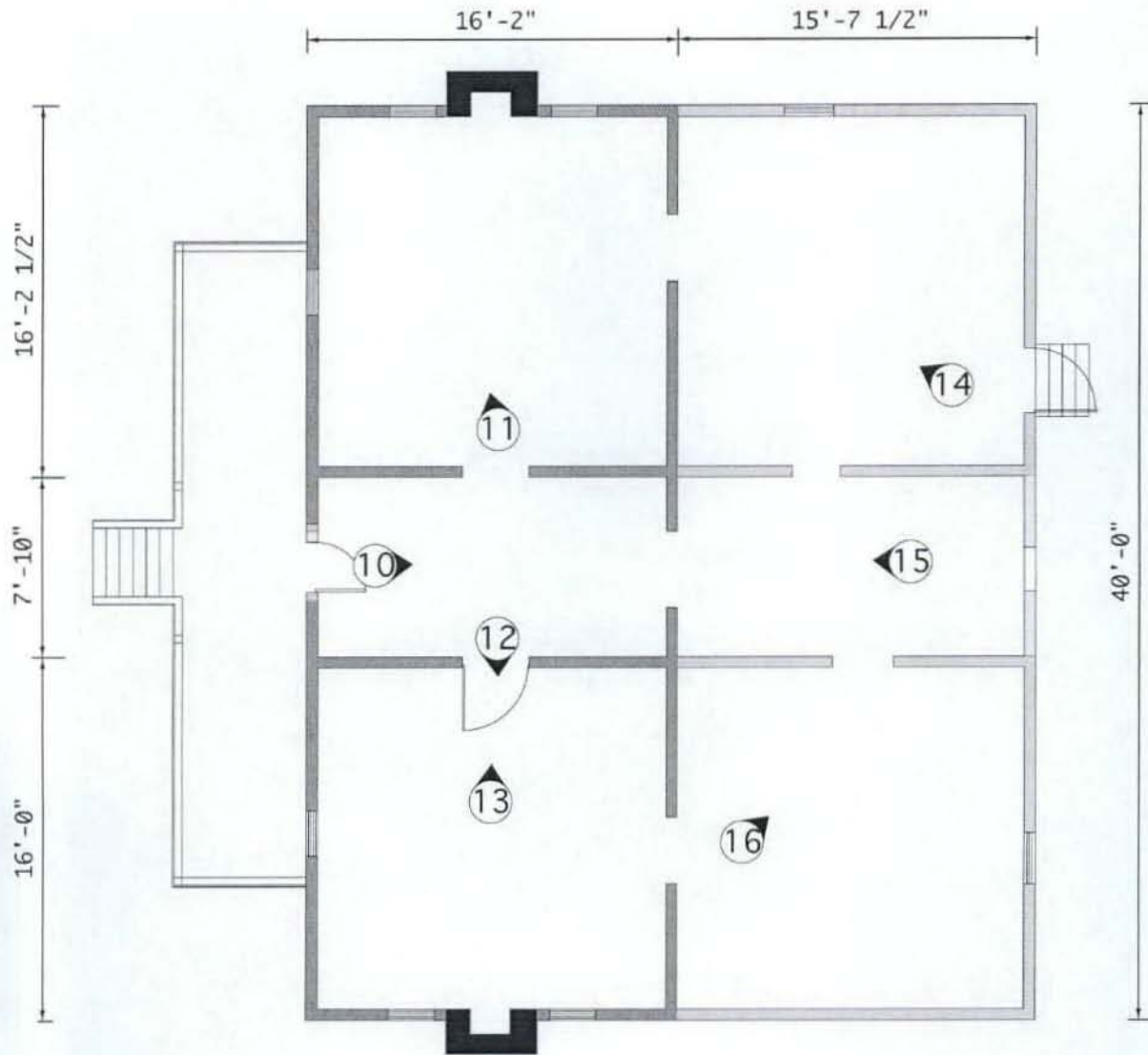


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