



STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 261-3184



JUN 12 1989

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE
Nomination Form

RECEIVED

COUNTY Clarke

NAME: Present The Johnson House Historic _____

LOCATION: Street and Number HC-67 Box 30-C, Jackson, Ala. 36545

Town (Give directions if rural) Rockville Community

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

CATEGORY: Building Structure () Object () Site () District ()

USE: Present Recently reoccupied Historic Homestead house

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private

Joint-Owner's Name MILDRED Johnson Graham/HARRIETTE Johnson Steele

Mailing Address HC 67 Box 30-C
Jackson, Al. 36545

INTEGRITY: Original Site Moved () When? _____

From where? _____ (Give details in significance.)

CONDITIONS: Excellent () Good () Fair Ruins ()

THREATS: No () Yes By What? neglect and possibly by vandalism

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered Underway () Completed () Not planned ()

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land () Woodland Scattered buildings ()
High building density () Commercial () Industrial ()
Residential () Rural

Acreage 40

For all categories other than a district and object give a site plan with a North arrow.
Show related buildings.

For a district give a verbal boundary description and attach a sketch map of the district.

SIGNIFICANCE:

Why is this landmark significant? () associated with events, persons, or movements
Local () State () National ()
(X) a good example of a type or style of structure
() other

Explain: (Briefly state why the above is true) *this house is built of rough sawed heartwood pine, board and batten, the chimney is made of limestone locally quarried. The kitchen is a separate building from the main house. Spring water was brought up a steep hill by a unique "water" Date of Construction or Period of major importance. About 1900 or earlier perhaps 1899*

Architect or Builder (Give name and biographies, if known) *Built by Family members so far as is known.*

Give a complete but concise history of the Landmark. Include information on important people and events associated with the landmark. (USE ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NECESSARY)

See enclosure

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

*Records in ^{Clarke} County Court House, Grove Hill, Al.
Memories of family members.*

DESCRIPTION: PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE LANDMARK MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM. Enclosed

Complete as directed below for each category.

BUILDING:

Number of stories 1 Foundation ^{heartwood pine} CEDAR PLANKS Basement NONE

Wall Material: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)
(clapboard, brick, stone, wood shingle, board and batten, stucco over wood or brick, metal, logs)

Board and batten of heartwood pine

Structural System: (If known)

Wood frame (X) Load-bearing masonry () Iron or Steel ()

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

Roof Type: (Gable, Gambrel, Mansard, Flat, Hipped, Combination) *see pictures.*

Roof Covering: (Wood shingle, Asphalt, Tile, Metal, Slate) *originally - wood shingle present - metal*

Roof Trim: (Cornices, bargeboard, brackets, etc.) *None*

Porches: Front (type and description) *one porch across*

is by front of house.

Rear (type and description) *none*

Side (type and description) *a narrow walkway between main house and kitchen*

Doors: Main entrance (location, description) *Main House 1 front door Separate Kitchen*

Other entrances (location, description) *1 side door 1 front door*

Windows: Types and number of each floor of facade *1 back door 2 side doors*
~~None in~~ Front

Types and number per floor for sides and rear

MAIN House - 4 side windows SEPARATE Kitchen - 2 windows

Interior: Describe mantels, stairways, wainscoting, plasterwork and any unusual features.

Does not apply. This is an early 1900's functional farm house still without electricity, plumbing, or telephone, essentially unchanged in character from the original.

Other: Use this space to describe any additions, alterations, outbuildings or other features of the structure and its surroundings.

*Remains of, smokehouse, part of a split picket fence
A corn crib constructed of logs
Outhouse toilet. A very large oak tree, plants
and shrubs. A rare windlass water system.*

On an additional sheet make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions if possible.

THIS IS NOT REQUIRED! *see enclosure.*

a water box possibly the last remaining in the state.

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

- STRUCTURE: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the structure. (See examples)
- OBJECT: On a separate sheet of paper give a complete as possible verbal description of the object. (See examples)
- SITE: On a separate sheet of paper give the present description of the site and how the site is believed to have looked during its period of importance.
- DISTRICT: On a separate sheet of paper give a general description of the district. Also needed is a numbered list of the structures in the district corresponding to the sketch map. This listing should include a name for the structure, a date of construction, a brief description, a statement of why the structure is significant, if it is.

A MAP WITH THE LANDMARK MARKED AND PHOTOGRAPHS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THIS FORM

Map: A U.S. Geological Survey Map is preferred, but if you are unable to obtain one a county highway map may be used.

Photographs: Black and white, glossy finish, 5 x 7, or 8 x 10, is preferred.

FORM PREPARED BY

Name Mildred Johnson Graham Date June 4, 1989
Address HC 67 Box 30-C Telephone _____
Town Jackson, Ala. 36545
Organization _____

For Alabama Historical Commission use only

STAFF COMMENTS:

MAP REFERENCE: MAP _____

U. T. M. Reference Zone Easting Northing

Thematic Category _____

Added to ALABAMA REGISTER _____

NATIONAL REGISTER Potential

HC-67-Box 30-C
Jackson, Alabama 36545
February 16, 1990

RECEIVED

FEB 22 1990

Ala. Historical Commission

Melanie A. Betz
Alabama Register Coordinator
725 Monroe Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-5101

Dear Ms. Betz:

In response to your letter of January 12, 1990, requesting additional information on the Johnson House located in Jackson, Alabama, Rockville community, I will answer your questions to the best of the knowledge available to me at this time. I am always seeking additional information.

WHO ACTUALLY BUILT THE HOUSE

Land documents in the Clarke County Courthouse records show that the Johnson family owned property in the Rockville community, then known as Salt Works, as early as 1859 or before and was continuously owned and occupied by various family members. Several houses are known to have been on various locations on the property. None are remaining except the present Johnson House, the last residence of the Johnson family. So far I have not been able to determine the exact date when the house was built. It was likely a "house raising" by family and neighbors as was common in those days.

The family owned other adjoining property at the time when my father, William Byrd Johnson, acquired in 1905 by Homestead Patent, the land on which the house stands. This is also recorded in the Clarke County Courthouse in Grove Hill, Alabama.

My grandfather, Joe Johnson, died in 1898 and his grave is on the family property adjoining my father's homestead acres. My grandmother, Tempie Fitts Johnson, and their seven children lived in the present house, which I remember from childhood. She died in 1943 at age ninety-seven.

MY FATHER AND MOTHER

My father, William Byrd Johnson, was born March 18, 1874 at Rockville, Alabama, the oldest of seven children of Joe Johnson and Tempie Fitts Johnson. He lived on the Johnson property earning a living in timber and by farming the land. He was active in the Rockville Baptist Church. His name and other family members are listed in the centennial booklet published by the Rockville Baptist Church.

Melanie A. Betz
Page 2
February 16, 1990

My mother, Hattie Lyda Johnson, was born June 28, 1878 in Tennessee, daughter of Joseph Lyda and Harriett Maxwell Lyda. The family moved to Bridgeport, Alabama where Hattie grew up and was educated. She earned her teaching certificate through the State Normal School at Jacksonville, Alabama around 1901. She taught for ten years in the public schools of Alabama. She met William Byrd Johnson while on a teaching assignment in Rockville, Alabama. They were married May 30, 1912.

William Byrd and Hattie Lyda Johnson moved to Bridgeport about 1918 retaining ownership of the Johnson property. While a resident of Bridgeport, Alabama, William Byrd Johnson was commissioned Justice of Peace by Governor Bibb Graves. He also served as City Clerk in Bridgeport, Alabama. My mother died November 30, 1940. My father died June 9, 1969. Both are buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery near Bridgeport, Alabama.

My father's mother, Tempie Fitts Johnson, his brother, George, his sisters, Emily, Hannah and Tempie Johnson Dukes are buried in the Bethel Cemetery near Rockville and are listed in a 1989 Survey of Old Cemeteries.

OLD PHOTOGRAPHS

I know a few photographs do exist. I am in the process of locating them and will have them copied for you. The 1986 Mobile Press Register photographs already submitted are the best I have so far.

COLOR SLIDES

Color slides are not available at this time and will be sent to you as soon as processing is complete. Four color prints made in April 1989 are enclosed.

I hope you will find this information useful. Please let me know if more information is needed.

The restoration is going forward slowly; so far the chimney has been completed. The lumber for restoring the porch has been delivered. We appreciate your continued interest in our project and hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Mildred Johnson Graham

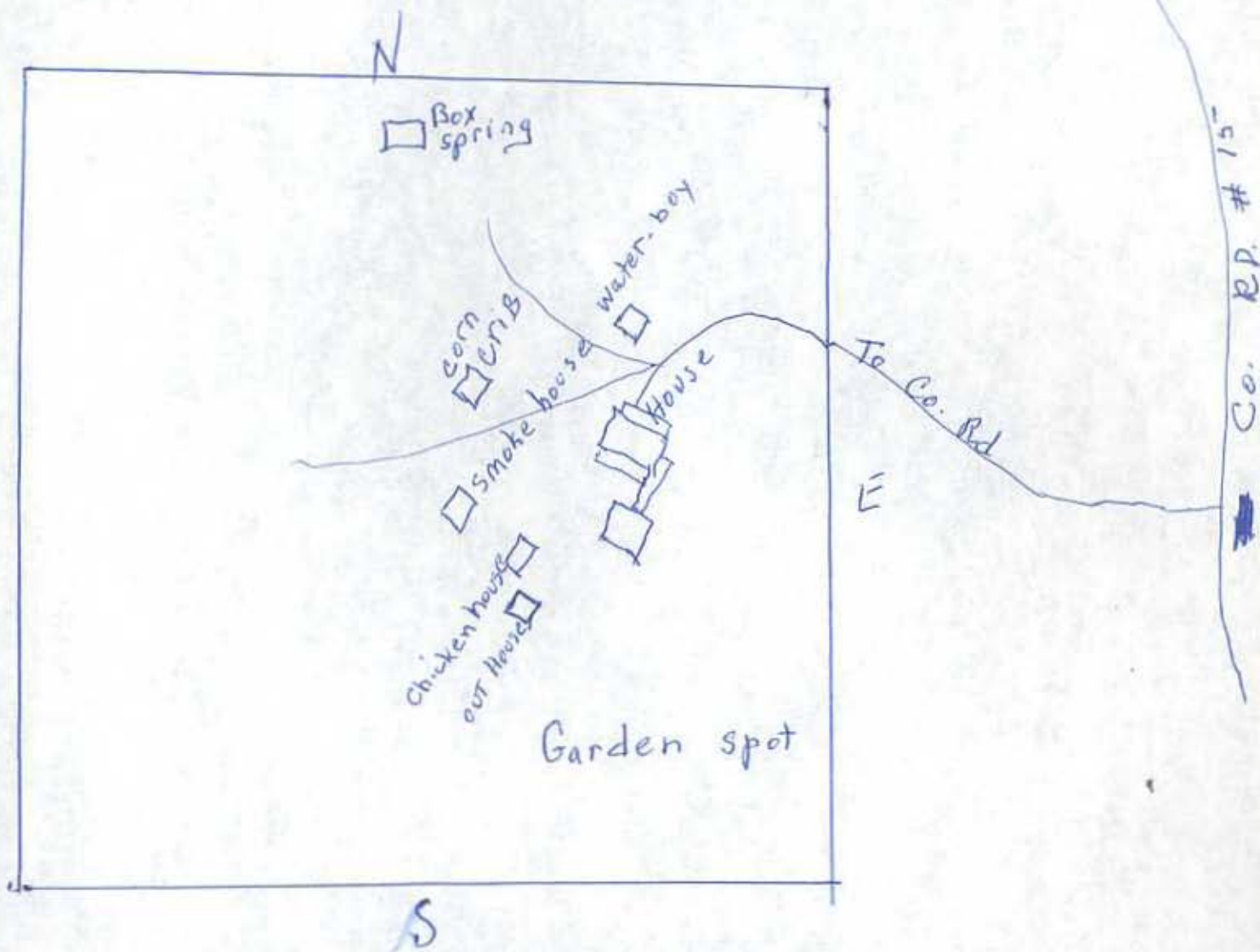
Mildred Johnson Graham

MJG/sew

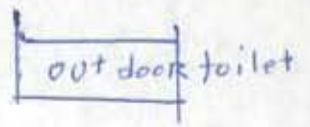
Enclosures

Site Diagram

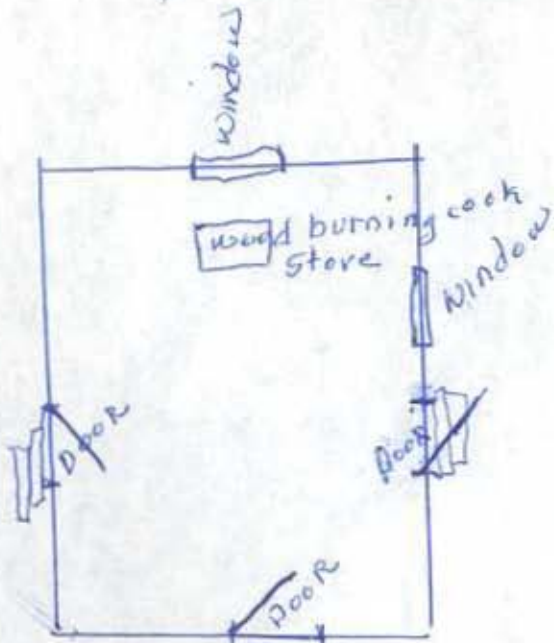
The Johnson House
HC. 67 Box 30-c
Jackson, Ala. 36545



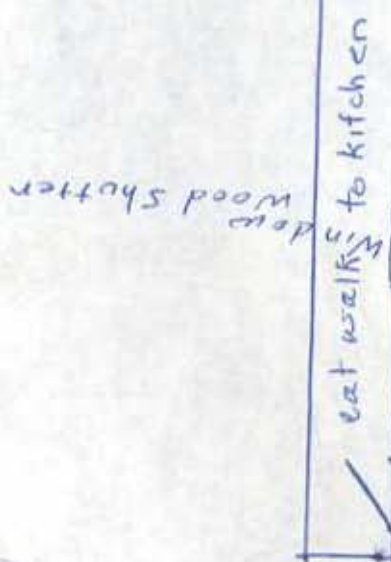
Forty acres of timberland not cut for many years abounding in plant and wild life. Hunting this site is not permitted and restoration of the homestead is planned as a retirement residence.



FLOOR PLAN
The Johnson House
HC-67 Box 30-c
Jackson, Ala.
(Rockville community)



Wisteria



Lean-to bedroom

Window wood shutter

Main room

Window

Front Porch

Chimney rose

very large oak tree

Rabbit tree

Camp log bush

Red bud tree

Rose

Dog wood tree

