

STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY Coffee

PRESENT NAME Folsom Home HISTORIC NAME _____

LOCATION (Street and number) _____

TOWN (Give directions if rural) 18 miles out of Elba

PRESENT USE Vacant HISTORIC USE Residence

OWNERSHIP: Public () Private (X) Public acquisition being considered ()

OWNER'S NAME Bob Folsom, Executor of Folsom Estate

MAILING ADDRESS _____

Elba, Alabama

CONDITION: Excellent () Good () Fair (X) Ruins ()

INTEGRITY: Original Site (X) Moved () When? _____

From where? _____ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No (X) Yes () By What? Neglect, Vandalism

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

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

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District?

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

Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant, give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend or person related to the building's importance.)

FOLSOM HOME

SIGNIFICANCE

The Folsom Home, a one story frame, rustic structure, located 18 miles outside of Elba, was the birthplace of the only Coffee Countian ever to be elected governor of Alabama. The house was the homestead of Joshua Marion Folsom and his wife, Eulala Dunnavant Folsom, parents of James Elisha Folsom. The house is reputed to be over one hundred years old.

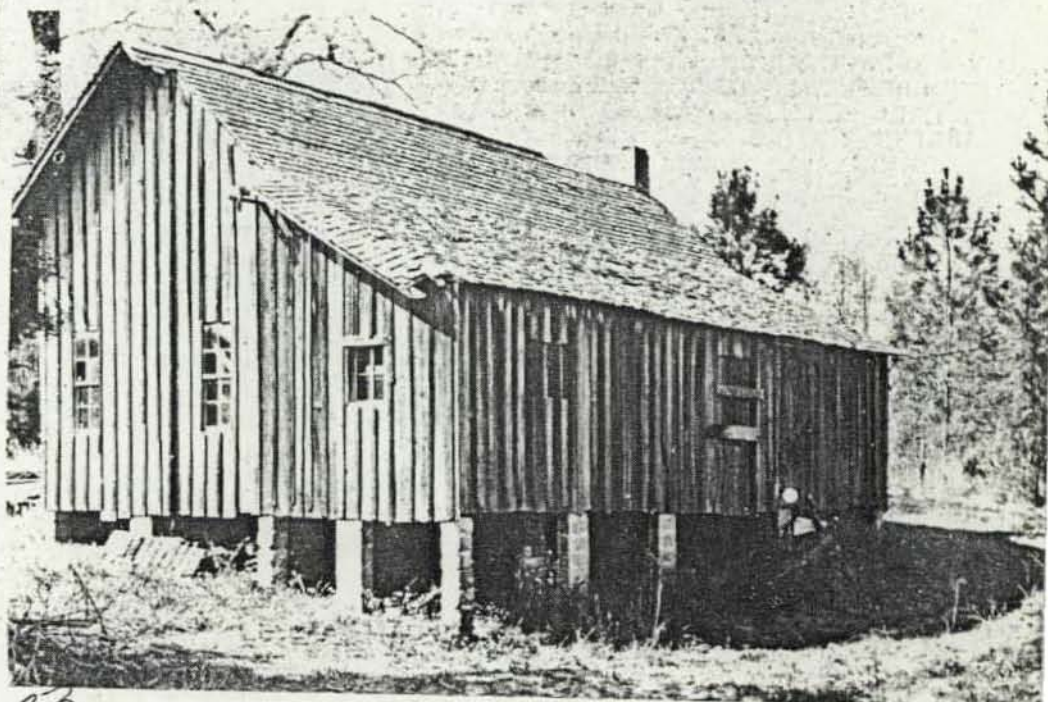
James Folsom, born on October 9, 1908, was the youngest of seven children. He graduated from Elba High School in 1927 and entered the University of Alabama. He transferred to Howard College, now Sanford University, in Birmingham in 1919 but a big flood that year all but wiped out the family farm. He returned home to help the family over the crisis. From 1919 to 1932 he was a merchant seaman, then in 1933, he returned to Alabama as director of the Works Progress Administration program in Guntersville. He served that program in Alabama and in Washington, D.C. until 1935. That year he made his first political race, an unsuccessful attempt at a seat in Congress. In 1939 he moved his family and his insurance business from Elba to Cullman.

It was in 1946 that Folsom swept to his first political victory. After another unsuccessful Congressional attempt and a try at the governor's office, he was elected governor by the largest margin of victory ever given a gubernatorial candidate up to that point.

Folsom is referred to as a populist, a politician able to get support from across the spectrum of the society, a crowd-pleaser, as concerned with what his constituents wanted to hear as with the real issues. His trademarks were the friendly call, "Ya'll Come," the mop and "suds" bucket with which he was going to clean up the Capitol, and a hillbilly band to entertain the crowds at his rallies.

Folsom served two terms as Governor, 1947-1951, and 1955-1959. During his administrations there were great improvements made, particularly in highway construction, welfare programs, and education.

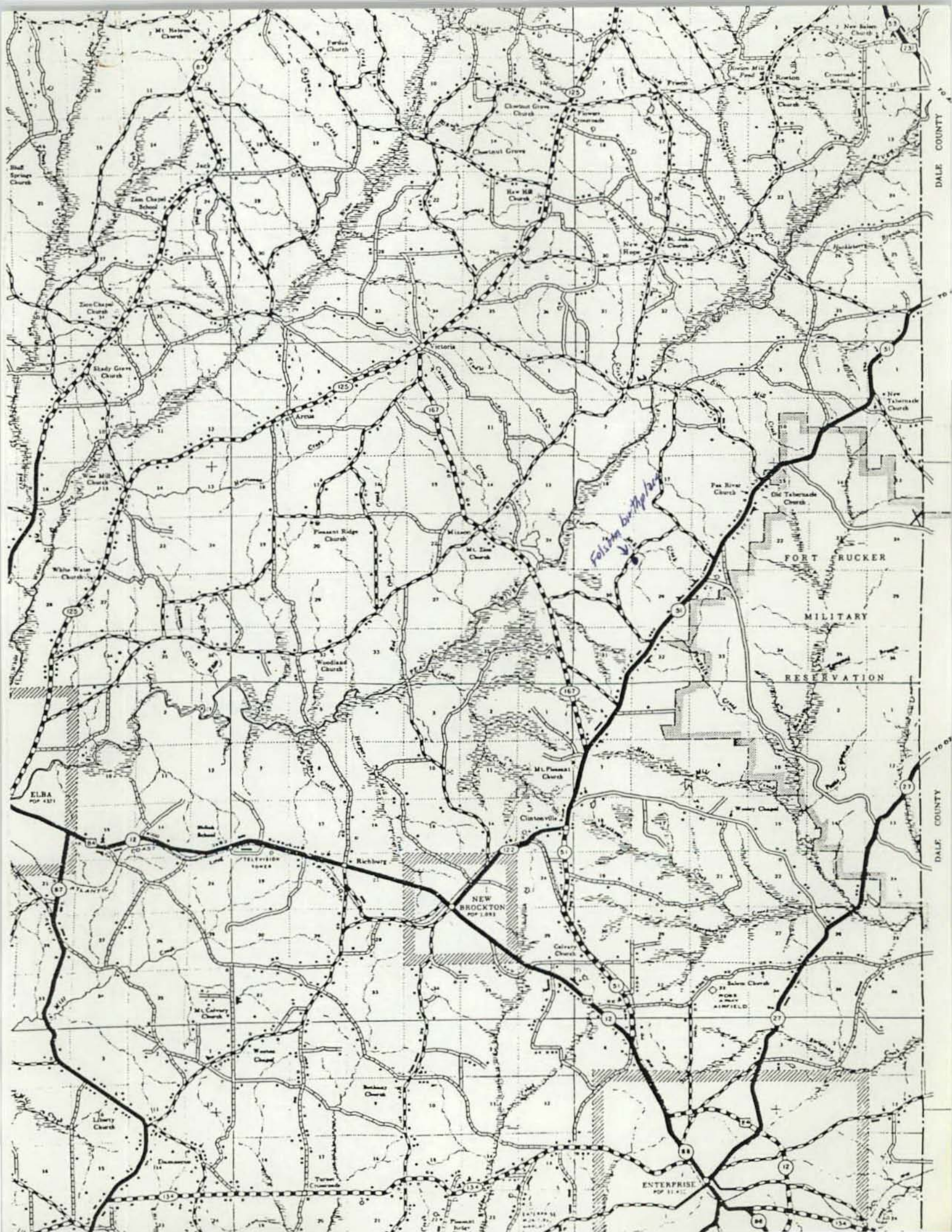
The house, still owned by the family, is now in poor condition, but should be preserved as one of Coffee County's most historic landmarks.



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ONE OF THE TOP historical sites in Coffee County is this old home...birthplace of James Elisha Folsom...Governor of Alabama 1947-51 and 1955-59. The house is in bad state of repair though not to the stage of collapse. A view from the rear is the best spokesman for the condition of the roof.

This was the homestead of Joshua Marion Folsom and his wife, Eulala Dunnavant Folsom. It is located north of Claude Tindol's Store and off Highway 51. This property needs to be preserved and developed as a county tourist attraction. Photo by Roy Shoffner.



DALE COUNTY

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Folsom baptistry

FORT RUCKER
MILITARY
RESERVATION

NEW BROCKTON
POP 1,083

ENTERPRISE
POP 11,412

ELBA
POP 433

ATLANTIC

TELEVISION TOWER

Richburg

Clatsenville

Wesley Church

Mt. Calvary Church

Richburg Church

Calvary Church

Mt. Salem Church

POKER CANYON AIRFIELD

Shed Spring Church

Zion Chapel School

Zion Chapel Church

Steady Green Church

White Swan Church

Pomacent Ridge Church

Mt. Zion Church

Fox River Church

Old Tabernacle Church

New Tabernacle Church

Mt. Holston Church

Fordus Church

Charlton Grove Church

Charlton Grove

How Hill Church

St. James Church

New Salem Church

Greenbush School

Providence Church

Hamaker

New Tabernacle Church

MILITARY

RESERVATION

Wesley Church

Mt. Salem Church

POKER CANYON AIRFIELD

ENTERPRISE