

ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE NOMINATION FORM

December 1, 2004

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY - DATE ADDED:**1. NAME:**Historic: Dr. John L. Coleman HouseCommon: The Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw Homestead**2. LOCATION**Street & Number: Crenshaw Road ~~Box 3~~ Rt. Box 229City, Town: Greenville Area Manningham, vicinity of: Ridgeville, approximately one-half mile east of present-day Mt. Olive Church on the Ridge Road.State: AL County: Butler Zip: 36037**3. CLASSIFICATION**

Category	Ownership	Status	Accessible	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> nt determined
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site				

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

The property is held in Trust and described as being situated, lying, and being in the County of Butler, State of Alabama. The parcel of land is located in the Northeast of the Southwest Quarter of Section Twenty-seven, Township Eleven, Range Thirteen, being 0.25 acres, more or less, and being more particularly identified as that parcel of land which remained jointly owned by the Gardner Crenshaw Heirs after said heirs partitioned the Gardner Crenshaw land through an action in equity filed with the Circuit Court, Butler county, Alabama, Case number CU-78-100, 124. A copy of the tax map for parcel is attached as Exhibit "A."

The Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw Homestead Trust
Trustee: Edna M. Rubin
1140 E. Baars St.
Pensacola, Florida 32503-4014
(850) 433-1885

6. DESCRIPTION

(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the description.)

CONDITION	CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
A. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

Introduction

The Dr. John Coleman and Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw house is one of the finest examples of an ante-bellum Federal Style house built between 1817-1821, as a residential architectural piece in the state of Alabama. It is located approximately 0.8 miles off Ridge Road on Crenshaw Road in Manningham, Butler county, Alabama.

The 1817-1821 plantation house has no standing out buildings. Family history report that four buildings were located on the property. Two buildings were located in the back of the house. One building being described as the original kitchen that was accessed from the back door of the present dining room. The second building was located beyond the house's boundaries in the back field and fulfill the role of an out house. The second set of buildings; one large barn and animal corral was located outside the front gate south west in front of the dirt road (now Crenshaw road) and one building was located due south across the dirt road where now stand a large pecan tree.

A dirt road (Crenshaw road) which runs perpendicular to Ridge Road provides access to the Coleman and Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw house after driving approximately one and one half miles along a scenic forest route where the house is clearly visible across an open field. That road continues in front of the house and meet perpendicular to Crenshaw road to the west and lead approximately 0.8 miles back to Ridge Road.

The Exterior

The Coleman and Crenshaw house is a monumental rare antiquity,¹ two story, wood structure with a gable roof over the four major rooms and a shed roof on the back. It exhibits a shed roofed front porch which ends in a "prophet" room to the right of the front porch entrance. The exterior of the house sports remnant of an old white wash paint on the front exterior and shingles on the west side of the house.

The original house measures approximately 60 x 40 feet with two bay wide front facade. Central entrance in the front leads to a central exit doorway to the back that ends in a rear elevation. The exterior is distinguished by wood steps on the front and rear entrance. Double brick end chimneys are incorporated within the parapet and corbeled.² The roof

was originally covered with shingles³ but this covering has been replaced with standing seam tin. Records do not indicate the time period that the transition from shingles to tin took place.

The John Coleman and Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw house is a two story building with an "L" shape plan reflecting three building campaigns. The original East front room has physical evidence which indicates that the house might have started off as an original one or two room log house. The final construction of the house is completed in lapped, beaded weather board. The foundation is constructed of field stone boulders set in position with mud, clay, and lime mortar. A massive field stone chimney with a double wide shoulder is found on the East side of the house and the west side of the building, although physical evidence indicates that the stone chimney on the west side was replaced during the 20th century using 20th century commercial bricks. None-the-less, the remnants of the original mud and clay field stone chimney still exist. There is physical evidence of 20th century building materials having been used to reinforce the porch, back shed room of the house, and the 1962 kitchen addition.

The rear facade is two bays wide, has a center door, and extends across the entire building with a shed roof covering. At the rear of the house there is a one story shed wing across the full width of the house which continues to the east some distance to include a new door way entrance into the kitchen. The new kitchen was added by Ruby Crenshaw in 1962 after Gardner's death. The original house contained a shed wing at the rear with two rooms opening from the central hall. The original dogtrot continue to exist. There are no steps to this exit.

The front is distinguished by a shed roof porch that extend across the entire front and end in a "prophet" chamber⁴ room one bay wide. The shed of the porch is supported by two 2 x 4 columns resting on a 4 x 6 wood plank floor. One 4 x 4 column at the corner. There are 20th century concrete blocks under the porch providing physical evidence of foundation work on the porch during the 20th century.

The windows of the front facade and the "prophet" room originally were six over six⁵ without shutters. The front "prophet" room had a window that appear to be covered by a shutter. Today, the front windows are a 20th century two over two with no visible shutters. The upper floor east window is out but a historical picture⁶ revealed that the windows were a 20th century two over two. The historical picture of the original house does not reveal the east side of the house. The upper floor interior east and west windows reveals existing shutters that were attached to the outside window frames of the upper elevation. These shutters are documented by the original picture. It is not recorded historically when the shutters were added. The existing shutters are wooden vertical panel that appear to have been hung with iron strap hinges.

There are two entrances into the house from the front porch. The main entrance opens into the central hallway. The doors of the front porch entrances are particularly notable. The principal entrance on the east elevation of the front porch is located in the center and

consists of a wide, solid wooden panel door constructed of wide boards laid vertically. There is a central vertical board down the front of the door that is crossed by a horizontal board⁷ down the front to create a three dimensional small cross effect. The horizontal board approximately midway the door creates a larger and more pronounced three dimensional cross. The second door entrance nearest the west side of the house is constructed in the same style as the central door. Both doors are encased in a simple 1 x 1 wood trim that merges into the parapet to produce a finish trimmed effect. The door at the "prophet" room is a wide board, three vertical, plank door with undecorated 1 x 3 molding that provide the finished trimmed effect. There are no lights that surround the doors, however, there is a 20th century porch light near the west door entrance. The rear entrance is aligned with the central hall of the house but does not have steps to reach the elevation. History records⁸ that steps to the kitchen's outbuildings were at this entrance door along with a wooded board walkway that ended at the kitchen doorway. There is no physical evidence that the walkway and kitchen ever existed. However this writer can attest to the fact that the kitchen and walkway did exist. The new rear entrance is located on the construction of the new kitchen. Entrance is gained through 20th century concrete commercial steps which lead to a small wood porch. The porch has a small shelf to the left that was used as a wash stand for the hands. The door is the same as the front door.

There are two original windows on the rear shed wing of the house. Both windows are narrowly constructed and are identical to the five other two over two windows found in the original historical picture of the house. There is one small 20th century window that is the same as the front upper bay windows. The rear upper bay windows are covered with iron strap hinge hung shutters.

The Interior House

The interior first floor of the John Coleman and Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw house have a monumental scale interior with ceiling heights reaching approximately 13 feet. The first floor of the house contain four rooms, a shed back area and an added 20th century kitchen. The south wall of the shed is formed from the rear wall of the original house. The floor of the shed roof rear give physical evidence that the floor has been reinforced with 20th century construction materials and wood. The walls have paneling that is used to divide the bathroom from the dining room and a small west side bedroom. The door leading into the small rear room from the front west room is made in the same style as the door on the "prophet" room. The details are exact, only smaller. This highly suggest that the small bedroom is part of the historical shed room document in the historical picture⁹. The door exit from the bedroom into a hall way that leads first into the dining room and then into the 1962 constructed kitchen.

The room on the east suggest, because of the log foundation, that the house might have begun as a log cabin. The east room has one window on the front of the room that has been covered over to provide privacy for the "prophet room" outside. The east wall has two window three over three that are located on either side of the chimney. The fourth

window is located on the rear wall and has been closed with three vertical boards. The window closure provides privacy for the room from the dining area. The walls in this room are left open to expose the rafters. The fireplace is created with mud, field stone, and clay, overlaid with cheeking. The mantel reveals a tin sheet covering that is a 20th century addition. The second room to the west is entered from two doors. The front entrance is from the porch. This door is described in the exterior description of the house. The second entrance is from the central hall to the left as you enter from the porch's central door. To the right of the hall door entrance, just inside the room, is a two paneled door under the staircase that is hung with metal strapped hinges and lead into a small closet. At the west rear wall is where the small original window was located. This window has been open up to allow entrance to the small bedroom noted above. A small three panel vertical door such as the one at the closet is in place.

The one principal entrances to the house enter directly into the central hall. The walls, floors, and ceiling in this room are all constructed of wide, pine boards. The east center wall give evidence that the slender 1 x 2 boards which separates the east room from the hall is an added wall feature placed there to create decor to the house. The west center hall wall is made of broad, plank board and lined with a chair rail. This wall provides the outside case for the stairs and closet. The white washed wall boards are laid horizontal except along the interior partition wall. That wall is composed of a single thickness vertical board. The doors in these rooms are less sophisticated examples of Federal Styling than the exterior doors which are vernacular paneled doors, with iron "L" hinges. The interior detailing is fine for a dogtrot house with a wainscot¹⁰ of wide flush pine boards topped by a chair rail in the rooms and hall. The door which permits entrance to the east room is a five panel wide board, vertical constructed door that is hung on iron metal hinges.

The west room fireplace has been closed and the area reinforced to support a pot belly stove. Physical evidence reveal the covered site of where the original fireplace existed. The mantel exist as a thin plain wood shelf that is supported by wood brackets extending from the west wall of the house. The rafters of this room are covered with simple pine boards.

The staircase is a narrow boxed in single run staircase with narrow board steps located at the end of the dogtrot near the first exit against the interior wall in the northwest corner of the hall. The wide planked horizontal and vertical enclosure does not have evidence of a rail or a baluster. Along the sides, the top stair is capped by a single board used as a hand guard. The white washed, wide board planks form the walls for the east and west rooms of the upper floor. The open stair well give entrance to the east and west rooms openings where access are gained through small un-framed door ways.

Each room have wide board pine floors and ceilings. The wall in the historical picture reveal that the walls were once closed with wide board planks and white washed for decor. The wide board planks have been removed in several places of the walls. There is evidence of a fireplaces in the rooms that are now boarded up. The ceilings were once

covered with wide board planks that have been removed to expose the rafters. The windows reveal evidence of once having wood sash window closings instead of glass. The north wall reveals a tongue and groove simple pine, white washed wall, giving evidence that the original house began with four (4) rooms, two upper, two lower and a staircase.

7. SIGNIFICANCE

(See attached instructions for specific guidelines on completing the significance.)

PERIOD AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE-CHECK AND EXPLAIN BELOW
[X] 1800-1899 [X] ARCHITECTURE

SPECIFIC DATES: 1817-1821 BUILDER/ARCHITECT: Slave Labor
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the historical Beat 03, Dark Street Area, located in Manningham, County-Seat of Butler County¹, approximately 0.8 miles off Ridgeville Road, on Crenshaw Road you will find on a hill the Dr. John Coleman-Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw Home. Manningham's first settler was Elijah Manningham.² It received its name after Benjamin Manningham, cousin of Elijah, who opened a store in 1820 and followed it with the opening of a post office. The Postmaster General for the United States named the community Manningham in Benjamin's honor for having served as the first Postmaster.³ Manningham became infamous in 1818 when an Indian uprising, lead by Uchee Tom Chief of the Creek, resulted in the pioneer home of William Ogly being attacked and resulting in the killing of Ogly, four of his children, and a child who was visiting from the Stroud family.⁴ Approximately 2 miles from Manningham, some distance from Ridgeville Road, stands the Judge Anderson Crenshaw home. Built in or about 1838-40 by slave labor, Judge Anderson Crenshaw was a friend and neighbor to Dr. John Coleman.⁵

The Neighbor

Judge Anderson Crenshaw came to Alabama and settled at Cahaba, the capital of the Alabama. He later settled in Butler County around 1822 to remove his family from the annoying high waters of the Cahaba River.⁶ The Crenshaw name originates in England.⁷ Immigrant came to North America during the early eighteenth century and settled in various parts of the country: Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. Judge Anderson Crenshaw born 1782 in Newberry District South Carolina boasts a repertoire of distinguished Virginian ancestors including the names Carr, White, and Lee. Anderson's father, Charles Crenshaw, was born in Virginia and established Mount Bethel Academy. Anderson Crenshaw entered the Academy and then went on to a South Carolina college at Columbia to study law. He graduated in 1806, took the bar, passed, and was admitted to the bar in 1809 to practice law. One year after being elected to the South Carolina legislature he married Mary Chiles of Abbeville, September 13,

1816. Judge Anderson Crenshaw settled in Alabama in 1819 at Cahaba, Alabama's state capital.⁸

In 1821 he was elected Circuit Judge and acted in the dual capacity of Circuit Judge and Supreme Bench. He held that position until 1832 when he campaigned for and won the elected office as Chancellor of the newly created Court of Chancery. He held this post until 1847 when at age 65 he died.⁹

Judge Anderson Crenshaw and his wife Mary Chiles' (1790-1873) legacy is immortalized throughout the ages through their four sons Walter Henry, Thomas Chiles, Charles Edwards and Frederick Williams Crenshaw and their descendants. In addition, the foundation laid by Judge Anderson Crenshaw provides a solid pathway to continued success by both his biological descendants and the descendant of the slaves held by him during the pre-Civil War Era. His groundwork is immortalized in Alabama's history for being the first lawyer to settle in Butler County, act as Circuit Judge from 1821-1838; hold a seat on the Supreme Court of Alabama from 1821-1832; served as Chancellor of Southeastern Division of Alabama from 1838 to 1847 and have Crenshaw County carry his name.¹⁰ The purchase of fertile land along Cedar Creek put him in close proximity to Dr. John Coleman and other neighbors. The descendants of Judge Anderson Crenshaw have continued through the nineteenth, twentieth, and into the twenty-first century to carry the Crenshaw name honorably and proudly around the world. This is documented by Rear Admiral Lewis Womack Crenshaw, Jr., a descendant of Anderson Crenshaw, serving the United States as Deputy Commander of the United States Naval Forces in Europe.¹¹

His Son Thomas Chiles Crenshaw

Thomas Chiles Crenshaw, the third son of Judge Anderson Crenshaw, was born in South Carolina December 1818. He came to Butler County Alabama in 1819 with his parents as passage of a pioneer wagon train. He was approximately one year of age. Thomas Chiles likely received his primary education by attending the local brick academy erected around 1820-1830. This building was noted through oral history to be somewhere along the eight miles of hilly foothills of the Northwest section of the county. Thomas' secondary education was no doubly undertaken through private tutoring from Thomas A. Walker, who read law with Judge Anderson Crenshaw in the area now known as Ridgeville.¹² Thomas received his post secondary education at the State University.¹³ He represented Butler County in the State Legislature from 1866-67.¹⁴ At his father's death he received an inheritance of rich fertile acreage in the area of the Northwest section of Butler county known as Cedar Creek. There he settled and with the support of his wife Lucinda Womack whom he married in 1841 and the slaves he inherited from his father's will deed,¹⁵ he continued the Crenshaw legacy of prosperity, service to community and state until his death November 10, 1899. Among his slaves at the time of The Emancipation Proclamation were Sarah an adult Negro female and her sons Gardner, Frank, Wiley, James, and Ed Crenshaw.

Dr. John Coleman

Dr. John Coleman was born "June 6, 1788 in North Carolina, the son of James and Elizabeth Colman. The Colemans were related to many colonial Virginia and Carolina families including the Pickett, Leake, Wade, Boggan, Raiford and Terry. He received his primary and secondary education in North Carolina. He attended and graduated from Chapel Hill (now the University of North Carolina) in 1808. He took the medical boards and successfully passed. He began practicing medicine in Anson and Richmond counties. He married Nancy J. Leake about 1810 in North Carolina. He moved his family to Butler County after the death of Nancy and his marriage to her cousin Judith Leake Wade. He purchased land and settled in Manningham. He continued to purchase land during the years of 1817, 1819, and 1821."¹⁶ He became the primary care physician for those living in the Manningham and Ridge Communities. His neighbor and good friend Judge Anderson Crenshaw encouraged his civic and community involvement. This is documented by census showing that in June 1820, the first election for sheriff and Constable held in Butler county was held at the Dr. John Coleman Plantation Home, an indication of his status in the community and the permanent structure of his home.¹⁷

Dr. John Coleman and his two wives produced 14 offspring's.¹⁸ His son Walter Leake Coleman became a Civil War Mayor of Montgomery, Alabama.¹⁹ Others of his children inclusive of Francis "Frank" Jones Coleman served in the Confederate Army.²⁰ Pioneer life was a hard life for the settlers. The weight of family deaths, community medical responsibilities, and the harshness of pioneer settlement life took its toll on Dr. Coleman's mental health. He was confined for more than a decade in a mental health hospital in South Carolina because of his deteriorating mental status.²¹ His son Frank had him discharged to his care and brought him back to Butler county to live out his life in the home that he had built and to be near his family and old friends. Dr. John Coleman died between 1857-58 and was buried in the Coleman Family Cemetery on his plantation.²² The Coleman Cemetery is located in the Northwest tract of land purchased in 1821 by Dr. Coleman. Gardner's brother James "Jim" Crenshaw, a former slave, purchased and subsequently will deeded the tract of land to his son Nathan Crenshaw. The land was held in Nathan's family until it was purchased by Gardner's son Clarence Crenshaw's heirs, who tenure it to this date.

The Coleman house was continually occupied by a Coleman descendant through his granddaughter Martha "Pattie" Coleman (Frank's daughter) who married James Ira Brown. In 1909, James Ira and Martha Brown sold and deeded the property to a former Tom Crenshaw freed slave, whom along with his brothers had become a prominent local black farmer and land investor, named Gardner Crenshaw.²³

The Freed Slave "Gardner Crenshaw"

Gardner Crenshaw was born on or about 1855²⁴ to slave parents Jim and Sarah Crenshaw, who were born about 1835, on the Thomas Chiles Crenshaw Plantation.²⁵ Since it is not documented that Judge Anderson Crenshaw sold any of his slaves, it is believed that Jim and Sarah and their parents migrated to Butler County from South Carolina with Judge Crenshaw and his wife Mary Chiles Crenshaw during the early

pioneer settlement year of 1819. Upon Judge Crenshaw's death it is believed that Jim and Sarah and their children became the property of Judge Anderson Crenshaw's third son Thomas Chiles Crenshaw through a will deed. (The Butler County Court House fire of 1850 destroyed all records). When Jim died is not documented, however, Jim is believed to be buried in the Crenshaw Slave Cemetery, located behind the Crenshaw Cemetery off Ridge Road. After the Emancipation Proclamation, Sarah and her sons remained with Thomas Chiles Crenshaw as freed, reliable, and dependable care-takers of him during his elderly years in what was known as Tom Quarters. In gratitude of their commitment and value, Thomas Chiles Crenshaw upheld and conducted the sons of Sarah in their pursuit to become property owners. This cleared the path for Gardner to later purchase a 120 acre of land and the plantation estate from Dr. John Coleman's heirs, which was located in the Northeast corner of Section 27 of Butler county Alabama, and his brothers Wiley, James, and Frank to purchase greater than 400 acres from various other sellers.

Gardner married Lizzie Gibson and fathered eight children while living in Tom Quarters.²⁶ Those children were: Clate, Leston, Sally, Anna, Willie, Martha, Rosie Lee, and Joseph. He worked determinedly, taking in boarders²⁷ and saving his money. Upon Lizzie's death he met and married Ruby Dunklin-Crenshaw.²⁸ At the age of forty-four, in 1909, he purchased the 120 acre of land and plantation house with all of the standing buildings from James Ira Brown, son-in-law, of Frank Coleman²⁹ and moved his wife Ruby, her two daughters (Lela Bell and Regina) from a preceding marriage to Ed Crenshaw (not his brother Ed), and his children by Lizzie to the plantation. Gardner's union with Ruby produced nine children all born in the John Coleman plantation house.³⁰ Those children were Clarence, Clara, Mamie*, Azell, Ozell, Coranna, Corine*, Norlean, and Harry*. Following the path of Judge Anderson Crenshaw, Gardner remained a devoted family man and raised his children to be frugal and responsible contributors to their families and community, thus continuing his post-slavery success story through his descendants. This fact is intrinsic in the 2002 name change of county road Route 31 when the sons of Sarah Crenshaw were for a second time honored by Butler county Alabama when route 31, the road which bifurcate land purchased by Gardner, and his brothers Wiley, and Jim in the Northeast Section 27, was renamed **Crenshaw Road**. The first time Gardner and his brothers were honored was in 1919 when their mother Sarah was immortalized in *The Greenville Advocate* newspaper upon the occasion of her death by being given a headline obituary.

Gardner and Ruby's Descendants

The Children

Descendants of Gardner and Ruby boast many accomplishments. His son Harry Crenshaw, and daughters Coranna Crenshaw-Irving and Corine Crenshaw-Powell became high ranking Pastor, minister and Elder of their church conventions. His son Ozell Crenshaw, founded Crenshaw Quarters by selling lots to families for home ownership in 1970 on Davison Road in the beautiful Piney Woods of Butler county. His daughter Clara Crenshaw-Mullins and son-in-law Dennis Sr. was recognized by Governor Guy Hunt of Alabama for good citizenship.

The Grandchildren

His grandson Booker T. (son of Ozell) established the Booker T. Crenshaw Christian College and School Ministries in San Diego, California. The corporation includes the Christian Evangelism Independent Baptist Church, The Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine, The Christian Legal Aid Society, The Christian Evangelism High School and Adult School as subsidiaries. His grandson Marvin (son of Harry) played professional football for the Canadian Football League in 1975. His grandson Dennis Jr. Crenshaw-Mullins (son of Clara) served in the U.S. Air Force for more than 20 years, was honorably discharged and is the author of *Looking at Tomorrow* published 1994. His grandson Ray Anthony Crenshaw-Powell (son of his daughter Corine) is Bishop to the United Pentecostal Holiness Church. His grandson Daniel Crenshaw-Ollison (son of his daughter Arzell) served in the U.S. Air Force during peace time as an Air Force airplane mechanic and was honorably discharged after his tour. His grandson Johnny L. Crenshaw (son of Clarence) served in the U.S. Army and was honorably discharged after his tour.

His granddaughter Pearlie Crenshaw Ollison-Howard (daughter of Arzell) serves the community of Mobile as an Evangelist. His granddaughter, Celestine Crenshaw Peagler-Lewis (daughter of Mamie) served for ten years as Escambia County Utility Commissioner in Pensacola, Florida and founded (2000) the Jacqueline Harris Pyramid School of Learning, a charter school, in Escambia county Florida. His granddaughter Edna Crenshaw-Rubin (daughter of his son Ozell) served for eight years as a member of the Beecher Board of Education in Michigan and as a member of both the National Association of School Boards and the National Association of Black Elected School Board Members. In addition, she was the first native born African-American female to receive the Athena Small Business Award in Genesee County Michigan, the first native born African-American to graduate from the University of Alabama-Birmingham School of Nursing Oncology Practitioner's Program in 1979. She represented the State of Michigan in 1995 at the White House Conference on Small Business, and received accommodations for Point of Light from Presidents George Bush, Sr. and William Jefferson Clinton and is the author of two books published under ATGAM Press named *The Wheat and Tare* (2001) and *Gangs, Their Recruitment, and Retention Practices* (1998).

The Great-grandchildren

His great-grandson Kenneth Crenshaw-Johnson (Clara and Dennis's grandson by their eldest daughter Nauthrine) works as an accountant for the United States General Accounting Office. His great-grandson (son of Clarence's son Johnny) served in the U.S. Navy and continues to this writing with the Navy Reserves. His great-grandsons (sons of Clarence's son Allen) Allen Jr. completed a tour of duty in Korea while his youngest brother Darren Crenshaw served in the U.S. Marine and did a tour of duty in the Persian Gulf Conflict both were honorably discharged after their tours. His great-grandson Gerald Crenshaw Ollison-Westry (son of Arzell's daughter Areletta) served in the U.S. Marine and did a tour of duty in the Persian Gulf. He remains in the Marine Reserves as 1st Lieutenant at this writing. His great-granddaughters Glenita & Geneva Crenshaw

Rubin (daughters of Edna) are small business owners who are receiving United States government contracts as subcontractors. His great-granddaughter Jackie Crenshaw Crumpton-Tanner (daughter of Ozell's oldest daughter Alma) is an Evangelist serving the San Diego, California area. His great-grandsons Wayne Crenshaw (sons of Ozell's son Booker T.) ran for Councilman of San Diego, California (2004) and led the efforts to bring a major grocery store to the San Diego neighborhood, marking the first time in 20 years that residents of the community did not have to leave their community for their shopping, banking, and theater needs. For this services Dwayne was noted as one of San Diego's most influential citizens in 2003. His brother Booker T., Jr. serves as Publicity Initiatives Director for Busch Gardens, Discovery Cove, Sesame Place and SeaWorld theme Parks'. He served for eight years on the San Diego Park and Recreation Board (the sixth largest city park board in the nation). In 1995 he became the chief advisor to the mayor and city council of San Diego on policy matters relating to acquisition, development, maintenance and operations for all of the city's parks, beaches, playgrounds and recreational activities. With this 1995 appointment, Booker Jr. became the youngest person and the only native born African-American, ever to serve as the park board's chair.

The Gardner Crenshaw family is particularly significant for the extended family settlement and continuity, with many descendants still living in northwest Butler County today as the fifth, sixth and seventh generation of the family to live there. An annual family reunion is held at the old homestead, attended by Crenshaw descendants from many locations around the country. States represented are: Alabama, California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, Ohio, and Texas. Through their heirs and descendants, it is no doubt that Gardner and Ruby's descendants will continue to charter paths in family and civic life well into the generations to come which keeps pace with the legacy of Judge Anderson Crenshaw, Dr. John Coleman and Gardner And Ruby Crenshaw settlement history.

Conclusion

The John Coleman-Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw Plantation House is one of the finest ante-bellum antiques houses in Alabama and perhaps the nation. The house incorporates a variety of traditional, and classical features such as; the simple side gable roof form, Federal staircase, white wash interior, and "prophet room." Also, notably are the pine block columns that create a simple, yet sophisticated and regional interpretation of pioneer architecture from the earliest nineteenth century.

As the family seat for the prominent John Coleman family, and later the Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw family, whose origins, settlement, and economic pursuit documented by the house origin, provides solid evidence that the house was typical of the affluent Butler county migrate family whose patriarch was named John Coleman. It later lends testimony for the success of one of Sarah Crenshaw's (a Civil War freed Negro slave woman, who lived in Butler County on the Thomas Chile Crenshaw Plantation) sons. The John Coleman-Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw house represent the heights of ante-bellum cotton, pine, and farm culture in the county. It denotes the struggle and victory of two families one white, one black, who proved that "races like individuals must stand or fall

by their own merit; that to fully succeed they must practice the virtues of self-respect, self-reliance, industry, perseverance, and economy (Paul Robeson).”³¹

*** Denotes living children of Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw.**

8. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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2. Historical picture of Brown family
3. Ibid. # 2
4. Gamble, Robert; *Historical Architecture in Alabama: "A Primer of Style and Types, 1810 - 1930,"* The University of Ala Press. p. 30
5. Ibid. # 2
6. Side view picture of Gardner's house, 1984
7. Front view picture of Gardner's house, 1984
8. Powell, Corine; *Oral Interview of Gardner's youngest daughter;* February 2, 2003
9. Historical picture of Brown family & 1984 back view of house
10. Hooker, Edward III; *Historical Commission:* p. 4
11. Crenshaw, Sarah; *Obituary:* Alabama Advocate; 1919

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL

1. U.S Census, 7th Census, 1850 Salve Schedules for Alabama; Microcopy M-432, Box 17
And
Brown, Mildred S.; March 1999: *Butler County Historical and Genealogical Society Quarterly*
 2. Brown, Mildred Stinson; Fact sheet: *What's in the Name?* Communities of Butler County
 3. Brown, Mildred Stinson; Fact sheet: *Butler County Towns;* Manningham, Alabama
 4. Ibid. p. 1
 5. Ray, Louise Crenshaw; *Historic Homes of Alabama;* The Judge Anderson Crenshaw Home, p.305
 6. Ibid. p. 305
 7. Macon, Martin & Crenshaw; *Our Family History;* A Little Book, p. 11
 8. *Historic Homes of Alabama;* The Judge Anderson Crenshaw Home, p.305
 9. Ibid. p. 305
 10. *The Court Houses of Butler County;* Alabama Lawyers, July 1970; p. 411
 11. *The Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society, Quarterly;* July 2000 p. 7
- Thomas Chiles Crenshaw**
12. Ray, Lousie Crenshaw; *Historic Homes of Alabama:* The Judge Anderson Crenshaw Home, p. 305
 13. O'Neal, Ann Lee Crenshaw; July 9, 1941: *Sworn Testimony,* Alabama Historical Society files
 14. *Owens Alabama Biographies,* Vol. I p. 422
 15. Interview: Crenshaw, Annie April 25, 2004.
* "Anderson Crenshaw's will (died 1847) left slaves to each of his children, but with the courthouse burning in 1853, we don't have that will to know the slaves' name."

Dr. John L. Coleman

16. Field, Fred W.: *The Coleman Family History;* Butler County Historical Society, p.2
17. A Copy of Selected Early County Records: *Butler County Historical Society Quarterly,* April 1995

18. Fields, Fred W. p. 2
19. History of Jefferson County Public Servants:
20. Fields, Fred W. p. 2
21. Ibid. p. 2
22. Atchenson, Nana: *Oral interview* with Annie Crenshaw April 20, 2004
23. *19xx Deed*

Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw

24. U.S. Census 1880 Butler County, Alabama Crenshaw household at Manningham
25. Womack, Lela Bell, *Oral Interview* with Rev. Harry Crenshaw 1978
26. *Obituary*, Gardner Crenshaw: 1962
27. U.S. Census 1900 Butler County, Alabama Crenshaw household at Manningham
28. *Family Reunion Booklet Of Gardner Crenshaw Offspring's*, August 1-3, 2003
29. Field, Fred W.: *The Coleman Family History*; Butler County Historical Society, p.2
30. *Family Reunion Booklet Of Gardner Crenshaw Offspring's*, August 1-3, 2003
31. *Robeson, Paul, 1986: Black Quotation Within Our Hands; p.62*

9. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreeage of nominated property: 0.25

Quadrangle name: John Coleman & Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw Homestead

Enclose map showing location of property. (city or county map, state highway department map, pr USGS map)

10. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/title: Edna M. Crenshaw - Rubin Date: November 28, 2004
 Organization: Gardner & Ruby Crenshaw Homestead Trust
 Street & Number: 1140 E. Baars St. Telephone: (850) 433-1885
 City or Town: Pensacola State: Florida Zip: 32503-4014

11. PLEASE SUBMIT COLOR SLIDES OF THE PROPERTY WITH THIS FORM:

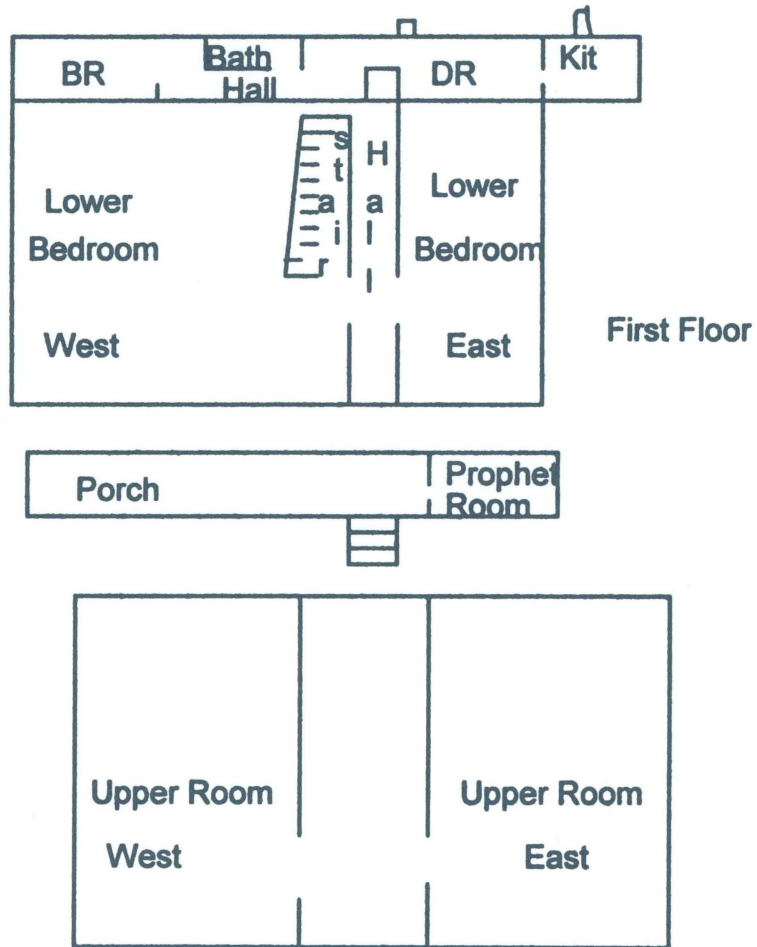
Color slides are essential to the review process.

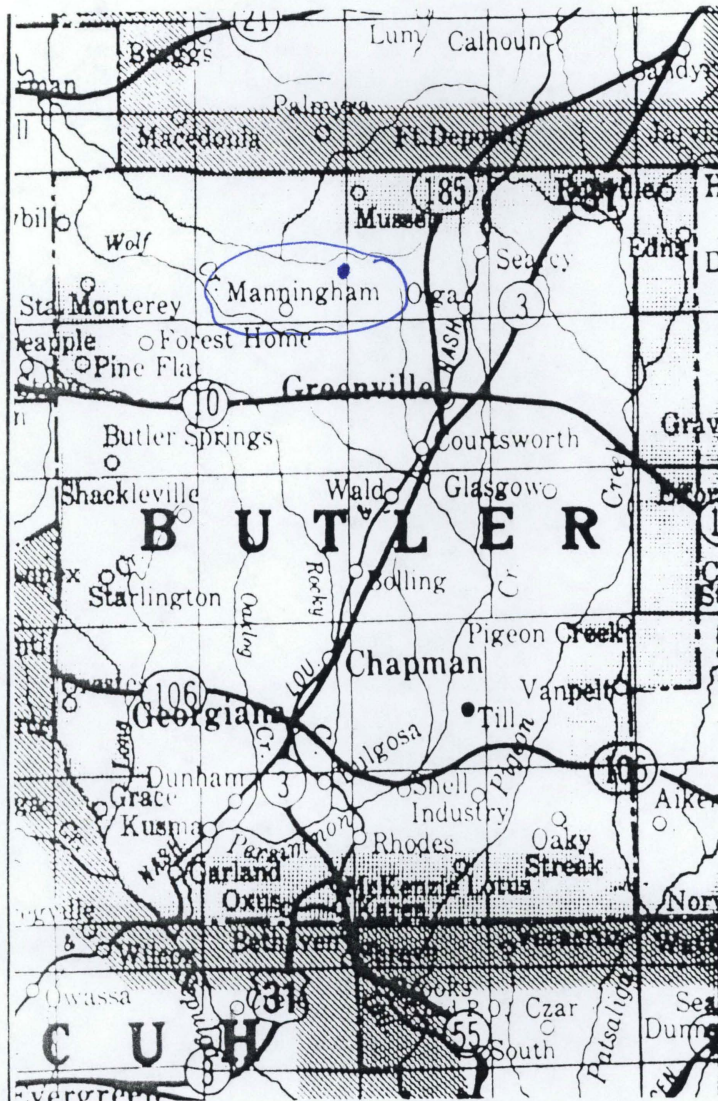
12. PLEASE RETURN NOMINATION FORM AND DOCUMENTATION TO:



5. FLOOR PLAN & SITE PLAN

(Use space below to sketch floor plan and site plan or attach additional sheet.)

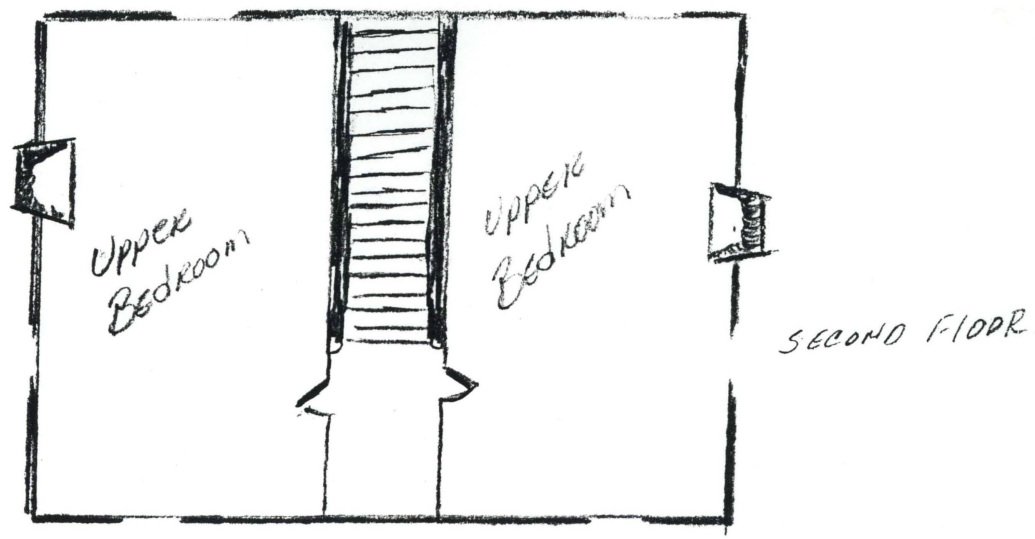
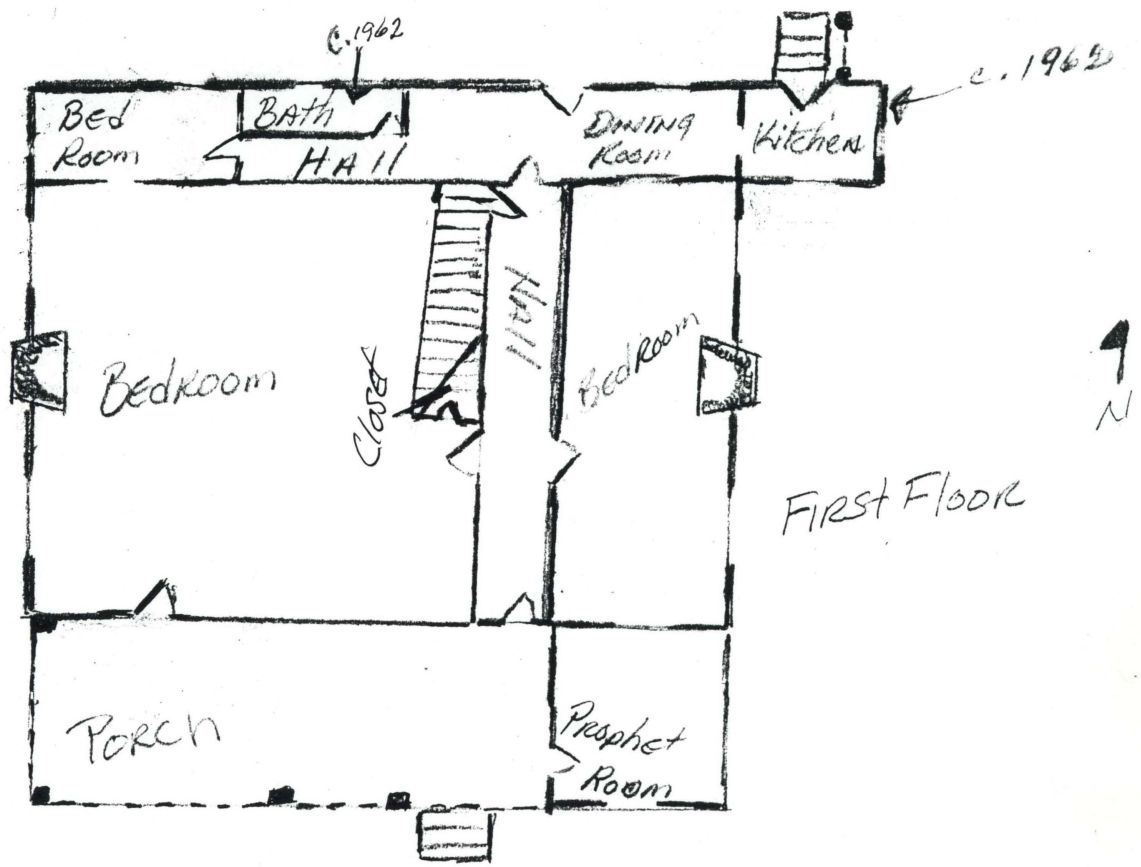




The Butler County Historical & Genealogical Society Quarterly, July 2003

Floorplan of the Coleman/Crenshaw House
 c. 1817-1821
 Manningham, Butler county, Alabama

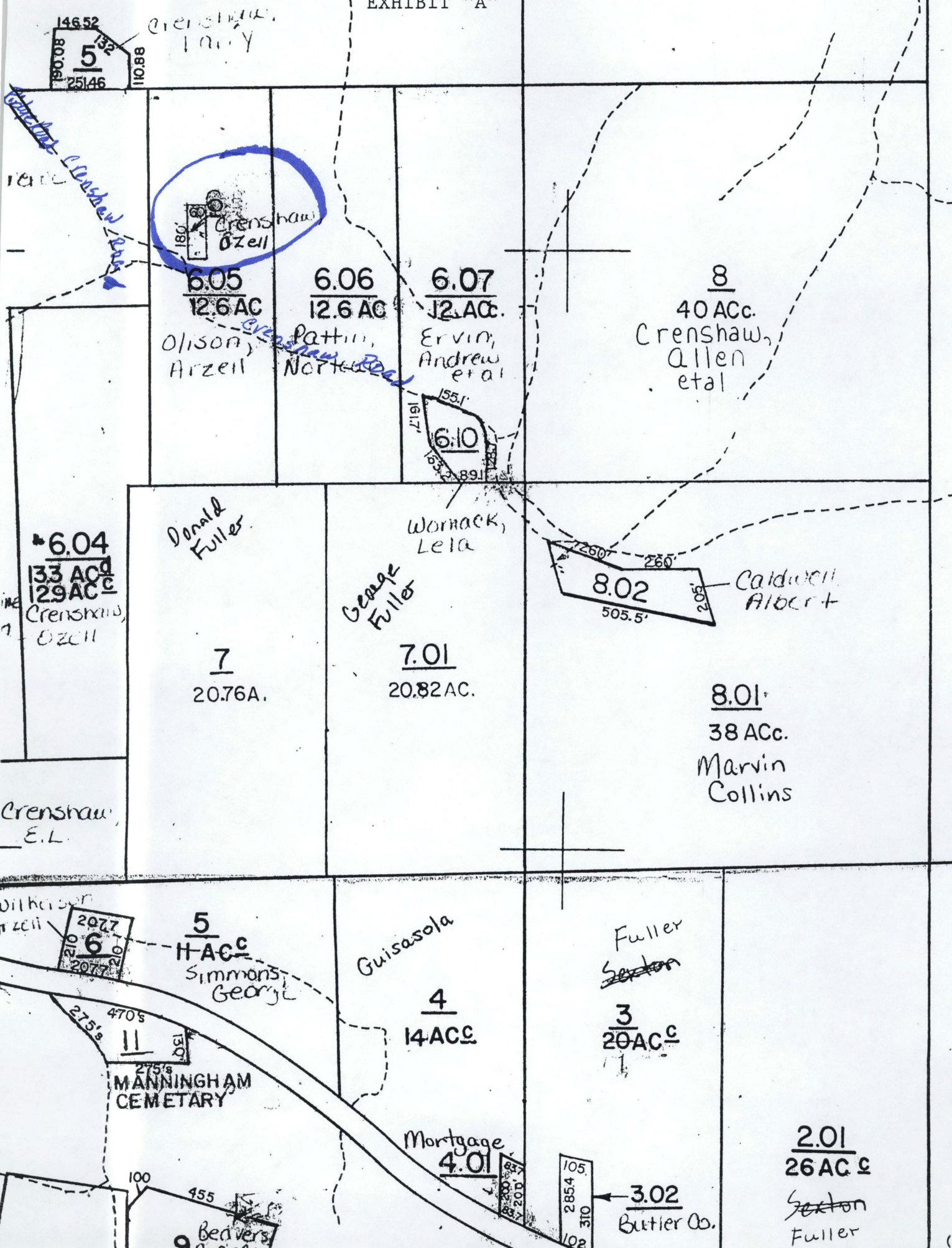
outside
 kitchen
 demolished
 1962



FRONT

(c. = constructed/created) No notation indicates that floorplan is original plan unchanged

EXHIBIT "A"



146.52
132
190.08
5
251.46
110.88

Crenshaw
Arzell

6.05
12.6 AC
Olison,
Arzell

6.06
12.6 AC
Pattin,
North

6.07
12.6 AC
Ervin,
Andrew
etal

8
40 AC.
Crenshaw,
Allen
etal

155.1
161.7
6.10
183.3
89.1

6.04
33 AC
29 AC
Crenshaw,
Arzell

Donald
Fuller

Wornack,
Lela

7260
260
8.02
505.5
205

Caldwell
Albert

7
20.76A.

George
Fuller

7.01
20.82 AC.

8.01
38 AC.
Marvin
Collins

Crenshaw,
E.L.

2077
6
2077

5
11 AC
Simmons
George

Guisasola

4
14 AC

Fuller
~~Sexton~~

3
20 AC

MANNINGHAM
CEMETARY

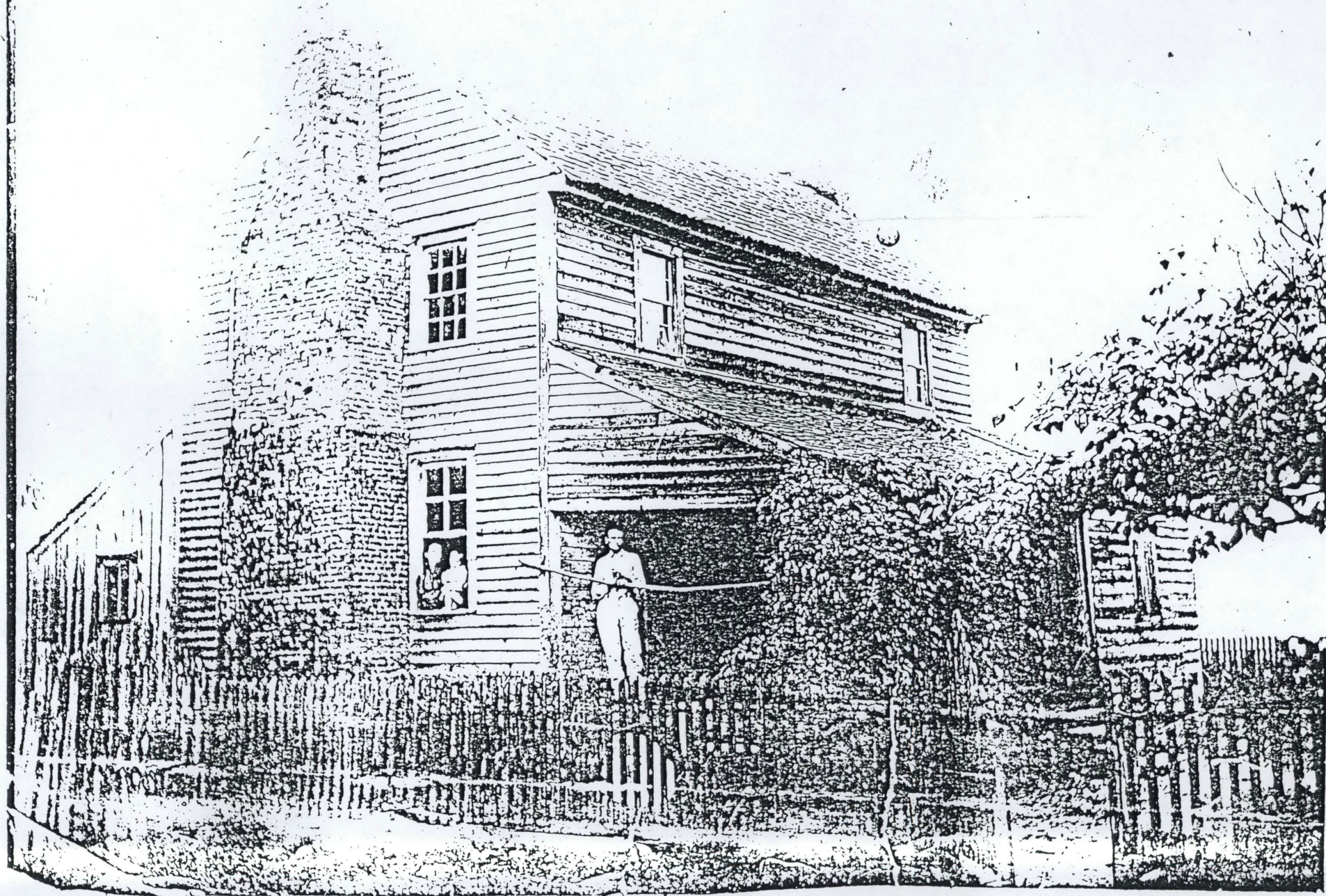
Mortgage
4.01

105.
285.4
310
102

3.02
Butler Co.

2.01
26 AC
~~Sexton~~
Fuller

100
455
9
Beavers
Maine



14

The old Coleman Home - Built in 1817-1820. (James Coleman Sr. & Dr. John Coleman.)
In Picture - Ira Brown - Wife & Son -
Martha "Pattie" Coleman