

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **SEP 18 1987**
date entered **OCT 15 1987**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Walker-Klinner Farm

and/or common

2. Location

street & number 3.5 miles east of Maplesville on Alabama Highway 22 NA not for publication

city, town Maplesville vicinity of congressional district 7

state Alabama code 01 county Chilton code 021

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<u>NA</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" 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 Mr. & Mrs. John Klinner

street & number Rt. 2, Box 215

city, town Maplesville vicinity of state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chilton County Courthouse

street & number 500 2nd Avenue North

city, town Clanton state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Alabama Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970-present federal state county local

depository for survey records Alabama Historical Commission

city, town Montgomery state Alabama

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 1600-acre tract of land encompassing the Walker-Klinner Farm is comprised of open farmland and forest located on the upper forks of Mulberry Creek in the western section of Chilton County. Presently, 12.5% of the land is under cultivation; 3.2% is pasture; and 84% is open woods. Although 57 acres have been slightly marred by the recent building of approximately nine powerline towers (ranging in sizes from 70 to 140 feet) against the owners' wishes, the acreage has remained intact with boundaries which date from the mid-1850s. The farm includes a good collection of buildings, structures, sites and objects that illustrate the types of resources historically associated with a large farm and tenant community in south central Alabama. Approximately seven 19th-century and ten early 20th-century buildings, structures, sites and objects have been identified within the historic boundaries of the farm. Additionally there are two unexamined aboriginal sites and approximately 10 post-1940s buildings and structures.

The picturesque residence associated with this property since the late 19th century is situated at the juncture of Alabama Highway #22 and the old North-South Road. Built in 1890 by the first generation of descendants to own the full historic acreage of the Walker Farm, the house is a 2 1/2-story, symmetrically-massed frame building with a steeply pitched twin gabled roof. Brick piers, with decorative brickwork situated between, enclose the foundation and raise and support the house, while interior corbeled brick chimneys pierce the ridge poles of the gable roof. The exterior is highly embellished with a variety of Victorian-influenced millwork typical of the rising eclecticism during the state's High Victorian Period. One-story twin gables shelter the porch and flank a center gable projection which is surmounted by a tower with rectangular-shaped 4/4 lighted sash windows at one level, shuttered vents with eared surrounds at the next level and culminating with a pyramidal roof with gablettes and a finial projection. The three-bay facade is further enhanced by the incorporation of turned supports, jigsaw brackets and bracketed eaves. The 4/4 rectangular sash window treatment is predominant throughout while the shuttered vents reappear only occasionally.

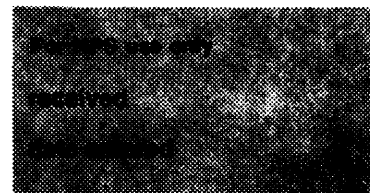
The interior features the center hall plan with an "L" wing at the rear. This plan was commonly utilized in the south throughout the 19th century. Primary interior detailing includes three-foot high wainscoting, brick fireplaces with wood-carved mantels and a stairway consisting of delicate turned balustrade contrasted by newel-posts.

The 1600-acre farm has 19 contributing buildings, structures, objects and sites which date throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries and that have integrity, while there are also 15 buildings, sites and structures that are post-1940s construction or that warrant archaeological examination which are classified as noncontributing.

The current relocation proposal of a revised roadway alignment to accommodate the replacement of two Mulberry Creek bridges potentially threatens the integrity of the property one mile south of Highway 22, less than a quarter of a mile west of the residence.

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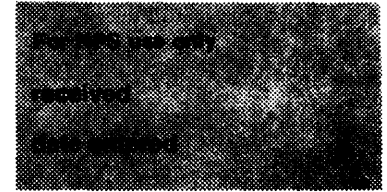
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Klinner Farm Inventory - Contributing:

1. Walker-Klinner House. 1890 - 2 1/2-story frame with steeply pitched twin gable roof. Facade is highly embellished with a variety of Victorian-influenced mill-work. Tower with pyramidal roof, gablettes and finial projection. (Roll 2, Negs. 20-24; Roll 3, Negs. 14A-10A)
- 1B. Fence. 1927 stucco-finished base surmounted by concrete piers with star and horseshoe medallions and screen wire. (Roll 2, Negs. 28-29)
2. Tool Shed. ca. 1900 - 1-story frame with gable roof. Structure is intact. (Roll 2, Neg. 8)
5. Chicken House. ca. 1900 - 1-story frame with gable roof. Structure is intact. (Roll 2, Neg. 15)
7. Corn Crib. ca. 1890 - 1-story 5" beveled-board siding with slanted roof clad in tin. (Roll 2, Neg. 8)
10. Overseer's House. ca. 1930 - 1-story, stud construction with beveled siding, beaded tongue and groove paneling and gable roof clad in tin. (Roll 2, Neg. 12)
12. Tenant House. ca. 1890 - Remains of a 1-story board and batten house with gable roof. (Roll 4, Negs. 5A-7A)
13. Shed. ca. 1900 - 1-story frame shed with gable roof and lean-to in severe state of deterioration. (Roll 4, Neg. 8A & 9A)
14. Tenant House. ca. 1890 - Ruins of a 5-room dogtrot with beveled siding.
15. Tenant House. ca. 1910 - 1-story, board and batten set on wood piers; front-facing gabled, tin roof also shelters porch with ruins of railings. Situated on site of mid-19th-century plantation slave church and cemetery.
16. Tenant House. ca. 1850 - Six-room, one-story dogtrot with beveled siding. Reported to be the only house surviving Old Maplesville. (Roll 3, Neg. 29A; Roll 4, Neg. 20A)
21. Barn. ca. 1870 - 1 1/2-story cow barn with gable roof sheathed in tin. Post, beam and peg construction has vertical board siding. (Roll 2, Neg. 17)
22. Pump. ca. 1900 - Turn-of-the-century iron hand pump. (Roll 2, Negs. 3 & 4)

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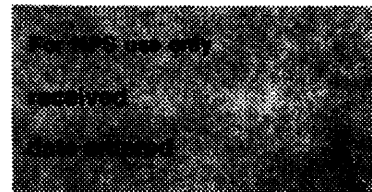
23. Chicken Coop. ca. 1900 - Gable-roof log construction; in severe state of deterioration and heavily covered by foliage.
24. Barn. ca. 1900 - 2-story gable roof stud construction with vertical board siding.
31. Cemetery. 19th-century gravesites of the William White family.
32. Store Building. Late-19th-century, 1-story frame.
33. House - 19th century, enclosed dogtrot.
34. Barn - ca. 1900. Frame construction.

Noncontributing:

3. Pump House. 1951 - Concrete block construction with gable roof. (Roll 5, Neg. 12)
4. House. 1951 - 1-story, side gable roof, concrete block with 6/6 lighted sash windows, frontfacing gable roof over centered porch, supported by concrete piers.
6. Shed. c. 1940 - 1-story corrugated tin with gable roof. (Roll 5, Neg. 19)
8. Barn. 1964 - 1-story plank and stud construction with gable roof. (Roll 5, Neg. 16)
9. Garage/Shed. 1963 - 1-story, slant-roof stud construction with shiplap siding. (Roll 5, Neg. 14)
11. House. 1951 - 1-story gable roof concrete block with 6/6 lighted sash windows, recessed side porch entrance and interior brick chimney. (Roll 3, Neg. 23A; Roll 4, Negs. 11 & 12)
17. Grist Mill Dam Site. ca. 1820 - Remnants of dam include vertically placed timbers; remnants of an axial, a main shaft and a drive shaft have been found and are being retained on the property but removed from this site. Mill was dismantled in 1910. (Roll 3, Negs. 26A, 27A and 28A)
18. Site - aboriginal site with a concentration of Indian artifacts. Insufficient evidence to confirm site function or significance. Archaeological examination is warranted.

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19. Site - Reported to be aboriginal mounds with a panel in close proximity. Insufficient evidence to confirm site function or significance. Archaeological examination is warranted.
20. Site - Mid-19th-century horsetrack documented by local histories and oral accounts. Situated in an area of dense vegetation, evidence suggesting the existence of a track is indicated by a path where the plant life is comparatively tenuous, and consistent in shape and continuity. Additional investigation is warranted to authenticate.
25. Cabin. 1960 - 1-story gable roof log construction. (Roll 4, Negs. 33A & 34A)
26. Site. ca. 1900 - Concrete base for steam engine marks site of turn-of-the-century sawmill.
27. Bridge. c. 1900 - ruins.
28. Shed. 1965 - 1-story frame tractor shelter with gable roof. (Roll 4, Neg. 10)
29. Pen. 1960 - slant roof frame hog pen. (Roll 4, Neg. 7)
30. Shed. 1960 - 1-story frame feed shed. (Roll 4, Neg. 8)

19 contributing
15 noncontributing
34 total

8. 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 type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1854; 1890- 1937 **Builder/Architect** NA

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

CRITERION C - AGRICULTURE

The Walker-Klinner Farm is significant for its intact farm acreage with boundaries which date from the mid-19th century. Situated in the earliest settled area of the county, the farm has been maintained continuously over more than 135 years with 1600 acres that encompass pastures, springs and creeks, remnants of an 1820 grist mill dam, cultivated fields and timber-yielding forest land. The strategic site, which afforded advantageous transportation routes for moving the cotton and timber from the farm to market, and the historic land-use patterns and conservation practices employed throughout the years constitute a rare and fairly comprehensive view of the local agricultural development. Additionally, there is evidence of an early race horse track, therefore suggesting the potential for additional study related to the local recreational and social life of this rural planter community.

CRITERION C - ARCHITECTURE

The Walker-Klinner Farm is significant for its collection of 19th- and early 20th-century domestic and agricultural architecture. Its 1890 symmetrically-massed, High Victorian style main house features elaborate millwork typical of the rising eclecticism of the period. The collection of tenant houses--one an 1850 dogtrot locally documented as the only building surviving the county's earliest settlement (Maplesville, 1820)--and the farm dependencies which remain, provide an illustration of the transition from a south central Alabama cotton and timber plantation to a late 19th- and early 20th-century tenant farm community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 1600 acres

Quadrangle name Maplesville E

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

1	6	5	1	8	7	6	0	3	6	3	0	3	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B

1	6	5	1	9	2	6	0	3	6	2	6	3	6	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C

1	6	5	1	9	2	7	0	3	6	2	5	9	3	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D

1	6	5	1	8	2	2	0	3	6	2	5	3	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

E

1	6	5	1	5	7	4	0	3	6	2	7	5	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

F

1	6	5	1	6	7	5	0	3	6	2	9	5	5	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

G

1	6	5	1	7	5	5	0	3	6	3	0	4	8	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

H

Zone	Easting				Northing									

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Shirley Qualls/Cultural Resources Coordinator

organization Alabama Historical Commission

date May 28, 1987

street & number 725 Monroe Street

telephone 205 261-3184

city or town Montgomery

state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 9-9-87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date

10-15-87

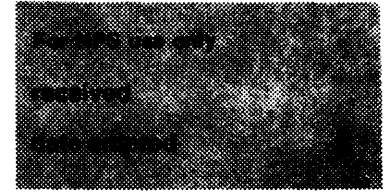
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The bulk of acreage that is associated with the Walker-Klinner Farm during its formative period was acquired by William White between 1820 and 1831. White's landholdings in this area, according to the Bureau of Land Management Records, exceeded 600 acres that now encompass the farm and its surrounding area. White constructed a house approximately 50 feet northeast of the site of the 1890 house, and by 1850, he had become locally recognized as a prominent planter and landowner with two boarders--a physician and a tailor.

The northernmost section of the farm's present acreage, situated in the southern half of Section 7, includes and adjoins the original site of Maplesville during the early 19th century.

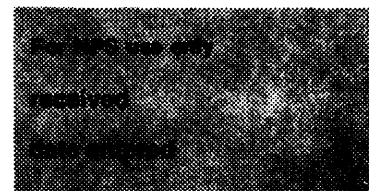
Local historians state that Old Maplesville was a stage coach relief stop at the intersection of two important and early state roads. Running north and south was the Elyton Road which extended from Elyton (Birmingham) to Selma; and running east and west was the Fort Jackson Road, which extended from Ft. Jackson (at Wetumpka) to Tuscaloosa. In 1826 when the State Capitol was moved from Cahawba to Tuscaloosa, the traffic on the Fort Jackson Road increased considerably. Often called the "high-and-dry road," it was this early south-central throughfare that led William Walker, the farm's second owner, to discover and eventually purchase the property.

Born in 1812, William Walker was the son of Hugh (1777-1821) and Margaret Carroll (1782-1831) Walker of Mecklinburg County, North Carolina. By 1844 Walker had moved to Prattville, Alabama and had married Sarah Virginia Shelton (1827-1874), the daughter of prominent planter Stephen (1797-1860) and Martha Graves Shelton who were both early settlers of Prattville.

Although it has been often said that Walker's attraction to the Old Maplesville area farm was the beauty of the land, it may also be deduced that he was aware of the movement to revive a late-1830s rail line which was projected to link north and south Alabama. This effort to connect the Alabama River at Selma with Tennessee was initiated in 1836 by the Selma and Tennessee Railroad Company, and revived in 1850 by the Alabama and Tennessee Railroad. Recognized as one of the most important and earliest railway enterprises in the state, the pre-1850 project exploded with the state banks panic. The grading of the road extended only as far as Plantersville, approximately 15 miles south of Old Maplesville. The 1850s revival of this line corresponded with the state's economic flush preceding the Civil War and by 1853, the track laying had reached the Coosa River. Up to 1854, the active section of the line ran 55 miles between Selma and Montevallo, bypassing Old Maplesville as the center point of operation by three miles. In 1856 the Maplesville Post Office was relocated three miles west, providing it better access to the railroad. Almost without delay, the town followed, abandoning the stage line access for closer proximity to the rail line.

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Walker, probably foreseeing the advantages of road, rail and river transportation access for his cotton crop, acquired White's 1300-plus landholdings in 1853 when White reportedly moved to Oklahoma. By 1854, Walker had purchased the additional 240 acres situated south of Benson Creek, bringing the total acreage up to approximately 1600 acres. The boundaries of the farm have remained the same since this period.

Typical of planters during the period, Walker raised cotton, and local accounts report that much of his crop was shipped abroad to England. He also raised horses and mules and was involved in horse racing. Evidence of a race track has been found in the lower northwest portion of Section 18, just west of Mulberry Creek.

Northeast of the residence is a board and batten tenant house with evidence of a cemetery at the rear. Oral accounts revealed that a church and cemetery established during the mid-19th century for the plantation slaves initially occupied the site. Margaret, the eldest Walker sibling, conducted school at the old church for the children of the Walker Farm tenant farmers. Following the Civil War, the church and a new cemetery were established at the site of Old Maplesville.

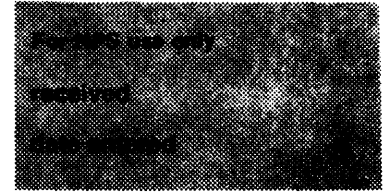
In 1890 the "Chilton View," a local newspaper, highlighted the construction of the new Walker House stating that Billy Walker, Walker's oldest son, had borrowed \$3,000 from a Mr. Pattillo to build one of the county's finest homes. At that time, William Walker, his bachelor son Billy and his two maiden daughters, Sally and Margaret, occupied the property. Additionally, there were approximately 11 tenant farmers supervised by Ed Allison, a black man employed as the overseer.

Upon completion of the new residence, Billy and his sisters moved into the new house. Their father refused to move and remained in the old house until it burned. Shortly after (Jan., 1891), William Walker died.

Oliver Walker, a descendant of the Walkers, reported to the present owners that Billy Walker inherited the entire Walker estate after his father's death. Billy would always have his crops planted carefully in conjunction with the calendar and the moon. He sold timber from his land, raised hogs, beef cattle and dairy cows. Slaughtered meat was stored in a 10-foot high smokehouse which measured approximately 16 x 16 feet. Former tenants report that Walker sold them meat and provided milk for them from the dairy cows; and that the overseer, with the aid of a typewriter, had charge of the farm's bookkeeping responsibilities.

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Several cotton gins and sawmill sites have been located on the property. The concrete base for a sawmill steam engine has been located along the bank of Benson Creek in the south central section of the property. The remnants of the engine were intact as late as 1982. The existence of an 1820 grist mill, documented by local histories as being situated along the northern section of Mulberry Creek in the southeast portion of Section 7, has been located. The mill was dismantled in 1910, but vertically placed timbers resembling a dam, remnants of an axial, a main shaft and a drive shaft have been found and retained. Land management records list Cornelius Cox as owner of this parcel of land in the 1820s, but local histories state that Daniel Williams constructed the dam to furnish power for a grist and flour mill which he built and operated.

The Walkers were considered eccentric in many ways; and as the three unmarried siblings aged, they became more and more peculiar. For example, Walker and his sisters refused to drink well water; instead, they walked half a mile to the mineral spring. The two Walker sisters slept in the same bed, yet they often refused to speak for months at a time. Each of the sisters and Walker had their own refrigerator, often stocked with only a glass of water; and each of the Walkers required delivery of an individual newspaper daily.

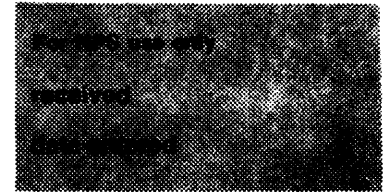
Billy Walker's favorite attestation to his wealth was "I never spent a dollar foolishly in my life." Although Walker very wisely kept a large stock of food and bolts of cloth, it is reported that he once purchased a frilly pink baby buggy for no apparent reason. He always maintained the area's best team of horses and is said to have spent money on women lavishly during rendezvous to Selma. Shortly after 1919, Walker bought an automobile which most often was driven by his female companions or young men he hired to chauffeur him and his dates. During the late 1920s the concrete and wire fence was erected in front of the house, and electricity was installed.

Billy Walker and his sisters remained in the house until their deaths. Billy died in 1940 at the age of 88. He left all the farm equipment and the house to his sisters. The land was inherited by the Walker grandchildren. Three years later, Margaret died at the age of 94; and in 1948 Sallie died at the age of 93.

Throughout the 1950s the house was occupied by Zacharial Taylor Abney, the son of Molly Walker Abney, the youngest Walker daughter. In 1951 E. L. Klinner (b. 1900), a furniture dealer since 1922, acquired the property. He recalls that at the time he purchased the 1600-acre farm, there were 30 structures standing--most of which were over 50 years old. Klinner filled in the old well at the house, dug a new well and constructed two concrete block houses and a pump house. He used the 1890 Walker House as a barn from 1951 through 1979 and operated a farm yielding hay, corn, cotton and livestock.

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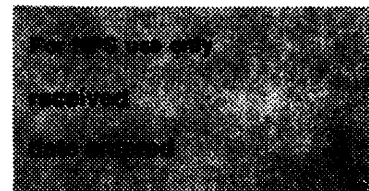
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Following a heart attack in 1973, Klinner leased the land to eight tenants. In 1979 Klinner's son, John, and his wife, Linda, acquired the property and began restoring the house. Ninety-one years after its construction the house was returned to its original splendor. Several outbuildings are being restored and portions of the farm land have been revived with over 200 acres under cultivation, 50 acres used as pasture and more than 1300 retaining a natural stand of timber that is indigenous to the Chilton County area.

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Records in the Office of the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.
Certificates No. 3,687, No. 2869, No. 7,535, No. 3,068, No. 1,375, No. 3,873,
No. 3,926, No. 1,874, No. 3,928, No. 45,966, No. 1873, No. 54,967, No. 54,968,
No. 4,054, No. 4,472, No. 5,311 and No. 24,118.

"Maplesville History," Riff Perry.

1850 Census, Bibb County.

Oral Interview, Frank and Abny Brown.

Deed abstracts.

Oral Interview, Oliver Walker.

Oral Interview, Lonie Wilson.

1860 Census, Bibb County.

"Chilton View," 1890.

Oral Interview, Joann Wyatt.

Oral Interview, Archie Campbell.

Oral Interview, E. L. Klinner, Sr.

Oral Interview, Henry Coleman.

Oral Interview, Ernest Grooms.

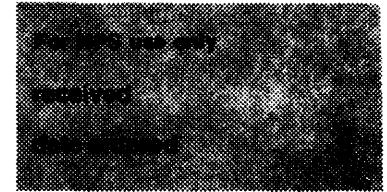
Oral Interview, J. D. Allison.

Oral Interview, Carol Coburn.

Oral Interview, Annie Lee Hayes, Nurse.

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VBD - Walker-Klinner Farm

W 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Sec. 8, T. 21, R. 13; NW 1/4 of NW 1/4 situated N of Hwy. 22 in Sec. 17, T. 21, R. 13; N 1/2, and the SE 1/4 and E 1/2 of SW 1/4 of Sec. 18, T. 21, R. 13; N 1/2, N 1/2 of SE 1/4 and SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 19, T. 21, R. 13; N 1/2 of NW 1/4 of Sec. 29, T. 21, R. 13; E 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Sec. 20, T. 21, R. 13; N 1/2 of Sec. 24, T. 21, R. 12; SE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec. 13, T. 21, R. 12; and the SE 1/4, and all of the SE 1/4 of SW 1/4 lying E of Mulberry Creek in Sec. 7, T. 21, R. 13, All land being situated in Chilton County, Alabama and being all of the real estate known as the Billy Walker Home Place; Said real estate containing 1,600 acres, more or less. (See red line drawn on the attached scaled topo map.)

