

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Eddins, Joel, House

other names/site number Walker, Glenn and Wanda, House

2. Location

street & number Rt. 2 Box 95 not for publication N/A  
city or town Ardmore vicinity N/A  
state Alabama code AL county Limestone code 083 zip code 35739

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination      request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant      nationally      statewide X locally. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] July 18, 1996  
Signature of certifying official Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property      meets      does not meet the National Register criteria. (      See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
✓ entered in the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined eligible for the National Register  
     See continuation sheet.  
     determined not eligible for the National Register  
     removed from the National Register  
     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall 9-12-96

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

Property Name Eddins, Joel, House

County and State Limestone County, Alabama

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Vacant Sub: Single dwelling

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Property Name Eddins, Joel, House

County and State Limestone County, Alabama

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: hall-and-parlor

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Wood, Brick

roof Metal

walls Weatherboard, Asphalt

other \_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance c. 1810 - c. 1930

Significant Dates c. 1810 c. 1910 c. 1930

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Eddins, Joel

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain significance on continuation sheet/s.)

Property Name Eddins, Joel, House

County and State Limestone County, Alabama

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 28 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	516730	3870990	C	16	517160 3870990
B	16	516790	3870740	D	16	517340 3870760
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.						

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nixon Williams, Ed Hooker, Patrick McIntyre, and Trina Binkley/AHC Reviewer

organization Alabama Historical Commission date May 28, 1996

street & number 468 South Perry Street telephone 334/242-3184

city or town Montgomery state AL zip code 36130-0900

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Eddins, Joel, House

County and State Limestone County, Alabama

=====  
Additional Documentation  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====  
Property Owner  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Glenn and Wanda Walker

street & number 28305 Shannon Drive telephone 205/423-5467 (H)

205/423-2685 (W)

city or town Ardmore state AL zip code 35739

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Eddins, Joel, House  
Limestone County, Alabama Page #1  
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Description

The Joel Eddins house is located on twenty-eight acres of rural land outside of the city of Ardmore in Limestone County in the Highland Rim region of north central Alabama. The Eddins house is situated very near the Alabama-Tennessee state line among rolling hills that are both cultivated and forested. An early, now sunken, roadbed framed by aged oak, cedar, and pecan trees leads to the house which is situated in a small clearing. A mixed pine and hardwood grove lies to the north and northeast of the clearing, with Limestone Creek defining the most northeast border of the property. The circa 1810 house lies virtually in the center of the property with a circa 1910 transverse barn southeast of the house. The log home has gone through few changes since its original construction, making it a rare example of early-nineteenth-century vernacular architecture in Alabama.

The one-and one-half story, rectangular-shaped house contains a hall-and-parlor core with a circa 1930 full rear and partial eastern side shed addition. The original core building contains a log pier and continuous brick foundation, while the addition is supported by brick piers. The structural system of the original core is hand hewn poplar log with dovetail notching. The entire exterior of the original core is clad in hand-hewn wood weatherboards, but during the middle part of the twentieth century the building was covered with asphalt sheeting to create a false brick veneer pattern. The later addition is frame covered by vertical boards and asphalt sheeting. The original core building roof is gabled with a single popular log ridge beam spanning the entire house. The log beam and rafters are mortised, tenoned, and pegged together. The current roofing material on the entire structure, including the shed addition and porch, is standing seam metal. Cornice plates are evident on both gable ends. Originally there were single chimneys centered on the gable ends of the original building. Over time both were removed and changed. The eastern chimney opening was replaced by a door and the western chimney was rebuilt out of brick (circa 1930s).

The circa 1930s "L"-shaped wooden porch is located around the south and east sides of the house. The dropped shed roof is supported by square wooden posts of recent vintage. A small northeast section of the porch was enclosed and used as a kitchen.

The front (south) facade includes an off-center entrance adjacent to a window on the western end and a single window on the eastern end. These double hung wood windows have a four-over-four pane configuration. The original front door is constructed of vertical boards bound at the top and bottom by a horizontal board. The door also contains its original forged strap hinges and 19th-century box locks. The remaining windows on the first floor of the house are also four-over-four double hung wood: two on the west elevation, and two (out of three) on the north elevation. The exception to this is the eastern most window on the north elevation and the pair of windows on the east elevation which are two-over-two.

The main facade entrance into this hall-and-parlor plan house has a low entrance door which leads to a room measuring 15 feet 6 inches by 18 feet. This "hall" room, used as a general eating and living space, has log walls covered with wallpaper and double-beaded ceiling beams covered with plywood and wallpaper. This western room also has a late 19th century nine inch high baseboard and a fireplace mantle. The circa 1900 mantle has a shelf supported by scrolled brackets as well as applied scrolled decorative details. A small molded trim was placed at the ceiling line. Centered on the north and east walls are original doors constructed like the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number   7   Eddins, Joel, House Limestone County, Alabama Page #2  
=====

front facade entry door. In the northeast corner of the "hall" room is a small quarter turn stairway leading to an upper room of equal size.

East of this "hall" room, separated by a log partition, is the 12 by 18 foot "parlor" room which was used as a more formal space or as a bedroom. This room is treated in the same manner as the "hall" room, except for the double beaded ceiling beams which are exposed. Centered original doors are located on the east and north walls. Another separate quarter turn staircase leading to the upper level is located in the northwest corner of the room. Two steps lead up to a door that accesses the stairway.

The circa 1930s rear and side frame shed addition is divided into three rooms including a bathroom and small kitchen. The interior of this addition contains vertical board walls and a beaded board ceiling. The panelled wood doors are centrally located on each interior wall. An exterior door opens out onto the side porch.

The upper floor is made up of two nonconnecting rooms, identical in size to the first floor hall-and-parlor rooms. The rooms are divided by a partition wall. This wall is composed of a four foot high log base with a small beaded shelf and tongue and groove vertical boards above it extending to the ceiling. Each room is accessed from the first floor by a separate staircase that opens up onto the upper floor. The stairway opening is surrounded by a slatted railing and a full height chamfered post. The log walls in the upper floor extend approximately four feet high and are then connected to the rising gable roof. The log wall surfaces are covered with newspaper. The ceiling is exposed showing the rafters and purlins. Each upper story gable end contains two small four-pane wood windows, located on either side of the early fireplaces (only the western chimney remains).

The only remaining substantial outbuilding is a circa 1910 frame transverse barn. Transverse barns contain a central open aisle flanked by aisles of cribs and pens. The Eddins transverse barn also contains a northern shed addition. The barn is a one and one-half story frame structure covered vertical boards with an upper floor hay loft.

**Archaeological Component**

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens and other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8

Eddins, Joel, House  
Limestone County, Alabama

Page #3

Criterion C: Architecture

The Joel Eddins House is significant under Criterion C as being an excellent example of a hall-and-parlor house, an early form rarely seen in Alabama. The hall-and-parlor style, defined as one- or one-and-one-half story structure with two asymmetrical rooms, has its origins in medieval England and was first constructed in this country by the early settlers of the mid-Atlantic states. As these settlers and their descendants moved from the Tidewater regions of coastal Virginia and the Carolinas into areas further inland, they sometimes constructed hall-and-parlor homes, although the style declined in popularity by the mid-nineteenth century. Today it is estimated that fewer than twelve unaltered examples of this type are left in the state. Another good representative of a hall-and-parlor plan in Alabama is the Dr. William E. Murphy House located in nearby Morgan County (NR 7/9/86).

Written and physical evidence suggest that the log core of this home was constructed in 1810, making it one of the earliest standing structures remaining in Alabama. The use of small window openings once covered by shutters rather than glass, double-beaded first floor ceiling beams, roof supports which are mortised and pegged together, and intact interior woodwork with hand-forged metal hinges are evidence that this house is an important early example of American domestic vernacular architecture. Its circa 1930s rear and side addition and the front "L"-shaped porch also document later expansion and remodeling efforts characteristic of rural homes. As electricity and plumbing were added to homes, owners typically constructed rear additions to house for kitchens and bathrooms.

Historical Summary:

Joel Eddins came to Alabama about 1810 from the Abbeville District in South Carolina. Joel was a son of the Virginia-born Theophilus Eddins (1710-1784), who was the son of William Eddins. Theophilus Eddins migrated with his wife Elizabeth and their children to South Carolina some years before the American Revolution, where they settled in the Abbeville District. Theophilus died in South Carolina, but his brother Benjamin, a Revolutionary War veteran, was an early settler of this area of Alabama with his nephew Joel.

At that time the area around Ardmore was located in Madison County, presently situated east of Limestone County. Joel Eddins bought the property on which the house stands along with sixteen surrounding acres on June 23, 1810. It is believed that the house was constructed soon after this purchase. Joel died in 1836, survived by his wife Judith and seven of their eight children.

Some eight years after Eddins' death (1844), the property was sold to Joseph Dawson, who kept the house and land for less than a year before selling it to William Dawson. In 1846 Littleberry Freeman and David Watkins purchased the property, which by that time encompassed some 400 acres. In 1859 the property was bought by Thomas Wesley Shannon (1822-1901). The 1860 census for Limestone County indicates that Shannon was living in the house with his wife and three children as well as his elderly parents. The Shannon family had originally settled in North Carolina before coming to Alabama. The property remained in the family until 1977, when Glenn and Wanda A. Walker bought a twenty-eight acre parcel which included the Eddins home.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9, 10 Eddins, Joel, House  
Limestone County, Alabama Page #4

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**Bibliographical References**

1. Axford, Faye, and Whitehorn, David. Limestone County, Alabama Cemeteries. Athens, Alabama: 1978, p. 74.
2. Axford, Faye; Edwards, Chris. The Lure and Lore of Limestone County. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: Portals Press, 1979, pp. 71-72.
3. Axford, Faye. Personal Communication with Patrick McIntyre; November 9, 1995.
4. Gamble, Robert. Personal communication with Patrick McIntyre; January 11, 1996.
5. Gamble, Robert. Historic Architecture in Alabama: A Primer of Styles and Types, 1810-1930. Tuscaloosa, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 1990, p.5.
6. Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1968, pp. 65-66.
7. Historical Information compiled by Glenn and Wanda A. Walker.
8. Limestone County, Alabama, 1860 Census.
9. McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984, pp. 60-75.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Joel Eddins house and property lies in the northeast part of the SW 1/4 of Section 2, Township 1, Range 3 West, map and parcel number 44-01-01-02-00-000-034.000.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated boundaries include the house, barn, road, fields, and forest historically associated with the Joel Eddins house that is currently under single ownership.

United States Department of the Interior  
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

Eddins, Joel, House

Limestone County, Alabama

Page # 5

Section number Photographs

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Eddins, Joel, House

Rt. 2 Box 95

Ardmore, AL

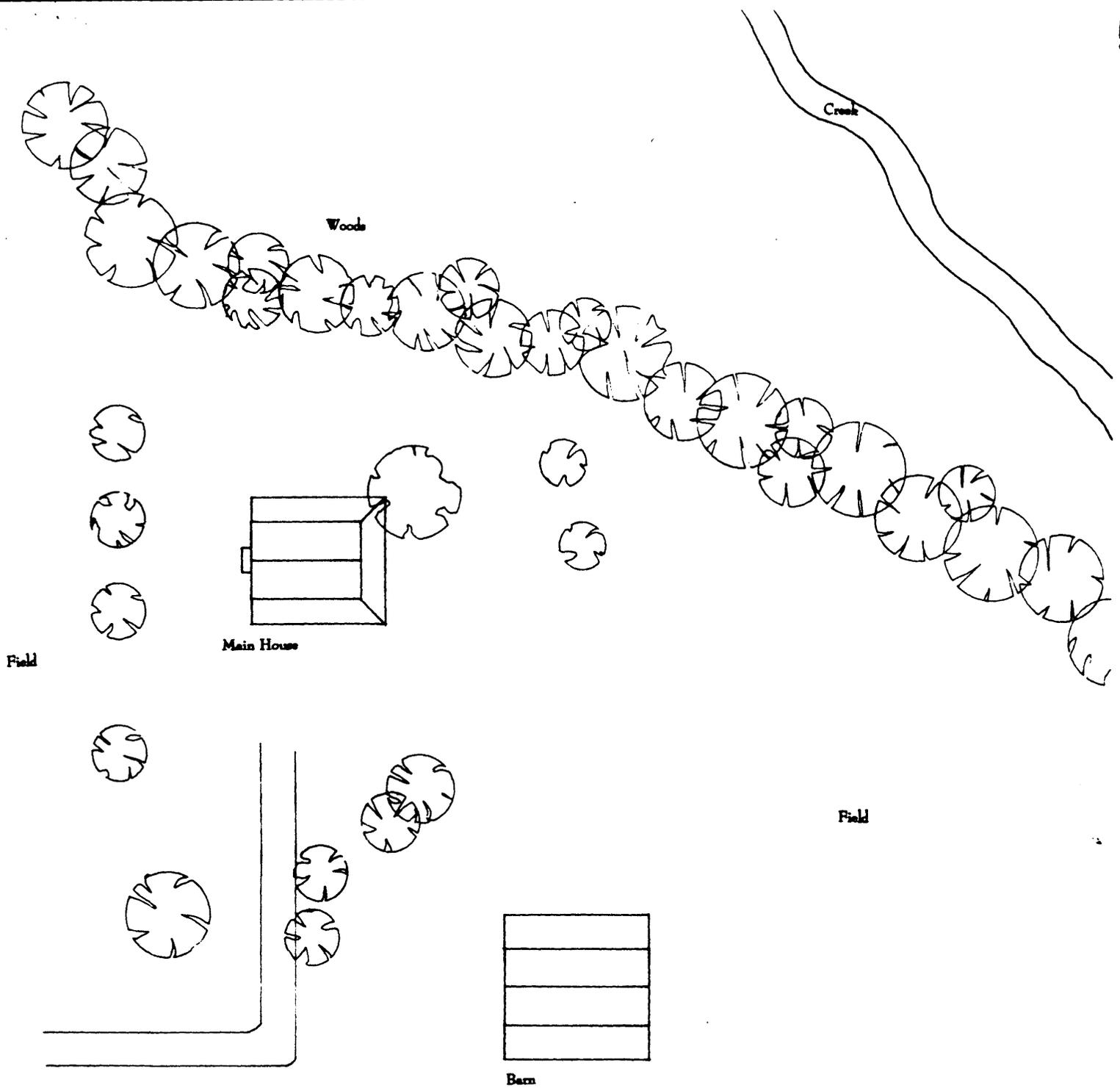
Limestone County

Ed Hooker and Patrick McIntyre, Alabama Historical Commission, Photographers

May 1996

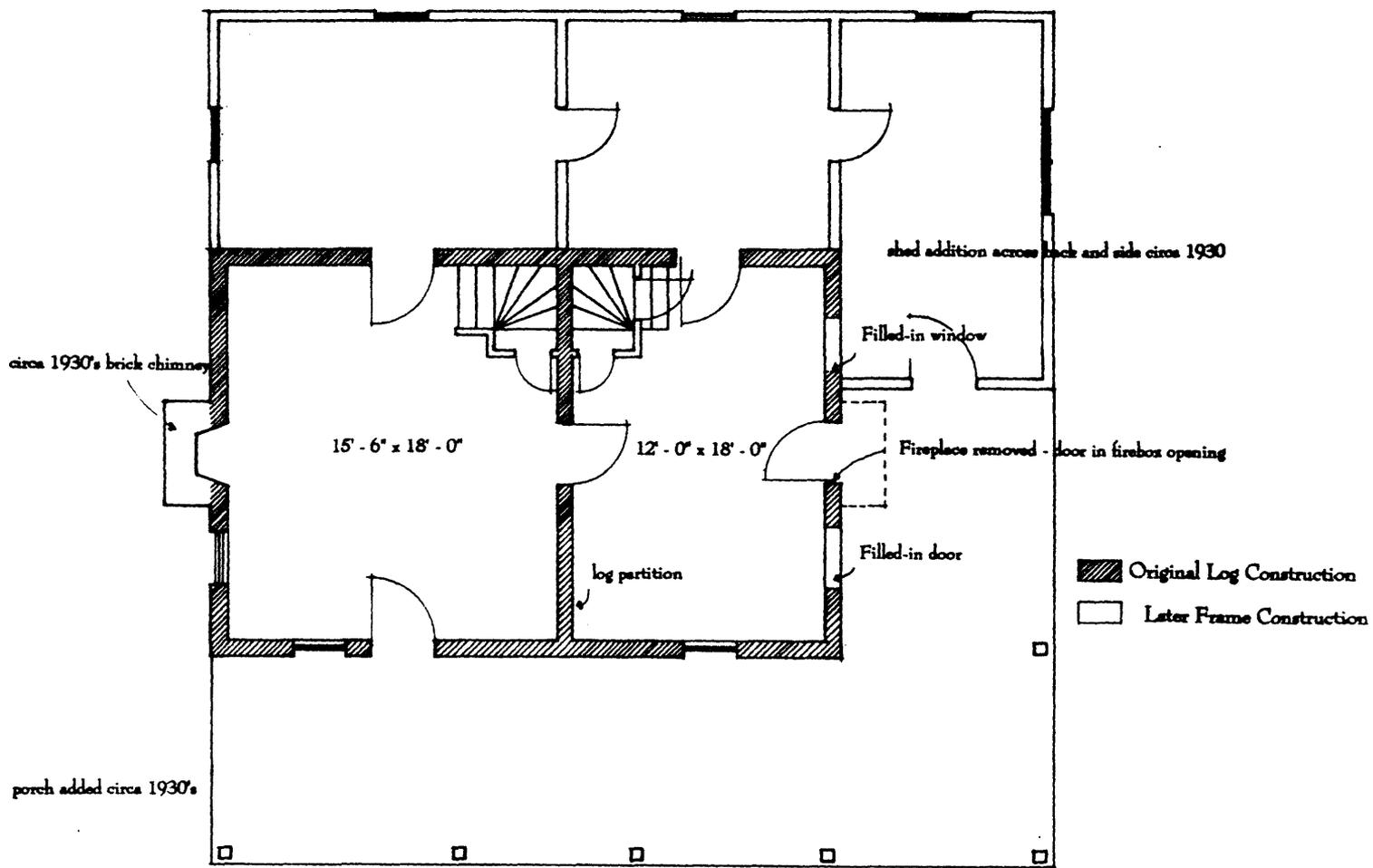
Negatives at Alabama Historical Commission

- 1) Front facade and east elevation, looking northwest.
- 2) North and east elevations looking southwest.
- 3) North and west elevations looking southeast.
- 4) West elevation looking east.
- 5) West elevation chimney looking east.
- 6) Southeast corner looking northwest.
- 7) Front facade interior forged hinge detail looking south.
- 8) West "hall" room mantle detail looking west.
- 9) West "hall" room stairway detail looking east.
- 10) West "hall" room interior rear door forged latch looking north.
- 11) East "parlor" room interior double beaded ceiling beam.
- 12) Exterior front facade door forged handle looking north.
- 13) Upper story east room stairway opening, railing, and post looking northwest.
- 14) Upper story east room log and vertical board partition wall looking west.
- 15) Upper story east room log ridge beam.
- 16) Transverse barn looking east.



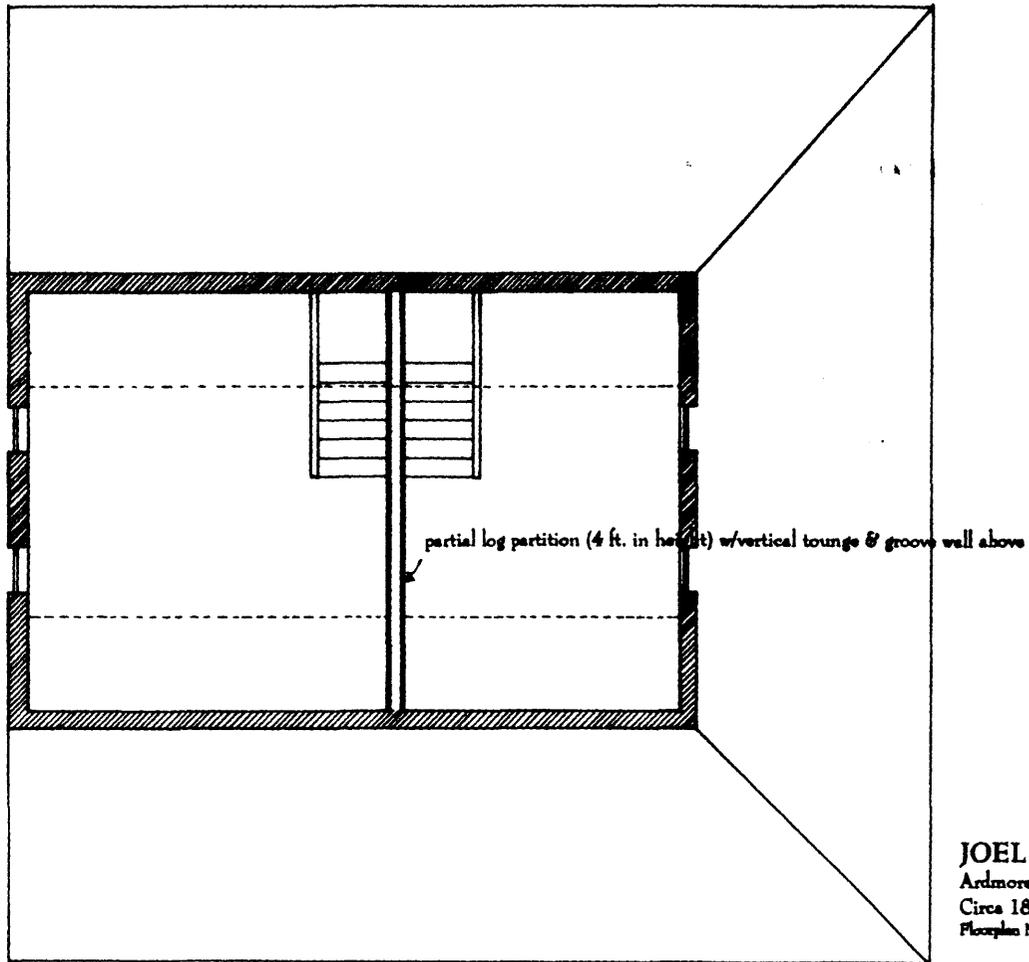
**JOEL EDDINS HOUSE**  
 Ardmore, Alabama  
 Circa 1810

**Site Plan**  
 Not To Scale



**JOEL EDDINS HOUSE**  
 Ardmore, Alabama  
 Circa 1810  
 Floorplan Not To Scale

First Floor Plan



JOEL EDDINS HOUSE  
 Ardmore, Alabama  
 Circa 1810  
 Floorplan Not To Scale

Second Floor Plan