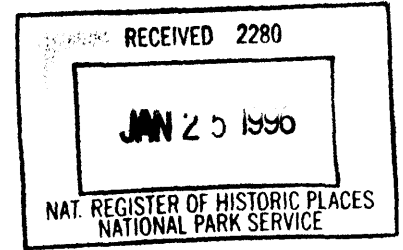


167

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead

other names/site number Snellgrove-Sparks Homestead

2. Location

street & number 515 East Mann Ave./310 Mill Ave. not for publication N/A
city or town Boaz vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Marshall code 095 zip code 35957

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] 1/10/96
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 R. Beall 2/23/99

Entered in the
National Register

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead

County and State Marshall 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

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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)

Table with 2 columns: Cat, Sub. Entries: Domestic, single dwelling, secondary structure.

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Table with 2 columns: Cat, Sub. Entries: Domestic, single dwelling, secondary structure.

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

roof Asbestos

walls Wood

Brick

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 1900-1938

Significant Dates 1900

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Snellgrove, Thomas A. (both)

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

Property Name Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead

County and State Marshall 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) N/A

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 2.5 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>576930</u>	<u>3784600</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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 Pamela Sterne King & AHC Reviewer

organization N/A date July 14, 1995

street & number 1816 Nothingham Drive telephone 205-823-1679

city or town Birmingham state AL zip code 35216

USDI/NPS Registration Form

Property Name Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead

County and State Marshall 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 Lucile Snellgrove Wright

street & number 515 East Mann Ave. telephone 205-593-5927

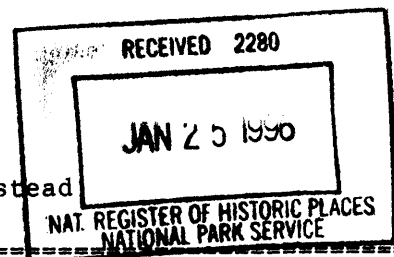
city or town Boaz state AL zip code 35957

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Thomas A. Snellgrove Homestead
Marshall County, Alabama



PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION--MATERIALS CONTINUED

foundation--brick
walls--concrete
roof--slate and tin

7. Historic and Current Condition of the District:

The proposed Snellgrove Homestead Historic District is a homestead development within the city limits of Boaz, Alabama. It is comprised of all the remaining Snellgrove homestead property which is approximately 2.5 acres, and consists of five contributing buildings and zero non-contributing buildings or sites. The topography is essentially flat, with shrubbery and trees typical to residential sites; agricultural segments are now overgrown with weeds. The contributing properties include the Thomas Alexander and Elizabeth M. Sparks Williamson Snellgrove House, a tenant house, a garage, a warehouse, and the Tomie Snellgrove Gaines House. There is a driveway that runs the length of the district which separates the residential buildings from the utilitarian.

The district is located in the heart of Boaz which historically was surrounded by residential neighborhoods with the historic commercial district nearby. Since the 1970s, however, large scale outlet mall development has encroached into this residential enclave so that the Snellgrove Homestead is virtually bounded on its south side by this development. The proposed district is bounded to the north, east, and west sides by potentially historic residences built mostly in the 1910s and 20s.

The contributing properties document important development phases of the Snellgrove homestead from 1900, when the first structure was built, until 1938 when the last structure was built. Primarily due to obsolescence, additional structures were demolished between 1900 and 1938 including the original barn/stables/chicken coops, wooden carriage house (replaced by a garage, c. 1925, Inventory #5), smokehouse/shower-bath, original servant's house, skating rinks, and tennis courts. All contributing buildings are in their original location with the exception of Inventory #4, which was constructed in the 1920s of wood from the original barn and moved on rollers to its present location a couple of years later. Even so, Inventory #4 has been located on its present site for over 50 years.

All contributing properties are in good to fair condition. The centerpiece of the district, the Snellgrove House, has been occupied by members of the Snellgrove family since it was constructed. Today, the daughter of the original owners occupies and maintains the house. The tenant's house remains virtually intact in its original condition but has been vacant for many years; it is in fair condition. Both the warehouse and garage remain virtually intact in fair condition, and are used for storage. The Tomie Snellgrove Gaines House has been occupied by the Snellgroves' great granddaughter, Mandane Noel, since 1992, when Ms. Gaines died, and it is in good condition. The proposed Snellgrove Homestead Historic District, therefore, consists of most of the original homestead and remains virtually intact.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7

Page 2

Thomas A. Snellgrove Homestead
Marshall County, Alabama

=====

Inventory of Contributing Properties:

1. Snellgrove House, 1900, 515 East Mann Avenue.

Two-story, wood frame structure. It was designed in a vernacular Greek Revival Architectural style prevalent in the Georgia Piedmont during the mid-19th century. There is a low pitched, hip roof, 3 stone chimneys, a rock foundation, and a two-tiered, full-width porch with 4 pillars on each level. The second story porch retains a decorative wood railing; the first floor porch has a beaded wood ceiling and cement floor (renovated c. 1954). The interior is mostly intact with eight original mantels, stair, floors, light fixtures and door knobs. The floor plan consists of a central hall with three rooms on each side of the hall on each floor. There is a central, front framed, transomed entranceway with its original door, carved glass and knobs; upstairs is a less decorative transomed entrance with side lights. Original one-over-one wood windows (with original glass) flank both the upstairs and downstairs entrances. Additional original wood windows remain throughout; original wood screens also remain throughout. Original vine hooks remain along the front porch which were used to hang vines and protect the house and residents from dust. On the west side of the main house is an attached carport (c.1954).

2. Tenant's House to the rear of Snellgrove House, c. 1915.

Double entried stone and wood structure with front oriented gable roof and vented horizontal wood soffit. Original four-over-four wood windows flank the double door entry. There is a shed-roofed porch with two original decorative wood columns and one replacement column. Rear entry is identical to the front. The gabled roof has extended eaves with exposed rafters.

3. Tomie Snellgrove Gaines House, 1938, 310 Mill Avenue.

One- and one-half-story brick, English-influenced cottage with a side gabled slate roof and a long, front shed-roofed dormer with 2 paired windows. Original wood windows remain intact. A rear bedroom was added c. 1941; and a decorative columned wood carport and side porch were added in c. 1954, both of which maintain the integrity of the original structure.

4. Warehouse to the rear of the Snellgrove House, c. 1925 - 1930. Built of wood from original Homestead barn. Rock foundation piers remain as well as the original tin, gable roof with extended eaves and exposed wood rafters.

5. Garage to the rear of the Snellgrove House, c. 1925. Concrete block and wood structure with front gabled, tin roof and massive tin garage doors. There is a wood storage addition to the rear of the garage.

Archaeology Component:

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made at 515 East Mann/310 Mill Avenue, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Buried portions located on properties of this type may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

RECEIVED

JAN 5 1996

OSM Approval No. 1024-0018
Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead
Marshall - Alabama

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Ala. Historical Commission

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

8. Statement of Significance:

The Snellgrove Homestead Historic District is being nominated to the National Register on the basis of Criterion C, Architecture. It consists of every remaining building associated with the Snellgrove Homestead which was built between 1900 and 1938. As such, it is the earliest intact homestead remaining in Boaz, and the only extant residential reminder of the Snellgrove family. The main residence (Inventory #1) is believed to be the oldest house in the City of Boaz and is a rare example for the area of vernacular Greek Revival architecture which was prevalent in the Georgia Piedmont during the mid-19th Century where the Snellgroves originated from. The late, vernacular interpretation of the Greek Revival style as articulated in the Snellgrove House persisted in Boaz in 1900 for at least two compelling reasons. First of all, the Greek Revival was a popular style in the mid-nineteenth century Georgia Piedmont where the Snellgroves emigrated from. Secondly, in the post-Civil War South, the Greek Revival style harkened back to a glorious, antebellum period in the Southern imagination. The Greek Revival style was thus an architectural metaphor for the "Old South" and the Cult of the Lost Cause which many Southerners perpetuated at the turn of the century. Additional buildings represent a rare example in Alabama of 1910s tenant quarters (Inventory #2), a rare example in Boaz of an English influenced cottage (Inventory #3), and good examples of utilitarian farm related architecture (Inventory #4 and #5).

Although not being nominated for its associations with significant Boaz residents or for its documentation of the early settlement of Boaz, the Snellgrove Homestead Historic District is distinguished by its association with Thomas A. Snellgrove and Elizabeth Mandane Sparks Williamson Snellgrove, members of two of the early pioneering families in Boaz. Descendants of these families remain prominent in Boaz life today.

Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead
Marshall - Alabama

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Historical Development:

The history of the development of the Snellgrove - Sparks Homestead reflects the earliest history of Boaz, Alabama. Until 1818 the Sand Mountain region of North central Alabama was possessed by Indians who were then forced to give up their land near the Tennessee River. In 1835, a treaty with the U. S. government forced them west of the Mississippi River, and in 1836, Marshall County was created from part of this land by legislative decree. With the Indians removed, white settlement would soon begin.¹

From 1844 - 1860 the first rush of white settlers traveled to the region. Marion, James T., and William W. (Billy) Sparks were among them, arriving in the area in 1855 and purchasing land in what is now downtown Boaz. From 1860 - 1877, the Civil War and its aftermath virtually ended migration. In 1877 migration resumed, and in 1878, a caravan of pioneers came to the lush Sand Mountain area from Butte County, Georgia. The caravan master, Billy Sparks, left Georgia on November 1, 1878 where his family had been planters and slaveholders prior to the Civil War. Accompanying Sparks were 41 men, women, and children, as well as two dogs, 11 wagons, and one buggy. Four year old Elizabeth Mandane Williamson, granddaughter of Billy and Elizabeth Evans Sparks, was the youngest member of the caravan.² Besides the Sparks were included the Norris, Reason, Thomas, and Windsor families.³

Eleven days later, they arrived in what would become Boaz. When they arrived, there were only two log cabins in the area. One belonged to Bob Sparks (Marion's son), Billy's nephew, who had arrived earlier; Billy moved his family into the other. On November 15, Billy Sparks purchased 500 acres from his nephew for 960 silver dollars. Billy said he would give a lot to anyone who would erect a building, or to anyone who bought a lot. Eventually, Sparks gave land for the First Baptist Church, first public school, first store, and cemetery.⁴

In 1886, town leaders of what had become known as Sparks Town, petitioned the government for a Post Office requesting the name of "Carlyle", a village several miles away. When they discovered that they could not use "Carlyle" they searched for another name, decided on the Biblical name of Boaz, and petitioned the government again. By this time, the new town already had its first school which was located in a log building with split log seating. Its first teacher, Sarah Elizabeth Mandane Sparks Williamson (4 year old Elizabeth's mother), was paid in money or produce. By the same year, Boaz had its first doctor, Dr. John Russell Sparks.⁵

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Section number 8 Page 5

In 1885, the first of the Snellgrove family, John, migrated from Villa Rica, Georgia. Shortly thereafter, his mother, Martha Caroline Cochran Snellgrove, came to Sand Mountain from Villa Rica, Georgia with her six sons; one of these was Thomas Alexander Snellgrove.⁶

In 1895, Elizabeth Mandane Sparks Williamson met and married Thomas Alexander Snellgrove⁷ who had become a planter and drug salesman -- commonly called a "drummer." By then -- in 1892 -- the N.C. and S.L. railroad had come through the area virtually assuring further prosperity and development.⁸ In 1897, the town of Boaz was incorporated, and one year later, the Snellgroves purchased the land that would become the proposed Snellgrove Homestead Historic District.⁹

By 1900, the Snellgroves' house was completed (inventory #1) most of which had been designed and built by Thomas and his brothers. The Snellgroves had five children, three of whom were born in this house: Tomie, Lucile, and Rubie Jo. Henry and Ina Mae were born elsewhere. Life on the homestead was nearly self-contained as the Snellgroves were fearful for their children to go off the homestead too frequently.¹⁰ Consequently, they built for their children skating rinks, a tennis court, rope swings, and croquet fields where family, children, and friends would often gather. In addition, the Snellgroves built a tenant's house which was later removed and replaced with the present structure (inventory #2), a warehouse, and garage to complete their ability to live, work, and recreate on this single site.¹¹

As active and prominent members of Boaz, the Snellgrove family performed many jobs that were essential to the early development of Boaz. In addition to the above mentioned activities of the Sparks family, T. A. Snellgrove was a planter who had significant farm holdings in the Sand Mountain/Guntersville area. He also owned T. A. Snellgrove Hardware Store, the Dixie Hotel, and several additional commercial buildings in downtown Boaz. Today, the Dixie Hotel and three commercial structures remain. Other Snellgrove and Sparks family members were doctors, farmers, merchants, carpenters, and grist mill operators.¹²

In 1948, Thomas A. Snellgrove died at the Dixie Hotel. Five years later, Elizabeth Snellgrove died at her homestead residence.¹³ Today, their daughter, Lucille Snellgrove Wright, age 92, still resides in the main house; her sister Tomie Snellgrove Gaines, lived behind her from 1938 when the house (Inventory # 3) was built until her death in 1992. Now, Lucille's granddaughter, Mandane Noel, occupies the Gaines house.¹⁴

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Footnotes

1. Alexander, Jo, The History of Boaz, Alabama. Boaz Chamber of Commerce, c. 1970, p.1.
2. Ibid, pp.1-4; Roberts, Dr. Francis and Harvie P. Jones, Tarcog Preliminary Historical - Architectural Survey, Huntsville, 1974, pp. 302, 310-14.
3. Hunter, Ina Mae Snellgrove, Mama Was A Pioneer, Boaz; c.1970s, p.4. Mrs. Lucile Snellgrove Wright's son-in-law, Don Noel, is the great grandson of Mrs. Willie Norris Noel.
4. Wright, Lucile Snellgrove, Boaz Builds by Biographies. Boaz; Boaz Printing Company, 1983, et.al. pp. 302-310-14, Allen, Catherine B., Seeing God on the Mountain. Birmingham: Commercial Printing Company, 1994, p.5.
5. Alexander, The History of Boaz. p.5-6.
6. Wright, Boaz Builds by Biography, p.302.
7. Wright, Lucile Snellgrove interview, 1995, by Gail Noel, 1995.
8. Alexander, The History of Boaz, p.10.
9. Ibid.
10. Hunter, Mama Was a Pioneer, et. al.
11. Wright, Lucile Snellgrove, Interview; Noel, Gail, Interview.
12. Wright, Boaz Builds by Biographies, et. al.; Allen, Serving God on the Mountain, et. al.
13. Hunter, Mama Was a Pioneer, p.18.
14. Noel, Gail, Interview, 1995, by Pamela S. King.

Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead
Marshall - Alabama

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 7

9. Bibliography

- Alexander, Jo. The History of Boaz, Alabama, Boaz; Boaz Chamber of Commerce, c.1970.
- Allen, Catherine B. Serving God on the Mountain. Birmingham: Commercial Printing Company, 1994
- Deeds and Mortgages - Marshall County
- Hunter, Ina Mae Snellgrove. Mama Was a Pioneer, Boaz: c.1970s
- Marshall County Board of Equalization, 1995.
- Noel, Gail. Interview, 1995.
- Roberts, Dr. Frances, and Harvie P. Jones. Tarcog Preliminary Historical-Architectural Survey. Huntsville: June 1974.
- Tract Book - Marshall County
- Wright, Lucile Snellgrove. Boaz Builds by Biographies. Boaz: Boaz Printing Company. 1983.
- Wright, Lucile Snellgrove. Interview, 1995.
- Wright, Lucile Snellgrove. Personal Archives.

Snellgrove, Thomas A., Homestead
Marshall - Alabama

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 8

Verbal Boundary Description

The proposed Snellgrove-Sparks Homestead Historic District consists of lots 58, 58.01, 58.02, and 59 of Block 3, Snellgrove addition to Boaz.

Boundary Justification

The property consists of all remaining property contained in the Snellgrove, Thomas A. Homestead and which is also owned by the Snellgrove family.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Photos Page 9

Thomas A. Snellgrove Homestead
Marshall County, Alabama

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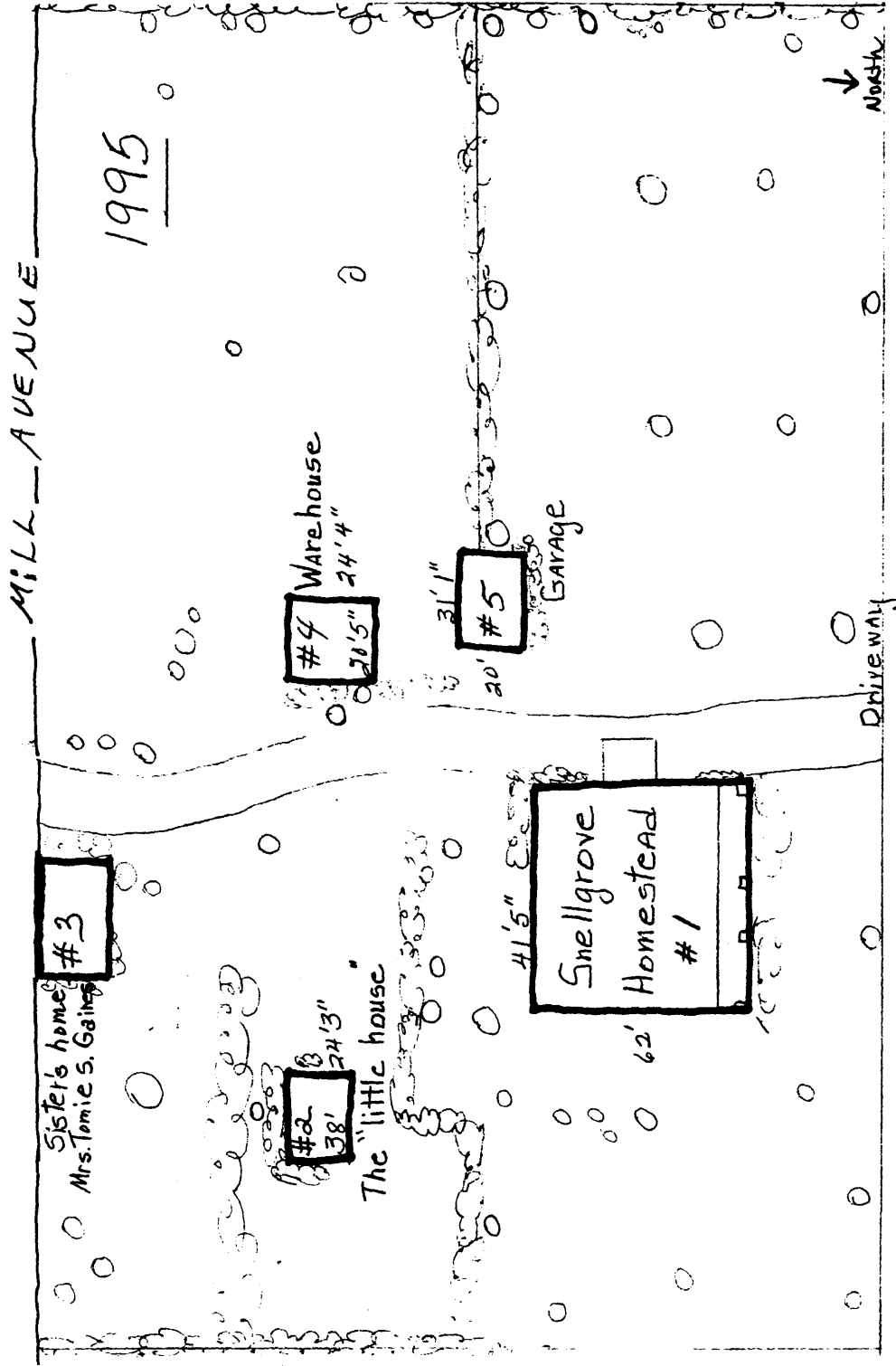
PHOTOGRAPHS:

- 1) Thomas A. Snellgrove Homestead
- 2) Boaz, Marshall County, Alabama
- 3) Photographer: Pamela S. King
- 4) May, 1995
- 5) Location of Negatives: Alabama Historical Commission

The above information refers to all the photographs submitted. Below is a listing of the photographs with descriptions and numbers that correspond to the numbers on the photographs.

- #1 View of front, west side, camera facing SE
- #2 View of rear facade, camera facing NE
- #3 Tenant's house to the rear of Snellgrove house, camera facing SE
- #4 Facade of Tommie Snellgrove Gaines House, 310 Mill Ave., camera facing NE
- #5 Side facade and carport of Tommie Snellgrove Gaines House, camera facing NE
- #6 Warehouse to the rear of Snellgrove house, view of side facade with camera facing NW
- #7 View of front and side facades of Snellgrove house garage, camera facing NW
- #8 Partial view of homestead with camera facing N

Thomas A. Snellgrove Homestead
Marshall County, Alabama



Contributing Property

515 EAST MANN AVENUE