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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

**INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility of individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name James E. Johnson House
other names/site number n.a.

2. Location

street & number 425 West Church Street
city, town Sandersville (n.a.) vicinity of
county Washington code GA 303
state Georgia code GA zip code 31082

(n.a.) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: Buildings Designed by Charles Edward Choate, Constructed in Washington County, Georgia, between 1896 and 1919

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination 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 meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Signature of certifying official

6/9/94
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon
State Historic Preservation Officer,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register

Maq M. [Signature] 7/28/94

() determined eligible for the National Register

() determined not eligible for the National Register

() removed from the National Register

() other, explain:

() see continuation sheet

[Signature] Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Materials:

foundation	brick
walls	wood: weatherboard
roof	asphalt shingle
other	n.a.

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The James E. Johnson House is a one-story, Queen Anne-style, single-family house located on West Church Street near downtown Sandersville.

The one-story frame residence has a hipped and gabled roof covered in composition shingles and a pierced-brick foundation, now infilled. There are two chimneys with corbelled brick work which widen toward the top. The original wood front porch, which wrapped around both sides of the house and incorporated the corner turret (which still exists) on the west side of the front facade, has been replaced by a nonhistoric brick porch on the front of the house. The sides and rear of the house are covered in original lapped wood siding. The original front door is located at the rear of the house; it was moved there in 1910 when another historic front door, with the initials "JEJ" (for James Emmett Johnson, the owner) in the glass, was installed. The 1910 door remains on the original front facade of the house, while two new front doors with elliptical windows were installed on the bricked porch in the 1960s (these were originally interior pocket doors from another home on Church Street). Above this doorway are brackets in the cornice and a pediment.

On the east side of the house is a wide cornice and three windows which are 2/2 double hung sash. The windows have working shutters and flat wooden lintels. There is a three-sided bay window with two 1/1 windows and one 2/2 window. On the west side of the house there is a 1/1 window and another three-sided bay window with three 1/1 double-hung sash windows topped by a gable with harp-shaped brackets in the eaves. The front facade features an original hipped dormer window with decorative criss-cross muntins and a projecting hipped bay which merges into the roof of the corner turret.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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An addition to the rear of the house has a concrete block foundation, wood siding, and horizontal louvered windows as on the front brick facade, all under a cross-hipped roof. It was added in 1908 and was once a sleeping porch. In the 1960s, it was enclosed, windows were added, and it was extended to span across the back of the house.

The structure is situated on a city lot located on Church Street in Sandersville. Original landscaping was done by Fruitlands of Augusta and hexagonal pavers lead to the front steps.

The interior of the house features a modified "Georgian" or "New South" floor plan with a central hall flanked by rooms. The front half of the hall is wider than the rear half and serves as an entrance hallway or foyer. A portion of the rear hall has been partitioned into a closet. Four large rooms, two on either side of the hallway, make up the major portion of the historic house; smaller rooms flank the hallway toward the rear of the house. The rooms are all different sizes and, in the front portion of the house, feature a variety of bays, corner fireplaces, and pocket doors.

On the interior, the central hallway features a pierced wood screen or grill with an "Oriental" motif between the wider front section and the narrower rear section. The walls and ceilings are plastered; a picture molding is located three feet below the ceiling. Grooved woodwork and lintels surround the doors. The floors contain four inch wood planks. The dining room has four-foot wainscoting with beading above and a recessed china cabinet. Sliding doors and corner fireplaces are shared between the dining room and living room. There are also sliding doors between the front hall and the living room. The dining room mantel has the same features seen in other Choate-designed mantels but the columns are fluted instead of smooth and there is a mirror above the mantel while the mantelpiece is supported by a harp-like bracket. As the house was built with no closets, Mr. Johnson had floor-to-ceiling wooden cabinets built in the rear of the house circa 1912.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1900

Significant Dates:

1900

Significant Person(s):

n.a.

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Charles E. Choate, architect

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Section 8

Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The James E. Johnson House is significant in architecture because it contains one of the most elaborate and intact interior residential designs by the architect Charles E. Choate in the Washington County area. Moreover, this interior is characteristic of Choate's interior design during the period of his early career when he was working in Washington County. The exterior of the house, although significantly altered by the replacement front porch, also features characteristic Choate design motifs.

The interior of the Johnson House features virtually all of Charles Choate's interior design "signatures." These include beaded wainscoting, the wooden hall screen, transoms, irregularly shaped rooms with bays, turrets, and corner fireplaces, pocket doors between principal rooms and between rooms and the hallway, and ornamented mantels with elliptical mirrors and Classical orders. While these design motifs are typical of turn-of-the-century interior residential design in Georgia and elsewhere, they are also specifically characteristic of Charles Choate's interior work in Washington County during the early phase of his career. Indeed, it can be said that Choate's designs, like the Johnson House, introduced these popular interior design motifs to the Washington County area. Moreover, in the Johnson House, virtually all of Choate's interior design motifs remain intact, including the extraordinary hallway screen or grill, which makes the Johnson House interior a "tour-de-force" of Choate's interior design work, in terms of its plan, materials, and design motifs, in Washington County.

The exterior of the Johnson House has been significantly altered by the replacement of the original wood wrap-around front porch with a smaller brick front porch. However, from the intact front wall back, the house remains virtually unchanged, the only other major alteration being the nonhistoric extension of the 1908 added rear ell. Significant surviving exterior details of the house include an original corner turret, two bay windows with characteristic Choate-designed "harp" brackets, corbeled brick chimneys, decorative dormer window, and elliptical lights on the historic front door. These details are significant for their craftsmanship and design and because they represent the architectural character of Choate's residential work in Sandersville and Tennille for the period from 1896 to 1903.

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Section 8

National Register Criteria

This property meets National Register Criterion C for its architectural significance as a significant work of residential architecture designed by Charles Choate very early in his local career and as an exceptionally significant and intact example of Choate's interior design.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification, if applicable)

1900

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if applicable)

The one contributing resource is the house.

Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)

In November 1885, Wiley Harris purchased land on West Church Street in Sandersville and built a home for his family. His daughter, Harriet Olivia Harris, married James Emmett Johnson. In March, 1900, Wiley Harris deeded James E. Johnson a portion of his home lot. Johnson then retained Charles Choate to design and build a home on the property in 1900. Mr. Johnson was a bookkeeper for Warthen and Irwin Bank, vice president and cashier for Citizen's Bank, head of the 1918 Liberty Bond Drive, member of the Sandersville Methodist Church, and president of the Sandersville Railroad at the time of his death in 1920. Mrs. Johnson was a homemaker until her death in 1954. The Johnson's two daughters were teachers and one daughter, Annie Laurie Johnson, is the present owner of the home and resides there today.

Harriet Olivia Johnson told her daughters that Choate had designed their home when he was in Sandersville working on the Paris House, the Holt Banking Company Building (First National Bank) building, and others. Mr. Schwall, a local builder, assisted Choate and constructed the house.

9. Major Bibliographic References

See the bibliography in the multiple property documentation form.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) 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, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.4 acres

UTM References

A) Zone 17 Easting 330140 Northing 3650460

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property coincides with the current legal description of the property on which the house is situated, represented by Lot 78 of Tax Map S-17. Its boundaries are described by a heavy black line drawn to scale on the attached tax map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property is that parcel of land historically and currently associated with the house.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title (a) Dale Jaeger and Susan Casey (b) Richard Cloues
organization (a) Jaeger/Pyburn (b) Office of Historic Preservation,
Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number (a) 210 Washington Street (b) 205 Butler Street,
Suite 1462
city or town (a) Gainesville (b) Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code**
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telephone (a) 706-534-7024 (b) 404-656-2840 **date** June 3, 1994

(HPS form version 11-02-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

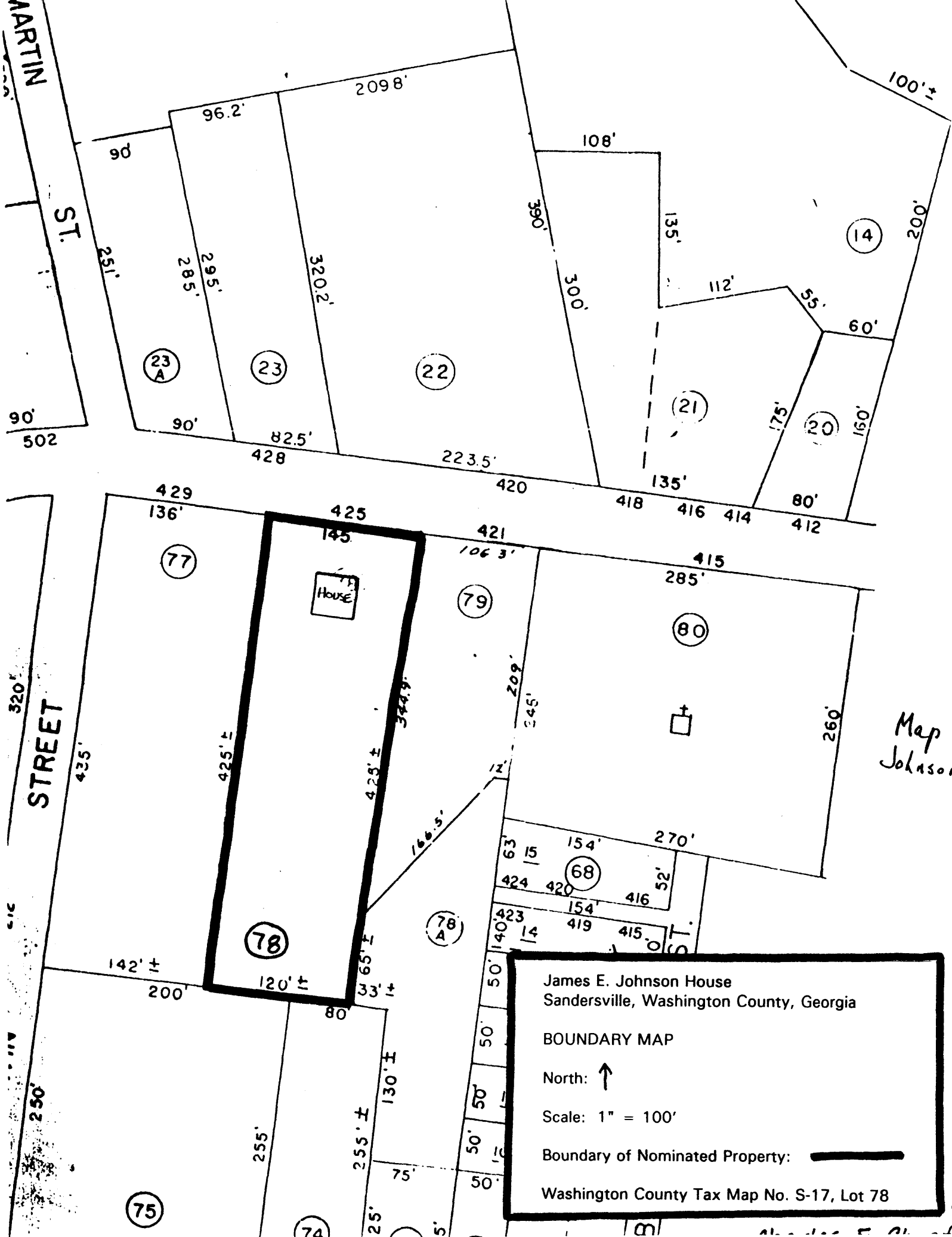
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Photographs

Name of Property: James E. Johnson House
City or Vicinity: Sandersville
County: Washington
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: September 1992

Description of Photograph(s):

- 1 of 4. Front (north) of house; photographer facing southwest.
- 2 of 4. Rear of house; photographer facing northeast.
- 3 of 4. Central hallway with divider screen, front door to rear of photograph; photographer facing north.
- 4 of 4. Front (northeast corner) and center (east side) rooms; photographer facing south.



Map:
Johnson

James E. Johnson House
 Sandersville, Washington County, Georgia

BOUNDARY MAP

North: ↑

Scale: 1" = 100'

Boundary of Nominated Property: **—————**

Washington County Tax Map No. S-17, Lot 78

James E. Johnson House
Sandersville, Washington County, Georgia

FLOOR PLAN

North: ↓

Scale: not to scale

