



Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

1-story dogtrot, originally a single-pen log house (left pen). Foundation of heart pine blocks, logs joined with saddle-and-V corner notches. Eaves extend 3 feet on left side wall to protect mud-and-stick chimney, which has fallen. Interior of log pen partially ceiled on interior with boards over spaces between wall logs. 2nd pen is board and batten, brick chimney protected by extension of eaves. Shed-roof rooms across rear facade are weatherboarded. Hand-riven shingles on roof.

ALTERATIONS:

OUTBUILDINGS:

Remains of smoke and potato houses and well; adjoining kitchen with vertical board facades dates ca. 1900.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Set in clearing surrounded by forest, original yard marked by fruit and nut trees, shrubs.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Knapp-Stephens House is architecturally significant as a single-pen log house that evolved to a dogtrot. Characteristic features of the folk structure include its foundation of heart pine blocks, hand-riven shingles, and the extension of the eaves on the side walls to shelter the chimneys. The characteristic stick-and-mud chimney on the east facade has collapsed. The saddle-and-V corner notches of the wall logs are unique in the county.

The house is historically significant because of its association with the Knapp family, early Lawrence County settlers. This property was homesteaded by Henry Knapp, builder of the house. It is also historically associated with the Stephens family who have owned the property since 1860. It was acquired at that time by Matthew Stephens, a travelling preacher and settler of Lawrence as early as 1840.

NAME: Knapp-Stephens House

STREET NO:

TOWN/VIC: Silver Creek

COUNTY: Lawrence

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Pete Stephens
ADDRESS: Route 2
Silver Creek, MS 39663

PRESENT USE: vacant

FORMER USE: residence

DATE: ca. 1830

STYLE: log house/dogtrot

ARCH/BUILDER: Henry and Sarah Knapp

SOURCE OF DATE: census, land records

ENVIRONMENT: rural

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL X

STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Fair

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: S21-T8N-R20W
A lot 500' square with house at center.

ACREAGE: less than 5 acres

UTM REF:

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jody Cook

April 1980

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