

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0683159

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	AUG 28 1978
DATE ENTERED	DEC 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Withers-Chapman Home & House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2409 Gaboury Lane, N.E. (SE 1/4, S 19, T 3S, R 1E)

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

— VICINITY OF

5

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Johnson

STREET & NUMBER

2409 Gaboury Lane, N.E.

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

— VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

STATE

Alabama

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

— FEDERAL — STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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	slightly	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Withers-Chapman House is a good example of a small one-and-one-half story frame cottage constructed in the first half of the 19th century. Once part of a medium-size farm, the house now sits on a two-acre tract landscaped with English boxwood, hardwoods and old magnolias. Although development has taken place around the house, it retains its rural character because of its location on a hillside. The house is in excellent condition and the changes have been minor.

The structure is rectangular, measuring approximately 48' x 37', and has a semi-attached rear kitchen. The gabled-roofed frame structure is sheathed with clapboard and rests on a low limestone foundation. A small unfinished cellar is located under the southeastern corner of the house. The three-bay facade has single 12/12 windows flanking a central pedimented portico with four slender Tuscan columns. The portico rests on a brick foundation with latticework infill. The original balustrade is in place, but all of the simple rectangular balusters have been removed. The front entrance has a double-leaf door with glass upper panels and carved panels below. This door dates from around 1893 when several small changes were made to the structure.

On the eastern side of the house a shed-roof porch runs across the rear 24 feet of the wall. In the 1960's it was enclosed to provide space for bathrooms and a small addition was made. The east and west elevations have two, end-exterior chimneys which pierce the tapered verge and have corbled shoulders with two-brick projections. Two 9/9 windows are located between the chimneys on the ground floor of the western elevation, while both the east and the west have single 12/12 windows at the half-story level. A central chimney was added in the 1930's when a stove was installed in the central hall.

A shed-roof porch, added in the 1930's, crosses the entire rear of the house and provides covered access to the kitchen, located at the northeast corner. The kitchen is a rectangular, frame structure with a gabled roof and probably dates from the 1870's. It is used as the present kitchen. Originally, a small portico covered the rear door and a brick walk led to the kitchen. A rectangular transom above the rear door is now covered by the interior stair landing, indicating a possible change of plans during or after construction of the house. Above the rear door a large, central, gabled wall dormer with tapered verge has a 6/6 window which gives light to the inside stair landing.

The interior consists of a central hall with a dining room and parlor to the left and two connecting bedrooms to the right. All downstairs rooms measure 18' x 18' and the ceilings are 11'2" high. A stair with a full landing and return is located along the eastern wall at the rear of the hall. The stair has decorated tread ends, two rectangular, tapered balusters per tread and a round handrail. Interior door and window trim is simple with plain corner blocks, the doors have two vertical raised panels, and the original mantels are simple with flat pilasters, typical of the Greek Revival period in the area. The mantel in the dining room has had some Victorian period decorative work applied, and Victorian baseboards of the Federal period are intact in the upstairs rooms. All of the doors were grained and the mantels were painted black. Downstairs the ceilings have been sheetrocked and cornice molding added. Additionally wall-to-wall carpeting has been installed and the folding doors between the parlor and dining room have been removed and stored.

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The half story above consists of a central hallway with a 18' x 16' room on either side. The ceilings measure approximately 7'4" at the highest point and slope to about 5'7" at the lowest. Both rooms have corner fireplaces. The house also has three original closets, two in the upper floor and one in the southeast bedroom.

Several outbuildings remain on the property. A c. 1870 saddlebag servants quarters with a limestone chimney, apron porch with chamfered posts, 4-panel doors two wooden mantels is located to the northwest of the main house. A frame one-story smokehouse is located to the northeast. A noted feature of the smokehouse is a nail-studded batten door. Additionally, a small doll house dating from the 1930's is located on the property.

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 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 c. 1835

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Withers-Chapman House is a good example of the smaller house constructed in North Alabama during the early 19th century and is one of the few known intact Madison County examples of a one-and-one-half story frame cottage of the period. Although the house type was fairly common in the rural parts of the county, few examples have survived. A somewhat modest structure, it has restrained but well-crafted Federal period and Greek Revival details and is one of the few houses in the area to have corner fireplaces in the upstairs rooms. Constructed as the center of a moderately prosperous farm, later one of the major dairys serving the city of Huntsville, the house has retained two 19th century outbuildings and a semi-attached kitchen. The house has lost most of its surrounding acreage to the expansion of Huntsville, but retains its rural feeling due to landscaping and its location on a slope.

The house was probably constructed by Allen Christian, listed in census records as a farmer, and his wife Margaret in the late 1830's. Christian acquired joint ownership of a 159 acre tract of land in 1820 with Lemuel Mead and in 1835 the two divided the land equally between themselves. Christian probably constructed his house soon afterward. In 1849, after the death of Christian and his wife, the property was acquired by Phillip Woodson and was occupied by his son-in-law and daughter, Augustine and Mary Withers. After the deaths of the Withers and Phillip Woodson, the property was acquired by Governor Rueben Chapman in 1873. Although Chapman apparently did not occupy the house, it remained in his family until it was acquired by the present owners in 1971. From the last decade of the 19th century until World War II, the house was the center of a prosperous dairy farm which supplied much of the dairy produce for Huntsville. The present owners are carefully restoring the house to its earlier condition.

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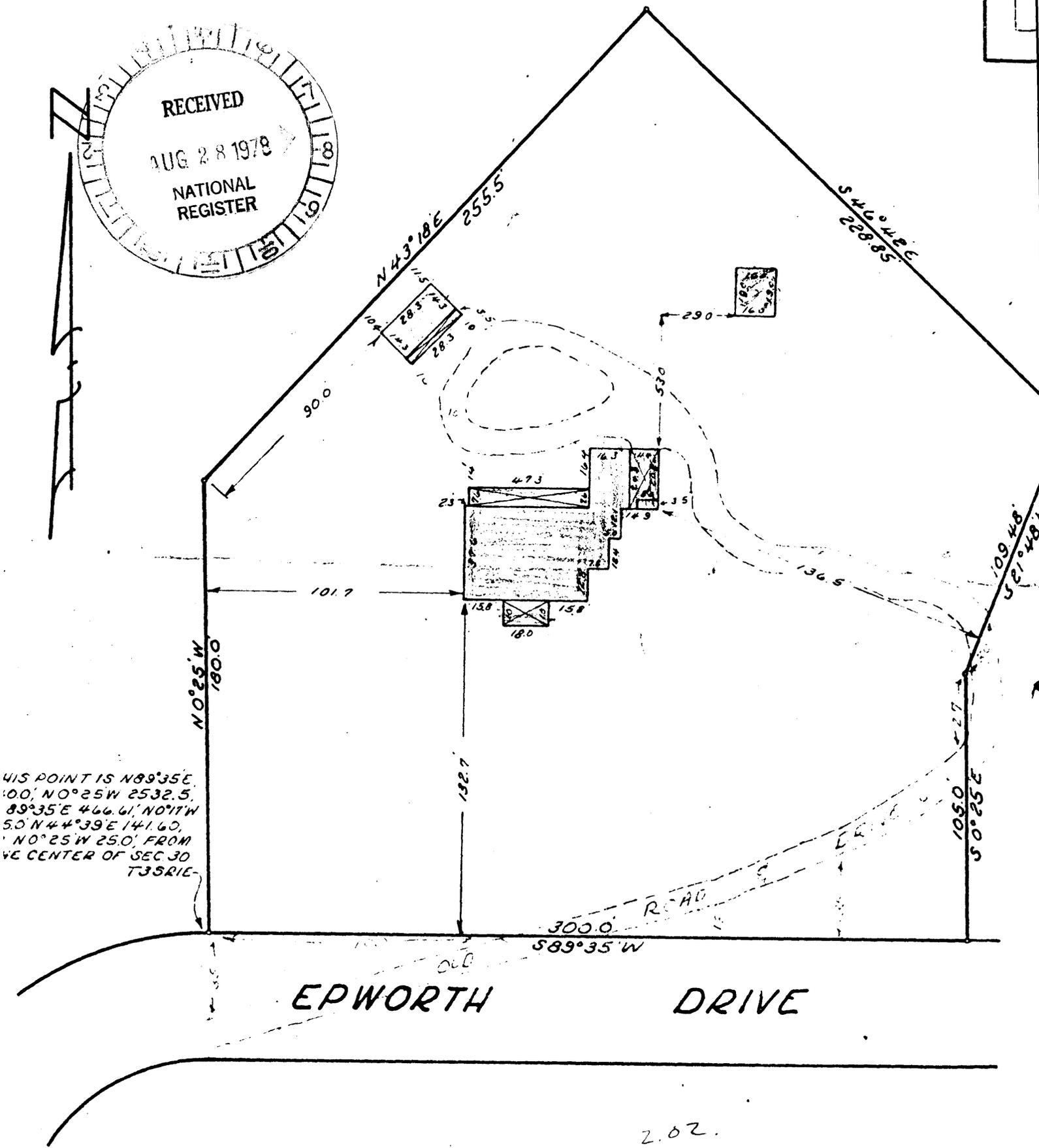
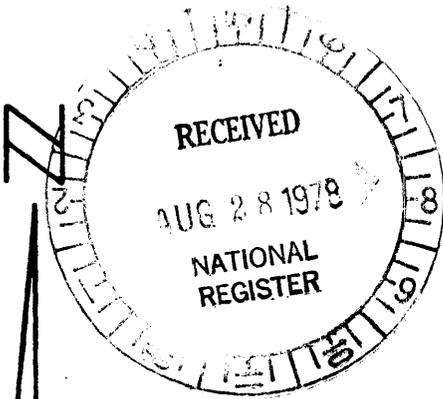
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Beginning at a point on the north side of the proposed extension of Epworth Drive, said place of beginning is further described as being located north 89 degrees 35 minutes east 40.0 feet, north 0 degrees 25 minutes west 2532.5 feet, north 89 degrees 35 minutes east 466.61 feet, north 0 degrees 17 minutes west 65.0 feet, north 44 degrees 39 minutes east 141.60 feet and north 0 degrees 25 minutes west 25.0 feet from the center of Section 30, Township 3 South, Range 1 East; Thence from the true place of beginning north 0 degrees 25 minutes west 180.0 feet; thence north 43 degrees 18 minutes east 255.5 feet; thence south 46 degrees 42 minutes east 228.85 feet; thence south 21 degrees 48 minutes west 109.48 feet; thence south 0 degrees 25 minutes east 105.0 feet to a point on the north margin of a 50 foot right-of-way for the proposed extension of Epworth Drive; thence south 89 degrees 35 minutes west along the north margin of said proposed Epworth Drive extension 300.00 feet to the place of beginning.



THIS POINT IS $N 89^{\circ} 35' E$
 100.0; $N 0^{\circ} 25' W$ 2532.5
 $89^{\circ} 35' E$ 466.61; $N 0^{\circ} 17' W$
 5.0 ; $N 44^{\circ} 39' E$ 141.60,
 $N 0^{\circ} 25' W$ 25.0; FROM
 THE CENTER OF SEC 30
 T35R1E

Scale:
 Date: