

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
Individual Inventory Form

Resource # _____
County _____

1. Name of Resource:

JOHNSTON HOUSE

2. Original Owner:

GEORGE S. JOHNSTON

3. Other Names:

4. Prehistoric Site Historic Site	Building Structure	Object Other

5. Location:

SHELBYVILLE QUAD.; HEMP RIDGE RD. KY
714; HOUSE ON RT. AT KY. 1790

6. Owner's Name:

BOYD AND PAUL JOHNSTON

7. Owner's Address:

ROUTE 3
SHELBYVILLE, KENTUCKY 40065

8. Evaluation:

N.R. POTENTIAL

9. Recognition & Date:

Nat. Landmark _____	Local Landmark _____
Nat. Register _____	HABS/HAER _____
Highway Marker _____	KY Inventory 1986 _____
KY Landmark Certificate _____	

10. N.R. Status & Date:

11. N.R. Group:

District Name: _____	[]
Mult. Resource Area: _____	[]
Thematic Name: _____	[]

12. Historical Theme:

Primary: ARCHITECTURE	[030]
Secondary: AGRICULTURE	[010]
Other: _____	[]

13. Statement of Significance:

THE JOHNSTON HOUSE IS LOCALLY SIGNIFICANT UNDER CRITERIA C AS A GOOD EXAMPLE OF RURAL VERGACULAR ARCHITECTURE DURING THE FIRST DECADE OF THE 20TH CENTURY AND, AS THE RESIDENCE OF A (CON) [A,C]

14. History:

IN 1895, GEORGE S. JOHNSTON, A FARMER FROM OWEN COUNTY PURCHASED THE FARM DIRECTLY EAST OF THIS PROPERTY ON THE EDGE OF BRITTON RUN. THAT FARM HAD AN OLD HOUSE THAT NO LONGER EXISTS. JOHNSTON EVIDENTLY PROSPERED, BECAUSE, IN 1905 HE PURCHASED THIS FARM'S LAND AND IN 1908, HIRED AREA CARPENTER DAN JONES TO BUILD THIS HOUSE. JONES USED AREA LUMBER AND OTHER BUILDING MATERIALS FROM SHELBYVILLE. THE OWNERS, DESCENDENTS OF JOHNSTON DO NOT RECALL ANYONE (CONT.)

15. Source of historical information and/or contact person:

BOYD AND PAUL JOHNSTON, SHELBY COUNTY COURTHOUSE

16. Date:

1908

Original Building	DA. 1930	[]
Addition		[]

17. Style:

18. Architect/Builder:

19. No. of Stories:

20. Original Floor Plan:

21. Single Pile Double Pile N.A.

22. Roof Form & Material: Original Not Original

23. Structural Material:

24. Exterior Material:

25. Foundation Material:

26. Major Alterations:

27. Special Features:

28. Outbuildings:

29. Original Function:

30. Present Use:

31. Condition:

32. Endangered:

33. Attach Photos:

Roll: _____ Photo Nos: 29-35 No. of Slides: _____

34. Prepared by:

35. Organization:

36. Date:

37. New Survey _____ Resurvey _____

KENTUCKY HISTORIC RESOURCES
 Individual Inventory Form

Resource # 001 234

38. UTM Point of Primary Building: Zone Easting Northing 39. G.I.S. Mod. []
 Quadrant: SHELBYVILLE 16 663000 4227260 40. Coordi.Accuracy []

41. UTM Points of Boundary (for N. R. eligible sites only):

A. _____ D. _____
 B. _____ E. _____
 C. _____ F. _____

42. Total Acreage in Present Property: 28 43. Acreage included in proposed N.R. boundary: 1

44. Site Plan (and boundary description and justification for N.R. sites):

THE PROPERTY BOUNDARIES ARE JUSTIFIED AS THE IMMEDIATE, DOMESTIC YARD AREA, DEFINED BY A BOARD AND WOVEN WIRE FENCE MARKING THE EAST, SOUTH AND WEST EDGES OF THE PROPERTY, WITH THE NORTH-EAST LINE DEFINED BY THE SOUTH EDGE OF KY. 214, HEMPRIDGE ROAD. THE BOUNDARY ENCOMPASSES ABOUT ONE ACRE OF THE 25 ACRE FARM. A SMALL STOCK BARN, SOUTH OF THE HOUSE AND THE REMAINING ACREAGE IS NOT INCLUDED WITHIN THE NOMINATED AREA BECAUSE THE PROPERTY IS NO LONGER USED FOR INTENSIVE AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES. INCLUDED ARE THE HOUSE, ROOT CELLAR, TWO CISTERNS, AND A LOW STONE WALL IN THE FRONT YARD.

The boundary begins at point A, at the north corner of the intersection of the Hemp Ridge Road and a board and wire fence (approximately 60' west of the west side of the house); proceed southeast along the south edge of the Hemp Ridge Road 200' to point B, 20' east of the driveway where there is a fenceline; follow the fenceline southeast 200' to point C on the rear, south fenceline; then follow that fenceline northwest 200' to point D on the north fenceline; then proceed northeast 200' to the point of origin.

THE PROPERTY IS LOCATED ON HIGH, FAIRLY CLEAR GROUND OVERLOOKING WITTION ROAD, A TRIBUTARY OF QUIET CREEK. TO THE EAST IS JEFFRA KN05, THE HIGHEST POINT IN THE COUNTY. THE HOUSE, BUILT FOR GEORGE S. JOHNSTON BY DAN JONES IN 1908, LIES 50' SOUTH OF HEMPRIDGE ROAD. A LOW STONE WALL, RAISED YARD AREA AND MATURE MAPLE TREES AND BUSHES BUFFER THE RESIDENCE FROM THE ROAD. A NEAT POST AND BOARD FENCE DELINEATES THE DOMESTIC YARD AREA FROM THE REMAINING 25 ACRES OF FARM TO THE WEST, SOUTH AND EAST. THE PROPERTY MAINTAINS EXCELLENT INTEGRITY OF DESIGN, MATERIALS, WORKMANSHIP, LOCATION, SETTING, FEELING AND ASSOCIATION.

THE HOUSE FORM IS SIMILAR TO SH 234, THE ADAM HANNA FARMHOUSE LOCATED IN THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE COUNTY. THE INTERIOR OF THE HOUSE WAS NOT SURVEYED, SO SIMILARITY OF PLAN IS SURMISED.

DESIGN AND MATERIAL DETAILS INCLUDE (CONTINUED)

SH 244

George S. Johnston house

13. Statement of Significance, continued

prosperous and expanding diversified farm. The owner built this large but modest residence to replace an older house on land purchased in 1895. The eventual 450 acre Johnston farm typified the best of stock and crop diversification that allowed Shelby County to continue as one of the most productive and successful agricultural counties in Kentucky into the 20th century.

14. History, continued

actually designing the building. Rather, people admired a house they had seen or told the carpenter/builder what was needed in the way of rooms, and a plan was chosen, possibly from a pattern book.

Johnston had a dairy and beef cattle operation and had built his farm up to about 450 acres by his death in 1928. His son, the father of the present owners, purchased the house and 200 acres and continued to farm with the aid of both horses and mules. Within the past decade, all but 25 of those acres were divided from the farm and sold.

45. Description and House Plan, continued

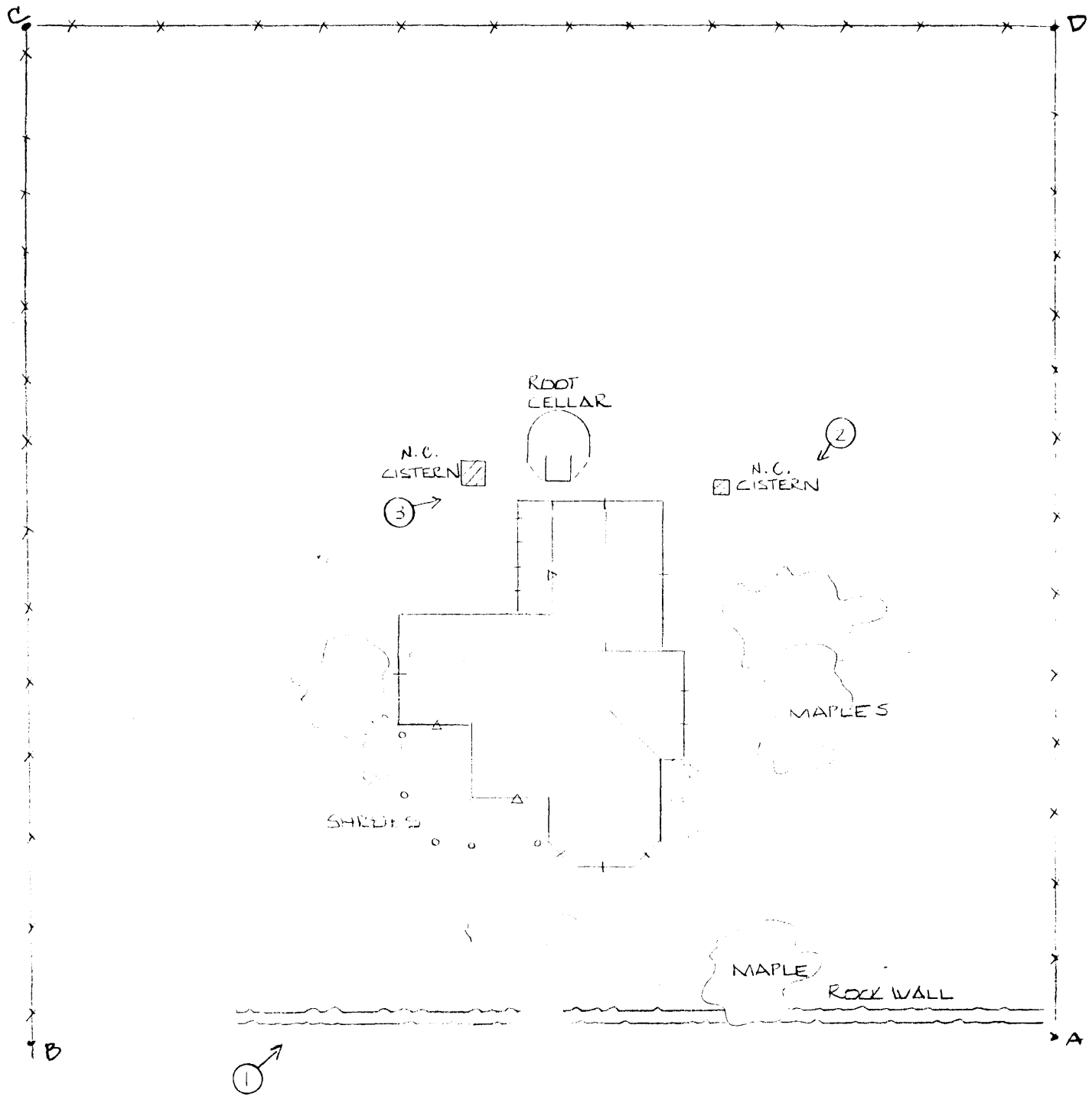
two front entries; a semi circular front porch with classical columns; symmetrical fenestration with sash windows and hip and gable roof with boxed eaves. A double, polygonal bay that creates another projecting plane in the front facade is not a feature of SH 234. A one story rear ell is original, but the south facing side porch and shed roofed bathroom to the rear are later additions.

A root cellar with brick vestibule entry and cistern are located directly behind the house and are included within the property boundaries. Another cistern or well is also located within the rear yard area. And, a low, stone wall raising the level of the front yard from the road is also included within the boundaries of the site. (see site plan)

The property boundaries contain two contributing buildings, one contributing structure and two non-contributing structures.

house	C
root cellar	C
rock wall	C
cistern	NC
cistern	NC

SITE PLAN & BOUNDARY MAP
SH 244
JOHNSTON HOUSE
(NOT TO SCALE)



HEMP RIDGE ROAD

↑ PHOTOS