

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Johnson, Ben House

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 161, Flemingsburg Junction *KY 161*

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Flemingsburg Junction VICINITY OF

7

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Kentucky

021

Fleming

069

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

__UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

__BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Arthur D. Henderson

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 495

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Mayslick

VICINITY OF

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fleming County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Flemingsburg

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

__FEDERAL __STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Frankfort

Kentucky

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated in the northwest section of Fleming County, less than half a mile south of the Mason County line on Highway 161, is the Ben Johnson House. Facing northwest and placed on a rise above Johnson Creek, the structure is visible from the main road. Constructed as an Italianate I-house in 1872, the house has two extant original ells, and a brick shed addition.¹ The principle facade boasts a one-story porch which, although later than the main house, is sympathetic in form and scale. The front elevation contains no brick bond, while unbroken common bond appears on the sides and rear. The central entrance element with stained glass transom and sidelights is flanked by round headed, paired window openings. Advanced brick label molds top the window openings which have double hung sashes and stone sills. Detailed paired wooden brackets decorate an otherwise modest cornice, and small circular windows pierce the gables of the main block.

Interior decoration within the Johnson house is minimal and simple. Paneled aprons appear beneath the window openings and the baseboards measure about twelve inches in height. Entrance to the left front parlor is gained through double doors containing bevelled glass. A metal mantle with a bow front shelf is located on the interior rear wall (north).

Three outbuildings situated to the rear of the house are included in the nomination. Two of the structures were built during the late 19th century: a smokehouse (present day garage) and chicken coop. Both are vertical boarded and topped by pyramidal roofs. The chicken coop has a rather fanciful cupola adorning its roof. The third outbuilding is a 20th century shed structure.

The nominated area includes the approach to the house from Hwy. 388, important to the visual setting of the complex and the three outbuildings which are within 50' of the main house. The boundary follows the fence line to the sides and rear of the house, which encloses the domestic space of the house. (See map 2).

1

The ell contains the dining area and kitchen.

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 1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Ben Johnson House is a significant example of the Italianate mode, one of few of its type constructed in Fleming County.

Established in 1789, Fleming County is in the northeastern-most part of the Bluegrass, near the Knobs region. The area is very fertile, as illustrated by the largely agriculturally-based economy. Much of the county's growth occurred early in the 19th century, peaking around the 1820s; consequently, the largest stock of the county's existing vernacular buildings date to this period. The sharp drop in prices of agricultural products in the 1870s had a detrimental effect on the county's economy and, as a result, little construction took place at this time. Therefore, as the Italianate style was fashionable during this era, few examples are in evidence in the area.

In 1869 the Maysville division of the Kentucky Central (later L & N) Railroad was completed through the western part of the county and eight years later the Pound Gap Railroad intersected it near Johnson's Creek. The local landowner, Ben Johnson, profited from the construction of the line in the area, evident in the country home he built in the Italianate style. Round-headed windows and lacy paired brackets, characteristic of this form, were incorporated in the design. Advanced brick label molds topping the bays were also used to further enliven the exterior.² One of the more significant features, the two original ells and shed, illustrate traditional or vernacular additional forms employed in the original design. (Unlike more vernacular additions which were attached later to a main block, the ells in the Johnson House were incorporated into the original design.)

2

The label molds are similar to those on a commercial building attributed to the same mason in the nearby railroad community of Nepton.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
UTM NOT VERIFIED

Kentucky Heritage Commission. "Ben Johnson House," Fleming County, Kentucky. Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky. Frankfort, Kentucky.

Information received from the property owner.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.1 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Elizaville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1,6 | 2,5,3,7,8,0 | 4,2,6,1,0,9,0

B 1,6 | 2,5,3,8,4,0 | 4,2,6,1,0,5,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 1,6 | 2,5,3,8,5,0 | 4,2,6,0,9,8,0

D 1,6 | 2,5,3,7,3,5 | 4,2,6,1,0,2,0

E | |

F | |

G | |

H | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point on the east side of Hwy. 161, 150' from the NW corner of the main house, the boundary extends south along the east side of Hwy. 161 200'; the line then turns southeastward 300'; then northeastward 200'; then northwestward 200' to the point of beginning (see map 2).

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jayne C. Henderson, Historian

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

November 1980

STREET & NUMBER

104 Bridge Street

TELEPHONE

(502) 564-3741

CITY OR TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Anne Armstrong Thompson

TITLE

SHPO

DATE

1-7-82

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Entered in the
National Register

DATE

3/1/82

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

Ben Johnson House
Fleming County, Kentucky

Sketch Map
No Scale
Camille Wells 1977
Nominated area shown in red.

Je-195 Johnson - Todd House

