

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



693

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

**1. Name of Property**

Historic Name: Brumfield Homestead  
Other Names/Site Number: n/a  
Name of related multiple property listing: n/a

**2. Location**

Street & Number: 47082 T.C. Brumfield Road  
City or town: Franklinton State: LA 70471 County: Washington Parish  
Not for Publication:  Vicinity:

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets, 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  does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:  
 national  state  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:  A  B  C  D

*Pam Breaux*  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:** Pam Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer  
**Date:** 7/29/14  
**Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism**  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.

**Signature of commenting official:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government** \_\_\_\_\_

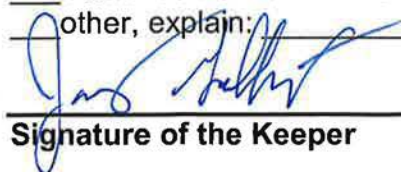
Brumfield Homestead  
 Name of Property

Washington Parish  
 County and State

**4. National Park Certification**

- I hereby certify that the property is:
- entered in the National Register
  - determined eligible for the National Register
  - determined not eligible for the National Register
  - removed from the National Register

other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_



9.24.2014

**Signature of the Keeper**

**Date of Action**

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Public – Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	District
<input type="checkbox"/>	Site
<input type="checkbox"/>	Structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
7	0	Buildings
		Sites
		Structures
		Objects
7	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single dwelling, Secondary Structures; Agriculture/Subsistence: Agriculture outbuilding, Processing, Storage, Agricultural Field, Animal Facility

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions.): Domestic: Single dwelling, Secondary Structures; Agriculture/Subsistence: Storage, Agricultural Field

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions.): Other: Vernacular

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: heart pine sills, concrete

walls: log, vertical plank, asbestos siding

roof: cedar shingles, asbestos shingles, metal

other: brick

## Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

### Summary Paragraph

The Brumfield Homestead, once that of Thomas Colter Brumfield, is located on T.C. Brumfield Road in Washington Parish, Louisiana, approximately five miles northeast of Franklinton, about ten miles south of the Mississippi state line. The property, homesteaded by Thomas Colter's father, Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield, in 1893 is an exceptional intact example of an early Washington Parish farmstead and remains in the hands of the original family. A rarity in Washington Parish, it has maintained the representative structures of a farm which operated from 1887 to 1975. The nomination includes seven contributing buildings, including a farmhouse and six vernacular styled outbuildings. The sixty-five acre property is bounded by a paved road to the north, agricultural fields to the west (7.26 acre pasture) and east (4.5 acre pasture), and piney woods to the south. With only minor alterations occurring over the past 121 years, the property's contributing resources retain a high degree of integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, design, materials, and workmanship and remain eligible for listing in the National Register.

### Narrative Description

The Brumfield Homestead encompasses a 39.75 acre tract of land known as the homestead forty, plus twenty-five (25.727) adjoining acres. The farmhouse fronts T.C. Brumfield Road as does the one-room log cabin, the oldest structure on the property. The smokehouse; combination barn, corn crib, and hen house; and livestock barn are clustered just to the south of the farmhouse, in what Thomas Colter and his wife Emma referred to as "the stomp". The cotton house is located down the lane, across the creek, at the top of the hill in a clearing near what was once a cotton field and is now planted in original pine. The setting includes East Fork Burch Creek, running through the property and flowing into Lawrence's Creek, which eventually empties into the Bogue Chitto River.

The property was homesteaded by Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield, with initial application on December 1, 1887, and granting of the patent for the land in April 1893. In the intervening time period, he

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

constructed a temporary dwelling, with a small log cabin for his kitchen. These structures were for shelter and subsistence as he began farming the land. Between 1900 and 1954, he and his son, Thomas Colter Brumfield, together constructed the extant farmhouse and outbuildings, much as they are visible today, with Thomas Colter taking possession in September of 1914 when he married Emma Elizabeth Jenkins.

### **Inventory:**

#### **Log cabin, c. 1888, Contributing Building (Photos 1 and 2)**

A prime example of the earliest structures built by Washington Parish pioneer settlers, the single pen log cabin, is a typical (eleven by nine feet) one-room, one-story building (eleven by twelve feet). It has a cedar shingled, gabled roof with exposed rafter tails. There are three log sides to the cabin, which faces north. The round skinned poles were crudely notched (saddle notch) with rounded cuts so that they come together at each corner and the ax cuts on the logs are visible. Narrow split timber was nailed in place to chink or cover the gaps between the logs. The fourth wall was made of rough sawn boards with an opening for the door and two windows. The original square nails are visible. The porch (eleven by three feet) rests on the original virgin heart pine foundation blocks. The raised cabin floor was made of wide plank sawn boards, varying from 9 ½ to 11 ½ inches in width. The interior of the cabin is open to the rafters.

This log cabin came into being in the late 1800s. While Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield's land grant was pending, he constructed a small dwelling on the property. Along with the small dwelling, he built the one-room cabin around 1888 from logs, which he felled on the homestead property. The log cabin served as a separate kitchen and around the turn of the century was converted to a cotton house, for storing cotton from the nearby fields. The pot bellied stove used for the original kitchen was removed in these early years.

At risk of deterioration in the late 1960s, the log cabin was restored, shoring up the original logs while using original materials such as the square nails. The cabin was electrified and used as a playhouse for a grandchild, the present-day owner, at which time it was moved to her family home near Franklinton. Afterwards, it was moved back, by a professional house mover, to the original rural homestead on T. C. Brumfield Road. The cold blast kerosene lanterns of Susan Brumfield, Thomas Hezekiah's wife, remain on a wood shelf with original tools – wood chisel, drill bit, spike, pry bar, angle, and tanning knife – on a table. The interior also houses several original farm implements, including iron cow bells.

Sitting under an ancient live oak, this extant log outbuilding, built in the latter part of the nineteenth century on the Brumfield Homestead has its integrity intact, making it a rarity in the state of Louisiana as the majority of these log structures have met their demise.<sup>1</sup> The Brumfield log cabin, like the Brumfield farmhouse, was built by pioneer settlers in accordance with local vernacular traditions, drawn from their roots. Pioneers from the Upland South states of Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia, who settled in the Florida Parishes, neighbors and family, likely helped Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield erect the log cabin in the late 1800s, after trees were felled from the piney woods on the property and the logs were squared off, in preparation for the raising. The integrity of location has been diminished some as it has changed locations, but, save for the few years it was moved into the town of Franklinton, it has always been on the Brumfield Homestead

<sup>1</sup> Fricker, Jonathan, *The Folk Architecture of the Appalachian Uplanders* in Poesch, Jessie and Barbara SoRelle Bacot, *Louisiana Buildings 1720-1940: The Historic American Buildings Survey* (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1997) p.85-86.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

property. The integrity of materials has been diminished some due to the rehabilitation of the cabin in the 1960s as some of the original materials had to be replaced due to deterioration. Additionally, the original chimney is no longer extant as it was removed when the cabin was moved into Franklinton. Despite these minor alterations, this building retains overall integrity, including that of setting, association, feeling, design, and workmanship.

**Farmhouse, c. 1914; Contributing Building** (Photos 3 and 6)

The single-story farmhouse is a good example of a vernacular farmhouse in design and style. In its original location, the house measures twenty-eight feet, six inches by forty-eight feet, not including the jut-out of the original store room on the back. The asbestos siding, painted white, was added to the exterior of the home by Thomas Colter and Emma Brumfield in the 1930s. The entire exterior of the home was sided, directly over the original wood which remains underneath, except for the exterior of the store room which is in its original raw wood form, and the walls of the back porch which feature a combination of beadboard and three inch boards, laid horizontally. The exterior chimney is red brick. The home was reroofed in 2010 with asbestos shingles and the fixed shutters were added at a later date as well (see historic photos, Figures A-E).

*Façade (see Photo 3)*

The full length front porch (twenty-eight feet, six inches by eight feet), known as a gallery, which stretches across the front of the home, features exposed rafter tails, wide plank flooring painted battleship gray, and a beadboard ceiling. The porch also boasts six large front posts, made of pine derived from the homestead property. Also stretching across the front porch are four original double-hung windows which are 2-over-2 lites, framed by dark gray wood shutters.

*West Elevation*

The west elevation features in front, on the exterior of the parlor, two original double-hung windows with the original red brick chimney between them. This second window has installed in it a window air conditioning unit, added after the turn of the twenty-first century. To the south of these front windows, there are three more original double-hung windows, two on the exterior of the dining room and one on the exterior of the kitchen.

*South Elevation (see Photos 15 and 16)*

The south elevation stretches across the back of the home, but not in a flush manner. Just past the original exterior window of the kitchen, which boasts a window air conditioner, there is a jut-out of the store room, with original raw wood siding, on all three sides, which is how the entire house was originally finished. The store room jut-out also includes an original window with wavy paned glass. On the eastern side of the jut-out, there is a smaller window on the exterior of the tiny bathroom, which was added on in the early 1940s. The south elevation, at this juncture, juts in on the east side toward a small water heater closet and the back porch.

The back porch (ten by six feet, six inches) is complete with unfinished wood plank floor and the original unfinished wood water shelf, where the old water basin sits. Historic photos show that this area has not experienced much change at all (see Figure E)

*East Elevation*

The east elevation features one window on the exterior of the small bedroom at the far left of the elevation. Moving north along this eastern side, on the exterior of the front bedroom, there are two original double-hung windows.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

*Interior (see Photos 11-14, 17-24, Figure F)*

The interior layout of the home is purely farm functional with four rooms off a center hall and a kitchen in back. The center hall with an original lowered ceiling leads to the back porch on the southeast side of the house. The hall was intentionally lowered to help with airflow through the house prior to the advent of air conditioning.

Inside the home, the parlor is the large front room to the right, or west, off the center hall. A spacious room in size, it is where the family gathered when company came to call and also where they huddled, on cold winter nights, in front of the old brick fireplace. With four windows, two on each exterior wall to the north and west, the natural lighting is generous.

A solid wood door with original iron hardware and door knobs connects the parlor with the dining room, making it particularly accessible to company though it can also be entered from the center hall. The pendant light fixture hanging over the dining room table is original to the home and was electrified in the early 1940s. The walls in the parlor and dining room are constructed of wide plank boards covered by Celotex wallboard, installed by the Brumfields in the 1930s. The original brick fireplace is located on the west wall of the room between the two windows (see Photo 22).

A solid wood door leads from the dining room to the large kitchen, on the southwest corner of the home, where the wall boards are 2 ¼ inches in width, running horizontally, from the floor to the eleven foot ceiling. The white porcelain sink, complete with tin cabinets underneath, is original. Cabinetry in the adjoining original store room (seven by seven feet) is handmade while the walls and ceiling are 3 ¼ and 3 ½ inch horizontal boards. The tiny bathroom, which was added in the early 1940s, adjacent to the kitchen, also has its original sink and tub. Its walls are a mixture of 2 ¼ inch and 3 ¼ inch boards, running horizontally, from floor to ceiling.

Off the center hall to the left, or east, are the two bedrooms – one large and one small. The front, larger bedroom has four original double hung windows while the smaller one has only one. The larger bedroom also features a closet, the only one in the house, which was later added to the room, in the 1940s or 1950s. Protruding from one corner, it was referred to by the Brumfields as a locker and supplements storage offered by the original, large armoire in the opposite corner of the room. The larger bedroom has sheet rock walls and is painted pink. The bedrooms are accessible only from the hall, through solid wood four panel doors with original iron hardware and marble door knobs. The small bedroom, shared by the two Brumfield daughters in the 1920s and 1930s, has wood paneled walls which have been painted. It is original in condition, but for the painted wood paneling installed over the original wide plank wood boards. The hall, constructed of especially wide plank boards, is covered in wallpaper in a floral design to match the original wallpaper.

Ceilings throughout the home, with the exception of the lower ceilings in the hall, storeroom, and bath, are eleven feet high which aid with cooling. The lower ceiling height in these specified areas is original and is not an alteration. The flooring in the hall and main four rooms is heart pine, with planks of varying width, derived from the homestead and milled on the property. The kitchen, bath, and storeroom flooring is linoleum, but underneath it is also heart pine. All of the doors in the home sport their original iron hardware and marble and iron door knobs while all fifteen double hung windows similarly feature original, wavy paned 2-over-2 lites. The baseboards throughout the home are especially wide, measuring eight inches while door moldings are likewise wide at 5 ½ inches.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

The furnishings of the home are all period – from the late 1800s and early 1900s – and most are original to the home. Several can be attributed to Thomas Colter's father, Thomas Hezekiah, who likely built them. The small birch table in the parlor was said to have been made by him, using wood from the homestead. The table in the storeroom was the family's earliest kitchen table; ax marks are visible, evidencing its use for butchering meat. The wash stand, wash bowl, and pitcher in the small bedroom originated with the Thomas Hezekiah family, belonging to Thomas Colter when he was a boy. In addition, the high chair in the kitchen, also made of birch, was said to have been used by the Thomas Hezekiah family, if not also the elder Thomas Colter's, which would date it to the mid-1850s or earlier. The farmhouse was Thomas Colter's home until his death at age eighty-seven in 1981, remaining his widow Emma's home until her death at age ninety-two in 1988.

The alterations of note to the farmhouse include the application of asbestos siding over the original wood siding, Celotex tile applied to the ceilings of a couple rooms, and Celotex boards applied to the walls of the parlor and dining room over the original wood boards, which were all done during the period of significance for the property. The only other alterations were purely cosmetic and include updated wallpaper in the hallway. All other original features including fireplace, flooring, and floor plan, are original to the home's construction. With only minor alterations done to the house over its 100 years, the building retains integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

**Smokehouse, c. 1910; Contributing Building (Photo 5)**

The framed outbuilding (fifteen by thirteen feet) which faces north and is located directly behind the farmhouse is the smokehouse. The structure employs rough sawn boards, some of which are exceptionally wide at twelve inches in width, for siding, which also serve as its support. There is a gable roof clad in corrugated metal. This building is typical of multi-purpose vernacular outbuildings that were used for storage and other domestic chores. The main part (ten feet, ten inches by thirteen feet) of the structure is enclosed and was used for curing and smoking pork, derived from hogs on the farmstead. The interior of the smokehouse, which has a dirt floor, is accessible by a raised door with a handmade wooden latch located on the northern elevation of the smokehouse. A small open area on the left side of the building was used for storage and likely canning. In addition, shelving at the rear of this area and old implements on the wall indicate carpentry and other similar chores were performed in this part of the building. The eastern elevation features horizontally placed sawn boards while the other three elevations are composed of vertically placed sawn boards. This building has had no alterations since construction and retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

**Combination Barn, Corn Crib and Chicken House, c. 1912; Contributing Building (Photo 7, 8)**

This outbuilding (twenty-nine by nineteen feet), constructed with rough sawn boards, is sectioned into three distinct areas, and faces north. The left section (ten by nineteen feet) is constructed with wooden poles and vertical studs with a dirt floor. With a large barn door at the north end, it was used to store larger items such as farm implements. It might have also housed a wagon or even the Brumfields' Model A Ford purchased in 1928. There is a smaller door offering an entrance for the farmer on the south side. The center section (ten by twelve feet, eight inches) of the outbuilding constitutes a corn crib. It has a raised plank floor and visible vertical and angular studs. It is fully enclosed by boards with a raised door on the north side. This room was used for storing corn to feed the livestock. The right section (nine feet, six inches by twelve feet, eight inches) of the outbuilding is the chicken house, where the chickens roosted. It is constructed with wooden poles and has a dirt floor. A manger or feeding trough, perhaps for small calves at one time, and a chicken roost descend

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

from the west wall, from which the eggs were gathered. The upper boards have small gaps which allowed sufficient cooling of the room while excluding predators. The roof over the entire structure is a gabled 5v metal roof, and the latches to the enclosures are wooden and handmade. The entire exterior of this building is composed of horizontally placed sawn boards. This building has only had minor alterations with some replacement metal roofing since construction and retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association.

**Livestock Barn, c. 1920; Contributing Building** (Photos 9, 25-28; Figure D)

The livestock barn, with three main sections, is the largest of the outbuildings, measuring fifty-three by forty feet. It faces west, and the back/eastern side fronts the edge of the east pasture. The entire structure is constructed with wooden poles and rough sawn boards. As is the case with all the outbuildings, the materials were derived from the homestead itself. The barn has dirt floors except for a raised storage room and the hay loft which have board floors. The left section (eleven by forty feet) is open the length of the barn, with a dividing fence in the middle and mangers or feeding troughs at both ends. The west end has a large swinging door while the east end used poles across the opening to confine the large animals (horses or cows), as they came and went to the adjoining pasture. This portion of the building is sided in horizontally placed sawn boards.

The right section (eleven by forty feet, Photo 25) also spans the length of the building with a swinging gate at the east end. The old farm wagon still sits inside this part of the barn. This right section opens to the middle area of the barn, by passageway, at the east end near the wagon. This section is also sided with horizontally placed rough sawn boards.

The center section (thirty-one by forty feet, Photo 26) of the barn, with hard dirt floor, is representative of a center dogtrot area, accessible by large, double swinging doors, with iron hardware, on both the east and west ends. On the right wall of the center section are several shelves, the storage room with the raised wooden floor, a small stall with a manger for the horses, and a hay rack (Photo 27). To the left of the center section are four stalls, three of which have mangers for the cows. In the center section is a large manger with hay rack facing outward toward the center, where the cows were milked. The floored hay loft can be reached via portable ladder near the west end of the center aisle or an outside door at loft level. The posts used to construct the livestock barn were cut from the homestead property and have visible ax marks. There is a gabled 5v metal roof covering the entire structure.

Like the combination barn, corn crib, and chicken house, the livestock barn has only had minor alterations with some replacement metal roofing and thus retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It also still maintains many original tools and implements that were used on the homestead (Photo 28).

**Cotton House, c. 1900; Contributing Building** (Photo 10)

A small contributing outbuilding positioned toward the west, the structure (nine by nine feet, six inches) is constructed with wooden poles and horizontally placed rough sawn boards. It has a gabled 5v metal roof and dirt floors. At one time it was used for cotton storage, in what was at that time an adjoining field. This field today is planted in pine trees in recreation of the original piney forest, and the building is used for general storage. The western elevation has a small wooden board door on it and all other elevations have no openings. The only alteration to the building is updated replacement metal roofing to match the original. The cotton house retains a high degree of integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.



Brumfield Homestead  
 Name of Property

Washington Parish  
 County and State

**Pump House, c. 1954; Contributing Building (Photo 4)**

This is a small outbuilding (six by seven feet, six inches) which houses the water pump and well for the farmstead. Facing west, the structure is constructed with wooden poles and boards. It has a slanted corrugated metal roof and dirt floor.

As discussed above, the only alterations to the outbuildings have been some replacement metal roofing, and the alterations to the farmhouse have been mostly cosmetic. Thus, the Brumfield Homestead as a whole retains integrity of location, setting, design, overall materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Should Thomas Colter Brumfield come back to the property today, he would recognize it as the place where he lived and worked for so many years.

**The Brumfield Homestead Today**

The nominated property remains an excellent example of a late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century rural Washington Parish homestead, with a complete collection of buildings and structures representative of both subsistence and commodity agriculture. The property was farmed for the better part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, using these very buildings, exactly as they are today, until 1975 when Thomas Colter retired. The farmhouse and property serve as a weekend residence for Thomas Colter and Emma Brumfield's youngest granddaughter, Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman, and her family. It, the log cabin, and other outbuildings have been maintained and have excellent structural and historic integrity, such that visitors to the property, transported to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and early 20<sup>th</sup> century, feel the palpable past.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

<b>X</b>	<b>A</b>	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	<b>B</b>	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
<b>X</b>	<b>C</b>	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	<b>D</b>	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

**Criteria Considerations:**

	<b>A</b>	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	<b>B</b>	Removed from its original location
	<b>C</b>	A birthplace or grave
	<b>D</b>	A cemetery
	<b>E</b>	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	<b>F</b>	A commemorative property
	<b>G</b>	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.): Agriculture and Architecture

**Period of Significance:** c. 1887 -1964

**Significant Dates:** 1887, 1893, 1914

**Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above): N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** (only if criterion D is marked above): N/A

**Architect/Builder (last name, first name):** Brumfield, Thomas Colter and  
Brumfield, Thomas Hezekiah

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The period of significance lasts from the initial application for the homestead of the property in 1887 by Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield, including his farm operations from 1887 until his death in 1931, and continuing through the farmstead's establishment by his son, Thomas Colter Brumfield, from 1914 through 1964, the fifty year cutoff. T.C. Brumfield continued farming until 1975, but the homestead did not have exceptional agricultural significance after 1964, hence the fifty year cutoff. This period encompassed the construction of all contributing resources on the homestead and the majority of its period of agricultural production under the Brumfields' ownership. Significant dates include 1887, when Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield initially applied for the homestead; April 3, 1893, when Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield received the patent for the land after he had built the initial home and log cabin and had begun farming; and 1914, when the farmhouse was built by father and son and occupied by Thomas Colter Brumfield and his bride.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)** N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Brumfield Homestead is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criteria A and C. The Brumfields and their forebears were some of the earliest settlers and were instrumental in the development of Washington Parish. Under Criterion A, the Brumfield homestead is significant in the area of agriculture as an exceptionally intact farmstead, rare in its area, which reflects local and regional farming in Washington Parish in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and for three quarters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Architecturally, under Criterion C, the Brumfield homestead is significant as a lasting, complete collection of resources that includes several representative types of agricultural buildings, in addition to showcasing vernacular design, materials, and workmanship reflective of the folk architecture, including that of the Upland South culture, in the Florida Parishes of Louisiana. The unaltered outbuildings offer a sense of time and place, revealing the homestead's humble beginning. In particular, the single pen log cabin built around 1888 and used first as a separate kitchen for an earlier home and later as a cotton house, is an exemplary example of extant log construction in Washington Parish. With its historic integrity intact, it is a surviving testament on its original homestead to the humble beginnings of these settlers and also to the longevity of the log cabin itself. In addition, the Brumfield farmhouse, with its original design, materials, and

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

workmanship, is noteworthy as an example of folk vernacular architecture and a settler's rural residence built by its owner and his father according to local standards.

---

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

### **The Brumfield Family and Homestead**

John Bickham, Thomas Hezekiah's Brumfield's great-grandfather, arrived in Louisiana in 1799 and donated thirty acres of land for the Washington Parish courthouse in the town of Franklinton on July 4, 1826. Bickham, who came to Louisiana from Georgia, was part of one of the first six families who settled in the area in 1799, part of the westward movement to Louisiana around 1790.<sup>2</sup>

On his paternal side, Thomas Colter's great-grandfather William Brumfield arrived in Washington Parish, coming from York District, South Carolina, around 1809.<sup>3</sup> William Brumfield was a Sergeant in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Regiments, Louisiana Militia in the War of 1812. William, who was referred to as "a man of influence" by historian Dr. Russ Williams, was a statesman in addition to a soldier. As early as 1825, he was a representative of Washington Parish at the Louisiana Constitution Convention while locally he was the parish sheriff in 1829, serving a second term in 1835. In 1845 he participated in the convention which produced the Constitution for the "first state democratic government." In addition, he was a Mason in the Franklinton Lodge where he became a Master Mason in 1851.<sup>4</sup> A farmer and slaveholder, William Brumfield had six children, one of whom was the elder Thomas Colter. This elder Thomas Colter Brumfield and his brother, Barksdale Wade Brumfield, were privates in Company K, the Pumpkin Studs, Third Louisiana "Wingfield's" Louisiana Calvary from Washington Parish, serving in the Battle of Port Hudson during the Civil War. Barksdale Wade also served as Parish Recorder in both 1865 and 1866.<sup>5</sup>

Also on his paternal side, Thomas Colter's Great-Great-Uncle Nathaniel Brumfield was a well-known farmer in Washington Parish in the mid-1800s. In 1850, he was reported to have produced 4,000 pounds of rice and 37 bales of 400 pounds each of cotton. Nathaniel farmed 200 acres of land, with the help of his slaves, numbering 24.<sup>6</sup> From early on in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Brumfield family had an early start in farming the land in Washington Parish.

The grandson of the elder Thomas Colter, the younger Thomas Colter, with the help of his father, Thomas Hezekiah, built the nominated farmhouse in 1914 for his bride, five miles northeast of Franklinton just to the east of the Hackley Highway, which at that time was a buggy trail. Being the first to settle in the area, when the parish road leading to his home from the Hackley Highway was eventually paved in later years, it was given his name, T.C. Brumfield Road. In 1918, Thomas Hezekiah and Susan Bickham Brumfield deeded to their eldest son the forty acres of revered land on which the Brumfield farmhouse, log cabin, and other outbuildings are situated. This is part of the section of land Thomas Hezekiah had homesteaded as is the twenty-five acre adjoining tract which Thomas Colter purchased from his siblings. The title to the land has continuously remained in the Brumfield family, with uninterrupted ownership, beginning with Thomas Hezekiah and Susan Brumfield, continuing with Thomas Colter and Emma Brumfield, and passing at death to their

---

<sup>2</sup> Williams, Jr., E. Russ, *History of Washington Parish, Louisiana, 1798-1992: The Story of a Land and People on Three Rivers: The Pearl, the Bogue Chitto, and the Tangipahoa in Southeast Louisiana* (Williams Genealogical and Historical Publications, Monroe, Louisiana 1994), p. 7, 54.

<sup>3</sup> Carter, Honorable Prentiss B., *The History of Washington Parish, Louisiana* (submitted by Bonnie M. Dier, prepared by Sandy Corkern June 2001) p. 7.

<sup>4</sup> Williams, p. 388-89.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid*, p 178-179, 197, 387.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid*, p 72-73.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

youngest daughter Margie Nell Brumfield Ellzey. She then passed the property at her death in 2011 to daughter, Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman, the present owner.

In 1887, Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield made an initial application, evidenced by an entry, dated December 1, 1887, in the U.S. Tract Book, for a homestead under the Homestead Land Act of 1862. He submitted an affidavit attesting that he was the head of his family, twenty-one years or older, and was otherwise qualified to homestead land under said legislation. While his homestead application was pending, he constructed a small dwelling on the land in Washington Parish together with a separate log cabin which served as his kitchen. In November 1892, Thomas Hezekiah applied for a homestead certificate, with another affidavit, this one from witnesses who were likely neighbors supporting his application for the homestead by attesting that he had made improvements on and was farming the land.<sup>7</sup> Several months later in April 1893, he received his United States patent for one hundred fifty-nine and eighty hundredths of an acre in the Northeast corner of Washington Parish, Louisiana.<sup>8</sup> Settled on the land, Thomas Hezekiah and his wife Susan Bickham had seven children, the eldest of whom was Thomas Colter, born on the homestead in July 1893.

On Saturday, September 12, 1914, Thomas Colter Brumfield was married to Emma Elizabeth Jenkins. The wedding was described in the local newspaper, *The Era-Leader*: "The groom is a prosperous young farmer located a few miles north of Franklinton and the bride was until recently, the popular assistant in the post office here, where she won many friends thru her never failing courtesy and charming manners. The groom had his home ready for immediate occupancy and the young people are happily established and have the best wishes of their many friends in their new life." It was in this farmhouse that their two daughters, first Gwendolyn and then Margie Nell, were born, raised, and married.

**Criterion A: Agriculture:**

The property, under Criterion A, is an exceptional, intact, historical homestead in a rural farming community in Southeastern Louisiana. Its association with farming in Washington Parish in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and for part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is clear. The Brumfield Homestead is rare in that for miles around, in the northeastern part of Washington Parish, there isn't another such remaining property, intact with its original outbuildings. The Brumfield Homestead is an unusual plenary collection of agricultural buildings that reflect farming in the parish during the late 1800s and the 1900s, part of the post-Civil War agricultural revolution. It is additionally significant in that the eastern part of the parish was sparsely settled in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, likely because the better farming land was in the northwestern part of the parish.<sup>9</sup> Yet, the Brumfields persevered, with a working farm for three-quarters of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, playing an important role in the agrarian South.

Beginning in the late 1800s and early 1900s, small farms, offering the farmer and his family self-sufficiency, were the mainstay of Washington Parish. Even the fruit trees which the Brumfields planted between the combination barn and livestock barn continue to produce figs and plums. Farm production around the turn of the century was characterized principally by cotton, corn, soybeans, rice, and sugar cane, with rural farmers concurrently raising livestock, most prominently chickens, hogs, sheep, and cattle. With the exception of rice and sheep, the Brumfield Homestead represents this farming system in its extant buildings, notably in the smokehouse; combination barn, corn crib, and chicken house; livestock barn; and cotton house. The surviving one-room log cabin is the crown

<sup>7</sup> Homestead Application No. 10041, Receiver's Receipt No. 4327, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1892.

<sup>8</sup> United States Land Patent, issued to Thomas H. Brumfield, April 3, 1893.

<sup>9</sup> Williams, p 240-41.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

jewel in the collection of outbuildings, having served as a separate kitchen for an earlier home on the property, which was typical in that era in this area. The cabin was later used for cotton storage.

*Agriculture in Washington Parish, Louisiana, 1880s – 1925:*

The nominated property is a prime example of the typical rural farmstead established in Washington Parish in the late 1890s and early 1900s. What makes it unique and rare is that it is intact and includes its original outbuildings, one of which is a log cabin built around 1888. Though log construction declined somewhat in some areas after the 1870s, such was not the case on the frontier in Washington Parish.<sup>10</sup> Though the wealth of the area was in its virgin timber, the first timber cruisers did not arrive in the parish until the 1890s, and it was the early 1900s before the Goodyear brothers arrived and established the Great Southern Lumber Company.<sup>11</sup> With the stately pine forests still permeating the land in Washington Parish in the late 1800s, the Brumfield log cabin – symbolic of frontier life – was built from virgin timber from the homestead. Of additional significance, the homestead is located in northeastern Washington Parish, which was noted by Washington Parish historian and author, Dr. Russ Williams, as “sparsely settled” post-Civil War.<sup>12</sup>

The eldest Brumfield son, Thomas Colter, bought the original 39.75 acres, known as the homestead forty, from his father Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield on October 12, 1918, for eight hundred dollars. The pioneer settlers who moved into Washington Parish to farm, many of them from the Upland South states of Georgia and North and South Carolina, like the Brumfields, built small dwellings and in particular one-room log cabins, making good use of the wealth of virgin timber the area was known for. As described by Dr. Russ Williams, log cabins, such as the Brumfield’s, were typical homes “for the vast majority of the Washington Parish pioneers.”<sup>13</sup> As with the Brumfield Homestead on East Fork Burch Creek, many of the farms were located along creeks, streams, and rivers which helped both the settlers and their livestock.<sup>14</sup>

As also described by Dr. Williams, each family farm “was a small self-contained village” which included a home, together with a grouping of outbuildings like a smokehouse, chicken house, cow barn, stock barn, corn crib, and carpentry shed.<sup>15</sup> The Brumfield Homestead exemplifies exactly such a complex. Williams further described the livestock as including cows, chickens, hogs, mules, and horses, all of which roamed the Brumfield Homestead.<sup>16</sup> All such stock was typical for the area, as late as 1925, as shown by the Census of Agriculture. In Washington Parish in 1925, there were 1,609 horses, 1,797 mules, 11,089 cattle, 14,785 swine, and 62,250 chickens. The chickens in the parish produced 181,210 dozen eggs in 1924 and 199,703 dozen eggs in 1919.<sup>17</sup> In 1925, farms in Washington Parish numbered 1,975 which was an increase from 1,715 in 1910. There were 738 farms in the parish in 1925 with between 20 and 49 acres. This was the most typical range of acreage for a Washington Parish farmer in 1925, as revealed by the Census of Agriculture.<sup>18</sup> Thomas Colter Brumfield had a 39.75 acre farmstead at that time.

Though federal non-population census doesn’t exist farm by farm in Louisiana after 1880 and statistics were also not available by ward, an interview with an eighty-five-year old former neighbor

<sup>10</sup> Fricker, Jonathan, *The Folk Architecture of the Appalachian Uplanders* in Poesch, Jessie and Barbara SoRelle Bacot, *Louisiana Buildings 1720-1940: The Historic American Buildings Survey* (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1997) p.86.

<sup>11</sup> Goodyear, C.W., *Bogalusa Story* (Wm. J. Keller Inc. Buffalo, New York 1950) p. 27, 29.

<sup>12</sup> Williams, p 217.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid*, p 76.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, p 65.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid*, p 236.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>17</sup> Census of Agriculture: 1925 – Louisiana, <http://agcensus.mannlib.cornell.edu/AgCensus>.

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid*.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

provided valuable information as to the nature of the area surrounding the Brumfield Homestead in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. She reported that all neighbors in the area farmed their land, growing crops of corn, cotton, and soybeans like the Brumfields. However, unlike the Brumfield Homestead, none of these farmsteads, with their original outbuildings, remain. In fact, her family home, struck by lightning, was destroyed by fire many years ago.<sup>19</sup>

Typifying a small rural farmstead, Thomas Colter and Emma Brumfield, and before them, Thomas Hezekiah and Susan, farmed the property in a way that made them totally self-sufficient. They grew crops of cotton, corn, and soybeans, major agricultural products in Washington Parish. The cotton, brought out of the fields by sharecroppers, was stored in the little log cabin, once its days as a kitchen were past, and in the cotton house. Daughter Margie Nell Brumfield Ellzey recalled riding in the horse-drawn wagon, which rests today in the livestock barn (see Photo 28), to transport the cotton to the cotton gin where it was baled. She explained that after the cotton was baled, it was sold to a local mercantile which then transported it to the wharf at Covington where it travelled on to the port of New Orleans to be sold at the cotton exchange. Corn, on the other hand, was used largely to feed the livestock – the cattle, chickens, and horses.

Of course, both Susan Bickham Brumfield and Emma Jenkins Brumfield also grew vegetables in their bountiful vegetable gardens, such as tomatoes, squash, butterbeans, and the like. It was the garden and fruit orchard with figs from the fig trees and plums from the plum trees that also helped make the Brumfields' life comfortable. Margie Nell Brumfield Ellzey wrote, "Fortunately we had plenty of food which was produced on the farm. We even had our own smoke-house where the hams and bacon were kept." These home grown staples helped them survive in the late 1920s and early 1930s during the Great Depression when cotton brought very little per pound. Though money was scarce, there was a delicious meal set on the dining room table every day. According to Margie Nell Brumfield Ellzey, breakfast consisted of fresh farm eggs straight from the chicken house, country smoked ham or bacon from pork cured in the smokehouse, hot biscuits made from scratch, and thick cane syrup. The cane syrup was a special product made by her father Thomas Colter, from sugar cane, also grown there on the farmstead. The meat on the table either came from poultry in the chicken yard or cows in the barn, and the milk cows, of course, provided milk and cream.

### **Criterion C: Architecture:**

The Brumfield Homestead is eligible under Criterion C for the completeness of its extant material culture and for the design characteristics that establish the farmstead as a unified whole. Even the period vegetation – camellias, azaleas, gardenias, nandinas, mimosa, and ancient live oaks – conveys the significance and character of the property. The Brumfield Homestead remains an important and rare example of Washington Parish's vernacular building tradition.

Though the crops and livestock have been gone since 1975, the feeling of the agrarian past is palpable amongst the original farmhouse and outbuildings, consisting of the log cabin; smokehouse; the combination barn, corn crib, and hen house; the livestock barn; the pump house; and the cotton house. In its original location with its original design, the farmhouse is purely farm functional with four rooms arranged around a center hall, with a kitchen in back. The surviving features and workmanship found in the outbuildings and Farmhouse are reflective of the folk architecture of Washington Parish and the Upland South building traditions, once found all over the southeastern United States. There does not exist in the parish such a farmhouse or complex in pristine, original condition.

<sup>19</sup> Interview, Margie Thomas Passman, April 22, 2014.

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

Built in 1914, the farmhouse is typical of a pioneer settler's home with a wide plank front porch with beadboard ceiling and exposed rafter tails. The front entrance opens onto a wide center hall flanked by two rooms on each side. The flooring is heart pine, from boards milled off the property, evident from the various plank widths (2 ¼, 3 ¼, and 5 ½ inches) throughout the home. In true settler fashion, the Brumfield father and son used in construction what they had on the homestead. The ceilings in the farmhouse rooms were and are high for air circulation during the hot Louisiana summers. The screen doors allow air flow from the front to the back porches. The lowered ceiling in the hallway also helps to funnel air straight through the house. Wavy paned glass windows, two over two, in each of the home's rooms, with original wooden sticks propping them open, capture a cool breeze – much as the entirety of the homestead captures the past.

The outbuilding characteristics, including asymmetrical gable roofs with wooden poles and rough sawn board siding, milled from trees off the homestead property, do likewise. Such is also the case with the rare remaining one-room, one-story single pen log cabin with the hand hewn skinned round logs, notched with rounded cuts (saddle) at the corners. From trees felled from the homestead property, the ax cuts remain visible on the logs. Contained within the outbuildings are the original axes and tools, including the crosscut saw, used to construct the farmstead buildings along with the rudimentary plows used to till the adjacent fields. Even the old wooden wagon remains in the barn.

*Homestead Architecture in Washington Parish, Louisiana:*

By the 1830s, descendants of the pioneer settlers from the Upland southeastern seaboard states (Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Virginia), including the Brumfields from South Carolina, had settled in North Louisiana and the Florida parishes of southeastern Louisiana, including Washington Parish and had begun settling the parish.<sup>20</sup>

*Per the National Register nomination for another log cabin in Washington Parish, the settlers of Washington Parish mostly came from a group of Anglo immigrants from the coastal plains of the older southeastern states. Prior to this discovery, it was thought that the pioneers were mainly from Appalachia. Researchers began calling the culture and traditions of these Anglo immigrants "Upland South Culture." Samuel Hyde, Jr. stated in his work *Pistols and Politics: The Dilemma of Democracy in Louisiana's Florida Parishes, 1810-1899*:*

*After the American Revolution, significant numbers from the Tidewater region of Virginia and the Carolinas, many of them Tories fleeing persecution, migrated to the Florida Parishes. The relative isolation and the abundance of cheap available land in eastern Louisiana inspired major migrations in the first decade of the nineteenth century.<sup>21</sup>*

*William Brumfield was one of these immigrants who arrived in Washington Parish in 1809 after leaving York County, South Carolina. What is interesting about these immigrants is that while they did come from the Atlantic seaboard, they did not follow Atlantic seaboard building traditions when they built their new houses and barns, but rather built homes and outbuildings like those associated with other Uplanders and folk traditions found in other parts of the southeast. Log construction was found throughout much of the south and was not necessarily only related to the Appalachian region. This is*

<sup>20</sup> Fricker, Jonathan, "The Folk Architecture of the Appalachian Uplanders," p 71.

<sup>21</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Bouey Moore Homestead, Franklinton, Washington Parish, Louisiana, National Register #09001059

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

*directly observed by the former abundance of log cabin construction in North Louisiana and the Florida parishes of Louisiana.<sup>22</sup>*

The earliest buildings constructed by the settlers in Washington Parish are what we think of as true log cabins constructed of complete logs stacked horizontally and notched together at the ends. The log cabin at the Brumfield Homestead is built in this method. Later buildings constructed in Washington Parish utilized rough sawn boards, either sawn on site or at lumber mills which began popping up in the Florida Parishes, placed horizontally or sometimes vertically to create the walls like the other outbuildings at the Brumfield Homestead. The rough sawn board outbuildings at Brumfield were built using lumber milled on site.

Examples of other comparable log cabins in Washington Parish can be found at the Washington Parish Fairgrounds as several log cabins were moved to the site to save them. This is now known as Mile Branch Settlement and is a historical village of sorts. These include\*:

- The Knight Cabin, c. 1857 (single pen log cabin), National Register - 1979
- King House, c. 1830 (dog trot log cabin)
- Pigott House, c. 1865 (double pen log cabin)
- Half Moon Bluff Baptist Church, reconstruction of a c. 1812 church (single pen log cabin)
- Bankston General Store, c. 1890 (rough sawn board construction)
- Mt. Hermon School, c. 1885 (rough sawn board construction)
- Johnson Cabin, c. 1860 (single pen log cabin)
- Bankston Blacksmith Shop, c. 1890 (rough sawn board construction)
- Penton Smokehouse, c. 1924 (single pen log cabin)
- Henry Branch Corn Crib and Murphy Bateman Grist Mill, c. 1875 (single pen log cabin)
- Buddy Crow Outhouse, c. 1910 (rough sawn board construction)
- Varnado Corn Crib, c. 1900 (single pen log cabin)
- King Barn, c. 1880 (multiple pen log cabin construction for interior storage pens combined with rough sawn board construction on some exterior walls)
- Sylvest House, c. 1880 (single pen log cabin construction combined with rough sawn board construction on some exterior walls), National Register - 1979

\*The listing of cabins and other outbuildings located at Mile Branch Settlement includes approximately 5 other log buildings of which photos and specific information were not immediately available to aid in the description of their construction. They all date between 1830 and 1900 and were all moved to the Washington Parish Fairgrounds.<sup>23</sup> While these log cabins are extant within Washington Parish, they were moved to this location from their original location. They have lost the integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association (and a few are reconstructions losing even more integrity), while those outbuildings on the Brumfield Homestead are still in their original setting and location and retain a high degree of historic and architectural integrity.

One other log cabin in Washington Parish is listed on the National Register as well. The Bouey Moore Homestead was listed in 2009 at the local level for its architectural significance as a good example of log architecture, which is Washington Parish's local pioneer folk building tradition. When comparing the Bouey Moore Homestead to the Brumfield Homestead, there are some similarities as both properties remain at their original site and both contain an original barn. But Brumfield pushes ahead

<sup>22</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Bouey Moore Homestead, Franklinton, Washington Parish, Louisiana, National Register #09001059

<sup>23</sup> *Washington Parish Free Fair*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 May 2014. <[http://www.freefair.com/Mile%20Branch/mile\\_branch.htm](http://www.freefair.com/Mile%20Branch/mile_branch.htm)>.



Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

here as it contains four other original outbuildings as well. Additionally, the Bouey Moore Homestead has received non-historic alterations over the years that have affected some of its historic and architectural integrity as compared to Brumfield. Nonetheless, both the Bouey Moore Homestead and the Brumfield Homestead remain prime examples of pioneer vernacular construction in central and northeastern Washington Parish respectively.<sup>24</sup>

A quote from “The Folk Architecture of the Appalachian Uplanders,” by Jonathan Fricker only helps to drive home the rarity of the Brumfield Homestead:

“Unfortunately, log houses and outbuildings tend not to survive outside a museum setting. People who live in log houses often tack on one thing after another until they become unrecognizable. Those that are unaltered are also usually abandoned. Deteriorating, they face an uncertain future. The prospects for log outbuildings are even grimmer. Such buildings are of absolutely no use in modern agriculture and hence are either abandoned or sold for salvage lumber.”<sup>25</sup>

*Additionally, in the Bouey Moore Homestead National Register nomination, the author points out:*

*The tradition of building log houses once permeated Washington Parish. But little is left today, due to redevelopment and demolition as older houses are abandoned and replaced by more up-to-date residences. Outbuildings included barns, cribs, smokehouses, well houses, and other buildings scattered over the landscape...Unfortunately, historic outbuildings are of no use in modern agriculture and have generally fared even more poorly than residences.*<sup>26</sup>

These points further reinforce why the high integrity of the farmhouse and outbuildings at the Brumfield Homestead is significant. They have not been abandoned and have been continually maintained for over 120 years.

By the time the Brumfields settled their piece of land in the northeastern portion of the parish, which was largely unsettled at the time (unlike other parts of Washington Parish), they were quite familiar with log construction and were comfortable constructing their farmhouse and outbuildings that way. At this point, the traditional log construction was not utilized as much, and instead, the outbuildings were constructed primarily of post and beam construction with vertical or horizontal rough sawn board walls. The farmhouse, also original, had sawn lumber plank siding, but asbestos siding was added in the 1930s to update the house though the original wood is still underneath the asbestos. The original storeroom, on the rear elevation, still retains its original wood siding.

This unified homestead complex stands today and retains a high degree of architectural and historic integrity. Its significance within the agricultural world in Washington Parish as well as its architectural significance as an intact homestead complex is evident.

### **Brumfield Homestead for Remainder of 20<sup>th</sup> Century (1940s–1975)**

Very little has changed on the Brumfield Homestead since its humble beginning. For the remainder of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, until his retirement in 1975 at age 81, Thomas Colter continued to provide for his family off the land, growing the same crops – corn, soybeans, and cotton, with a splash of sugar cane

<sup>24</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Bouey Moore Homestead, Franklinton, Washington Parish, Louisiana, National Register #09001059

<sup>25</sup> Fricker, Jonathan, “The Folk Architecture of the Appalachian Uplanders,” p 85-86.

<sup>26</sup> National Register of Historic Places, Bouey Moore Homestead, Franklinton, Washington Parish, Louisiana, National Register #09001059

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

– which ultimately fed his family. On occasion, he sold a beef cow at the stockyards in Franklinton where he worked one day a week well into his seventies. The fruit trees continued to produce, and Thomas Colter diversified a bit, branching out by planting a watermelon patch. The livestock still roamed the property, and there were always eggs for the grandchildren to gather in the hen house. The pan of cream in the icebox in the old kitchen came straight from the milk cows in the livestock barn, where they were milked. By day, they grazed in the two agricultural fields, adjacent to the farmhouse and outbuildings. Thomas Colter fortified the drainage in the fields, by improving the terrace rows through a governmental program. Progress also came in the way of transportation. Travel by horse and buggy went by the wayside, with a Ford automobile in its place. Still, the poles which brought electricity, and thereby light, to the farmhouse in the 1940s were probably the largest technological change of the century brought about by an electric utility cooperative. And as for convenience, the privy gave way to a tiny bathroom added onto the farmhouse kitchen though little else changed for the Brumfields. There was no other modernization of the farmhouse or outbuildings after that.

The nominated property remains an excellent example of an early 20<sup>th</sup> century rural Washington Parish homestead, including buildings and structures representative of both subsistence and commodity agriculture. The farmhouse is used as a weekend house by the owner, and it and all of the outbuildings are kept in good condition by the owner, who is the great-granddaughter of the property's original owner, Thomas Hezekiah Brumfield. Because the property has remained in the family and been continually lived in and cared for, it has a high degree of architectural and historic integrity and remains eligible for listing on the National Register.

---

### Developmental History/Additional historic context information

See above.

<h2>9. Major Bibliographical Resources</h2>
---

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Carter, Honorable Prentiss B., *The History of Washington Parish, Louisiana* (submitted by Bonnie M. Dier, prepared by Sandy Corkern, June 2001).

Census of Agriculture: 1925 – Louisiana, <http://agcensus.mannlib.cornell.edu/AgCensus>.

Fricker, Jonathan and Donna, "Log Construction in Louisiana Historic Context," (Fricker Historic Preservation Services, LLC March 2012)

Fricker, Jonathan, "The Folk Architecture of the Appalachian Uplanders," in Poesch, Jessie and Barbara SoRelle Bacot, *Louisiana Buildings 1720-1940: The Historic American Buildings Survey* (Louisiana State University Press, Baton Rouge, 1997).

Goodyear, C.W., *Bogalusa Story* (Wm. J. Keller Inc. Buffalo, New York 1950).

Homestead Application No. 10041, Receiver's Receipt No. 4327, New Orleans, Louisiana, 1892.

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

Interview, Margie Thomas Passman, April 22, 2014.

National Register of Historic Places, Bouey Moore Homestead, Franklinton, Washington Parish, Louisiana, National Register #09001059.

United States Land Patent, issued to Thomas H. Brumfield, April 3, 1893.

*Washington Parish Free Fair*. N.p., n.d. Web. 22 May 2014.  
<[http://www.freefair.com/Mile%20Branch/mile\\_branch.htm](http://www.freefair.com/Mile%20Branch/mile_branch.htm)>.

Williams, Jr., E. Russ, *History of Washington Parish, Louisiana, 1798-1992: The Story of a Land and People on Three Rivers: The Pearl, the Bogue Chitto, and the Tangipahoa in Southeast Louisiana* (Williams Genealogical and Historical Publications, Monroe, Louisiana 1994).

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):**  n/a

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property:** 65.477 acres

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- A. Latitude: 30.909607                      Longitude: -90.109132
- B. Latitude: 30.909721                      Longitude: -90.106505
- C. Latitude: 30.910093                      Longitude: -90.104925

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

D. Latitude: 30.905978	Longitude: -90.104842
E. Latitude: 30.905978	Longitude: -90.105761
F. Latitude: 30.902652	Longitude: -90.105691
G. Latitude: 30.902601	Longitude: -90.108064
H. Latitude: 30.904384	Longitude: -90.108105
I. Latitude: 30.904342	Longitude: -90.109143

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property boundaries are, as follows: 1. The Southwest Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 4, Township 2 South, Range 11 East, Washington Parish, Louisiana, containing 39.75 acres, together with all improvements thereon, particularly the old family home. 2. 25.727 acres of land located in Section 4, Township 2 South, Range 11 East, St. Helena Meridian, Washington Parish, Louisiana, begin at the quarter section corner common to Sections 4 and 5, Township 2 South, Range 11 East, and go South 89 degrees 24 minutes 38 seconds East, 1043.45 feet; thence South 00 degrees 31 minutes 37 seconds West, 1335.58 feet; thence North 89 degrees 45 minutes West, 256.49 feet; thence North 84 degrees 53 minutes 41 seconds West, 308.25 feet; thence North 23 degrees 12 minutes 03 seconds West, 387.36 feet; thence North 69 degrees 21 minutes 38 seconds East, 83.74 feet; thence North 14 degrees 09 minutes 02 seconds West, 295.81 feet; thence North 88 degrees 50 minutes 09 seconds West, 327.28 feet; thence North 00 degrees 30 minutes East, 634.35 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING. See map on page ?? for boundary.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.) The boundary includes the farmhouse, outbuildings, fields, orchard, and forest that have historically been a part of the Brumfield Homestead.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Cecily Ellzey Bateman \_\_\_\_\_  
organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number: 126 Acadian Lane \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town: Mandeville \_\_\_\_\_ state: LA zip code: 70471 \_\_\_\_\_  
e-mail cecilyeb@bellsouth.net \_\_\_\_\_  
telephone: 985-630-5012 \_\_\_\_\_  
date: May 14, 2014 \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

## Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 3000x2000 at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

## Photo Log

Name of Property: Brumfield Homestead

City or Vicinity: Franklinton

County: Washington Parish

Photographer: Rodney Bateman

- 1 of 28: Outside of Log Cabin showing the whole structure; camera facing southwest
- 2 of 28: Outside of Log Cabin showing log cuts; camera facing southwest
- 3 of 28: Farmhouse façade; camera facing southwest
- 4 of 28: Pump house exterior; camera facing north
- 5 of 28: Smokehouse exterior, façade; camera facing southwest
- 6 of 28: Farmhouse exterior showing original storeroom extension; camera facing west
- 7 of 28: Combination barn exterior, façade; camera facing southeast
- 8 of 28: Combination barn exterior, rear elevation; camera facing northeast
- 9 of 28: Livestock barn exterior, façade; camera facing southeast
- 10 of 28: Cotton house exterior; camera facing northeast
- 11 of 28: Farmhouse interior, center hall; camera facing south
- 12 of 28: Farmhouse interior, large bedroom; camera facing east
- 13 of 28: Farmhouse interior showing wood floors between the hallway and larger bedroom; camera facing east
- 14 of 28: Farmhouse interior, small bedroom; camera facing east
- 15 of 28: Farmhouse exterior showing rear porch steps and wash shelf; camera facing east
- 16 of 28: Farmhouse exterior showing north side of rear porch; camera facing north
- 17 of 28: Farmhouse interior, bathroom interior (added in 1940s); camera facing west
- 18 of 28: Farmhouse interior, original storeroom; camera facing south
- 19 of 28: Farmhouse interior, kitchen (original deeds and homestead documents on wall over sink; camera facing southeast
- 20 of 28: Farmhouse interior, four panel wood door (typical of all interior doors) between dining room and kitchen; camera facing south
- 21 of 28: Farmhouse interior, dining room; camera facing southeast
- 22 of 28: Farmhouse interior, Living room; camera facing west
- 23 of 28: Farmhouse interior showing original hardware on back door
- 24 of 28: Farmhouse interior showing original hardware on all interior doors
- 25 of 28: Livestock barn, right section; camera facing east
- 26 of 28: Livestock barn, center section; camera facing east
- 27 of 28: Livestock barn interior showing original hay rack; camera facing northeast
- 28 of 28: Livestock barn interior showing a second original hay rack and the family's original wagon; camera facing south

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State

**List of Figures**

- A. Farmhouse façade c. 1960; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.
- B. Brumfield family members in front of the farmhouse, c. 1926. Compare to photo 3; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.
- C. Farmhouse façade and west elevation, c. 1960; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.
- D. Brumfield family members outside of the Livestock barn, c. 1926; compare to photo 9; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.
- E. Brumfield family members on rear porch, c. 1926. Compare to photo 15; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.
- F. T.C. Brumfield in front of parlor fireplace, c. 1971. Compare to photo 22; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.
- G. USDA Map
- H. Property Sketch Map
- I. Farmhouse Sketch Map
- J. Livestock Barn Sketch Map
- K. Combination Barn Sketch Map
- L. Smokehouse Sketch Map

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State



Figure A. Farmhouse façade c. 1960; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.



Figure B. Brumfield family members in front of the farmhouse, c. 1926. Compare to photo 3; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman

Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State



Figure C. Farmhouse façade and west elevation, c. 1960; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.

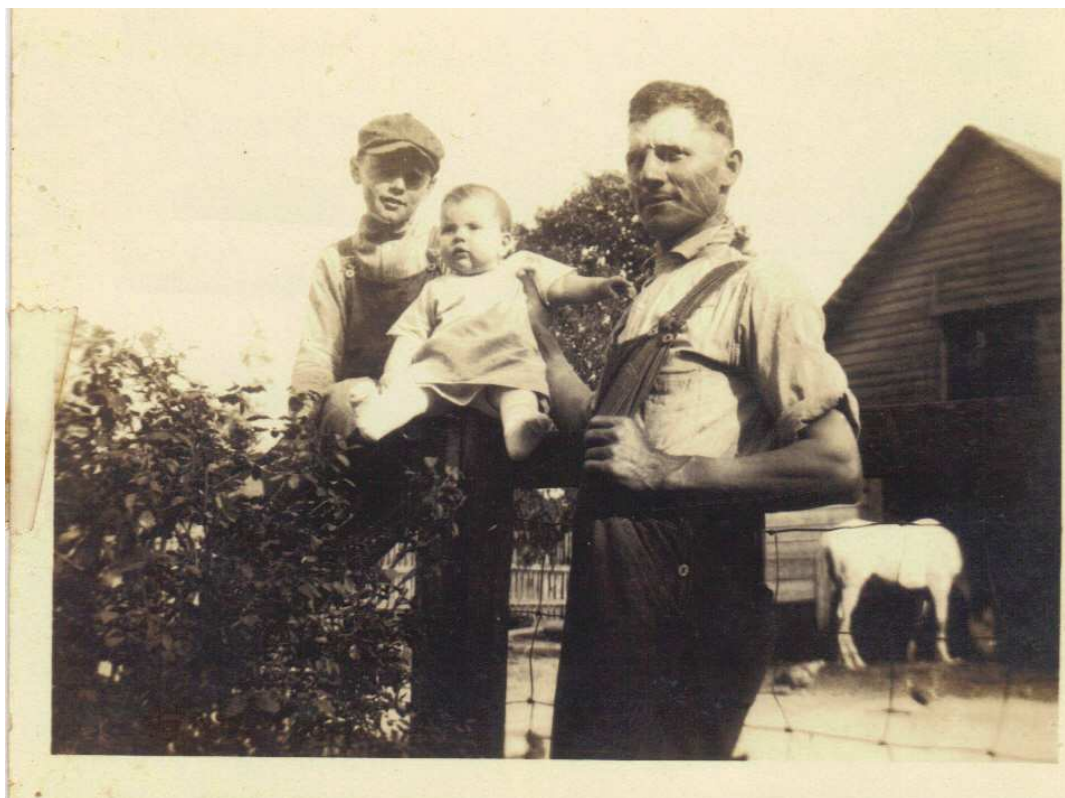


Figure D. Brumfield family members outside of the Livestock barn, c. 1926; Compare to photo 9; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.



Brumfield Homestead

Name of Property

Washington Parish

County and State



Figure E. Brumfield family members on rear porch, c. 1926. Compare to photo 15; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.



Figure F. T.C. Brumfield in front of parlor fireplace, c. 1971. Compare to photo 22; Image courtesy of Susan Cecily Ellzey Bateman.

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State



United States Department of Agriculture  
Farm Service Agency

May 07, 2014

Farm: 2749  
Tract: 14711

**Washington County, LA**  
1:4,280



Disclaimer: Wetland identifiers do not represent the size, shape or specific determination of the area.  
Refer to your original determination (CPA-026 and attached maps) for exact wetland boundaries and determinations, or contact NRCS.

Figure G. USDA Map

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

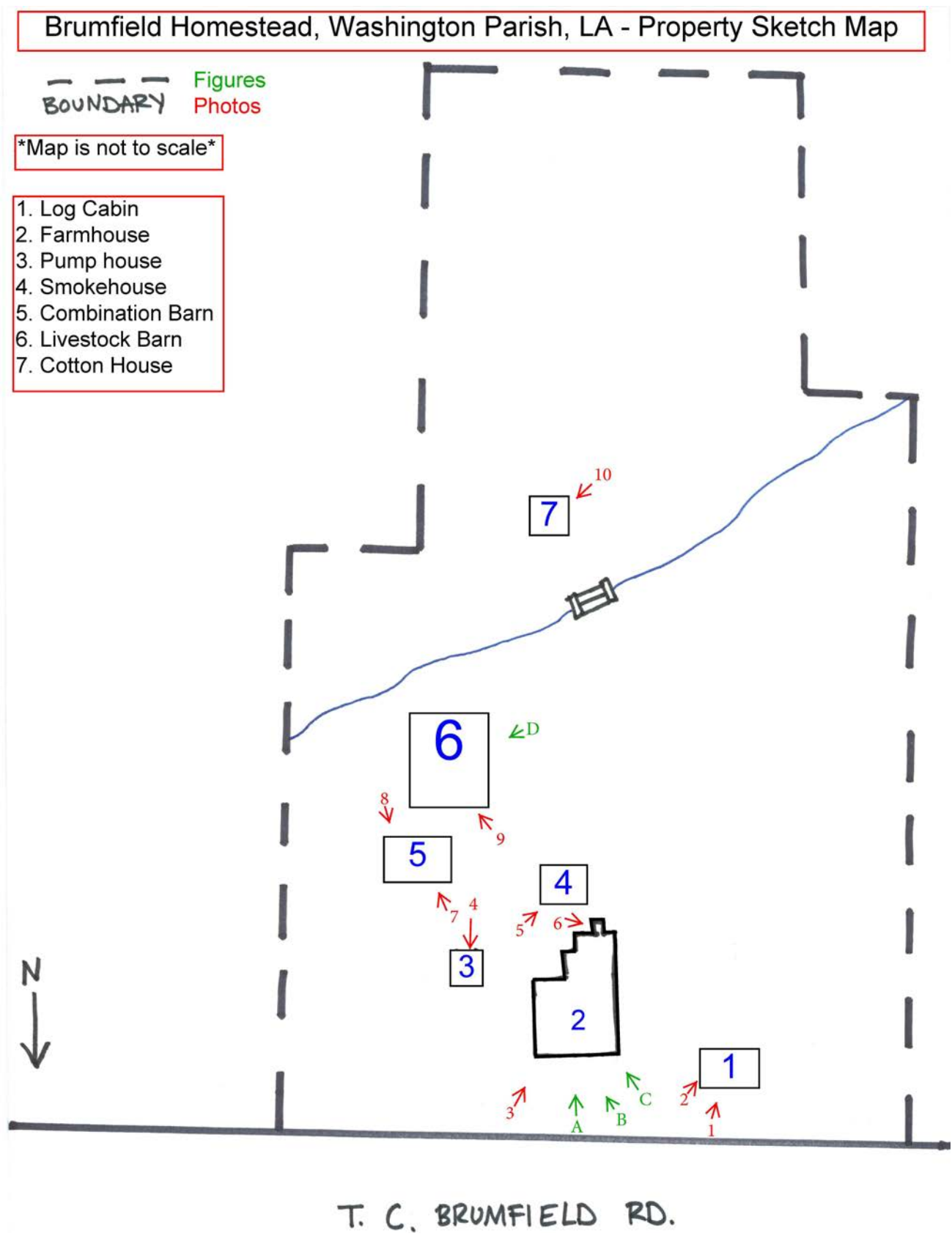


Figure H. Property Sketch Map

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

Brumfield Homestead  
Washington Parish, LA  
Farmhouse Sketch Plan and Photo Key  
\*Not to Scale\*

Figures  
Photos

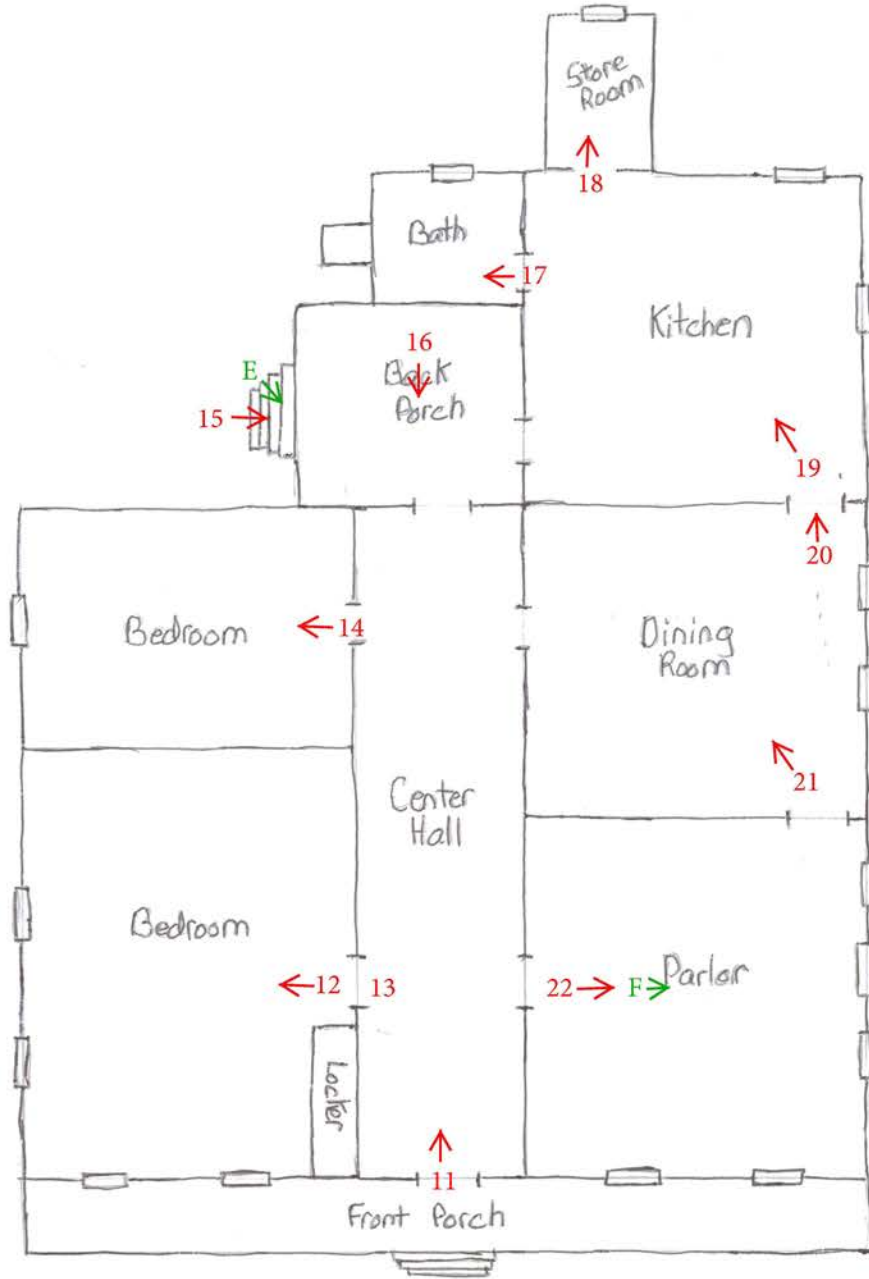


Figure I. Farmhouse Sketch Map

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

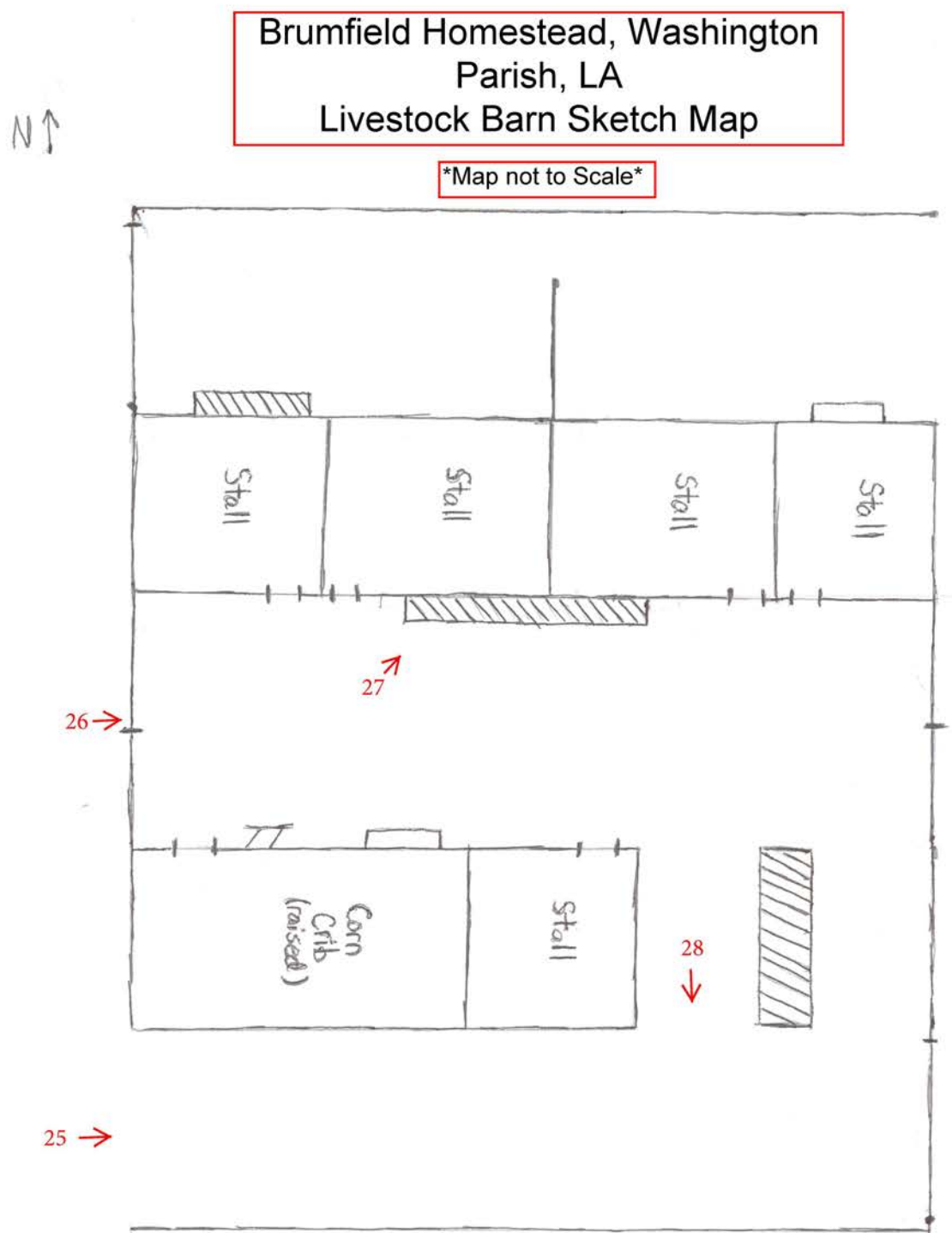


Figure J. Livestock Barn Sketch Map

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

**Brumfield Homestead, Washington Parish, LA  
Combination Barn Sketch Map**

**\*Not to Scale\***

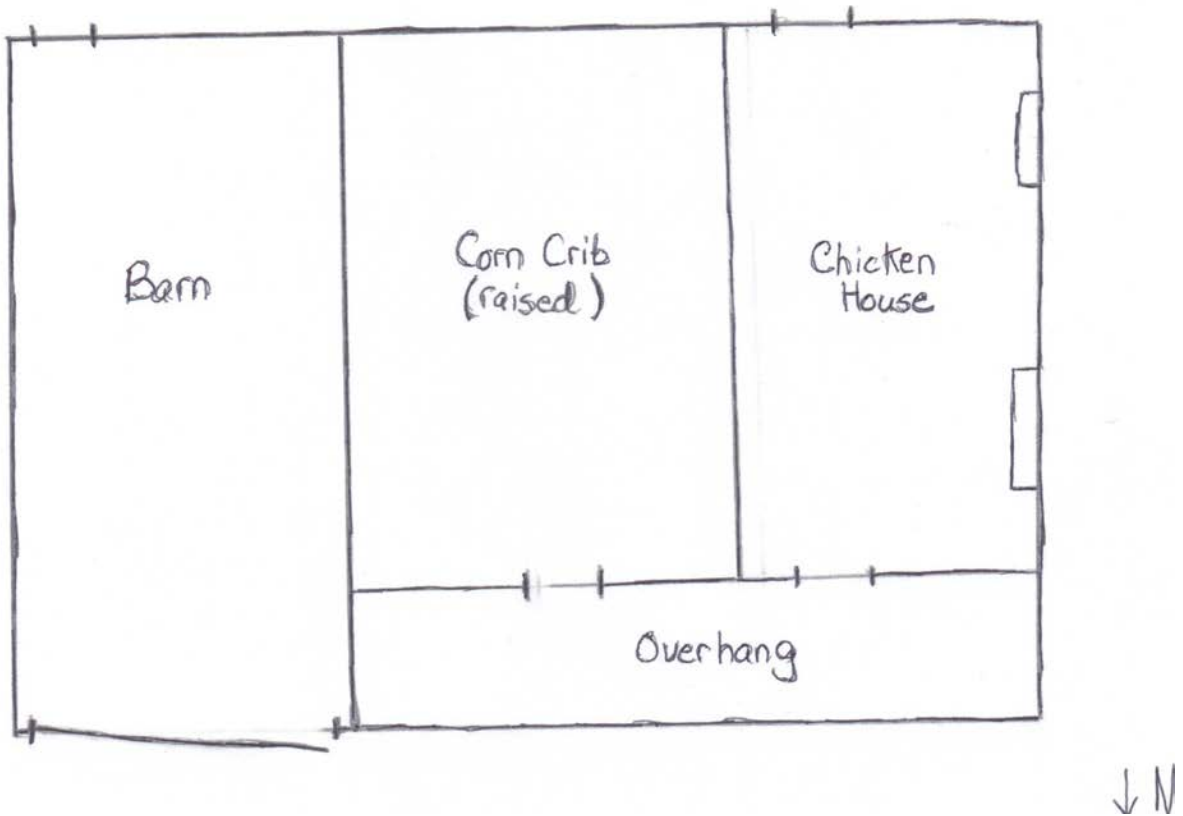


Figure K. Combination Barn Sketch Map

Brumfield Homestead  
Name of Property

Washington Parish  
County and State

Brumfield Homestead, Washington Parish, LA  
Smokehouse Sketch Map  
  
\*Not to Scale\*

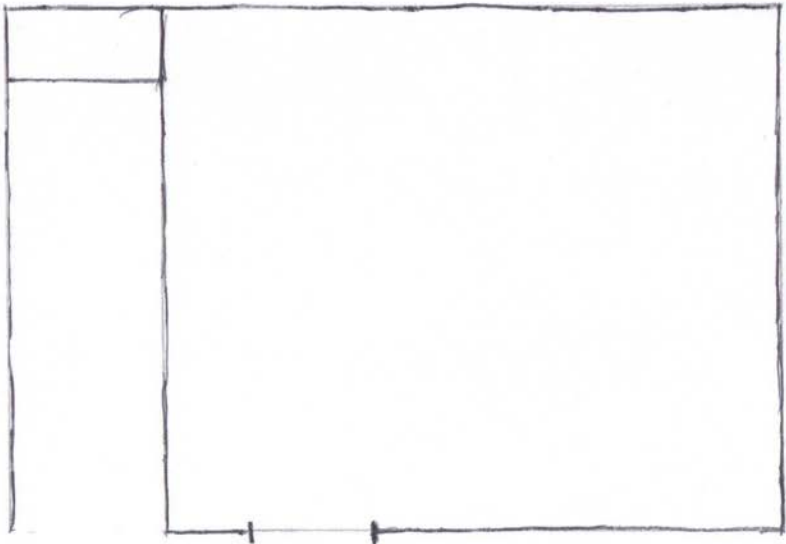
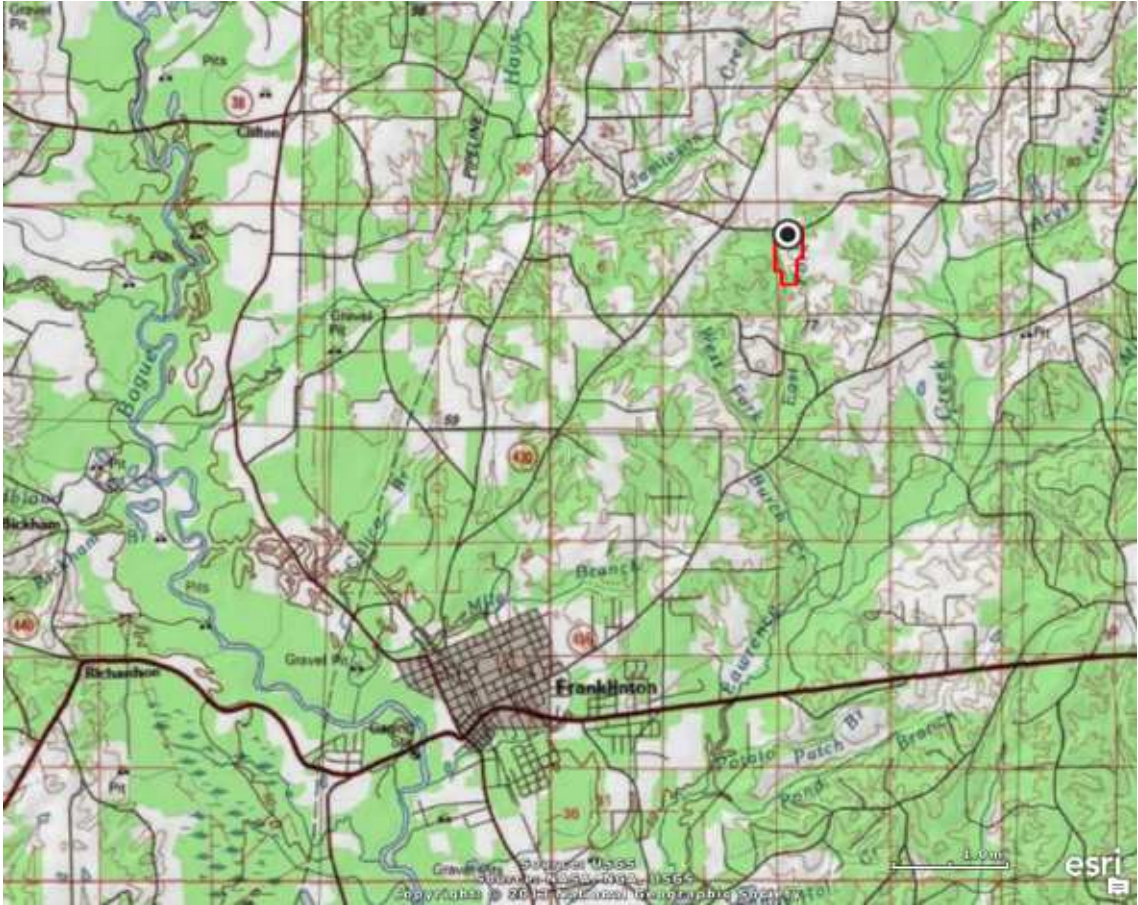


Figure L. Smokehouse Sketch Map

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

**Brumfield Homestead, Washington Parish, LA**

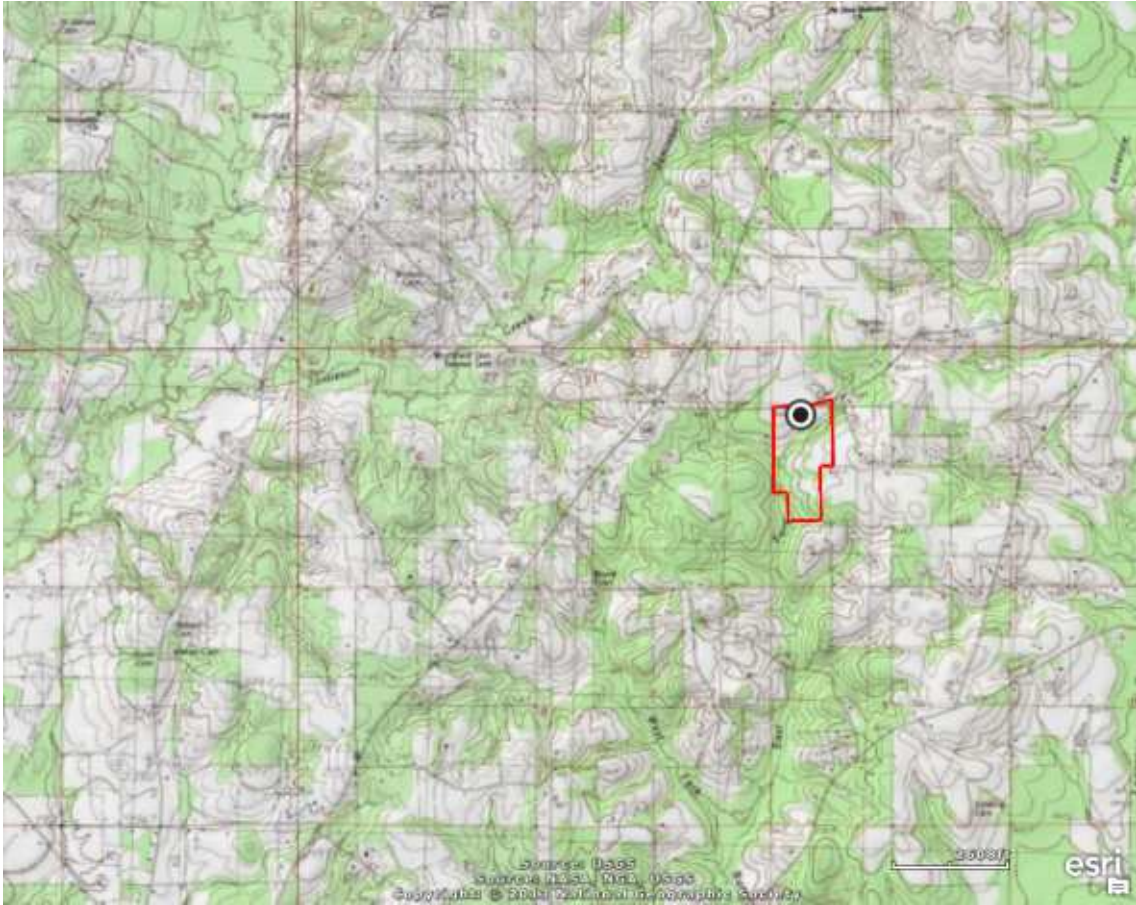


**Latitude: 30.909139**

**Longitude: -90.107189**



**Brumfield Homestead, Washington Parish, LA**



**Latitude: 30.909139**

**Longitude: -90.107189**

## Brumfield Homestead, Washington Parish, LA



Point	Latitude	Longitude
A	30.909607	-90.109132
B	30.909721	-90.106505
C	30.910093	-90.104925
D	30.905978	-90.104842
E	30.905978	-90.105761
F	30.902652	-90.105691
G	30.902601	-90.108064
H	30.904384	-90.108105
I	30.904342	-90.109143







Dramfield House  
Circa 1914  
Elroy







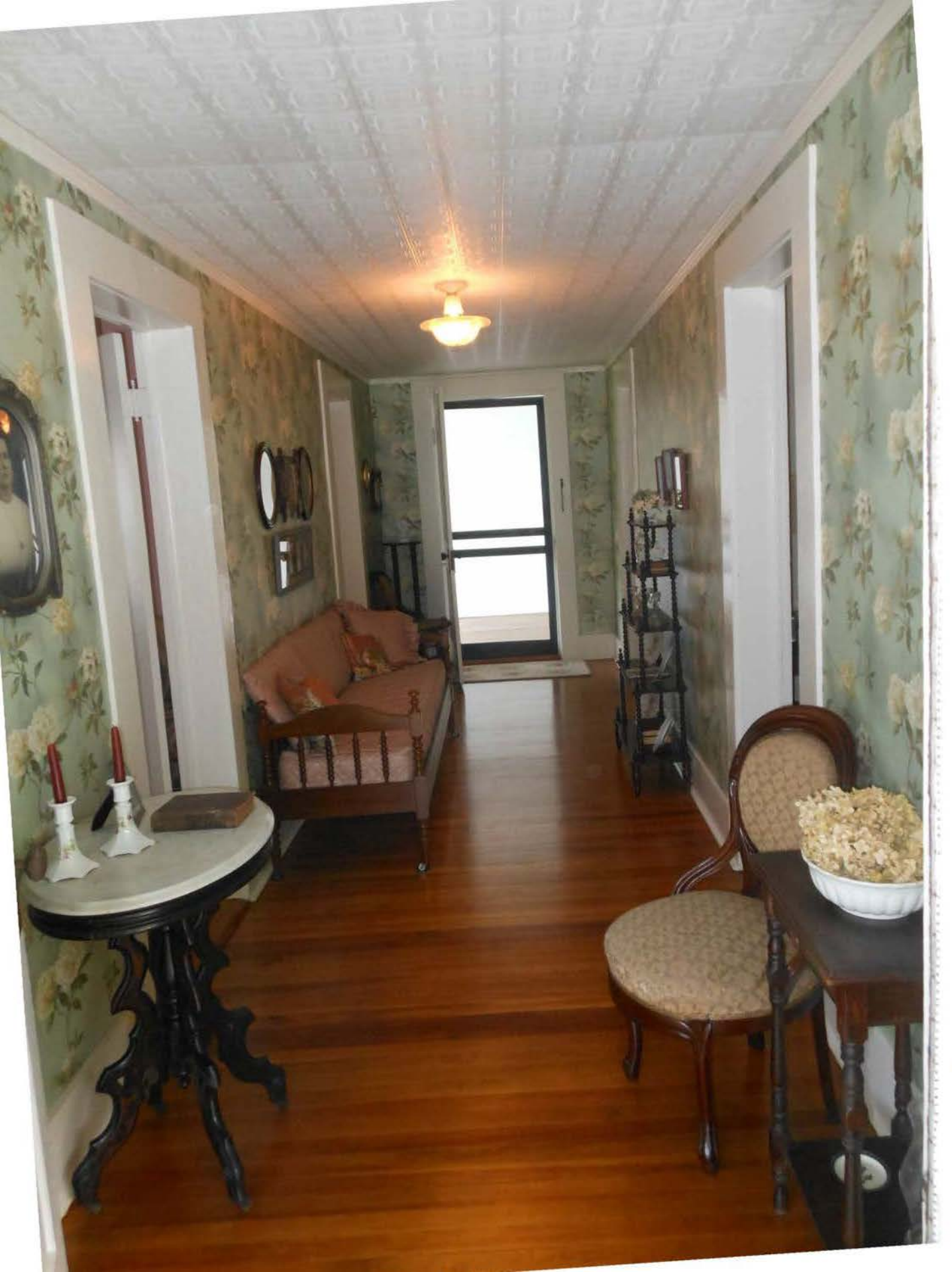


















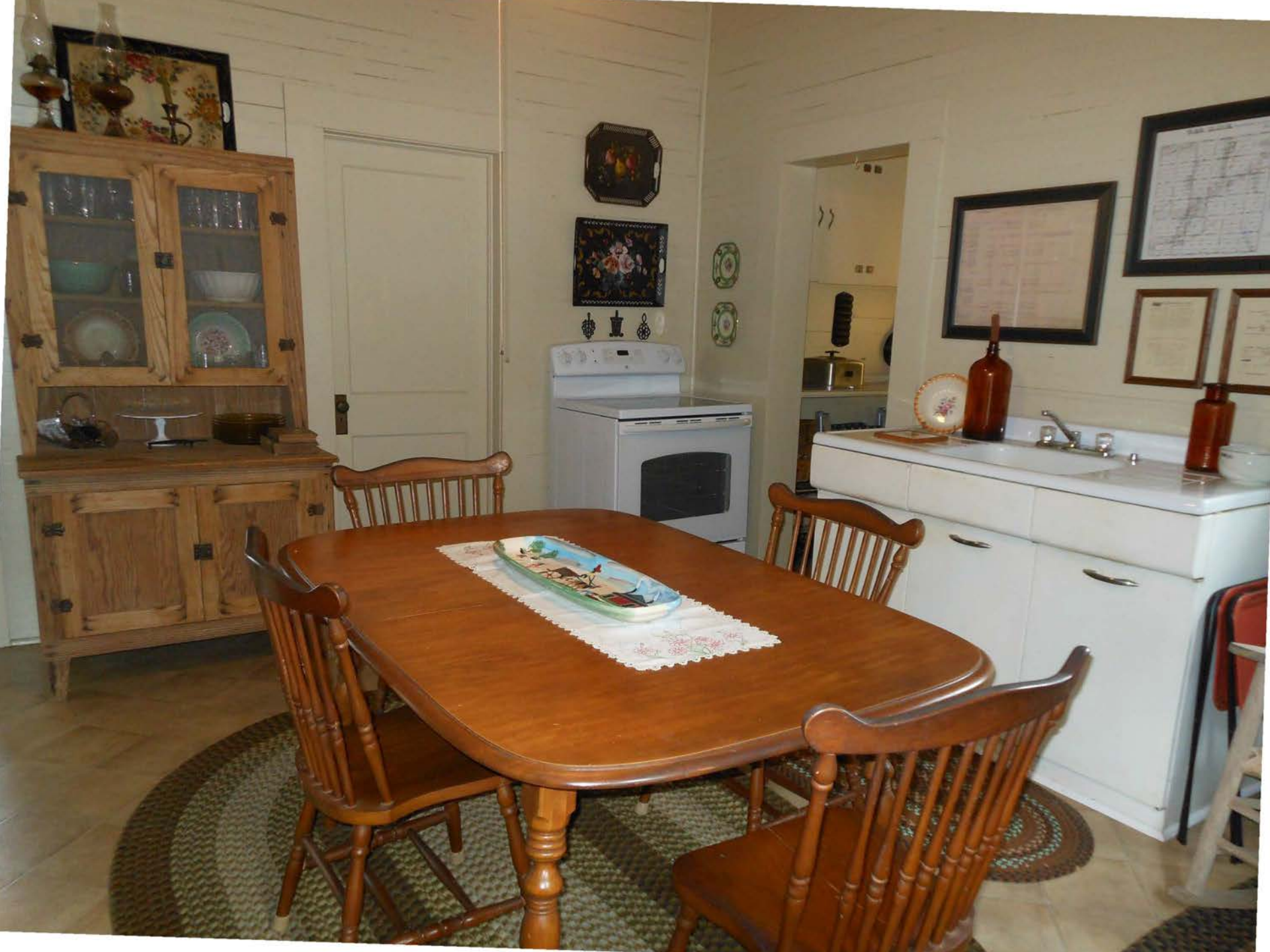
































UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brumfield Homestead

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Washington

DATE RECEIVED: 8/08/14 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/04/14  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/14 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/24/14  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 14000693

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 9.24.2014 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Good example of Farmstead with rare surviving collection of outbuildings, including original cabin

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. Gabbard DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/ see attached SLR Y/

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



JAY DARDENNE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**State of Louisiana**  
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM  
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

July 30, 2014

TO: Mr. James Gabbert  
National Park Service 2280, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor; National Register of Historic Places  
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator  
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Brumfield Homestead, Washington Parish, LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Brumfield Homestead to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the property in TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or [jrichardson@crt.la.gov](mailto:jrichardson@crt.la.gov).

Thanks,

Jessica

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tif format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other:

Comments:

- Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- \_\_\_\_\_ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- \_\_\_\_\_ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do \_\_\_\_\_ do not \_\_\_\_\_  
constitute a majority of property owners.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other: