RECEIVED
OCT - 2 2019
Natl. Reg. of Historic Places
National Park Service

4618

NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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: Crabb-Stewart-Key House
Other names/ site number: Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson House
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter N/A if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number:
1084 Nat Key Road

City/Town: Hartselle **State:** AL **County:** Morgan
Not for Publication: _____ **Vicinity:** X

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination ___ request ___ determination of eligibility 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 x meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.
I recommend this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:
___ National ___ Statewide x Local

Applicable National Register Criteria: x A ___ B x C ___ D

Lee Anne Wofford /Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer October 1, 2019
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Alabama Historical Commission
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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this 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): _____

Signature of the Keeper 11/18/19
Date of Action

Crabb-Stewart-Key House | Morgan, Alabama
Name of Property | County and State

5. Classification / Ownership of Property: (check as many boxes as apply)

- [X] Private
- [ ] Public-Local
- [ ] Public-State
- [ ] Public-Federal

Category of Property: (check only one box)

- [ ] Building(s)
- [X] District
- [ ] Site
- [ ] Structure
- [ ] Object

Number of Resources Within Property: (do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-Contributing	
3		Buildings
1		Sites
2	1	Structures
		Objects
6	1	**TOTAL**

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use / Historic Functions: (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling-inn
DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions: (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling
AGRICULTURE/storage
FUNERARY/cemetery

7. Architectural Classification: (enter categories from instructions)

Other: log single pen

Materials: (enter categories from instructions)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Log, Stone, Masonite

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

Located at 1084 Nat Key Road in rural Morgan County, Alabama, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is a classic example of vernacular architecture. The early nineteenth-century dwelling is constructed of hand-hewn timbers, hardwood planks, and stones. The exterior of the single pile, two-story dwelling features Masonite siding over original log construction. The house core consists of two rooms downstairs and two upstairs. A one-story addition on the northeast side of the house core contains three rooms. In addition to the house, a smoke house, cook house, pump house, pond, and a family cemetery are located on a parcel of land containing 66.4 acres. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House, outbuildings, and cemetery retain good overall integrity in terms of workmanship, design, materials, location, setting, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

Setting

Constructed circa 1818, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is located at 1084 Nat Key Road in rural Morgan County, Alabama. This location falls generally within the Brindley Mountain range in the Tennessee River Valley of northern Alabama. The Brindley Mountain range is an isolated portion of the Appalachian Plateau. The area is defined by a "series of east-west upland and lowland belts."[1] Specifically, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House lies in Key Hollow between Fairview Mountain (approximately 1,100 ft AMSL) to the north and Negro Mountain (approximately 1,000 ft AMSL) to the south. Cedar Cove wraps around the western edge of the property. The Robertson Branch stream flows generally east to west through Key Hollow. Key Spring gently drops down the side of Negro Mountain before merging with the branch stream. Spring and stream lie a short distance south of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House. Through this scene of natural beauty runs Nat Key Road. A two-lane black top, Nat Key Road makes a bend through Key Hollow and heads west toward the town of Falkville and city of Hartselle and east to Gandy Cove. Key Cemetery, a family burial plot containing 14 internments associated with the Key and Stewart families, borders the east side of the rural lane.

Architectural Description (Exterior)

Constructed circa 1818, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House features an L-shaped footprint based on a rectangular core and a rear ell addition. Rising to a height of two stories, the house measures approximately 25 feet 10 inches along the southwest (which faces Nat Key Road) and northeast elevations and 38 feet 6 inches along the northwest and southeast elevations, and 15 feet 10 inches high (does not include height of raised attic covering original core). Built of hand-hewn timbers, the house core is clad on the exterior with Masonite siding and various materials on the interior, including wood paneling. The first-generation log house is "constructed of logs generally over one foot in diameter and hewn to plank shape on the inside and probably the outside. The tops and bottoms of the logs were left rounded with the bark intact. Notching appears to be one half dovetail."[2] An original, two-tiered porch with Queen Anne details extends across much of the southwest elevation. The circa 1950, one-story east side addition contains kitchen and dining room wings and a bathroom.

At the very crown of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House core is a ribbed, metal-covered gable roof. In 2015, the current metal roof replaced an earlier metal roof. Exterior gable appointments include plain fascia, soffits, raking cornices, and wide eaves. Additional roofs on the house include a ribbed, metal-covered gable on the one-story kitchen wing and bathroom and a ribbed, metal-covered shed roof on the dining room wing. On the southeast elevation of the vernacular dwelling, a stone chimney rises from the ground and pierces the gable top of the core. In so doing, the chimney tapers twice: the first instance occurs at the top of the first floor and the second at the top of the second floor. On the north side of the kitchen wing, a concrete block and brick chimney rises above the roof. An aluminum gutter runs along the roof base on the east elevation

[1] Patrick, Austin L, *Soil Survey of Morgan County, Alabama*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921: 5.
[2] Burleson, David A., Cabin's Architecture Analysis. Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson Home Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission by the Hartselle Historical Society, 2018: 1.

of the house core. Located at the northeast and southeast corners of the house core, aluminum downspouts with multiple elbows shed water from the roof top to the ground. The gutters and downspouts were attached to the house in 2015.

The composition of the southwest façade (which faces Nat Key Road) of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is composed of cladding, fenestration, and a porch. The exterior of the log dwelling is buttoned up with courses of Masonite siding, which was installed in the 1960s. Prior to the Masonite siding, the exterior was clad in wood weatherboards. Vertical corner boards at the northwest and southeast corners of the house cover the ends of the siding and prevent water intrusion. Two voids in the wall mass on the second floor ensconce an original door and a late nineteenth-century window. Situated somewhat centrally on the elevation, the door is composed of vertical wood planks. Plain wood casing trims out the door. The door ensemble includes a screen door. The adjacent window also features a screen. Vertically divided by a stile, the upper sash has six lights while the lower has four lights. The bottom floor of the elevation features two central doors flanked on either side by a window. Both doors date to the late nineteenth century. Although both doors have six lights and panels, they are composed differently. One door has six upper lights with three lights situated on either side of a single stile and three lower wood panels while the other door has six upper lights with three lights situated on either side of a single central rail over three lower wood panels. Both doors have screen doors and plain wood casings. On either side of the doors are a late nineteenth-century 4/4 double hung sash window appointed with plain wood casings and a screen.

The two-tiered porch is composed of early nineteenth-century framework and later stylistic details. The porch roof rafters are hand hewn. The porch rafters extend an estimated 5 feet inside the house where they are attached and resting on the top seal plate and extend outside the seal plate the distance of the porch;[3] however, with its circa 1880 lath-turned, gouge, and scroll wood work, the porch is a picture of folk Queen Anne architecture. A ribbed, metal-covered shed roof rests on a gouge and scrollwork frieze, decorative brackets, and turned posts. A scrollwork balustrade wraps around the perimeter of the second tier of the porch. Tongue and groove boards laid perpendicular to the façade form the second floor porch deck. The frieze marking the transition from the first tier to the second is clad in three courses of Masonite. Gouge and scrollwork details and brackets undermount the frieze. These details rest atop turned and rectangular posts. Shelf rails extend between four rectangular posts. Tongue and groove boards laid perpendicular to the façade form the first floor porch deck. Skirt boards beneath the deck conceal floor joists. Concrete blocks form a solid foundation at the base of the porch. The blocks were added in 2015. The porch dimensions are 6 feet deep by 20 feet 6 inches wide. Attached to the house in 2015, an aluminum gutter and downspouts drain water off the top of the porch.

The southeast elevation of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is a combination of the southeast sides of the house core and dining room wing and bathroom additions. The sole void on the south side of the house core encases a late nineteenth-century 4/4 double hung sash window appointed with plain wood casings and a screen. The window is located on the first floor on the east side of the stone chimney. Concrete block infill extends between stone piers. Two openings in the southeast façade of the dining room wing contain a late nineteenth-century door and a window. Composed of six panels, the wood door is appointed with a screen door and plain trim. Stone steps navigate the height differential between the ground and the threshold. The second opening features paired 4/4 double hung sashes with a screen and plain trim. Concrete blocks added in 2015 are visible at the base of the addition.

The northeast elevation of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is an amalgamation of the northeast sides of house core, the one-story kitchen and dining room wings, and bathroom. On the second floor of the house, a late nineteenth-century 4/4 double hung sash window stands out above the one-story accretions. Fenestration on the ground floor consists of one door and three windows. The late nineteenth-century door, which corresponds with the kitchen, has six lights over three wood panels. It is appointed with a screen door and plain casings. A 1960s, aluminum frame, 1/1 double hung sash window and a wood frame, 6/6 double hung sash window straddle either side of the door. The windows coincide with the kitchen and dining room, respectively. A pair of 4/4 double hung sashes occupy an opening in the dining room wall. Stone steps mediate the elevation between the ground and door threshold.

Fenestration on the northwest side of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House consists of three, late nineteenth-century 4/4 double hung sash windows. Arranged one per floor, two of the three windows are fixtures in the house core. The third window occupies a cavity in the northwest wall of the dining room. Stone piers and concrete block infill support the base of the house.

[3] Robert Dotson, interview with Gene A. Ford, June 7, 2019.

Interior Layout

The interior of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House core is divided into two rooms per floor. This is not to say, however, that the house is a two-story double pen or hall and parlor cottage: "Interior stud walls separate the downstairs and upstairs into two rooms on each floor. The interior walls are not original. It is more likely the house was a single pen and not a double pen house."[4] Constructed of studs and clad on either side by 4 inch wide tongue and groove boards, the interior walls are of mid to late nineteenth-century origin. As such, "the single pen's front length of 25 feet 10 inches is greater than normal, however, examples have been recorded with lengths of up to 30 feet."[5] The kitchen, dining room, and bathroom additions on the east side of the house are massed together without a connecting hallway. Doorways in common walls permit movement between the three rooms.

First Floor

A stud wall encased in wood paneling divides the first floor into what is now a living room and bedroom. From the exterior of the house, the living room is accessed via a door on the front porch. A doorway in the common wall with the bedroom permits interior passage between the two rooms. The living room is 13 feet 1 inch by 16 feet 6 inches. Finish materials in the living room include a sheet rock ceiling, wood paneling, and 4 inch wide floorboards. The 4 inch boards lie on top of original flooring consisting of 8 inch boards. Thin, three-stepped cornices conceal sheet rock and wall paneling junctions while 6 inch wide baseboards and quarter round molding conceal wall paneling and floorboard junctions. The sheet rock ceiling and wall paneling were the results of a 1960s remodeling project.[6] Sheet rock covers 4 inch wide tongue and groove ceiling boards. Located in the center of the southeast wall, the fireplace, hearth, and mantel are the focal point of the room. The hearth and fireplace are constructed of rough cut stone and mortar. The wood mantel featuring a scrollwork detail like those adorning the porch friezes dates to the early nineteenth century. Window and door casings are constructed of 6 inch wide boards. The doorway between the living room and bedroom features a four-panel wood door.

In addition to the interior door, the bedroom is accessed via a door on the front porch. The bedroom measures 11 feet 5 inches by 16 feet 6 inches. Finish materials in the bedroom include a drop, acoustic tile ceiling, wood paneling, and linoleum flooring, all of which are 1960s additions. Thin, three-stepped cornices conceal sheet rock and wall paneling junctions while 6 inch wide baseboards and quarter round molding conceal wall paneling and floorboard junctions. Linoleum and a plywood substrate lie on top of original flooring consisting of 8 inch boards; however, "portions of the original 8-inch-wide pine flooring are visible in a small closet under the corner stairwell."[7] Constructed of vertical planks, the closet door is original to the house. Built into the northwest corner of the bedroom, the L-shaped staircase consists of two flights of stairs featuring wood treads and risers. Acoustic tiles hide 4 inch wide tongue and groove ceiling boards.

Second Floor

The staircase empties out on the second floor, which is divided into two rooms. The north side room measures 11 feet 4 inches by 16 feet 3 inches. Finish materials consist of a drop acoustic tile ceiling, wood paneling, and linoleum flooring. Moldings and boards hide vertical and horizontal plane intersections. Located in the southwest corner of the room, a cased opening featuring an original vertical plank door enables movement between the room and the second floor of the porch. Linoleum and a plywood subfloor set down in 2016 cover original 8 inch wide floor boards while acoustic ceiling tiles hide 4 inch wide tongue and groove boards.

Next to a closet opposite the exterior door, an opening in the common wall of the second floor rooms provides access to the south side room. This room is 12 feet 6 inches by 16 feet 3 inches. It is appointed with the same finish materials as the adjoining room; however, the log construction of the south wall is exposed. The broad sides of the logs are relatively flat, having been hewn with adzes and other hand tools. Horizontal openings between the logs feature mortar and chink infill.

[4] Burleson, 2018: 2.
[5] Burleson, 2018: 2.
[6] Dotson, June 7, 2019.
[7] Burleson, 2018: 2.

Loft

The rafters are about 3 inches by 5 inches, pit-sawn, with some hewn faces, and joined via collar ties featuring center mortises and pegged joints. They are also joined at the ridge via center mortises and pegged joints. Hand hewn and 25 feet long, wall plates are visible in the loft. They hold the walls in compression.

Addition

Built circa 1950, the rear, or northeast elevation, addition features a kitchen, dining room, and a bathroom. At approximately 213 square feet, the kitchen wing is the largest of the three rooms. It is 22 feet 1 inch long, 11 feet 2 inches wide at its widest point, and narrows to 7 feet 1 inch. The L-shaped room has a drop acoustic tile ceiling and a floor finished with 12 inch square tiles. These tiles were added to the floor in the 1990s. Wall sheathing consists of unpainted and painted wood wall paneling and a small section of floor to ceiling faux brick paneling laid in running bond courses. The brick panel backs a wood burning stove. Plain crown molding, base boards, and quarter round molding conceal wall, floor, and ceiling intersections. Circa 1960s wood cabinets with hammered metal pulls are positioned along sections of the southwest and southeast walls. White appliances from the 1990s stand in the northwest corner. A doorway in the southwest corner connects to the dining room.

With four doors, one in each of its four walls, the 13 feet 1 inch by 13 feet 6 inches dining room is the portal through which traffic flows from the house core to the kitchen and bathroom. The doorways between the living room and the dining room and dining room and kitchen feature a four-panel door; the doorway between the dining room and bathroom features a six-panel door; the exterior door in the southeast wall is also constructed of six panels. The nearly square room has a textured sheet rock ceiling and a floor finished with 12 inch square tiles from the 1990s. Wall sheathing consists of painted sheet rock panels.

Attached to an ell formed by the intersection of the dining room and kitchen wings, the bathroom measures 7 feet 7 inches by 8 feet 5 inches. The bathroom has a drop, acoustic tile ceiling and a floor finished with 12 inch square tiles. Wall sheathing consists of floral motif and faux marble paneling. The commode, shower stall, and single sink vanity date to the 1960s.

Outbuildings

An above ground propane tank is located approximately 10 feet from the back door (northeast side) of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House. The cylindrical metallic tank is 10 feet long by 3 feet wide. It stands on a concrete pad. Installed in 2015, the tank is a noncontributing structure.

Built circa 1853, the cook house is approximately 15 feet due north of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House. The outbuilding features heavy hand-hewed timber construction with vertical board sheathing on the exterior. Measuring 40 feet by 18 feet wide, the cook house is divided into the cook house proper, which is enclosed by four walls, and an open air overhang. A ribbed metal gable roof covers the outbuilding. The interior features 6 inch wide tongue and groove wall boards. The southwest elevation has two 6/6 double hung sashes and two single pane windows. The cook house is a contributing building.

Built circa 1880, the smoke house is approximately 30 feet east of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House. The 16 feet by 20 feet outbuilding features wood frame construction with horizontal weatherboard sheathing. A ribbed metal gable roof covers the outbuilding. A double leaf, vertical plank door is located on the west side of the smoke house. An open air shed room is attached to the south elevation. The smoke house is a contributing building.

Built in the 1950s, the pump house is approximately 5 feet southeast of the smoke house. The 9 feet by 4 feet 6 inch outbuilding features concrete block construction with a ribbed metal shed roof. The pump house is a contributing structure. The building was instrumental in the distribution of water on the farm.

Created circa 1880, a pond is approximately 90 feet southeast of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House. The pond is approximately 6,239 square feet in its extent. It is approximately 60 feet by 120 feet. The sides and bottom are earthen. It is gravity fed by

a spring originating on the side of Fairview Mountain. "It was used as a reservoir to hold fish and water for livestock."[8] The pond is a contributing structure.

Cemetery

Located approximately 600 feet northwest of the house, the Key Cemetery contains 14 known graves associated with the Stewart and Key families. The earliest internment is Mary A. Stewart (1826-1906). The cemetery is the resting place of Mary's sisters: Atheldria A. Stewart (1846-1908), Jane Stewart (1830-1915), and Eliza Isabella Stewart Key (1840-1921), as well as Martin A. Key (1826-1917). Funerary art includes headstones and footstones. The Key Cemetery is a contributing site.

Archaeological Component

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains is high. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

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)

[X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

[ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

[X] C. 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.

[ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations: (mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

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

Areas of Significance: (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Settlement
Agriculture

Period of Significance:

1818-1969

[8] Dotson, June 7, 2019.

Significant Dates:
1818, 1853, 1969

Significant Person: (complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation:

Architect / Builder:

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.)

Built circa 1818, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is a locally significant example of an early-nineteenth century vernacular form in Alabama. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of exploration/settlement. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is a locally significant building representing the earliest history of the Alabama Territory, Morgan County, and Alabama statehood during which pioneers from Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Georgia moved into the area and began transforming wilderness into civilization. Lastly, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of agriculture. The house, associated outbuildings and structures, and farm land are a locally significant example of mid nineteenth-century to mid twentieth-century Morgan County upland agriculture.

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

Criterion C: Architecture

Built circa 1818, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of architecture. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is a locally significant example of an early nineteenth-century vernacular form in Alabama. “The log single pen was derived from the old English ‘one-bay’ house and was the oldest folk house type in the Deep South.”[9] This uniquely proportioned, two-story, log single pen residence is among the earliest remaining dwellings in Morgan County, Alabama. The first generation single pen is one of a small number of remaining first generation houses in Morgan County. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House’s oblong floor plan, loft, gable roof, end chimney, dove tail notching, plank-sided logs, and small corner stairs typify first generation log single pen construction. Its circa 1890s porch, Masonite siding, and circa 1950 rear additions document later expansion and remodeling efforts characteristic of rural homes. As electricity and plumbing were added to homes, owners typically constructed rear additions to house kitchens and bathrooms. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House retains good integrity in its location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The period of significance for Criterion C in the area of architecture is designated as 1818 to 1840. This period includes the year in which the house was constructed and the end date of first generation dwellings as defined by historian Eugene M. Wilson.

Early vernacular forms were based on building traditions handed down from generation to generation without written instructions. Transplanted from place to place, these building traditions were modified to accommodate the prevailing conditions. Builders initially relied on native hand-crafted materials. First utilized by German immigrants in the Midland

[9] Wilson, Eugene M., *Alabama Folk Houses*. Montgomery: Alabama Historical Commission, 1975: 25.

region and later borrowed by Anglo settlers, notched logs were commonly used in the early nineteenth-century Alabama frontier where virgin timber was plentiful.[10] A more advanced early building process involved shaping round logs into rectangular timbers with various axes; cutting mortises and tenons or dovetail notches into the timber ends; fastening the ends with pegs or the dovetail notching; and later concealing the timbers behind hand-crafted weatherboards. Log construction was known to settlers of the Tennessee Valley.[11] Log dwellings took one of four basic forms: single pen, saddlebag, double pen, or dogtrot, the latter being the most popular. These four forms derive from eighteenth-century models erected in the Tennessee and Kentucky frontier, Tidewater, and Piedmont regions.[12]

According to Eugene M. Wilson, author of *Alabama Folk Houses*, "first generation single and double log houses represent the earliest permanent houses in Alabama with a construction date of 1800 to 1840."[13] Construction methodology, form, and materials are defined by Wilson thus:

> They had an oblong room plan, the double houses had a separate front door to each room centered in the longer wall, all had a gable roof and exterior chimneys centered at the gable wall. An important distinguishing characteristic of this generation was the attention given to workmanship. The wall logs, often over one foot in diameter, were commonly hewn to a plank shape, in some cases on all four sides, and joined with the half-dovetail corner, although in Alabama, the square corner and the V corner were sometimes used. The loft, a standard feature of the single pen, was retained in early double houses and gave them a height of one and one-half to one and three-quarter story. The loft access was usually by a small inside corner stair, or a stair in the passage of some dogtrot houses.[14]

With its oblong floor plan, loft, gable roof, end chimney, dove tail notching, plank-sided logs, small corner stairs, and circa 1818 construction date, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House epitomizes Wilson's paradigm of a first generation, log single pen, albeit with a unique additional floor.

Given that no comprehensive survey of Morgan County has been conducted to date, it is difficult to place the Crabb-Stewart-Key House in a county-wide (local) context; however, survey data and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) listings from the adjoining counties of Limestone and Lawrence and nearby counties of Madison, Colbert, and Lauderdale vet the architectural significance of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House. These counties share geographical, geological, historical, and architectural attributes. They are all part of the Tennessee Valley settled in the early nineteenth century by settlers transplanting their material culture from Tennessee, Georgia, and the Mid-Atlantic states.

Two architectural surveys identified first generation dwellings in the Tennessee Valley counties of Limestone and Lawrence. In the late 1970s, historian Faye Axford conducted a select reconnaissance of "more than two hundred houses of the nineteenth century" in Limestone County.[15] Axford documented 28 first generation log dwellings. These include 1 saddlebag, 10 single pens, and 17 dogtrots. Of the 10 single pens, 3 have two stories. The attrition rate of these first generation dwellings is unknown; however, it is likely high: "Just in Madison and Limestone counties alone, 20 log houses have been lost in the past 15 years [1976-1991]."[16] Attrition rates are higher near urban areas due to commercial, industrial, and residential developments. Only one of the two-story log single pens remains.[17] Of the above first generation Limestone County dwellings, only the Joel Eddins House, "a one-and one-half story, rectangular-shaped, hall-and-parlor house," is listed in the NRHP.[18] As of 2007, the Eddins House is now located at Burritt on Mountain – A Living History Museum in Huntsville, Alabama.

[10] Howard, Hugh, *How Old Is This House?: A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of American Houses*. New York: The Noonday Press, 1989.
[11] Gamble, Robert S., *The Alabama Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey: A Guide to The Early Architecture of The State*. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987; Axford, Faye Acton, *The Lure and Lore of Limestone County*. Tuscaloosa: Portals Press, 1978.
[12] Wilson, *Alabama Folk Houses*, 1975.
[13] Wilson, *Alabama Folk Houses*, 1975: 25.
[14] Wilson, *Alabama Folk Houses*, 1975: 25.
[15] Axford, *The Lure and Lore of Limestone County*, 1978: iii.
[16] Jones, Harvie P. and Jennifer Bryant, Urquhart House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1991: Section 8 Page 1.
[17] Axford, *The Lure and Lore of Limestone County*, 1978.
[18] Williams, Nixon, Ed Hooker, Patrick McIntyre, and Trina Binkley, Joel Eddins House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1996: Section 7 Page 1.

In the late 1990s, architectural historian Gene A. Ford conducted a comprehensive reconnaissance of 1,567 historic resources in Lawrence County.[19] Ford documented 44 log dwellings and outbuildings.[20] This survey population contains 10 first generation log dwellings. It must be noted that 13 of the 44 log dwellings have estimated construction dates between 1850 and 1870. That any or all were constructed between 1800 and 1840 is possible. Budgetary and time limitations precluded intensive research on the origins of these dwellings. The 10 first generation log dwellings include 7 dogtrots, 1 double pen, and 2 I houses. Five of the 13 log dwellings built between 1850 and 1870 are identified as single pens. The survival rate of these dwellings is unknown, but can be assumed to be low due to abandonment and development pressures. Of the 10 first generation log dwellings in Lawrence County, a dogtrot and a two-story log and frame I house associated with the Wheeler Plantation (Pond Spring) and the Thomas Holland House, a two-story double pen, are listed in the NRHP.[21]

By extrapolating the Limestone and Lawrence county data and superimposing it on Morgan County, some assumptions can be made. The number of first generation log dwellings extant at the end of the twentieth century in Morgan County is expected to be between 30 and 40. Given that Morgan County has been subject to the same development pressures over the last three decades as Limestone and Lawrence counties, the survival rate of these historic resources is low: "Areas of Morgan County have experienced high attrition rates."[22] Dogtrots by far were the preferred dwelling type during the settlement period. Single pens, especially two-story versions, were/are decidedly in the minority. If the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is not the only extant example of a two-story single pen in Morgan County, it is one of very few, one of very few remaining in the Tennessee Valley.

Comparison of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House to other extant two-story single pens is difficult due to a dearth of survey data. Madison, Colbert, and Lauderdale have not been the subjects of comprehensive architectural studies. Of these three counties, only Madison has two first generation log dwellings listed in the NRHP: the Urguhart House[23] and the George Jude (Lucy and David Crutcher) House.[24] Both houses are 1 ½ story log dogtrots; however, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House compares favorably to three two-story log single pens documented in Axford's study of Morgan County. Built circa 1820 and located on the Browns Ferry Road in Athens, the Halbert House was/is an outstanding example.[25] A photograph of the house reveals a gable roof over exposed plank-hewn timbers, two narrow windows on the upper floor surmounting two square windows on the lower floor, a central wood door, and a side or end chimney of stone. With the exception of location, the Halbert House retained excellent integrity in 1978. It was moved at an undisclosed date.[26] Built circa 1820 in northeast Limestone County, the former Milhous-Chenault House featured board and batten siding over much of its log exterior, a shingle-covered gable roof, stone chimney, a central door, a partial width shed roof porch, and a rear shed roof addition. A summer house replaced the log dwelling in 1973.[27] While the Halbert and Milhous-Chenault Houses have/had oblong floor plans, the Townsend-Vaughn House (circa 1818) featured square pens, one per floor. A photograph of the house reveals a missing door, porch, and windows.[28] Weatherboards covered the wall logs. Given that "the house had been deserted for many years and badly overgrown" and was not weather tight, the likelihood of its survival today is very low. On the other hand, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House has remained on its original site since its construction circa 1818. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House porch for the most part is original. Stylistic details were added to the porch over 100 years ago. The fenestration of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House core has been altered somewhat, but not since the late nineteenth century. Of the four two-story log single pens, only the Halbert House is au naturel: its plank-hewn timbers are/were not concealed behind a layer of sheathing. Overall, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is an excellent, rare, extant example of a first generation single pen. Were it nominated to the NRHP, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House would be the only NRHP-listed first generation log single pen from the counties of Morgan, Limestone, Lawrence, Lauderdale, and Colbert. Furthermore, it would be one of just three non-dogtrot first generation log dwellings listed in the NRHP from these five counties. The other two are the Joel

[19] Ford, Gene A., *An Architectural Study of Lawrence County, Alabama*. Moulton: Lawrence County Historical Commission, 1998: 1.
[20] Ford, *An Architectural Study of Lawrence County, Alabama*, 1998: 46.
[21] Adams, George R. and W. Warner Floyd, Joseph Wheeler Plantation National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1976; Betz, Melanie A. and Robert S. Gamble, Thomas Holland House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1991.
[22] Mertins, Ellen and Robert S. Gamble, Forest Home National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1980: Section 8 Page 1.
[23] Jones and Bryant, Urquhart House, 1991.
[24] Jones, Harvie P., Lee Anne Hewett, and Trina Binklev, George Jude House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1999.
[25] Axford, *The Lure and Lore of Limestone County*, 1978: 51.
[26] Axford, 52.
[27] Axford, 70.
[28] Axford, 99.

Eddins House, a one-and one-half story, rectangular-shaped, hall-and-parlor house, in Limestone County and the Thomas Holland House, a two-story double pen, in Lawrence County.[29] In terms of integrity, history, and architecture (albeit not quite the same morphology), the Crabb-Stewart-Key House compares favorably to the Joel Eddins and Thomas Holland Houses. If anything, this analytical exercise demonstrates that first generation log dwellings are woefully underrepresented in the NRHP for the Tennessee Valley region in Alabama.

Criterion A: Exploration/Settlement

Built circa 1818, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of exploration/settlement. That the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is a candidate for listing in the NRHP in 2019 is fitting. "Formed as a territory on March 3, 1817, Alabama became the nation's twenty-second state on December 14, 1819. Alabama is commemorating its 200th anniversary of statehood with a celebration of the state's natural beauty, diverse people, and rich history."[30] The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is locally significant for its association with the settlement era of Morgan County and Alabama during which pioneers from Virginia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, and Georgia moved into the area and began transforming wilderness into civilization:

> The stirring recital evokes, across the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains, to Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, the warrior-emigrant. His wandering line of white wagons gleams in the sunrise of the Nineteenth Century. Old Virginia lies behind him. The Indian vanishes with the smoke-wreath of his rifle's breath. He builds his wilderness-castle, a log cabin, and so the life of a great State begins, and Alabama looms out of territorial chaos.[31]

The builder of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House seems to have been Thomas D. Crabb (1791-1829). "Initial title (patent) for the property was established July 10, 1818 by Thomas D. Crabb."[32] Thomas D. Crabb was among the stream heading west into the new territory that had yet to be ceded by the Cherokee Indians. "Born in 1791 in Botetourt County, Virginia, Crabb lived in Maryland and spent his late boyhood in Lincoln County, Tennessee."[33] In his early 20s, Crabb crossed the Tennessee River to avail himself of unlimited opportunities and resources. During the course of the next 15 years, Crabb transformed himself from "rugged and adventurous" into a business man, law man, and ultimately statesman and in the process made "an almost impassable wilderness" into Morgan County and Alabama.[34]

According to Eugene M. Wilson, "the settlement process began with selecting a house/building site near a spring or stream."[35] House sites/building were also selected based on proximity to building materials. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House site has both a stream and a spring. The two nearby mountains featured an abundant supply of hardwoods for dwelling and outbuilding construction and fuel. Trees could also be cut and used for plank road or building construction projects. Creek bottoms and mountain sides yielded stone for foundations and chimneys. Cleared land was typically cultivated. Cedar Cove's relatively flat terrain was ideal for corn and wheat. As part of the migration pattern, settlers transplanted building traditions to the frontier. The Morgan County single pen is based on antecedents found in Tennessee, Georgia, and the Mid-Atlantic states.[36] Settlers used hand tools, such as axes and adzes, to cut and shape logs into wall timbers, planks for flooring and siding, shakes for roofing, and joists for floors and ceilings.[37] "Many of these settlers [Morgan County] (who numbered 2,253 souls, according to the 1818 Territorial census of 1818) lived in puncheon or dirt-floored log houses…"[38] The materials and techniques were readily adaptable for a variety of uses, including churches, taverns, jails, post offices, stores, and stagecoach inns.[39] For the Crabb-Stewart-Key House, the period of significance for Criterion A in the area of

[29] Williams, Hooker, McIntyre, and Binkley, Joel Eddins House, 1996; Betz and Gamble, Thomas Holland House, 1991.
[30] Alabama Bicentennial Commission. Why a Bicentennial? Electronic document, http://alabama200.org /about/why-a-bicentennial, accessed on June 11, 2019.
[31] Saunders, Col. James Edmonds, *Early Settlers of Alabama*. Greenville: Reprinted by Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1994. Original printing 1899: 6.
[32] Cowart, Margaret Matthews, *Old Land Records of Morgan County, Alabama*. Huntsville: Privately published, 1981: 128; Greene, Jr., Lee, Thomas D. Crabb 1792-1829. Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson Home Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission by the Hartselle Historical Society, 2018: 2.
[33] Claborn, Ann, "City Founder Was State Leader." *The Moulton Advertiser*, June 16, 1983.
[34] Knox, John, *A History of Morgan County*. Decatur: Morgan County Board of Revenue and Control, 1967.
[35] Wilson, *Alabama Folk Houses*, 1975: 2.
[36] Gamble, *The Alabama Catalog*, 1987.
[37] Wilson, *Alabama Folk Houses*, 1975: 9-12.
[38] Knox, *A History of Morgan County*, 1967: 11.
[39] Knox, 1967.

settlement is 1818, the year in which the house was constructed, to 1840, the end of the settlement period as defined by historian Eugene M. Wilson.

The Crabb-Stewart-Key House's tale is similar to but different from that of the Dr. William E. Murphey House (circa 1830) and Green Pryor Rice House (circa 1835). Both Morgan County Tidewater cottages are listed in the NRHP based on Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement.[40] All three houses fit the "migration pattern typical of this period."[41] In the case of the Murphey House, George Murphey purchased land in what became Morgan County in 1818.[42] "George Murphey was born on April 7, 1774, in Franklin County, near the North Carolina border with Virginia."[43] "The Rice House was built by Matthew Houston who emigrated from Rockbridge County, Virginia via East Tennessee into North Alabama following the migration pattern of the period."[44] Whereas "the Murphey House is significant for its association with the establishment of large, slave-based cotton plantations in Alabama's Tennessee Valley by the descendants and relatives of a planter family of North Carolina," the Crabb-Stewart-Key House initially functioned as a stagecoach inn, according to the Stewart and Key families who occupied the Crabb-Stewart-Key House from 1853 to 2015.[45]

Criterion A: Agriculture

The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of agriculture. The Crabb-Stewart-Key House, its outbuildings, and farm land represent a locally significant example of a mid-nineteenth- to mid-twentieth-century subsistence farm. The farm illustrates over 100 years of the upland agricultural history of Morgan County. In the upland agricultural history, people like Histaspas Stewart acquired land in the upland valleys and coves at the base of the Brindley Mountain range after the initial settlement period (circa 1800 to 1840). Upland farmers typically established subsistence farms based on the cultivation of crops for personal consumption.[46] Histaspas Stewart cultivated wheat, sorghum, corn, and vegetables. Stewart's farm also featured cows and chickens.[47] Stewart and other upland farmers dedicated a portion of their land to the cultivation of cotton.[48] Cotton was a cash crop in both the upland (subsistence) farms and lowland plantations. The big difference in the cultivation of cotton in the two agricultural systems is the labor force. The plantation system was based on slave labor while subsistence farming relied on family members to perform tasks.[49] Histaspas Stewart, his wife Eliza, and their twelve children planted and harvested crops, fed beasts of burden, milked cows, collected eggs, ginned cotton, milled wheat, corn, and sorghum, canned vegetables, prepared food, transported surplus crops to market, and performed all the other work required to maintain their farm. The Stewart-Key farm is indicative of the late nineteenth-century history of upland agriculture. This period marked a transition during which subsistence farm families decreased in size. The Key family had fewer work hands (family members) than the Stewarts. The reduced labor force was offset by improvements in farm equipment.[50] Upland farms in southern Morgan County continued to cultivate wheat, sorghum, corn, and cotton in the late nineteenth century. The Key farm's progress in the first half of the twentieth century reads like the agricultural model discussed in the Morgan County Soil Survey.[51] Upland farms continued to experience declines in labor forces as mechanization, i.e., tractors and harvesting, planting, tillage, and baling equipment, replaced human workers. Fewer hands to feed translated into more acreage dedicated to cash crops, cotton, corn, and hay.[52] With their tractor doing the bulk of the heavy lifting on the farm, the Keys grew cotton, corn, and hay well into the 1960s. For the Crabb-Stewart-Key House and farm, the period of significance for Criterion A in the area of agriculture is 1853, the year Histaspas Stewart acquired the Crabb House and started cultivating land, to 1969, the fifty year cutoff date. The Key's quit farming in the 1960s; however, they continued to own the property through the early 2000s.[53]

[40] Gamble, Robert S., Dr. William E. Murphey House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1985a; Green Pryor Rice House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1985b.
[41] Gamble, 1985a: Section 8 Page 1.
[42] Cowart, *Old Land Records of Morgan County, Alabama*, 1981: 194.
[43] Gamble, 1985a: Section 8 Page 2.
[44] Gamble, 1985b: Section 8 Page 1.
[45] Gamble, 1985a: Section 8 Page 1. The historic function of the Rice House is unclear.
[46] Patrick, *Soil Survey of Morgan County*, 1921.
[47] Greayer, *The Heritage of Morgan County, Alabama*, 1998: 749.
[48] Patrick, 1921.
[49] Patrick, 1921.
[50] Patrick, 1921.
[51] Sherard, Hoyt, *Soil Survey of Morgan County, Alabama.* Washington: United States Department of Agriculture, 1958.
[52] Sherard, *Soil Survey of Morgan County, Alabama*, 1958.
[53] Dotson, June 7, 2019.

Comparison of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House and farm to other extant, mid nineteenth-century farms in Morgan County is difficult due to a dearth of survey data. Some information can be borrowed from the aforementioned Lawrence County survey to provide some metrics for evaluating the agricultural significance of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House and farm. Like Morgan County, Lawrence County has an upland agricultural tradition. In 1988, Lawrence County featured 26 upland farm houses.[54] Many of these farm houses no longer retain outbuildings and structures. Of these, only six were associated with mid to late nineteenth-century farms. Located in the Mt. Hope community, the Lucy and Leeman Elkins farms featured wood frame cross gable cottages built in the 1880s with period outbuildings, including a log spring house and a wood frame barn and sheds.[55] The Looney Warren House, located in the Wren community, is an enclosed log dogtrot built circa 1860 with wood frame sheds.[56] A farm in the Moulton vicinity had a circa 1860 enclosed log dogtrot, a log outbuilding, and a wood frame barn.[57] In the Oakville community, a partially deteriorated single pen built circa 1870 had a wood frame barn.[58] The survival rate of the historic Lawrence County farms is unknown. In terms of integrity, construction era, materials, and typologies, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House and farm compares favorably to the two Lawrence County farms featuring log dogtrots and outbuildings. Morgan County has two properties listed on the NRHP based on Criterion A in the area of agriculture: the Dr. William E. Murphey House[59] and Westview (1841).[60] These two plantation houses represent Morgan County's plantation history. If nominated, the Crabb-Stewart-Key House and farm would be Morgan County's sole representative of the upland agricultural tradition on the NRHP.

Historical Context

The history of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House is inextricably linked to the heady times of settlement in the Tennessee Valley. "The counties in the Tennessee Valley have a history that dates before Alabama gained statehood."[61] "Morgan County was included in the Cherokee Indian cession made in 1816, and was established in 1818. The county was settled largely by immigrants from Virginia and the Carolinas. Many settlers also came from Tennessee and Kentucky."[62] Many were drawn by inexpensive virgin land, others by tangential opportunities associated with agricultural development. Thomas D. Crabb was among the "others." Crabb found postal delivery, transportation, law enforcement, politics, land speculation, town founding, and military leadership to his liking. After the settlement period, the Crabb House and associated land became the setting of a large farm owned and operated by the Histaspas Stewart family. The Stewarts and their relations the Keys maintained a model farm for over 100 years. The Keys ceased farming on the property in the 1960s, but continued to own it until 2015. Robert and Janice Dotson, the present owners, restored the Crabb-Stewart-Key House and resumed farming on the land.

The formation of Morgan County involved several steps. The Cherokee Nation relinquished its lands along the Tennessee River in 1816.[63] Some settlers had already made their way into Cherokee Territory, among them was Thomas D. Crabb. Those occupying land illegally were called "squatters." Squatters were responsible for the formation of Morgan County, according to historian John Knox.[64] "In 1817, Mississippi Territorial Gov. David Holmes authorized the establishment of Blount County, which included what is now Lawrence, Morgan and Franklin counties. Before the area could get its appointed government, Alabama split from the Mississippi Territory and the new government split Blount County into three counties: Franklin, Cotaco (later to become Morgan County) and Lawrence."[65] In 1818, the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Alabama Territory established Cotaco County.[66] Cotaco County was renamed Morgan County in 1821. "Morgan County was named in honor of Gen. Daniel Morgan of Pennsylvania, a hero of the American Revolution."[67]

[54] Ford, *An Architectural Study of Lawrence County, Alabama*, 1998: 26-27.
[55] Ford, 1988: 184.
[56] Ford, 1988: 230.
[57] Ford, 1988: 233.
[58] Ford, 1988: 241.
[59] Gamble, 1985a.
[60] Gamble, Westview National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1982.
[61] McDaniel, Deangelo. "Squatters Settled in Area before Morgan Was a County." Electronic document, http://www.decaturdaily.com/special_reports/opportunity/squatters-settled-in-area-before-morgan-was-acounty/article_a37f7d82-047d-5887-a1c4-d1efbd49460c.html, February 25, 2011, accessed on June 11, 2019.
[62] Patrick, 1921: 7.
[63] Cherokee Nation, Treaty with the Cherokee, 1816. Electronic document, https://cherokee.org/AboutThe-Nation/History/Facts/Treaty-with-the-Cherokee-1816, accessed on June 11, 2019.
[64] Knox, 1967.
[65] McDaniel, "Squatters Settled in Area before Morgan Was a County," 2019.
[66] Toulim, *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama*. New York: Ginn & Curtis, 1823: 84.
[67] Owen, Marie Bankhead, editor, *Our State—Alabama*. Birmingham: Birmingham Printing Company, 1927: 714.

The Crabb family of Botetourt County, Virginia participated in the great westward migration: "[Thomas Drane] Crabb was born in Botetourt County, Va [1791]. He lived in Maryland and spent his late boyhood in Lincoln County, Tn. His brothers were George W. Crabb [1802-1846], a U. S. senator from Alabama, and Judge Henry Crabb [1793-1827] of the Tennessee Supreme Court."[68] Thomas D. Crabb lived in Madison County, Alabama in 1815 and Limestone County in 1817. Roger McNeece, a descendent of Crabb's wife Mary Boteler (nee) Crabb, believes Crabb speculated in land.[69] Land speculation was an age-old business and many engaged in the trade. Having entered the new territory in 1815, Crabb had plenty of time to survey choice land for development. Numerous federal land patents suggest Crabb knew the value of prime real estate. A number of the patents are for river front property along the north and south sides of the Tennessee River in the vicinity of Bluff City. Thomas D. Crabb, Alexander Boteler, and others acquired land north of the Tennessee River in S31, T5S, R2W and S1, T6S, R3W.[70] Additionally, they acquired parcels south of the Tennessee River in S6, 7, and 8, T6S, R2W; between the settlements of Bluff City and Somerville in S25, T6S, R3W; in Gandy's Cove in S12, T8S, R3W; and in Nat Key Hollow in S33, T7S, R3W.[71] All of these parcels were acquired in 1818.[72] Alexander Boteler was Crabb's business partner and father-in-law. Thomas D. Crabb married Boteler's daughter Mary on August 21, 1817.[73]

In hindsight, Crabb was assembling land for various enterprises. "On 12-14-1818, the court granted Thomas D. Crabb a permit to establish a ferry across the Tennessee River at the new town of Monroe [Bluff City] in Cotaco Co."[74] "As to the location of Thomas Crabb's ferry there can be little doubt. This was at, or near the site of the settlement which was first called 'Monroe' and later came to be known as Bluff City."[75] "The site of Bluff City is located in Section 6, Township 6, Range 3 West."[76] In 1818, Crabb secured the middle part of S6, T6, R2W.[77] Crabb's acquired land in S31, T5S, R2W lies opposite Bluff City on the north side of the Tennessee River while that in S1, T6S, R3W and S7 and 8, T6S, R2W adjoin Bluff City on the south side of the river. From this documentation, one can conclude that Crabb was securing landings for his ferry and other enterprises.

Another enterprise involved road construction. Historian John Knox summed up the imperative of developing vital transportation infrastructure: "When they [the settlers] began to produce things, they had to have markets, and it was difficult to convey their cotton, timber, and other farm products over the few and inadequate roads."[78] Thomas D. Crabb strategically positioned himself on numerous road building committees.[79] One such project involved a road from Ditto's Landing to Melton's Bluff in Lawrence County, the county-seat in 1818. A commissioner on this project, Crabb's motivation was possibly self-interest as he moved to Melton's Bluff circa 1820.[80] The September 14, 1818 session of the Cotaco County Court received and approved a petition for the construction of a road "leading from Somerville [the county-seat] to Crabb's Ferry."[81] Crabb's acquisitions in S7, T6S, R2W and S25, T6S, R3W, both parcels of which lie between Bluff City and Somerville, are along the route of this road project, suggesting Crabb was involved somehow. An index to the *Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama* records "John D. Crabb as authorized to establish a turnpike road leading from Crabb's ferry on the Tennessee River to Tuskaloosa" on page 401 of the *Digest*;[82] however, page 401 does not mention this project.[83] The *Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama* references Thomas D. Crabb as the contractor responsible for the development of a road beginning somewhere in the southwest corner of Morgan County (nowhere near Crabb's Ferry and Somerville) and ending in Tuskaloosa:

[68] Claborn, "City Founder Was State Leader," 1983.
[69] Roger McNeece, interview with Richard D. Prall, 2002.
[70] Bureau of Land Management [BLM], 1825.
[71] BLM, 1824, 1825, and 1828.
[72] Cowart, *Old Land Records of Morgan County, Alabama*, 1981: 65-136.
[73] Young, Sandra Branson, Edward Boteler II Fifth Generation. Family History Network. Electronic document, http://bransoncook.systemaxonline.com/gedcoms/boteler/pafg05.htm, accessed June 10, 2019.
[74] Crabbe, April 21, 1994.
[75] Knox, 1967: 31.
[76] Knox, 1967: 32.
[77] Cowart, 1981: 65; BLM, 1825.
[78] Knox, 1967: 28.
[79] Knox, 1967: 46.
[80] Knox, 1967: 39; Claborn, 1983.
[81] Knox, 1967: 40.
[82] Toulim, 1823: 972.
[83] Toulim, 1823: 401-403.

> Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Alabama, in general assembly convened, That a public road leading from the southern boundary line of township eight, in range four or five, west of the basis meridian line of Huntsville, by the nearest and best route to the falls of Tuskaloosa river, be, and the same is hereby established.
>
> Sec. 2. And be it further enacted, That Thomas D. Crabb and his associates be, and they are hereby authorized and empowered to lay out and open said road from the said eighth township line, in range four or five west as aforesaid, by the most eligible route which they have, or hereafter may discover.
>
> Sec. 3. And be it further enacted, That the said Thomas D. Crabb and his associates be, and they are hereby authorized, so soon as they shall have laid out and opened said road, to erect two turnpike gates thereon, at some convenient places, as nearly equidistant from the two extremes of said road as may be practicable. And the said Thomas D. Crabb and his associates may demand and receive of and from each and every person who shall or may travel on said road, and pass through the said gate or gates; at each gate the following rates of toll, to wit.[84]

The origin of the road in T8, R4W, or 5W in the southwest corner of Morgan County may explain Crabb's acquisition of 161 acres in S33, T7W, R3W in 1818.[85] Perhaps he built the two-story log single pen as a stagecoach inn to capitalize on the Tuskaloosa road; however, Crabb lost the concession for this road project on December 23, 1822 due to unsatisfactory progress.[86] Nonetheless, the Stewarts and Keys who lived in the Crabb-Stewart-Key House for over a century claim that their home was originally a stagecoach stop.[87]

Crabb's 1818 purchase of land in S12, T8S, R3W in Gandy's Cove and the Crabb-Stewart-Key House may have been linked to another road project.[88] Gandy's Cove was the place of origin for a public road to be constructed by Abraham Stout to Baltimore or Morgan's Springs in Blount County.[89] Although Crabb did not have the road contract, he may have been trying to generate income from the road via his Gandy's Cove land. This road was eventually extended from Baltimore to Elyton in Jefferson County. Another road leaving Elyton traveled on to Tuscaloosa. During the September 14, 1818 Cotaco County Court session commissioners envisioned a road extending from "Somerville to the Falls of the Black Warrior River. This eventually became one of the most important of the early roads. Old maps (LaTourette and David Burr) show it in heavy lines, running south from Somerville, and passing through Gandy's Cove."[90] The problem with the LaTourette map is that it is a small scale map so details, such as road alignments, are often generalized; hence the path of the Somerville to Gandy's Cove road is depicted as due south or a straight line between the two destinations. Larger scale, late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century maps, such as an 1892 United States Geological Survey (USGS) topographical map, 1918 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) map, and a 1937 Alabama Highway Department map, do not depict the alignment of the Somerville to Gandy's Cove road as a straight line; rather, they show the corridor skirting the base of the Brindley Mountain range rather than going over the top and back down. According to historian John Knox, "topography, including the fall and rise of the water line of the river's subsidiary streams, affected the pattern of both roads and settlements."[91] Early nineteenth-century Alabama road builders were more likely to go around a formidable obstacle than over or through it. The aforementioned USGS, USDA, and highway maps illustrate this scenario with respect to the Somerville to Gandy's Cove road. The purpose of this protracted narrative on road building and map making is to state that the 1892 USGS map depicts Stout's Road skirting the western base of the Brindley range.[92] The Crabb-Stewart-Key House is located where the road bows and a stream crosses it. With its capacious second floor, fresh water from stream and spring, corn from the 160 acre field, and wood for fuel and repairs, the two-story single pen and its surroundings were well disposed to capture pedestrian, beast of burden, and wagon traffic from Stout's Road.

When Thomas D. Crabb was not focusing on the county's water and roadways, he was tending to the law and legislation, as well as other activities vital to the survival of the frontier. In May 1817, the then freshly minted county of Elk (later

[84] Toulim, 1823: 42.
[85] Cowart, 1981: 128; BLM, 1825.
[86] Greene, Jr., 2018: 3.
[87] Greayer, 1998: 747, 749.
[88] Cowart, 1981: 136; BLM, 1824.
[89] Toulim, 1823: 433.
[90] Knox, 1967: 40.
[91] Knox, 1967: 43.
[92] Gannett, Henry, United States Geographic Survey map of Morgan County. Washington, 1892.

Limestone County) elected its officers. "Thomas D. Crabb and George Wilder were elected Justices of the Quorum."[93] "Thomas D. Crabb was the first sheriff of Cotaco Al., in 1819 the same year that Alabama became a state."[94] "He was also a delegate to the [Alabama] constitutional convention. He was at one time a partner of Capt. John T. Rather, and both served in the legislature, Crabb as a senator, from 1822 through 1827."[95] During Cotaco/Morgan County's formational years, Crabb was a Lieutenant Colonel in the State Militia.[96] Pursuant to his leadership role in the militia, Crabb was assigned "seventy two muskets and accoutrements, eighty pistols, and fifty sabres" with which to equip his regiment in 1818.[97] Thomas D. Crabb was one of the founders of Moulton in Lawrence County: "Crabb later moved to Melton's Bluff (Lawrence County). He was believed to have had a lot to do with Moulton becoming the county-seat in 1820 rather than Courtland."[98] Crabb's landing was an ideal location for the collection and distribution of goods and raw materials given its access to river and road transportation. Logically, Crabb's landing featured a post office with Thomas D. Crabb as its post master in 1828.[99] In 1824, Crabb cast his support for Andrew Jackson and his run for the presidency, but John Quincy Adams won the race.[100] Jackson won four years later in 1828 and held the office of President of the United States of America until 1836. Crabb would only enjoy one year of his candidate's tenure as he died on April 17, 1829. "The *Southern Advocate* of Huntsville, Al., reported his death in the 4-17-1829 issue and called him 'General' who 'for many years was an estimable citizen of Morgan Co. and lately a Senator from that county in the legislature of the state.'"[101]

With his passing in 1829, Thomas Crabb exits this narrative and William Histaspas Stewart enters. "Born in Mecklenberg, North Carolina in 1799, Histaspas Stewart married Eliza Isabella Nunn on February 3, 1825 in North Carolina;[102] however, Stewart claimed a land patent in Morgan County as early as 1823. He acquired 80 acres in the SW¼ of S32, T7S, R3W on October 10, 1823.[103] This location is one section west of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House in S33 T7S, R3W. Additionally, Histaspas Stewart filed patents for the W½ of the NW¼ of S30, 8S, R3W and the SE¼ of the NW¼ of S30, 8S, R3W in 1832 and 1835, respectively.[104] This land is approximately 5 miles southwest of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House in Wilhites Cove near the Morgan/Cullman County line. Later in the 1850s, Stewart expanded his holdings to include the SE¼ of the NE¼ of S33, T7S, R3W (the location of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House) in 1853 and the SW¼ of the SW¼ of S34, T7S, R3W in 1857.[105] To the south of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House, Stewart staked claims on the NW¼ of the NW¼ of S3 and the N½ of the NE¼ of S4 in T8W, R3W.[106] With these acquisitions, Histaspas Stewart had a nice spread in what later would be named "Nat Key Hollow" after a Stewart family descendent. Histaspas Stewart was "said to have owned a tract of 640 acres at one time."[107] Many of the acres were assembled around the Crabb-Stewart-Key House.

With his fertile Cedar Cove land and abundant water, "Histaspas was a successful farmer."[108] This is not to say that he was a planter nor was his farm a plantation. Morgan County's plantations congregated along the Tennessee River.[109] These plantations were characterized by vast field systems (often thousands of acres per plantation) given to the cultivation of cotton, slave quarters, overseer's quarters, the domestic complex with its collection of outbuildings, including barns, sheds, well house, and kitchen, and planter's residence, or what many slaves and consequently social historians call the "big house."[110] Listed in the NRHP in 1985, the Dr. William E. Murphey House is indicative of large, slave-based cotton plantations in Alabama's Tennessee Valley.[111] In contrast, Stewart's farm had far fewer acres, no slave quarters, and a smaller domestic complex, the only remaining mid nineteenth-century outbuilding of which is the circa 1853 cook house. The smoke house is a late nineteenth-century addition to the farm; however, like the planters Stewart grew cotton, but not

[93] Brannon, Peter A, "Through the Years, Elk County." *The Montgomery Advertiser*, August 11, 1935.
[94] Crabbe, April 21, 1994.
[95] Knox, 1967: 32.
[96] Owen, Marie Bankhead, "State Militia." *The Alabama Historical Quarterly*, Vol 6 No. 2, Summer 1944. State Department of Archives and History.
[97] State of Alabama, *Alabama House Journal*. Electronic document, http://www.legislature.state.al.us /aliswww/history/acts_and_journals/1827/house-journal/Jan_3.html, accessed on June 9, 2019.
[98] McNeece, 2002.
[99] United States Post Office Department, *List of Post Offices in the U. S*. Washington: Way and Gideon Printers, 1828: 140.
[100] Crabbe, April 21, 1994.
[101] Crabbe, April 21, 1994.
[102] Greayer, 1998: 750.
[103] BLM, 1823.
[104] BLM, 1832 and 1835.
[105] BLM, 1853 and 1857.
[106] BLM, 1857.
[107] Greayer, 1998: 750.
[108] Greayer, 1998: 749.
[109] Patrick, 1921.
[110] Vlach, John Michael, *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.
[111] Gamble, 1985a: Section 8 Page 1.

on the same scale and with a different labor force.[112] "Labor in the coves and upland area of Morgan County was performed by the farmers and their families."[113] Histaspas Stewart and his wife Eliza had twelve children. In other words, the Stewarts had plenty of hands to work the fields, tend to the chickens and cows, grow and harvest wheat, corn, cotton, and vegetables, grind flour, make molasses, and gin cotton.[114]

Histaspas and Eliza Stewart's fortunes were such that they donated 20 acres for the establishment of a Presbyterian church.[115] Located approximately one mile north of the Crabb-Stewart-Key House, the Fairview Church was named after the Fairview community surrounding the Stewarts. The church no longer stands; however, the associated cemetery remains. Internments in the Fairview Cemetery include Histaspas and Eliza Stewart. Histaspas Stewart died May 31, 1863 and Eliza Stewart died November 4, 1883.[116] Eliza remained on the farm 20 years after her husband's death. Three of her daughters, Mary (1826-1906), Jane (1830-1915), and Atheldria (1846-1908), lived with her until her death. They were deaf and mute.

After their mother's passing, the three sisters, Mary, Jane, and Atheldria, became the stewards of the Stewart farm and house. They were assisted by their nephew Nathaniel Arthur "Nat" Key (1877-1955) who lived in the Crabb-Stewart-Key House with them.[117] Nat Key was one of four children of Martin A. Key (1826-1917) and Eliza Isabella Stewart (1840-1921), the daughter of Histaspas and Eliza Isabella Nunn Stewart. William Pleasant Key II (1775-1855) and his wife Elizabeth "Polly" Matthews Key (1793-1874) settled in Gandy's Cove in the early nineteenth century:

> After years of marriage and 5 children, William Pleasant Key II picked up his hat one day and walked over the mountain to the Indian camp in Cedar Cove where he met and fell in love with Teseta (Laughing Water), the daughter of the Cherokee chief who lived and governed his tribe in Cedar Cove. William Pleasant and Teseta had one son, Martin A. Key (born November 5th, 1826). When Martin was about 2 years old. Teseta died and Martin returned to Polly asking her forgiveness and help in rearing Martin, which she did.[118]

"Martin's Indian ancestors left Morgan County, Cedar Cove, and were sent to the Cherokee, N.C. Indian Reservation as part of the relocation of the Cherokee Nation. This occurred soon after Martin's biological mother (Teseta) died; therefore, he never knew his Cherokee Indian relatives."[119]

With assistance from their nephew Nat Key, the three sisters, Mary A., Jane, and Atheldria A. lived out their years on the Stewart farm. The farm was well disposed to support all of them. After all, the Stewart family, all 14 strong, had more than subsisted off of it. The farm featured horses, mules, goats, cows, chickens, fish, and 430 acres of cultivated fields and woodlands.[120] The farm had a barn (formerly standing on the opposite side of Nat Key Road) for hay and livestock shelter. The pond stocked fish for human and livestock consumption. The spring provided water for the Stewart farm, as well as the community.[121] According to a hand-chalked note on the wall of the cook house, the farm produced dozens of bags of cottonseed, meal, and hulls in addition to cotton. "Each 480-pound bale of cotton produces approximately 150 to 200 pounds of gin trash: [hulls, seed, and meal]."[122] Cottonseed, meal, and hulls were/are used for beef cattle feed. For subsistence farms and plantations, cotton was a cash crop in Morgan County.[123] Corn was as well. Given that Histaspas Stewart ground his own flour, it is not unreasonable to think that Nat Key and his aunts grew wheat. Although unable to speak and hear, Mary, Jane, and Atheldria were not idle hands on the farm. They worked in the fields, tended to the livestock, worked in the

[112] Greayer, 1998: 749.
[113] Patrick, 1921: 15.
[114] Greayer, 1998: 749.
[115] Greayer, 1998: 749.
[116] Greayer, 1998: 749.
[117] Yarbrough, Dr. Mary, Histaspas Stewart 1800-1863 and William Pleasant Key II 1775-1855 Wives and Descendants. Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson Home Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission by the Hartselle Historical Society, 2018.
[118] Yarbrough, Histaspas Stewart 1800-1863 and William Pleasant Key II 1775-1855 Wives and Descendants, 2018.
[119] Yarbrough, 2018.
[120] Dotson, June 7, 2019.
[121] Greene, Jr., June 13, 2019.
[122] Stewart, Lawton and Johnnie Rossi, "Using Cotton Byproducts in Beef Cattle Diets." Bulletin 1311. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, revised 2010.
[123] Patrick, 1921.

vegetable garden, and cooked. Communication between them was not a problem. "They created their own sign language… their hands would just fly!"[124]

Toward the end of their lives, the three sisters began transitioning the ownership of their farm over to their nephew Nat Key. On January 31, 1902, Mary A., Jane, and Atheldria A. conveyed many parcels of land in S33 and 34, T7S, R3W to Nat A. Key for "$100.00 and Love and affection."[125] This conveyance represented the bulk of the Stewart farm, now the Key farm. In 1904, the three sisters deeded another portion of S33, T7S, R3W to Nat A. Key.[126] These transactions occurred several years before Mary A. Stewart died in 1906 and Atheldria A. Stewart in 1908.[127] Jane lived on for another half decade before passing on December 11, 1915. Nat and his wife Cornelia Elizabeth "Nelie" Key were the heirs to the Stewart farm and legacy.

Nat and Nelie Key carried on the agricultural tradition of the Crabb-Stewart-Key property; however, they utilized different ways and means from the previous generations. Nat and Nelie Key's era demonstrated a decided demographic shift from previous eras. They only had two children compared to the Stewart clan of twelve. There was significantly less labor on hand to accomplish all the tasks required by a several hundred acre farm. The farm contained the $N^{1/2}$ of the $SE^{1/4}$ and $S^{1/2}$ of the $NE^{1/4}$ of S33 and $SW^{1/4}$ of the $NW^{1/4}$ of S34, all in T7S, R3W in the 1920s.[128] Mechanization had come to Morgan County, as it had statewide. "The increased number of tractors probably accounted for the decrease in the number of work stock… The number of tractors increased from 347 in 1939 to 1,759 in 1950. Tractor equipment, together with improved horse-drawn farm machinery, is partly responsible for better land preparation and easier planting, tillage, and harvesting of crops."[129] Nat and Nelie Key had a tractor and a sizable work force composed of horses and mules. The Key beasts of burden were sheltered in a no longer extant barn on the south side of Nat Key Road.[130] The Keys cultivated cotton, corn, and wheat, raised cows, chickens, and goats, bred horses and mules, and grew vegetables on the family farm into the 1950s. Nat Key died in 1955, leaving the farm to his wife and granddaughter Eula Jeanette Key. "The building and grounds were home to Mrs. Eula Key since 1924."[131] After Nat Key's death, Eula Key leased out the farm land to other farmers into the 1960s.[132] "The last occupying family member, Eula Key, lived in the home [Crabb-Stewart-Key House] until 2015, when she left to live in a nursing home."[133] Ms. Key died on August 21, 2016.[134]

Robert and Janice Dotson purchased the Crabb-Stewart-Key House in 2015 to expand their adjacent Wilson Mountain farm.[135] Initially, they were interested in the farm land; however, they became intrigued with the architecture and history of the farm house and cook house. "The Dotsons started repairing and restoring
what they could in the centuries-old house, starting with shoring up the home's sagging center. 'There's lots of work we've done that is not necessarily noticeable,' says Janice, who added that many people have volunteered their time and talents to help restore the house to its former glory."[136] The Dotsons use the Crabb-Stewart-Key House as a guest house, week end retreat, and learning and events center.

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography (cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

Adams, George R. and W. Warner Floyd. Joseph Wheeler Plantation National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1976.

[124] Williams, Jennifer L, "Steeped in History." Electronic document, https://www.hartselleenquirer.com /author/daniel.holmes/, accessed June 6, 2019.
[125] Morgan County, Alabama, Deed Record RS, Page 334. January 31, 1902.
[126] Morgan County, Alabama, Deed Record 316, Page 513. December 7, 1904.
[127] Yarbrough, 2018.
[128] Morgan County, Alabama, Deed Record 291, Page 564. January 2, 1922.
[129] Sherard 1958:v18-19.
[130] Dotson, June 7, 2019.
[131] Yarbrough, 2018.
[132] Dotson, June 7, 2019.
[133] Williams, 2019.
[134] McMillen, Lynn, "Eula Key – Obituary." Electronic document, http://quadcitiesdaily.com/?p=335952, August 22, 2016. Accessed on June 12, 2019.
[135] Williams, 2019.
[136] Williams, 2019.

Alabama Bicentennial Commission. Why a Bicentennial? Electronic document, http://alabama200.org /about/why-a-bicentennial, accessed on June 11, 2019.

Alabama Highway Department. General Highway and Transportation Map Morgan County Alabama. Montgomery, 1937.

Axford, Faye Acton. *The Lure and Lore of Limestone County*. Tuscaloosa: Portals Press, 1978.

Betz, Melanie A. and Robert S. Gamble. Thomas Holland House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1991.

Brannon, Peter A. "Through the Years, Elk County." *The Montgomery Advertiser*, August 11, 1935.

Bureau of Land Management [BLM]. Land Patents. Document # 1555. October 20, 1823.

Land Patents. Document #s 570, 571, and 791. May 1, 1824.

Land Patents. Document #s 1568-1572 and 1655-1656. July 25, 1825.

Land Patents. Document # 2007. March 15, 1828.

Land Patents. Document # 734. April 9, 1832.

Land Patents. Document # 6191. September 4, 1835.

Land Patents. Document # 17083. August 1, 1853.

Land Patents. Document # 23692. April 2, 1857.

Burleson, David A. Cabin's Architecture Analysis. Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson Home Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission by the Hartselle Historical Society, 2018.

Cherokee Nation. Treaty with the Cherokee, 1816. Electronic document, https://cherokee.org/AboutThe-Nation/History/Facts/Treaty-with-the-Cherokee-1816, accessed on June 11, 2019.

Claborn, Ann. "City Founder Was State Leader." *The Moulton Advertiser*, June 16, 1983.

Cowart, Margaret Matthews. *Old Land Records of Morgan County, Alabama*. Huntsville: Privately published, 1981.

Crabbe, Stephen L. Phone interview with Richard D. Prall, April 21, 1994. The interview appears as an article "Crabb's Landing" in *The Crabb Newsletter*, Volume 4 Number 2, Summer 1994 issue.

Dotson, Robert L. Interview with Gene A. Ford, June 7, 2019.

Ford, Gene A. *An Architectural Study of Lawrence County, Alabama*. Moulton: Lawrence County Historical Commission, 1998.

Gamble, Robert S. Westview National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1982.

Dr. William E. Murphey House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1985a.

Green Pryor Rice House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1985b.

The Alabama Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey: A Guide to The Early Architecture of The State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987.

Gannett, Henry. United States Geographic Survey map of Morgan County. Washington, 1892.

Greayer, Susan Cross Stewart. "Histaspas Stewart and the History of a Hartselle Pioneer." *The Heritage of Morgan County, Alabama*. Clanton: Heritage Publishing Consultants, 1998.

Greene, Jr., Lee. Thomas D. Crabb 1792-1829. Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson Home Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission by the Hartselle Historical Society, 2018.

Interview with Gene A. Ford, June 13, 2019.

Howard, Hugh. *How Old Is This House?: A Skeleton Key to Dating and Identifying Three Centuries of American Houses*. New York: The Noonday Press, 1989.

Jones, Harvie P. and Jennifer Bryant. Urquhart House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1991.

Jones, Harvie P., Lee Anne Hewett, and Trina Binklev. George Jude House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1999.

Knox, John. *A History of Morgan County*. Decatur: Morgan County Board of Revenue and Control, 1967.

McDaniel, Deangelo. "Squatters Settled in Area before Morgan Was a County." Electronic document, http://www.decaturdaily.com/special_reports/opportunity/squatters-settled-in-area-before-morgan-was-acounty/article_a37f7d82-047d-5887-a1c4-d1efbd49460c.html, February 25, 2011, accessed on June 11, 2019.

McMillen, Lynn. "Eula Key – Obituary." Electronic document, http://quadcitiesdaily.com/?p=335952, August 22, 2016. Accessed on June 12, 2019.

McNeece, Roger. Interview with Richard D. Prall, 2002. The interview appears as an article "Thomas Drane Crabb" in *The Crabb Newsletter*, Volume 12 Number 1, Spring 2002 issue.

Mertins, Ellen and Robert S. Gamble. Forest Home National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1980.

Morgan County Abstract Company. Abstract of Title to the N1/2 of SE1/4 and S1/2 of NE1/4 of S33 and SW1/2 of NW1/4 of S34 in T7S, R3W, n. d.

Morgan County, Alabama. Deed Record RS, Page 334. January 31, 1902.

Deed Record 316, Page 513. December 7, 1904.

Deed Record 291, Page 564. January 2, 1922.

Patrick, Austin L. *Soil Survey of Morgan County, Alabama*. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1921.

Owen, Marie Bankhead, editor. *Our State—Alabama*. Birmingham: Birmingham Printing Company, 1927.

"State Militia." *The Alabama Historical Quarterly*, Vol 6 No. 2, Summer 1944. State Department of Archives and History.

Saunders, Col. James Edmonds. *Early Settlers of Alabama*. Greenville: Reprinted by Southern Historical Press, Inc., 1994. Original printing 1899.

Sherard, Hoyt. *Soil Survey of Morgan County, Alabama.* Washington: United States Department of Agriculture, 1958.

The Southern Advocate. Thomas D. Crabb Obituary. April 17, 1829.

State of Alabama. *Alabama House Journal*. Electronic document, http://www.legislature.state.al.us /aliswww/history/acts_and_journals/1827/house-journal/Jan_3.html, accessed on June 9, 2019.

Stewart, Lawton and Johnnie Rossi. "Using Cotton Byproducts in Beef Cattle Diets." Bulletin 1311. The University of Georgia Cooperative Extension, revised 2010.

Toulim, Harry. *A Digest of the Laws of the State of Alabama*. New York: Ginn & Curtis, 1823.

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Morgan County Soil Survey Map. Washington: United States Department of Agriculture, 1918.

United States Post Office Department. *List of Post Offices in the U. S*. Washington: Way and Gideon Printers, 1828.

Vlach, John Michael. *Back of the Big House: The Architecture of Plantation Slavery*. Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 1993.

Williams, Jennifer L. "Steeped in History." Electronic document, https://www.hartselleenquirer.com /author/daniel.holmes/, accessed June 6, 2019.

Williams, Nixon, Ed Hooker, Patrick McIntyre, and Trina Binkley. Joel Eddins House National Register of Historic Places nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission, 1996.

Wilson, Eugene M. *Alabama Folk Houses*. Montgomery: Alabama Historical Commission, 1975.

Yarbrough, Dr. Mary. Histaspas Stewart 1800-1863 and William Pleasant Key II 1775-1855 Wives and Descendants. Crabb-Stewart-Key-Dotson Home Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage nomination. Nomination submitted to the Alabama Historical Commission by the Hartselle Historical Society, 2018.

Young, Sandra Branson. Edward Boteler II Fifth Generation. Family History Network. Electronic document, http://bransoncook.systemaxonline.com/gedcoms/boteler/pafg05.htm, accessed June 10, 2019.

Previous documentation of 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

Crabb-Stewart-Key House
Name of Property

Morgan, Alabama
County and State

- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _66.4_____

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84:	

Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places.

1. Latitude:	Longitude:
2. Latitude:	Longitude:
3. Latitude:	Longitude:
4. Latitude:	Longitude:

OR
UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

- [ ] **NAD 1927** **or** [X] **NAD 1983**

1. Zone:	16	Easting:	3805727	Northing:	513411
2. Zone:	16	Easting:	3805625	Northing:	514259
3. Zone:	16	Easting:	3804998	Northing:	514218
4. Zone:	16	Easting:	3805012	Northing:	514053
5. Zone:	16	Easting:	3805348	Northing:	513699

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The Morgan County tax parcel identifications for the Crabb-Stewart-Key House are as follows:

16 08 33 0 000 008.002, 16 08 33 0 000 008.004, and 16 08 33 0 000 008.005 (see attached map).

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

These parcels are legally defined by the Morgan County Tax Assessor's Office. These parcels have been historically and legally associated with the Crabb-Stewart-Key House per the Abstract of Title to the N1/2 of SE1/4 and S1/2 of NE1/4 of S33 and SW1/2 of NW1/4 of S34 in T7S, R3W (Morgan County Abstract Company n.d.).

11. Form prepared by:

Name/Title: Gene A. Ford

Organization:

Street & number: 5328 Overbrook Road

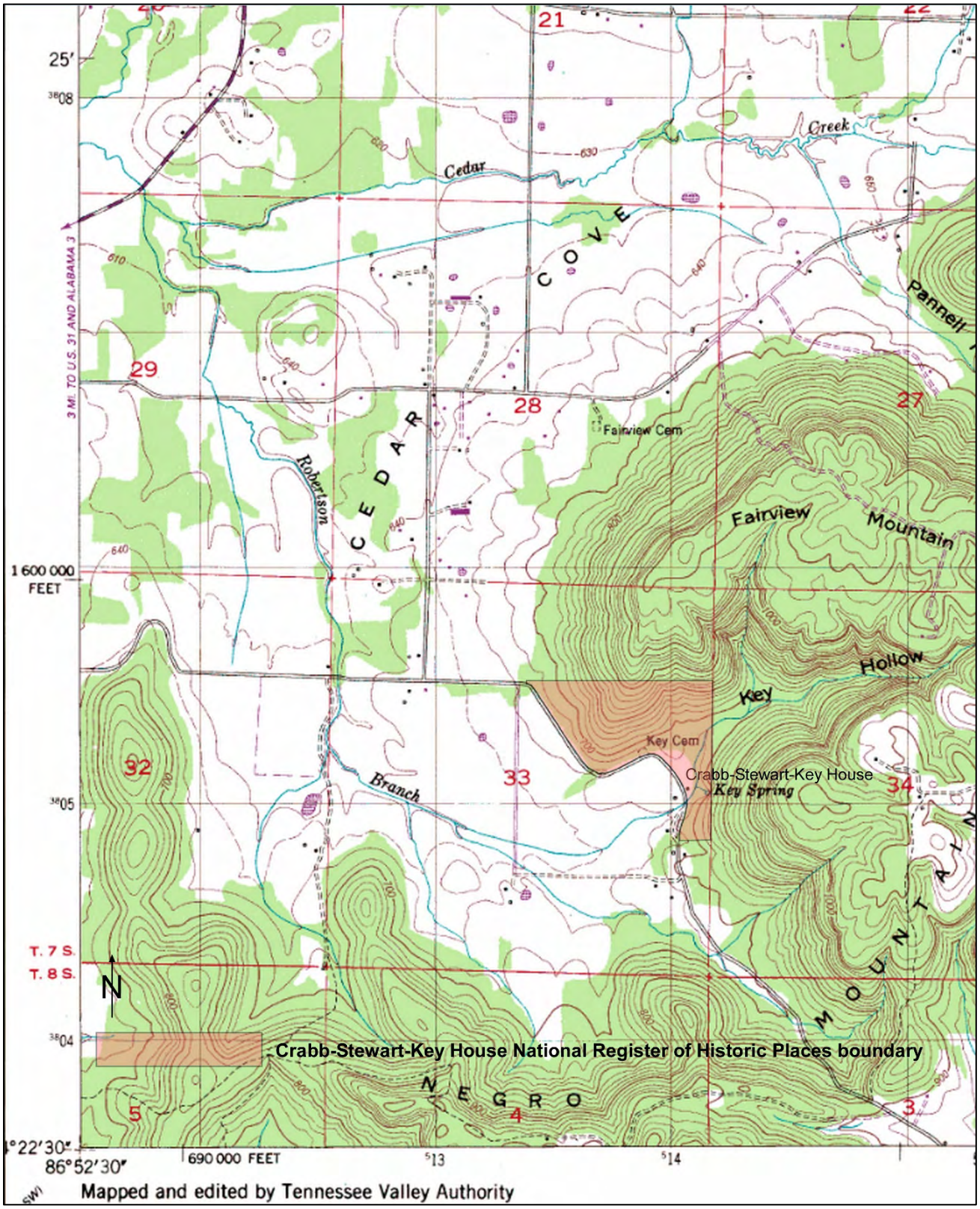
City/Town: Tuscaloosa State: Alabama Zip Code: 35405

Email: gfordjb@gmail.com Phone: (205) 242.8021

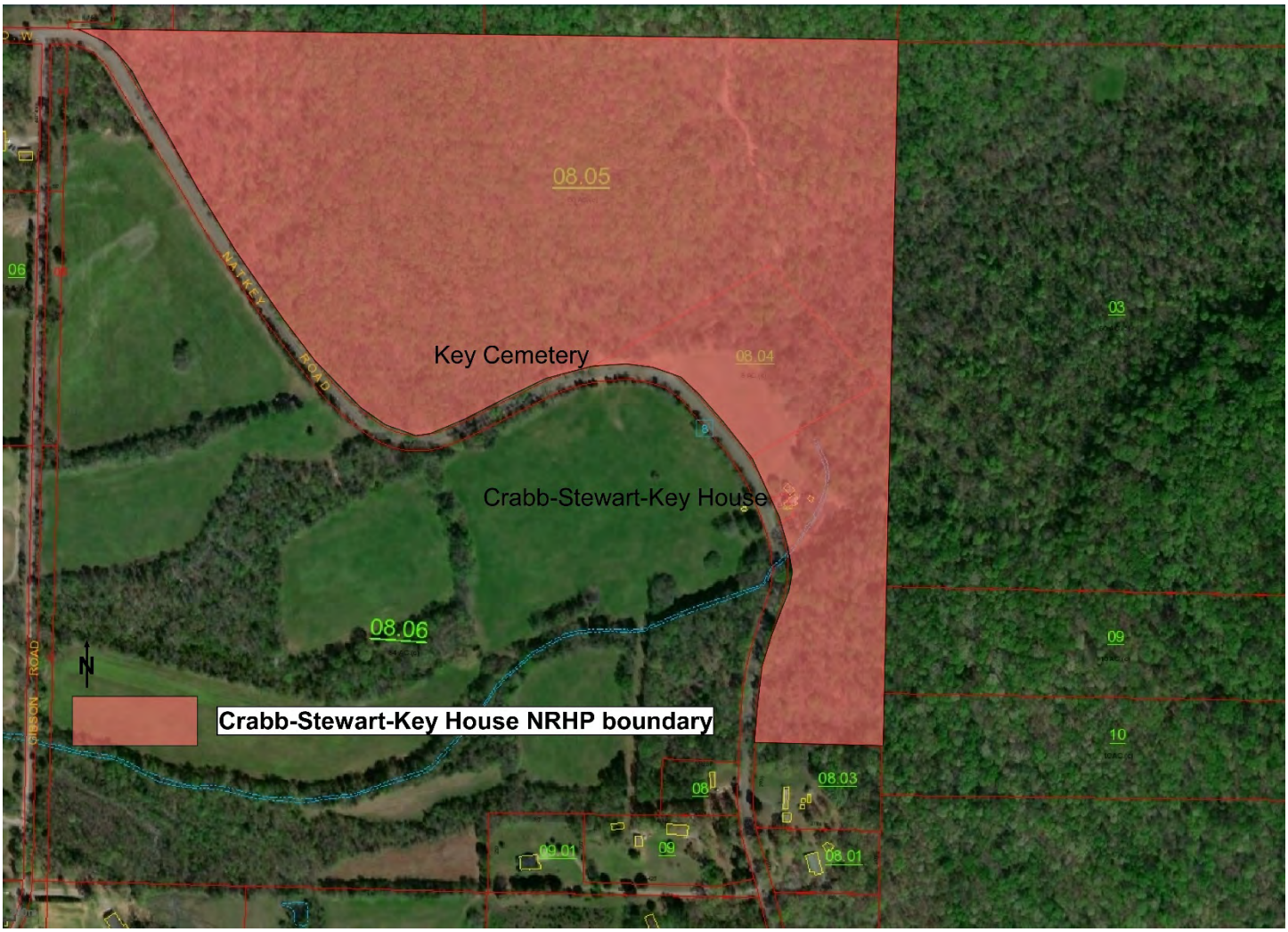
Date: July 18, 2019

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.



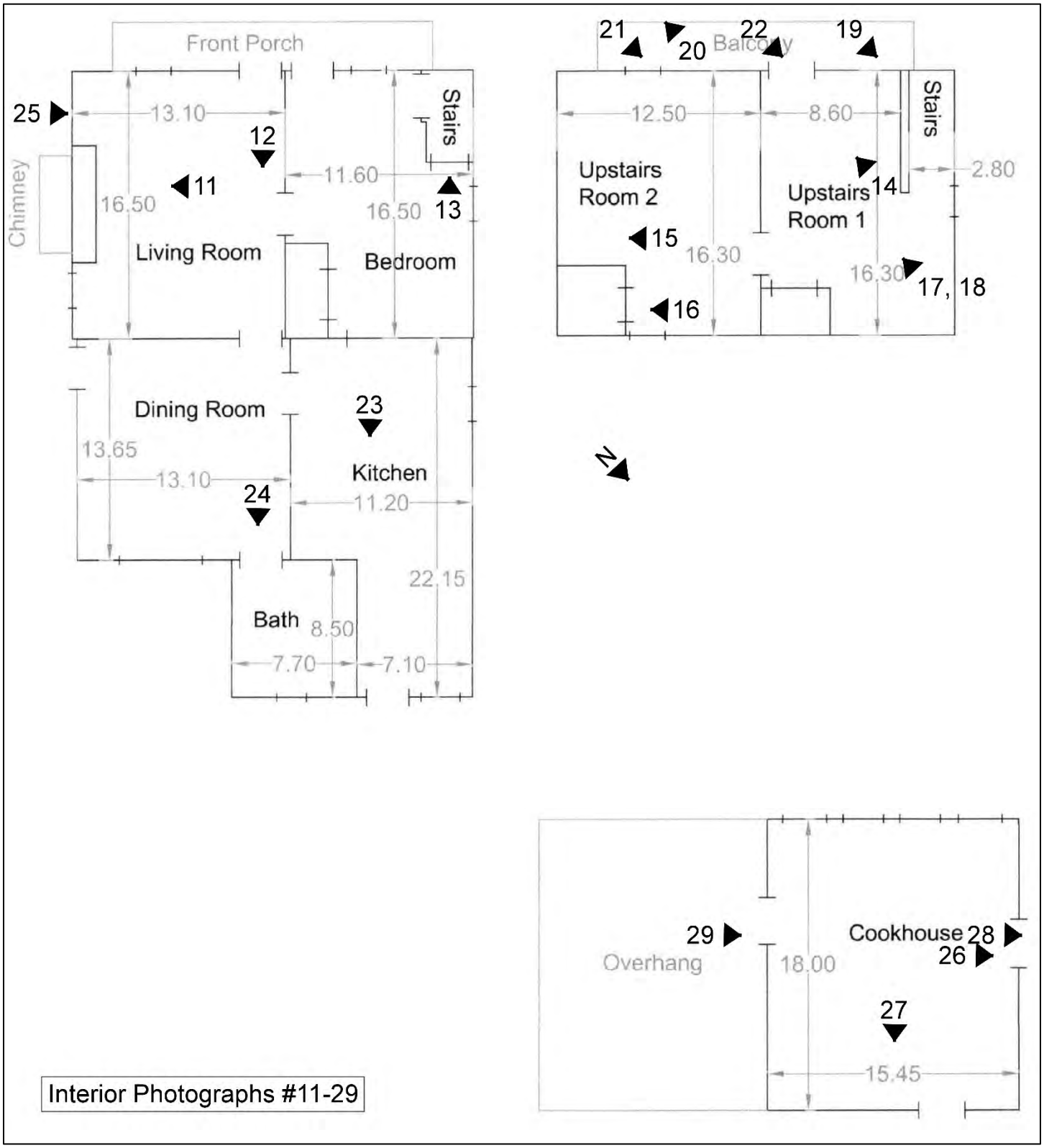
Crabb-Stewart-Key House NRHP boundary based on 1951 USGS 7.5 Somerville topographic map.



Crabb-Stewart-Key House NRHP boundary based on 2019 Morgan County tax map.



Exterior photograph map. Base map 2018 Google Earth.



Interior floor plan and photograph map. Lee Greene, Jr. 2018.

Photographs
Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, 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 or Property:	Crabb-Stewart-Key House	
City or Vicinity:	Hartselle	
County:	Morgan	State: Alabama
Photographer:	Gene A. Ford	
Date Photographed:	June 13, 2019	

Location of original digital files: Gene A. Ford, 5328 Overbrook Road, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo #1 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0001)
General view of setting/Nat Key Road. View south.

Photo #2 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0002)
General view of setting/Nat Key Road. View southwest.

Photo #3 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0003)
General view of setting/Nat Key Road. View northwest.

Photo #4 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0004)
Crabb-Key-Stewart House southwest elevation. View northeast.

Photo #5 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House_0005)
Crabb-Key-Stewart House southeast elevation. View northwest.

Photo #6 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0006)
Crabb-Key-Stewart House northeast elevation. View southwest.

Photo #7 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0007)
Crabb-Key-Stewart House northwest elevation. View southeast.

Photo #8 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0008)
Northwest elevations of cook house, house, and smoke house. View southeast.

Photo #9 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0009)
Crabb-Key-Stewart House and cook house northeast elevations. View southwest.

Photo #10 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0010)
Southwest elevations of propane tank, smoke house, and pump house. View northwest.

Photo #11 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0011)
Mantel in living room. View southeast.

Photo #12 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0012)
Living room to dining room. View northeast.

Photo #13 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0013)
Under side of staircase. View southwest.

Photo #14 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0014)
North room on second floor and exterior door. View south.

Photo #15 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0015)
South room on second floor and wall detail. View southeast.

Photo #16 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0016)
Southeast corner intersections of walls. View southeast.

Photo #17 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0017)
Detail of rafters and pegs. View south.

Photo #18 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0018)
Collar ties, pegs, house rafters, and porch roof rafters. View south.

Photo #19 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0019)
Exterior view of wall plate. View north.

Photo #20 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0020)
View from second tier of porch. View south.

Photo #21 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0021)
Upper sash detail. View north.

Photo #22 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0022)
Exterior door detail. View north.

Photo #23 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0023)
Kitchen. View northeast.

Photo #24 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0024)
Dining room to bathroom. View northeast.

Photo #25 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0025)
Floor joists and piers. View northwest.

Photo #26 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0026)
Cook house interior. View northwest.

Photo #27 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0027)
Nat Key's agricultural inventory. View northeast.

Photo #28 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0028)
Door detail. View northwest.

Photo #29 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0029)
Cook house sill and floor joist detail. View northwest.

Photo #30 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0030)
Smoke house northwest elevation. View southeast.

Photo #31 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0031)
Southwest and southeast elevations of smoke and pump houses. View northwest.

Photo #32 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0032)
Spring font. View east.

Photo #33 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0033)
Pond. View south.

Photo #34 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0034)
General view of Key Cemetery. View northwest.

Photo #35 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0035)
Mary A. Stewart headstone. View east.

Photo #36 (AL_MorganCounty_Crabb-Stewart-Key House _0036)
Atheldria A. Stewart grave marker. View west.

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.




















With Warmest Regards
To: Bob & Janice
Golden Knights
Presented to
Robert and Janice
Dotson
In appreciation for
Open House
at the
Crabb, Stewart, Ray,
Brown House
Dawn Memory Lane
on
September 18, 2018
Hartselle Historical Society
~ October 25, 2018 ~






















Tomatoes
5¢
THE KITCHEN IS THE HEART OF A HOME
1978
1977
1975
1988
1976
1981
1974
1987
1982
1973
1986


Marilyn
Monroe



13

16 mead

6

17 Hadlo

W K 6 SK Hadlo
mead

mead of Nash

11 AK C. S mead

1 Hadlo











MARY A.
STEWART

BORN JULY 14 1826,
DIED FEB 8, 1905

A NOTCHED LINK IS
BROKEN
IN OUR HOUSEHOLD
BAND
BUT A CHAIN IS
BORNE
IN [illegible]

ATHELDRIA A.
STEWART
NOV. 12, 1846
JAN. 27, 1908

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: Crabb-Stewart-Key House

Multiple Name:

State & County: ALABAMA, Morgan

Date Received:	Date of Pending List:	Date of 16th Day:	Date of 45th Day:	Date of Weekly List:
10/2/2019	10/25/2019	11/12/2019	11/18/2019	

Reference number: SG100004618

Nominator: SHPO

Reason For Review:

__X__ Accept _____ Return _____ Reject **11/18/2019** Date

Abstract/Summary Comments: NR Criteria: A & C.

Recommendation/ Criteria: AOS: Settlement, Agriculture, Architecture; POS: 1818-1969; LOS: local. Two-story, log single pen 1818 residence with additions and ag outbuildings.

Reviewer Lisa Deline Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2239 Date 11/18/19

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

ALABAMA STATE SENATE
ALABAMA STATE HOUSE
11 SOUTH UNION STREET, SUITE 727
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130-4600

ARTHUR ORR
SENATOR
DISTRICT 3
POST OFFICE BOX 305
DECATUR, ALABAMA 35602

ATHENS
256-262-9038
DECATUR
256-260-2147
HUNTSVILLE
256-539-5441
MONTGOMERY
334-261-0758

August 30, 2019

Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: Lee Anne Wofford
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

Re: Crabb-Steward-Key House
1084 Nat Key Road
Hartselle, Morgan County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Wofford:

In regard to the above application, I fully support the application of Crabb-Stewart-Key House to be added to the National Register of Historic Places. I am personally familiar with the home and its historical significance to Morgan County, the State of Alabama and the United States. The current owner has been diligent and conscientious to restore the structure in an appropriate manner given the unusual historic value of the house.

Again, I fully recommend and support its addition to the National Register of Historic Places.

Respectfully,

Arthur Orr

AO:cm

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

468 South Perry Street
P.O. Box 300900
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900
334-242-3184 / Fax: 334-240-3477

Lisa D. Jones
Executive Director
State Historic Preservation Officer

RECEIVED
OCT - 2 2019
Natl. Reg. of Historic Places
National Park Service

October 1, 2019

Ms. Joy Beasley
National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Mail Stop 7228
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Ms. Beasley:

Enclosed please find the nomination and supporting documentation to be considered for listing of the following Alabama resource in the National Register of Historic Places:

Crabb-Stewart-Key House
Hartselle, Morgan County, Alabama

Your consideration of the enclosed National Register of Historic Places nomination is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Lee Anne Wofford

Lee Anne Wofford
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

LAW/nw

Enclosures