

STATE: Kentucky  
 COUNTY: Scott  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: Oct 25 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**  
 COMMON: Longview  
 AND/OR HISTORIC: Richard M. Johnson-David Thomson House

**2. LOCATION**  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Galloway Pike 3/4 mi. north of U.S 460  
 CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 6  
 STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21 COUNTY: Scott CODE: 209

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**  
 OWNER'S NAME: Dr. & Mrs. R. E. Ellis  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Galloway Pike - Route 2  
 CITY OR TOWN: Stamping Ground STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**  
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Scott County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: East Main Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Georgetown STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**  
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Survey Of Historic Sites In Kentucky  
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  Federal  State  County  Local  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Kentucky Heritage Commission  
 STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

Longview Farm encompasses a large two story brick house of the transitional period attached to a brick ell which may be 18th century in origin, and a smaller four-bay cottage with large chimney which appears to have been built for servants.

Main House - The main House can be divided into two architectural eras. The ell, which includes a primitive kitchen, a den and an upstairs which has its own secret chamber may have been built before the turn of the 19th century. Batten and six panel doors, ash floors, a closeted staircase and a poplar mantel appearing to be of the classical period are characteristic of this portion of the house. Beams in the kitchen show signs of having been charred.

The front block of the house, which from the outside presents a two-story, five-bay facade with two single porticos (one above the other) being supported by Ionic columns. The two slightly recessed central doors are flanked by smaller Ionic colonnettes. A pedimented entablature caps the two story twin porticoes. One of the chimneys on the gable end stands outside the end wall, while the other is on the inside. Garret end lookouts are on the third floor or attic. Lintels are of cut stone.

Woodwork on the inside of the front mass is mixed. There is some six panel door treatment upstairs. Tooling appears to be that of the period preceding the Greek Revival period. Mantels are Greek Revival, and long panels appear on the closeting beneath the staircase. All floors, upstairs and downstairs, are ash. Chair railing exists except in the parlor to the right of the front door where window sash treatment exists to floor level.

Smaller House - Of common bond brick-laying style, this four-bay, one and one-half story house has large chimneys, fine detail and appears to have been the servants' house. Its construction by tradition preceded that of the larger house although its window frames hint of a larger date, or of having been replaced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1819**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering          | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy            | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry             | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture                      | _____  |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture         | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater                        | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature           | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation                 | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                |   |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Longview, a stately Greek Revival mansion with an early brick ell, is a good example of eclectic architecture; examples of both 18th century and 19th century interior woodwork remain. Historically it is primarily significant as the home of Richard M. Johnson, Vice-President of the United States under President Martin Van Buren (1837-1841).

The story of the building of Longview is interesting. David Thomson, who had come to Scott County in 1789 at the age of 14, married Elizabeth Suggett in 1801. During the early years of the marriage he engaged the milling business with members of the Suggett family. In 1817 he bought the farm that is now called Longview and first built a small brick house for his family. After his larger structure was completed in 1819, he moved his servants into the smaller one.

In 1833 Thomson, owner of 75 slaves, a paper mill, a merchant mill, several farms and interest in other enterprises, led a caravan of a dozen members of his family and their slaves to Pettis County, Missouri when they began again the pioneer existence. The Thomson slaves included a millwright, carpenter, stone mason, farm hands, weaver, spinner, cooks and house servants. Thomson named the town formed by the emigration, Georgetown, after his home in Kentucky. He erected his brick house in Missouri in 1840. The community was a thriving town until the Missouri Pacific Railway was routed elsewhere due to the prejudices of Georgetown residents. It is now a ghost town.

Biographically, Thomson at the age of 18 volunteered under Gen. Scott in the 1793 campaign, and he served under Richard M. Johnson at the Battle of the Thames. Biographers credit Thomson with the death of Tecumseh, noting that he allowed Johnson, a cousin by marriage, to have credit as he could use it politically. The Thomson agent sold Longview to Johnson in 1837, when Johnson was serving his first year as Vice-President. The best known Thomson son was Manlius Valerius Thomson, hero of the War with Mexico, and Lieutenant Governor of Kentucky from 1849.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leland W. Meyer, The Life and Times of Col. Richard M. Johnson of Kentucky (New York:AMS Press, 1967) Chapters 2,4,6,7,8,.  
Reprint of 1930 book.

"Scott County Woman's Club Plans Fourth Annual Holiday House Tour,"  
The Sunday Herald-Leader, November 26, 1972 (Lexington)

Laura J. Yeater, Gen. David Thomson, privately printed family history, 56 pages cataloged Kentucky Historical Society No.3, Gen.STW, pamphlet, Vol. 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES							
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE					
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		
NW	0		"	0		"	38°	13'	11"	84°	39'	04"
NE	0		"	0		"						
SE	0		"	0		"						
SW	0		"	0		"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3 acres

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Ann B. Bevins, Scott County Representative

ORGANIZATION: Kentucky Heritage Commission DATE: May 12, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER: 401 Wapping Street

CITY OR TOWN: Frankfort STATE: Kentucky CODE: 21

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

National  State  Local

Name: Mrs. Simeon Williams

Title: State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: September 13, 1973

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Ann B. Bevins  
 Associate Director, Professional Services

ATTEST:

Wm. S. Gandy  
 Keeper of the National Register

Date: 10-18-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) # 1

STATE	
Kentucky	
COUNTY	
Scott	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Richard M. Johnson, Vice-President of the United States under President Martin Van Buren, owned and occupied this estate which he named Longview while he was serving in that office. Some of the Greek Revival detail of the structure indicates that it was also remodelled during that period. Johnson achieved national fame on at least three counts - he became the hero of the War of 1812 when he received credit for slaying Tecumseh and for also plotting the strategy which gave his cavalymen the victory over the British at the Battle of the Thames; he labored for several years to abolish imprisonment for debt by means of a bill which he authored in the United States Senate; and he operated from 1818 until the 1830's on two of his farms a federally supported school for Indians known as Choctaw Academy. He became the first native-born Kentuckian to represent the Commonwealth in its legislature, in the United States Congress and in the United States Senate. He was elected to the state legislature in 1804, and in 1806 was elected to the United States Congress. As a War Hawk, he led toward declaration of War in 1812 against the British, and returned home to train a regiment of "shock cavalry," developing a technique of warfare which modernized the cavalry system. His **regiment** led the attack at the Battle of the Thames, and Johnson, with 25 balls having penetrated himself, his clothing or his horse, remained near death for months. He returned to Congress a hero. In 1818 he "retired" and the legislature named him to the United States Senate. The Choctaw Academy, on his Blue Spring Farm, in 1825 was placed under supervision of the Department of War with a \$6,000 annual grant. Between 1822 and 1832 he annually introduced a bill in the Senate to release debtors from imprisonment. This bill passed in 1832, bringing Johnson immediate acclaim, especially in New York. He ran for President in 1836, winning considerable **populist-type** support. His contest for Vice-President resulted in high tension, the election being so close that the House of Representatives had to make the decision. He ran again in 1840 and 1844, losing. He bought Longview in 1837 and deeded it to creditor Fabricus McCalla in 1841. A bald-cypress tree on this and other farms owned by Johnson, hints to the Vice-President's landscaping peculiarities.

Draper papers indicate that Johnson lost the farm to Great Crossing merchant, Fabricus McCalla. The narrative indicates that Indian boys attending Choctaw Academy charged items at the store, and that the debt was so large that Johnson deeded him the farm in lieu of the debt. McCalla sold the farm to his nephew Willie B. Galloway, at whose death in 1888 the property was left to Georgetown College for sale, proceeds to be invested for the education of Indian boys.