

2813

#5 RECEIVED

CREOLE AND GULF COAST COTTAGES IN BALDWIN COUNTY

(Thematic Group)

NOV 8 1988

Owner: D. L. Nelson  
Rt. 4 Box 2124  
Foley, Al. 36535

NATIONAL REGISTER

Historic Name: Nicholson House

Common Name: Nelson House

Location: Box 2124 County Road 6, Oyster Bay

Verbal Boundary Description:

Begin at a point on the northwest side of County Road 6, 260 feet northeast on the Oyster Bay subdivision Road. Thence proceed west 751 feet along a canal to the Bon Secour River, thence proceed in a northwesterly direction following the meanderings of said river 800 feet to a point, thence proceed east 709 feet to a point, thence proceed southeast 1134 feet to a point on County Road 6, thence southwest along said road 410 feet to the point of beginning.

Acreage: 15

UTM: A-16/429/380/3351/220  
B-16/429/330/3351/140  
C-16/429/080/3351/150  
D-16/428/870/3351/340  
E-16/429/120/3351/350

Date of Construction: c. 1880

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance

The Nicholson-Nelson House is significant as an intact Gulf Coast Cottage in its original setting. The gable roof, recessed porch and central hall are all features of the style. The Nicholson-Nelson House is also significant because it is raised, unlike other rural examples of this style in Baldwin County. The marshy land along the river necessitated raising the cottage.

Integrity:

The Nicholson-Nelson House retains its integrity of location, materials, and plan. Exterior alterations include removal of the two interior chimneys above the roofline, addition of metal awnings over the first floor windows on the southwest side and construction of a flat roof, one story room acting as a passageway between the main house and the detached kitchen. This room was added during the 1930s and consists of dropsiding with 6/6 windows.

Interior integrity is good. The original central hall plan with two rooms to either side is preserved. Original beaded board walls and ceilings are present throughout as are the original four panel doors with hardware. The passageway is carpeted and paneled and the original kitchen has been modernized.

Description:

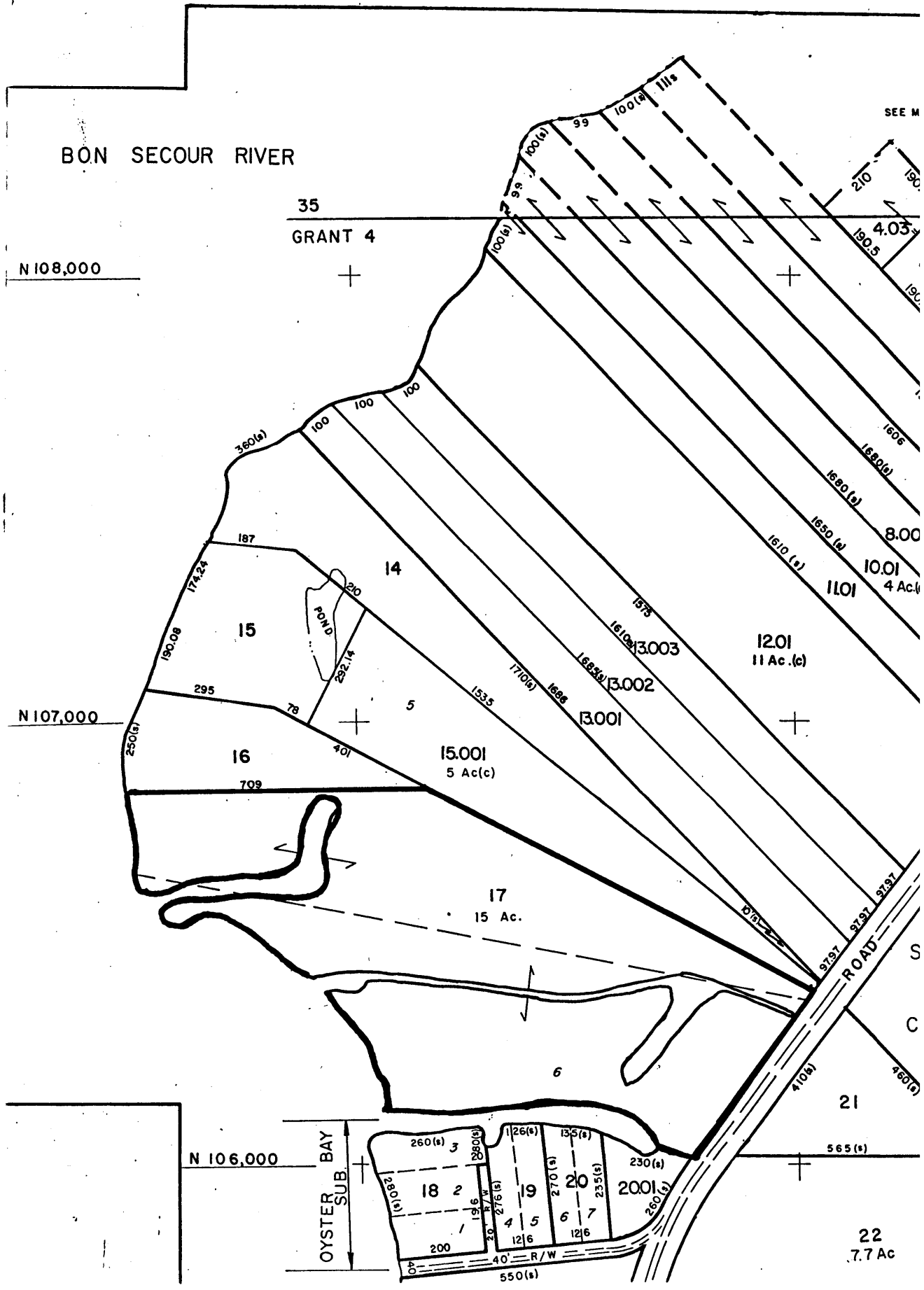
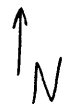
The Nicholson-Nelson House is located on the southeast bank of the Bon Secour River a mile north of Oyster Bay. The 15 acre lot is traversed by three canals or slips and the house itself lies between the middle and northern canal. Pine and live oak are scattered about the lot which is planted in grass. The ground is marshy and wet. The Nicholson-Nelson House is a 1½ story clapboarded, 3x2 bay Gulf Coast Cottage raised on brick piers and oriented to the northwest. It has a gable roof to the sides covered in standing seam tin. A recessed porch covers the full facade and has turned posts with brackets and is balustraded. The wooden steps are balustraded as well. There is a 6/6 window with shutters on either side of the entrance. The front door is wood with sidelights and a stained glass transom. There is a boxed cornice all the way around.

A one story, gable to the sides, clapboarded 1x3 bay kitchen with shed roof back porch is connected to the main house by a one story flat roof section with dropsiding and grouped 6/6 windows.

The interior consists of beaded board ceilings and walls with back to back fire places. The simple mantels have bull's-eye molding while the four panel doors throughout the house retain their original hardware. The kitchen and passageway have modern interiors of paneling and carpet.

Historical Summary:

The Nicholson-Nelson House was built c. 1875 by John Nicholson. Nicholson was a native of Denmark who worked as an oysterman in the Bon Secour area through the 1880s. After his death the property passed through a succession of owners until the Nelson family acquired it in 1925.



BON SECOUR RIVER

35  
GRANT 4

N 108,000

N 107,000

N 106,000

OYSTER SUB. BAY

SEE M

22  
7.7 Ac