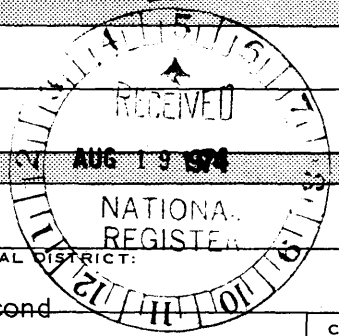


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Tennessee
 COUNTY: Monroe
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE: DEC 24 1974



1. NAME

COMMON: ~~Johnson Farm~~
 The Mansion
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Ballplay Road
 CITY OR TOWN: Tellico Plains CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Second
 STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47 COUNTY: Monroe CODE: 123

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

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"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Dr. Sanford Gray
 STREET AND NUMBER: Tellico Boys' Camp
 CITY OR TOWN: Tellico Plains STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Monroe County Register's Office
 STREET AND NUMBER: Courthouse
 CITY OR TOWN: Madisonville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
 DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Tennessee
 COUNTY: Monroe
 ENTRY NUMBER: 11-24-81A
 DATE: DEC 24 1974
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7 DESCRIPTION

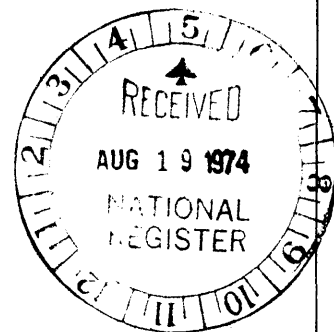
CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Mansion is isolated in the Unaka Mountains of Monroe County near the small town of Tellico Plains, Tennessee. The square, two story structure, which stands above the Tellico River, was built around 1841 by Elisha Johnson. Across the River is the site of Johnson's iron works. The home is most unusual. Its central section was reputedly built up around an early blockhouse (not to be confused with the Tellico Blockhouse which was some twenty miles away on the Little Tennessee River). The house has four similar entrances on its identical sides. Johnson, who came to the area from Rochester, New York, had a son who fled after killing a man in a duel. The home was supposedly built with various exits for possible escapes. A tunnel was said to have joined the home with the river; if so, it has caved in.

The Mansion has a very simplistic exterior; its boxlike appearance is broken by the gables above the porches, the portional covering of clapboard and the square crown which forms the peak of the roof. These facets and the trellis frame porch give the home an oriental appearance. The downstairs of the Mansion includes a kitchen (complete with wide hearth and mid-nineteenth century decor), a dining room, a parlor and drawing room. Each room is square and joins a central hall. The ceilings downstairs are roughly 12 feet high; the wall of each room frames large French windows. The upstairs is split by various levels. A sewing area was set off the staircase because of the illumination of the window there. A nursery centers on the hall and four bedrooms form the remaining space. An attic affords ample storage space. Unlike many homes of this period, wardrobes were not needed because closet space was provided between the large chimneys and the interior walls. The Mansion has been a museum in recent years and is lavishly furnished.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 24 1974

(Number all entries)

7. (Description)

The central section of the Mansion was reputedly built up around an early blockhouse. This is as specific as we can be. It is the opinion of those familiar with the history of the house that all the surface ornamentation was added at the same time. It is not known whether the building was designed by an architect or not. Although no one knows definitely why the building was designed with four entrances, speculation has it that it was so designed because the son of the builder fled his former house in Rochester, New York, because he had killed a man, and the four exits would have provided means of escape in the event someone should come looking for him.



5. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input 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) ca. 1841

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input 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 checked="" 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 Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mansion is by far the most unusual, most elegant structure in the mountains of East Tennessee. Whereas almost all houses of fine architectural lines and large size were built in the valley section by substantial landowners who farmed the fertile valley section, Elisha Johnson's "Mansion" was secluded beyond Tellico Plains in the Unaka Mountains. Two reasons can be offered for this isolation: Johnson ran the iron works located near his home and the secluded spot offered protection for his son who had fled New York after killing a man in a duel. There is nothing which remains of the iron works with the exception of a few stones from the foundations. The site was first developed by the Cherokees prior to War of 1812; when Monroe County was opened to white settlement in 1814, James Bradley and Michael Carroll purchased the iron works from the Indians. Elisha Johnson acquired the operation in 1846 and continued forging until 1864 when a detachment of Sherman's Federal Troops under General Morgan Smith destroyed the forging tools and furnaces. Johnson was tried at the Mansion home; because of his Northern origin he was not punished for supplying iron to the Confederacy. Because of its unique architecture and its relationship to Johnson, operator of the Tellico Iron Works, The Mansion is an important landmark in the area.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brandau, Roberta S., Ed., History of Homes and Gardens of Tennessee (Nashville, 1936).
 "A History of the Mansion," pamphlet, n.p., n.d.
 The Monroe County Democrat, Sesquicentennial Edition, November, 1969.
 Selected clippings, Lawson-McGhee Library, Knoxville.

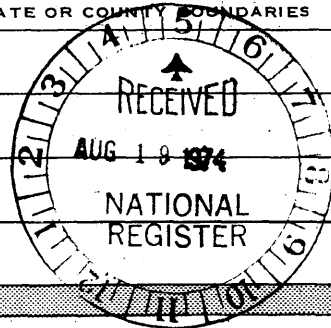
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		35 ° 21 ' 44 "	84 ° 16 ' 46 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 2

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM
16/74719C
3916410
C

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Michael E. Carberry, Research Associate

ORGANIZATION: East Tennessee Development District DATE: 3/12/74

STREET AND NUMBER: 1810 Lake Avenue

CITY OR TOWN: Knoxville STATE: Tennessee CODE: 47

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: Lawrence C. Henry
 Title: Executive Director Tennessee Historical Commission

Date: July 30, 1974

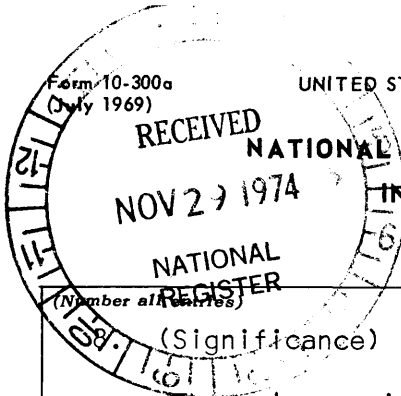
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

AR Westense
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 12/24/74

ATTEST:
Wm. S. Smith
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 12.24.74



Form 10-300a
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Tennessee
COUNTY	Monroe
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 24 1974

(Significance)

The only remains of the iron works on the site are a few foundation stones.

Following the destruction of the foundry by General Sherman's troops, Elisha Johnson returned north in 1864, settling at Ithaca, New York, and the rest of the family soon followed.

The Mansion seems to have been unoccupied and neglected during the unsettled reconstruction years that followed the Civil War. About 1877 Colonel A. Hoskins of Chattanooga organized a company that purchased the dormant Tellico Iron and Manufacturing Company and the Mansion was included with this property. Colonel Hoskins company could not revive the iron industry at Tellico but did operate the Mansion as a summer hotel or boarding house which was quite popular with residents of the towns farther west in the Tennessee Valley. The Hoskins Company sold the former Tellico Iron Company to an English syndicate in or about 1900. The probable instigator of this deal was Cyril F. Herford, an adventurous young Englishman, who, like Mortimer Johnson, had come to Tellico Plains by way of a cattle ranch in Florida but young Herford was seeking economic opportunity and not escaping anything. The English firm was called the Tellico Slate and Iron Company, which as time went on, carried on more of a real estate than manufacturing business. A second Englishman, Charles Swainson, was associated with Herford in the Tellico Plains, had much to do with the development of the town and surrounding region.

Mr. Herford married Sarah Dismukes of Fayetteville, Tennessee, and they acquired the Mansion about 1901 and lived there for nearly half a century, until 1949. For a time there was a tennis court on the front or western lawn and afternoon tea was their usual custom.

The railroad from Athens to Tellico Plains was built just before the turn of the century by Robert L. Bright of Fayetteville, who lived with his family at the Mansion during the construction of the railroad, probably from 1892 to 1894. This railroad was a major factor in attracting the large lumbering operations that dominated Tellico Plains and the many thousand acres of then virgin timbered mountain land above and east of the town, for the first quarter of the twentieth century. First came the W. C. Heyser Lumber Company of Chattanooga, sold on the idea by Herford and Swainson. The Heyser Company erected a band mill at Tellico and floated logs down the mountain streams on the freshets following heavy rains. The operation was profitable until the farmers in the valleys below brought lawsuits claiming the sudden release of log booms by the lumber company caused floods never before experienced and ruined their crops. A smaller but more permanently successful operation was that of the Loomis and Scott Lumber Company, later the C. A. Scott Company, which terminated only with Mr. Scott's death.

The giant among them all was the Babcock Lumber Company, guided by two brothers from Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. Starting at the rail head of the Tellico railroad in 1905, they pushed their logging railway up the forge of the Tellico River to Bald River, there constructed a high trestle over the falls and continued into the tall timber along Bald River for several miles. When the timber on Bald River was cut this remarkable railroad was continued up

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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(Number all entries)

8. (Significance) cont'd

the Tellico to North River and so on until virtually all the drainage basin of the Tellico River was cut. Like most operations of its time it was a "cut out and get out" procedure so when the last car load of Babcock lumber was shipped from Tellico Plains in 1933 the sale of the 85,000 or more acres of what is now the "Tellico Wildlife Management Area" to the United States Forest Service had been negotiated. The Stokeley Company bought the fertile plains section of the Babcock holdings and erected a vegetable canning plant that has been in continuous operation to the present time.

The Mansion itself has changed ownership a number of times, being used primarily as a summer and week-end home.



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

Johnson, Elisha, Mansion

Monroe County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL

Arlene Byars 5/7/92

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page N/A

Johnson, Elisha, mansion
Monroe County, TN

The Elisha Johnson mansion was listed in the National Register on December 24, 1974. The property was marked incorrectly on the Tellico Plains quadrangle. A corrected map and UTM coordinates are included with this continuation sheet.

Herbert L. Harper

Herbert L. Harper
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer,
Tennessee Historical Commission

4/27/92
Date