

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Holland, Thomas, House

other name/site number: N/A

2. Location

street & number: Off Highway 72 (Section 19, T5S, R6W)

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Hillsboro

vicinity: X

state: AL County: Lawrence

code: 79

zip code: 35673

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for 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. See continuation sheet.

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of certifying official

8-20-91
Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

[Handwritten Signature]
Signature of Keeper

Entered in the National Register

[Handwritten Date]
Date of Action

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current : VACANT/NOT IN USE

Sub:

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

OTHER; _____

Other Description: Vernacular/Dogtrot

Materials: foundation Stone roof Metal
walls Clapboard other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : _____

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: c.1836 _____

Significant Dates : c. 1836 _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 53 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>481100</u>	<u>3828480</u>	B	<u>16</u>	<u>481610</u>	<u>3828480</u>
C	<u>16</u>	<u>481110</u>	<u>3827920</u>	D	<u>16</u>	<u>481610</u>	<u>3827920</u>

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

The property is contained within the legal description: SW-1/4 Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 6 West, Parc 42-09-04-19, Parcel 004.000, as recorded in the Lawrence County Tax Assessor's Office, Moulton, Alabama.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries of the property include the Thomas Holland House, its outbuildings, and 53 acres surrounding the property. This parcel of land is the legal description of the property (SW-1/4 Section 19, Township 5 South, Range 6 West, Parc 42-09-04-19, Parcel 004.000) as recorded in the Lawrence County Tax Assessor's Office, Moulton, Alabama.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Melanie A. Betz, Cultural Resources Coordinator (assisted by Robert Gamble, Architectural Historian)

Organization: Alabama Historical Commission Date: May 22, 1991

Street & Number: 725 Monroe Street Telephone: 205/242-3184

City or Town: Montgomery State: AL ZIP: 36130

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Description Thomas Holland House Page #1

Situated on a hill at the end of a long road, the Thomas Holland House, located near Hillsboro, is a full, two-story, double-pen log building (-now covered with clapboard siding-) bisected at the lower level by a dogtrot. A one-story log addition (-now covered with siding-) extends from the north (rear) facade. Brick chimneys flank the gable ends of the original portion of the house; a brick chimney also extends from the center of the rear addition.

The dogtrot passage is finished with vertical flush boards and a molded chairrail. Rooms to either side bear evidence of having been whitewashed. All mantelpieces have been removed. In recent years the rooms had walls and ceilings covered with sheetrock. An enclosed box stairway rises in two flights from a corner of each of the lower rooms to the chamber above. Entrance to the middle room of the second floor is from the eastern chamber. The west second-floor room is completely isolated and can be reached only from the room below. The rectangular windows throughout the main block originally had six-over-six sash.

Despite its deteriorated condition, the Holland House has retained its original integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Also located on the property are two deteriorated contributing structures: a rectangular frame outbuilding with a gable roof and a small frame privy with a flat roof.

Archaeological Component:

Although no formal archaeological survey has been made around the Holland House, the potential for significant subsurface cultural remains is high. Early homesteads were sited within a constellation of dependencies and activity areas such as kitchens, wells, etc. Although these structures are no longer standing, the buried portion may contain significant information that may be important in interpreting the entire property.

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Section number 8 Significance Thomas Holland House Page #1

CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

The Thomas Holland House, located near Hillsboro, is one of the few surviving full, two-story log dogtrots to be documented in Alabama.(1) Constructed c. 1836 (2), the house has retained most of its original features including its overall shape and form, finished dogtrot passage, and brick end chimneys.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Family tradition maintains that the Thomas Holland House was erected in 1836.(2) County records further reveal that Holland purchased 40 acres, including the house site, from the State of Alabama on May 23, 1823.(3) This acreage became the center of farming operations that extended to over 2100 acres by 1849, making Holland one of the substantial landholders of the country.(4)

Born in South Carolina about 1793, Holland and his North Carolina-born wife, Sarah Winslow (Davidson Holland), lived out their lives in the large log dogtrot they built around 1836 and are buried in a small community cemetery about a mile to the northeast on the old Hillsboro-Trinity Road.(5) According to statements made by one of Holland's daughters to her grandson, still living today, the house was largely constructed by the light of pine torches after Holland and his slaves had worked all day in the cotton fields.(6)

Although abandoned for many years, the house and portions of the original farm still remain in the hands of Holland heirs.

THE DOGTROT HOUSE:

The Thomas Holland House is a fine and intact representation of a full, two-story "Dogtrot" - a popular building type which dotted the rural landscape throughout the 19th and early 20th century. Constructed by early settlers of all socioeconomic backgrounds, the dogtrot house probably originated on the post-Revolutionary Kentucky and Tennessee frontier, although open-hall log houses were also known as far east as the upper Carolina Piedmont.(7)

Providing much needed ventilation during the hot summer months, this house type is characterized by its open-ended passage - the "dogtrot" - which is flanked by two rooms ("pens") and connected by a common roof. Exterior end chimneys were frequently located at the gable ends. To create additional space, an ell, a sleeping loft (- usually accessible by a small inside corner stair, or a stair in the dogtrot passage-) or a full second-story was added.(8) The dogtrot plan was also a means of enlarging an existing one-room cabin: another "pen" was constructed approximately eight-to-twelve feet from the original structure and then roofed over and floored to become the breezeway or dogtrot passage. Numerous open-hall houses in Alabama evolved in this manner.

Later, dogtrots were "improved" by enclosing the passage itself at either end by wide double doors. Many of the log dogtrots were weatherboarded and even remodeled into rather sophisticated dwellings, as exemplified in the Robert Jenkins house near Alpine and the now-ruinous Bird House near Courtland. These buildings were not only covered over with clapboard, but also replete with Federal or Greek Revival-style trim including plaster interior walls,

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Section number 8 Significance Thomas Holland House Page #2

chairrails, a balustraded stair, and simple Adamesque mantelpieces.(9) Early 20th-century dogtrots were sometimes adorned with gingerbread trim.

Most dogtrots were one- or one-and-a-half stories; the two-story or double dogtrots that were constructed on rare occasions were symbols of affluence on the early Alabama frontier.(10) Throughout central and southern Alabama, both log and frame dogtrots were constructed.(11) One good early example of a frame dogtrot is the Ross House, originally located near Rockford, but moved in 1988 to Montgomery's North Hull Street Historic District.

* * * * *

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Although the exact number of two-story log dogtrots to be constructed in Alabama is unknown, only seven have currently been located in the state: the Thomas Holland House, Lawrence County; the Looney House, St. Clair County; the Levi Cummings House, Limestone County; Byrd House, Lawrence County (now in ruins); the Sherrod/Wheeler House ("Pond Spring"), Lawrence County; the David Walker House, Lawrence County; and the Leetch/Shelton House, Lawrence County.

2

Statement of Lawson Davidson, Decatur, Alabama, January 6, 1991.

3

Ibid.

4

Lawrence County Tax Book, Alabama Department of State, 1828.

5

Lawrence County Tractbook, Alabama Department of State, 1849.

6

Lawson Davidson, Decatur, Alabama, January 6, 1991.

7

Gamble, Robert, The Alabama Catalog (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, 1987, pg. 27.

8

Wilson, Eugene M. Alabama Folk Houses. Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery, Alabama, 1975, pg. 25.

9

Gamble, pg. 27.

10

Gamble, pg. 26.

11

Gamble, pg. 27.

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Thomas Holland House

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Davidson, Lawson, Oral Interview, January 6, 1991, Decatur, Alabama.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. (The University of Alabama Press, Tuscaloosa, 1987).

Lawrence County Tax Book, Alabama Department of State, 1849.

Lawrence County Tract Book, Alabama Department of State, 1828.

Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography, Volume 1. (The S.J. Clark Publishing Company, Chicago, 1921).

Wilson, Eugene M. Alabama Folk Houses. (Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery, Alabama, 1975).



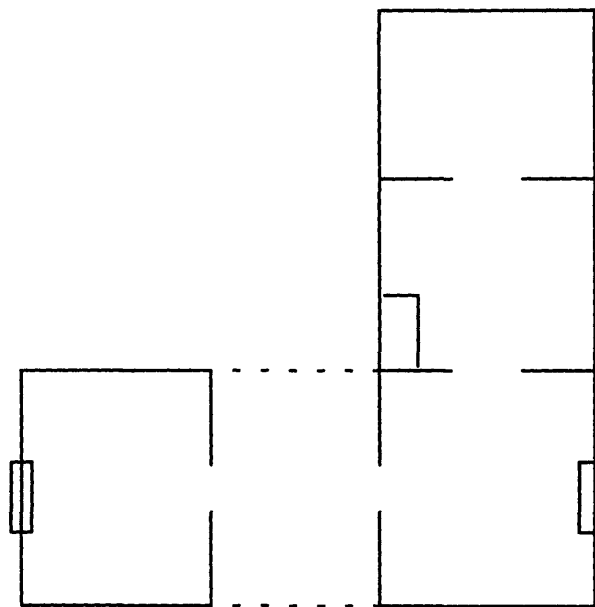
barn



privy

Thomas Holland House

Hillsboro vicinity



N

(not to scale)

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Section number Photographs

Thomas Holland House Page 1

Thomas Holland House, Hillsboro vicinity, Lawrence County
All photographs taken September 1990 by Melanie Betz
Negatives stored at the Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery

Photo #1: Front Facade, Looking North

Photo #2: Front and Side Facade, Looking Northeast

Photo #3: Front and Side Facade, including addition, Looking Northwest

Photo #4: Rear and Side Facade, including addition, Looking Southeast

Photo #5: Outbuilding, Looking East

Photo #6: Privy, Looking East