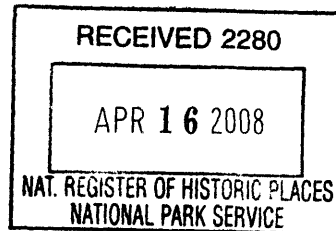


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



456

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name Bass, Jonathan W., House
other names/site number Jonathan Bass House Museum

2. Location

street & number 629 Montevallo Rd. not for publication N/A
city or town Leeds vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Jefferson code 073 zip code 35094

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

J. W. White 4/11/08
Signature of certifying official/Title 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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): _____

Patrick Anderson 5/21/2008
Signature of Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: RECREATION/CULTURE Sub: Museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

walls: WEATHERBOARD

other: _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

- 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.
- 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 a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Period of Significance circa 1865

Significant Dates circa 1865

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

- Previous documentation on 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 # _____

- Primary Location of Additional Data:
- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.0 ac.

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>541025</u>	<u>3711106</u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	5	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	6	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title David B. Schneider, Consultant; Melanie Betz, Robert Gamble, David Ray, Alabama Historical Comm.

organization Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC date 5/14/07

street & number 411 E. 6th Street telephone 256-310-3620

city or town Anniston state AL zip code 36207

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Leeds Historical Society, Inc.

street & number P.O. Box 465 telephone 205-699-5339

city or town Leeds state AL zip code 35094

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1 name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

7. Narrative Description

The Jonathan W. Bass House, constructed between 1863 and 1865, is a rectangular one-story frame dwelling with a cross gable composition shingle roof. The house faces north, rests on a brick pier foundation, and is five bays wide and five bays deep. The house has a five-by-two bay core with a side gable roof that extends between two exterior end chimneys. The eastern chimney is constructed of cut limestone and the west chimney of brick. The rear bays are set under two rear cross-gable roofs that flank a smaller central cross gable.

Located on the outer edges of the city of Leeds, the area surrounding the house is presently typified by modern residential development. The house is located within a cleared and grassed lot that has several mature trees. Montevallo Road runs in a generally east to west direction and forms the nominated property's northern boundary. The house is sited at the northwest end of the property and a contributing but ruinous frame barn and a noncontributing frame garage are sited to the rear of the house approximately at the mid point of the property. The area between the house and the road is a flat yard with mature trees and a wood picket fence along its road frontage. A narrow yard and driveway extend to the west of the house and the remainder of the site is open yards.

The principal north elevation is five bays wide with an off-center entrance comprised of a transom, sidelights, and double-leaf doors with decorative, faux grained finishes. The entrance is flanked on either side by two single wood six-over-six light double hung sash windows. The windows retain louvered wood shutters. Plain weatherboard siding terminates at simple corner boards and a boxed cornice above a plain frieze board extends the full-width of the elevation. A less-than-full façade hipped porch is supported by wood posts, and features decorative sawn brackets and a sawn balustrade.

Remaining elevations are clad with wood weatherboard siding and have plain corner boards. The frieze board from the façade terminates below a gable return at the north end of the elevation. A boxed cornice continues along the remainder of the elevation. The two northern bays have wood six-over-six light windows within decorative molded surrounds and flank the brick exterior end chimney. A double wood nine-over-nine window in the third bay is a modern replacement. The remaining two bays contain smaller profile and full size six-over-six windows. The roofline of the south elevation consists of two large gables flanking a smaller central gable with a continuous boxed cornice. A modern gable porch extends from the western two bays and is supported by wood posts with a simple picket railing. An entrance is centrally located beneath the western gable and is flanked by a single wood four-over-four light window. Similar windows are located in the two bays beneath the eastern gable. A small three-over-one light window is located beneath the central gable. The two northern bays of the east elevation are similar to the west elevation and are divided by the cut stone chimney. The gable end also has boxed cornice returns above a plain frieze board at both of its ends. Remaining bays to the south include a six-over-six window, an entrance, a four-over-four window, and another entrance. Small modern shed porches are located at the entrance bays.

The floor plan consists of a central hallway flanked by main parlors at the north end and a series of smaller rooms to the south. Interior walls and ceilings at the hallway are finished with flush tongue and groove boards that retain their original decorative painting. Interior doorways within the hallway have molded surrounds with decorative frosted patterns and grained wood four-panel doors. The principal front parlors have wood plank ceilings with the west parlor retaining its historic decorative paint scheme. Walls are typically finished with plaster above low molded wainscotings with decorative graining. Fireplaces in both rooms of the core have wooden mantelpieces, with the east room retaining a vernacular Greek Revival style mantelpiece and the west room a Victorian mantelpiece. Flooring is typically wood planking of a consistent

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2 name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

width. The rear rooms have similar ceiling, wall, and floor finishes but do not have wainscoting or decorative grained finishes.

Restoration of the Bass House for use as a museum by the Leeds Historical Society was completed in 2006. All of the historic interior decorative painting was professionally restored at that time. The building retains its overall architectural integrity. Exterior changes have generally been limited to the replacement of a window at the west elevation and the addition of small compatible rear and side porches. The interior retains its historic plan, materials and finishes and is essentially unaltered.

Barn (19th century)

A contributing frame barn is located to the rear of the house. The building has a side gable corrugated metal roof and vertical plank siding. The building is in near ruinous condition.

Shed (circa 1970)

A small noncontributing frame shed with a side gambrel composition shingle roof is located to the east of the barn.

Archaeology

No formal archaeological survey has been made. However, subsurface remains could provide additional information related to the historical development of the site.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3 name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

8. Statement of Significance

The Jonathan W. Bass House is significant under National Register criterion C in the area of architecture. Constructed circa 1865 for Jonathan Washington Bass (1837-1897), the house is the best surviving example in Jefferson County of a dwelling-type that flourished along the upper Cahaba River and in Jones Valley from the late 1850s to the 1870s that was characterized by a gabled, symmetrical main block consisting of two rooms to either side of a central passage, with an ell room to the rear and a narrow porch across the front. The house is also notable for its interior decorative painting, consisting of trompe l'oeil painted ceilings in the principal parlor and hallway. The period of significance for the property is that of its date of construction, circa 1865.

Historical Narrative

Members of the Bass family were among the first settlers of Jefferson County. Andrew Bass (1804-?), moved with his family from Anson, North Carolina, around 1816 to the Cahaba Valley area. He married Jane Montgomery (1806-1887) on January 11, 1827. Their first son, Jonathan Washington Bass, was born near Ruhama (East Lake) on January 30, 1837. Bass was educated at Ruhama Academy and then later farmed for about a year before joining the Confederate Army. While in the army, he served with the Eighth Alabama cavalry regiment under Colonel Clanton.¹

On December 6, 1865, Jonathan married Ruteria T. Watson at Cedar Grove, which is now part of Leeds. They moved into their new home in Leeds around 1865 where they raised seven boys and two girls: Andrew Jackson (1866-1906); James W. (1868-1948); John George (1870-1958); Willis O. (1872-1920); Hattie I. (1875-?); Thomas U. (1877-1942); Frank R. A. (1880-1918); Truman H. Aldrich (1884-1967); and Sallie (1882-1924).²

Jonathan Bass was appointed revenue collector in 1866. He held that position until 1870 during which time he took charge of various mail routes. The 1870 census records Bass living near the Cedar Grove post office in Township 17, Range 1 East. The entry lists Bass as a farmer with real estate valued at \$1,000 and personal property of \$800 living with his wife R.T. Bass and two sons, A. J. (age three years) and J. W. (age one year). In 1880, he became the right-of-way agent for the Georgia Pacific Railway and the Kansas City Railroad.³ Jonathan was also a census taker, land promoter and prosperous farmer. By 1880, Bass is listed in the 1880 census as a farmer living with his wife, seven children, and one boarder.

In 1890, Bass expanded his diverse career by founding the Leeds Academy.⁴ The school was built on his property, the "Bass Farm" and contained all grades within one building with a large room used as the auditorium. Later, three additional rooms were constructed. Although called the "Leeds Academy", the building was more commonly known as "the Valley School." It served as the primary academic facility for white children in Leeds until 1914.⁵ The building is no longer standing.

After Jonathan Bass' death, the property passed to his wife and children. Jonathan's son Thomas and his wife Ruth lived in the house and cared for Jonathan's widow. Thomas continued to operate the farm and later became a chemist for the Universal Cement Company in Leeds. After Thomas' death in 1942, his son Thomas Bass, Jr. lived in the house and cared for his mother until she passed away in 1976. Thomas remained a bachelor and lived in the house until his death in the early 1990s. He willed the property to the Bold Springs Presbyterian Church. The church later sold it to David Dyess who in turn sold it to the Leeds Historical Society. The Leeds Historical Society completed restoration of the house in 2006 and now operates it as a local history museum. The Jonathan W. Bass House was listed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage in 2003.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4 name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

Architecture
(by Melanie Betz)

Erected circa 1865, the Jonathan W. Bass House is Jefferson County's best surviving example of a dwelling-type that flourished along the upper Cahaba River and in Jones Valley – today's greater Birmingham area – from the late 1850s to the 1870s. This type of house was characterized by a gabled, symmetrical main block consisting of two rooms to either side of a central passage, with an ell room to the rear and a narrow porch across the front (a later back addition has preserved intact the original form of the Bass House). Distinctive local features were end chimneys fashioned of well-crafted native stone (in a region where brick was overwhelmingly the material of choice) and the strikingly vertical proportions of door and window openings.

The Bass House is part of a small group of residences, including Birmingham's "Arlington" and the Sadler, McAdory, and Owen houses south of Bessemer, which embody the most significant expressions of early frame architecture left in Jefferson County. Within this group, the Bass House itself is unique in the house-type it represents. In the Leeds area, its only counterpart is the Rowan House, which, though allegedly dating in part from 1854, underwent drastic alterations during the late Victorian era that have obscured its original form.

Within the larger state context, the Bass House is also among the few 19th-century Alabama dwellings to preserve intact a hand-painted decorative interior. Rendered in "illusionist" or trompe l'oeil ("trick-the-eye") style, the designs were executed by an unknown itinerant artist and embellish the upper walls and ceiling of the parlor and the front portion of the hallway.

As an instance of middle-class, mid-19th-century Alabama domestic architecture, especially in a region of the state where few buildings of any description have survived from this period, the Bass House is of great significance.

¹ Truman A. Bass, III, Bass family Genealogy.

² Ibid. Note that the couple has ten children, but only nine reached adulthood.

³ Leeds Bicentennial Commission, Leeds, Her Story (Anniston, AL: Higginbotham, Inc., 1979), P. 74.

⁴ Ibid., p. 215.

⁵ Ibid., p. 169; Jefferson County Judge of Probate, Jefferson County, AL, Deed Book 146, p. 472.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 5

name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bass Family Genealogy. Truman A, Bass, III.

Bureau of Land Management. Jackson County, Alabama, land patents.

Cooper, Chip, et. al. Silent in the Land. Tuscaloosa, AL: CKM Press, 1993.

Dodd, Donald B. Historical Atlas of Alabama. University, Alabama: The University of Alabama Press, 1974.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog, Historic American Buildings Survey. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1987.

Lane, Mills. Architecture of the Old South, Mississippi and Alabama. New York: Beehive Press, 1990.

Leeds Bicentennial Commission. Leeds, Her Story. Anniston, AL: Higginbotham, Inc., 1979.

Linley, John. Architecture of Middle Georgia, The Oconee Area. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press, 1972.

Rogers, William Warren, et. al. Alabama: The History of a Deep South State. Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1994.

Title Guarantee & Trust Co. Abstract of Title. Birmingham, AL.

U. S. Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Censuses of 1830-1930. Population, Agriculture and Slave Schedules.

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 6

name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

10. Geographic Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes the entire parcel identified in the Tax Assessor's Office for Jefferson County as parcel account 00454000D5.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire current parcel only, which represent the total remaining acreage historically associated with the resource.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

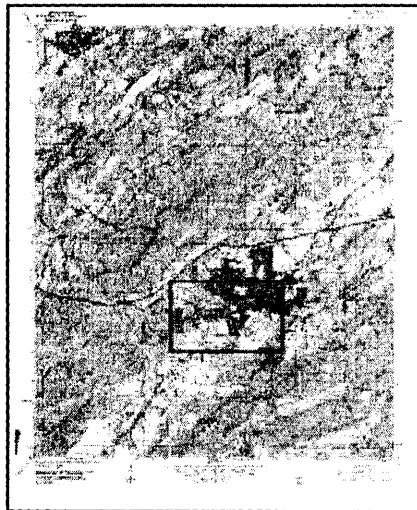
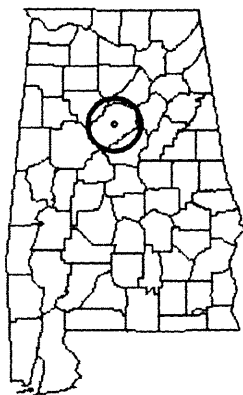
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet
Section Page 7

name of property:
county and State

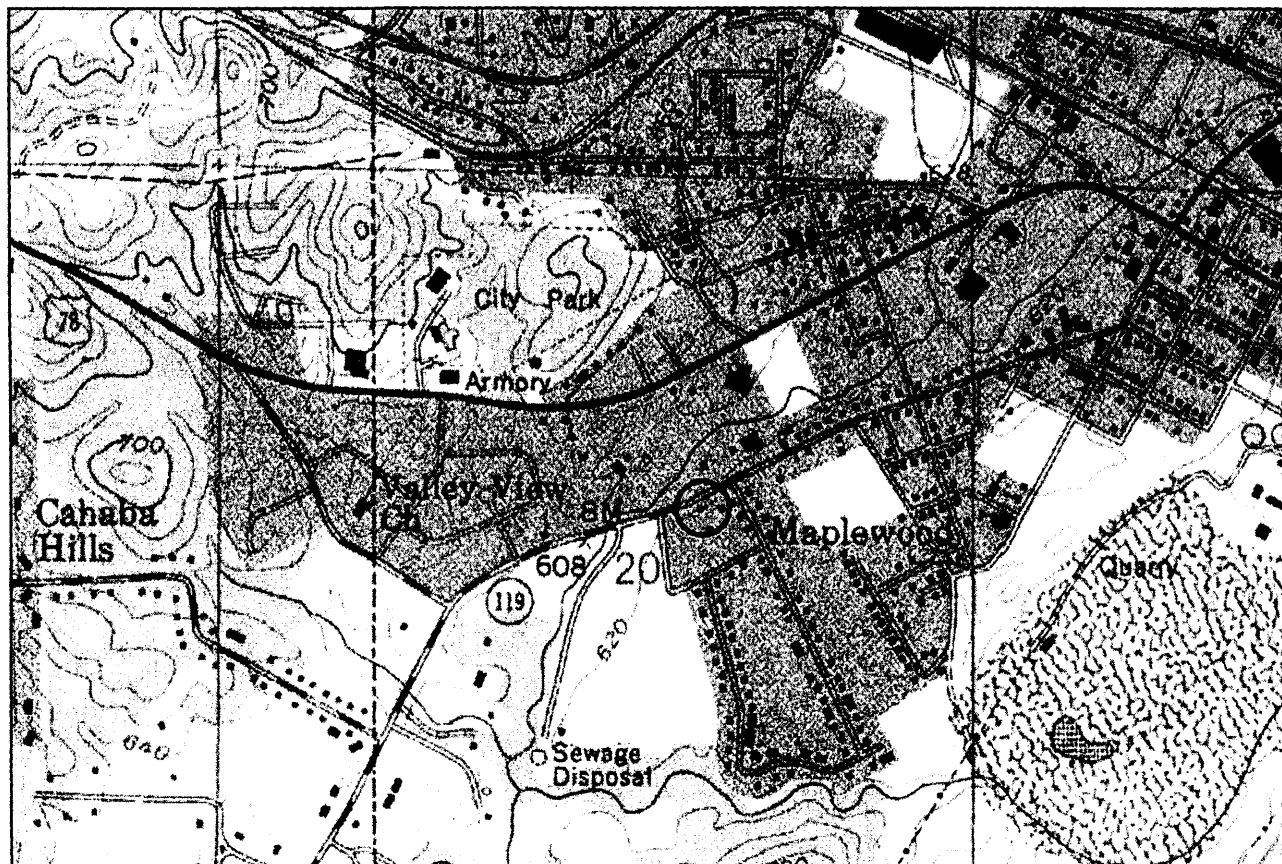
Bass, Jonathan W., House
Jefferson County, AL

Topo Map



Leeds Quadrangle

16 / 541025 E / 3711106 N
Created 1958, Revised 1978



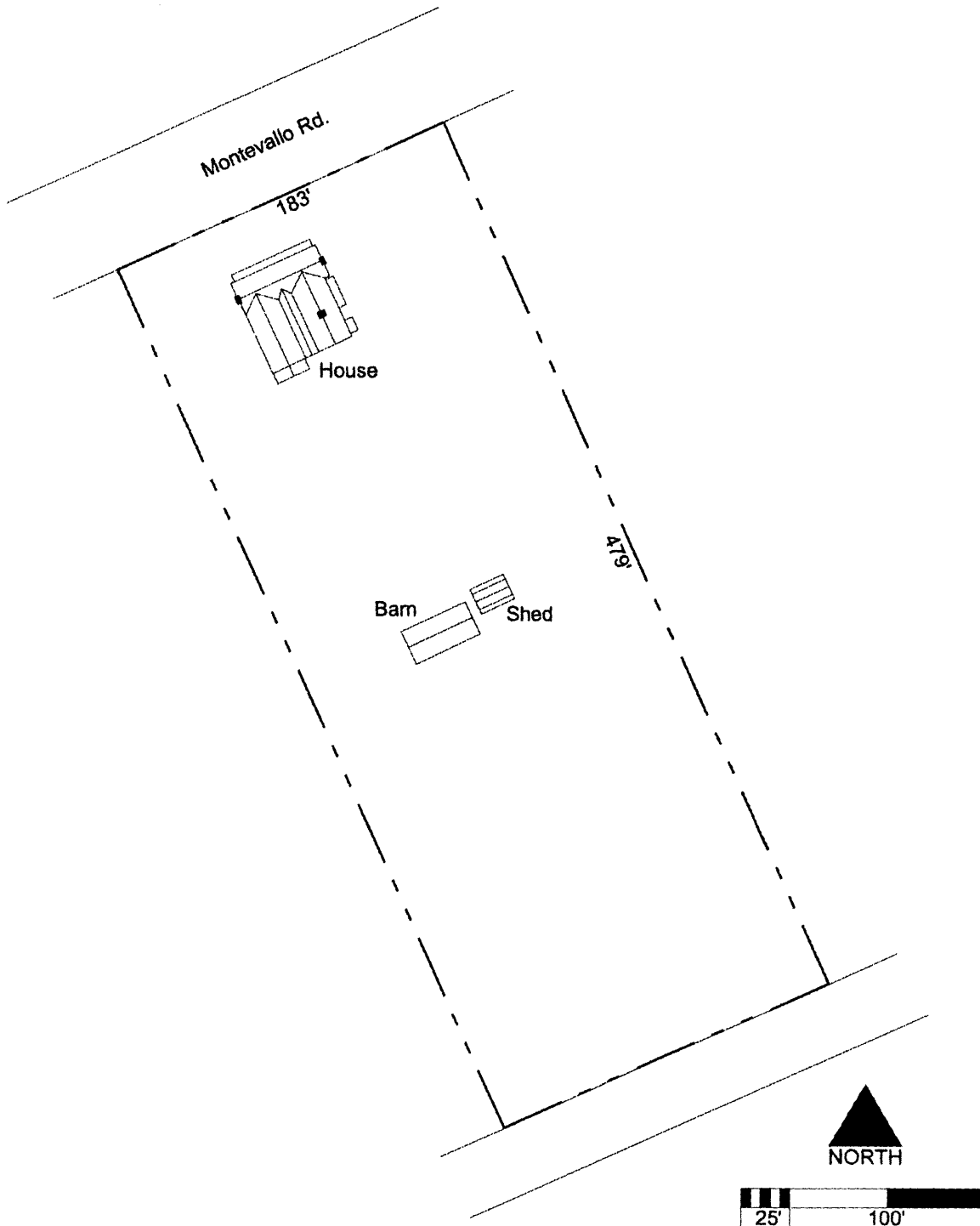
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet
Section ___ Page 8

name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

Siteplan



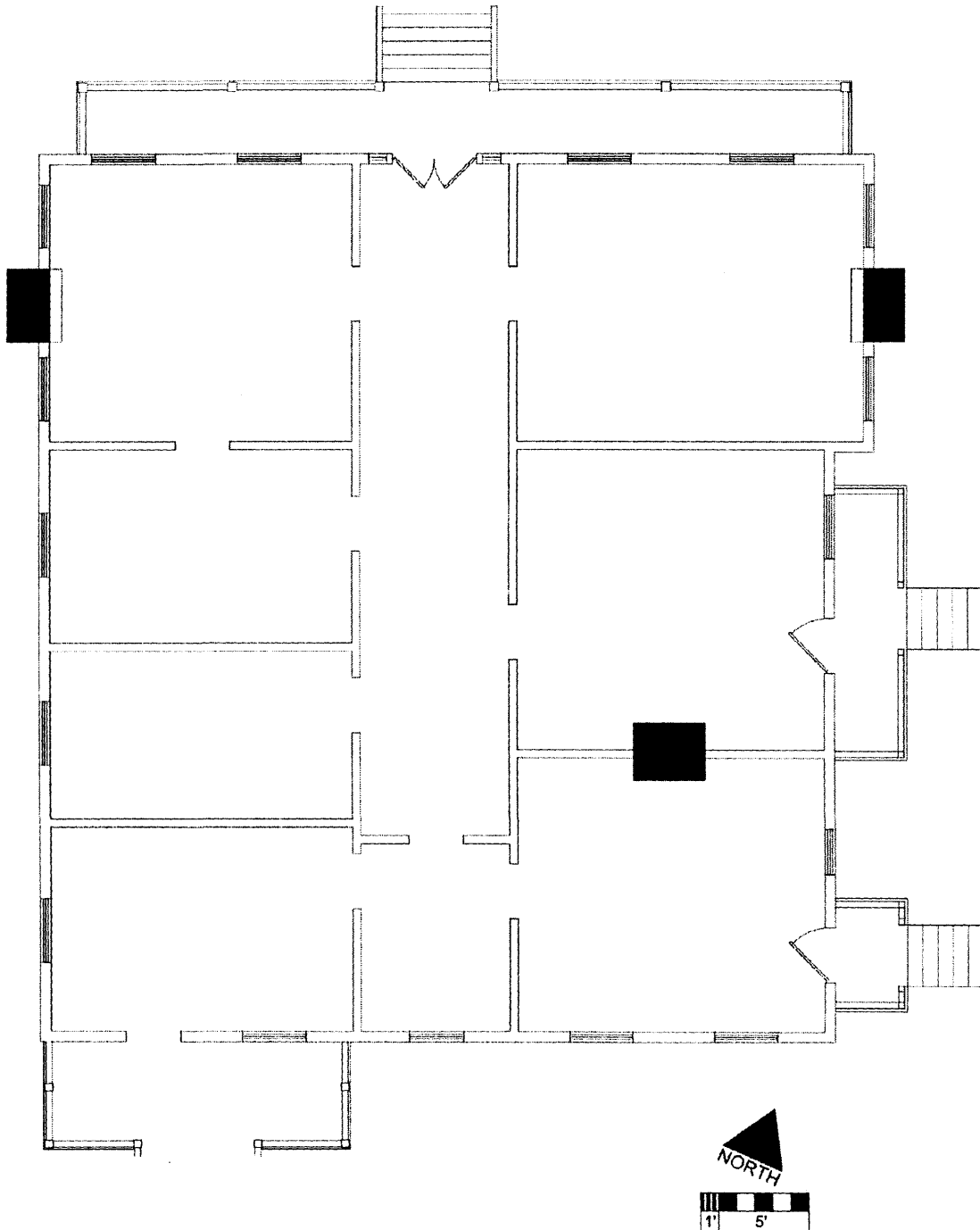
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet
Section Page 9

name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

Floorplan



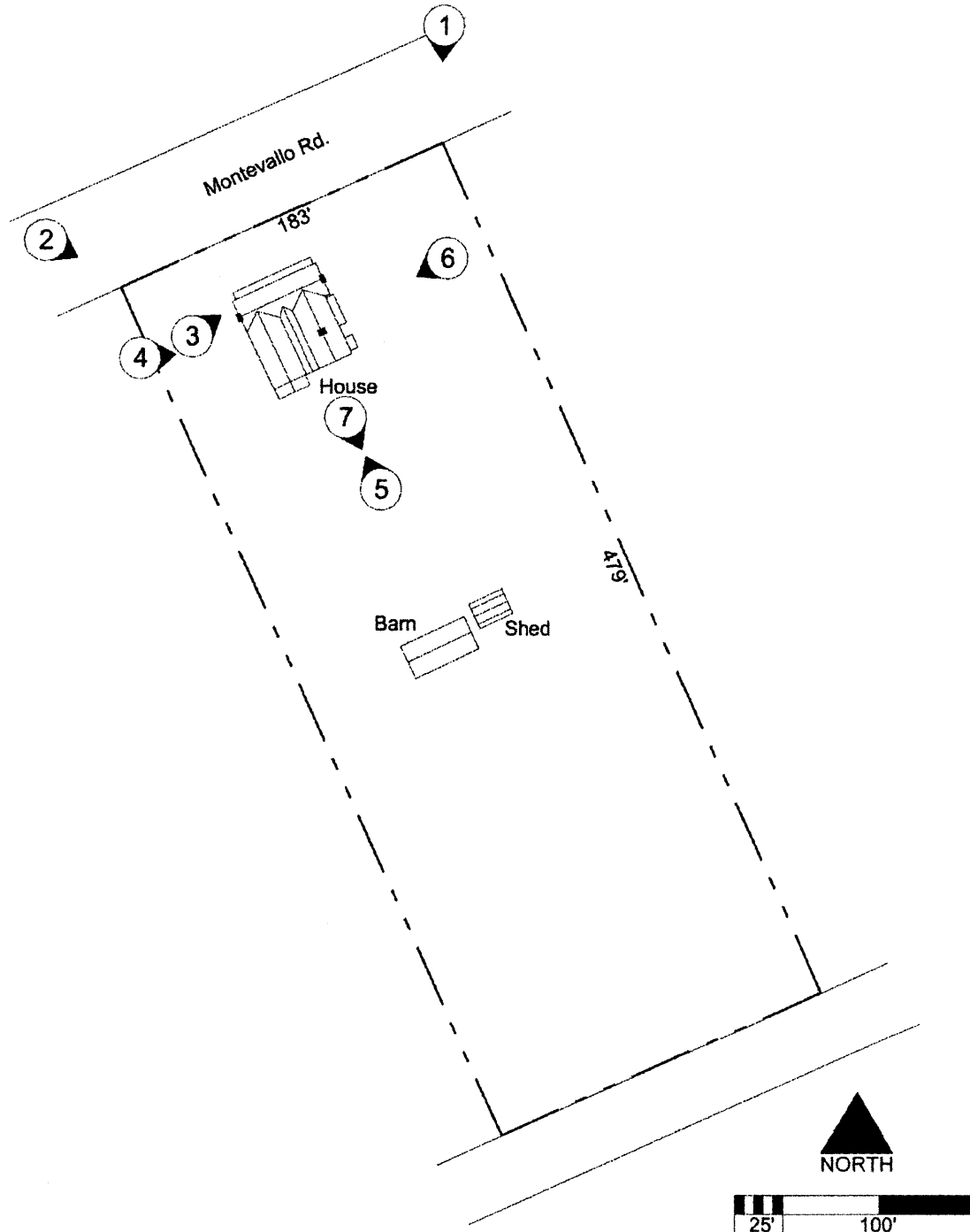
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet
Section _____ Page 10

name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

Siteplan, Photo Locations Indicated



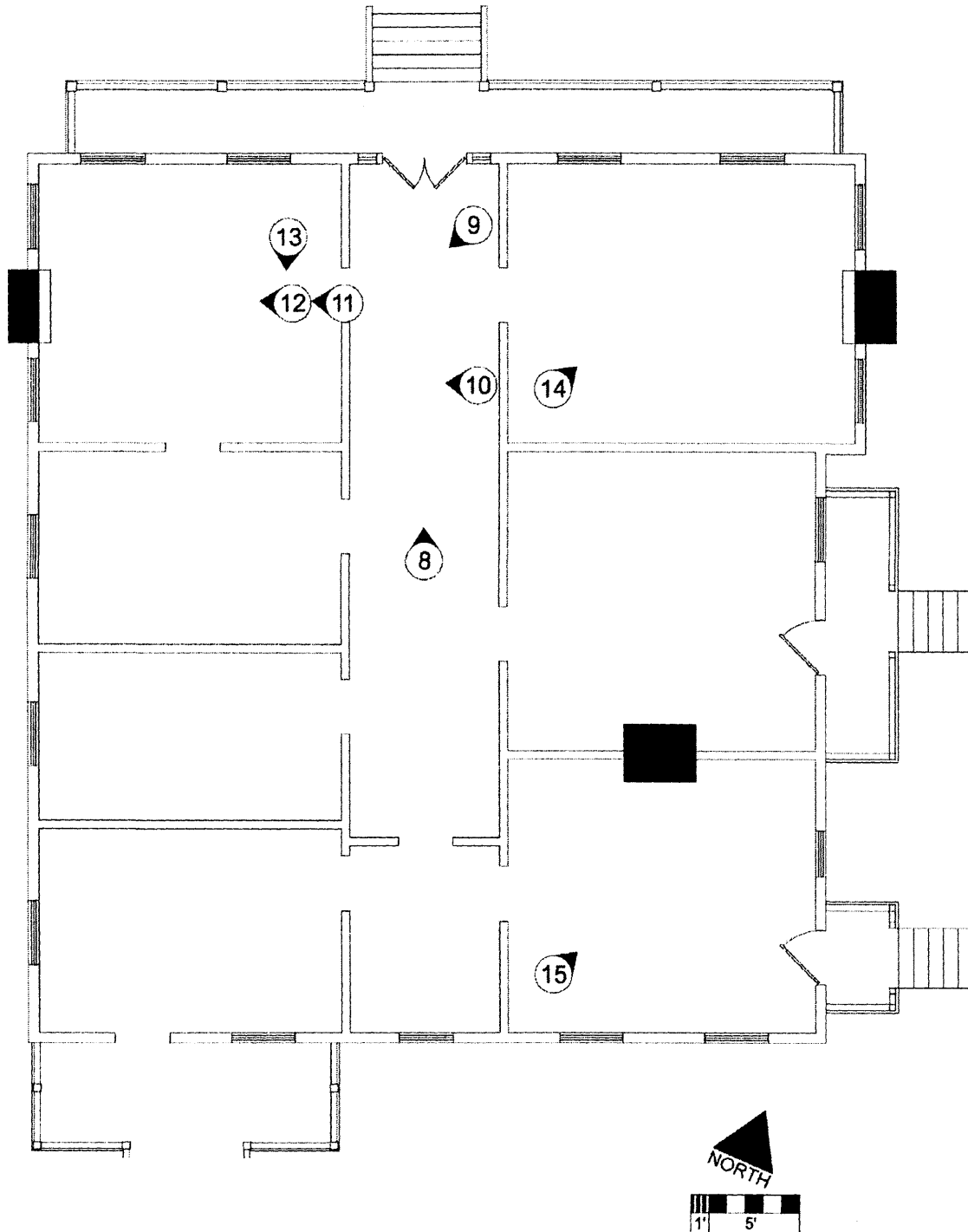
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet
Section ___ Page 11

name of property: Bass, Jonathan W., House
county and State Jefferson County, AL

Floorplan, Photo Locations Indicated



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet

name of property:

Bass, Jonathan W., House

Section _____ Page 12

county and State

Jefferson County, AL

Photographs:

1. Bass, Jonathan, House
2. Leeds, Jefferson County, AL
3. David B. Schneider, Schneider Historic Preservation, LLC
4. May 2007
5. 411 E. 6th St., Anniston AL 36207
6. Exterior, north facade, camera facing south
7. Photo #01

6. Exterior, north facade (left) and west elevation (right), camera facing southeast
7. Photo #02

6. Exterior, west elevation, detail, camera facing northeast
7. Photo #03

6. Exterior, west elevation, camera facing east
7. Photo #04

6. Exterior, south elevation, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #05

6. Exterior, east elevation, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #06

6. Exterior, site including barn (right) and shed (left), camera facing southeast
7. Photo #07

6. Interior, hallway, camera facing northwest
7. Photo #08

6. Interior, hallway, detail of ceiling, camera facing south
7. Photo #09

6. Interior, hallway, detail of ceiling, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #10

3. Andrew A. Harp, Sr., Childs Art Studio, Inc.
5. 8135 Parkway Dr., Leeds, AL 35094
6. Interior, west parlor, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #11

6. Interior, west parlor, detail of ceiling, camera facing southwest
7. Photo #12

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Accompanying Documentation Sheet

name of property:

Bass, Jonathan W., House

Section ___ Page 13

county and State

Jefferson County, AL

6. Interior, west parlor, detail of ceiling, camera facing southeast

7. Photo #13

3. Andrew A. Harp, Sr., Childs Art Studio, Inc.

5. 8135 Parkway Dr., Leeds, AL 35094

6. Interior, east parlor, camera facing northeast

7. Photo #14

3. Andrew A. Harp, Sr., Childs Art Studio, Inc.

5. 8135 Parkway Dr., Leeds, AL 35094

6. Interior, rear room, detail of ceiling, camera facing northeast

7. Photo #15