



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The attached property, Johnson – Butler House, reference number 88000119 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the Keeper of the National Register on 02/22/1988, as evidenced by the FEDERAL REGISTER/WEEKLY LIST notice of 03/04/1988. The attached nomination form is a copy of the original documentation provided to the Keeper at the time of listing.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

9/3/2003  
Date

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Johnson-Butler House

and/or common Butler Bungalow

2. Location

street & number 210 High Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Aberdeen

N/Avicinity of

state Mississippi

code 28

county Monroe

code 095

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name R. L. Butler

street & number 210 High Street

city, town Aberdeen

N/Avicinity of

state MS 39730

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Chancery Clerk Building

street & number 201 W. Commerce St.

city, town Aberdeen

state MS 39730

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Johnson-Butler House is a one story, cruciform-shaped "airplane bungalow" whose low lines are offset by a gabled, square, upper story rising from the center of its cross-gabled roof. The bungalow's form and the contiguousness of its gables are among its most unique features. Another unusual feature is the Japanese details which accent the porch gables. This three-by-three-bay, clapboarded house rests on a roughly-textured stucco foundation. This same stucco treatment is repeated on the house's chimneys. Most of the windows have vertical lights in the upper sash and one light in their lower sash.

The front (south) facade is dominated by a low-pitched, gable roofed porch. A simple, wooden balustrade spans the front of the porch. At either end of this balustrade is a battered, stuccoed pedestal with coping supporting a battered box column. The box columns are connected by a tie beam. These features are typically found on bungalows, but the Japanese design elements of the porch gable are most unusual for this area. Near the center of the tie beam, two short vertical beams support a horizontal board whose ends curve upward. The strut at the gable peak rests on this board. Purlins running from the main block of the house to the porch's box columns also curve upward above the columns. In the porch area, the centrally located front door is flanked by a tripartite window and a bank of four narrow, two-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The main front gable is supported by struts at its peak and at the ends of the eaves.

On the east (side) facade, the extended central bay and its porch have the same treatment as the front elevation. The southernmost bay of the east facade contains an exterior chimney flanked by small, square windows. To the rear is another stuccoed, and probably interior, chimney.

The west (side) facade also features an extended central bay, but it has no porch.

The second story has a low-pitched gable roof with struts. Its side elevations have tripartite windows. Its front facade features a bank of short double hang sash windows with a pent roof above them.

The Johnson-Butler House is situated on a 126 foot by 152 foot lot in the center of the block on the north side of High Street. A concrete sidewalk leads from the street to the house. Before the front porch, this sidewalk branches out and accesses the porch from both of its sides. This creates a circular design in front of the porch. To the northeast of the bungalow is a large, two-story garage with a gable roof. It is similar in materials and treatment to the house and was probably constructed about the same time. The Johnson-Butler House and its garage constitute two contributing buildings. There does not appear to be any formal landscaping. To the east of the house is a well-maintained lawn. Shrubbery and other plantings surround the house and garage - a typical landscape feature for bungalows. Large trees shade the west portion of the property.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify

Specific dates      ca. 1921      Builder/Architect      Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Johnson-Butler House has state-wide significance as Mississippi's only known example of an airplane bungalow with Japanesque design elements. It is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The bungalow displaying Japanese design elements was utilized in Southern California by Charles S. and Henry M. Greene. The Deluxe Building Company of Los Angeles pictured its version of an "Aeroplane Bungalow" with "Japanese Architectural Detail" in a 1914 edition of the Bungalow Magazine. Designs for bungalows were disseminated throughout the United States through plan books, magazines and so on. Those with Japanesque elements "were unique in the Southern environment where Colonial Revival houses were the accepted mode," according to Clay Lancaster (Clay Lancaster, The American Bungalow, 1880-1930 [New York: Abbeville Press, 1985], pp. 109-153 passim). Although the Johnson-Butler House is not as ambitious a design as the California bungalows, it is a rare example of the style in Mississippi.

This bungalow was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson from the early 1920's to 1931. Johnson was the manager of the Aberdeen Creamery, which had been established in 1914. His wife, Nellie, was instrumental in founding Aberdeen's public library. She established the Aberdeen's Women's Club so that the women of the community could work together to found a library. Nellie Johnson served as the first librarian. The nationally-known Evans Memorial Library in Aberdeen is an offshoot of this public library. The Johnsons sold their Japanesque bungalow to R. L. Butler in 1931. R. L. Butler lived in this residence from that year until his death in 1987. The house remains within his family (Helen Crawford, "Aberdeen...: Looking Backward Through the Years at the History of the City," Aberdeen [Miss.] Examiner, May 22, 1986; Helen Crawford, local historian, interviewed by Susan Enzweiler, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Hamilton, Miss., April 9, 1987; and Peggy Meux, daughter of R.L. Butler, telephone interview by Susan Enzweiler, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Sept. 21, 1987).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Aberdeen, MS

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A 

1	6	3	5	6	9	5	4	3	7	4	2	9	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

## Verbal boundary description and justification

Parcel Number 108-J-34-025-101-00 as recorded in the Numerical Index located in the Chancery Clerk's Office.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Susan M. Enzweiler - Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History date September 1987

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state MS 39205

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date January 6, 1988

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

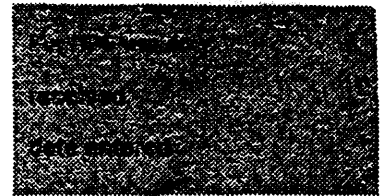
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Johnson-Butler House,  
Continuation sheet Aberdeen MRA, Monroe Co., MSItem number 7.9

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#9 - Major Bibliographical References

Crawford, Helen. "Aberdeen...Looking Backward Through the Years at the History of the City." The Aberdeen Examiner, May 22, 1986.

Crawford, Helen, local historian. Interviewed by Susan Enzweiler, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Hamilton, Miss., April 9, 1987.

Lancaster, Clay. The American Bungalow, 1880-1930. New York: Abbeville Press, 1985.

Meux, Peggy, daughter of R. L. Butler. Telephone interview by Susan Enzweiler, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Sept. 21, 1987.

# 7 DESCRIPTION

Nominated Properties

1 individual property

Contributing Elements

2 buildings