

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name The Jemison House Complex
other names/site number The Turner House, The Holmes House

2. Location

street & number County Highway at the juncture of Chocolocco and Cheaha Creeks not for publication
city, town Eastaboga vicinity
state Alabama code AL county Talladega code 121 zip code 36260

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>1</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u> </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		<u> </u> objects
			<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.

[Signature] 8-28-90
Signature of certifying official 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:)

**Entered in the
National Register.**

[Signature] 10/1/90
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER/raised cottage

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Frame

roof Metal

other Stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Jemison House is a frame, gabled-roof, raised cottage with a split-level, offset rear wing. The main block, which is raised on high brick and cut stone piers, consists of two front rooms of equal size and a rear room slightly offset to the left. The rear wing is continued beyond this latter room as a two-story, four-room section, originally flanked by galleries. Some time during the 1850s, the right side of the wing was enclosed and extended to include a bank of three rooms. On the intact east side, a porch beneath the gallery has stairs leading down to the ground level and up to a cantilevered balcony at the second floor level.

The facade features a central pedimented portico with a pair of Tuscan columns, two single leaf, cross and Bible entrance doors, and four 9/9 windows with louvered shutters. Door trim is fluted and each door has a four-light transom. Window trim is simple. A box cornice terminates with returns. The end exterior chimneys have corbeled shoulders.

The gable roof of the rear wing extends beyond the wall on the east and is supported by Tuscan columns on stuccoed brick pedestals. A cantilevered balcony, with plump, tapered newels and thin, rectangular balusters, runs along the second level of the rear rooms. A similar arrangement likely existed on the west but was altered, probably in the 1850s, when the roof line was extended and the area beneath it enclosed to create additional rooms.

The front three rooms contain some of the finest Federal period interiors in the area and are remarkably intact, retaining what appears to have been the original paint scheme. The Adamesque mantels, the wainscotting and the channelled window and door trim with bull's-eye corner blocks are in hues of pale gray, while the cross and Bible doors and panels beneath the windows feature elegant mahogany graining. Trim in the remainder of the original rooms is standard Federal period design, with baseboards, chair rail, simple window and door trim.

Alterations (other than the addition to the wing) consist of the substitution of a door for one of the rear windows of the main block (c. 1900), and some recent alterations to the ground floor of the rear two rooms, including introduction of concrete floors and some subdivision of space, but no removal of original partitions. Brick piers have crumbled in some places. A portion of the west wall of the wing is missing, exposing the interior.

The house is located on level bottom lands near the juncture of the Chocolocco and Cheaha creeks just north of Talladega. Several buildings remain on the land immediately surrounding the house, including a barn that may date to the 19th century and several contemporary sheds and structures.

 See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1840

Significant Dates

c.1840

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

NA

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

CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

The Jemison House, constructed c. 1840, is significant for its unusual plan and for its exceptionally fine and intact Federal period interiors which appear to retain their original paint scheme. The raised cottage has a novel split-level rear wing that is slightly offset to the left and was originally flanked by open galleries. The main block lacks a central hall, having two front rooms of equal size, each with its own front entrance. This informal plan is in contrast to the finely detailed interiors. Only one other house --- the McMillan House at McElderry Station, also in Talladega County --- is known to survive with this plan. It was built for another member of the Jemison family.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gamble, Robert, Senior Architectural Historian, Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery, Alabama, December 1989.
Jemison, Grace E., Historical Tales of Talladega. Montgomery, Alabama: Paragon Press, 1959, pg. 21.
Turner, Henry, descendant of the Jemison Family, interview July 1989.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
 Other State agency
 Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acres of property approximately one acre

UTM References

A

1	6	5	8	8	6	1	0	3	7	1	0	6	9	0
Zone				Easting				Northing						

C

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B

Zone				Easting				Northing						

D

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

An imaginary line was drawn to extend 300 feet from the south, east and west, and 200 feet to the north, of the Jemison House. This parcel of land is located in the NE 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 19, T17S, R6E, Eastaboga vicinity, Talladega County Alabama, and recorded in the Register of Deeds Office, Talladega County Courthouse, Talladega, Alabama.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the property were delineated to include the nominated residence and its outbuildings.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Mertins/Cultural Resources Administrator; Melanie Betz, NR Coordinator
organization Alabama Historical Commission date May 1990
street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 242-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

United State Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

Robert Jemison (1788-1870), who migrated from Lincoln County, Georgia, was a member of what became one of the largest landowning families in Talladega County. He began acquiring land nearby in 1837, and probably he, or his son Samuel (1820-1862), constructed the house soon after. This Jemisons farmed the rich bottom lands of Chocolocco and Cheaha creeks and operated a gristmill (called "Turner's Mill") which descendants say was built prior to construction of the house. (#1)

The Jemison House is a raised cottage with two front entrances and a split-level, offset rear wing. Although the offset rear wing appears in a number of Talladega County houses, including Boxwood in Talladega, this split-level plan appears only in one other house, the McMillan House at Elderry Station (also located in Talladega County and built for another member of the Jemison family). Raised cottages are common in the area where the Jemison family originated - the Georgia piedmont near the upper Savannah River region. The two-room plan with separate entrance doors is found from Pennsylvania down through the Shenandoah valley and the Georgia piedmont. (#2)

The prosperity of the Jemison family is reflected in the finely detailed interiors of the house. The elegant Adamesque mantels, the wainscotting and the channelled window and door trim with bull's-eye corner blocks are in hues of pale gray; while the cross and Bible doors and panels beneath the window feature fine mahogany graining. Trim in the remainder of the original rooms is of a Federal period design, with baseboards, chair rails, and refined windows and door trim. Although it is in fair condition, the Jemison house is intact and has retained its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

1

Jemison, Grace E., Historic Tales of Talladega. Montgomery, Alabama: Paragon Press, 1959, pg. 21.

2

Information from Robert Gamble, Senior Architectural Historian, Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery, Alabama, December 1989.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

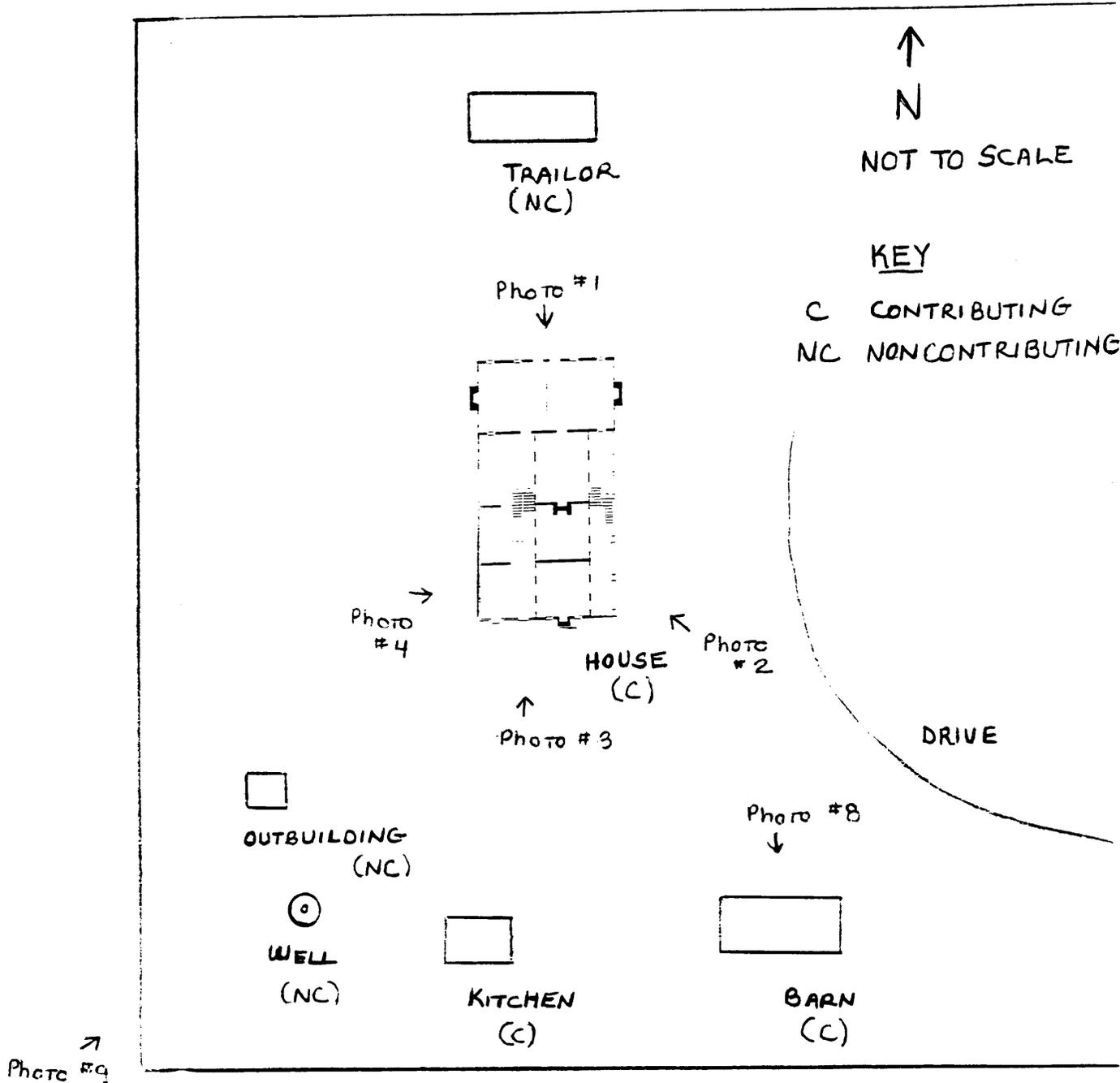
Section number photo-
graphs Page 1 The Jemison House Complex

Information in items 1-5 is the same for all photographs listed.

- 1) The Jemison House Complex
- 2) Eastaboga Vicinity, Talladega County, Alabama
- 3) Christina Rottmeier, Photographer
- 4) 1990
- 5) Negatives at the Alabama Historical Commission, Montgomery

Photographs:

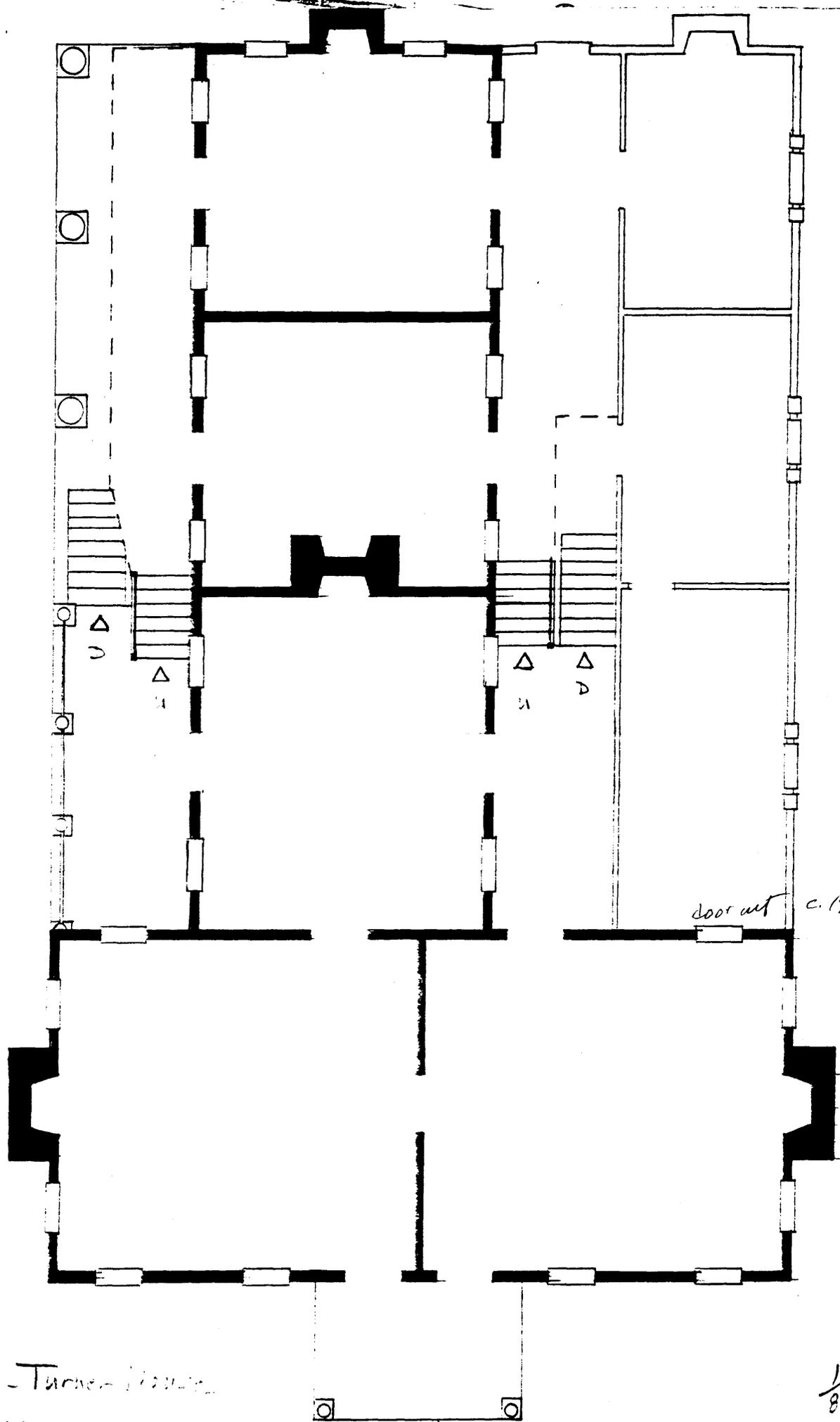
- 1) Front (North) Facade, Facing South
- 2) East and South Facades, Looking Northwest
- 3) South Facade, Looking North
- 4) West and South Facades, Looking Northeast
- 5) Interior, Parlor
- 6) Interior, Parlor Mantel
- 7) Interior, Parlor Door Molding
- 8) Barn, Looking South
- 9) View of Jemison Complex, Looking East



FIELD

THE JEMISON HOUSE COMPLEX

EASTABOGA VICINITY
ALABAMA



door out c. 1900

$\frac{1}{8}'' = 1'$

Semi-Sub-Turner House
Talladega