

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 24 1976

DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

**** Leonidas Johnson House (Clifton)**

AND/OR COMMON

Clifton

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Ky. 227 (Stamping Ground Pike) at McConnell's Run 7 miles

n.w. of Georgetown

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Stamping Ground

VICINITY OF

06

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Kentucky

CODE

021

COUNTY

Scott

CODE

209

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Rutherford Brown

STREET & NUMBER

Clifton, Georgetown--Stamping Ground Pike

CITY, TOWN

Stamping Ground

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kentucky

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Scott County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

East Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Kentucky

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Survey of Historic Sites in Kentucky

DATE

1971

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kentucky Heritage Commission

CITY, TOWN

Frankfort

STATE

Kentucky

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

Clifton is located in rural Scott County off Hwy. 227 midway between Georgetown and the small community of Stamping Ground. The site overlooks on the northwest the site of Herndon's Station, a c. 1790 log blockhouse situated between Georgetown and Stamping Ground. The house was constructed around 1842 with Greek Revival details on a Federal-style type, with one and one-half stories of brick laid in Flemish bond. The Ionic doorway set in antis is protected by a one-story portico supported by four slender Ionic columns. The delicate detail of the entablature is repeated on the front cornice. The steeply pitched roof is characterized by three dormer windows, most likely added during the late 19th century when a Victorian wing was joined to the east side of the house. The wing was removed by the then owners, the Duncan Stewarts, during their restoration of the house around 1937. The restoration was conducted by Nicholas Warfield Gratz, prominent Lexington architect known for his dexterity in handling early Kentucky and Virginia details. In the 1960s the Stewarts extended the four flush chimneys above the gable ends (the chimneys originally served single first floor chambers and were comparatively small for the era in which they were built) (see photo 1).

The original floor plan of the house consisted of a block laid out with two rooms on each side of the central hall. The wall separating the two rooms to the right of the front entrance was removed by the Stewarts and the two chimneys joined to form a large fireplace. There remain two rooms to the left of the hall. Remaining Greek Revival woodwork includes door and window frames. Floors are ash. A few yards to the rear of the house is an ell with enclosed porch overlooking a picturesque impoundment of McConnell's Run. To the rear of the house is a one story brick building once used as slave quarters, recently remodeled for use as a guesthouse (see photo 2).

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1842

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Leonidas Johnson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clifton, located on a hill overlooking McConnell's Run and the site of Herndon's Station (1790), was constructed by Leonidas Johnson, a member of the illustrious Johnson family that produced several noted military officers, Congressmen, a Vice President of the United States and a Confederate Provisional Governor of Kentucky during the period of the Civil War. The house, built around 1842, is an example of the transition between the Federal and the Greek Revival styles of architecture. The one and one-half story residence displays a beautifully balanced facade with a striking entranceway marked by a gabled portico supported by two pairs of Ionic columns and a doorway enclosed by Ionic columns and pilasters. The wide cornice trimmed with modillions matches the pediment and cornice of the portico. There are brick slave quarters behind the house.

The plans for the house were drawn by Colonel Leonidas Johnson for his bride Irene Elley Johnson, whom he married in 1842. The name they gave their new home was "Clifton." The land on which the house was built was settled around 1790 by Mrs. Johnson's grandfather Henry Elley. Leonidas Johnson was the son of Colonel James Johnson (1774-1826), veteran of the War of 1812 and the famous Battle of the Thames, later State Senator (1808-1811) and U.S. Congressman (1825-26). James Johnson maintained a thriving law practice in Scott County and was known as "one of the wealthiest men of his day in the western country" (Gaines, Vol. I, p. 146). His interests also included a vast stage-coach operation, mining and smelting interests in Mississippi, and hemp and cotton plantations in Kentucky and the Deep South.

Brother of James and uncle of Leonidas Johnson was Richard M. Johnson, hero of the Battle of the Thames, U.S. Senator (1819-1829), and Vice President of the United States under Martin Van Buren (1837-1841). George W. Johnson, son of Leonidas' brother William, was for a brief period the Confederate provisional governor of Kentucky from 1861 until his death at Shiloh in 1862 (see the form for the George W. Johnson Slave Quarters and Smokehouse in Scott County, Kentucky, placed on the National Register November 19, 1974).

In 1915 descendants of Leonidas Johnson received from the United States government the sum of \$37,351.49, representing payment for 461 hogsheads of sugar taken by the Union Army from Johnson's Louisiana plantation during the Civil War. Part of an "onmibus bill" in Congress which concluded for all time payment for Civil War losses, this claim represented one-fourth of the \$150,000 awarded to Kentuckians for damages to schools, churches, lodges, courthouses and private property. The claim was granted on the grounds that Johnson "had remained loyal to the Union during the War." A member of an otherwise intensely loyal Confederate family, Johnson apparently stayed home and managed the plantations while other members of the family fought in the war.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bevins, Ann B. "Four Homes of Historical Significance Will Be Open." Lexington Leader, November 29, 1970.

Gaines, B. O. History of Scott County. Published by the author, 1904, pp. 146-147.

Peartree, Frank T., Clerk, U.S. Court of Claims. Letter to Ann Bevins dated April 5, 1965 regarding the L. L. Johnson claim.

(continued)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | | 7 | 0 | 4 | 8 | 0 | 0 | | 4 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 0 |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ann B. Bevins, Scott County Representative

GM

ORGANIZATION

Kentucky Heritage Commission

DATE

February 8, 1974

STREET & NUMBER

Route 4, Lexington Pike

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Georgetown

STATE

Kentucky

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

Eldred W. Melton

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

5/12/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

10/8/96

ATTEST:

DATE

6/7/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAY 24 1976
DATE ENTERED OCT 8 1976

Leonidas Johnson House
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Whitley, Edna Talbott. Kentucky Ante Bellum Portraiture. Richmond, Virginia:
Kentucky Chapter of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America,
1961, pp. 143, 144, 558.