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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 McKinney, Sarah Amanda Trott, House
other names/site number Langston House; Six Mile Post Office; Farrington, John Frost, House
Wilder, Geoffrey, House

2. Location

street & number Alabama Highway 25 not for publication N/A
city, town Six Mile (between Montevallo and Centreville) vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Bibb code 007 zip code 35042

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>3</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> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> objects
			<u> </u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A 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] 4-7-92
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. **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:)

[Signature] 5/29/92
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

GOVERNMENT: Post Office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: 19th Century Vernacular

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Weatherboard

roof Shingle

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The McKinney House is a two-story residence clad in plain weatherboard with a hipped roof now covered in composition shingle. Two stacked brick chimneys serving four coal-burning fireplaces extend from the side hip roofs. The house was designed with a central hall plan flanked on each side by two rooms of equal size. Since this four-room configuration is duplicated on the second level, the house is often referred to as having a "four-over-four" plan. With no basement, the house rests on piers close to the ground. The piers are constructed primarily of brick, but with some support from timber and stacked rock pilings. The large 9/9 wood sash windows reach to the floor on the ground level; a number of them are boarded over or removed for repair. On the upper level, there are 9/9 sash windows on the front facade while the side facade windows display 6/6 sash. At the upstairs rear and around the corner at one side, two windows have been filled in and replaced with smaller paired sets.

This well proportioned and simple house is given a hint of grandeur by its front porch and porticoed gallery; both of these features appear to have been later additions to the original 1880s structure. The full-facade attached one-storey porch is covered by a hip roof supported by four tapered box columns on brick piers; the style of the columns and the exposed rafter ends would indicate an early 20th-century porch, possibly a replacement of an older one. It has a brick foundation, and its earlier plank floor has been replaced recently. The entry-bay gallery upstairs has a gabled roof likewise supported by two tapered box columns, but the novelty board facings of the parapet and piers suggest that this feature is a later addition to the facade. This is affirmed by a photograph of the house dating from the ownership of Mr. Andy Langston, probably c. 1940s, in which the upper portico is not present. The eaves are plain except under the porch rooves, where the rafter ends are exposed. It should be noted that the brick in the house came from the Ashby Brickyard, just up County Road 2 from the Six Mile junction.

The rear exterior appears to be the worse for weather-wear, and some of the siding is missing along the ground-floor line in the course of interrupted repairs. There was a back porch or stoop with steps up to the slightly elevated rear door, but all remains of this have been torn away, and the present rear door is a replacement. The single twelve-pane central front door is flanked by double sidelights; there is no transom.

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Inside, the central hall leads straight through to the single door at the rear; the steps go up from the left front. There is some fine paneling surrounding the living room portal across the hall from the foot of the stairs. Much of the downstairs woodwork has been left natural, some of it unfortunately damaged by termites along the stair wall. Interior siding is all horizontal flush paneling, in the downstairs hall with deep beading, in other locations of simpler beading or plain flush boards. Floors are hardwood throughout. Whereas the original four-over-four plan has not been altered, at some point one of the downstairs fireplace walls has been knocked out, though the fireplace remains intact. Mantels are plainly paneled; upstairs the fireplaces are flanked by small closets.

Although plainly in need of repairs and maintenance, the house appears to be in basically good condition.

Outbuildings on the property include a small, front-gabled pantry house (contributing) of novelty board that was built behind the main house and located near a shallow gully. It was reportedly built for Mrs. Andy Langston, during the 1940's, for use as a storage room for canning activities. Closer behind the house on the creek side is a brick cellar (contributing), now without its hinged doors, that was used for rooting plants. There are also a barn (contributing) and chicken house (contributing) across the road from the house, originally attached to the property to the north along the old road but subsequently incorporated into the Langston holdings. A newer pumphouse (noncontributing) covers an old well that was located directly behind the house that once stood near the old road.

ARCHEOLOGICAL COMPONENT

Although no formal archeological survey has been made of this property, the potential for subsurface remains may be high. Properties of this type were sited within a constellation of dependencies such as kitchens and other outbuildings. Buried portions may contain significant information that may be useful in interpreting the entire property.

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. 1885

Significant Dates

c. 1885

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Builders: W.C. Trott and John McKinney

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

CRITERION C: ARCHITECTURE

Constructed c. 1885, the McKinney House is a good and intact local example of a "four-over-four" frame farmhouse with some Classical embellishments. "Four-over-four", as locally defined, is a two-story residence with a central hall plan flanked on each side by two rooms of equal size. Since the four-room configuration is duplicated on the second level as well, the building is often referred to as having a "four-over-four" plan. The McKinney House was, and still is, the only two-story residence in the area designed with this plan. Except for the removal of one interior wall, it remains in essentially original condition, although the gabled portico over the center section of the front porch appears to be later (possibly dating from the 1940's). Sited near the road just across the Six Mile Creek bridge and adjacent to the Academy grounds, the McKinney House is one of the few remaining resources in Six Mile, a once thriving Bibb County community.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Ellison, Rhoda Coleman. Bibb County, Alabama: The First Hundred Years. Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1984.
2. Langston, Fern. Echoes of Six Mile. Privately printed, 1981.
3. Interview with Ms. Fern Langston and notes from her, May, 1991.
4. Deed records from the Bibb County Courthouse, Centreville, Alabama.

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

Acreeage of property 10.1 acres

UTM References

A 1 6 | 4 9 9 4 4 0 | 3 6 5 2 8 9 0
 Zone Easting Northing

C 1 6 | 4 9 9 4 5 0 | 3 6 5 2 7 4 0

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

D 1 6 | 4 9 9 6 8 0 | 3 6 5 2 7 6 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description: SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of NE $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 6, Township 23 North, Range 11 East, Bibb County, Alabama: " . . . commencing with the southern boundary line of lot owned by J.M. Langston on the west side of Six Mile Creek lying along the western bank of said creek commencing where the iron bridge crossed said creek . . . (E)xtending along the public road 95 feet to an iron stake in the middle of gully; thence east to Six Mile Creek; thence north to the southern boundary of said . . . Langston lot down the back of said creek."

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The above is the description of the house lot as it appears in the 1966 sale of the property by the Langston heirs to the Farringtons. This is the "creek-side lot" described in the 1887 deed to H.C. McKinney.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Linda Nelson/Historic Preservationist; Melanie Betz/AHC Reviewer

organization FuturePast date December 16, 1991

street & number 4700 Seventh Court South telephone (205) 592-6610

city or town Birmingham state Alabama zip code 35222

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McKinney House

History of the House:

This house, then as now the only two-storey residence in the settlement of Six Mile, was built in about the mid-1880s for Sarah Amanda Trott McKinney by her brother W.C. Trott and son John McKinney. Sarah Amanda was the widow of H.C. McKinney, a local land-owner who had been wounded in the Civil War and in 1879 died from the results of his wound. Her own family, the Trotts, were original and prominent settlers in Six Mile, and W.C. was a local official (a Bibb County Commissioner when the courthouse was built in 1902) and businessman. One early account says the house was built "by the community" for widow McKinney; deed records show that the property "with all improvements thereon" was in any case conveyed from W.C. Trott to H.C. McKinney in April of 1887. Mrs. McKinney was a teacher at Six Mile Academy and she boarded students as well. When the school buildings burned in 1897, some classes were held in her house for a time until the new Academy building could be erected.

The house was not ever a property of the Six Mile Academy, but it has been associated with that institution by virtue of its location and occupants from its construction to the departure of the Farringtons in about 1983. The original owner, Mrs. McKinney, and successive members of her family were teachers; the Langstons were teachers, alumni and trustees; and Miss Kathryn Farrington was for many years a teacher and principal of the public school.

The Six Mile Male and Female Academy was the fourth of the County's educational institutions founded before the Civil War, in what was then, the mid-1850s, one of the most thriving communities in the County. The exact date of the school's establishment is unknown, but it was functioning by 1858 when Richard Hopkins Pratt came from the somewhat earlier-founded Sandy Creek Academy to be its principal. Captain Pratt was to become one of the County's most distinguished educators; returning to Six Mile after the War, he remained the guiding light of the Academy until 1896, when he became the County Superintendent of Education. It has been said that "(d)uring his tenure at Six Mile, no school in the county gave more concerts, held more festive commencements, or fostered more loyal alumni."¹

The original building burned in 1897, and upon its rebuilding the following year the name was changed to Six Mile Normal Institute. The Institute became a public school in 1902; it survived two fires in the 20th century but was finally closed in 1981. The school grounds are now empty except for a marker on the occasion of the building of 1961, some concrete steps and a basement room under them. Only the old house at the turn of the drive from Route 25 gives any hint of the past history of the site.

Another early distinction of this house was its use as the Six Mile Post Office from 1900 until 1906. Mr. M.G. Langston was Postmaster during that period; he was succeeded by W.J. Langston when the P.O. was moved across the road into one of the Langston stores. The Langston family came into possession of the house at some point near the turn of the century, possibly as early as 1898. It continued in that family until the daughters of Andy and Mae Langston sold it to the John Frost Farringtons in 1966. The Farringtons moved from the house about 1983 but did not sell it until very recently to the present owner, Mr. Geoffrey Wilder.

EXHIBIT "A"

A parcel of land containing 8.09 acres, more or less, located in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, Section 6, Township 23 North, Range 11 East, Bibb County, Alabama, described as follows: Commence at the Southwest corner of said 1/4-1/4 section and run North 85 degrees 19 minutes 25 seconds East along the South boundary 930.02 feet; thence run North 14 degrees 32 minutes 02 seconds West 265.12 feet; thence run North 06 degrees 16 minutes 02 seconds West 185.0 feet to the point of beginning, said point being on the East bank of Sixmile Creek; thence run South 72 degrees 08 minutes 26 seconds West along the North boundary of the Sixmile Institute tract 615.34 feet; thence run North 28 degrees 32 minutes 16 seconds West 486.21 feet; thence run North 40 feet; thence run North 65 degrees 50 minutes 38 seconds East 72.19 feet; thence run North 76 degrees 09 minutes 37 seconds East 229.99 feet; thence run North 02 degrees 08 minutes 59 seconds West 130.0 feet to the intersection of the South right of way of Alabama Highway; No. 25; thence run North 76 degrees 49 minutes 18 seconds East along said right of way 264 feet to the intersection of the West bank of said Sixmile Creek; thence run South 26 degrees 34 minutes 16 seconds East along said creek 618.38 feet to the point of beginning.

ALSO,

A parcel of land containing 2.01 acres, located in the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 6, Township 23 North, Range 11 East, Bibb County, Alabama, described as follows: Commence at the Southeast corner of said 1/4-1/4 section, said corner being on the West bank of Sixmile Creek; thence run North 48 degrees 23 minutes 04 seconds West along said West bank of Sixmile Creek 617.42 feet to an iron; thence run South 06 degrees 16 minutes 02 seconds East along the East boundary of Sixmile Academy 185.0 feet; thence run South 14 degrees 32 minutes 02 seconds East along said boundary 265.12 feet to the intersection of the South boundary of said 1/4-1/4 section; thence run North 85 degrees 21 minutes 05 seconds East along said boundary 376.10 feet to the point of beginning.

SUBJECT TO:

Mineral and mining rights.

subject to riparian rights of Sixmile Creek.

Dated: November 13, 1990



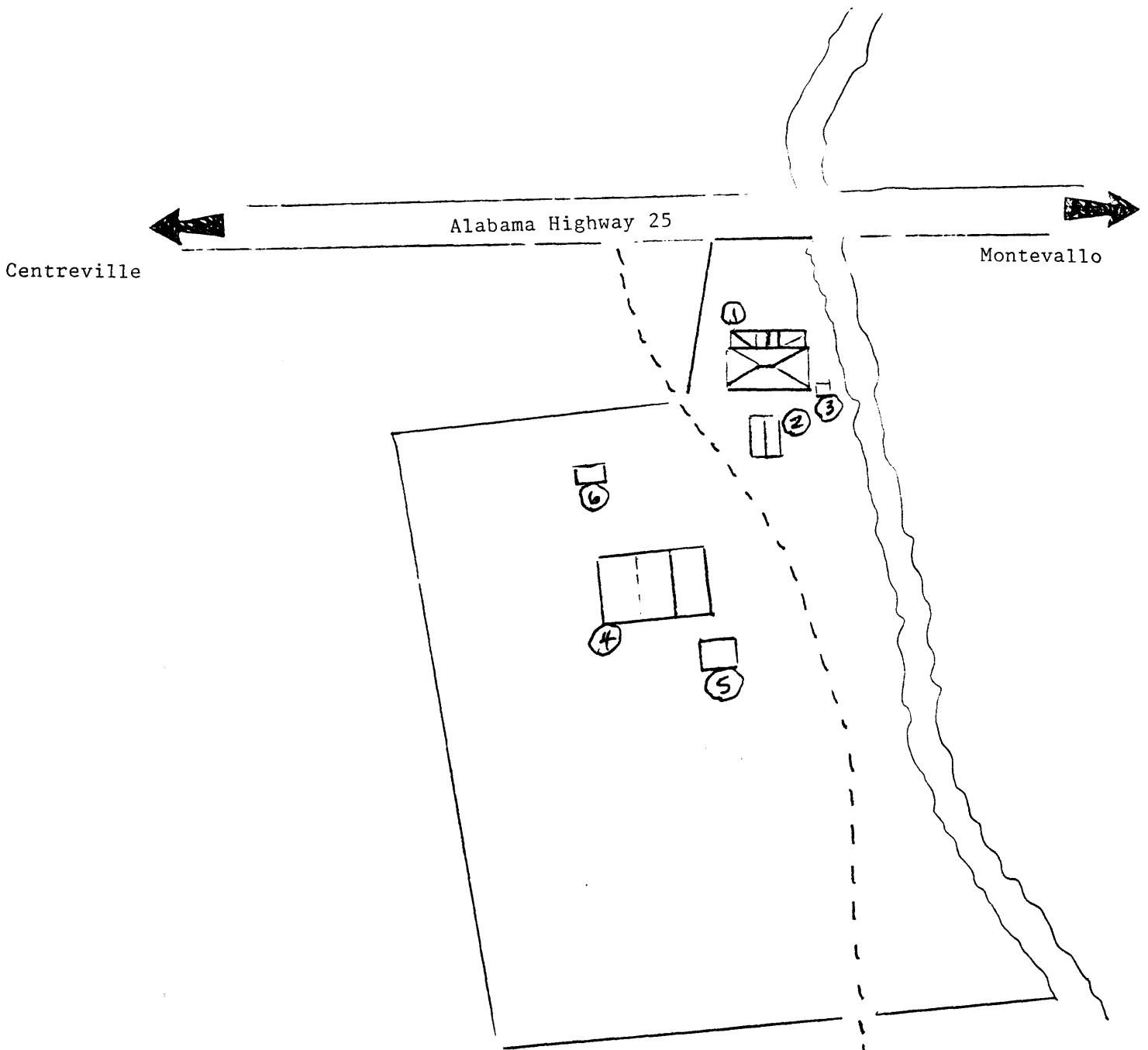
John F. Farrington



Carolyn Smith Farrington

JHF

CSF



McKinney House
and outbuildings
Six Mile, Bibb County, Alabama

- 1. Main House
- 2. Canning House
- 3. Rooting cellar
- 4. Barn
- 5. Chicken house
- 6. Pumhouse

Site of
Six Mile Academy

--- Unpaved road

~~~~~ Six Mile Creek





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MCKINNEY HOUSE

Six Mile, AL (Bibb County)  
Linda Nelson, Photographer  
September 1991 (#1-#8); December 1991 (#9-#13)  
Alabama Historical Commission

- Photo #1: Front and side facades, looking northeast
- Photo #2: Front and side facades, looking southeast
- Photo #3: Side facade, looking north
- Photo #4: Rear facade, looking west
- Photo #5: Front facade, looking east
- Photo #6: Interior, looking towards front entrance
- Photo #7: Interior, upstairs hall looking down staircase
- Photo #8: Interior, bedroom
- Photo #9: Rear facade, showing foundation pilings, framing elements  
and flush interior paneling exposed by removal of weatherboard
- Photo #10: Canning house, from northwest
- Photo #11: Root cellar, from southwest
- Photo #12: Barn, from northwest
- Photo #13: Chicken house, from southeast