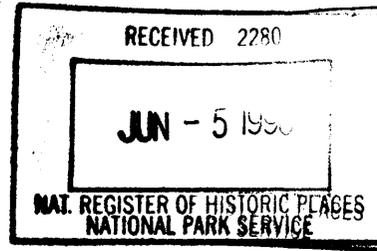


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



820

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Johnson, Alfred, Farm

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 825 Johnson Hollow Road

not for publication N/A

city or town Mountain City

vicinity

state Tennessee

code TN

county Johnson

code 091

zip code 37683

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for 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.)

Herbert L. Hays

5/26/98

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, Tennessee Historical Commission

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 certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Edson W. Beall

Date of Action

7-1-98

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Name of Property

Johnson Co., TN
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in count)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object |

Contributing	Noncontributing	
15	4	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
16	4	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
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, secondary structures

AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, animal facilities, agricultural outbuildings

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling, secondary structures

AGRICULTURE: processing, storage, animal facilities, agricultural outbuildings

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: COLONIAL REVIVAL INFLUENCES

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE BLOCK

walls WEATHERBOARD
COBBLESTONE

roof METAL

other BRICK
WOOD

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 N/A

(Mark "x" in all boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** moved from its original location.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property
- G** less than 50 year of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
 SETTLEMENT
 AGRICULTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1880-1945

Significant Dates

Ca. 1880, Ca. 1930

Significant Person

(complete if Criterion B is marked)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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

Name of repository: _____

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Name of Property

Johnson Co., TN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 113.53 acres Mountain City 214 NE

UTM References

(place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>428830</u>	<u>4039380</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>427790</u>	<u>4038280</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>429210</u>	<u>4038590</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>427750</u>	<u>4039400</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

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 Susan A. Besser, Historic Preservation Specialist
organization Tennessee Historical Commission date March 1998
street & number 2941 Lebanon Road telephone 615-532-1550
city or town Nashville state TN zip code 37243-0442

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name Rebecca Johnson Reece
street & number Route 2, Box 146, Johnson Hollow Road telephone 423-727-8861
city or town Mountain City state TN zip code 37683

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

VII. DESCRIPTION

The Alfred Johnson Farm, is located at 825 Johnson Hollow Road north of Mountain City, Johnson County, Tennessee. Gustavus Alfred Johnson was one of the four original Johnson brothers whose farms were located along Johnson Hollow Road. His portion of the land comprises a farm of the 113 acres being nominated. The historic farmhouse is the central focus of the farm and is surrounded by a complex consisting of a cobblestone milkhouse, Delco house/root cellar, frame smokehouse, cistern, frame wash house/wood shed, cobblestone garage, outhouse, stock/hay barn, and gambrel-roofed barn cow barn. Johnson Hollow Road is a narrow road that retains its rural quality reflecting early practices of cutting the road into the basin of a valley. The complex also encompasses a granary, blacksmith shop, tobacco grading shed, turkey shed, and tenant house located south of the primary dwelling across Johnson Hollow Road. The agricultural landscape of the Alfred Johnson Farm and Johnson Hollow reflects the evolution of late nineteenth century and early twentieth century domestic agricultural complexes and the manner that East Tennesseans acclimated themselves to the hilly terrain. The pastoral setting with historic field and fence line patterns as well as spatial organization of dwelling and outbuildings remains as it was in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

The main dwelling is a fine example of a late nineteenth century traditional farmhouse that was modified to reflect Colonial Revival influences in the 1930s. The I-house form or central-passage plan, according to James Patrick, Architecture in Tennessee, dominated Tennessee architecture from 1810 until 1850. In the post-bellum period, the I-house form was usually embellished with a porch and often had an L or T extension that was original to the dwelling. The two-story, frame construction, I-house of the Johnson farm complex, circa 1880, has a two-story rear ell. Typically, early I-houses had exterior end wood-burning chimneys. However, interior chimneys such as those present on the Johnson farmhouse were a common feature in the late nineteenth century as coal-burning fireplaces were the chief source of heating. The cross-gable roof of pressed tin metal shelters the original portion of the I-house. In order to keep continuity to the exterior the 1915 and the 1930s additions have a pressed tin metal roof. The frame house has weatherboard siding and a concrete foundation.

The southeast facade of the main dwelling features a porch with a low hipped roof that is supported by six circular Doric columns, circa 1930. At each corner of the porch are engaged columns. The three bay facade has a central entrance surrounded by a four-pane transom, flanked by three-pane sidelights and retains an historic four-pane/two-panel wood door, circa 1930. Two interior central brick chimneys pierce the roof of the I-house section. Fenestration of the facade is comprised of two six-over-six wood double hung windows flanking the main entrance on the first story and three six-over-six wood double hung windows directly above the openings of the first story.

The southwest elevation of the original I-house has one six-over-six double hung window on the first story and one six-over-six double hung window on the second story. A quatrefoil design is located in the eave

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

area. The gable trim consists of a wide band of sawn lumber along the projecting eaves. The fenestration of the addition from south to north is as follows: three large single six-over-six double hung windows, two small four-over-four double hung windows, a large single six-over-six double hung window and a small four-over-four double hung window on the northwest corner.

The northwest elevation or rear elevation reveals the various rooflines. From the west portion of the elevation can be seen the one-story section to the rear ell that corresponds to the kitchen and dining room area. Although visible evidence suggests that the one-story wing may have been constructed at a later date, family tradition holds that the dining room and kitchen date to the original house. The one-story ell extension to the north features an enclosed porch and two-pane/two-panel wood doors.

The northeast elevation of the original I-house has one six-over-six double hung window on the first story and one six-over-six double hung window on the second story. A quatrefoil design is located in the eave area. The gable trim consists of a wide gable trim of sawn lumber along the projecting eaves. The fenestration of the addition from south to north is as follows: double six-over-six double hung windows, a cut-away porch with the entry facing northwest, circa 1930; one large six-over-six double hung window; a small shed-roof addition. The second story which corresponds to an upstairs bedroom contains small six-over-six double hung windows. The circa 1914 dining room that is visible from this elevation contains two sets of double windows with an entrance in the center. One of the windows was covered by the circa 1935 shed roof addition. A chimney pierces the roof of the one-story circa 1930 addition.

The original floor plan of the first story consisted of a parlor and bedroom with a central hall to the front or southeast portion of the house. The dining room and kitchen were on the southwest portion of the house. A long hallway led to the dining room and the kitchen. Circa 1914 Mrs. Rebecca Elrod Johnson, Alfred Johnson's wife, became bed-ridden and the parlor was converted to a bedroom for her use. At this time, the dining room was converted to the parlor and a dining room was added to the back of the house. Upon her death, circa 1916, the rooms reverted to their former use and the dining room became a storage area. Circa 1930 the family room and a room that would subsequently become a bathroom were added to the dwelling. Circa 1935, plumbing lines were added to the room and a small shed roof addition was added to the space in order to accommodate the bathtub. Circa 1950 a small shed roof addition was added to the west corner of the dwelling to accommodate a washer and dryer. The upstairs comprised of three bedrooms dates to the original dwelling, circa 1880.

The existing farmhouse interior is a central hall plan with five rooms on the first story. The second floor has three bedrooms off the central hall. The dwelling retains historic features such as four panel wood interior doors with box latches surrounded by butt joint door frames. Many of the door frames have an additional strip of molding around the outer edge of the frame. Baseboard molding is 10 inches and has a rounded trim piece near the top edge of the molding.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

The central hall retains its original staircase. A handsome polygonal newel post graces the open well stairway contrasting sharply with the simple, stained rounded banister with painted square balusters. A parlor is located on the southwest portion of the first floor. On the northeast side of the parlor is a coal-burning fireplace with the original grate. The simple mantelpiece, circa 1930, has a plain shelf with curved corners. Just below the shelf are three rows of wood trim in a corbeled manner. Simple pilasters resting on plinths support the mantelpiece. A built-in cabinet is adjacent to the fireplace, circa 1930. The upper two-thirds of the door have four panes with a recessed panel below. The parlor chandelier is a three-light branch fixture with ball frosted lamps, circa 1930. It hangs from a ceiling canopy by a brass chain. A door comprised of four vertical recessed panels with a box latch leads to the adjacent dining room. There is a window on the southwest wall and a window on the southeast wall.

A bedroom is located off the central hall on the northeast corner of the house. A coal-burning fireplace is on the southwest wall of the bedroom. The mantelpiece, circa 1930, is simple and has a plain wood mantel shelf with three rows of wood trim in a corbeled manner below the shelf. Simple pilasters resting on plinths support the mantelpiece. The finish of the mantelpiece has been feather grained. Windows are located on the northeast and southeast walls.

North of the parlor is the dining room. The dining room is accessible from the parlor, the kitchen and through French doors into the family room. The mantelpiece, circa 1930, reflects the basic design of the other mantelpieces but has a heavier quality to the design with a thicker mantel shelf and simple brackets below the mantel shelf. The finish of this mantelpiece also has a feathered finish.

Beyond the central hall through a half glass/half wood door is the family room, circa 1930s. The room serves as the primary living quarters for the Reece family. It is accessible to the dining room and has an exterior door that leads to a cutaway porch. A fireplace is located on the northwest wall and serves as a primary heat source for the Reeces. A wood-burning stove is vented through the fireplace. Double windows are on the northeast wall.

According to oral history tradition, the kitchen is original to the house and still retains the rural character of the early twentieth century. The presence of an attached kitchen begins to occur in the late nineteenth century according to Sally McMurry's study Families and Farmhouses in Nineteenth-Century America. McMurry's work concerns the evolution of the farmhouse and the role of the farmer's wife in the design. Emphasis was placed on the need for efficiency: "if only one step be saved in going to and returning from the kitchen to the cellar, the pantry, the dining room, the cistern, etc. How many will it save in a day a month, a year?" (McMurry, 103) In the late nineteenth century, house designs began incorporating an attached kitchen and gave much thought to the arrangement of the domestic complex. Mrs. Reece concurs that her mother prepared all her meals on a wood-burning range in the existing kitchen. This range was replaced with a white enameled wood-burning stove, circa 1930s, and connected to a range boiler for heating water. This was and continues to be the primary means of preparing meals. The addition of a range boiler corresponds to

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

the addition of plumbing to the house (circa 1930). Prior to the advent of rural electrification the range boiler provided hot water for washing dishes and baths. Also circa 1930 white painted cabinets with flat panel doors and metal handles were added to the kitchen. At that time a door on the southwest wall was removed to provide space for the cabinetry. Two windows were placed above the cabinets to provide additional natural light. A four-panel door allows for access to the dining room. A laundry is off the northwest corner of the kitchen.

A portion of the 1930s addition was the room now used as a bathroom. The original use is unknown, but approximately five years later plumbing lines were extended to the room, a shed roof extension was added to accommodate the plumbing fixtures. This room is adjacent to the family room and accessible through a hallway that leads from the family room to the kitchen. A window is on the northeast wall.

The plan of the second story is comprised of three bedrooms that are original to the house. All bedrooms are accessible from the upstairs central hall. Two of the bedrooms have fireplaces that are no longer operable. Adjacent to the fireplaces in both bedrooms are two small closets. Each closet is accessible through a four panel door.

To the immediate northwest of the dwelling is circa 1925 frame smokehouse, with drop siding, a board and batten door and a four-over-four double hung window. The smokehouse has a standing seam metal gable roof. (C)

The cobblestone milkhouse, circa 1932, is located north and east of the smokehouse. The roof is a standing seam front gable with exposed rafters. (C) The cobblestone milkhouse supports rain gutters and a downspout that drains into the cistern, circa 1941. (C)

A root cellar building constructed of logs, east of the milkhouse, was replaced with the present beveled edge concrete block building, circa 1925. The building utilizes the original footprint of the root cellar, has a cantilevered entrance gable and is banked into the hillside. The building retains the original root cellar door. This building housed the farm's Delco machine that provided electricity to the farm until the mid 1930s. (C)

The two-car cobblestone garage, circa 1932, located north and east of the dwelling, has a standing seam metal roof and is banked into the hillside. The Delco house/root cellar, milkhouse, and garage are connected with a cobblestone retaining wall and boxwoods. (C)

The Works Progress Administration privy, circa 1935, is east of the garage and is constructed of drop siding that forms a continuous surface around the building incorporating the door. Triangular hinges, a carved wood handle, and a wood latch are original. The privy has a side gable standing seam metal roof. On the side elevation of the privy are handles that allow that privy to be moved periodically. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

The wash house, circa 1960, east of the garage has vertical board siding and was rebuilt in 1960. The exterior end chimney and board and batten door are original to the building, date unknown. (NC)

A storage shed is located east and north of the wash house, circa 1993. (NC)

A concrete block building with a shed roof is located south of the storage shed, circa 1985. (NC)

A frame tractor shed, circa 1928, that is open to the north is located to the front of the right of way along Johnson Hollow Road. (C)

A frame animal/hay barn with a cantilevered front gable, circa 1912, with a wraparound shed addition, circa 1940 is located to the front of the right of way along Johnson Hollow Road. (C)

A cistern with pump is located east of the frame animal/hay barn, circa 1912. (C)

The frame cattle barn with brick silo has a red standing seam roof, circa 1925, and was constructed on a knoll approximately 500 yards north and west from the main dwelling. (C)

A tenant house, circa 1910, is located across Johnson Hollow Road and east of the main dwelling. The tenant house has a gable roof with shed roof extension to the rear and shed roof overhang on the front forming a porch/alcove. (C)

A frame granary, circa 1910, is located along the east side of Johnson Hollow Road across from the dwelling. The front gable building retains the original board and batten doors and has board and batten siding, except on the south elevation which is slatted. (C)

A frame, vertical sided, tobacco grading shed, circa 1950, is located across from the animal/hay barn. (NC)

A front gable blacksmith shop with vertical siding, circa 1928, is located behind the granary. A six-over-six wood window is on the northeast elevation. (C)

A turkey shed, circa 1945, with shed roof and vertical siding is located behind the blacksmith shop. (C)

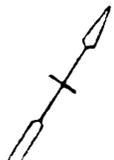
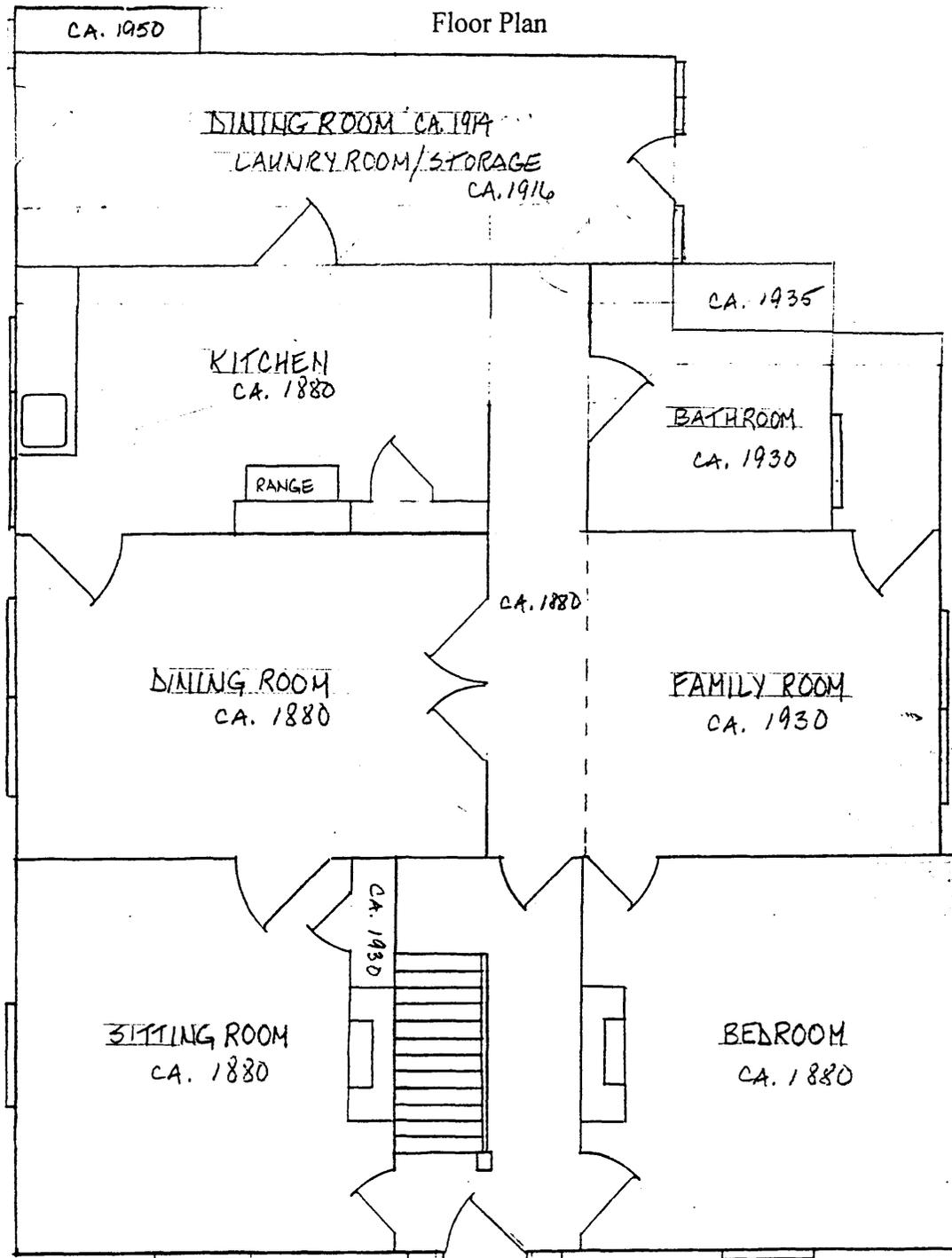
The pastoral setting with historic field and fence line patterns as well as spatial organization of dwelling and outbuildings remains as it was in the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century and is a contributing feature of the farmstead. (C)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN



FIRST FLOOR

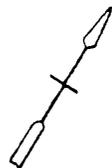
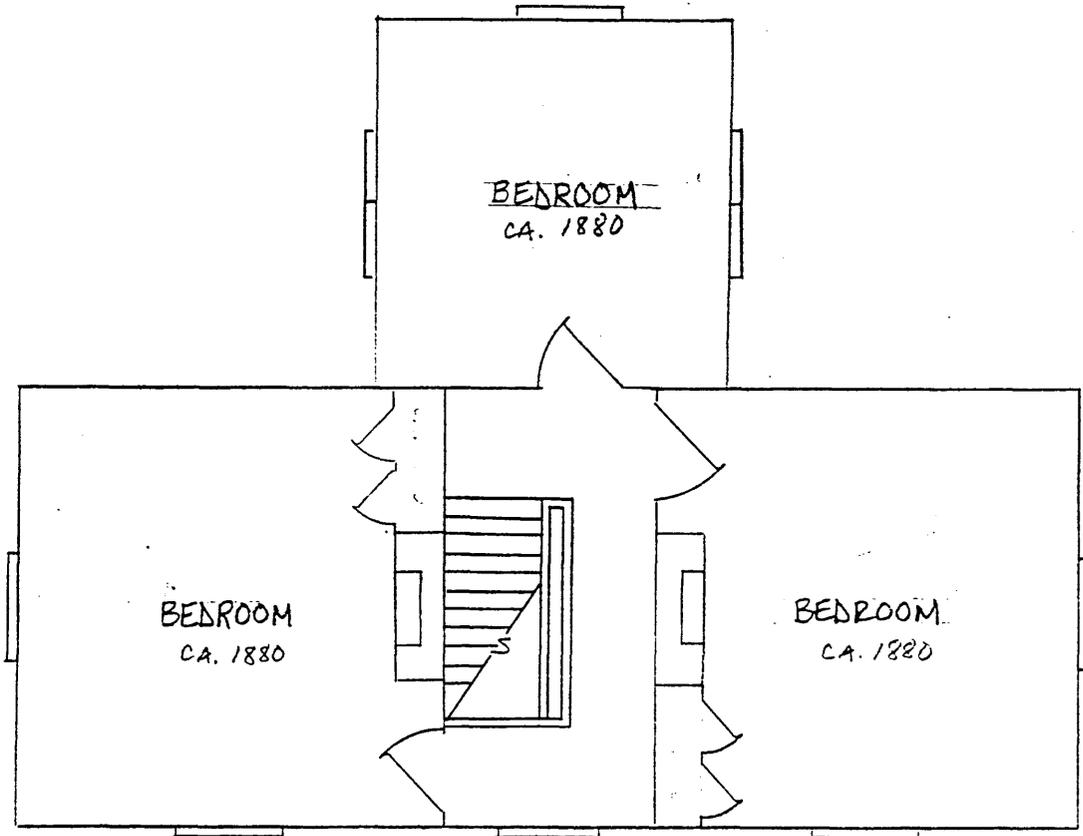
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

Floor Plan



SECOND FLOOR

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

VIII. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Alfred Johnson Farm, located at 825 Johnson Hollow Road, north of Mountain City, Johnson County, Tennessee, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its local significance in the history of agriculture and settlement patterns in Johnson County from circa 1880 to 1945 and under Criterion C as an architecturally significant representative late nineteenth century farmhouse with early twentieth century outbuildings. The farmstead retains a high degree of integrity.

Early settlement history shows that Thomas Johnson, Sr. (1759-1835) originally owned the valley where the Alfred Johnson Farm is located. Migrating from Russell County, Virginia, in the late nineteenth century where he owned hundreds of acres of property in Russell and Washington Counties, Johnson then purchased a great deal of land in the Carter County area. Johnson, one of the first magistrates in Carter County, was instrumental in the development of Carter County and his dwelling on the Little Doe River was the site of congressional elections from 1815 to 1830. He was part of the movement to form a separate county from Carter County, which was granted in 1836. Thomas died in 1835 and the new county was named "Johnson" in his honor. Thomas Johnson's son, Thomas Johnson, Jr. (1794-1872) settled in Johnson Hollow soon after his marriage in 1817 on land that his father had owned since the late-eighteenth century. Thomas Johnson, Jr. constructed a two-story dwelling in the heart of the valley. Unfortunately, the house is no longer extant having been razed circa 1940. (Thomason and Jones, 5-9) Like his father, Thomas Johnson, Jr. amassed a great deal of acreage that he passed on to his sons. This land became Johnson Hollow, one of the first communities in the area.

Gustavus Alfred Johnson, son of Thomas Johnson, Jr., married Rebecca Elrod in 1876 and built a house circa 1880. The home is the birthplace of Flura Edward (F. E.) Johnson (1884-1974) who continued the family's agricultural legacy until his death. Rebecca Johnson Reece, Flura Edward Johnson's daughter, currently owns the farm. Mrs. Reece inherited the dwelling and surrounding outbuildings from her father. Her brother inherited the land and continued to farm it (as part of the family farm). However, in order to preserve the agricultural legacy and continuity of the family homestead, Rebecca Johnson Reece purchased the land from her brother in 1985.

Located in the northeastern portion of East Tennessee, Johnson County borders on Virginia and North Carolina. The mountainous terrain of the county, comprising 390 square miles, is part of the Unaka Mountains with the primary portion of the county being part of the Cherokee National Forest. Elevations are between 1,800 and 5,000 feet and Johnson County had substantial mineral resources such as iron and manganese ores mined during the nineteenth century. The early twentieth century was a prosperous time for the county with new schools, churches and businesses supporting the scattered agricultural communities. In spite of the prosperity, transportation in mountainous areas served to isolate and hinder commercial trade. Due to the difficulties of construction in the mountainous area the railroad system was slow to develop. The railroad system did not reach Mountain City until circa 1905. A line constructed in the area circa 1907 from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

Mountain City to Damascus, Virginia, served as a means to market locally grown produce, export timber, and transport livestock. (Thomas and Jones, 5-9)

The 1920s era brought a new wave of growth to Johnson County. The Merchants and Traders Bank was incorporated in 1922. A high school was erected in 1923 as well as a highway from Mountain City to Bristol providing what would seem positive indicators of economic development. However, with the decline in industries such as lumber, iron ore and manganese, the area's residents who had relied on these industries to supplement their farm income were forced to leave the area for employment in larger cities.

Beginning in the late nineteenth century, the proponents of the progressive movement began to look at all areas of reform including agricultural reform. Numerous problems such as droughts, grasshopper plagues, and the depression of 1893, had left many farms devastated. The lure of a steady income provided by factory work resulted in the loss of many small farms across the nation. In order to encourage those choosing to remain on the farms, a movement arose from those educated to a more scientific method of farming. Alvin T. Steinel spoke eloquently of this campaign:

Fifty years ago the circuit rider, a bible in his saddlebags, was a familiar figure in the woods, making his house to house visits among the settlers to look after their spiritual welfare. His place today is taken by a missionary of another type, the government farm demonstration agent, who, often similarly mounted, calls from farm to farm and whose mission ultimately results in spiritual betterment through improvement of material conditions. Instead of the bible, the modern messenger of the gospel of better farming carries government bulletins and a little record book, in which he enters the names of those who desire to turn over a new leaf and lead a better cultural life. (Steinel, 3)

The county extension service took a prominent place in the making of Tennessee's progressive farms. Even before the passage of the 1914 Smith-Lever Act farm demonstration programs in Tennessee had been held in 1909 and 1910-1911. During the 1920s-1930s, F. E. Johnson consulted with the county agents on many occasions. The agents made recommendations on the placement of ponds for the watering of the beef cattle and propounded the ideas of crop rotation. Timber was another source of income for the Johnsons. Therefore, the county agents came out to the property to advise Johnson the proper time to cut down the trees. Johnson sold most of the lumber, but kept some of the lumber to repair fences. The gambrel roofed barn, circa 1925, was built with lumber from the land. (Reece, 3 March 1998)

The influence of the progressive farm movement is illustrated by the Johnson's breeding of Angus and short horned beef cattle. Due to the hilly terrain of the East Tennessee topography the dominant trend was toward raising of beef cattle rather than money crops. The Johnson farm has a gambrel roofed barn and attached brick silo and a frame animal/hay barn to support their beef cattle operation. F. E. Johnson kept his 55-60 cattle throughout the winter as they grazed on the hillsides and were fed the corn stored in the silo. In the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 10

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

spring, Johnson brought the cattle in from the grazing land and loaded them on pick-up trucks through the chutes near the frame barn on the Johnson Hollow Road right of way. From this point the pick-up trucks would haul them to cattle cars to be shipped to stockyards around the country. In this manner the Johnson family became connected to the national market economy. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

Mrs. Johnson's routine included raising turkeys as a market item and hens for "egg money," canning meat and vegetables, tending the family garden, and cooking of all meals on a wood stove. Breakfast would include eggs, meat, gravy, biscuits, coffee, milk and oatmeal. The typical noon meal consisted of beans, potatoes, corn, cornbread, canned sausage or canned pork tenderloin, milk, stack cake and apple pie or molasses cookies for dessert. The evening meal was also substantial with meat and vegetables and cake or pie for dessert. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

Mrs. Johnson was also influenced by the progressive movement through periodicals such as McCall's Magazine. Efficiency in housekeeping was the prevailing theme of most articles. One article advised women to use potholders or dishtowels to remove pans from the range rather than the hem of a dress. Better to soil a dishtowel than a dress or apron. (Holt, 61)

The tenant house was constructed during a period of growing tenancy in Tennessee. The tenant house dates circa 1910 at a time when share tenants and sharecroppers comprised a large proportion of the Tennessee agricultural labor force. The tenant farmers performed all farm duties for the Johnsons including but not limited to raising and harvesting crops, such as the tobacco allotment; feeding livestock; building and mending fences; and other chores. The house was occupied until 1993. Share tenants "provided all the essentials for farm operation except the land itself and . . . paid rent in the form of a share of the crops they produced." Sharecroppers "farmed specific plots but supplied only their labor, receiving work stock, tools, and seed from their landlord." (McKenzie, 74) One cannot underestimate the contribution of this labor force to the national and international markets. (West, Historic Family Farms, 20) Due to F. E. Johnson's full time position as a mail carrier, he relied on tenant farmers to do some of the farm labor. As with many Johnson County farms, tobacco was considered an income-producing crop. Throughout his years as a mail carrier, the Johnsons' tobacco allotment was worked by tenant farmers.

The influence of the progressive farm movement led the Johnsons to build numerous specialized buildings that comprised the domestic complex. The granary dates to the circa 1915 and was a logical addition to the farmstead. Although the family did not own a mill, the granary served as storage of corn and oats until these grains were taken to the mill for grinding or used as feed.

The Alfred Johnson farm was one of the few area farms with Delco battery generated power. Circa 1925, F.E. Johnson removed the log frame of the root cellar and built a concrete block building making this a dual purpose building. The root cellar provided storage for crops such as potatoes and canned goods such as canned vegetables and canned sausage. The upper portion of the building contained the mechanism for the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11 Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

provision of electricity for lighting. Not only did the Delco machinery provide lighting, but a washing machine that was powered by the Delco motor was one of Mrs. Johnson first labor saving devices. A portion of the original wiring is still intact and can be seen in the kitchen. Prior to TVA, TEPCO was providing electricity to the Johnson Hollow area from a local electric cooperative located in Elizabethton in the 1930s. The cost to connect their area to TEPCO in Elizabethton was \$16. Rebecca Johnson Reece relates the story of how her father went from farm to farm to raise the money necessary for this vast improvement to their lifestyle. With the advent of rural electrification the Johnsons purchased a refrigerator. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

The milkhouse, circa 1932, was used to store perishables prior to the advent of refrigeration. Previous to the construction of the milkhouse, the milk was stored in the converted Delco house/root cellar. The fumes of the gasoline necessary to run the machinery contaminated the family milk supply causing the milk to have an unpleasant taste. This necessitated the need for a separate storage area for milk. The hill directly behind the house was a suitable place to build the milkhouse recessing the building into the hillside therefore providing a cooler space. The space for the milkhouse was dug out of the hillside using hand tools and hauling the dirt off in a wheelbarrow. The cobblestone exterior served as insulation for perishables such as milk and butter. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

The smokehouse, circa 1925, immediately southwest of the house was crucial to the curing and storing of pork. The Johnsons raised and butchered hogs on the property. The location of the smokehouse deterred theft of precious meat and was convenient to the kitchen. The wash house that retains the original chimney not only served as the place to store wash tubs and heat the water for the weekly wash day. This building also provided a location away from the main dwelling to render lard, a very precarious task. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

During the 1930s the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and the Works Progress Administration (WPA) created opportunities for young men. The CCC reclaimed the depleted farmland and cleared local forests. The WPA worked on local projects constructing outhouses for area farms including the outhouse that is part of the Johnson farm complex. The labor cost to the farmer to build these privies varied from \$3 to \$5. (West, Historic Family Farms, 32)

The poor soil conditions and hilly terrain of the Alfred Johnson farm were more suitable for beef cattle. However, as in most agricultural enterprises, the Johnsons kept dairy cattle to supply fresh milk for the family. In the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century subsistence farming came to be the exception rather than the rule. Due to the unpredictability of farming income that was often affected by adverse weather and fluctuating markets Mrs. Reece's father, F. E. Johnson, was a mail carrier from the early twentieth century until his retirement in 1954. During the early days as a mail carrier, Johnson used several methods for delivering the mail: horse with a cart, horse and buggy, or horse and saddlebags. To protect himself during extremely cold weather he would layer newspapers under his clothing. Often at the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

end of the day Mrs. Reece recounts that “his (Johnson’s) feet would be frozen to the stirrups.” Circa 1920 Mr. Johnson began delivering the mail in a Model T automobile. According to Mrs. Reece, the Model A set higher off the ground enabling him to navigate the dirt roads and cross shallow creeks. Unfortunately, he was only able to use the Model A during the spring and summer months. The roads on his route were not graveled and traveling by automobile in the deep ruts created by winter weather was impossible. However, in order to make Mr. Johnson more comfortable during the colder months Mrs. Johnson would heat up bricks and place them on the floor of the buggy to keep Johnson’s feet warm.. The mail carrier was a central figure in rural life. Items such as the Sears Catalog and Montgomery Ward Catalog brought shopping to the home. The mail carrier not only delivered letters, catalogs, and magazines, but was the carrier of local news to the area residents.

Mr. Johnson was used to hard work early in his life. His father died when Johnson was a mere four year old and it became necessary to do the plowing as a young boy. As often happens with the death of the patriarch, part of the Johnson farm was sold off to pay taxes. The dedication to the family homestead is exemplified by F. E. Johnson’s determination. Mrs. Reece in recounting her father’s zeal to keep the farm together relates, “my daddy said I’ll have it back if it lays in my power and he bought every bit back.” (Reece, 25 February 1998)

Due to the fact that F. E. Johnson was the local mail carrier he was not as economically deprived by the depression era economics. However, the beef cattle industry changed dramatically during this time period. Market prices for cattle dropped drastically. When Johnson took his cattle to market and received a mere five cents per pound for the livestock, he elected not to sell his cattle at market the following year. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

Education was very important to the F. E. Johnson family. For grades one through five Mrs. Reece and her two siblings attended local Union Valley School. The land for the school was donated by members of the Johnson family. Mrs. Reece completed her education in the Mountain City School system and then attended Virginia Intermont School in Bristol, Virginia, for one year. She began teaching at Pleasant Valley School in the Mountain City vicinity while continuing her education during the summers at East Tennessee State College, now East Tennessee State University, in Johnson City, Tennessee and University of Tennessee at Knoxville. Upon completing her certification she continued to teach at the Mountain City schools at the elementary level until her retirement. After her marriage to James Kermit Reece in 1949, she and her husband, remained on the farm with her parents. Mr. Reece attended college on the GI bill and after completing his degree in 1950 taught biology at the local high school. He retired in 1975 after the death of F. E. Johnson to concentrate on managing the farm. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

The biggest change in the agricultural lifestyle for the area was the improved technology for machinery. For the Johnson farm this occurred in stages. Mrs. Reece relates that the family purchased a Model T in 1920. The Model T relieved the isolation prevalent in the area for then they were able to spend a pleasant Sunday

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 13 Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

afternoon with relatives and friends. For the farm, this change took place circa 1940 when a tractor was acquired by the family. Prior to this time the blacksmith shop, circa 1928, played an important role in maintenance of farm implements. Horses were shod, wagons repaired and built, wheels, scythes, knives were made and sharpened as well as other farm tools. The forge would be used to make knives, hoes and other farm implements. The blacksmith shop continued to play a lesser role after machinery was acquired. However, tools were sharpened and repaired in the building up to circa 1970. (Reece, 25 February 1998)

The influence of progressive agriculture is evident on the Johnson Farm farmstead in the early twentieth century. The decision to raise hybrid cattle breeds such as Angus and short-horned beef is indicative of the progressive farm movement. The assignment of certain areas for grazing of cattle (north of the complex) and rotation of crops such as oats, tobacco and corn (south of the complex) also attested to Johnson's open-minded approach to farming. The modification of the root cellar to a Delco house exemplified his willingness to provide his family with the convenience of electric light prior to TEPCO. As rural electrification became available to the Johnson Hollow area, it was F. E. Johnson who initiated the area's connection to TEPCO. Mr. Johnson's willingness to work with the county agents in planning watering areas for his hybrid cattle and timeliness in the cutting of his timber contributed to the prosperity of the family.

However, Mr. Johnson knew that the time of the subsistence farm was past and having experienced the hardships of farming at an early age elected to take the postal examination and become a mail carrier. Sally McMurry's Families and Farmhouses in the Nineteenth Century discusses the trend away from subsistence farming towards farmers who maintained their agricultural lifestyle through other means of income.

The Alfred Johnson Farm, established circa 1880, is a fine example of a farmstead comprising a late nineteenth century farmhouse and early twentieth century outbuildings, while retaining the pastoral setting and historic field and fence line patterns that contribute to its significance. The historic farmhouse is a good example of how the popular Colonial Revival-style detailing was added both inside and out. This is seen in the porch, fireplace mantels, and French doors. The early twentieth century kitchen retains a high degree of integrity, and it is unusual to find such a well-maintained wood-burning range and range boiler. The collection of historic outbuildings are good examples of their type and also reflect changing agricultural practices. The farmstead maintains its architectural integrity representing a significant contribution to Johnson County and, therefore, meets National Register Criterion C for architecture.

Thomas Johnson, Sr., left a legacy of heirs who continue to farm Johnson Hollow. The grandson of Thomas Johnson, Sr., Gustavus Alfred Johnson, established the farmstead that is owned and farmed by Johnson's descendants illustrating the settlement patterns that substantiate inclusion of the farmstead under National Register Criterion A. The complex illustrates the influence of the progressive farm era regarding the addition of specialized buildings and farming practices during an era when farmers were encouraged to maximize the potential of their land. The Alfred Johnson Farm is a fine example of the willingness of "progressive farmers" to adapt their practices to the changing times and the dedication of each generation to continue the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places

Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

legacy of the Alfred Johnson Farm and, therefore, meets National Register Criterion A for agricultural history.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 15

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 16

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

X. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property consists of 113.53 acres along Johnson Hollow Road north of Mountain City, Johnson County, TN, and is marked parcel 30 on the attached county tax maps 34 and 41 from the Johnson County Tax Assessors office.

The tax map for this nomination has the scale 1"= 400'. This scale map is prepared by the Tennessee State Board of Equalization for rural areas. In the past, the Tennessee Historical Commission has used this scale map for nominations and has found that the 1"=400' adequately meets our office needs. The Tennessee Historical Commission does not have the facilities to prepare maps to the scale preferred by the National Park Service.

Boundary Justification

The nominated boundaries contain all of the extant property and acreage associated with the historic Alfred Johnson Farm.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 17 Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

Photographs by: Nancy Jane Baker and Susan A. Besser

Negatives: Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Date: March 1997 and February 1998

Southeast facade of farmhouse, facing north
1 of 29

South corner of farmhouse showing smokehouse, facing northeast
2 of 29

North corner of farmhouse, facing south
3 of 29

Detail of quatrefoil
4 of 29

Newel post and staircase
5 of 29

Parlor showing mantelpiece, built-in cabinet, facing northeast
6 of 29

Dining room, facing northwest
7 of 29

Family room, facing southwest
8 of 29

Kitchen, facing southwest
9 of 29

Upstairs landing, facing northwest
10 of 29

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 18

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

Detail of feathering technique, mantelpiece, downstairs bedroom
11 of 29

Farmhouse, Delco house, milkhouse, facing southwest
12 of 29

Northeast elevation of farmhouse, Delco house, facing north
13 of 29

Northeast elevation of farmhouse and fence row, facing northwest
14 of 29

Cobblestone garage, facing northwest
15 of 29

Delco house and milkhouse, facing northwest
16 of 29

Smokehouse, facing northwest
17 of 29

WPA privy, washhouse, facing southwest
18 of 29

Washhouse, facing northeast
19 of 29

Storage buildings, facing southwest
20 of 29

Tool shed and animal barn, facing northeast
21 of 29

Animal barn and historic fencing, facing southwest
22 of 29

Gambrel roofed barn and brick silo, facing northeast
23 of 29

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number photos Page 19

Johnson, Alfred, Farm
Johnson County, TN

Granary, facing southeast
24 of 29

Chutes next to granary, facing southeast
25 of 29

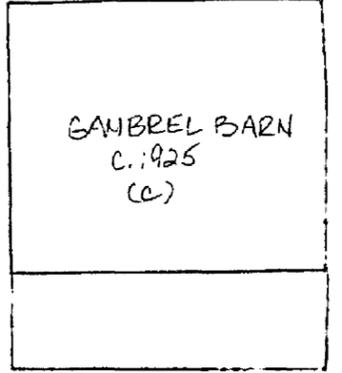
Blacksmith shop and turkey shed, facing southeast
26 of 29

Tobacco grading shed, facing northeast
27 of 29

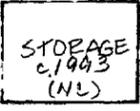
Tenant house, facing northeast
28 of 29

Farmstead with tobacco grading shed and tool shed, facing west
29 of 29

SILO



GAMBREL BARN
c. 1925
(C)



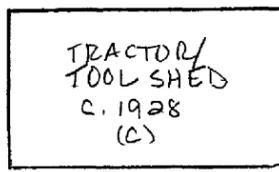
STORAGE
c. 1943
(NL)



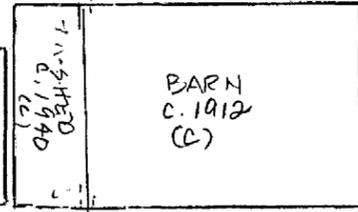
STORAGE
c. 1985
(NC)



FENCES
c. 1930



TRACTOR/
TOOL SHED
c. 1928
(C)



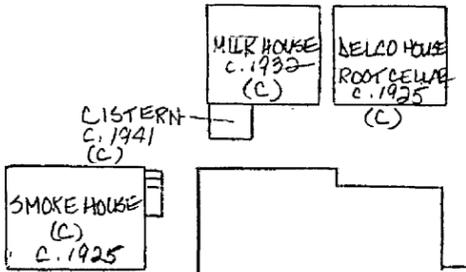
TRASH SHED
c. 1940
(C)

BARN
c. 1912
(C)



CISTERN &
PUMP
c. 1912
(C)

CREEK

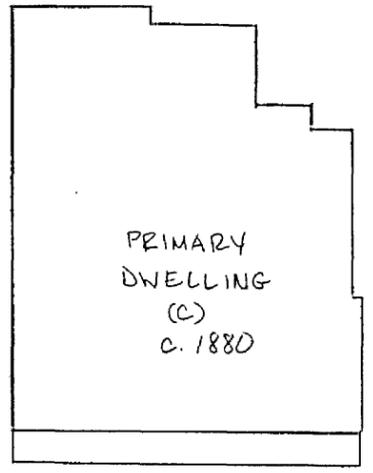


SMOKE HOUSE
(C)
c. 1925

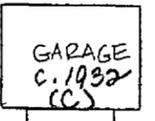
CISTERN
c. 1941
(C)

MILK HOUSE
c. 1932
(C)

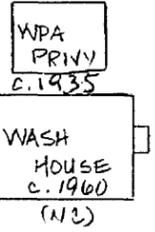
WELL HOUSE
ROOT CELLAR
c. 1925
(C)



PRIMARY
DWELLING
(C)
c. 1880



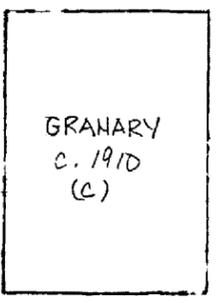
GARAGE
c. 1932
(C)



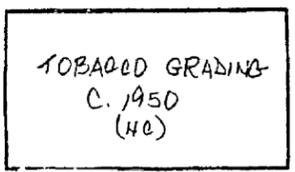
WPA
PRIVY
c. 1935

WASH
HOUSE
c. 1960
(NL)

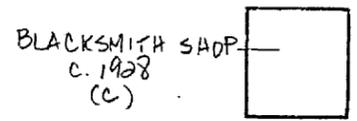
JOHNSON HOLLOW ROAD



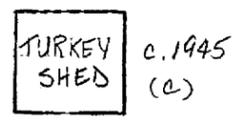
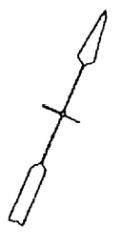
GRANARY
c. 1910
(C)



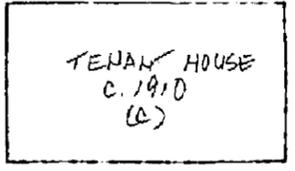
TOBACCO GRADING
c. 1950
(NC)



BLACKSMITH SHOP
c. 1928
(C)



TURKEY
SHED c. 1945
(C)



TENANT HOUSE
c. 1910
(C)

ALFRED JOHNSON FARM

NOT TO SCALE