

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

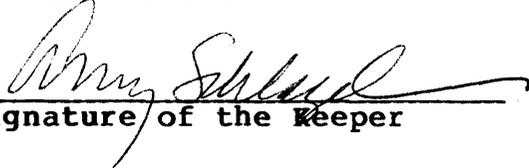
SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 88000511
Johnson's Woods
Property Name

Date Listed: 5/4/88
Colbert County AL
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.


Signature of the Keeper

5/4/88
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The nomination includes nine contributing buildings and one contributing structure; it should be eight contributing buildings and two contributing structures (the corncrib and the path).

Discussed and concurred in by Alabama SHPO, 5/4/88.

DISTRIBUTION:
National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

MAR 29 1988

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 Johnson's Woods
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 801 East North Commons NA not for publication
city, town Tuscumbia NA vicinity
state Alabama code 01 county Colbert code 033 zip code 35674

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>9</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>1</u>	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>10</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

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] March 23, 1988
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:)

Amy Schlegel 5/4/88

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

Domestic / single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Early Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other portico - wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Johnson's Woods (c. 1835-1837) is a detached, two-story, five-bay, L-shaped clapboard covered frame house with a hipped roof. This neoclassical house is dominated by a centrally located, full-length pedimented porch supported by two pairs of attenuated square columns. There is a secondary pedimented porch on the west side elevation. Remodeling in the late nineteenth century includes several one-story rear additions and the floor-length Victorian windows on the main elevation. In 1983 the original two-tiered porches with entasis columns were modified, and the present full-length columns and brick bases were added. Johnson's Woods has maintained its integrity as a mid-nineteenth-century plantation and has retained a large collection of original outbuildings and landscaping.

* * * * *

The original c. 1835-1837 portion of the house is L-shaped and measures approximately 60 feet on the south and west elevations and 20 feet deep. The house rests on a three-foot high foundation with rectangular window openings that have original bars and shutters. The house has a mortise and tenon structural system and three interior brick chimneys. The main mass has a low pitch hipped roof covered with modern composition shingles.

The main (south) elevation has five bays with the entrance centrally located. There is a narrow, full-height pedimented entrance portico. Originally, the portico was two-tiered supported by two sets of slender square piers with entasis. This unique Palladian portico was similar to the one at Belle Mont (NRHP 2/23/82). In 1983 the balcony and piers were removed and replaced with two sets of slender, full-height columns. The original pilasters and pediment remain, however. There is a cornice and dentil molding along the roofline and pediment.

There are identical central entrances on both stories. The double-paned doors are surrounded by sidelights, transoms with diamond-shaped panes, and pilasters. The second-story windows are 12 over 8 double-hung sash. On the ground floor are 2 over 2, floor-length double-hung sash windows that were added in c. 1889. All the windows have fluted casings with bulls-eye corners and louvered shutters.

The secondary (west) elevation is similar to the main elevation with five bays and a full-height pedimented portico. There are only two columns, however, and the single doors are topped with simple transoms and surrounded only by fluted casings. The windows on the side elevation are 12 over 12 double-hung sash.

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In c. 1889 a one-story, shed roof parlor was added on the rear elevation. In c. 1904 a long, one-story gabled roof dining room was added on the north leg of the "L" (presently serving as a bedroom). Both additions rest on brick piers that have been recently enclosed. The additions have elongated, 2 over 2, double-hung sash windows with shutters.

The house has an L-shaped plan featuring a central hall and a side hall with secondary stairs. The main hall has an elegant open string, reversed flight of stairs with a landing. The detailing includes slender turned balustrades and newels and decorative running brackets under the return nosing of the threads. Other interior features include fireplace mantels with beaded molding and turned columns, sliding pocket doors in an arched doorway, heart pine floor boards, fluted molding with bulls-eye corners, original hardware, and early electrical fixtures.

Johnson's Woods is located on an eight-acre lot in the southwest corner of the original 160-acre plantation. The house, facing south, is situated approximately .4 kilometers from the road and approached by a cedar-lined entrance lane. A boxwood-lined sidewalk leads to the main house and features a stone carriage step. The property has a rich collection of outbuildings that remain from the mid-nineteenth-century plantation complex.

1. Smokehouse; brick; one-story; rectangular with one bay; side gable roof; projecting roof to cover brick-paved porch; interior end chimney; corrugated metal roof; c. 1837.
2. Plantation office; frame with clapboard; one-story; rectangular, one-bay; side gabled roof; interior end chimney; 9/9 double-hung sash windows with louvered shutters; mid-19th century.
3. Cotton shed; frame; board and batten; one-story; rectangular; front gable roof; c. 1900.
4. Barn; early 19th century mortise and tenon frame construction; with late-19th-century board and batten siding; two-story; high pitch front gable roof; lean-to on north side elevation; one-story shed on south side elevation; six interior stalls and two utility rooms.
5. Corn crib; frame; board and batten siding; one-story; rectangular, one-bay; front gable roof; supported by piers and protective metal plates; mid-to-late 19th century.
6. Carriage House; frame; clapboard siding; one-story; rectangular; front and gable roof; late-19th century.

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7. Commissary; frame; clapboard siding; one-story; rectangular, one-bay; front end gable roof with returns; c. 1850-1875.

8. Animal shelter; rough construction, badly deteriorated; c. 1900.

9. Cedar-lined path

contributing	10
noncontributing	<u>0</u>
total	10

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

1835-1880s

Significant Dates

1835-1837

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Criterion C - Architecture

Johnson's Woods is architecturally significant as one of the best early Classical Revival houses surviving in the Tennessee Valley that displays regional characteristics. The regional characteristics include the "L"-shaped plan with two interior passage ways and two formal entrance porticos, similar to the Meredith-Delony House in Tusculumbia Historic District (NRHP 5/23/85). The main interior staircase is exceptional for the period and the Federal fireplace mantels were copied from popular mid-nineteenth-century pattern books.

Johnson's Woods also has statewide significance as one of the best preserved collections of mid-nineteenth-century agricultural architecture in the state. The property contains a plantation house and eight surrounding outbuildings associated with a nineteenth-century Tennessee Valley cotton plantation. Also associated with the complex is an early cedar-lined path leading from the road to the house.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alabama Records Vol. 56, compiled by Kathleen Paul Jones and Pauline Jones Gandrid, 1973.
1830 Franklin County Census.
1955 Franklin County Census.
Colbertians: History of Colbert County by R. L. James, Alabama Historical Quarterly 1945.
Two Hundred Years at Muscle Shoals, Nina Leftwich, Tuscumbia, AL 1935.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # AL - 322
- 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

Acreage of property 8.8 acres

UTM References

A

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

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the plantation house, smokehouse, plantation office, cotton shed, barn, corn crib, carriage house, commissary, animal shelter, and landscaping that have historically been part of Johnson's Woods plantation and that maintain historic integrity.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By Steven M. Kay/Cultural Resources Coordinator

name/title Steven M. Kay / Cultural Resources Coordinator
organization Alabama Historical Commission date January 1988
street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone 205 261-3184
city or town Montgomery state Alabama zip code 36130

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

The Tennessee Valley was the first area in Northwest Alabama to attract permanent settlement. The descendants of east coast tidewater planters were attracted by the valley's rich, fertile soil. The land was ideal for large-scale cotton production, and the proximity to a navigable river provided easy distribution.

The area associated with Johnson's Woods was then located in Franklin County. In the early decades of the nineteenth century Franklin County experienced incredible land speculation, with the price of land near Muscle Shoals reaching one hundred dollars an acre. The county's population was close to one thousand in the 1820s, and it doubled by the next decade.

One of the earliest large-scale cotton planters in the county was George W. Carroll. Carroll was born in Maryland in 1805 and was related to two signers of the Declaration of Independence. The exact date of Carroll's migration to Alabama is unknown, but the land records indicate that he first purchased land in Franklin County in 1828.

Carroll had his classical home built in c. 1835-1837. It is believed that the contractor was William Smoot. Smoot was also a native of Maryland and came to Tuscumbia in 1835. Smoot was the area's major contractor, building many of the area's large plantation houses.

The U.S. Census indicates that Carroll was the county's major cotton planter and wealthiest citizen. The 1830 census shows that Carroll owned 28 slaves and that by 1840 he owned 88 slaves. An 1850 listing of the county's largest planters based on property value indicates that Carroll was worth \$60 thousand dollars, the third wealthiest man in the county.

Between 1855 and 1860 Carroll sold his plantation and moved to Arkansas. The house and 160-acre plantation were sold to a William Mahoon. Mahoon died in 1869 and his entire estate went to Colonel William A. Johnson (CSA) and his wife, Kate B. Johnson.

Johnson was born in 1827 in Lauderdale County, Alabama. As a young man he operated a steamboat in the Tennessee River between Tuscumbia and Paducah, Kentucky. On the eve of the Civil War, Johnson owned three steamboats and several slaves. During the early years of the war Johnson hauled supplies from Ft. Henry to Ft. Donelson. In 1862 he was forced to burn his ships at Florence to prevent their capture by federal troops. Johnson joined the Confederate Army and served a short time as a scout for General Bragg. Johnson was soon promoted to Colonel and served as an aide for General Forrest.

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After the war Johnson inherited the old Carroll house and the 160-acre plantation where he lived with his wife and 11 children. Johnson continued operating the large cotton plantation as well as diversifying in other businesses. Johnson started buying on commission and soon began operating a fleet of steamboats and trading cotton in Memphis. He also opened a mercantile business in Tuscumbia. After his death in 1891 his widow, Kate Barton Johnson, continued farming the plantation and started a lending business.

In 1905 the plantation and house were left to their son, John W. Johnson, and his wife, Carrie Belle Johnson. A member of the Johnson family still owns the plantation house, and the 160 acres are subdivided among other family members.

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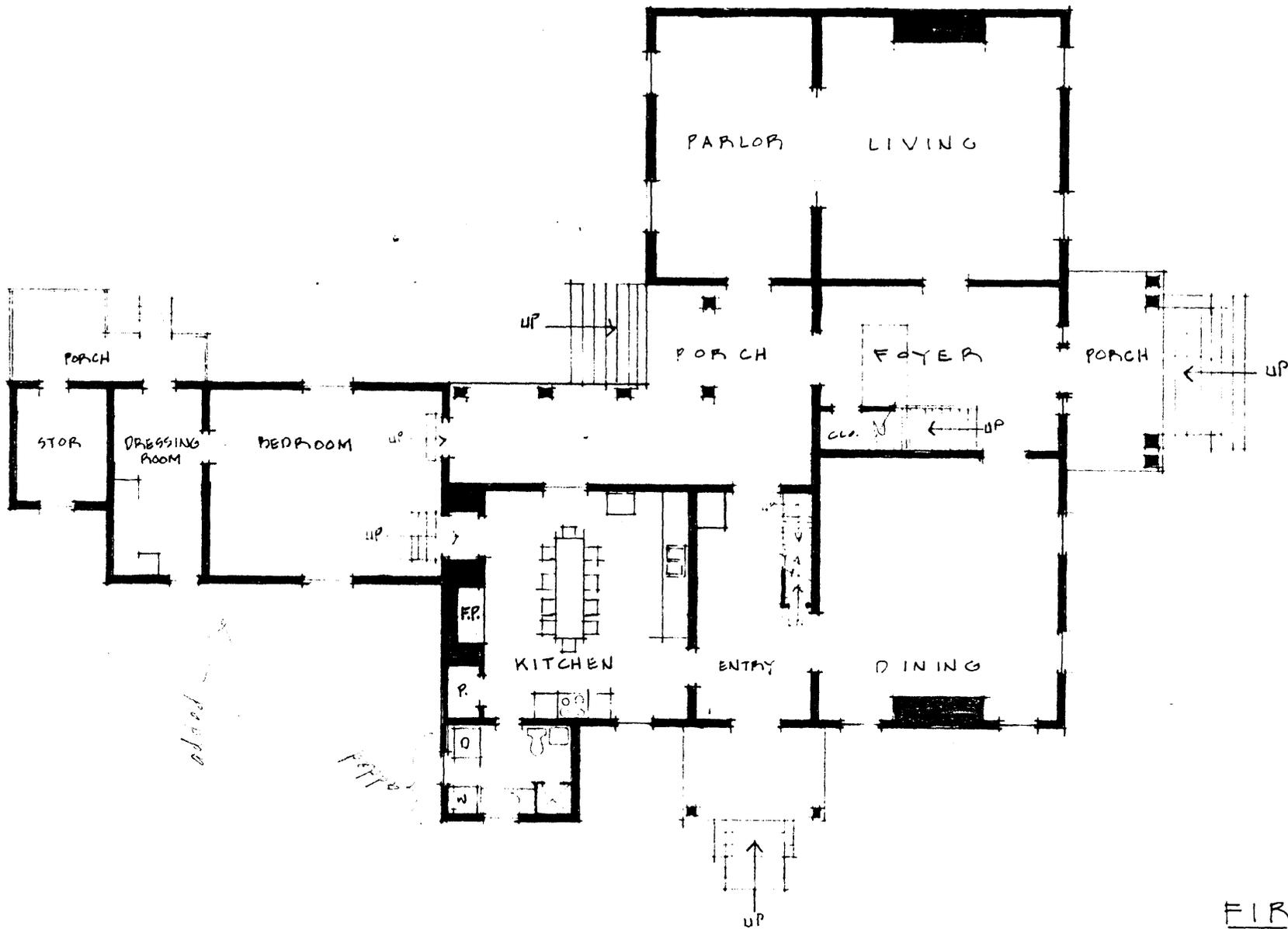
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Verbal Boundary Description

Colbert County, Alabama to-wit:

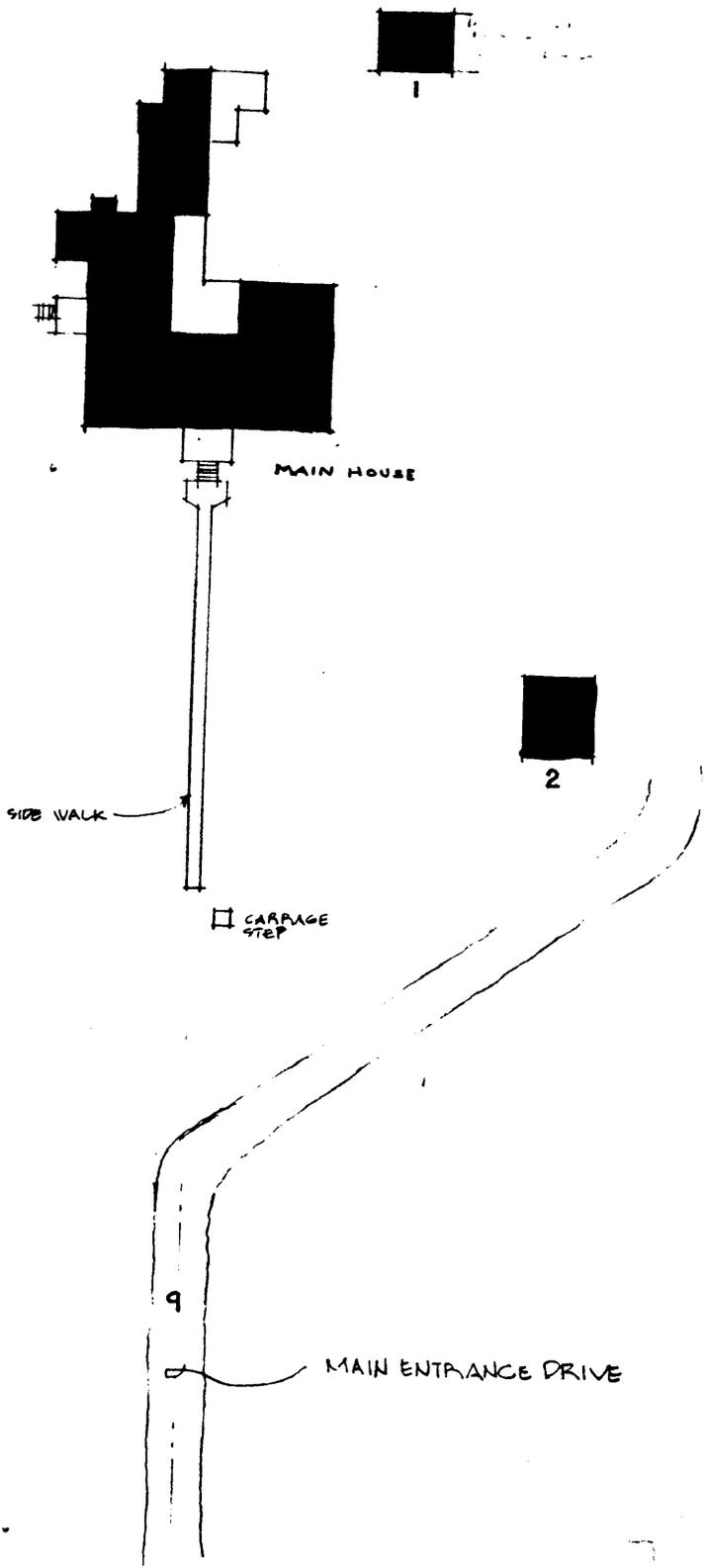
A tract of land being and lying in the Northeast 1/4 of Section 4, T-4-S, R-11-W, in the City of Tuscumbia, Colbert County, Alabama, and being more particularly described as follows; Commence at the Southeast corner of the Southwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 3, T-4-S, R-11-W, thence N. 89° 58' W. a distance of 2,788.78 feet to the point of beginning of the tract of land hereby described; thence continuing N. 89° 58' W. a distance of 70.64 feet to a point; thence N. 1° 24' W. a distance of 625.42 feet to a point; thence N. 89° 58' W. a distance of 242.70 feet to a point; thence N. 1° 24' W. a distance of 553.07 feet to a point; thence S. 89° 58' E. a distance of 619.63 feet to a point; thence S. 1° 24' E. a distance of 553.07 feet to a point; thence N. 89° 58' W. a distance of 306.28 feet to a point; thence S. 1° 24' E. a distance of 625.42 feet to the point of beginning of the tract of land hereby described; said tract of land contains 8.88 acres, more or less.



FIRST FLOOR
 1/8" = 1'-0" (APPROX.)



JOHNSONS WOODS



SITE LAYOUT

1" = 30'-0 (APPROX.)

