

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH 0683159  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED AUG 28 1978  
DEC 8 1978  
DATE ENTERED

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

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

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Withers-Chapman Home *& House*

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

2409 Gaboury Lane, N.E. (SE $\frac{1}{4}$ , S 19, T 3S, R 1E)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

VICINITY OF

5

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alabama

CODE

01

COUNTY

Madison

CODE

089

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE

BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
  - UNOCCUPIED
  - WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
  - YES: UNRESTRICTED
  - NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Johnson

STREET & NUMBER

2409 Gaboury Lane, N.E.

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alabama

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Madison County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Huntsville

STATE

Alabama

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED	slightly	

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Withers-Chapman House is a good example of a small one-and-one-half story frame cottage constructed in the first half of the 19th century. Once part of a medium-size farm, the house now sits on a two-acre tract landscaped with English boxwood, hardwoods and old magnolias. Although development has taken place around the house, it retains its rural character because of its location on a hillside. The house is in excellent condition and the changes have been minor.

The structure is rectangular, measuring approximately 48' x 37', and has a semi-attached rear kitchen. The gabled-roofed frame structure is sheathed with clapboard and rests on a low limestone foundation. A small unfinished cellar is located under the southeastern corner of the house. The three-bay facade has single 12/12 windows flanking a central pedimented portico with four slender Tuscan columns. The portico rests on a brick foundation with latticework infill. The original balustrade is in place, but all of the simple rectangular balusters have been removed. The front entrance has a double-leaf door with glass upper panels and carved panels below. This door dates from around 1893 when several small changes were made to the structure.

On the eastern side of the house a shed-roof porch runs across the rear 24 feet of the wall. In the 1960's it was enclosed to provide space for bathrooms and a small addition was made. The east and west elevations have two, end-exterior chimneys which pierce the tapered verge and have corbled shoulders with two-brick projections. Two 9/9 windows are located between the chimneys on the ground floor of the western elevation, while both the east and the west have single 12/12 windows at the half-story level. A central chimney was added in the 1930's when a stove was installed in the central hall.

A shed-roof porch, added in the 1930's, crosses the entire rear of the house and provides covered access to the kitchen, located at the northeast corner. The kitchen is a rectangular, frame structure with a gabled roof and probably dates from the 1870's. It is used as the present kitchen. Originally, a small portico covered the rear door and a brick walk led to the kitchen. A rectangular transom above the rear door is now covered by the interior stair landing, indicating a possible change of plans during or after construction of the house. Above the rear door a large, central, gabled wall dormer with tapered verge has a 6/6 window which gives light to the inside stair landing.

The interior consists of a central hall with a dining room and parlor to the left and two connecting bedrooms to the right. All downstairs rooms measure 18' x 18' and the ceilings are 11'2" high. A stair with a full landing and return is located along the eastern wall at the rear of the hall. The stair has decorated tread ends, two rectangular, tapered balusters per tread and a round handrail. Interior door and window trim is simple with plain corner blocks, the doors have two vertical raised panels, and the original mantels are simple with flat pilasters, typical of the Greek Revival period in the area. The mantel in the dining room has had some Victorian period decorative work applied, and Victorian baseboards of the Federal period are intact in the upstairs rooms. All of the doors were grained and the mantels were painted black. Downstairs the ceilings have been sheetrocked and cornice molding added. Additionally wall-to-wall carpeting has been installed and the folding doors between the parlor and dining room have been removed and stored.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

The half story above consists of a central hallway with a 18' x 16' room on either side. The ceilings measure approximately 7'4" at the highest point and slope to about 5'7" at the lowest. Both rooms have corner fireplaces. The house also has three original closets, two in the upper floor and one in the southeast bedroom.

Several outbuildings remain on the property. A c. 1870 saddlebag servants quarters with a limestone chimney, apron porch with chamfered posts, 4-panel doors two wooden mantels is located to the northwest of the main house. A frame one-story smokehouse is located to the northeast. A noted feature of the smokehouse is a nail-studded batten door. Additionally, a small doll house dating from the 1930's is located on the property.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

PREHISTORIC  
 1400-1499  
 1500-1599  
 1600-1699  
 1700-1799  
 1800-1899  
 1900-

ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
 ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
 AGRICULTURE  
 ARCHITECTURE  
 ART  
 COMMERCE  
 COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

COMMUNITY PLANNING  
 CONSERVATION  
 ECONOMICS  
 EDUCATION  
 ENGINEERING  
 EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
 INDUSTRY  
 INVENTION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
 LAW  
 LITERATURE  
 MILITARY  
 MUSIC  
 PHILOSOPHY  
 POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

RELIGION  
 SCIENCE  
 SCULPTURE  
 SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
 THEATER  
 TRANSPORTATION  
 OTHER (SPECIFY)

## SPECIFIC DATES

c. 1835

## BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Withers-Chapman House is a good example of the smaller house constructed in North Alabama during the early 19th century and is one of the few known intact Madison County examples of a one-and-one-half story frame cottage of the period. Although the house type was fairly common in the rural parts of the county, few examples have survived. A somewhat modest structure, it has restrained but well-crafted Federal period and Greek Revival details and is one of the few houses in the area to have corner fireplaces in the upstairs rooms. Constructed as the center of a moderately prosperous farm, later one of the major dairys serving the city of Huntsville, the house has retained two 19th century outbuildings and a semi-attached kitchen. The house has lost most of its surrounding acreage to the expansion of Huntsville, but retains its rural feeling due to landscaping and its location on a slope.

The house was probably constructed by Allen Christian, listed in census records as a farmer, and his wife Margaret in the late 1830's. Christian acquired joint ownership of a 159 acre tract of land in 1820 with Lemuel Mead and in 1835 the two divided the land equally between themselves. Christian probably constructed his house soon afterward. In 1849, after the death of Christian and his wife, the property was acquired by Phillip Woodson and was occupied by his son-in-law and daughter, Augustine and Mary Withers. After the deaths of the Withers and Phillip Woodson, the property was acquired by Governor Rueben Chapman in 1873. Although Chapman apparently did not occupy the house, it remained in his family until it was acquired by the present owners in 1971. From the last decade of the 19th century until World War II, the house was the center of a prosperous dairy farm which supplied much of the dairy produce for Huntsville. The present owners are carefully restoring the house to its earlier condition.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, Mrs. Walter H., deed, tax and will research.

Williams Huntsville Directory, Huntsville, Coltart and Son, 1859, reprinted  
Strode Publishing Co., 1972.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.02 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Meridianville

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1	6
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5	4	0	1	2	0
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3	4	4	5	9	6	0
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H 

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Warner Floyd, Executive Director and Ellen Mertins

ORGANIZATION

Alabama Historical Commission

DATE

August 17, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

725 Monroe Street

TELEPHONE

(205) 832-6621

CITY OR TOWN

Montgomery

STATE

Alabama 36130

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Wils B. Howard Jr.*

TITLE

SNPO Alabama

DATE

August 17, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

12-8-78

ATTEST:

*James H. Gilmore*  
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

12/6/78

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

Beginning at a point on the north side of the proposed extension of Epworth Drive, said place of beginning is further described as being located north 89 degrees 35 minutes east 40.0 feet, north 0 degrees 25 minutes west 2532.5 feet, north 89 degrees 35 minutes east 466.61 feet, north 0 degrees 17 minutes west 65.0 feet, north 44 degrees 39 minutes east 141.60 feet and north 0 degrees 25 minutes west 25.0 feet from the center of Section 30, Township 3 South, Range 1 East; Thence from the true place of beginning north 0 degrees 25 minutes west 180.0 feet; thence north 43 degrees 18 minutes east 255.5 feet; thence south 46 degrees 42 minutes east 228.85 feet; thence south 21 degrees 48 minutes west 109.48 feet; thence south 0 degrees 25 minutes east 105.0 feet to a point on the north margin of a 50 foot right-of-way for the proposed extension of Epworth Drive; thence south 89 degrees 35 minutes west along the north margin of said proposed Epworth Drive extension 300.00 feet to the place of beginning.



DEC 8 1978

Property

Withers - Chapman Home

78000501

State

Ala.

Working Number

8.28.78.3961

TECHNICAL

Photos

3

Maps

1

CONTROL

OK <sup>pl</sup> 8.28.78

Significant primarily for architectural.

HISTORIAN

Accept  
Hardy  
11-20-78

A VERY MODEST VERNACULAR ADAPTATION OF ARCHITECTURAL THE GREEK REVIVAL. ALTHOUGH ALTERED THROUGH THE YEARS, THE PHASES REFLECT THE ORIGINAL DESIGN INTENT AND THE ARCHITECTURAL FORM CAN BE EASILY RESTORED. THOUGH MANY HOUSES LIKE THIS WERE BUILT, ONLY RELATIVELY FEW SURVIVE INTACT; THIS ONE STILL DISPLAYS THE DISTINCT CHARACTERISTICS OF VERNACULAR STYLING.

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT  
11/21/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory \_\_\_\_\_

Review \_\_\_\_\_

Good nomination.

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

James H. Billmore

12/6/78

ACCEPT

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up

2-6-79

Send-back

Re-submit

Entered

DEC 8 1978

Federal Register Entry

INT:2106-74



Withers-Chapman House  
Huntsville, Alabama, Madison County

Ellen Mertins, May, 1978  
Alabama Historical Commission

Facade.

Photo number: 1

DEC 8 1978

AUG 28 1978



Withers-Chapman House  
Huntsville, Alabama, Madison Co.

Ellen Mertins, May, 1978  
Alabama Historical Commission

View from southwest.

Photo number: 2    DEC 8    1978

AUG 28 1978



Withers-Chapman House  
Huntsville, Alabama, Madison Co.

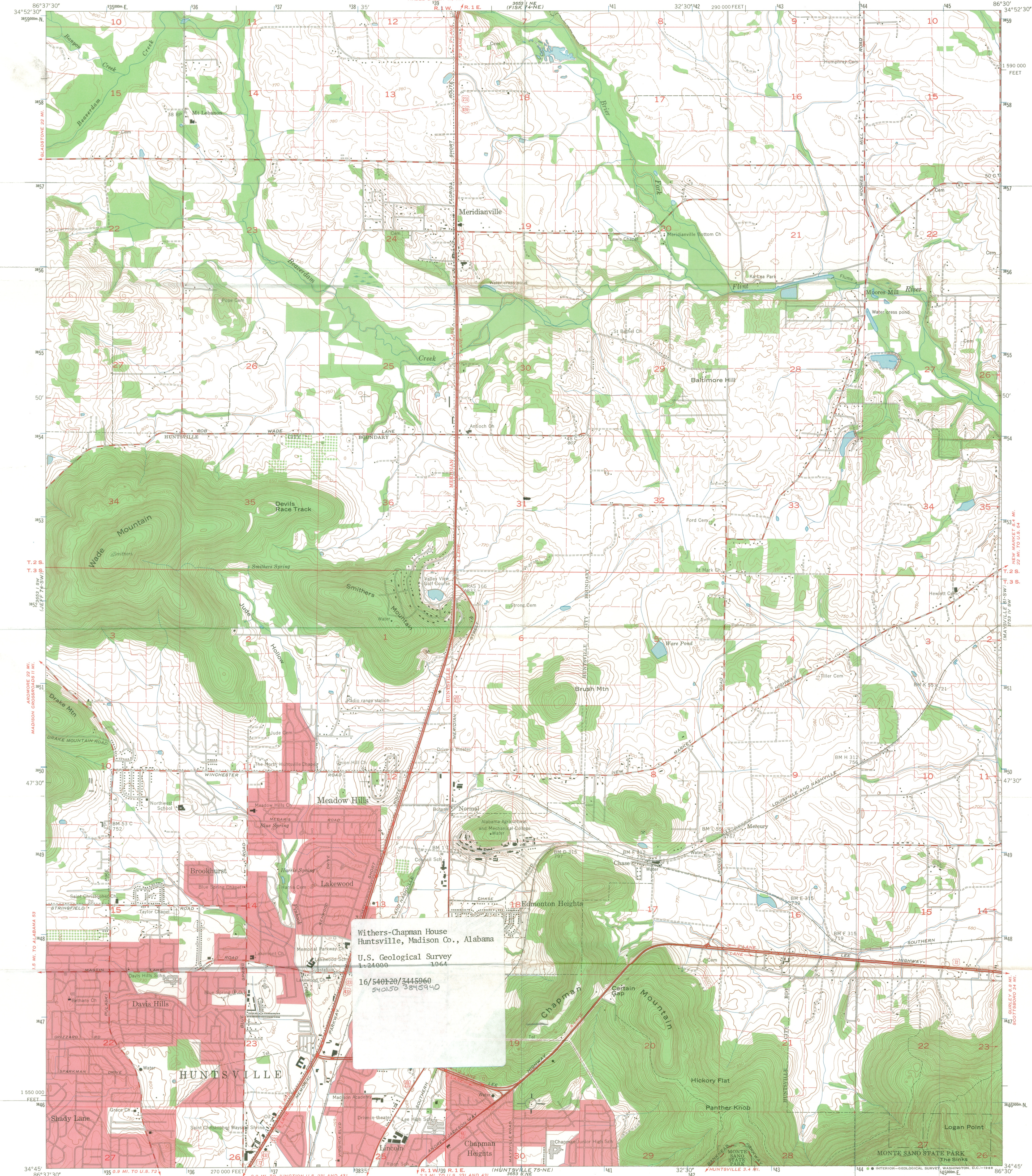
Ellen Mertins, May, 1978  
Alabama Historical Commission

Rear (north elevation).

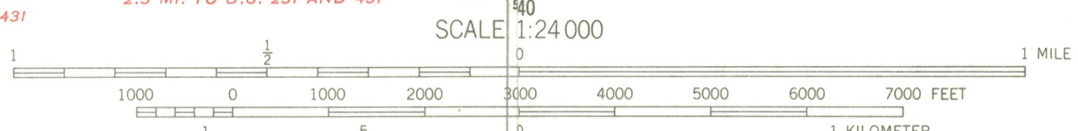
Photo number: 3

DEC 8 1978

AUG 28 1978

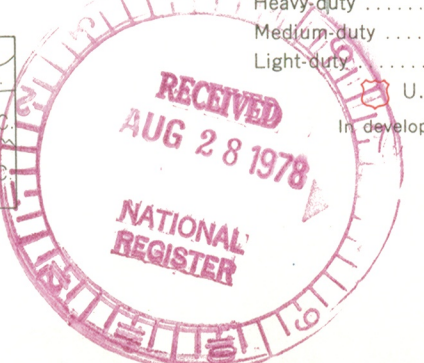
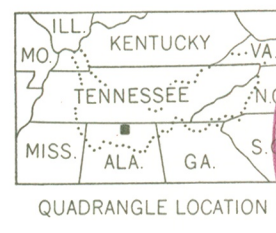


Withers-Chapman House  
Huntsville, Madison Co., Alabama  
U.S. Geological Survey  
1-24000  
1064  
16/540120/3445960  
240150 3845940



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
DASHED LINES REPRESENT HALF-INTERVAL CONTOURS  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D.C.  
AND BY U.S. TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY, CHATTANOOGA OR KNOXVILLE, TENN.  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION (TVA 74-SE)

Heavy duty	Poor motor road
Medium duty	Wagon and jeep track
Light duty	Foot trail
U. S. Route	State Route

In developed areas, only through roads are classified

MERIDIANVILLE, ALA.  
N3445-W8630/7.5

1964

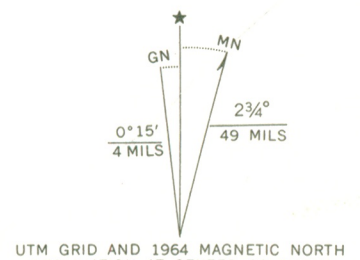
AMS 3653 1 SE-SERIES V844

Mapped and edited by Tennessee Valley Authority  
Published by the Geological Survey

Control by USC&GS, USGS, and TVA  
Revised by TVA in 1964 by photogrammetric methods using  
aerial photographs taken 1961 and by reference to TVA-USGS  
quadrangle dated 1951. Map field checked by TVA, 1964

Polyconic projection, 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Alabama (East)  
rectangular coordinate systems  
1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator Grid ticks,  
Zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines  
visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown



Ellen - Linda

June 20, 1978



TO: Alabama Historical Commission  
725 Monroe Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130

FROM: Mrs. Walter H. Johnson  
2409 Gaboury Lane, N. E.  
Huntsville, Alabama 35811

SUBJECT: Withers-Chapman House, 2409 Gaboury Lane, N.E., Huntsville, Alabama -  
Madison County

I am the owner of the above mentioned property and I understand that it has been proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. I have been provided with, have read, and understand literature explaining the National Register program and the effect on property if it is entered in the National Register of Historic Places.

As the owner of the property, I: (DO) ~~(DO NOT)~~ concur with the proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

*Walter H. Johnson*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Property Owner's Signature)

*July 6, 1978*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

ALABAMA HISTORIC COMMISSION  
STATE OF ALABAMA  
JUL 5 1978  
RECEIVED

*First Investment Bond*

RECEIVED

JUL 7 RECD

STATE OF ALABAMA  
ALA. HISTORIC COMMISSION

PROPERTY (owner's signature)

DATE

concern with the proposed nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.  
As the owner of the property, I: (X) ( )

the National Register of Historic Places.  
the National Register Program and the effect on property to be included in  
I have been provided with full and complete information regarding  
has been proposed for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.  
I am the owner of the above mentioned property and I understand that to

Subject: Madison County  
Millsaps-Chapman House, 3403 Carolyn Lane, N.E., Huntsville, Alabama

Address: Huntsville, Alabama 35811  
3403 Carolyn Lane, N.E.  
Name: Mrs. Walter H. Johnson

Address: Huntsville, Alabama 35810  
152 Monroe Street  
To: National Historic Commission

JUL 30 1968



ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ALABAMA

Date Entered DEC 8 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Leech-Hauer House	Huntsville Madison County
Withers-Chapman House	Huntsville Madison County
Shine, Jere Site	Montgomery County
Jones, Gov. Thomas G., House	Montgomery Montgomery County

Also Notified

Honorable Donald Stewart  
Honorable John J. Sparkman  
Honorable Ronnie G. Flippo  
Honorable William L. Dickinson

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Mr. Milo B. Howard, Jr.  
Director, Alabama Department of  
Archives and History  
Chairman, Alabama Historical Commission  
Archives and History Building  
Montgomery, Alabama 36104

# NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

① NAME as it appears on federal register: Withers-Chapman House  
 ② OTHER NAMES:  
 ③ date of entry: DEC 8 1978  
 ④ county code: 089

⑤ LOCATION street & number: 2409 Gaboury Lane, NE  
 city / town: Huntsville  
 vicinity of:  
 state: AL  
 county: Madison  
 ⑥ NPS REGION: SE

⑦ OWNER  PRIVATE  STATE  MUNICIPAL  COUNTY  MULTIPLE  FEDERAL (agency name)  
 ⑧ ADMINISTRATOR:

⑨ EXISTING SURVEYS  HABS  HAER  NHL  
 ⑩ FUNDED?  YES  NO  
 ⑪ CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 5  
 ⑫ SOURCE of NOMINATION  STATE  FEDERAL  
 if state who prepared form?

⑬ WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?  YES, NAME:  NO  
 ⑭ WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?  YES, NAME:  NO  
 ⑮ ACREAGE:  LOCAL  PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

⑯ CONDITION  deteriorated  altered  original site  
 excellent  ruins  unaltered  moved  
 good  unexposed  reconstructed  unknown  
 fair  unexcavated  excavated  
 ⑰ features:  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2  SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3  
 NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-0  NOT INTACT-0  
 UNKNOWN-4  UNKNOWN-5  UNKNOWN-6  
 NOT APPLICABLE-7  NOT APPLICABLE-8  NOT APPLICABLE-9

⑱ ACCESS  YES-Restricted  YES-Unrestricted  No Access  Unknown  
 ⑲ ADAPTIVE USE  YES  NO  
 ⑳ SAVED?  YES  
 ㉑ IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT?  yes  no

㉒ AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:  
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2  COMMERCE-6  ENTERTAINMENT-26  LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15  POLITICS/GOVT.-21  RECREATION-28  
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1  COMMUNICATIONS-7  EXPLORATION-12  LAW-16  RELIGION-22  SETTLEMENT-29  
 AGRICULTURE-3  CONSERVATION-8  HEALTH-27  MILITARY-18  SCIENCE-23  URBAN PLANNING-31  
 ARCHITECTURE-4  ECONOMICS-9  INDUSTRY-13  MUSIC-19  SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN-24  OTHER (SPECIFY)  
 ART-5  EDUCATION-10  INVENTION-14  PHILOSOPHY-20  TRANSPORTATION-25  
 ㉓ CLAIMS: explain  
 'first'   
 'oldest'   
 'only'

㉔ functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: CURRENTLY:  
 ㉕ dates of initial construction: major alterations: historic events:  
 ㉖ ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION

㉗ architectural style(s):  
 ㉘ architect:  
 ㉙ master builder:  
 ㉚ engineer:

㉛ landscape architect / garden designer:  
 ㉜ interior decorator:  
 ㉝ artist:  
 ㉞ artisan:  
 ㉟ builder/contractor:

㊱ NAMES give role & date  
 PERSONAL:  
 EVENTS:  
 INSTITUTIONAL:

㊲ NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP