NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received MAY 20 1982
date entered JUN 17 1982

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic: Marsh-Johnson House

and/or common: Robert Johnson House

2. Location

street & number: Intersection of S-41-21 and S-41-37 — N/A not for publication

city, town: Saluda — X vicinity of — ~~congressional district~~

state: South Carolina — code: 045 — county: Saluda — code: 081

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	X occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
X building(s)	X private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	X private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	N/A being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name: Virginia T. Witt

street & number: Route 2

city, town: Saluda — X vicinity of — state: South Carolina 29138

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.: Saluda County Courthouse

street & number: 101 South Main Street

city, town: Saluda — state: South Carolina 29138

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title: Inventory of Historic Places in South Carolina — has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date: 1980 — ___ federal X state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records: South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town: Columbia — state: South Carolina 29211

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	_X_ deteriorated	_X_ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	___ altered	___ moved date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Marsh-Johnson House is a two-story, log farmhouse sheathed in weatherboard, which is located in rural southwestern Saluda County, South Carolina. The house is believed to have been built before 1817. The historic integrity of the building has not been compromised by the few minor alterations.

Additional Information:

Exterior: The Marsh-Johnson House is a two-story, rectangular residence with log walls sheathed in weatherboard. The house rests on massive brick piers, which are laid in Flemish bond. A one-story, shed-roofed porch with wooden foundation piers and four rough-hewn tree trunks supporting the roof spans the facade (southwest elevation). The facade is three bays wide on both the first and second stories. The first story has a central, single door flanked by nine-over-six windows, and the second story has three six-over-six windows. Many of the windows retain their batten shutters. The metal-sheathed gable roof has a boxed cornice.

The side (northwest and southeast) elevations are identical; on each side single windows on both stories flank the central, double-shouldered brick chimney. The chimneys are of Flemish bond brickwork with glazed headers and king closers. The rear (northeast elevation) of the house had a one-story, shed-roofed porch, which has been enclosed with board-and-batten sheathing. The second floor of the rear elevation has three six-over-six windows.

Interior: The Marsh-Johnson House was built on a central-hall plan with single,square rooms to either side of the hall. The original partition between the hall and the northwest room was removed ca. 1960. The walls, floors, and ceilings are the original wide boards. A chair rail lines the walls on the first floor. Each of the first floor rooms has a hand-carved wooden mantel with wide segmental arches framing the fireplace. An enclosed quarter-turn staircase rises from the back of the original hall to the second floor. A small closet beneath the staircase bears the traces of its original HL hinges.

The second floor of the house has an off-center hall and two bedrooms. The larger, northwest room has a small fireplace with a simple mantelpiece. The fireplace in the southwest room has been closed.

Surroundings: The Marsh-Johnson House is located in rural Saluda County at the intersection of two county roads. None of its original outbuildings remain, although an old rock-lined well, still in use, is located to the east of the house. The house is surrounded by forests and scattered small farms and residences.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/ humanitarian
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ theater
X 1800–1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ transportation
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ other (specify)
		___ invention		

Specific dates before 1817 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Marsh-Johnson House, located in rural southwestern Saluda County, South Carolina, is a two-story farmhouse of log construction sheathed in weatherboard. The house is believed to have been built before 1817. The Marsh-Johnson House embodies construction technology and design characteristics of the rural South Carolina upcountry of the early nineteenth century. It is one of the earliest and most intact log residences that has been identified in the state. In addition, the brickwork of the chimneys and foundation is outstanding.

Additional Information:

The construction date of the Marsh-Johnson House is unknown, but the construction technology and details of the house suggest that it was built in the early nineteenth century. The land upon which the house is located was probably part of a 300-acre royal grant to Ogden Cockroft in 1773. In 1804 Cockroft sold this same tract to Bryan Marsh.[1]

Whether Cockroft or Marsh built the house is not known. Cockroft was listed in the 1790 federal census of Edgefield County. Since the 300-acre tract containing the site of the Marsh-Johnson House was one of two plantations he owned in the county at that time, it is possible that Cockroft built the house in the late eighteenth century.[2] (Saluda County was created from this section of Edgefield County in 1895.)

On the other hand, Marsh purchased the site of the house in 1804, and he might have constructed the house around that time. Marsh was listed in the 1810 federal census of Edgefield District, but the census records did not specify the location of his residence within the district.[3] Thomas Anderson's map of Edgefield District (1817) reveals that "Capt. B. Marsh" was living on the site by 1817.[4] Marsh was probably living in the present house since the glazed headers of the chimney and foundation suggest a construction date at least that early.

Bryan Marsh was a relatively prosperous planter for this area of Edgefield District. In 1810 he owned 480 acres and eighteen slaves.[5] Most of the heads of households in the area did not own any slaves, and the great majority of those who owned slaves owned less than ten.[6] By 1820 Marsh owned 760 acres and thirty slaves. In that year fourteen members of his household were engaged in agriculture.[7]

After the 1817 map associating Bryan Marsh with the site, no further record of the property could be found until 1846; a plat of an adjoining plantation made in that year showed the tract as being owned by Josiah Howell.[8] According to Johnson family tradition, the property was purchased from Howell by Isaac Johnson of the old Barnwell District in 1846.[9] It remained in the Johnson family until 1938, when the property, consisting of the house and 225 acres, was sold to John Henry Hazel.[10] In 1978 Hazel deeded the house and sixty-two acres to his granddaughter, Virginia T. Witt, who is the present owner.[11]

Architecture: The Marsh-Johnson House is a significant vernacular farmhouse, embodying construction technology and design characteristics of the rural South Carolina upcountry of the early nineteenth century. The log wall construction and the Flemish bond chimneys with glazed headers are of special note.

CONTINUED

ITEM NOT VERIFIED

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approximately 1

Quadrangle name Saluda South, S.C. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	423277	3751959	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property is shown bounded by the heavy red line on the accompanying Saluda County Tax Map #37, drawn at a scale of 1 inch = 400 feet. This boundary includes the house and its immediate surroundings, while excluding adjacent woods

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	John C. Blythe, Jr. Historic Preservation Planner		Mary Watson, John Wells S.C. Department of Archives & History
organization	Upper Savannah Council of Governments	date	March 22, 1982
street & number	Post Office Box 1366	telephone	(803) 229-6627
city or town	Greenwood	state	South Carolina 29648

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X 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 Charles E. Lee May 4, 1982

title Charles E. Lee
State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Delores Byers Entered in the National Register date 6/17/82

for **Keeper of the National Register**

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

The central-hall farmhouse form was common in South Carolina from the colonial settlements until the early twentieth century. The form involves a central hallway with single,square rooms on either side. The entrance was always in the hall, in the center of the facade; the roof ridge was always parallel to the facade. The locations of the major features of the building were dictated by the plan. The Marsh-Johnson House follows the dictates of this mode, although the plan has been altered by the removal of one interior partition ca. 1960.

Log buildings in South Carolina were common into the mid-nineteenth century, especially in areas where there were substantial stands of large timber. The ten log buildings at the Williams Place in Spartanburg County, the small Sirrine cabin in Greenville County, and the smokehouse at the Allen Dial House in Laurens County all date from the period 1790-1860. Log buildings in South Carolina were often sheathed with weatherboards as a means of insulation; plaster or clay chinking was also common. The log walls of the Marsh-Johnson House are sheathed in weatherboard, in accord with common practice.

Flemish bond brickwork and glazed headers were in use in South Carolina from the eighteenth century into the early years of the nineteenth century. A relatively late example of the use of glazed headers is the Cureton-Huff House in Greenville County, ca. 1820. The Marsh-Johnson House has a formal pattern of glazed headers in its Flemish-bond chimneys which are of exceptionally high quality for a small farmhouse in Saluda County.

The nails evident in the Marsh-Johnson House include many machine-cut L-head brads. This type of nail was manufactured in the United States as early as 1790 and was in widespread use through the early nineteenth century. These nails had passed out of common usage in most of the nation by 1810; South Carolina, however, was as hesitant to discard accepted modes as it was to accept new technological developments. Black Mingo Baptist Church in Williamsburg County used machine-cut L-head brads in 1843. The use of the brads in conjunction with the other architectural details of the Marsh-Johnson House suggests a construction date in the early years of the nineteenth century.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Anderson, Thomas, deputy surveyor. "A Map of the District of Edgefield, Made in Conformity to the Resolution of the Legislature in December 1816," 1817.

Columbia, S.C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History. Royal Grants, vol. 21; State Grants, vol. 20.

Edgefield, S.C. Edgefield County Courthouse. Deed Books 27, 29, and 38; Plat Book 3.

Johnson, Tupper. Johnston, S.C. Interview, 20 January 1981.

Population Schedules of the Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: South Carolina. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Publications, 1958.

Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States, 1810: South Carolina. Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1958.

Saluda, S.C. Saluda County Courthouse. Deed Book 33; Title Book 80.

U.S. Department of Commerce and Labor. Bureau of the Census. Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: South Carolina.

Marsh-Johnson House Nomination
Footnotes

[1]Tupper Johnson, the grandson of Isaac Johnson, who owned the Marsh-Johnson House in the mid-nineteenth century, remembers a plat for the property that has since been lost. According to that plat, the property was originally granted to Ogden Cockroft. Interview with Tupper Johnson, Johnston, S.C., 20 January 1981. An 1817 map of Edgefield District reveals that Bryan Marsh was living on the site by that date. Thomas Anderson, deputy surveyor, "A Map of the District of Edgefield Made in Conformity to the Resolution of the Legislature in December 1816," 1817. Between 1786 and 1817 Marsh purchased two tracts of land in the area. He bought the first tract of 300 acres on the head branches of Pen Creek on 2 March 1804. The second tract of 180 acres on one of the branches of Mine Creek was purchased on 26 March 1808. Deed Book 27, pp. 394-95 and Deed Book 29, p. 381, Edgefield County Courthouse, Edgefield, S.C. Since the Marsh-Johnson House is located between Penn Creek and Mine Creek, it is impossible to determine which tract included the site. However, since Ogden Cockroft sold only the first tract to Marsh, the information obtained from Tupper Johnson indicates this tract contained the site of the house. Ogden Cockroft had been granted this property on 6 February 1773. Vol. 21, p. 532, Royal Grants, South Carolina Department of Archives and History.

[2]U.S., Department of Commerce and Labor, Bureau of the Census, Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: South Carolina, p. 66; State Grants, vol. 20, p. 258, S.C. Department of Archives and History.

[3]Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States, 1810: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Microfilm Publications, 1958), microcopy 252, roll 62 [Edgefield District, p. 28].

[4]Thomas Anderson, deputy surveyor, "A Map of the District in Edgefield, Made in Conformity to the Resolution of the Legislature in December 1816," 1817.

[5]Deed Book 27, pp. 394-95 and Deed Book 29, p. 381, Edgefield County Courthouse; Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States.

[6]Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States.

[7]Deed Book 38, p. 297, Edgefield County Courthouse; Population Schedules of the Fourth Census of the United States, 1820: South Carolina (Washington, D.C.: National Archives Publications, 1958), microcopy M-33, roll 118 [Edgefield District, p. 44] .

[8]Plat Book 3, p. 18, Edgefield County Courthouse.

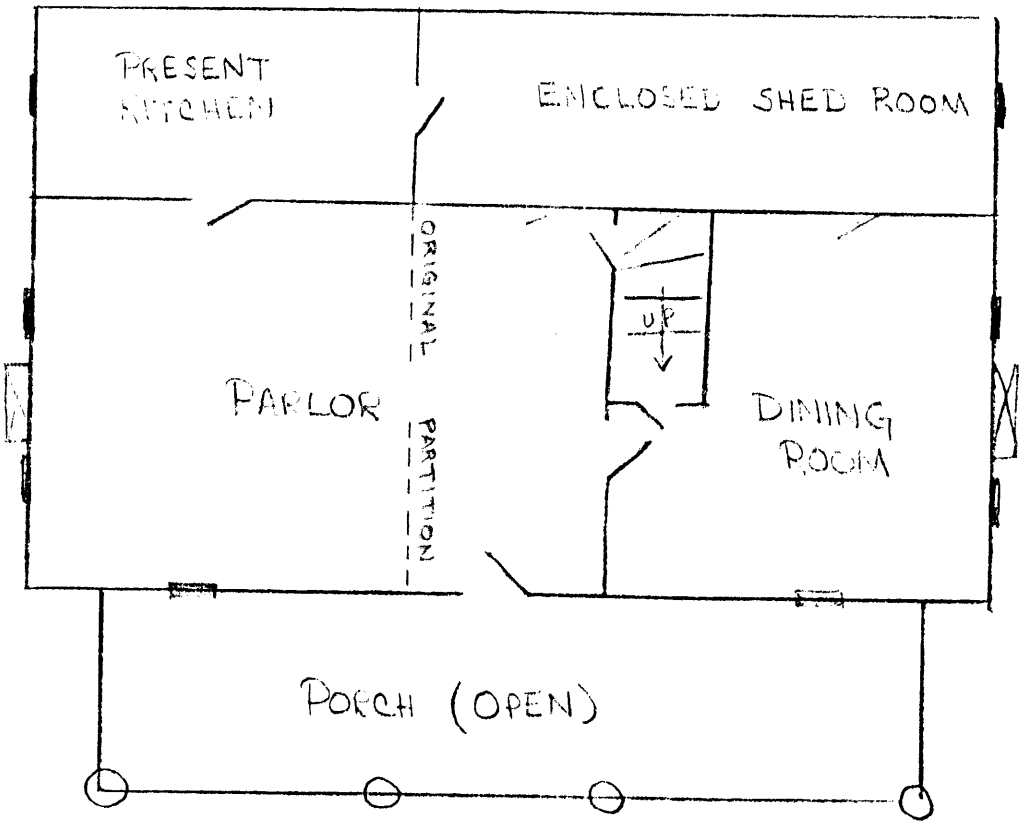
[9]Interview with Tupper Johnson, Johnston, S.C., 20 January 1981.

[10]Deed Book 33, p. 51, Saluda County Courthouse, Saluda, S.C.

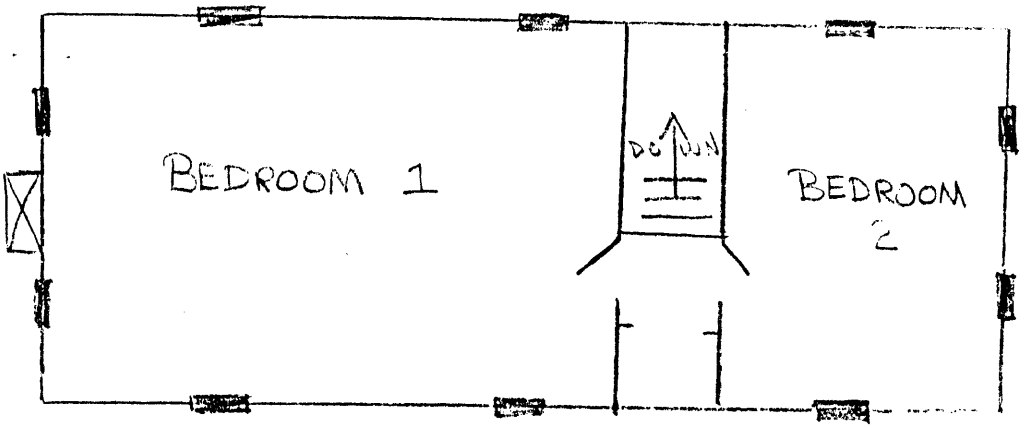
[11]Title Book 80, p. 302, Saluda County Courthouse.

Marsh-Johnson House
Saluda County, S.C.
May 1981

NOT TO SCALE



FIRST STORY FLOOR PLAN



SECOND STORY FLOOR PLAN