United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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street & number Intersection of S-41-21 and S-41-37 N/A not for publication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

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<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Present Use</th>
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<td>agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>building(s)</td>
<td>X private</td>
<td>unoccupied</td>
<td>commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ structure</td>
<td>___ both</td>
<td>work in progress</td>
<td>educational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ site</td>
<td>Public Acquisition</td>
<td>___</td>
<td>entertainment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>___ object</td>
<td>N/A in process</td>
<td>Accessible</td>
<td>government</td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
<td>X yes: restricted</td>
<td>industrial</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___ yes: unrestricted</td>
<td>military</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>___ no</td>
<td>other:</td>
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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 ___ state __x__ county ___ local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211
7. Description

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<th>__ good</th>
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<td>X. ruins</td>
<td>__ unexposed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Check one</td>
<td>X. unaltered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Check one</td>
<td>X. original site</td>
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<td>moved date</td>
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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-shoaldered 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

<table>
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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 Cockcroft in 1773. In 1804 Cockcroft sold this same tract to Bryan Marsh.¹

Whether Cockcroft or Marsh built the house is not known. Cockcroft 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 Cockcroft 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 remains 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
9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property  _approximately 1_

Quadrangle name_ Saluda South, S.C._  

Quadrangle scale  1:24000

UMT References

A

Zone Easting Northing

B

Zone Easting Northing

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>state</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>code</th>
<th>county</th>
<th>N/A</th>
<th>code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

11. Form Prepared By

John C. Blythe, Jr.  
Name/title  Historic Preservation Planner

Mary Watson, John Wells  
S.C. Department of Archives & History

Upper Savannah Council of Governments  
organization

March 22, 1982  
date

Post Office Box 1366  
street & number

(803) 229-6627  
telephone

Greenwood  
city or town

South Carolina  
state 29648

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

   _ national  _X_ state  _x_ 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.

Charles E. Lee  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Keeper of the National Register  
Entered in the

date 6/17/82

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


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


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

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.

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.


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.

Population Schedules of the Third Census of the United States.


Plat Book 3, p. 18, Edgefield County Courthouse.


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

Title Book 80, p. 302, Saluda County Courthouse.