State of North Carolina  
Division of Archives and History

INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

X MULTIPLE RESOURCE OR ________ THEMATIC NOMINATION

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Samuel Johnson House and Cemetery

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
E side SR 1157, 0.6 mi S of SR 1004

CITY, TOWN
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

STATE
North Carolina

CITY OR TOWN

VICTORY OF

CODE
037

COUNTY
Sampson

CODE
163

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY
X DISTRICT

OWNERSHIP
X PUBLIC

STATUS
X OCCUPIED

PRESENT USE
AGRICULTURE

X PRIVATE

COMMERCIAL

BOTH

PARK

IN PROCESS

EDUCATIONAL

UNOCCUPIED

PRIVATE

WORK IN PROGRESS

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

IN PROCESS

RECREATIONAL

PRIVATE

SITE

ACCESSIBLE

SEDUCATIONAL

OBJECT

YES RESTRICTED

RELIGIOUS

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

LEGAL DOCUMENTS

NO: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

N/A

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Bernis H. Oliver (919) 529-7411

STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 5173

CITY, TOWN

VICTORY OF

NAME / TITLE

TELEPHONE

109 E. Jones St.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTER OF DEEDS, ETC.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS

REGISTER OF DEEDS

Book 539, Page 186

REGISTER OF DEEDS

SAMPSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

CLINTON, N.C. 28328

STATE

6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Jim Sumner, Researcher

DATE
September 15, 1985

TELEPHONE
(919) 733-6545

STATE
N. C. 27611
Family records indicate that Sam Johnson (1787-1857) bought a 400 acre tract here in 1816 and moved his growing family from Bladen County. He reared his family in a two-story log house on the land until he had this large, late-Federal house built in 1840; the lot house has long since vanished. The carpenters were said by family tradition to have been itinerent Pennsylvania Germans. Built in a traditional rural form--two-and-a-half story, one room deep with engaged front porch and rear shed--is one of the finest late-Federal houses in the county. The form and the vigorous interior detailing is quite similar to that of the ca 1835 Murphy--Lamb House, only two-and-a-half miles to the southwest. Especially notable are the intricately carved mantels and the paneled wainscot. The present owners, who acquired the farmstead in 1945 from the estate of the widow of a grandson of the builder, have made minor alterations in a complete and necessary renovation and restoration of the house.

The handsome, late-Federal style house is two-and-a-half stories tall, one-room deep and is topped by an end-gable roof of standing seam metal with flush gable eaves and a shallow boxed cornice; a stuccoed, single shoulder chimney stands at each end. Across the west facade of the five-bay-by-three-bay house is a full-width, engaged porch carried by chamfered posts, connected with a molded handrail supported by slender, square spindles. The porch facade is sheathed with wide boards; the rest of the house is weatherboarded. Note that the windows on the front facade are not evenly spaced, nor do the second floor six-over-six sash align with the first floor nine-over-nine sash. Two small, four-pane windows light each attic gable. The porch posts follow this irregular spacing. Window and door surrounds are flat with a molding band. The owners expanded the house in 1977 with the extension of the rear shed rooms to include a utility room off the kitchen and two baths - one off the rear shed room and the other upstairs off the hall.

The interior follows a hall-and-parlor plan, with the enclosed stairs running straight back, without a dog-leg, from just inside the front door; the door between the two rooms is also located here. Vertically placed wide board sheathing completely covers the interior. The hall room has a tall, intricately carved mantel. Of vernacular character reflecting both Federal and Greek Revival elements, the mantel incorporates molded pilasters, cornerblocks, and a curious hand-carved checkerboard-like central frieze. In this room also is a wainscot of raised panels with concave corners. The mantel in the parlor, now the dining room, is similar, though neither as tall nor as intricate, and the parlor's wainscot is sheathed boarding. Both mantels have been altered with the addition of a brick-lined firebox and raised hearth. The downstairs doors have six panels similar to the hall wainscot paneling. Similar doors are in a much deteriorated and contemporary Fennell House near Clear Run eight miles southeast. The interior lock on the front door is inscribed with the British Royal Seal and the words "Carpenter Bros., Patenters. Dieu et Mon Droit" - meaning 'God and my right.' The middle of the three shed rooms arranged along the rear east was an open porch before being enclosed by the owners for a den. The shed rooms were also covered with plasterboard. The two side shed rooms contain a bedroom and the kitchen. The upstairs follows the same hall-and-parlor plan, with a short hall at the top of the stairs. Having sheathed horizontal wainscoting, these rooms are also sheathed with wide vertical boards.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form  

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Situated in the middle of a picturesque setting of fields and forest and shaded by numerous handsome trees, the farmstead retains only several typical barns. The family cemetery, located near the house, contains the graves of the builder and twelve of his descendents. Samuel Johnson's grave, dated 26 April, 1857, was the work of Lauder of Fayetteville. Ownership of the cemetery plot remains with the Johnson heirs but is included in this nomination. Among the lost outbuildings was a carpenter shop. Some of the pewter ware made here is owned by Annie Bell Johnson Stone, 3321 Horton Street, Raleigh.
**PERIOD**
- Prehistoric
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

**AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW**
- Archaeology-Prehistoric
- Archaeology-Historic
- Agriculture
- Architecture
- Art
- Commerce
- Communications
- 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** 1840

**BUILDER/ARCHITECT** Unknown

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

One of the finest Federal style houses in Sampson County, the Samuel Johnson house was built for Samuel Johnson in 1840 to replace a previous log house. The weatherboarded, two-story, five-bay structure has an engaged front porch sheltering the sheathed facade and carried by chamfered posts; engaged rear shed rooms flank an originally open central porch. The gracious hall-and-parlor interior features paneled wainscots and two intricately carved Federal mantels. Johnson, a second or third generation Sampsonian, was a large, prominent planter; his descendents became prominent in the area's development, especially in Garland. The Johnson family house sits isolated down a private land and nestled among a pine and oak grove, surrounded by the family farm. Adjacent is the Johnson Cemetery where the builder is buried.

**CRITERIA ASSESSMENT**

A. The Samuel Johnson House is indicative of the farmsteads erected in rural Sampson County during the first half of the 19th century. An example of the plantation class, the farm had access to Six Runs Creek, providing a method of transportation via the Black River.

B. Samuel Johnson, a second or third generation Sampsonian, was a member of the area's prominent, prosperous, and prolific Johnson family. A son, Jefferson D. Johnson, Sr., was instrumental in the formation of nearby Garland; a grandson, J. D. Johnson, Jr., was a State Supreme Court Justice from 1950-1959.

C. One of two similar houses in the county, the dwelling is an outstanding example of the county's late Federal sophistication. Built in the archtypical rural Federal form with engaged porch and rear shed rooms, the sheathed hall-and-parlor interior features two excellent mantels and notable concave-corner paneled wainscots and doors.

D. Is likely to yield information valuable to the study of 19th and 20th century agrarian practices.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Samuel Johnson House is located in the south central portion of Sampson County, near the community of Ingold. The house was built by Johnson around 1840 and served as the seat of his prosperous antebellum plantation. The house remained in the hands of Johnson's descendants until 1945.

Samuel Johnson was born September 12, 1786, the son of Soloman Johnson, Jr. and Ann Hawes Johnson. In 1813 he married Ann Williamson (1792-1855) and shortly thereafter purchased land on Six Run Creek near Ingold. They had eight children, most born in a two-story log house replaced by the 1840 construction of a large Federal house. The 1850 census shows that Johnson owned 700 acres, valued at $3,000, and 22 slaves. He grew typical Sampson County crops—corn, sweet potatoes, peas and beans—and owned $300 worth of livestock, including 60 swine, 30 sheep, 6 milk cows and 25 "other cattle."1

Samuel and Ann Johnson had eight children. Following their deaths in the mid-1850s, the house and land became the property of their fifth child, Amos Neil Johnson (1820-1915). He married Ellen Herring (1836-1895) in 1860. Johnson continued farming and is listed as the owner of 1,357 acres in 1889. In 1902 he deeded the Johnson house to his youngest child, Amos Franklin Johnson (1880-1935). His heirs sold the house and 245 acres to Mr. and Mrs. B. H. Oliver in 1945.2

The Johnson house contains a modest number of outbuildings and a family cemetery which contains the graves of Samuel Johnson, and both Amos Johnsons.

1Genealogical information supplied by the present owners; Seventh Census of the United States, 1850, Sampson County, North Carolina, Agricultural Schedule, Slave Schedule.

2Genealogical Information supplied by the owners; Sampson County Deed Book 120, p. 555; Sampson County Tax List, 1889.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Owner, Mildred Johnson Miller, Garland (919) 529-3511

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 245

UTM REFERENCES

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The property to be nominated is the tract of land containing 245 acres, more or less, including the family cemetery, which is registered in the Sampson County Register of Deeds Office, Book 539, page 186 and dated 27 July, 1945. A copy of the deed and a plat map (1976) are enclosed.
The 245 acres being nominated with the Samuel Johnson House have been associated with the house since the 1840s and continue to be farmed. The house and associated acreage preserve the rural agrarian nature of the property. Also on the site are a number of outbuildings and the cemetery in which the graves of Samuel Johnson and twelve of his descendants lie.