

## INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY FORM FOR

Garland & White Lake QUAD  
North Carolina

MULTIPLE RESOURCE

OR

THEMATIC NOMINATION

### 1 NAME

HISTORIC Clear Run

AND/OR COMMON

### 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S side NC 411, at Black River

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Clear Run

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Third

STATE

North Carolina

VICINITY OF

037

COUNTY  
Sampson

CODE  
163

### 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL X PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION		ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	X YES: RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES: UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
	N/A	NO	MILITARY OTHER

### 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

W. I. and Elizabeth Johnson McLamb (919) 532-2333

STREET & NUMBER

Clear Run Farms, Route 1

CITY, TOWN

STATE

VICINITY OF Garland, NC 28441

### 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

STREET & NUMBER

REGISTER OF DEEDS  
SAMPOSON COUNTY COURT HOUSE

CITY, TOWN

CLINTON, N.C. 28328

STATE

### 6 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Tom Butchko, Survey and Planning Branch

Jim Sumner, Research Branch

ORGANIZATION

Archives and History

DATE

September 11, 1985

STREET & NUMBER

109 E. Jones Street

TELEPHONE

(919) 733-6545

CITY OR TOWN

Raleigh

STATE

N. C. 27611

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>mid-20th cent.</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		The Marvin Johnson House, ca. 1898.

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

Situated in the southern part of the county on the northeast block of the picturesque Black River is the rural crossroads and former trading center of Clear Run. The river, so named because of its high tannic content and resultant dark water, is a lazy river, cutting through the extensive pine and hardwood forests that comprise its flood plain. Northeast of the community is a mixture of flat fields and more woodlands; the southwest side of the river is extensively forested. Handsome, moss-draped trees overhang the river. Crossing the river and dividing the crossroads is NC 411, a minor state highway connecting to Harrells on the southeast and Garland on the northwest.

The Black River, the major water feature of Lower Sampson County, was long a significant transportation route in the area's settlement. In the late 19th and early 20th century, when narrow, shallow-draft steamboats were able to reach up the small rivers and creeks, Clear Run was one of the major and farthest upstream landings on the Black River. It was here in about 1870 that Amos J. Johnson moved his mercantile and farming operation expanding to include sizeable naval store production and operating a personal fleet of steamboats. Johnson (1843-1914) was a farmer and merchant previously in the county's Taylors Bridge section. He moved and built a residence here in 1909. The last steamer to operate on the Black River was his A. J. Johnson, which he himself skippered; the boat, which sank at its mooring in 1914, has remains visible at low water.

Numerous buildings survive at Clear Run, the most dominant being the ca. 1898 house built for Johnson's son, Marvin. The center hall interior of the two-story, double-pile house--with a replacement two-story porch--boasts some of the county's most decoratively applied beaded tongue-and-groove interior sheathing. Covering walls, ceilings, wainscots, and stairs, the sheathing is decoratively laid in horizontal, vertical and diagonal panels. On the northwest side of the road are the remaining buildings of Johnson's commercial enterprises--the Clear Run Grocery, his furniture store, and the cotton gin. Located on the northeast bank facing the river is a frame, Federal Herring House, built in the 1830s about one-third mile east of Clear Run and moved here in 1980. A Herring House is historically appropriate at the Clear Run site because the area's original post office was named Herringville, and it was from the area's prominent Herring family that A. J. Johnson acquired much of his land. The one-and-a-half story hall-and-parlor house has excellent traditional interior features and is presently being renovated as a weekend cottage. The other major structure at Clear Run is the one-and-a-half story Colonial Revival House built in 1909 for A. J. Johnson and his first wife. The site of Johnson's turpentine still on the southern bank and several tar kilns on both sides of the river are known.

The entire Clear Run area, with extensive river frontage, is owned by W. I. and Elizabeth Johnson McLamb, the daughter of A. J. Johnson and his second wife, and their son, Amos. W. I. and Elizabeth McLamb live in the main Marvin Johnson House; Amos McLamb resides in the A. J. Johnson House, and a daughter, Beth McLamb Norris of Louisburg, is renovating the Herring House. The forested land holdings of A. J. Johnson along the scenic Black River that are still retained by the McLambs totals approximately 1,440 acres. Clear Run is an intact, rural crossroads having major importance in the state's history of riverboating on the small rivers. The remains of the steamer A. J. Johnson are of maritime significance.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

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Continuation sheet Description

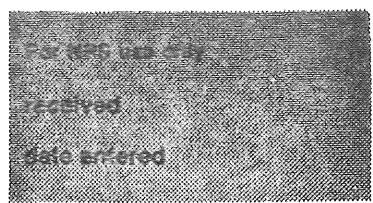
Item number 7

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The Marvin Johnson House, double-pile, two story in height and crowned by a hipped roof pierced with paneled brick chimneys with handsome corbeled brickwork, has a replacement two-tier porch sheltering the facade's central bay. The weatherboarded house was built about 1898 at the marriage of Marvin Johnson, a son of Amos J. Johnson, by carpenter James L. Cooper of Red Springs. Slender pillars, connected with a turned spindle railing--the original altar railing from nearby Salem Church, support the pedimented porch roof. Access to both levels is by center bay doors flanked by sidelights; with a glazed transom on the first floor. Cornerboards treated as pilasters rest on a wide baseboard and carry the boxed cornice with frieze; pendant brackets are applied at the corners and above the sash which are two over two throughout with the original shutters intact. On the eastern corner is the two-room ell, with an enlarged, glass-enclosed porch along the ell's southwest elevation.

The center hall and two front parlors are completely covered with decoratively-laid beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing on the first floor. The hall walls are divided into three planes by the molded chair rail and picture rail; each plane is sheathed diagonally, with the middle being the reverse of the other two. A molded cornice frames the ceiling sheathing which runs the length of the hall. The two front parlors are sheathed more simply, not being divided into the three planes; mantels are vernacular and decoratively sheathed. The open stringer staircase from the rear of the hall rises with paired turned balusters carrying the bannister and anchored by an oversize newel. The rest of the house--rear first floor rooms, the four second floor bedrooms and the ells rooms--are plastered. Mantels are traditional classically-inspired pilaster-and-frieze forms. Only the frame smokehouse and frame garage survive from the former complement of out-buildings.

The Herring House, currently under renovation, is a handsome structure having rural Federal elements. The one-and-a-half story, hall-and-parlor house faces the river, toward the southwest, and includes a replacement porch built to simulate an engaged porch. On the rear elevation is a later, engaged porch with enclosed end bays; the center, open bay is sheathed with wide vertical boards. Replacement surrounds frame the house's six-over-nine sash; sash on the rear enclosed bays are six over six. The original exterior-end brick chimneys which terminated the gable roof were lost in the move. The walls and ceilings of both the hall room, on the southeast, and the parlor were of plaster which fell during the move; the enclosed rear rooms are sheathed with wide boards. A simple chair rail and beaded-edge baseboard are used throughout. The only original mantel to survive is the tall, classical, pilaster-and-frieze mantel in the parlor. The six-panel doors are of various combinations and have a simple woodgraining detail. The front door, probably a later addition, exhibits six raised panels with rounded, cutaway corners--a door pattern found on an adjacent Fennell House and on the Samuel Johnson House near Ingold. From the parlor rises the enclosed, quarter-turn stairs leading to the single, crudely-finished attic room. Gable windows flanking the chimney shafts provided illumination from both ends of this sleeping chamber.

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The grocery and furniture store are traditional rural gable-front commercial frame structures--deep buildings with three front bays, a center door, and front gable roof. The furniture store, the original general store, appearing to date from Clear Run's beginning about 1870, is much older and of finer construction. Prominent corner pilasters support the returned boxed cornice and wide frieze; the simple, four-panel double door is quite handsome. There is a front hipped porch with replacement posts. The grocery is of the same form--gable front with returns--but has early 20th century details and a hipped porch supported by short tapered pillars resting on brick pedestals. The grocery-general store closed in 1967.

The cotton gin, located northwest of the two stores, is housed in a two-story frame building with wagon entrance on the southwest. The 45 x 20 foot building has its interior machinery intact, with the exception of the steam boiler, and last operated in the 1940s. According to the owners, it was the last gin to operate in this section; very little cotton is grown anymore in Lower Sampson County.

Located along the northeast bank of the Black River, in about one or two feet of water, are the remains of the steamer A. J. Johnson. Built at Clear Run in 1899 by John B. Robinson and towed to Wilmington for outfitting at the Skinner Shipyard, the A. J. Johnson operated from 1900 until 1914, when she sank at her mooring during a violent storm after the death of her namesake, owner and skipper. As were all the riverboats that plied the Black and South Rivers, the Johnson was a long and narrow ship, powered by steam. It hauled farm produce and naval stores and passengers to Wilmington and returned with farm and household needs for the people of this area. Water transport was much easier and quicker than overland routes. The A. J. Johnson, the last regularly-scheduled steamer on the Black River, is visible at low water.

Many former buildings at Clear Run have been lost. In the south quadrant of the cross made by the river and NC 411 was Johnson's turpentine still (he was a major local producer at least past 1900), its accompanying copper shop, and the warehouse. Here also are the locations of several former tar kilns, of which the only remains are scattered tar globs on the ground. However, several barrels of tar and pitch are stored in the cotton gin. Across the highway, and southwest of the river, stood the blacksmith shop. Behind the cotton gin in the north quadrant are more sites of former tar kilns. The many stables (at least six), cribs, and the other farm outbuildings, stood southeast of the main house in the eastern quadrant, but were eventually torn down because of disuse and deterioration.

There are 28 structures or sites of structures contributing to the significance of the nomination of Clear Run.

The Marvin Johnson House, built about 1898, was moved in recent years to a site less than a mile from the original site, but remains on the property owned by its builder. The house is integral to the context of the nomination, but are only one part of the number of significant structures at Clear Run. The dwelling was moved at the convenience of the owner, but still contributes to the overall significance of Clear Run as an important late-nineteenth-early-twentieth century commercial district as the plain, but substantial dwelling of Marvin Johnson, operator of the enterprises at Clear Run.

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- A Tenant House - mid to late 19th century. Frame, central chimney, three-by-two-bay with rear sheds and three bay front porch with turned posts. Sheathed board interior. One tall, very plain two-part vernacular mantel. In ruins.
- B Tenant House - early 20th century. Frame gable front bungalow with minimal ornamentation. Vacant.
- C A. J. Johnson House - 1909. Handsome frame Colonial Revival house, built for Johnson's first wife, who died in 1910. Characteristic form with porches and front gabled dormer. Occupied by a grandson of the builder.
- D Marvin Johnson House - ca. 1898. Built for the marriage of a son of A. J. Johnson. Large two-story double-pile, frame house with replacement two-tier center bay porch. The major structure at Clear Run. Occupied by a daughter of A. J. Johnson and his second wife.
- E Furniture Store - 1860s. This was the original general store at Clear Run, which according to Johnson's daughter, was dismantled and moved here in 1870 from the Taylor's Bridge community when Johnson moved his mercantile operations here. The 20 x 55 feet frame structure has a gable front with returning boxed cornices. The three-by-three bay structure has excellent corner pilasters, a wide frieze, six-over-six window sash and a front hipped roof. Vacant.
- F Grocery Store - early 1900s. Also gable front but its returning cornices are narrower and less detailed. Frame, 20 x 70 feet, three-by-two bay with six-over-six sash and front hipped porch carried by squatly tapered pillars on brick pedestals.
- G Smokehouse. Small 12 x 15 feet front gable weatherboarded frame structure. Batten front door. Flush front gable.
- H Smokehouse or crib. Small, 12 x 20 feet, front gable structure. Weatherboarded with some additional asphalt siding. Projecting front eaves and side sheds.
- I Herring House - ca. 1830s. One-and-a-half story hall-and-parlor plan Federal dwelling with engaged rear shed rooms and open central porch. Front full width porch shelters sheathed facade. Plaster interior. Moved here in 1980 from on farm and currently under restoration by granddaughter of A. J. Johnson. Johnson bought much of his extensive landholdings from the Herring family. There was a Herringville post office in the vicinity in the mid 19th century.
- J Barn. Large frame barn now collapsed and in ruins.
- K Johnson Family Cemetery. Excellent site on high bluff above flood plain adjacent to Clear Run Branch, which flows into the nearby Black River. Has two notable cemetery fences; a small metal one containing two graves and the larger cypress fence, with palisade fence and pointed posts - a superb example. This cypress fence is quite deteriorated in sections. It encloses a new chain link fence in which are the five graves of the builder and family - his first wife and a daughter, and his mother and father.

In the old metal fence:

Nathan R. Johnson: 22 Aug. 1857 - 20 June 1891, age 32-9-28  
Asleep in Jesus

Ben C. Barden: 27 Apr. 1867 - 9 July 1888, age 21-2-12.  
Gone Home

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In cypress fence:

Amos J. Johnson: 22 Mar. 1843 - 8 Apr. 1914.

I have fought the good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.

Emily I. Johnson, Consort of Amos J. Johnson: 31 July 1849 - 27 Apr. 1910.

Elizabeth Johnson, Consort of Amos Johnson: 27 Dec. 1807 - 17 Oct. 1877, age 69-9-20

Amos Johnson: 14 Feb. 1801 - 7 July 1871, age 70-4-23

Annie D., wife of M. W. Johnson & dau. of E.J. & M.E. Page: 6 Aug. 1882 - 9 Aug. 1905.

- L Cotton Gin - late 19th century. 27 x 45 feet. Two-story, three-by-one bay with gable roof, weatherboarded with projecting eaves and fascia board. Window are six-over-six sash. Abandoned but in fair condition. Original machinery is intact.
- M Smokehouse - ca. 1900. Frame, weatherboarded front gable with returning boxed cornice. A handsome structure.
- N Flowerpit - early 20th century. Brick.
- O Pump House - early to mid 20th century. Small frame weatherboarded structure.
- P Grape Arbor. Three posts by four posts.
- Q Barn - ca. 1917. Frame with horizontal sheathed sides. Front gable. Four stalls with upper story loft and tractor shed added on southwest. Deteriorated.
- R Tractor Shed - ca. 1835. Large, open structure with posts supporting gable roof; no side walls. Three bays. Moved here in 1954.
- S Garage - early 20th century. Frame, German-sided, two-bay garage with tractor shed on southeast. Stairs at rear of building lead to second story which has six-over-six window sash.
- T Barbeque Shed - ca. 1950. Cement block lower portion with German siding above. Brick chimney on southeast. Long brick-lined pit inside.
- U Silos. Three new, circular metal silos.
- V Hog Shed - mid 20th century. Metal roof and sides over wooden frame. Deteriorated.
- W Tobacco Barn. Gable roof, asphalt siding. Abandoned.
- X Shed. Simple front gable structure with sheathed board sides; rather nice.
- Y Animal Pen. Insignificant.
- Z Tobacco Barns, two. One frame with asphalt siding; other is log with square notching. Well-maintained.
- AA Remains of steamboat A. J. Johnson
- BB Former tar/pitch beds.
- CC Former warehouse

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DD Former Turpentine Still

EE Former Blacksmith-cooper shop

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

NATIONAL

STATE

XX

LOCAL

PERIOD

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES ca 1870 - 1930s

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The small, rural crossroads community of Clear Run, on the picturesque bank of the Black River, is an intact collection of stores, agricultural buildings and secondary residences clustered around the primary residence, a two-story, double-pile frame house built in 1898 for Marvin Johnson. His father, Amos J. Johnson (1843-1914), operated a substantial farming, naval stores and mercantile operation here. The Black River was the county's chief method of transport, on which Johnson skippered his riverboat, the A. J. Johnson, the last steamer in service on the Black River. It sank at its berth in 1914 and the remains are still visible at low water, an important relic of the time when riverboats were a major means of travel throughout the lower Cape Fear River basin. Of the several trading communities that grew up around these riverboat landings on the Black River, Clear Run is the last to survive. Upon Johnson's death, the farm was inherited by his widow, Lula Merritt Johnson (1872-1962). Marvin Johnson sold his house to neighbor C. I. Robinson about 1915; it was not returned to the Johnson family until 1943 when A. J. Johnson's daughter, Elizabeth Johnson McLamb bought the house and moved here with her husband. Their son, Amos J. McLamb, currently holds title to the farm, in addition to several hundred additional acres acquired by his father.

CRITERIA ASSESSMENT

- A. Clear Run is the only surviving former riverboat landing on the Black River. The river and its creeks were the major means early settlers had to reach the markets in Wilmington. This transportation importance of the river reached its peak during the riverboat era, 1870-1914, corresponding with the founding and growth of Clear Run.
- B. Amos J. Johnson (1843-1914), the owner and developer of Clear Run, was the area's leading merchant and industrialist, the owner of a sizeable turpentine still. He also owned and skippered his steamboat, the A. J. Johnson, from 1900 until 1914. The most noted of the steamers to service the Black River, the A. J. Johnson sank at its mooring soon after Johnson's death; its remains are still visible at low water.
- C. Clear Run comprises six major structures--three residences, two stores, and the cotton gin--that exemplify the architectural styles in Sampson County from the 1830s until the early 20th century. The residences, especially the exuberant tongue-and-groove sheathing of the Marvin Johnson House, are prime examples of the dwellings built during the period.
- D. Is likely to yield information about 19-20th century farming, commerce, industry and transportation.

## HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Clear Run is a trading center/river landing located on the Black River in southern Sampson County. The important rural crossroads is largely associated with Amos James Johnson (1843-1914), a prominent businessman. The Clear Run complex consists of six buildings, including Johnson's 1909 residence and an 1898 house built for his son Marvin. Also in the complex are Johnson's grocery store, furniture store, and cotton gin and an 1830 Herring House, which was moved a short distance into the complex in 1980.

Amos Johnson was one of twelve children of Amos and Elizabeth Robinson Johnson. He joined the Confederate Army in 1861 and was captured at the Battle of Spotsylvania in Virginia in 1864. Johnson spent one year as a prisoner of war. After his release, he established a general merchandise store and water mill at Taylors Bridge. In the early 1870s, he moved his business operations to Clear Run where he operated a general store, a cotton gin, a turpentine distillery, and a blacksmith shop. He also farmed his 1700 acres. Clear Run was one of the farthest points up river that steamboats could land. The railroad came late to Sampson County and its influence in the county in the late nineteenth century was less in Sampson than in most counties. The Johnson mercantile establishments were thus located at an important center of transporation and commerce in that part of the county.

A post office was established at Clear Run from 1882 until 1907 with Johnson as postmaster. He also served as a county commissioner, a director of the Bank of Clinton, and a justice of the County Court. Johnson was an active promoter of steamboat travel on the river and owned several such boats, including the Lisbon and the A. J. Johnson. The latter was built at Clear Run by John Robinson under Johnson's direction and operated on the river from 1899 until 1914, when she sank near Clear Run during a storm.<sup>2</sup>

In 1871, Amos Johnson married Idela Fryar. They had five children. Following Idela Johnson's death in 1910, Amos Johnson married Lula Merritt (1872-1962) in 1911. They had one child, Elizabeth (b. 1911). Descendants of Amos Johnson own over 1,400 acres in the Clear Run area. His daughter, Elizabeth McLamb, owns and occupies the Marvin Johnson house, which passed out of the family for several years in the mid-twentieth century. Johnson's 1909 house is occupied by her son, Amos McLamb, a grandson of Amos Johnson, while Mrs. McLamb's daughter, Mrs. Beth McLamb Norris, is renovating the Herring House. The Herring family sold much of the land purchased by Amos Johnson in the area. The house was moved less than a mile to its present location. The stores and the cotton gin, all vacant, are reminders of Johnson's mercantile ventures. The Clear Run property

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bizzell, Oscar M., ed., The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina. Winston-Salem: The Hunter Publishing Company, 1983.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

1,440

C Lat. 34° 44' 00" Long. 78° 17' 52"

D Lat. 34° 42' 13" Long. 78° 13' 41"

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 7 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 |  
ZONE EASTING  
C | | | | | | | | |

| 3 | 8 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 |  
NORTHING

B | 1 | 7 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 7 | 5 | 0 |  
ZONE EASTING  
D | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

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contains other outbuildings such as tenant houses, barns, smokehouses, and garages. A family cemetery is also on the property and contains the graves of Amos Johnson and both of his wives, among others.

NOTES

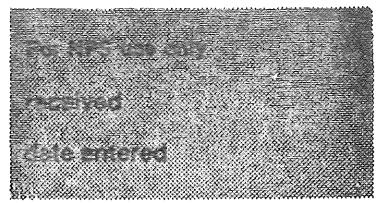
<sup>1</sup>Oscar M. Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, North Carolina (Winston-Salem: Heritage Publishing Company for the Sampson County Historical Society, 1983), 457, hereinafter cited as Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County; Sampson County Tax Lists, 1888-1890.

<sup>2</sup>Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 22, 457; F. Roy Johnson, Riverboating in Lower Carolina (Murfreesboro, N.C.: Johnson Publishing Company, 1977), 78-80, 87-88.

<sup>3</sup>Bizzell (ed.), The Heritage of Sampson County, 457; information supplied by Mrs. Elizabeth McLamb.

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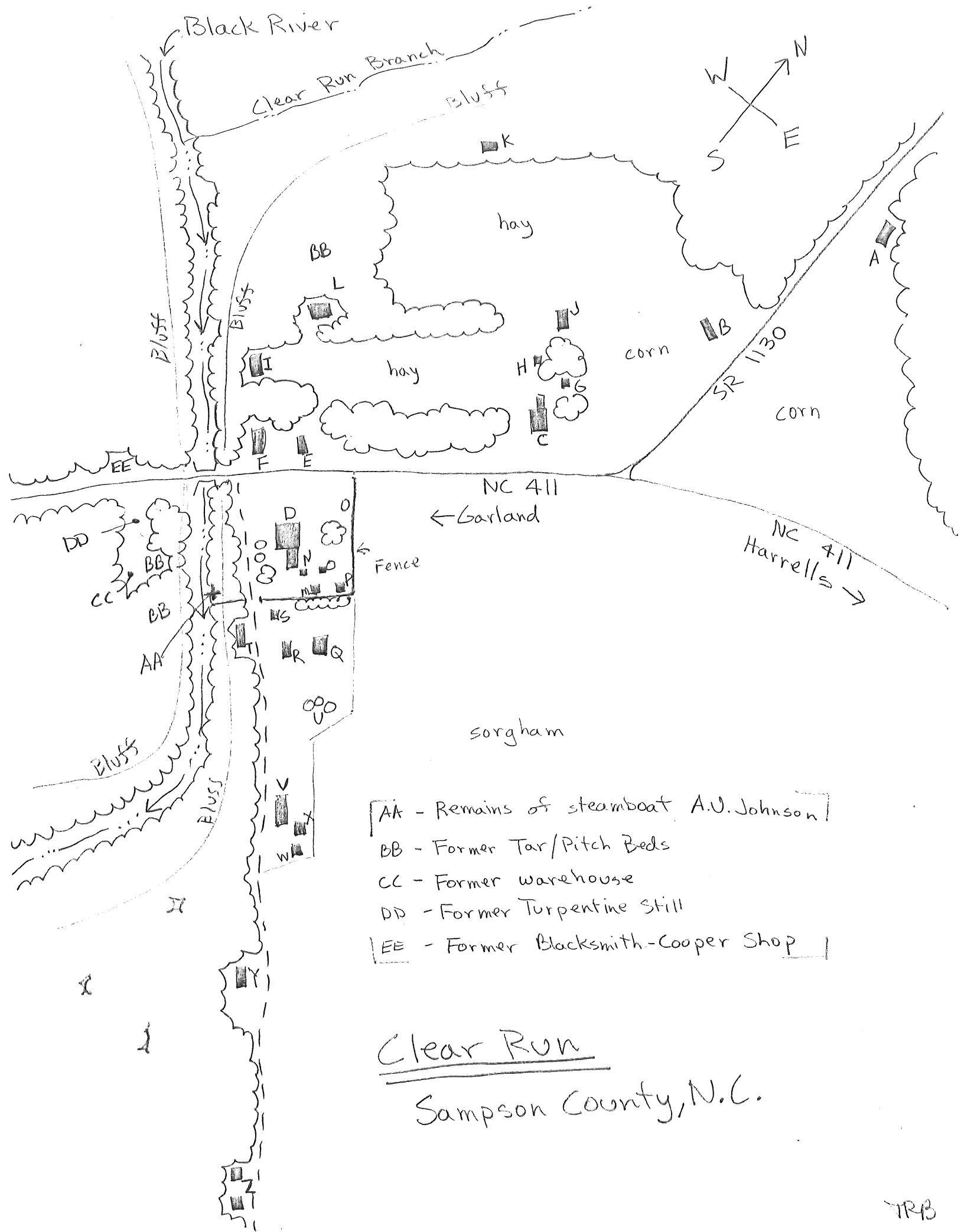


Continuation sheet	Boundary Description	Item number	10	Page 1
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Lacking both a County Tax Map and a Survey Map, the property to be nominated is enclosed in the following: Beginning at the junction of the Clear Run Branch and the Black River north of the NC 411 bridge and following the run of the Clear Run Branch to where it crosses SR 1130; turning and following SR 1130 in a northerly direction approximately 0.5 mile to a dirt lane on the east; turning and following that lane about 0.9 mile until the road's end; continuing in a southeasterly direction roughly in line with the Taylor's Bridge-Franklin Township line to the Clear Run Branch; following the run of the branch downstream to the head of the mill pond; turning and continuing in a south-southwesterly direction in a relatively straight line for a distance of about two miles to the junction with the Black River; continuing upriver to the approximate starting place. Also included are about thirty acres on the west side of the Black River and flanking NC 411 at the bridge. The total acreage is approximately 1,440 acres.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The 1440 acres being nominated with the houses and outbuildings at Clear Run have been a trading center/river landing since the 1870s when Amos Johnson built a general store and mill at Taylors Bridge. He later added a cotton gin, turpentine distillery and blacksmith shop to his enterprises. The landing at Clear Run was one of the farthest points up the Black River which steamboats could navigate, and served as a principal landing until the early twentieth century. The land was amassed by and remained in the Johnson family except for a few years in the mid-twentieth century. The land being nominated has on it several dwellings, a number of outbuildings, a cemetery, the known sites of the Clear Run enterprises of Amos Johnson, and the site of the Riverboat landing at Clear Run.



AA - Remains of steamboat A.J. Johnson

BB - Former Tar/Pitch Beds

CC - Former warehouse

DD - Former Turpentine Still

| EE - Former Blacksmith-Cooper Shop |

# Clear Run

Sampson County, N.C.

TRB

