

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Name of Property

Wake County, North Carolina
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
3	1	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Historical and Architectural Resources of Wake
County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic – Single Dwelling

Domestic – Secondary Structure

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic – Single Dwelling

Domestic – Secondary Structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

roof asphalt

walls weatherboard

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See attached continuation sheets.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

circa 1896, circa 1905

Significant Dates

circa 1896

circa 1905

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- X** State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

North Carolina State Archives

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.26

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>17</u>	<u>702608</u>	<u>3941632</u>	4	<u> </u> Zone Easting	Northing
2	Zone	Easting	Northing	5	<u> </u> Zone Easting	Northing
3	<u> </u>			<u> </u>	See continuation sheet	

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michelle A. Michael, Consultant

organization N/A date March 22, 2005

street & number 1801 Queen Street telephone 910-257-3047

city or town Fayetteville state NC zip code 28303

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. John A. Obiol

street & number 7116 Johnson Pond Road telephone 919-567-1897

city or town Fuquay-Varina state NC zip code 27526

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary:

The Kemp B. Johnson House is located on the north side of Johnson Pond Road near North Carolina Highway 401 northeast of Fuquay-Varina, Wake County, North Carolina. Fuquay Springs and Varina were two small communities that merged in the 1960s to become Fuquay-Varina. Most recently, it has become a bedroom community for the nearby state capital, Raleigh. The one-and-one-half-story Queen Anne-style house is nestled deep on its 2.26 acre lot among mature magnolia and pine facing south on Johnson Pond Road. Three other buildings share the lot.

Setting:

The Queen Anne-style Kemp B. Johnson House is set back from Johnson Pond Road at the end of a paved circular drive. Mature magnolia and pine trees, mature shrubs, and a small rock garden adorn the yard. Both the side and rear yards have been fenced to separate the house from modern obtrusions including a late twentieth century subdivision to the north and east. Although the modern neighborhood is nearby it does not interfere with the setting and association of the Johnson House to its site. Two other contributing buildings surround the house including a gable-front brick building and a frame outbuilding. A mid-twentieth century well house is noncontributing.

Kemp B. Johnson House, contributing ca. 1896, ca. 1905:

The Kemp B. Johnson House was originally built circa 1896 as a one-story, double-pile with center hall, Queen Anne-style house (Fig. 1). Paired gables pierce its high, hipped roof and an elaborate sawnwork porch adorned the facade. Less than a decade later the house was enlarged to its current one-and-one-half story form with the addition of a large, half-story gabled-roof dormer to illuminate the new stair hall. The most striking feature of the house, the attached porch was left unchanged. The porch is supported by turned posts and embellished with a turned balustrade and intricate sawnwork decoration on the porch cornice. The porch ceiling is finished with beadboard. Two tripartite projecting bay windows flank the main entrance. The entrance door is a half-glazed wood door with two cross panels below, one-cross-panel above the glass and a three-light transom above the door. All of the facade windows are narrow one-over-one double-hung wood sash with flat surrounds and louvered shutters. A one-story, side-gable, three-bay wing dating to ca. 1905 extends from the main block to the east. The wing entrance is also a half-glazed door without the transom. A second, one-story, side-gable wing projects from the west side of the house and was built onto the bedroom during the late 1940s to accommodate a three-room suite. Although it projects from the side of the house, it is recessed well back from the main plane of the facade making it easily interpreted as an addition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2 Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

Only one bay of the original house is visible on the west (side) elevation. The west elevation of the projecting one-bay wing and the shed roof of the exercise room and porch to the north are also evident. The north or rear elevation also shares the high hip roof form of the front. The one-story east wing has two bays and a wood deck. A one-story, hip-roof porch supported by square posts and Chippendale balustrade extends along the rear length of the main block. The west end of the porch is enclosed with weatherboard as a small room. The opposite end is also enclosed with windows and weatherboard as a breakfast room. The remaining porch space contains four bays sheltering one half-glazed wood door and three double-hung one-over-one wood sash windows. Centered on the second floor is a three-bay gable wall dormer with wooden balcony, added during the early twentieth century enlargement, which rests on the porch roof. The fenestration includes a modern door flanked by two modern windows. Just south is a smaller gable-roof dormer with one modern window added to house a bathroom.

The interior of the Johnson House is very stylish. The main block contains its original, basically unaltered floor plan, a traditional center hall flanked by two rooms, with a cross hall between the east rooms leading to a one-room wing. On the second floor is a side hall with three rooms. The first floor hall has approximately eleven-foot ceilings and runs the width of the house, entering from the front porch and exiting to the back porch. The stair rises from the rear of the hall and contains a small closet underneath. Wood floors, beadboard wainscot and high beadboard ceilings finish the hall. The parlor is west of the hall and also has a high ceiling. It is adorned by a bay window set across from an original mahogany mantel with mirror and overmantel. Painted wood trim includes crown molding, molded window surrounds with bull-eye corner blocks, baseboard and five-panel doors. A beadboard ceiling laid in a geometric pattern adds interest to the room. The dining room is across the hall from the parlor to the east. This room originally served as the library. It also has a bay window on the front wall. A wood mantel with reeded pilasters and frieze adorns the east wall. A ceiling medallion was added during the recent restoration. The ceiling is approximately nine feet in the dining room and is outlined by a two-part crown molding. The room behind the dining room, which is now a den, was the original dining room. It maintains its original beadboard ceiling, reeded chair rail, wood floors, baseboards and crown molding. The room behind the parlor is the master bedroom. A small closet within the bedroom contains a small, three-light casement window. Two additional rooms were added to the master bedroom in the 1940s to make a three-room suite. The master suite now comprises a master bedroom, bathroom, and exercise room.

A simple square newel post capped with a sphere marks the stair. Twenty stairs with a turned balustrade rise to the second floor of the Johnson House. All of the rooms on the second floor have heart pine wood floors, simple baseboards, fluted door and window surrounds with bulls-eye corner blocks, plain plinth blocks and seven panel doors. The front bedroom has a bay window and cedar closet. The rear bedroom has a plain closet and access to a balcony on the rear of the house. The windows and door opening onto the balcony are modern replacements. A bathroom has been added to the rear of the hall in the rear dormer. On the west side of the hall, the space inside the original front gable is a narrow room with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

unpainted beadboard walls and ceiling that originally served as storage. A small arched window is the only light.

Additional rooms are evident on the first floor north of the main block. Access is made through the den and the dining room, but there is also a small hall between the two that leads into the kitchen/family room area. This hall was originally used for linen and kitchen storage. Contained within this wing of the house is a family room, bathroom, kitchen and breakfast room. The family room is accessible from the front porch and shares a chimney with the dining room. Originally, the family room served as a bedroom and was separated from the kitchen by a wall. The mantel is wood and has a wood appliqué on the frieze. A small bathroom is in the northeast corner of the family room. The kitchen was opened to access the family room and only separated by a workstation bar during the most recent renovation. The breakfast room is behind the kitchen and illuminated by windows on three sides. It also opens onto the back porch. Pine floors, plain baseboards, fluted door and window surrounds also adorn the kitchen wing.

The Johnson house maintains a high degree of integrity for its period of significance. The Queen Anne style was maintained in the early twentieth century enlargement by accentuating the asymmetry and retaining the elaborate porch. The first floor has remained virtually intact with the exception of adding two baths and removing a wall from the kitchen / bedroom wing. The half-story, added circa 1905, stands today as it did then, with the exception of an interior bathroom and an exterior replacement door and windows on the rear balcony. The second floor interior also was originally finished with wood sheathing covered with wallpaper. The wood sheathing was covered with sheetrock in the late twentieth century renovation while maintaining the original wall configuration and placement. The minor additions and alterations do not detract from the integrity of the home or its architectural value as one of the finest Queen Anne-style residences in southern Wake County.

Storage Building, ca. 1895, Contributing

A small brick building is located west of the house and was used for storing canned goods. The one-story, gable-front building is one-bay with a shed addition to the west. The south elevation has a single five-panel door with arched surround. The south elevation of the addition is also brick but it does not match the original. A standing seam metal roof protects the structure. Weatherboard covers the west elevation of the shed addition. The north elevation contains a four-over-four double-hung wood sash window with arched surround on the original portion and an opened bay for the shed addition.

Carriage House, ca.1896, or ca. 1905, Contributing

This frame, one-story, gable-front carriage house faces east and is located southwest of the main house. The building has a batten double-leaf carriage door and weatherboard sheathing. An elongated shed-roof bay addition extends on the east side and contains a single batten door and drop or German siding. The shed-roof portion has five small casement windows with restrained gabled surrounds on the south

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

elevation. This shed-roof portion was built and used as a chicken house. A third bay is side-gable and extends from the north elevation. It is also sheathed with weatherboard and contains a single door. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. Windows are evident on the rear portion of the gabled wing; they are double-hung four-over-four wood sash windows. They are unusual in that the sashes are not the same size; the upper sash is smaller than the lower sash.

The interiors of the building sections are finished differently. The shed-roof portion has concrete floors and an exposed ceiling. The center section is completely finished with wood on the interior. The boards that sheath the walls are laid in a diagonal pattern. The side-gable north section is also finished with wood. A small shelf runs along the perimeter of the room above the windows indicating this room was probably used for storage.

Well house, mid-20th century, noncontributing.

A small frame well house sheathed with weatherboard with gable roof, is located east of the main house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary:

The Kemp B. Johnson House meets Criterion C for architecture due to its local architectural significance as one of the finest examples of the Queen Anne style in southern Wake County. The house was built around 1896 for local businessman Kemp B. Johnson. About 1905 Johnson added a half story in the Queen Anne style to the house to accommodate his growing family. The Johnson House maintains a high degree of integrity with respect to location, design, materials, workmanship, setting, feeling, and association. The historic and architectural context for the house is found in the multiple property documentation form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, NC (ca. 1770 – 1941) in Context 3: Populism to Progressivism (1885 – 1918), E51-55; and Property Type 3B: Houses built between the Civil War and World War II, F133. The house meets Registration Requirements as discussed on pages F141-142.

Historical Background:

Wake County is divided into twenty townships with the capital city of Raleigh in the geographical center of the county. The Johnson House is located in the Middle Creek Township, which was established in 1868 in southeast Wake County. Twenty years later Holly Springs Township was carved partially from Middle Creek. Geographically Middle Creek Township is in the coastal plain with sandy soils most suitable for pine forests and tobacco. Middle Creek was made up of small rural communities until the establishment of Fuquay Springs and Varina in the late nineteenth century. The railroad brought prosperity to the towns during the early twentieth century and it became a "choice tobacco-growing area throughout the twentieth century" (Lally, p. 372). Fuquay Springs and Varina merged in the 1960s to become Fuquay-Varina. In the last twenty years the town has become a popular bedroom community for nearby Raleigh.

Kemp Bethea Johnson was born on July 17, 1863, on the farm of his parents, John Lewis and Mary Johnson. John had been raised nearby in Harnett County, but established his farm in southern Wake County in a community named Cardenas. Though Kemp's early years were during and following the Civil War when depression and reconstruction were the focal point, his parents provided him with the best possible education. He attended school at two different private schools, one at Apex and one at Holly Springs (Amis, p. 222). At the age of twenty-five K. B. Johnson began a lumber business at Cardenas that proved prosperous throughout his life. In addition to the lumber business he helped form the Bank of Fuquay, the Fuquay Tobacco Warehouse Company, and the Farmers Warehouse Company of Fuquay Springs (Amis, p. 223). He married Miss Mary Alice Utley (known locally as Miss Alice) in 1895 at the age of thirty-two. One year later on July 13, 1896 a deed transfers 104 acres from W.Z. and Mary

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

Atkinson to K. B. Johnson. It was probably shortly thereafter that K. B. Johnson built his bride a new wood house with sawnwork from his lumberyard.

The original one-story K. B. Johnson House was a Queen Anne-style house with high hip-roof,, double-front gable, and an undulating porch with elaborate sawnwork and turned balustrade. By 1900, the Johnson family included two children, a girl, Ruth, and a son, Harold (1900 Census). The 1910 census indicates that the family had grown to include three more sons, Marvin, Burnette and Baird. It was between 1900 and 1910 (probably circa 1905) that Johnson expanded his home to accommodate his growing family. He raised the north gable a half story and added a small center dormer to illuminate the upper stair hall. A second floor balcony was also added to the rear of the house at this time. Johnson's business interests continued to prosper and by the second decade of the twentieth century so had his influence. He was a member of the General Assembly from 1917 to 1918 and served on the State Democratic Executive Committee. He founded and served as president of K. B. Johnson and Sons Oil Company in Fuquay Springs. At the age of 80, K. B. Johnson died tragically as he drove his car out of his driveway and collided with an oncoming train. He was buried in Wake Chapel cemetery in Fuquay. His wife, Alice, his daughter, Ruth, four sons, five grandchildren, a sister, and a brother, survived him.

Miss Alice lived in the house until her death. Ruth, the Johnson's only daughter, moved home during her mother's illness and remained in the house after her mother's death. Ruth Johnson never married and lived a most interesting life. Though she was a girl her father saw to it that she had a proper education equal to any boy's education. She traveled to Europe in 1912 where she expanded her knowledge and met many prominent and influential people. She returned to Raleigh and opened a bookstore. Her lifelong interest in history and the arts is evident throughout her life. Ruth enjoyed painting and used the second floor south room as her studio. During her mother's illness she devoted much of her time to the history of her own family and eventually published, *Concerning Our Ancestors: The Johnsons and Their Kin* (1980). Ruth was responsible for chartering the history room at Wake Chapel as well as donating an extensive collection of books to Campbell University. Ruth lived in the house until her death in 1985 at which time it passed to her brother Marvin.

In 1991, Marvin Johnson sold the house to Tony and Johanna Currin (Deed Book 04872/Page 0430). The house sold again in 1994 and yet again in 1998 when Les and Cornelia Woolard became the owners. The Woolards undertook an extensive and sensitive renovation of the house. Soon after they completed the project, they sold the house to the current owners John and Carla Obiol who hope to raise their family in the Johnson Home.

Architecture Context:

There are few examples of the Queen Anne style in southern Wake County. Of the few most are simply executed with little ornamentation. The Kemp B. Johnson House is one of the most intact and artistic of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

the examples in this region of Wake County. In the multiple property documentation form, "Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)," the Kemp B. Johnson House is included in "Houses built between the Civil War and World War I." In Lally's book, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina* the Johnson House is described as the "finest example of Queen Anne architecture in southern Wake County" (Lally, 377).

The Johnson House was originally built circa 1896 as a one-and-one-half story Queen Anne-style house with twin front gables. Each gable contained a round-arched window. Originally it was similar to many houses in Wake County including the Wayland Poole House (NR 2003) in Auburn and the Wood-Maynard House near Apex. All share the twin gable front and weatherboard siding. However, the K. B. Johnson House was enlarged circa 1905. The south gable remains intact but it appears that the north gable with arched window was incorporated into the later bay window. A gable-roof dormer was also asymmetrically placed between the two larger gables. The enlargement stylistically maintained the elements of the Queen Anne style but created a more high-style representation than the original construction. The most identifiable feature of the house and one of the most exquisite is the porch, dating from the first period of construction. Turned posts and balustrade support the attached hip roof. The posts have ornate brackets and sawnwork decoration, and the cornice is embellished with pendants unlike any other porch detail in Wake County. It is probable that Johnson's occupation as a lumberman afforded him the wonderful detailing on his residence.

In the Johnson House's early twentieth century form there are no equivalent comparables in southern Wake County. It is an extraordinary home. The Atkinson-Whitted House, also in Middle Creek, is contemporary to the Johnson House as it was built in 1895 and enlarged around 1908. It began as a one-story Victorian cottage and was enlarged to two-and-one-half stories with a corner tower. The final Queen Anne-style house includes typical elements of asymmetry, varied roof forms, and decorative windows with diamond-shaped panes. The remaining windows are narrow, two-over-two double-hung wood sash windows like those at the Johnson House. The Atkinson-Whitted House is an interesting example of the Queen Anne style but it is a very different house than the Johnson House with respect to massing and execution of the style.

Two other houses are sited next to each other in the town of Garner in southeastern Wake County. The W.L. Brooks House and the Henry Bryan House are both examples of the Queen Anne style. They are two-story, three-bay houses with wraparound porches. Both have high, hipped roofs with cross-gables, and the Brooks House boasts a corner tower with conical roof. Although they both have asymmetry, multi-gable roof forms, and high corbelled chimneys, both houses lack porch detailing. Simple Tuscan columns support the Brooks House porch while square posts support the Bryan House porch. Neither porch displays the detail and ornamentation of the Johnson House. Therefore, although there are a few examples of the Queen Anne style in southern Wake County, the Johnson House is among the finest examples and stands apart from the other with respect to its exterior design and detail.

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 8

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Books:

Amis, Moses Neal, *Historical Raleigh with Sketches of Wake County and its Important Towns*. Raleigh, NC: Commercial Printing Company, 1913.

Bishir, Catherine W., *North Carolina Architecture*. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press, 1991.

Johnson, Ruth Bethea, *Concerning our Ancestors: The Johnsons and Their Kin*. Fuqua-Varina, NC: Harold E. Parker & Sons, Printer, 1980.

Lally, Kelly, *The Historic Architecture of Wake County, North Carolina*. Raleigh, NC: Wake County Government, 1994.

Unpublished Documents:

Lally, Kelly and Todd Johnson, *Historic and Architectural Resources of Wake County, North Carolina (ca. 1770-1941)*. Multiple Property Documentation Form, 1993.

Turner, Daniel. *J. Beale Johnson House National Register Nomination*, 1991.

Interviews:

Phone Interviews with Dan Turner, Local Historian, Fuquay-Varina, NC, August 12, 2003, December 27, 2004, March 22, 2005.

Archival Records:

Survey File for the Kemp B. Johnson House, North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC

United States Census Bureau. Wake County Population Schedule, 1900, 1910.

Wake County Deed Books, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Wake County Land Records, Wake County Register of Deeds, Raleigh, North Carolina

Newspapers:

“Kemp B. Johnson Killed By Train.” The News and Observer, Raleigh, North Carolina, November 14, 1943.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 9

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

Boundary Description: The boundary that encompasses the Kemp B. Johnson House property includes 2.26 acres more or less identified in the Wake County Register of Deeds office as Deed Book 09356 Page 1673 and by Property Pin # 0677022505 as identified by the Wake County Tax Office.

Boundary Justification: The boundary described above represents the land attached to the original Kemp B. Johnson House property and encompasses the building and all contributing structure associated with the Kemp B. Johnson House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 10

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

Photographs

The following information pertains to all photographs

Photographer: Michelle A. Michael

Date: 2004

Location of Negatives: North Carolina Historic Preservation Office, Raleigh, NC

- A. View of K. B. Johnson House façade looking
- B. View of K. B. Johnson House (east) side elevation
- C. View of K. B. Johnson House (north) rear elevation
- D. View of K. B. Johnson House (west) side elevation
- E. Interior view of K.B. Johnson House stair
- F. Interior view of K. B. Johnson House parlor
- G. View of brick storage building (south) elevation
- H. View of frame storage building (east) elevation

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number ____ Page 11

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

Figure 1

Kemp B. Johnson House
Documentary Photograph circa 1900
Provided by Owners, Mr. and Mrs. Obiol



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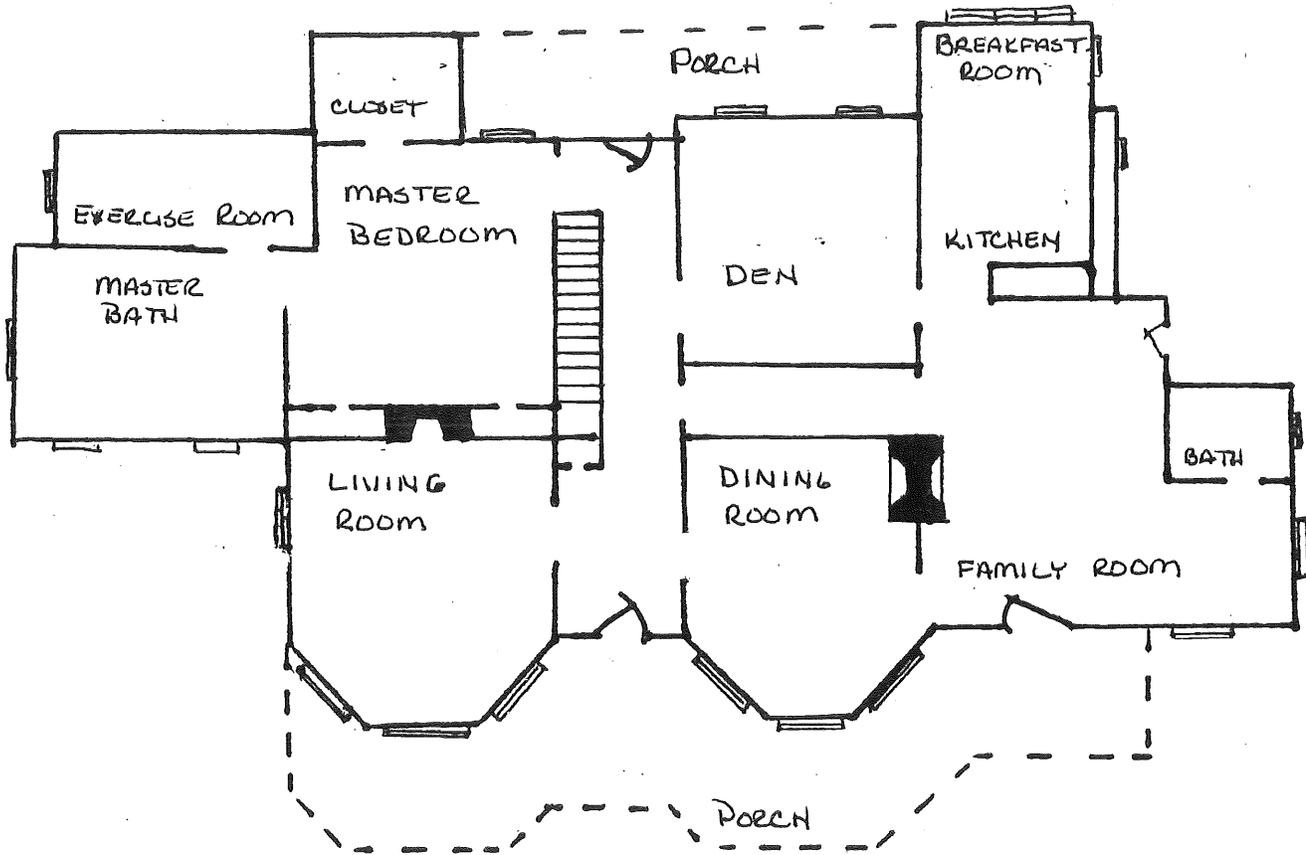
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plan Page 12

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC



First Floor Plan (Not to Scale)



United States Department of the Interior
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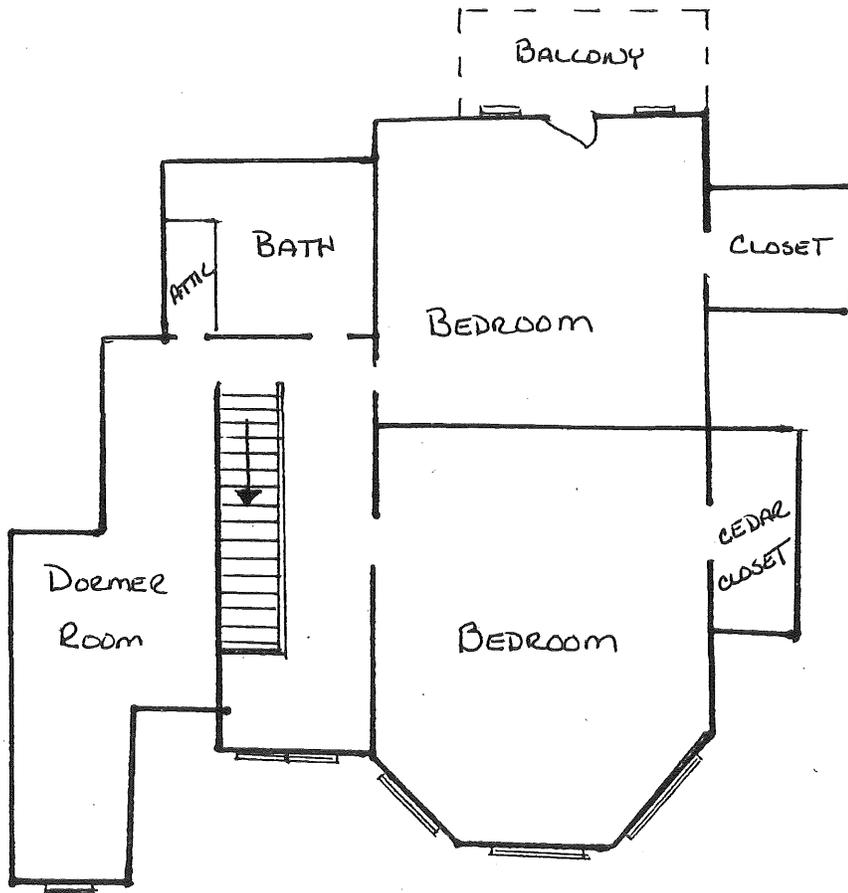
National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Floor Plan Page 13

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC



Second Floor Plan (Not to Scale)



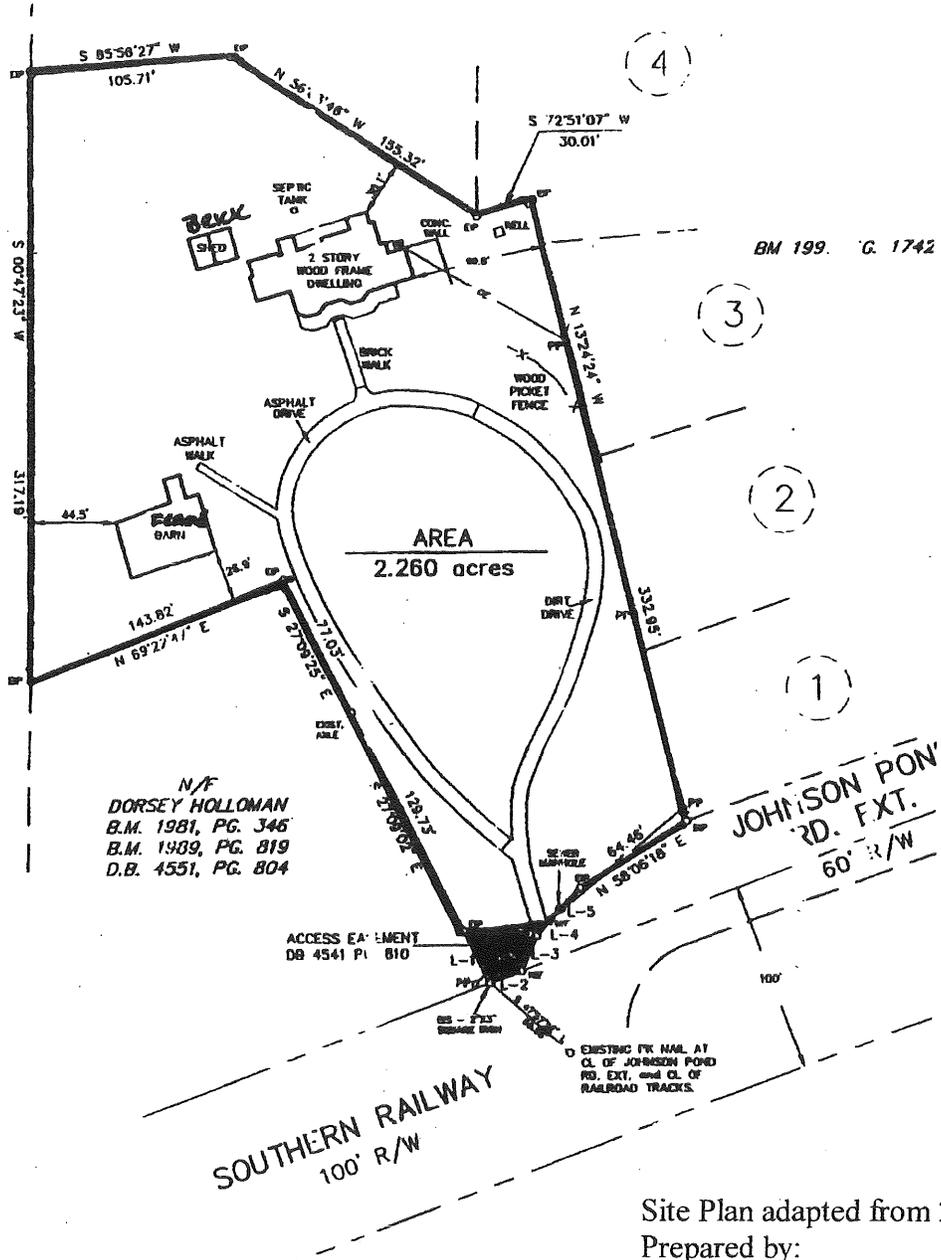
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Site Plan Page 14

Johnson, Kemp B., House
Fuquay-Varina, Wake Co., NC

Not to Scale

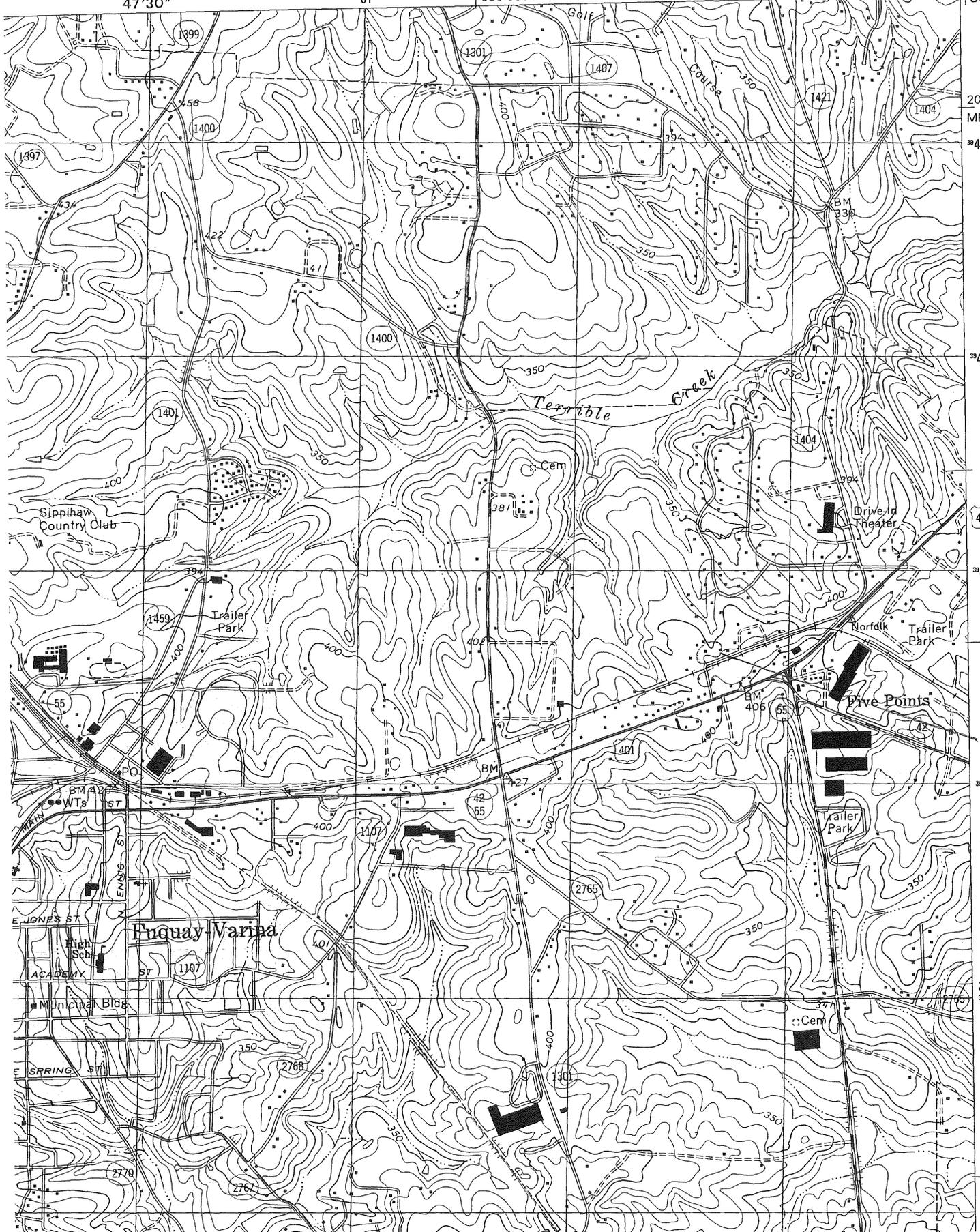


Site Plan adapted from 2001 Appraisal
Prepared by:
Earp Appraisal Service, Inc.
Selma, NC

S

FUQUAY-VARINA QUADRANGLE NORTH CAROLINA 7.5-MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

47°30' 701 630 000 METERS 703 78°45' 35°37'30"



207 500 METERS

44

43

401

42

41

35'

40

39

17 702008 344163Z

Kemp B.
JOANSON
HOUSE
N. side
SR 1404
Forest
Woods

