

72-49-2045-61

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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 Johnson House and Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Johnson Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Johnson

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Third

STATE

Arkansas

CODE
05

COUNTY
Washington

CODE
143

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Johnson

STREET & NUMBER

Johnson Road

CITY, TOWN

Johnson

VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Clerk's Office

STREET & NUMBER

Washington County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Fayetteville

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

One of northwest Arkansas' most soundly constructed houses is located at Johnson. Resting on a four-foot-thick foundation of native stone, the Johnson House is of solid brick construction with 18-inch-thick exterior walls. The interior was equally well constructed and shows little, if any, deterioration after almost a century of use.

Construction of the house began about 1880 and was completed in 1882. Bricks were made and kiln fired in a field south of the house. Stonemason M. C. Todd, whose name is carved on the northwest corner of the porch, cut the sandstone used for the entry steps, porch, water table and window sills. The carpenter's name was originally carved on a porch bracket, but was lost when the porch was remodeled in the 1920's.

The Johnson House is an ell-shape structure with a one-story wing projecting from the rear of the two-story house. The one-story ell-shape porch, running along the inside of the ell, was enclosed in 1962. A two-story porch covers the center bays of the five-bay-wide west facade.

Separating the brick walls and stone foundation is a water table of cut sandstone. The solid brick walls are set in an unusual pattern with every ninth row of bricks set lengthwise. Resting on the sandstone porch are four carved limestone blocks which support the wooden porch posts. Each of the nine-foot-tall windows has a sandstone lugsill and segmental arch.

Both sections of the Johnson House have been re-roofed and are now covered with hip roofs with exposed rafters. Brick chimneys extend above the second-story roof on both the north and south elevations. Though the paired brackets have been removed the paneled frieze on the two-story section remains intact.

On the west facade, the original one-story wooden porch with deck is still in place, but in the 1920's a roof was added over the second story. The expertly carved woodwork of the porch gives a light, decorative touch to the solid brick house.

The main entry is located on the center bay of the west facade. Set in a segmental arch like the windows, the main entry has oval sidelights over half panels. The transom has a wide oval light, set horizontally, flanked by two smaller oval lights, set vertically. A similar entry opens onto the upper porch.

On the interior, the Johnson House has a central hall flanked by a single room on each floor. Extending from the northwest is the ell wing which contains the original dining room and kitchen. Except for the enclosed porch, all rooms have 12 foot ceilings. The kitchen, which measures 16 by 18 feet, is slightly larger than the other rooms, which measure 16 by 16 feet.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

Dominating the central hallway is an oval stairway which rises two-and-one-half stories. Other features of note are the molded trim around doors and windows, paneled arches between rooms and hand-carved mantel-pieces. The most beautiful feature of the house is the ceiling in the north parlor. Made of inlaid wood, this ceiling was hand stenciled. Under two coats of clear varnish, applied in 1924 and 1947, this magnificent ceiling retains its original colors of red, black, green and gold.

Just northeast of the Johnson House is the smokehouse, constructed about 1880 of second quality bricks not suitable for use in the house. Resting on a stone foundation with a rock floor, the brick walls of the smokehouse are set in the same pattern as the house. About four feet above ground a series of vertical slits were left open for ventilation. A modern garage abuts the northeast corner of the smokehouse.

Behind the Johnson House lies a small stone wellhouse constructed in 1910. This small structure is made of cut stone like that used in the foundations of the house and smokehouse. The gable roof of the wellhouse extends to cover a small porch.

North of the Johnson House is the mill pond, fed by a natural spring. The mill race, probably built in the early 19th century, runs south from the pond, then west to a point north of the mill, then turns south to guide the spring water to the mill, located southwest of the house.

The Johnson Mill was constructed 1865-67 to replace an earlier mill burned during the Civil War. The site has been continuously occupied by a mill since the 1830's, and possibly as early as 1805. The mill is still in commercial operation.

Johnson Mill is a two-and-one-half story frame structure with a gable roof. The building rests on a stone foundation like that of the Johnson House. Though several entries are located around the building, only the lower east entry is still in use. Fenestration is very plain and spaced irregularly around the building. On the west elevation, over the terminus of the mill race, a small shed roof was added about 1910.

On the west elevation the 38-foot overshot mill wheel was originally located. In 1898 this wheel was removed and the new power source was a fifteen-and-one-half inch James Leffel Turbine. This gave way to a ten-inch Little Giant Turbine in the 1920's. The present power source, a natural gas engine, was installed about 1940. The upper two floors

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

of the mill house have always been used for grain storage, while the main floor contains the mill machinery.

Lying just to the northeast of the mill is a one story warehouse built in 1931. Like the modern garage north of the Johnson House, this intrusion does not significantly detract from the setting.

The Johnson House, Mill and outbuildings are located on a rural road just west of the Johnson community. The pastoral setting has not been greatly altered since the first mill occupied the site in the early 19th century.

SIGNIFICANCE

COD	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 type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Johnson House and Mill are two significant structures important for both their architecture and their history. Located in close proximity on a three-acre rural site, the house and mill illustrate a prosperous rural lifestyle found in northwest Arkansas in the late 19th century.

Construction of the Johnson House, originally owned by Jacob Q. Johnson, was completed in 1882. (Both Johnson's initials and the date are carved in stone on the front porch.) The house is built of bricks made and kiln fired in a field south of the house. The two-story house is ell-shape with a one-story wing projecting at the rear. Across the west facade a two-story wooden porch features paneled columns, arcade-like balusters and jigsaw trim. This decorative porch, segmental-arched fenestration, and paneled frieze add interest to the solidly constructed brick house. The interior retains its original spiral staircase, paneled archways and mantelpieces; however, the most impressive feature is the inlaid stenciled ceiling in the north parlor.

Two small outbuildings of early construction emphasize the rural atmosphere of the Johnson farm. Behind the house is a small wellhouse built in 1910. It is of the same type of native stone found in the foundation of the house. Just north of the house is a brick smokehouse constructed about 1880. An important part of farm life, the smokehouse was used to cure and store meats for family consumption. Most country smokehouses were quickly constructed and thus easily destroyed, but great care was taken in building the Johnson smokehouse. Though "second" quality bricks were used, they were set carefully over the stone floor. Ventilation slits encircle the building about four feet above the ground. This well-preserved smokehouse is a very important example of Arkansas farm life in the late 19th century.

Since its original construction the Johnson House has remained in the Johnson family. Jacob Q. Johnson, who had 13 children, sold the house to his brother, Benjamin F. Johnson. Later the house belong to Benjamin's son, Burtos Benjamin Johnson; it is now owned and occupied by Marion Frank Johnson, son of B. B. Johnson. Having been passed down through the family, the Johnson House has remained in excellent condition.

Of even greater historic significance than the Johnson House is the Johnson Mill, located about a quarter mile southwest of the house. This two-and-one-half story frame building has housed a continuously operating grist mill

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 1

since its construction in the 1860's. Food production, now a very important industry in Washington County, began early in this area with mills such as the Johnson's.

The Johnson Mill occupies a site long associated with mills. During the original land survey in 1834, the site was occupied by the Truesdale Mill and another mill. The survey notes describe "Truesdale Mill about three chains to the left - old mill to the right about 200 links,..."* If land surveyors in 1834 referred to the mill as "old," then it is probable that it was built much earlier in the century. At any rate, since 1834, and possibly long before, the site has been associated with a mill.

The first claim on the property was filed in 1838 by Mr. John Pyeatte Moore. After his death in 1850 the property passed through a number of hands. The Arkansas Products of Industry Census of 1860 list it as "Sutton's Mill," and deed records indicate that it was then owned by Isabella Sutton, widow of Senaca Sutton, who was appointed but died in 1858 before he could serve as first postmaster of the newly created Spring Mill Post Office. In 1860 Sutton's Mill was valued at \$10,000 and processed over \$40,000 worth of grain per year.

During the Civil War northwest Arkansas was the scene of a great deal of fighting. Following the Battle of Pea Ridge in 1862, retreating Confederate soldiers burned the Truesdale-Sutton Mill, thus preventing the Union troops from capturing and using the mill. The site lay empty until after the war when the present mill was built.

In November, 1865, the deed was filed transferring the mill property, with improvements and appurtenances, to William, Samuel and Lucinda Mayes, and Jacob Q. and Rhetta J. Johnson. Almost two years later J. Q. Johnson registered as the miller of "Spring Mill;" thus, construction of the present mill probably took about two years, being completed in 1857. Since that time the mill has remained in continuous operation. In 1880 the Mayes' sold their portion of the property to the Johnson's, and the ownership of the mill has since then coincided with that of the house.

Originally the mill had a 38-foot overshot water wheel attached at the west elevation. The wheel was powered by spring water channeled through a mill race. In 1898 a turbine replaced the overshot wheel, and the big wheel was removed. About 1940 the present owner began using a natural gas-powered engine to operate the mill machinery.

The Johnson House and Mill are an important part of northwest Arkansas' history. Exemplifying 19th century architectural styles, farm life and rural commerce, the Johnson farm is a most significant historic site.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

*Bobbi Lynch, "Early Mills of Washington County," Flashback (February, 1976), p.2.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Johnson, M. F. Personal interview at Johnson House and Mill, Johnson, Arkansas, July 16, 1976.

Lynch, Bobbi Byars. "Early Mills of Washington County." Flashback, February, 1976, pp. 1-5.

Research information relating to the Johnson House and Mill.
Copies on file with Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, Little Rock, Ark.

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2.75 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A

115	394010	399960
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Mrs. Bobbi Lynch, Washington County Historical Society and Dianna Kirk, Historian,

ORGANIZATION

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

DATE

9-14-76

STREET & NUMBER

300 West Markham

TELEPHONE

501-371-1639

CITY OR TOWN

Little Rock

STATE

Arkansas

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

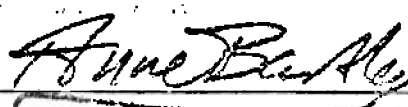
NATIONAL

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 Anne Bartley



TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 9-14-76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Johnson House and Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Johnson

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Cyrus Sutherland

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

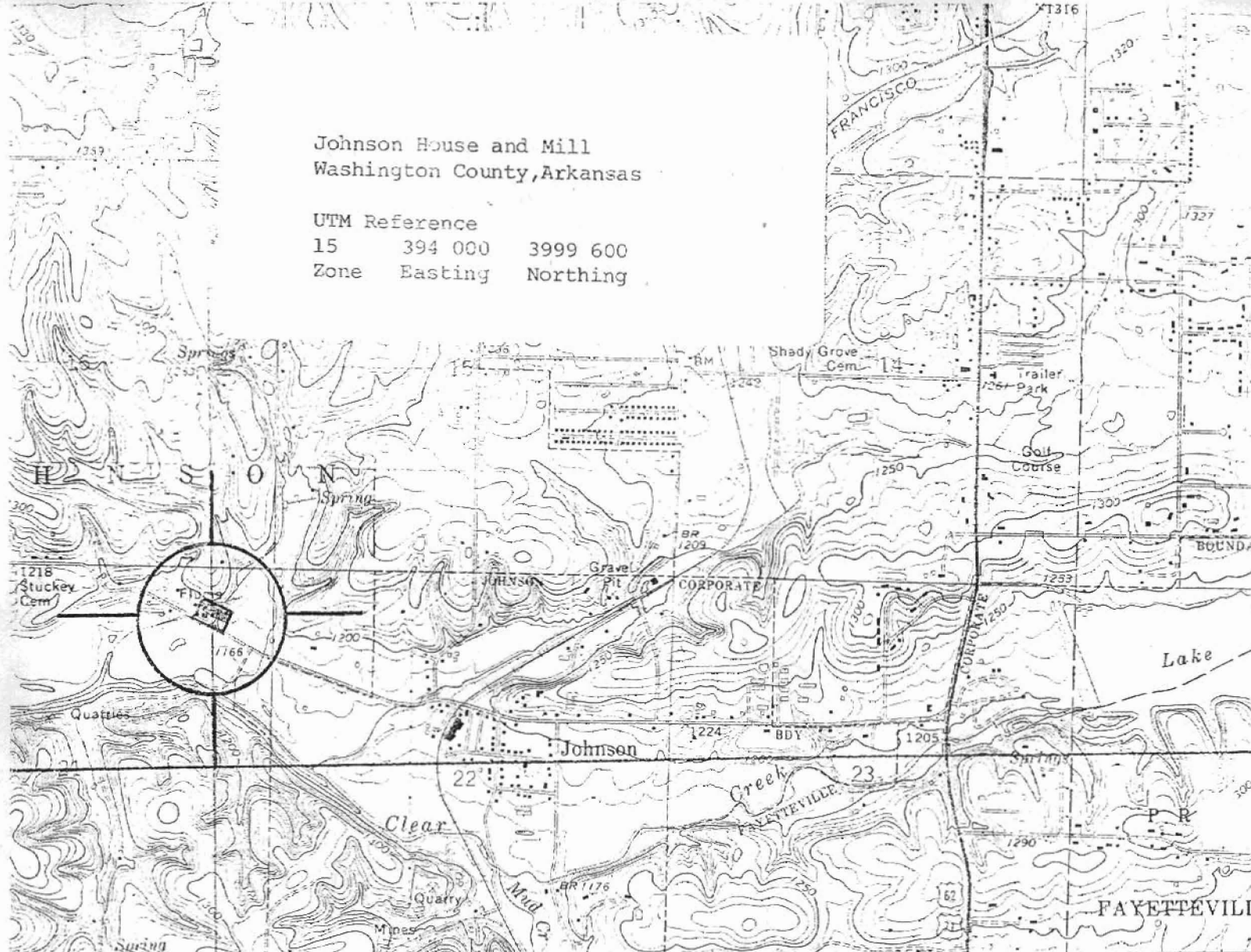
PHOTO NO.

Johnson Mill, viewed from west, note Johnson House in left background

2

Johnson House and Mill
Washington County, Arkansas

UTM Reference
15 394 000 3999 600
Zone Easting Northing



EVILLE) SW 24000
1 MILE
4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER

VAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
MISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201
AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, Unimproved weather hard surface
U. S. Route State

SPRING N3607-5

AMS 7155 II

BENTON CO
WASHINGTON

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH



1 NAME

HISTORIC Johnson House and Mill

AND/OR COMMON



2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN Johnson

VICINITY OF

COUNTY Washington

STATE Arkansas



3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Cyrus Sutherland

DATE OF PHOTO 1976

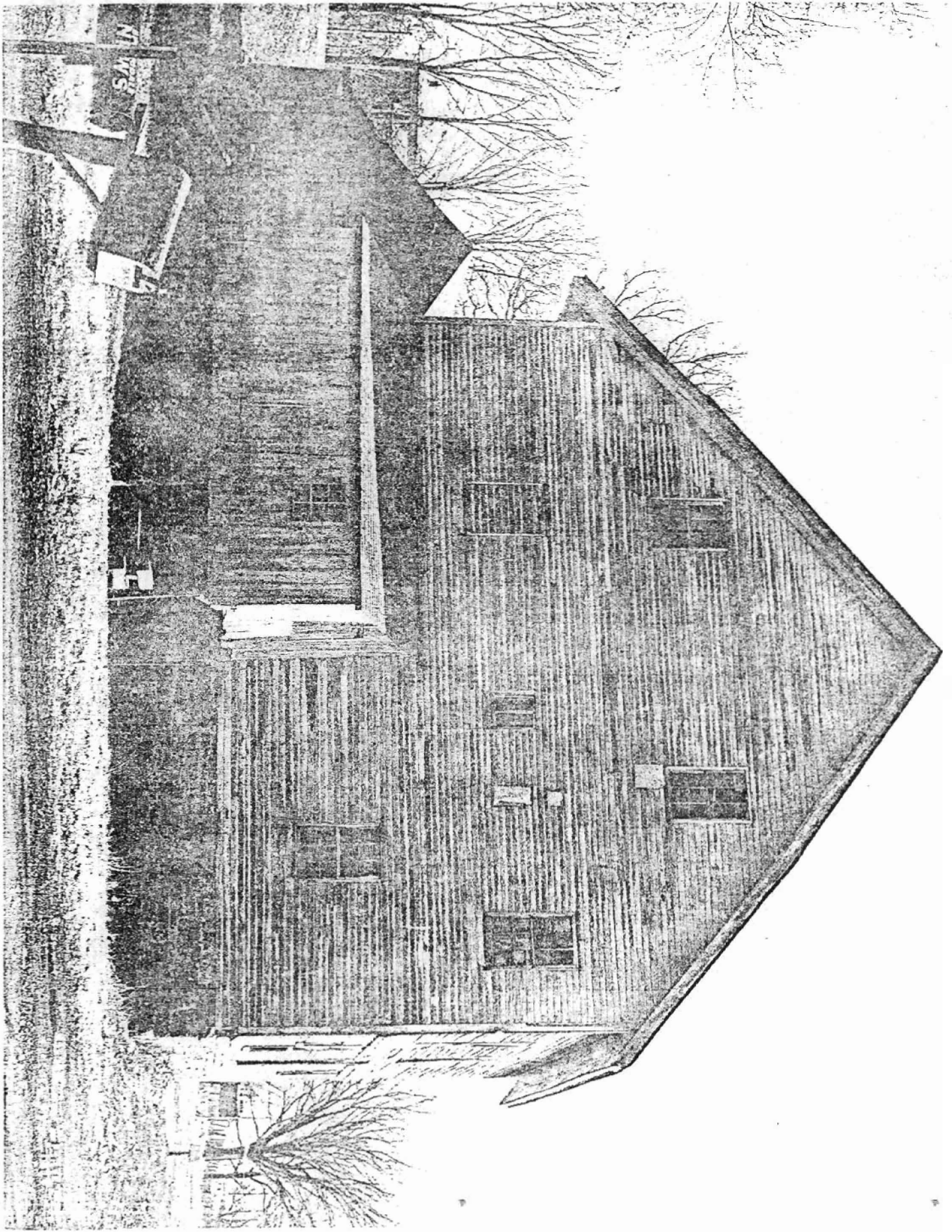
NEGATIVE FILED AT Arkansas Historic Preservation Program



4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Johnson House, viewed from west

PHOTO NO.
1



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Products of Industry Census, Washington County, 1850, 1860, 1870. Microfilm,
Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.

Springdale News (Springdale, Arkansas), December 21, 1975.

Steele, Philip. "Johnson's Mill." Flashback, May, 1976, pp. 33-35.

Washington County Deed Record Books: Book 34, p. 258; Book G, p. 604; Book I,
p. 210; Book J, p. 103; Book O, p. 528 & 542; Book E-2, p. 152 & 154;
Book 61, p. 117. Washington County Courthouse, Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Washington County Miscellaneous Book, p. 252. Washington County Courthouse,
Fayetteville, Arkansas.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

NAME

HISTORIC

Johnson House and Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Johnson

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Washington

STATE

Arkansas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S., Springdale Quadrangle

SCALE 1:24,000

DATE 1970

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM



"THE OLD STATE HOUSE". 300 WEST MARKHAM

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
TELEPHONE - 501 371-1

PROPERTY OWNER'S APPROVAL

I, M. F. Johnson & Wife, am the legal
owner of the House of Mill
located at 1 Mi West Johnson, Ark.

I hereby acknowledge that I have been fully informed and understand the significance of having the aforementioned property placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

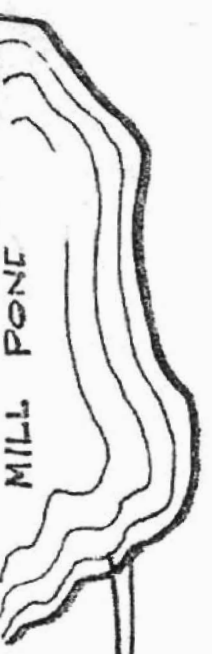
I hereby approve the inclusion of the aforementioned property on the National Register of Historic Places.

M. F. Johnson Edith Johnson
Owner
July 21 - 1976
Date

We will not open to the Public.

MILL POND

MILL RACE



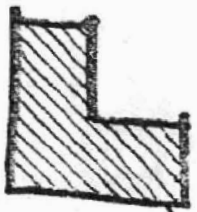
GARAGE
(INSIGNIFICANT)



SMOKEHOUSE



JOHNSON HOUSE



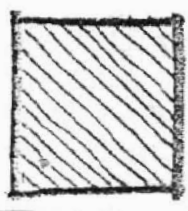
WELL HOUSE



WAREHOUSE
(INSIGNIFICANT)



JOHNSON
MILL



J O H N S O N R O A D