NPS Form 10-900a
(Aug. 2002)

OMB Approval No. 1024—0018
(Expires Jan. 2005)

**United States Department of the Interior**
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

## SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 05000739 Date Listed: July 27, 2005

Property Name: June and Nora Thompson House

County: Lawrence State: Mississippi

none
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Daniel J. Vivian
Signature of the Keeper

June 27, 2005
Date of Action

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Amended Items in Nomination:

Section 2. Location
The street and number of the property is hereby changed to:

Sutton Road, 0.3 miles north of its junction with Crooked Creek Rd.

This change was made in consultation with and approved by the National Register staff of the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office.

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The Mississippi State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

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**DISTRIBUTION:**
**National Register property file**
**Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)**

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
**United States Department of the Interior**
**National Park Service**

RECEIVED 2280
JUN 13 2005
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 1024-0018

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**
**REGISTRATION FORM**

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: **Thompson, June and Nora, House**
other names/site number:

## 2. Location

street & number: **Sutton Road** not for publication ___
city or town: **New Hebron** vicinity _X_
state: **MS** code: **MS** county: **Lawrence** code: **077** zip code: **39140**

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide _X_ locally. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. Pearl — June 9, 2005
Signature of certifying official — Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
____ entered in the National Register,
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

for Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action
Daniel J. Vivian — 7/27/05

## 5. Classification

**Ownership of Property:**
Private

**Category of Property:**
Building

**Number of Resources within Property:**
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | | buildings |
| | | sites |
| | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 1 | | Total |

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions:** DOMESTIC/single dwelling

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification(s):** No Style

**Materials:**
foundation: WOOD/Log
roof: METAL
walls: WOOD/weatherboard
other

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

## 8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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.
- X 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:**

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**
ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance**
1902

**Significant Dates**
1902

**Significant Person(s)**

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

**Architect/Builder**

**Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

**Bibliography** See continuation sheet.

**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**

- ___ State Historic Preservation Office
- ___ Other State agency
- ___ Federal agency
- ___ Local government
- ___ University
- ___ Other

Name of repository:

_____

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approx. 1 acre

| UTM References: | | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | A | 15 | 782300 | 3513860 | C | | | |
| | B | | | | D | | | |

___ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description:** Boundary is square with sides of 200 feet, centered on the roof ridge of the Thompson House.

**Boundary Justification:** Boundary includes the Thompson House and its surrounding yard, which was planted and maintained by the Thompson family. It does not include the farmlands around the house.

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Mildred Newsom (owner), Jennifer Baughn (architectural historian)
organization: Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History date: Jan. 2005
street & number: P.O. Box 571 telephone: (601) 576-6940
city or town: Jackson state: MS zip code: 39205-0571

## 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(s)

name: Mr. & Mrs. John B. Newsom
street & number: P.O. Box 52 telephone: 601-694-2215
city or town: New Hebron state: MS zip code: 39140

**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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**Narrative Description**

The June and Nora Thompson house—constructed of heart pine selected and hand-cut from trees grown on the property—was built in 1902 by Albert Drummond, brother-in-law of Nora Thompson. Located in Lawrence County, in the south central section of the state, the house occupies a rural setting on a slight rise on the east side of a paved rural road. The house sits about 200 feet from this road, and is otherwise surrounded by farmland and woodlands.

The house is classified as an "L-front" form (see Statement of Significance), with a gable-front wing to the left on the W façade, and a side-gable lateral wing to the right [Photo 1]. The building's footprint forms the shape of a lopsided T, as the gable-front wing is three rooms deep, while the lateral wing is a single pile. A shed porch fills the L on the façade, and another shed porch, partially enclosed, wraps around the rear [Photo 4]. A third shed porch was originally located on the rear of the gable-front wing, off the kitchen, but it has been removed.

A cross-gabled roof tops the main core of the house, clad in corrugated metal (probably originally pressed-seam metal). The house rests on a foundation of large wood logs, with the north side of the house about four feet above ground [Photo 5] and the south side only one to two feet. The exterior walls are faced with circular-sawn unpainted clapboard, windows throughout are 4/4 wooden double-hung sash, and exterior decoration is provided by simple cornice returns on the gable ends and nicely boxed eaves [Photo 3]. Two stone and brick chimneys pierce the roof—a large one at the intersection of the two main gables, and a smaller one in the kitchen at the rear of the gable-front wing. A third brick chimney, with a detached flue, is on the exterior, at the end of the lateral wing (S elevation).

The two porches were welcome places for visitors to sit and "rest a spell," while providing relief from the Mississippi heat. The porches are supported on simple wood posts; no balustrade is on the front porch, while an open railing lines the back porch. The walls under the front porch are of unpainted beadboard, and the main entrance consists of a 5-panel wood door flanked by 2-light, 1-panel sidelights. The rear entry is less detailed, featuring a simple board-and-batten wood door with no sidelights.

The interior layout of the house consists of a center hall dividing a parlor, which doubled as a guest bedroom, to the right, and two bedrooms, a dining room, and a kitchen to the left. According to family tradition, the center hall was originally an open dogtrot. Although this would have been highly unusual for an L-front-plan house of this period (dogtrot houses typically date from the nineteenth century and normally have full front porches and symmetrical massing), the physical evidence does offer support for this assertion. The lower sections of both the front and back walls in the hallway do appear to have been added later, and the cladding of the center hall walls and ceiling is beadboard like the front porch, rather than flushboard like the other interior rooms. Apparently, Mrs. Thompson acquired the front entrance with its sidelights in Wesson, a railroad and cotton mill town approximately 50 miles to the

west. The enclosure of the front probably occurred early in the house's history and would have "dressed up" the façade and created a more unified face. But according to Mildred Newsom, granddaughter of the Thompsons, the back part of the dogtrot, opening onto the rear porch, remained open until later, within Mrs. Newsom's lifetime. The physical evidence also supports this, as the rear entrance is much simpler and the enclosing wall is made of plywood rather than finished planks as in the front. This enclosure probably occurred by the 1930s or early 1940s at the latest.

Originally, the kitchen was built separately from the house and was joined to it by a wooden walkway. Several years later the kitchen was torn away and moved into the main house, complete with a wood-burning stove connected to the third chimney. The original stove is still there today. Since there was no indoor plumbing, water was obtained from an outdoor well and bathroom facilities consisted of an outhouse.

The interior of the house is mostly intact, with the only changes from the original being the widening of the entrance from the center hall to the parlor in the lateral wing and the same treatment of the doorway between the rear kitchen and center room in the gable-front wing. The interior walls and ceilings in the front two rooms are sealed with painted, wide, pine boards. The walls in the dining room and kitchen are rough and unfinished and were originally finished with wallpaper rather than painted as in the other rooms. The bare floors are also made from wide boards. These boards were cleaned with handmade straw brooms and a scrub broom made of corn shucks. Doors are 4-panel and feature original box locks. Secondary doors to closets and rear exterior doors are either board-and-batten with strap hinges or 5-panel doors. Ceilings average 10' 9" in height.

There are three fireplaces in the house. One is located in the parlor, while a double fireplace provided warmth for the front bedroom and dining room. The double chimney has a base of sandstone, which had been cleared from the land and set in clay. While the mantles in the front bedroom and dining room are clearly handmade [Photo 8], featuring pilasters consisting of a single plank topped by a piece of beadboard that forms an almost abstract bracket in the entablature area, the mantle in the parlor is just as clearly professionally constructed, probably bought from a catalog or dealer. While not of a highly articulated style, the parlor mantle does feature reeded pilasters, curved brackets, and a sawtooth cornice [Photo 7]. In addition to the three mantles, another piece of original built-in furniture is the corner cabinet in the dining room, a simple piece that is decorated with reeded moulding [Photo 10].

The casual landscaping is typical of a farmhouse yard of this period. Two old cedars are in the front yard, to either side of the house, and a large oak stands just to the south. Perennials common to the area—including daylilies, irises, and daffodils—are planted in roughly defined beds in the front and side yard. A plank rail fence with barbed wire surrounds the house, separating it from the fields around it and the road in front.

Today, the house is furnished and has been updated with electricity. There have been some repairs periodically, but nothing has been done to alter its authenticity. To visit this 100-year-old house is to step into the past. It has remained in the Thompson family for more than a century, and has helped the younger generations stay connected with their ancestral heritage. To quote Eudora Welty, "The memory is a living thing. All that is remembered joins and lives—the old and the young—the past and the present—the living and the dead."

## Statement of Significance

The June and Nora Thompson House, built in 1902, is locally significant under Criteria C as an intact example of an early twentieth-century Mississippi farmhouse. Its L-front plan is perhaps the most common vernacular house form for rural and small-town houses in the state from about 1890 to 1915. Its popularity was due to its standardized features, the evolution of its interior floorplan from earlier established house plans, and its adaptability to the asymmetrical nature of the Queen-Anne style. Although a simple, not highly decorated example, the Thompson House nevertheless would have been typical for a middle-class farm family in Mississippi, and it is highly intact.

The L-front, sometimes referred to as a gable-front-and-wing plan, is actually not derived from that New England predecessor. Instead, it developed from the center-hall planters' cottages common in Mississippi throughout the nineteenth century. Instead of the main entrance being located in the gable-front portion of the façade—as it is in the gable-front-and-wing—it is located at the center of the façade in the lateral section of the L-front, and typically is sheltered under a shed or hip roof porch which "fills in" the L.[1] L-front houses became popular in an era of increasing sophistication in the building trades and standardization in building materials. Consequently, they commonly were constructed of mill-sawn lumber, store-bought doors, beadboard, and other items that could be bought from industrial sources more easily and cheaply than they could be handmade on site, as they had been in the past.

The house's L-front form, although later than the vernacular types highlighted in the thematic group "Folk and Vernacular Thematic Resources of Lawrence County" (listed NR 29 Sept 1980) is within the same continuum, and thus represents a later evolution of the vernacular tradition in Lawrence County, rather than a new development or a break with past traditions. This is especially true if the center hall was originally a dogtrot, as family tradition asserts and physical evidence seems to indicate.

The house is all that is left of a once thriving community that grew up around the Great Southern Lumber Company, a sawmill located just across the road. A boarding house, a school building, and small pre-fabricated houses were provided for the mill hands, and the Thompsons ran a general store—fronting on the road, just in front of their house—catering to mill employees to supplement the income from their farm. Today, none of these buildings remain.

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[1] Richard Cawthon, Chief Architectural Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, explains the use of the L-front terminology: "There is no standard terminology for this house form. I prefer the term 'L-front.' Virginia and Lee McAlester, in ***A Field Guide to American Houses*** (p. 312) use the term "gable front and wing," but I regard this as an erroneous use of the term, which was coined to be applied to the northern and midwestern house form discussed by the McAlesters on p. 193, which has a front-facing entrance in the projecting gabled portion (see Pierce F. Lewis, "Common Houses, Cultural Spoor," especially figure 13). James C. Massey and Shirley Maxwell, in "Victorians Plain and Popular," ***Old-House Journal*** xxiv:6 (Nov.-Dec.1996), (pp.20-22) use the term "gable-and-ell," which is somewhat better, but it still conveys the impression that the lateral portion of the house is an appendage. The term "L-plan" is also used, but this implies that the entire shape of the house has the form of an L, rather than just the front facade. Richard J. Cawthon, Unpublished manuscript "Selected Late Victorian L-front Houses," dated 17 June 1997.

## Bibliography

Cawthon, Richard. Unpublished manuscript "Selected Late Victorian L-front Houses." 17 June 1997.

Lewis, Pierce. "Common Houses, Cultural Spoor. *Landscape* 19, no. 2 (January 1975): 1-22.

Massey, James C., and Shirley Maxwell. "Victorians Plain and Popular." *Old-House Journal* 24, no. 6 (Nov.-Dec.1996): 20-22.

McAlester, Lee and Virginia. *A Field Guide to American Houses.* New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993.

**Photos**

The following information is the same for all photographs:

1.) June and Nora Thompson House
2.) New Hebron vicinity, Lawrence County, Mississippi
3.) Jennifer V. O. Baughn, MDAH
5.) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

**Photo 1 of 10:** 4.) November 9, 2004
6.) W façade and S elevation, view to NNE

**Photo 2 of 10:** 4.) April 29, 2005
6.) W façade, porch and main entrance, view to E

**Photo 3 of 10:** 4.) November 9, 2004
6.) detail of cornice return and boxed cornice on W façade, view to E

**Photo 4 of 10:** 4.) November 9, 2004
6.) S and E (rear) elevations, view to NW

**Photo 5 of 10:** 4.) November 9, 2004
6.) N elevation, view to S

**Photo 6 of 10:** 4.) April 29, 2005
6.) center hall looking toward back porch, view to E

**Photo 7 of 10:** 4.) April 29, 2005
6.) parlor mantle, view to SE

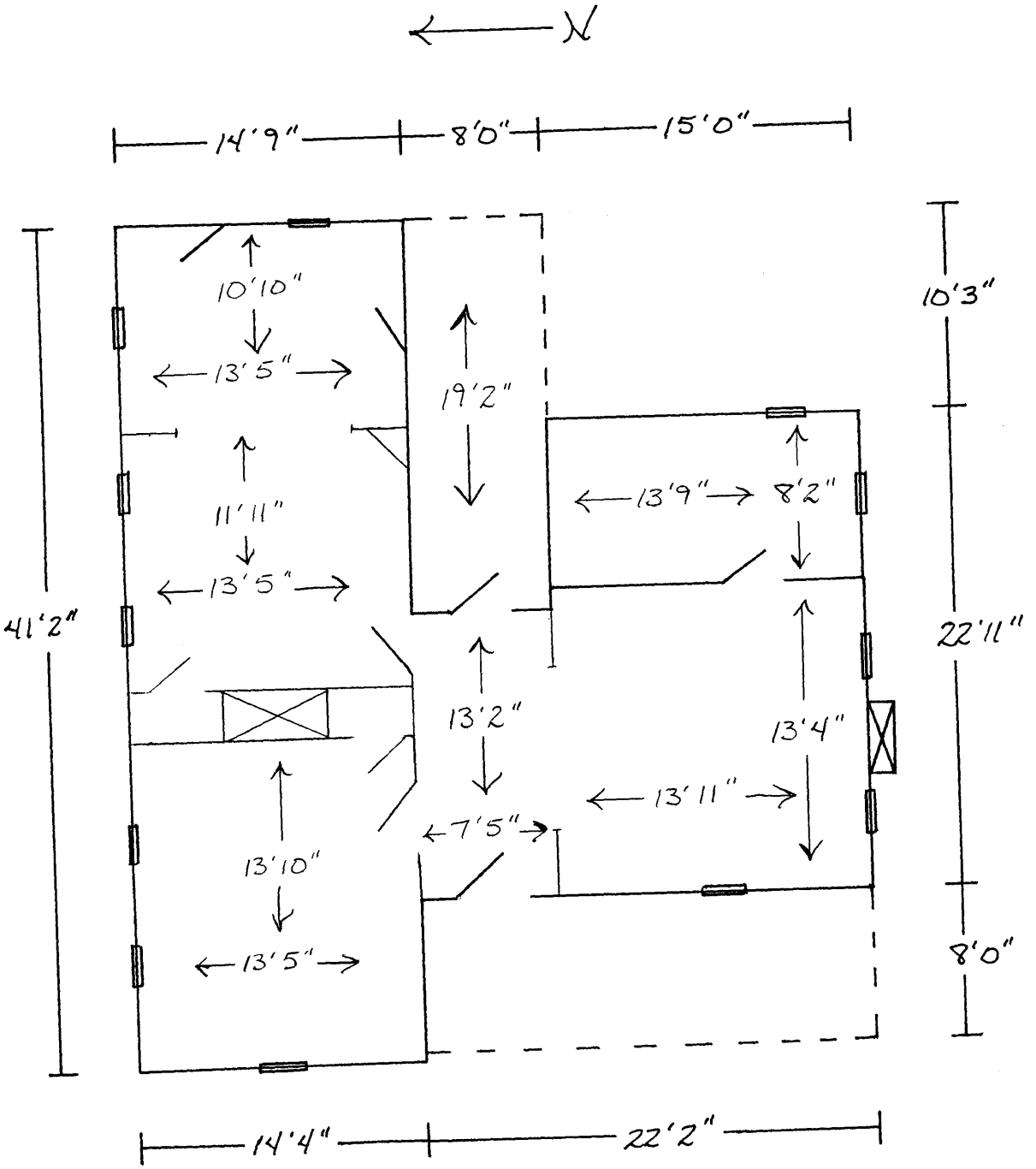
**Photo 8 of 10:** 4.) April 29, 2005
6.) front bedroom mantle, view to E

**Photo 9 of 10:** 4.) April 29, 2005
6.) front bedroom, showing 4-panel and 5-panel wood doors and flushboard walls, view to SE

**Photo 10 of 10:** 4.) April 29, 2005
6.) corner cabinet in dining room, view to SE

# JONE & NORA THOMPSON HOUSE

NEW HEBRON VIC., LAWRENCE CO.
MISSISSIPPI



Tunes Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vicinity, Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 1 of 10

June & Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vicinity, Lawrence Co., Mississippi
Photo 2 of 10

June & Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vicinity, Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 3 of 10

Tune & Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vic., Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 4 of 10

Tune of a Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vic, Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 5 of 10

NATURE TRAIL

June & Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vic., Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 6 of 10

June & Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vic., Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 7 of 10

Tune & Nora Thompson House
New Hebronvic, Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 8 of 10

June & Nora Thompson House
New Hebron vic, Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 9 of 10

The Rooster may crow but the Hen delivers the goods.

June & Nora Thompson House
New Hebronvic, Lawrence Co, Mississippi
Photo 10 of 10