

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination FormSee instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For NPS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common The Architecture of Andrew Johnson in North Mississippi

2. Location

street & number N/A

N/A not for publication

Batesville, Como, Crenshaw, Sardis,
city, town and Byhalia N/A vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Mississippi

code 28

county Panola/Marshall

code 107/93

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic	<input checked="" 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 Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town

vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

Office of the Chancery Clerk
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Marshall County Courthouse/Panola County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square/211 Pocahontas

city, town Holly Springs, Sardis

state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1980-82

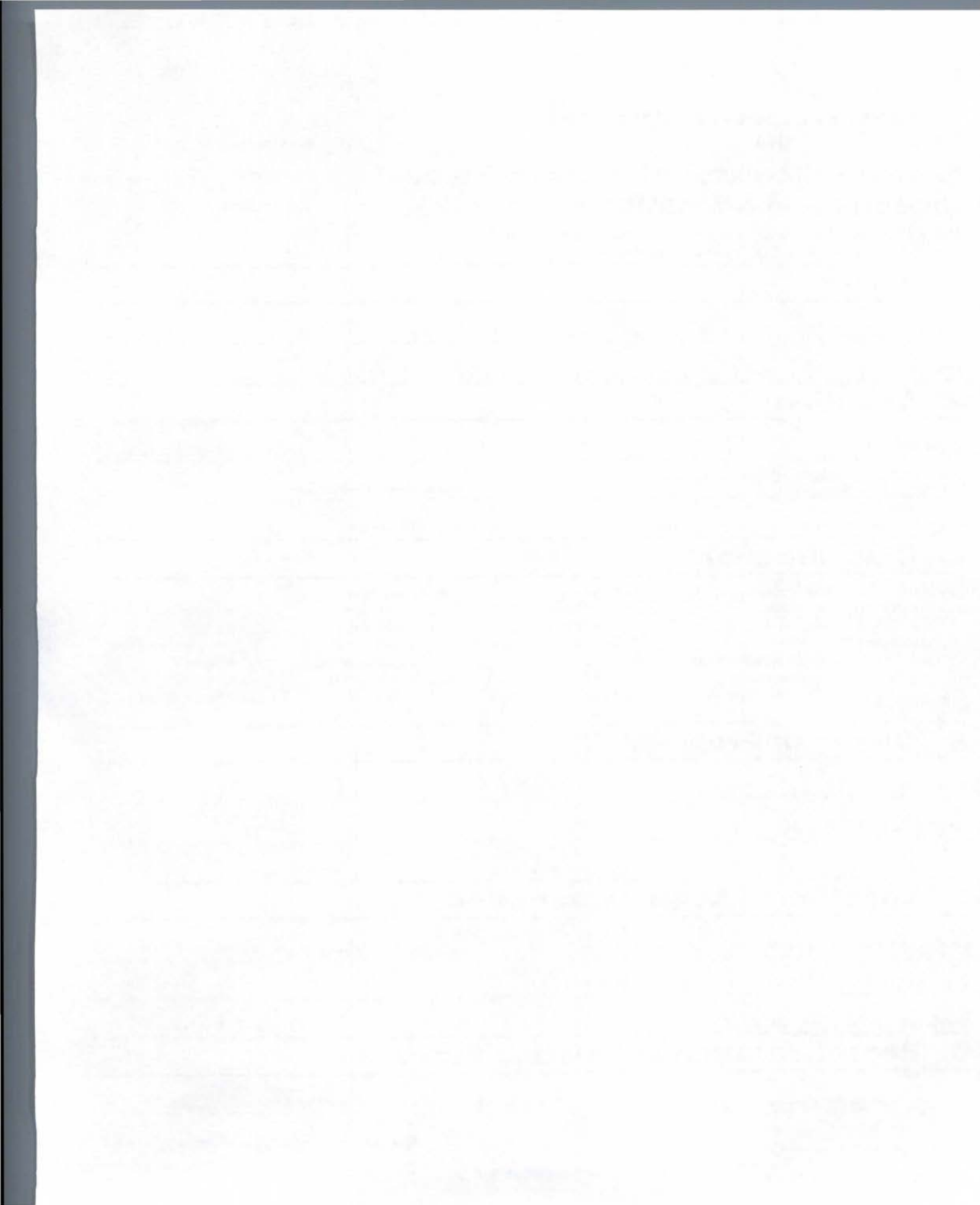
☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson

state Mississippi



7. Description

Condition

☒ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☒ moved

date Taylor-Falls House
(#16, moved ca. 1919)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The buildings examined in the Architecture of Andrew Johnson in North Mississippi are located, with one exception, in Panola County. Established in 1836, Panola County is a primarily rural, sparsely populated county in Northwest Mississippi. Its major towns, Sardis, Como, and Batesville are concentrated along the original route of the Mississippi and Tennessee Railroad's Jackson to Memphis line, established just prior to the Civil War. Today the cities are accessible from, but not intruded upon, by U.S. Highway 51 and Interstate 55. The majority of Panola County's historic resources are located in the towns of Sardis and Como. Batesville, which shares the seat of county government with Sardis, is substantially larger and has lost most of its historic resources to mid-twentieth century residential and commercial construction.

Like most of North Mississippi, Panola County is largely dependent upon Memphis, Tennessee, for its commercial goods, consumer services, and social activities. Historically, this link between Panola County and Memphis has provided the cities of Panola County with an unexpected degree of urban sophistication. This sophistication manifests itself architecturally through the buildings of Memphis based architects J. B. Cook, his contractor cum architect Andrew Johnson, and Johnson's son, John Wright Johnson, who lived in Sardis but built extensively in Memphis.

Before Andrew Johnson's advent to Panola County, local architecture was composed primarily of one- and two-story, formal, antebellum Greek Revival residences. Johnson's first residences in Sardis, the picturesque and elaborately ornamented Short's Hill and the Ballentine-Seay House, initiated a movement which completely changed the complexion of local architecture. Johnson's buildings soon became the distinctive architectural elements within Sardis and Como. Other residences showed similar massing (in particular the very popular one-story, L-shaped cottages) but exhibited none of Johnson's creative use of millwork or his distinctive design elements.

Johnson's residential structures throughout Panola County include: Short's Hill and the Ballentine-Seay House, his showcases of decorative details; the various one-story, greatly embellished L-shaped cottages constructed throughout the county; and his later works celebrating the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles. Johnson's known non-residential structures, including commercial, industrial, and railroad buildings, lack his ornamental flair and are more in line with the functional designs already prominent in Panola County. For a complete description of the architecture of Andrew Johnson, please see the Statement of Significance.

Two other architects were known to have been building in Panola County in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries--J. G. Bridger and John Wright Johnson, son of Andrew Johnson. J. G. Bridger, about whom no historical information is available, constructed St. John's Catholic Church in Sardis and various residences in Sardis and Como. Bridger's extant structures differ from the elder Johnson's work by their boxy, stout massing, and lack of decorative details and graceful adornments. John Wright Johnson's buildings include the Sardis United Methodist Church, for which his father was contractor, his own bungalow residence, and the Masonic Temple, both in Sardis, and substantial remodelings of a few of his father's early houses. Like Bridger, John Wright Johnson lacked his father's certain flair for ornamental embellishment. John Wright Johnson also built extensively in Memphis.

8. Significance

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 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/				
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation				
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)				

Specific dates N/A **Builder/Architect** Andrew Johnson

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The architecture of Andrew Johnson is significant as the collected works of a prolific and creative North Mississippi architect and contractor in the late-nineteenth century (Criterion C). Johnson (1844–1921) was a Swedish born and trained architect/builder who brought a degree of architectural sophistication to the primarily vernacular tradition of north central Mississippi. Buildings designed by Johnson are characterized by the generous and creative use of stock millwork decoration, and his frame dwellings generally are larger and more richly decorated than the prevailing vernacular buildings constructed in the area during the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the early years of the twentieth century.

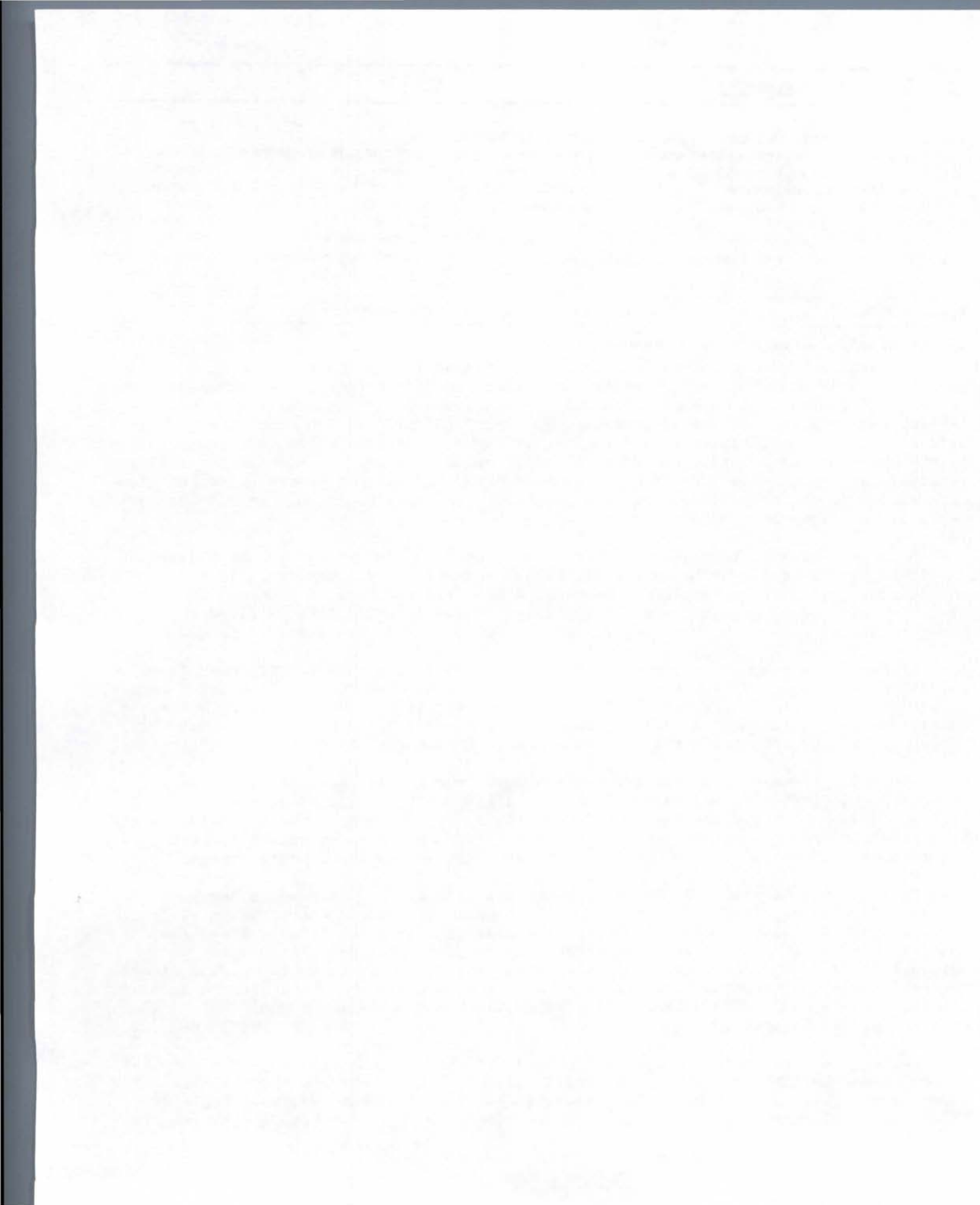
Born in Sweden in 1844, Andrew Johnson studied architecture at Uppsala University in his native country. While in school, he won a contest for a window designed for the University, for which he received a monetary award from the King of Sweden. Johnson used his prize money to immigrate to the United States where in 1865 he lived in a Swedish settled colony in Evanston, Illinois, and engaged in the building trade.¹

Within a few years, Johnson moved his family, shop, and Swedish work crew to Sardis, Mississippi. Family tradition asserts that Johnson moved south to build depots from Memphis to Grenada for the Illinois Central Railroad and that for this reason, he settled in centrally located Sardis. Another explanation for Johnson's move was that he won the contract to build the Sardis Methodist Church (ca. 1870, non-extant).²

According to newspaper sources, Johnson built the Sardis Depot in 1888.³ This structure was dismantled and partially moved ca. 1960. Stylistic similarities suggest that Johnson constructed the Como and Batesville depots, both non-extant. Research has been unable to prove conclusively whether or not Johnson built two extant I.C.R.R. depots, one in Grenada (Grenada County), the other in Winona (Montgomery County).

Early in his Mississippi career, Johnson was associated with James B. Cook, a prolific English architect based in Memphis. Johnson served as contractor on at least three of Cook's Panola County buildings. The most prominent structure was the Panola County Courthouse, an exuberant three-story Second Empire building constructed in Sardis in 1873. As contractor, Johnson received \$34,950 from the Board of Supervisors. The courthouse was devastated by lightning and fire in 1903. Cook and Johnson also collaborated on the Sardis Jail in 1871 (non-extant) and on Holy Innocents Church in Como in 1872–73 (extant).⁴

During the same period Johnson contracted for these public buildings, he was also designing and building residences in Sardis. These early houses are Short's Hill (1870–71, inventory no. 14), a two-story, picturesque Italianate residence (National Register, 1980); the Ballentine-Seay House (1870–71, inventory no. 2), a two-story, elaborately



9. Major Bibliographical References

Smith, Edith Johnson, Granddaughter of Andrew Johnson. Interviewed by Judith Holland at Memphis, Tenn., 1981.

Sardis, Miss. Southern Reporter, 1885-1921.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property (see individual survey forms)

Quadrangle name N/A

Quadrangle scale N/A

UMT References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification

N/A See individual survey sheets

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Judith Holland; P. Ana Gordon, Historian

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History

date January 13, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 571

telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson

state Mississippi

12. 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

Kenneth H. P. Paul

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date FEB. 21, 1984

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

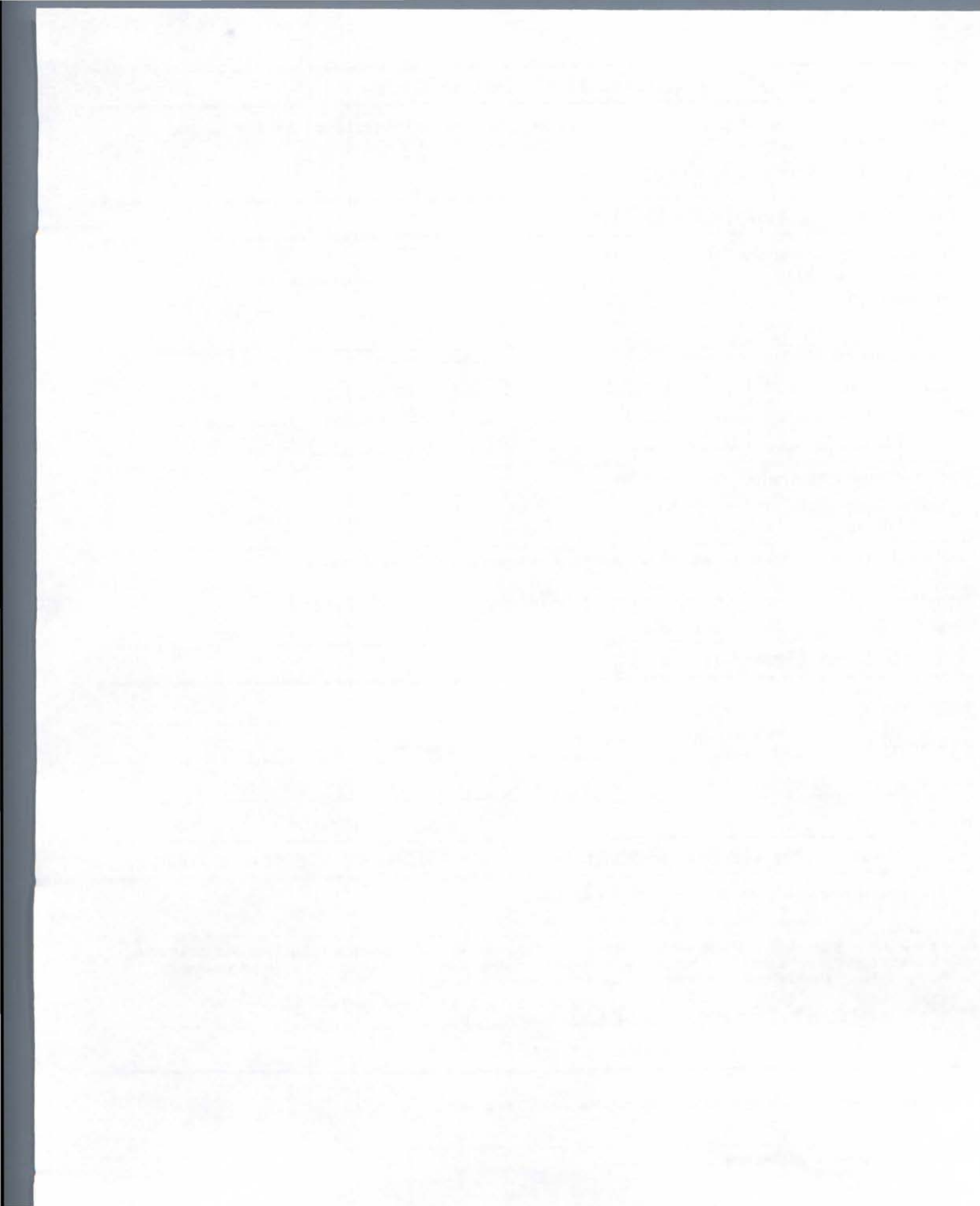
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



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7 - DESCRIPTION

Andrew Johnson's one example of ecclesiastical architecture included in this nomination is the Byhalia United Methodist Church, located in the extreme northwestern corner of Marshall County. The majority of Marshall County's historic resources are concentrated in the city of Holly Springs (population 7,269, National Register Multiple Resource nomination 1981) and comparatively, the village of Byhalia (population 748) possesses a minimum of historically or architecturally important buildings. Among Byhalia's primarily Greek Revival and Queen Anne residences, the Byhalia United Methodist Church is an important vernacular Gothic Revival structure.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

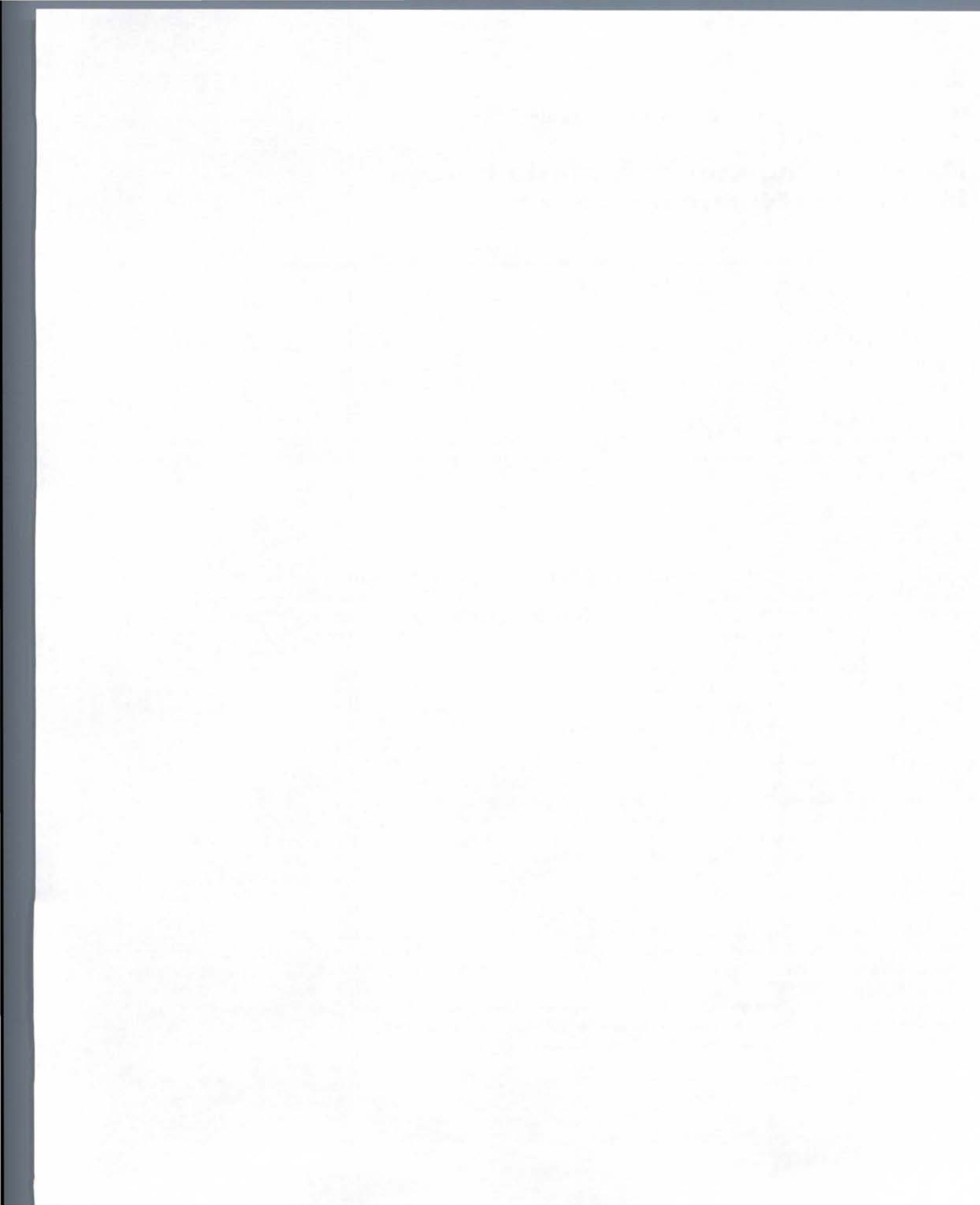
embellished residence; and the Johnson-Tate Cottage (1873, inventory no. 9), the architect's home and the prototype of his L-shaped cottages. Although each of these buildings are substantially different, they all exhibit the sincere dedication to design, ornamentation and craftsmanship which are the hallmarks of Andrew Johnson's work. 5

Johnson's solo architectural career in Como, a village just north of Sardis, began in 1872, when Johnson built the N. R. Sledge Store. Johnson also constructed a residence for N. R. Sledge. This one-story house (ca. 1873) featuring a steeply-pitched hipped roof, is sided and has been significantly altered.

Johnson also remodeled numerous homes and buildings in Sardis. Two remodelings attributed to him are the Victorian parlor wing added to Holly Hill (a ca. 1859, two-story, Greek Revival residence) and the dining room and decorative exterior brackets and trim added to the Heflin House (a ca. 1858, one-story, Greek Revival residence). Johnson is also believed to have remodeled the Stark Young House in Como, constructing a new residence around the original double-pile, central-hall log cabin. None of Johnson's remodelings are included in this nomination to the National Register of Historic Places at this time.

In the 1880s, Johnson constructed numerous houses in Sardis, Como, and possibly in Batesville, in the common L-shaped cottage form. While the L-shaped plan was in use throughout the state, Johnson's cottages are notable for their highly decorative posts, balustrades and friezes, and also for their picturesque fenestration. Many of the cottages possess some of the stock features first found in the Johnson-Tate Cottage, such as the elongated octagonal transom lights, many of which are rose colored, grained mantels and baseboards, paired brackets, and chamfered posts.

In Sardis, these L-shaped houses include the Walton-Howry House (ca. 1888, inventory no. 19), the Hufft House (1884, inventory no. 8), the Hall-Roberson House (ca. 1885, inventory no. 7), and the Hooper-Floyd House (ca. 1885; sided and altered, ineligible for nomination to the Register at this time). In Como, the Taylor-Falls Cottage (ca.



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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

1885, inventory no. 16), and Home Place Plantation (ca. 1887, non-extant), outside of Como; and in Batesville, the Lee House (ca. 1888, inventory no. 11).

Later in the century, Johnson constructed three, multi-gabled, one-story residences each employing the same square pattern: the J. T. Goodwin House in Longtown (ca. 1896, non-extant); the Hall-Henderson House in Sardis (ca. 1894, inventory no. 6); and the Tait-Taylor House in Como (ca. 1896, inventory no. 15).

The William Alexander House in Sardis (ca. 1900, ineligible due to extreme alterations) is a square-massed, one-story residence with a square-cornered wrap-around porch, which foreshadows the Queen Anne detailing of later Johnson works.

Johnson's turn-of-the-century residences show both Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements. Except for one house, all are massive, two-story residences featuring embellished gables, inset and wrap-around porches, one- and two-story towers, decorative glass, and imaginative dormers and windows. The Taylor-Wall-Yancy House (ca. 1899, inventory no. 18) in Sardis and the Craig-Seay House (1899, inventory no. 4) in Como make use of the same plan. The Shands-Johnson-Gates House (ca. 1905-06, inventory no. 13) in Sardis is another solid, two-story residence with Colonial Revival features. The Kyle-Spencer House (ca. 1908, inventory no. 10), also in Sardis, is one of Johnson's best Queen Anne residences. The two-and-a-half story residence has a double-tiered, wrap-around porch and is embellished with a tower and decorative woodwork throughout. Although the residence has been artificially sided, each original detail has been retained. The Ballentine-Bryant House (ca. 1905, inventory no. 1) is a very interesting one-and-a-half-story Johnson and Son building which features a tower and porte-cochere.

Oakhurst or the Craig-Taylor-Bartlett House (ca. 1895, ineligible due to alterations), was a two-and-a-half story Queen Anne residence with a prominent square tower and Stick Style gable. The house was drastically altered by new owners early in the century by the removal of the tower and a "colonialization" of the Queen Anne and Stick Style elements. The Wardlaw-Swango House (ca. 1898, inventory no. 20) in Como is a one-and-a-half story residence which has strong stylistic similarities to the original Oakhurst, including a one-story tower and a broad prominent front gable.

Like the Kyle-Spencer House, the Crenshaw House (ca. 1899, inventory no. 5) is an exuberant Queen Anne residence. The two-and-a-half story building's gallery encircles three sides of the house and features highly decorated gallery bays.

The Taylor-Mansker House in Como (ca. 1891, inventory no. 17) is Johnson's sole extant brick residence and one of his most interesting buildings. The two-story, tile-roofed residence exhibits many of Johnson's stylistic details, such as the exaggerated square-cut bay windows, intricate sawn work, and other eclectic decorative details and blends them well with the solid brick construction.