

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
725 MONROE STREET
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) announced today that the Withers-Chapman House in Huntsville has been added to the National Register of Historic Places.

The Withers-Chapman House at 2409 Gaboury Lane, a 1½-story frame cottage, is a good example of the smaller house built in North Alabama during the early 19th century. Although this house type was fairly common in rural locations, few examples have survived. Additionally, it is one of the few houses in the area to have corner fireplaces in the upstairs rooms.

The house was probably built by Allen Christian in the late 1830's as the center of a moderately prosperous farm. After the death of Christian and his wife in 1849, the property was occupied for many years by Augustine and Mary Withers. Governor Rueben Chapman acquired the property in 1873. Although he never occupied the house, it remained in the Chapman family until the present owners bought it in 1971.

From the last decade of the 19th century until World War II, the house was the center of a prosperous dairy farm which supplied much of the dairy produce for Huntsville. Although the house has lost most of its surrounding acreage, it retains its rural feeling and two of its outbuildings. The present owners are restoring the house.

The AHC commended Mrs. Walter H. Johnson, the current owner, and Mrs. Leroy Simms, of Huntsville, for the background information on the Withers-Chapman House.

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