

THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF
HISTORIC SITES AND BUILDINGS

THE LYNDON B. JOHNSON BOYHOOD HOME

Johnson City, Texas

March, 1966

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INTRODUCTION

Blanco County, in the heart of the Hill Country of south-central Texas, is in many respects a Johnson preserve. In the mid-1850's the President's grandfather, Samuel Ealy Johnson, and his brother Tom, began raising cattle here. In due course they acquired considerable land holdings and, their cattle prospering, made the long drive north to Kansas markets.

The Hill Country--sometimes harsh with drought, hail, hot wind, and blizzard--is normally "a gentle land of little hills and verdant valleys, of limestone springs and forests of perennially green cedar and live oak."¹ Streams like the Pedernales and Blanco flow through it, and lakes and ponds occupy the hollows. The Johnson clan found this land much to their liking, and they increased upon it. Johnson City, established by early settlers along the Pedernales River in 1878, was named for the pioneering ancestors of the President.

This heritage of land and people is strong in the President's heart; it is to this place and to these people that he returns to relax and refresh his mind and body. It was here, in this Hill Country, that he was born and raised and schooled, and where he ran for his first public office.

1. Jack Maguire, ed., A President's Country (Austin, 1964), 6.

Residents of the area remember so many incidents from the President's early life that there is scarcely a building or plot of land in the vicinity but recalls some association with his boyhood or young manhood.

Today, the LBJ Ranch, bought some years ago from relatives, is the center of the President's activities in the Hill Country.

Included in the ranch's 438 acres are the President's modern ranch home and a simple frame farm house where he was born to Samuel and Rebekah Johnson on August 27, 1908. Thirteen miles east, in Johnson City, is the boyhood home.

Of the three most important sites associated with the President in the Johnson City vicinity, the Boyhood Home stands out as the most significant historically.

Though in time to come the modern LBJ Ranch House will doubtless be re-evaluated in the light of historical perspective, its current official use as the "Texas White House," and the security restrictions that hedge it from public access, would appear to militate against its consideration at this time in the Presidential Landmark Program.

The Birthplace House, now being restored by the President, is similarly cut off from public access for security reasons. More important in terms of evaluation criteria, it is assumed that scenes of early childhood are less significant historically than those of the later formative years.

THE BOYHOOD HOME

According to residents of Johnson City, the Boyhood Home is a site particularly dear to the President's memory. Apparently, too, he has specifically chosen it as the place to commemorate his early life and the profound influence of his parents on his later destiny.

According to records at the Blanco County Courthouse, the Boyhood Home was built in 1886. Samuel and Rebekah Johnson moved here from their farm when the future President was six years old (sometime in 1914-15). He lived here until after graduation from nearby Johnson City High School.

This site is considered the place of evolution and development from childhood, through a boyhood marked by industry and quick assumption of responsibility, to the emergence of the young man whose meteoric career would culminate in the Presidency.

The home is a one-story farm house, painted white, and may be described as T-shaped. The two L porches are characteristic of this type of farm home commonly built during the last decades of the 19th century throughout the South and southwest.

OWNERSHIP AND PRESENT CONDITION

Formerly owned by the President, and restored by Mrs. Johnson and ^{is now} the President's sister, Mrs. Birge Alexander, the home ~~has been~~ owned by the Johnson City Foundation, which administers it as ~~dedicated to Blanco County. It is administered by the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home Foundation for Blanco County.~~ a historic house museum. Early photographs and the recollections of the President and his family were used in this preservation project; and according to local residents the house looks much as it did during the boyhood period.

Selected rooms have been remodeled for use as a historic house museum in which are exhibited memorabilia of the President, and his family.

Structurally sound and well maintained, the house and grounds (about 1 acre) appear to have a high degree of integrity.

The home is open to the public. It is already a noted Texas State Landmark (1965) and is frequently visited and photographed.

REFERENCES

Jack Maguire, ed., A President's Country (Austin, 1964); Houston Chronicle, "Profile of a President" (supplement, February 1964); Walter P. Webb, ed., The Handbook of Texas (Austin, 1962); local interviews and Johnson City Chamber of Commerce maps, pamphlets, news clippings, etc.

W. E. Brown
by J.O.L.



1915 *Boyhood* 1954
Home of
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON
36th President
of the United States

LBJ/ Bayhood House

70-162-16

"Johnson City, Texas"

Please Credit
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO
PHOTOGRAPHER - Fred E. Mang, Jr.
DATE: April 1970
CAPTION:



1965 - 1954
Bought
Home of
LINDON BAINES JOHNSON
50th President
of the United States

OPEN

ENTRANCE

Discard

LBJ/Bayhood House

70-162-13

"LBJ Birth., Johnson City, Texas"

Please Credit

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER - Fred E. Mang, Jr.

DATE:

April, 1970

CAPTION:



Boyhood Home of President Lyndon B. Johnson in Johnson City, Texas. NPS photo taken 2/25/65 from northeast corner of Johnson property.



Front view of President Johnson's Boyhood Home in Johnson City, Texas. NPS photo taken 2/25/65 looking south.

October 30, 1964

NOTE FOR FILES - L. B. JOHNSON

Mr. Thompson came in to say that Mr. Hartzog said that we should look at LBJ's birthplace site (now restored by LBJ) for Landmark status.

Mr. Thompson is to discuss this with Mr. Boatner - pending discussion the Region will be notified.

JOL

(NPS)

~~_____~~

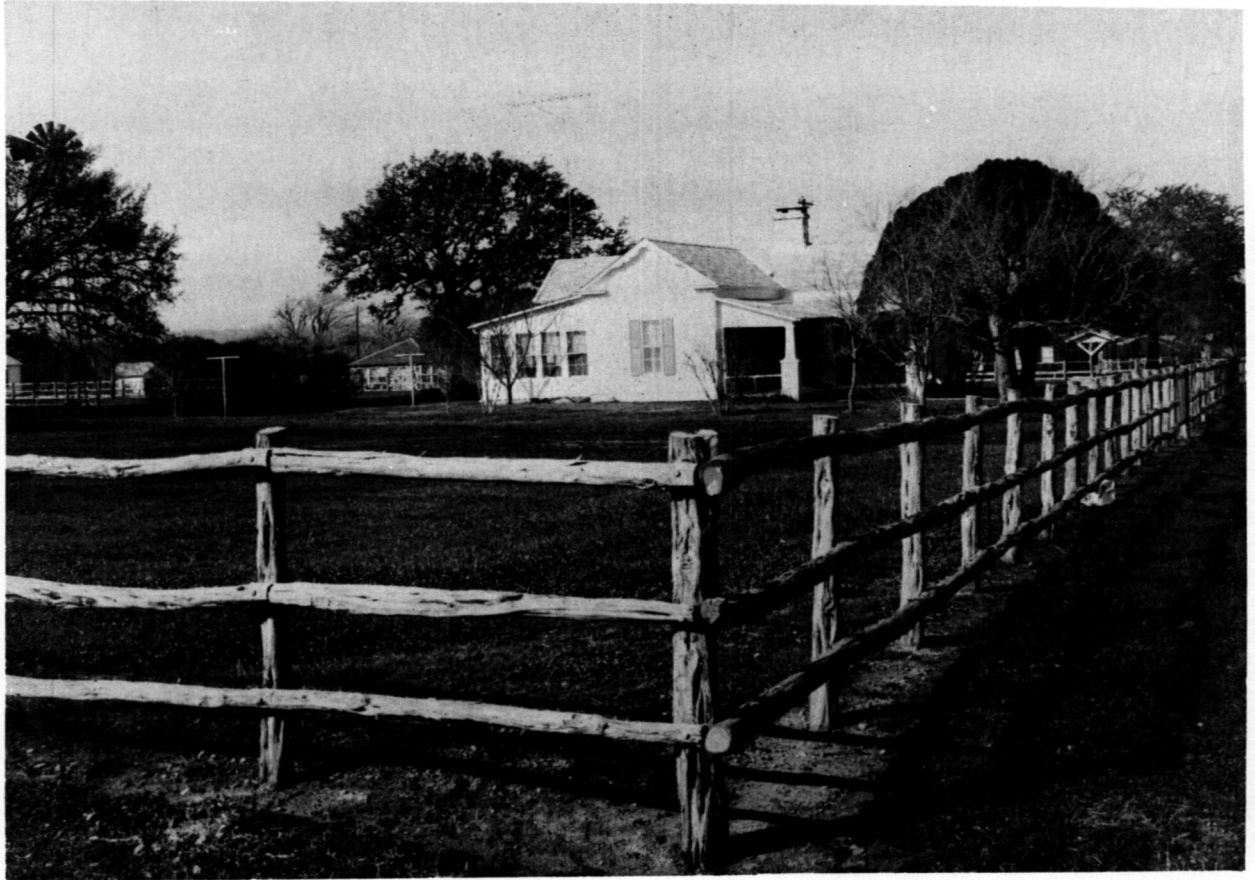
PRESIDENTIAL LANDMARK PROGRAM

Johnson City Sites



March 1965

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Southwest Region
Santa Fe, New Mexico



Boyhood Home of President Lyndon B. Johnson in Johnson City, Texas. NPS photo taken 2/25/65 from northeast corner of Johnson property.

PRESIDENTIAL LANDMARK PROGRAM

Johnson City Sites
Texas

prepared by

William E. Brown
Regional Historian

March 1965

SOUTHWEST REGION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

INTRODUCTION

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This heritage of land and people is strong in the President's heart; it is to this place and to these people that he returns to relax and refit mind and body before plunging again into the burdensome duties of his Office. And it was here, in this Hill Country, that he was born and raised and schooled, and where he ran for his first public office.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Of the three prime sites in the Johnson City vicinity, the Boyhood Home stands out as most significant historically.

Though in time to come the modern LBJ Ranch House will doubtless be re-evaluated in the light of historical perspective, its current official use as the "Texas White House," and the security restrictions that hedge it from public access, would appear to militate against its consideration at this time in the Presidential Landmark Program.

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This site is considered the place of evolution and development from childhood, through a boyhood marked by industry and quick assumption of responsibility, to the emergence of the young man whose meteoric career would culminate in the Presidency.

PRESENT CONDITION OF BOYHOOD HOME

Owned by the President, the house is occupied by Mrs. Jesse Hunter, who apparently has supervised its restoration. Early photos and the recollections of the President and his family have been employed in this project; and, according to local residents, the house looks much as it did during the boyhood period.

Structurally sound and well maintained, the house and grounds (about 1 acre) appear to have a high degree of integrity.

Currently, selected rooms are being remodelled for use as an historic house museum, in which will be exhibited memorabilia of the President's family and youth. According to Mrs. Hunter, the house will be open to the public by late spring of this year. It is already a noted landmark, frequently visited and photographed.

REFERENCES

Jack Maguire, ed., A President's Country (Austin, 1964); Houston Chronicle, "Profile of a President" (supplement, February 1964); Walter P. Webb, ed., The Handbook of Texas (Austin, 1952); local interviews and Johnson City Chamber of Commerce maps, pamphlets, news clippings. etc.



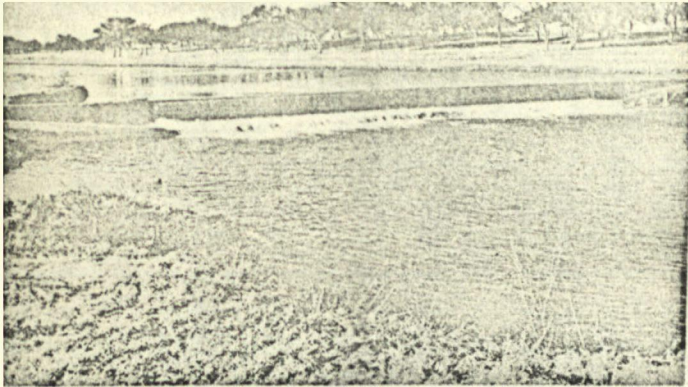
Front view of President Johnson's Boyhood Home in Johnson City, Texas. NPS photo taken 2/25/65 looking south.



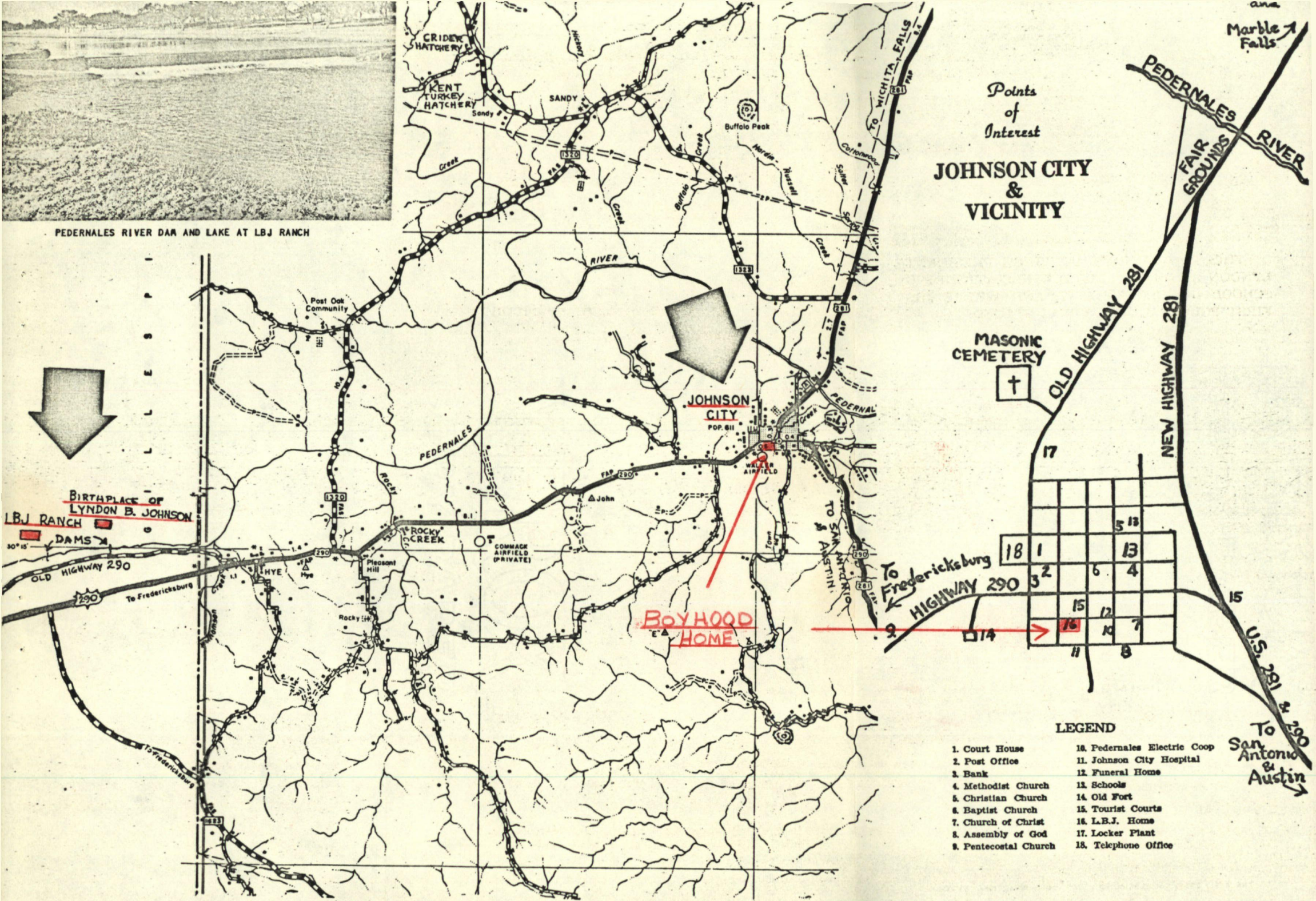
Birthplace of President Johnson, located on LBJ Ranch about 1/2 mile east of present LBJ Ranch House. NPS photo taken 2/25/65 from Old U.S. 290 (Texas Ranch Road 1) looking north across Pedernales River.



The present LBJ Ranch House. NPS photo taken 2/25/65 from Old U.S. 290 (Texas Ranch Road 1) ca. 13 miles west of Johnson City, looking north across Pedernales River.

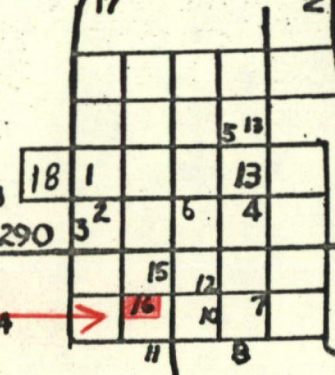


PEDERNALES RIVER DAM AND LAKE AT LBJ RANCH



Points of Interest
JOHNSON CITY & VICINITY

MASONIC CEMETERY



LEGEND

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Court House | 18. Pedernales Electric Coop |
| 2. Post Office | 11. Johnson City Hospital |
| 3. Bank | 12. Funeral Home |
| 4. Methodist Church | 13. Schools |
| 5. Christian Church | 14. Old Fort |
| 6. Baptist Church | 15. Tourist Courts |
| 7. Church of Christ | 16. L.B.J. Home |
| 8. Assembly of God | 17. Locker Plant |
| 9. Pentecostal Church | 18. Telephone Office |

To San Antonio & Austin

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : John Littleton, WASO FEB 21 1966

DATE: 2/17/66

FROM : Bill Brown, SWRO

SUBJECT: Pres. Johnson sites

Enclosed are the prints used in my Johnson City Sites report. Also folders,clippings, etc., with dope on boyhood home and ranch.

Jerry Rogers, former seasonal at Fort Davis, and now with Urbanovsky at Texas Tech working on "Johnson" Parkway thing, is track ing down more dope. As of now here are answers to your questions: Boyhood home is operated by Johnson Family Foundation w/ Johnson money--not State operated. Texas marked home on May 13, 1965. Birthplace, as far as I can tell is substantially restored, not a replica. (over)

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

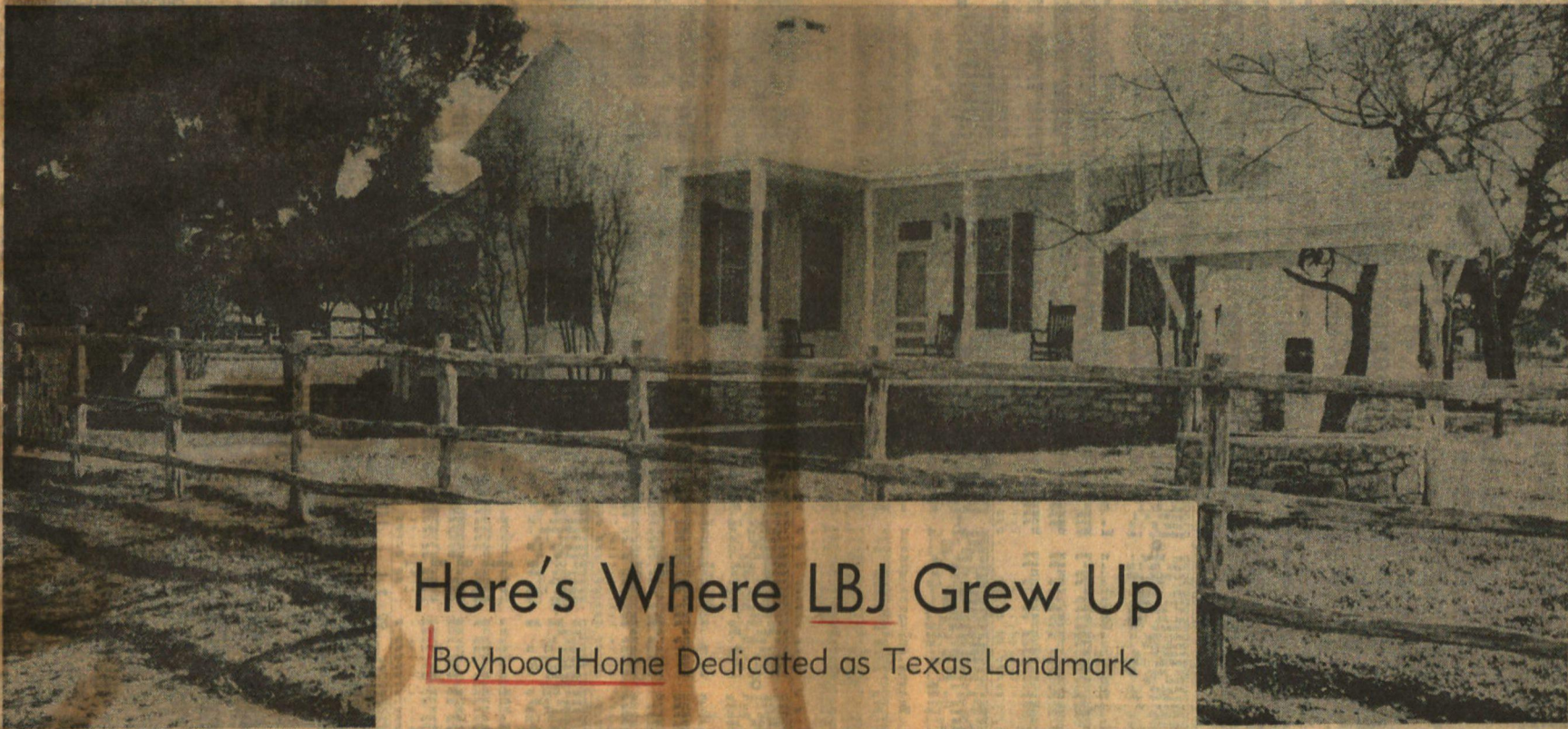
Memorandum

Rogers is getting name of Johnson Family Foundation director or administrator. Why not send notification straight to Lyndon anyway.

FROM :

When I have further pertinent dope, will send it on, or phone it in.

Best,

Here's Where LBJ Grew Up

Boyhood Home Dedicated as Texas Landmark

By ISABELLE SHELTON
Star Staff Writer

JOHNSON CITY, Tex.—An old wooden "party line" crank telephone hangs on the wall. A stereopticon lies on the Victorian marble-topped table, primed with scenes of Old Europe.

A phonograph record—"Little Ole Sod Shanty on the Plains"—rests on the spindle of the hand-wound Victrola.

chair ("we had never seen a picture more beautiful, nor did we ever," his mother rhapsodizes in a handwritten notation beneath the picture), to an eight-column newspaper banner proclaiming his election last November.

"Victory Greatest in History," read the Johnson City Record-Courier, of which Johnson's mother once was editor. The paper, in a town with a population of 706, has a

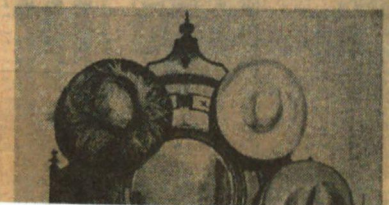
in you; I expect great things of you."

There is a warm letter from Franklin D. Roosevelt, and hearty is displayed the Silver Star Medal LBJ received for "Gallantry in Action" as a World War II Naval Commandet.

Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Alexander, who gave reporters a preview of the house 10 days ago, called attention to the many books still scattered

"My husband feels an enormous gratitude to the people of this county," so he wanted to make the meeting room available, the First Lady explained.

The dining room, with its heavy, claw-footed square table and pineapple-pattern centerpieces crocheted by Grandmother Baines was the main gathering place in the old house during winter months. Lucia Alexander



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A stereopticon lies on the Victorian marble-topped table, primed with scenes of Old Europe.

A phonograph record—"Little Ole Sod Shanty on the Plains"—rests on the spindle of the hand-wound Victrola.

This is the boyhood home of Lyndon B. Johnson, frozen like a time capsule much as it looked 40 to 50 years ago when the future President was growing up here.

Year's Work

The President's wife, Lady Bird, and his "baby sister," Lucia (Mrs. Birge Alexander), have been working lovingly for a year and a half to restore the home to the way it was when he spent his formative years here, from age five to 18.

The two women have reclaimed family pieces where possible, filled in with antiques and reproductions where necessary.

Dedication ceremonies today will officially designate the Victorian-style white frame house as an historic Texas landmark. After that, tourists can visit four days a week.

Tourist will find the home and its surrounding two acres on a quiet residential street.

In the front yard there is a covered well, its old oaken bucket still in place. A two-seater swing ("here we used to sit many an evening," says Lucia), hangs on chains from the ceiling on the L-shaped front porch.

The yard is filled with a wide variety of Texas plants, from the live oak trees and wisteria of the Old South to the purple sage and mesquite of the west.

Inside, the house is much more than a period piece of early furnishings.

Along with the Eastlake Victorian furniture, upholstered in red and "rose dawn" velvet, rose lustre and Bristol glass lamps, milk glass bowls, pier mirrors, lace curtains, hand-hooked rugs, majolica vases, and a huge mirrored walnut Victorian hat rack, there also are pictures, letters and documents.

Life Story

Visitors can follow the whole story of LBJ's life—from baby's first photograph, at six months, propped in a wicker

chair ("we had never seen a picture more beautiful, nor did we ever," his mother rhymodizes in a handwritten notation beneath the picture), to an eight-column newspaper banner proclaiming his election last November.

"Victory Greatest in History," read the Johnson City Record-Courier, of which Johnson's mother once was editor. The paper, in a town with a population of 706, has a weekly circulation of 711.

On display is the young Lyndon's fourth grade report card from the year 1916-17 showing him with A's in Arithmetic, Literature, Physiology, Reading, Spelling and Writing, an A-minus in Geography—and a C-plus in Deportment!

Spread out on a desk and in glass cases are intimate family letters, some of which touchingly demonstrate the strong bond between Lyndon and his mother, whom he frequently credits with being a very strong influence in his life (she died in 1956).

"Thinking of you, loving you, dreaming of a radiant future for you," Rebekah Johnson wrote her son and his bride on their 1934 honeymoon in Mexico.

"My dear Bird... It would make me very happy to have you for my very own, to have you turn to me with love and confidence, to let me mother you as I do my precious boy... I hope that Lyndon will prove to be as tender, as true, as loyal, as loving and as faithful a husband as he has been a son..."

Letters Give Strength

Writing his mother from college in 1929, the son said her letters "always give me more strength, renewed courage and that bulldog tenacity so essential to the success of any man."

"There is no force that exerts the power over me that your letters do," he continued. "I have learned to look forward to them so long and now when one is delayed a spell of sadness and disappointment is cast over me... I have been thinking of you all afternoon... I hope that years to come will place me in a position where I can relieve you of the hardships that it has fallen your lot to suffer."

Writing to congratulate "my darling boy" on his first election to Congress in 1937, the mother said: "In this as in all the many letters I have written you there is the same theme: I love you; I believe

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Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Alexander, who gave reporters a preview of the house 10 days ago, called attention to the many books still scattered around—a reminder that Rebekah Johnson, a college graduate in a day when few women were, had tried to interest her five children in good reading.

Old School Books

A revolving bookstand contains many old school books jumbled in with works by Shakespeare, Whittier and Jefferson. One book, titled "Children's Own Story," is inscribed, "Lyndon from Mama."

A copy of a "Blue-backed Speller" by Noah Webster reminded Mrs. Alexander that the President's father, Sam Johnson, liked to launch spelling bees for his children and their guests, dividing them into two groups. He also was prone to start informal debates among the youngsters, throwing them a provocative question to attack or defend.

Mrs. Johnson, leafing through the speller, observed that "this is why that generation knew how to spell better than this (current) one does."

In a place of honor in the living room is a big leather-bound family Bible, bound with ornamental leather and held together with metal hinges.

The book contains the frontispieces from two earlier Bibles, with handwritten notations of births, deaths and marriages in the Johnson and Baines (LBJ's mother's) families.

Three rooms across the front of the old house—the "best bedroom, where the girls slept," the hall, and the dining room—have been thrown together, Mrs. Johnson explained.

Gratitude

This was done in order to make a room large enough for local Johnson City civic groups to hold meetings in the house, she said, as was frequently done in the days of Sam and Rebekah Johnson, both of whom were active in civic affairs.

"My husband feels an enormous gratitude to the people of this county," so he wanted to make the meeting room available, the First Lady explained.

The dining room, with its heavy, claw-footed square table and pineapple-pattern centerpiece crocheted by Grandmother Baines was the main gathering place in the old house during winter months, Lucia Alexander recalled.

"We used to call it the fireplace room. Father had loads of friends, and brought them home often for dinner." Like his son, the President, the father apparently thought nothing of bringing home several guests unannounced.

The five Johnson children led a busy social life at home, with parties almost every week, the youngest sister recalled.

In the winter, the hand-hooked rug in the formal "parlor" would be rolled up, and the youngsters would dance to records on the Victrola.

The "parlor" is by far the most formal room in the house, and it is the one that is the most complete period piece. President Johnson himself picked the flowered wallpaper which he thought most closely matched what his mother had had. The furnishings are almost pure Victorian, and most of them actually once belonged to Rebekah Johnson.

First in Town

In the summer the family moved its social life from the dining room to a big screened back porch. "I remember when they screened it," a neighbor recalled the other day. "They were the first ones in town with a screened porch, and we wondered why in the world they wanted one."

Inevitably, there are anachronisms. In addition to many current photographs and glass cases containing contemporary materials (such as a cabinet in the dining room, complete with menus, color photographs and a White House place setting), there is a gold Presidential seal on the living room wall.

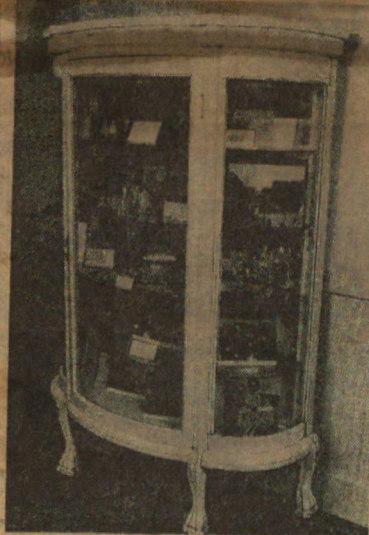
The house is air conditioned for comfort, and the kitchen and bath are modern. Most reminiscent of the LBJ of today, the whole house is wired for hi-fi, FM, AM and Muzak. And the inevitable white White House phone is on the porch.



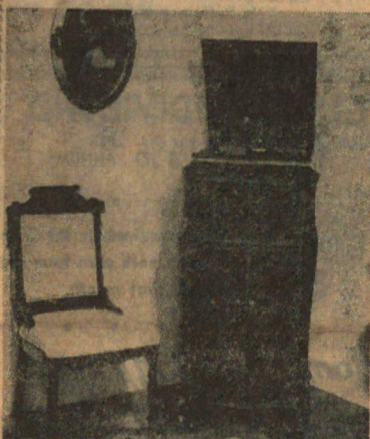
A mirrored walnut hat rack is of the same vintage as other furnishings in the Victorian-style house.



Mrs. Johnson sits at the desk once used by her husband's mother. On display is a letter the latter wrote to the President and his bride.



Color photographs and a White House place setting are among displays in a china closet in the dining room.



Social life in the Johnson home included dancing to records on the hand-wound Victrola.



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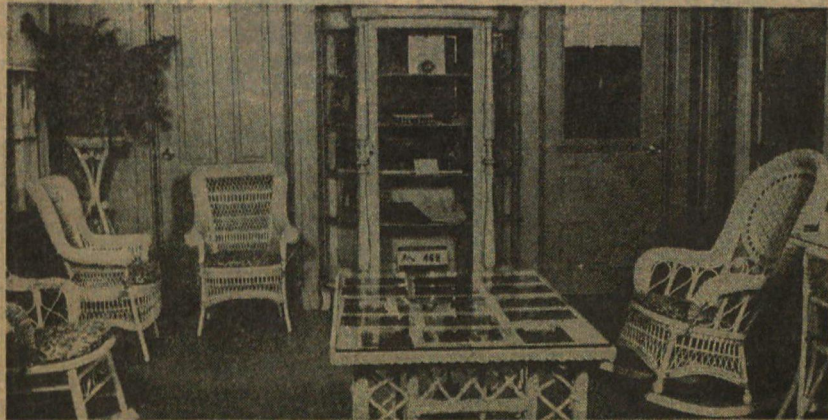
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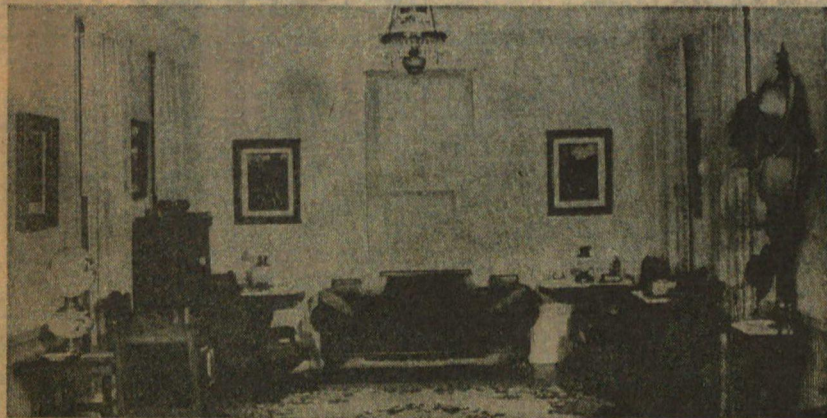


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A view of the back porch of the Johnson City, Tex., home where the President spent his formative years. The restoration by his wife, Lady Bird,

and "baby" sister, Mrs. Birge Alexander, includes many of the family pieces actually used there when he was a boy.



Most of the furnishings in the Victorian "parlor," the most formal room in the house, once belonged to President Johnson's mother, Rebekah. In the

winter, the hand-hooked rug would be rolled up for the young people's dances.—Signal Corps and AP Photos.



President Johnson's youngest sister, Mrs. Birge Alexander, is holding the family Bible which contains the records of family marriages, births and deaths.

HOME—From Page C1

It's LBJ's Life Story

group of distaff reporters on a tour of the house and the grounds. On hand to help her tell us the story of the house, its furnishings and the people who lived in it was Lucia Alexander, who

of lilacs which have survived the years. Friends and neighbors have contributed flowers, bushes and trees, including two hanging baskets filled with petunias.

the house when the President lived there.

Also in this room is an old-fashioned revolving bookcase with old school books, The Works of Jefferson, and volumes of Shakespeare. On top is the "Chil-

The President's mother was a great collector and a china cupboard holds part of her collection of early American pressed glass goblets. In with the well known patterns — Westward Ho, Powder Horn, Ruby Cathedral—are the Baines goblets which belonged to her grandfather, George Washington Baines.

Another china cupboard holds mementos from the White House—the menu for a State Dinner, a place setting of Executive Mansion china and silver. Over the doorway is the Presidential Seal.

THE WALLS of the Front Parlor—the room Mrs. Johnson said is "most like the way it was"—bear cameo-styled photographic paintings of Sam Johnson, his pretty wife and their baby, Lyndon, at 18 months.

In the corner is a Victrola similar to the one which stood in the same place when the President was growing up. Lucia recalled that the children would roll the rugs and dance. Lyndon, she said, liked to sing, and among his favorite songs were, "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," and "Carolina Moon."

The pink-flowered paper on the wall was chosen by President Johnson from

ber of their letters which are displayed.

Congratulating "My Darling Boy" on his election to Congress for the first time in 1937, Mrs. Johnson wrote:

"Beyond Congratulations, Congressman, what can I say to my dear son in this hour of triumphant success? In this as in all the many letters I have written you there is the same theme: I love you; I believe in you; I expect great things of you.

ON HIS SIDE, Lyndon told his mother what her letters meant to him. Writing from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in 1929, he said:

"My dear Mother, The end of another busy day brought me a letter from you. Your letters always give me more strength, renewed courage and that bulldog tenacity so essential to the success of any man. There is no force that exerts the power over me that your letters do.

IN another letter to his mother, written from the Teachers College, Lyndon wrote:

"I have been thinking of you all afternoon. As I passed through the town on my way home to supper, I could see the mothers doing their Christmas shopping. It made me wish for my mother so much."

In a more jubilant mood, he wrote his grandmother, "I'm not going to be the black sheep of the family after all," and enclosed a newspaper clipping telling of his acceptance on the college debating team.

IN a letter written to Lyndon and his bride in 1934, Mrs. Johnson wrote:

"My precious Children: Thinking of you, loving you, dreaming of a radiant future for you. . . .

"My dear Bird, I earnestly hope that you will love me as I do you. I hope . . . that Lyndon will prove to be as tender, as

true, as loyal, as loving, and as faithful a husband as he has been a son."

CONTINUING the "This is your life" story of Lyndon Johnson are scores of photographs — many contributed by neighbors. They show the 6-months-old Lyndon in a wicker chair, in his first long trousers, with his school chums, including one of his first sweethearts, Kittle Clyde Leonard. He used to take her to the old Opera House to watch silent films and to the WCTU parades on Johnson City's main street.

THERE IS a picture of the President and a copy of the speech he made to his old high school's graduating class on May 29, 1964—just 40 years after he received his diploma. The class motto was "Give to the world the best you have and the best will come back to you."

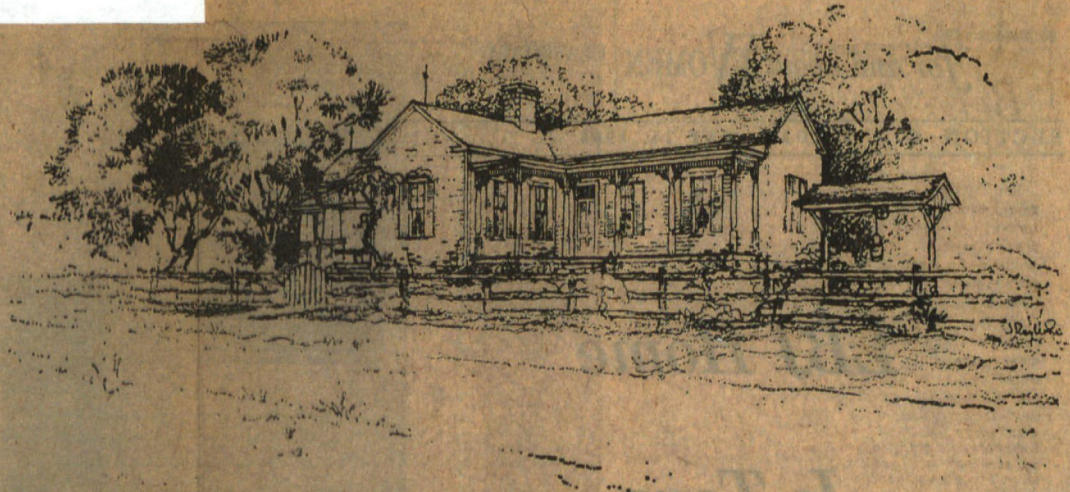
Mr. Johnson's political cam-

paigns are depicted from front porch speeches to front page headlines. One montage of pictures of Congressman, Senator and President Lyndon Johnson, includes what Mrs. Johnson calls "My most precious picture." It's a snapshot of newly elected U.S. Rep. Johnson, President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Texas Gov. Jimmy Allred, taken in 1937 and signed by FDR.

Captioned "Congressional Career Began," it is the picture Mrs. Johnson said she would grab first in case of fire.

SINCE the President and Mrs. Johnson do not want "anyone to pay a thing," entrance to the home is free. A small brochure which Mrs. Johnson helped write contains information about the home and about the early years of the President. It is given, without charge, to each visitor.

Visiting hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.



Lady Bird Johnson ordered this architectural sketch for the cover of the brochure which is given to visitors at the President's boyhood home.



It's LBJ's Life Story

group of distaff reporters on a tour of the house and the grounds. On hand to help her tell us the story of the house, its furnishings and the people who lived in it was Lucia Alexander, who lives in Fort Worth but who owns a weekend house just a block away from the boyhood home.

Mrs. Johnson and Lucia Alexander, who have worked over a year on the restoration, pressured relatives into giving up furniture and bric-a-brac originally in the house.

When the original was not available, the two women combed the countryside until they found similar items to fill in.

THE HOUSE on a quiet residential street, a one-block detour off Texas Highway 290, was built in 1886.

President and Mrs. Johnson acquired the house in 1963, a few months before he became President.

In the front yard are two old arbor vitae trees and a covered well with an oaken bucket.

"It may be gilding the lily, putting wisteria on it," noted Mrs. Johnson, pointing to the flowering vine on the well, "but I'm going to leave it."

The grounds are planted with yucca, crepe myrtle, oleander, ceniza (purple sage), jasmine, mimosa trees and other plants one could have found in Texas in the early 1900's. There is a peach tree planted by the President's parents, and a hedge

of lilacs which have survived the years.

Friends and neighbors have contributed flowers, bushes and trees, including two hanging baskets filled with petunias.

One basket is on the front porch where there are comfortable porch chairs and a white wicker two-seater swing hanging on chains from the ceiling. Lucia Alexander said she found the swing which is "as much like the one we always had as I could find."

IN RESTORING the house, two partitions were knocked out, throwing the onetime best bedroom, the entrance hall and dining room together into one large room.

This was done, explained Mrs. Johnson, because the house will be available for meetings of local and civic groups.

"My husband feels an enormous gratitude to the people of this county, so he wanted to make it available," the First Lady said.

Furniture in the part of the room which was formerly the best bedroom includes a red velvet sofa of Eastlake Victorian style, needlepoint chairs, marble top tables and a big Victorian mirrored walnut hat rack-umbrella stand containing hats of the period, including a velvet one with henna feathers.

The hook rugs on the floor and the white Brussels lace curtains at the windows were made to match as closely as possible those in

the house when the President lived there.

Also in this room is an old-fashioned revolving bookcase with old school books, The Works of Jefferson, and volumes of Shakespeare. On top is the "Children's Own Storybook" inscribed to Lyndon B. Johnson from Mama.

There is also a copy of Noah Webster's Blue Book Speller. Sam Johnson, said the First Lady, "was a great one to pick up the Blue Book Speller and ask the children to spell . . . If you look in it, you see why that generation of children knew how to spell better than this generation does."

In this room is the family Bible—actually two family Bibles which were combined by Lucia because both were "in disrepair."

LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON heads the list of the five children born to Sam and Rebekah Johnson. His birth date was August 27, 1908.

The dining room, called the "Fireplace Room" was where the family gathered during winter months. Its square-top, gate-legged table and pineapple-pattern centerpiece, crocheted by Grandmother Baines, reminds the family how "everybody in the town knew Mrs. Johnson set a good table." Her specialties included dewberry cobbler, fried chicken, spoon bread and turkey dressing, which Lady Bird Johnson recalls as "the best I ever ate."

similar to the one which stood in the same place when the President was growing up. Lucia recalled that the children would roll the rugs and dance. Lyndon, she said, liked to sing, and among his favorite songs were, "In the Shade of the Old Apple Tree," and "Carolina Moon."

The pink-flowered paper on the wall was chosen by President Johnson from three samples his wife and sister selected. Lucia said she thought he made "a fine choice."

It goes well with the rose dust velvet covering on the small sofa and chairs which belonged to the President's Mother, the hanging lamp of bristol glass and amethyst crystals and the what-not shelf with its rose jar and milk glass.

On the screened porch are various glass cases filled with pictures, letters and papers. In one are family pictures taken by "a photographer named Lady Bird Johnson."

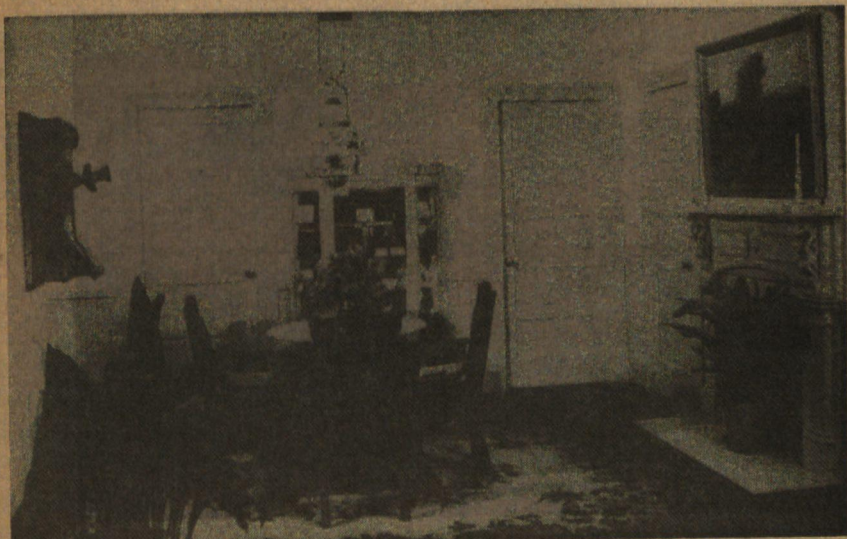
Another case contains the President's Silver Star Medal, awarded for "Gallantry in Action" as a Navy commander in World War II.

DRAMATIZED by the restoration is the deep mutual affection of Rebekah Baines and her oldest son, Lyndon. It shows in a num-

ber of ways. "I love you as I do you. I hope . . . that Lyndon will prove to be as tender, as

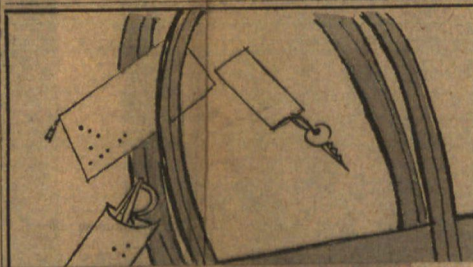
the best you have and the best will come back to you." Mr. Johnson's political cam-

Visiting hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday.



White House Photos

An old-fashioned crank-type wall telephone in the dining room adds to the charm of the restored boyhood home.



3.00

Big as all outdoors . . . crushed grain vinyl "carry-all" in luscious colors—white, bone, orange, light blue, pink. Packable, too. Perfect for beach, office or travel.

Open evenings Monday, Thursday, Friday.



for and about WOMEN CLASSIFIED The Washington Post

Johnson House Made Landmark

JOHNSON CITY, Tex., March 13 (UPI) — It's official — the boyhood home of President Johnson is a Texas historical landmark.

The State Historical Survey Committee yesterday designated the one-story white wooden house off the main street in Johnson City as a part of Texas's heritage. The committee said a medallion and plaque will be put on the house.

The President still owns the house and keeps his voting residence in Johnson City, 15 miles east of his LBJ ranch. Mrs. Johnson is supervising the remodeling of the house for the day when it can be turned into a museum.

little
 Pres Johnson *little*
~~Howard Stagner~~
 Boyhood Home
 I visited with Mrs Johnson
 about a month ago about her
 plans to exhibit the house.
 H.W. B 3/22/65

File Lyndon B Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

The Washington Post

For and about WOMEN

MONDAY, MAY 3, 1965

Texas Shrine

Johnson House Home No More

JOHNSON CITY, Texas, May 2—On the anniversary of the day when President Johnson was sworn into office as a Representative for the first time, 23 years ago, his boyhood home will become an official Texas historical site.

The house—a white frame, typical Texas farmhouse of Victorian style—is the one in which the President spent most of his early years.

He made the first speech

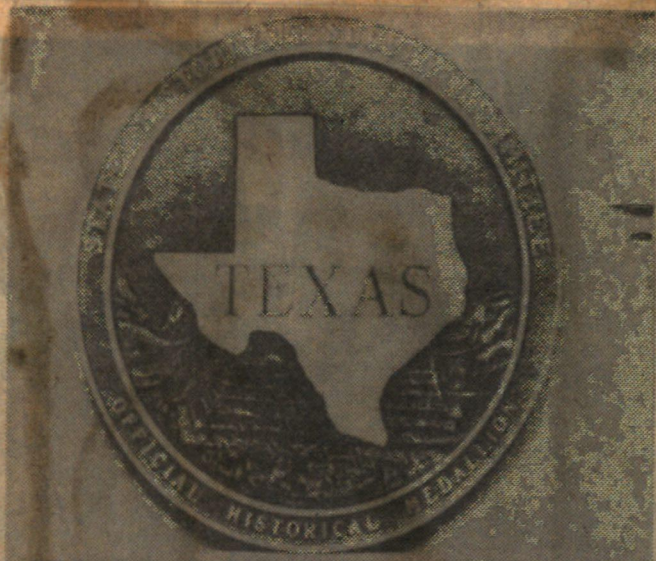
of his first congressional campaign from the same porch where the Texas Historical Medallion will be presented in a dedication ceremony at 10 a.m. on May 13.

A long-time friend of the President, Federal Judge Homer Thornberry of Austin, will make the dedication speech. Another friend, Stella Gliddon of Johnson City, will present the medallion.

The medallion is centered with a map of Texas. Around the map are these words: State Historical Survey Committee Official Historical Medallion.

The dedication ceremony will also mark the official opening of the Presidential boyhood home to the public four days each week from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m., Friday through Monday. There will be no admittance fee and each visitor will receive without charge a small brochure telling about the early years of the house.

Restoration of the house has been a favorite project of Mrs. Johnson and of the President's youngest sister, Mrs. Birge Alexander of Fort Worth. Mrs. Alexander, the former Lucia Johnson, was born in the house.



BOYHOOD HOME, 36TH U.S. PRESIDENT, LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON. BUILT 1888, BOUGHT 1894 BY SAM EALY JOHNSON, JR., TEXAS LEGISLATOR, AND HIS WIFE REBEKAH BAINES, DAUGHTER OF LATE SECRETARY OF STATE IN TEXAS. ON 2 ELL PORCHES MRS. JOHNSON GREW ROSES. ON EAST PORCH, 1937, YOUNG LYNDON, PROTEGE OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND A FORMER CONGRESSIONAL AIDE, MADE FIRST SPEECH IN FIRST CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL OFFICE, FOR CONGRESS, 10TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS. RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK—1965

Associated Press

HISTORICAL MEDALLION

... will be placed on President's home

From Picture To Seal, LBJ Home Now Restored

JOHNSON CITY, Tex. (AP) — The little white frame house of the Victorian era is full of nostalgic memories which Lyndon Baines Johnson is now sharing with the public.

From his picture in an "ice cream parlor chair" at the age of 18 months, to the presidential seal, it tells his story — boy and man.

"Dreaming of a radiant future for you," his mother, Rebekah Baines Johnson wrote in a letter to her son, Lyndon, on his 1934 honeymoon.

"I'm not going to be the black sheep of the family after all," said the man who was to be president of the United States as he jubilantly wrote home of his acceptance on the college debating team.

Johnson's family, his wife, Lady Bird, and particularly his antique-minded younger sister, Lucia Johnson Alexander, participated in the labor of love — a year and a half effort to restore the President's boyhood home as it was when he lived there in his schooldays from about 1913 to 1926. They gathered all the family furnishings they could and bought antiques and reproductions to fill in.

Today, the Texas Historical Society places the official medallion on the modest rural home of Johnson's boyhood, making it an historic landmark and opening it to the public four days a week.

A one-block detour off Texas Highway 290 brings the visitor to the one-story Johnson home on a quiet residential street. The house has two ell-shaped front porches, and in the front yard are two old arbor vitae trees and a covered well with an oaken bucket. The grounds are planted with a wide variety of typically Texas flowers and shrubs.

A spokesman for the Johnson family said no figure could be given on the cost of the restoration, but that it was paid for by the Johnsons. The house is being operated by the Johnson Family Foundation.

The browsing visitor can look over such memorabilia as John-

son's fourth-grade report card, showing all A's for the month of March 1917 — except for deportment in which he got C-plus.

While deportment plagued him at age 8, a nearby memory case holds his Silver Star Medal, awarded for "gallantry in action" on duty as a Navy commander in World War II.

The "This is Your Life" portrayal is dear to the President's heart. Just stepping into the house, with its collection of Eastlake Victorian furniture, Bristol glass lamps hanging from ceiling chains, Brussels lace curtains, and knick-knacks, sets him off on remembrances.

Recently, he regaled reporters for more than an hour with fond, but off-the-record stories of his father, Sam Ealy Johnson, a tall, rugged rancher, lawyer, real estate trader and six-term Texas legislator; and his cultured mother, Rebekah Baines, a college graduate who taught school and gave lessons in elocution and public speaking.

In an old-fashioned revolving bookcase of family volumes there are childhood storybooks, one inscribed to Lyndon "From Mama."

The dining room, with its gateleg table and pineapple-pattern centerpiece crocheted by Grandmother Baines, reminds the family how "everybody in the town knew Mrs. Johnson set a good table." Her specialties included dewberry cobbler, fried chicken, spoon bread and turkey dressing which Lady Bird recalls as "the best I ever ate."

One thing dramatized by the restoration is the deep mutual affection of Rebekah Baines and her oldest son, Lyndon. It shows in a number of their letters which are displayed.

Congratulating "My Darling Boy" on his election to Congress for the first time in 1937, Mrs. Johnson wrote that the theme of her many letters to her son had been: "I love you; I believe in you; I expect great things of you."

On his side, Lyndon told his mother what her letters meant

to him. Writing from Southwest Texas State Teachers College in 1929, he said:

"Your letters always give me more strength, renewed courage and that bulldog tenacity so essential to the success of any man. Now when one is delayed, a spell of sadness and disappointment is cast over me."

Adding to the Johnson legend are scores of photographs, treasured by the family, and some contributed by neighbors. They show Lyndon in his first long trousers, amid his school chums, including one of his first sweethearts, Kittie Clyde Leonard. He used to take her to the old Opera House cinema to watch silent films.

Lyndon's political campaigns are depicted from front-porch speeches here to front-page headlines. And, his wife has provided an intimate "personal life" collection of family color photos she took herself.

A big leather Bible contains pages from two old family Bibles with hand-written entries of births and deaths, one dated 1867. It also contains a sign of the times — an illuminated manuscript page with a "temperance pledge."

Not everything is as it was in the modest family home built in 1886. In restoring the place on a tract of about two acres surrounded by a three-rail fence of Mexican juniper, two partitions were knocked out, throwing the onetime "best bedroom," the entrance hall and dining room together into one large room.

The one spot that remains "the just as it used to be part of the house," is the front parlor, with its hooked rug and Victorian furniture in "rosedust" pink velvet. The President made the final choice of its flowered print wallpaper.

The house is air-conditioned, its kitchen modern and — in typical LBJ style — it is wired for sound. Hi-fi, AM and FM radio and Muzak are available at the flick of a switch.

When the tourists aren't there, the house will be available for meetings of local civic groups.

File: Johnson Boyhood Home
Texas

A 2

Sunday, June 13, 1965

THE WASHINGTON POST

Johnson Visits His Boyhood Home And Plays the Victrola for Guests

By Dorothy McCardle
Washington Post Staff Writer

JOHNSON CITY, Tex., June 12—President and Mrs. Johnson paid a surprise visit to the President's newly restored boyhood home here this morning.

They drove the 14 miles from the nearby LBJ Ranch to Johnson City and gave a lot of tourists the chance to gape and clasp the hands of the President and First Lady.

President and Mrs. Johnson came with a party of friends from Washington, including Secretary of the Interior and Mrs. Stewart L. Udall and Mrs. Abe Fortas, wife of the Washington attorney and presidential adviser.

The presidential party came in the back door, and the

President hustled his guests into the front parlor, where the Victorian furniture is upholstered in pink velvet. The flowered wallpaper, with roses as big as cabbages was selected by the President himself when the house was restored. It came as close as he could remember to the original paper in the room.

The President hurried over to an old-fashioned victrola and started up a record, "I Wish I Were Alladin." He listened with a smile.

The President wore a plaid shirt and slacks, Mrs. Johnson a white cotton shift dress. They spent 45 minutes showing their Washington guests mementos of the President's growing up. He lived in the house from 1913 to 1934, the year of his marriage.

Since the house was restored and opened to the public in the middle of May, 300 or 400 tourists have inspected its three rooms and enclosed back porch on visiting days.

There are signs of Mrs. Johnson's nation-wide beautification program all around the outside of the house. Shrubs and flowers are freshly planted. A winding flagstone walk is in the process of being laid.

File: Lyndon B Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

LBJ Greets Tourists In His Boyhood Home

By Ward Just

Washington Post Staff Writer

JOHNSON CITY, Tex., Sept. 6—There was no matinee today at the Jaycee Theater on Nugent Avenue, where "A Boy Ten Feet Tall" is the feature attraction.

There was no Labor Day parade either, and about the only activity in this steamy central Texas town was tourist cars coming and going in front of Lyndon B. Johnson's boyhood home.

Down the street from the boyhood home, Minnie Cox attended the Lyndon B. Johnson souvenir stand, answered questions, and rang up sales on LBJ plates, hats, coffee cups, postcards, photographs, pennants, and "LBJ Land Rocks."

The rocks, Mrs. Cox said, were moving especially well. They sell for 25 cents each and are indigenous to the 446-acre LBJ spread. She said that one man had special permission from the President to dig them up and sell them.

Valenti Interprets

Visitors to Johnson City saw a good deal of the President Sunday. In mid-afternoon, accompanied by his house guests, United Artists Chairman Arthur Krim and Mrs. Krim and White House Assistant Jack Valenti, Mr. Johnson toured the boyhood home (Valenti left his signature in the register) stopping and chatting along the way.

One couple to whom he spoke was Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Salviati of Venice, Italy, who now live in Flushing, N.Y. The Salviatis spoke Italian, and Valenti interpreted.

Mr. Johnson then called on A. W. (Judge) Moursund, his old friend who is now trustee of the LBJ business interests in Texas. Judge Moursund has law and real estate offices next door to the Friendly Bar.

New Park Cheerless

A major point of interest to the 850 citizens of Johnson City is the new Johnson City Park across the street from the souvenir stand donated to the town by Life Magazine, and formally acknowledged by Lady Bird Johnson in ceremonies a week ago at which the President spoke. The park is about the size of a softball diamond. It is a cheerless, grassless, dusty, treeless plot which has been used as a parking lot. It was understood that Life bought the property from a bank.

The tempo of Johnson City doesn't change much, whether the President is in residence or not. Shops are shuttered, and the loudest sound in the Friendly is the click of domino chips.

7: Lyndon B Johnson
Boyhood Home, Texas

The Washington Post

for and about **WOMEN**

TV-RADIO

COMICS

SECTION B

TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1966

...R

B1

LBJ's Boyhood Home Is National Landmark

AUSTIN, Tex., May 16 (UPI)—The National Historical Advisory Board has designated the Johnson City boyhood home of President Johnson as a national historical landmark, U.S. Rep. J. J. Pickle said today.

Pickle was informed by Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall that the board felt the Johnson City home "has exceptional value in illustrating the history of the United States"

The Board also said it felt the one-story frame house "symbolizes the President's early development characterized by quick attainment of responsibility."

Mr. Johnson lived in the house from 1914, when he was six, to 1924. His first political rally was held there in 1937 when he was elected to his Congressional office.

The home has already been declared a state historical landmark.

3/4 - 1966

4124

John:

Per latest dope form Jerry Rogers of Texas Tech on Johnson

Boyhood Home:

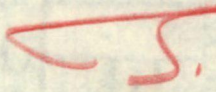
"The Lyndon B. Johnson boyhood home was ~~located~~^{deeded} to Blanco County last spring. It is now adminsitrated by the Lyndon Johnson Boyhood Home Foundation for Blanco County."

" . . . the person responsible for the place is Mrs. (not Miss) Jesse Hunter."

Hope this doesn't screw things up -

It does

Just got this revised word from Jerry.



Bill Brown

5/23 *Owned and administered by Johnson City*
The Boyhood Home Foundation owns and
administers the property. RLU

Information from White House via
Charlie Boutner

Bill Brown

March 10, 1966

Littleton

Johnson's Boyhood Home

Thank you for the info on the Johnson Boyhood Home. I am preparing a statement from the study you made last year and this latest dope will be very helpful.

It is an odd thing but no one has described the home, and without the photographs you have provided, I would be at a loss. There was a feature article in the Washington Post on the home that it was made a Texas Landmark, and while the article told about some of the rooms in the house, it did not say how large the house was, how many rooms it had and whether it was in L shape or T shape or one-story or two-story. And the same thing is true of the folder put out by the Boyhood Home Foundation. All this folder tells is about the life of the President in Texas.

Your study says the home was built in 1898 - the Texas Landmark marker says it was 1886, and I am using the 1886 date for fear of loads of correspondence if some statement is made that does not agree with the Texas plaque. From the photographs you provided, I gather that the home is more or less T shaped, though none of the photographs I have seen give a back view. However, the shape of the house is not too important.

All of Utley's outfit is to be moved to a Service Center building just across Key Bridge in Rosslyn. Technically, we are all there now, but the move has been delayed for a week.

Thanks again.

John O. Littleton

MAY 13 1966

Dear Senator Tower:

I am pleased to inform you that the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, described in the enclosure, has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.

This site has been evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. I have approved the recommendation of the Board.

As explained in the enclosed folder, the site is eligible to receive a certificate and a bronze plaque designating it a Registered National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owner and provide him with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site in your State, we wish to commend the owner for the care and preservation of this property.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. John G. Tower
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, SW
Mr. Littleton

MAY 13 1966

Dear Mr. Pickle:

I am pleased to inform you that the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, described in the enclosure, has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.

This site has been evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. I have approved the recommendation of the Board.

As explained in the enclosed folder, the site is eligible to receive a certificate and a bronze plaque designating it a Registered National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owner and provide him with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site in your Congressional District, we wish to commend the owner for the care and preservation of this property.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. J. J. (Jake) Pickle
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, SW
Mr. Littleton

MAY 13 1966

Dear Senator Yarborough

I am pleased to inform you that the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, described in the enclosure, has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.

This site has been evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. I have approved the recommendation of the Board.

As explained in the enclosed folder, the site is eligible to receive a certificate and a bronze plaque designating it a Registered National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owner and provide him with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site in your State, we wish to commend the owner for the care and preservation of this property.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Ralph W. Yarborough
United States Senate
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc: Regional Director, SW
Mr. Littleton

MAY 13 1966

Dear Mr. Pool:

I am pleased to inform you that the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, described in the enclosure, has been found to possess exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States.

This site has been evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings, pursuant to the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935. I have approved the recommendation of the Board.

As explained in the enclosed folder, the site is eligible to receive a certificate and a plaque designating it a Registered National Historic Landmark. The Director of the National Park Service will notify the owner and provide him with the proper application forms.

In recognizing the historical importance of this site, I wish to commend the owner for the care and preservation of this property.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Stewart L. Udall

Secretary of the Interior

Hon. Joe Pool
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

Enclosures

cc:
Regional Director, SW
Mr. Littleton

Note for files:

May 17, 1966

JL

LYNDON B. JOHNSON BOYHOOD HOME, TEXAS

Mr. Binnewies of Mr. Melvin's office called this morning to request a copy of the Secretary's letter (with enclosures) to Representative Pickle, notifying him of the selection of the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home for Landmark eligibility. Mr. Binnewies explained that the copy had been requested by the White House.

I personally carried the copy to Mr. Melvin's office.

I mentioned this request to Mr. Utley because I felt that, perhaps, we should not send out the letter we had prepared informing the President of the site's selection. Mr. Utley felt we should, and the letter went out about noon.

JWW

John Walker

H34-RH

PARKS

Dear Mr. President:

I am happy to inform you that the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home is eligible for registration as a National Historic Landmark.

At its spring meeting, the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments found the Boyhood Home of exceptional value in commemorating or illustrating the history of the United States and recommended that it be declared eligible for National Landmark status. I have approved the Board's recommendation.

This action is in keeping with the Board's recommendation that each of the Presidents of the United States be recognized through the designation of a structure intimately associated with his past as a National Historic Landmark.

The selection of the Boyhood Home and of 14 other nationally significant historic sites for Landmark eligibility will soon be announced in a Departmental news release. Shortly thereafter the Director of the National Park Service will provide the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home Foundation with application forms for the Landmark certificate and bronze plaque.

I am pleased to have your boyhood home included in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks.

Respectfully yours,

Secretary of the Interior

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

cc:
Secretary's Reading file
DCCO
NPS comeback copy
FW (2)
Regional Director, Southwest
SLR - Mr. Melvin

cc:
RH - Mr. Littleton

JWWalker:JOLittleton:gb 5-17-66

*Letter went to the Secretary
for signature May 20, 1966.
No record of it being signed.*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

★ news release

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Kelly - 343-4214

For Release to PM's, MAY 23, 1966

PRESIDENT'S BOYHOOD HOME, 14 OTHER SITES RECOMMENDED AS HISTORIC LANDMARKS

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall has announced that 15 sites, including President Johnson's boyhood home in Johnson City, Texas, have been declared eligible for designation as Registered National Historic Landmarks. The Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings and Monuments recommended the sites at its meeting recently held in Washington, D. C. and Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

The Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, a one-story farm house built in 1886, was bought by Samuel and Rebekah Johnson when the future President was six years old. He lived there until he completed his secondary education.

Typical of the farm houses built in the Southwest in the late 19th century, it has been recognized as a Texas State Landmark. It is owned and administered by the Johnson City Foundation as an historic house-museum.

Also included in the new list of National Historic Landmark sites are three locations associated with the Lewis and Clark Expedition--Weippe Prairie, Clearwater County, Idaho; Great Falls Portage, near Great Falls, Montana; and Camp Disappointment, Glacier County, Montana.

These sites and structures, which become Registered National Historic Landmarks upon application by their owners, bring to 688 the number declared eligible for the Registry since the program was begun by the National Park Service in 1960. Sites recognized under the program are not administered by the National Park Service. However, upon application, the owners are presented with a certificate and bronze plaque.

Other areas and structures declared eligible for historic landmark status are:

- Toolesboro Mound Group, adjacent to Toolesboro, Louisa County, Iowa;
- Puye Ruins, near Santa Clara Pueblo, northwestern Santa Fe County, New Mexico;
- The Conference (Billopp) House, Hylan Boulevard, Tottenville, Staten Island, New York;
- The De Windt House, Livingston Avenue and Oak Street, Tappan, Rockland County, New York;
- Historic Track, Goshen, New York;
- John Philip Sousa Home, Sands Point, Port Washington, Nassau County, New York;
- Reed Gold Mine Site, near Concord, Cabarrus County, North Carolina;
- William H. McGuffey Boyhood Home Site, near Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio;
- Terence V. Powderly Home, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania;
- Beale Street Historic District, Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee; and
- Oregon Trail Ruts, near Guernsey, Platte County, Wyoming.

x x x

(Attached are brief descriptions of the 15 sites and structures recommended for the Registry of National Historic Landmarks. Photographs of these are NOT available either from the National Park Service or the Department of the Interior.)

1. Lewis and Clark: Weippe Prairie, Clearwater County, Idaho. In September 1805, at Weippe Prairie, the western terminus of the Lolo Trail, Lewis and Clark first encountered the Nez Percé Indians. During the short time they spent with the Nez Percé, Lewis and Clark established friendly relations that remained unbroken for 70 years. The Prairie, a beautiful upland plain just west of the Bitterroot Mountains, lies to the south of the town of Weippe.

2. Toolesboro Mound Group, adjacent to Toolesboro, Louisa County, Iowa. Located just north of Toolesboro, the Toolesboro Mound Group is the most important and best preserved Hopewell site in Iowa. As such, it well represents the northwestward spread of Hopewell culture from the Illinois River Valley, its point of origin. The site is owned by the State Historical Society of Iowa.

3. Lewis and Clark: Camp Disappointment, Glacier County, Montana. Camp Disappointment, the northernmost point reached by the Lewis and Clark Expedition, was established by Lewis and several of his men, July 23, 1806, on the return trip from the Pacific. The purpose of this side trip was to explore an Indian trail, to determine if the Marias River extended north of the 49th parallel, and to determine if there were an easy portage between the headwaters of the Marias and the Saskatchewan River in Canada.

On July 26, when Lewis and his companions were returning on the back trail to join the expedition they encountered eight unfriendly Blackfoot Indians. In the fracas two Indians were killed and Lewis narrowly escaped being shot.

The site of Camp Disappointment is located about 12 miles northeast of Browning, on the south side of Cut Bank Creek in the Blackfeet Reservation. It is undeveloped.

4. Lewis and Clark: Great Falls Portage, near Great Falls, Montana. On June 13, 1805, Meriwether Lewis and a small party, who were traveling on foot, reached the Great Falls of the Missouri, thus becoming the first white men to view the Falls. The 18-mile portage necessitated by the falls took 31 days to complete and was one of the greatest ordeals endured by the expedition on its way to the Pacific. The portage route lies to the south and east of the city of Great Falls.

5. Puyé Ruins, near Santa Clara Pueblo in northwestern Santa Fe County, New Mexico. A large pueblo, measuring about 275 by 300 feet; several kivas; and hundreds of cavates (rooms cut into rock) extending over a mile in length are among the more outstanding archeological remains found at Puyé Ruins. One of the largest prehistoric Indian settlements in the area, Puyé was probably occupied from the late 1200's until the middle 1500's. It is located on the reservation of the Santa Clara Indians who claim the site as their ancestral home.

6. The Conference (Billopp) House, Hylan Boulevard, Tottenville, Staten Island, New York. On September 11, 1776, a little more than two months after issuance of the Declaration of Independence, this house was the scene of a dramatic confrontation between Admiral Lord Richard Howe, commander-in-chief of the British fleet, and a committee of the Continental Congress, composed of Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Edward Rutledge. It was a grim time for the new nation; the British had just captured Long Island and were threatening Manhattan. Howe, who had requested the conference, offered peace and amnesty to the Americans provided that they dissolve their armies and congresses and withdraw the Declaration of Independence. But the committee stood firm and told Howe that the United States would adhere to the Declaration.

The Conference House, an imposing two-story manor house, was built about 1680 by Christopher Billopp. It is now owned by the City of New York and administered by the Conference House Association. The house is open to the public.

7. The De Windt House, Livingston Avenue and Oak Street, Tappan, Rockland County, New York. The De Windt House sheltered George Washington on four occasions during the American Revolution. Most notably, Washington occupied the house between September 28 and October 7, 1780, during the trial and execution of the British spy, Major John André. The house, erected in 1700, is a fine example of Dutch architecture along the Hudson River. The building is maintained by the Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, as a memorial to Washington.

8. Historic Track, at Goshen, New York. The development of the trotter and harness racing are American in origin. In the last quarter of the 19th century, harness racing became a national sport. Much of this activity centered in Goshen, which was also the home of Hambletonian, the greatest sire of trotters. Historic Track, still active, has been associated with harness racing for over a century.

9. John Philip Sousa Home, 14 Hicks Lane, Sands Point, Port Washington, Nassau County, New York. John Philip Sousa, the "March King," lived in this house for several summers before he bought it in 1915. From then until his death in 1932, it was his home.

The house remains much the same as it was when Sousa lived there. It is privately owned, and is being restored by the owner.

10. Reed Gold Mine Site, near Concord, Cabarrus County, North Carolina. The discovery of gold at the Reed Gold Mine in 1799 touched off the first gold rush in the United States. Prior to 1829 all of the gold mined in the United States and coined at the Philadelphia Mint was taken from the North Carolina mines.

Eclipsed later by the great Western gold discoveries and largely depleted after 1860, the Appalachian gold fields were significant in creating and awakening interest in this new industry for the Nation, and in preparing American miners for the great developments of mining in the Far West.

The mine site is unspoiled by modern developments. It is privately owned and is not open to the public.

11. William H. McGuffey Boyhood Home Site, near Youngstown, Mahoning County, Ohio. William H. McGuffey, educator and author of the famous Eclectic Readers for elementary schools, spent his boyhood years on this farm. Although no structures dating from McGuffey's youth remain, and the farm has been subdivided, the site is considered to be symbolic of the forces and influences which shaped his life.

12. Terence V. Powderly Home, 614 Main Avenue, Scranton, Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania. Terence V. Powderly exerted a powerful influence on the American labor movement during the last quarter of the 19th century. As the Grand Master Workman of the Knights of Labor between 1879 and 1893, he led the Nation's largest labor organization. With the support of his union, he long advocated arbitration, as opposed to strikes, as a principal bargaining tool for labor.

Powderly lived for many years in his Scranton home, which is almost the same today as when he occupied it. It is privately owned.

13. Beale Street Historic District (Main to Fourth Street), Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. Beale Street provided the vibrant, often rowdy environment that gave birth to the blues, a unique contribution of the Negro to American culture. W. C. Handy, "Father of the Blues," made Peewee's Saloon on Beale Street his headquarters early in his career, and it was here that he wrote such songs as "Memphis Blues," "St. Louis Blues," and "Beale Street Blues."

From Main to Fourth Street, which was the lively entertainment heart of Beale Street, many structures such as Peewee's Saloon survive. The area is still an entertainment center.

14. Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas.

This one-story farm house, painted white, symbolizes the early growth and development, marked by industry and early assumption of responsibility, of President Johnson. This site, administered by the Johnson City Foundation, commemorates the early life and profound influence of his parents on the President's later destiny. It is open to the public.

15. Oregon Trail Ruts, near Guernsey, Platte County, Wyoming. The Oregon Trail Ruts are located on the south side of the North Platte River about one-half mile south of the town of Guernsey. Here on an eroded sandstone ridge the grinding action of emigrant vehicles resulted in a roadbed from two to six feet deep, leaving traces of this famous trail that are unsurpassed in their clarity and integrity. The site is owned by the State of Wyoming.

May 23, 1966

NOTE TO MR. BOATNER
THROUGH MR. UTLEY

*Johnson Bay Wood
Home, Texas*

Here is a corrected copy of the press release. The first page was retyped. Retyped page enclosed. The last page of the statements accompanying the press release was also retyped.

Here is a copy of our revised statement.

JO L

John O. Littleton, NPS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

Built in 1886, this small one-story white frame house was bought in 1914 by Sam Ealy Johnson, Jr., Texas legislator, and his wife, Rebekah Baines Johnson. It was here that President Lyndon Baines Johnson spent his boyhood years, and it was here in 1937 that he made his first speech in his first campaign for national office.

The future President was six years old when his parents moved into the house, and he lived there until 1924, when he completed his secondary education at age fifteen. The home thus symbolizes his early development, which was marked by industry and quick assumption of responsibility.

The house is structurally sound and is well maintained. Recently restored and furnished with Johnson family furniture and memorabilia, the house is owned and administered by the Johnson City Foundation as a historic house museum. It is located in Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas.

Littleton

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : Mr. Stagner
Through: Mr. Utley

Run 6/3

DATE: June 3, 1966

FROM : Littleton

SUBJECT: Notices to Landmark Owners

All of the owners of Landmark sites, selected at the last Advisory Board meeting, have been notified and provided with application forms, except the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home in Texas. I understand that Mr. Boatner promised to get the name and address of the person we should notify for the Johnson Boyhood Home site.

This delay has caused a ripple in the flow chart.

Horrors.

John Littleton
John O. Littleton

WASO-9
(March 1960)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

Date 6/3/66

FOLLOW-UP SLIP

To: Littleton

Talked with Charlie Boatner. He says send application for LBJ Boyhood Home to Hon. A.W. Moursund, Johnson City, Texas, and ask him to convey it to the proper official of the Johnson City Foundation.

Utley

(Signature)

JUN 8 - 1966

H34-RH

Hon. A. W. Moursund

Johnson City, Texas

Dear Mr. Moursund:

As you are no doubt aware, the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home has recently been declared eligible for registration as a National Historic Landmark.

Handwritten initials: JM

The Registry of National Historic Landmarks is a permanent register of nationally significant historic and archeological sites of the United States. Its purpose is to identify and recognize these sites and to encourage their owners to preserve them. Eligible Landmark sites are chosen through studies prepared by the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings; evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments; and approved by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Historic Sites Act of August 21, 1935.

As explained in the enclosed folder, recognition and registration is afforded by certificates and bronze plaques provided free to the owners or administrators of Landmark sites upon their application and agreement to adhere to simple preservation practices. Registration of an eligible site is voluntary on the part of the owner.

Since you are familiar with the development and operation of the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home as a historic house museum, we would very much appreciate it if you would see that this letter reaches the proper official of the Johnson City Foundation.

Three copies of the application form for use in requesting the Landmark certificate and plaque are enclosed. If the Foundation wishes to receive the certificate and plaque, the form should be completed and two copies returned to the National Park Service. The third may be retained for the Foundation's records.

We shall be happy to have the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home included in the Registry.

Sincerely yours,
HOWARD R. STAGNER
Assistant Director

Enclosures

Mr. Littleton

JWalker:mg 6-6-1966

cc: Mr. Boatner, Room 7214
Regional Director, SW

RECEIVED
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON OFFICE

JUN 22 10 47 AM '66

June 14, 1966

(Date)

Mr. George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D. C. 20240

RH
JUN 23 1966

Dear Mr. Hartzog:

As the (owner, owners) of Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas
(Name of site)

located in Johnson City Blanco Texas
(City) (County) (State)

(I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (x) and a bronze plaque, 17" x 18" (x), designating this historic property as a Registered National Historic Landmark. (Check one or both as desired.)

1. Fully conscious of the high responsibility to the Nation that goes with the ownership and care of a property classified as having exceptional value and worthy of Registered National Historic Landmark status, (I,we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the best of (my,our) ability, the historical integrity of this important part of the national cultural heritage.
2. Toward this end, (I,we) agree to continue to use the property only for purposes consistent with its historical character.
3. (I,we) agree to permit an annual visit to the property by a representative of the National Park Service, as a basis for continuing Landmark status.
4. If, for any reason, the three conditions mentioned above cannot continue to be met, it is agreed that the Registered National Historic Landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the Registered National Historic Landmark certificate nor the plaque will be displayed.

RECEIVED
WASHINGTON SERVICE
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

JUN 23 10 43 AM '66

RECEIVED

Sincerely yours,

The Johnson City Foundation

M. Mintes
Trustee

RECEIVED

JUN 23 10 47 AM '66

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON SERVICE
CENTER

~~Signature~~

The Johnson City Foundation

STUCRETAJ LONJA

Historic landmark certificate and the plaque will be displayed by the Secretary of the Interior, neither the registered national landmark status shall cease and that until such status is restored continue to be met, it is agreed that the registered national historic

3. (I, we) agree to permit an annual visit to the property by

only for purposes consistent with the historical character.

part of the national historic site.

best of (my, our) ability, the historical integrity of this important status, (I, we) agree to preserve, so far as practicable and to the exceptional value and worth of registered national historic landmark does with the ownership and care of a property classified as having

1. Full cognitions of the high responsibility to the Nation that desired.)

as a registered national historic landmark. (Check one or both as please indicate, I, we) hereby make formal application for a certificate (x) and a

located in _____ (City) _____ (County) _____ (State)
Johnson City Blanco Texas

As the (owner, owners) of _____ (Name of site)
Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

Dear Mr. Harzog:

Washington, D. C. 20540
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
Director
Mr. George B. Harzog, Jr.

6H JUN 23 1966

(Date)

June 14, 1966

JUN 23 10 47 AM '66
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON SERVICE
CENTER
RECEIVED

June 28, 1966

H34-RH

Mr. M. C. Winters
Trustee, The Johnson City Foundation
P. O. Box 1209
Austin, Texas

Dear Mr. Winters:

We were pleased to receive the Foundation's application for the certificate and plaque designating the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home in Johnson City, Texas, a Registered National Historic Landmark. We will proceed immediately with the preparation of the certificate and plaque. mg

Ceremonies for the presentation of the certificates and plaques are arranged by the owners of Landmark sites; however, the National Park Service is always pleased to assist the owners in any way possible. Generally, an official of the Interior Department or the National Park Service makes the presentations at Landmark ceremonies, but an owner may, of course, invite anyone he wishes to participate in the activities.

Should you wish the Service's help in arranging the ceremonies for the presentation, we shall be glad to assist you.

We are happy to have the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home included in the Registry of National Historic Landmarks.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN M. CORBETT

ACTING ASSISTANT Director

cc:

Regional Director, SW w/c application

NOTE TO REGION: This Office will handle the arrangements for the presentation ceremony, including ordering the plaque.

Mr. Littleton

JWalker:mg 6-28-1966

June 28, 1966

H34-RH

Memorandum

To: Assistant to the Secretary and Director of
Information Charles K. Boatner

From: Chief, Division of History Studies

Subject: Application for the Certificate and Plaque
Designating the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home
in Johnson City, Texas, a Registered National
Historic Landmark

Mr. M. C. Winters, Trustee of the Johnson City Foundation has submitted the application forms requesting the Landmark certificate and plaque for the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home.

Enclosed is a draft of our proposed reply. If it meets with your approval, please return it to me, and we will get the letter out right away.

We have already begun preparation of the certificate and have placed a special rush order for manufacture of the plaque. The certificate should be ready within the next two weeks, but the plaque will not be ready before the latter part of July.

/S/ ROBERT M. UTLEY
Robert M. Utley

Enclosure

cc:
Mr. Littleton

JWWalker:mg

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

BRANCH OF HISTORY

Files of

THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HISTORIC SITES
AND BUILDINGS

NAME OF SITE: LYNDON B. JOHNSON BOYHOOD HOME, TEXAS

DATE:

Transferred from Survey File to Park History Studies
upon Landmark becoming an Authorized Area by
Public Law # 91-134 dated December 2, 1969

REGISTERED NATIONAL
HISTORIC LANDMARKS

HSS file

January 4, 1965

H34-RH

Memorandum

To: Director
From: Chief, Division of History Studies
Subject: Meeting with Dr. Wayne Grover

At the request of Dr. Wayne Grover, Archivist of the United States, I went over to the National Archives today to confer about the preservation of President Johnson's boyhood home at Johnson City, Texas. Dr. Grover had recently, at Mrs. Johnson's request, installed some exhibits in this house and wanted to know how it might be preserved, as a unit of the National Park System or otherwise. Apparently the house now receives only part-time care, even though owned by the Johnsons.

I said that quite apart from significance (which it surely possesses) and feasibility-suitability (which it may or may not possess), I would have grave reservations about the propriety of memorializing an incumbent President at taxpayer's expense before he had finished making his mark on history. I said I thought this impropriety, plus the political inexpediency, would probably occur to the President, too, if the proposal were broached to him. I recalled for Dr. Grover the furore that FDR aroused by giving us Hyde Park while he still occupied the White House. I said, though, that we would surely make investigations if officially requested.

The other alternatives, unless the Johnsons could see their way clear to maintaining the property themselves, appear to be to revive the somewhat moribund Blanco County Historical Society and entrust them with the house's care until such time as conditions favor a more professional consideration of its long-term future, or to give it to the Texas State Board, or to sound out the National Trust on its interest in administering it. Dr. Grover seemed to think that the first was the best solution.

Dr. Grover's go-between with Mrs. Johnson has been a lady who cares for the family papers. He is under no obligation to come up with a solution or even to suggest possibilities, although he seems to have made some kind of ill-defined commitment to the lady archivist to look into the possibilities. He thought the best thing for him to do, since I could provide him with no clear-cut printed policy statement that fitted this particular case, was to make no suggestions involving the National Park Service. I agreed.

Robert M. Utley

cc:

Mr. Utley

RMUtley:mlw

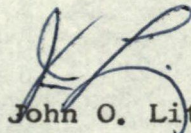
May 23, 1966

NOTE FOR FILES:

Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home

Mr. Utley called today to tell me that Mr. Boatner stated that the Lyndon B. Johnson Home at Johnson City, Texas, was owned and administered by the Johnson City Foundation, and that all of our records should be corrected immediately.

Mr. Utley said that Mr. Boatner got this information from the President's attorney.

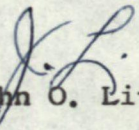

John O. Littleton

May 23, 1966

NOTE FOR FILES:

Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home

At Mr. Utley's request, I called Mrs. Jesse Hunter today at the Home. Mrs. Hunter said that it was her understanding that Blanco County owned the Boyhood Home. She said it was dedicated May 13, 1965. On further questioning, however, she was not sure that it had been deeded to the County. She said it was administered by the Johnson City Foundation. She asked not to be quoted on the ownership, but referred me to the President's personal secretary, Juanita Roberts; Miss Dorothy Territo, Archivist for the President; and Miss Elizabeth Carpenter. *she said she got her information directly from the whitehouse.*


John O. Littleton

5/23/66

Mr. John Littleton:

The Lyndon Baines Johnson
Boyhood Home is owned and ad-
ministered by the JOHNSON CITY
FOUNDATION.

Mrs. Hunter, sent this note
after I had called her.
on the telephone she wasn't
sure of the ownership -
first saying that Blaves
Co. owned the house.

J.L.

PRESIDENT LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S
BOYHOOD HOME



JOHNSON CITY, TEXAS

Hours:

10-4 Friday, Saturday
and Monday

12-4 Sunday

THE EARLY YEARS OF A PRESIDENT

Today the Johnson City area is thoroughly Western. But in the boyhood of Lyndon Johnson people used to say, Here the South ends and the West begins. Johnson City itself was an amalgam of the two regions. Most of its residents were Southern in descent and proud of it but they also wore boots and Stetsons and they spoke the accent and many of the attitudes of the ranch country.

Little Johnson City (population: about 400) was also in-between in its standard of living. A few families were really well-to-do; a few, really poor. Most were like Samuel Ealy Johnson and his wife, Rebekah Baines, supporting their five children in reasonable comfort but with many financial ups-and-downs and rarely free of money worries.

For 12 years tall, rugged Sam Johnson served in the Texas Legislature. He established a reputation as a man who fought hard for the interests of ordinary people and he became particularly known for his opposition to any form of intolerance. But the Legislature paid only \$5 a day for two months a year. To support his family he farmed, and traded in real estate.

Sam Johnson had an enormous liking for people, and he was always bringing home some friends he had run into on Main Street. Rebekah Johnson, gracious and graceful, was a woman of unusual cultivation (her grandfather had been president of Baylor University). She too helped fill the house, with neighborhood youngsters whom she trained in declamation so skillfully that they boasted she was the best debate coach in Texas.

The Johnsons were a devoted family and Lyndon Baines Johnson knew a happy growing up. There was school of course, and after school, there were baseball and basketball, kick-the-can, and hide-and-peek in and out of the barns. During high school years came the bull sessions at O. Y. Fawcett's drug store and the dates—on Friday nights, at one of the girls' houses, where the dominoes were played to the tinkle of lemonade, and on Saturday nights, at the barn-like movie house, where Harold Withers sat playing the same record over and over again while Norma Shearer and Tom Mix filled the silent screen with love and gun play and woe and wonders.

Whatever happened in Johnson City, Lyndon Johnson was there, taking part with full zest. He was endlessly curious, endlessly mischievous—and endlessly on the move. In high school, he was president of his class and the most fiery debater the school had known in many a season. To increase the family income, he worked on his father's farm, picked cotton for other farmers at 75¢ per one hundred pounds, ran errands, worked in a grocery store for 50¢ a day, shined shoes, and labored as a printer's devil. One fine summer's day he set up a shoe shine stand in front of Roy Scofield's barber shop—partly to make the 5¢ a shine, people noted, and partly to learn from the conversation of the older men.

"What did we think of him?" one Johnson City resident remembers. "We knew he was going somewhere—he sure was—but Heavens knows where."

In 1924, at 15, Lyndon Johnson graduated from high school and he too was anything but clear where he was going. His parents, especially his Mother, urged him to enter college but the boy had enough of schoolrooms. A friend had gone to California and was writing back as if the streets of the West Coast were paved with gold. Lyndon Johnson and four other boys, with \$25 apiece in their pockets, took off in a battered Model T. Young Johnson ran an elevator in San Bernardino, clerked in several cities, washed dishes and picked fruit up and down the Coast. Finding little gold, thoroughly homesick, he hitch-hiked back to Johnson City.

Sam Johnson now had a position in the State Highway Department and he found a job for his restless boy. For a year and a half Lyndon Johnson worked with pick and shovel building Route 290 which runs through Johnson City. In summer, the sun blistered down. In winter, the cold was sometimes so harsh he could barely grip the steering wheel of the dump truck.

On a Saturday night in 1927, Lyndon Johnson came home completely exhausted and depressed. He was ready to go back to the books. He turned to his Mother, asked if she would help get him into a college. The delighted Mrs. Johnson picked up the telephone and called a friend at Southwest Texas State Teacher's College in San Marcos, 30 miles to the southeast. Monday morning, the son was at a local bank, arranging a \$75 loan to begin his college career.

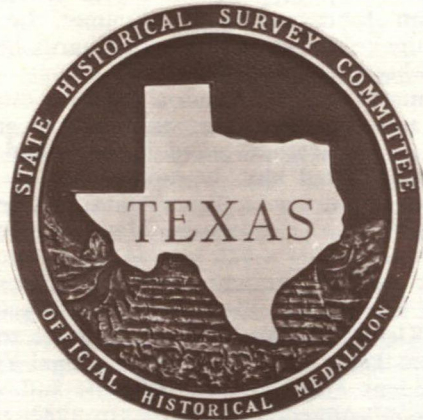
From here on the path was straight and swift: The years of college; school teaching in two Texas cities; serving as secretary to Representative Richard Kleberg in Washington; marriage to the winsome "Lady Bird" Taylor; Texas Director of the National Youth Administration under President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and, just ten years after Lyndon Johnson entered San Marcos, in 1937, election to the United States House of Representatives, the beginning of the elective career that was to lead in unbroken line to the White House.

And here, in his youthful years, the essential traits of the 36th President of the United States had clearly emerged. One schoolmate of his college days has remarked: "There was no doubt at all about it—Lyndon was some kind of a phenomenon." A phenomenon he was—of cascading energies; of an ambition that made everyone around him try harder (a former pupil puts it, "He was not only ambitious—he shared ambitiousness"); of an instinctive, overflowing liking for people of all types and a ready sympathy for anyone in trouble; of a hard-driving devotion to what his parents had dinned into him as public service, whether trying to improve his college paper, churning up the town of Cotulla to get a better break for his Mexican-American students, or carrying on a warm, highly personal kind of politicking which assumed that the essence of democracy is to open more opportunities.

Most of all, the early manhood of Lyndon Johnson showed the imprint of the Johnson City area, with its way of life so remarkably free of regional and class feelings. At the age of 21, editorializing for his college newspaper, Lyndon Johnson wrote words that could come straight out of his White House efforts to serve as President of all the American people.

The colleges were doing a "great work," Editor Johnson declared, because they were helping to create not urban or rural, not rich or poor citizens, not "Northerners, Southerners, Easterners, or Westerners." Their great work was in "creating Americans."

THIS WAS THE HOME OF SAM AND REBEKAH JOHNSON
FROM 1914 UNTIL 1937



**BOYHOOD HOME, 36TH U. S. PRESIDENT,
LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON.**

BUILT 1886. BOUGHT 1914 BY SAM EALY JOHNSON, JR., TEXAS LEGISLATOR, AND HIS WIFE REBEKAH BAINES, DAUGHTER OF LATE SECRETARY OF STATE IN TEXAS. ON 2 ELL PORCHES MRS. JOHNSON GREW ROSES. ON EAST PORCH, 1937, YOUNG LYNDON, PROTEGE OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN ROOSEVELT AND A FORMER CONGRESSIONAL AIDE, MADE FIRST SPEECH IN FIRST CAMPAIGN FOR NATIONAL OFFICE, FOR CONGRESS, 10TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS.

RECORDED TEXAS HISTORIC LANDMARK—1965

Dedicated May 13, 1965.

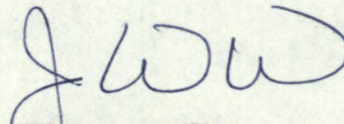
June 27, 1966

NOTE FOR THE FILES

Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

As instructed by Chief, Division of History Studies, we have placed a rush order with Lamb Seal and Stencil Company Inc., for manufacture of the Landmark plaque for the above site. Mr. Herbert, local representative of the Company, has promised to deliver the plaque by July 18.

By memorandum of this date (copy in this file), Mr. Utey has informed Assistant to the Secretary and Director of Information Boatner that the plaque would be ready in late July.


John W. Walker

(Region was informed that we have ordered the plaque by a note on our letter acknowledging the application)

U.S. APPROVES

Early Johnson Home Eligible as Landmark

By the Associated Press

President Johnson's boyhood home in Johnson City, Tex., may become a registered national historic landmark.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall announced today that the one-story farm house has been declared eligible for designation as a historic landmark. To become one, Udall said, Blanco County, Tex., owner of the home, must apply for such designation.

Sites recognized under this program are registered by the National Park Service but are

not administered by it. Upon application the service presents the owner a certificate and bronze plaque.

Recognition of the Johnson boyhood home was recommended by the Advisory Board on National Parks. The home, built in 1886, was bought by Samuel and Rebekah Johnson when Lyndon Johnson was 6 years old. He lived there until he completed his secondary education.

The property, regarded as typical of the farm houses built in the Southwest in the late 19th century, already is recognized as a Texas state landmark. It is administered by the Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home Foundation as an historic house-museum.

Job Hunting



Public Law 91-134
91st Congress, S. 2000
December 2, 1969

An Act

83 STAT., 274

To establish the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That, in order to preserve in public ownership historically significant properties associated with the life of Lyndon B. Johnson, the Secretary of the Interior is authorized to acquire, by donation or by purchase with donated funds, such lands and interests in lands, together with the buildings and improvements thereon, at or in the vicinity of Johnson City, Texas, as are depicted on the drawing entitled "Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site Boundary Map", numbered NHS-LBJ-20,000 and dated September 1969, together with such lands as from time to time may be donated for addition to the site and such lands as he shall deem necessary to provide adequate public parking for visitors at a suitable location. The drawing shall be on file and available for public inspection in the offices of the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. When acquired such site shall be known as the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site.

Lyndon B.
Johnson National
Historic Site,
Texas.
Establishment.

SEC. 2. The Secretary shall administer the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site in accordance with the Act approved August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), as amended and supplemented, and the Act approved August 21, 1935 (49 Stat. 666; 16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), as amended.

Administration.

SEC. 3. There are hereby authorized to be appropriated not more than \$180,000 to provide for the development of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Site.

Appropriation.

Approved December 2, 1969.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY:

HOUSE REPORT No. 91-636 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).
SENATE REPORT No. 91-364 (Comm. on Interior & Insular Affairs).
CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 115 (1969):

Aug. 13: Considered and passed Senate.

Nov. 17: Considered and passed House, amended.

Nov. 19: Senate concurred in House amendment.

JAN 15 1970

Recd. 1/16
(Hickel)

Dear General Schultz:

This will confirm that the Secretary has designated George B. Hartzog, Jr., Director of the National Park Service, to serve as his liaison with you in matters regarding appropriate recognition of former Presidents.

For your convenience, Mr. Hartzog may be reached on Code 183, extension 4621. Please feel free to deal directly with Mr. Hartzog. I have asked him to keep me fully informed regarding his activities with you in order that I might keep Secretary Hickel up-to-date at all times.

Sincerely yours,

(sgd) Thomas P. Holley

Thomas P. Holley
Assistant to the Secretary

General Robert L. Schultz
Special Assistant to the President
for Liaison with Former Presidents
Executive Office of the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

cc: George B. Hartzog, Jr.

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Rewritten; Dave Parker:icl

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January 21, 1970

General Robert L. Schultz
Special Assistant to the President
for Liaison with Former Presidents
Executive Office of the President
The White House
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear General Schultz:

My warm congratulations upon your appointment as Special Assistant to the President for Liaison with Former Presidents.

I am very happy, indeed, that Secretary Michel has designated me as his liaison officer to work with you in matters of mutual interest. I remember with genuine pleasure our work together in connection with the establishment of the National Historic Site commemorating the achievements and contributions of President Eisenhower.

Please let me know of any way in which I may serve you.

With warmest personal regards and every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

George B. Hartzog, Jr.
Director

- cc:
- Mr. Hartzog - D
- Mr. Bill - DO
- Mr. Flynn - DL
- Mr. Harrison - DEA
- Dr. Conally - H
- CHartzog:Rj

Johnson files!

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

Built in 1886, this small one-story white frame house was the home of President Lyndon Baines Johnson from about 1914 until 1924. It also served later, in 1937, as the scene of his first political rally.

Samuel and Rebekah Johnson moved into the house when the future President was six years old, and it was his home until he completed his secondary education at age sixteen. The home thus symbolizes his early development, which was marked by industry and quick assumption of responsibility.

The house is structurally sound and is well maintained. Recently restored and furnished with Johnson family furniture and memorabilia, the house is owned by ~~Blanco County~~ and administered by the ~~Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home~~ Foundation as a historic house museum. It is located in Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas.

*Has been corrected
JWW 5/23/66*

JWW:5-4-66

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

The National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings

Lyndon B. Johnson Boyhood Home, Texas

Built in 1886, this small one-story white frame house was bought in 1914 by Sam Ealy Johnson, Jr., Texas legislator, and his wife, Rebekah Baines Johnson. It was here that President Lyndon Baines Johnson spent his boyhood years, and it was here in 1937 that he made his first speech in his first campaign for national office.

The future President was six years old when his parents moved into the house, and he lived there until 1924, when he completed his secondary education at age fifteen. The home thus symbolizes his early development, which was marked by industry and quick assumption of responsibility.

The house is structurally sound and is well maintained. Recently restored and furnished with Johnson family furniture and memorabilia, the house is owned and administered by the Johnson City Foundation as a historic house museum. It is located in Johnson City, Blanco County, Texas.

LYNDON B. JOHNSON'S BOYHOOD HOME

The house where Mr. Johnson spent most of his growing-up years--from 1913, when he was 5 years old, until he married in 1934--sits on a site about one block square, shaded by Live Oaks, in Johnson City, Texas.

It was carefully restored in 1964 to the manner in which it appeared when Mr. Johnson lived there. His mother's Victorian furniture and pressed glass, old family pictures and such memorabilia as a "Blue Back Speller" recreate a scene familiar in many small homes of that time.

Mr. Johnson's sister accumulated many of the family's furnishings from various relatives. She acquired the remaining pieces of the period from antique shops.

The house was opened to the public in May 1965. Since then, a staff of one and sometimes two ladies employed by the Johnson City Foundation have been assisted by many willing and generous volunteer hostesses from the little community.

In a special area set up on the back porch, many exhibits reflect Lyndon Johnson's formative years, such as his 4th grade report card, and a letter he wrote to his mother when he was in college. Some exhibits speak of his years of public service. These include a letter his mother wrote to him when he won his first seat in the Congress in 1937, copies of letters to him

from four Presidents, mementoes and photographs of the 1965 Inauguration, and a place setting of the china service selected for use in the White House by the President and Mrs. Johnson.

The house was redone with care to maintain the integrity of the home at the time the Johnson family lived there. One change, however, alters the house's interior appearance. The partitions between the hall, dining room and one bedroom were removed to provide a larger space. This was done to enable the house to be used for community gatherings by such groups as the Community Garden Club, 4-H Club, and the Blanco Historical Society.

The Johnson City Foundation proposes to make a gift to the Federal Government of the land, buildings, and furnishings on this historic site, so that President Johnson's boyhood home may be added to the list of other homes of American Presidents maintained for the American people.

You may be interested in these facts:

The house and grounds are owned and have been maintained by the Johnson City Foundation.

Since the house was opened in 1965--for a few hours each day, four days a week--approximately 275,000 persons have visited it. The year 1968 saw 77,584 visitors, from all 50 states and from 91 foreign countries.

No charge was made to visitors from the time it opened until April 3, 1969, when the hours were extended and an admission fee of 35¢ was asked for adults. Children under twelve are admitted free. From April 3rd thru April 30th, admission fees have totaled \$1095.80.

Also since April 3rd, books written by President Johnson--such as "No Retreat From Tomorrow", "My Hope for America", "The Choices We Face"--and his mother's "Family Album" have been offered for sale. Book sales for April totaled \$825.05. The proceeds from admission and books are used to maintain the house and grounds.

These figures suggest that maintenance of the house and grounds can be self-sustaining.