

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 7, Box 6, Item 49
Old Rock House (James Doran Home), built circa 1813 - Jackson Co. Site #50
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#50

OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
Jk. Co. Site #50 7 Box 6
Sec. 4, T1S, R8E ITEM 49

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: ALABAMA
COUNTY: JACKSON

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME
COMMON: Old Rock House
AND/OR HISTORIC: James Doran Home

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: Doran's Cove, County Rd. 75, near Russell Cave entrance
CITY OR TOWN: near Bridgeport,
STATE: Alabama CODE: COUNTY: Jackson CODE:

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District	<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process	<input type="checkbox"/> Restricted
<input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Bath	<input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted
		<input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: F. A. Newton
STREET AND NUMBER: 610 Bitsey Lane
CITY OR TOWN: Chattanooga STATE: Tennessee CODE: S-1;R8E;--

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: NW 1/4 of NW 1/4, S-4;T-1;R-8E, 40 a; NW side
Tax Assessor's Office SW 1/4 of NW 1/4, 20 a; NE 1/4 S-5;T-1;R-8E, 93a
STREET AND NUMBER: Jackson County Courthouse
CITY OR TOWN: Scottsboro STATE: Alabama CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY:
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County ☐ Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:

FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Names:

Doran, James
James Doran Home

National Register of
Historic Places

Newton, F. A.
Old Rock House

Places:

Jackson County, AL

Types:

application

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OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
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7. DESCRIPTION	
CONDITION	(Check One) <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/> Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE	
<p>Original one-story stone house; construction said to be documented circa 1813; clapboard two-story house added circa 1880's.</p> <p>Stone used to build the original house came from behind the house. Two stone masons assisted Doran in building the house. The old springhouse still standing behind the house and the old log barn also still stands beside the house. House could possibly be oldest original structure still standing in State of Alabama.</p> <p>Rifle ports located in East end wall; built in 16 in. walls in an "X" pattern. Stone structure does have windows; when added not known. Owner holds letter of contract for stone masons to build the house.</p>	

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Names:
Doran, James

Types:
application

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OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
Jk. Co. Site #50 7 Box 6
Sec. 4, T1S, R8E ITEM 49

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Alabama	
COUNTY Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Rock House or Major James Doran home			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
Doran's Cove, County Rd. 75, near Russell Cave entrance			
CITY OR TOWN:			
near Bridgeport,			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Alabama		Jackson	
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
SCALE:			
DATE:			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Alabama	
COUNTY Jackson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME			
COMMON: Old Rock House, or Major James Doran home			
AND/OR HISTORIC: same			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
County Rd. 75, near Russell Cave entrance on County Rd. 75			
CITY OR TOWN:			
near Bridgeport,			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Ala.		Jackson	
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT:			
DATE OF PHOTO:			
NEGATIVE FILED AT:			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
near entrance to Russell Cave National Monument			

GPO 921-737

Names:

Doran, James

Major James Doran
Home

Old Rock House

Places:

Doran's Cove, AL

Types:

application

OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
 Jk. Co. Site #50 7 Box 6
 Sec. 4, T1S, R8E ITEM 49

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This house is the oldest still standing in Jackson County today. The land was originally part of the Cherokee Indian Reservation of John Woods(2). James Doran was a chain carrier for the surveyor when the Reservation was laid off in 1820(3). John Woods, the Indian, is thought to be buried near the home in an Indian mound. Rifle ports, in an "X" pattern are built in the 16 inch stone walls. The stone was gathered from an area behind the house. The owner has a contract for the building of this house by two stone masons that is dated either 1813 or 1818.(5)

Names:

Doran, James

Woods, John

Places:

Jackson County, AL

Types:

application

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OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
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Sec. 4, T1S, R8E ITEM 49

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- (1) "A Walk Thru Ole High Jackson," Walter Hammer, 1968, p. 11
- (2) Documents in the Div. of Indian Affairs, Gen. Ser. Adm., Washington, D. C.
- (3) Ibid.
- (4) Personal examination by Christine Sumner
- (5) As told to Field Surveyors by F.A. Newton, the present owner

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES			
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		LATITUDE		LONGITUDE	
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	
NW	0	0	0		0	0	0	
NE	0	0	0		0	0	0	
SE	0	0	0		0	0	0	
SW	0	0	0		0	0	0	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Christine Sumner, Historical Research Coordinator

ORGANIZATION: TARCOG DATE: May 7, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Central Bank Building, Suite 350

CITY OR TOWN: Huntsville STATE: Alabama

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☒

Name _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

GPO 901.087

Names:	Hammer, Walter	Newton, F. A.	Sumner, Christine
Types:	application		
Dates:	May 07, 1974		

OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
Jk. Co. Site #50 7 Box 6
Sec. 4, T1S, R8E ITEM 49

TARCOG HISTORICAL SURVEY
Final Report Form

Make your answers as concise as possible.


Number as appears on your county map 50

1. Name of site or structure James Doran's Home

2. Location of site or structure (including township, range and section number, and which quadrant of section if known) Doran's Cave: approx. 1 mi. n. of entrance to Russell Cave entrance; Jackson County Road 75.

3. Description original one-story stone house; construction said to be documented circa 1813; clapboard two-story house added circa 1880's. If the 1813 date can be verified, this is probably the oldest complete structure in Alabama. Mobile has none intact of anywhere near this age.

4. Historical significance of site or structure if known possibly earliest structure in state; is the earliest in Jackson County;
S-S, T-1, R-8E



Names:

Doran, James
James Doran Home

TARCOG Historical
Survey

Places:

Jackson County, AL

Types:

photograph

survey

OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
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TARCOG
 ARCHITECTURAL--HISTORICAL NOTES
 FIELD SURVEYOR
 RECORDING FORM

County: JACKSON
 Field Surveyors' Names: Forbes
Sorrells
 Historical Notes Number: 50
 (Red Ink)
 Photograph Record Number: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8
 (Blue Ink)

1. Name: Capt. James Doran's Home
built around 1818 or 1813.
Recent porches added to wooden structure: ca. 1957 by present owner.

2. Location: head of Doran's Cove, near entrance to Russell Cave
Nat'l Monument. North of entrance; across from intersection of farm
road, on Jackson County Road 75.

3. Owner of Property: F. A. Newton, 610 Bitsey Lane, Chattanooga, Tenn 37450
Present owner has original papers (deeds, survey, letters) as house
and occupants.

4. Geographical Data: on Woods Reservation; in NE of section 5 of N-9S-NE
Tarcoq map 124.

5. Acreage: 64 acres original Doran grant. Present owner held 153 acres.

6. Classification: building

7. Integrity: Solid, original construction. Original roof replaced with tin over.

Form HS-1
 p. 1

Names:

Captain James
 Doran's Home

Doran, James
 Forbes,

Newton, F. A.
 Sorrells,

Woods Reservation

Places:

Jackson County, AL

Types:

survey

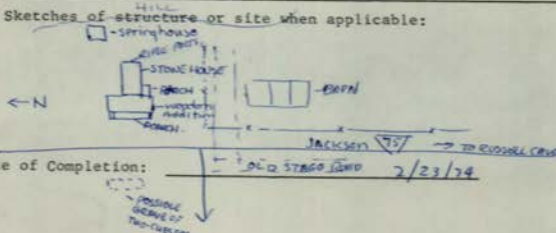
OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
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8. Condition: good; Structure is kept up. Internal conditions not known.

9. Present Use: dwelling by owners farm foreman. Present occupants on site since 1958.

10. Areas of Significance: first home built in Jackson County (tradition)
old indian agreed to give ^{land to Doran.} Two-chester, a place to ~~live~~ ^{live} for life.
Buried on property, supposedly in front of house. Owner believes Two-chester
buried in what is now pasture. Stone used to build house came
from hill behind house. Two stone masons did construction with Doran.
House reported built around 1813; wooden addition during or after civil war.

11. Architectural Description: built of field rock, portholes left, supposedly,
so that they could watch out for hostile Indians
Spring house still standing and used to house ^{present} well. Date of
construction unknown - construction of logs; owner taken built with original logs.
Wooden ^{two-story} addition on front added ~ 85 to 90 years ago. Present
owner built front and side porches, recently.
Rifle ports located in East end wall. Built in 16" walls in a X pattern.
Stone structure does have windows; when installed not known.
owner holds letter of contract for stone masons to build house.

12. Sketches of structure or site when applicable:

 Date of Completion: OLD STAGE ROAD 2/23/74

Form HS-1
 p. 2

Names:

Doran, James

Old Rock House

Two-Chester (Indian)

Places:

Jackson County, AL

Types:

sketch

survey

Dates:

Feb 23, 1974

OLD ROCK HOUSE (JAMES DORAN HOME)
 Jk. Co. Site #50 7 Box 6
 Sec. 4, T1S, R8E ITEM 49

TARCOG
 HISTORICAL SURVEY PHOTOGRAPH RECORD

County: Jackson

Field Surveyors' Names: FORBES
SORRELLS

I. Information on Photograph
 Photographer: SORRELLS
 Date of Photograph: 2/23/74 View Description: stone house with
 Roll Number: ONE wooden addition; stone house details;
 Exposure Number: doors/windows, gun ports.

II. Information on Site
 Place Number on Map (Blue Ink): 20 50
 (Copied from number used in recording it on appropriate County Highway Map)
 Historical Notes Number (Red Ink): 20 50
 (If there is a historical notes form filled in for this place, write it in the photograph number in the upper right-hand corner of this form in space provided).
 Location (Word Description): Approx. 1/4 mile north of Russell Cave Entrance
on Jackson County Road 75, at intersection of farm road PAS105 leading
to old original Russell home in Tenn.
 Owner or Occupant: F.A. Newton
 (Name, if known)
 Address: 610 BITLEY LANE, CHATTANOOGA, TN. 37410
 TYPE of Structure: (X) House () Outbuilding () Commercial
 (where appropriate, () Barn () Industrial () Other, describe
 check one or more)
 Apparent period of construction: () Federal
Early 19th Century () Greek Revival
 () Mid-19th Century
 () Latter 19th Century
 () Early 20th Century
 Apparent period of Additions: () Federal
 (if appropriate) () Greek Revival
 (X) Mid-19th Century
 (X) Latter 19th Century
 () Early 20th Century
 (X) Later 20th Century (modern) (PORCHES)

III. Remarks and Sketches if appropriate: Stone house constructed of field or lime
stone rocks at 16"-18" depth.

Date of completion: 2/23/74 Form HS-2

Names:

Forbes,
 Newton, F. A.

Russell Cave
 Russell,

Sorrells,

Places:

Jackson County, AL

Types:

survey

Dates:

Feb 23, 1974

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Old Rock House (James Doran Home), built circa 1813 - Jackson Co. Site #50
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Names:
Old Rock House

Types:
photograph

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

Preferred Citation: Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection, Archives and Special Collections, M. Louis Salmon Library, University of Alabama in Huntsville, Huntsville, AL.

Collection Scope and Content: The Collection of 114 Linear ft. includes a total of 156 Archival Boxes. The Frances Cabaniss Roberts collection covers the historical records of the Cabaniss Roberts family. This collection contains extensive correspondence records of the Cabaniss Roberts family circa 1830 to 1930.

Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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