JOHN BRUCKNER BARN
In 1872 James Polk Johnson acquired the log house and adjacent property from Sam Johnson—his uncle and Lyndon Johnson's grandfather—who had given up the cattle business. Ten years later James sold the place to a German immigrant, John Bruckner. In 1884, Bruckner had this barn constructed with stone quarried in the hills to the south and hauled to the site in ox carts. Local German stonemasons produced a functional building incorporating great strength and beauty. Similar examples of their meticulous craftsmanship may be found throughout the Hill Country.

SAM EALY JOHNSON LOG HOUSE
This "dog-trot" log structure is a classic example of early Hill Country dwellings that afforded protection and hospitality to friend and stranger alike. Begun in 1856 by a former German immigrant, John Bruckner, in 1867, Sam moved in with his bride, Eliza Bunton Johnson whom he had married December 11, after returning from service with the 26th Texas Cavalry, Confederate States Army. Life on the Texas frontier often meant incredible hardship and loneliness. One day in 1869, while Sam was away, Eliza sighted intruders were gone. Sam and Eliza's home served as headquarters for the Johnson brothers' extensive cattle business. Between 1867 and 1871, Sam and Tom Johnson made four huge drives out of the Hill Country, up the Chisholm Trail, to Abilene, Kans. Their open-range ranching and farming. In 1872, Sam Johnson sold his property and log house to his nephew, James Polk Johnson who had worked for his uncles as a ranch hand and drover, James became a successful rancher and farmer; in 1879 he founded Johnson City, which was named in his honor. He had this small stone horse barn with corn crib erected in 1875. In 1882, he sold the log house along with part of the property to John Bruckner and moved into a spacious two-story frame dwelling which stood near this barn. The farmhouse burned in the 1920s.

STONE BUILDING
This small structure may have originally been a cooler house in which were kept vegetables and other perishables. Over the years it has served as a smokehouse and a storehouse. It may have been constructed as early as 1864, by James Polk Johnson.

VISITING THE JOHNSON CITY AREA
Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park contains two distinct areas: Johnson City and the LBJ Ranch. In the Johnson City area the principal points of interest are the Boyhood Home of Lyndon B. Johnson and the Johnson Settlement. A visitor center provides park information, exhibits, and a selection of publications. From the Boyhood Home you may walk or take an old-fashioned wagon ride to the nearby Johnson Settlement. This complex of restored historic structures traces the evolution of the Texas Hill Country from the open-range cattle kingdom days of Lyndon B. Johnson's grandfather, Sam Ealy Johnson, Sr. to the later era of local ranching and farming. See the other side for information about the ranch area.

SAFETY
We want your park visit to be a pleasurable and rewarding experience, so please observe a few safety precautions.

The wagon ride in Johnson City illustrates the good- and bad-time possibilities that hinge on safety. Seasoned drivers and thoroughly trained stock are meant to assure your comfort and safety. But if the animals are crowded, or if children try to pet or feed them, they can be dangerous. Some of the big work horses weigh nearly a ton, the mules about two-thirds that much. It's best to give animals that size plenty of room. The same goes for the long-horn cattle at the Johnson Settlement. They can be "ornery critters," so it isn't smart to climb corral fences or try to touch these animals—or any other livestock in the park. Whether on a wagon or a bus tour, you should remain seated while the vehicle is moving. The roads on the LBJ Ranch tour are narrow in places because of cattle guards and roadside plants, so hanging out the window is hazardous.

A final word to parents: Please watch your children. You cannot help them if they have strayed beyond your protective reach and warning voice. If you need assistance, see a park ranger.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wise use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department also has major responsibilities for American Indian education and economic development and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
THE PRESIDENTIAL YEARS

During the Johnson administration, three major civil rights bills became law: Medicare became a reality, and aid to education grew rapidly. Domestic programs were blunted, however, by the great issues of peace and war that dominated the final years of the administration. Johnson later wrote that "the struggle in Vietnam . . . inspired one of the most passionate and deeply felt debates in our nation's life. That debate will go on . . . History will make its judgment on the decisions made and the actions taken." In March 1968 he announced that he would not run for reelection. After relinquishing the reins of government, he returned to his beloved Hill Country in January 1969.

The ranch house, known around the world as the Texas White House, dominates the LBJ Ranch. Here the full impact of Lyndon B. Johnson's energy and power can be felt. Here as President, as entrepreneur, as lord-of-the-manor rancher, he surrounded himself with family and friends. Within this inner circle, he used yams and anecdotes to proudly proclaim the virtues of good upbringing and hard work, the virtues that had helped him create this grand spread in the center of his heritage homeland. He regaled visitors from all over the world with stories of "Big Sam," a man who loved his farm—his first teacher, "Miss Kate" from the Pedernales area, a place where events could be controlled. Here, a man who loved action could set a task, get it done, and get on with it. Johnson's healing place far removed from the frustrations of Washington, D.C.

Here, too, was the family cemetery, the simple house where Lyndon was born, the house where he visited his revered grandfather, and the one-room school where he started the long trek from farm boy to President of the United States.

At the LBJ Ranch one senses the contrasts that lived in the man: The child who chowed down a slice of grass and wondered what it would rain if the river would rise. The man who strode forth on the world stage, came back to work his ranch, and, finally, joined his ancestors.

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RETIEMENT

Relinquishing the burdens of office, he shared more hours than ever before with family and friends. He worked ranch and jogged enthusiastically in the work of the State and National Parks that bear his name and to them he was much more than memorials to himself or to the abstractions of history. Rather, he thought of them as places where he could enjoy the Hill Country as he had—a place to picnic and fish or simply watch the river flowing by. And he wanted them to recall the region's heritage of pioneer colonizers, of cattlemen and farmers—the heritage that had been his. Though he may have been resting in the saddle, he never really got off the horse. He counseled, mediated, and wrote, passing on his experience, his perspectives to those who would follow. He placed the record of his public service in the LBJ Library in Austin. Between times, he relaxed and enjoyed life with Lady Bird. On January 22, 1973, he died.

JOHNSON FAMILY CEMETERY

On January 25, 1973, Lyndon B. Johnson was buried as he wished, with simple ceremony, beneath the great live oaks in the family cemetery on the banks of the Pedernales River. Also buried here are a sister, Josetta; his parents, Sam Ealy Johnson, Sr. and Eliza Bunton; aunts, uncles, cousins, and relatives. Johnson's great-grandmother, Priscilla Mcintosh Bunton; a man and nature blend gently together. Small houses made from the limestone of the hills symbolize this partnership.

But there are other seasons and other cycles. Summer storms sweep violently through these hills, whipping them with thunder and hail, ravaging the hillsides covered with wildflowers, small valleys with scattered farms and fat cattle nestled below ridgetop skylines of rock and cedar. It is a pastoral paradise—a middle landscape where man and nature blend gently together. Small houses made from the limestone of the hills symbolize this partnership.

Another season brings the rains, and the people he loved. To him, this was home.