

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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MAY 31 1977
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DATE ENTERED APR 22 1980

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Plymouth
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
STATE CODE COUNTY CODE
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Lock and Dam, Real Estate Project Office
STREET & NUMBER
P. O. Box 2600
CITY, TOWN
Columbus
VICINITY OF
STATE
Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Lowndes County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Columbus
STATE
Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Archaeological Survey and Test Excavations
DATE
1974
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
CITY, TOWN
Jackson
STATE
Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT DETERIORATED
 GOOD RUINS
 FAIR UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Plymouth town site, which has been known to the residents of the area since before its incorporation as a town in 1836, was visited by Rucker in 1973 during an archaeological survey [redacted] d by Atkinson and Elliot in 1976 during a survey of selected construction areas (Rucker 1974:103) (Atkinson and Elliot 1978:16).

The town site was more or less continuously inhabited from as early as 1780 until its abandonment around 1872 (Prout 1973:34, 37, 63, 64). Culturally speaking, the site is predominantly Anglo-American, with some earlier French and Indian remains.

The boundary of the town [redacted] (Prout 1973:1) and was thus arbitrarily drawn and did not follow any natural features or landmarks. As indicated on map 1, the boundary has been extended [redacted] purposes of this nomination since Atkinson and Elliot indicate that a house site, cemetery and brick kiln are situated [redacted]

There are at least six house sites noted by Atkinson and Elliot. These are evidenced by chimney brick and earthenware ceramic concentrations (1978:25). Prout cites evidence of other house locations in the presence of flowers, shrubs and other plants (1973:83). Two brick kilns are also present [redacted]

[redacted] topography is rolling hills with a forest cover of mixed hardwoods, cedars and pines. To the immediate [redacted] of the site is the black prairie, a relatively flat area of fertile soil which is largely devoid of trees. [redacted] of the site the elevation drops off into the Tombigbee floodplain.

Intrusions into the site consist of vandalism in the cemetery in which all but two of the tombstones have been removed. A bulldozer also inadvertently disturbed some of the house sites.

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[REDACTED] The area's topography is rolling hills with a forest cover of mixed hardwoods, cedar, and pines. Chimney remnants are evident, as well as a brick kiln and a graveyard.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The extinct town of Plymouth is significant historically because of its importance to the early economy of the state, and archaeologically because of the evidence of in-ground remains which would contribute to an increased understanding of three cultures-- Anglo-American, Indian, and French.

Plymouth is known as the "oldest settlement in northeast Mississippi" (Prout 1973:1). Even before its incorporation as a town in 1836, the locale was of considerable importance: a natural ford there no doubt had much to do with the convergence of several Indian trails at that point (ibid., p. 1); the low water head of navigation [redacted] river was there; the Chickasaw-Choctaw line intersected the river there; and John Pitchlynn and his sons, noted interpreters for the United States in treaty negotiations, lived there from ca. 1780 until around 1830 (ibid., pp. 37, 44).

John Pitchlynn held the land on which the town site is located before giving it to his daughter Rhoda (Mrs. Calvin Howell) sometime before 1830 (ibid., p. 44). A warranty deed was issued on September 27, 1830, to Calvin Howell for all of Section 10, Township 19 North, Range 17 East (ibid., p. 44). In 1830 Calvin Howell also took over from John Pitchlynn the operation of the ferry at Plymouth (ibid., p. 46). It was Howell who later had the town incorporated.

Early white settlers in 1833 reported the existence on the site of a building, which was already ancient at that time [redacted]

[redacted] The two-story building was about twenty feet square. The lower floor had only one door, with a hole on each side, presumably for guns. The upper floor had eight windows, two on each side, with two holes beneath each window (ibid., P. 72). The structure was torn down in 1860 and the timbers used for a bridge and some outbuildings (ibid.).

H. S. Halbert, quoted by Prout, says that the structure was probably a French fort erected there in connection with a trading post established by Iberville. Iberville had promised in 1702 to set up such a facility midway between the Chickasaws and the Choctaws (ibid., p. 73). Another circular embankment is noted [redacted] from the old town of Cotton Gin Port [redacted] It, too, has been linked with a French occupation (Leftwich 1903:363, 365).

At the peak of its development, Plymouth was a shipping and receiving center with stores, hotels, brick yard, wagon shop, cotton warehouse, steamboat landing, silversmith's shop, lawyers' and doctors' offices, school, church, and nine to twelve houses (Prout 1973:66, 67). The town was virtually extinct at the close of the Civil War. A number of factors contributed to its decline: a bridge over the river in 1840, the first railroad in the area in 1861, and the growth of nearby Columbus. It was listed on a state map for the last time in 1872 (ibid., pp. 63, 64).

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leftwich, George J.

1903 Cotton Gin Port and Gaines Trace. In publications of the Mississippi Historical Society. 7:263-270. Oxford, Miss.

Prout, W. E.

1973 A Historical Documentation of Plymouth, Mississippi. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mississippi State College for Women. Columbus, Miss.

Rucker, Marc D.

1974 Archaeological Survey and Test Excavations [REDACTED] Alabama and Mississippi. Report submitted to the National Park Service. Mississippi State University.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 & 8 PAGE 1

4 - Owner of Property

Mr. Walter D. Prowell, Jr., Box 490, Rogers, Arkansas 72756.
Mrs. Thomas C. Turner, 4104 North Honeysuckle Lane, Jackson, Mississippi.
Mr. Ralph Williamson, P.O. Box 2268, Columbus, Mississippi 39701.
George and Sherry Van Horn, Box 1951, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.
Ralph and Daphne Williamson, Box 2268, Columbus, Mississippi 39701.

8 - Significance

The brick kiln has been located, as have a few chimney remnants and the graveyard. A careful archaeological excavation would yield much useful information about the settlement plan there and the pursuits of the town's inhabitants. If the "old fort" reported in 1833 was actually part of a French trading facility, there is a good possibility that archaeological evidence remains. According to Prout (1973:77), evidences of the fortification are still present at the site.