

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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DATE ENTERED

**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

Glenburnie

AND/OR COMMON

Glenburnie

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

551 John R. Junkin Drive

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Fourth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Adams

CODE

1

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY** DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE SITE OBJECT**OWNERSHIP** PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION** IN PROCESS BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS** OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE** YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO**PRESENT USE** AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDENCE RELIGIOUS SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Tony Byrne

STREET &amp; NUMBER

551 John R. Junkin Drive

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Adams County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1976

 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

# 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

Glenburnie is a single-story hip-roof frame residence with an undercut gallery along the facade (south elevation). The house is enlarged with a two-room gable-roof extension along the west elevation.

The seven-bay facade of the hip roof section is stuccoed and scored. A central frontispiece entrance features symmetrical architraves and an elliptical arch and fanlight. The undercut gallery is supported by Tuscan columns and framed by a balustrade with a central stair. Six-over-six windows have blinds and simple enframements. The four-bay east elevation is clapboarded and is extended to the north with a flat-roof bathroom addition. The north (rear) elevation features a three-bay inset gallery with a full-length, squared multi-paned window in the first bay.

Along the south and west elevations of the gable-roof extension is an undercut gallery with a turned balustrade and Tuscan columns supporting a dentiled cornice. The two-bay north and south elevations have six-over-six windows, while the six-bay west elevation (facade) has full-length six-over-nine windows enriched with architraves. A projecting pediment with dentiled cornice and semicircular window is centered on the facade, underscored by the frontispiece entrance with an elliptical arch and fanlight.

The interior of the hip roof section features double parlors with identical Ionic-columned mantels and plaster ceiling cornices; a centerpiece is also in the south parlor. A prominent entranceway between the two rooms echoes the symmetrical architectural design of the entrance. A library and dining room on the west side and the two chambers on the east side have flat architraves with molded backbands and pilastered mantels. Library and dining room mantels are detailed with egg and dart molding on the pilaster caps. The two-room gable-roof addition contains a modern kitchen on the north side and a long "trophy room" with a pilastered, dentiled-cap mantel on the south side.

A single-bay gable-roof frame outbuilding is located approximately thirty feet north of the house, and a larger five-bay guest house (former dairy) is to the northeast. Two wellheads, bricked and stuccoed, are located approximately fifteen feet north of the house. The densely wooded lot, resplendent with live oaks, is soon to be landscaped.

# 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Glenburnie is a locally significant example of the merging of two architectural styles: the late Federal and the Neo-Colonial. The original ca. 1833 residence incorporates such Adamesque details as elliptical arches and classically inspired Tuscan columns reminiscent of Jeffersonian porticos, while the 1901 addition features the gabled and pedimented forms of the Georgian Revival. In the 1930s the property was the subject of national publicity in connection with the murder of the owner, a member of families long prominent in Natchez history.

The parcel of land which formerly comprised the Glenburnie estate was originally part of a tract of 918.98 acres acquired by Adam Bingaman from the Spanish government on May 15, 1789 (Certificate A-319). Upon the sale and division of the land, approximately twenty-two acres were acquired by John Linton. The parcel remained intact for over 100 years and became known as Glenburnie.

On December 29, 1828, the Glenburnie tract was purchased from John Linton by Halsey Townsend, judge of probate for Adams County. His deed, the earliest extant, describes the property as

bounded on the north by Auburn, the seat of Stephen Duncan, Esq., on the east by a branch of St. Catherine's Creek known by the name of Muddy Bayou which separates this tract from the land of Adam Bingaman, Esq., on the south by a line parallel with the northern boundry [sic] and five chains distant from it and on the west by lands belonging to the heirs of the late Winthrop Sargeant (Deed Book R:110).

This same property was sold on May 23, 1833, by Townsend's widow to Mrs. Frances Elizabeth Kempe Sprague (Deed Book U:153). It is thought that the original section of the Glenburnie house was built during her ownership. Architecturally, the section does date from the early 1830s; additional evidence that Frances Sprague constructed a residence is provided by her sale of the estate in 1850 to her son-in-law, Josiah Winchester, for \$9000 (Deed Book HH:175).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books R, U, HH, KK, QQ, 3A, 3R, 3T, 3Z, 5A. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Microfilm.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. 2 vols. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891, I:1021.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 4.65

QUADRANGLE NAME Natchez

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,5	6,5,2	6,1,5	3,4	8,9	8,8,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING				
C						
E						
G						

B			
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING	
D			
F			
H			

## VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tract III of Glenburney in Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi, as shown on map thereof recorded at Plat Book 8, page 15 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Adams County, Mississippi (originally containing 4.954 acres, more or less, LESS AND EXCEPT 0.3098 acres, LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Norman Chronister, Research Assistant  
Jack A. Gold, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE October, 1978

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE 601-354-7326

CITY OR TOWN Jackson

STATE Mississippi 39205

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*Elmer B. Hilliard*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 1, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Between 1854 and 1899, Glenburnie had five successive owners (Deed Books KK:268, KK:269, QQ:394, 3A:304, 3R:265). During this time no apparent alterations were made to the house. In 1901 the property was purchased by Henry G. Buckley, who built the Neo-Colonial extension west of the original structure (Deed Book 3T:694).

On December 8, 1904, Buckley sold Glenburnie to Miss Jane Surget Merrill (Deed Book 3Z:677). Miss Merrill was the daughter of Ayres P. Merrill, Jr. (d. 1883), who resided at Elms Court in Natchez and was appointed Minister to the Kingdom of Belgium in 1876 by President Ulysses S. Grant. Her great-grandfather was Sir William Dunbar (1755-1810) of The Forest near Natchez, noted planter, scientist, and explorer of the Old Southwest. The murder of Miss Merrill at Glenburnie on August 14, 1932, captured national attention when the eccentric residents of the neighboring estate, Glenwood ("Goat Castle"), were charged with the crime. The case became known as the "Goat Castle Murder."

Jane Surget Merrill's will, dated February 28, 1925, bequeathed Glenburnie to her life-long friend, Duncan Minor. Following Minor's death in 1939, his heirs conveyed Glenburnie to Walter P. Abbott, Adams County chancery clerk (Will Book O:177), who in turn conveyed it to Miss Merrill's niece, Mrs. Pauline M. Dicks (Deed Book 5A:505).

In 1976, 4.9 acres of the Glenburnie estate, including the house, were purchased from the heirs of Pauline M. Dicks by the mayor of Natchez, Tony Byrne (Deed Book 13F:125), who has undertaken the restoration of the house and grounds.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chronister, Norman, research assistant. Telephone interview with Miss Mary Postelwaite, Natchez, Mississippi, September 12, 1978.

Chronister, Norman, research assistant. Telephone interview with Mrs. Lynda L. Crist, The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Rice University, Houston, Texas, September 13, 1978.

Gold, Jack A., architectural historian. Personal inspection, September 8, 1978.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History.  
Frances Elizabeth Kempe Sprague Scrapbook.  
Subject Files: Glenburnie, Glenwood, Goat Castle, Goat Castle (In Re Jane Merrill Murder Case).

Mississippi. Secretary of State. Register of County Officers, 1818-1824. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Record Group 28, vol. 283.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Randall, Ruth Painter. I Varina. Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1962.
- Ross, Ishbel. First Lady of the South. New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1958.
- Rowland, Eron. Varina Howell, Wife of Jefferson Davis. New York: The MacMillan Company, 1927.
- United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, City of Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi, 1840, 1850.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

more or less, surrounding the "brick barn" as shown on said map, which was conveyed by Dr. John B. Dicks, Jr. and Mrs. Pauline M. Dicks, his mother, to Gayle Evans by deed dated December 20, 1972 and recorded at Deed Book 12-G, page 296 of the Deed Records of Adams County, Mississippi; the herein described and conveyed property containing 4.6456 acres, more or less, and being more specifically described as follows:

From the intersection of the northeast edge of John R. Junkin Drive (U. S. Highways #65, 84 and 98) with the northern boundary of a portion of Inglewood containing 18.62 acres as shown on map made by H. R. Rhodes, C. E., dated May 11, 1928, and recorded in Deed Book 4-M, page 423 of the Adams County Deed Records, run in a southeast direction along the northeast edge of said John R. Junkin Drive for 727.09 feet to the point of beginning. Thence from said point of beginning, run southeast along the northeast edge of John R. Junkin Drive for 293.56 feet to a point; thence go North 61° 34' East for 233.21 feet to a point; thence along the arc of a curve to the right having a radius of 275 feet for a distance of 118.31 feet to a point; thence go North 44° 45' East a distance of 214.08 feet to a point; thence go North 10° 25' East along the westerly boundary of tract conveyed to Gayle Evans by deed recorded at Deed Book 12-G, page 296 of the Deed Records of Adams County, Mississippi for a distance of 181.63 feet to a point; thence go North 79° 35' West for a distance of 300 feet to a point; thence along the arc of a curve to the left having a radius of 175 feet for a distance of 328.74 feet to a point; thence go South 61° 34' East for 160.18 feet back to the point of beginning on U. S. Highway #65, 84 and 98 - John R. Junkin Drive.

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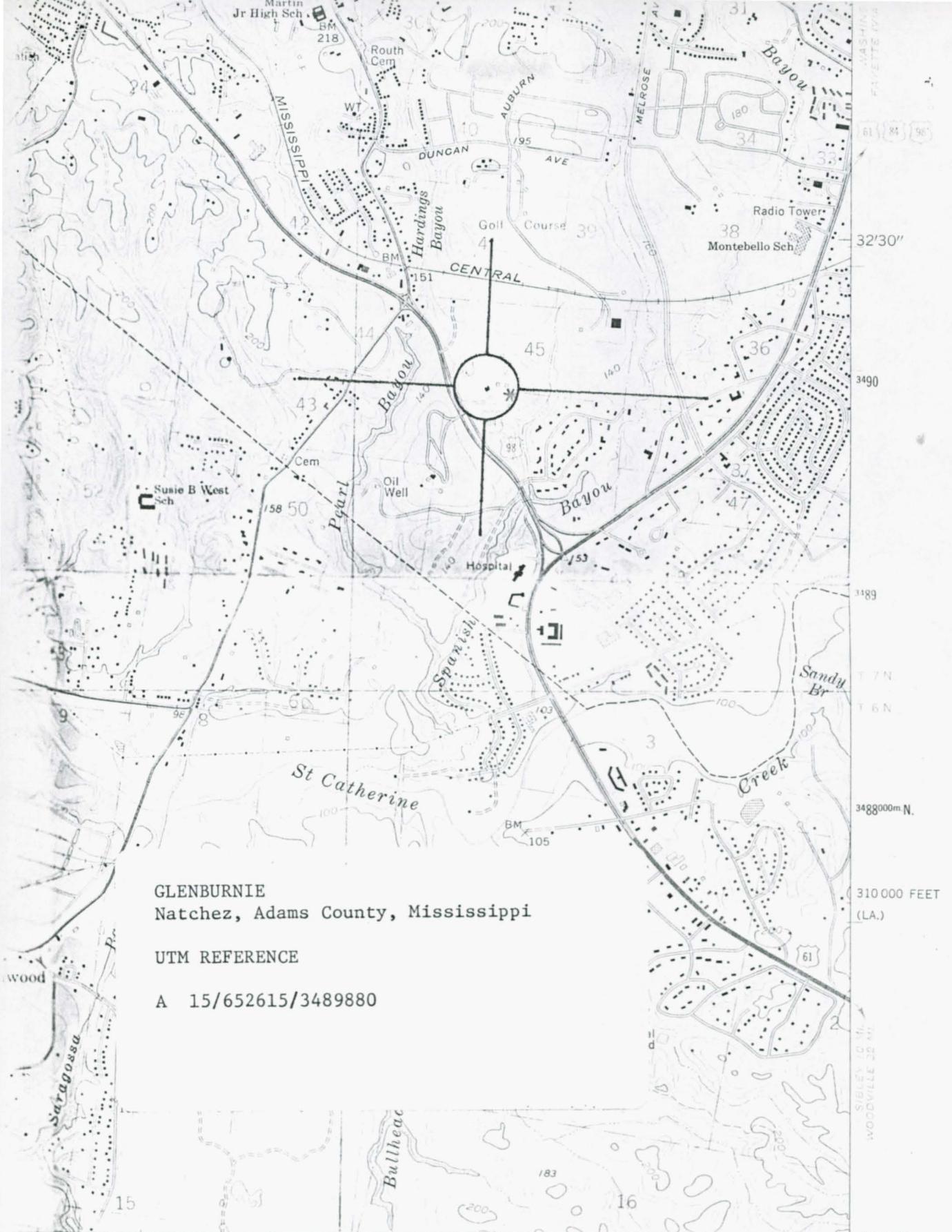
CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Said premises herein described and conveyed containing 4.6456 acres, more or less, and being substantially the same property described as Lot #1 of Block #1 of City Tax Map #69 of the City Tax Maps prepared and revised by Hunnicutt & Associates and kept in the office of the City Tax Collector and Assessor in the Municipal Building of Natchez, Mississippi.

The herein described and conveyed premises are part of Glenburney Plantation which was conveyed by Walter P. Abbott, Chancery Clerk of Adams County, Mississippi, to Mrs. Pauline M. Dicks by deed dated May 15, 1941 and recorded at Deed Book 5-A, page 505 of the Deed Records of Adams County, Mississippi, and thereafter conveyed by Mrs. Pauline M. Dicks unto her son, Dr. John B. Dicks, Jr., by deed dated August 29, 1968 and recorded at Deed Book 11-B, page 349 of the Adams County Deed Records, in which instrument the said Mrs. Pauline M. Dicks reserved unto herself a life estate in and to said property. The said Mrs. Pauline M. Dicks died intestate at Natchez, in Adams County, Mississippi, on April 16, 1973, the administration of her estate is docketed as Cause No. 24,777 of the Chancery Court of Adams County, Mississippi, and Final Decree Closing said Estate is dated May 1, 1974 and is recorded at Minute Book 5-G, page 146 of the Minutes of the Chancery Court of Adams County, Mississippi. Together with the non-exclusive right and the use of all presently existing water, sewer, utility and roadway easements and improvements and installation thereon over, on and across the entirety of said Glenburney property which said property is shown at Plat Book 8, page 15 of the Records of Adams County, Mississippi.



GLENBURNIE  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCE

A 15/652615/3489880

32'30"  
3490  
1189  
T 7 N  
T 6 N  
3488000m N.  
310 000 FEET  
(LA.)  
SIBLEY 10 1/2"  
WOODVILLE 32 1/2"  
31°30'  
91°22'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U. S. Route ○ State Route

2746 1/4  
(KINGSTON)  
1:62 500



MISS.



GLENBURNIE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History

Facade (south elevation) of gable roof  
extension and hip roof section; view  
to the northeast.

Photo 1 of 6



GLENBURNIE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History

Facade (south elevation) of hip roof section;  
view to the northwest.

Photo 2 of 6



GLENBURNIE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History

East elevation; view to the west.

Photo 3 of 6



GLENBURNIE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History

North elevation; view to the southwest.

Photo 4 of 6



GLENBURNIE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History

Double parlors; view to the south.

Photo 5 of 6



GLENBURNIE

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Jack A. Gold

September 8, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and  
History

Mantel, south parlor; view to the west.

Photo 6 of 6