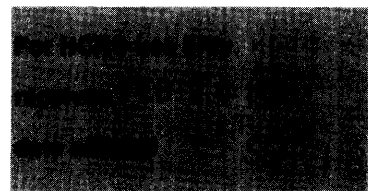


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**



**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 The Cliffs Plantation

and/or common The Cliffs Plantation

2. Location

S. of Natchez

street & number Located about 8 1/2 miles south of Natchez and entered off the Old Woodville Road to the west not for publication

city, town Natchez vicinity of Fourth congressional district

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 1

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Meade Hufford

street & number Route #3, Box 156

city, town Natchez vicinity of Mississippi 39120 state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Natchez state Mississippi 39120

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title _____ has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date _____ federal state county local

depository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Cliffs is a one-and-a-half story, square, frame, Greek Revival plantation residence set upon a brick basement that is fully raised at the rear. The gabled roof is pierced by two, inside-end brick chimneys on the front slope, one at each side, and by two, interior brick chimneys on the rear slope. The house is fronted by an undercut gallery that is supported by wooden box columns with molded capitals that are linked by rectangular-sectioned balusters with molded handrail. The five-bay northeasterly facade is plastered and finished with a molded base having two fasciae. The windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by many of the original shutter blinds. A plain peaked surround defines the central entrance which consists of a single-leaf door, sidelights set over molded panels, and a transom.

The interior features a double-pile floor plan with central hallway and "cabinet" rooms located at each end of the recessed rear gallery, now enclosed by glass. The rooms are identically trimmed with doors that are four-paneled and molded, architrave door and window surrounds, molded bases with two fasciae, and pilastered wooden mantel pieces. The double parlors on the northerly side are separated by sliding doors. Evidence of the original interior decorative scheme of the principal floor still survives. The mantel pieces and baseboards were painted black, the doors were grained in imitation of oak, and the walls were left bare plaster or white washed. The rear chimneys of the house service the "cabinet" rooms and the larger rear rooms of the main floor, and this fireplace configuration is unusual for houses with this characteristic Mississippi floor plan. Most commonly, the "cabinet" rooms were unheated. Remnants of a plaster cornice survive in the front parlor.

Originally, the stairway to the upstairs was entered in the recessed rear gallery, made a quarter turn with winders, and continued in a straight flight along the southerly wall to terminate in the unfinished second story. Although the stairway is still in the same location, only the upper portion is original with the winders having been replaced by a landing. A stairway leads to the basement area beneath the stairway to the upstairs. The basement floor of The Cliffs is divided into four large rooms with central passage. The basement rooms have been totally renovated to accommodate modern bedrooms, bathrooms, and a kitchen, and almost no original millwork has survived. The rear gallery on the basement level has been enclosed with glass to serve as a modern den.

To the rear of the main house is a large barn with a broken slope, gabled roof that is possibly original to the main house. No other outbuildings are included within the nominated property boundaries, and no outbuildings on the surrounding acreage, once a part of The Cliffs Plantation, appear to be contemporary with the main dwelling house.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	___ community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400-1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500-1599	X agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600-1699	X architecture	___ education	___ military	___ social/
___ 1700-1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	___ humanitarian
X 1800-1899	___ commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900-	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1850's **Builder/Architect**

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Cliffs is an excellent example of a Greek Revival, Mississippi plantation dwelling of one-and-a-half stories with undercut gallery. The house was probably constructed in the 1850's as the plantation residence of John W. Henderson, one of the most prominent citizens of nineteenth-century Natchez. Evidence of the original interior decorative scheme still survives, as the first renovation did not occur until approximately 1970. The doors were grained in imitation of oak, one oak-grained door still surviving; the baseboards and mantel pieces were painted black; and the plaster walls were left bare or white washed.

John W. Henderson was the grandson of Scotchman John Henderson I, who immigrated to Natchez in 1787. A prominent merchant, Henderson wrote the first book published in the territory, was one of the founders of the First Presbyterian Church, and was the person for whom the two National Register houses The Elms (ca. 1805) and Pleasant Hill (ca. 1835) were constructed (Mary Warren Miller, Pleasant Hill, Adams Co., National Register File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). One of John Henderson I's sons was Thomas Henderson, a wealthy planter and cotton broker, for whom the ca. 1858 Henderson-Britton House was constructed (Mary Warren Miller, Henderson-Britton House, Adams Co., National Register File, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). The Henderson-Britton House is currently being restored by the Natchez Garden Club under a Federal grant program.

In 1828, Thomas Henderson and his brother Alexander purchased part of Mount Hope Plantation (Adams Co. Deed Book Q:135), expanded this purchase into what would eventually become an antebellum plantation of 1,446 acres, and named it The Cliffs (Will Book 3:251 and Deed Book PP:91). In his will dated 1857, Thomas Henderson refers to having already given "to my son John W. the Cliff [sic] Plantation with the slaves, stock & farming utensils thereon and money . . . (Will Book 3:251)." No mention is made of having given John a pre-existing dwelling. The circular saw marks on the structural timber of the house definitely point to a post-1848 date of construction, as Andrew Brown's saw mill in Natchez did not own such a saw until 1848. Circular saws are not considered to have been widely used until the late 1840's and 50's (John Hebron Moore, Andrew Brown and Cypress Lumbering in the Old Southwest [Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1967], pp. 54-56). In addition, the track for the sliding doors separating the double parlors is located above, and the earliest documented overhead door track is found at Stanton Hall, ca. 1857.

The house was probably begun about 1856, the year of John W. Henderson's marriage to Ellen Newman (The Natchez Democrat, Aug. 19, 1916, p. 2), and completed about 1857 or 58. In an 1868 deed of sale, the property is described as being "the same plantation of land upon which the said John Henderson has resided and cultivated for more than ten years past (Deed Book PP:91)." John Henderson's obituary states that he graduated from Oakland College (now Alcorn University) in 1853 and subsequently received a master of arts degree and from that time until the Civil War was engaged in the planting business (The Natchez Democrat, Aug. 19, 1916, p. 2).

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data **UTM NOT VERIFIED**

Acreeage of nominated property 8.26 acres

Quadrangle name Kingston

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	5	6	5	10	5	5	10	3	14	8	17	5	16	15
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H

Zone			Easting				Northing							

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with right angle corners and equal sides of 600 feet each with the center being the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The sides of the figure are parallel to the walls of the house.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/Research Consultant

organization Self-employed

date September 24, 1979

street & number 506 High Street

telephone (601) 442-9786 or 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Elmer B. Hilliard

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 13, 1980

For NCRS use only

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

Carol P. Shell date 9-18-80

Special Agent in Charge

Carol Dubie date 9/12/80

Chief of Administration

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED	1/8

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

CONTINUATION SHEET

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John W. Henderson was born in Natchez in 1832 and died in 1916. During his long life, he was a planter, a Civil War hero, a merchant, county school superintendent, and an ordained Presbyterian minister. He attained the rank of First Lieutenant in the Confederate Army and returned to Natchez after the war to abandon his planting career in favor of assuming the management of his late father's brokerage and mercantile firm. He later became manager of the Natchez mercantile firm of Stockman and Newman. After the S. B. Newman & Company of New Orleans failed and forced the closing of the Natchez branch in 1880, Henderson became county superintendent of education, a position he held for thirty-four years. An ordained minister, he never assumed the pastorate of a church but was content to assist the local congregations (The Natchez Democrat, Aug. 19, 1916, p. 2).

In 1868, John W. Henderson, having entered the mercantile world of downtown Natchez, sold The Cliffs Plantation to John Coulson (Deed Book PP:91). From Coulson, Henderson purchased Belvidere, a ca. 1840 residence located on Homochitto Street (Deed Book PP:94), that is today owned by the great-granddaughter of Henderson. For several years after John Henderson sold The Cliffs, it was owned by mercantile firms who sold the crops and leased the house to men who managed the plantation. Eventually the house became the long time residence of the Brown family, descendents of Thomas Mason of the firm Pollock and Mason. The Brown family obtained the property after lengthy litigation involving the heirs of Thomas Pollock.

In 1979, The Cliffs was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Meade Hufford who are renovating the house to serve as their permanent family residence.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

6

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 1

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books Q, PP.

Adams Co., Miss. Chancery Clerk. Will Book 3.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register File.
Adams Co. Pleasant Hill (Mary W. Miller).

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson. National Register File.
Adams Co. Henderson-Britton House (Mary W. Miller).

Moore, John Hebron. Andrew Brown and Cypress Lumbering in the Old Southwest.
Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1967.

The Natchez Democrat, Aug. 19, 1916.

(RED GUM)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

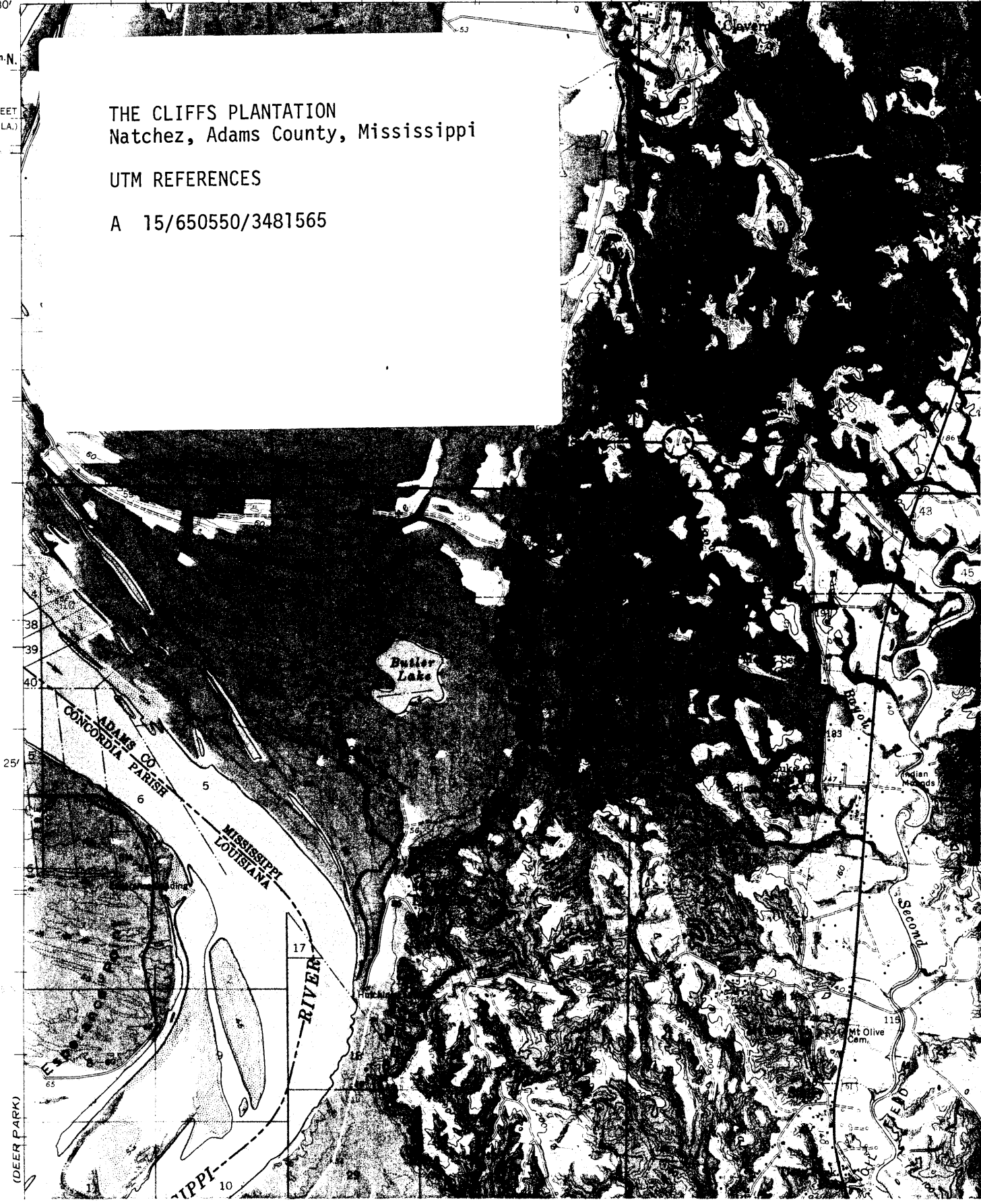
91°30' 31°30' 643000m.E. 2 320 000 FEET (LA.) 25' (N4)

3485000m.N.
300 000 FEET
(LA.)

THE CLIFFS PLANTATION
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES

A 15/650550/3481565



(DEER PARK)



~~THE~~ CLIFFS PLANTATION
Adams County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, the northeasterly
facade and northwesterly elevation.

Photo 1 of 3.

SEP 18 1980

FEB 20 1980



~~THE~~ CLIFFS PLANTATION
Adams County, Mississippi

Looking northeasterly, the rear of The Cliffs showing the enclosed, recessed rear gallery and the raised basement with enclosed gallery.

Photo 2 of 3.

SEP 18 1980

FEB 20 1980



~~THE~~ CLIFFS PLANTATION
Adams County, Mississippi

Looking southwesterly, the northeasterly facade of the barn located at the rear of the main house.

Photo 3 of 3.

FEB 20 1980

SEP 18 1980



Cliffs Plantation

Adams Co. (Md)