

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PH0692727

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED DEC 5 1978

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
Elgin
AND/OR COMMON
Elgin

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
Route 3 (U. S. Highway 61 South) __ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN
Natchez CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fourth

STATE
Mississippi 39120 VICINITY OF
Adams

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 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Dr. and Mrs. William F. Calhoun, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER
Route 3, Box 334

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 & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN
Natchez STATE
Mississippi 39120

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE
July 3, 1973 __ FEDERAL STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN
Jackson STATE
Mississippi 39205

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 present rear (north) wing of Elgin was the original house, a frame cottage with front and rear galleries. Because of a natural drop in terrain, the rear (east) gallery of the cottage was elevated one story above the ground and was set on a brick wall with two doors and two windows with crude casings. The basement contains a brick room with fireplace, thought to have been used as a kitchen before the outside kitchen was built. One end of the rear gallery was enclosed by a small "cabinet." There were two other rooms above on the primary floor and stairs leading from the back gallery to a finished attic. Floors throughout the cottage are tulip poplar. The front (west) gallery measures twelve by thirty-six feet and has chamfered columns, which were copied from one preserved from the rear gallery. The ca. 1840 door, which replaced the original, is flanked on each side by three twelve-over-twelve windows.

In 1840 a two-story gable-roofed house with end chimneys was built across the south end of the original cottage. One room deep with a center hall, the house featured a five-bay double gallery on the front (south) elevation. An additional bay was constructed on the east end of the facade in 1851 and another on the west in 1855. The resulting ninety-foot seven-bay facade is protected by a double gallery supported by slender Doric columns and enclosed by a balustrade of rectangular spindles and an oval handrail. The six-over-six windows are set over jib doors with molded panels and flanked by louvered shutters. Molded casings and corner blocks like those of the windows trim the main entrance, defining the door opening, the side lights over panels, and the transom. The upper gallery door is molded into two vertical panels like the lower door but was lit only by a transom, now covered by a panel.

The interior finish of the post-1840 sections of the house closely matches the window and door trim and molded baseboards on the exterior. Greek Revival mantels, marble in the 1840 portion and wooden in the 1851 and 1855 extensions, further embellish the interior. In 1855 the two west rooms were thrown together by the insertion of full-height folding doors where the end walls of the 1840 house had been located. To one side of the chimney in the east chamber of the 1840 portion is a built-in closet with molded door. The stairway in the center hall has a cherry newelpost, rail, and turned balusters.

After 1840 the original rear cottage was refurbished to serve as a dining area. A large oak punkah was installed in the south room, but the original chair rails, baseboards, and casings of windows and doors remained in place. The chimney in the south room was moved from the south to the east wall and a mantel with Doric colonettes was installed. In the north room, the original Federal-style mantel with fluted pilasters was preserved. Two dormer windows were added so that the attic of the cottage could be used, and two partitions allowed for three rooms therein. The original crawl-space doors as well as woodwork were preserved.

At the northeast corner of the main house stands the 1853 kitchen building, a two-story brick structure with massive Doric columns. About three-fourths of a mile from the house is the cemetery, which is enclosed by a brick wall and iron gate. Elgin faces south toward its gardens and is surrounded by oaks and magnolias.

6 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 checked="" 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 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 Before 1824;
1840-1851-1855

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Elgin is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture adapted to the climate of the lower Mississippi Valley. It was the home of Dr. John Carmichael Jenkins, noted pioneer horticulturist in the Natchez region prior to the Civil War.

Dr. Jenkins was educated in Pennsylvania and came south with the intention of practicing medicine. Family circumstances required that he become a planter instead, a vocation in which he was able to use his training in scientific research to advantage. Although antebellum Mississippi ranked high as an agricultural state, it lagged in cultivation of the many fruits adapted to its favorable climate and soil. Through his extensive experiments in his orchard at Elgin, Dr. Jenkins proved that fruit culture could be made a profitable industry in the state and in the South. The success of fruit culture in any locality, he found, was contingent upon planning and cultivating an orchard on the basis of such principles as trench plowing and the restoration of essential elements to the soil. Especially vital were the phosphates, potash, and lime consumed in the cultivation of cotton and corn. By chemical analysis Dr. Jenkins demonstrated that the three minerals were essential to the healthy growth of fruits such as peaches, pears, and apples.

Dr. Jenkins's constant experimentation also led to two other valuable contributions in food production: the preservation of fruits with ice and by suspension in a fruit cellar. It was on a trip to the North that Dr. Jenkins discovered that fruits could be preserved by refrigeration. He recorded the following accounts in his diary:

August 7, 1852: Put up two baskets of fruit to take to the North--in one basket I have a dozen or more specimens of Burns Diel pear all of immense size, some weighing one 1/4 to one 1/2 lbs. These largest specimens were grown upon quince stock. Also a few specimens of Golden Burns of Balboa and some of Elgin apples. I put these boxes on third day out in ship's ice box and found upon arrival in New York that they were perfectly sound and appeared as though they had just been put up. The pears were taken from the trees when hard but were full grown and were just beginning to turn color. In another basket kept in my stateroom I put up two dozen specimens of Dutchess De Angelone Pears. These pears were full grown, but hard when taken from the trees and kept perfectly sound until after arrival at New York.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jenkins, John Carmichael. Diaries, 1840-55, and Papers. Mrs. Francis Geddes, Natchez, Mississippi.

Seal, Albert Garrel. "John Carmichael Jenkins, Scientific Planter of the Natchez District." Thesis, Louisiana State University, 1937.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15.29 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Kingston, Mississippi-Louisiana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|----------|------------|--------------|--------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| <u>CA</u> | <u>1,5</u> | <u>6,5,3</u> | <u>3,5,0</u> | <u>3,4</u> | <u>8,3</u> | <u>7,4,0</u> | <u>B</u> | <u>1,5</u> | <u>6,5,3</u> | <u>8,2,5</u> | <u>3,4</u> | <u>8,3</u> | <u>7,4,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | | | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | |
| <u>A</u> | <u>1,5</u> | <u>6,5,3</u> | <u>8,2,5</u> | <u>3,4</u> | <u>8,4</u> | <u>3,5,0</u> | <u>D</u> | <u>1,5</u> | <u>6,5,3</u> | <u>3,5,0</u> | <u>3,4</u> | <u>8,4</u> | <u>3,5,0</u> |
| | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | | | ZONE | EASTING | | NORTHING | | |
| <u>E</u> | | | | | | | <u>F</u> | | | | | | |
| <u>G</u> | | | | | | | <u>H</u> | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain tract, parcel and portion of land lying, being and situated in the County of Adams, and State of Mississippi, being a portion of the Elgin Plantation, described as follows, to-wit: From the Northwesterly corner of portion of Elgin Plantation as shown by

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ruth Ellen Calhoun (Mrs. William F., Jr.)

ORGANIZATION

Owner of Elgin

DATE

November 20, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Route 3, Box 334

TELEPHONE

601-446-6100

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer R. Milliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

November 22, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST: [Signature]
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
 CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

1/19/79

DATE

1/19/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 8 PAGE 1

6 - REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

Title: Adams County Landmark Inventory
Date: 1974-1978 County X Local
Depository for Survey Records: Natchez Metropolitan Planning Commission
City: Natchez State: Mississippi 39120

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

August 8, 1852: The experiment I made shows the practicality of shipping fruits from near Natchez to New York on steamer, and as these varieties ripen here from six weeks to two months earlier than those further north, they would command so high a price as to justify the expense of handling them on ice, and for later varieties this ice would not be needed.

Dr. Jenkins described his second innovation in fruit preservation in his diary as follows:

August 10, 1852: While upon the subject of fruits I must mention that I discovered a way of maturing the fruit which in our hot climate is highly important to farmers. For two years past, although my pears bore fruit and carried it to full ripe, yet the greatest portion rotted if taken from the trees and placed in the house (where all pears ought to be kept and not on the trees). I tried putting them on shelves in the garret and also in the cellar but as they were in contact with the wood and even if straw or cotton was put under them they still rotted badly before ripening. My successful plan was this-- I suspended each specimen with a string tied to the stem from nails driven to the joists in the cool cellar--taking care the fruits were not in contact. In this way they ripened in a week to 12 days most admirable.

Dr. Jenkins shared the results of his experiments with fellow horticulturists, especially Thomas Affleck of Mississippi (formerly of Cincinnati and later of Texas) and Andrew Jackson Downing of Newburgh, New York. He presented a report on Mississippi fruit to the American Pomological Society at its meeting in Boston in 1854 and was an active member of the organization. He encouraged the formation of a Mississippi counterpart, writing in the Natchez Daily Courier for September 21, 1854, that

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

if a congress of fruit growers, embracing the planters of the entire state, were annually or biennially to meet at some central point, it would tend to throw a flood of light upon a subject as yet in its infancy among us, but which I feel is destined ere many years to add largely to the wealth and resources of the state.

Dr. Jenkins experimented with agricultural improvements as well as horticultural. He attempted to produce a strain of cotton which would be best adapted to the Mississippi climate, yielding a superior quality and quantity of lint. He planted numerous types of seed at different times but eventually accepted the superiority of a proven favorite, the Mexican variety.

Dr. Jenkins's interest in architecture was evidenced in his design for his home, Elgin. On June 19, 1840, he bought the property from the New Orleans Gaslight & Banking Company, which had claimed it from Archibald Dunbar, Dr. Jenkins's brother-in-law, in 1838. In a letter written in September, 1840 (a copy of which is in the possession of Mrs. Francis Geddes of Natchez), Dr. Jenkins stated:

We hope to get to Elgin Feb. I have put a new addition to the old house which was but 12 feet by 30 and one story. The new is so much the prettier. One of our wags remarked, "the old looked like an amen at the end of a long prayer."

The section which Dr. Jenkins built was typical of the region in its double galleries set under the main gable roof and its jib windows opening onto them.

The construction of the two-story kitchen building was documented by Dr. Jenkins in two diary entries for 1853:

June 7: We are now getting in the stocks for sawing for the new house. . . . This building will be 40 feet long by 38 feet wide and have four rooms on the lower floor--the lower front room a kitchen with oven attached--next front room an ironing room, back of it a wash room--back of kitchen a servants dining room--upstairs 4 rooms--one for school room and the remaining rooms for servants sleeping apartments.

June 13: The old kitchen house is to be torn down--also the house behind it used as a wash house, and sleeping rooms for servants--we shall also tear down the old cook kitchen for plantation and this will rid us of the old houses in yard. The wagons will soon have hauled over from

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 10 PAGE 3

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

The Forest [an adjoining plantation and the family home of Dr. Jenkins's wife, Annis Dunbar] the 16,000 brick I purchased--these brick will answer for the side walls and foundation of new kitchen house.

The date of the original house at Elgin is not known. Mary Louise Geddes, Natchez, Mississippi, great-granddaughter of Dr. Jenkins, owns an 1824 map of The Forest which shows a house at Elgin. The present owners of Elgin have in their possession an 1827 deed concerning Henderson land adjoining Elgin. The land is stated to be a certain distance from the house where Archibald Dunbar resides.

Dr. Jenkins and his wife both died of yellow fever in 1855 and were buried in the Elgin family cemetery. Their heirs retained the property until 1914, when it was sold to Thornton A. Green of Michigan. It was purchased in 1933 by Mr. and Mrs. W. S. R. Beane, who restored the gardens, a process which spanned 30 years. Elgin is now the residence of Dr. and Mrs. William F. Calhoun, Jr., and their three children and is included in the Natchez Fall Pilgrimage, which was first held in 1977.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

map or plat of survey by Richard T. Logan, P.E., recorded in Plat Book 8, at page 23 of the records of Adams County, Mississippi, run S 37° 43' 42" E 6065.17 feet to a point on the Easterly side of a 20 foot roadway for point of beginning, being the most Northerly corner of within described tract. Thence from point of beginning run S 60° 23' 54" W for 186.29 feet to a point on a fence; thence run S 58° 15' 03" W for 471.19 feet to a point; thence run S 12° 13' 11" W for 247 feet, more or less, to a point in a bayou; thence follow the said bayou in a Southerly and Easterly direction for the following bearings and distances:

S 80° 08' 59" W 86.56
S 12° 55' 53" W 100.62
S 17° 51' 33" W 173.05
S 8° 01' 30" W 67.56
S 55° 55' E 117.46
S 45° 57' 54" E 139.23
S 85° 38' 50" E 95.16
N 66° 03' 06" E 86.91
N 82° 24' 41" E 44.97
N 89° 09' 03" E 153.27
N 37° 23' 58" E 129.63
N 43° 07' 33" E 39.29

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 4

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

N 23° 39' 30" E 62.99

N 46° 31' 30" E 75.33

N 7° 01' 28" E 116.97

N 52° 20' 30" E 77.34 feet to a point; thence leaving said bayou run N 34° 43' 15" E for 410.37 feet to an iron on the Southerly corner of a 13.88 acre tract as shown on map of same dated 5,7-75 by Richard T. Logan, P.E., thence run N 44° 29' W for 260.60 feet to a point on the Easterly side of a 20 foot roadway; thence run N 30° 43' E for 19.79 feet to a point; thence run N 8° 05" W for 36.30 feet to a point; thence run N 38° 16' W for 163.96 feet to a point and returning to point of beginning. The above described tract of land containing 15.29 acres, more or less, and being a portion of Elgin Plantation situated in Sections 17 & 26, T6N,R3W, Adams County, Mississippi. All as shown on a map or plat of said 15.29 acres prepared by Richard T. Logan, P.E., dated the 12th day of August, 1975.

(RED GUM)

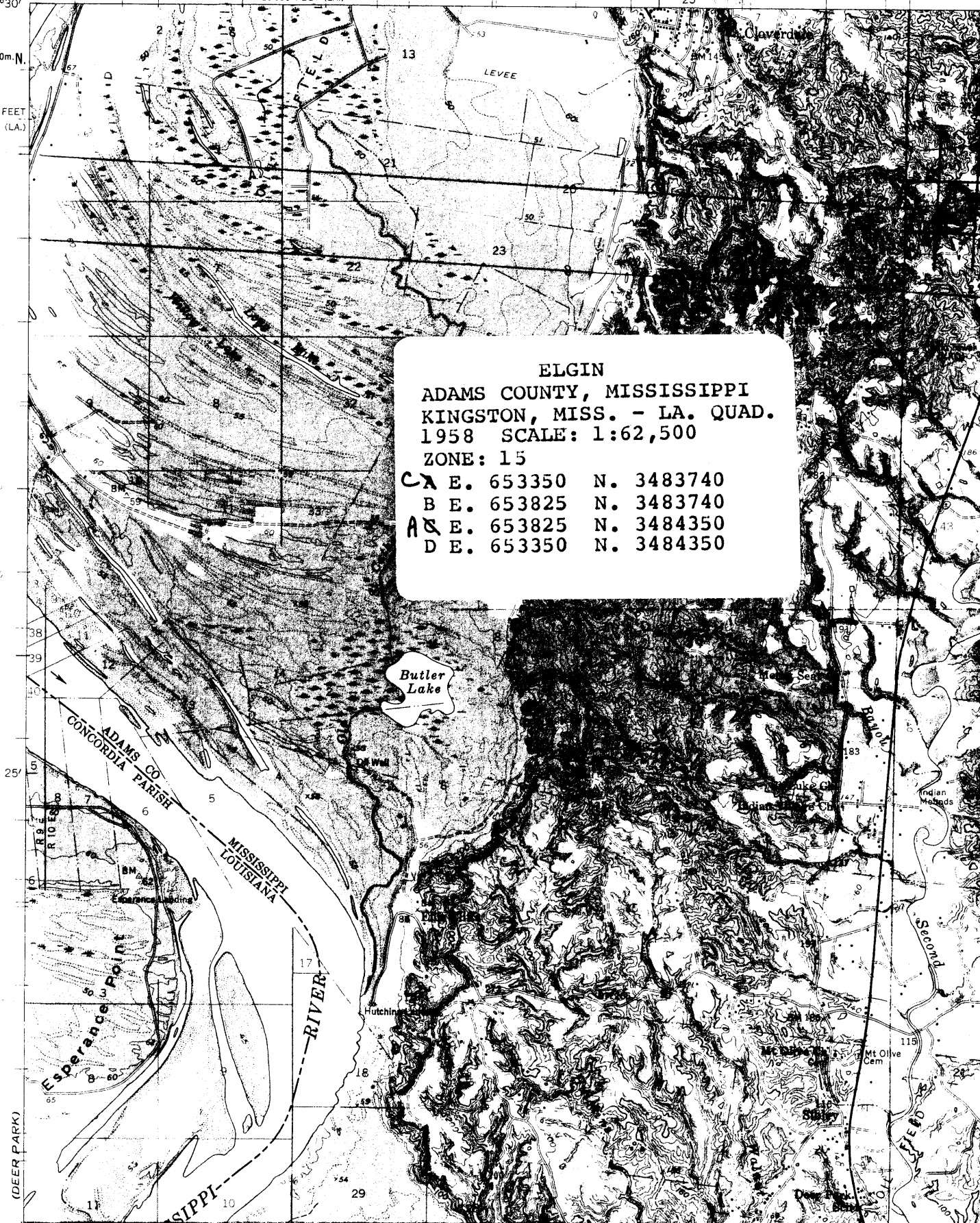
UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

91°30' 643000m. E. 2320000 FEET (LA.) 25'

3485000m. N.

300 000 FEET
(LA.)

31



ELGIN
ADAMS COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI
KINGSTON, MISS. - LA. QUAD.
1958 SCALE: 1:62,500
ZONE: 15
CA E. 653350 N. 3483740
B E. 653825 N. 3483740
A E. 653825 N. 3484350
D E. 653350 N. 3484350

(DEER PARK)

ADAMS CO.
MISSISSIPPI

CONCORDIA PARISH
LOUISIANA

Butler
Lake

MISSISSIPPI
RIVER

Second
Cem



ELGIN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September, 1975

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Facade (south elevation) of 1840-1851-1855

main block, looking north.

Photo 1 of 4

JAN 19 1979

DEC 5 1978



ELGIN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

JAN 19 1979

Ronald W. Miller

September, 1975

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Far left: side (west) elevation of 1853 kitchen building; center: facade (west) elevation of pre-1824 rear cottage wing; far right: rear (north) and side (west) elevations of 1840-1851-1855 main block; looking east.

Photo 2 of 4

DEC 5 1978



ELGIN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September, 1975

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Punkah in south room of pre-1824 rear cottage
wing, looking southeast.

Photo 3 of 4

JAN 19 1979

DEC 5 1978



ELGIN

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

JAN 19 1979

September, 1975

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Facade (south) elevation of 1853 kitchen

building, looking north. Left foreground:

southeast corner of facade of 1840-1851-

1855 main block.

Photo 4 of 4

DEC 5 1978