

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1473 N. 117

STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Adams
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	OCT 10 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:	Mistletoe
AND/OR HISTORIC:	

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: NE of Natchez on Miss. 554 Selzertown Road, Route 5, Box 495			
CITY OR TOWN: Natchez		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third	
STATE Mississippi	CODE 39120	COUNTY: Adams	CODE 001

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
☐ District ☐ Site ☐ Object	☒ Building ☐ Structure ☐ Object	☐ Public ☒ Private ☐ Both	☒ Occupied ☐ Unoccupied ☐ Preservation work in progress	Yes: ☒ Restricted ☐ Unrestricted ☐ No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
☒ Agricultural ☐ Commercial ☐ Educational ☐ Entertainment	☐ Government ☐ Industrial ☐ Military ☐ Museum	☐ Park ☒ Private Residence ☐ Religious ☐ Scientific	☐ Transportation ☐ Other (Specify)	☐ Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

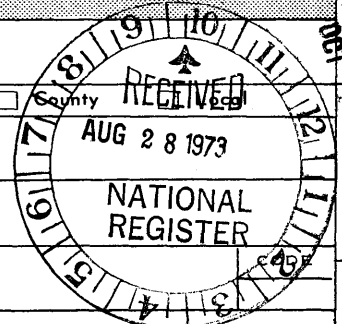
OWNER'S NAME: Samuel Hopkins Lambdin			
STREET AND NUMBER: Mistletoe, Selzertown Road, Route 5, Box 495			
CITY OR TOWN: Natchez	STATE: Mississippi	CODE 39120	CODE 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Office of the Chancery Clerk, Adams County Courthouse			
STREET AND NUMBER: Market Street			
CITY OR TOWN: Natchez	STATE: Mississippi	CODE 39120	CODE 28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:			
DATE OF SURVEY: ☐ Federal ☐ State ☐ County			
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:		



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STATE: Mississippi	COUNTY: Adams	ENTRY NUMBER: 10193	DATE: AUG 28 1973
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	☒ Excellent	☐ Good	☐ Fair	☐ Deteriorated	☐ Ruins	☐ Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	☒ Altered	☐ Unaltered	☐ Moved	☒ Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mistletoe is a small, one-story, weatherboarded house set high on a brick foundation facing north. The facade is divided into three unequal bays. In the matching outer bays are large-scale, window openings containing twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash and a pair of louvered blinds. In the small center bay is a doorway which elements consist of a double-leaf, panelled door, a semi-circular fanlight with radiating muntins, and two sidelights with rectangular panes over a wooden panel. These elements are outlined by molded pilasters and bands in the form of a Palladian motif. The doorway is set in an area of matched boards flanked by pilasters.

The area of matched boards, coupled with the configuration of the porch framing as revealed in repair work done in the mid-twentieth century, indicates that the front porch as originally designed consisted solely of a portico projecting from the center bay.

Centered on each side wall of the house is an exterior brick chimney. A first story window is placed to the north of each chimney, and an attic window is placed on each side of each chimney. On the rear wall two windows flank a center bay, which is left open to the interior.

The interior of the original portion of Mistletoe remains virtually unchanged. The floor plan is typical of the region, consisting of a large front hall flanked by two rooms and divided from a wider, but shallower, rear hall by an arrangement of doors, sidelights and transom. The rear hall is, in effect, a recessed porch, open on one side to the back yard. This hall-porch, flanked by two small rooms, contains the stairway, which is partially enclosed by a wall of vertical boards.

The interior woodwork, including chair-rails, baseboards, and two mantelpieces, is consistently Federal in style. The walls of the northeast room are sheathed in horizontal matched boards which bear no trace of paint other than a single coat applied and removed in the twentieth century.

The first major alterations and additions to the structure were made probably in the mid-nineteenth century, at which time a dining wing was attached to the east side of the house just behind the chimney; it extends back at right angles to the house and its interior trim matches that of the house. Probably at the same time, the original portico was replaced by a porch which extends across the front of the house; its roof is attached at a lesser pitch to the front slope of the house roof and is supported by four, tapered and panelled box columns with neck bands and molded bases and capitals. A railing of square-sectioned spindles is situated between the columns. Between 1940 and 1960 a major restoration and addition program was

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	OCT 10 1973

(Number all entries)

7.
undertaken. As part of this program, a wing matching the dining wing was attached to the west side of the house. From the rear of both wings, additional wings were offset and extended back with galleries along their interior sides. A glass-walled gallery was constructed across the rear of the main block of the house. The winders which originally made a quarter turn at the base of the stairway were replaced by new treads and risers so that the stairway opens onto the glass-walled gallery. Also at this time, a nineteenth century, one-story, gable-roofed, frame outbuilding was moved closer to the house.

Mistletoe contains a large, noteworthy collection of Natchez-made furnishings dating prior to 1830 as well as other art objects of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centurys. The collection of family paintings includes work by fourteen recorded artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centurys, among them Joshua Shaw, James Hart, and James R. Lambdin.

In the seven acres of gardens surrounding the house, the selection and placement of plants has been based on research into the garden practices of the Natchez area in the early nineteenth century. Such research was necessary to reproduce as accurately as possible a typical setting for a house of that time and place. Other public areas of the garden include the newest plants introduced in cooperation with the U. S. Arboretum in Washington, D. C. The remaining acres are used for ponds, orchards, forests, pastures and agricultural pursuits appropriate to the historic importance of Mistletoe.



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1807

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☐ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☒ Landscape Architecture☐ Social/Humanitarian☒ Art☐ Literature☐ Theater☐ Commerce☐ Military☐ Transportation☐ Communications☐ Music☐ Conservation

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mistletoe is the earliest of three extant houses associated with John Bisland and his descendants, whose voluminous records, gathered in the Bisland Collection at Louisiana State University, constitute a significant contribution to an understanding of the social and economic history of the region. The house is important, not only as a rare, documented product of slave craftsmanship, possessing especially fine proportions and stylish details, but also as one of the earliest and best-preserved examples of the fully developed open-back-hall floor plan typical of Mississippi during the first half of the nineteenth century. Surrounded by historically restored gardens, the house contains noteworthy collections of fine and decorative arts produced in Natchez and associated with the Bisland family.

In 1788, John Bisland, a native of Scotland, who had arrived in Natchez in 1766, settled on a Spanish land grant in the Pine Ridge area. He and his descendants who have remained in the Pine Ridge community have left a vast reservoir of socio-economic information covering their now 197 years in this area and in the Bisland historic homes. Dating from 1762, the Bisland Collection, which numbers over 10,000 pieces, provided factual information for the accurate restoration of Mistletoe.

John Bisland acquired land adjoining his house in 1803, and four years later, Mistletoe was constructed there as a wedding gift for his son, Peter. The descendants of the slaves who worked on the construction of the house still practice carpentry, and have recently donated to the house an inherited set of molding planes matching the profiles of the woodwork at Mistletoe. Peter Bisland, after his marriage to Barbara Foster on Christmas Eve, 1807, moved into the house and took up the life of a planter. However, he did not take full possession of the property until after his father's death in 1819, when he was willed the house and the 136.7 acres on which he already resided. Peter continued his residence at Mistletoe with his wife and four children until his own death in 1829. His heirs sold the house and land in 1847 to Dr. Matthew Atchison, whose wife Elizabeth R. Atchison, named it Mistletoe.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County Conveyance Records, C (1802-1805), p. 262.

Bisland Papers. Louisiana State University Library: Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968, p. 38.

Stokes, Beatrice M. "John Bisland, Mississippi Planter, 1776-1821." Unpublished M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University.

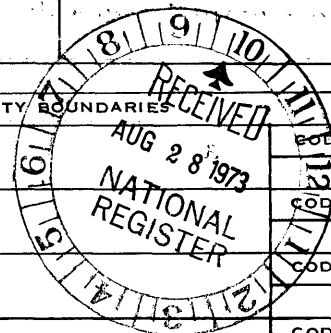
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	31° 37' 44"	91° 19' 24"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	31° 37' 44"	91° 18' 26-36		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	31° 37' 18"	91° 18' 26-36		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	31° 37' 18"	91° 19' 24"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 136.7 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:		Architectural
Mrs. Bethany Lambdin & Ronald W. Miller		Historian
ORGANIZATION	DATE	
Mississippi Department of Archives and History	8/22/73	
STREET AND NUMBER:		
Post Office Box 571		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE	CODE
Jackson	Mississippi	39205 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☐ Local ☒

Name Elbert R. Hilliard
Elbert R. Hilliard

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date August 22, 1973

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

Ernest A. Connolly
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Associate Director
Professional Services

Date OCT 10 1973

ATTEST:
Wm. H. H. H.
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-5-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

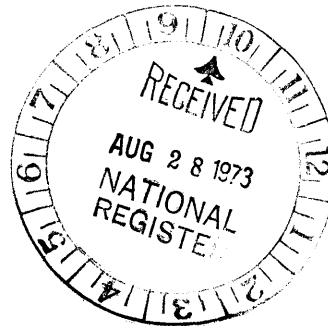
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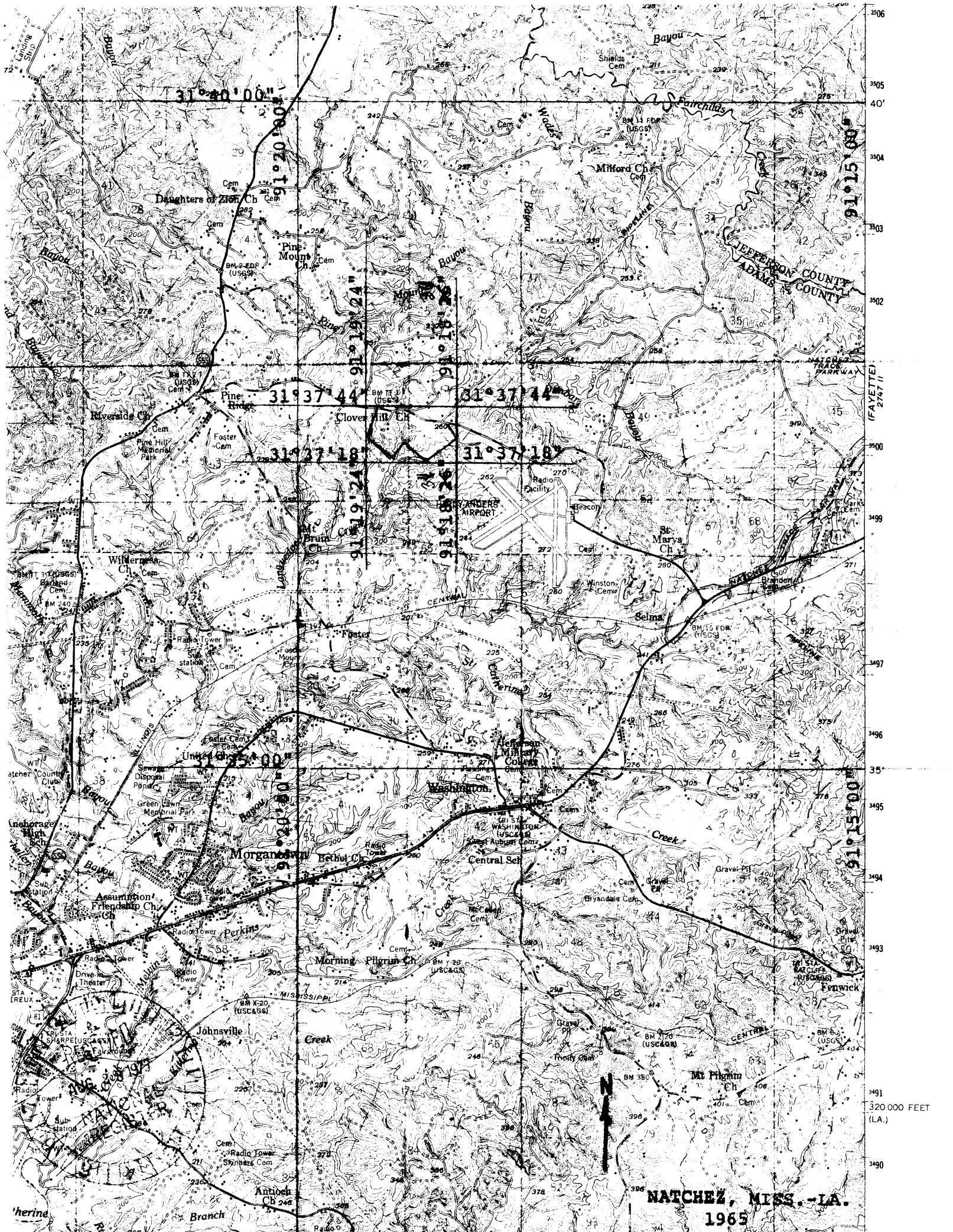
(Number all entries)

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The property was regained by the Bisland family in 1938, when the great-great-grandson of John Bisland, Samuel Hopkins Lambdin, purchased the house and presented it to his wife Mary Henderson Lambdin. The Lambdins restored and furnished the house and, utilizing contemporary garden descriptions and the remains of the old plantings at Mistletoe, also restored the setting. Since 1940, the house has been opened to the public during the Natchez Pilgrimage each March and at selected times during the remainder of the year.

The setting of the house is presently endangered by the proposed extension of a runway for the Natchez-Adams County Airport. The project is in its planning stages and will require federal funds for implementation.





NATCHEZ, MISS.-LA.
1965



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
Mistletoe		
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Mississippi 39120	Adams	Natchez
STREET AND NUMBER		
Seltzertown Road, Route 5, Box 495		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Ronald W. Miller	July 16, 1973	Miss. Department of Archives and History
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Interior, doorway in rear hall of front hall, looking S





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Mistletoe		OCT 10 1973
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Facade and West side, looking SSE





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STREET AND NUMBER		
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Front porch and door, looking S

