

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 99000838

Date Listed: 8/2/99

Boler's Inn  
Property Name

Newton  
County

MISSISSIPPI  
State

N/A \_\_\_\_\_

Multiple Name

-----  
This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

*for*   
Signature of the Keeper

8/29/99  
Date of Action

=====  
Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 8

This nomination is amended to show the period of significance beginning in 1856, when documentary sources indicate the house was built.

Section No. 10

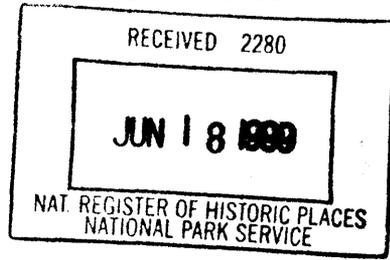
The acreage for the property is corrected to read "less than one acre."

This amendment has been confirmed with the Mississippi SHPO.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

*gms*



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Boler's Inn

other names/site number: Boler's Stagecoach Inn,

## 2. Location

street & number: Jackson Road

not for publication:

city or town: Union

vicinity:

state: Mississippi

code: MS

county: Newton

code: 101

zip code: 39365

## 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*Kenneth H. P. Paul*

JUNE 3, 1999

Signature of certifying official

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

## 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined eligible for the  
National Register  
 See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
 removed from the National Register  
 other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

*Marg Minney*

Date of Action

8/2/99

Boler's Inn  
Name of Property

Newton County, Mississippi  
County and State

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:** Private

**Number of Resources within Property:**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

**Category of Property:** Building

Contributing  
1

Noncontributing

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
Total

1

**Name of related multiple  
property listing:** N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the  
National Register:** 0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC / hotel

**Current Functions:** VACANT/not in use

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):** MID 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY/Greek Revival influence

**Materials:**

foundation: brick  
roof: composition shingles  
walls: wood/weatherboard  
other: wood porch

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

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**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION**

Boler's Inn faces south and is a seven bay wide, two story wood frame building with wood siding and asphalt composition shingled roof. This building type is usually known as an "I" house due to its appearance from each end. Originally the building was open in the center at both floors, forming a "dog trot". The house was originally one room in depth with enclosed "cabinet" rooms on the rear porch, which was one story in height. The rear porch was rebuilt ca. 1918, two feet deeper, with an added enclosed second floor, which tied to the rear eave of the main roof. The two story rear section has been replaced with a one story section that matches the size and form of the original. The fireplaces and chimney at the east and west ends have been removed.

The two story front porch is undercut into the main roof, with chamfered 3" x 4" columns at both floors. The walls, ceilings and floors are flat tongue and groove wood boards at both floors. At the first floor, there are three doors leading to the east and west rooms and the hall. The east and west doors are original two panel and the central door is half glass with two lower panels. All door openings have outward opening screen doors. The east and west doors are flanked by 6 over 6 double hung wood windows. The second floor level is similar except the windows are 9 over 6 and the central opening is a window.

The east facade has horizontal lapped wood siding that is original material but some has been relocated and reused as the rear porch was modified. There are two 6 over 6 double hung wood windows at opening to the east room and flanking the former fireplace/chimney location. The rear cabinet room has a double hung wood window at the first floor.

The rear facade has horizontal beveled wood shiplap siding. There are five double hung wood windows at the second floor and four windows at the first floor. The rear wall at the former "dog trot" hall is recessed and has a Panel door opening to the hall.

The west facade is identical to the east facade except that the wood siding is beveled wood shiplap as at the rear facade.

The interior is characterized by wood floors, walls and ceilings. The ceilings are board and batten consisting of 1 x 8 boards with 1 x 6 battens. Walls are plain boards ranging in width from 1 x 6 to 1 x 10.

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Floors are typically 1x 6 tongue and groove pine. Wall and ceiling surfaces are white washed or painted. Floors are unfinished except for some linoleum, which remains from a recent date.

Some of the remaining windows and doors appear to be original to their respective construction periods. However, Mr. Alvis Smith recalled that in 1940 or 1950 he replaced 15 or more windows. He had ordered windows for a residence but they were the wrong size. Mrs. Blalock, the owner of Boler's Inn, bought the windows and installed them. The present windows in the residence are 6 over 6 and very similar to the ones in Boler's (Horton, March 31, 1997). This could explain the 16, 6 over 6 windows located on all facades that are consistent in size and the 5 - 9 over 6 windows located at the second floor, south (front) facade.

The fireplace and chimneys at the ends of the two story section have been removed although the fireplace front and mantle remains at the west end, first floor.

The original staircase had been removed from the east room along the dog trot wall. It was replaced with a new stair leading west from the dog trot wall along the wall between the original two story rear wall and within the west cabinet room. This newer stair was removed during rebuilding of the rear porch and a new stair was built in the location of the original using rails and balusters characteristic of the period..

The dog trot has been enclosed. The first enclosure of the dog trot probably occurred at the same time that the second floor was added to the rear porch. The stair was probably also moved at this time.

The original lapped wood siding survives on the front (south) wall and the east wall. Elsewhere the siding was replaced with "drop" siding with a curved groove along one edge of each board. Some of the original siding was probably salvaged for use on the second floor rear porch at the east end.

Bathrooms that were added at both floors at the center of the rear porch have been removed and a new toilet was constructed in the east cabinet room.

The west first floor cabinet room had been subdivided to provide a kitchen in the west half. This was removed in the recent work.

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Areas of Significance**

Transportation  
Commerce

**Period of Significance**

1835 - 1913

**Significant Dates**

1856

**Criteria Considerations:**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Significant Person(s)**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance:**

See continuation sheets.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

See continuation sheet.

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Boler's Inn is locally significant under Criteria A for Transportation and Commerce because of its long history as a stagecoach stop and hotel. It is especially significant because of its location within the town of Union. Most surviving inns that are associated with stagecoach travel are located in rural areas where they also served as farmhouses. As discussed below, the use of the site as a stagecoach inn and stop probably predates the present building, and the present building certainly predates the location of the Town of Union on its present site.

The various sources of information about the construction date of Boler's Inn cite dates spanning a period of twenty-one years. The Historic Marker gives a date of 1835; the WPA History, 1843 (p9); the Federal Writers Project, 1847 (p468), and a letter from Norfleet Staton, Wesley Boler's son-in-law, describes the construction of the house in 1856. Whichever of these dates is correct, it will be helpful to examine the circumstances surrounding the development of Union.

Two published histories of Union mention that the town of Union was relocated from its original site. An 1894 source (Brown, p331) says that the original site was "about half mile from the present village". A 1980 history of Mississippi towns states that "The site of Old Union is about one mile east of its present location, the change being made when the railroad was built in 1905." (Brieger, p364). Either of these locations would be near the present intersection of the MS Hwy's 15 and 492 (Jackson Road and Decatur Street). A ca. 1900 photograph shows the town at this location. To complicate matters further an 1838 map shows "Union P.O." located in the North-west quarter of Section 5, Township 8 N, Range 13 East, about seven and one-half miles due East of its present location in Section One, Township 18 North, Range 11 East (Gwin). The same map shows a road running west from Gainesville, Alabama through both sites to Hillsboro and then splitting on to the West and South West. This would have been the Montgomery, Alabama to Jackson, Mississippi Post Road (Brown, p331).

The Montgomery to Jackson Road went through Gainesville, Alabama and "passed near Electric Mills, Porterville, Oak Grove, Blackwater, and on to Edinburg, Mississippi on the Pearl River." This was the part of an Indian portage trail called Nowali-a-chetta (May, p. 10, 11). It is unlikely that the 1838 map is incorrect since other geographical features such as Tallahatta and Ockahatta creeks appear in their correct locations. The 1838 location of Union P.O. is about six miles West of the junction of the Jackson to

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Montgomery road and the "Old Military Road". If the Post Office was ever located there, it may have been a temporary facility associated with the stage route stop. Union was the county seat of Neshoba County until 1836 when Newton County was formed and the new county seats were located in Philadelphia and Decatur. The History of Post Offices in Mississippi gives a Feb. 22, 1836 date for Union's first Post Office with Edward Tipton as the first Postmaster.

One source identifies the Jackson/Montgomery route as following the present route of MS Hwy. 492 through House and the Indian Village site of Mokalusha. This location does not fit with the 1838 map or the identified location of "County Line" community (Yates, p.36-40, 66) (Horton, March 3, 1997). This may have been a later route of the road.

In order to put the several locations in context it is helpful to examine stage coach and post office operations during the 1830's and later in the nineteenth century. The stage lines were operated under contract to the U.S. Post Office Department and were obligated to carry passengers as well as mail. They usually had mail relay stations at intervals of about 10 to 15 miles, with intermediate stations at about half that distance. This was to facilitate watering the teams at the intermediate stations and changing teams at the main stations.

The junction of the East-West Jackson to Montgomery highway and the North-South Military Road would have, almost certainly, been the location of a relay station. The 1815 Survey of the Military Road shows a "conshuk-balusta" location at approximately the junction with the future Montgomery to Jackson Road (Young). The 1838 location of the "Union P.O." would have been the next stop to the West and the present location of Union and Boler's Inn would have been the second. This suggests that the Military Road stop and Boler's Inn were probably main stations with accommodations for meals and changing of teams, while the Union P.O. was an intermediate station. This would also suggest that the Union location eventually moved to the Boler's station, particularly since the Military Road route in this area was mostly abandoned a few years after its completion in 1822 and was probably in decline by 1838.

According to the 1860 Census of Newton County, Wesley Boler was born around 1797 in South Carolina. His wife, Eliza was born around 1807 in Alabama. A genealogical report on his family places her place of birth in South Carolina (Garmes). His eldest child, William was born in Alabama ca. 1824 and his second child John was born in Clarke County, Alabama in 1827. His third child, Mary, was born in Union,

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Neshoba County, MS in 1829 (Garmes). This places Wesley Boler and his family in Union by 1829.

Boler began buying land in Newton and Neshoba Counties in the early 1830's. The property where Boler's Inn now stands was acquired by Federal Land Patent on December 10, 1834 through Henry Chapman for Wesley Boler's Associates (receipt 7912, v 11, p.280, Feb. 1, 1841). While the Staton letter suggests that the present Boler's Inn was built in 1856, it seems likely that there was a stage stop there or near there by the time of the establishment of stage and postal service in the 1830's. Perhaps the relocation by one-half mile, mentioned in the 1894 source (Brown, p331) corresponded with the 1856 construction date, superseding the earlier location. The 1905 relocation (Brieger, p364) may, in fact, be confused with the earlier description, since the Inn certainly was built earlier than that date, or the Inn was not located in the actual town before the relocation.

One other event concerning Boler's Inn involves movement by the Union XVI Corps in February, 1864 with the Fourth Division under the command of General James Clifford Veatch. This was part of General William T. Sherman's force that had attacked and destroyed Meridian and was returning to Vicksburg. The units encamped about one-half mile east of Union on the night of February 21 and General's Veatch and Sherman spent the night at Boler's Inn, before continuing the westward march the following day (Bearss).

A 1904 photo shows an open dog trot at the first floor, but the upper dog trot had been closed in. The second floor rear had not been added and one source places that addition around 1913 (Horton). If so, then the changes would have been made by Mr. Buckwalter, associated with the railroad and a sawmill, which opened that year. Another source states that the changes probably took place around 1918 because Edna Loper lived there from 1915 to 1918 and the changes were made after the period of her residence. (Nicholson) At that time the stair would have been relocated. The toilets were probably added later along with other minor alterations through the years.

In summary, while the present Boler's Inn was most likely built in 1856, it probably superseded an earlier stage station located on the same site or nearby and operated, by Boler or others, since the early 1830's. Subsequent modifications reflect the changing times, particularly arrival of the railroad in 1905, the addition of indoor plumbing and its use as a single family dwelling

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Bearss, Sherman's Forgotten Campaign, The Meridian Expedition, Gateway Press, Baltimore, 1987.

Brieger, James F., Hometown Mississippi, 1980

Brown, A. J., History of Newton County 1834-1894, Clarion Ledger Co., Jackson, MS, 1894

Federal Writer's Project, Town 12, 1938

Garmes, Audrey Moore, genealogical data on Wesley Boler's Family

Gwin and Daugherty, A Map of Mississippi including parts of Alabama, Arkansas and Louisiana, 1838, scale 1"= 6 miles (1:380,000).

Horton, Gene, Letters to Sam Kaye, Nov. 18, 1996, March 3, 1997, March 31, 1997

Horton, Gene, History of Boler's Inn, no date

May, Eva Mae, The Story of Electric Mills, 1970

Nicholson, Joyce, interview, March 27, 1997 Records of the War of Rebellion

Station, Norfleet, Letter to his father, August 10, 1856

Works Progress Administration, History of Newton County, 1936.

Young, Hugh, Survey of the Military Road from Madisonville, LA to Major Barrett's Line, 1815, Library of Congress, copy in Natchez Trace Archives.

Yates, Jenelle B. and Ridout, Theresa T., The Red Clay Hills of Neshoba County, The Neshoba County Historical Society, 1992

Boler's Inn  
Name of Property

Newton County, Mississippi  
County and State

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: less than 10 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	300860	3605710	C		
B				D		

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Samuel H. Kaye, AIA	
organization: Luke & Kaye, PA	date: December 15, 1998
street & number: 114 5 <sup>th</sup> . Street South, P. O. Box 48	telephone: 601-327-6241
city or town: Columbus	state: MS zip code: 39703

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name: Foundation for Restoration of Boler's Inn	
street & number: 400 Bank Street, P. O. Box 220	telephone: 601-774-9205
city or town: Union	state: MS zip code: 39365

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Geographical Data**

Verbal Boundary Description:

TRACT 1:

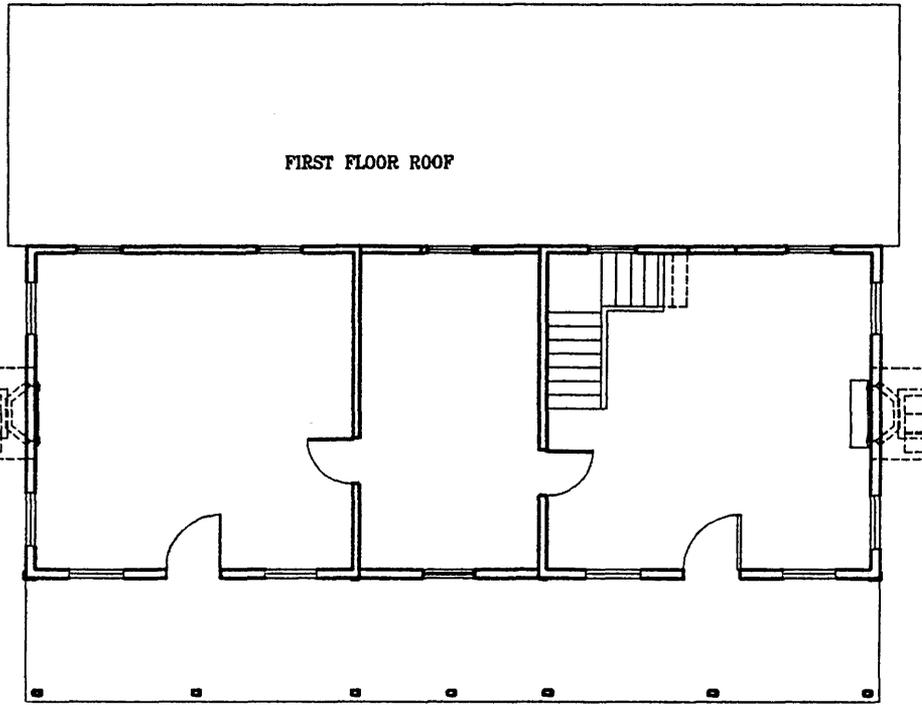
Beginning at the NE Corner of Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 11 East, Newton County, Mississippi, and run thence west 821 feet, thence South 1343 feet for point of beginning; thence from said point of beginning run South 146.6 feet, thence run North 87 degrees 10 minutes East 31 feet, thence run North 3 degrees 19 minutes West 144.7 feet; thence run west 22.2 feet to point of beginning; being in and a part of the east ½ of the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 8 North, Range 11 East, and containing 0.09 acres, more or less..

TRACT 2:

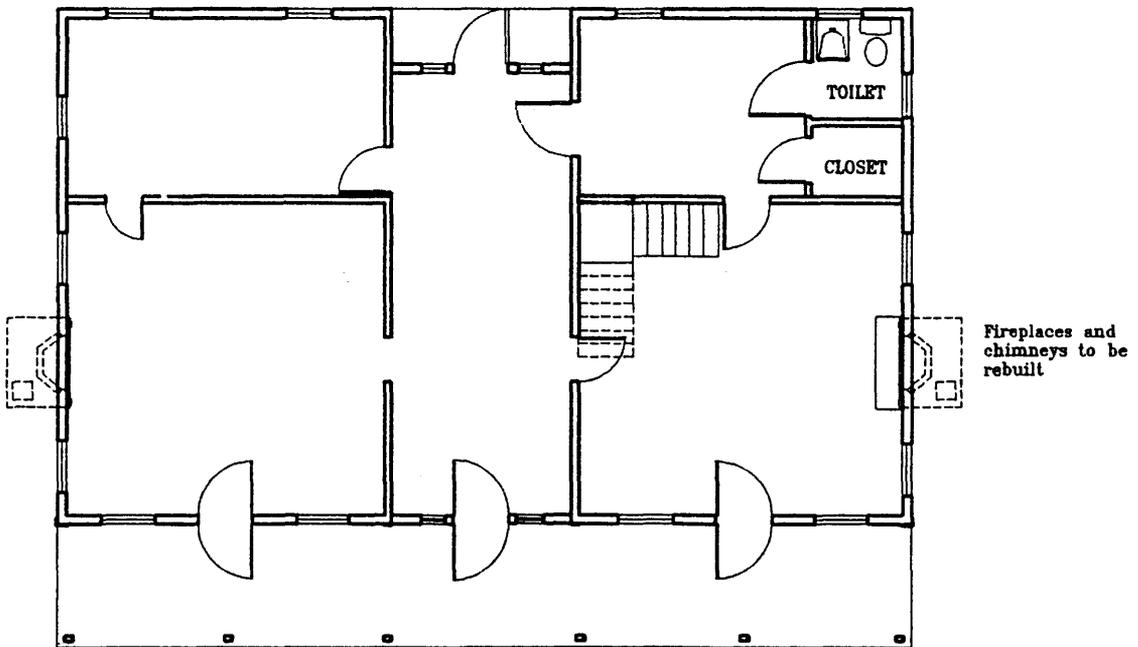
Beginning at the SE Corner of Lot 6, Block 1 of H. C. Staton Addition to the town of Union, Mississippi, as per plat of same on file in the Chancery Clerk's office of Newton County, Mississippi, thence North 155 feet, thence West 96 feet, thence South 155 feet, thence East 96 feet to point of beginning, less right-of-way for Highway #15.

Boundary Justification:

This property is the location and grounds traditionally associated with Boler's Inn.



Second Floor



First Floor

Boler's Inn  
Union, Mississippi

Luke & Kaye

A Professional Association  
Members of The American Institute of Architects

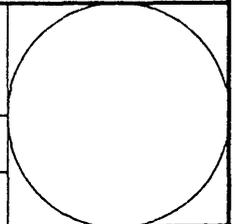
Sheet Number

Sheet Title

Date: March 1, 1999

Floor Plans  
Scale: 3/32" = 1'-0"

Job Number:



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National Park Service

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### PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- 1) Boler's Inn
- 2) Union, Newton County, Mississippi
- 3) Samuel H. Kaye
- 4) Photos 12 - 21, March 12, 1997, Photos 1 - 11, March 1, 1999
- 5) Mississippi department of Archives and History

#### Exterior Photographs

- Photo 1      View from southwest  
Photo 2      View from south  
Photo 3      View from northeast  
Photo 4      South Facade - view to north  
Photo 5      East Facade - view to west  
Photo 6      North Facade - view to south  
Photo 7      West Facade - view to east

#### Interior Photographs

- Photo 8      Northeast cabinet room - looking west  
Photo 9      Northeast cabinet room - looking east  
Photo 10      Northwest cabinet room - looking east  
Photo 11      Northwest cabinet room - looking west  
Photo 12      First floor southwest room looking west  
Photo 13      First floor southwest room looking south  
Photo 14      First floor southwest room looking east  
Photo 15      First floor southeast room looking east  
Photo 16      First floor southeast room looking south  
Photo 17      Second floor southwest room looking west  
Photo 18      Second floor southwest room looking north  
Photo 19      Second floor southeast room looking east  
Photo 20      Second floor southeast room looking north  
Photo 21      Second floor southeast room looking west