

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

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Talbert-Cassels House  
Amite County, Mississippi

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**Amendment for Purposes of Requesting Delisting**

The Talbert-Cassels House, Amite County, Mississippi, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on March 1, 1984. The house was destroyed by fire in December 2006. A site visit by MDAH staff in March 2008 confirmed that building was completely destroyed. Since the date of listing the building has lost the qualities which originally caused it to be listed.

Section 11:

Form prepared by:  
William M. Gatlin, Architectural Historian  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6940

Date: March 25, 2008

Section 2:

Certification



\_\_\_\_\_  
State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 5-19-2008

**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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

**1. Name**

historic Talbert-Cassels House

and/or common same as above

**2. Location**

street & number Southwest of an unmarked county road that connects State Hwy. 33 with State H  
574 and located about 2 miles northwest of White Cap N/A not for publication

city, town Gloster  vicinity of ~~Wiggins~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Amite code 5

**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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA 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 Mr. Raymond Cassels

street & number Rt. 2, Box 115

city, town Gloster  vicinity of state Mississippi 39638

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Amite County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Liberty state Mississippi 39645

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Resources of Amite County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Talbert-Cassels House is a two-story, brick, Greek Revival plantation residence with gabled roof featuring parapet gable ends with double chimneys linked by a curtain wall. A dentiled wooden cornice extends across the front and rear elevations. The north-eastern five-bay facade is fronted by a one-story shed-roof gallery with crude wooden supports that replaced a one-story, center-bay portico. All window openings are topped by wood lintels and are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash. Most of the windows are closed by original shutter blinds. The entrance frontispiece consists of a shouldered architrave surround with transom and sidelights set over molded panels framing a single-leaf door with four molded panels. The facade and rear elevation of the house were both originally treated with brick wash upon which lines were painted to give the appearance of stone blocks, a treatment that also survives at Gloucester in neighboring Adams County, Mississippi.

The interior plan of the house is a double-pile plan with wide central passage. All interior doorways and windows feature shouldered architrave surrounds with two fascias, the bases are molded with two fascias, the doors have four molded panels, and the mantel pieces are wooden and pilastered. Ornamental plaster work is limited to a concentric circle centerpiece in the entrance hallway. The double parlors on the northerly side of the house are separated by sliding doors set within a fully molded and dentiled entablature supported by pilasters. An unusual, probably unique, feature of the house are the molded plaster panels beneath the windows. The original decorative scheme of the first-story interior is intact. The walls are bare plaster, the mantel pieces are painted in an unusual interpretation of black marble, and the doors are grained in two different woods.

The stairway, which runs along the southwesterly hall wall, is continuous from the first to the unfinished third story. On the first-story level, the stair has a massive turned newel, turned balusters, and ornamental brackets. On the second-story level, the stairway features balusters that are chamfered and tapered. On the third story, the balusters are rectangular-sectioned. The doors and windows of the second-story exhibit unmolded surrounds with molded peaked cornices. The bases are molded with two fascia. The most spectacular feature of the second-story are the board ceilings in the hallway and northern two bedrooms, which are decoratively painted in a unique manner. The ceilings look almost as if they were smoked by a flame.

At the southwest corner of the house is a one-story, original brick wing with rear frame addition all under a single gabled roof. Access to the rear addition is provided through double-leaf, transomed doors set within a shouldered architrave that provide access to a rear gallery. Like the facade treatment, this gallery is an enlargement of a smaller portico or porch and forms an L with the gallery of the one-story wing. The millwork of the brick wing is different from the main house. The doors and windows feature a battered surround with molded, peaked cornice, and the fireplace opening in the original dining room is flanked by closets. One of the closets has been altered and now serves as a doorway into the frame addition which houses the kitchen. Originally, the kitchen was located in a detached outbuilding located southwest of the main house.

Most of the outbuildings, which include a barn, seed house, and shed, date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. A family cemetery is located only about 150 feet north of the house.

# 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 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** ca. 1858      **Builder/Architect** James Wilson

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Talbert-Cassels House is perhaps the most architecturally significant building in Amite County. This significance is based on its brick construction, its high degree of architectural finish, its outstanding integrity, its long history of family ownership, its unspoiled plantation setting, and its association with local builder James Wilson, whose widow's descendants now reside in the house. Erected ca. 1858, the Talbert-Cassels House was constructed of brick in a county where brick construction was rare in the mid-nineteenth century. Well executed with a high degree of architectural finish, the integrity of the house is outstanding despite the loss of the original one-story, center-bay portico. Possibly unique features of the house are the molded plaster panels beneath the windows of the double parlors, the second-story board ceilings that are decoratively painted as if they were smoked by a flame, and the unusual veining of the marbled mantel pieces. The interior of the house retains all original finishes including grained doors, marbled mantel pieces, and white plaster walls. Although constructed as a residence for the Talbert family by local builder James Wilson, the house became the Wilson family residence shortly after the Civil War. The house has been beautifully preserved by Raymond Cassels, a descendant of the widow of James Wilson, the builder, who is buried in the plantation cemetery.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Cassels, Raymond, great-grandson of James Wilson's widow. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller preservation consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez, MS, at the Talbert-Cassels House, March 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately 24.8 acres

Quadrangle name Liberty, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A	1 5	6 9 1 2 0 0	3 4 5 7 0 0 0	B	1 5	6 9 1 4 5 0	3 4 5 6 8 2 5
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 5	6 9 1 1 0 0	3 4 5 6 7 0 0	D	1 5	6 9 0 9 5 0	3 4 5 6 8 7 5
E				F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with the northwestern and southeastern boundary lines parallel and forming right angles with the southwestern boundary line. The northwestern, southeastern, and southwestern boundary lines are located 600 feet from the center point of the ridge of the roof and the northeastern

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

(continued)

state	code	county	code
NA			
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date July 15, 1983

street & number P. O. Box 1671

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi

## 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



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 4, 1983

For HCERS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Talbert-Cassels House, Amite County, Mississippi

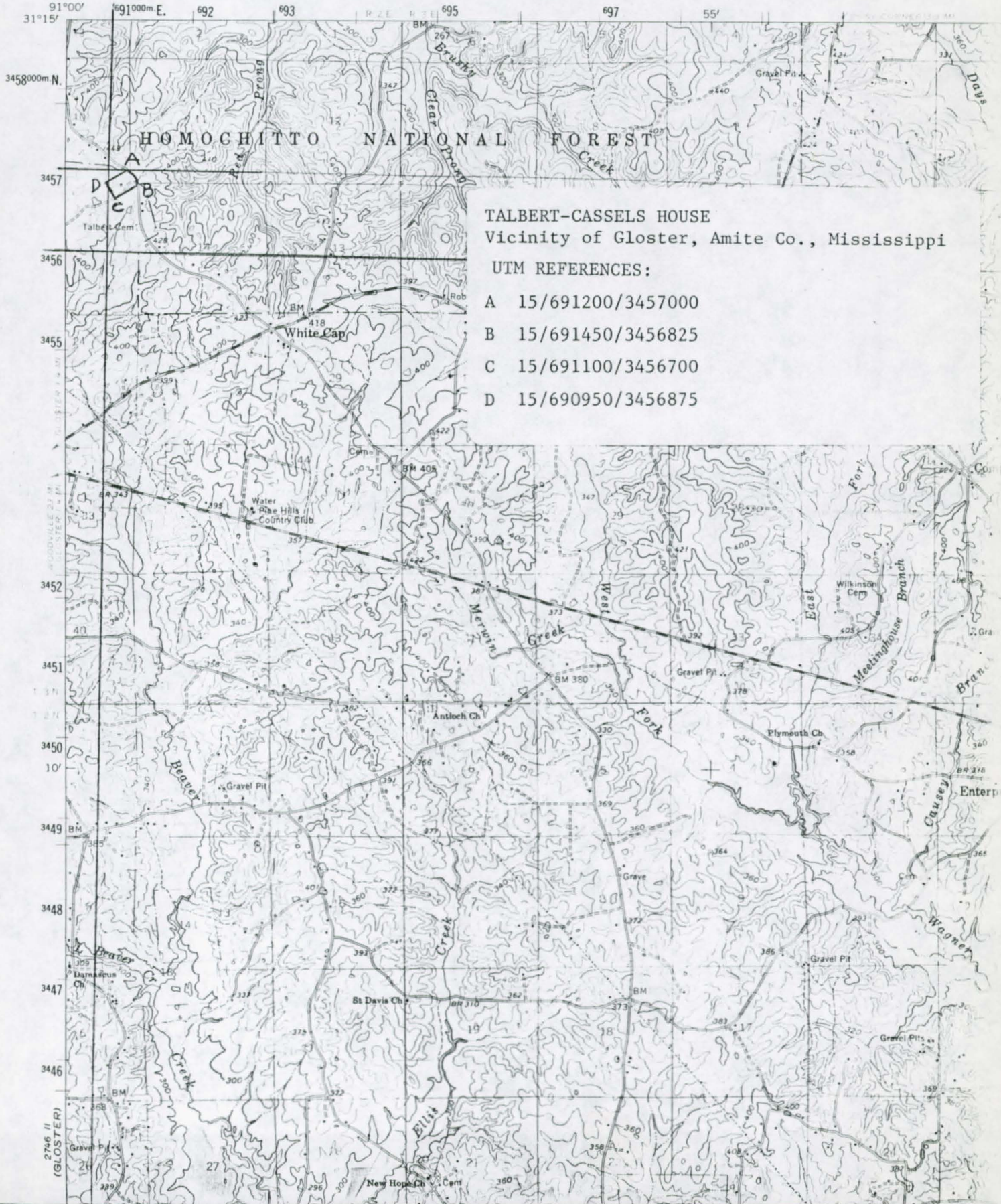
CONTINUATION SHEET

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boundary line is formed by the westerly edge of the county road that runs from State Highway 33 to White Cap. The acreage included constitutes a tract of approximately 24.8 acres out of a 479-acre plantation. The 24.8 acreage is considered necessary to encompass the plantation outbuildings, the plantation cemetery, and the plantation setting of the property.

2746 I  
(CROSBY)

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



TALBERT-CASSELS HOUSE  
Vicinity of Gloster, Amite Co., Mississippi

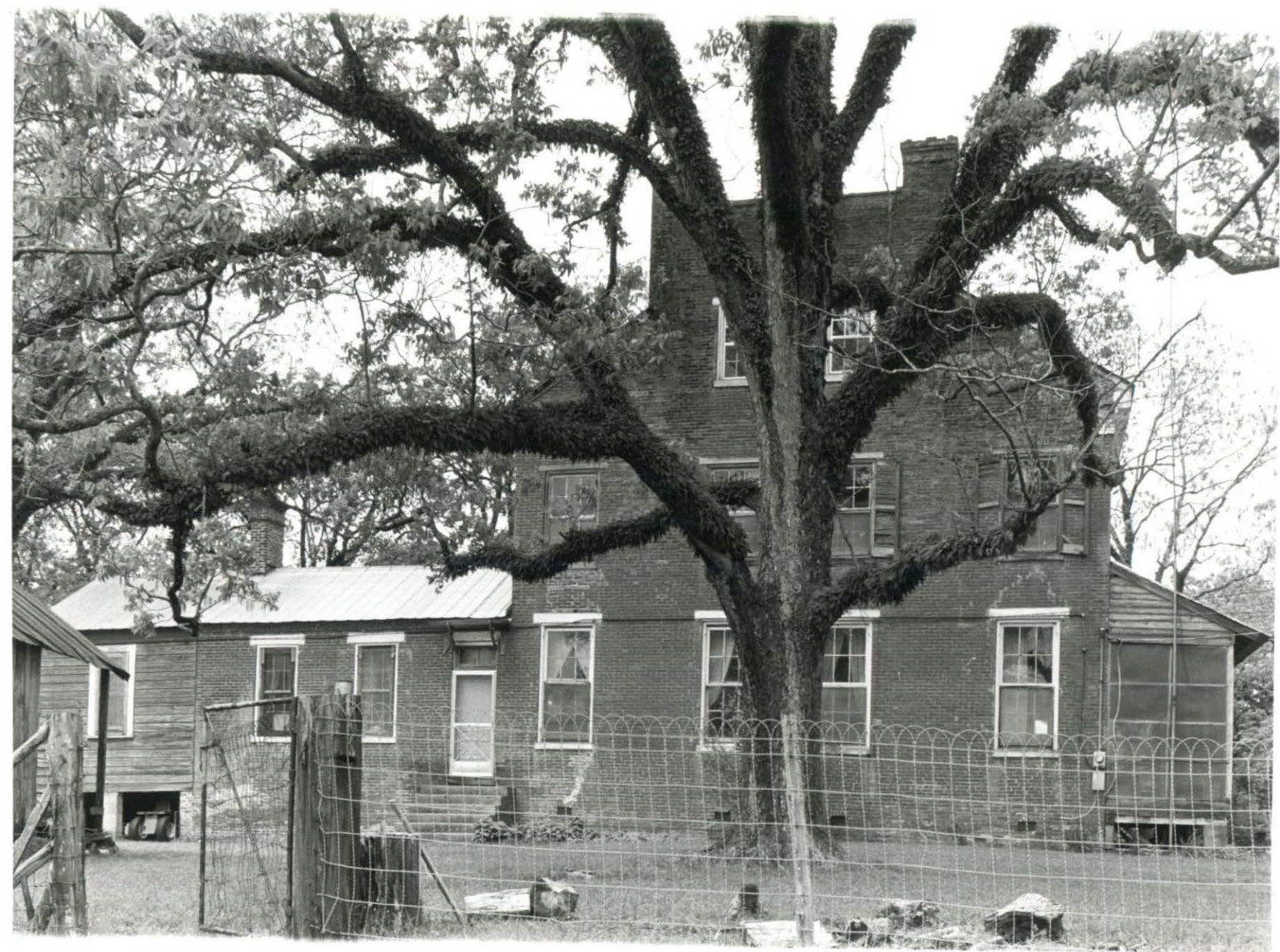
UTM REFERENCES:

- A 15/691200/3457000
- B 15/691450/3456825
- C 15/691100/3456700
- D 15/690950/3456875





Talbert-Cassels House, view to west  
Gloster vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History  
Mary Warren Miller  
April 1982  
Photo 1 of 5



Talbert-Cassels House, view to north  
Gloster vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

April 1982

Photo 2 of 5



Talbert-Cassels House, view to north, detail  
of northwestern second-story bedroom  
Gloster vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

April 1982

Photo 3 of 5



Talbert-Cassels House, view to west, sliding  
door entablature of northern parlor doors  
Gloster vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

April 1982

Photo 4 of 5





Talbert-Cassels House, view to southeast,  
detail of stairway  
Gloster vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History  
Mary Warren Miller  
April 1982  
Photo 5 of 5