

PH 0355861

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED OCT 1 1976

DATE ENTERED JUN 20 1977

**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 ******
Town of Colbert, Town of Barton

AND/OR COMMON
Colbert and Barton Townsites

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER [REDACTED] NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN [REDACTED] CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE [REDACTED] CODE [REDACTED] COUNTY [REDACTED] CODE [REDACTED]

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER <i>Recreation</i>

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple private ownership (see continuation sheet)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

VICINITY OF Mississippi

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Chancery Clerk

STREET & NUMBER Clay County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN West Point STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE A Cultural Resource Survey [REDACTED] 1975

DATE April, 1975 X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service, Department of the Interior

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Colbert townsite, [REDACTED]

Its terrain was and is relatively flat at about 180 feet above sea level. The original town plat consisted of one hundred blocks which were subdivided into lots (Index to Colbert Deeds), but additional blocks were added soon after the initial land sale in 1835 (Columbus Democrat, August 6, 1836). Deed records and other sources indicate that the Colbert ferry and business district were located in the southeast corner of town, and an old ferry landing is still visible there. The Colbert Academy stood outside the town [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Populous enough to be incorporated as a town in 1846, the Colbert community did not survive much longer. After an extensive river flood in December, 1847, Colbert was superseded by the town of Barton, which was established on higher ground [REDACTED] Flooding has continued periodically at Colbert to the present day, and the remains of the town now lie buried under river silt. Little or no plowing has been done on the site, and the remains are probably well preserved.

The Barton townsite is situated [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The terrain was and is primarily hilly, although a portion is level and at the same altitude as Colbert (ca. 180 feet). Incorporated in 1854, Barton soon met with the same problem that had beset the town of Colbert: in December, 1857, the lower levels of the town were flooded by the Tombigbee River. Bypassed by the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in the same month, Barton began a decline which culminated in the removal of its post office to the neighboring town of Vinton in April, 1858.

When Zachary Ellis moved to the Barton area in 1900 to operate the Barton ferry, he found a number of old structures still standing, but most were soon swept away by another flood. Today the lower levels of Barton are, like Colbert, covered with silt. But on the hilly portions which constitute the majority of the Barton townsite, remains are plainly evident. Old streets, cisterns, and the ruins of chimneys can be seen, and local resident G. E. Withoven has pinpointed the locations of the Barton warehouse and steamboat landing [REDACTED] the business district [REDACTED] and the old stagecoach road to Aberdeen. Observations confirm that little or no plowing has been done on the Barton townsite, and, as at Colbert, underground remains are probably in a good state of preservation.

A small Greek Revival house, ambitious in detail for its size and location, remains intact as the only building that has survived from old Barton. Standing on a foundation of brick piers, the one-story, three-bay frame structure, known in recent times as "Cedar Oaks," consists of a center hall flanked by two primary chambers, behind which smaller chambers flank an original rear gallery which has been enclosed to provide additional hall space. The broken-pitch gable roof extends over the front gallery, where it is supported by four square wooden columns. The sides and rear of the building are sheathed with clapboards, while flush boards and a chair rail distinguish the facade elevation. The six-panel front door, surrounded by simple sidelights and transom, is flanked by four-over-four sash windows. The plain molded chair rail also graces the interior spaces, where simple baseboards, two ambitiously

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" 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 1832 - 1858

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Colbert and Barton townsites in Clay County, Mississippi, contain the well-preserved archaeological remains of two of the earliest towns established in the portion of old Lowndes County [REDACTED]. After that area was opened for settlement by the Treaty of Pontotoc in 1832. Both towns [REDACTED], derived their prosperity from the trade that developed quickly in river port towns surrounded by the fertile cotton lands [REDACTED] of northeast Mississippi. Because Barton literally succeeded Colbert in settlement, because neither town was inhabited for an extended period, and because both communities met with virtually the same end after disastrous river floods, archaeological investigations of the two sites could provide a valuable means of determining the cultural changes which occurred from one location and time period to another. Due to the fact that little or no plowing has ever disturbed either townsite, the remains of Colbert and Barton have been well preserved under layers of river silt deposited by successive floods (Elliott, p. 106). The buried remains deserve continued protection as important untapped resources for historical archaeology in Mississippi.

The town of Colbert has traditionally been accepted as the first community founded in the section of Clay County that was still a part of Lowndes County in the 1830s when settlement began there, [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] the site the Colbert settlers chose for their town was already the location of a ferry which had been operated by Macajah Bennett and later by Silas McBee (Minutes of the Board of Police, Lowndes County). The first known sale of lots in the community was held in November, 1835. An 1836 advertisement for an additional sale of lots declared that the town landing was the "best known on the river above Columbus," and that a dense population would soon be dependent upon the town for its supplies (Columbus Democrat, August 6, 1836). In April, 1836, Colbert was established as a voting precinct for the portion of Lowndes County [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] of the Board of Police, Lowndes County). A post office was established at Colbert on March 24, 1838. In the same year the state legislature chartered the Colbert Academy, the Colbert Troop, and a proposed bridge [REDACTED] (Mississippi State Laws, 1838). By 1844, Colbert had a nondenominational Christian church, which according to deed records was a thriving institution by 1847 (Index to Colbert Deeds).

Colbert was incorporated as a town in 1846 (Mississippi State Laws, 1846), but its life as a municipality was cut short in December, 1847, by an extensive river flood from which the community never recovered (Rodabough, January 9, 1975). In 1848 the remaining Colbert residents were among those who founded the new town of Barton on higher ground north of the Colbert site.¹

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Chickasaw land survey for the Clay County area. Field notes. Clay County Courthouse, West Point, Miss.

Columbus (Miss.) Democrat.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY [REDACTED]

UTM REFERENCES

A [REDACTED] [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

Elizabeth P. Reynolds, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

September 21, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elbert R. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

September 21, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

Charles A. Henry

DATE

6-20-77

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Walter W. Cole

DATE

6-20-77

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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7 - DESCRIPTION

carved vernacular wooden mantels, and original six-panel doors complete the ornamentation. Walls and ceilings of the two primary chambers are plastered, as is the ceiling of the center hall, and the original wide plank floors are extant throughout the house. Cedar Oaks has been maintained and is now being renovated for permanent occupancy by members of the Uithoven family of Clay County.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Like Colbert, Barton had been the site of a ferry before a town was developed there. J. H. Griswold owned and operated the ferry after 1851, while Barton was a growing and thriving community. When Griswold sold the ferry rights to Bardine Richardson in 1858 (Clay County Deed Book F, p. 544) and moved to the new town of West Point [REDACTED] he was only one of many who gradually deserted the young river town in favor of the new town [REDACTED]

Census records indicate that there were about 125 white inhabitants in Barton in 1850, including three merchants, two clerks, three physicians, two steamboatmen, one mechanic, four carpenters, one wheelwright, eight planters, one ferryman, one stage driver, and one gunwright (1850 Census, Free Schedule). The town also contained at least one warehouse, a hotel, and a Christian church (various deed records) by the time it was incorporated in 1854 (Mississippi State Laws, 1854). But the fate of Colbert was repeated at Barton when the lower levels of the town suffered flood damage in December, 1857. In the same month the railroad was completed as far as West Point (Daily Times Leader, July 11, 1958), and the two events together spelled the demise of Barton. The collapse of the town was officially recognized when the Barton post office was moved to nearby Vinton on April 17, 1858 (Oakley, p. 47), and by the 1860s the people of Barton for the most part had moved to Vinton, West Point, and other neighboring communities.²

Cedar Oaks, a small but interesting vernacular house, is the only complete structure still standing on one of the Barton town lots. Architectural evidence suggests that the house was built around 1840-1850, probably predating the official establishment of Barton as a town. Local tradition maintains that it was originally the home of Bardine Richardson, who operated the Barton Ferry after 1858, but available records do not verify the tradition, and the physical evidence of the house itself

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

indicates that the structure was already standing by the time Richardson purchased property in and around Barton (Clay County Deed Books E, F, G). Jan Uithoven, the father of the present owner of Cedar Oaks, purchased the house and surrounding property in 1913 and referred to it as "my homestead in Clay County, Mississippi," in his 1929 will (Clay County Will Record 2, p. 184). Cedar Oaks is enhanced in significance as the sole surviving example of the domestic architecture of the town of Barton and as the only intact above-ground material remnant of two once-bustling [REDACTED] towns. The house is currently the subject of a preservation and restoration effort under the direction of an owner who is concerned with the history and future of the Colbert and Barton sites.

NOTES

¹Elliott, p. 105: "Date of the founding of Barton is based upon three sources: (1) postal records which reveal that Colbert Post Office became Barton Post Office on April 6, 1848 (see Oakley, p. 47); (2) Mississippi State Laws 1848 include an act incorporating Barton Ferry at the 'Town of Barton;' (3) an 1848 deed mentions the 'Town of Barton.'"

²The major source for the entire text, including notes, is Jack Elliott, Jr., Appendix, A Cultural Resource Survey of the Aberdeen Lock and Dam and Canal Section Areas of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway: 1975.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Elliott, Jack D., Jr. Appendix. In Blakeman, Crawford H., Jr., A Cultural Resource Survey [REDACTED] 1975. Mississippi State University for the National Park Service, April, 1975.

Jackson, Mississippi. Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey File. Clay County. Barton, Cedar Oaks, Colbert.

Lowndes County, Mississippi. Minutes of the Board of Police, 1833-1847.

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4 - OWNER OF PROPERTY

Colbert:

Mrs. A. C. Ellis
Calhoun Street
West Point, Mississippi 39773

Mrs. A. D. Simmons, Sr.
East Main Street
West Point, Mississippi 39773

Barton:

Mr. Felix E. Uithoven
Columbus
Mississippi 39701

Mr. Gys E. Uithoven
Columbus
Mississippi 39701

Mrs. A. C. Ellis
Calhoun Street
West Point, Mississippi 39773

Mrs. A. D. Simmons, Sr.
East Main Street
West Point, Mississippi 39773

~~Ms. Louise H. Daniels~~
(no address)

→ SOLD TO FELIX & GYS UITHOVEN

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9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Oakley, Bruce C., Jr. A Postal History of Mississippi, Stampless Period, 1799-1860. Baldwin, Miss.: Magnolia Publishers, 1969.

Prout, W. E. A Historical Documentation of Colbert, Waverly, and Palo Alto, Mississippi. Tupelo, Miss.: Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District, 1975.

Rodabough, John E. "Port of Aberdeen." In Aberdeen (Miss.) Examiner (serially), February 11, 1971 - May 8, 1975. See January 9, January 16, April 3, 1975.

West Point, Miss. Daily Times Leader, Centennial Edition, July 11, 1958.