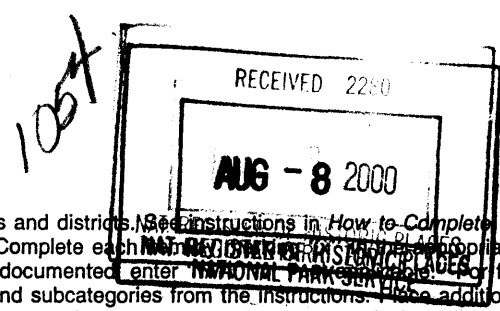


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A". For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name _____

other names/site number Church Hill Rural Historic District

2. Location

street & number All properties are accessed from either Hwy. 553 or Church Hill Rd. within one mile south of their intersection at Christ Episcopal n/a not for publication

city or town Church Natchez vicinity

state Mississippi code 28 county Jefferson code 63 zip code 39120

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 FEB. 25, 2000
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State of 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 official/Title Date
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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:)

Edson A. Beall Signature of the Keeper 9.8.00 Date of Action

Church Hill Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Mississippi
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8	8	buildings
1		sites
	3	structures
	1	objects
		Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

20

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Commerce/Trade: specialty store

Government: post office

Education: school

Religion: religious facility

Agricultural/Subsistence: animal

Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Religion: religious structure

Funerary: cemetery

Agriculture/Subsistence: agricultural outbuilding

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Gothic Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Church Hill Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Mississippi
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture _____

Community Planning and Development _____

Period of Significance

1812-1945 _____

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Smith, J. Edward _____

Carpenter, Nathaniel Loomis _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Historic Natchez Foundation _____

Church Hill Rural Historic District
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 540 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

115	6656215	31511021810
Zone	Easting	Northing

3

115	66721415	3151018101815
Zone	Easting	Northing

2

115	66721415	31511021810
-----	----------	-------------

4

115	6656215	3151018101815
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary W. (Mimi) Miller/Director of Preservation

organization Historic Natchez Foundaton date September 19, 1999

street & number 108 South Commerce Street telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez state MS zip code 39120

Additional Documentation

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)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 1

The Church Hill Rural Historic District is located in western Jefferson County, about 18 miles northwest of Natchez, Mississippi. The district is about eight miles west of the Mississippi River and three miles from the Natchez Trace Parkway. All the property in the district fronts onto either Mississippi Highway 553 or Church Hill Road, and the two roads converge at the base of the hill occupied by Christ Episcopal Church, the obvious source of the community's name.

Church Hill is located in the northern portion of the picturesque, undulating countryside that surrounds Natchez. In the early 1830s, travel writer Joseph Holt Ingraham journeyed from Natchez into this rural countryside and visited Emerald Mound [NHL] and two villages [Selsertown and Union Town] near the Church Hill settlement. He described the surrounding countryside as "pleasantly undulating" and as a "richly wooded and partially cultivated extent of country, occasionally rising into precipitous hills, crowned with forest trees (Joseph Holt Ingraham, *The South-West. By a Yankee* [1835; reprint, Readex Microprint, 1966], II, 221)." Ingraham remarked on the isolation of Natchez and the "large tracts of country covered with plantations" that surrounded it (Ingraham, II, 204).

Ingraham's travel account provides the most complete and detailed descriptions of the plantation countryside around Natchez in the nineteenth century. He noted that the plantations were usually hidden from view and plopped into the midst of forests, with only "a large gate set into a rail fence" on the road side to indicate their presence (Ingraham, II, 112 and 221). The front yard, he noted, was "a green level, shaded with the relics of a forest—the live oak, sycamore, and gum trees—[and entered] through a narrow wicket in a white-washed paling, the most common fence around southern dwellings (Ingraham, II, 98)."

Ingraham also expressed surprise at how little attention was paid to ornamental horticulture by the Natchez area planter:

There are many private residences, in the vicinity of Natchez... whose elegant interiors, contrasting with the neglected grounds about them, suggest the idea of a handsome city residence, accidentally dropped upon a bleak hill, or into the midst of a partially cleaned forest, and there remaining, with its noble roof grasped by the arms of an oak, and its windows and columns festooned by the drooping moss, heavily waving in the wind. Very few of the planters' villas, even within a few miles of Natchez, are adorned with surrounding ornamental shrubbery walks, or any other artificial auxiliaries to the natural scenery, except a few shade trees and a narrow, gravelled [sic] avenue from the gate to the house. A long avenue of trees, ornamenting and sheltering the approach to a dwelling, is a rare site in this state, though very frequently seen in Louisiana (Ingraham, II, 100).

With the exception of Oak Grove and Lagonia, both of which can be glimpsed from Highway 553, the other plantation houses are hidden from view and still identified today by their gated drives on the sides of Highway 553 and Church Hill Road. All are still entered by narrow, graveled driveways leading from the gate to the house, and The Cedars still features railed fencing along the road. The graveled drives terminate in historic circular driveways in front of The Cedars, Oak Grove, and Wyolah. None of the plantation

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

houses, however, retain the white-washed paling [picket fence] that once enclosed the yard in an era when farm and domestic animals were fenced out rather than fenced in.

The casual approach to landscape described by Ingraham in the 1830s is still apparent in Church Hill today and is best represented at Oak Grove, which remained in the same family until 1973. It is also still apparent at both Wyolah and Lochiel, which are today neglected and overgrown. The Cedars was also casually landscaped until the 1990s, when it was lavishly landscaped in the romantic picturesque style of the nineteenth century.

During the antebellum period, Church Hill planters were probably like most Natchez area planters described by Ingraham and others. They were more concerned with the landscape of cotton fields than ornamental grounds about their plantation houses. Ingraham wrote that a planter “may inhabit a building that would grace an English park” but the “grounds and scenery about it, with the exception of a paling enclosing a green yard, are suffered to remain in their pristine rudeness (Ingraham, II, 102).” Ingraham recorded a conversation between a Natchez planter and an Englishman, who suggested to the planter that he could have a fine park around his house. The planter agreed but commented that “these few acres yield me annually from ten to twelve bales of cotton: this would be too great a sacrifice for the mere gratification of the eye (Ingraham, II, 103).”

During its period of greatest economic prosperity, Church Hill was a rural community of affluent cotton planters who lived in Federal and Greek Revival plantation houses in the midst of wooded tracts and undulating cotton fields. Each plantation was almost a community in itself with a main planter’s residence set amidst a variety of vernacular, plantation support buildings. A significant number of these resources survive today within the district boundaries and include two slave cabins, six barns and/or carriage houses, one school house, one tenant house, one doctor’s office, one brick kitchen, one cistern house, and one commissary.

Church Hill was predominantly an agricultural community throughout its period of significance—1812 to 1945. Until about 1910, the predominant crop was cotton, a crop decimated by the boll weevil at the end of the first decade of the twentieth century. Unchecked erosion of the region’s loess soil gradually decreased the acreage available for farming throughout the nineteenth century, and what were once undulating fields became wildernesses intersected by chasms, or bayous as they are termed locally. Church Hill in the twentieth century remained a farm community with a poor economy. Historic photographs of Church Hill document unpainted houses and neglected grounds.

Church Hill is unique among the plantation communities surrounding Natchez in retaining both its church and its nineteenth-century store. It also retains, to a remarkable degree, integrity of setting. The area is undoubtedly more wooded today, and none of the acreage within the district boundaries is under cultivation. Although the district today includes paved state and county roads, the graveled driveways to the plantation houses remain. No inappropriate education ell has been added to Christ Episcopal Church. No plate glass windows were ever installed in Wagner’s Store.

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi

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Chain-link fencing is relatively unknown. The district includes only one primary residence dating to the twentieth century.

The Church Hill Historic District includes 41 inventory numbers of which 20 are designated as previously listed in the National Register. Nine are designated as contributing, and 12 are non-contributing. Of the non-contributing buildings and structures, only one, a brick ranch house dating to 1974, disrupts the character of the district. The other non-contributing buildings and structures include a gazebo, latticed pavilions, fountain, playhouse, tool shed, reconstructed dependency building, guest cottage, garage, and two dependency buildings, a corn crib and barn, in ruinous condition.

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

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Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

1a PL **The Cedars** (Rt. 2, Box 268, Highway 553, Church Hill, MS 39120). Historic Name, Cedar Grove Place. The Cedars is accessed by a graveled drive on the west side of Highway 553, approximately 1850 feet south of the intersection of Highway 553 and Church Hill Rd. Occupying a 177-acre tract of land, The Cedars property contains wooded land, rolling fields, and a picturesque landscaped park dating to the 1990s. The landscaped portion of the property is separated from the road and from wooded land to the south by a rail fence. The 1990s landscaped park is reminiscent of romantic picturesque landscapes dating from the mid to late nineteenth century. A graveled drive leads from the road to the house and terminates in a circular drive in front of the house. Features of the 1990s landscaping include an entrance with stuccoed pylons and cast-iron gates; a companion low bridge with curving, stuccoed, parapet walls; a gazebo; a meandering pond; and numerous plants typical of the region. The acreage also includes the survival of old landscape elements like live oak, cedar, and pecan trees, as well as azaleas, camelias, and crepe myrtles. Many trees are festooned with Spanish moss. At the rear of the house is an original cistern and 1990s landscape features that include a large cast-iron fountain in a circular brick pool that is flanked by two, matching latticed pavilions, all of which are on axis with the main house. The Wood family cemetery is located within the densely wooded portion of the property.

The Cedars is an interesting combination of a mid-1830s, one-story planter's cottage fronted by an 1861, two-and-a-half story mansion. The space originally occupied by the full-width inset gallery of the rear planter's cottage serves as a cross hall linking the two distinct buildings. The wider width of the later front section is compensated by side galleries flanking the earlier rear section. These side galleries are supported by wooden box columns that are linked by turned balusters, which are not original and too widely spaced. These side galleries are accessed through double-leaf glazed doors opening from each end of the cross hall.

The earlier rear section was built during the mid-1830s, at the end of the Federal style and the beginning of the Greek Revival. The house was built for Thomas and Maria Louisa Wood Elam. When James G. Wood willed the property to his daughter Maria Louisa Elam in 1843, it was described as the "tract of land on which she now resides." The Elam family sold The Cedars to the Benjamin D. Beavin family in 1858 (Jefferson County, Mississippi, Deed Book K:499), and the Beavins added the Greek Revival, two-and-a-half story front section in 1860-61. This construction date is documented in an 1866 circuit court suit filed against Beavin by Andrew Brown, owner of a Natchez saw mill (Wyolah Site File, Historic Natchez Foundation). In the twentieth century, from 1938 to 1972, The Cedars was home to the Payne family, who were related to the Paynes at neighboring Oak Grove. Josephine Balfour Payne and her daughter Joan Payne Dicks collaborated on a number of popular children's books. Josephine wrote the stories and Joan drew the illustrations. In the 1970s and 1980s, The Cedars was home first to movie actor George Hamilton and later to a Hare Krishna commune.

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Section number 7 Page 5

Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

As originally constructed, the rear section of The Cedars was a one-and-a half story, five-bay (w-w-d-w-w), frame planter's cottage with full-width front gallery inset beneath a gable roof pierced by two interior chimneys. The front gallery is today a cross hall between the front and rear sections, and the rear section of the house is encircled by exterior galleries on the side and rear elevations. The side galleries date to ca. 1860, but the rear gallery was not added until the 1980s. The rear section rests on brick foundation piers and the roof is clad in composition shingles. The original front wall of the rear section is finished in a board-and-batten treatment that dates to ca. 1860 and probably replaced a plastered facade. Windows throughout the house are filled with twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash and feature both original and replacement shutter blinds. The front and rear entrance doorways of the rear section each feature a single-leaf, six-panel door set within a transom and sidelights over molded panels. The interior features symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks that are typical of the early Greek Revival style in the Natchez area.

The 1860-61 front section is a two-and-a-half story, single-pile, frame building with slate roof and an inside-end chimney at each gable end. The house rests upon a brick foundation wall. Inset beneath the front slope of the roof is a double-tiered, inset gallery with fluted Doric columns linked by a balustrade of turned, Grecian balusters. The columns support a full molded entablature on both the first and second story levels, with the second-story entablature featuring a modillioned cornice with central, paneled and pedimented parapet. The five-bay (w-w-d-w-w) façade of the house is finished in rusticated wood. First and second-story windows of the 1860-61 front section contain six-over-six, double-hung sash, which are set atop jib panels where windows open onto a gallery. The upper half story is lighted by a Palladian window in each gable end. Windows are closed by both original and replacement shutter blinds. The interior is beautifully elaborated with high style, Greek Revival plaster work, millwork, and marble mantel pieces. Original oak graining and marbleizing survives on some of the interior millwork.

The architectural integrity of both the interior and exterior of The Cedars is outstanding. The only major exterior alteration is the ca. 1980 addition of a gallery to the rear of the earliest section of the house, to create a gallery that wraps around three sides of the building. (Photos 1, 2, 3, 4)

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Section number 7 Page 6

Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

- 1b PL **Carriage House/Barn, The Cedars.** The only surviving original outbuilding is a large, gabled-roof carriage house and barn that was unsympathetically altered during the 1980s. Only the framing, some original flooring, and the arched opening on the gable-end façade are original. The barn rests on a brick foundation wall and features a v-crimp metal roof. The original loft openings in the upper gable-ends have been removed, and a multitude of new window openings pierce the walls. These windows contain a variety of metal sash types including eight-over eight, six-over-six, and two-over-two. The original arched opening of the façade has been infilled with siding surrounding a modern, single-leaf door with nine, upper glazed panels over a single panel with an applied X. Shed-roof additions have been added to both side elevations. (Photo 5)
- 1c NC **Guest Cottage, The Cedars.** The guest cottage was built in the 1980s and is a one-story, three-bay (w-d-w), frame house that rests on brick foundation piers and is surmounted by a gabled, v-crimp-metal roof. The house is finished in board-and-batten siding. A full-width gallery with plain posts fronts the house. The center-bay entrance contains a modern, single-leaf, six-panel door that is flanked by windows containing eight-over-eight, double-hung, metal sash. Other metal windows on the side elevations are six-over-six, double-hung, metal sash.
- 1d NC **Fountain and Pool, The Cedars.** At the rear of The Cedars and set on axis with the main house is a reproduction, cast-iron fountain set within a raised circular pool enclosed with a low brick wall. The fountain and pool were installed about 1997.
- 1e NC **Latticed Pavilions, The Cedars.** Flanking the pool with cast-iron fountain are matching latticed pavilions dating to 1997. Each pavilion is a three-part composition with a square central section that has a pyramidal roof with kicked eaves and lower pitched, side wings with hipped roofs. The roofs are covered in composition shingles.
- 1f NC **Gazebo, The Cedars.** The gazebo was built in the 1990s and is an octagonal gazebo with polygonal, wood-shingled roof. The gazebo is supported by Grecian-style box columns supporting a full entablature. (Photo 4)
- 1g C **Wood Family Cemetery, The Cedars.** The Wood family cemetery is sited on a knoll on the western side of Highway 553, about 4,300 feet from the intersection of Highway 553 and Church Hill Road. The cemetery contains approximately twenty-five tombstones and is encircled by a mid-nineteenth-century, cast-iron fence. The gate has been removed for safe keeping, and the area between the road and the cemetery is intentionally overgrown to screen the cemetery from view to protect from vandals. Most of the tombstones date to the nineteenth century. The cemetery is approximately eighty by eighty feet in size. The cemetery and adjoining acreage were not previously listed with The Cedars in the National Register, because the property was under separate ownership when the nomination was submitted. (Photo 6)

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Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

2a PL **Oak Grove** (Rt. 2, Box 297, Highway 553, Church Hill, MS). Oak Grove occupies an informally landscaped, 52-acre tract of land on the west side of Highway 553, about a thousand feet from the intersection of Highway 553 and Church Hill Road. The property consists of gently rolling greens and wooded southern and western borders. One of the most beautiful views in the Church Hill Rural Historic District is the vista to the north from Oak Grove across a rolling greensward toward the rear of Christ Episcopal Church and its cemetery. The most impressive, historic landscape elements are the moss-draped, old cedar and crepe myrtle trees in the front yard of the house. Evidence also remains of the original circular drive, which is not in use today.

Oak Grove, like The Cedars, was built in two distinct stages, but, unlike The Cedars, its evolution is readily apparent only on the interior of the house. Both stages of Oak Grove were built for James and Jane Wood Payne, whose descendants occupied the house until 1973. In 1843, when James G. Wood willed the property to his daughter Jane Payne, it was described as the "tract of land in the County of Jefferson upon which she and her husband now reside."

The original nucleus of the house was probably built between 1828 and 1830 and is a two-story dwelling with side-hall plan, enclosed staircase, and two rooms on each floor. This early section features Federal style millwork with Adamesque mantel pieces that rank among the finest in the state. This portion of the house also has regionally unique, exterior end chimneys linked by a chimney pent. These chimneys architecturally link the house to Maryland, the ancestral home of Colonel James G. Wood.

Probably between 1836 and 1845, the Paynes undertook a major, Greek Revival enlargement and remodeling of their Federal style house. The exterior façade shows no evidence of the enlargement, which created a two-story, five-bay (w-w-d-w-w), Greek Revival house that is fronted by double-tiered galleries supported by Tuscan columns linked by a balustrade of turned Grecian balusters. The exterior end chimneys with chimney pent at the northern gable end is echoed on the southern gable end by a pair of exterior end chimneys without the distinctive pent. The interior of the ca. 1840 section features Grecian millwork, marble mantel pieces, and exceptional plaster center pieces and cornices that nearly match the plaster work of the mansion D'Evereux in Natchez. Oak Grove is significant for the survival of original hardware and interior finishes, which include grained doors and mantel pieces painted in imitation of granite. (Photos 7, 8, 9)

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

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Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

- 2b PL **Kitchen Wing, Oak Grove.** The kitchen wing is one of two, matching, detached wings that flank the main house, but only the kitchen wing (northern wing) dates to the antebellum period. The kitchen wing was probably built 1836 to 1845. The detached wing housing the guest cottage (southern wing) dates to the 1970s and is a reconstruction of the original wing as documented in an early photograph. Although used as a kitchen and as a guest cottage today, the original uses of the two buildings are unknown. A family member's memoirs (E. Payne Palmer) indicate that the two buildings were used as guest rooms in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. The original kitchen was located in a non-extant, detached, two-story frame building that was located to the rear and perpendicular to the main house. This original kitchen building is documented in a historic photograph. The existing kitchen wing, which rests on a brick foundation wall, is a one-story, three-bay (w-d-w) frame building with composition-shingle, hipped roof and exterior end chimney. The building has been connected to the gable end of the house by a small frame hyphen that serves as butler's pantry. The center-bay entrance features a single-leaf, four-panel door framed by a Grecian frontispiece with pilasters supporting a full entablature. Windows contain twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds. (Photo 10)
- 2c NC **Guest Cottage, Oak Grove.** The guest cottage wing (southern wing) is one of two, matching, detached wings that flank the main house, but, unlike its twin, the guest cottage was built in the 1970s or early 80s. The matching wing housing the kitchen (northern wing) dates to the antebellum period. The existence of two matching wings is documented in an early photograph. Although used as a kitchen and as a guest cottage today, the original uses of the two buildings are unknown. A family member's memoirs (E. Payne Palmer) indicate that the two buildings were used as guest rooms in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The original kitchen was located in a non-extant, detached, two-story frame building that was located to the rear and perpendicular to the main house. This kitchen building is documented in a historic photograph. The guest cottage wing, which rests on a brick foundation wall, is a one-story, three-bay (w-d-w) frame building with hipped roof and exterior end chimney. The center-bay entrance features a single-leaf, four-panel door framed by a Grecian frontispiece with pilasters supporting a full entablature. Windows contain twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds. (Photo 11)
- 2d PL **School House, Oak Grove.** The building traditionally known as the school house is a one-story, three-bay (w-d-w), frame building with v-crimp-metal, gable roof and brick foundation wall. The center-bay entrance contains an original, single-leaf, four-panel door. Only the façade features window openings, which contain twelve over-eight, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds. The school house was probably built between 1836 and 1845. (Photo 12)

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Church Hill Rural Historic District, Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

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- 2e PL **Tenant House, Oak Grove.** The tenant house at Oak Grove is a two-room building stylistically dating to between 1836 and 1845. The fineness of architectural finish in the two-room building indicates that its original use was probably as a residence for an overseer or a school master rather than slaves. The two-bay (d-d) house features a corrugated-tin, gable roof pierced by a central chimney, and it rests on brick foundation piers. The front wall is shaded by a full-width gallery with modern 2x4s forming both the posts and the balustrade. Originally, the gallery probably featured chamfered posts and no balustrade. Each of the two entrance doorways contains a single-leaf, four-panel, original door. Gable-end windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash. The interior millwork is molded and includes mantel pieces that are well detailed, although missing their original shelves. A shed-roof addition has been added to the rear elevation, and both the addition and rear elevation are finished in board-and-batten siding. (Photo 13)
- 2f PL **Barn, Oak Grove.** The barn at Oak Grove is little more than a descendant of the original, since so much of the framing and sheathing have been replaced. The barn features a corrugated-metal, gabled-roof, with a corrugated-metal, shed-roof, side addition that extends the full depth of the building. Looking more like a crib than a barn, the building features widely spaced siding. The single-bay barn features one large opening that is the full width of the façade and contains no other openings or infill of any kind. The barn probably dates to the nineteenth century. (Photo 14)
- 3a C **Lagonia** (Route 2, Box 298 E, Highway 553, Church Hill, MS). Lagonia occupies a 5.3-acre tract of informally landscaped property accessed by a driveway entered on the east side of Highway 553 about 1600 feet from the intersection of Highway 553 and Church Hill Road. The property is partially defined by a rail fence. Lagonia was a 228-acre homestead in the 1840s and 50s, and was earlier part of the much larger Auburn Hall Plantation, home of James Gillam Wood. Stylistic and documentary evidence indicates that Lagonia was built in the mid-1830s. Although the house lost most of its original doors, mantel pieces, and gallery detailing during a period of abandonment, it still retains much of the original molding on its doorway and window surrounds. This molding is the ogee and fillet molding typical of the mid-1830s and early 1840s. According to Laura Belle Hooks, who was born in the house in 1898, Lagonia was built as an overseer's house for neighboring Oak Grove, which dates to 1828-30. According to Jeanne Louise Shields, who was also born at Lagonia, the house was built by Colonel James Gillam Wood as a residence for Dr. F. B. Coleman, a much needed medical doctor who came to the Church Hill area about 1832.

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The 1843 will of James Gillam Wood bequeathed the Lagonia property in trust to his sons for the benefit of his daughter Eliza Wood Blanchard. In an 1854 deposition concerning the disposition of Lagonia, Dr. F. B. Coleman stated that he lived on the Blanchard Tract for nine years. Most likely, Lagonia was built in the mid-1830s and may have served as an overseer's house before or after serving as the residence of Dr. F. B. Coleman and later of Eliza Wood Blanchard. In 1858, Blanchard sold the property, described as where she then resided, to her brother Edgar Wood, who subsequently sold it in 1866 to his sister Jane Wood Payne of neighboring Oak Grove. Lagonia remained the property of Jane Wood Payne's descendants until 1966. In 1863, Jane Wood Payne's daughter Laura Jane married Dr. Bisland Shields, and Lagonia became most commonly associated with the Shields family.

As originally constructed, Lagonia was probably a one-story, gabled-roof house with a full-width, one-story, shed-roof gallery on the front and a one-story, shed-roof gallery with end cabinet rooms on the rear. The floor plan featured two, large front rooms separated by a central hallway, with smaller, rear cabinet rooms flanking an open loggia. According to Laura Belle Hooks, who was born at Lagonia in 1898, her family made an addition "on top of the original Lagonia house" to accommodate two additional rooms separated by a hallway. The existing two-story gallery was apparently added at the same time and, still later, the rear loggia was enclosed. Laura Belle Hooks memories are supported by the physical evidence, which clearly indicates that the second story is an addition.

Lagonia is today a two-story, five-bay (first story, w-w-d-w-w; second story, d-w-w-w-d), frame house with composition-shingle, gable roof and a foundation of brick piers. Two chimneys rise through the roof of the rear cabinet rooms to become exterior chimneys against the back wall of the second-story addition. The house is fronted by a full-width gallery that is inset beneath the front slope of the roof. The gallery is supported on both levels by wood box columns that were added in the 1970s. The box columns are linked by a balustrade of rectangular-sectioned balusters that also dates to the 1970s. The first-story, center-bay doorway features 1970s infill consisting of a single-leaf, recycled door set beneath a transom and flanked by sidelights over molded panels. Extending from the eastern side elevation is a one-story, three-bay (w-w-w), gabled-roof wing with new, exterior end chimney. Extending from the rear is a shallow, one-story, three-bay (w-w-w), shed-roof wing. All windows on the first-story façade contain twelve over twelve, double-hung sash and are closed by replacement shutter blinds. The second story of the house features end-bay doorways that contain five-panel, single-leaf doors that are closed by shutter blinds. Windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds. (Photos 15, 16, 17)

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- 3b C **Storeroom/Cistern House, Lagonia.** At the rear of the main house is a small, one-story, gabled-roof, dependency building that possibly originally functioned as a dairy, storeroom, and cistern house. The two-bay (w-d) building features a v-crimp metal roof, brick foundation wall, and new, exterior brick chimney. On the façade, an arched opening, closed only with shutter blinds, opens into a small, brick-floored chamber which contains the cistern. Opening into the cistern chamber is a small storeroom and a larger storeroom that now functions as an office. This building is undoubtedly the building described by Laura Belle Hooks as a “storeroom with a food safe in it and connected to a bricked-in well.” The memoirs of Hooks are unclear but seem to imply that the kitchen was in another non-extant building. The storeroom/cistern house dates to the antebellum period. (Photo 18)
- 3c NC **Garage, Lagonia.** The garage is a ca. 1985 building that nearly abuts the house and was relocated to its present site in the 1990s. The one-story, four-bay (w-w-w-d) building features a composition-shingle, gable roof and a poured-slab foundation. The window openings are blind openings with board-and-batten shutters. The doorway contains a single-leaf batten door. On the rear is a garage opening that is two cars in width and a window containing a six-over-six, double-hung sash. The side elevations feature two windows, each with six-over-six, double-hung sash.
- 3d NC **Playhouse, Lagonia.** The playhouse was built in the 1980s as a tool shed and is a small, one-story, two-bay (w-d) building with v-crimp metal, gable roof and vertical-board siding. The house rests on concrete foundation piers. A small, single-bay porch is sheltered by a shed roof that is an extension of the front slope of the roof and is supported by wood posts. The balustrade consists of rectangular-sectioned balusters and turned, baluster-like newel posts flanking the entrance to the porch.
- 3e C **Barn, Lagonia.** The barn at Lagonia is a pole barn with a central, v-crimp metal, gabled roof with shed-roof, side extensions. The barn is finished in vertical boards. The main, gabled-roof section features two wide openings separated by only a partition wall. One of the shed-roof, side extensions features a door opening with single-leaf, batten door; the other, a window opening with single-leaf, batten shutter. All openings have modern infill. The rear of the barn is open on the first level with a modern, single-leaf, batten door opening into the loft above. The barn probably dates to the antebellum period with some of its construction material reused from other structures. (Photo 19)

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3f C **Doctor's Office, Lagonia.** The doctor's office, which has been largely rebuilt, is a small, one-story frame building with v-crimp metal roof, wood piers, and board-and-batten siding. The two-bay (w-d) façade features a six-pane, single-hung sash and a doorway with single-leaf four-panel door. Side elevations feature a single window opening with six-over-six, double-hung sash. According to tradition, the doctor's office was used by Dr. Bisland Shields, husband of Laura Jane Payne. Dr. Shields died in 1911. His nephew Dunbar Shields assumed his medical practice, but Laura Belle Hooks described his office as being located across the road from Lagonia on an embankment. Sign boards for Dr. Shields's medical practice survive in the storeroom of Lagonia. The building probably dates to ca. 1890.

4a PL **Christ Episcopal Church** (c/o Rt. 1, Box 296, Church Hill, MS). Christ Episcopal Church is prominently and picturesquely sited on a steep, terraced knoll on a 1.4-acre tract of land at the junction of Highway 553 and Church Hill Road. The church dominates the rural landscape and inspired the name of the Church Hill community. The church faces northerly and is accessed from the base of the knoll by a series of stuccoed or concrete steps with intermediate landings. The base of the knoll features a retaining wall of stuccoed brick and stuccoed concrete block along short sections of Highway 553 and Church Hill Road near their junction. The church is surrounded on three sides—east, west, and south, by a cemetery (see 4b) with most of the burials located south and east of the church building. The view to the south encompasses the gently rolling land of neighboring Oak Grove.

Christ Episcopal Church was built in 1858 for the first Episcopal congregation in Mississippi and is revered as the "cradle of Episcopacy in Mississippi." Succeeding two earlier church buildings, one of which stood on the same site, the existing church is among the best documented historic structures in the state. Christ Church is also one of the state's most significant examples of Gothic Revival architecture, due in part to its outstanding architectural integrity. The Gothic Revival style was introduced to Mississippi with the late 1830's construction of St. Mary's Chapel at Laurel Hill Plantation in Adams County. The state's grandest example is St. Mary's Cathedral in Natchez, built in 1842.

The Gothic Revival church stands on land acquired from James Gillam Wood. The November 17, 1856, minutes of the vestry of Christ Church record the discussion of plans for a new church building which would be adapted "to the wants and tastes of a country congregation, consulting to comfort and convenience before architectural elegance and beauty." Natchez architect and lawyer J. Edward Smith designed the church, Nathaniel Loomis Carpenter served as the contractor, and Robert Scudamore applied the plaster. J. Edward Smith advertised as an attorney in the 1850's Natchez newspapers, but he is documented as having also designed both Zion Chapel African American Episcopal Church (built as Second Presbyterian Church in 1858) and the major Italianate portion of The Towers (1859-60). In Surget family papers is a drawing by Smith for a conservatory to be built at Clifton in Natchez.

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The church was dedicated in 1858. Although little is known about the architect and his professional training, his skillful handling of Gothic proportions, forms, and details indicates that Smith was thoroughly versed in the Romantic architectural vocabulary. He seems also to have been concerned with honesty of construction, for Christ Church is one of the few Gothic Revival buildings in the state to have a functional hammer-beam roof. This late medieval form of construction is also expressed on the exterior in plaster relief.

The rectangular, gable-roof brick church is one bay by four bays and rests upon a plinth that is pierced by cast-iron vents. The building is stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry. The original, rosy stone color is visible through flaking paint and later stucco repairs. The corners and bays of the building are defined by buttresses which extend to the height of the interior hammer-beam braces. The façade is enlivened by a rose window of stained glass above a gabled entrance vestibule with Gothic-arched opening. Beneath a fixed wood panel with applied tracery, double-leaf, four-panel doors open to provide access to the vestibule. Lancet windows and door openings are crowned by corbelled hood molds. The apse of the church is located in a rear gabled projection that is dominated by a large window opening filled with four lancet windows and a quatrefoil of stained glass. This rear projecting apse is flanked by low, shed-roof projections that house the vestry rooms, each of which has corner buttresses and an arched opening with single-leaf door on the rear elevation.

The dramatic focal point of the interior is the splendid hammer-beam ceiling, which is grained to imitate oak. The graining is signed and dated May 17, 1858 by three of the workmen. The integrity of the building is remarkable. Two wooden columns support the gallery at the north end. The twin lectern and pulpit are semi-octagonal and are carved with appropriate Gothic motifs. The altar is divided into panels decorated with strapwork designs that flank a center, embroidered cross. Pews, chairs, and marble font are also original furnishings. Although inoperable for many years, the original pipe organ remains in place.

Today, Christ Church is home to a only a handful of members who maintain the building and cemetery and worship once a month in a service conducted by the rector of Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez. (Photos 20, 21, 22, 23)

- 4b PL **Cemetery, Christ Episcopal Church.** Due to the topography of the land, the cemetery that embraces the church building is not laid out in an obvious grid pattern and tombstones seem almost random in placement, emphasized by the lack of fencing or brick walls enclosing plots. Only one large plot at the southern end of the cemetery features cast-iron fencing. The earliest burial dates to 1831 and corresponds to the 1827 construction of an earlier church building on the site. The records of Christ Episcopal Church record deaths and burials, and all tombstones have been inventoried. The cemetery has been the focus of restoration activity during the past twenty years. The most significant monuments date to the three decades before the Civil War, the period when the Church Hill community was most prosperous. (Photos 24, 25)

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- 5a C **Wagner's Store** (Rt. 2 Box 296, Church Hill Road, Church Hill, MS). Wagner's Store is located on the west side of the Church Hill Road at the intersection of Church Hill Road and Highway 553. Stylistically, the store dates to ca. 1855-80, based on the ogee and angle moldings on the doors and counters, and it is one of the oldest rural stores surviving in Mississippi. According to the Wagner family, the store was first operated by two partners named Moses and Marx, one of whom bought out the other in 1877. This information is partially substantiated in an 1874 deed recognizing the partnership of Moses and Marx in a deed of trust (Deed Book CC:594). Language in an 1880 deed (HH:594) and an 1894 estate division (Final Record Chancery B:431) confirm that Moses and Marx were operating the store in the 1880s and 90s, but a chain of title search was unable to confirm a date of acquisition. Lillian Baker Valentine recalls that the store was founded by a Mr. Moses and later operated by a Mr. Jacobs (Church Hill Research File, Historic Natchez Foundation). In 1828, Adolph Wagner and his wife, Maggie Octavia, became the new proprietors of the business, which also served as the community post office. Mrs. Wagner served as the postmaster for thirty-five years until her son Adolph assumed the title of postmaster in the 1960s. Wagner's Store operated as the post office for Church Hill until 1992. Adolph Wagner and his wife Lou continued to operate the store until 1998. The store is in endangered due to deterioration.
- Wagner's Store, as originally constructed, was a three-bay (w-d-w), gabled-roof, frame building that rested on brick foundation piers. The store was later enlarged, probably in the first quarter of the twentieth century, by the addition of a fourth bay (d) on the southern side elevation. A parapet wall with central tablet was built to provide symmetry for the enlarged building. The center-bay of the original portion retains its original double-leaf doors with upper glazed panels and integral shutters. The center-bay doorway is flanked by windows that are closed by original batten shutters. The southernmost bay of the later addition contains double-leaf, board-and-batten doors. A remarkable survival are the original store fixtures, which consist of long counters with molded (ogee and angle) panels on the front and sides. (Photo 26)
- 5b NC **Wagner House** (Route 2, Box 296, Church Hill Road, Church Hill, MS). The Wagner House is located on the west side of the Church Hill Road, about 500 feet from the intersection of Church Hill Road and Highway 553. The house is a one-story, brick-veneered, ranch style house with composition-shingle, hipped roof and exterior end chimney. The four-bay façade (w-w-d-w) is fronted by a hipped-roof porch supported by iron posts that shelters only the entrance doorway. Windows are arranged singly east of the entrance doorway and contain six-over-six, double-hung sash with ornamental shutter blinds. The westernmost bay contains oversized paired sash. The existing house was built in 1974 and replaced an earlier house that burned.
- 5c NC **Barn, Wagner's**. The barn on the Wagner's property is a near ruin and overgrown with vines. The barn probably dates to the late nineteenth or early twentieth century.

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- 6 & 7 **Lochiel** (also known as Donoho and the Griffith Place). (no address; hunting camp) The driveway is entered from Church Hill Road about one mile south of its intersection with Highway 553. Today Lochiel encompasses about 218 acres of what was once a plantation of more than 900 acres owned by the Donoho family. The property includes forested tracts and open fields. The areas designated on the district map as #6 and #7 were both historically part of Lochiel and are treated as one contributing element represented by 6a. The section designated as #7 on the district map is a ten-acre undeveloped part of Lochiel that fronts Church Hill Road and was earlier deeded to Christ Episcopal Church.
- 6a C Lochiel was historically the home of the Gaines Donoho family. The property is also known as Donoho and the Griffin Place, reflecting its twentieth-century ownership. The existing house stylistically dates to the 1820s and was built for Gaines Donoho on land he acquired in 1811, 1820, and 1821 (Dooks B1:478; A:132; A:202; and A:228).
- As originally constructed, Lochiel was a true, one-and-half story, frame house with gable roof and partial brick cellar. Wall studs and posts rise as unbroken timbers from the foundation through the second-story level to the eaves. The house was originally fronted by a small, center-bay portico with gable roof. The width of the portico is revealed by the two mortises let into the front sill that once received the tenons of the side sills of the portico framing. The slope and extent of the gabled roof of the portico is evidenced by the absence of nails on the studs in a triangular area over the entrance. A portion of an original handrail has been reused as head framing for the basement doorway. The original two front rooms feature Federal style millwork similar to millwork dating to the 1820s in Natchez.
- Lochiel underwent a Greek Revival remodeling in the mid-nineteenth century, probably not long after the death of Gaines Donoho in 1844 (Final Record Chancery B:431). Today, it is a one-and-half story, three-bay (w-d-w), frame house with exterior end chimney at the northern gable end. The house rests on brick piers and a partial basement that was probably used as a root cellar. The Greek Revival remodeling included the replacement of the original, Federal style portico with a full-width gallery and the installation of a frontispiece entrance and new windows on the façade. The gallery is supported by box columns, whose molded capitals originally matched the pilasters surviving at each end of the front wall. The frontispiece entrance features a full molded entablature supported by pilasters that are echoed by smaller pilasters separating the doorway opening and the flanking sidelights. The six-panel, single-leaf door is original to the 1820s date of construction. Flanking the frontispiece are two, large window openings with wide, unmolded, peaked surrounds. Windows are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash set above jib doors and closed by original shutter blinds. The existing siding on the façade dates to the twentieth century and replaced a mid-nineteenth-century plastered finish.

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The original configuration of the rear of the house, which now features a board-and-batten shed-roof addition, cannot be determined without a more thorough investigation. However, the stairs in the rear appear to be original. Lochiel is endangered due to deterioration. (Photos 27, 28)

6b NC **Metal Building and Motor Home, Lochiel.** North of the main house is a one-story, two-bay (w-d), metal building with gable roof and an adjacent motor home that abuts the side elevation of the metal building. The metal building and motor home probably provide housing for hunters.

6c C **Barn, Lochiel.** North of the main house is a barn that appears to be a descendant of a historic barn. Some of the structural timbers appear to be old, but most of the barn has been rebuilt. The barn features a main gabled roof and shed-roof, side extensions. Like the barn at Oak Grove, the Lochiel barn is crudely finished and is almost more of a crib than a barn. The barn probably dates to the nineteenth century.

7 **Lochiel,** see #6 and #7 on previous page. #7 is a 10-acre undeveloped tract that was originally part of Lochiel but is now owned by Christ Episcopal Church.

8a C **Rokeby** (Rt. 2, Box 293, Church Hill, MS 39120). Rokeby is located on the east side of Church Hill Road and is accessed by a graveled drive about 3,500 feet from the intersection of Church Hill Road and Highway 553. Rokeby's entrance is defined by a railed fence with gate. Rokeby was reconstructed on its present site in 1980. The house was originally located near the boundary of Adams and Jefferson Counties on the old road from Pine Ridge to Church Hill. The house stood vacant from 1908, when it was severely damaged by a tornado, until 1980, when it was taken apart and reconstructed on a 21.08-acre tract of land that was originally part of Wyolah. The owners of its original site refused to sell the land. Rokeby's primary importance rests with its historical associations with William Bayard Shields, who was a member of the state legislature, attorney general, and a United States judge. Shields also served as one of two counselors for Aaron Burr, when he was arraigned for treason in Adams County in 1807. Nineteenth-century Mississippi attorney and nationally famous orator, Seargent S. Prentiss, came to the Natchez area as a tutor in the Shields family at Rokeby.

Stylistic details indicate that Rokeby was built in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. These original details include thin early doors with fielded panels, original Federal style mantel pieces in the upper half story, and a board ceiling in the parlor.

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Rokeby today is a one-and-a-half story, three-bay (w-d-w), frame house with gabled roof and brick foundation piers. The composition-shingle, gabled roof is flanked by exterior end chimneys and pierced on the front slope by two gabled dormers with pilasters framing six-over-six, double-hung sash. The house is fronted by an inset, full-width gallery supported by diminutive chamfered posts, that in size and placement are incorrect for the period. The posts are linked by a balustrade composed of rectangular-sectioned balusters. The center-bay entrance contains a single-leaf, six-panel, replacement door set beneath a four-light transom. The entrance is flanked by windows that contain twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds. Extending from the easterly side elevation is a one-story, four-bay (w-d-w-w) wing with single-pile plan that is set back from the front wall of the main house. The entrance doorway is sheltered by small, hipped-roof porch that is supported by slender chamfered posts. The porch is flanked at each side by a short flight of steps and railed across the front by a cast-iron railing. The entrance to the wing contains a single-leaf, board-and-batten door. The windows in the side wing contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds except for the end bay which has a window with four-over-four, double-hung sash. (Photo 30)

- 8b NC **Storage house, Rokeby.** In the side yard of the house is a small, single bay (d), storage house with composition-shingle, gabled roof, a slab foundation, and board-and-batten siding. The southeasterly façade of the building is finished in horizontal flush boards and features a doorway containing a single-leaf, board-and-batten door. The northerly side elevation features a single window with six-over-six, double-hung sash. The storage building dates to the 1980s.
- 9a PL **Wyolah** (Route 2, Box 291, Church Hill, Mississippi 39120). The driveway to Wyolah is accessed from the eastern side of Church Hill Road, about 4,200 feet from the junction of Church Hill Road and Highway 553. The entrance gate is modern and made of pipe. Constructed on the eve of the Civil War for Dr. Francis B. Coleman, Wyolah today occupies a 60.44-acre tract of land. Wyolah's acreage is a combination of open fields, wooded land, and an informally landscaped area around the house and its dependency buildings. In 1983, when Wyolah was listed in the National Register, it was one of the most significant plantation complexes in Mississippi and the entire South. Its original outbuildings included a doctor's office building, commissary, kitchen, carriage house, barn, corn crib, two slave cabins, hay feeder, and chicken coop. Although not all the outbuildings were in great condition in 1983, they were easily restorable. Today, the corn crib has collapsed and is a ruin; the hay feeder and chicken coop are vine-covered and almost indiscernible; the slave cabins are near ruin; the brick kitchen building is windowless and is rapidly deteriorating; and the carriage house and barn are also endangered due to neglect and deterioration. The grounds have also been neglected and are overgrown. Remnants of historic landscape material are still evident, but in need of attention.

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The entrance drive to Wyolah is one of the most romantic and picturesque approaches to a historic house in Mississippi. A graveled road winds from the Church Hill Road to a gated entrance that affords a vista of the house at the end of a final quarter-mile portion of the road, which terminates in a circular drive in front of the house. Flanking the entrance driveway are brick pylons that were probably added in the 1970s. A regionally unusual, cast-iron mounting step is located on the outer edge of the circular driveway near the front steps of the house. The step bears the name of T. C. Reddy, the second owner of Wyolah.

Wyolah is a two-and-a-half story, frame, Greek Revival house that rests upon brick foundation piers and is surmounted by a composition-shingle gabled roof. The roof is pierced by four, interior, end chimneys. The five-bay (w-w-d-w-w) façade is fronted by a double-tiered, inset gallery supported by paneled, molded, and tapered box columns, which support a full, molded entablature with modillioned cornice on the second-story level. The columns are echoed at each end of the façade by pilasters, and the pilasters and columns are linked by a balustrade of tapered, rectangular-sectioned balusters with molded handrail. The façade is stuccoed and scored in imitation of stone and was originally tinted in varying shades of brownstone, a treatment that still survives on the façade of the doctor's office. The windows on the first-story façade contain six-over-nine, floor-length sash that are closed by shutter blinds. First-story windows also feature molded cornices and architrave surrounds.

Matching, first and second-story, center-bay, frontispiece doorways provide access to the interior. The frontispieces feature pilasters supporting a full molded entablature with a single-leaf, four-panel door framed by a transom and sidelights over molded panels. Both the transom and sidelights feature marginal glazing.

The interior floor plan is a double-pile plan with central hallway. Small "cabinet" rooms, that appear to be original, enclose the ends of the first-story rear gallery, but the cabinet rooms of the second-story gallery are 1970s additions to accommodate bathrooms. The interior of Wyolah features typical Greek Revival millwork, including wooden, pilastered mantel pieces, four-panel doors, and a frontispiece with sliding doors dividing the double parlors. The house retains examples of original oak graining and marbleizing.

Wyolah is in fair condition but in need of porch maintenance to protect the original gallery detailing. Shutters are also beginning to deteriorate and fall apart due to lack of maintenance. (Photos 31, 32, 33)

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Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

- 9b PL **Commissary, Wyolah.** The commissary is a one-story, three-bay (w-d-w) frame building with composition-shingle, gabled roof and exterior, gable-end chimney. The building rests on brick piers, which are raised high above the ground to elevate the gallery of the commissary to the height of the rear gallery of the main house, which is linked to the commissary by an extension of the commissary's front gallery. The commissary front gallery is inset beneath the front slope of the roof and supported by tapered box columns linked by a rectangular-sectioned balustrade. The eave of the gallery is decorated with ornamental sawn pendants, a decorative motif repeated on other outbuildings as well. Windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by board-and-batten shutters. The center-bay doorway contains a single-leaf batten door. The commissary is in good condition. (Photos 33, 34)
- 9c PL **Doctor's Office, Wyolah.** The doctor's office is a one-story, three-bay (w-d-w), frame building with wood-shingled, gabled roof, exterior brick chimney (now missing), and brick foundation piers. The building is fronted by a full-width, inset gallery supported by tapered box columns that support a full, molded entablature with modillioned cornice. The box columns are echoed by pilasters at each end of the façade, which is finished in scored stuccoed and painted to resemble brownstone, with blocks tinted in varying shades of stone. The box columns and pilasters are linked by a balustrade of tapered, rectangular-sectioned balusters with molded handrail. Windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by original shutter blinds. The center-bay entrance contains a single-leaf, four-panel door. The interior retains a wooden pilastered mantel piece and built in cabinets that retain their original oak graining. The doctor's office is in reasonably good condition and was the focus of restoration activity about fifteen years ago. (Photo 35)
- 9d PL **Kitchen, Wyolah.** The kitchen is a two-bay (d-d), brick building with corrugated-metal, gabled roof pierced by a central chimney and flanked by parapet gable ends. A full-width gallery extends the width of the façade and is supported by box columns. The eave of the building is decorated with sawn pendants. Doorways feature single-leaf, four-panel doors, and windows originally contained six-over-six, double-hung sash, one of which survives. The kitchen building is in deteriorated condition. (Photo 36)
- 9e PL **Carriage House, Wyolah.** The carriage house is a board-and-batten, frame building with dominant, central, corrugated-metal, gabled roof flanked by lower-pitched, shed-roofs on the side extensions. Like other outbuildings, the barn features decorative sawn pendants along the eaves. The façade is a three-bay composition with a wide opening in the central gabled section, and small doorways with single-leaf batten doors in the shed-roof, side extensions. The carriage house is in fair condition but overgrown by vines on its rear elevation and endangered by neglect. (Photo 37)

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Inventory Number/Previously Listed (PL), Contributing (C) or Noncontributing (NC)

- 9f PL **Barn, Wyolah.** The barn is a board-and-batten frame building with corrugated-metal, gabled roof. The hay loft features a latticed opening in the gable-end façade. The barn features three openings (d-d-d) that were originally filled by batten doors, portions of which survive. The barn is being overtaken with vines and sections of the roof are missing. (Photo 38)
- 9g NC **Corn Crib, Wyolah.** The gabled-roof corn crib, which was still standing as late as the early 1990s, has collapsed. The site is identified only by a pile of wood, largely obscured by tall grass.
- 9h PL **Slave Quarters, Wyolah.** Southernmost slave cabin. Wyolah still features two, double, slave cabins that are in dilapidated but restorable condition. Each of the matching, board-and-batten buildings features a corrugated-metal, gabled roof; central chimney; brick foundation piers; and an inset, full-width, front gallery. No supporting posts survive, and the gallery flooring has not survived. A previous owner reused the batten doors in a 1970s renovation of Lagonia. The Wyolah cabins are typical of what were described in the mid-nineteenth century as “double” slave cabins. Often one family lived in each of the two rooms. Board-and-batten became the preferred siding material for slave cabins and outbuildings after about 1855. The slave cabins at Wyolah relate strongly to the surviving remnants of ca. 1860 cabins at Canebrake in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. The southernmost of the two slave quarters is the most deteriorated and is missing its rear wall and all infill. (Photos 39, 40)
- 9I PL **Slave Quarters, Wyolah.** Northernmost slave cabin. Wyolah still features two, double slave cabins that are in dilapidated but restorable condition. Each of the matching board-and-batten buildings features a corrugated-metal, gabled roof; central chimney; brick foundation piers; and an inset, full-width front gallery. No supporting posts survive, and the gallery flooring has not survived. A previous owner reused the batten doors in a 1970s renovation of Lagonia. The Wyolah cabins are typical of what were described in the mid-nineteenth century as “double” slave cabins. Often one family lived in each of the two rooms. Board-and-batten became the preferred siding material for slave cabins and outbuildings after about 1850. The slave cabins at Wyolah relate strongly to the surviving remnants of ca. 1860 cabins at Canebrake in Concordia Parish, Louisiana. (Photos 39, 41)
- 9J PL **Hay Feeder, Wyolah.** The hay feeder at Wyolah is so overgrown that it is almost invisible. Only a portion of the corrugated-metal, gabled roof is visible through the vines and tall grass.
- 9k PL **Chicken Coop, Wyolah.** The chicken coop is a small, board-and-batten building with corrugated-tin, shed roof. A board-and-batten door is still visible, although vines have obscured many of the features of the building.
- 9l PL **Mounting step, Wyolah.** In front of the entrance steps of the house and adjacent to the circular drive is a cast-iron mounting step that incorporates the name of T. C. Reddy, second owner of Wyolah, into the design. The mounting step probably dates to the 1870s or 80s.

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The Church Hill Rural Historic District is eligible for National Register listing under criteria A, within the theme of agriculture, and under criterion C, within the theme of architecture. As outlined in criterion C, the district represents a significant and distinguishable entity—a rural historic district. The period of significance begins in 1812, the year James Gillam Wood, the patriarch of the Church Hill community, immigrated to Mississippi from Maryland. The period of significance ends in 1945, the end of the Great Depression and World War II, a watershed in the agricultural history of the South, with millions of Southern farmers leaving the farm for opportunities in the city.

The cultural resources in the Church Hill Rural Historic District testify primarily to the significance of the area as an important cotton-growing region during the pre-Civil War era. The focal point of the district is Christ Episcopal Church, which is sited on a hill overlooking the surrounding countryside and is the obvious source of the community's name. Cultural resources of the district include outstanding examples of Federal, Greek Revival, and Gothic Revival architecture, as well as rare surviving examples of plantation support buildings. The district boundaries include Wyolah, the most complete plantation complex in the Natchez area. These resources and their associated landscapes also expand understanding of the way cotton planting and erosion shaped the landscape and culture of the Natchez region. The Church Hill Rural Historic District represents remarkable integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association and is the best preserved of several plantation communities in the Natchez region.

The boundaries of the Church Hill Rural Historic District reflect a thorough survey of the historic resources of the Church Hill community. Boundaries were drawn to include only land parcels that were historically associated with extant historic buildings and linked by modern ownership. The amount of acreage included within the district boundaries encompasses all extant historic resources and probably the majority of what may be significant historical archaeological sites.

Natchez rests on high bluffs that overlook the Mississippi River to the west. Extending to the north, east, and south is picturesque, undulating countryside that once contained numerous plantations, whose owners lived year-round on their cotton-producing land. The lifestyles of these planters, the rural gentry, contrasted with the lifestyles of Natchez's richest planters, who preferred life in or near town to life on the cotton plantations that were the source of their wealth.

Since a trip to Natchez on horseback or in the family carriage or wagon might take half a day or more, plantation families formed themselves into loosely knit plantation communities. Each plantation community usually spawned at least one country store and one or more churches. The country stores, like Wagner's Store, were usually plain utilitarian buildings, but the churches, like Christ Episcopal Church, were picturesque, vernacular interpretations of high style ecclesiastical architecture. The churches usually featured adjoining graveyards for plantation families that chose not to bury in a private plantation cemetery. Church Hill was one of several, nineteenth-century plantation communities in the Natchez area; others were Pine Ridge, Kingston, Second Creek, and Cannonsburg. By the mid-nineteenth century, the nearby town of Washington, once the territorial capital, had become little more than a plantation community.

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In the early 1830s, travel writer Joseph Holt Ingraham journeyed from Natchez into the rural countryside and visited Emerald Mound [NHL] and two villages [Selsertown and Union Town] near the Church Hill settlement. He described the surrounding countryside as “pleasantly undulating” and as a “richly wooded and partially cultivated extent of country, occasionally rising into precipitous hills, crowned with forest trees (Joseph Holt Ingraham, *The South-West. By a Yankee* [1835; reprint, Readex Microprint, 1966], II, 221).” Ingraham remarked on the isolation of Natchez and the “large tracts of country covered with plantations” that surrounded it (Ingraham, II, 204).

The proximity of Church Hill to Emerald Mound and Anna Mound, as well as the Natchez Trace, suggests that some of the area was probably cleared and farmed to some degree by the Natchez Indians and their Mississippian ancestors before the arrival of Europeans. Most of the earliest white settlers received their property as grants from the Spanish government, in control of the region from 1779 to 1798. During the Spanish period, the agricultural economy of the Natchez area underwent rapid change. Tobacco had been the money crop of the region under the French, English, and Spanish, but the tobacco market collapsed about 1790. Indigo replaced tobacco but remained the money crop only until about 1795, when insects proved so disastrous that the farmers abandoned production. That same year, Natchez had its first version of Eli Whitney’s cotton gin (James H. McLendon, “The Development of Mississippi Agriculture,” *Journal of Mississippi History*, 13 [1951]: 78). The first public gin was built in 1796, not many miles from Church Hill, in the non-extant town of Selsertown, which was located near the boundary line of Adams and Jefferson Counties (J. F. H. Claiborne, *Mississippi as a Province, Territory, and State* [1880; reprint, Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, Publishers, 1978], 3–11).

Natchez area planters had focused some attention on cotton before the failure of indigo and the introduction of the cotton gin, and, by the end of the Spanish era, it was firmly established as the money crop of the Natchez region (Claiborne, 143). Before the cotton gin, it had taken one person a full day to clean the seeds from a single pound of cotton. Whitney’s original invention, the hand-turned gin, made it possible for one person to clean 50 pounds of cotton per day, and the first power-driven gins cleaned a thousand pounds per day. The national exportation of cotton rose from 138,000 pounds in 1792 to 6,276,000 pounds in 1795, and 17,790,000 pounds in 1800, with the price and demand for slaves rising concurrently (Daniel P. Mannix, *Black Cargoes: A History of the Atlantic Slave Trade 1518-1865* [New York: Penguin Books, 1976], 187).

Improvements in the growing and harvesting of cotton, territorial status in 1798, and the 1811 inauguration of steamboat service on the Mississippi attracted many would-be cotton planters to Mississippi and ushered in the era of King Cotton. Although the western portion of Jefferson County attracted white settlers during the Spanish period, the Church Hill community did not begin to take shape until 1812, with the arrival of James Gillam Wood and his party from Maryland. For many years, Church Hill was known as the Maryland Settlement (*Natchez Weekly Courier and Journal*, June 18, 1845). Wood was soon joined by other settlers, principally representing the states of Maryland and Virginia. Among Church Hill’s cultural resources, Oak Grove is unique in providing an architectural link to the Wood family’s Maryland homeland. The house features a pair of exterior end chimneys that are bridged by a chimney pent containing a small room, an architectural feature unique to Mississippi but common to the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

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Between 1813 and 1822, James Gillam Wood assembled approximately 4,800 contiguous acres into a plantation known as Auburn Hall, a name chosen to reflect the red brick mansion built for his family. Auburn Hall was destroyed in a 1908 tornado that devastated the Pine Ridge and Church Hill communities. By the time of his death in 1845, Wood had donated land for the construction of Christ Episcopal Church and divided Auburn Hall by gift and bequest to his children. The Cedars, Oak Grove, and Lagonia all occupy portions of the Auburn Hall property and were the homes of James Gillam Wood's children.

James Gillam Wood was one of many entrepreneurs from the Middle Atlantic and New England states that migrated to the Natchez area in the late eighteenth and first third of the nineteenth-century in search of cotton riches. In his 1830s travel account, Joseph Holt Ingraham described this migration and discussed the relationship between the rich nabobs of the town of Natchez and the rural gentry who lived nearby on their plantations:

In the old Atlantic and New-England states, the sons, as they successively grow to manhood, take the paternal blessing and their little patrimony... and bend their way to the "great west," to seek their fortunes.... The society of Natchez, now, is not surpassed by any in America.... The citizens of Natchez are, however, so inseparably connected with the neighboring planters, that these last are necessarily included in the general term "society of Natchez." The two bodies united may successfully challenge any other community to produce a more intelligent, wealthy, and, I may say, aristocratic whole (Ingraham, II, 45-50).

Joseph Holt Ingraham noted the Mississippi mania regarding cotton growing and slavery and made prescient statements about the agricultural future of the Natchez region:

A plantation well stocked with hands, is the *ne plus ultra* of every man's ambition who resides at the south.... Cotton and negroes are the constant theme—the every harped upon, never worn out subject of conversation among all classes. Not till every acre is purchased and cultivated—not till Mississippi becomes one vast cotton field, will this mania... pass away. And not then, till the lands become exhausted and wholly unfit for farther cultivation... Planters have no room for anything but their cotton, and corn, on their plantations, and scarcely are they willing to make room even for the latter, as they buy a great part of their corn, annually, from the Kentucky and Indiana flat boats at the 'Landing' (Ingraham, II, 84-89).'\

Twentieth-century historian Michael Wayne describes Natchez as the "richest principality in the domain of King Cotton in the decades leading up to the Civil War" and maintains that "nowhere in the antebellum South were the cotton economy and the slave plantation more dominant (Michael Wayne, *The Reshaping of Plantation Society, The Natchez District, 1860-1880*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1983, 1)." The wealth and sophistication of the Natchez planting class, urban and rural, is tangibly interpreted in the large number of extant mansion houses that adorn the town, suburbs, and rural countryside. Fewer cultural resources survive to interpret the more private, domestic lives of the slave class,

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upon whose labor the Natchez area economy was built. However, the district's cultural resources include two, rare, double slave cabins at Wyolah. Typically rural plantation houses and churches were more vernacular than their urban and suburban counterparts, but The Cedars, Oak Grove, and Christ Episcopal Church display a high degree of architectural sophistication.

By the 1820's, planters began to realize that the wind-blown, erosion prone, loess soil in the Natchez area was a problem, as they lost more and more of their acreage to erosion. Gradually, they began to shift their planting focus, first to the flatlands across the Mississippi River and later to the upriver Mississippi Delta. Joseph Holt Ingraham provides the best nineteenth-century description of the erosion problem.:

The rich loam [loess] which forms the upland soil of this state is of a very slight depth—and after a few years is worn away by constant culture and the action of winds and rain...Every plough-furrow becomes the bed of a rivulet after heavy rains...the impalpable soil dissolves like ice under a summer's sun. By degrees, acre after acre, of what was a few years previous beautifully undulating ground, waving with the dark green, snow-crested cotton, presents a wild scene of frightful precipices, and yawning chasms, which are increased in depth and destructively enlarged after rain. There are many thousand acres within twenty miles of Natchez, being the earliest cultivated portions of the country, which are now lying in this condition, presenting an appearance of wild desolation, and not unfrequently [sic], of sublimity (Ingraham, II, 86-87).

Although plagued with erosion, the Church Hill area remained a center for cotton production up to the Civil War. Some of the Church Hill planters, like the urban Natchez nabobs, also expanded their planting activity by investing in cotton plantations across the Mississippi River and upriver in the Mississippi Delta. That the cotton economy remained strong until the Civil War is evidenced by the building activity of the late 1850s and early 1860s. In 1857, parishioners of Christ Episcopal Church demolished their 1827 building for the construction of a grander church in the Gothic Revival style. According to the diary of Mississippi historian B. L. C. Wailes, Wyolah was not built until 1859-60. The monumental addition to the front of The Cedars is documented to 1860-61.

The Civil War was a major watershed in the region's agricultural history. Slavery was replaced by sharecropping and tenant farming, and the South lost its cotton markets during the war. Plantations were in poor condition from four years of neglect or damage from the Union army. The planter-dominated economy of Natchez transformed to a merchant-dominated economy, and many of the merchants were Jewish. This transformation is even reflected in rural Church Hill, which is unique among Natchez plantation communities in retaining its nineteenth-century country store. The store was in operation as early as 1874 by the partnership of Moses and Marx (Deed Book CC:594). Life changed dramatically for the rural planters, who were remote from the society and convenience of town. They no longer had money to indulge their families with private tutors and other trappings of wealth and privilege. Planters became farmers who continued to plant cotton and other crops on eroded, worn out land. Post-Civil War memoirs penned by descendants of planting families in the Church Hill area paint a picture of near poverty in late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Church Hill, where once the community evidenced wealth and refinement. Life

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changed little for the African Americans who had been slaves before the Civil War. Many became sharecroppers or tenant farmers with some continuing to reside as free men in the cabins they had previously occupied as slaves.

The second watershed in the agricultural history of the Church Hill area and the South was marked by the invasion of the boll weevil, which decimated the agricultural economy of the region. The boll weevil was first spotted in Mississippi on a farm south of Natchez in 1807. The third watershed was the combination of the Great Depression and World War II, which profoundly changed the character of the agrarian South.

Today, the plantation land around Natchez produces almost no cotton. Most plantations in the area function as cattle or tree farms or private hunting camps. An ever changing agricultural economy and growing population has subdivided many plantations in the Natchez area for housing sub-divisions. The plantation houses themselves are no longer the domestic center of an agricultural enterprise. Many, like Oak Grove, Lagonia, The Cedars, and Rokeby have become pastoral retreats for affluent families, many of whom sought refuge from far away bustling places. Other houses, like Lochiel and Wyolah, are endangered and almost abandoned by owners who acquired their land for hunting or other purposes.

Church Hill is today the focus of preservation activity that is reflected in the nomination of the Church Hill Rural Historic District. Residents of the community are working with the Historic Natchez Foundation to draft a Conservation and/or Historic Preservation Ordinance for adoption by Jefferson County to protect the architectural and scenic integrity of the community.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Church Hill Rural Historic District are shown on an accompanying scale map. The following parcels of land are included within the boundaries of the Church Hill Rural Historic District:

Jefferson County Tax Map 08-11

Section 61

Parcel 5 (Lochiel, portion, 3.7 acres)

Section 71

- Parcel 2 (Lochiel, portion, 8.9 acres)
- Parcel 3.01 (Wagner's Store, 6.5 acres)
- Parcel 4 (Christ Episcopal Church, 1.3 acres)
- Parcel 7 (Oak Grove, 52 acres)
- Parcel 8 (Lochiel, portion, 17 acres)
- Parcel 9 (Lochiel, portion, owned by Christ Episcopal Church, 10 acres)
- Parcel 10 (Lochiel, portion, 3.2 acres)
- Parcel 11 (Lagonia, 5.3)
- Parcel 16 (The Cedars, 177 acres)
- Parcel 17 (Rokeby, 21.08 acres)

Jefferson County Tax Map 08-12

Section 62

Parcel 4 (Lochiel, portion, 93 acres)

Section 68

Parcel 9 (Wyolah, 60.44)

Section 69

Parcel 1 (Lochiel, portion, 82 acres)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Church Hill Rural Historic District reflect a thorough survey of the historic resources of the Church Hill community. Boundaries were drawn to include only land parcels that were historically associated with extant historic buildings. To respond to considerations of owner consent, boundaries were further refined to include only that historically associated land linked to extant historic buildings by modern-day ownership. An exception is a ten-acre portion of Lochiel in the midst of the district that is today owned by Christ Episcopal Church. The amount of acreage included within the district boundaries encompasses all extant historic resources and probably the majority of what may be significant historical archaeological sites.

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Church Hill Rural Historic District
- (2) Church Hill, Jefferson County, Mississippi
- (3) Mary W. Miller
- (4) July 1998
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Photo 1	(6) The Cedars	inventory #1	view to the northwest, the rail fence and entrance gates
Photo 2	(6) The Cedars	inventory #1a	view to the south, northerly façade of the main house, graveled driveway, pond, and low bridge flanked by a curving parapet wall
Photo 3	(6) The Cedars	inventory #1a	view to the south, northerly façade of the main house and graveled circular drive
Photo 4	(6) Gazebo, The Cedars	inventory #1f	view to the east, gazebo and pond
Photo 5	(6) Carriage House/Barn The Cedars	inventory #1b	view to the west, façade of the carriage house/barn
Photo 6	(6) Wood Family Cemetery	inventory #1g	view to the west
Photo 7	(6) Oak Grove	inventory #2a	view to the west, façade
Photo 8	(6) Oak Grove	inventory #2a	view to the south, showing distinctive Chimney pent
Photo 9	(6) Oak Grove	inventory #2a	view to the east, the rear elevation
Photo 10	(6) Kitchen Wing, Oak Grove	inventory #2b	view to the west, façade of the kitchen wing
Photo 11	(6) Guest Cottage, Oak Grove	inventory #2c	view to the west, façade of the guest cottage
Photo 12	(6) School House, Oak Grove	inventory #2d	view to the west, façade of the school house
Photo 13	(6) Tenant House, Oak Grove	inventory #2e	view to the west, façade of the tenant house

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Photo 14	(6) Barn, Oak Grove	inventory #2f	view to the northeast, façade and side elevation of the barn
Photo 15	(6) Lagonia	inventory #3	view to the northeast, the entrance gate
Photo 16	(6) Lagonia	inventory #3a	view to the north, the façade and side elevation of the main house
Photo 17	(6) Lagonia	inventory #3a	view to the east, the façade and side elevation of the main house
Photo 18	(6) Storeroom/Cistern House, Lagonia	inventory #3b	view to the southeast, the façade of the storeroom/cistern house
Photo 19	(6) Barn, Lagonia	inventory #3e	view to the east, the façade and side Elevation
Photo 20	(6) Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery	inventory #4a & 4b	view to the north, over the open pasture of Oak Grove
Photo 21	(6) Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery	inventory #4a & 4b	view to the south
Photo 22	(6) Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery	inventory #4a & 4b	view to the southeast, the façade and entrance vestibule
Photo 23	(6) Christ Episcopal Church and Cemetery	inventory #4a & 4b	view to the northwest, rear and side elevation
Photo 24	(6) Cemetery, Christ Episcopal Church	inventory #4b	view to the southwest
Photo 25	(6) Cemetery, Christ Episcopal Church	inventory #4b	view to the south, showing rail fence enclosing the cemetery with the open pasture of Oak Grove beyond the fence
Photo 26	(6) Wagner's Store	inventory 5a	view to the northwest, the façade and side Elevation
Photo 27	(6) Lochiel	inventory 6a	view to the southwest, the façade and side Elevation

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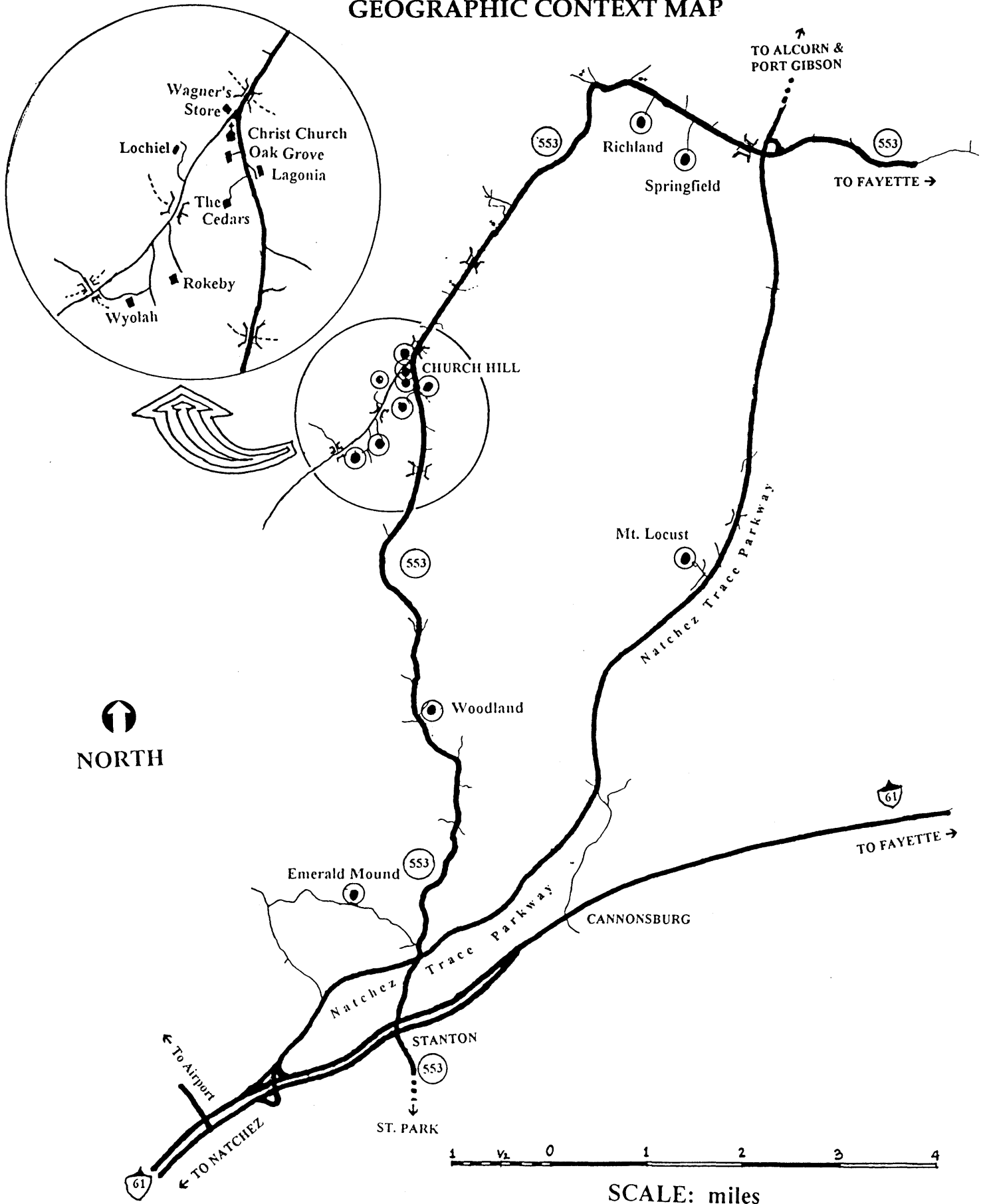
Section number Photographs Page 30

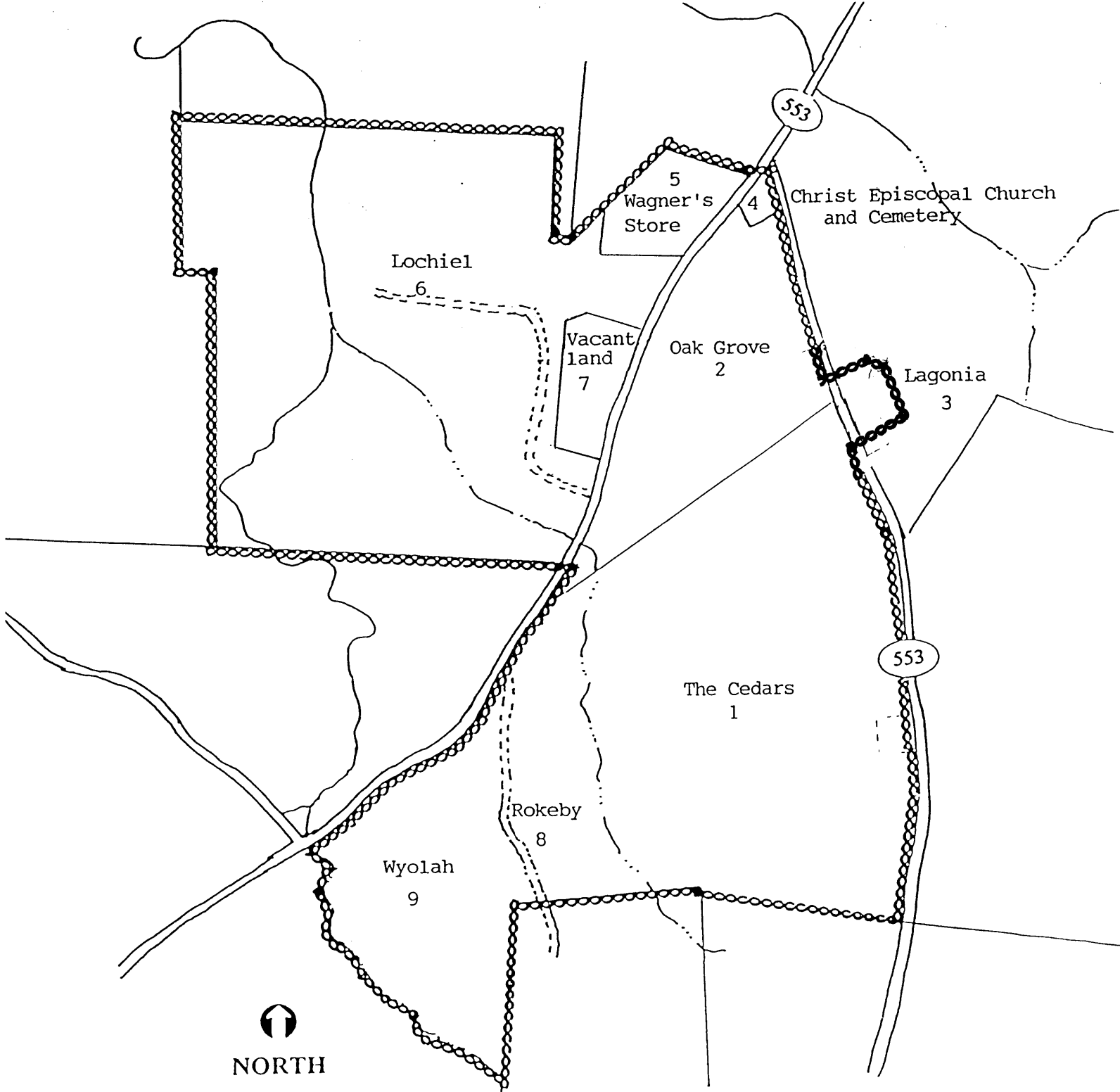
Photo 28	(6) Lochiel	inventory 6a	view to the southwest, the entrance doorway
Photo 29	(6) Rokeby	inventory 8	view to the south, the entrance to Rokeby
Photo 30	(6) Rokeby	inventory 8a	view to the southwest, the façade and side Elevation
Photo 31	(6) Wyolah	inventory 9a	view to the west, the façade and graveled entrance driveway
Photo 32	(6) Wyolah	inventory 9a	view to the west, the façade and overgrown circular graveled drive
Photo 33	(6) Main House and Commissary, Wyolah	inventory 9a & 9b	view to the east, the rear elevation of the main house and the western side elevation of the commissary
Photo 34	(6) Commissary, Wyolah	inventory 9b	view to the south, the façade of the commissary
Photo 35	(6) Doctor's Office, Wyolah	inventory 9c	view to the south, the façade of the doctor's office
Photo 36	(6) Kitchen, Wyolah	inventory 9d	view to the northeast, the façade and side elevation of the kitchen
Photo 37	(6) Carriage House, Wyolah	inventory 9e	view to the southwest, the façade and side elevation of the carriage house
Photo 38	(6) Barn, Wyolah	inventory 9f	view to the southwest, the façade of the barn
Photo 39	(6) Slave Quarters, Wyolah	inventory #9h & 9i	view to the northwest, the facades of the slave quarters
Photo 40	(6) Slave Quarter, Wyolah	inventory #9h	view to the north, the façade of one the two slave quarters
Photo 41	(6) Slave Quarter, Wyolah	inventory #9i	view to the northeast, the façade and side elevation one of the two slave quarters

CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

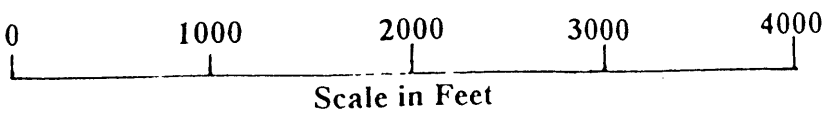
CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

GEOGRAPHIC CONTEXT MAP

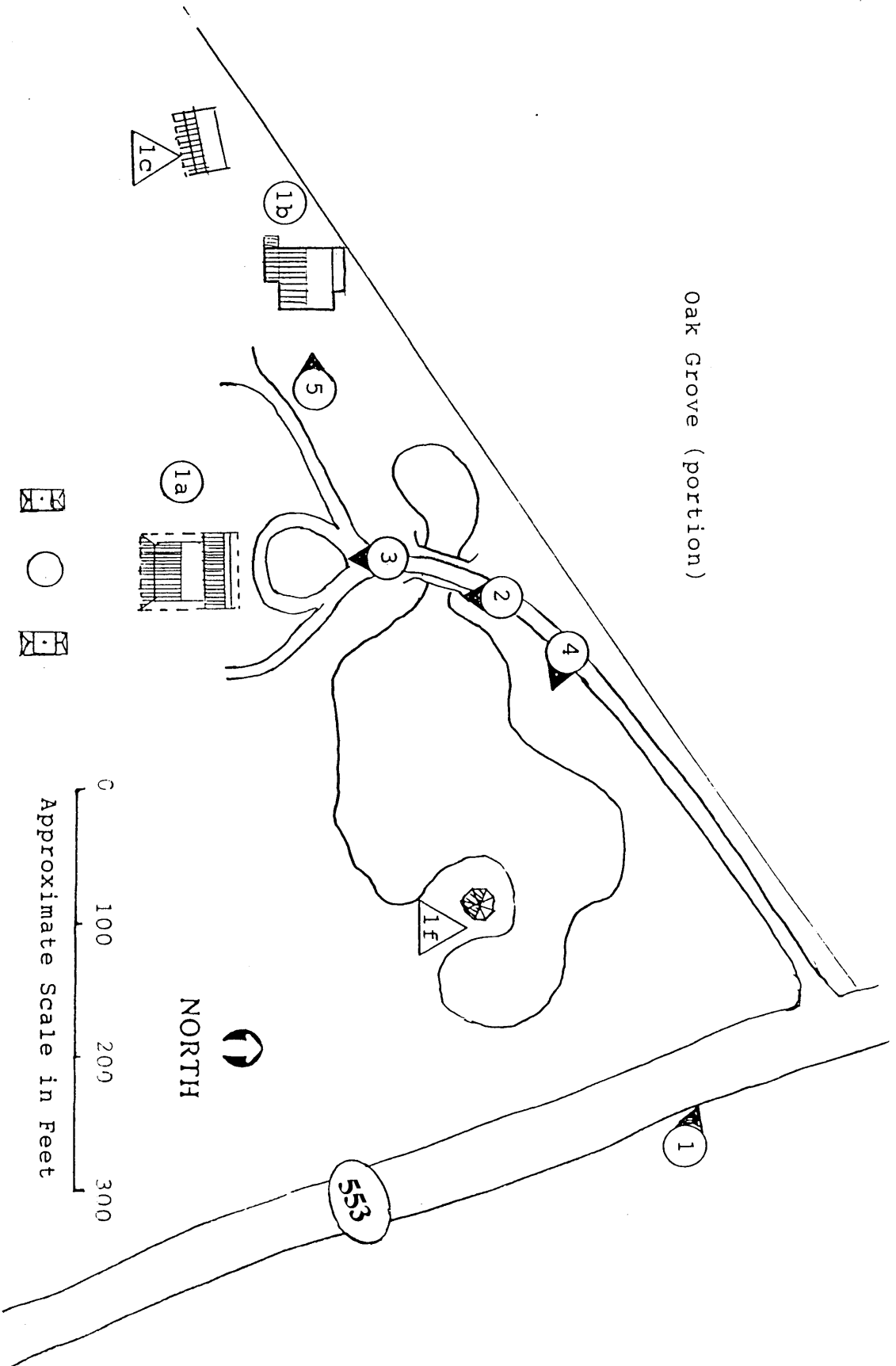




**CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**



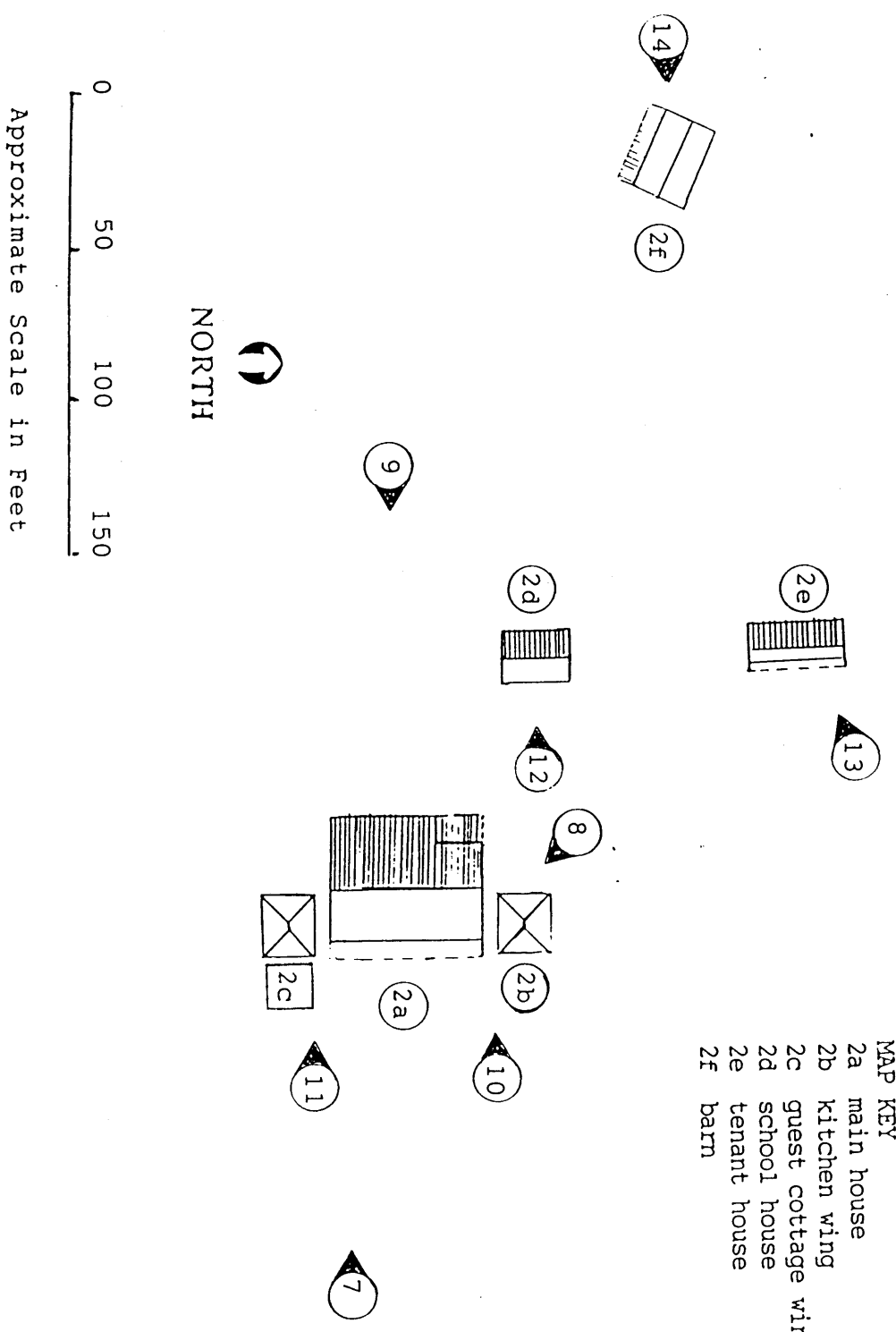
Oak Grove (portion)



1 THE CEDARS
CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

- Previously Listed
- Contributing
- △ Noncontributing
- ◀ Photograph

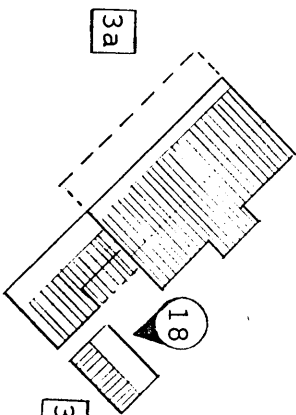
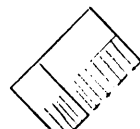
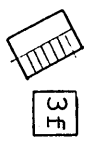
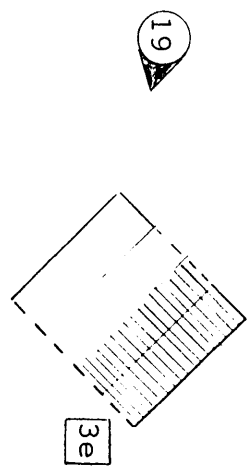
- MAP KEY
- 2a main house
 - 2b kitchen wing
 - 2c guest cottage wing
 - 2d school house
 - 2e tenant house
 - 2f barn



2 OAK GROVE
 CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

- Previously Listed
- Contributing
- △ Noncontributing
- ◐ Photograph

NORTH



- MAP KEY
- 3a main house
 - 3b storage room/cistern house
 - 3c garage
 - 3d playhouse
 - 3e barn
 - 3f doctor's office

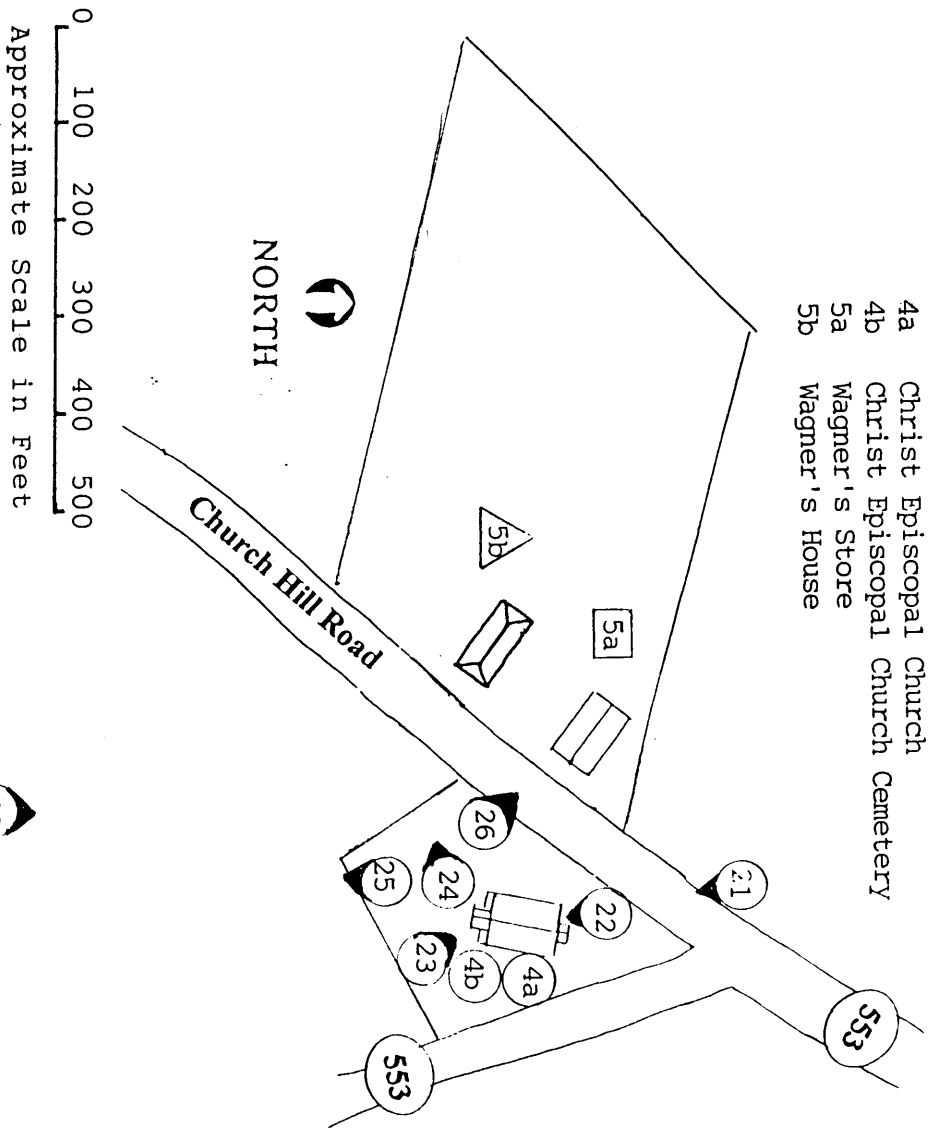


Approximate Scale in Feet

3 LAGONIA
 CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

- Previously Listed
- Contributing
- Noncontributing
- Photograph

- MAP KEY
- 4a Christ Episcopal Church
 - 4b Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery
 - 5a Wagner's Store
 - 5b Wagner's House

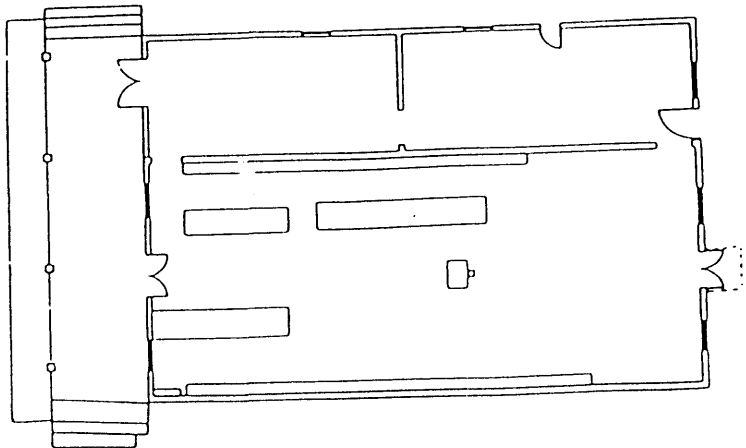


0 100 200 300 400 500
Approximate Scale in Feet

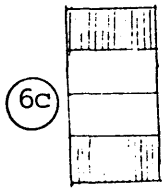
**4 CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
AND
5 WAGNER'S STORE**

**CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI**

- Previously Listed
- Contributing
- △ Noncontributing
- Photograph



Floor Plan--Wagner's Store



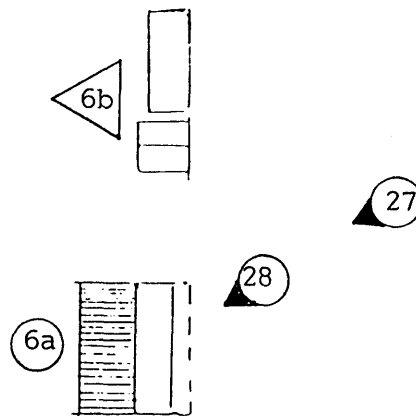
NORTH



Approximate Scale in Feet

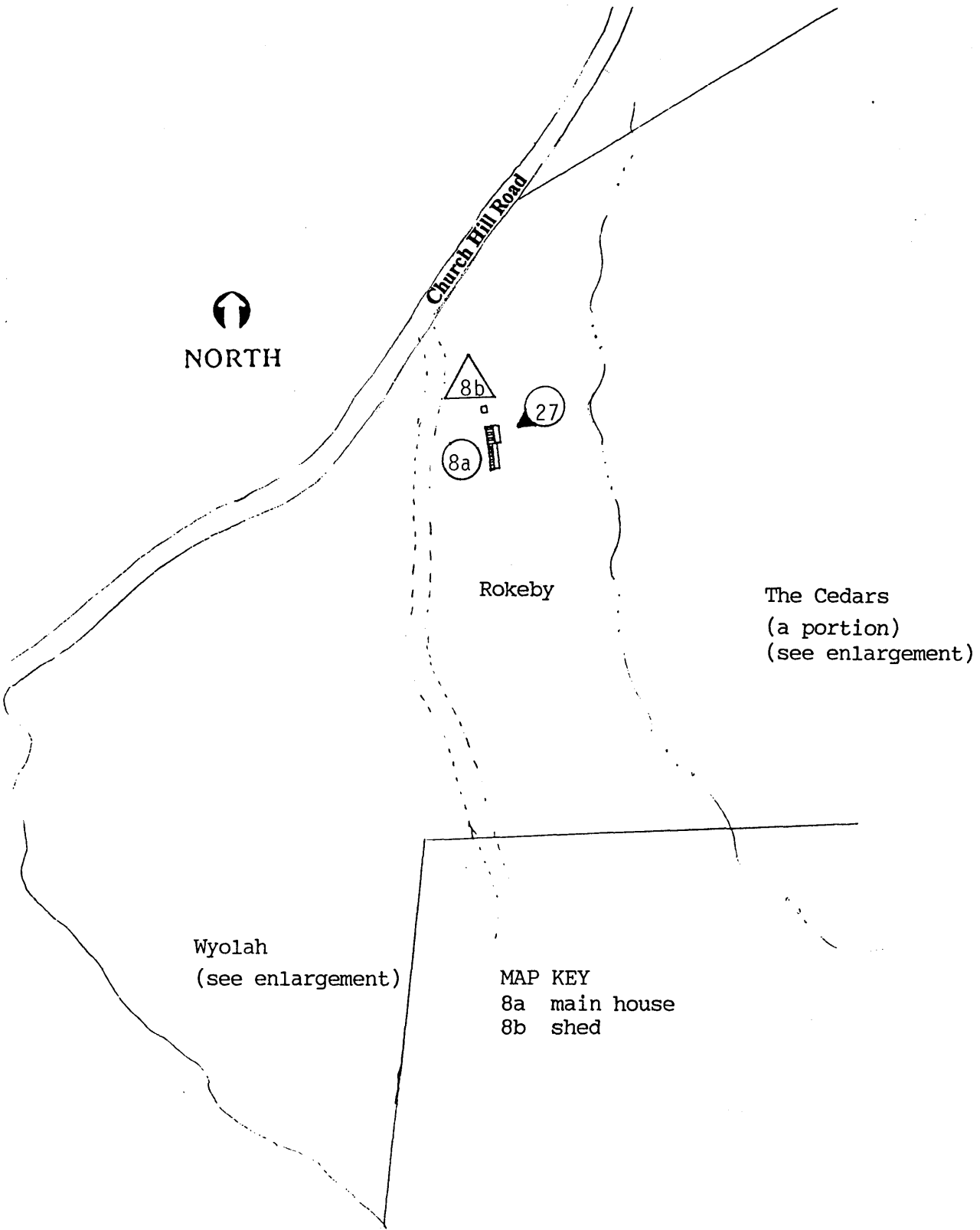
MAP KEY

- 6a main house
- 6b metal building (& mobile home)
- 6c barn



6 LOCHIEL
 CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

- Previously Listed
- Contributing
- △ Noncontributing
- ◐ Photograph



↑
NORTH

Church Hill Road

8b

27

8a

Rokeby

The Cedars
(a portion)
(see enlargement)

Wyolah
(see enlargement)

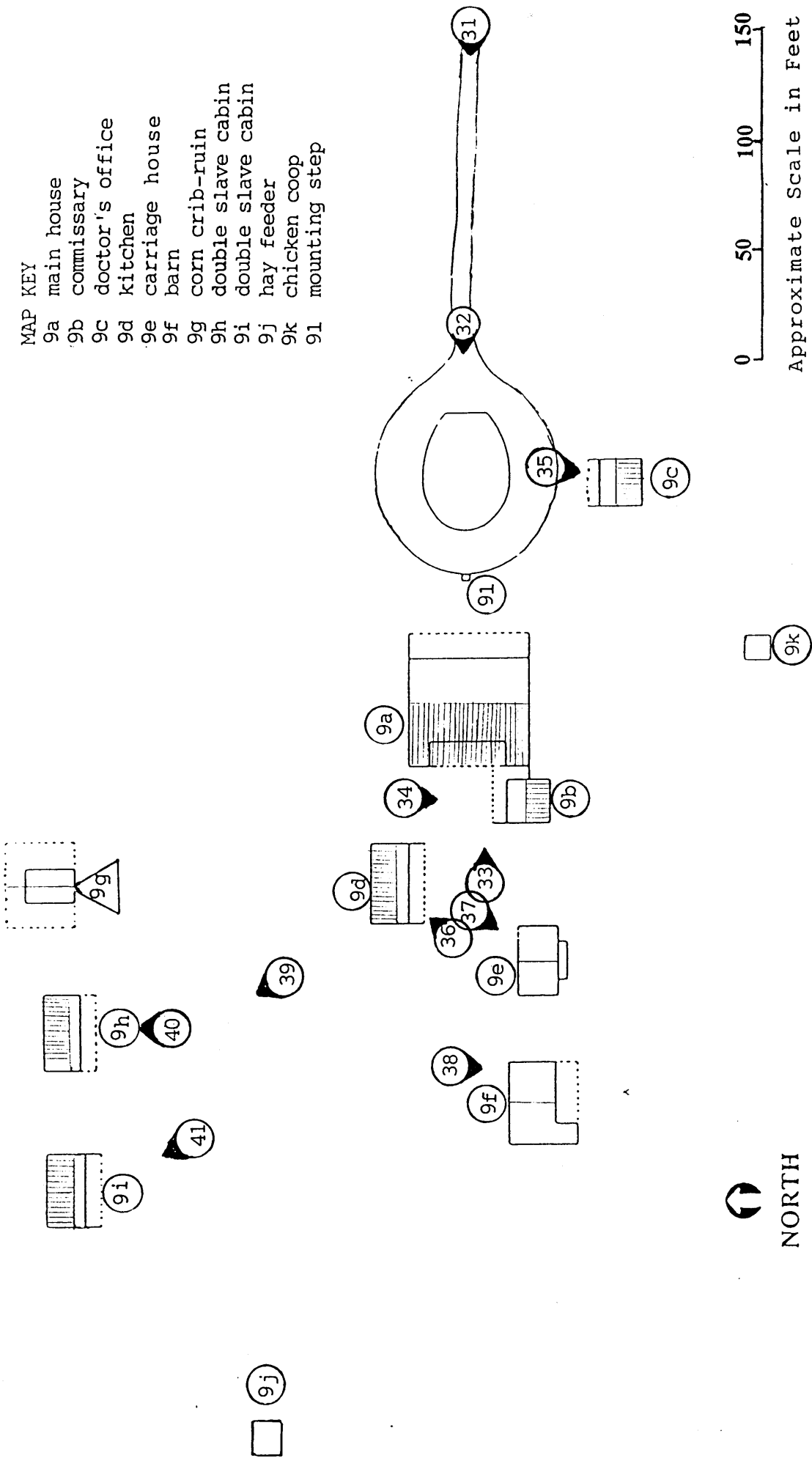
MAP KEY
8a main house
8b shed

8 ROKEBY
CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| ○ Previously Listed | △ Noncontributing |
| □ Contributing | ⊙ Photograph |

MAP KEY

- 9a main house
- 9b commissary
- 9c doctor's office
- 9d kitchen
- 9e carriage house
- 9f barn
- 9g corn crib-ruin
- 9h double slave cabin
- 9i double slave cabin
- 9j hay feeder
- 9k chicken coop
- 9l mounting step



9 WYOLAH
 CHURCH HILL RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT
 CHURCH HILL, JEFFERSON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI

- Previously Listed
- Contributing
- △ Noncontributing
- ◐ Photograph

↑ NORTH

0 50 100 150
 Approximate Scale in Feet



The
CEDARS
PLANTATION
Circa 1830

The Cedars

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 1 of 41



The Cedars

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 2 of 41



The Cedars

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 3 of 41



The Cedars

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 4 of 41



The Cedars

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 5 of 41



Wood Family Cemetery

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 6 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 7 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 8 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 9 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 10 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 11 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 12 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 13 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

photo 14 of 41



Lagonia

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 15 of 41



Lagonia

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 16 of 41



Lagonia

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 17 of 41



Lagonia

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 18 of 41



Logonia

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 19 of 41



Oak Grove

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 20 of 41

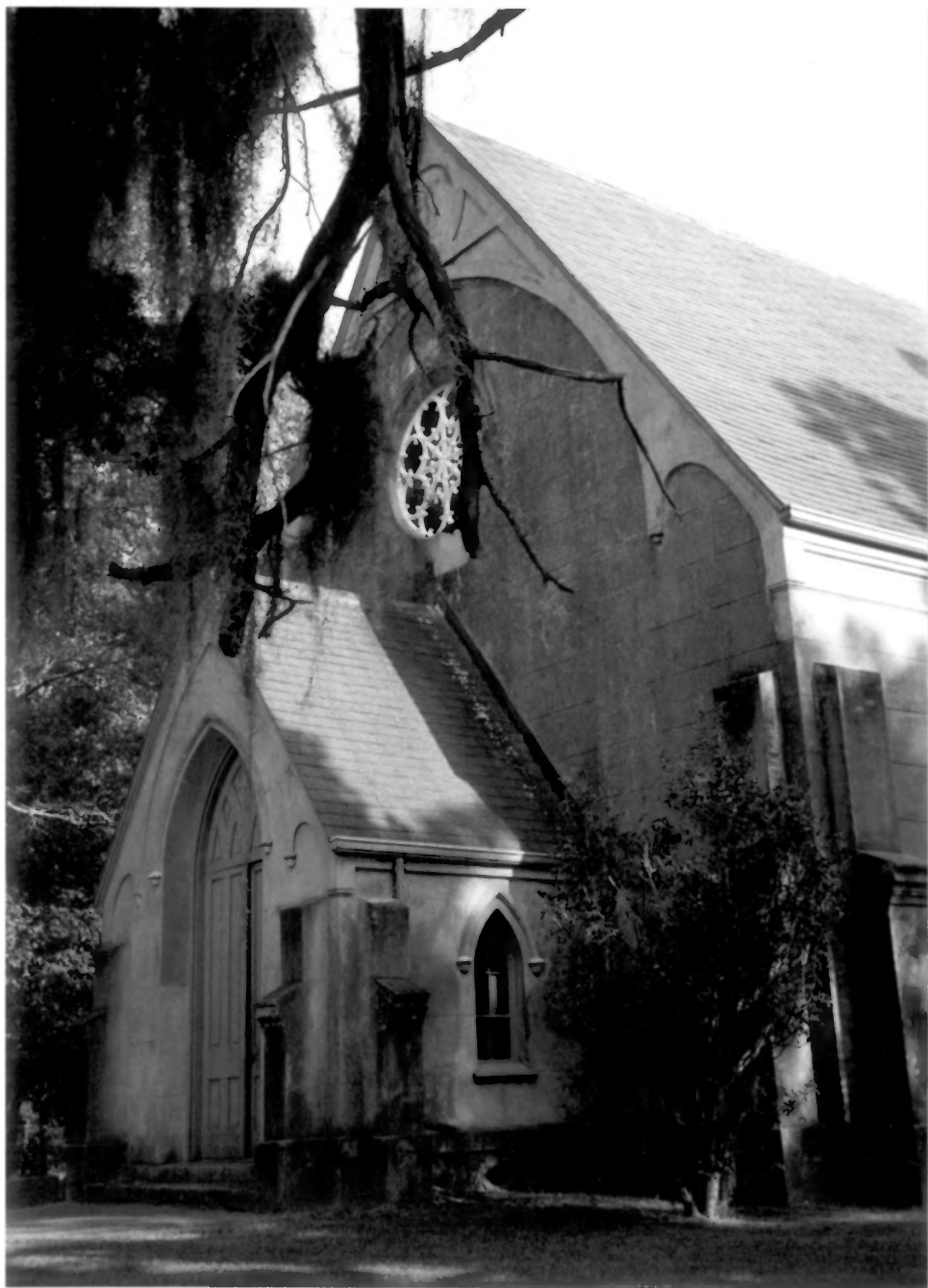


Christ Episcopal Church

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 21 of 41



Christ Episcopal Church
Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 22 of 41



Christ Episcopal Church

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 23 of 41



Christ Episcopal Church (cemetery)

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 24 of 41



Christ Episcopal Church (cemetery)

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 25 of 41



Wagner's Store

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 26 of 41



Lochiel

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 27 of 41



Lochiel

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 28 of 41



Rokeby

Church Hill, Jefferson Co, MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 29 of 41



Ro Keby

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 30 of 41



Wyola h

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 31 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 32 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 33 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 34 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 35 of 41



Wyo lah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 36 of 41



Wyolah
Church Hill, Jefferson Co., Ms

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 37 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 38 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 39 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 40 of 41



Wyolah

Church Hill, Jefferson Co., MS

Church Hill Rural Historic District

Photo 41 of 41