

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Woodland Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mississippi Highway 553

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

☒ VICINITY OF

Fourth

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY

Jefferson

CODE

063

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☒ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☐ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

John E. Mulhearn, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Route 2, Box 175

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

Mississippi 39120

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.Office of the Chancery Clerk
Jefferson County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 145

CITY, TOWN

Fayette

STATE

Mississippi 39069

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

—EXCELLENT
X GOOD
—FAIR

—DETERIORATED
—RUINS
—UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

—UNALTERED
X ALTERED

CHECK ONE

X ORIGINAL SITE
—MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the east side of State Highway 553, approximately four miles south of the community of Church Hill, Mississippi, Woodland Plantation is a 230-acre tract of which less than 100 acres is cultivable because of the hilly terrain typical of the region. Traditionally a hay farm which supplied cattle fodder to local land-owners, the property continues to be planted chiefly in hay, in addition to pecan orchards and numerous live oaks, magnolias, cedars, camellias, and crepe myrtles. A pair of the latter flank what had been the terminus of the driveway opposite the front steps of the house, before it was rerouted in an S-curve through the grounds. Outbuildings include a large barn, tractor shed, workshop, garage, and two tenant houses, all constructed after restoration of the property was begun in 1936. Of much earlier date are a brick cistern house and a brick gable-roof structure of undetermined use adjoining the garage.

Facing southwest on rising ground, the residence at Woodland Plantation is supported on brick piers and foundation walls, its facade stuccoed and the remaining sides clapboarded. The eaves of the gable roof extend beyond two brick chimneys on the southeast elevation and three on the northwest. The original or main block of the house is one-and-one-half stories in height, connected at the rear to flanking one-story wings which replaced an earlier kitchen. Six dormers (three each on the front and rear roof slopes) are also additions; other windows are six-over-six, double-hung sash with louvered blinds.

Exterior architectural embellishment is concentrated in the undercut gallery which spans the facade on six box columns, its perimeter doubly defined by a fan-patterned balustrade and a soffit grille of lancet arches with trefoil stops. The grille was also formerly applied to the eaves on the side elevations in the manner of bargeboards but was removed during restoration. The treatment of the fenestration of the five-bay facade is of classical inspiration, the entrance being flanked by pairs of jib windows and set within a Greek Revival frontispiece of side lights, transom, and pilasters supporting a full entablature.

The first-floor plan of the original block consists of a central hall 15 by 35 feet, with two rooms on each side. The second floor, accessible by an enclosed quarter-turn stairway with winders located at the right of the entrance, was formerly a single space but is now divided into bedrooms, bathrooms, and storage. A sun porch extends across the first floor of the rear elevation, having been enclosed from what was the back gallery, as indicated by an exterior door casing and a jib window still in place. Original interior finish includes plaster medallions centered in the twelve-and-one-half-foot ceilings; door and window openings framed by pilasters and shallow pediments; and panels beneath the windows on the side elevations. The molded architrave with corner blocks surrounding the door leading from the sun porch to the kitchen wing is the only one of its type in the house and may have been retrieved from the demolished kitchen. Paneled sliding doors connect the two nineteen-foot-square parlors, both of which are equipped with wooden mantelpieces carved in the Adamesque manner. These are replacements, but one of the originals is believed to be the wooden model with reeded pilasters, paneled frieze, and richly molded shelf located in one of the tenant houses. The two rooms opposite the parlors feature identical Greek Revival mantelpieces in black and gold marble.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Woodland Plantation, with its antebellum acreage intact, has been for nearly a century and a half a source of visual and historical continuity in the story of the "Maryland Settlement" at Church Hill, Mississippi. The home of a member of the locally prominent Wood family for the three decades preceding the close of the Civil War, the property was relinquished during Reconstruction and for many years thereafter was subject to conditions which typified the region's ruined plantation economy, including physical deterioration and mortgage foreclosure. Derelict by the time of the Great Depression, Woodland Plantation in 1936 became one of the early examples of a major residential restoration in the Natchez area. The plantation house itself is of intrinsic interest as a basically vernacular form incorporating dimensions and detailing normally associated with more stylistic architectural expressions.

The history of the Wood family in Church Hill began in 1812 with the arrival of Colonel James G. Wood (1770-1845), his wife, and children to join the "Maryland Settlement," as the colony of emigrants from the tidewater of that state came to be known. The Wood home was Auburn Hall (nonextant), and family connections resided in the neighborhood at Oakwood (demolished ca. 1965) and The Cedars. Colonel Wood was appointed judge of probate for Jefferson County and by the time of his death had accumulated a sizable estate, one of the executors of which was his son, Robert Young Wood, born in Prince George's County, Maryland, in 1809. In 1837, for \$18,000, Robert Y. Wood purchased a 224-acre tract several miles south of Church Hill from Abner E. Green (Deed Book D:37). (With the exception of six acres which were added in 1858, the purchase constituted Woodland Plantation as it exists today.) In 1839, Robert Y. Wood was married to Virginia P. Smith, born in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in 1819. Local tradition attributes the building of the Woodland Plantation residence to Robert Y. Wood in the two-year interim between the purchase of his property and his marriage, a construction date consistent with the physical evidence. Also, beginning in 1840, the couple's family Bible recorded the births of their children over the years "at Woodland." The configuration of the house is that of a cottage, with chimney shafts penetrating the side eaves of the gable roof which, on the front, shelters an incised or undercut gallery. The unpretentious form is thus an effective foil for the exterior academic features (Greek and Gothic Revival) applied to it, and also seems deceptively out of scale with the imposing spatial volumes it contains.

Robert Y. Wood was forced to sell Woodland Plantation immediately after the Civil War for \$10,000, less than \$3500 of which was paid in cash, with the balance unsecured (Deed Book L:312). He and his wife thereafter lived at

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jefferson County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed books D:37; L:312; HH:588, QQ:184; other county records.

Maddox, Dawn, director, Division of Historic Preservation, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Personal inspection, October 22, 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 230 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Fayette, Miss.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 667000 3503725

B 15 668040 3503640

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 15 668250 3505575

D 15 667250 3505675

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain tract of land lying and being in the said County of Jefferson described and bounded as follows, to-wit:

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Dawn Maddox, Director, Division of Historic Preservation

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

April, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi 39205

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL X

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer B. Williams

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 5, 1978

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

Woodbourne, also in Church Hill, until both died in 1882, but the aftermath of war continued to be felt in connection with the Woodland estate as late as 1906. In that year, Sandy Wood, son of Robert Y. Wood, petitioned the U.S. Court of Claims to award the compensation unsuccessfully sought by his father "for property destroyed and taken by the Federal army during the late Civil War." (Chancery Clerk, Jefferson County, Mississippi. Document 1215: "In Re Estate of Robert Y. Wood deceased: Petition for Letters of Administration. Filed 6/22/06.") Whether or not the claim was awarded was not indicated.

In 1879, Woodland Plantation came into the possession of the trustees of Jefferson College, a preparatory school at Washington, Mississippi, which was chartered by the territorial legislature in 1802 as the first educational institution in Mississippi. During the years of Reconstruction, Jefferson College also acted as a lending institution for the surrounding region, and Woodland Plantation was conveyed to the college when its owner, Mary A. Foster Lloyd, defaulted on a loan of \$2500 (Deed Book HH:588). In 1889 the college sold the property for \$1800 to Mary A. Foster Lloyd's mother, Ann L. Foster (Deed Book QQ:184), who then held title for the second time, the first being in 1866 when she bought Woodland Plantation from Robert Y. Wood. After passing through a series of ownerships, the estate was in ruinous condition when purchased in 1936 by Philip Heath Marble (1890-1965), an engineer and executive with Gulf Oil Corporation in Texas. Marble and his wife undertook a complete restoration of the property, including additions to the house (which was furnished in period pieces) and the construction of a number of service buildings. Their daughter, Phyllis Marble Thomas, sold the property to the present owner in 1974.

In light of accepted preservation practice, certain features of the Marble restoration of the Woodland Plantation residence now appear debatable (the loss of the earlier kitchen wing, for example, and the addition of dormer windows to the main block). Executed before the present philosophy became current, however, the project remains a valid preservation document of its own time, one which made the survival of Robert Y. Wood's Woodland Plantation possible.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Maddox, Dawn, director, Division of Historic Preservation, Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Personal interview with John E. Mulhearn, Jr., October 22, 1977.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9 & 10 PAGE 2

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Continued)

Mulhearn, John E., Jr. Copies of documents pertaining to Woodland Plantation and Wood and Marble families. Donated to Mississippi Department of Archives and History for depositing in Woodland Plantation Statewide Survey File.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description)

Beginning near the red oak which is the South West corner of the Bolton tract on the Northern boundary of the Fletcher tract, thence $22\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. 9 chains along the Public Road, thence S. 41 degrees E. 9 chains along the Public Road aforesaid, thence S. $68\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. 11 chains and 88 links along the said road to William Fauvers line, thence N. $16\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. 6 chains to said Fauvers corner, thence S. $1\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. 9 chains and 64 links to a stake on the edge of the main road, thence N. 12 degrees 5 chains and 54 links along the road to a stake, thence N. 40 degrees W. into the head of a Bayou and down the middle of said Bayou to the Northern boundary of the Fletcher tract, thence S. $83\frac{1}{4}$ degrees W. 17 chains and 80 links to the place of beginning - 41 acres, more or less, reserving an acre for a church, being the same tract of land sold by Samuel Dunbar and wife to James A. McPherson (?). Also all of that other tract of land adjoining the former, bounded as follows: Beginning at the said red oak first mentioned, the corner of the Bolton and Fletcher tracts, and running thence N. 30 minutes W. 77 chains and 46 links to a magnolia, thence N. $88\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. 17 chains and 70 links to a red oak, thence S. $31\frac{1}{2}$ degrees E. 16 chains and 36 links to a Bayou which is the boundary line between the tract now conveyed and that portion of the Bolton tract which was assigned by Commissioners to Gabriel Dunbar as his portion of the real estate of Wm. Dunbar, deceased, thence along the middle of said Bayou to a point where two branches of the same come together, being the beginning point of a tract of land sold to said McPheeters by Doyle and wife, thence along the Eastern branch of said Bayou to the intersection of the same with the Northern boundary of the Fletcher tract, thence Northwestwardly along said line to the place of beginning. The tract of land last mentioned which was assigned by Commissioners to Maria McPheeters as one of the heirs of William Dunbar out of the Bolton tract, containing 157 acres, more or less, including 3.28 acres sold and conveyed by said Doyle and wife to said McPheeters, to-wit: 154 acres assigned to Maria McPheeters and 3.28 acres conveyed by Doyle and wife. Also that other tract of land, adjoining the last mentioned, containing

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 3

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Verbal Boundary Description) (Continued)

26.30 acres, being the same purchased by said McPheeters of Joseph Dunbar and wife, bounded as follows, beginning 10 links South of a red oak corner of the tract last above mentioned, being the South corner, thence N. 42 degrees W. 15 chains and 41 links to a lynn tree, thence N. 45 minutes E. 10 chains and 94 links to a black walnut, thence N. 69 degrees E. 5 chains and 65 links to the middle of a Bayou, thence down the said Bayou N. 10 degrees E. to the intersection of the line of the Bolton tract, on the West, thence S. 30 minutes W. 54 chains and 12 links to the beginning, the last mentioned tract being part of the Patterson tract, purchased of said Joseph Dunbar and wife by said McPheeters, and the said tracts of land herein conveyed being the same described in deed of conveyance from J. A. McPheeters to A. Green of date January 7th., 1836. Also a certain other parcel of land lying in said County and State, and adjoining the above mentioned tract or tracts, described more particularly in a certain deed of conveyance dated March 1st., 1858, from James Archer and wife to said Robert Y. Wood, and containing 6 acres, more or less.

Note: The deed to the 6 acre tract, from Archer and wife to Wood, appears never to have been recorded.

(LOCUST RIDGE)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

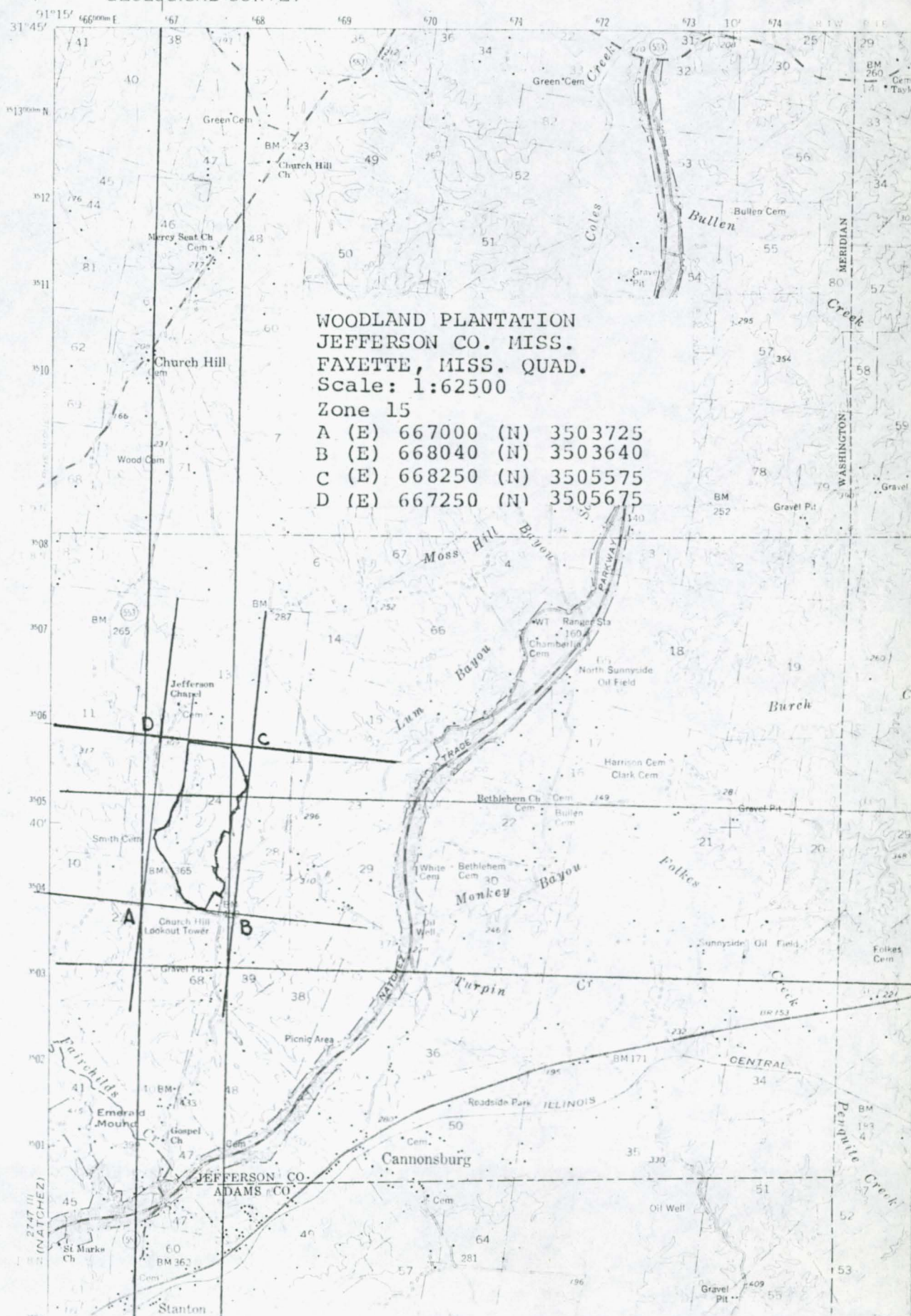




PHOTO NO. 1 - WOODLAND PLANTATION

Vicinity of Church Hill, Jefferson County,
Mississippi

Photographer - Unknown

Date of Photograph - Unknown; prior to 1936

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Facade (southwest) and southeast elevation of
main block; southeast elevation of demolished
kitchen wing. View from southeast.



PHOTO NO. 2 - WOODLAND PLANTATION
Vicinity of Church Hill, Jefferson County,
Mississippi
Dawn Maddox
October, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Facade (southwest) and southeast elevation,
from the south.