

80002259



State of Mississippi
Department of Archives & History
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39201

Historic Sites Survey

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

1-story log dogtrot constructed of split logs with $\frac{1}{2}$ -dovetail corner joinings, foundation of pine blocks. Side facades (north and south) have been weatherboarded, north end of front porch enclosed and weatherboarded. Original doors with handmade latches and mantels in two original pens.

ALTERATIONS:

Stick-and-mud chimneys replaced with brick, shed roof porch added to north east corner of rear facade.

OUTBUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Set in large clearing surrounded by forest.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Gunnell House is architecturally significant as one of three houses in the county originally constructed as a dogtrot, and is the only post-Civil War example. Its split log walls joined with $\frac{1}{2}$ -dovetailed corners are characteristic of folk houses of this period. The house maintains a high level of integrity because it has not been modernized in any way. (Open center hall is presently filled with hay).

Historically the house has been associated with the Gunnell family and is still owned by their descendants. It was constructed by Nicholas R. Gunnell following the Civil War although the adjoining 80 acres were purchased by Nicholas Gunnell (Sr.) in 1825. The Gunnells were early Lawrence Co. settlers in the southwestern section of the county and eventually owned 480 acres in

NAME: Gunnell House

STREET NO:

TOWN/VIC: Topeka

COUNTY: Lawrence

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Melvin Brister, Sr.
ADDRESS Rt. 1, Ruth MS 39662

PRESENT USE: Barn

FORMER USE: residence

DATE: ca. 1868

STYLE: dogtrot

ARCH/BUILDER: Nicholas Gunnell

SOURCE OF DATE: land records

ENVIRONMENT: rural

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL X

STATE

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

CONTINUATION:

this section (1867). Several Gunnell men served in the Confederate Army; Corp. Benjamin H. Gunnell, CoC 33 Miss. Infantry CSA, Corp. William Gunnell, CoC 7 Miss. Infantry CSA, are buried in the family cemetery on the property.

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

Good

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

S6-T5N-R10E

A lot 500' square with house at center .

ACREAGE: less than 5 acres

UTM REF:

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FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jody Cook

April 1980

29



Folk and Vernacular Thematic Resources of
Lawrence County

Lawrence County, Mississippi

Jody Cook, Mississippi Department of Archives
and History

1979

Gunnell House (no. 14)

Photo No. ~~18~~ 20/29

SEP 29 1980

JUN 25 1980