NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

RECEIVED 413
OMB No. 1024-0018
DEC 15 1994
INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." 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 __Old Natchez Trace and Choctaw Agency Site_____

other names/site number _Natchez Trace Section 3P; Old Agency Road; and Choctaw Agency Site (22Md645)

2. Location

street & number __Within city of Ridgeland between I-55 and Livingston Rd. Not for Pub

city or town _Ridgeland_____ vicinity X__
state _Mississippi_____ code MS__ county _Madison_____ code _089
zip code _39157____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _XX_ 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.)

Benjamin Levy 12/13/94
Signature of certifying official Date

National Park Service
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Pool — November 22, 1994

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

Deputy SHPO, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

_X_ entered in the National Register — 2/2/95
___ 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): _____

Signature of Keeper — Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

___ private
_X_ public-local
___ public-State
_X_ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)
___ district
_X_ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
_____	_____	buildings
__2__	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
__2__	__0__	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Transportation	Road Related
Government	Office (Indian Agency)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
Transportation	Road related

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

NA

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation NA
roof NA
walls
other

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

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)

_X__ 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.

_X___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.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

__Exploration/Settlement_____
__Transportation_____
__ARCHEOLOGY_____
____Historic/Aboriginal_____
____Historic/Non-aboriginal___
_____

Period of Significance __1806-1920_____
_____
_____

Significant Dates _1806___
_1811___
_1823___
1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

_____

Cultural Affiliation ____Euro-American_____
____Choctaw Indian_____
_____

Architect/Builder _____NA_____
_____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data
_X_ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
_X_ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other
Name of repository: Miss. Department Archives & History, Jackson, MS
HQ Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, MS

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _47 Acres +/- (16 acres for Agency Site and 31 acres for Old Agency Road

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	__	_____	_____	3	__	_____	_____
2	__	_____	_____	4	__	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lenard E. Brown, Regional Historian

organization SE Regional Office, National Park Serv. date May 17, 1994
Rev. 9/1/94

street & number 75 Spring St. SW telephone (404) 331-5989

city or town Atlanta state GA zip code 30303

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 the SHPO or FPO.)
name

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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Old Natchez Trace and the Choctaw Agency Site are associated geographically and historically. That part of the Old Natchez Trace under consideration runs west from the town of Ridgeland and terminates at Livingston Road. The total distance is about 3.3 miles of which 1.4 miles is within the right-of-way of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Although paved with asphalt and wider than the historic Natchez Trace it is evocative in its surrounding landscape of the narrow road or trail that linked Nashville and Natchez 190 years ago. The road surface is narrow with a width of 30-feet and winds through an area of low undulating hills interspersed with small stream bottom lands as it follows the course of the historic trace. At several points the road is sunken with high earthen banks on each side. In many areas large trees border the road and overhang it creating a canopy effect. In other areas it passes through fields and pastures. Most of these features are included within the overall 60-foot right-of-way. The road also retains the appearance of the rural county roads that were once typical of Mississippi, but now are rapidly disappearing.

The agency site, located on the south side of the Old Trace near the eastern end of the property being nominated, is on a knoll overlooking a small stream bottom. The exact boundaries of the site have not been fully ascertained, but it appears to be mostly within a grove of mature hardwood trees that grew up after the removal of the Weeks House in 1956. Within this grove are located a brick cistern lined with concrete, a large concrete slab (the front porch of the Weeks House), a portion of the lower chimney of the Weeks House, and the sub-surface remains of what appears to be the brick walled and floored basement of the residence of the Agent to the Choctaw Indians that was built in 1811 and used until 1823 when the agency was moved north to another location. The agency house was occupied by private citizens and in 1855 was described as being in a dilapidated state and a portion of it had been pulled down. It is possible that it may have still been standing in 1873--the exact date that it was removed is not known. Sometime after 1873 either W.F. Battley or his son, John Battley, built a new house on the property. The property and the house were last owned by H.L. Weeks who sold it to the United States Government and moved the house to another location in 1956. [1]

The responsibility for widening the trails that linked Natchez with the Choctaw Towns and these towns with the Chickasaw Villages and Nashville to establish a post road was given to the United States Army in 1801. Work progressed slowly and in February 1803 the War Department set out a proposal for the construction of the Natchez Road. It was to be no more than 16-feet wide and not more than eight of the sixteen feet to be cut close to the ground and smoothed for

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[1]. James R. Atkinson, "Archeological Investigations on the 3P Section of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi, 1988, 1989, and 1991" (Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee, Florida, 1992, Offset Printing) 18 and 21.

passengers. The primary object was to "have a comfortable road for horses and foot passengers." In August 1806 the Postmaster-General wrote to President Thomas Jefferson and described the road as follows (only the section that would include the Old Natchez Trace is quoted here):

> From Grindstone Ford about 40 miles toward the Chickasaw Towns at or near Snake Creek. This part of the road has been cut by the military and cleared off for a very considerable width, much greater than is necessary for the public service, but some expenditure will be necessary to clear off the underbrush.[2]

Thus by the time that the Choctaw Agent's house was completed the road in front of it was eight or more feet wide. Presumably it was maintained or improved over the next several decades until it evolved into part of the county road system.

Few specifics are known about the Choctaw Agency and the agent's house. It was apparently of frame or log construction with brick infill added later and may have been two stories. The depiction on an 1821-22 survey map of the Choctaw Cession shows a two-story house. Andrew Jackson notes that Agent Silas Dinsmoor had a large house built and B.L.C. Wailes who worked at the agency in the period from about 1815 to 1821 described it as a very fine structure.[3]

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[2]. Natchez Trace Parkway Survey, 76th Cong., 3rd Sess., 1941, S. Doc. 148. 39-40.

[3]. Atkinson, "Archeological Investigations on 3P Section Natchez Trace Parkway" 38. Sources cited include John S. Bassett, ed., Correspondence of Andrew Jackson, Vol. 3. (Washington, 1928), 421 and Charles Sydnor, A Gentleman of the Old Natchez Region: B.L.C. Wailes (Durham, North Carolina, 1938), 55.

In July 1988 the Choctaw Agency site was tested by Jim Atkinson through the arbitrary placement of three 1 x 1 meter units (see enclosed sketch). The first two units confirmed the presence of the agency in the form of early nineteenth century ceramics and Choctaw Indian pottery, but no structural evidence was encountered. All units were excavated in 10 cm levels. Artifacts found in levels 1 and 2 of Units 1 and 2 were mostly twentieth century. However, early nineteenth century artifacts appeared in greater numbers in levels 3 and 4 and four Choctaw sherds also were found in these two levels. The third unit, however, was placed over the buried remains of what appears to be the brick basement of the agency house. This structural unit is close to the sloping edge of the ridge bordering the old Trace and suggests that it is the main house since outbuildings would have been farther south and away from the road. In contrast to the first two test units, no twentieth century material was found in test unit 3. All the non-Indian artifacts date to the first half of the nineteenth century. Wire nails were totally absent, but 202 cut nails were recovered. Finally Choctaw sherds were found in all of the levels excavated. All levels contained various quantities of well preserved animal bones ranging from 26 in level 1 to 113 in level 6.

The brick wall was encountered 58 cm (22.8") below the ground surface. Made of yellow-tan brick laid in American bond the wall was nine courses deep. At this point a brick floor was discovered 1.18 meters (46.5") below the surface. The presence of early nineteenth century non-Indian material in association with Choctaw ceramics is conclusive evidence of Euro-American and Choctaw interaction, which would be expected at an Indian Agency.[4]

Adjacent to the Agency Site was Site 3P-1 that extends about 70 meters eastward from the Choctaw Agency site. It contains nineteenth century cultural material which may possibly represent activities associated with the main site. It could be the location of slave cabins, outdoor campsites of travelers, or camps of visiting Choctaw Indians.

In 1994 a more extensive archeological investigation was conducted by Mississippi State University under contract with the National Park Service. This work resulted in the following findings. The brick cistern lined with concrete mentioned earlier does not date to the early nineteenth century. However, an unlined cistern that was associated with the Agency house was found just south of the cellar. It measured 15-feet wide and 12-feet deep. The cellar was completely excavated and measures 20 by 9 feet. Other sub-surface remains located this summer was a foundation of what may be a chimney associated with the house and a relatively shallow pit that contains artifacts dating to the

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[4]. Atkinson, "Archeological Investigations on the 3P Section Natchez Trace Parkway" (1992) 21-23 and 36-39.

first third of the nineteenth century. Several items discovered were still whole.

Site integrity is fairly high. Except for cultivation of a garden that caused some disturbance to a depth of 15 cm. and the obvious destruction of above ground features in the years after 1850, the site has suffered few other impacts.[5]

[5]. This update on work completed in the Summer of 1994 was provided through a phone conversation with NPS Archeologist Jim Atkinson on September 6, 1994.

Both Old Natchez Trace and the site of the Choctaw Agency are significant under Criterion A. They were associated with events--the construction of a road from Nashville to Natchez and the operation of an agency for the Choctaws--that made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. Both played a part in the evolving frontier in the Old Southwest between the first and third decades of the nineteenth century. The road also assumed a second role as part of a local transportation route after its primary significance as part of the Natchez Trace. The site of the Choctaw Agency is also important under Criterion D as an archeological resource that is likely to yield information important to the history of the region.

The pre-historic and historic people that occupied the states that were to become Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee developed an extensive system of trails for travel, trade, and war. There were two types of trails: the long arterial paths that linked major population centers and the shorter secondary paths that led to villages, salt licks, or hunting grounds. In reality the longer trails were not designed to connect distant points, rather they were interlocking local paths from village to village. The path that was to become the Natchez Trace was essentially a trail from Nashville or other settlements on the Cumberland River to the Chickasaw Villages which linked up with one of the trails to the Choctaw towns. From there another trail or path led to the villages of the Natchez Indians on the Mississippi River.

Just a few years after the end of the Revolutionary War a flatboat loaded with flour arrived at Natchez. It had been floated down river by a crew of frontiersmen from Fort Pitt. The Spanish Governor of Louisiana could not know that this was the first trickle of what was soon to be a stream of similar craft with agricultural cargo. In 1790 sixty-four flatboats with products from Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Virginia arrived at Natchez. Ten years later the stream had become a flood and in 1808 a visitor to Natchez noted 150 boats enroute to New Orleans tied up at the landing.[1] The men who floated down the rivers to Natchez and New Orleans chose in most cases to return to their homes overland and the route they took to their homes in Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Ohio, and Indiana were the trails that linked Natchez and Nashville. The few travelers in 1790 grew in numbers and by 1810 may have reached 5,000 during the middle months of that year.

In 1798 the Natchez District was transferred from Spain to the United States and the Mississippi Territory created. The new territory was separated from the rest of the nation by 500 miles of wilderness belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw people. Because of the increase in travel between Natchez and the

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[1]. Dawson A. Phelps, "Travel on the Natchez Trace: A Study of its Economic Aspects," The Journal of Mississippi History 25 (July 1953), 157-58.

settled areas of Tennessee and states to the north or east and the desire of the national government to have effective communication between Washington and the new territory it was determined that a post road should be constructed. Work on the Natchez Road began in late 1801 and continued until 1807. The road linked the eastern and western states with the Mississippi Territory as well as serving the many travelers moving north and south along it. Accommodations or stands grew up along its length, many of them operated by members of the two Indian tribes. It is known that travelers found shelter and subsistence at the Choctaw Agency between 1806 and 1822.

The Natchez Trace was used by troops during the War of 1812. Andrew Jackson dispatched the Tennessee militia cavalry under Col. John Coffee down the trace in January 1813 while he and two regiments of volunteer infantry moved down the Cumberland and Mississippi Rivers to Natchez. They rejoined the cavalry corps at Fort Dearborn near Natchez on February 17. Intending to continue on to New Orleans and join Maj. Gen. James Wilkinson, Jackson was ordered to remain at Fort Dearborn and in March was told to disband the expedition and return to Tennessee. Jackson and his men were denied supplies or transport since they had been dismissed from public service. The 500 mile return trip was accomplished with some difficulty and the General who shared all the hardships and privations of his troops earned the nickname, "Old Hickory" for his tough as hickory attitude. The column reached Nashville April 22, 1813, after a march of nearly four weeks. Two years later Jackson led another column up the old trace, this time in triumph after the victory at Chalmette in January 1815. Leaving New Orleans April 6 and Natchez April 22, he arrived in Nashville on May 15.[2]

Because of the development of the Natchez Trace, in 1811 the Agent to the Choctaws, Silas Dinsmoor, moved the agency headquarters from near present day Quitman, Mississippi, to a site adjacent to the road to Natchez. That year the agent's house/agency headquarters was built.[3] Among other responsibilities Dinsmoor was required to determine that travelers passing through the Choctaw Nation display a pass documenting their right to be in the Nation. Late in 1811

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[2]. Rogers Young, "Andrew Jackson's Movements on the Lower Natchez Trace During and After War of 1812," Typescript, Library Natchez Trace Parkway, Tupelo, Miss. (1968) 5-17.

[3]. In July 1994 Jack Elliott, Jr., Mississippi Department of Archives and History, prepared "A Chronology of the Choctaw Agency in Mississippi with Particular Emphasis on Information Relevant to Determining its Various Locations." 4-5. This listing of letters and other written narratives also documents that in December 1815, Choctaw Agent John McKee paid for making brick, the construction of two chimneys and "filling in the walls of the agency house with brick." "Chronology," 7.

the agent delayed Maj. Gen. Andrew Jackson who was traveling to Natchez to obtain some slaves. When requested to produce his pass, Jackson refused. Dinsmoor armed a number of Indians and Whites and demanded that Jackson submit to the law. Jackson armed several of his slaves and the potential for a bloody confrontation was obvious. No blood was shed, but Jackson used his political clout in Washington to remove Dinsmoor from his position as Choctaw Agent in 1813 to be replaced by acting agent Turner Brashear who operated a stand a few miles to the north.[4] Dinsmoor remained in the agency house until September 1815. When he vacated, the new agent, Col. John McKee, who had been appointed in June 1814, moved in. McKee was to serve as agent until 1821. He was replaced by William Ward who occupied the agent's house and headquarters. In 1823 it was relocated to a site near the junction of Robinson Road and the historic Trace. William Ward continued as agent until the agency ceased to operate at the end of 1832.[5]

During the years that the agency was located on the site near Old Agency Road, the Choctaw Agency and the agent were in some ways the equivalent of an embassy to the tribe providing assistance to the Choctaws and maintaining communications. Dinsmoor in his confrontation with Jackson was following the guidelines set forth by the Secretary of War in a letter to him in 1802. Agents were to maintain peace and harmony, detect improper conduct by the Indians or the citizens of the United States, introduce the arts of farming and stock raising, domestic manufactures, and other household arts to produce the blessings attached to a well regulated society. The first two specific instructions in this letter indicated that every person who enters Choctaw Country should have a pass and display it to the agent who will record their names in a book. Failure to have a pass or refusal to produce it was justification to "signify to the Indians that such person having violated the

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[4]. The above description of the confrontation with Jackson based on a draft National Register nomination of Choctaw Agency Site and Old Agency Road, Section 8 prepared by Historical Archeologist Jack Elliott, Jr. of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in 1991. Copies on file at Department of Archives and History in Jackson, Mississippi and at Natchez Trace Parkway headquarters in Tupelo. This nomination has drawn heavily on Elliott's work.

[5]. In 1820 the Choctaws concluded the Treaty of Doaks Stand giving up six million acres of land and agreeing to move west of the Mississippi. It was another ten years before they did move west after concluding a second treaty.

law may be expelled by them from their Nation; but that in driving him out, they must do him no injury or violence."[6]

The agent was to also approve or disapprove requests to establish trading posts or inns on the Trace, distribute annuity payments to the Indians, and serve as postmaster. The Agency house was the dwelling place of the agent and his family and in Dinsmoor's case the land around it became his personal plantation. He owned several slaves and cultivated crops. Agency employees were housed either in the house or nearby. In 1815 paid employees included two weaving instructors, two blacksmiths, and a wheelwright and loommaker. Most of whom were teaching Choctaws present at the agency domestic and industrial arts. With removal of the Choctaw Nation west of the Mississippi River in 1830 the need for an agency to serve the tribe ended. By that date all land held by the several tribes had been ceded to the United States and became open for settlement. The year 1830 is also considered to mark the end of the Natchez Trace as a significant road linking the towns of Nashville and Natchez.

The decrease in significance of the Trace had been taking place for two decades before 1830. By the time the work on the Post Road was complete there had been changes in the mail route. New towns including Franklin and Columbia, Tennessee, Florence, Alabama, and Jackson and Columbus, Mississippi were springing up and demanding mail service. Initially mail routes branched off the Trace, but soon roads linking these new settlements began to be used more by travelers than the original Trace. Often the accommodations in these towns were not only better, but more numerous than those found along the Trace. Because the original road followed ridgelines where the soil was not as attractive for farming, towns and settlements did not develop along its route as quickly. In 1816 the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations ceded their lands south of Gaines Trace and east of the Tombigbee Rivers. In Mississippi the counties of Lowndes and Monroe were carved out of this area. Because communication with either Jackson or Natchez from Columbus, the county seat of Monroe, required a circuitous trip, a new road was constructed. Robinson Road was completed in 1824 reducing the distance from Columbus to Jackson from 260 to 140 miles. Five years earlier the Jackson Military Road, named for Andrew Jackson, had been completed from Columbia, Tennessee, to Columbus, Mississippi. In combination these two roads replaced the Trace as the primary route from Columbia, Tennessee, to Jackson, Mississippi, rejoining the old Trace at Brashears Stand north of Jackson.

In combination with the development of alternative road systems was the introduction of steamboats on the Mississippi. By 1821 there were 61 steamboats operating on the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. Now flatboat men could return to the Ohio Valley by water rather than land. The river became the main artery of

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[6]. Quoted in Atkinson, "Archeological Investigations on 3P Section of Natchez Trace Parkway," (1992) 20.

travel and roads now ran east across the state as well as north and south. Parts of the trace were abandoned and other sections incorporated into county road systems. These county roads were maintained by local residents who worked under the supervision of a road overseer. In the century after 1830 these roads often became sunken by erosion and grading of the road surfaces. Trees grew up to create shady tunnels that the narrow roads passed through. This was the fate of the Natchez Trace that passed in front of the Choctaw Agency.[7]

James Atkinson in his report on archeological investigations for Section 3P of the Natchez Trace Parkway recommends the following additional testing of the Choctaw Agency Site take place:

1. Completely excavate the remainder of the brick basement to determine structural details and its function.
2. Attempt to identify other structures associated with the Agency in order to determine structural layout of the site. This search would be enhanced by a preliminary survey using ground penetrating radar.
3. Determine function of outbuildings and other features that can be located.
4. Determine location of non-structural special use area such as garbage dumps, butchering and meat processing areas, and gardens.
5. Flotation and pollen samples should be collected during the excavations to supplement subsistence data provided by the animal bones found in Test Unit 3.

Results of this work could reveal sufficient data to accurately reconstruct the physical appearance of this historic site.

Recovery of artifacts will:

A. Determine materials associated with the agency and compare them with other backwoods artifact collections including material from Chickasaw Agency and other Indian agencies in the Southeast.
B. Determine degree of complexity of backwoods occupation and compare with similar period investigated habitation sites in and near Natchez or other settled locations.
C. Determine degree of Native American interaction and level of material incorporated into day-to-day operations at the Choctaw Agency.
D. Determine quality of life of agents and families and employees of the Agency.
E. Determine types of medicine used and other medical practices employed.

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[7]. Natchez Trace Parkway Survey (1941) 96-107. Dawson Phelps, "The Robinson Road," Journal of Mississippi History 22 (July 1950), 153-161. Elliott, Draft National Register Nomination for Agency Site and Agency Road, Section 8.

Site 3P-1 should be protected and retained as part of the Choctaw Agency Site. Additional investigations should be conducted in conjunction with those for the Agency site.[8]

[8]. Ibid. 40 and memorandum of August 29, 1994, on research goals for Choctaw Agency Site from Jim Atkinson to Len Brown.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Atkinson, James R. "Archeological Investigations on the 3P Section of the Natchez Trace Parkway in Mississippi, 1988, 1989, 1991." Southeast Archeological Center, National Park Service, Tallahassee, Florida, 1992. Offset Printing.

Elliott, Jack D. Jr. "A Chronology of the Choctaw Agency in Mississippi with Particular Emphasis on Information Relevant to Determining its Various Locations" Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, July 1994. Photocopy.

Elliott, Jack D. Jr. "National Register Nomination of Choctaw Agency Site and Old Agency Road." Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi, 1991. Photocopy.

Phelps, Dawson A. "The Robinson Road," The Journal of Mississippi History 22 (July 1950): 153-161.

Phelps, Dawson A. "Travel on the Natchez Trace: A Study of its Economic Aspects," The Journal of Mississippi History 25 (July 1953): 155-164.

U.S. Congress. Natchez Trace Parkway Survey. 76th Cong., 3rd Sess., S. Doc 148.

Young, Rogers. "Andrew Jackson's Movements on the Lower Natchez Trace During and After War of 1812." Natchez Trace Parkway Library, Tupelo, Mississippi, 1948. Typescript.

Verbal Boundary Description

The segment of the Old Natchez Trace under consideration is within a 60-foot wide right-of-way or 30 feet on either side of the center line of the present Old Agency Road. The center line is indicated on the enclosed USGS map. The site begins at the intersection of Old Agency Road and Livingston Road near the center of Section 28, T7NR1E, and runs east for about 3.3 miles to the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter (SW 1/4 SE 1/4) Section 24 T7NR1E terminating at the bottom of the ramp leading to I-55 overpass. The total acreage is 31 +/-.

The Choctaw Agency Site is located near the eastern end of the nominated portion of the Old Natchez Trace and on the south side of the road. The site is entirely within the right-of-way of the Natchez Trace Parkway. The site boundaries are as follows: Beginning at the intersection of Old Agency Road and the eastern right-of-way boundary of Ballard Road and runs east along the south side of Old Agency Road to the eastern boundary of the National Park Service property then runs south to the north edge of the proposed roadbed of the Parkway and continues along the north side of the proposed roadbed to where it intersects the eastern right-of-way boundary of Ballard Road where it runs north to point of beginning. A total of 16 acres +\-. The corner points of the site are I, L, K, and J on the enclosed portion of the USGS Map.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Old Natchez Trace is the right-of-way which is the road itself and about 15 feet on either side. We are effectively nominating the only part of the road and its immediate environment that can be controlled. This includes the earthen banks on either side of Old Trace and the trees that overhang or enclose it. These two elements evoke or create the historic atmosphere of the Natchez Trace of 1806-1830.

The boundaries of the Agency site includes the effective archeological site and the land immediately adjacent to it. The boundaries are essentially artificial rather than natural. See Boundary Description above.

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UTM References

Beginning at the west end of the portion of Old Natchez Trace being nominated.

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A.	15	763360	3590450
B.	15	763810	3590470
C.	15	764310	3590565
D.	15	764855	3590785
E.	15	765420	3591130
F.	15	765000	3591350
G.	15	766420	3591410
H.	15	766915	3591580

Corner points for Choctaw Agency Site

I.	15	767660	3591620
J.	15	767662	3591480
K.	15	768084	3591420
L.	15	768082	3591616

Eastern end of section of the Old Trace being nominated.

M.	15	768370	3591620

DOCUMENTATION FOR PHOTOGRAPHS

All photographs except # 3 were taken by Dan Brown, Superintendent Natchez Trace Parkway, on March 16, 1994. Original negatives on file at Parkway Headquarters, Tupelo, Mississippi. Description of view set out below.

PHOTO #

1. Old Natchez Trace aka Old Agency Road looking east. Madison County, Mississippi. This portion will be restored to historic condition.

2. Section of Old Natchez Trace looking west. Madison County, Mississippi. Will remain open to vehicular traffic.

3. Choctaw Agency Site as seen from Old Natchez Trace or Old Agency Road prior to 1941. View is looking southeast. Photograph is in photographs following page 121 of Natchez Trace Parkway Survey printed by order of 76th Congress, 3rd Session as Senate Doc. 148. Photographer is unknown. Copy negative in photo files, Parkway Headquarters.

4. Site of Choctaw Agency looking southeast from Old Agency Road. Approximate orientation of the 1941 photograph listed above. Madison County, Mississippi.

5. Site of Choctaw Agency looking north. Old Agency Road is 150 feet north of photo point. Madison County, Mississippi.

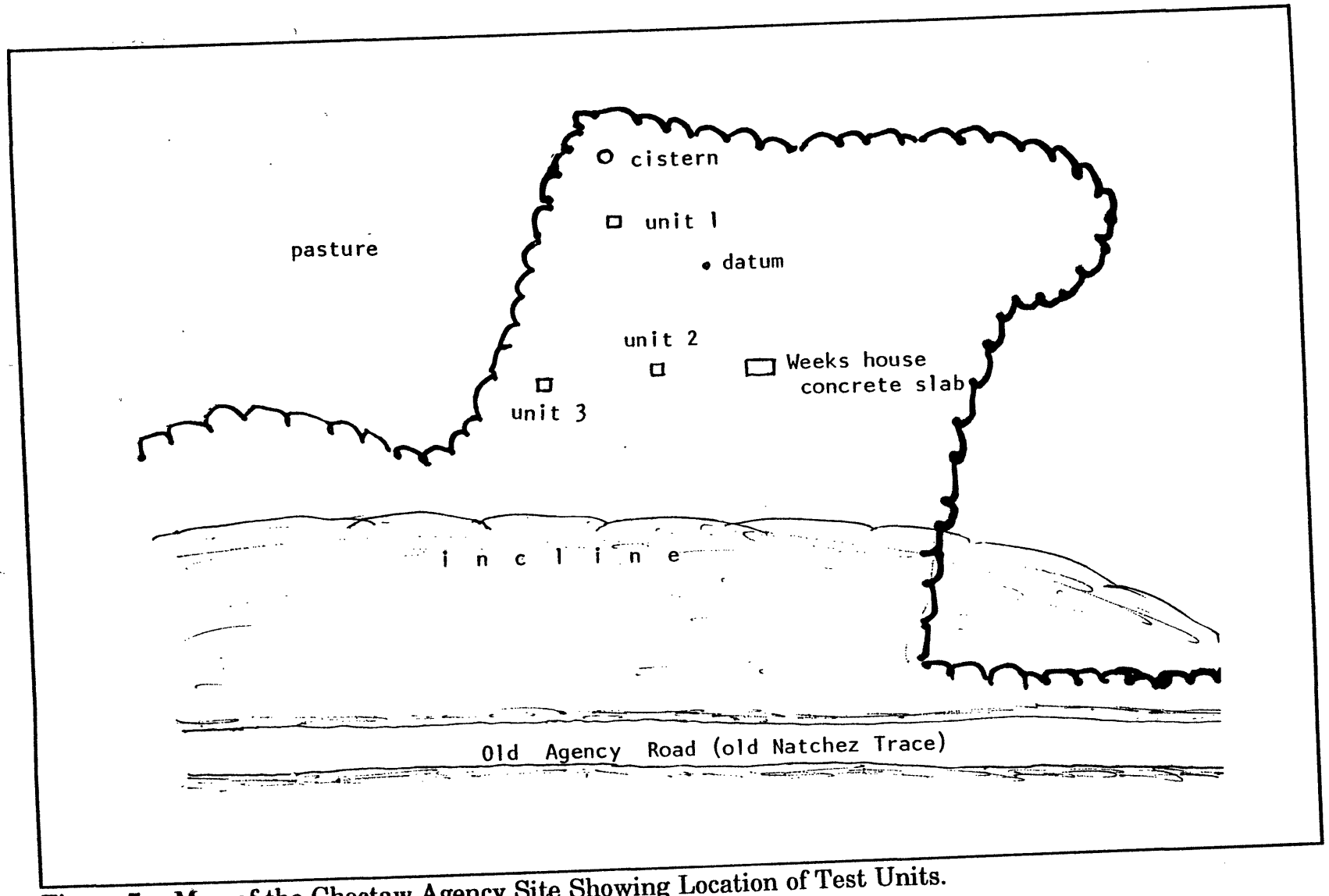

Figure 7. Map of the Choctaw Agency Site Showing Location of Test Units.