

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
MAY 31 1977
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED APR 22 1980

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Plymouth

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

__DISTRICT

__PUBLIC

__OCCUPIED

__AGRICULTURE

__MUSEUM

__BUILDING(S)

__PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

__COMMERCIAL

__PARK

__STRUCTURE

BOTH

__WORK IN PROGRESS

__EDUCATIONAL

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

__ENTERTAINMENT

__RELIGIOUS

__OBJECT

__IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

__GOVERNMENT

__SCIENTIFIC

__BEING CONSIDERED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__INDUSTRIAL

__TRANSPORTATION

__NO

__MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Lock and Dam, Real Estate Project Office

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 2600

(SEE CONTINUATION SHEET)

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Lowndes County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Columbus

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Archaeological Survey and Test Excavations

Alabama and Mississippi

DATE

1974

__FEDERAL STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Plymouth town site, which has been known to the residents of the area since before its incorporation as a town in 1836, was visited by Rucker in 1973 during an archaeological survey [REDACTED] d by Atkinson and Elliot in 1976 during a survey of selected construction areas (Rucker 1974:103) (Atkinson and Elliot 1978:16).

The town site was more or less continuously inhabited from as early as 1780 until its abandonment around 1872 (Prout 1973:34, 37, 63, 64). Culturally speaking, the site is predominantly Anglo-American, with some earlier French and Indian remains.

The boundary of the town [REDACTED] (Prout 1973:1) and was thus arbitrarily drawn and did not follow any natural features or landmarks. As indicated on map 1, the boundary has been extended [REDACTED] purposes of this nomination since Atkinson and Elliot indicate that a house site, cemetery and brick kiln are situated [REDACTED]

There are at least six house sites noted by Atkinson and Elliot. These are evidenced by chimney brick and earthenware ceramic concentrations (1978:25). Prout cites evidence of other house locations in the presence of flowers, shrubs and other plants (1973:83). Two brick kilns are also present [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] topography is rolling hills with a forest cover of mixed hardwoods, cedars and pines. To the immediate [REDACTED] of the site is the black prairie, a relatively flat area of fertile soil which is largely devoid of trees. [REDACTED] of the site the elevation drops off into the Tombigbee floodplain.

Intrusions into the site consist of vandalism in the cemetery in which all but two of the tombstones have been removed. A bulldozer also inadvertently disturbed some of the house sites.

RECEIVED
JUN 4 1979
STATE REGISTER

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

[REDACTED] The area's topography is rolling hills with a forest cover of mixed hardwoods, cedar, and pines. Chimney remnants are evident, as well as a brick kiln and a graveyard.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The extinct town of Plymouth is significant historically because of its importance to the early economy of the state, and archaeologically because of the evidence of in-ground remains which would contribute to an increased understanding of three cultures-- Anglo-American, Indian, and French.

Plymouth is known as the "oldest settlement in northeast Mississippi" (Prout 1973:1). Even before its incorporation as a town in 1836, the locale was of considerable importance: a natural ford there no doubt had much to do with the convergence of several Indian trails at that point (ibid., p. 1); the low water head of navigation [redacted] river was there; the Chickasaw-Choctaw line intersected the river there; and John Pitchlynn and his sons, noted interpreters for the United States in treaty negotiations, lived there from ca. 1780 until around 1830 (ibid., pp. 37, 44).

John Pitchlynn held the land on which the town site is located before giving it to his daughter Rhoda (Mrs. Calvin Howell) sometime before 1830 (ibid., p. 44). A warranty deed was issued on September 27, 1830, to Calvin Howell for all of Section 10, Township 19 North, Range 17 East (ibid., p. 44). In 1830 Calvin Howell also took over from John Pitchlynn the operation of the ferry at Plymouth (ibid., p. 46). It was Howell who later had the town incorporated.

Early white settlers in 1833 reported the existence on the site of a building, which was already ancient at that time [redacted]

[redacted] The two-story building was about twenty feet square. The lower floor had only one door, with a hole on each side, presumably for guns. The upper floor had eight windows, two on each side, with two holes beneath each window (ibid., P. 72). The structure was torn down in 1860 and the timbers used for a bridge and some outbuildings (ibid.).

H. S. Halbert, quoted by Prout, says that the structure was probably a French fort erected there in connection with a trading post established by Iberville. Iberville had promised in 1702 to set up such a facility midway between the Chickasaws and the Choctaws (ibid., p. 73). Another circular embankment is noted [redacted] from the old town of Cotton Gin Port [redacted] It, too, has been linked with a French occupation (Leftwich 1903:363, 365).

At the peak of its development, Plymouth was a shipping and receiving center with stores, hotels, brick yard, wagon shop, cotton warehouse, steamboat landing, silversmith's shop, lawyers' and doctors' offices, school, church, and nine to twelve houses (Prout 1973:66, 67). The town was virtually extinct at the close of the Civil War. A number of factors contributed to its decline: a bridge over the river in 1840, the first railroad in the area in 1861, and the growth of nearby Columbus. It was listed on a state map for the last time in 1872 (ibid., pp. 63, 64).

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leftwich, George J. "Cotton Gin Port and Gaines Trace." In Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society. Vol. 7. Oxford, Miss.: for the Society, 1903.

Prout, W. E. A Historical Documentation of Plymouth, Mississippi. Columbus, Miss.: Mississippi State College for Women, for the Tombigbee River Valley Water Management District, 1973.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

[REDACTED]
C [REDACTED] D [REDACTED]
ZONE EASTING NORTHING ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A [REDACTED]

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

[REDACTED]

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Samuel O. McGahey, Archaeologist

May 19, 1977

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 571

TELEPHONE

(601) 354-6218

CITY OR TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer R. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

May 19, 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

W. Ray Luce

DATE

4/22/80

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

Paul A. Davis

DATE

4/16/80

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Leftwich, George J.

1903 Cotton Gin Port and Gaines Trace. In publications of the Mississippi Historical Society. 7:263-270. Oxford, Miss.

Prout, W. E.

1973 A Historical Documentation of Plymouth, Mississippi. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Mississippi State College for Women. Columbus, Miss.

Rucker, Marc D.

1974 Archaeological Survey and Test Excavations [REDACTED] Alabama and Mississippi. Report submitted to the National Park Service. Mississippi State University.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 4 & 8 PAGE 1

4 - Owner of Property

Mr. Walter D. Prowell, Jr., Box 490, Rogers, Arkansas 72756.
Mrs. Thomas C. Turner, 4104 North Honeysuckle Lane, Jackson, Mississippi.
Mr. Ralph Williamson, P.O. Box 2268, Columbus, Mississippi 39701.
George and Sherry Van Horn, Box 1951, Jackson, Mississippi 39205.
Ralph and Daphne Williamson, Box 2268, Columbus, Mississippi 39701.

8 - Significance

The brick kiln has been located, as have a few chimney remnants and the graveyard. A careful archaeological excavation would yield much useful information about the settlement plan there and the pursuits of the town's inhabitants. If the "old fort" reported in 1833 was actually part of a French trading facility, there is a good possibility that archaeological evidence remains. According to Prout (1973:77), evidences of the fortification are still present at the site.