

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAY 31 1989

NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Oaklandother names/site number Railey House/Mazique House

2. Location

street & number Fronts Lower Woodville Rd./1000 ft. west of its n/a ☐ not for publication
city, town Natchez intersection with White Apple Rd. ☒ vicinity
state Mississippi code MS county Adams code 1 zip code 39120

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

n/aNumber of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pore

Signature of certifying official

May 25, 1989

Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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:)

Andrew Byrum6/29/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof asphalt

other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Oakland is located about three thousand feet west of U.S. Highway 61 South and is accessed by a paved driveway entered from the Old Lower Woodville Road about two thousand feet south of its intersection with the White Apple Village Road. The house is situated on a steep incline overlooking a bayou and Lower Woodville Road to the east. Oakland is a one-and-a-half story frame planter's cottage surmounted by a gabled roof pierced by five interior brick chimneys. The chimneys, like at the nearby National Register property Glen Aubin, are topped with arched brick hoods, one for each flue. The house rests upon a partially raised basement whose openings were originally all filled with vertical wooden bars and batten doors. The basement story has been renovated to function as a garage and recreation room.

Oakland was originally a Federal style house with a nine-bay facade (w-d-w-w-d-w-w-d-w) that was extended to its present fifteen-bay width during the Greek Revival period. Stylistic details indicate that the southern two rooms (w-d-w-w-d-w) were added between 1835 and 1845, since the Grecian mantel pieces installed as part of the renovation match mantel pieces at Cedar Grove and Magnolia Hill in Kingston, both built ca. 1835 and the Greek Revival style was not introduced into the Natchez area until 1833. A full-width gallery, recessed beneath the unbroken slope of the roof, extends the full width of the easterly facade and is supported by turned columns that are linked by a rectangular-sectioned balustrade with round handrail. The facade of the house is finished in horizontal beaded boards with a molded base with single fascia. All window and doorway openings of the facade have molded backbands, doorways are filled with double-leaf, molded four-panel doors, and all windows of the house are filled with nine-over-nine, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds.

The interior floor plan is a single-pile plan, five rooms wide, with "cabinet" rooms enclosing each end of a rear, cross hall. During the 1950's renovation, the house was extended across the rear to enlarge the rear "cabinet" rooms and to

☒ See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Ethnic Heritage: black

Period of Significance

1820-1840

Significant Dates

ca. 1820 & ca. 1835

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Oakland (Railey House) is a picturesque, rambling planter's cottage constructed in the Federal style with later significant Greek Revival additions and embellishments. Its significance is primarily architectural, although it also makes an important contribution to the study of black history due to its association in the pre-Civil War period and from 1891 to 1955 with the remarkable Mazique family, who first came to the Natchez area as slaves and, by the late nineteenth century, had formed a black planting dynasty in southwest Adams County.

Oakland stylistically dates to about 1820, and documentary information supports the stylistic date. The house is distinguished from other Natchez area houses dating to the same period by architectural features, like double-leaf doors and mantel shelf returns, that are more typical of Louisiana than Mississippi. The Greek Revival additions were well executed and created one of the widest front galleries of any Mississippi planter's cottage. Oakland was probably built about 1820, when the property on which it stands was acquired by James and Matilda Railey (Adams County Deed Book L, p. 410). Matilda Green Railey was a descendant of both the prominent Green and Hutchins families who both immigrated to the Natchez area during the English period (1763 to 1779). For a brief time in the 1820's, the Raileys moved to East Feliciana Parish, Louisiana, and sold their property to Matilda Railey's relative Caroline Carson (Deed Book P, p. 669), who sold it back to the Raileys upon their return in 1830 (Deed Book Z, p. 184). The Raileys continued to reside at Oakland until their deaths in the 1860's.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books L, P, Z, QQ, 3F, 7Q.

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Probate Box 126.

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Will Book 3.

Ingraham, Joseph Holt. THE SOUTH-WEST. BY A YANKEE. New York: Harper & Brothers, Cliff-St., 1835.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Adams County, Mississippi, 1870.

☐ See continuation sheet

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:

☐ State historic preservation office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 360 acres more or less

UTM References

A

1	5	6	5	0	7	2	0	3	4	7	6	6	4	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	5	6	5	2	2	6	0	3	4	7	5	5	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	5	6	5	2	3	9	0	3	4	7	6	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	5	6	5	0	6	7	0	3	4	7	5	9	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See attached Adams County tax map with nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on Adams County tax map 211, block 1, parcel 6.

☐ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Oakland Plantation was begun in 1820 and had grown to its present size before the death of James Railey in the 1860's. Few Mississippi plantation complexes dating to the pre-Civil War period retain their original acreage, and including the acreage is important in protecting both the outstanding integrity of setting and the potential for historic archaeology.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Miller Preservation Services

street & number 506 High Street

city or town Natchez

date December 1, 1988

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create a back gallery. However, the original depth of the house is still expressed by the retention of the wooden plate of the back wall. The northern two rooms of the house were the most unchanged during the Grecian remodeling. The southernmost of these two rooms, or what would have been the center room and parlor of the earliest section of the house, features symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with bull's eye corner blocks, molded and fielded four-panel doors, molded chair rail, and a molded baseboard with two fasciae. The northernmost room is similarly trimmed but the window and door surrounds have a simpler molded backband. Both rooms have well detailed Federal style mantel pieces that relate to Louisiana mantel pieces in having chimney breast returns. Walls and ceilings of the original portion of the house were finished in tongue-and-groove boards.

The ca. 1835 enlargement consisted principally of a two-room southern addition and the remodeling of the southernmost room of the original portion of the house to allow it to function as a double parlor with the adjacent room of the addition. The double parlor arrangement is separated by pocket doors, one of which is twice the width of the other, and features Grecian mantel pieces with attached, fluted Doric columns. The Federal mantel piece of the southernmost of the three original rooms was relocated to the end room of the new addition. The moldings used in the later additions are the typical Grecian ovulo and filet moldings of the 1830's and 40's, and the walls and ceilings are finished in plaster.

Two historic outbuildings are located to the rear of the main house. The southernmost building is a two-story brick building with gabled roof and end chimneys that functioned as a kitchen and dairy for the main house during the nineteenth century. Each floor contains two rooms which are separated by a stair hall. The cooking fireplace is located in the eastern first-story room, and the dairy was located in a small brick room that enclosed the western end bay of the one-story shed-roof gallery. The northernmost building, whose nineteenth-century function is unknown, is a one-story, two-room, brick and frame building with L-shaped, stuccoed-brick parapet walls on the northern rear and eastern side elevations. A central

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chimney pierces the shed roof which extends to form a full-width porch to shelter the two-bay facade. All interior millwork dates stylistically to the 1830's. The plantation cemetery is located northwest of the main house.

The integrity of setting at Oakland is intact and the house retains its pre-Civil War acreage.

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The first association of the Mazique slave family with Oakland is found in James Railey's 1860 will, where Railey expresses concern for the disposal of his slaves August and Sarah, whom he wills to his brother in Kentucky so that they will be treated with the kindness they deserve (Will Book 3, p. 153). An 1861 inventory in Railey's probate papers list a family of slaves, headed by August (aged 40) and Sarah (aged 37) Mazique with their seven children (Probate Box 126). Despite Railey's will, the Maziques remained in Adams County, presumably at Oakland or Railey's adjoining China Grove Plantation.

The 1870 Adams County census records August Mazique's birthplace as South Carolina and Sarah's as Virginia, indicating that they, like the majority of Natchez slaves in the nineteenth century, were born in eastern states and later transported to Mississippi. According to Joseph Holt Ingraham in his *THE SOUTH-WEST. BY A YANKEE* (New York: Harper & Brothers, Cliff-St., 1835), "The process of regeneration was too slow, however, and men commenced purchasing, not free men from slave ships, but Africans who were already slaves....The increased demand for slaves led many farmers in Virginia...to turn their attention to raising slaves...for the south-western market (pp. 233-34)."

In 1870, James Railey's China Grove Plantation (600 plus acres) was sold at public auction to settle a family law suit, and, by a mortgage to Wilmer Shields, a white man who managed neighboring Laurel Hill Plantation, the Maziques became the owners (Deed Book QQ, p. 232 and RR, p. 148). The Mazique house on China Grove has been restored and listed in the National Register. In 1891, Alexander Mazique, son of August and Sarah, purchased Oakland (Deed Book 3F, p. 372), where he was born into slavery. Other children of August and Sarah Mazique acquired other plantations and, by 1900, Mazique family members owned approximately a dozen southwest Adams County plantations. The Mazique family owned Oakland Plantation until it was sold to its present owners in 1955 (Deed Book 7Q, p.473).

Oakland possesses a high degree of architectural integrity with twentieth-century alterations limited principally to a rear extension and development of the unfinished attic and basement stories for family use. The integrity of setting is outstanding, two antebellum dependency buildings survive, and the pre-Civil War acreage is intact.

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Photographs

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Oakland
- (2) Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi
- (3) Mary Warren Miller
- (4) November 1988
- (5) Historic Natchez Foundation

Photo 1 -- (6) Looking westerly, the easterly facade

Photo 2 -- (6) Looking southwesterly, the Federal style mantel piece relocated to the southern end room

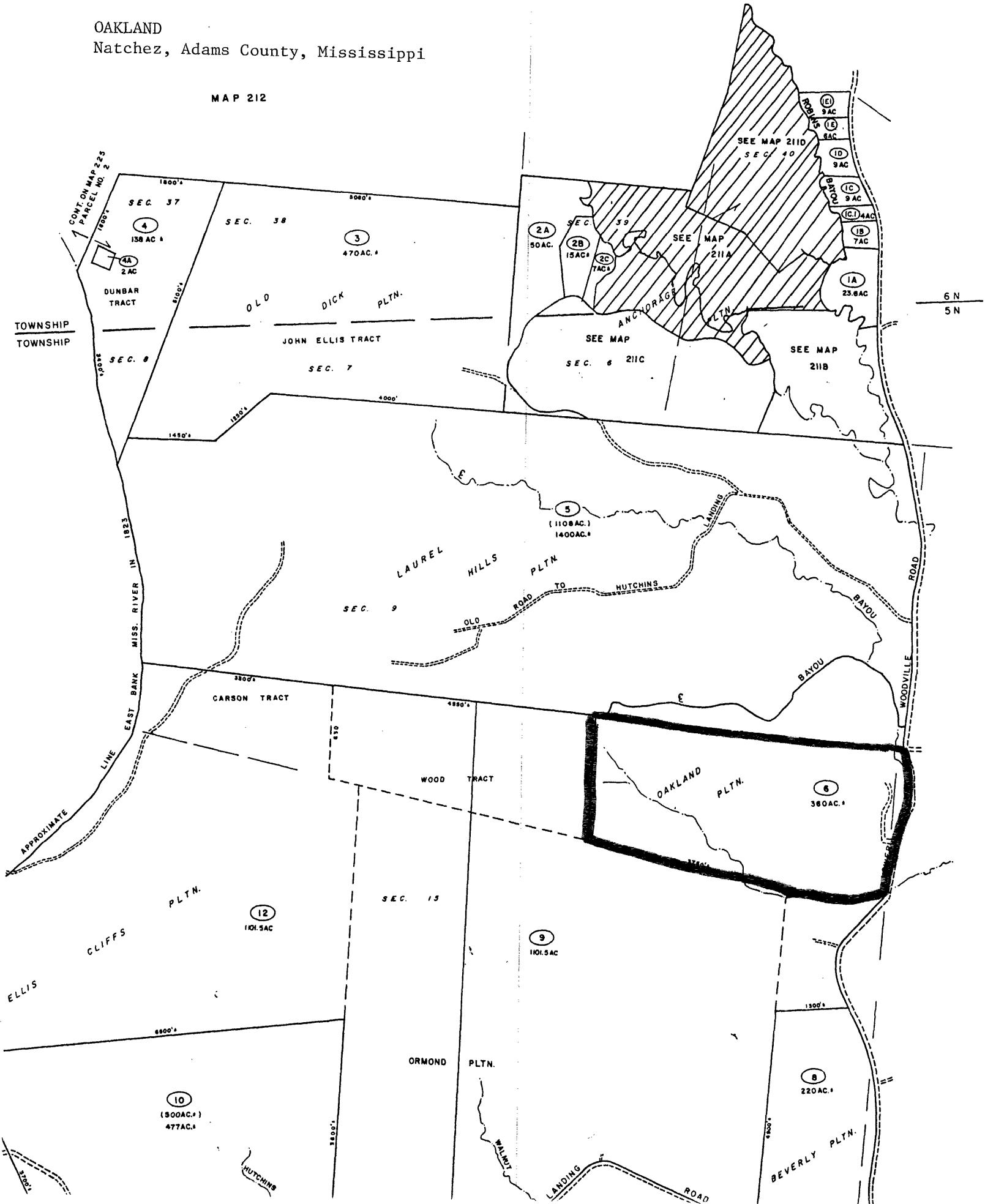
Photo 3 -- (6) Looking westerly, the Greek Revival mantel piece added ca. 1835 in newly created double parlors

Photo 4 -- (6) Looking southeasterly, the northerly facade of the two-story brick dependency

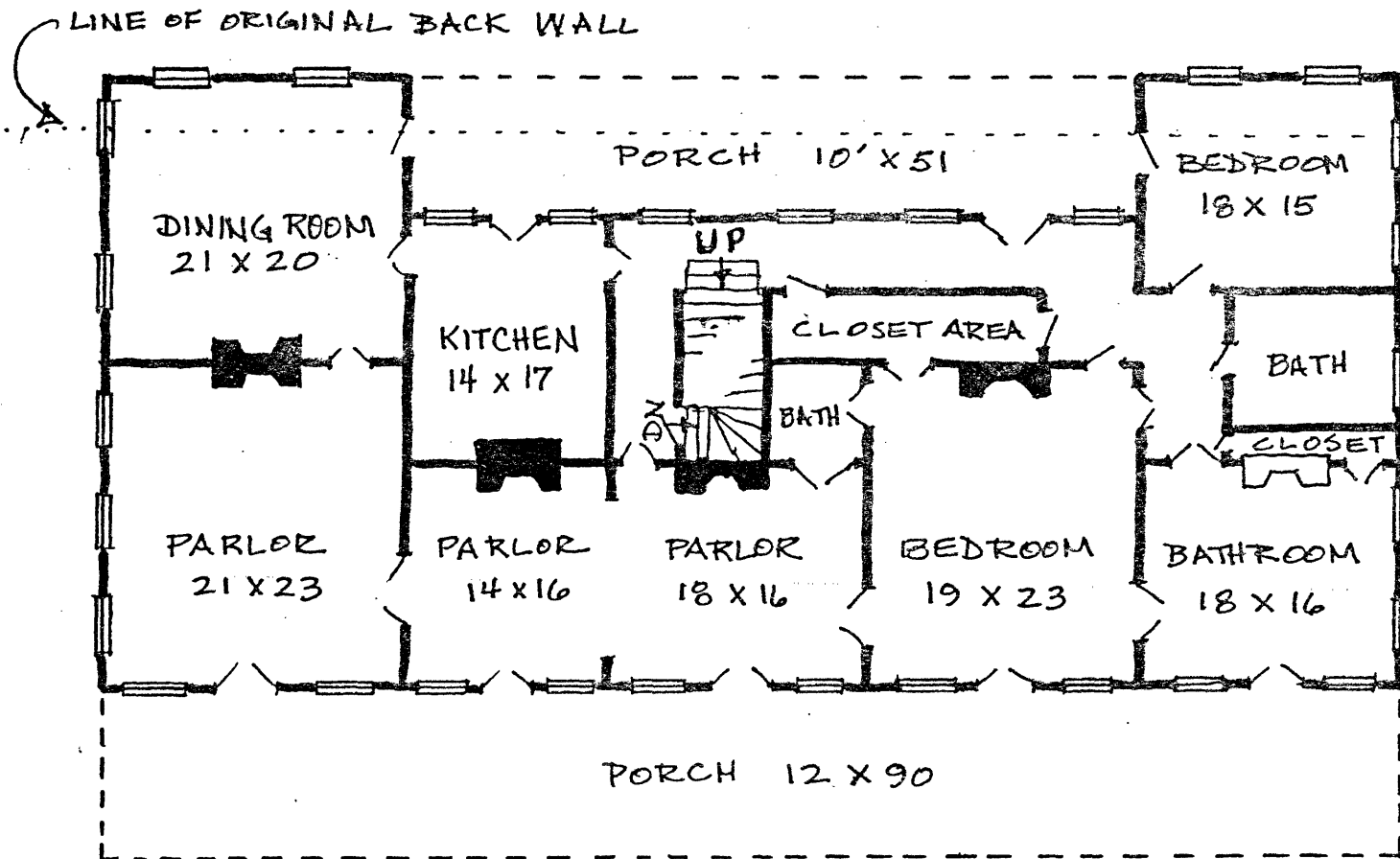
Photo 5 -- (6) Looking southwesterly, the easterly elevation of the one-story stuccoed-brick dependency

OAKLAND
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

MAP 212



OAKLAND
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi



0 4 8 12 16
SCALE IN FEET



Oakland
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi
Photo 1 of 6

ms-1

pg 297



~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

Oakland

Natchez, Adams Co., Miss.

Photo 2 of 5



Oakland

Natchez, Adams Co., Miss.

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Oakland

Natchez, Adams Co., Miss.

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Oakland

Natchez, Adams Co., Miss.

Photo 50 + 5