

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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# 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  
Magnolia Hill

AND/OR COMMON  
Magnolia Hills

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
Kingston

CITY, TOWN  
Natchez

STATE  
Mississippi

\_\_NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Fourth

VICINITY OF

CODE  
28

COUNTY  
Adams

CODE  
1

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. William Carl McGehee

STREET &amp; NUMBER

311 North Pearl Street

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

\_\_ VICINITY OF

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Adams County Courthouse

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

1978

\_\_FEDERAL  STATE \_\_COUNTY \_\_LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE  
Mississippi 39205



# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT                       DETERIORATED  
 GOOD                                 RUINS  
 FAIR                                   UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on a sixty-acre tract in the Kingston community in southeastern Adams County, Magnolia Hill is located east of Kingston Road and is entered from several unmarked county roads. The story-and-a-half rectangular frame building faces west and rests upon low brick foundation piers. With the exception of the facade the exterior walls are clapboard, topped with a gable roof of standing-seam metal. The three brick chimneys are of three different types. On the northern gable is an inside end chimney, on the southern gable is an outside end chimney, and piercing the roof at its peak is an interior chimney. Three gabled dormers containing six-over-six double-hung sash are located on each slope of the roof.

The facade of the house is divided into nine bays, and a gallery the full width of the facade is located under the front slope of the roof. The wooden box columns of the gallery have unmolded capitals and no bases. They replace the tapered turned columns documented in old photographs of the house. The gallery columns are connected by rectangular-sectioned balusters and louvered jalousies that extend halfway from the porch ceiling to the top of the porch railing.

The front wall of the house is plastered and adorned with a wainscot composed of molded panels that match the doorway panels. All windows of the house are composed of six-over-six double-hung sash and are closed with shutter blinds. Access to the interior is provided through three doorways. The doorway of the central bay is set inside a beaded frame and contains double-leaf six-panel molded doors and a six-light transom. The other two doorways, each centered in the three bays of each end, are also set in beaded frames and contain double-leaf three-panel molded doors and no transoms. All door hardware is original.

The downstairs of Magnolia Hill consists of six large rooms, two rooms deep and three rooms wide, and no hallway. The three front rooms contain matching Greek Revival wooden mantels adorned with attached three-quarter fluted Greek Doric columns. The other downstairs mantel and the three upstairs mantels are Greek Revival of wooden construction with plain pilasters. The center front room has two sets of interior double-leaf six-panel molded doors set in molded architraves. One set of doors opens into the front room on the northern end of the house; the other set opens into the center back room. The remaining doors in the house are single-leaf six-panel molded doors framed by a molded architrave. All but one of the interior doors has its original hardware, and many are grained in mahogany or walnut. All the baseboards downstairs are molded and present two fasciae; the upstairs has simple beaded baseboards throughout. All interior walls of the house are plastered and either unpainted or whitewashed.

An unusual feature of the downstairs is the two windows flanking the double-leaf doorway located on the interior wall separating the front and back center rooms. These windows, which match the exterior windows of the house, are an original feature to provide light and ventilation, each center room having only one outside exposure. Also unusual are the original closets, three of which are located downstairs. One closet is accommodated by a deep fireplace wall in the southern front room; the other two are located in the center back room under the two separate staircases.



# 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 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 1834-1840 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Magnolia Hill is a story-and-a-half cottage possessing architectural details representative of both the Federal and Greek Revival styles. The house is typical of residences constructed for planters residing in the rural countryside of Adams County, Mississippi, before the War Between the States. Today, however, the house is outstanding among its counterparts for its remarkable integrity. The bare plaster walls, original hardware, nineteenth-century mahogany graining, fine collection of outbuildings, and unspoiled setting all contribute to make Magnolia Hill one of the best-preserved historic houses in Adams County.

Stylistic and documentary evidence indicates that Magnolia Hill was constructed between 1834 and 1840 for Alexander Boyd,<sup>1</sup> who was born in Wythe County, Virginia, in 1790.<sup>2</sup> After his marriage to Wealthy Thomas, originally from Tennessee, he settled with his wife in the Kingston community southeast of Natchez.<sup>3</sup> Family tradition maintains that Boyd was a physician and that one of the brick outbuildings served as his office and clinic.<sup>4</sup> It is likely that Boyd, like many of the wealthy planters, used his medical practice as a base from which to launch a more lucrative career as a planter.

Alexander Boyd is not listed in the 1830 census as a resident of Mississippi, but in the 1850 census his property is valued at \$23,500 and his occupation is recorded as planter.<sup>5</sup> (Stephen Duncan of Auburn, a physician, was also listed as a planter.) Boyd's will, dated 1857, refers to several plantations that he owned, including one in Louisiana.<sup>6</sup>

Alexander Boyd died in 1866 at Magnolia Hill,<sup>7</sup> and his descendants continued to own the house until 1958.<sup>8</sup> Receipts among Boyd's probate papers document that the house and accompanying plantation were called Magnolia Hill in 1868,<sup>9</sup> but the property is now referred to as Magnolia Hills by Boyd's descendants and the Adams County tax assessor's office.

In 1977 Magnolia Hill was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. William Carl McGehee. The McGehees received the 1977 Mississippi Historical Society Award for their sympathetic restoration of the Dr. Dubs Townhouse in Natchez, a National Register property, and their awareness of proper restoration philosophy assures the future preservation of Magnolia Hill.

## Notes

<sup>1</sup>Adams County, Mississippi, Deed Book R:76.

<sup>2</sup>Boyd Sojourner and Dorothy Sojourner, Route 1, Box 283, Natchez, Mississippi. Information copied from the Boyd family Bible. Mr. Sojourner is the great-grandson of Alexander Boyd.

<sup>3</sup>Boyd Sojourner and Dorothy Sojourner.



## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 8M, R.

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Probate Papers, Box 160.

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

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 60 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Kingston, Mississippi-Louisiana

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:62500

UTM REFERENCES

A 

1,5	6,6,3	8,8,5	3,4	8,0	3,6,5
-----	-------	-------	-----	-----	-------

B 

1,5	6,6,3	8,8,5	3,4	7,9	5,4,0
-----	-------	-------	-----	-----	-------

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

1,5	6,6,3	4,1,0	3,4	7,9	5,4,0
-----	-------	-------	-----	-----	-------

D 

1,5	6,6,3	4,1,0	3,4	8,0	3,6,5
-----	-------	-------	-----	-----	-------

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See attached photocopy of county tax map. Magnolia Hill is located on map 120, block 1, parcel 5.

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

Mary Warren Miller

Research Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Private Consultant

DATE

September 24, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

506 High Street

TELEPHONE

601-442-9786

CITY OR TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

## 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

*Mary Warren Miller*

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE November 1, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 7 & 8 PAGE 1

7 - DESCRIPTION

The stairways are both located on the interior walls of the center back room. One is a closed stair entered from the center back room; the other is open, though originally enclosed, and is entered from the southern back room. Both stairs run from back to front along the wall in a straight flight with quarter-turn winders at the bottom.

Upstairs are three large bedrooms. The northern stairway terminates in a short narrow hall that connects the middle and northern bedrooms. The southern staircase terminates in a dormer vestibule area that opens into the southern bedroom. The southern and middle bedrooms are connected by a doorway. All three rooms are lighted by two dormers each, and the end rooms are provided with additional light from two windows at each gable end of the house. The southern room is served by two closets, one of which has its original peg hangers.

At the rear of the house, the slope of the roof is broken over a back gallery extending the full width of the seven-bay wall. A small enclosure has been made at either end of the gallery to provide space for a pantry and bathroom. The columns across the back are original to the house, if not to the back gallery. The tapered turned columns have been cut and set upon wooden blocks and are connected by balusters.

Six outbuildings are included in the Magnolia Hill property. A frame gable-roof building that was originally the plantation schoolhouse was moved from its original location and placed, facing south, just to the rear of the main house on the northern end. This building was relocated to provide a more conveniently placed kitchen. On the southern side of the house is a small stuccoed brick cistern house. To the southeast is the original stuccoed brick kitchen building consisting of two rooms with a privy shed attached to the southern wall. To the south of the kitchen building is the original carriage house with strap-hinged doors. Behind the main house in an easterly direction is another stuccoed brick building believed to have been used by Alexander Boyd as a clinic. The sixth building is a frame double-room house located a quarter mile from the main house and believed to have been a slave dwelling.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

<sup>4</sup> Charles Bailey, the last of Alexander Boyd's descendants to occupy Magnolia Hill, related this information to Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Stephens, 9 Fatherland Road, Natchez, Mississippi. Mr. and Mrs. Stephens purchased Magnolia Hill from Mr. Bailey in 1958.

<sup>5</sup> United States Census Records for Mississippi, 1830 and 1850.

<sup>6</sup> Adams County, Mississippi, Will Book 3:285.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 2

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

- <sup>7</sup> Adams County, Mississippi, Probate Papers, Box 160.
- <sup>8</sup> Adams County, Mississippi, Deed Book 8M:516.
- <sup>9</sup> Adams County, Mississippi, Probate Papers, Box 160.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Bailey, Charles. Family history related by Bailey, last descendant of Alexander Boyd to reside at Magnolia Hill, to Mr. and Mrs. V. J. Stephens, 9 Fatherland Road, Natchez, Mississippi. (The Stephens purchased Magnolia Hill from Bailey in 1958.)
- Sojourner, Boyd, and Sojourner, Dorothy. Route 1, Box 283, Natchez, Mississippi. Information copied from the Boyd family Bible. (Mr. Sojourner is a great-grandson of Alexander Boyd.)
- United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Adams County, Mississippi, 1830, 1850.



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CONTINUATION SHEET Magnolia Hill

ITEM NUMBER 7,8, 10 PAGE

7. Magnolia Hill was a working plantation, and the present sixty-acre tract is all that remains of what was once a plantation of several hundred acres. Presently, the sixty acres is being used for agricultural purposes. Most of the land adjacent to the nominated sixty-acre tract is still owned by descendants of Alexander Boyd, for whom Magnolia Hill was constructed, and it is also used for agricultural purposes.
8. Magnolia Hill does possess agricultural significance in terms of its having been a working antebellum plantation, but I did not think of its plantation use as constituting agricultural significance in terms of a National Register area of significance. As stated in answer to item seven, the land is today still used for agricultural purposes. Of the original six outbuildings, all are basically unchanged except the school house, which was moved to the rear of the main house. The buildings are no longer used for their original purposes; they are not used at all except for storage of farm equipment and supplies. Note in the last paragraph of the physical description that the frame house, believed to have been a slave dwelling, is located a quarter mile from the main house.
10. Much of the significance of Magnolia Hill rests in its integrity of setting as well as architectural detail (note the first paragraph of the statement of significance and the submitted photographs). Although the acreage of the original Magnolia Hill plantation has been divided among heirs and other owners, most of the entire tract is still under cultivation or is being used for the grazing of cattle. Nominating the sixty-acre tract is necessary to protect, even to a much lesser degree, some of this integrity of setting. The house sits upon a rise, and its vistas exceed the sixty nominated acres.

LOT 2

LOT 3

1057.4'

1560'

5  
60.2 AC

4  
150 AC

PLANTATION ROAD

H I L L S

SEC.

M A G N O L I A

8  
100 AC

LOT 4

1258'

351.83

146.9'

55.2'

134.6'

291.2'

805.10'

326.5'

99'

336'

197.4'

347.69'

148.06'

1150'

2440'

Magnolia Hill  
map 120  
Block 1  
Parcel 5  
(1346)



KINGSTON QUADRANGLE

MISSISSIPPI-LOUISIANA

15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

663

210 000 FEET (MISS.)

R. 1 W. 91°15'

31°30'

MAGNOLIA HILL  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

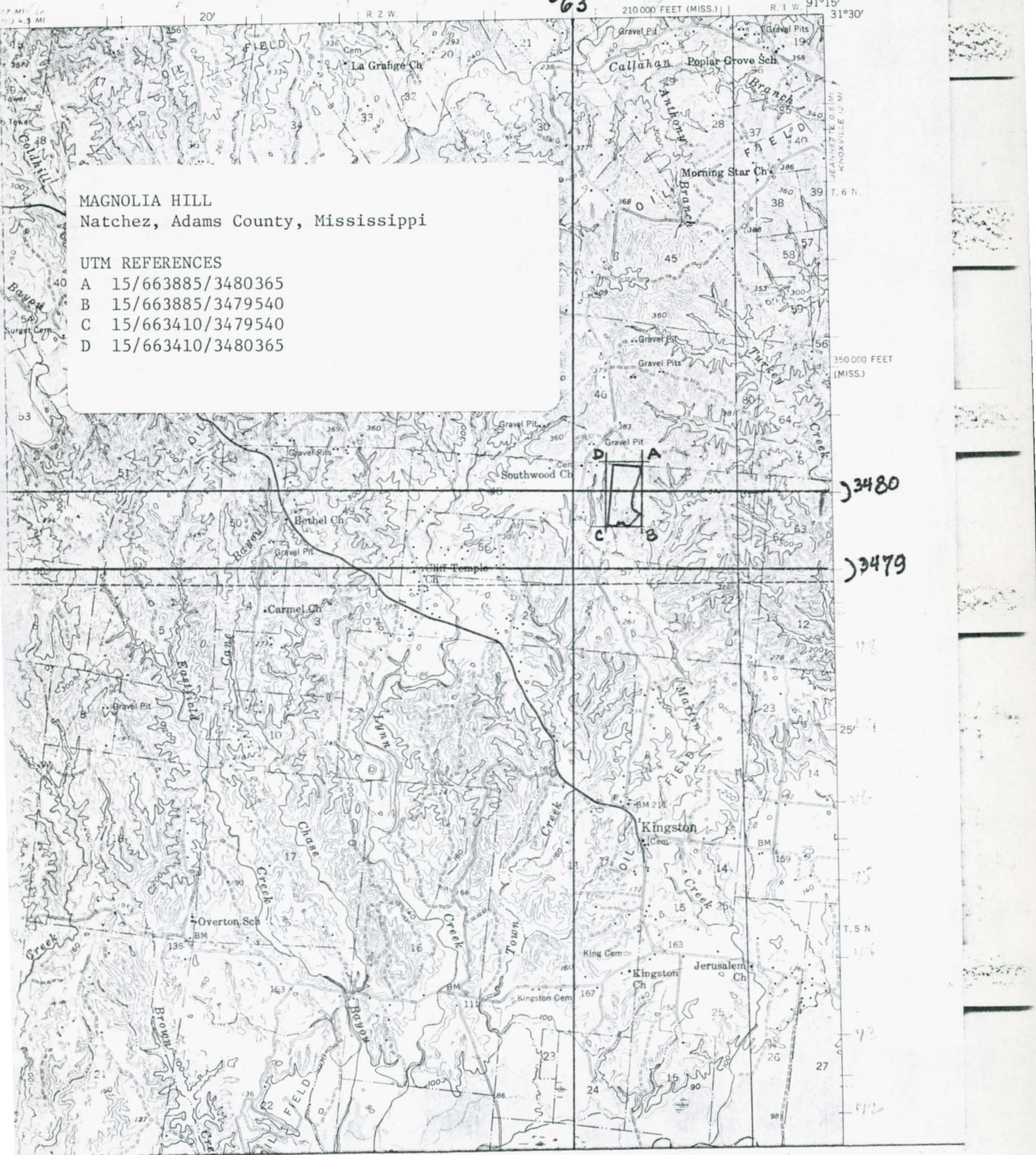
UTM REFERENCES

- A 15/663885/3480365
- B 15/663885/3479540
- C 15/663410/3479540
- D 15/663410/3480365



3480

3479









MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Unknown

Unknown

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Facade (west elevation), showing earlier  
turned columns; looking east.

Photo 1 of 8







MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September 23, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Facade (west) and north elevations, looking  
southeast.

Photo 2 of 8







MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September 23, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mantelpiece and door in southerly wall of  
center front room, looking south.

Photo 3 of 8







MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September 23, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mantelpiece and door in northerly wall of  
southerly front room, looking northeast.

Photo 4 of 8















MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

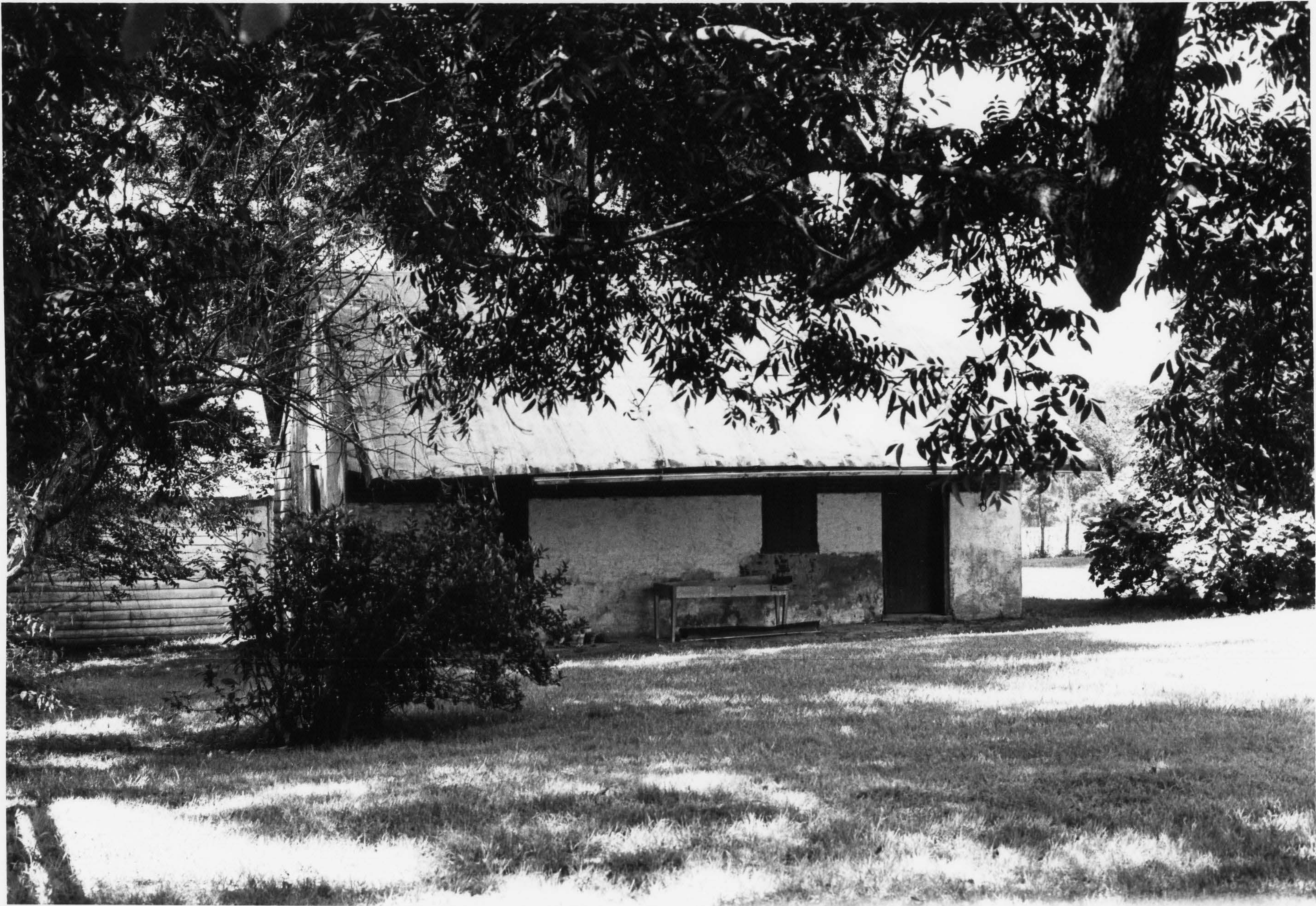
September 23, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Facade (south elevation) of carriage house  
(left) and rear (west elevation) of kitchen  
building with attached privy shed (right),  
looking northeast.

Photo 6 of 8







MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

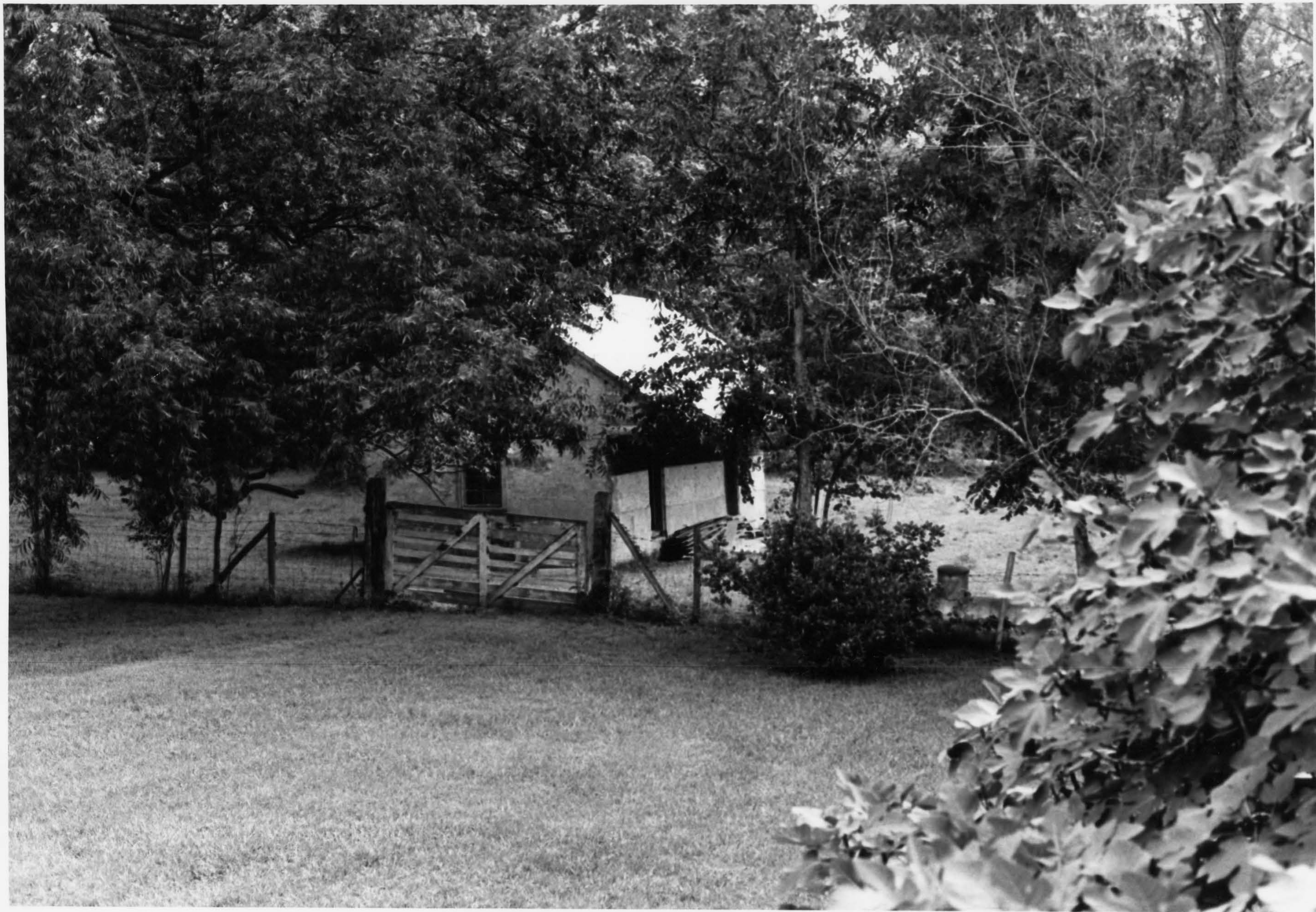
September 23, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Facade (north elevation) of kitchen building,  
looking southwest.

Photo 7 of 8







MAGNOLIA HILL

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

September 23, 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

West and south elevations of brick building  
used as clinic, looking northeast.

Photo 8 of 8