

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received **MAR 6 1987**  
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Smithland

and or common Smithland

**2. Location**

street & number About one mile south of the Kingston-Hutchins Landing Road about three miles east of its intersection with U. S. Highway 61 South na not for publication

city, town Natchez ☒ vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 001

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mr. George Tarver

street & number Route 3, Box 261

city, town Natchez ☒ vicinity of Mississippi 39120

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Adams County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Natchez state Mississippi 39120

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title NA has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>NA</u>

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

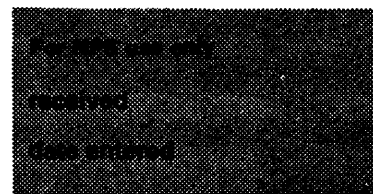
Smithland Plantation is located approximately one mile south of the Kingston-Hutchins Landing Road about three miles east of its intersection with U.S. Highway 61 South. The house is situated on a picturesque elevation at the end of a graveled road entered from the Kingston-Hutchins Landing Road and designated by a sign reading Sligo Plantation, the name of an adjoining plantation.

Smithland is a two-story, frame plantation dwelling that was probably constructed ca. 1815-17 as a Federal style I-house and was remodeled ca. 1845 in the Greek Revival style. The house rests upon a combination of original wooden stumps and later brick and concrete piers and is surmounted by a gabled roof pierced on the rear slope by two interior brick chimneys. The western facade is fronted by a double-tiered gallery that is recessed under the front slope of the roof and is a product of the ca. 1845 remodeling of the original I-house form. The gallery is supported by wooden box columns that are echoed on the ends of the first-story facade by pilasters. The upper and lower galleries are railed by a balustrade of slightly tapered, rectangular-sectioned balusters with molded handrail. The seven-bay first-story facade is finished in scored plaster and features a molded baseboard with two fascias. The windows and doorways have surrounds that are shouldered, battered, and molded with the window surrounds extending to floor level to create an unusual molded plaster panel beneath the window sill. The center-bay entrance doorway, which is flanked by a three-bay arrangement of a secondary entrance flanked by windows, has a single-leaf, molded, four-panel door framed by attached box columns that separate the transom from the sidelights over molded panels. Secondary entrances are filled with single-leaf, molded, four-panel doors set beneath transoms. All three doors of the entrance doorways retain their original oak graining. The five-bay second-story facade, which was originally unprotected by a gallery, is finished in lap siding and features a center-bay transomed doorway that was created from a window as part of the Greek Revival remodeling. All windows of the house are filled with nine-over-six, double-hung sash and some are closed by original shutter blinds.

Smithland features a double-pile plan with central hallway that is divided midway by an elliptical arch with keystone. The Greek Revival remodeling of ca. 1845 is evident in the interior trim of the hallway and the front two rooms of the house where window and door surrounds are shouldered, battered, and molded and the mantel pieces have pilasters supporting full molded entablatures. The mantel piece of the northernmost front room retains its original decorative painting in imitation of marble. Interior doors, like the three entrance doors, retain their original oak graining. The graining is unusual with the ornamental painter having subtly integrated faces and figures into the panels of the doors. The two, first-story rear rooms retain some original ca. 1815-17 Federal style millwork with well detailed, gouged-carved mantel pieces. A punkah, suspended from the ceiling of the northernmost rear room, is probably a late nineteenth-century addition.

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Continuation sheet

1

Item number

7

Page

1

The stairway to the upper story is entered at the rear of the hallway and extends along the southerly hall wall in a single straight flight to terminate in a second-story hallway. The stairway features a turned newel and rectangular-sectioned balusters. The second-story contains two bedrooms, a hallway, and a large, under-eave, finished storage room. The Federal style character of the upper story is intact and includes well detailed mantel pieces, doors, chair rails, and beaded bases. Architectural ghosts document the chair rail of the upper story as an original feature of the first story that was removed during the Greek Revival remodeling.

Extending from the rear, or eastern, elevation of the house is a one-story, gabled-roof, Greek Revival addition whose roof ridge is perpendicular to the roof ridge of the main house. The gabled roof of the wing is pierced by one interior brick chimney and shelters a breezeway that separates the rear hallway of the main house from the single large room of the wing. According to family tradition, this Greek Revival rear wing was used as a plantation hospital.

Two antebellum outbuildings survive and are located in close proximity to the main house. Just south of the house is a one-story frame outbuilding with gabled roof and central brick chimney whose two rooms were originally used as the plantation school room and the dairy. Although in deteriorated condition, the dairy room is significant in the retention of its brick troughs. Southeast of the main house is the original carriage house with gabled roof and decorative scalloped vergeboard.

The integrity of Smithland and its outbuildings is outstanding. Restoration of the house is underway, and the respect shown by the Tarver family for the original features of the house should ensure a sympathetic restoration.

Total Contributing elements

3 Buildings

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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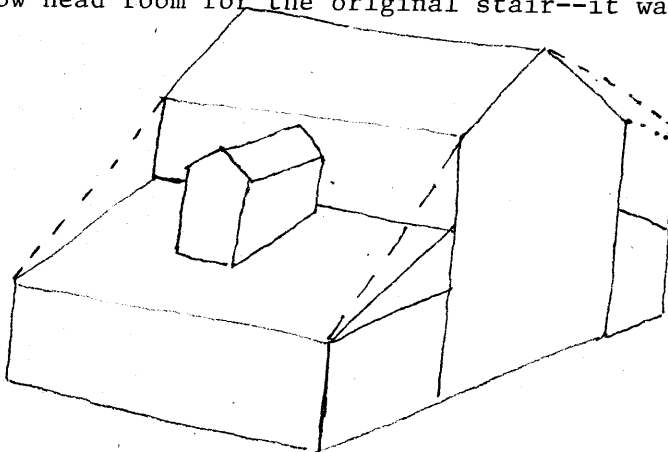
Smithland

Continuation sheet Natchez, Adams Co., Miss.

Item number 7

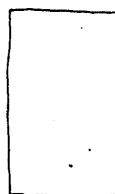
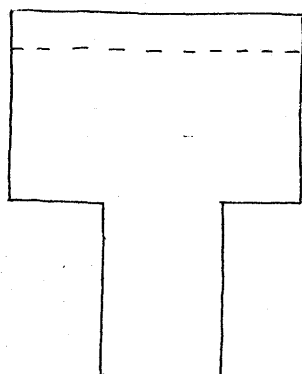
Page 3

Drawing of Smithland as constructed ca. 1815-17; broken red lines show changes that occurred ca. 1845 when the house was remodeled. The dormer on the rear slope was a box to allow head room for the original stair--it was removed but the evidence for its existence survives in the rear eave space.



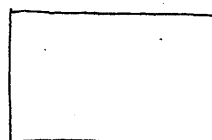
Site plan for Smithland showing the relationship of the main house to the outbuildings which are in close proximity to the main residence.

North ←



dairy and school house

carriage house



## 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** ca. 1815–17; **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)** ☐ remodeled ca. 1845

Smithland is the only extant building with Federal style detailing in the plantation community of Kingston. Located about twelve miles southeast of Natchez, Kingston was settled in 1772 by families from New Jersey and is often locally referred to as the Old Jersey Settlement (J.F.H. Claiborne, MISSISSIPPI AS A PROVINCE, TERRITORY AND STATE [1880; reprint ed., Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1978], p. 107). Of the dozen extant historic buildings in the community, all but Smithland were built during the Greek Revival period, or were so extensively altered as to exhibit no characteristics of the Federal style. Smithland also derives significance from its original I-house form which was altered during a later Greek Revival remodeling. The I-house form was rarely employed in Adams County, which has only one other extant example.

Smithland was probably constructed ca. 1815–17 as the residence of Benijah Smith on the western portion of land acquired by his father Calvin Smith in the late eighteenth century (Adams County Deed Book V:159). In 1834, Smithland Plantation was sold to John H. Thorn (Deed Book V:159), whose descendants still occupy the house. About 1845, the house underwent a major enlargement and significant Greek Revival remodeling that gave the house its present appearance, but the Federal character of the rear first-story rooms and the upper story rooms remained intact. Among the significant unusual architectural features of Smithland are the plaster panels beneath the windows of the facade and the fine gouge-carved mantel pieces from the Federal period, including one with a leaf motif not known to exist elsewhere in Adams County. The Greek Revival alterations are well executed and include an unusual rear addition linked to the main house by an open breezeway. This large, single-room addition was always referred to as the plantation hospital by older members of the family. The integrity of Smithland is outstanding and includes significant decorative painting including oak-grained doors and a marbled mantel piece. The graining is unusual with the ornamental painter having subtly integrated faces and figures into the panels of the doors. Although the George Tarver family owns the house and only 5.8 acres immediately surrounding it, other family members own adjoining property and together they have been successful in maintaining the significant unspoiled plantation setting.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams County. Office of the Chancery Clerk. Deed Book V.

Claiborne, J.F.H. MISSISSIPPI AS A PROVINCE, TERRITORY AND STATE. 1880 reprint ed.  
Spartanburg, South Carolina: The Reprint Company, 1978.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 5.8

Quadrangle name Kingston, Miss.--La.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UTM References

A 

1	5
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6	5	6	5	5	0
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3	4	7	3	1	5	0
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Zone

Easting

Northing

B 

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Zone

Easting

Northing

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Adams County Tax Map 125, block 1, parcel 4A, as shown on attached map.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
NA			

state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date December 1, 1985

street & number P.O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

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

Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date March 2, 1987

### For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date

4/2/87

for  
Keeper of the National Register

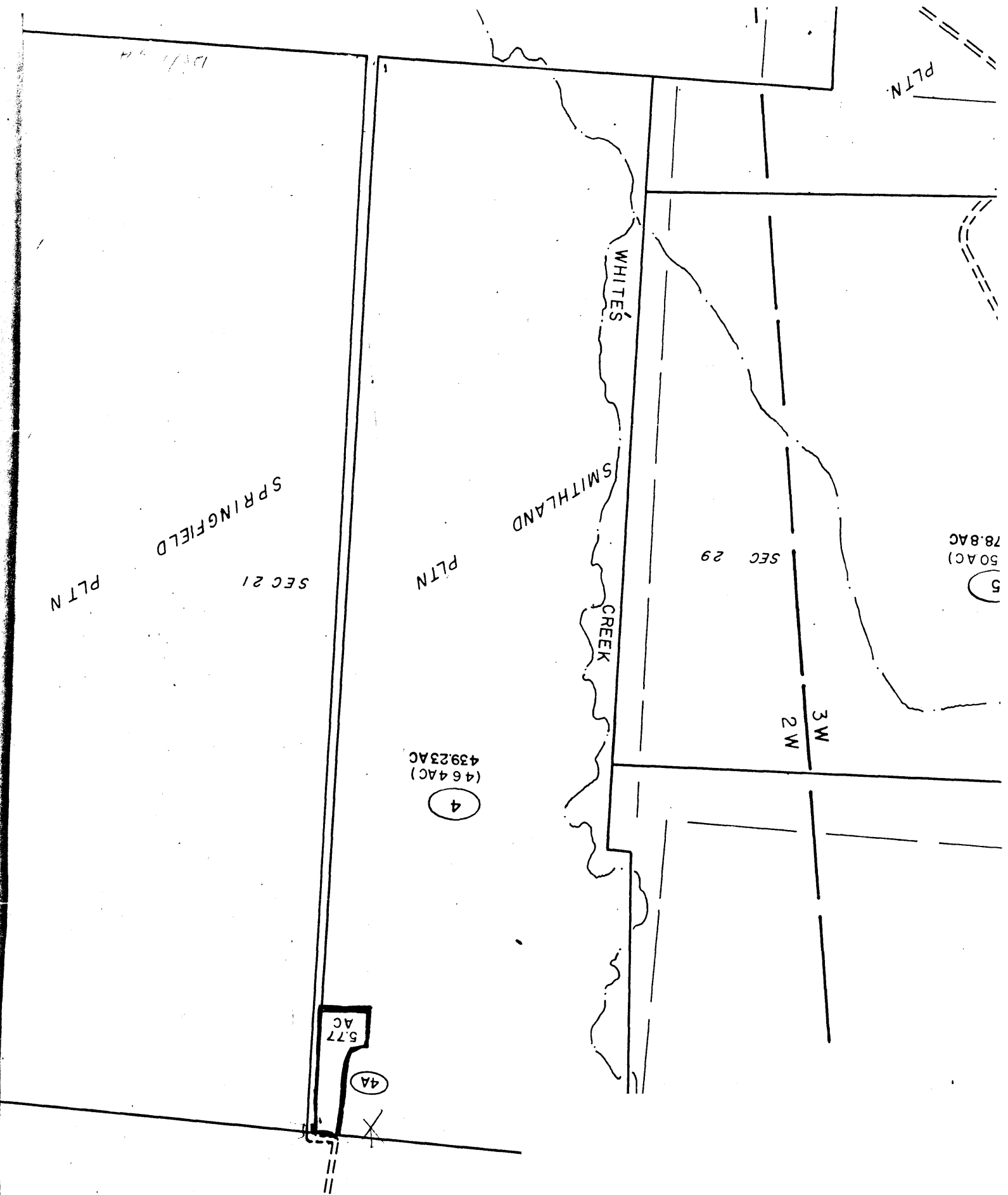
Attest:

date

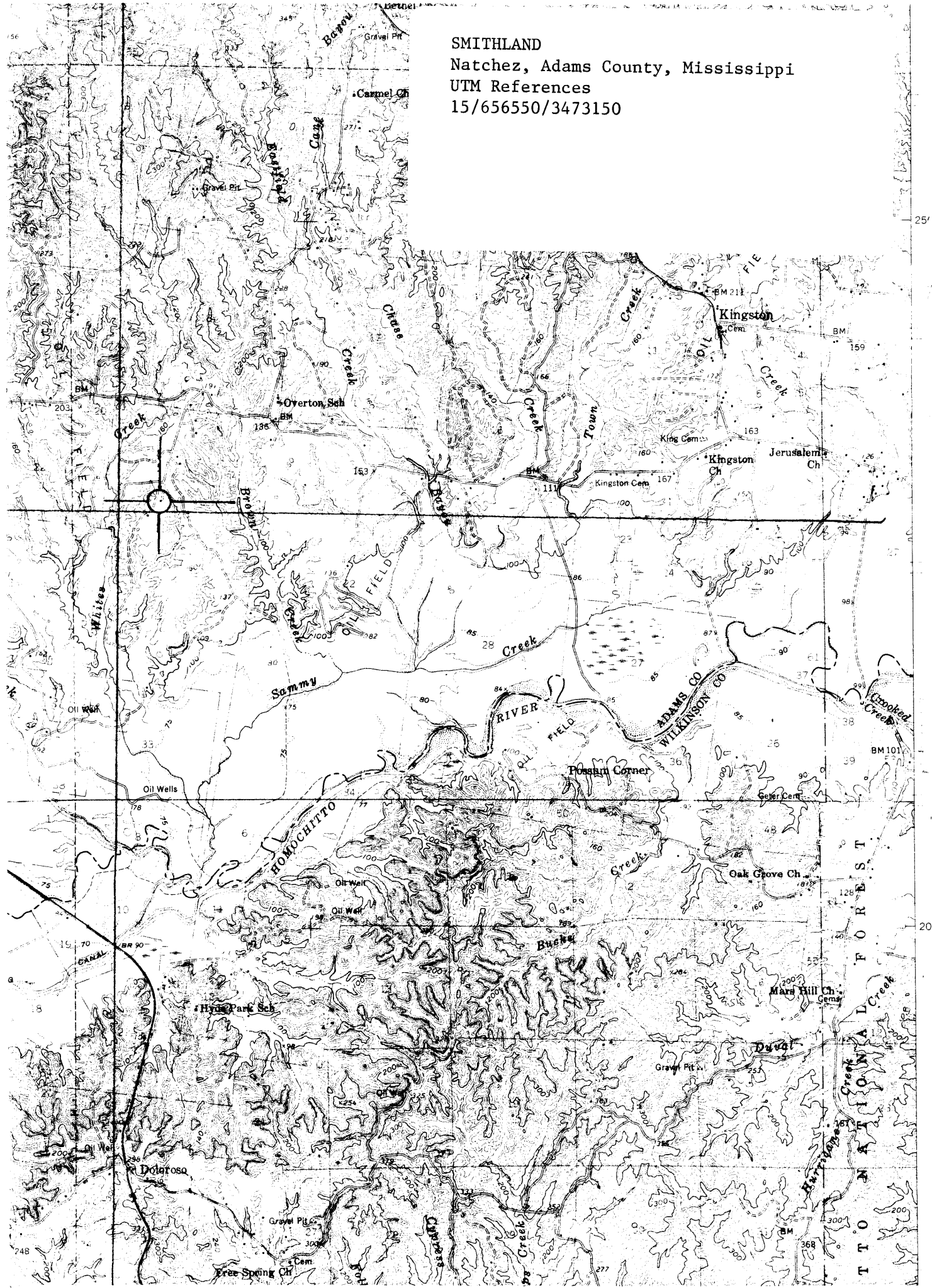
Chief of Registration

SMITHLAND

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi  
Adams County Tax Map 125, block 1,  
parcel 4A



SMITHLAND  
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi  
UTM References  
15/656550/3473150







SMITHLAND

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

East (main) facade, view to northwest

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez

Foundation

1985

Photo 1 of 5



SMITHLAND

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

West (rear)elevation, view to south-  
east

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez  
Foundation

1985

Photo 2 of 5





SMITHLAND

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Center hall, view to west

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez  
Foundation

1985

Photo 3 of 5



SMITHLAND

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Mantel piece, southwest room first  
floor, view to east

Mary Warren Miller, Historic Natchez  
Foundation

1985

Photo 4 of 5





SMITHLAND

Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

Carriage House

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation

March 1985

Photo 5 of 5