

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Meadvilla

and/or common same as above

2. Location

street & number South of U.S. Highway 61 North and west of the junction
of U.S. Highway 61 North and U.S. Highway 84 East not for publication

city, town Washington NA vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 1

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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Malcolm Wood

street & number P. O. Box 74

city, town Washington NA vicinity of state Mississippi 39190

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
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

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located in the old town area of Washington, once the territorial capital of Mississippi which is today little more than a crossroads at the intersection of U.S. Highways 61 North and 84 East, Meadvilla is a two-story Federal Style frame residence that rests upon a full basement. The broken-slope gable roof is flanked at each end by an outside-end brick chimney which breaks away from the body of the house at the attic level. The northerly facade of the house is fronted by a double-tiered gallery supported by wooden box columns that are linked on the second-story level by a railing of rectangular-sectioned balusters. The first-story gallery railing has been removed. The wooden box columns are part of a Greek Revival remodeling of the house that included the construction of one-story wings. The facade of the house is finished on both levels in beaded matched boards with a molded chair rail and molded base. Window and door surrounds are molded with a single fascia, and all windows of the house contain nine-over-nine, double-hung sash except for the attic level windows which feature six-over-six sash. The first-story of the house was altered in a mid-20th century remodeling, but the bays of the second-story facade are original. Occupying the two central bays of the four-bay second-story facade are transomed doorways flanked by windows and filled with single-leaf doors with six molded and fielded panels. The first-story facade is now a six-bay composition with the westernmost bay created in the mid-20th century by the enclosure of a breezeway connecting the main house to a Greek Revival wing. A remodeled doorway with pediment now occupies the central bay of the five northern bays. Originally, the first story was a five-bay composition with transomed doorways occupying the central bay of the eastern three bays and the easternmost bay of the western two-bay portion. Matching Greek Revival wings, attached by open breezeways, were once located at each gable end of the house, but only the westernmost wing has survived. The surviving one-story wing, which rests upon brick foundation piers, features a gable roof pierced by central chimney, a pedimented gable-end northerly facade, and a five-bay westerly elevation with central doorway. All elevations of this wing are finished in beaded matched boards, and the pedimented gable end features a dentiled cornice and unusual applied decoration that simulates a semi-elliptical light.

The interior plan was originally a single-pile plan, two rooms wide, with no central passage. Shortly after the house was constructed, small cabinet rooms were enclosed at either end of the first-story rear gallery and the second-story gallery was also enclosed. During the mid-twentieth century, the first-story recessed rear gallery was enclosed as a family room. At one time, an exterior stairway was located within the double-tiered front gallery, but, at present, the only access to the second story is provided by an original stairway located in the enclosed rear gallery. This stairway, which features square newels with rectangular-sectioned balusters, is a two-flight stair with intermediate landing. The interior millwork of Meadvilla is outstanding and ranks among the finest examples of Federal Style millwork in the Natchez area. Each of the four Federal Style mantel pieces features bed moldings, frieze, end blocks, central tablet, and gouge carving. The remaining millwork consists of doors with six molded and fielded panels, molded door and window surrounds that vary from having two fascia to one fascia, molded chair rail sometimes adorned with gouge carving, molded cornice also sometimes adorned with gouge carving, and molded and beaded bases.

Although altered by a mid-twentieth century remodeling, photographic evidence of the unaltered first-story facade coupled with the survival of all original material would provide for an authentic restoration of the house. No original outbuildings have survived on the property.

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/ humanitarian
<input 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 type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 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 unknown **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Constructed early in the nineteenth century, Meadvilla is one of the most architecturally and historically significant residences in Adam County. Located in the old town of Washington, once the territorial capital of Mississippi, Meadvilla is the finest surviving residence in the Washington community that dates from the territorial period. The high quality of its interior millwork, which includes Federal Style mantel pieces, chair railing, and cornice molding richly decorated with gouge carving, ranks Meadvilla among the most significant Federal Style residences of the county. Historically, the house gains significance from its early use as a tavern for the town of Washington and from its association with Cowles Mead and Benjamin L. C. Wailes. General Cowles Mead, who later served in the state legislature, served as secretary of the Mississippi territorial government and was acting governor when the territorial government had Aaron Burr arrested and arraigned for treason. Meadvilla was his residence in the town of Washington and derives its historic name from his residency. Planter, scientist, and scholar, Benjamin L. C. Wailes purchased Meadvilla in 1828 and resided in the house until his death in 1862. One of the leading intellectual forces in the state in the mid-nineteenth century, Wailes was the first state geologist, first president of the Mississippi Historical Society, charter member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a trustee of Jefferson College, the first state-chartered institution for higher learning in Mississippi.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 18.45 acres

Quadrangle name Washington, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A

1	5
6	6
1	2
8	5

3	4
9	4
7	3
1	5

B

1	5
6	6
1	2
8	5

3	4
9	4
2	9
1	0

C

1	5
6	6
1	0
4	0

3	4
9	4
2	9
1	0

D

1	5
6	6
1	0
4	0

3	4
9	4
7	3
1	5

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

See attached xerox of Adams County Tax Map with the nominated property outlined in red. The 18.45 acre tract represents the total acreage that has been acquired by the owner of the house. This acreage serves as a much needed buffer between the house (see

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

continuation sheet)

state NA code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary W. Miller/research consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date July 23, 1982

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date September 27, 1982

For HCRS 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**

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

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Meadvilla

Continuation sheet Washington, Adams Co., Miss. Item number 9 and 10

Page 1

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams County. Office of the Chancery Clerk. Deed Books O, Q.

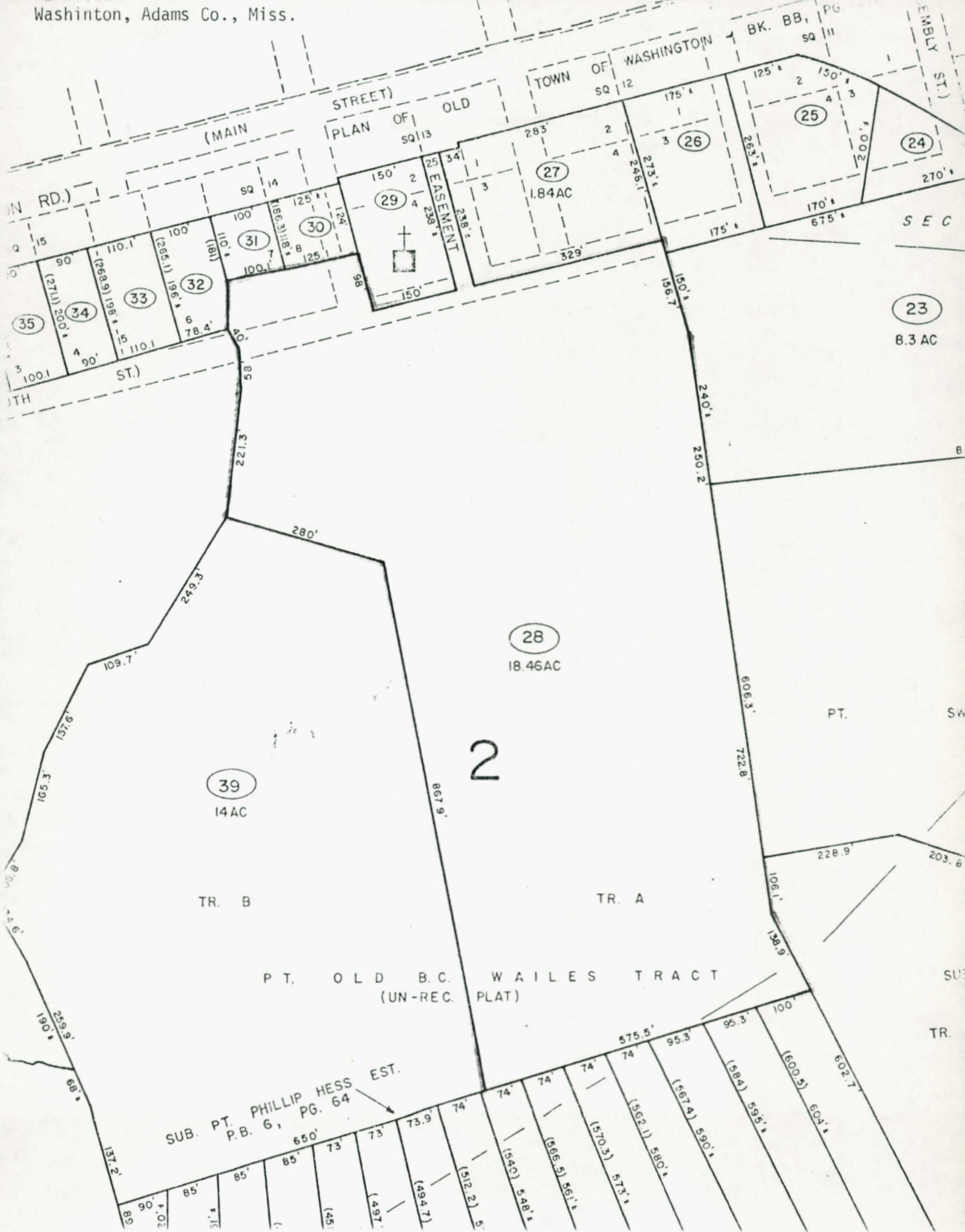
Claiborne, J. F. H. Mississippi, as a Province, Territory, and State with Biographical Notices of Eminent Citizens. 1880. Reprint. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964.

Lowery, Robert and William H. McCardle. A History of Mississippi. New York and New Orleans: University Publishing Company, 1900.

Sydnor, Charles S. A Gentleman of the Old Natchez Region. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1938.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

and the two U.S. Highways that run north and east of the house.



(N RD.)

JTH

ST.)

(MAIN

STREET)

PLAN OF

OLD

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

BK. BB, PG

EMBLEY ST.)

SEC

23
8.3 AC

28
18.46 AC

39
14 AC

TR. B

TR. A

PT. OLD B.C. WAILES TRACT
(UN-REC. PLAT)

SUB. PT. PHILLIP HESS EST.
P.B. 6, PG. 64

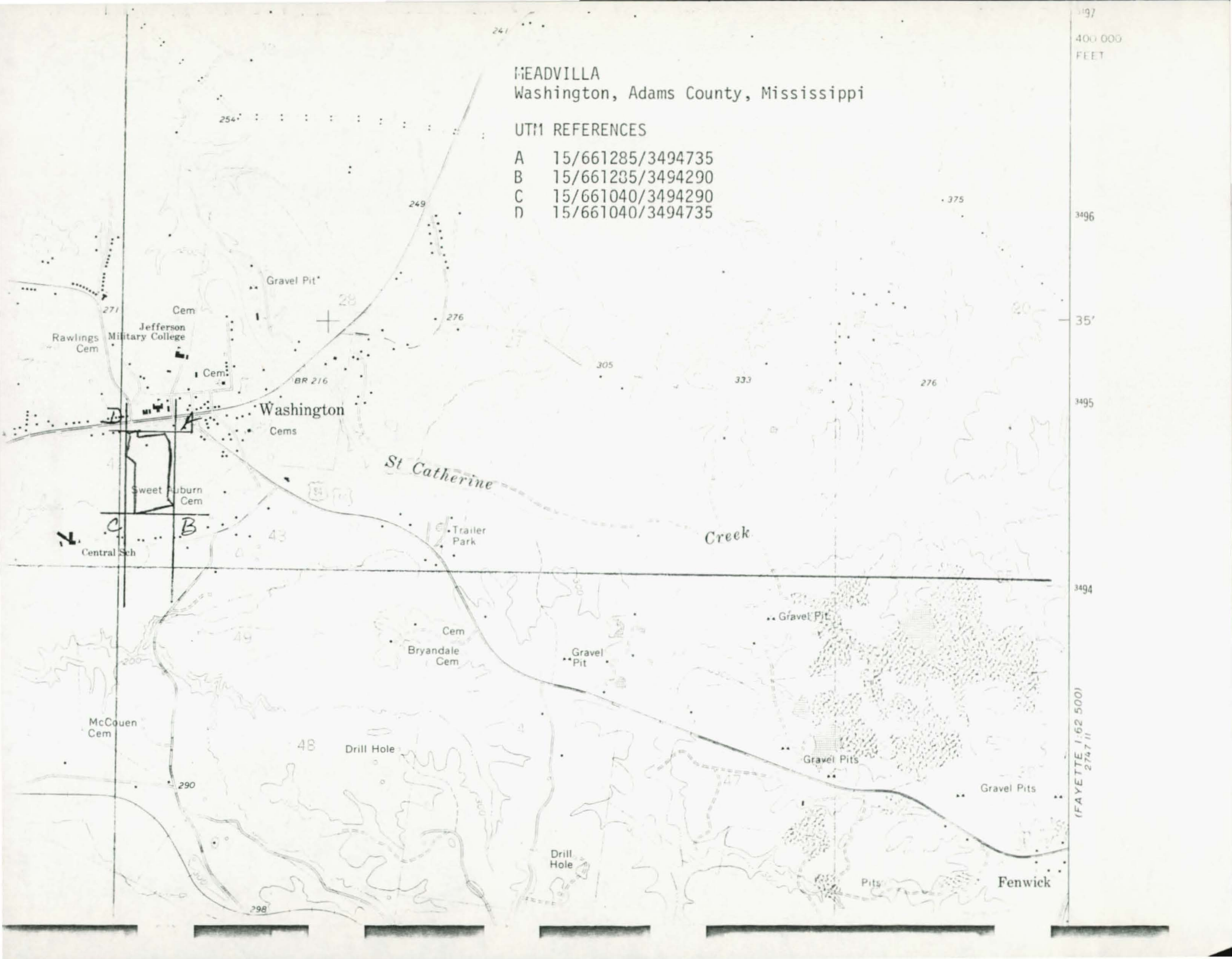
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197
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FEET

MEADVILLA
Washington, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES

- A 15/661285/3494735
- B 15/661235/3494290
- C 15/661040/3494290
- D 15/661040/3494735



(FAYETTE 1:62 500)
2797 II



MEADVILLA

Washington, Adams Co., Mississippi

Looking southerly, the northerly facade
of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1982.

Photo 1 of 4



MEADVILLA

Washington, Adams Co., Mississippi

Looking southwesterly, the pedimented
gable end of the Greek Revival western
wing of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1982.

Photo 2 of 4



MEADVILLA

Washington, Adams Co., Mississippi

Looking northwesterly, the easterly
side elevation of the house showing
the enclosure of the rear gallery.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
July 1982.

Photo 3 of 4



MEADVILLA

Washington, Adams Co., Miss.

Looking easterly, the mantel piece of the
easterly front parlor.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,
June 1982.

Photo 4 of 4