

2/14/73 H. H. ...

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| STATE: Mississippi | |
| COUNTY: Monroe | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | OCT 18 1972 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Cotton Gin Port Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: CODE COUNTY: CODE

3. CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY (Check One) | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object | <input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both | Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress |
| PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate) | | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No | | | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. H. K. Holloway and Mr. Arch Dalrymple, III

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Amory STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Monroe County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Aberdeen STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39730

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: WPA Historical Research Project
"Source Material for Mississippi History"

DATE OF SURVEY: ca. 1938 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Mississippi Department of Archives and History

STREET AND NUMBER:
120 North State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Monroe
OCT 18 1972
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

| | | | | | | |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One) | | | | | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
| | (Check One) | | | (Check One) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Very little remains [redacted] where Cotton Gin Port once stood as a thriving river town. The steamboat dock and all of the houses and stores are gone, marked only by numerous scattered brick and foundation stones. [redacted]

[redacted] was the main business street leading to the river. Portions of the concrete can still be seen where the road left the ground to rise to the old one lane iron bridge, which was built in 1914. The four large concrete pillars [redacted] which once supported the old bridge still stand. Much of the remaining evidence of the town's existence is undoubtedly covered by silt, deposited through the years by the overflowing river. Remains of Gaines Trace can be easily followed [redacted]

The famous "Cotton Gin Magnolia," supposedly brought upriver from Mobile by a steamboat captain and planted in the yard of Peter Knowles prior to the Civil War, still stands. The D. A. R. monument, erected in the 1920s to commemorate Cotton Gin Port, is located under this old tree.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1838**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site of Cotton Gin Port, _____

_____, is one of the most historic spots in Mississippi. Its significance predates permanent white settlement by untold centuries. Recent archaeological surveys in the area indicate prehistoric Indian occupation from approximately 500 B.C., continuing well after white contact. The region around Cotton Gin Port was also inhabited by the historic Chickasaw Indians. Numerous Indian trails, destined to be later developed as roads by white settlers, radiated from the Cotton Gin Port area.

The Final Report of the United States DeSoto Expedition Commission states that Cotton Gin Port is one of the three possible locations where the expedition of Hernando DeSoto may have crossed _____ in the fall of 1540. According to some accounts, Baltasar de Gallegos, a member of the expedition and kinsman of Cabeza de Vaca, was dispatched, along with thirty horsemen, from the main Spanish party and crossed the river at or near the location of Cotton Gin Port; whereas, the main body of DeSoto's troops crossed at what was later known as Morgan's Ferry near Aberdeen.

In 1736, Bienville, civil and military governor of the French colony of Louisiana, undertook a war against the Chickasaws. With a force of approximately 600 men, Bienville moved north from Fort Conde' at Mobile _____ in April, 1736, reaching the "last portage, . . . situated on a fine bluff ten leagues from the villages of the Chickasaw Indians" on May 22. Here, the French found 600-700 of their Choctaw allies, including their chiefs. The French remained here two days in order to plan strategy with the Choctaws and to construct a fort as a base of operations. Approximately 600 piles (round logs) the size of a man's thigh were cut for the palisades. Thirty-five men were left here on May 24 when Bienville moved further north in his campaign against the Chickasaws, which resulted in his subsequent defeat at the Battle of Ackia. Following the defeat, Bienville and his men returned to the "portage" on May 29 and reembarked on that same day down the Tombigbee River, abandoning the recently constructed fort.

In 1752, the Marquis de Vaudreuil, Bienville's successor, undertook another military expedition against the Chicka-

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Carter, Clarence Edwin (ed.), The Territorial Papers of the United States. (Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1937), v, 598-602.
Final Report of the United States DeSoto Expedition Commission. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1939), 84, 223-225.
 King, Grace, Jean Baptiste Le Moyne Sieur de Bienville. (New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1892), 297.
 Leftwich, George J., "Cotton Gin Port and Gaines' Trace," Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY | | | O R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|---------|
| CORNER | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | | LATITUDE | LONGITUDE | |
| | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | | Degrees | Minutes | Seconds |
| NW | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | 0 | ' | " |
| N | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | 0 | ' | " |
| SE | [REDACTED] | [REDACTED] | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: [REDACTED]

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Elbert Hilliard, Director
Division of Historic Sites and Archaeology

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: Nov. 18, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 120 North State Street

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi 39205 CODE: 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name R. A. McLemore

K. A. McLemore

Title Director, Miss. Department of Archives and History

Date November 18, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert M. Udey
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 10/18/72

ATTEST,

William Shively
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-16-72

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| STATE | Mississippi |
| COUNTY | Monroe |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | OCT 18 1974 |

(Number all entries)

8. saws. He moved [redacted] River and occupied Bienville's old fort, using it as his base of operations. Although destroying some of the Chickasaw's cattle, crops and abandoned villages, Vaudreuil's campaign met with little success, and he returned to his base in the Cotton Gin Port region before moving back to New Orleans.

Captain Bernard Romans, who was employed by the British to survey the extensive area of West Florida, noted in A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida that on December 13, 1771, he and his party passed one bluff [present Cotton Gin Port], "where the French formerly had a fortified trading house, about one mile below the mouth of the creek [Town Creek], on the west bank"

After the passage of the Indian Civilization Act in 1801, the United States government established a gin on the west side of the river, in an attempt to convert the Chickasaws into peaceful farmers and to win the support of the tribe, which had long been allied with the English. The town of Cotton Gin Port received its name from this gin.

A ferry was placed in operation at Cotton Gin Port around 1803. It was used until 1914 when an iron bridge was built over the Tombigbee at this point.

In 1807, Edmund Pendleton Gaines, under orders from Secretary of War, Henry Dearborn, surveyed the Indian trail, which was to become Gaines Trace, an important travel artery during the territorial period. In 1810, George S. Gaines, Factor at St. Stephens on the [redacted] and younger brother of Edmund P. Gaines, successfully negotiated with the Chickasaws to secure the opening of Gaines Trace, thus connecting the Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals to [redacted] at Cotton Gin Port.

In late 1814, Edmund Pendleton Gaines led badly needed reinforcements to General Andrew Jackson at New Orleans, using Gaines Trace and crossing [redacted] at Cotton Gin Port.

The first white farmers to settle permanently in the immediate vicinity of Cotton Gin Port probably arrived in 1816. In that year, the Chickasaws ceded a large portion of their land to the United States. [redacted] and Gaines Trace serving as the [redacted] of the cession. Therefore, Cotton Gin Port was located at [redacted] United States territory in the upper Tombigbee region.

After the Chickasaw Cession of 1816, Cotton Gin Port became the trading post for the Chickasaws. After the removal of the Indians from the area in 1837, the town relied heavily on the cotton trade and became a major steamboat shipping point on the upper Tombigbee.

Court sessions were held in Cotton Gin Port as early as 1821, prior to the establishment of a seat of justice for Monroe County. Dr. W. F. Boyakin established the first school at Cotton

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| STATE Mississippi | |
| COUNTY Monroe | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER | DATE |
| | |

(Number all entries)

8.
Gin Port in 1824. The town, incorporated by the Mississippi Legislature in 1838, reached its most prosperous period around 1848, at which time it had a carding factory, a flouring mill, twenty stores, and a population of approximately five hundred. Cotton Gin Port died abruptly in 1887 when the Kansas City, Memphis and Birmingham railroad was completed, [REDACTED]. This served to establish the new town of Amory, which quickly absorbed the business and population of Cotton Gin Port. Some of the buildings at Cotton Gin Port were disassembled and taken to Amory, while other smaller structures were rolled on logs intact to the new town. The acquisition and development of the site of Old Cotton Gin Port has been recommended in the first edition of the Mississippi Statewide Comprehensive Historic Preservation Plan and funds for this work have been allocated [REDACTED].

9.
(Oxford, Mississippi Historical Society, 1903), VII, 263-270.
McGahey, Samuel O., Archaeological Survey [REDACTED] May-June, 1970. (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, 1971), 7.
Phelps, Dawson A., "The Chickasaw Agency," The Journal of Mississippi History. (Jackson: Mississippi Historical Society, 1952), XIV, No. 2, 134-135.
Riley, Franklin L., "Extinct Towns and Villages of Mississippi," Publications of the Mississippi Historical Society. (Oxford, Mississippi: Mississippi Historical Society, 1902), V, 358-359.
Romans, Bernard, A Concise Natural History of East and West Florida (New York, 1775, reprinted by Pelican Publishing Company, New Orleans, 1961), 210.
Rowland, Dunbar, Mississippi. (Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907), I, 575-576.
Rowland, Dunbar and Sanders, A. G. (eds.), Mississippi Provincial Archives 1729-1740 French Dominion. (Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1927), I, 302-303, 309, 317.
Stone, James H., Cotton Gin Port, Mississippi: The History of [REDACTED] (University of Mississippi, 1969), passim.
Stone, James H., The Feasibility of Developing Historic Tourist Attractions [REDACTED] Old Cotton Gin Port, Mississippi. (University of Mississippi, 1969), passim. This work contains a full bibliography of sources relating to the history of Cotton Gin Port.