

1-4-73

H13 NO 47m

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Pontotoc
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE JUL 27 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Treaty of Pontotoc Site

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
[REDACTED]

CITY OR TOWN:  
[REDACTED] CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
[REDACTED]

STATE:  
[REDACTED] CODE COUNTY:  
[REDACTED] 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 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) _____ _____
		<input type="checkbox"/> Comments	_____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Ray Leeper

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Plymouth Community

STATE:  
Mississippi

CODE  
38863

CODE  
28

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Pontotoc County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Pontotoc

STATE:  
Mississippi

CODE  
38863

CODE  
28

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

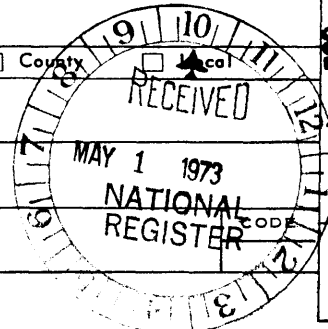
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input 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

The only available source for the actual location of the Chickasaw Council House, where the Treaty of Pontotoc was signed on October 20, 1832, is an 1834 surveyor's plat [REDACTED]. The surveyor's symbol, a small square topped by a cross and labeled "Council House," marks the location [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] The specific location as given on the plat coincides, for the most part, with the general location and descriptions of the treaty site given in various contemporary diaries and manuscripts, and the earlier published histories.

While there are no visible remains of the Council House itself, James Adair in his History of the American Indians (1775) alludes to the appearance of council houses in general. He notes that the only difference between the council house and a winter house was that the former was larger and, obviously, served a different purpose. Adair's volume was first published almost sixty years before the signing of the Pontotoc Treaty. As to whether the National Council House mirrored the style described by Adair is, at best, speculative.

The land on which the Chickasaw Council House stood is today owned by Ray Leeper of the Plymouth community. Most of the terrain is presently under cultivation, being planted in cotton; the remaining land is pasture. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**SIGNIFICANCE**

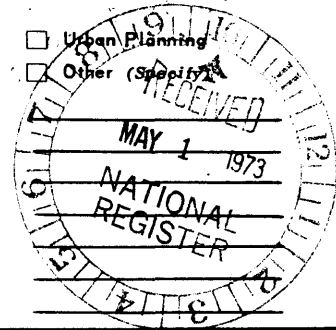
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **October 20, 1832**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal          | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Commerce            | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications      | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation        |   |   |  |



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On October 20, 1832, the Chickasaw chiefs and warriors assembled in general council in the eastern portion of present-day Pontotoc County. There at the Chickasaw Council House, between the Natchez Trace and Pontotoc Creek, the Chickasaw Nation signed with the United States the Treaty of Pontotoc. President Andrew Jackson sent his longtime friend and trusted lieutenant, John Coffee, to serve as the United States representative and negotiator at Pontotoc. Commissioner Coffee was joined there by several other white men, including the judicious Chickasaw agent, Benjamin Reynolds, who always paid the Chickasaw their due when it would have been much easier to defraud them--a not uncommon practice in United States-Indian relations. The first of the Chickasaw to sign the epochal treaty was their nominal king, Ishtehotopa. The other chiefs then followed King Ishtehotopa's example, including the influential half-breed chieftain, Levi Colbert--the last to affix his signature.

The Treaty of Pontotoc was the last recorded event which occurred at the National Chickasaw Council House. The earliest known date for its use was 1816, when Andrew Jackson, representing President James Madison, addressed the Indians prior to the Chickasaw Cession of 1816. Prior to 1816, there was no permanent physical structure or even a particular location used as a meeting-place by the Chickasaw. The Tribal Council preferred rather to assemble at an arbitrarily selected place year after year. The exact reasons for the change to the permanent National Council House are unknown. But, it has been suggested by one historian that the transition can be attributed to both a familiarization with the white man's institutions, i.e. a permanent seat of government, and that the wide dispersal of the Chickasaw by 1816 necessitated a seat of government near the geographical center of their nation. Whatever the case, there is no available evidence to substantiate one historian's undocumented claim that the "ancient council house, [redacted] was there when DeSoto came in 1540, and stood on the same spot in 1832, when the Treaty of Pontotoc Creek was signed."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Cushman, H. B. History of the Choctaw, Chickasaw and Natchez Indians. Greenville, Texas: Headlight Printing House, 1899, pp. 428-430.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Map File, 1821-1840. Copy of original 1834 surveyor's plat of T 10 S, R 4 E, Chickasaw Cession.

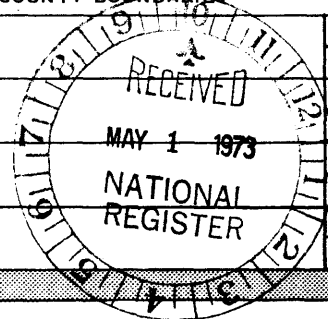
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW				° ' "	° ' "	
NE						
SE						
SW						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
Robert J. Bailey, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History

DATE: 4-25-73

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Post Office Box 571

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

Title: Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date: April 25, 1973

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Robert M. Utley  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 7/27/73

ATTEST:  
[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

Date: 7/26/73

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Pontotoc	
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(Number all entries)

8.

By the terms of the Pontotoc Treaty, the Chickasaw ceded to the United States all of their lands east of the Mississippi River; the total acreage amounted to 6,283,804\*. The treaty also bound the Chickasaw to a future removal westward across the Mississippi. The removal to the West and one year's provisions after the Chickasaw reached their new homes were to be financed from the net proceeds arising from the sale of the lands. In addition, the remaining proceeds would be invested by the United States government, and, if it was determined at the end of fifty years that the Chickasaw were "sufficiently enlightened," the money would then be given to the Chickasaw Nation as a whole.

The effects of the Treaty of Pontotoc on Mississippi history--like the effects of the Doak's Stand (1820) and Dancing Rabbit Creek (1830) Treaties--are monumental. For one thing, the treaty legally opened most of present-day north Mississippi to white settlement. Further, the document insured the end of Indian ownership of lands in Mississippi. And, obviously, it heralded the end of the Chickasaw as a viable force on the course of Mississippi history.

\*In 1816, the Chickasaw Nation had ceded to the United States all of their lands in the Mississippi Territory east of the Tombigbee River and south of the Gaines Trace. While most of this land is in present-day northern Alabama, 408,000 acres lies in what is today Mississippi.

