Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74)

PH0662003

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED FEB 1 1978
DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1978

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC
Bethany Institute ~~Female Dormitory and Site~~ R.M. Miss.

AND/OR COMMON
Bethany Institute, ~~The Estate~~

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southeast side of old Liberty-Centreville Road, just to the south of the present Liberty-Centreville Road __NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN ~~Ariel Community~~ Centreville __VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fourth

STATE Mississippi CODE 28 COUNTY Amite CODE 005

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __DISTRICT | __PUBLIC | X OCCUPIED | X AGRICULTURE | __MUSEUM |
| X BUILDING(S) | X PRIVATE | __UNOCCUPIED | __COMMERCIAL | __PARK |
| __STRUCTURE | __BOTH | __WORK IN PROGRESS | __EDUCATIONAL | X PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| X SITE | **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** | **ACCESSIBLE** | __ENTERTAINMENT | __RELIGIOUS |
| __OBJECT | __IN PROCESS | X YES: RESTRICTED | __GOVERNMENT | __SCIENTIFIC |
| | __BEING CONSIDERED | __YES: UNRESTRICTED | __INDUSTRIAL | __TRANSPORTATION |
| | | __NO | __MILITARY | __OTHER: |

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Aldridge

STREET & NUMBER
Route 2, Box 406

CITY, TOWN Centreville __VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi 39631

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Amite County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN Liberty STATE Mississippi 39645

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE 1972 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN Jackson STATE Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
|---|---|---|---|
| __EXCELLENT | __DETERIORATED | __UNALTERED | X ORIGINAL SITE |
| __GOOD | __RUINS | X ALTERED | __MOVED DATE_____ |
| X FAIR | __UNEXPOSED | | |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set among shade trees on several acres of flat lawn, the Female Dormitory of Bethany Institute faces north to the graveled road that once was the primary route between Centreville and Liberty, Mississippi. The setting, an area of forest and fields, retains its rural quality.

The dormitory is an unpainted frame building, five bays across and two bays deep (55' x 33'). It is set on low brick piers and is covered by a hip roof. The roof, sheathed with galvanized sheet metal, is pierced by two off-center brick chimneys with sawtooth brick caps. Each clapboarded elevation is edged with a box cornice and plain corner boards. The regularly arranged window openings are filled with six-over-six sash and are trimmed with plain board surrounds. Plain boards also trim the front (north) entrance, where a double-leaf paneled door is flanked by rectangular lights and panels, the whole surmounted by a large rectangular transom. Broad concrete steps lead from a running-bond brick walk up to the door.

The front door opens onto a wide center hall, on each side of which are two rooms, the smaller to the rear. From the back of the hall, an open straight flight of stairs with turned balusters, turned base, and corner newels rises against the east wall to the identically arranged second floor. On one side of the back-to-back fireplaces, in each room, is a closet fitted with three tiers of boards with pegs for hanging clothes. The simple interior trim consists of plain board casings and bases, unmolded doors with four sunk or sunk and fielded panels, and eight identical pilaster mantelpieces with molding beneath the shelves. The walls and ceilings are covered with sand-finish plaster in the hall and with smooth plaster in the upper rooms. The northeast upper room retains its original white oil paint on the plaster, the doors, and the windows and the original gray oil paint on the bases and the mantelpiece.

Changes to the original fabric of the building have not seriously affected its integrity, especially on the second floor, where the rooms remain almost in their original state. At some time before 1972, the plaster in the lower back rooms was replaced with matched boards. Since 1972, the plaster in the lower front rooms has been replaced with wallboard panels with wainscoting and chair rails; a kitchen has been installed in the southeast lower room; and a bath has been placed in the closet of the southwest lower room. In 1974, a porch terminated by a utility room was attached at right angles to the center of the back wall of the house, on the site of and following the basic dimensions of the original one-story frame kitchen and dining wing, which stood into the twentieth century. This original wing was connected to the main block by a covered breezeway. Cuts and changes in the siding on this wall, along with three sets of stucco-over-brick steps original to the wing, define the height, width, and roof pitch of the wing.

The present barn was constructed to the southwest of the dormitory during the twentieth century. It is constructed of previously used materials, including beaded board and batten doors hung with iron hinges with pins cast in place, which may have come from the nonextant school buildings (the male dormitory destroyed by tornado in 1934 or the frame school house).

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| __PREHISTORIC | __ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC | __COMMUNITY PLANNING | __LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | __RELIGION |
| __1400-1499 | __ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | __CONSERVATION | __LAW | __SCIENCE |
| __1500-1599 | __AGRICULTURE | __ECONOMICS | __LITERATURE | __SCULPTURE |
| __1600-1699 | __ARCHITECTURE | X EDUCATION | __MILITARY | __SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| __1700-1799 | __ART | __ENGINEERING | __MUSIC | __THEATER |
| X 1800-1899 | __COMMERCE | __EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | __PHILOSOPHY | __TRANSPORTATION |
| __1900- | __COMMUNICATIONS | __INDUSTRY | __POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | __OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | __INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1859 construction
1859 - 1900 operation

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Female Dormitory is the only surviving building of Bethany Institute, a locally important church-affiliated boarding school dating from the second half of the nineteenth century, and it is one of only a few pre-Civil-War buildings remaining in a once thickly populated community which developed around Bethany Presbyterian Church in the "thickwoods country" of Amite County, Mississippi.

On June 11, 1859, the elders of Bethany Presbyterian Church formed a new school, in ecclesiastical connection with the Louisiana Presbytery, to be known as Bethany Institute, and constituted themselves and their successors in the office of elder as the trustees of the new organization. Despite the fact that the school received its charter from the state of Mississippi on April 7, 1860, under the name of the "Bethany Male and Female Institute," the trustees reverted to the name "Bethany Institute" in their revised constitution adopted on July 17, 1860.

On June 22, 1859, the trustees examined a lot of land proposed to be donated by J. M. Gallent, a member of the Board of Trustees, and selected a site for the "Buildings." The lot examined is probably the same twenty-five-acre lot on which the Female Dormitory is located and which was donated to the trustees on April 21, 1867, by James M. Gallent and his wife. At least two of the school buildings had been constructed by December 24, 1861, at which time the trustees considered "the propriety of leasing the Institute Buildings to the Principal." Certainly the style and construction elements of the Female Dormitory are consistent with a construction date of between 1859 and 1861. The traditional construction date of 1859 receives support from the fact that the school was accepting students by January 7, 1860, and was evidently open for business at that time. The builder is reputed to be the same as the unknown builder of the ca. 1855 Bethany Presbyterian Church. The school records contain only a passing mention on March 31, 1860, of the need to settle the account between the Rev. T. D. Lea, who had just resigned as principal, and a Mr. Wall, who might have been the contractor for construction.

The trustees' record book indicates that the school was open for classes during 1860 and 1861. A handbill advertising the second session to commence on October 6, 1862, belies the supposition, based on the fact that the record book contains no entries for trustees' meetings between December, 1861, and September, 1869, that the school was closed between those dates. The handbill lists classes in several English branches, Latin, Greek, French, and music, taught under the principalship of the Rev. S. B. Hall. For at least one scholastic year, ending August 31, 1874, Bethany Institute was certified as a public school of Amite County. Newspaper advertisements from the 1880s in-

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Amite County. Bethany Institute Female Dormitory and Site. "Bethany Institute," by Mr. and Mrs. William D. Aldridge.

Liberty (Miss.) Southern Herald. July 9, August 6, November 5, 1881; October 23, December 18, 1886; April 2, 1887.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 26 acres

UTM REFERENCES

| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A | 15 | 691395 | 3441790 | B | 15 | 691910 | 3442430 |
| C | 15 | 692510 | 3441725 | D | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The entire property lying in Township 2 North, Range 2 East, and comprising three parcels as follows: #1 - twenty-five acres in Section 42, bounded on the north by Liberty and Centreville Road, west by Calloway and Dixon lands, south by McKnight land and east by land of L. M. Gallent, known as the Bethany Institute property; #2 - 84/100 acre adjoining but in Section 41, beginning on the south of the Centreville and Liberty Road where the west line of Section 42 crosses the said

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
Ronald W. Miller, Site Administrator

ORGANIZATION
Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

DATE
December 29, 1977

STREET & NUMBER
400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard

TELEPHONE
(601) 446-6502

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 X

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 Elbert R. Hilliard

TITLE State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE January 30, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 8/3/78

~~DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION~~ ~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

ATTEST: Charles Adams DATE 8-1-78

~~KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER~~

7 - DESCRIPTION

A one-story frame commercial building, probably dating from the first half of the twentieth century, occupies the southwest corner of the driveway and the public road. Its gable end, protected by an attached shed roof porch, faces the gravel road. The frame is covered by sheets of corrugated metal.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

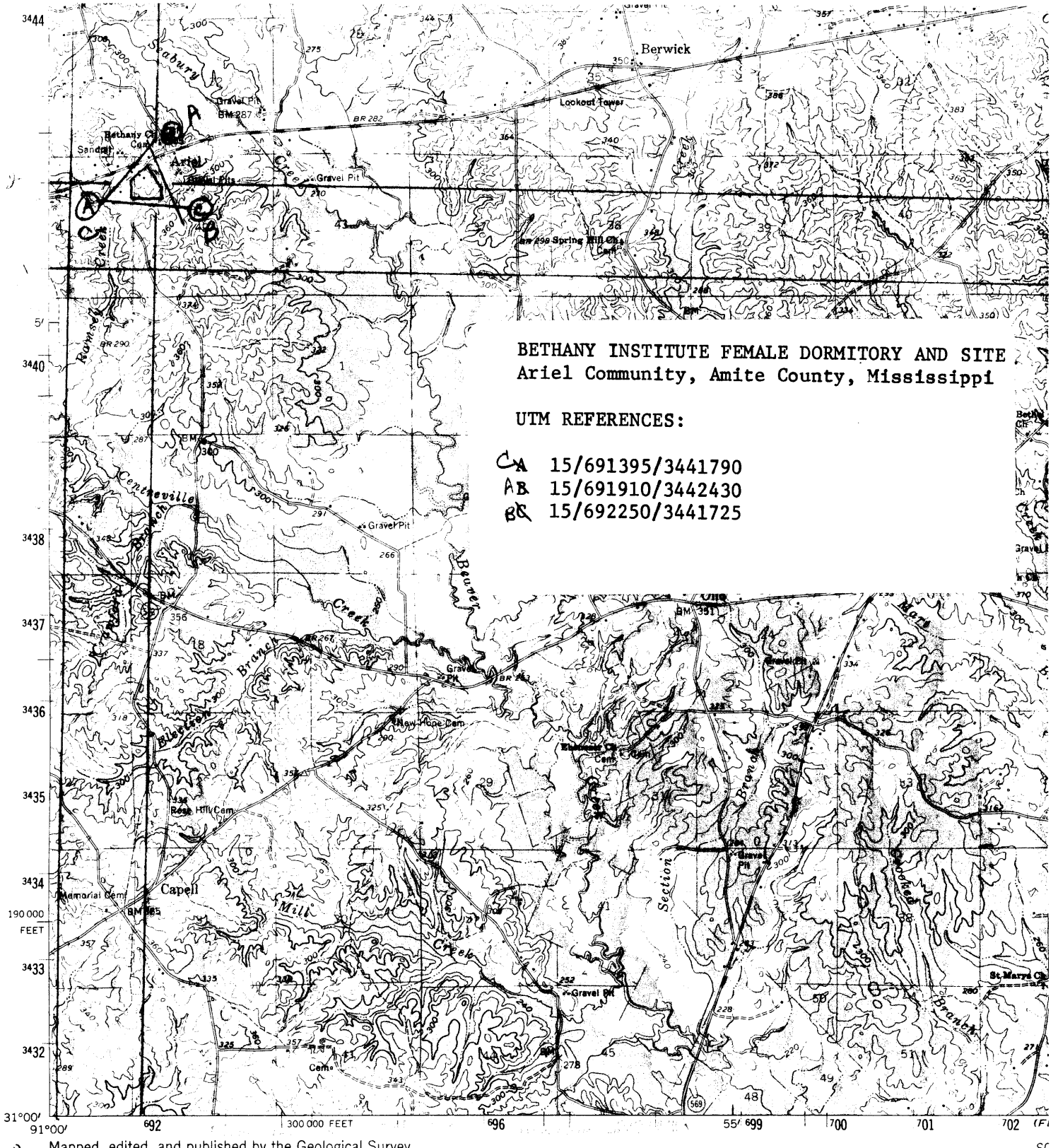
dicate that the school was once again a private institution and that there were between 35 and 100 pupils at that time enrolled in the grammar course, the music course, and the higher English and language courses. The school must have continued to operate after 1890, for several area residents who attended classes there are still living. In 1918 the school land and buildings were sold for use as a private residence, and is so occupied by the owners today.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Bethany Institute, Collection of Bethany Presbyterian Church, in private keeping, available from Mr. and Mrs. William D. Aldridge.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

road, thence south 46 degrees to the center of Clinton Road, thence south 9-1/2 degrees to a stake, thence east to the section line, thence north 30 degrees east to the place of beginning on the south bank of the old Liberty Road; #3 - a strip of land in Section 42 containing a fraction of an acre, more or less, lying south of the presently located gravel road (Old Highway 48) now running across the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of Section 42, and lying north of the center of the old gravel road now abandoned and lying east of a parcel of land conveyed M. S. Hassell. It being understood that said strip of land was caused by the relocation of the gravel road which left a strip lying between the E. A. Y. Dixon place and the new location of the gravel road which belonged to the L. M. Gallent estate.




Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1957–58. Field checked 1961

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Mississippi coordinate system, west zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 15, shown in blue

(CLINTON)
7745 I

MN
GN
1°06′
20 MILS
6°
107 MILS

UTM GRID AND 1961 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SC

1 ½ 0 1
3000 0 3000 6000
1 5 0 1

CONTOUR
DOTTED LINES R
DATUM

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGI
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC

Royal Crown Co

PHOTO NO. 1 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE

Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

AUG 3 1978

February, 1977

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Dormitory front, seen from the present road to the north, with the owner's shop in the foreground

FEB 1 1978

PHOTO NO. 2 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE
Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi
Ronald W. Miller
February, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Dormitory front and side, viewed from northeast yard

AUG 3 1978
FEB 1 1978

PHOTO NO. 3 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE
Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi
Ronald W. Miller
February, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Dormitory back and side, viewed from southwest field

AUG 3 1978 FEB 1 1978

PHOTO NO. 5 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE

Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

AUG 3 1978

February, 1977

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Dormitory interior, first floor hall with staircase, seen from rear of hall, looking north to front door

FEB 1 1978

PHOTO NO. 5 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE

Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi

Ronald W. Miller

AUG 3 1978

February, 1977

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Dormitory interior, second floor bedroom in northeast corner, viewed from northeast corner looking toward south wall with fireplace and closet

FEB 1 1978

PHOTO NO. 6 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE
Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi
Ronald W. Miller
February, 1977

AUG 3 1978

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Dormitory interior, first floor room in northeast corner, viewed from center of north (front) wall, looking toward south wall with fireplace

FEB 1 1978

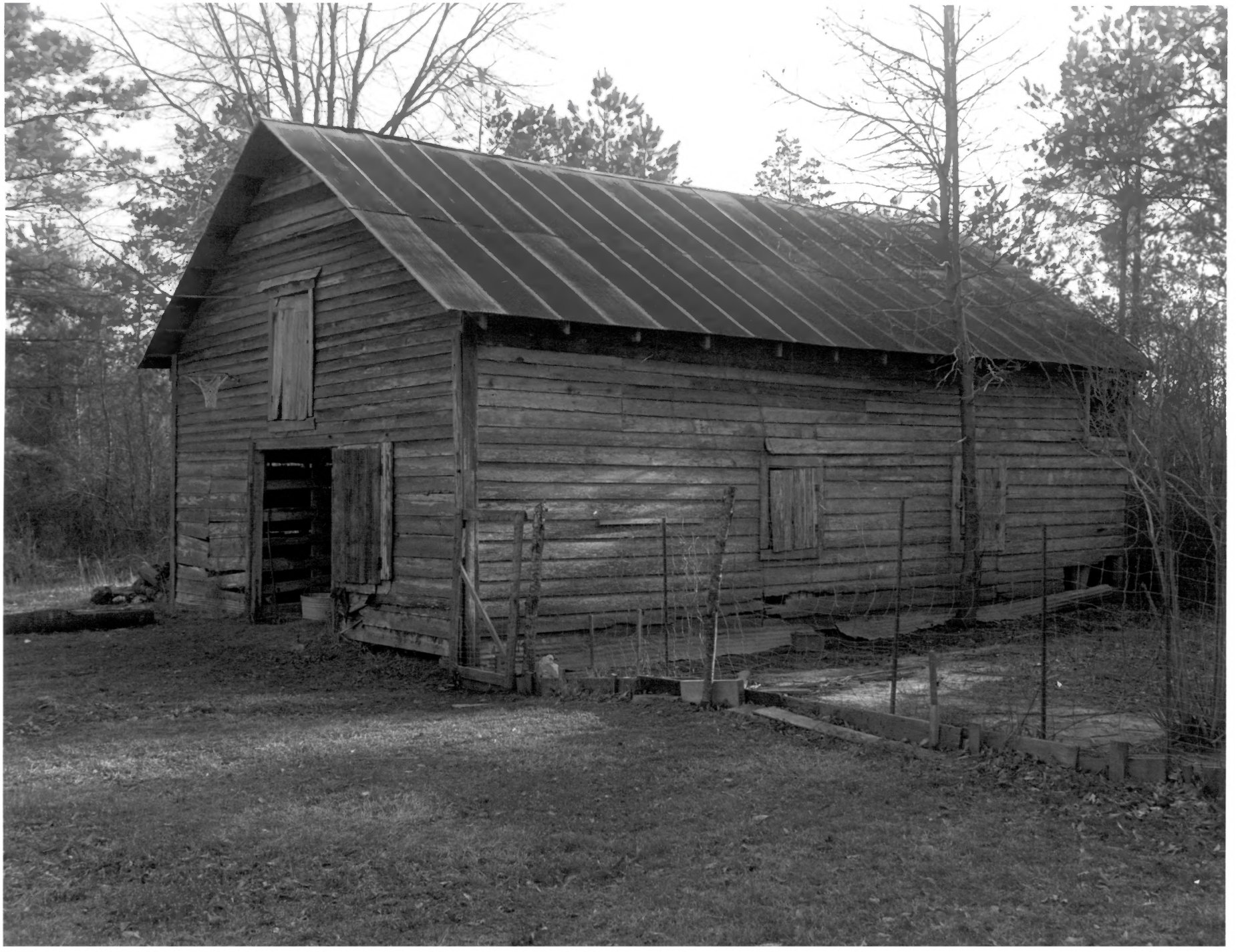


PHOTO NO. 7 - BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE
Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi
Ronald W. Miller
February, 1977
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Stable, viewed from northeast, looking to east end and north side

AUG 3 1978 FEB 1 1978