FHR-8-300 (11-78)

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only
received FEB 16 1982
date entered MAR 22 1982

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

1. Name

historic Sunnyslope

and/or common Sunnyslope

2. Location NE of Centreville

street & number West of State Highway 33 about 1¼ miles north of its intersection with State Highway 48 NA not for publication

city, town Centreville m.c. x vicinity of congressional district Fourth

state Mississippi code 28 county Amite code 5

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	___ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
x building(s)	x private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	x work in progress	___ educational	x private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	NA in process	x yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
		___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. William T. Polk

street & number 808 Alabama Street

city, town Vidalia NA vicinity of state Louisiana

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Amite County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Liberty state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title NA has this property been determined elegible? X yes ___ no

date ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	_X_ original site
___ good	___ ruins	_X_ altered	___ moved date NA
_X_ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located northeast of Centreville, on the eastern side of State Highway 33 about one and a fourth miles north of the intersection of State Highway 48, Sunnyslope is located about four hundred feet from the road and is entered by a gravel drive. The vernacular, frame, Greek Revival plantation residence is set upon brick foundation piers and is topped with a gabled roof pierced by one interior brick chimney. The six-bay, westerly facade is fronted by a recessed gallery with molded cornice that is supported by wooden box columns with molded capitals. The columns are linked by an unusual railing consisting of a molded handrail and a wide, molded and paneled foot rail with no balusters. The facade of the house is plastered and adorned with a dado composed of molded chair rail, horizontal matched boards, and wide unmolded baseboard. All windows contain six-over-six, double-hung sash and were originally closed by shutter blinds, some now missing. Access to the interior is provided through two entry doorways located in the center bay of each three-bay half of the facade. Each entry doorway consists of an unmolded, four-panel door set beneath a transom.

The unusual interior floor plan is a variation on the early regional single-pile plan which features rear "cabinet" rooms enclosing each end of a recessed rear gallery. In Sunnyslope, which has no central hallway, this plan is varied by the original enclosure of the rear gallery area for a stair hall and by the original division of the northern rear "cabinet" room into two smaller rooms. The interior of the house is identically trimmed throughout with wooden pilastered mantel pieces, unmolded four-panel doors, unmolded door and window surrounds, and wide unmolded baseboards. The stairway, which features neither newels nor balusters, begins in a short open flight on the eastern hall wall, makes an open quarter turn with winders, and continues in a straight enclosed flight in a westerly direction to terminate in an unusual L-shaped hallway which provides access to the two upstairs bedrooms. The upstairs bedrooms and the front northern downstairs room feature large closets located adjacent to the central chimney. Each closet contains original wooden pegs and is closed by double-leaf doors that match the other doors of the house. Most of the doors of the house still retain their original oak-graining.

The rear of the house has been altered by the deterioration of the original three-bay back porch. A gabled-roof frame dependency with central chimney once stood to the rear of the main house and was linked to the house by a covered walk. No original outbuildings survive, but a large metal-clad barn, constructed in the twentieth century, is located northeast of the 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	X architecture	___ 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 mid-1850's **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Sunnyslope is representative of the typical Mississippi, mid-nineteenth century, Greek Revival plantation residence which is characteristically described as a one-and-a-half story frame dwelling with gabled roof and recessed front gallery. However, certain vernacular architectural features render Sunnyslope unique among its Mississippi counterparts. The house retains the facade configuration of earlier houses in the Federal Style which feature two entrance doorways rather than the more typical mid-nineteenth century, center-bay entrance doorway that opens onto a central hallway. Its gallery railing, which features a molded handrail and wide, paneled footrail, may be the only such gallery railing extant in the state. The interior floor plan of both the principal and second stories may also be unique for Mississippi. The interior floor plan, which is a common variation on the early regional single-pile plan which features rear "cabinet" rooms enclosing each end of a recessed rear gallery, differs from its counterparts in that the northern rear "cabinet" room was originally divided into two smaller rooms. The L-shaped hallway of the second-story and the configuration of the stairway which opens onto the hallway also have no precedent in Mississippi regional architecture. Perhaps the most functional of the oddities of Sunnyslope are the large closets of three of the major rooms. These closets, which feature original wooden pegs, are closed by full-sized, double-leaf doors that retain their original oak graining. Since Sunnyslope stylistically dates to the mid-1850's, the house was probably constructed as the plantation residence of Joseph W. Anderson and his wife Margaret on land given to Anderson by his family. No record of Joseph Anderson's marriage has been located, but it probably occurred in the early 1850's, since Margaret Anderson joined Bethany Presbyterian Church in 1853 and the birth of their oldest child was recorded in the same year (Records of Bethany Presbyterian Church, Centreville Public Library, Centreville, Mississippi). The Andersons were among the earliest and most prominent settlers of Amite County with John Anderson having come to Amite County from South Carolina in 1821 (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi [Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891], Vol. I, 304). Sunnyslope has been owned by the same family since its construction and is now the property of Joseph Anderson's great-grandson, Dr. William Polk, who plans to sympathetically restore the property. Although in poor to fair condition, the integrity of the house is outstanding.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Amite County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 18, 19, 22, 117, 149.

Bethany Presbyterian Church Records. Centreville Public Library, Centreville, Mississippi.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 3.7 acres

Quadrangle name Gloster, MS. **Quadrangle scale** 1:62,500

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	15	686875	3443620	B			
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with right angles and corners and equal sides of 400 feet each with the center being the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The sides of the figure are parallel to the walls of the house.

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

state	code	county	code
NA			

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller

organization Historic Natchez Foundation **date** December 20, 1980

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 X 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 Robert G. Bailey

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer **date** February 2, 1982

For HCRS use only

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

Lynn A. Rocka **date** 3/22/1982

for **Keeper of the National Register**

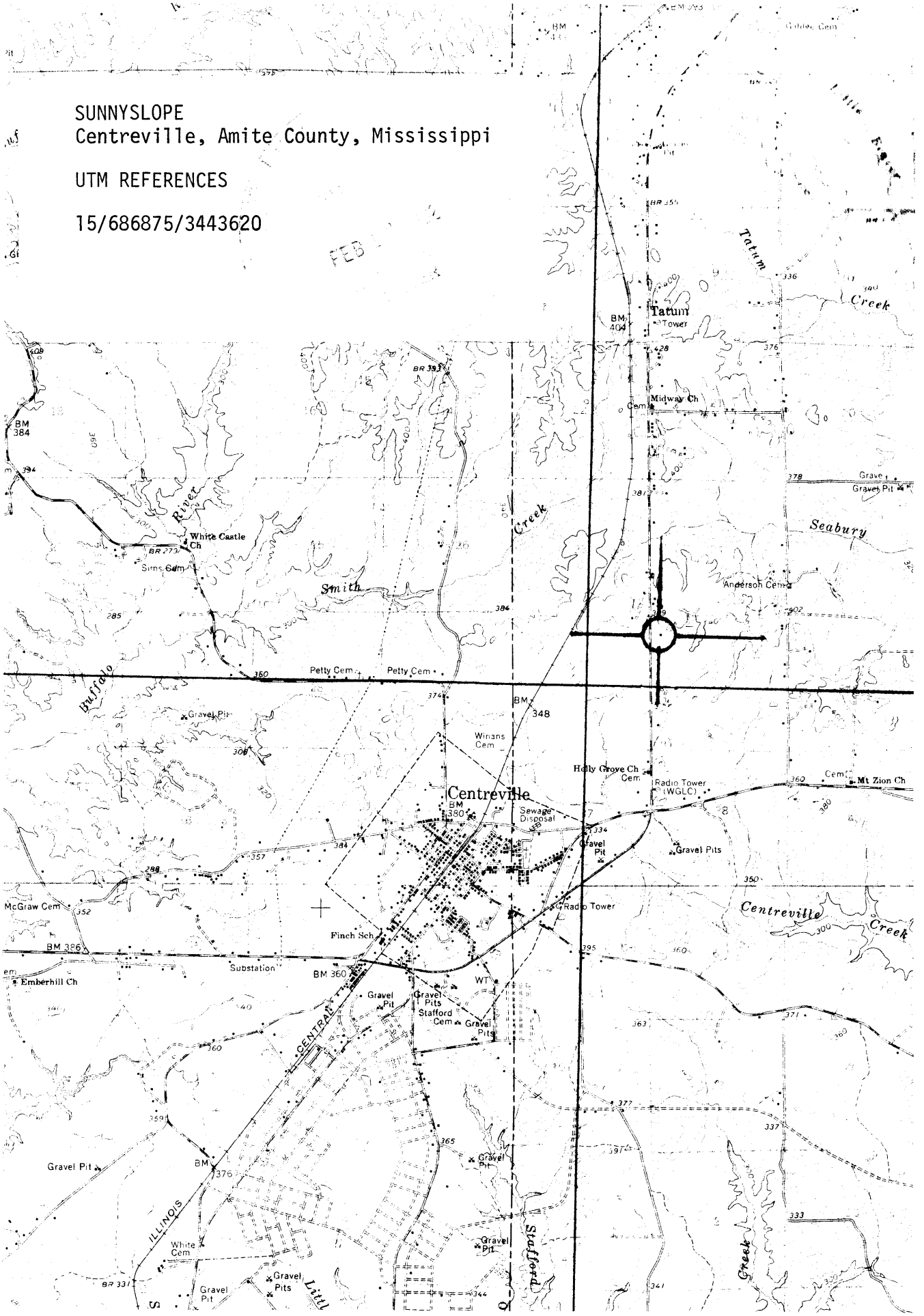
Attest: Carol Dutrie **date** 3/22/82

Chief of Registration

SUNNYSLOPE
Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES

15/686875/3443620



SUNNYSLOPE
Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi

Looking northeasterly, the westerly facade and southern elevation of Sunnyslope.

Mary W. Miller, December 1980, Historic Natchez Foundation

Photo 1 of 3

FEB 1 6 1982

SUNNYSLOPE
Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi

Looking northwesterly, detail photograph showing the unusual gallery railing.

Mary W. Miller, December 1980, Historic Natchez Foundation

Photo 2 of 3

FEB 1 6 1982

SUNNYSLOPE
Centreville, Amite County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, the northern front downstairs room showing the unusual closet, one of three such closets in the house, and the original oak-graining of the doors.

Mary W. Miller, December 1980, Historic Natchez Foundation

FEB 1 6 1982