

**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 Decatur N. Butler House

and/or common same as above

## 2. Location

street & number West of State Hwy. 567 about five miles northwest of Liberty N/A not for publication

city, town Liberty  vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Amite code 5

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name Tommie H. and W. P. Talbert

street & number Rt. 1, Box 38

city, town Liberty  vicinity of state Mississippi 39645

## 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 Historic Resources of Amite County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

## 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site  
 moved

date N/A

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

Located west of State Highway 567 about five miles northwest of Liberty, the Decatur N. Butler House is an exterior true one-and-a-half story log house that sits upon log posts and fieldstone. The gabled roof features an outside-end brick chimney with stepped base at each gable end. The logs are covered in clapboards except on the first-story facade and within the recessed rear porch. The second-story of the easterly facade is divided into two bays, but the first-story facade is a three-bay composition. The windows of the second-story facade are small and filled with single-hung sash, the second-story gable-end windows are unglazed and closed by batten shutters, and all remaining windows are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash. The easterly facade is fronted by a one-story gallery that was originally supported by chamfered posts, only one of which survives, but additional chamfered posts remain on the recessed rear gallery. At the northern end of the gallery is a water shelf or closet, which is enclosed by spaced vertical boards rather than the usual, more sophisticated lattice enclosure. The door and window surrounds of the facade are unmolded. Access to the interior of the house is provided through a center-bay doorway, which is filled with a board-and-batten door. The interior plan is basically a single-pile plan, two rooms wide, with no central passage and rear "cabinet" rooms flanking a recessed back porch. On the interior of the house, the logs are exposed. The door and window surrounds are unmolded, the interior doors are board-and-batten, and the surviving original mantel piece of the main room is simply an arched wooden mantel piece with no mantel shelf. A partition wall of vertical boards with molded chair rail divides the two front rooms. Access to the second story is by an enclosed stairway that is entered by a series of winders which make a quarter turn to continue in a straight westerly flight along the southern wall of the northern front room. The stairwell is railed on the second-story level by a railing of rectangular-sectioned balusters and square newels topped by vernacular finials. The second-story consists of one, large unpartitioned space with exposed log walls and a molded baseboard. Extending from the rear is a one-story frame wing with gabled roof and gallery on the southern elevation.

# 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** ca. 1840      **Builder/Architect** unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Decatur Butler House is one of the most significant log houses in the state of Mississippi. This significance is based principally on the outstanding integrity of the house. Exceptionally rare in its retention of original detail, the house is an important document for residential log construction of the mid-nineteenth century. Very few log houses from the period have survived into the twentieth century without extensive remodeling. The house has certain features characteristic of Amite County vernacular architecture which include the water shelf enclosing the northern end of the gallery, the use of log posts and fieldstone for foundation piers, chimneys with stepped bases, and the original wide roof overhang on the gable ends. The house gains added significance from its long history of family ownership and from the inclusion of sophisticated details such as a chair rail and baseboard in a rustic log structure. The house was acquired in the mid-nineteenth century by Decatur Butler, whose descendants still own the house. Although the Butler descendants now reside in newer houses on the property adjoining the nominated one-acre house site, the family respects and maintains the residence of their ancestor.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Mary W. Miller, preservation consultant with the Historic Natchez Foundation. Inspection of the Decatur Butler House, August 1, 1982.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approximately one acre

Quadrangle name Liberty, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 

1	5
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7	0	8	0	7	5
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3	4	5	4	6	7	5
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

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Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is bounded on the east by State Highway 567, bounded on the north by a row of trees, bounded on the west by a second row of trees, and is bounded on the south by a fence line separating the house from the pasture to the south.

**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/preservation consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date July 21, 1983

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 October 4, 1983

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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Decatur Butler House

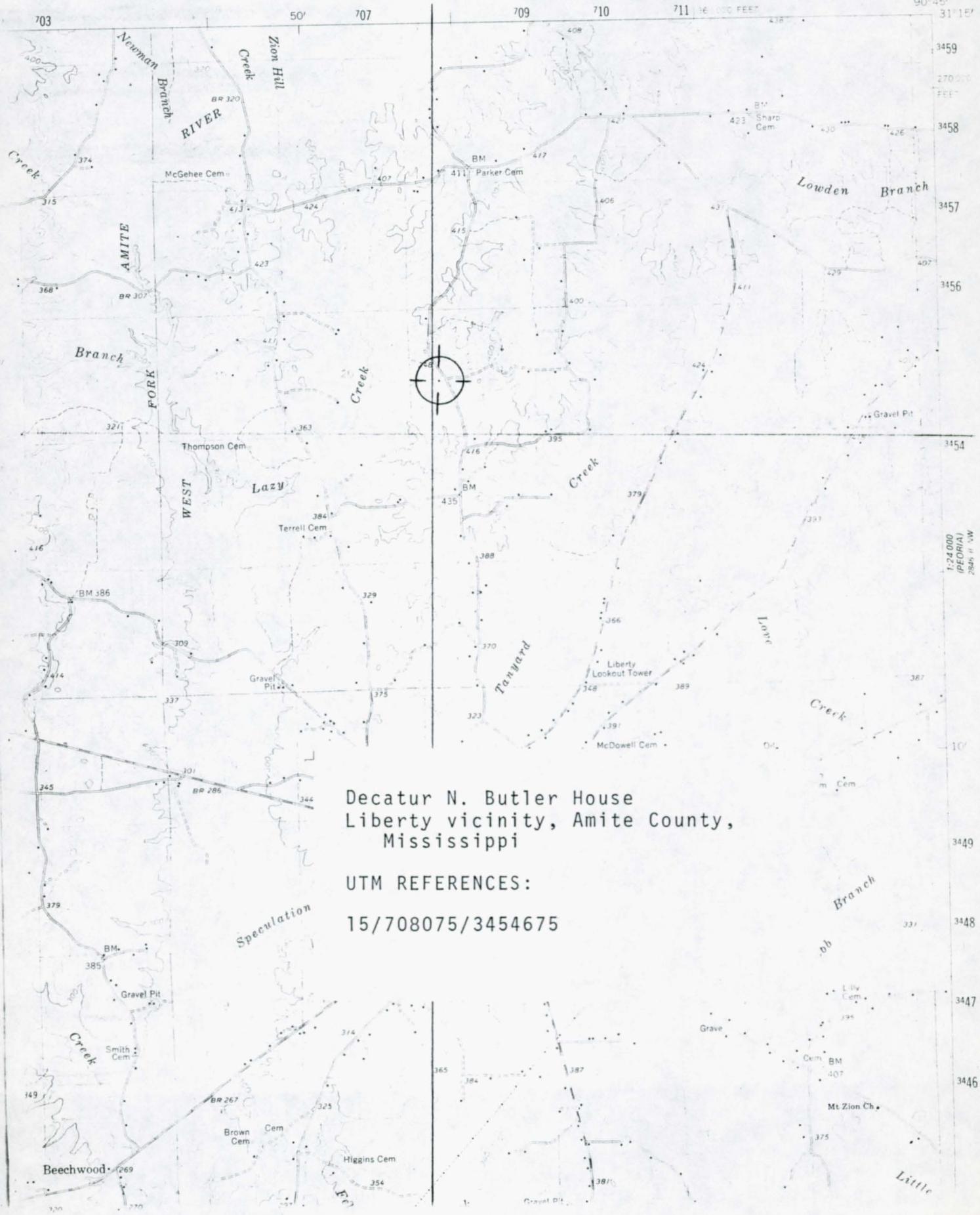
Continuation sheet Liberty, Amite Co., Miss. Item number 10

Page 1

The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with northern and southern boundary lines parallel and forming right angle corners with the western boundary line. The eastern boundary line is formed by the western side of State Highway 567. The northern, southern, and western boundary lines are located 100 feet from the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The nominated property is located in section 29, Township 3N, Range 4E and comprises a tract of slightly less than one acre.

LIBERTY QUADRANGLE  
MISSISSIPPI-AMITE CO.  
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

2861 SW  
1:24,000  
(SMITHDALE)



Decatur N. Butler House  
Liberty vicinity, Amite County,  
Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES:  
15/708075/3454675

1:24,000  
(PEORIA)  
2861 SW

3449

3448

3447

3446

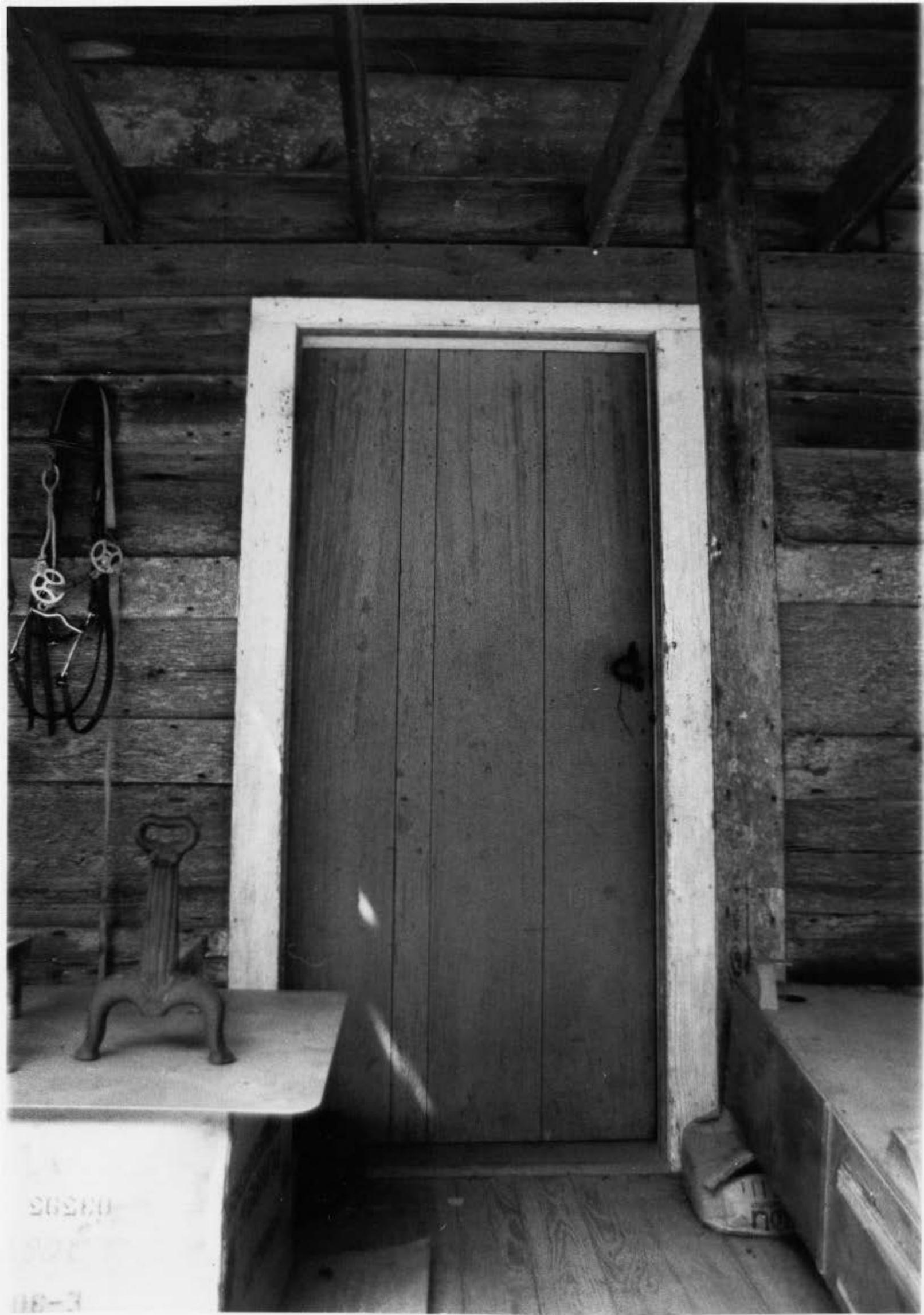


Decatur N. Butler House, view to west  
Liberty vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

September 1982

Photo 1 of 4



1882

1882

1882

Decatur N. Butler House, view to south,  
detail of entrance

Liberty vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

September 1982

Photo 2 of 4



Decatur N. Butler House, view to northeast,  
detail of chamfered post of back recessed  
porch

Liberty vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi  
Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

September 1982

Photo 3 of 4



Decatur N. Butler House, view to northwest,  
detail of the stairwell railing and  
newels on the second story

Liberty vicinity, Amite County, Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Mary Warren Miller

September 1982

Photo 4 of 4