

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

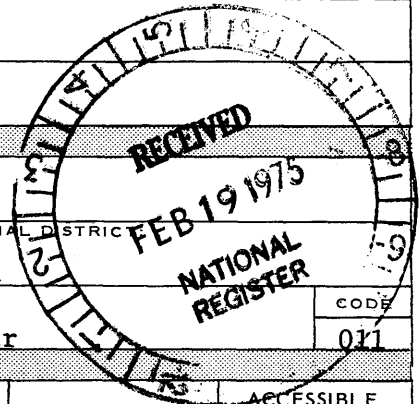
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

DATA SHEET

STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Bolivar
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	

APR 1 1975

1. NAME				
COMMON: * The Burrus House				
AND/OR HISTORIC: X Hollywood				
2. LOCATION				
STREET AND NUMBER: Sof Benoit MS 448				
State Route 448				
CITY OR TOWN:		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT		
Benoit vicinity		Second		
STATE	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE	
Mississippi	38725	28	Bolivar 021	
3. CLASSIFICATION				
CATEGORY (Check One)		OWNERSHIP		STATUS
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both		<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
		Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered		ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments				
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Restoration				
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> NONE project of the				
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/> NONE Bolivar Co. Historical Soc.				
4. OWNER OF PROPERTY				
OWNER'S NAME: The Bolivar County Historical Society c/o Charles Jacobs, Sr.				
STREET AND NUMBER: Commerce Building				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE	
Cleveland		Mississippi	38732 28	
5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION				
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Bolivar County Courthouse, West District				
STREET AND NUMBER:				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE	CODE	
Rosedale		Mississippi	38769 28	
6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS				
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey				
DATE OF SURVEY: 1936 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local				
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Division of Prints and Photographs				
STREET AND NUMBER: Library of Congress				
CITY OR TOWN:		STATE:	CODE	
Washington,		D. C.	20540 08	



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Bolivar
ENTRY NUMBER: APR 1 1975
DATE: 1975
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

Hollywood is a large deteriorating frame dwelling house situated on the west side of state route 448 one quarter-mile south of Benoit, Mississippi. The site has been known as Egypt Ridge since 1844, when a disastrous Delta flood failed to reach its elevated position (Sillers pp. 84-5). Based on traditional architectural principles as interpreted by local craftsmen, the design of Hollywood is best described as vernacular Greek Revival. Standing two-and-a-half-stories high above a foundation of brick piers, the house is divided into five equal bays with the entrance placed on the center axis. A prostyle portico, with only two of its Corinthian columns remaining, is attached to the facade. Installed in 1955, these columns replaced the originals which were characterized by robustly turned, bell-shaped capitals, fluted shafts, and molded bases. To further promote the sophistication of the principle elevation, the framing of the facade and tympanum is covered with shiplap siding to contrast with the clapboarded secondary elevations. Of the remaining architectural features, the entrance frontispiece in antis is particularly noteworthy. Two fluted columns with provincial turned capitals and bases are paired with engaged piers of similar detail to support an architrave, frieze, and dentiled cornice. Beyond the frontispiece and paneled recess there remains only the outline of the entrance with its narrow transom and sidelights separated from the doorway by pilasters. Above the entrance is a second pilastered frontispiece and a paneled door, which was meant to give access to a balcony that was never installed. The facade fenestration is completed by the tall, glassless window openings, diminished on the second level, which flank the center bay. Each window architrave is capped by a simple molded cornice, an enrichment not found on the less ambitious secondary elevations. Here architectural treatment is limited to the four interior chimneys with their shallow reveals, the rear doorway which repeats the design of its counterpart on the facade with sidelights and a transom, and the entablature which is carried from the portico to follow the rake of the gabled ends. A double gallery, its doors communicating with the two back chambers and the upper passage, ran the full length of the rear elevation until its destruction by fire in the early years of this century. The kitchen, which was connected to the gallery by an open hyphen, has also disappeared.

As conceived by provincial craftsmen, the interior of Hollywood is designed with the same restrained ambition that is characteristic of the exterior. Interior spaces are arranged according to the traditional double-pile formula, with double parlors on the north and two large bedchambers on the south side of a central stairhall. Vandalism and decay have stripped the house of its major woodwork including the eight mantels and the stair balusters, banister, and newel. The scrolled step-ends and a single extant base of a turned baluster give evidence of the stair's original appearance. Window architraves, interior frontispieces and niche-surrounds survive as fine examples of the local joiner's skill. Each door opening off the center hall is treated with an eared architrave supporting a simple box cornice. Special emphasis is given to the double parlors where doors and windows with paneled soffits are flanked by pilasters supporting a wide frieze and molded cornice. The woodwork of the secondary rooms, including the library and bedchambers of the upper story, is limited to baseboards and window and door architraves composed of a wide fascia surrounded by a simple backband typical of the 1850s.

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) 1858-1861

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>Association with</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>prominent family.</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hollywood is the ~~only~~ structure associated with the locally prominent Burrus family that remains in Bolivar County, Mississippi. It was constructed by John C. Burrus (1818-1879), who was among the first to settle the county after its lands were removed from Indian control by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830 (Kamper, p. 8). Although a native of Huntsville, Alabama, where he practiced law until 1842, Burrus had established a plantation in Bolivar County early enough to appear on that county's first tax roll, taken in 1836. According to the same records for 1840, Burrus's holdings consisted of 913 acres of land, valued at \$3,652, and 34 slaves. Burrus continued his absentee ownership until 1842 when, according to family tradition, mistreatment of his slaves caused him to forsake his law career and settle permanently on his Bolivar plantation (Sillers, p. 412). Between 1842 and 1848, Burrus lived at Neblett Place and later at Wood Yard, where Mississippi River steamboats were supplied with wood from the dense forests once common in the Delta. In 1848, he moved his family five miles inland to Egypt Ridge, where he established a fourteen hundred acre plantation named "Hollywood." Until the present structure was completed in 1861, the family resided in a simple six-room log house which stood until the 1930s. Wholly utilitarian by nature, this crude structure was a great embarrassment to at least one family member, who anxiously awaited the completion of the new, more sophisticated dwelling. While a student at the University of Virginia in 1859, Burrus's son Charles wrote: "... I shall be very glad to get over to the new house. We will be much more comfortable and everything otherwise will be better arranged. The truth is I felt ashamed at living in the tumble [sic] down house we live in now... We can make the new place very beautiful by proper care. I shall plant every kind of flower there I can obtain for I am fully determined to have a pretty yard and garden" (Charles Burrus to Elizabeth Burrus, May 30, 1859, Burrus Papers). Although the name of the architect, or more likely the master builder, responsible for the designs of Hollywood remains unknown, contemporary family correspondence gives vague references to the actual building progress. On June 1, 1858, Burrus's wife Louisa wrote her daughter: "The workmen are here & have begun to make the window and door frames & things of that kind" (Louisa Burrus to Lizzy Burrus, Burrus Papers). A year and a half later the house was almost complete when she wrote: "They are burning the brick & the chimneys will soon be finished. They are finishing off upstairs--as all below is done. The parlor & dining rooms are very pretty" (Louisa Burrus to Flossy Burrus, November 23, 1859, Burrus Papers). Because "the painter [was] so slow in coming," the house remained

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Primary Sources

Manuscripts and Official Records

Burrus, John C. Papers, 1831-1870. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Personal Tax Rolls, Bolivar County. 1836, 1837, 1839, 1840, 1855, 1864, 1868, 1879, 1883, 1891, 1893. Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY				OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES				
CORNER	LATITUDE				LONGITUDE				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	33°	38'	23"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	90°	00'	17"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"			
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 4 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William C. Allen, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: February 12, 1975

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 Elbena R. Hilliard

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date February 12, 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

AR Mortensen
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 4/1/75

ATTEST:

WJ Smith
Keeper of The National Register

Date 4/1/75

NO
27M
CY

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

RECEIVED
(July 1970)

FEB 19 1975

NATIONAL
REGISTER

(Number all entries)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
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7.

The second floor complies with the established double-pile plan except for the use of closets that separate the library and bedroom on the southern end. One of these closets houses the small winding attic stairs.

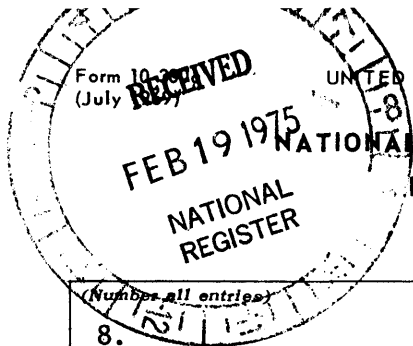
8.

unfinished in May of the following year (Louisa Burrus to Flossy and Elizabeth Burrus, May 20, 1860, Burrus Papers). After almost three years of building, Hollywood was finally completed in early 1861, although it stood without the originally proposed balcony.

From the time of his removal to Bolivar County, Burrus was active in local political affairs. In 1847, he was elected president of the seventh Board of Police, forerunner of the County Board of Supervisors, and was subsequently reelected to that body in 1853, 1855, and 1862 (Sillers, pp. 17,22,23; Secretary of State Register of Commissions, 1858-1864). Although he did not serve in the military during the Civil War, Burrus aided the Confederate cause by allowing General Peter Burwell Starke to camp his men at Hollywood and, according to family tradition, by harboring General Jubal Early during his surreptitious escape to Mexico after the surrender at Appomattox (Sillers, p. 413). Because of its inland location, Burrus's plantation was not damaged by the Federal gunboats which habitually shelled the structures lining the Mississippi River. It is partially for this reason that the Burrus residence remains the only significant antebellum "mansion-type" plantation house extant in Bolivar County.

The political and economic climate of the Reconstruction period afforded Burrus little opportunity for public service. He was elected Justice of the Peace in 1865 but only two years later placed last in a four-man contest for sheriff, having received only five votes (Secretary of State Register of Commissions, 1865-1869; Secretary of State Records, vol. 36). With his death in 1879, Burrus's estate passed to his only surviving son, John Crawford Burrus, Jr. (1847-1928), who served in the Civil War with the 9th Texas Cavalry until his capture in December, 1864. Upon his release in March, 1865, Burrus had returned to Hollywood and joined his father in the effort to save the plantation from financial ruin. In the closing years of the nineteenth century, Burrus became involved in local politics, serving on the Bolivar County Board of Supervisors from 1890 to 1896, after which he became a Justice of the Peace (1896-1900). In 1904, Burrus was elected to one term (1904-1908) in the state house of representatives, followed by a term (1908-1912) in the state senate (Official and Statistical Register, 1908).

Two years after his retirement from public service, John C. Burrus, Jr., moved into the nearby residence of his only surviving child, Mrs. Margaret Burrus Barry. Ceasing to serve as a Burrus dwelling, Hollywood was rented to tenants and soon fell into a state of disrepair. The first plea for the preservation of Hollywood came in 1933, a mere five years after Burrus's death. Describing the deteriorating condition of the house, a local historian wrote: "Much of the back part has fallen away but the main part of the house remains



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(Number all entries)

8.

intact and it is not yet too late to save it for posterity...unless something is done now to stay the decay this lone survivor of Bolivar County's early mansions also will soon pass into the ream [sic] of memories" (Memphis Commercial Appeal, September 17, 1933). The first attempted preservation of Hollywood came in 1955, when Warner Brothers filmed a large portion of Tennessee Williams's Baby Doll at Hollywood plantation. Instead of paying for the use of the property, Director Elia Kazan agreed to repair the house. These "improvements" were wholly superficial and, in some respects, destructive in nature. The film crews attached a purposely ruinous one-story kitchen to the northwest corner of the house, replaced the original columns with ones of more "correct" Corinthian design, and painted the exterior white. The notoriety given the Burrus house by the film attracted curious visitors, many of whom vandalized the interior by stripping off its woodwork and marring the plaster walls with graffiti. To reverse the rapid decay of Hollywood, the heirs of John Crawford Burrus, Jr., donated the property to the Bolivar County Historical Society in 1975. Plans are now under way for the restoration of the house and grounds.

9.

Secretary of State Records. 1817-1871. Record Group 28, Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Secretary of State Register of Commissions. 1853-1857, 1858-1864, 1865-1869. Record Group 28 (microfilm). Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

Newspapers

Bullard, Pam. "Last Antebellum Home Cries For Help." Cleveland (Miss.) Bolivar Commercial. July 18, 19, 1974.

Jenkins, Penny. "Baby Doll Revisited: An Exercise in Nostalgia." Greenville (Miss.) Delta Democrat-Times. January 17, 1972.

Ogden, Florence S. "Decaying Bolivar Mansion Connecting Link With Building Skill of Antebellum Days." Memphis Commercial Appeal. September 17, 1933.

Interview

Mrs. Archie Louise Barry Winn. December 12, 1974.

Secondary Sources

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: Goodspeed Publishing Co., 1891. Reprint. Wooster, Ohio: Micropublishers. Bell and Howell, 1973.

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INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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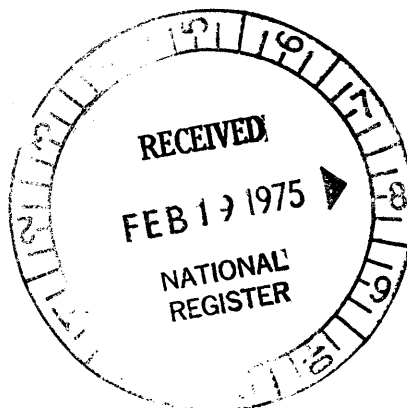
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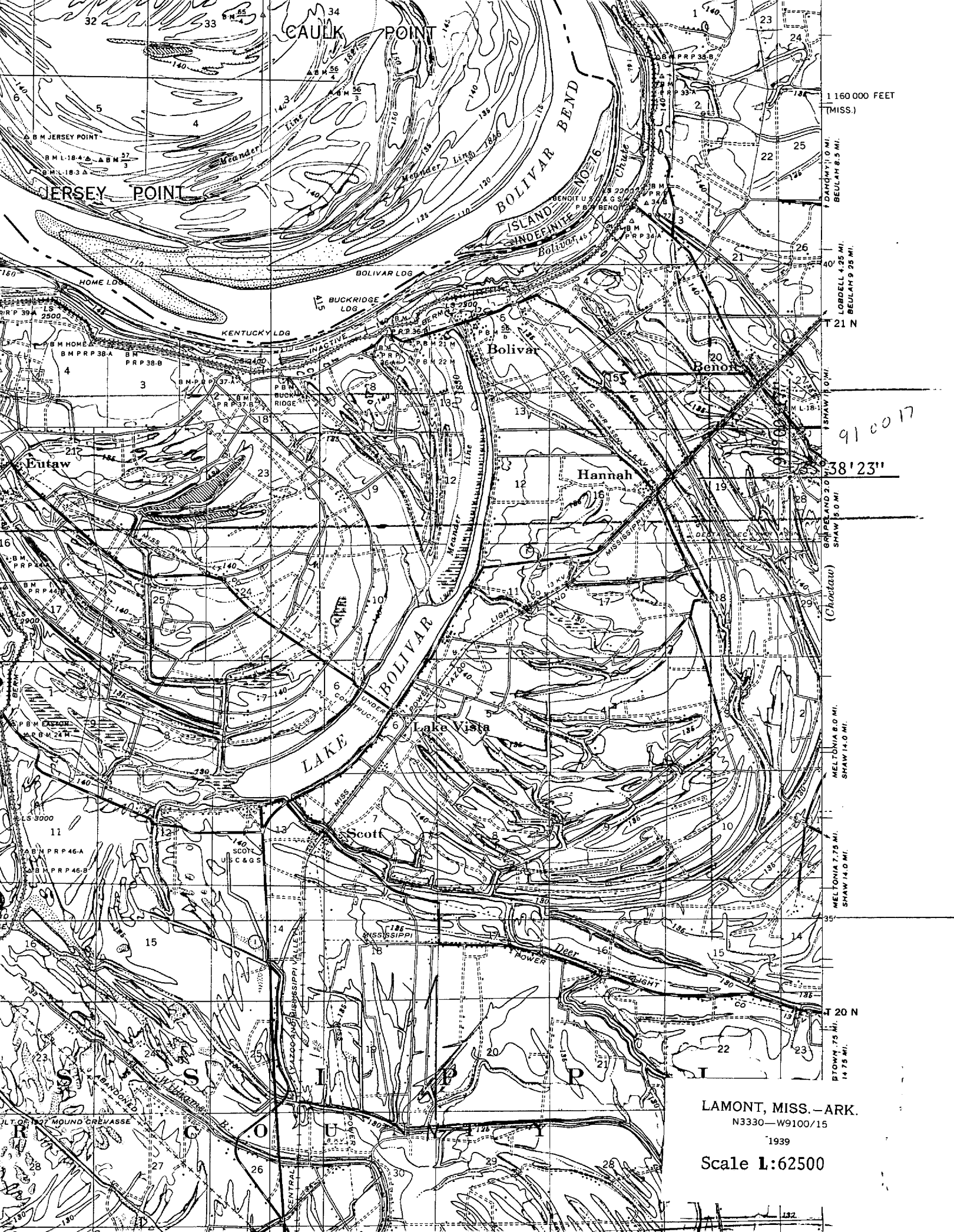
Kamper, Anna A. "A Social and Economic History of Ante-Bellum Bolivar County, Mississippi." M.A. thesis, University of Alabama, 1942.

Rowland, Dunbar. Mississippi: Comprising Sketches of Counties, Towns, Events, Institutions, and Persons, Arranged in Cyclopedic Form. 3 vols. Atlanta: Southern Historical Publishing Association, 1907.

_____. Official and Statistical Register. Nashville: Press of the Brandon Printing Co., 1908.

Sillers, Florence W., comp. History of Bolivar County, Mississippi. Jackson, Miss.: Hederman Brothers, 1948.





LAMONT, MISS.-ARK.
N3330—W9100/15

1939

Scale 1:62500

Form No. 10-301
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

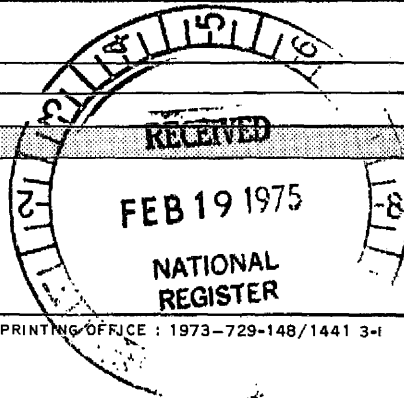
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Bolivar	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	APR 1 1975

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: The Burrus House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Hollywood			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: State Route 448			
CITY OR TOWN: Benoit vicinity			
STATE: Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Bolivar	CODE 011
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey			
SCALE: 1:62500			
DATE: 1939			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

1. NAME		
COMMON	AND/OR HISTORIC	NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)
The Burrus House	Hollywood	APR 1 1975
2. LOCATION		
STATE	COUNTY	TOWN
Mississippi	Bolivar	Benoit vicinity
STREET AND NUMBER		
State Route 448		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson,	Ms. January, 1975	Mississippi Department of Archives & History
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

View of the Northwest.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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2. LOCATION		
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Mississippi	Bolivar	Benoit vicinity
STREET AND NUMBER		
State Route 448		
3. PHOTO REFERENCE		
PHOTO CREDIT	DATE	NEGATIVE FILED AT
Miss. Department of Archives & History, Jackson, Miss.	ca. 1935	Mississippi Department of Archives and History
4. IDENTIFICATION		
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.		

Front elevation.



#292



HABS photo, 1936
Burrus House, Bolivar County
Miss. Dept. of Archives & History