NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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NAT REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OMB No. 1024-0018

1479

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Bull Homestead
other names/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 13836 Hwy. 16 East
city or town: Benton vicinity X
state: Mississippi code: 28 county: Yazoo code:163 zip code: 39039

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X_ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X_ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally _X_ statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Park — DECEMBER 6, 2001
Signature of certifying official — Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official — Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
_✓_ entered in the National Register,
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register
____ other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper — Date of Action
Per Edson M. Beall 1.17.02

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: district

Number of Resources within Property:
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	*Noncontributing*
8	buildings
1	sites
	structures
	objects
9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:
Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding
Funerary: cemetery

Current Functions:
Domestic: single dwelling
Agriculture: agricultural outbuilding
Funerary: cemetery

7. Description

Architectural Classification(s):
Other: galleried cottage

Materials:
foundation: brick
roof: slate, metal
walls: brick and weatherboard
other:

Narrative Description:

See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

X **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations:

Property is:

____ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ **B** removed from its original location.

____ **C** a birthplace or a grave.

_X_ **D** a cemetery.

____ **E** a reconstructed building, object,or structure.

____ **F** a commemorative property.

____ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

Architecture
Exploration and settlement
Agriculture

Period of Significance

circa 1835-circa 1935

Significant Dates

1835, 1848

Significant Person(s)

Cultural Affiliation(s)

Architect/Builder

unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance: See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

___preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

___ previously listed in the National Register

___ previously determined eligible by the National Register

___ designated a National Historic Landmark

___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

_____

___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

_____

Primary Location of Additional Data

_X_ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository:

_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: approximately 51 acres

UTM References:		Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
	A	15	764630	3629000	C	15	765040	3628450
	B	15	765025	3629010	D	15	764660	3628440

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: See continuation sheet.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Diane Dixon (edited by Richard J. Cawthon, MDAH)
organization: date: February 2001
street & number: 4178 Pepper Wilson Road telephone: (662)673-8829
city or town: Vaughan state: MS zip code: 39179

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:
Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner(s)

name: John Ellison Bull, Jr.
street & number: 13836 Hwy. 16 East telephone: (662) 673-2678
city or town: Benton state: MS zip code: 39039

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

Narrative description

Located on Mississippi State Highway 16 in eastern Yazoo County Mississippi, the Bull Homestead consists of an early vernacular hall-and-parlor plan galleried cottage, built circa 1835 and enlarged about 1848, several adjacent later outbuildings, and a family cemetery. Situated on a knoll, the house faces north and is surrounded by large magnolia trees. The property is still a working farm. The house and most outbuildings are on the south side of Highway 16 and the family cemetery is on the north.

The original house of post and beam construction with in-fill of coursed brick nogging and a detached kitchen were completed circa 1835. The house is a classic example of an early single-pile "hall and parlor" plan that is two rooms wide at the front with no central passage. The original gallery fronts the north façade of the house. Cabinet rooms flank the original recessed rear loggia, which features an open staircase leading to a large loft. On both gable ends of the house are identical chimneys, each with a firebox on both the ground floor and the loft. All the original exterior features of the house are intact including the plastered brick front wall with molded chair rail, weather-boarded gable ends, six-over-six double-hung windows, shutters, doors, original chamfered posts on what was originally the rear gallery, and chamfered posts and handrails on the front gallery.

In 1848 the house was enlarged by the addition of two rooms extending to the rear of the 1835 house, arranged as a main room constructed of post and beam plastered lathe to the east and a cabinet room behind. The main room of this section has much taller nine-over-nine double-hung windows and two exterior double-leaf doors. Connected to the original house by a covered breezeway, these rooms were heated by one gable-end chimney with stacked fireboxes, again serving the main floor and a large loft. This 1848 loft is not connected to the 1835 loft. It is accessed by a second staircase, enclosed, which is entered from the breezeway through a six-paneled door.

At some point a tiny room for visitors called the "tramp" room was enclosed on the west end of the front gallery of the 1835 portion of the house. This room was only accessible from the gallery. Years later a door was cut through the brick wall into the parlor. A seventy-foot long porch, extending the full length of the west side of the house, was added and the breezeway that encompassed the original rear gallery was enclosed with modern French doors to form the dining room. The original shake roof of the house was removed early in the twentieth century and the entire house was roofed with gray slate shingles.

The formal hall and parlor of the 1835 section of the house features six-inch center-matched heart pine floors and ceilings, molded architrave surrounds, molded base and chair rails, mantels, and doors. The mantels consist of molded mantel boards supported by a frieze flanked by plain pilasters. Molded footed pilasters support this entablature. The front and rear entrances of the formal hall are forty-three inch wide multi-panel doors consisting of three horizontal over three vertical raised panels. Molding surrounds the panels on both sides of the door. One six-over-six double-hung window faces the front gallery. To the left of the fireplace is another window and on the right side of the fireplace is an original unique feature best described as a six-over-six single-sash window within a door with a pair of vertical raised panels, again surrounded by molding on both sides. The remaining doors are thirty-four inches wide with three horizontal over two vertical raised panels.

The east cabinet room, featuring circa 1900 wallpaper, is accessed from the formal hall. The west cabinet room originally had only one door leading to the rear gallery. At some later date a second door was added connecting the parlor. All doors retain their original hardware and locks. Exiting the formal hall, you enter the recessed rear gallery, now connected to the breezeway. The gallery is separated from the cabinet rooms by single-board walls of beaded weatherboard and the single chamfered column remains in this area. An open staircase rises from the gallery to the loft with an original batten door at the top of the stairs. Beneath the staircase is an enclosed storage area known by the family as the "sugar closet". The north interior closet wall is unplastered revealing the coursed nogging in-fill of the post and beam walls.

The large loft of the 1835 section of the house has six-over-six double-hung windows on either side of both fireplaces with original unpainted pine mantels identical to the first-floor mantels. This room is sheathed with original, unpainted, six-inch pine boards featuring a decorative bead on the edge. The breezeway that connects the 1835 and 1848 sections of the house is now enclosed, encompassing the rear gallery and is currently used by the family as a dining room. Modern double French doors flanked by windows are at the east and west ends of the dining room. The loft of the 1848 addition is accessed through a six-panel door in the southwest corner of the dining room. This door has raised panels with molding on both sides of the door. A storage area, referred to by the family as the "medicine closet", is accessed through a batten door underneath the 1848 staircase.

The 1848 loft is also sheathed in unpainted, but less refined, pine boards. This room has a fireplace on the south gable end with its original mantel and six-over-six double-hung windows on either side. There are two more six-over-six windows in this loft that overlook the east porch. The north end of this loft has an opening that leads to a small storage room above the east cabinet room, which has another window in the same style with an east view.

Downstairs, the 1848 addition can be entered from the dining room through an original molded double-leaf door into a small sitting room. There are nine-over-nine double-hung windows on either side of the fireplace, which also maintains its original mantel. The mantel consists of a plain mantel board supported by a molded frieze flanked by rectangular blocks formed by plain moldings. Molded footed pilasters support this entablature. Two windows on the east wall of the sitting room flank another molded double-leaf door leading to the long porch. A six-panel door, identical to the 1848 stairwell door leads to a small cabinet room that has double nine-over-nine windows on the south and a single nine-over-nine window on the west wall.

At some time around 1900 the original detached kitchen on the southeast side of the house was taken down and a kitchen, attached to the dining room by a window-enclosed porch, was constructed on the southwest corner of the house. Accessed from the west end of the dining room, the kitchen consists of a large room and a shallow pantry that runs the length of the west wall. The pantry has a single two-over-two window typical of that time period. Many of the kitchen accoutrements are circa 1900 including the freestanding enameled sink, food safes, and original blue-washed walls.

The nineteenth and twentieth century additions to the original house caused little physical change to the 1835 structure. The additions are remarkably intact, unchanged, and true to their time period. A significant amount of heirloom furnishings, spanning the five generations, remains within the house and are presently being catalogued.

The remaining outbuildings of the homestead include three barns, a garage, and a one-room board and batten cabin that is in poor condition. Near the south side of the house stands a small original outbuilding, traditionally called the "milk house", where milk was strained and put into containers. A smokehouse, although in poor condition, is still standing. Although the dates of these outbuildings have not yet been confirmed, all were standing by the early years of the twentieth century, and all seven of these outbuildings are considered to be contributing components. In addition to these, there are also several small sheds.

The family cemetery, located across the highway to the north, is counted as a contributing site. This is one of the earliest cemeteries in eastern Yazoo County. A six-foot high wall of slave-molded brick originally enclosed the graves of the Bull family. Just outside the wall, numerous slaves and their descendants were buried, as well as an unidentified Confederate soldier. In 1956 the original brick wall had deteriorated and was replaced with a four-foot high iron fence. The graveyard lies less than twenty feet from Highway 16.

Statement of Significance

The Bull Homestead is primarily significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture and under Criterion A in the area of Exploration and Settlement, because the house is an early and well-preserved example of a hall-and-parlor galleried cottage, dating from the settlement period in Yazoo County. The homestead is also secondarily significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture as a well preserved farmstead complex that has remained in the same family for five generations, with components dating from the 1830s into the early twentieth century. The period of significance of the homestead extends from circa 1835, when the original portion of the house was built, to the 1930s, by which time the last of the existing outbuildings had been constructed.

The homestead is most significant for the architectural character of the house, which is a remarkably well preserved "hall-and-parlor-plan" galleried cottage, a rare survivor of this type in the central part of Mississippi. The house is particularly noteworthy for its method of construction. The original portion was built around a timber frame which was infilled with coursed brick nogging. This unusual method of construction is most readily evident inside the closet beneath the stairs to the front loft. The house was enlarged by the addition of a rear wing in 1848, and by the construction of a kitchen about 1900.

The homestead is also important for its collection of outbuildings, which include three barns, a garage, a "milk house," a smokehouse, and a small board-and-batten cabin. Although the dates of these outbuildings have not yet been confirmed, all were standing by the early years of the twentieth century, and together they make for an very complete farmstead complex. The family cemetery, located across the highway to the north, is also a part of the complex.

The Bull Homestead has been the residence of five generations of the Bull family: James Hogan Bull (1780-1840), James Campbell Bull (1811-1892), David King Bull (1837-1910), John Ellison Bull (1880-1969), and the current owner John Ellison Bull, Jr. (1932-). James Hogan Bull who was born June 23, 1780, and his wife Frelove "Lovey" Campbell, born April 10, 1777, married in North Carolina and moved to Georgia in the early nineteenth century. In 1817, they migrated to Lawrence County, Mississippi to establish a plantation and the first sawmill on the Bogue Chitto River. While residing in Lawrence County, James Hogan Bull was a magistrate and also represented Lawrence County in the Mississippi Legislature for one term. The original Lawrence County family home, circa 1823, is still standing.

A son of James Hogan Bull, James Campbell Bull, was granted land in Yazoo County Mississippi. In 1833, James left Lawrence County for Yazoo County and began clearing land. James Hogan and Frelove Bull followed their son to Yazoo in 1834 where James Hogan undoubtedly oversaw the construction of the house. James Campbell Bull and his wife Lydia King had three children: David King Bull, James Hogan Bull II, and Mary Bull. James Hogan Bull I died August 25, 1840, and was the first family member buried on the burgeoning plantation. Other family members including Lydia King Bull and Frelove Bull, who both died in 1850, were laid to rest in the Bull Cemetery.

In 1857, David King Bull married Susan Ellison (1837-1888) and two years later James C. Bull married his second wife, Mercy Ogden. At the time of the Civil War, the holdings of the Bull family totaled 3,000 acres and encompassed numerous outbuildings. David King Bull enlisted in the Confederate Army in 1861 and served as a quartermaster throughout the war. The family struggled to hold onto their land in the aftermath of the War Between the States and though the home and family withstood the hardships, a significant amount of their land holdings were lost. In addition to being a working plantation, the Bull Homestead served as a traveler's "stop" between Canton and Yazoo City, where horses were tended and passengers were sometimes given overnight accommodations.

The Bull Homestead is still the home of members of the Bull family, and its lands continue to be operated as a working farm.

Verbal Boundary Description

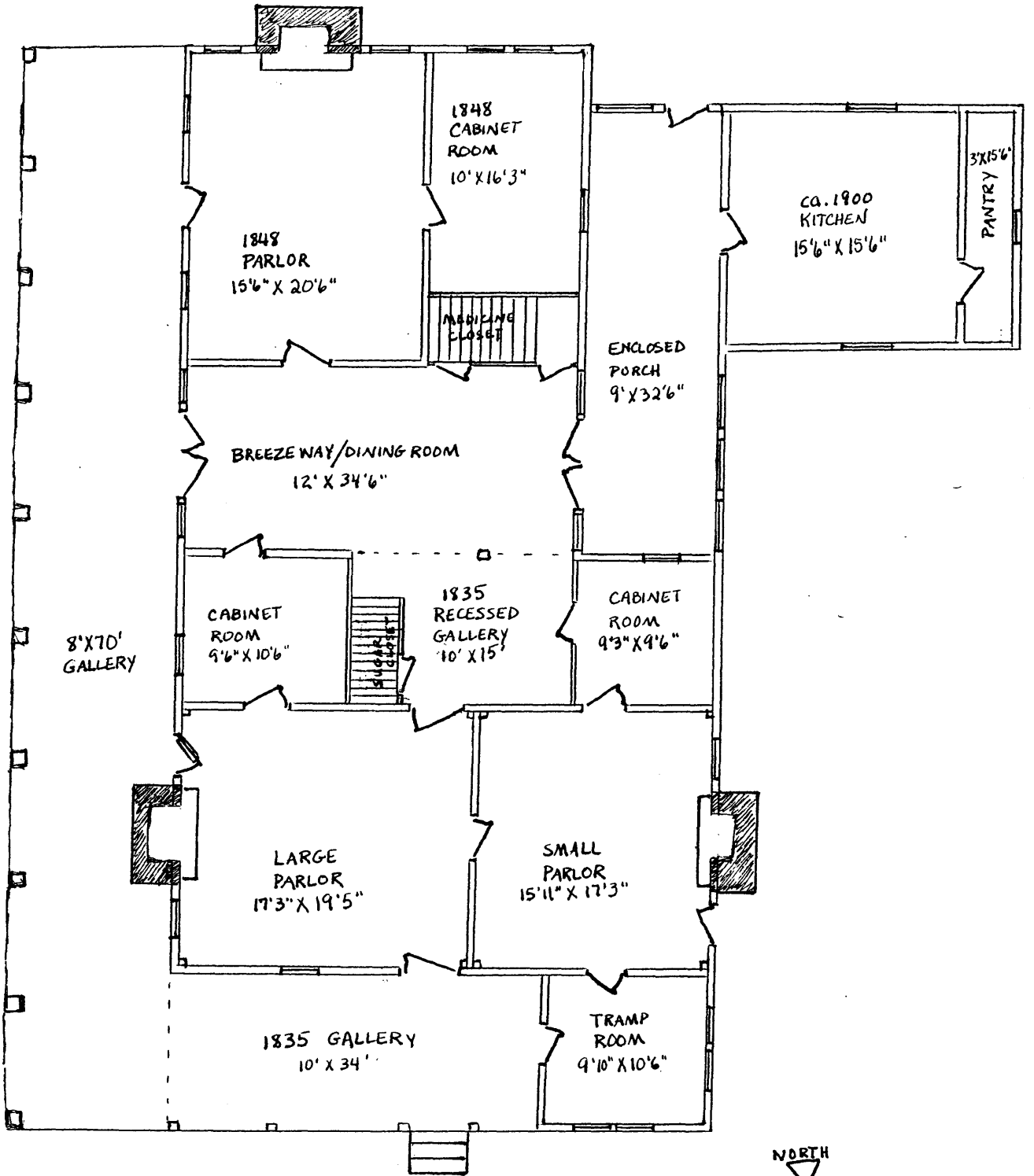
In Section 26, T 11 N, R 1 E, Yazoo County, Mississippi, an area described as follows: from the southwest corner of Section 26, north 1700 feet, then east 1320 feet, then south 1700 feet, then west 1320 feet to the point of beginning, containing approximately 51 acres.

Boundary Justification

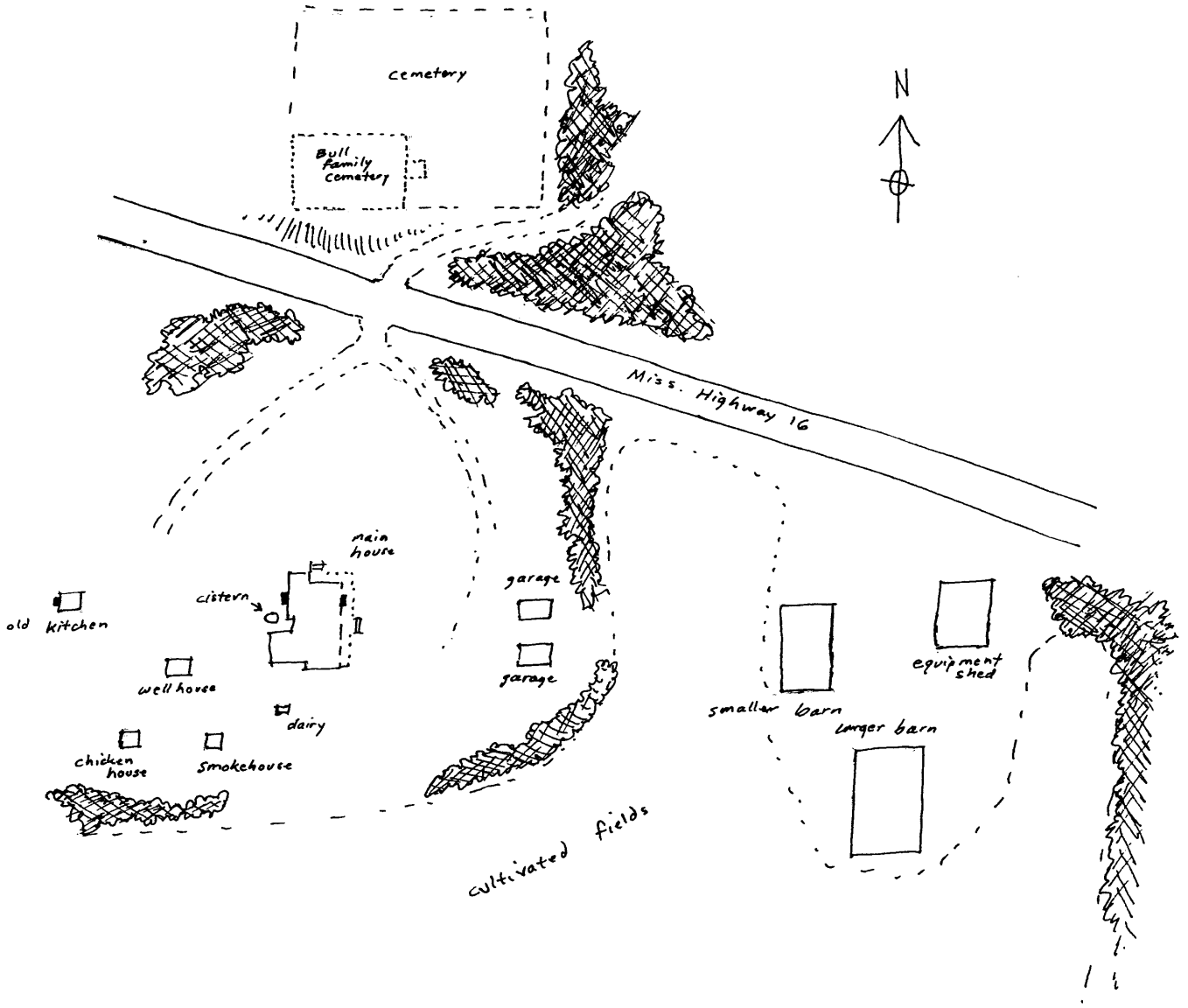
The nominated property consists of a portion of the Bull family lands that contains the Bull House, its outbuildings, the Bull family cemetery, and their immediate setting.

PHOTOS:

Photo 1	oblique frontal view of the Bull House, view to southwest
Photo 2	Front gallery of 1835 house, view to south
Photo 3	East side of the Bull House, view to west
Photo 4	West side of the house, view to east
Photo 5	Parlor in the original part of the house, view to east
Photo 6	Room that was originally the rear loggia of the 1835 house, showing the stairs to the front attic, view to north
Photo 7	Wall within the closet under the stairs to the front attic, showing the coursed brick nogging of the post and beam walls, view to northeast
Photo 8	Milk house, immediately south of the main house; view to southwest
Photo 9	The two barns, located east of the house; view to northeast
Photo 10	interior of the older barn, showing the construction of the log crib; view to north
Photo 11	Bull family cemetery, view to northeast



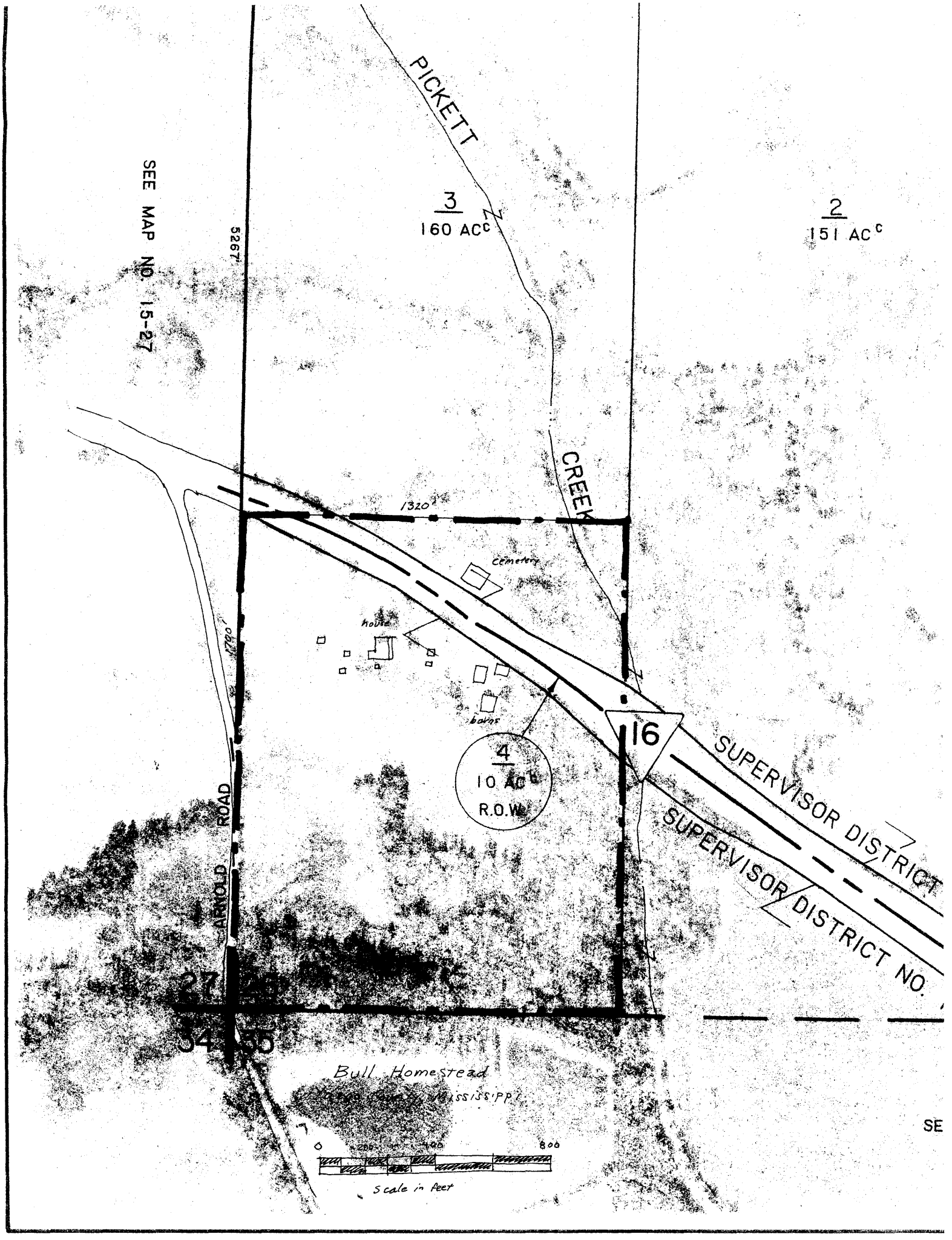
Bull House
Yazoo County, Mississippi



sketch map
of the
Bull Farmstead
Yazoo County, Miss.

NOT TO SCALE

October 2001


PICKETT
CREEK
3
160 AC
2
151 AC
SEE MAP NO. 15-27
5267'
1320'
1780'
cemetery
house
barns
4
10 AC
R.O.W.
16
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT
SUPERVISOR DISTRICT NO.
ARNOLD ROAD
27
34
35
Bull Homestead
0
200
400
800
Scale in feet
SE

LEGEND

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2001
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
Oblique frontal view of the
Bull House, view to
southwest

Photo 1 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
Front gallery of the Bull House
view to South

Photo 2 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
East side of the Bull House,
view to west

Photo 3 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
Exterior of Bull House, west side
View to east

Photo 4 of 11

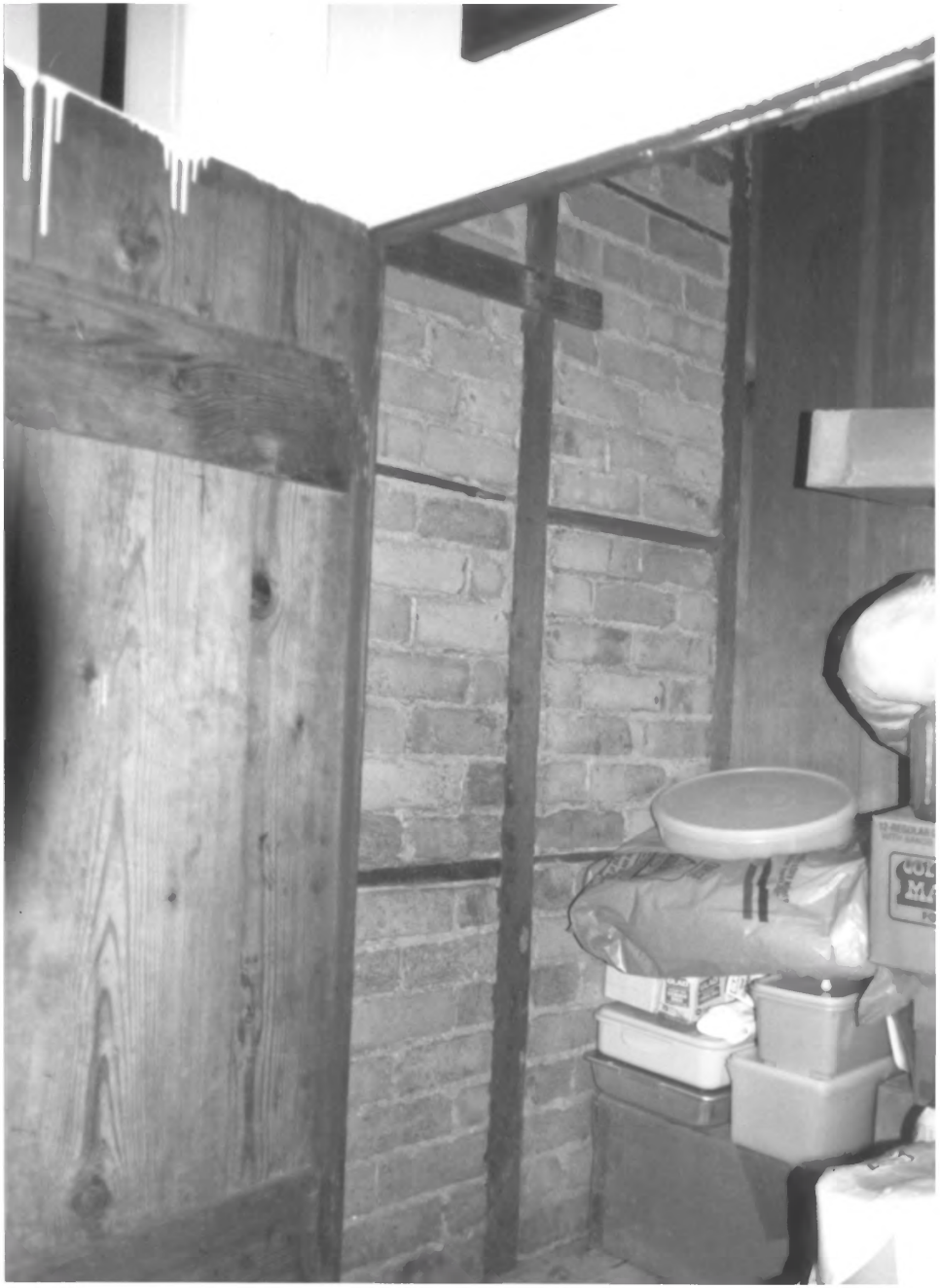
Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
parlor of the Bull House
View to east

Photo 5 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Former rear loggia of the original house, now dining room.
view to northeast

Photo 6 of 11



Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives and History
Brick nogging visible in a closet in the Bull House
view to northeast

Photo 7 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2000
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
The "Milk House,"
view to southwest

Photo 8 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2001
Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History
The two barns,
view to northeast

Photo 9 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2001
Mississippi Department of
Archives and History
Interior of older barn
view to north

Photo 10 of 11

Bull Homestead
Yazoo County, Mississippi
Photo by Richard Cawthon
October 2001
Mississippi Department of
Archives and History
Bull family cemetery,
view to northeast
Photo 11 of 11