

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

OCT 19 1982

**1. Name**

historic Canemount

and/or common same as above

**2. Location** N of Alcorn off MS 552

East of State Highway 552 about a mile and a half north

street & number of Alcorn State University

NA not for publication

city, town

Alcorn  
Lorman vic.

☒ vicinity of

~~congressional district~~

state

Mississippi

code

28

county

Claiborne

code

11

**3. Classification**

**Category**

☐ district

☒ building(s)

☐ structure

☐ site

☐ object

**Ownership**

☐ public

☒ private

☐ both

**Public Acquisition**

☒ in process

☐ being considered

**Status**

☐ occupied

☐ unoccupied

☒ work in progress

**Accessible**

☒ yes: restricted

☐ yes: unrestricted

☐ no

**Present Use**

☒ agriculture

☐ commercial

☐ educational

☐ entertainment

☐ government

☐ industrial

☐ military

☐ museum

☐ park

☒ private residence

☐ religious

☐ scientific

☐ transportation

☐ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Ray Forrest

street & number P. O. Box 504

city, town

Morganza

NA vicinity of

state Louisiana 70759

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Claiborne County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town

Port Gibson

state

Mississippi

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1972

☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town

Jackson

state Mississippi 39205

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## 7. Description

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**Condition**

☐ excellent  
☒ good  
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

**Check one**

☒ unaltered  
☐ altered

**Check one**

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date NA

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

Situated on an approximate 1100-acre plantation on the eastern side of State Highway 552 about a mile and a half north of Alcorn State University, Canemount is a story-and-a-half, painted brick, Italianate residence that is situated on a picturesque rise visible from the highway and entered by a graveled plantation drive. The house features a gable on hip roof with wide overhanging eaves sheltering the gallery that wraps around all elevations of the house. Two, inside-end brick chimneys are located at the southern end of the gable roof, and one, inside-end brick chimney is located at the northern end of the roof. Piercing the front and rear slopes of the roof is one, gabled-roof dormer with wide roof overhang. The arched window frames of the dormers are filled with eight-over-eight, double-hung sash. The encircling gallery features a molded cornice supported on the facade by paired wooden columns with molded capitals, neckbands, and arched panels that rest upon paneled pedestals. Matching columns on pedestals, not arranged in pairs, support the side and rear gallery sections. The pedestals are linked by an unusual railing composed of panels of spindles radiating from molded diamonds. All windows of the first story are topped by wooden lintels, are floor length, are filled with varying combinations of either four-over-six, six-over-nine, or eight-over-twelve, double-hung sash, and are closed by original shutter blinds. The westerly facade is divided into three symmetrical bays with a center-bay entrance flanked by polygonal bays. The entrance doorway consists of a single-leaf, molded, four-panel door that is untransomed and set within paneled posts and jambs that are flanked by wide sidelights over molded panels. The sidelights feature four-over-four, double-hung sash. The rear doorway echoes the main entrance except that the sidelights are not set over molded panels.

The interior plan is basically a double-pile plan with central passage. On the southern side of the hallway are double parlors separated by sliding doors, and, on the northern side, is a large dining room with smaller pantry room to the rear. The interior doors are four-paneled and molded, the door and window surrounds are molded with a single fascia, and the bases are molded. An unusual, possibly unique, feature of the interior millwork at Canemount is found in the door and window surrounds of the first-story hallway and double parlors. These highly distinctive surrounds have a recessed central tablet and an elliptical indentation slightly below midway in the vertical side pieces. Ornamental plaster work at Canemount consists of molded cornices and three foliated ceiling centerpieces. The mantel pieces of the three major downstairs chambers are executed in marble. Access to the second story is provided by an unusual stairway which runs along the northerly hall wall. This stairway, which features an S-curved newel and rectangular-sectioned balusters, is a single-flight stair with intermediate landing that runs in an easterly direction. The second-story is more plainly trimmed with unmolded bases, unmolded architrave surrounds, and plain, diminutive marble mantel pieces. Unusual features of the second story are the doorways with original operable transoms and the floor plan, which features two larger bedrooms with smaller rooms to the eastern rear and double closets to the western front that are accessed from the bedrooms and the hallway.

An array of original outbuildings have survived. At the northeast corner of the house is located a one-story six-bay frame building with broken-slope gable roof and front gallery. This well-detailed building features unmolded door and window surrounds with corner blocks and plinths and a beaded-board facade finished with a base. To the rear of this building are a one-story, gabled-roof brick outbuilding with a dairy trough and a one-story board-and-batten tenant house with undercut front gallery. Also surviving are an additional board-and-batten tenant house with gabled roof and undercut gallery and the original carriage house.

## 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates      unknown      Builder/Architect      unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Canemount is the finest example of the Italianate Style in Claiborne County and one of the finest and most unique examples of the style in the state of Mississippi. Constructed in the mid-1850's as the residence of the locally prominent Murdock family, the house achieves distinction from the manner in which elements of the high Italianate Style are employed in a house whose basic form is not uncommon to vernacular Mississippi plantation architecture. Unlike most Mississippi examples of the Italianate Style, the house is almost totally Italianate in character with Greek Revival and Gothic Revival influence appearing only in the marble mantel pieces which were probably stock items ordered for the house. The use of brick as a construction material adds to the distinction of the residence as brick is not commonly employed in the construction of Mississippi plantation cottage residences and is limited in Claiborne County to public, commercial, and church buildings with the Van Dorn House being the only other notable exception. The house is well executed and finely finished with molded millwork, marble mantel pieces, plaster ceiling centerpieces, and molded plaster cornices. The integrity of setting and the architectural integrity of the house are outstanding. Situated on a plantation of more than one thousand acres of wooded and park-like undulating land, the house is surrounded by several of its mid-nineteenth century outbuildings. Although owned by a hunting club and used as a hunting camp for the past few years, the house is basically unaltered. Canemount was recently purchased by Louisiana resident Ray Forrest, who has begun work on what promises to be a careful restoration of the house, its outbuildings, and its grounds.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Miller, Mary Warren. Historic Natchez Foundation, Natchez, Mississippi. Inspection of Canemount, July 9, 1982.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 8.26 acres

Quadrangle name St. Joseph, Miss.- La.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

### UMT References

A 

1	5
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6	7	7	2	2	5
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3	5	3	1	0	0	8	1	0
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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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E 

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G 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with right angle corners and equal sides of 600 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			

state	code	county	code
NA			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary W. Miller/research consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date July 15, 1982

street & number P. O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

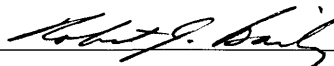
## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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

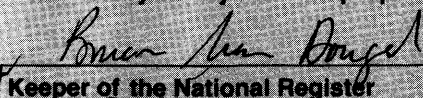


title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date October 12, 1982

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11/2/82

Attest:   
Chief of Registration

date 11/29/82

7748 II  
(DAVIS ISLAND)

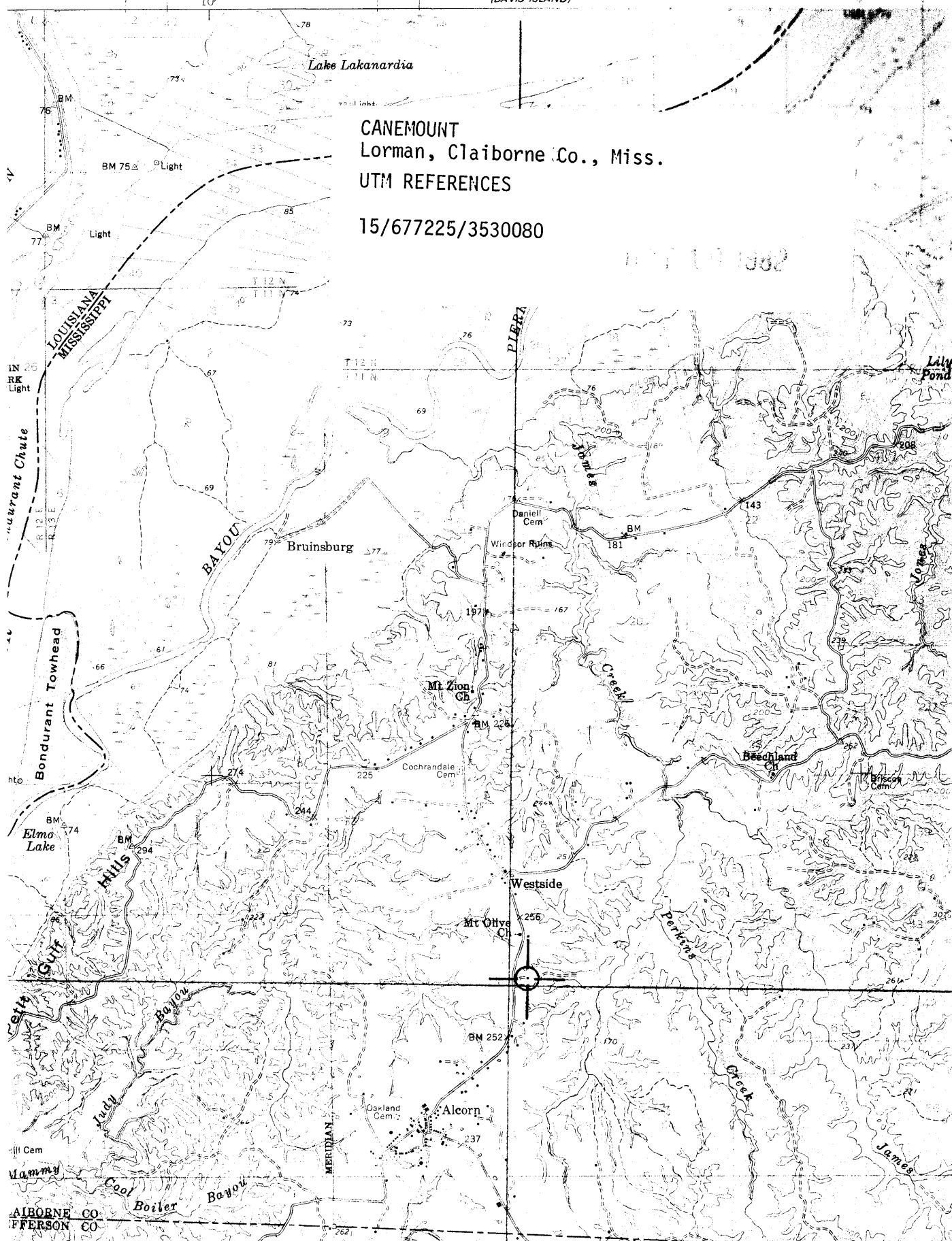
10'

Lake Lakanardia

CANEMOUNT  
Lorman, Claiborne Co., Miss.

UTM REFERENCES

15/677225/3530080





CANEMOUNT

Lorman, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Looking easterly, the westerly facade of  
Canemount.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,  
June 1982.

Photo 1 of 7



CANEMOUNT

Lorman, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Looking northeasterly, the stairway of  
the central passage.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,  
June 1982.

Photo 2 of 7



CANEMOUNT

Lorman, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Looking southerly, the unusual doorway  
surround of Canemount.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,  
June 1982.

Photo 3 of 7



CANEMOUNT

Lorman, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Looking northerly, the southerly gable end of the frame tenant building located at the northeast corner of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,  
June 1982.

Photo 5 of 7



CANEMOUNT

Lorman, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Looking northeasterly, the westerly facade and the southerly side elevation of the brick outbuilding with dairy and a portion of the southern elevation of the frame outbuilding at the rear of the house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,  
June 1982.

Photo 6 of 7



CANEMOUNT

Lorman, Claiborne County, Mississippi

Looking easterly, the westerly facade of the carriage house and the westerly side elevation of a tenant house.

Mary W. Miller, Historic Natchez Foundation,  
June 1982.

Photo 7 of 7