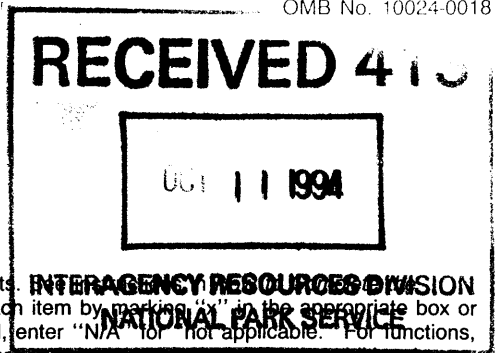


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. **INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION NATIONAL PARK SERVICE** Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Prairie Plantation House

other names/site number d'Oyley, Louise House

2. Location

street & number 1545 Old River Road N/A not for publication

city or town Clarksdale  vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Coahoma code 27 zip code 38614

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)  
Kenneth H. P. Pool Oct. 7, 1994  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
State of 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 official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson K. Beall Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 11-10-94  
Entered in the National Register

Prairie Plantation House  
Name of Property

Coahoma County, Mississippi  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
		sites
	1	structures
		objects
2	3	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival

Greek Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

wood

roof asphalt

other chimneys: brick

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- 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.
- 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**

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- 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**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Exploration/Settlement

**Period of Significance**

1848-1865

**Significant Dates**

1848

1851

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Builder: Brown, John (for 1851 addition)

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**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:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Prairie Plantation House  
Name of Property

Coahoma County, Mississippi  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property 3.84 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

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See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Sharon H. Prescott, Occupant and Researcher  
Edited by Todd Sanders, Architectural Historian, MDAH  
organization SSS Services, Inc. date April 18, 1994

street & number 1545 Old River Road telephone (601) 624-8241

city or town Clarksdale state MS zip code 38614

**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**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mr. and Mrs. M. Carter Stovall

street & number Stovall Road telephone (601) 624-4183

city or town Clarksdale state MS zip code 38614

**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 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.

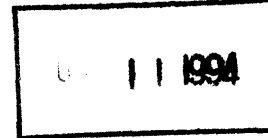
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

RECEIVED 418

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018



INTERAGENCY RESOURCES DIVISION  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Prairie Plantation House  
Coahoma County, Mississippi

About six and one-half miles northwest of Clarksdale at the crossroads community of Stovall, Mississippi, is the Prairie Plantation House. The house sits in the middle of a grove of mature trees and faces south across cotton fields to the Old River Road, just west of its intersection with State Highway One. The Little Sunflower River meanders to the north of the house while Horseshoe Lake, originally Horseshoe Bend of the Mississippi River, is located to the northwest of the house.

The original one-story, single-pile, two-room with center hall, hipped-roof brick house with inside-end chimneys was constructed circa 1848. The west elevation, which faces Horseshoe Lake, was the original main entrance. In 1851 a one-story, wood-frame rear ell was added to this house (John Willis Fowler Journal, 1848 and 1851, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson). The house was further enlarged and remodeled in the late nineteenth century (see floor plan).

The exterior of the brick house has been somewhat altered, but the original form is clearly evident. The original (west) facade consists of a central double-leaf door flanked by two windows on each side. The two windows to the north are the original six-over-six, double-hung sash while those on the south were replaced by two single-leaf french doors in an early twentieth century remodeling. The original central doors were probably double-leaf paneled doors with a transom (Fowler Journal). The present doors are double-leaf french doors with a fanlight. Close inspection shows that the opening for an original rectangular transom was infilled when these doors were added in 1911 (Dated photographs of the Prairie Plantation House in possession of the property owners). The 1911 Neo-Classical Revival porch occupies the central bay of the facade. This porch consists of six Tuscan columns, three at each corner, resting on paneled bases which support a flat roof with a denticulated cornice. The porch is visually supported on the wall by a pilaster on each side of the entrance. Centered in the roof of the house behind the porch is a small bracketed gable. This gable was probably added in a late nineteenth century remodeling. Brackets were added to the cornice of the brick house in the 1911 remodeling to help it tie in stylistically with the house's late nineteenth century wood-frame additions (Dated photographs). The roof is pierced by several corbeled chimneys.

The long, wood-frame rear ell is believed to have been built in 1851, but it is difficult to determine if this is the case because this part of the house has undergone more extensive remodeling than the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Prairie Plantation House  
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 2

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brick portion. The ell is separated from the brick house by a cross-hall. This hall can be entered from the south through a double-leaf, fan-lit door. This entrance is sheltered by a porch composed of six Tuscan columns, three at each corner, supporting a flat roof. The porch is flanked by pergolas. In the roof above the porch is a bracketed gable similar to the one over the other entrance. This door, which faces south toward the road, is now the main entrance to the house.

At the east end of the ell and running perpendicular to it is the kitchen and dining room wing which was apparently added in the late nineteenth century. Also apparently added at this time was the master bedroom wing, located to the north of the brick section.

The interior of the brick house enjoys a relatively high degree of integrity considering the sometimes extensive remodeling the house has undergone over almost a hundred and fifty years. The original eared door and window casings survive in both rooms as well as in the center hall. The northern room even retains its three original six-over-six, double-hung windows. The southern room retains its original mantelpiece. One set of original double-leaf entrance doors may survive in the house. These doors, along with the transom frame, are now located at the entrance to the enclosed gallery which runs along the northern side of the ell and were probably moved here during the remodeling of 1911. The interior of the ell is very simply detailed with the doors and windows surrounded by plain trim. The only elaborate architectural features found in the ell consist of colonial revival mantelpieces added in 1911.

Although Prairie Plantation House has been remodeled several times since its construction, its most important historic features remain evident and relatively intact. The building retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship and association.

One original outbuilding remains. This thirteen by twelve foot, flat-roofed building was built as a dairy, but since then has been used as a smokehouse and a furnace room. This building was apparently constructed at the same time as the brick portion of the house and is a contributing element. There are two other non-contributing outbuildings on the property. These are a cedar-sided pool house and a small, wooden board and batten building. A swimming pool located just west of the house is a non-contributing structure.

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Coahoma County, MississippiSection number 8 Page 1

Prairie Plantation House is locally significant in the area of exploration and settlement (Criterion A), and is believed to be the oldest extant building in Coahoma County and very likely the entire northern Delta. Prairie Plantation House is one of the very few identifiable historic properties in the county to survive from the antebellum period and is believed to be the oldest extant plantation residence in the county. The period of significance begins in 1848, when Colonel Oldham began construction of Prairie Plantation House and ends in 1865 with the ending of the Civil War as the war brought the period of early settlement in the county to a close.

History of the County

The land on which Coahoma County was settled was originally part of the Choctaw Indian lands which stretched across Mississippi and Alabama. As white settlement increased in Mississippi in the early 1800s, the Choctaws ceded or sold large tracts of their territory. They first ceded the central and southern areas of the state, and by 1830 there were 19,000 Choctaw Indians concentrated in the north central section of Mississippi. The Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek was negotiated in 1830, by which the Choctaws surrendered their remaining Mississippi lands and prepared to move west to reservations. Those Choctaws who preferred to remain in the state received allotments and became subject, as individuals, to Mississippi law. While the land that became Coahoma County was included in this cession, the county was not organized until 1836 at the time that ten counties were organized from the Chickasaw Indian cession of 1832. The name Coahoma comes from the Indian word meaning red panther.

Out of convenience, most of the earliest settlers lived on or near the banks of the Mississippi River. Only a small number of pioneers had ventured inland to settle along the Sunflower River or on one of the many bayous that crisscrossed the county (Weeks, 13). The earliest county seats, Port Royal and Delta, were both located near the banks of the Mississippi and in turn were both reclaimed by it. The census of 1840 lists 1,287 people living in the county: 763 whites and 524 slaves. Also according to this census, the farmers and planters of Coahoma County produced 7,239 bushels of potatoes and 418,796 pounds of cotton and sold 9,295 cords of wood, mostly to passing steamers (Weeks, 12). As more and more forests were cleared, more and more land was opened to the production of cotton. The county continued to prosper. By 1850, the population had more than doubled to 2,780 people, 1,387 white and 1,391 slaves. There were 260 recorded dwellings, 200 families and 97 students attending public

United States Department of the Interior  
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Continuation SheetPrairie Plantation House  
Coahoma County, MississippiSection number 8 Page 2

schools. Five churches (a Free Church, a Baptist Church and three Methodist churches) recorded a total membership of 770 (Weeks, 17). That year 2,621 bushels of sweet potatoes were grown, 35,075 pounds of butter and 75 pounds of cheese were produced. By 1850 nearly one million pounds of cotton were being ginned and shipped off to Memphis or New Orleans every year (Weeks, 17). The decade from 1850 to 1860 was even more prosperous than the previous one. Throughout the Delta the land values between 1853 and 1857 tripled in value. By 1860 the value of a farm in one of the five richest Delta counties - Issaquena, Washington, Bolivar, Tunica and Coahoma - averaged \$30,000 (Weeks, 34).

The period of early settlement for the county ended with the Civil War. The decades before the war saw phenomenal growth with the population more than doubling from 1840 (1,290) to 1850 (2,780) and almost tripling from 1850 to 1860 (6,606). The Civil War was hard on Coahoma County, just as it was on all of Mississippi, and the years immediately after the war did not see the growth of the pre-war years. The county's population increased only from 6,606 in 1860 to 7,144 in 1870, a dramatic slowdown from the antebellum era.

Prairie Plantation House

Construction of the Prairie Plantation House was begun in 1848. Colonel William J. Oldham, the man who built the first part of the house, is one of the men given credit for the initial development of the timbering and farming complex around Horseshoe Bend. He settled in the area possibly as early as 1820 when the land was still under control of the Choctaw Indians (Brieger, MDAH, 1980) but definitely soon after the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in 1830. By 1836 Colonel Oldham had cleared the acreage he had acquired after that treaty. This acreage was the beginning of Prairie Plantation. He continued to buy large sections of land adjoining his property and in 1846 purchased all of Section 18, the location of the Prairie Plantation House.

Before Colonel Oldham moved to Prairie Plantation he had operated a large plantation nearer the shore of the Mississippi River known as Horseshoe Farm. In 1848 Horseshoe Farm was abandoned due to a change in the course of the river causing the plantation to flood. Colonel Oldham's son-in-law, bookkeeper and overseer for Horseshoe Farm, Colonel John Willis Fowler, kept separate detailed accounts for this farm as well as Prairie Plantation. Colonel Fowler's journal of 1848 contains a meticulous record of the construction of Prairie Plantation House. The journal lists building materials, specifically



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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Prairie Plantation House  
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Section number 8 Page 3

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woodwork, ordered from Cincinnati, Ohio. According to the journal, 68,000 brick were used in constructing the house. Colonel Olham's and Colonel Fowler's slaves did much of the construction work (Fowler, p. 66).

When Colonel Oldham died in 1850, just two years after the initial construction phase of Prairie Plantation House, his son-in-law Colonel Fowler, inherited the Prairie Plantation. It was Colonel Fowler who built the frame addition of 1851. He kept records similar to the records of 1848 for the work done in 1851 but this time lists the names of some of the craftsmen responsible for the work. These men were John Brown, builder; John Gaggerty, brick layer; Jones, chimney and hearth finisher; and Sacket and Bland, painters.

Later additions and alterations to Prairie Plantation House include a kitchen - dining room wing to the north-east and a bedroom wing to the north-west, both added in the late nineteenth century. Other alterations include the addition of new mantel pieces in the 1851 wing and the "neo-classicising" of the exterior in 1911 when the porches were remodeled from a late Queen Anne appearance and the double-leaf doors and fanlights added. The pergolas to each side of the south entrance were added at this time as well. Over the years the main entrance to the house gradually shifted from the west, or river front, to the south, or road elevation.

A county-wide survey of Coahoma County has not yet been conducted, but very few antebellum structures are believed to be extant. The Prairie Plantation House is one of only three extant antebellum buildings thus far identified in the county. The other two are the Clark House in Clarksdale (circa 1859) and the Robinson House at Friars Point (circa 1858).

Although Prairie Plantation House has been remodeled several times since the construction of the original two room brick house in 1848 and its subsequent enlargement in 1851, the building retains sufficient integrity from its period of significance to qualify for listing in the National Register as a rare surviving building from the initial settlement of Coahoma County. The house retains integrity of location, setting, materials, workmanship and association. The house is owned by descendants through marriage of Colonel William J. Oldham.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prairie Plantation House  
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Section number 9 Page 1

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## 9. Bibliographical References

Brieger, James F. Papers. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Coahoma County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed books B, C, D, R, and Book 421.

Fowler, John Willis Journal (Photocopies of entries relating to the construction of the house in 1848 and subsequent additions in 1851). Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Historic Resources Inventory Files. Historic Preservation Division, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Mississippi Statistical Summary of Population 1800 - 1980.  
Jackson, MS: Mississippi Power and Light Company, 1983.

Site visit, November 23, 1993, by Todd Sanders, Architectural Historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson.

Weeks, Linton. Clarksdale and Coahoma County - A History.  
Clarksdale, MS: Clarksdale Carnegie Public Library, 1982.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Prairie Plantation House  
Coahoma County, Mississippi

Section number 10 Page 1

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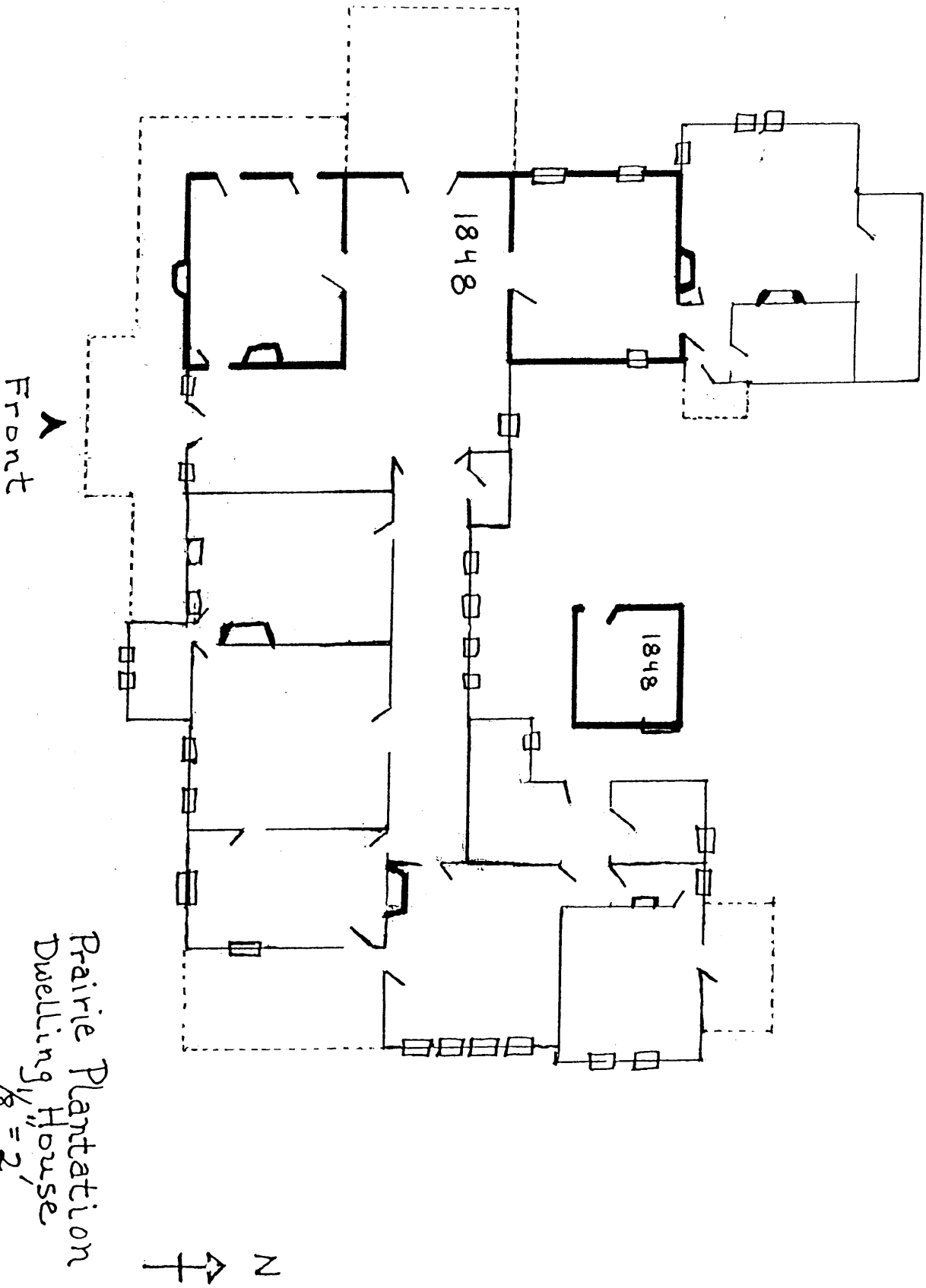
10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

House lot near Stovall, Mississippi, an irregularly shaped parcel of land lying in Northwest Quarter of Section 18, Township 28 North, Range 4 West, Coahoma County, Mississippi, being more particularly described as follows: Commencing at a stone marker at the Northwest corner of Section 18, T28N, R4W; thence South 1343 feet and East 1256 feet to an iron at the Point of Beginning of the parcel; thence around the boundary of the parcel North 28 degrees 14 minutes 00 seconds, East 373.77 feet to an iron; South 79 degrees 40 minutes 00 seconds East 445.66 feet to an iron; South 16 degrees 00 minutes 00 seconds West 140.42 feet to an iron; South 69 degrees 56 minutes 00 seconds West 346.71 feet to an iron; North 48 degrees 01 minutes 00 seconds West 172.36 feet to the Point of Beginning and containing 3.84 acres, more or less, as prepared by Joseph F. Mooney, Jr. PE & RLS of Clarksdale, Mississippi, field survey finished May 21, 1993.

Boundary Justification

The above described 3.84 acres represents the amount of the original property presently leased by the occupants. The boundary includes the Plantation House, one original outbuilding, the dairy, and the lawns and gardens that have historically been a part of Prairie Plantation and currently constitute the immediate setting.



Prairie Plantation  
 Dwelling,  $\frac{1}{8} = 2'$   
 Waukesha Vic., Coshoma Co., MS



# Prairie Plantation House

~~Photo 6 of 7~~

Clarksdale vic., Coahoma County, Mississippi

Louis Wilkins

March 19, 1994

Mississippi Department of Archives & History

West elevation, view to Northeast

Photo 1 of 8



Prairie Plantation Dwelling House, Clarksdale vic.,  
~~Clarksdale~~, Coahoma County, Mississippi

Louis Wilkins

March 19, 1994

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson  
West elevation, view to east

Photo 2 of 8





# Prairie Plantation House

~~Photo 7 of 7~~

Clarksdale vic., Coahoma Co., Mississippi

Louis Wilkins

March 19, 1994

Mississippi Department of Archives & History

West & South elevations, view to Northeast

Photo 3 of 8



Prairie Plantation Dwelling House  
Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi

Louis Wilkins

March 19, 1994

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson  
Main entrance, view to north, south elevation

Photo 4 of 8



Prairie Plantation Dwelling House  
Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi

Louis Wilkins

March 19, 1994

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson

Original Dairy, north elevation, view to south

Photo 5 of 8



Prairie Plantation House

Clarksdale vicinity, Coahoma Co, Mississippi

Todd Sanders

November 22, 1993

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Door to living room from center hall, view to south

Photo 6 of 8





Prairie Plantation Dwelling House  
Clarksdale, Coahoma County, Mississippi  
Louis Wilkins

March 19, 1994

Living room fireplace and mantel, view to south

Photo 7 of 8



Prarie Plantation House

Clarksdale vicinity, Coahoma County, Mississippi

Todd Sanders

November 22, 1993

Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
North room of brick house, view to North east

Photo 8 of 8