

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received FEB 22 1985

date entered MAR 21 1985

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

1. Name

historic Mount Hope

and/or common same as above

2. Location

South side of Route 2 across from Mount Hope Cemetery,  
street & number ten miles west of the intersection of Route 2 and N/A not for publication  
Hazlehurst to Port Gibson Road

city, town Hazlehurst X vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Copiah code 29

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input 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 Mr. & Mrs. John M. and Dolores J. Pellas

street & number 333 Heritage Place

city, town Jackson N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Court House Square

city, town Hazlehurst state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1984  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

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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     N/A    

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

A unique feature of this house is the foundation pier material around the building perimeter. The structure is supported by large, roughly hewn calcareous stone blocks of unknown origin. Some brick piers occur inboard. And some precast concrete piers have been added in recent years. The original exterior form of the structure consisted of a two-story, dog-trot plan producing the familiar "I"-frame massing. Originally there were probably open porches front and rear; the rear porch has now been enclosed. The front (north) elevation is symmetrical with a central bay consisting of a double door with sidelights on the first floor and a double-hung sash on the second floor. Two bays to each side flank this central bay with double-hung sash at both levels. These sash are nine over nine on the first floor and nine over six on the second floor. The rear elevation was probably originally similar. Here five double-hung sash remain at the second floor level; however, at the first floor level the outside wall has been moved outboard to the outside face of the enclosed porch; the double door with sidelights, originally located in the main wall, was moved outward and placed in the porch wall at the time that the porch was enclosed. The superstructure of the "I"-frame is of log construction. The endwalls are now covered with beveled clapboards added in recent years to replace the original lapped siding. The original clapboards remain above the porches on the front and rear elevations. Flush boards appear underneath the front porch and still remain in the rear on the original outside wall. A projecting chimney has been removed from the west endwall. The east chimney remains and is covered with plaster. Exterior details of note are the front porch columns and front and rear entry motifs. The columns are square posts with capitals of Neo-Classical inspiration. Bases, some two feet high, were added to the columns in recent years. The entry doorway has similar columns separating the double doors from sidelights. A transom runs the full width of the door opening. In the rear elevation the doorway, now relocated in the porch wall, is similar. New jalousie windows in the southwest room are intrusions to the original fabric. Now attached to the southwest corner of the house is a one-story, gable-roofed outbuilding with an undercut porch. A shallow porch with a shed roof has also been attached to the rear facade of the main house in recent years.

The original plan consisted of a dogtrot with rooms approximately 16 feet by 18 feet astride a central hallway. Both rooms were built with fireplaces; the chimney at the west room has been removed but the mantle remains. The rear porch has been enclosed and the central hall extended, forming a double-pile arrangement. The southeast room has been partitioned to form a modern bath. Pine flooring is used throughout as are sawn boards for walls and ceilings. Door trim consists of plain, wooden surrounds which include corner blocks. Window trim and base molding is quite plain. The stairway to the second floor has plain, square balusters and a simple handrail. The stair was probably relocated when the rear room was added as it now lands in what was originally the back porch. Upstairs, identical rooms stand to either side of a stair-hall. Closet space has been enclosed inside the original hall space. The original mantles remain in both rooms. Finish materials are similar to those on the first floor.

In addition to the main house there were several 19th century outbuildings: 1) to the east, wooden slave quarters resting on calcareous stone blocks (now destroyed); 2) a saw mill (destroyed and exact location unknown); and 3) a grist mill (in what is now open pasture to the east; still visible here are earthworks and foundation remains). An exceptionally well preserved log storage building still stands in the open pasture to the east. Constructed using lap joints to form false timbering, this building rests on calcareous stone blocks like those of the main house. Other more recently constructed outbuildings now remain on the site include a garage to the southeast as well as a privy shed. Of greater importance is a kitchen/smokehouse(?) building now connected to the southwest corner of the porch of the main house. Rectangular in plan and having an undercut porch, it is covered with

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Mount Hope, Copiah County,  
Mississippi  
Continuation sheet

Item number 7, 10

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7 - DESCRIPTION

clapboards and rests on brick piers. Behind this structure to the west stand two other small outbuildings. And to the southwest of the main house and some 50 yards away stands a barn.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property forms a 250-foot by 1000-foot rectangle whose edges (north, south, east and west) are parallel to the corresponding sides of the house, the principal building on the site (see enclosed site plan). Beginning at a point 100 feet directly to the north of the house's northeast corner, the property line extends westerly 135 feet to the northwest corner of the property, thence southerly 250 feet, thence easterly 1000 feet, thence northerly 250 feet, thence westerly 865 feet to the point of beginning.

## 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 checked="" 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** ca. 1820

**Builder/Architect** Attributed to Mr. Rice, the original owner

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Mount Hope is a well preserved example of a fairly rare immigrant architectural style in Mississippi--the so-called "I"-frame. Such buildings, based on English prototypes, probably evolved their New World form in North Carolina, then spread south through the Piedmont region to Georgia, then west through the Alabama Black Belt and into Mississippi. Such structures were often built of brick in the Mid-Atlantic States (Glassie, *Pattern in the Material Culture of the Eastern U.S.*, 66ff), but were more frequently constructed of wood in the timberlands of the Deep South. They commonly had dog-trot plans with projecting endwall chimneys. The transverse elevations showed a five-bay organization; one-story porches along these long sides were a common feature. Mount Hope conforms to these criteria, and with its vernacular massing and modest Neo-Classical pretensions (in the porch columns) represents building construction in a significant era in Mississippi when waves of settlers were first opening up fertile, virgin lands to cultivation.

Records in the Copiah County Courthouse begin in only 1836, after the apparent construction date of this house. However, oral history supports the architectural/historical evidence cited above. According to Mrs. W.W. Brown, who has lived in the house for some 30 years and has discussed its history with descendants of the original owner, the house was constructed shortly after 1820 by a Mr. Rice from North Carolina. He built a one-room, two-story building first (the east end of the present house); he returned to North Carolina to retrieve his family and slaves and brought them all to Mississippi and completed the two-story, dog-trot plan, "I"-frame house which remains today. This account has the ring of truth to it; the second Choctaw cession, brought about by the Treaty of Doak's Stand in 1820, opened up land to the white man in Mississippi for the first time since 1805 (Betterworth, *Mississippi: A History*, 168). Copiah County was created in 1823 with most of its early settlers arriving from North Carolina and adjacent states (Sartin, "History of Copiah County," 13). Rice would have been part of this great wave of settlement.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Glassie, Henry. Pattern in the Material Folk Culture of the Eastern United States. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, c. 1968.
- Sartin, John Robert. "A History of Copiah County, Mississippi to 1900," M.A. Thesis, Mississippi College, 1939.
- Bettsworth, John K. Mississippi: A History. Austin, TX: The Steck Co., c. 1959.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approx. 6

Quadrangle name Dentville, Mississippi

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	5	7	2	9	1	8	0	3	5	2	9	3	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code
N/A			

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael Fazio

organization P.O. Box 2870

date 5/15/84

street & number N/A

telephone 601/323-3451

city or town Mississippi State

state Mississippi 39762

## 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Kenneth H. P. Pool*

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 6, 1985

For NPS use only

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

*J. Melrose Byers*  
Keeper of the National Register

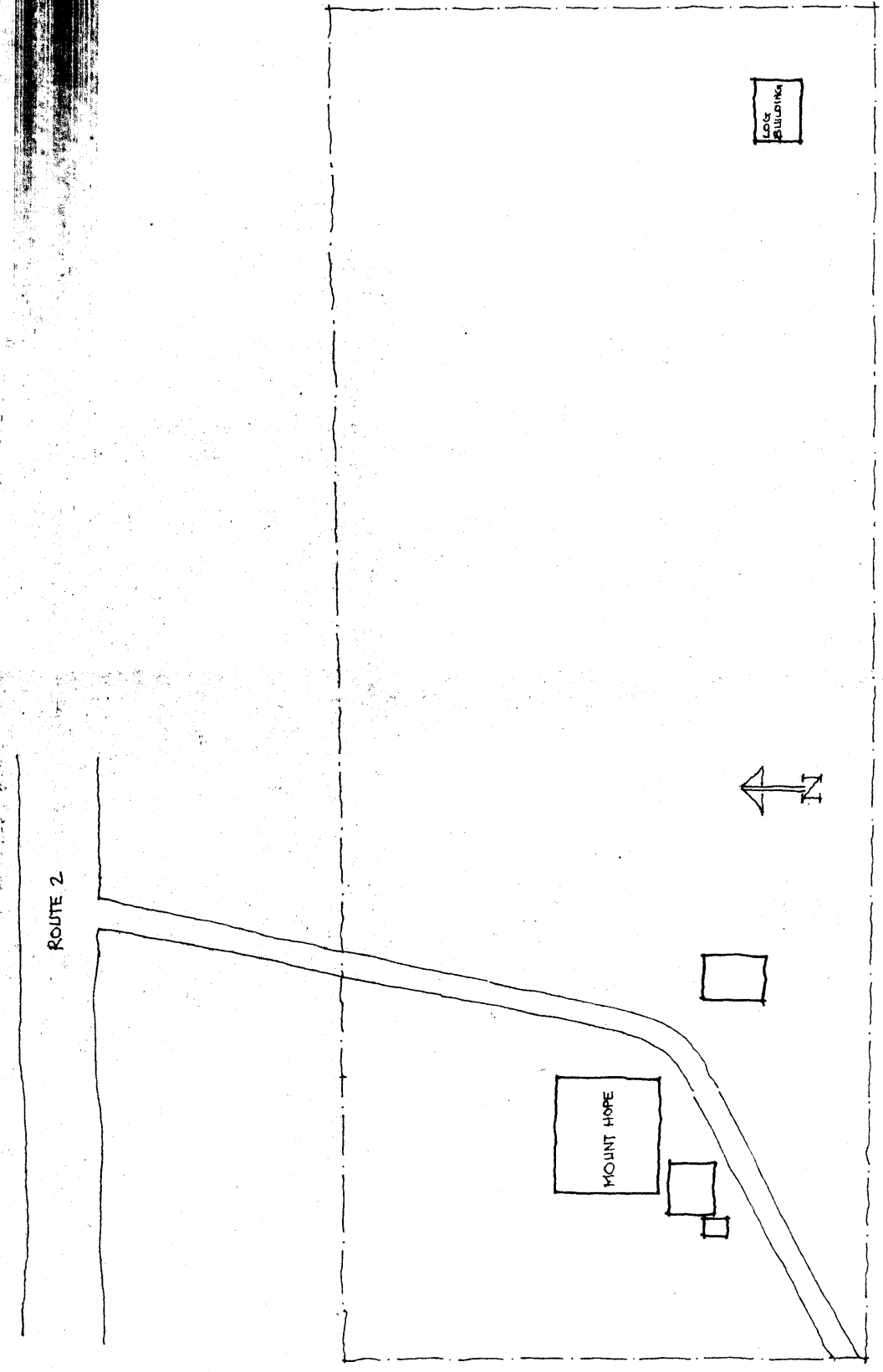
Entered in the  
National Register

date 2-21-85

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



SITE PLAN

SCALE

ONE INCH EQUALS FIFTY FEET

AREA = APPROX. 6 ACRES

250'

1000'



Mount Hope, Route 2, front facade, view  
to southwest

Hazlehurst vicinity, Copiah County,  
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Michael Fazio

April, 1984

Photo 1 of 4





Mount Hope, Route 2, rear elevation, view  
to north

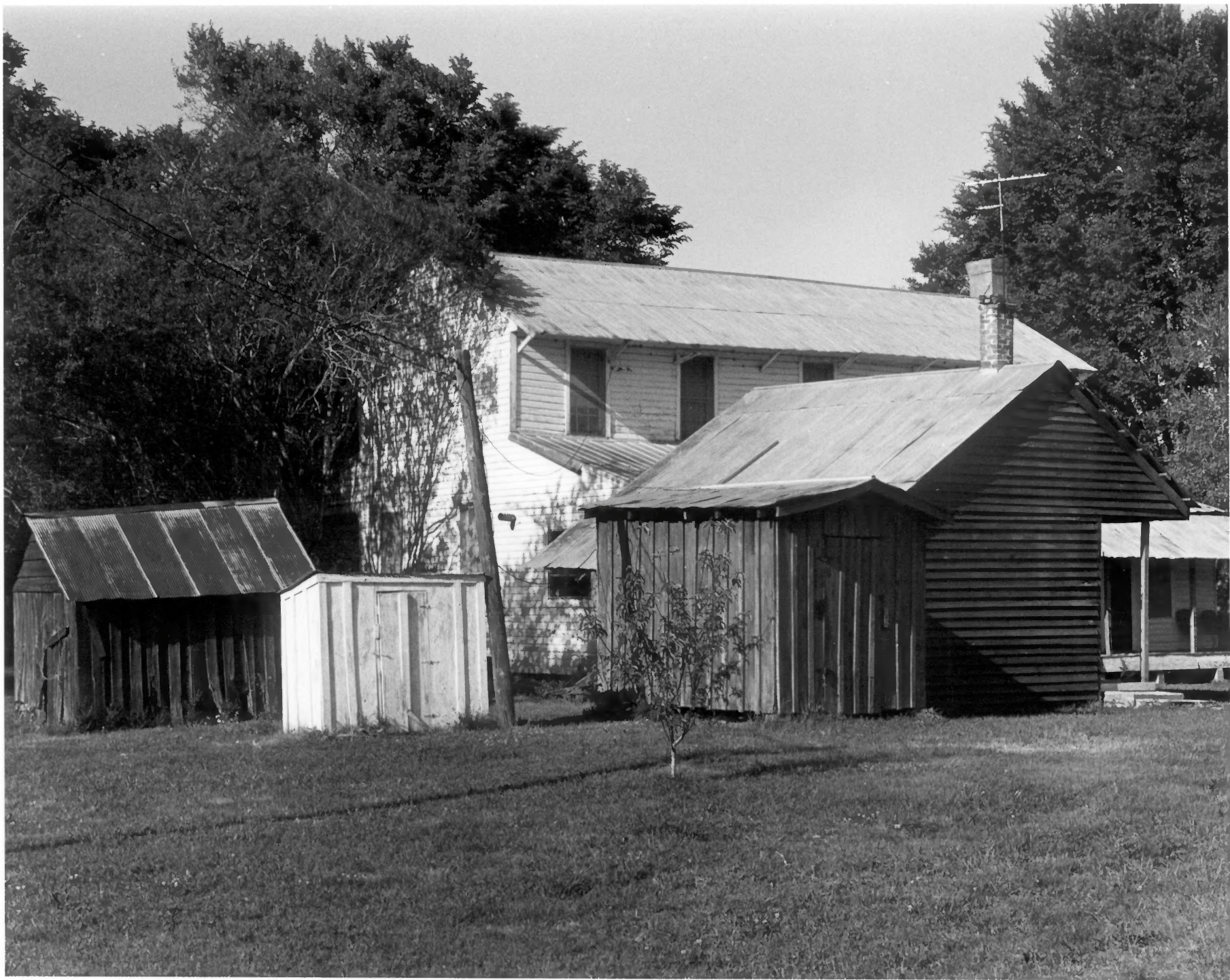
Hazlehurst vicinity, Copiah County,  
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Michael Fazio

April, 1984

Photo 2 of 4



Mount Hope, Route 2, rear elevation and out-  
buildings, view to northeast

Hazlehurst vicinity, Copiah County,  
Mississippi.

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Michael Fazio

April, 1984

Photo 3 of 4



Mount Hope, Route 2, log storage building  
southeast of main house

Hazlehurst vicinity, Copiah County,  
Mississippi

Mississippi Department of Archives  
and History

Michael Fazio

April, 1984

Photo 4 of 4