

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

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

For HCRS use only

received JUN 18 1982

date entered

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

## 1. Name

historic Miller Plantation House

and/or common N/A

## 2. Location

street & number Miller Road N/A not for publication

city, town Olive Branch *vic.*  vicinity of congressional district First

state Mississippi code 28 county DeSoto code 033

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Vacant

## 4. Owner of Property

name Marjorie B. Clark

street & number 3801 Miller Road

city, town Olive Branch N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk

street & number DeSoto County Courthouse

city, town Hernando state Mississippi

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

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

date 1976  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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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		_____ N/A

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

The Miller Plantation House is a two-and-a-half-story, frame, Greek Revival residential structure facing east in a rural environment in northeast DeSoto County, Mississippi. A shallow three-bay portico is centered on the five-bay facade. Fluted Corinthian columns standing on octagonal bases support a full entablature which returns onto the main structure to be supported by paneled pilasters. The entrance is contained in a Doric frontispiece housing narrow side lights and a paneled door. Additional access to the interior is provided by floor-length double-hung windows which flank the entrance. A single-bay balcony with a cast and wrought iron railing is located in the central bay. On the gabled south elevation, a three-bay gallery with simple square columns and hipped roof replaced the original in ca. 1920. A simple two-tired gallery is located along the rear or west elevation and provides a covered passage to the semi-detached kitchen wing located at the southwest corner. The plan of the principal block is a double-pile arrangement with a parlor and library on the north and a bedroom and dining room opposite. The four chambers on the second floor are reached by a splendid circular stair in the central hall. Paneled doors, like the windows, are hung in battered-and-eared architraves. Except for some deterioration in the rear gallery and kitchen areas, the structural integrity of the house is quite good. The architectural integrity is excellent and along with much original furnishings, presents an undisturbed view of an ambitious Greek Revival plantation 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/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** ca. 1849 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

As the most sophisticated example of the Greek Revival style in DeSoto County, the Miller Plantation House is significant to the history of architecture in the local context. Not surprisingly, the most ambitious design element of the mansion is its portico with giant order columns and a full, well-proportioned entablature which is without a raking cornice for a pediment. While this arrangement is not uncommon, the unusual interpretation of the Corinthian order makes the Miller Plantation House virtually unique in Mississippi. Here, the Corinthian capital is produced with a single row of acanthus applied to the bell between the astragal of the shaft and the abacus. "Correct" Corinthian calls for a minimum of two superimposed rows of acanthus. The unknown builder who was responsible for this singular design betrayed his unfamiliarity with the classical orders but succeeded in producing an impressive and rich effect. He was more comfortable with the simpler joinery required for the handsome pilasters, frontispieces, and eared architrave trim which distinguish this house. A graceful spiral stair, the tour de force of the joiner's skill, is the highlight of the interior. The size and sophistication of the Miller Plantation House is unusual for its remote location. Planters who could afford a handsome mansion usually chose to live in town leaving the daily operation of outlying plantations to hired overseers. Thus, most planters of the Olive Branch vicinity lived in nearby Holly Springs, Mississippi, or Memphis, Tennessee. William Lord Miller, who had the house built in ca. 1849, was an exception. His house is unquestionably the most architecturally significant structure to survive from the antebellum period in DeSoto County history. The continuity of family ownership has assured the preservation of this house and contents which await a restoration project planned for the near future.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

N/A

Analysis of the architecture and historic context of the Miller Plantation House was provided through the experience and knowledge of the State Historic Preservation staff.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property one

Quadrangle name Hernando, Miss.-Tenn.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A 

1	6	2	4	6	1	2	0	3	8	6	7	9	9	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property, encompassing the Miller Plantation House and one acre of land, is located on a larger 25-acre site, itself located in Township 2, Range 5, Section 18 in DeSoto County. This 25-acre plot, and consequently the 1-acre nominated area within

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William C. Allen, Chief Architectural Historian

organization Mississippi Department of Archives and History date January 18, 1982

street & number P. O. Box 571 telephone (601) 354-7326

city or town Jackson state Mississippi

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

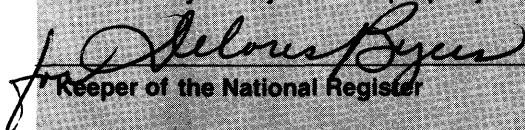
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date June 9, 1982

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

  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7/15/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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

100-10-10000  
100-10-10000



Continuation sheet

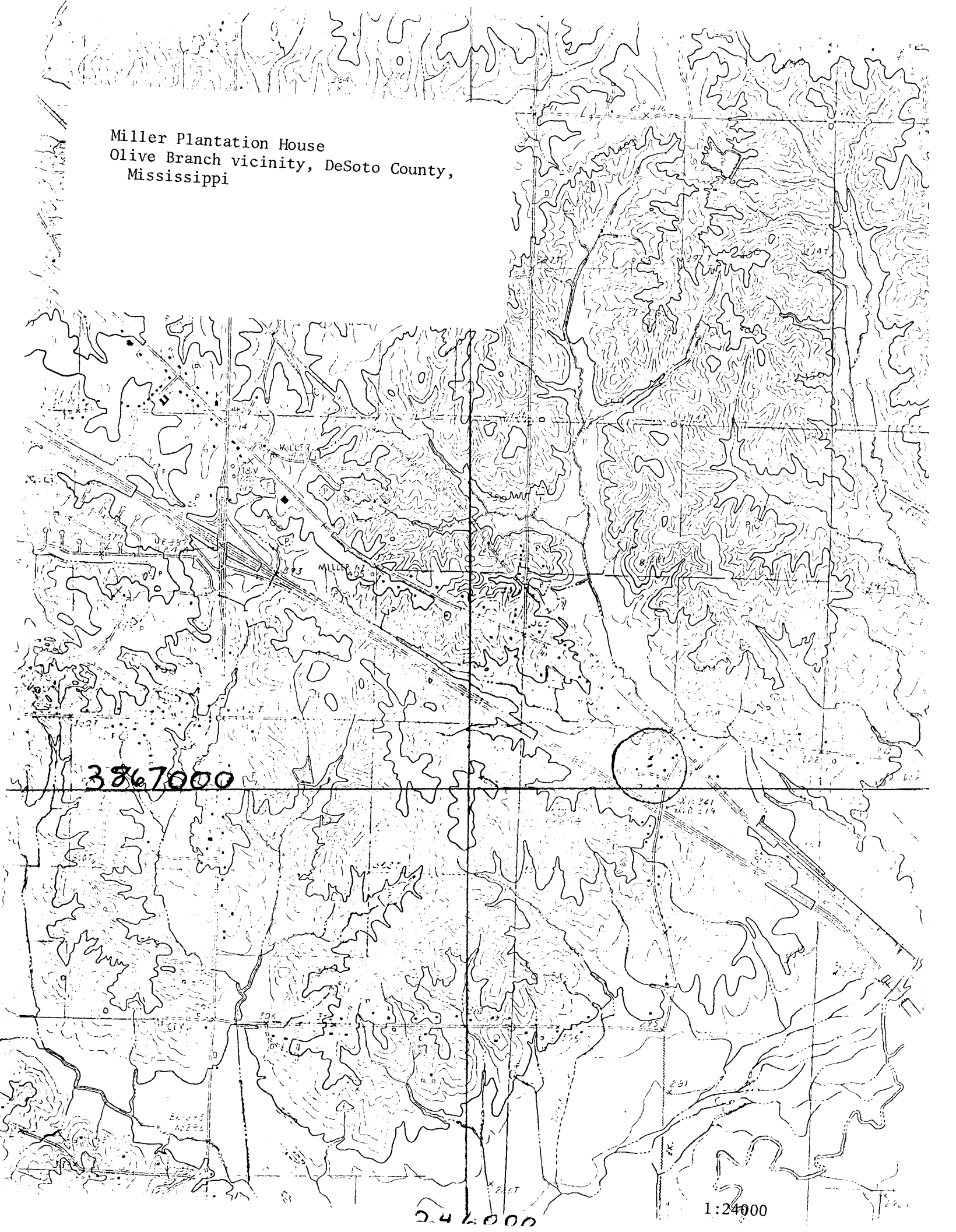
Item number 10

Page 1

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

it is bounded by old Highway 78, new Highway 78, and Miller Road. The boundaries are drawn to place the Miller Plantation House in the middle of a 1-acre square plot, with each side of the square measuring approximately 208.8 feet.

Miller Plantation House  
Olive Branch vicinity, DeSoto County,  
Mississippi



3867000

246000

1:24000



Miller Plantation House

Olive Branch Vicinity, DeSoto County,  
Mississippi

Pamela Guren, Mississippi Department of  
Archives and History

September, 1980

View to the northwest

Photo 1 of 3





Miller Plantation House

Olive Branch Vicinity, DeSoto County,  
Mississippi

Pamela Guren, Mississippi Department  
of Archives and History

September, 1980

View to the west; frontispiece detail

Photo 2 of 3



Miller Plantation House

Olive Branch Vicinity, DeSoto County,  
Mississippi

Pamela Guren, Mississippi Department of  
Archives and History

September, 1980

View to the north

Photo 3 of 3