

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

FEB 06 1993
NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). 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 Blanton Plantation House

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 3 miles east of Red Lick on an unmarked road N/A not for publication

city or town Lorman vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Jefferson code 63 zip code 39096

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. Paul FEB. 1, 1993
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 certifying 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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Entered in the National Register

Date of Action

Arlous Egan

3/4/93

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	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	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)

Greek Revival

Federal

Other: I-House

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls weatherboard

roof tin

other wood (gallery)

Narrative Description

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

PLEASE SEE THE 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: N/A

- 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)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c. 1812

c. 1845

Significant Dates

c. 1812

c. 1845

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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:

MS Dept. of Archives & History

Blanton Plantation House
Name of Property

Jefferson County, Mississippi
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than one acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	15	69 5	78 5	35	20	1	20
	Zone	Easting		Northing			
2							

3							
	Zone	Easting		Northing			
4							

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 Susan M. Enzweiler/ Historic Preservation Consultant
organization N/A date November 12, 1992
street & number 1356 Seminole Ave. telephone (504) 834-9024
city or town Metairie state LA zip code 70005

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 Mrs. Dorothy Brady
street & number Route 2, Box 288 telephone (601) 786-3909
city or town Lorman state MS zip code 39096

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.

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Jefferson County, MSSection number 7 Page 1

Blantonía is an antebellum plantation house located in the hilly pine woods area of Jefferson County, approximately four miles northeast of Red Lick, a tiny rural community in the north central part of the county. The two story, five by eight bay, Greek Revival house is of wood frame construction and rests on brick piers. Its eave-oriented gable roof, which is clad in standing seam tin, shelters a two-tier, undercut gallery with a full colonnade. Despite both historic and modern rear additions, Blantonía's original pile-and-a-half "expanded I-house" form is still discernible. Please see the enclosed floor plan at the end of Section 7.

Blantonía was initially constructed circa 1812 (according to local tradition) as a pile-and-a-half "expanded I-house". In other words, this original section of the house, which is still evident today, was a two story building with two large front rooms divided by a wide central hall and a rear range of three narrow rooms on each floor. The rear range of rooms was approximately the same depth as the two story front gallery. The roof ridge is aligned at approximately the center of the front range of rooms and the external brick chimneys are positioned at the side gable peaks, further evidence of the original structure's I-house configuration (Interview with Mrs. Dorothy Brady, the present owner, on 11 Sept 1992 and Cawthon 1992:2, 8).

Around 1845, a cross hall and two more rooms were added on the first floor. The original central hall was also extended between these two rooms. In 1967, sympathetically designed additions of a rear wing and a sun room were added to the rear elevation (Interview with Mrs. Dorothy Brady, the present owner, on 11 September 1992).

The circa 1845 exterior alterations to Blantonía included a full colonnade of Doric box columns across the front facade plus other Greek Revival architectural details. Thus, it is difficult to determine if the house originally had one story high columns on each tier of the double gallery or a full monumental colonnade. The interior, which will be discussed more fully below, features both Federal and Greek Revival details.

The five-bay-wide front elevation of Blantonía features a two-tiered, undercut gallery with a colonnade of six monumental, Doric box columns supporting a simple cornice. The first story of the undercut gallery has a concrete deck. Located within this first story is a centrally located Greek Revival frontispiece

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with a shouldered surround. The frontispiece is comprised of panelled, double-leaf doors flanked by Doric pilasters and sidelights with an architrave and a multi-light transom. On either side of the frontispiece are two 6/6 double-hung sash jib windows with louvred shutters. An upper gallery with a lattice work balustrade ties into the colonnade. Within this gallery space, a single-leaf door with a multi-light transom is flanked on each side by two 12/8 double-hung sash windows with louvred shutters.

Both side elevations feature an exterior, shouldered, brick chimney (although the chimney on the west elevation has been stuccoed with cement) and a small porch with a pedimented gable marked by a simple cornice that is supported by Doric box columns. The balustrade treatment on the front upper gallery is repeated on these porches. Within each side porch area is a single-leaf door crowned by a three-light transom. The first story windows on each side elevation are 12/12 double-hung sash with louvred shutters. The second story side windows are 12/8 double-hung sash and also have louvred shutters.

Extending from the rear elevation on the west side is a one story, gabled wing which houses the kitchen and a utility room. In the ell created by this wing is a sun room with banks of floor-length, multi-light windows. Both the rear wing and the sun room were added to the house in 1967. Before these additions, a porch extended across the rear elevation (Interview with Mrs. Dorothy Brady, the present owner, 11 September 1992).

The floor plan of Blantonía is dominated by the intersecting halls which allow ample cross ventilation. Simple, yet sophisticated, design elements in both the Federal and Greek Revival styles adorn the interior spaces. These features date from the antebellum period. However, the panelled wainscoting found throughout Blantonía was added during the 1967 renovation.

The central hall on the first floor of the original section of the house is marked by a chair rail and a simple cornice. The hall leads through a wide entrance into what was the middle room of the original rear range of three narrow rooms. The entrance features panelled pilasters supporting a heavy, but plain, entablature. The room itself is now a sitting area and also contains the staircase leading to the second floor. The staircase is probably an 1845 alteration. The sitting area features a simple cornice and panelled wainscoting. A column screen of two

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panelled pilasters and two panelled box columns delineates the sitting area from the cross hall.

The front west room off the central hall now serves as a bedroom. It retains no chair rail or cornice. The room's mantel is of a Greek Revival design and is probably a historic replacement for the original Federal style mantel. A doorway on the north wall of this room leads into a room that has been converted into a bathroom. In turn, a doorway on the north wall of this room leads into the cross hall.

The front east room is also used as a bedroom. It retains its Federal style mantel (see photo 5) and its cornice. Its panelled wainscoting is a modern alteration. A doorway on the north wall of this room leads into a room that is now a bathroom. A door on the north wall of the bathroom enters onto the cross hall.

The cross hall spans the width of the building and creates an open, inviting space in the center of the house. A modest, but heavy, cornice, the column screen, panelled pilasters and wainscoting accent the cross hall.

The c. 1845 addition was comprised of this cross hall, the two rooms and the rear central hall beyond it. The central hall features a cornice and wainscoting. It leads into the sun room which was added in 1967. The dining room off the east side of the hall has an internal chimney with a Greek Revival mantel. In the northeast corner of the room next to the chimney are original built-in cabinets. The room has no chair rail or cornice but does display shouldered, Greek Revival door surrounds. One doorway leads into the cross hall, the other into the rear central hall and a third into the sun room. Off the west side of the rear central hall is a room which now serves as the den. It has a chair rail which is probably not original but does retain its internal chimney with a Greek Revival mantel and its shouldered Greek Revival door surrounds. The den also has three doorways-- one to the cross hall, one to the rear central hall and one to the kitchen.

The L-shaped kitchen is part of the 1967 addition. It wraps around the utility room which is in the northwest corner of the house. French doors on the east wall of the kitchen lead into the sun room. The large sun room has a wood floor and is lighted by banks of windows. Though these three rooms are modern additions, they do not detract from the architectural integrity of the house.

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Blantonía Plantation House
Jefferson County, MS

Blantonía's second story is part of the original pile-and-a-half "expanded I-house". As with the first floor, this story has two large rooms divided by a central hall with a rear range of three narrow rooms. The two front rooms, which are bedrooms, the hall and the east back room have chair rails but no cornice. The two front bedrooms also feature Federal style mantels similar to the one in the east front room on the first floor. The central rear room has wainscoting. A doorway leads from the hall into the central rear room. This room serves as a small parlor and also contains the stairwell. In the west front bedroom a doorway leads into a room which has been divided into a bathroom, a powder room and a closet. The small room behind the east front bedroom was originally a bedroom but is now utilized for storage. In the early twentieth century, a window was cut into its western wall which overlooked the stairwell and the intersection of the halls. The window has since been enclosed.

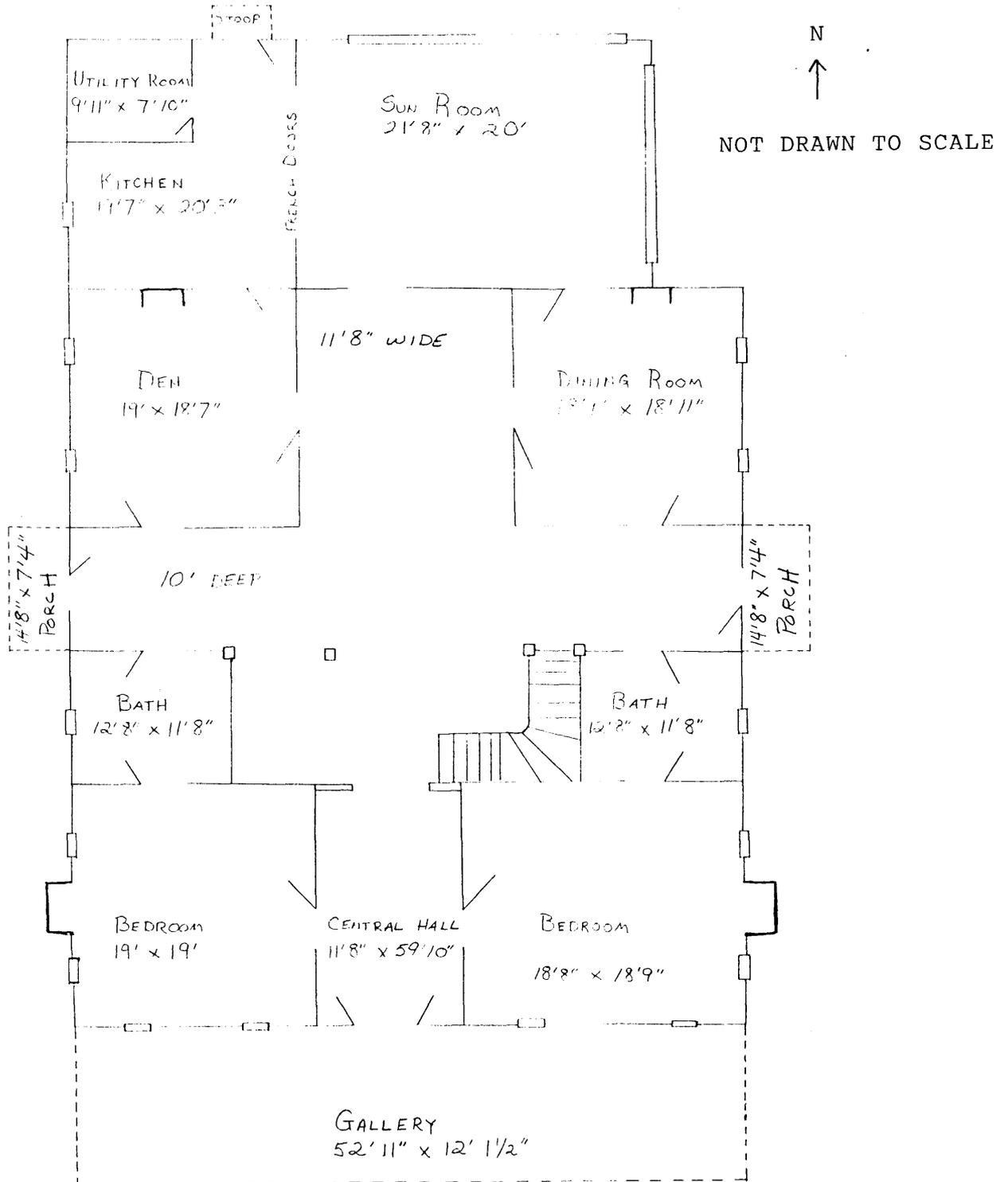
Blantonía is sited on a small knoll between Willis Creek and Brady Creek. A half dozen early twentieth century outbuildings form a semicircle to the north and west of the house. Since they post-date the period of significance, they are not included in the National Register nomination. However, they also do not detract from the rural character of the property. No antebellum outbuildings are extant. Meadows and forests surround Blantonía and its small cluster of buildings.

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Blanton Plantation house
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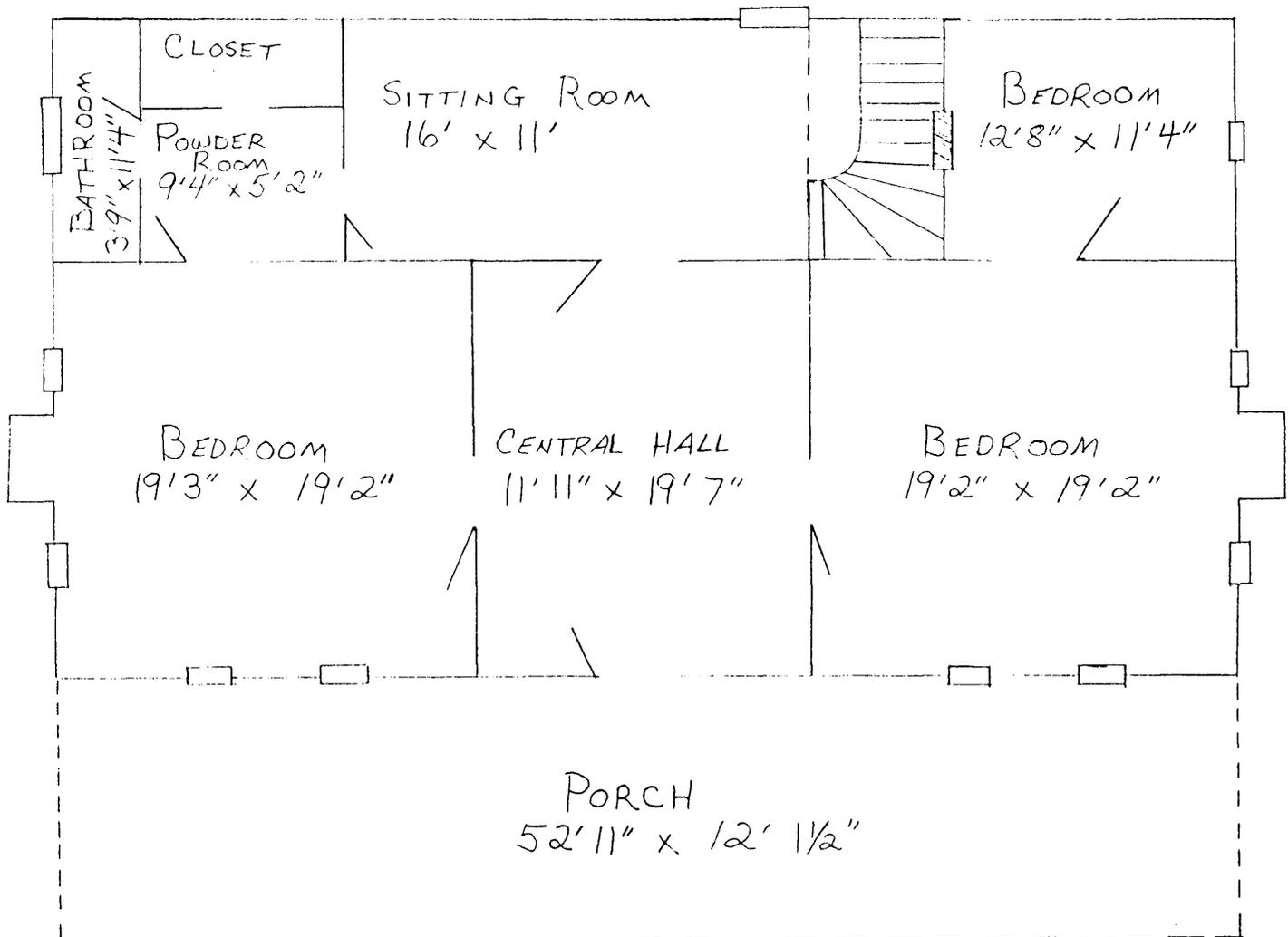
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Blanton plantation house
Jefferson County, MS



NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



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Jefferson County, MS

Blanton, a full-colonnaded, expanded I-house that is predominantly Greek Revival in design, is eligible for the National Register under Criterion C. The plantation house retains a high degree of architectural integrity and represents in both form and architectural style a house type often utilized by rural Mississippians in the antebellum period. Blanton has two periods of significance. The first, circa 1812, is the date the expanded I-house was built, according to local tradition. The second period of significance, circa 1845, is the date the building was remodelled in the Greek Revival style.

The I-house with its various subtypes was a common house type in rural Mississippi during the first three quarters of the nineteenth century, reaching its apex in popularity and conformance to floor plan in the antebellum period, particularly during the 1840s and 1850s (Cawthon 1992:1). In general, I-houses were of wood frame construction with weatherboard siding and featured external brick chimneys in their side gables. Those with a central hall, such as Blanton, usually had a three-, five- or seven-bay-wide front facade with five bays being the most common (Cawthon 1992:3).

The I-house form first appeared in Mississippi circa 1800, having been brought to the Old Natchez District (which was comprised of present-day Wilkinson, Adams, Jefferson and Claiborne Counties plus most of Amite, Franklin and Warren Counties) by Anglo-American settlers from the eastern seaboard. Nine subtypes of the I-house have been identified in Mississippi to date. These are:

- 1) basic I-house with no porch
- 2) I-house with one-story portico
- 3) I-house with monumental portico
- 4) I-house with double-tiered portico
- 5) I-house with composite porch (combining a one-story, full-width porch and a two-story or monumental portico)
- 6) single-gallery or "Carolina" I-house (one story, full-width porch)
- 7) double-gallery I-house (two story, full-width porch)
- 8) I-house with full monumental colonnade
- 9) I-house with dual, overlapping colonnades (Cawthon 1992:2-3)

According to local tradition, Blanton was constructed circa 1812 by members of the Blanton family. The house received a major rear addition comprised of an extension of the central hall between two new rooms and a cross hall, plus an

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exterior renovation in approximately 1845 which gave it its Greek Revival character. Despite another rear addition in 1967, Blanton's original pile-and-a-half expanded I-house form is still quite discernible (Interview with Mrs. Dorothy Brady, the present owner, on 11 Sept. 1992). Double-galleried and full-colonnaded I-houses typically have a narrow range of rooms across the rear balancing the width of the gallery and creating a pile-and-a-half expanded I-house plan (Cawthon 1992:8-9). What is not readily apparent is whether Blanton originally featured double galleries with story-high pillars on each level or a full monumental colonnade with an upper gallery. There are pre-1812 precedents for both I-house subtypes in or near Jefferson County.

Nevertheless, Blanton is a finely executed example of an I-house with a full monumental colonnade and an upper gallery. I-houses with a full monumental colonnade were constructed in both the Federal and Greek Revival styles throughout Mississippi during the antebellum period and were usually found in rural settings. Blanton is one of nine such I-houses with a full monumental colonnade and an upper gallery identified in the state so far. One of these nine, the Sevier House in Leake County, is no longer extant. Four others are already listed in the National Register. Two of these four are located in what was the Old Natchez District, as is Blanton. Springfield is believed to have been built circa 1804 in Jefferson County and is of brick construction which is rather unusual for an I-house in Mississippi. Its five-bay front facade features six monumental Tuscan columns and an upper gallery tied into the colonnade. Holly Grove in Wilkinson County was constructed in 1812 and probably remodeled in the 1820s. Its front facade displays an irregular fenestration and six large Tuscan columns. Blanton with its wood frame construction and symmetrical Greek Revival design is a more archetypal interpretation of this I-house subtype which was so popular in the Old Natchez District and, indeed, throughout Mississippi during the antebellum period (Cawthon 1992:A-6-A-7).

The history of the families who resided at Blanton is somewhat sketchy. According to local tradition, the Blanton family built the original expanded I-house known as Blanton circa 1812. An 1810 census of the Natchez District records a Sarah Blanton in Jefferson County. Her household consisted of one white female over age 21 and one white female under age 21 plus six slaves (Gillis 1963:31). Another census taken in 1816 lists Sarah Blanton and William Blanton as individual heads of households in Jefferson County but no other information about

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them is given (Gillis 1963:82). The 1820 Federal Census records two Blanton households in Jefferson County that year. One was comprised of Sarah Blanton who lived alone and the other was the William W. Blanton family. The census does not specifically state where they resided in the county. Benjamin Blanton was listed as a resident of Claiborne County (1820 U.S. Census). He eventually acquired Blanton.

Benjamin was born about 1789 and was the son of Christopher Blanton. The elder Blanton was from Warren County, North Carolina and migrated to Lincoln County, Georgia where he died in 1800. Benjamin was in the Old Natchez District at least as early as 1816 when he married Narcissa Watson (MDAH Subject File). The couple's only daughter, Martha Eliza Blanton, was born around 1821 in Jefferson County (Gillis 1962:48). Four years later, in 1826, Sarah Blanton died leaving five hundred acres in Jefferson County (King 1969:154). This acreage may have included Blanton which was then purchased or inherited by Benjamin Blanton. In any case, the 1830 Federal Census listed Benjamin Blanton and his family as residents of the county (1830 U.S. Census).

Benjamin's daughter, Martha, married Lewis C. Watson who had been born in Jefferson County circa 1816 (Gillis 1962:648). Watson gradually pieced together tracts of land in the county to form one large plantation. From the late 1830s to mid 1840s he set about purchasing from the numerous heirs of William Watson their interests in a 640 acre tract which was described as having once belonged to Benjamin Blanton (Deed Book D:170-171; Deed Book E:140-141; Deed Book F:252-253). A deed of sale between James W. Watson and L. C. Watson recorded in April 1846 described the parcel as being where "Lewis C. Watson now resides" (Deed Book F:252-253). Watson was a successful planter. In 1840 he owned fifty-five slaves and reported that thirty-four people on his plantation were involved in agriculture. Ten years later, Watson's real estate was valued at \$1800.00 and he owned eighty-four slaves. He had only sixty-one slaves in 1860 but his real estate was valued at \$25,000.00 and his personal estate equalled \$80,000.00 (1840, 1850, 1860 U.S. Censuses). It seems likely then that Lewis and Martha Watson were responsible for the renovation of Blanton which occurred circa 1845.

The Brady family purchased Blanton in 1912 and members of that family still own the plantation today (MDAH Subject File). They have added modern amenities to the house while also preserving its historical and architectural character.

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Blanton plantation House
Jefferson County, MS

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- Brady, Dorothy. Present owner of Blanton, Red Lick vicinity, Mississippi. Interview, 11 September 1992.
- Cawthon, Richard J. "The I-House and Expanded I-House in Mississippi, 1800-1875: Variations of a Traditional Form". Division of Historic Preservation, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1992.
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- King, J. Estelle Stewart (compiler). Mississippi Court Records, 1799-1835. Beverly Hills, California: Privately published, 1936; reprint ed., Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969.
- Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Subject File. Blanton.
- U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. Censuses for 1820, 1830, 1840, 1850 and 1860.

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Blanton Plantation House
Jefferson County, MS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point that is approximately nine feet west of the southwest corner of the front gallery, the boundary proceeds north approximately ninety-seven feet until it is located on a northwest diagonal from the northwest corner of the rear wing of the house. The boundary then heads east/southeast, skirting the smokehouse, for about seventy-one feet and turns south, proceeding approximately one hundred feet. Just beyond the southeast corner of the front gallery, the boundary turns, heading due west for about seventy-one feet and then north to the point of beginning. The house is located in Section 34, Township 10 North, Range 3 East and at UTM Reference 15/695785/3520120 as shown on the enclosed USGS Red Lick quadrangle map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The described boundary includes the antebellum house which is being nominated to the National Register but excludes the early twentieth century outbuildings which have no architectural or historical significance. Outbuildings from the period of significance are nonextant.

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Photographs

Blanton Plantation House
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The following information is the same for all the photographs:

- 1) Blanton Plantation House
- 2) Lorman vicinity, Jefferson County, Mississippi
- 3) Susan M. Enzweiler
- 4) September 11, 1992
- 5) Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Exterior elevations:

Photo 1 of 5--front elevation, view to northeast

Photo 2 of 5--side (west) elevation, view to east

Interior features:

Photo 3 of 5--intersection of halls and staircase, view to east

Photo 4 of 5--central hall, view to south

Photo 5 of 5--Federal style mantel in front, east room on 1st floor, view to east