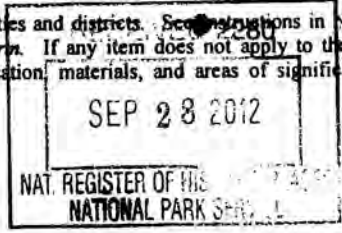


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

923

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any 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.



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Heathman Plantation Commissary

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

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

2. Location

Street & number: Heathman Road

City or town: Indianola State: Mississippi County: Sunflower

Not For Publication: Vicinity:


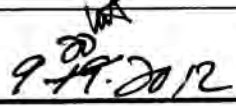
3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A ___ B ___ C ___ D

 _____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	 _____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
_____ Signature of commenting official:	_____ Date
_____ Title :	
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

For Elisha W. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

11.14.12
Date of Action

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

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
<u>1</u>	_____	objects
<u>3</u>	_____	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

GOVERNMENT/post office

HEALTH CARE/doctor's office

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/horticultural facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Concrete foundation, brick walls, tar roof

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Heathman Plantation Commissary is a two-story brick building with a pitched tar roof with drainage troughs. The L-shaped building is located in an agricultural area west of Indianola, Mississippi, in Sunflower County. It sits on Heathman Road and just south of the railroad. A rectangular seed house stands to the south of the Commissary. A large metal bell supported by a metal frame is just north of the building.

Narrative Description

The Heathman Plantation Commissary is located in a rural area about four miles west of Indianola, Mississippi. The building faces the Columbus and Greenville Railroad. A depot and the Heathman family home were once located nearby but have been demolished. The commissary and plantation are surrounded by flat delta lands, most in agricultural use, but the yard to the back and sides of the commissary are shaded by mature trees.

Exterior

The two-story building is L-shaped with a flat roof. The exterior walls are red brick.

The primary elevation is north is topped by a stepped parapet capped with ceramic tiles. Just below, a band of decorative brick reflects the pattern of the stepped parapet terminating in corbelled blocks at the corners. The second floor has five bays, symmetrically spaced. The

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

outside bays are single 1/1 wood windows with segmental arch brick lintels. These windows flank paired 1/1 wood windows with cast stone lintels. In the center are two 1/1 wood windows separated by a brick niche with inset marble plaque. A cast-stone lintel runs over this center window unit. The windows all have cast-stone sills. The first floor is composed of two bays, each a three-part storefront unit. Brick pilasters bracket the two storefronts. A cast-stone band forms a lintel above the storefronts and capitals on the pilasters. Each storefront has centered double-leaf glazed doors flanked by large display windows. A transom, also divided into three parts, is further vertically divided into six panes each. A broad band of brick above the entrance is painted black with the words "Heathman Plantation" painted in white letters. A three-part metal cornice formerly topped the north elevation and wrapped around to the west and south elevations, but has been removed on all but the rear wing.

The east elevation has three bays on both levels. On the second story, there are three paired 1/1 wood windows with cast-stone lintels. On the first story, the outer bays have brick segmental arched lintels. The far right bay was probably originally a door, but it has been partially infilled with brick leaving a small window unit. The far left bay has a double-leaf five panel wood door with a transom. These bays flank a small window in the middle.

The south elevation of the eastern wing has three bays on the second floor. There are three single 1/1 wood windows on the second floor with brick segmental arched lintels. There were probably two windows and a door on the first floor, but these openings have been infilled with brick leaving the segmental arch lintel for all three apertures and the cast-stone sills for the windows. A slight decorative tin cornice return is seen on the upper corner wrapping around to the west side of this wing.

The west elevation of the east wing has three bays on the second floor. The decorative tin cornice extends along this elevation and would have originally been matched on the side and front elevations. The cornice makes a slight return on the rear elevation but has been lost from the other elevations. On the second story, there are two 1/1 wood windows with segmental arch lintels and cast-stone sills. The opening closest to the intersection of the two building wings has a single-leaf five-panel wood door with a transom. There must have been an exterior stair to this second floor entrance which has been lost. Two cuts for supporting beams can be seen in the south wall of the west wing. There is one 1/1 window, similar to those described above, on the first floor, which also has horizontal iron bars.

The south elevation of the western wing has two windows on the second floor and two windows and a single-leaf five panel wood door on the first floor. All have segmental arch lintels and the windows have cast-stone lintels. The first floor windows are protected by horizontal iron bars. The finish of the brick on the south elevation is markedly distinct and inferior from the front and side elevations. This is most apparent on the southwest corner of the western wing where the finished brick from the west elevation turns the corner in a quoin pattern.

The west elevation has three windows in each floor. The windows are similar to those described above.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

The roof is a pitched tar with troughs that drain into downspouts.

Interior

The building housed a large store space on the first floor, along with a separate smaller post office and, possibly, the plantation office (with vault), and two smaller rooms used for voting and offices. On the second floor, a two-room apartment fills the back (east) wing, with a large space for inventory storage in the front wing and a separate medical office/clinic set aside in this front section.

The first floor has a large open space with tall ceilings. The ceilings are covered with pressed tin. The floors are concrete. Wooden store shelves are found on the north wall and the east wall. Wooden service counters with beadboard finishes remain in place. Two smaller rooms occupy the southwest corner. The front of these two rooms is entered by a single-leaf door on the east wall. The room has wood-panel walls and built-in open cupboards and was used primarily as a polling place. To the left of these two rooms, a partial-height wood-panel wall creates a work space that served as a post office and plantation office. The exterior wall, facing into the sales floor of the store, has a partially glazed three panel door. To the left of the door is a fixed single-pane window with a brass mail slot, while to the right is a three-panel service window with a cut-out circular speaking hole and a small service opening in the center window. Within this post office/plantation office enclosure there is a service counter and work table. There are also brass mail boxes. A five-panel wood door on the west wall opens into the back room of the two small offices. On the south wall of the post office enclosure is a large vault door, labeled with the name "Cary Safe Co." The interior of the concrete vault has a coved ceiling, wood shelves and a large free-standing shelf.

On the east wall of the larger store space, offset to the left, is an enclosed space housing a hand-operated wooden lift leading to the second floor and allowing storage of excess inventory upstairs. Three cold storage lockers occupy the south (rear) wall. A stairway with a rectangular boxed newel and turned spindles is set along the west wall. The stair rises to a landing and then turns to a second set of risers.

The stairs open to a short hall on the second floor. Here the floors are wood planks while the walls and ceiling are plaster. A small bathroom with a tub and commode is located along the south wall. Two windows light the hall on the west exterior wall, and a door provides separate access to the second floor from outside (although the exterior stairs are non-extant. Two single-leaf wood doors with a simple casing and transoms open from the hallway to each room of a two-room apartment. An interior single-sash window, apparently original or at least historic, opens into the hallway from the front room of the apartment, possibly indicating a manager or doctor lived here. The apartment's rooms have simple decorative baseboards and door and window trim. Both rooms contain a coal-burning fireplace with a simple wood mantel. A door gives interior connection to both rooms without having to go into the hallway. There is a sink in the southwest corner and a door opening to the bathroom.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

In the hall, a five-panel wood door with a transom opens into a large open storage area occupying most of the front wing of the building. The floors of this front room are wood planks with unfinished wood plank ceiling and painted plank walls. A small room is set in the southwest corner. The presence of an old examining table and other old medical equipment suggests this room housed the plantation doctor's office. Adjacent to this doctor's office are remains of wooden storage areas, simply constructed with chicken wire attached to wood supports and four separate areas entered by four plank and wire doors. A ceiling hatch in the northeast corner allows roof access. Along the east wall, a steel frame supports a large steel flywheel with a hemp rope that operates the lift.

Contributing Resources

The seed house is a one story building with a gable roof just to the southeast of the commissary. The roof is standing seam metal and the exterior walls of the west and south elevations of the rear portion of the building are corrugated steel. The east elevation is wood clapboards. The front part of the building is constructed of concrete. The primary elevation is north. A wood door with a four-light window provides access to the northern concrete section, sheltered by a metal canopy. Multi-light industrial windows flank the doorway and also light the east and west elevations of the concrete part of the building. These front rooms were used as an apartment consisting of three rooms, a bathroom and kitchen. A wood plank door on the west allows access to the rear storage portion of the building. In this section, four window openings are covered with plywood. Surviving windows on the east side of the building are 4/4 wood double-hung. Large double-leaf plank doors are set on the south elevation. The roof over the concrete portion is supported by steel rafters. To the rear, the ceiling is open to the roof which is constructed of wood rafters. The floor is concrete. Several small interior rooms are composed of wood plank walls. A temperature controlled room, used for seed research, is lined with metal.

The plantation bell is set on a concrete pad north of the commissary building. The large metal bell is supported by a tower composed of L-channel steel.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

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.)

- 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCE

HEALTH/MEDICINE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1911-1945

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Heathman Plantation Commissary is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for association with Agriculture, Commerce, Health/Medicine, Ethnic Heritage: Black and Politics/Government. The commissary is a well preserved example of a Mississippi Delta cotton plantation commissary which supported the widespread practice of sharecropping in the first half of the 20th century. The building also housed a rural post office and voting precinct.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Present day Sunflower County, Mississippi is located in north central Mississippi in the region known as the Mississippi Delta. The Delta is a large alluvial plain drained by the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers and their tributaries, including the Sunflower River. Archaeological studies establish a long pattern of human settlement in the region from the early archaic period to the time of European contact.¹ The Choctaw occupied much of central Mississippi, including the area of present day Sunflower County. As the migration of Americans from the eastern regions to Mississippi increased, there was more and more pressure to open the Choctaw lands for settlement. The Choctaw ceded large areas of lands through a series of treaties: the southern part of present day Sunflower County was ceded by the Choctaw in the Treaty of Doak's Stand in October 1820, while the northern part of the county was ceded by the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek in September 1830.²

Sunflower County was created out of Bolivar County by the legislature in 1844.

Like much of the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta, the land in Sunflower County was swampy, heavily forested and overgrown. Early settlement was limited to the river banks with little movement into the interior. Due to these conditions, "the Delta was destined from the beginning to be the domain of substantial planters...who possessed the financial resources and the slaves required to clear and drain the land and take advantage of its fertility."³ Although the costs of preparing the land for cultivation were high, the return on the investment was also high. The rich Delta soil, frequently renewed through periodic flooding, produced bountiful crops of high grade cotton which created a wealthy planter class. However, the system was dependent on an enslaved work force, which labored throughout the year. Winter was spent clearing and draining new fields for

¹ Marie Hemphill. *Fevers, Floods and Faith: A History of Sunflower County, 1844-1996*. (Indianola, MS, 1980), 15.

² Hemphill, 23.

³ James C. Cobb. *The Most Southern Place on Earth, The Mississippi Delta and the Roots of Regional Identity*. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992), 8.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

cultivation, while spring, summer and early autumn were devoted to planting, cultivating and harvesting the cotton crop.⁴

Emancipation introduced economic challenges for both the white planters and the freedmen. The planters owned the land and much of the equipment and stock required for cultivation. However, they no longer controlled the labor force. Capital was scarce in post-bellum Mississippi, which hindered the planters from engaging wage labor.⁵ The freedmen, with deep experience as agricultural laborers, lacked the land or collateral necessary to obtain land. Additionally, many freedmen were reluctant to work in labor gangs for wages, which was all too reminiscent of slavery.⁶ Their mutual interests encouraged both the planters and the freedmen to enter into a sharecropping arrangement. The landowners were able to maintain a steady workforce, while the tenants saw sharecropping as a step toward independent land ownership.⁷

In its ideal form, the sharecropping system represented a compromise "because it rested on reciprocity of interests, on the tenant's need for land and the landlord's need for labor."⁸ The landlords provided the land, paid the taxes, supplied the mules, tools and seed, and provided the tenant with a house. The tenants provided the labor for planting, cultivating and harvesting the cotton crop. The landlords also advanced credit for the purchase of necessities and, sometimes, medical care. The process became known as the "furnish" system. When the crop was harvested, the tenant repaid the costs of the yearly furnish and any profits from the crop were divided between the property owner and the tenant.

In reality, the system was fraught with problems. From the landlord's perspective, the risk that the value of the furnish would exceed the value of the crop was always present. From the tenant's perspective, the system was subject to abuse and fraud. Whether the furnish was provided by a plantation commissary or an independent furnish merchant, interest rates could be usurious. The costs for supplies could be inflated. The debt and earnings of the tenant could be deliberately miscalculated. These practices, although not universal, were widespread. According to Oscar Johnston, president of the Delta and Pine Land Company, which operated the largest cotton plantation in the world, "chicanery, larceny (grand and petit), and other forms of dishonesty...were the rule rather than the exception."⁹

One of the few checks on landlord dishonesty was tenant mobility. The term of most sharecropper contracts was one year. Therefore most sharecroppers, both black and white, moved frequently. The motives for moving from one plantation to another were numerous, but certainly included "lower rents, the chance to farm more productive land, access to healthier work stock and better implements, better housing or less demanding and more honest

⁴ Cobb, 21.

⁵ Cobb, 54.

⁶ Cobb, p. 55.

⁷ Cobb, p. 71

⁸ Neil R. McMillen. *Dark Journey, Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow*. (Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1989), 127.

⁹ McMillen, p. 133.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

landlords.”¹⁰ In addition, dishonest and abusive landlords often found it difficult to recruit and retain a labor force from year to year.¹¹

Charles S. Aiken, a cultural geographer, studied the cotton plantation’s evolution since the Civil War. His study’s geographic scope includes a band across central Georgia, south central Alabama, and the Mississippi-Yazoo Delta counties of Mississippi, including Sunflower County. Aiken identified three distinct time periods which were reflected in the geospatial arrangement of the plantation. The period from 1865 to 1880 involved the reorganization of plantations from the Old South era, which was marked by a nucleated arrangement centered around either the owner’s house or perhaps an overseer’s house. Aiken terms this phenomenon “central place hierarchy.” These plantations included compact and discrete worker housing left over from the days of slavery and often small ginneries and compresses. As the sharecropping system evolved during the period of reorganization, the nucleated plantation settlement pattern disintegrated.¹²

Aiken identifies the period from about 1880 to the early decades of the 20th century as the New South Plantation Era. The New South plantation often featured black and white tenant farmers. The settlement patterns were dispersed with tenant housing and support buildings located on the plots awarded to the tenant farmers. There was still a central place where the plantation was managed, however there were an increasing number of absentee landlords. The central zone often included the store or commissary that served the furnish system. The agricultural infrastructure including public cotton ginneries, cotton oil mills and fertilizer plants expanded.¹³

The final era Aiken identified was the Demise of Plantation Agriculture, a period beginning in some parts of the south in the 1920s and extending into the early post-WW II era. The demise of the plantation structure was marked by changing technology used in cotton planting and harvesting which required less labor. Sharecropping gave way to a system more dependent on semi-skilled wage laborers. There was a decline in the amount of acreage devoted to cotton often resulting in land abandonment by absentee owners. The agricultural infrastructure and the central place hierarchy disintegrated. The period also saw a large migration of black agricultural workers to the northern cities.¹⁴

Heathman Plantation

Present day Heathman Plantation traces its roots to one of the oldest plantations in Sunflower County. Christopher Gillespie began accumulating the land he called Dogwood Plantation in 1854.¹⁵ In 1871, J. M. Heathman acquired approximately 8000 acres which became Heathman

¹⁰ Louis M. Kriakoudes, “Lookin’ For Better All the Time.” In *African American Life in the Rural South, 1900-1950*, ed. R. Douglas Hurt (Columbia and London: University of Mississippi Press, 2003), 14.

¹¹ Cobb, 107.

¹² Charles S. Aiken. *The Cotton Plantation South Since the Civil War*. (Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998), 40.

¹³ Aiken, 41.

¹⁴ Aiken, 41.

¹⁵ Hemphill, 406.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Plantation. Following his death in 1885, Mrs. Heathman, nee Lily Brown, married James Crawford, who managed the property.¹⁶

Prior to the time that Heathman acquired the plantation, Dogwood Plantation had a residence, slave quarters, a gin and outbuildings. It probably resembled the Old South Plantation settlement pattern described by Aiken. By the turn of the new century, Heathman Plantation began to take the form of the New South plantation. There was a depot which was a regular stop on the Georgia Pacific Railroad (now the Columbus and Greenville RR). A post office was established in 1888. Heathman Plantation became a voting precinct in 1895.¹⁷

The center of Heathman Plantation was the Heathman home, a two-story house built in 1894, which was termed "palatial" in newspaper accounts.¹⁸ The current commissary, built in 1911, replaced an 1889 building. The commissary housed a post office, voting precinct, and possibly the plantation office for many years. The first floor is laid out as a store. Shelving for the display of products and service counters remain in place from the days when the commissary served the residents of the plantation. The post office facilities, which possibly doubled as plantation office, including a large vault also remain in place. A room devoted to the voting precinct is extant.

The second floor, served by a hand operated elevator, provided ample storage for inventory. An apartment remains on the second floor. Although who lived there is not recorded, an operable window between the apartment and the second floor hall indicates possibly a plantation manager or doctor might have occupied this space. Mr. Crawford recruited Dr. B. H. Campbell to provide medical care for the residents of Heathman Plantation. His medical office, which still has some medical equipment, remains in place on the second floor. Some of the men Crawford employed at the commissary became prominent citizens of Sunflower County, including Cecil Campbell and J. R. Key, who both became longtime circuit clerks.¹⁹

The Heathman Plantation Commissary remains one of the state's finest examples of a New South era plantation commissary. The Mississippi Department of Archives and History historic resource inventory files contain thirty-three known or attributed commissary buildings, with the vast majority located in Mississippi Delta counties. Many of these buildings are simple frame structures with gable roofs built between c.1900 and the 1920s. An example of this type of building is the commissary at Woodburn Plantation in Sunflower County. The frame building has a raised stepped parapet on the primary elevation fronting a gable roof. A shed roof supported by four wood posts covers a porch on the front. Double-leaf partially glazed doors are flanked by large multi-light windows. Like many of these buildings, the Woodburn Plantation Commissary is in poor condition. Two similar commissaries are found in the Morgan City vicinity in Leflore County and one in the Minerva community in Montgomery County.

¹⁶ Hemphill, 406.

¹⁷ Hemphill, 407.

¹⁸ Hemphill, 407.

¹⁹ Hemphill, 408.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

There are a number of brick commissary buildings extant. A substantial two-story brick building, probably built in the early 20th century, stands in the Clayton community in Tunica County. The Bledsoe Plantation Commissary is a one-story brick building with a stylized Flemish gable constructed in the vicinity of Shellmound in Leflore County in c.1925. The Dean and Company commissary is a one-story brick building with a flat roof built near Leland in Washington County in the early 1930s.

Commissary construction in Mississippi continued into the 1940s. A one-story concrete block building with a flat roof sloping to the rear behind a parapet wall still stands near Sledge in Quitman County. The building, constructed c. 1945, still has a gas pump. A more substantial commissary was built in 1945 on Wildwood Plantation in Leflore County. The one story block building with brick veneer has a flat roof and brick pilasters on one side wall. The pilasters and slightly rounded front canopy create an Art Deco appearance.

Although all of these commissaries are associated with cotton plantations, two known commissaries are related to other businesses. The Stonewall Mill Village Historic District is a historic planned industrial community located approximately three and one half miles south of Enterprise in Clarke County. (NR, 1994). The Commissary, built c. 1900, is a two story brick commercial building and one of the most prominent buildings in the community. The Tatum Lumber Company established a large sawmill in the south of Hattiesburg, Forrest County, in 1916. The community of Bonhomie grew up around the mill and featured housing for employees, a church, a school and a commissary. The Commissary is a one story building constructed of yellow pine. Although the Tatum Lumber Company ceased operations in 1938, the commissary continued to operate as a rural store until 1978.

The commissary most similar to the Heathman Plantation Commissary is the commissary in Clayton. Both are two-story brick buildings with some degree of architectural detail. This clearly distinguishes the buildings from the frame counterparts found on other Delta cotton plantations. The Heathman Plantation Commissary continued to operate as a rural market over the years. Therefore the building was never abandoned and is in much better condition than the Clayton building.

The Crawfords sold a large part of Heathman Plantation to Herman Paepke and F. N. Robertshaw in 1919.²⁰ In addition to the farming operations Paepke and Robertshaw established a seed business. The seed house was constructed to serve the business c. 1937. The company experimented with different strains of cottonseed and produced a variety known as Dixie King. The business was absorbed by the Stoneville Pedigreed Seed Company in 1956.

Paepke and Robertshaw sold the entire plantation to the Billups family in 1945. The change in ownership marked a significant change in the operations of the plantation. With the name changed to Billups Plantation, mechanized farming operations were introduced.

²⁰ Hemphill, 408.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

The commissary and the seed house are the only remaining historic buildings on the site related to the Heathman operation. The depot was last used for hay storage and was demolished in the 1970s. The Heathman house sat vacant for many years and was demolished in 1978. The two metal buildings now standing northeast of the house site were used for agricultural storage. Both were built outside the period of significance, one in the late 1940s and one in the mid-1960s.

The only other historic object is the plantation bell. Bells were common plantation features, announcing work and break hours and summoning workers when necessary. Viewed idyllically, the bell "roused the sleeping plantation to the multiple duties of the new day."²¹ However, in a more realistic interpretation, "on many estates, the hands were still summoned to the fields with bells and bugles, very likely in some cases, the same bells and bugles that summoned their slave forebears."²²

²¹ Hemphill, 665.

²² McMillen, 126.

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Aiken, Charles S. *The Cotton Plantation South Since the Civil War*. Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998.

Cobb, James C. *The Most Southern Place on Earth, The Mississippi Delta and the Roots of Regional Identity*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992.

Hemphill, Marie M. *Fevers, Floods and Faith, A History of Sunflower County, Mississippi, 1844-1976*. Indianola, MS, 1980.

Kyriakoudes, Louis M. "Lookin' for Better All the Time." In *African American Life in the Rural South, 1900-1950*, edited by R. Douglas Hurt. Columbia and London: University of Mississippi Press, 2003.

McMillen, Neil R. *Dark Journey, Black Mississippians in the Age of Jim Crow*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 1989.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Historic Preservation Division. Historic Resource Inventory files.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Lois Robertson

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 133-IND-3004

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 5

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

See Continuation Sheet

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

2. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

3. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

4. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

2. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

3. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

4. Zone: _____ Easting: _____ Northing: _____

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The subject property lies off Highway 82 west of Indianola, MS on Heathman Road. The topographic location of the nominated property as found on the Indianola Quadrangle (&.5 minute series) is in Township 18 N, Range 5W, Section 4. The specific property boundary is described as follows: Beginning at a point 25 feet due east of the northeast corner of the commissary building and running south 175 feet; turning 90° to the west and running 100 feet; turning 90° to the north and running 225 feet; turning 90° to the east and running 50 feet; turning 90° to the north and running 25 feet; turning 90° to the east and running 50 feet; turning 90° to the south and running to the point of the beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary of the nominated property includes that portion of Heathman Plantation that encompasses the commissary, the seed house and the plantation bell.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Lois Robertson
organization: Owner
street & number: 2 Lewis Circle
city or town: Indianola state: Mississippi zip code: 38751
e-mail robertsonlois@hotmail.com
telephone: 662-207-0202
date: July 1, 2012

Additional text by William Gatlin, MDAH Architectural Historian

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Heathman Planation Commissary

Name of Property
 Sunflower County, MS
 County and State

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 1

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

(Follow similar guidelines for entering these coordinates as for entering UTM references described on page 55, *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*. For properties less than 10 acres, enter the lat/long coordinates for a point corresponding to the center of the property. For properties of 10 or more acres, enter three or more points that correspond to the vertices of a polygon drawn on the map. The polygon should approximately encompass the area to be registered. Add additional points below, if necessary.)

Datum: WGS 84

A. Latitude:	33.440556	Longitude:	- 90.732500
B. Latitude:	33.440833	Longitude:	- 90.733889
C. Latitude:	33.440833	Longitude:	- 90.724444
D. Latitude:	33.439444	Longitude:	- 90.724444
E. Latitude:	33439444	Longitude:	- 90.732500

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Heathman Planation Commissary

Name of Property
Sunflower County, MS
County and State

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 10 Page 2



Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Heathman Plantation Commissary

City or Vicinity: Indianola vicinity

County: Sunflower

State: Mississippi

Photographer: Jennifer Baughn, MDAH Chief Architectural Historian

Date Photographed: June 28, 2011

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- 0001 of 17. Commissary exterior, north and east elevations, camera facing southwest
- 0002 of 17. Commissary exterior, front door, north elevation, camera facing south
- 0003 of 17. Commissary exterior, east and south elevations, camera facing northwest
- 0004 of 17. Commissary exterior, south elevation, camera facing north
- 0005 of 17. Commissary exterior, west and south elevations, camera facing northeast
- 0006 of 17. Commissary interior, shelves and counter, camera facing southeast
- 0007 of 17. Commissary interior, post office outer wall, camera facing southwest
- 0008 of 17. Commissary interior, post office inner wall, camera facing northwest
- 0009 of 17. Commissary interior, second floor apartment, camera facing southeast
- 0010 of 17. Commissary interior, second floor bathroom, camera facing south
- 0011 of 17. Commissary interior, doctor's office, camera facing west
- 0012 of 17. Commissary interior, second floor storage, camera facing west
- 0013 of 17. Commissary interior, lift, camera facing east
- 0014 of 17. Seed house exterior, north and west elevation, camera facing southeast
- 0015 of 17. Seed house interior, camera facing southeast
- 0016 of 17. Seed house interior, camera facing north
- 0017 of 17. Plantation bell, camera facing southeast

Heathman Plantation Commissary

Sunflower County,
Mississippi

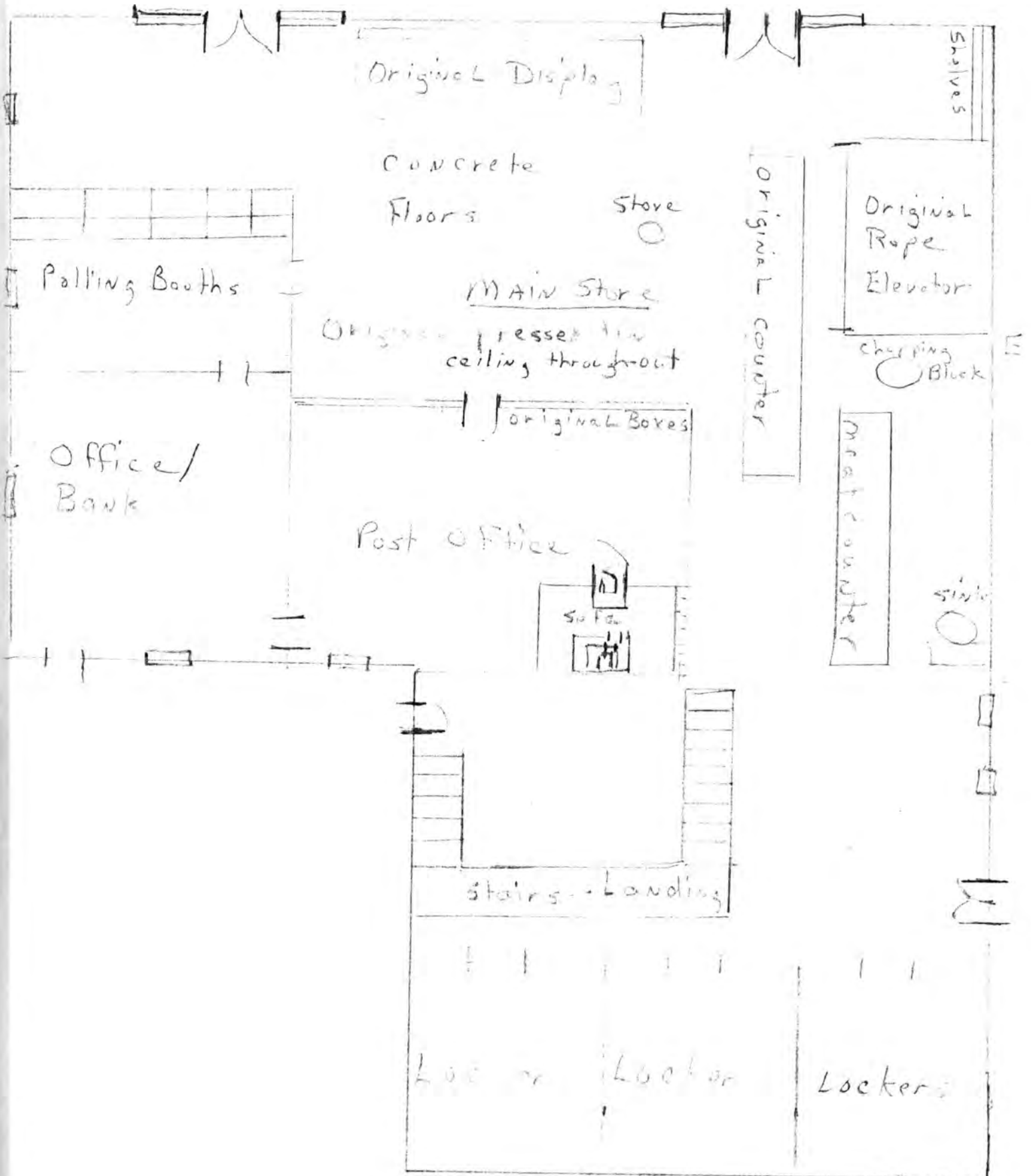
Name of Property

County and State

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. 460 et seq.).

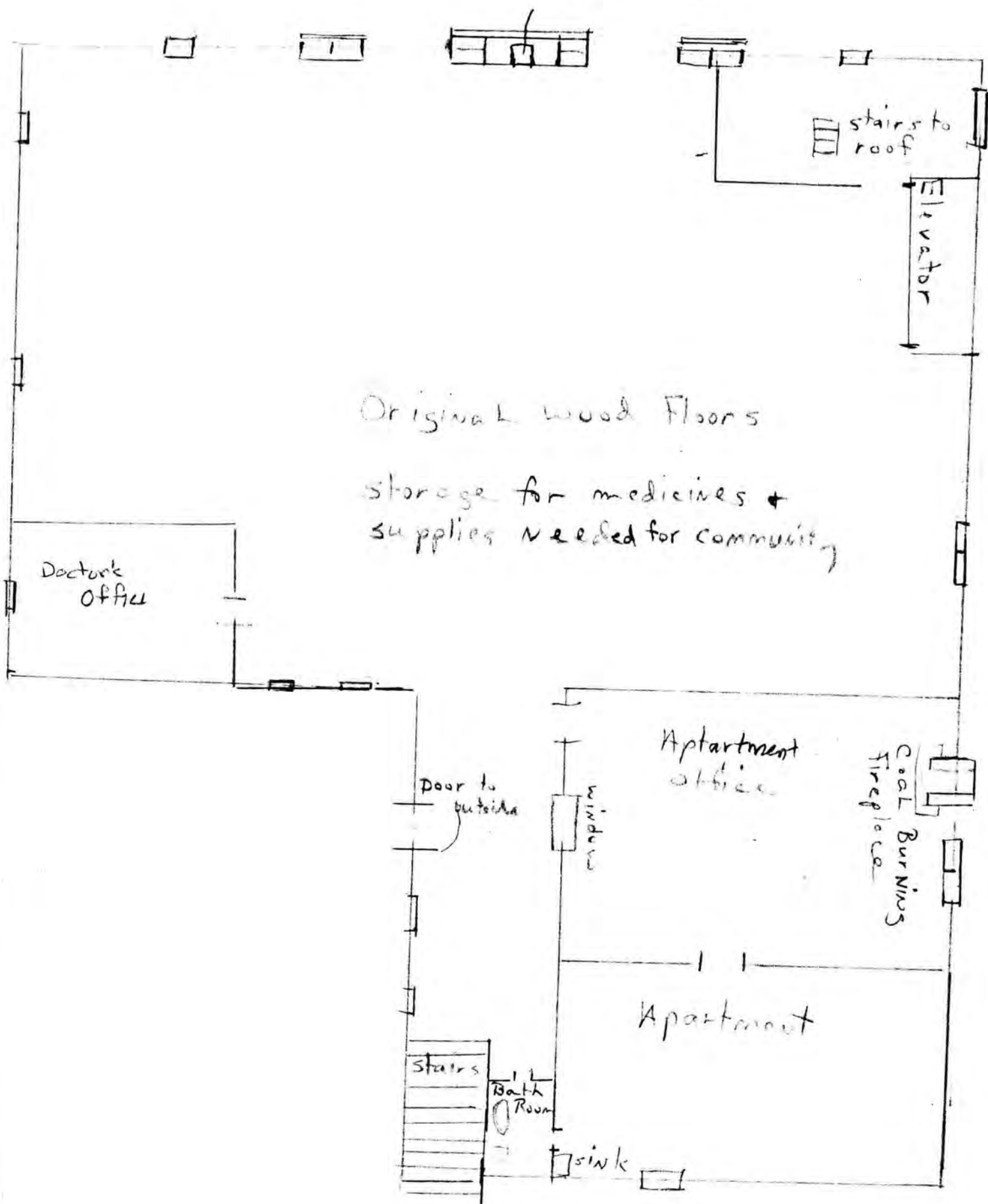
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Front/North - not to scale
1st floor



Front - N
2nd story

Plague of date
Built 1911



Original wood Floors

storage for medicines +
supplies needed for community

Doctor's
Office

stairs to
roof

Elevator

Apartment
office

Coal
Burning
Fireplace

Apartment

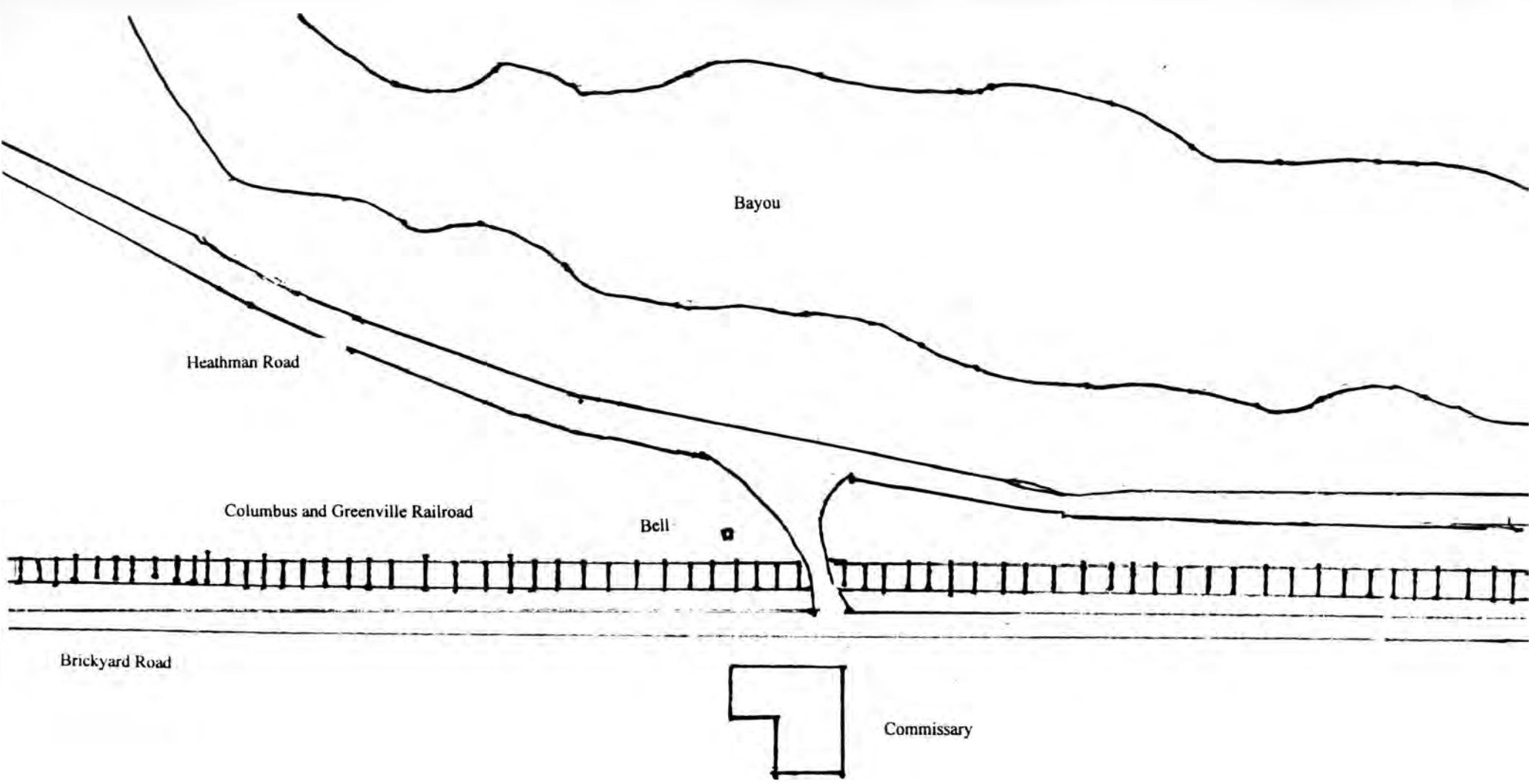
door to
outside

Window

Stairs

Bath
Room

sink



Heathman Plantation Commissary
Indianola vicinity, Sunflower County
National Register Nomination, September 2012

Sketch map

Scale: 1 in = 70 ft



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Heathman Plantation Commissary
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Sunflower

DATE RECEIVED: 9/28/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/26/12
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/13/12 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/14/12
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 12000923

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 11.14.12 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



HEATHMAN PLANTATION

MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0001



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0002



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0003



MS. Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commissary - 0004



MS_ Sunflower County_ Heathman Plantation Commissary - 0005



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantations Commission - 0006



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0007



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0008



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0009



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commissary - 0010



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0011



MS_ Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0012



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0013



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0014



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commissary - 0015



MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantations Commission - 0016



HEATHMAN PLANTATION

MS - Sunflower County - Heathman Plantation Commission - 0017



PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975

mdah.state.ms.us

H.T. Holmes, Director



September 21, 2012

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Ms. Shull:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following properties to the National Register of Historic Places:

Heathman Plantation Commissary, Indianola vicinity, Sunflower County

The property was approved for nomination by the Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board at its meeting on September 20, 2012.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H.T. Holmes".

H.T. Holmes
State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator