

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

For NPS use only

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

received APR 16 1984

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Adams Cotton Gin Building

and or common Adams Gin House

2. Location

street & number 6601 Hamilton Road, N/A not for publication

city, town Columbus N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Muscogee code 215

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<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 checked="" 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	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" 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 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 Mrs. Charlotte Adams Clark, Mr. Thomas Edwin Adams and Mr. Phillip M. Adams

street & number 2608 Foley Drive

city, town Columbus N/A vicinity of state Georgia 31906

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Muscogee County Courthouse (Columbus Government Center)

city, town Columbus state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Section 7. has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Adams Cotton Gin building is a wood-frame building with two floors. The siding is vertical board of rough-cut lumber and is unpainted and unfinished. The roof is covered with corrugated sheet metal. The interior space of the upper floor was originally work space and storage space with single wood beams to separate the storage areas. Room partitions have been added recently during commercial adaptation. On this floor are the original cotton gin, roller and cotton press. The lower floor, also originally open, is now used for furniture making. The building is on a lot with several large trees but no formal landscaping, and with space originally used for wagon loading and unloading. There are no existing outbuildings. The building sits adjacent to a highway and a telephone service building.

Changes to the original building due to rehabilitation include the rebuilding of the front porch, including the adding of stairs and a new entrance that was made on the southwest corner of the first floor with a new interior stairway leading to the second floor. Openings have been changed into windows by infilling with window treatments; the lower floor remains mostly open with changes including the addition of a concrete floor, a supply room and bathrooms, while on the second floor, part of the open space has been enclosed to form an office area; insulation has been added to the ceiling and exterior walls with boards covering the latter; and the aforementioned partitions to create display areas. On the second floor, the cotton gin and roller have been moved from their original position adjacent to the press southeast adjacent to the wall.

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

On May 5, 1983, this property received preliminary certification of significance from the Preservation Services Branch, National Register Programs Division, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" 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 1920 **Builder/Architect** Unknown other than original owner

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Adams Cotton Gin Building is significant in agriculture as a late example of the type of structures found on all cotton farms where cotton was processed and stored. It was built in 1920 after the Adams family farm in nearby Chattahoochee County was taken over by the military for Fort Benning and the family was forced to buy a new farm. They chose to build their new gin from parts of their old one, using the same equipment. This remaining equipment shows the transition of cotton processing, from animal power to gasoline power, until it ceased operation in 1935. The farm ceased production in 1946. The building is significant in architecture as a good example of the type of functional structure found on a farm built to serve a specific purpose without any frills. Its rough-cut timber and vertical-board construction would have been one of the easiest types of buildings to construct on a farm since it would be built out of local materials using local labor.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

Historical Narrative

The Adams Cotton Gin building was built by George M. Adams (b. 1898), whose family has lived in the Muscogee County area since before the Civil War. Mr. Adams and other members of his family were uprooted from their farm in adjacent Chattahoochee County, Georgia, when Fort Benning was developed as a U.S. Army military base after World War I. The government purchased numerous farms in the Muscogee-Chattahoochee County area, moving the farmers, their families and all buildings and machinery off the property. The cotton gin building is currently owned by some of Mr. Adams' children.

The building contains a cotton gin bearing the label of Daniel Pratt Gin Company of Prattville, Alabama. Mr. Pratt (1799–1873) had been a well-known architect in middle Georgia before he moved to Alabama and founded the cotton gin company. This particular machine was patented in 1889. The cotton press is a Lummus Press made in Columbus, Georgia, also in the late 1880s.

The gin, roller, and press were used primarily to process cotton produced on the Adams farm. It was not a commercial operation. Some area farmers did have access to the ginning operation for hire or for trade. Sharecroppers on the farm also processed their cotton here. At its peak, it produced several hundred bales of cotton a year. The Adams farm was nearby and, while a working farm until the 1940s, produced cotton as its main crop, necessitating a gin. Most large plantations in the nineteenth century had their own cotton gin building, and thus the

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

Singletary, S. Randall. "Adams Gin House," Historic Property Information Form, December 7, 1982, on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia, and additional information based on interviews with the Adams family.

10. Geographical Data

Acree of nominated property approximately two acres

Quadrangle name Fortson, Georgia-Alabama

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A

1	6	6	9	2	0	4	0	3	6	0	2	0	0	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 boundary of the nominated property is just that of the building itself and the ground it sits upon. This is all that remains historically associated with the building from the property the owner(s) own at this location. The building's surroundings have been re-developed with a highway and parking lots.

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

state	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date March 26, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W.

telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta

state Georgia

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

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 4/5/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the
National Register

date 5/17/84

for Alluree Byers
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Continuation sheet

Significance

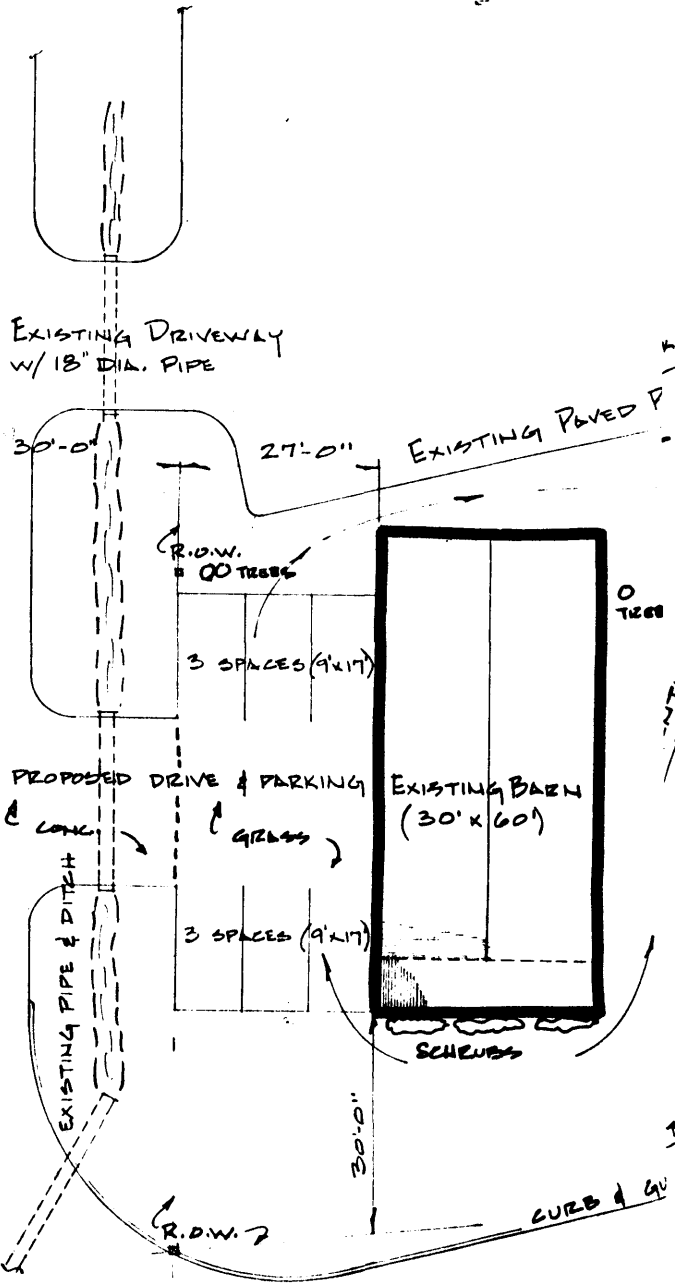
Item number 8

Page 2

Adams farm, in having its own gin house, carried on that long-standing Southern tradition and necessity.

The cotton gin building was used for the cleaning, seeding and baling of cotton produced on the Adams farm. It also served as a storage facility for the baled cotton and other farm storage. Cotton was brought to the gin building from the farm in baskets and on wagons by sharecroppers and farm workers. It was unloaded and placed on the porch, which served as a loading dock. It was then hand-carried across the second floor to the cotton gin itself. A loading tube or chute above the cotton gin received the cotton for cleaning and seeding. After the seeds were removed, the cotton was passed to the roller. The seeds dropped from the bottom of the gin into an auger. The auger carried the seeds below to the ground floor to be bagged and stored. The seeds would be used for replanting the following year as well as for sale. The roller formed the cleaned cotton into easily handled bales which were then placed into the press. After several presses and additional loading, a bale of approximately 500 pounds of cotton would be removed from the press and wrapped in burlap for storage. Stalls on the upper floor were divided for use by family and sharecroppers for the separate storage of finished bales.

OLD WHITTLESEY ROAD

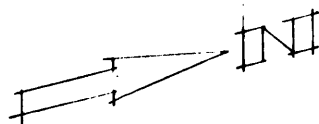


ADJACENT LOT (SOUTHERN BELL)

NATURAL DRAINAGE TO UNDEVELOPED WOODED AREA.

ON WOODED AREA

GENTLE SLOPE



SCALE 1" = 20'-0"

SEE D.O.T. PROJECT TSP-1 (99)

MUSCOGEE COUNTY B-1-B0 SHT. 2.

GROUNDS TO REMAIN UNDISTURBED - WITH TREE IMPROVEMENT AND CLEAN-UP

Adams Cotton Gin Building
 Columbus, Muscogee County, Georgia

SKETCH MAP

North: →

Scale: 1" = 30' approximately

Boundary of nominated property: Coincides with the "footprint" of the building

HAMILTON ROAD