

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED MAR 19 1980
DATE ENTERED MAY 22 1980

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Clarke County Antebellum Thematic Resources
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Mississippi

--- VICINITY OF

CODE
28

Third

COUNTY
Clarke

CODE
23

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

--- VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Office of Chancery Clerk
Clarke County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

South Archusa

CITY, TOWN

Quitman

STATE

Mississippi

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Statewide Survey of Historic Sites

DATE

March - May, 1979

--- FEDERAL STATE --- COUNTY --- LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

CITY, TOWN

Jackson

STATE

Mississippi

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clarke County, Mississippi, has a number of antebellum houses throughout its 664 square miles. The thirty residences included in this nomination represent the early history and development of the county from frontier days until the Civil War.

Located in east-central Mississippi with its eastern boundary the Alabama line, Clarke is a rural county in the central prairie region. The Chickasawhay River, which originates in the northwest corner of the county at Enterprise, flows through the county's center and provided the main route of transportation before the coming of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1855. Enterprise, Quitman, DeSoto, and Shubuta, each located on the river and/or the railroad, were the principal towns in Clarke's early history, and most of the county's antebellum houses are in or near these towns.

Greek Revival was the style for settlers of Clarke County. Ranging from one-story cottages to a two-and-a-half-story plantation mansion, the only exceptions were vernacular interpretations of the Greek Revival and the folk structures of the pioneers. One-story cottages are the type of greatest predominance; fewer than twenty percent of the houses are of two or more stories. All the residences are raised; all have frame or log construction with front gallery or portico, and center-hall plans or dogtrots. The only exceptions to the center-hall plan are the Smith-McLain-Buckley house (no. 13), said to have been built around a log cabin, and the Adams-Taylor-McRae house (no. 23), originally a one-room cabin. Several of the Greek Revival houses are outstanding because of their design quality and workmanship: Riverside Plantation (no. 2), the Hunter-Frost house (no. 9), the Woolverton-Boyd house (no. 17), the original design of the Trotter-Byrd house (no. 24), and Lang Plantation (no. 31).

Jody Cook, architectural historian and compiler of this nomination, surveyed the cultural resources of Clarke County. All National Register eligible houses determined to have been built before the Civil War were included. Although considered integral parts of the thematic group, three antebellum houses in the county have not been nominated because of structural changes and deterioration.

Lang Plantation District

The Lang Plantation District, in the rolling hills of south eastern Clarke County, is composed of the plantation house and its five remaining outbuildings. The brick kitchen, directly behind (east) the house, is connected with the plantation house by a covered walkway, and the storehouse is located to the rear and slightly south of the kitchen. The remaining outbuildings are separated from the main house by fields to the north and southwest, and a wooded area directly west. They include a barn, approximately 250 feet north of the house, a log overseer's house, down a tree-lined dirt road to the west, and one remaining slave quarter, approximately 1500 feet southwest of the plantation house.

A. Prairie Palace: Ca. 1854, Greek Revival. 2½-story gable roof T-plan frame mansion, 2-tier front facade gallery, rear facade 2-tier galleries have been enclosed at the first floor and a small section of the 2nd floor. Shouldered architrave trim on all windows and doors; giant order pilasters at corners of front facade galleries are more than 18" wide and 32 feet tall. Center hall plan, reverse curved staircase. The attic half-story, lighted by a pedimented dormer and gable-end windows, originally functioned as a ballroom and is reached by a staircase from the 2nd floor gallery. Interior features include solid

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7 - DESCRIPTION

walnut doors and marble mantelpieces, but original plaster was replaced by sheetrock following an oil exploration explosion in 1974.

B. Kitchen outbuilding: 1-story brick, painted red, with hip roof. 2 rooms, central chimney, large fireplace with mantel supported by pilasters in western room. Kitchen is connected to original dining room by a covered walkway, the "whistle walk," shouldered architrave trim on kitchen doorway. Flooring removed from eastern room and doorway in south facade altered.

C. Storehouse: 1½-story brick, painted red, with pyramidal roof, sand and salt mortar, boxed cornice.

D. Barn: 1½-story, gable roof with extended eaves, original structure reworked.

E. Overseer's House: Circa 1820, giant dogtrot, approximately 90' in length, 2 pens each approximately 40' long with 10' dogtrot. Each log is about 14" wide, 7" thick, square hewn logs have square corner notches. Tin roof with extended eaves has been added to create a large barn, but original structure still visible and intact.

F. Slave quarter: 1-story, 2-bay, hip roof building, brick painted red. One original door and shuttered window. Front porch and interior floor no longer extant.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" 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

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Antebellum residences in Clarke County comprise a collection of Greek Revival, vernacular Greek Revival, and folk houses that are unique in east-central Mississippi. Clarke County experienced its most extensive development during the period 1820-1860. This thematic group of houses illustrates this period architecturally and historically, and constitutes the county's major cultural resource.

The town of Enterprise was the major commercial and cultural center of east-central Mississippi in the 1850s, when river travel was the chief means of transportation. A Choctaw village was located at the site of what was later to become Enterprise, and a Jesuit mission was established there in the 1720s. The confluence of the Chunky River and Okatibbee Creek occurs at Enterprise, forming the Chickasawhay River; and a trading post developed there after the Choctaw mission was abandoned. The Choctaws later ceded their claim to the area in the Treaty of Dancing Rabbit Creek, Clarke County was established in 1833, and large number of white settlers began to migrate to the area. The town was incorporated in 1846, saw the arrival of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in 1855, and served as the temporary state capital during the Civil War before Sherman's invading troops reached Enterprise. The rise to prominence of Meridian as the area's main railroad crossroads ultimately led to the decline of Enterprise, but its twenty remaining antebellum houses remain as a reminder of its significant past.

Outside the town of Enterprise, the underlying significance of the remaining twelve antebellum houses scattered throughout the county is their association with old trails, roads, and eventually, the railroad. Several of these self-sufficient plantations, including the McGowan-Fatherree Plantation (no. 22), on the old stagecoach road, the Carmichael house (no. 25), on a trace from Savannah to Natchez, and the Sumrall-Albritton house (no. 28), on the M & O Railroad, became important community centers for the people in their vicinity. All of the residents of these houses relied primarily on agriculture for their livelihood.

The exceptional architectural significance of this thematic nomination is found in the group's wide range of house types of the Greek Revival style, and in the collection of folk structures that comprise twenty percent of the thematic group. The log dogtrot, is well represented within the folk category. The Covington (no. 25) and Lang (no. 31E) dogtrots stand out because of their quality of construction and maintenance of integrity. The one example of the single-pen log cabin, the Adams-Taylor-McRae house, no. 23, is especially remarkable because several of its log outbuildings are still extant. Vernacular house types are also illustrated by the Dearman house (no. 4), which is an I-house, and the Ward house (no. 1), a coastal cottage. Examples of the Greek Revival range from one-story cottages to a two-and-a-half-story plantation mansion. The Hunter-Frost (no. 9), Bradshaw-Booth (no. 13) and Woolverton-Boyd (no. 17) residences are noteworthy designs

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8 - STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

of the pedimented portico type, and the McCrory-Deas-Buckley house (no. 16) is most interesting of the undercut gallery type. The thematic group also includes several examples of the pyramidal roof Greek Revival house, and two residences that evolved from the Greek Revival to the Queen Anne. There are a small number of two-story houses in Clarke County, and of these Riverside Plantation (no. 2) and the Trotter-Byrd house (no. 24) are remarkable because of their two-tiered pedimented porticoes. The county has also produced some unusual vernacularizations of the Greek Revival, including the Smith-McLain-Buckley (no. 13), the Compton-Short (no. 18), the Carmichael (no. 27) and Sumrall-Albritton (no. 28) houses. The Lang Plantation District (no. 31) contains a Greek Revival mansion and numerous outbuildings. The district is the unique example of this resource type in eastern Mississippi.

One known antebellum house has not been included in this nomination because of its deteriorated condition. The Evans house (ca. 1842), located one mile east of Buckatunna Creek in east-central Clarke County, was built on the site of the Choctaw mission called Emmaus. The Moore-Smith house (no. 10) and the Buckley-Sikes house (no. 15), originally included in this survey, were determined ineligible because of structural changes resulting in loss of integrity.

Copies of this survey and National Register nominations will be provided to the East Mississippi Planning and Development District and to the East Mississippi Regional Library.

Lang Plantation District

The Lang Plantation District is the single extant complex of plantation mansion and attendant outbuildings in all of eastern Mississippi (surveyed as of January 1980), and because of its remarkable preservation of several building types, this district illustrates a past way of life. The historical significance of the Lang Plantation include its role as an economic, social and cultural center for the surrounding region during the 1850s. The mansion was begun after 1852 by Clement D. Lang, a wealthy bachelor and large land owner in the area, and it has long been local knowledge that 12 carpenters and all slave labor were required for the construction, which lasted 14 months and cost \$35,000. Although a leading resident of the county, Lang was ruined by the Civil War and died destitute.

The Lang Plantation District is also outstanding because of its architectural significance. The plantation house, Prairie Palace, is the only Greek Revival mansion in eastern Mississippi, south of Columbus. Architecturally significant features include 2-tier galleries on front and rear facades, giant order Greek Doric columns supporting an entablature with denticulated cornice, shouldered architrave trim on all windows and doors, and original interior details including marble mantelpieces, walnut staircase and doors.

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Also of architectural importance are the plantation outbuildings. The brick kitchen with original fireplace, storehouse, and slave quarter are the only remaining examples of these building types in eastern Mississippi. The large log dogtrot, originally a pioneer dwelling and later an overseer's house, is significant architecturally as one of the county's remaining folk structures. It is especially outstanding because of its large size, carefully hewn logs, and square corner notches. The building's owner was once offered \$30,000 for the dogtrot by a man from New Orleans who wanted to dismantle it and sell the logs individually for \$1,000.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Allen, Mrs. Monroe. Interviewed by Jody Cook, architectural historian with the Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Meridian, at Enterprise, Miss., May 15, 1979.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY See accompanying survey forms

UTM NOT VERIFIED

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet p. 8 for Lang Plantation District Geographical Data.

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

Jody Cook

Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Mississippi Dept. of Archives and History

DATE

May 17, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 5001, Southern Station

TELEPHONE

(601) 266-7246

CITY OR TOWN

Hattiesburg

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Elmer B. Hilliard

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

October 26, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

W. Ray Luce

DATE

5/22/80

DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

5/15/80

ATTEST

Christ A. Brown

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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