

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

MAY 31 1989

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Woodstock

other names/site number

2. Location

street & number Route 1, Box 404

n/a [] not for publication

city, town Natchez

[x] vicinity

state Mississippi

code MS

county Adams

code 1

zip code 39120

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- [x] private
[] public-local
[] public-State
[] public-Federal

Category of Property

- [x] building(s)
[] district
[] site
[] structure
[] object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, and Total.

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official: Kenneth H. P. Paul

Date: May 25, 1989

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. [] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- [x] entered in the National Register.
[] See continuation sheet.
[] determined eligible for the National Register.
[] determined not eligible for the National Register.

[] removed from the National Register.

[] other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper: Helene Byrum

Date of Action: 6/29/89

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

foundation brick
walls stucco
roof terra cotta
other wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Woodstock is located about twelve miles southeast of Natchez and is accessed by a paved driveway entered from the eastern side of Carmel Church Road just south of Carmel Presbyterian Church. The grounds of the plantation house are beautifully landscaped with century-old live oak trees and flowering shrubs. The stuccoed-brick residence is sheltered by a hipped roof pierced by three, interior brick chimneys. The roof was altered earlier in the twentieth century by the addition of a red-tile covering and a single front and rear dormer to light the attic. The five-bay, northerly facade is fronted by a full-width, deep gallery which is recessed beneath the front slope of the hipped roof and is supported by massive, stuccoed-brick, battered Doric columns echoed at the ends of the front wall by pilasters and linked by a railing of battered balusters with molded handrail. The columns support a full molded entablature that is carried around all elevations of the building.

The main entrance occupies the center bay of the five-bay facade and is flanked by jib windows (window sash set over moveable panels). Windows feature surrounds that are battered, shouldered, and molded, are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash, and are closed by original shutter blinds. The facade is finished in scored stucco with a molded baseboard with two fasciae. The single-leaf entrance door with four molded panels is set within a Grecian frontispiece consisting of a full entablature supported by paneled and battered attached columns set in antis with fluted, free-standing Ionic columns. The doorway is flanked by sidelights with rectilinear glazing set over molded panels.

The interior of the house has a triple-pile plan with central hallway separating the first two ranges of rooms and widening at the third range to become a generous dining room. The plan is derivative of the typical plan of the Lower Mississippi Valley where the ends of the rear gallery of a single or double-pile plan are enclosed with small "cabinet" rooms. At Woodstock, the dining room occupies an area that would more usually be expressed as an open gallery, although

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WOODSTOCK, Adams County, Mississippi

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it was enclosed originally. The interior proportions of the house are magnificent and lavish trim is not restricted to the more formal areas. All rooms are crowned with deeply molded plaster cornices and anchored with molded bases with two fasciae. Window and door surrounds are shouldered, battered, and molded, and the jib windows of the facade are echoed by fixed molded panels beneath all other windows of the house. Doors have four, molded and fielded panels except in the dining room, which is distinguished by two-panel doors and dominated by a large wooden punkah, or ceiling fan, which rivals those at Linden, Elms Court and Melrose in scale. An enclosed straight-run stairway leads from the dining room to the attic, which has always been used for storage.

Alterations to Woodstock are minimal and include the addition of the red-tile roof and dormers and the loss of the original mantel pieces. A sympathetic addition has been made to the rear of the house for a modern kitchen and den.

Three historic outbuildings are features of the Woodstock plantation complex and gain added significance from the rarity of surviving log dependencies in Adams County. Immediately to the rear of the house is a two-story, gabled-roof kitchen building with its original cooking fireplaces. An unusual feature of the building are the dual enclosed staircases, one entered from the southern end bay of the western facade and the other from the northern end bay of the eastern elevation. The smoke house is a small log building, newly sheathed in protective clapboards, with a pyramidal roof. The third historic outbuilding is diminutive in size and has a gabled roof with a front porch sheltered by a broken-slope roof extension supported by posts. Woodstock's integrity of plantation setting is outstanding and includes all of its antebellum acreage.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
Architecture

Period of Significance
1847-1855

Significant Dates
1851

Cultural Affiliation
n/a

Significant Person
n/a

Architect/Builder
Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Woodstock is a significant expression of Greek Revival plantation architecture whose fine finish and grand proportions more closely relate to the suburban villa mansions of Natchez, particularly Oakland (Eustis-Minor House) and Lansdowne, than to the wooden planter's cottages that populate the Adams County countryside. In the mid-nineteenth century, Woodstock was considered to be located in the Second Creek community, but, in recent years, has been generally regarded to be part of the Kingston plantation community, the most picturesque and architecturally significant plantation neighborhood in Adams County. The house gains added distinction from its brick construction in a county where only two other plantation houses, Edgewood and Cedar Grove, are built of brick. The builder also eschewed the typical gabled-roof planter's cottage form for a massive hipped-roof building with recessed gallery that is similar in form to Oakland. The massive gallery columns are atypical and the floor plan is unusual. Woodstock's triple-pile plan is an obvious evolution from the single and double-pile plans with "cabinet" rooms enclosing the ends of a rear gallery, the floor plan so characteristic of houses in the Lower Mississippi Valley. At Woodstock, however, the space traditionally occupied by the rear gallery was originally expressed as an enclosed room flanked by the usual "cabinet" rooms.

Stylistic details indicate a construction date of 1845 to 1855 for Woodstock, and the stylistic date is supported by documentary material which indicates that the house was built for Maria and Joseph Sessions. In 1847, Maria Gillespie married Joseph Sessions, and, in 1851, Maria's father, John Gillespie, surveyed off the acreage comprising Woodstock from his larger Egypt plantation (Deed Book PP:291). In his 1855

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**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

WOODSTOCK, Adams County, Mississippi

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will, Gillespie bequeathed "Woodstock plantation" to his daughter Maria Sessions (Will book 3, p. 42), who owned the property until 1869 (Deed Book 2P, p. 290). Both the Sessions and Gillespie families were part of the planting aristocracy of antebellum Natchez.

The integrity of Woodstock's setting is exceptional, since the land comprising the plantation has not been partitioned since its creation by survey in 1851. The outstanding architectural integrity of the house and the survival of three original dependency buildings add to the significance of the property.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books PP, 2P, 4D, 4I, 4Y.

Adams County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Will Book 3.

Adams County, Mississippi. Circuit Clerk. Marriage Book

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 432 acres

UTM References

A

1	5
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6	5	8	3	7	5
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3	4	7	8	4	2	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

1	5
---	---

6	6	0	1	0	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	7	8	2	3	5
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	5
---	---

6	5	9	9	5
---	---	---	---	---

3	4	7	7	2	1	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

D

1	5
---	---

6	5	8	3	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

3	4	7	7	4	8	0
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description See attached Adams County tax map with nominated property outlined in red. The nominated property is located on Adams County Tax Map 161, block 11, and parcel 1.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification Woodstock Plantation was created in 1851, when John Gillespie surveyed off the approximate four-hundred acre tract from his Egypt Plantation. In 1855, he willed Woodstock to his daughter Maria and her husband Joseph Sessions. Woodstock still retains its original antebellum acreage, except for two acres conveyed to the School Board and recorded in Adams County Deed Book PP, p. 291. Few Mississippi plantation complexes dating to the pre-Civil War period retain their original acreage, and including the acreage is important in protecting the outstanding integrity of setting and the potential for historic archaeology See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant
 organization Miller Preservation Services date December 5, 1988
 street & number 506 High Street telephone (601) 442-9786
 city or town Natchez state Mississippi zip code 39120

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
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Woodstock, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Woodstock
- (2) Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi
- (3) Mary Warren Miller
- (4) January 1988
- (5) Historic Natchez Foundation

Photo 1 -- (6) Looking southerly, the northerly facade

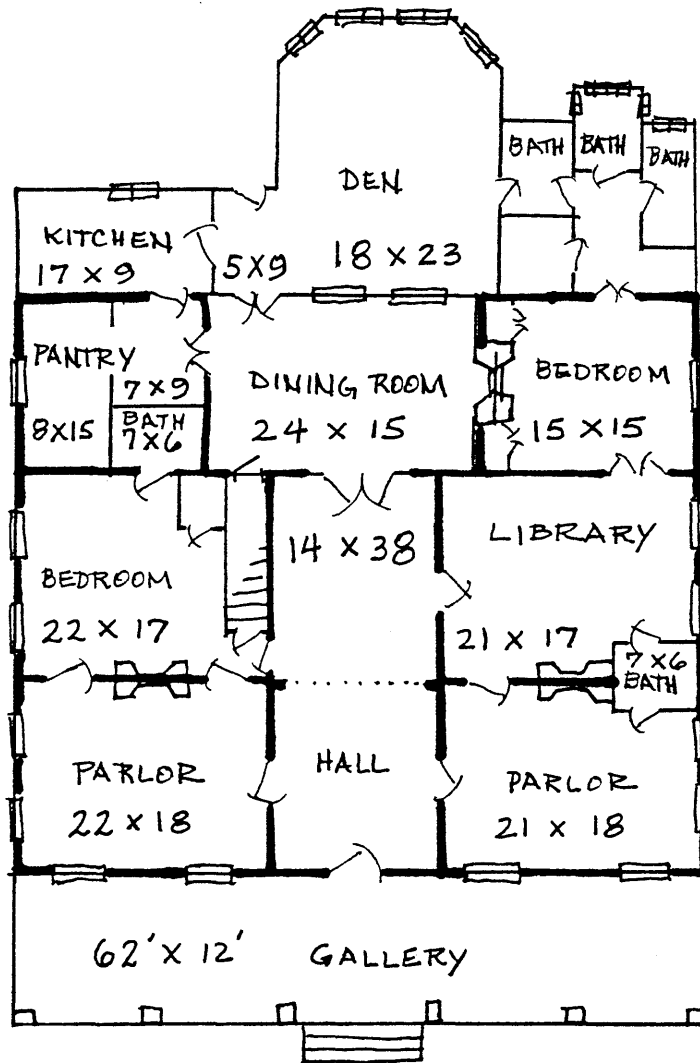
Photo 2 -- (6) Looking northerly, the southerly rear elevation

Photo 3 -- (6) Looking northwesterly, the dining room punkah, or fan

Photo 4 -- (6) Looking easterly, the westerly facade of the log kitchen building

Photo 5 -- (6) Looking easterly, the westerly facade of the log smoke house

Photo 6 -- (6) Looking easterly, the westerly facade of the small frame outbuilding



0 4 8 12 16
SCALE IN FEET

WOODSTOCK, Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

WOODSTOCK
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

