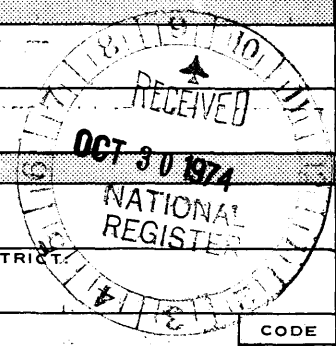


**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:
Mississippi
COUNTY:
Wilkinson
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE
DEC 30 1974



1. NAME

COMMON:
Rosemont
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Poplar Grove

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Highway 24 E of Woodville on MS 24
CITY OR TOWN:
Woodville
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fourth
STATE:
Mississippi
CODE:
39669
28
COUNTY:
Wilkinson
CODE:
157

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" 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 (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Percival T. Beacroft, Jr.
STREET AND NUMBER:
Rosemont, Highway 24
CITY OR TOWN:
Woodville
STATE:
Mississippi
CODE:
39669
28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Wilkinson County Courthouse
STREET AND NUMBER:
Courthouse Square
CITY OR TOWN:
Woodville
STATE:
Mississippi
CODE:
39669
28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Works Progress Administration, Historical Survey
DATE OF SURVEY: 1939
 Federal
 State
 County
 Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Mississippi Department of Archives and History
STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571
CITY OR TOWN:
Jackson
STATE:
Mississippi
CODE:
39205
28

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Wilkinson
ENTRY NUMBER: DEC 30 1974
DATE: DEC 30 1974
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Ruins Unexposed

(Check One)

Altered Unaltered

(Check One)

Moved Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Rosemont is a one and one-half story frame dwelling which stands on a three-foot foundation of brick piers, facing west from high ground in the midst of a farm-like setting approximately one mile east of Woodville. The five-bay facade elevation is embellished with an undercut gallery extending the full length of the house, a wide central gable with palladian window, and two flanking segmental-arched dormers. Molded pilasters and cornices frame the dormer and gable windows, and square wooden balusters border the gallery between box columns. A large double doorway forms the center-bay entrance, the eight-panel doors set between rectangular-paned sidelights and transom, and the whole surrounded by a molded architrave with bull's-eye corner blocks. The same architrave also frames the four jib windows which complete the facade fenestration, although it is omitted on the rear elevation, where a center-bay double doorway otherwise repeats the design of the facade entrance. A third exterior doorway, with four-light transom and six-panel door, is situated directly north of the central back doorway, apparently intended to allow access to the dining room from a non-extant kitchen building via the attached back gallery.

While facade wall surfaces are faced with flush siding painted white, the remaining exterior walls are covered with cypress clapboards painted brown to resemble the unpainted and weathered texture which is thought to be historically appropriate to the house. All windows are of the double-hung sash type, with nine-over-nine and nine-over-six the dominant patterns of the lights. Louvred wooden shutters appear at all except the front dormer and gable windows and the windows in the single rear dormer. Although the present roof material is asphalt, current restoration plans include reproducing the original wooden shingle roof and reconstructing the two interior chimneys which originally projected symmetrically from the back slope of the roof and served the six fireplaces within.

Constructed according to a center-hall plan two rooms deep on the first floor and one room deep on the second floor, Rosemont has a simple but finely executed interior in the late Federal/early Greek Revival style. A floral ceiling medallion in the first floor hall is the only ornamental plaster work, and it appears to have been added when the Cornelius gas chandelier was installed ca. 1845. Otherwise, ornamental interior details consist primarily of one marble mantelpiece, several finely-carved wooden examples, six-panel interior doors embellished with painted graining, and graceful but simple newel posts in the form of doric colonnettes.

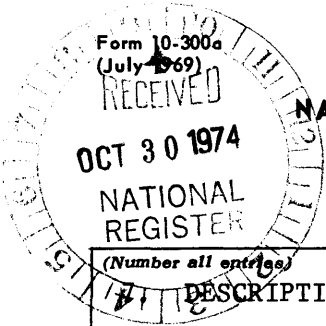
Fragments of a marble mantel which apparently matched the one in the south front room have been found under the house, indicating that the two large chambers were originally similarly equipped. These front rooms, measuring approximately twenty-two feet square, constitute nearly two-thirds of the interior depth of the house. Both open onto the hall, as does the south rear room, but the front room to the north also connects with the former dining room behind it. The "dining room" is blocked from direct access to the central hall by the staircase, which rises from the back (east) along the north wall of the hall.

On the second floor, the upper hall is encircled by a dormer alcove to the east, the bedroom chambers to the north and south, and a small open room housed in the front (west) gable and thought to have served as a library during the Davis family ownership. A number of closets are built into the house

(continued)

under restoration

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Wilkinson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	DEC 30 1974

DESCRIPTION

✓ on both floors, and almost all of the original carpenter locks and other hardware have remained intact and in position.

✓ The rear dormer was evidently widened at some point considerably after Rosemont was built, but thorough pre-restoration investigation has indicated that this minor change was probably the only real structural alteration made on the house. Careful and meticulous restoration of the house and grounds of Rosemont, including the nearby Davis family cemetery, is in progress.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Grove until her death in 1845. The first known reference to the property as Rosemont occurs in an 1847 family letter which substantiates the family tradition that the current name was adopted in honor of Jane Davis and the much-loved rose garden she cultivated at Poplar Grove. Jefferson Davis' older brother Joseph had purchased the property from his father in 1822 (Deed Book C, p. 274), and their sister Lucinda's husband William Stamps had in turn purchased it from Joseph sometime prior to 1831, but family correspondence from this period indicates that the house and plantation continued to be thought of and referred to as Jane Davis' home until her death.

In 1823 and 1824, Jefferson Davis attended Transylvania University in Kentucky, and in 1828 he graduated from West Point to begin a military career on the American frontier. From March until August, 1832, he was on furlough from Fort Crawford visiting with his mother at Poplar Grove, and in 1845, after his marriage to Varina Howell in Natchez, Davis travelled with his bride to Poplar Grove for a last visit with Jane Davis before her death later that year.

After Jane Davis' death, Rosemont became the home of William and Lucinda Stamps and their descendants and Jefferson Davis continued to visit there periodically. Stamps was a landowner and prominent citizen of Woodville, having been appointed a director of the Planter's Bank in 1833 and selected as a delegate to the 1834 states' rights convention in Jackson. Lucinda and William Stamps had resided at Poplar Grove with Mrs. Davis since the loss of their two plantations near Fort Adams in 1839, and it was their family that continued to inhabit the house until 1896. Both Lucinda Stamps and her mother are among the Davis family members buried in the family cemetery northwest of the house.

Through successive ownerships in this century, Rosemont remained almost entirely unchanged except for minor details. The current owner is directing a very careful and sensitive restoration of the house, not strictly to its original appearance, which would in some instances involve conjectural decisions, but rather to its appearance as it stood during the last years of Davis family ownership. The atmosphere of a farm is being redeveloped around the house and appropriate Davis family possessions as well as items of local provenance are being sought and acquired to furnish the house. Rosemont stands today not only as a historic memorial to Jefferson Davis, but also as a well-preserved and restored example of a modest territorial plantation representative of the genre as manifested in southwest Mississippi.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1810-1817

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rosemont is a modest but nonetheless fine architectural specimen constructed in a form typical of the southwest region of the Mississippi Territory, but the significance of the house is expanded beyond the local level primarily because of its association with Jefferson Davis (1808-1889), soldier, statesman, and president of the Confederacy. As the home of the Davis family ca. 1812 until 1895, Rosemont predated Hurricane, Brierfield, and Beauvoir in the life of Jefferson Davis, and it continued to figure as the "home place" to which he periodically returned while in residence at the three later homes.

Originally called Poplar Grove, the house was almost certainly built by Samuel Emory Davis, father of Jefferson Davis, shortly after he moved to Wilkinson County with his family ca. 1810. Samuel and his wife, Jane Cook Davis, had pioneered in Georgia and South Carolina after the Revolutionary War, and had later moved to Kentucky, where the youngest five of their ten children, including Jefferson, were born. After a brief sojourn at Bayou Teche, Louisiana, in an effort to find a healthier climate for his family Samuel Davis moved them further north to higher ground. Referring to this final family move, Jefferson Davis later wrote that his father "found a place that suited him about one mile east of Woodville, in Wilkinson County, Mississippi. He removed his family there, and it is there my memories begin." (Jefferson Davis, Memoir, 1889, published in The Papers of Jefferson Davis, pp. lxxvii-lxxxiv). It is said that the Davises "camped out" while building their house at this location, but the current house was probably completed well before January, 1817, when Samuel Davis applied for a patent on the southwest quarter of Section 26, Township 2 North, Range 2 West, the 164.45 acre portion of the Rosemont property which contains the house site (Tract Book of Original Entries, p. 128). The remaining 256 acres of the original Poplar Grove property were not added to the estate until 1820, when Samuel Davis purchased part of the adjacent Section 40 from John Brown (Deed Book C, p. 200).

Jefferson Davis resided at his family's Wilkinson County home and attended "log cabin schools" until 1816, when he was sent for two years to St. Thomas College near Springfield, Kentucky. Upon his return to Poplar Grove in 1818, Jefferson was again sent away to school, but only as far as Jefferson College in Adams County. However, as soon as the Wilkinson County Academy was established in Woodville, the young Davis returned home to live at Poplar Grove and attend the local institution.

Samuel Davis died in 1824, but his wife continued to live at Poplar

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Monroe, Haskell M., Jr., and McIntosh, James T., eds. The Papers of Jefferson Davis, Volume I, 1808-1840. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1971.

Personal Interview with Ernesto Caldeira, Rosemont Director, October 21, 1974. Statewide Survey File, "Rosemont." Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Division of Historic Sites and Archaeology.

Strode, Hudson, ed. Jefferson Davis: Private Letters, 1823-1889. New York: Harcourt, Brace & World, Inc., 1966.

Wilkinson County Records. On microfilm in collections of Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

HR
NO
UTM

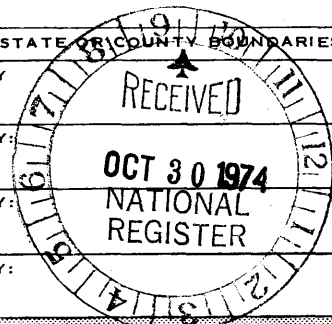
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	31 ° 06' 29"	91 ° 16' 47"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	31 ° 06' 29"	91 ° 16' 15"				
SE	31 ° 05' 36"	91 ° 16' 15"				
SW	31 ° 05' 36"	91 ° 16' 47"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 270

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Elizabeth Reynolds, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION: **Mississippi Department of Archives and History** DATE: **October, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: **Jackson** STATE: **Mississippi** CODE: **28**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION **NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Elbert B. Hilliard

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date October 28, 1974

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

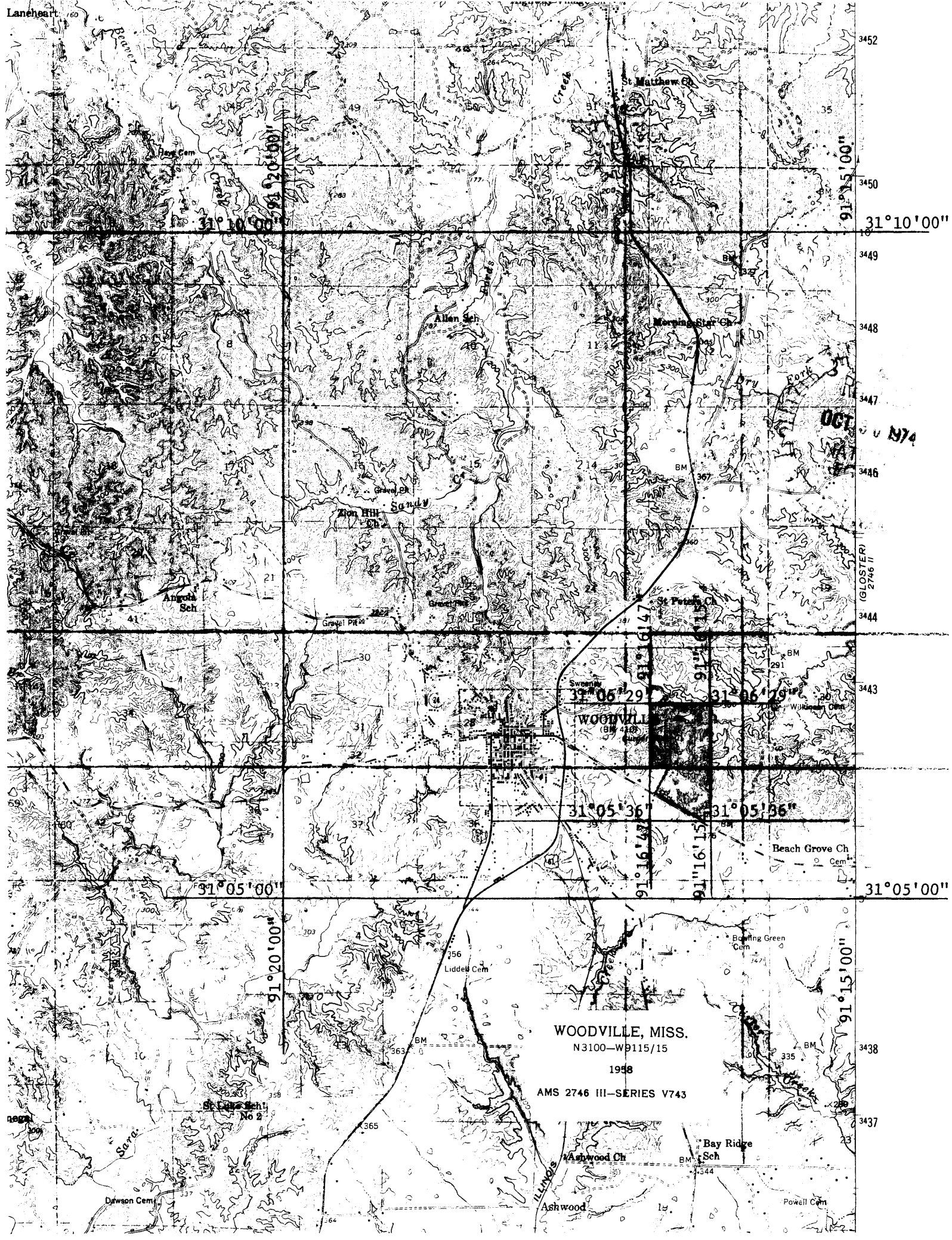
AK Montague
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 12/30/74

ATTEST:

W. Hunter
Keeper of The National Register

Date DEC 27 1974

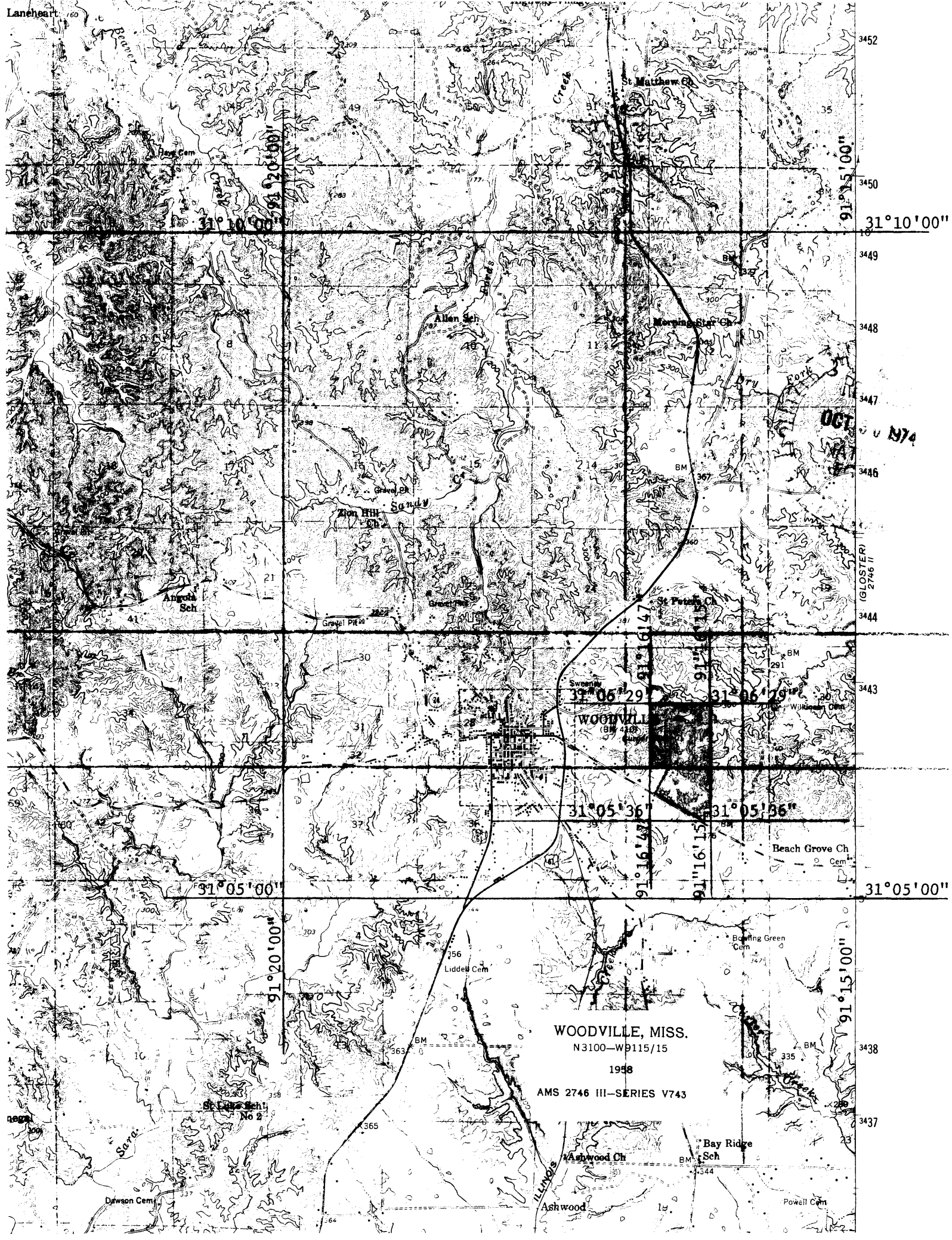


OCT 1974

WOODVILLE, MISS.
N3100-W9115/15

1958

AMS 2746 III-SERIES V743



OCT 1974

WOODVILLE, MISS.
N3100-W9115/15

1958

AMS 2746 III-SERIES V743