

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

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1473 N. 117

STATE: Mississippi  
 COUNTY: Adams  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY  
 ENTRY DATE: OCT 10 1973

**1. NAME**

COMMON: Mistletoe  
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: NE of Natchez on Miss., 554  
 Selzertown Road, Route 5, Box 495  
 CITY OR TOWN: Natchez  
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Third  
 STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28 COUNTY: Adams CODE: 001

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS  | ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC   |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes:<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |   |  |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial              | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational             | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                    |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment           | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   |  |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

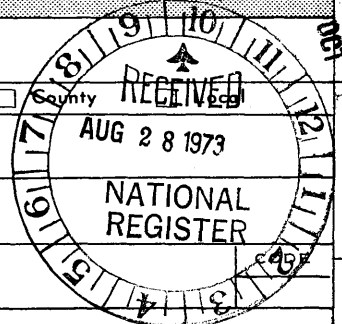
OWNER'S NAME: Samuel Hopkins Lambdin  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Mistletoe, Selzertown Road, Route 5, Box 495  
 CITY OR TOWN: Natchez STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Office of the Chancery Clerk, Adams County Courthouse  
 STREET AND NUMBER: Market Street  
 CITY OR TOWN: Natchez STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
 DATE OF SURVEY:  Federal  State  County  
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
 STREET AND NUMBER:  
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE:



STATE: Mississippi  
 COUNTY: Adams  
 ENTRY NUMBER: 101973  
 DATE: OCT 10 1973  
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

1-4-73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

## 7. DESCRIPTION

|           |   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|-----------|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| CONDITION | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                |   |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good      | <input type="checkbox"/> Fair  | <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated             | <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins | <input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed |
|           | (Check One)                                   |                                    |                                | (Check One)                                       |                                |                                    |
|           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered   | <input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered | <input type="checkbox"/> Moved | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site |                                |                                    |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mistletoe is a small, one-story, weatherboarded house set high on a brick foundation facing north. The facade is divided into three unequal bays. In the matching outer bays are large-scale, window openings containing twelve-over-twelve, double-hung sash and a pair of louvered blinds. In the small center bay is a doorway which elements consist of a double-leaf, panelled door, a semi-circular fanlight with radiating muntins, and two sidelights with rectangular panes over a wooden panel. These elements are outlined by molded pilasters and bands in the form of a Palladian motif. The doorway is set in an area of matched boards flanked by pilasters.

The area of matched boards, coupled with the configuration of the porch framing as revealed in repair work done in the mid-twentieth century, indicates that the front porch as originally designed consisted solely of a portico projecting from the center bay.

Centered on each side wall of the house is an exterior brick chimney. A first story window is placed to the north of each chimney, and an attic window is placed on each side of each chimney. On the rear wall two windows flank a center bay, which is left open to the interior.

The interior of the original portion of Mistletoe remains virtually unchanged. The floor plan is typical of the region, consisting of a large front hall flanked by two rooms and divided from a wider, but shallower, rear hall by an arrangement of doors, sidelights and transom. The rear hall is, in effect, a recessed porch, open on one side to the back yard. This hall-porch, flanked by two small rooms, contains the stairway, which is partially enclosed by a wall of vertical boards.

The interior woodwork, including chair-rails, baseboards, and two mantelpieces, is consistently Federal in style. The walls of the northeast room are sheathed in horizontal matched boards which bear no trace of paint other than a single coat applied and removed in the twentieth century.

The first major alterations and additions to the structure were made probably in the mid-nineteenth century, at which time a dining wing was attached to the east side of the house just behind the chimney; it extends back at right angles to the house and its interior trim matches that of the house. Probably at the same time, the original portico was replaced by a porch which extends across the front of the house; its roof is attached at a lesser pitch to the front slope of the house roof and is supported by four, tapered and panelled box columns with neck bands and molded bases and capitals. A railing of square-sectioned spindles is situated between the columns. Between 1940 and 1960 a major restoration and addition program was

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(Continuation Sheet)

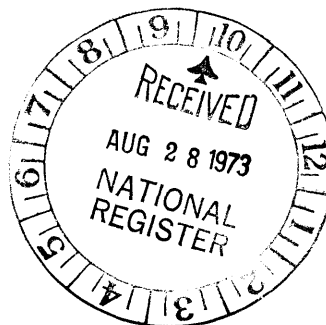
|                      |             |
|----------------------|-------------|
| STATE<br>Mississippi |             |
| COUNTY<br>Adams      |             |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY     |             |
| ENTRY NUMBER         | DATE        |
|                      | OCT 10 1973 |

(Number all entries)

7.  
undertaken. As part of this program, a wing matching the dining wing was attached to the west side of the house. From the rear of both wings, additional wings were offset and extended back with galleries along their interior sides. A glass-walled gallery was constructed across the rear of the main block of the house. The winders which originally made a quarter turn at the base of the stairway were replaced by new treads and risers so that the stairway opens onto the glass-walled gallery. Also at this time, a nineteenth century, one-story, gable-roofed, frame outbuilding was moved closer to the house.

Mistletoe contains a large, noteworthy collection of Natchez-made furnishings dating prior to 1830 as well as other art objects of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centurys. The collection of family paintings includes work by fourteen recorded artists of the eighteenth and nineteenth centurys, among them Joshua Shaw, James Hart, and James R. Lambdin.

In the seven acres of gardens surrounding the house, the selection and placement of plants has been based on research into the garden practices of the Natchez area in the early nineteenth century. Such research was necessary to reproduce as accurately as possible a typical setting for a house of that time and place. Other public areas of the garden include the newest plants introduced in cooperation with the U. S. Arboretum in Washington, D. C. The remaining acres are used for ponds, orchards, forests, pastures and agricultural pursuits appropriate to the historic importance of Mistletoe.



**8. 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) 1807

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education                         | <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian |  |
| <input checked="" 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

Mistletoe is the earliest of three extant houses associated with John Bisland and his descendants, whose voluminous records, gathered in the Bisland Collection at Louisiana State University, constitute a significant contribution to an understanding of the social and economic history of the region. The house is important, not only as a rare, documented product of slave craftsmanship, possessing especially fine proportions and stylish details, but also as one of the earliest and best-preserved examples of the fully developed open-back-hall floor plan typical of Mississippi during the first half of the nineteenth century. Surrounded by historically restored gardens, the house contains noteworthy collections of fine and decorative arts produced in Natchez and associated with the Bisland family.

In 1788, John Bisland, a native of Scotland, who had arrived in Natchez in 1766, settled on a Spanish land grant in the Pine Ridge area. He and his descendants who have remained in the Pine Ridge community have left a vast reservoir of socio-economic information covering their now 197 years in this area and in the Bisland historic homes. Dating from 1762, the Bisland Collection, which numbers over 10,000 pieces, provided factual information for the accurate restoration of Mistletoe.

John Bisland acquired land adjoining his house in 1803, and four years later, Mistletoe was constructed there as a wedding gift for his son, Peter. The descendants of the slaves who worked on the construction of the house still practice carpentry, and have recently donated to the house an inherited set of molding planes matching the profiles of the woodwork at Mistletoe. Peter Bisland, after his marriage to Barbara Foster on Christmas Eve, 1807, moved into the house and took up the life of a planter. However, he did not take full possession of the property until after his father's death in 1819, when he was willed the house and the 136.7 acres on which he already resided. Peter continued his residence at Mistletoe with his wife and four children until his own death in 1829. His heirs sold the house and land in 1847 to Dr. Matthew Atchison, whose wife Elizabeth R. Atchison, named it Mistletoe.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Adams County Conveyance Records, C (1802-1805), p. 262.

Bisland Papers. Louisiana State University Library: Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

James, D. Clayton. Antebellum Natchez. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1968, p. 38.

Stokes, Beatrice M. "John Bisland, Mississippi Planter, 1776-1821." Unpublished M.A. thesis, Louisiana State University.

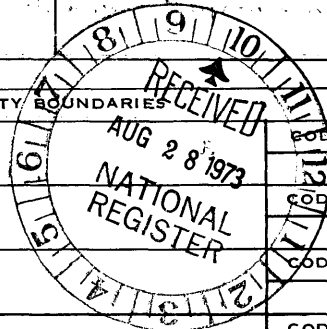
**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | O<br>R | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                         |  |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------|---|-------------------------|--|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               |        | LATITUDE  | LONGITUDE               |  |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |        | Degrees Minutes Seconds   | Degrees Minutes Seconds |  |
| NW   | 31° 37' 44"             | 91° 19' 24"             |        |   |                         |  |
| NE   | 31° 37' 44"             | 91° 18' 26-36"          |        |   |                         |  |
| SE   | 31° 37' 18"             | 91° 18' 26-36"          |        |   |                         |  |
| SW   | 31° 37' 18"             | 91° 19' 24"             |        |   |                         |  |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 136.7 acres

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY |
|--------|------|--------|
|        |      |        |
|        |      |        |
|        |      |        |
|        |      |        |



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: Architectural  
Mrs. Bethany Lambdin & Ronald W. Miller Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: 8/22/73

STREET AND NUMBER: Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205 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 R. Hilliard  
Elbert R. Hilliard

Title Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives and History

Date August 22, 1973

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

Ernest A. Connolly  
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
Associate Director  
Professional Services

Date OCT 10 1973

ATTEST: Wm. H. ...  
Keeper of The National Register

Date 10-5-73

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(Continuation Sheet)

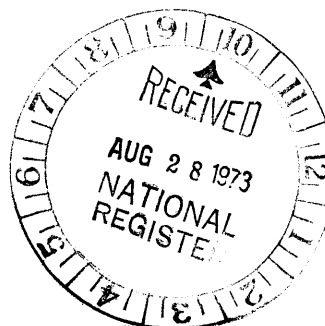
|                  |         |
|------------------|---------|
| STATE            |         |
| Mississippi      |         |
| COUNTY           |         |
| Adams            |         |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY |         |
| ENTRY NUMBER     | DATE    |
| 007              | 08 1973 |

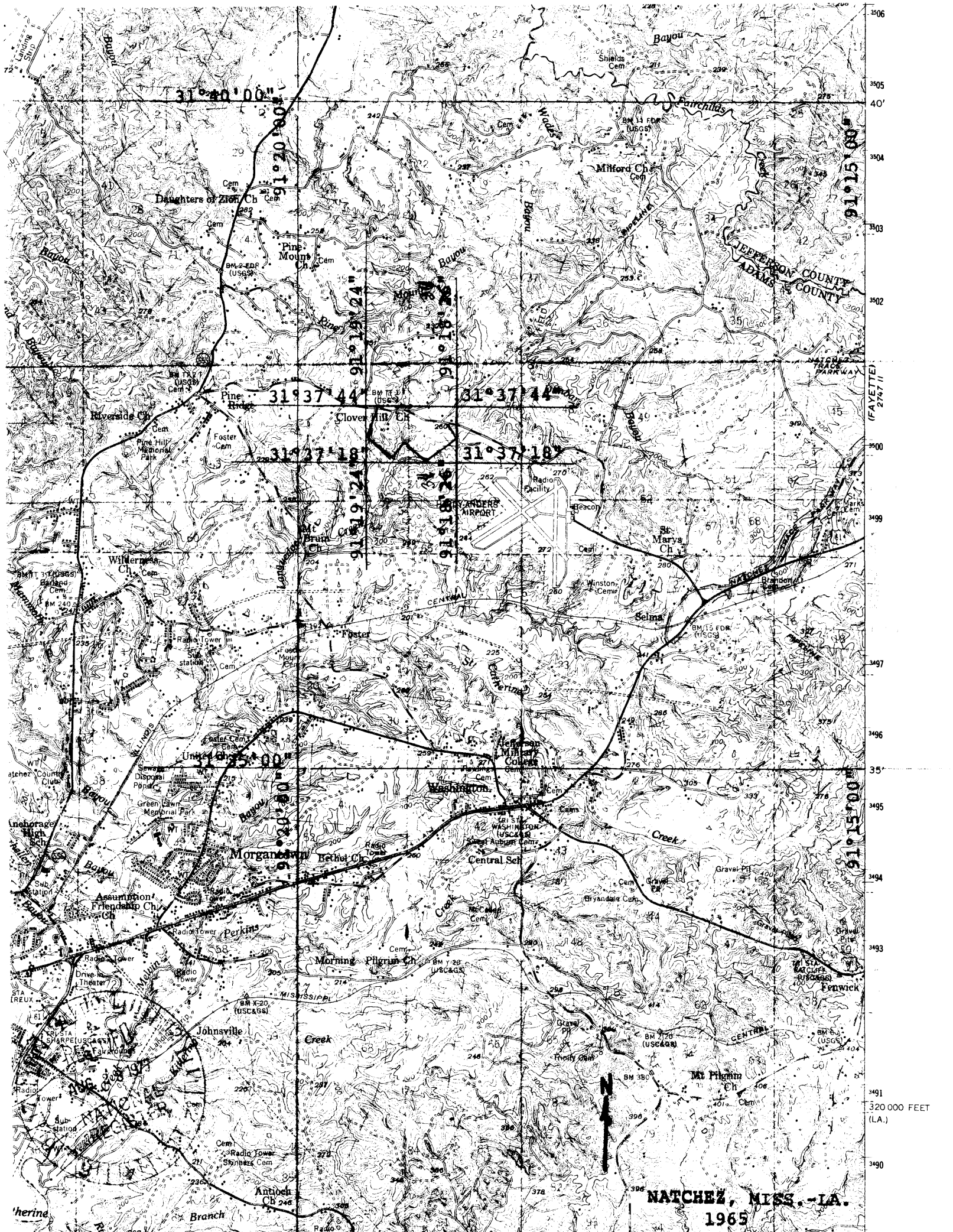
(Number all entries)

8.

The property was regained by the Bisland family in 1938, when the great-great-grandson of John Bisland, Samuel Hopkins Lambdin, purchased the house and presented it to his wife Mary Henderson Lambdin. The Lambdins restored and furnished the house and, utilizing contemporary garden descriptions and the remains of the old plantings at Mistletoe, also restored the setting. Since 1940, the house has been opened to the public during the Natchez Pilgrimage each March and at selected times during the remainder of the year.

The setting of the house is presently endangered by the proposed extension of a runway for the Natchez-Adams County Airport. The project is in its planning stages and will require federal funds for implementation.





31°40'00"

91°15'00"

31°37'44"

31°37'44"

31°37'18"

31°37'18"

31°35'00"

91°15'00"

NATCHEZ, MISS.-LA.  
1965

3506  
3505  
3504  
3503  
3502  
3500  
3499  
3497  
3496  
3505  
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320 000 FEET  
(LA.)  
3490

(FAYETTE)  
214711