

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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PAGE 1

Due to the expansion of the nomination, the title of the property does not fully reflect the scope of the area nominated. Therefore, the historic name should be changed to "Dortch Plantation". Marlsgate is commonly known in the locality and should be the common name, although it does not reflect property other than the house itself.

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✓  
The Dortch Plantation is a functional complex of thirty-one farm structures and sites, several acres of cotton and soybeans and a portion of a horse-shoe shaped lake. Most of the structures and sites are located along two dirt roads which skirt the plantation on the west and run east-west across the cotton/soybean fields.

The structures include the present plantation house (Marlsgate), the former plantation house, and numerous other farm buildings of a variety of sizes and usages.

Some of the farm buildings are in use at present and are in a good state of repair. Others are not now used and need painting and minor repairs. A very few have been allowed to deteriorate to the point where repair is perhaps impossible.

The farm buildings generally reflect integrity of design and building material. They were originally built for function and were built to last. Cypress and hardwood board and batten were used extensively as siding for the structures. In some instances, roll-siding with brick-like design has been tacked on over the wooden siding.

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Historic Resources on Dortch Plantation

(Keyed to numbers on map)

1. Tenant house - built 1920's.
2. Out-house - duplex type - very old. Exact age not determined.
3. Cotton pen - built at least as early as 1920's.
4. Tenant house - built 1920's.
5. Tenant house - built 1920's.
6. Tenant house - built 1920's.
7. Wagon shed - built 1920's.
8. Barn - built 1920's or 30's.
9. Maintenance shop - built at least as early as 1920's.
10. Cotton pen - built at least as early as 1920's.
11. Corn crib - built 1888.
12. Mule barn - built 1940.
13. Tack house - built at least as early as 1920's.
14. One-half of 19th century plantation house - cut in half and moved so that site could be used for present plantation house.
15. Shed - built 1920's.
16. Commissary - built turn-of-the-century.
17. One-half of 19th century plantation house - see #14.
18. Cow barn - early 20th century.
19. Dairy barn - early 20th century.
20. Garage - turn-of-the century.
21. Marlsgate - Plantation house - already included in National Register of Historic Places - mansion - focal point of plantation.
22. Tenant house - 1920's.
23. Tenant house - 1920's.
24. Tenant house - 1920's.

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Historic Resources on Dortch Plantation

25. Mount Hope Church - site only - church for Blacks on plantation - destroyed about three years ago.
26. Watering tree - the only one remaining on plantation - historically there were many of them scattered over the plantation, each with a well and pump underneath for watering the mules.
27. Underground silos - built 1935 - the first in this part of the country - still in use.
28. Tenant house - early 20th century.



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✓  
Marlsgate, the house, is only the focal point of a plantation of many thousands of acres owned by the descendants of William P. Dortch. As the plantation operated during the 19th and 20th centuries, various types of physical improvements were necessary. Numerous houses for Black field hands and their families were built. Other construction included maintenance shops, storage sheds and barns of various types, and a commissary. Many of the structures are still standing, and many are still in use.

Thus, the plantation contains much more of historic significance than just Marlsgate. More than twenty structures dating from 1888-1930 presently stand. Their historic value includes integrity of building material, style and locational relationships. They stand in their historic relationships vis-a-vis each other, the fields, Bearskin Lake, and the natural topography of the area. The locational relationships reflect the functional relationships of the past. The fields themselves also are a part of the historic unit. These fields have been farmed by the Dortch and Steele families for well over 100 years. Large portions of the historic plantation are excluded due to intrusions and the largeness of the entire plantation. What area is included in the Dortch Plantation nomination is representative of the varying factors composing a working plantation. The recognized portion of the Dortch Plantation is that of historic integrity.

The expansion of the Marlsgate nomination to the Dortch Plantation nomination is truly an instance in which the whole is greater than the sum total of the parts. The plantation as an entity gives importance to some individual structures and features which otherwise would not be important, and it redefines the significance of structures which are individually important.

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✓ Dortch Plantation

One of the main historic values is the physical (locational) relationships. Specific resource items are as follows:

1. Commissary - ca. 1900. In excellent condition - now used as warehouse.
2. Two groups of tenant houses. Structurally sound - cypress - 1920's - some covered with asphalt (brick pattern) siding - unimpressive appearance.
3. Mule barn - 1940. 1939 tornado destroyed old one - presently used - excellent condition.
4. Mule-cooling tree - large oak in middle of field - near south end - formerly pump and trough underneath - used to be numerous, this the only one left.
5. Corn crib - 1888. Notch-end cypress logs (flattened), no nails - has complete integrity except for sheet metal roof and door.
6. Original house - Now in two parts, both used. House built soon after Civil War - moved to make way for Marls gate - mule hostler lived in part right across from mule barn and gear room. Black worker lives in one of the parts.
7. Cotton pens - Five of them left, ca. 1900. Each holds a bale. Blacks used to put in cotton until one full, then go get wagon. Cypress. One of them presently used for hay - One or two in good shape - others look pretty decrepit.
8. Shop - 1900-1920. Cypress board and batten. Structurally sound - now used for warehouse.
9. Barn - near shop - 1920's or 30's. Cypress or pine board and batten - now warehouse, largely empty - has integrity.
10. Two underground silos - built 1935. Agri teacher at Scott public school told Bill Dortch's father about the idea. First such silos in the country - dirt floor.
11. Dairy (milk) barn - 1920's. Concrete floor - stalls.
12. Cow barn - near milk barn - 1930's. Still used as cow barn.
13. Numerous outbuildings - varying sizes - 1920's, 1930's, and 1940's. Usually cypress board and batten - painted white - usually sound.
14. Gear room - 1920's. Cypress board and batten - individual name tags and arms still there - structurally sound.
15. Garage - formerly buggy house - 1920's. Has integrity. Structurally sound.
16. Mount Hope Church Site - for Blacks on plantation - built about 1900 - torn down two or three years ago.
17. Nothing is known about house in field near light pole line - now used for seed, etc.
18. Board still on tenant houses - but has been removed in some instances.

FR 10.24.78

TAX REFORM ACT

Property Dorch Plantation

State Ark.

Working Number 10.10.78

BOUNDARY REVISION OCT 17 1978

INCREASE X

DECREASE

MOVE

TECHNICAL

Photos 8

Maps

Need USGS Map

CONTROL

pl  
10.12.78

HISTORIAN

~~Map~~ EXPANSION FROM MAIN HOUSE TO ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN  
PLANTATION. REVIEW  
TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES. 12/12/78

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS BOUNDARY REVISION IS ACCEPTED

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF, BRANCH OF REGISTRATION

DATE

THIS FORM IS TO BE FILED WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.  
State notified Federal Register Control Cards ADP

INT: 880-78



Attached National Register Inventory-Nomination form is being returned to your office for  
publication of the information indicated below. PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM WHEN THE NOMINATION  
SUBMITTED.

Description: Please note the requirement in 36 CFR 60.16 that boundary increases  
be submitted in the format of a total nomination, supplanting  
the original form. ~~That requirement reflects our need to have~~  
~~a total "clean" file that will reflect the full resource listed and~~  
~~the importance of presenting and evaluating the total area as~~  
~~single, cohesive resource.~~

Please provide a sketch map of the acreage and the structures on it.  
Please justify the acreage nominated and the boundaries chosen.  
Statement of Significance: Please discuss the significance of the total property

that is being submitted for Register listing in the context of the NR Criteria for  
Evaluation, with sufficient contextual background to support the summation of value.

In the information now presented, there are discussions about the architectural  
importance of Marlsgate, the associative importance of the Dortch family, and the  
value of the complex of farm buildings as a complex. What are the associative  
Bibliography: \_\_\_\_\_

Geographical Data -- Acreage: \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide.

UTM Reference(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide.

Verbal Boundary Description: \_\_\_\_\_ Please provide.

Certification: \_\_\_\_\_

Photographic Coverage: Aerials or more comprehensive views would be useful in  
evaluating the resource.

Map Coverage: Please provide both a sketch map and a USGS, showing the entire resource.

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to Marcella Sharfy

the National Register staff, telephone 202 - 343 6401

Thank you for your attention to the above items.

Bill Blorich DB Date: 12/15/78 1.10.79  
f. Branch of Registration



values of the total plantation? Was it farmed by the same family for an unusually long time? What elements in the area development of agricultural, if any, were represented by or effected by this farm? How was a plantation of this type used by the turn-of-the-century--the period represented by most of these buildings? Do any of the structures added to the nomination have representative architectural significance?

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Boundary increase  
approved 3/21/79NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Dortch Plantation

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

NE of Scott off AR 130 at Bearskin lake

CITY, TOWN

Scott

☒ VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

Arkansas

CODE

05

COUNTY

Lonoke

CODE

085

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

(1) William P. Dortch III and (2) Robert L. Dortch, Jr.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

(1) Route 1, Box 164; (2) P.O. Box 38

CITY, TOWN

Scott

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

Arkansas

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Circuit Clerk's Office

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Lonoke County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Lonoke

STATE

Arkansas

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY 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

(Throughout the "description," historic features are followed by numbers in parentheses. The numbers link the historic features with the sketch map and the photographs.)

The Dortch Plantation is a functional and historic farm complex located near Scott, Arkansas. It is comprised of farm buildings, 975 acres of cotton and soybean fields and pasture, (32) and a portion of a horseshoe-shaped lake (31). The plantation includes the site of a plantation church (29) which was removed a few years ago. A lone "mule-cooling tree" (27) still stands in the fields. An underground silo (28) lies along the southern boundary of the plantation. Two modern equipment sheds, a mobile home, and two modern residences are intermingled among the historic structures and sites. Most of the structures, both the historic and the modern, are located alongside two dirt roads in the northern half of the plantation.

One of the historic buildings is enormously more imposing than any other structure on the plantation. The building is Marlsgate (23), the residence of three generations of the Dortch family for 75 years. It is presently the home of William P. Dortch III, one of the two owners of the plantation. Marlsgate was individually entered on the National Register in 1975. It was designed by the prominent architect, Charles L. Thompson. The 1904 construction cost was \$33,000.

Marlsgate is grand in both scale and design. Its height encompasses 2½ storeys, and its expanse comprises 20 rooms of living space. A full basement lies beneath the superstructure. The grandness of design is suggested by the two-storey portico, a second-storey balcony, and fourteen-foot-high ceilings. Marlsgate reflects the lifestyle of the Dortches as a wealthy farm family at the turn-of-the-century.

The full-sized, two-storey portico has four square, brick columns. Ionic capitals crown the four columns. This grand portico dominates the facade of the house. Dentil work, which ornaments the cornice, is also utilized in the pediment of the portico. Located in the center of the pediment is an oeil-de-boeuf window. A second-storey balcony projects over the entry; it features urn-shaped balusters. Support for the balcony is provided by heavy paired brackets. The single entry is set into a wide, arched opening. The arch is defined by brickwork and is capped by a keystone, which is centered above the door. The keystone contains the intertwined initials of William and Nettie Dortch. Paired windows flank the entry; they are unusual in their use of cut stone and brick in the window heads. Upper, paired windows have simple trim. The railing on the portico is cast concrete; it is molded on the grounds. The facade is symmetrically balanced by two projecting one-storey wings, one on either elevation.

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Marlsgate is crowned with a high, hipped roof. Dormers, each with double windows, project from the east and west elevations of the roof. Two finials project from the ridge of the roof. A dentiled cornice extends around the house.

The unusually thin bricks of which the house is constructed were made in St. Louis. An interesting feature of the bricks is that they extend around the corners. The corners of the main wing of the house are highlighted by cut-stone quoins.

A well house at Marlsgate's southwest corner features lattice work above a brick base. The well house is capped with a conical roof, which is topped with finial. A dentiled cornice similar to that on the main structure surrounds the octagonal well house.

Projecting from the south rear elevation of the house is a two-storey portion consisting of an enclosed porch. This original wing contains the kitchen.

Located in the wide central hall are the symmetrically divided flights of stairs. In the landing of the stairway is a massive window with six upper lites of stained glass. All the woodwork in the house is original; it is of virgin oak. There is a fireplace in each room; each oak mantel is of a different design. A number of the rooms are richly panelled with oak. There are operable transom lights over all the doorways.

The most distinctive features of Marlsgate's interior are the fourteen-foot ceilings. All are of pressed tin, and each has a different design. The ceilings were designed and made in St. Louis for the Dortches.

The only addition or alteration to Marlsgate occurred circa 1910, when the porch on the east elevation of the house was enclosed. In 1927 the attic caught fire, but the workers on the farm formed a bucket brigade and extinguished the fire before any damage had occurred.

Marlsgate has been continually occupied by the Dortch family since its construction in 1904 and remains in an excellent state of repair. Virtually unchanged since 1904, the mansion stands as a tangible reminder of a past era.

An earlier plantation house (constructed c. 1880) (12, 22) rested where Marlsgate is now located. The earlier house was cut in half and moved to make way for Marlsgate. The two halves now comprise individual residences for farm workers. Both are located within 200 yards of Marlsgate.



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The two halves of the earlier house are basically identical; they reflect the symmetrical design of the parent structure. They are both one-storey, ell-shaped, and gable-roofed. Both are sided generally with board-and-batten. Weather-boarding covers at least one elevation of one of the houses. The gable-ends feature box-cornices with returns. The facades are adorned with shed-porches, which are supported by squared, wooden posts. The windows are rectangular and double-sashed. One house has six-over-six windows; the other, four-over-four. Window encasements are trabeated. One gable-end elevation on one of the houses is ornamented with a bracketted window-hood; the hood consists of a shed roof with centered gable.

At two locations on the plantation, very simple tenant houses (1, 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, 30) are strung side-by-side along dirt roads. One group consists of four houses; the other, three houses. Another tenant house, a single structure standing alone, is located on the eastern edge of the property being nominated. The houses were built in the 1920's and 1930's to provide living quarters for farm hands. They are all small, rectangular, one-storey structures. Two of the houses have their original board-and-batten siding. The batten has been removed from the other six, and brick-patterned, roll, asphalt siding has been added. Roofs are of simple gable or hip design. Roof coverings are of corrugated metal or composition-roofing. The houses are supported by simple piers of wooden or concrete block. Crude, partially dilapidated, shed-roofed toilets sit behind some of the houses.

The historic plantation commissary (19) is very sturdy and in an excellent state of repair. The commissary was built c. 1900. Rectangular shape and gable roof give a basic simplicity to the building. Adornment is provided by boxed cornices with returns and by lites over a double-leaf entrance on the facade. The facade is the north gable-end elevation. It features a hip-roofed porch and a trabeated window on each side of the entry. The sides of the commissary are covered with board-and-batten; the facade is covered with weather-boarding and novelty-siding.

Apart from the plantation house which was cut in half and moved, the oldest structure on the Dortch plantation is the corn crib (9); it was built in 1888. The corn crib is a small, rectangular building constructed of hewn logs. The roof is gable-type and is covered with sheet-metal. The gable-ends are of vertical flush-board. The roof features exaggerated overhang on the side elevations.

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Just south of the corn crib is the mule barn (10), which was constructed in 1940. The barn is a huge, two-storey structure. It features a wide, gabled roof. The covering is of corrugated metal. The roof rests on wooden poles spaced around its perimeter. A second row of poles, which are inset from the gable-ends, provide added support for the roof. Even further inset from the perimeter is an enclosed, rectangular section in the center of the barn. The gabled ends of the barn comprise four bays each; the side elevations have nine bays each. The mule barn is in an excellent state of repair.

Three cotton pens (2, 14, 21) are still located on the plantation. Two of them have been moved from their original locations for utilization as storage sheds. One is still in its original location alongside a dirt road. The cotton pens are one-room, one-storey, square buildings. They measure approximately 10' by 10'. They feature board-and-batten siding. They have gable roofs.

The gear room (11) was built in the 1920's. Interior features of this building are especially interesting in that they vividly portray historic usage. A horizontal row of harness racks lines the interior. Above each rack is a wooden plate bearing the name of the mule whose harness was kept on that particular rack. The gear room also contains shelves and cabinets for the storage of medicines, combs, and other paraphernalia for the care of the mules. The design and exterior features of the tack room are simple, but historic. The shape is rectangular, and the roof is gabled. Board-and-batten covers all elevations; the roof is covered with corrugated metal. A simple, shed-type addition has been attached to the north side of the structure.

The cow barn (26) was constructed in the 1920's. It is a large, rectangular structure. Wooden poles around the perimeter provide roof support. The barn is open on all four sides. The interior of the barn features a large number of stalls constructed for the feeding of cows. The gabled roof is covered with corrugated metal.

A number of other structures (mostly storage sheds and barns) (6, 7, 8, 13) generally follow a single, simple pattern: rectangular shape, gable roof, board-and-batten siding, and corrugated-metal roof covering. The structures date from 1900-1935. This same pattern applies to the historic carriage house; this structure was built at the same time as Marlsgate.

The structures heretofore described have been minimally altered. (This paragraph does not apply to Marlsgate; its historic integrity has been discussed separately.) None has been altered to such a degree as to seriously impair historic integrity. The most common alteration is the asphalt siding on tenant houses and the corrugated-

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metal roofs on most of the structures. The corrugated metal generally replaced wood shingles.

In addition to buildings, the Dortch Plantation includes six historic features of other types. These are: (1) a farm bell, (2) a "mule-cooling tree," (3) the site of Mt. Hope Church, (4) the fields, and (5) a portion of Bearskin Lake.

The farm bell (20) is located behind the commissary. The bell, itself, sits atop a derrick of heavy wood poles and timbers. The derrick rises to a height of twenty feet. The bell is of cast iron.

The underground silo (28) was built in 1935. It consists of a man-made, oblong, earthen mound with a rectangular trench dug the length of the mound. The ends of the trench are open, so that the floor of the trench is on a continuous level with the ground outside. The earthen floor of the trench is flat. The sides of the trench are sloping, but closer to the vertical than the horizontal. The silo has been infrequently used during the past few years; consequently, erosion has lowered the mounds and reduced the severity of the slopes of the trench sides.

The "mule-cooling tree" (27) is a lone oak tree in the middle of a soybean/cotton field. Its great height and spread are sufficient to reflect the tree's historic usage -- that of providing a cooling/resting place for plow mules and field-workers.

The site of Mt. Hope Church (29) is on the eastern extremity of the plantation. There are no remains of the structure; the area is now plowed each year.

The fields (32) are still cultivated each year. They are largely one continuous expanse; only an occasional dirt trail/road interrupts the continuity. The only exception to this pattern occurs at the south end of the fields, where fences create various enclosures utilized in the raising of beef cattle.

A portion of Bearskin Lake (31) is included in the western portion of the property being nominated to the National Register. The land slopes gently down to the lake. Cypress trees, singly or in groups, are infrequently spaced along the lake's edge. The water is clear and free of debris. At one point, a swimming/boating ramp extends out into the lake.

The property being nominated is only a portion of the historic Dortch estate. The criteria used in determining the boundaries of the property to be nominated to the National Register are as follows: (1) to include the concentration of historic structures and sites, (2) to include a representative portion of the historic fields and lake, (3) to exclude incompatible intrusions, and (4) to avoid excess

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in the inclusion of fields and lake. Thus, to the south, the boundaries extend only far enough to include the underground silo. To the east, the boundaries extend far enough to include the site of Mt. Hope Church. They stop well-short of a number of non-historic houses which lie in this direction. To the north, the boundaries extend far enough to include a group of four historic tenant houses. Here also, the boundaries stop short of a group of non-historic houses. To the west, the boundary is generally defined along property lines of William P. Dortch III and Robert L. Dortch, Jr.; this provides for the inclusion of the main concentration of historic structures and a portion of Bearskin Lake. The boundaries as thus defined have resulted in the inclusion of a representative, but moderate, portion of the fields and lake.

The only incompatible intrusions on the historic scene are the metal-roofed equipment sheds, a mobile home, and several pieces of motorized farm equipment. The two modern residential houses are compatible with the historic aspects of the plantation.



## 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 checked="" 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 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 1904 (Marlsgate)

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Charles L. Thompson (Marlsgate)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Throughout the "statement of significance," historic features are followed by numbers in parentheses. The numbers link the historic features with the sketch map and the photographs.)

The Dortch Plantation is significant in that it represents a number of historical characteristics of life in the Scott area, in Arkansas, and in the mid-South. The historical period represented is the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth Centuries. The plantation represents agriculture and the immense importance of that activity to the economic base of the area, the state, and the region. It also represents the historic plantation as the social and economic unit which shaped so much of the agricultural enterprise. And, finally, it represents much of the architecture and technology of agriculture of the era.

A brief sketch of Dortch family history is essential to an explanation of the Dortch property's operation as a plantation. This is so because "plantation" denotes the farming of a large area as a unit, and the unity of operation of this plantation cannot be fully understood apart from the Dortch ownership and family-relationships.

William P. Dortch and his mother moved to Arkansas in 1858; William was only twelve-years-old. Over the years, William and his mother were successful in their pursuits in Arkansas. By the early 1880's they were the owners of a large amount of land in the vicinity of Old River, which is near present-day Scott, Arkansas.

Just a few miles away, in the vicinity of Bearskin Lake, Thomas Steele and his family lived and prospered. Thomas Steele was one of the largest land-owners in Pulaski County. In 1885 William P. Dortch married Nettie Steele, a daughter of Thomas Steele. Thomas's wedding present to his daughter and her new husband was a large farm. The land which Thomas Steele gave to the newlyweds includes the property presently being nominated to the National Register.

Shortly after their marriage, William and Nettie moved to their newly acquired property and began farming. By the year 1892, Nettie had given birth to four sons. Continued success made it possible for the couple to make plans for a new house of grand design. The renown architect, Charles Thompson, designed the new house; Thompson's original drawings of the house now hang above the mansion's beautiful staircase. The house in which the Dortches had been living was cut

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See Continuation Sheet

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 975

QUADRANGLE NAME Scott, Ark.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 5 5 8 7 6 8 0 3 8 4 3 5 0 0

B                        

ZONE EASTING

NORTHING

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

B 1 5 5 8 7 6 4 0 3 8 4 0 6 6 0

D                        

C 1 5 5 8 5 9 8 0 3 8 4 0 6 6 0

F                        

D 1 5 5 8 6 0 4 0 3 8 4 3 5 2 0

H                        

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet

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

Jack Doss, Compliance Officer; Sandra Taylor Smith, National Register Section   

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

March 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Suite 500, Continental Building, Main and Markham Streets

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Little Rock

Arkansas

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL X

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

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

March 20, 1979

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

Bill Lebowich

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

DATE

3/21/79

DATE

March 21, 1979

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

in half and moved to make way for the new residence. To their new and beautiful house, the Dortches gave the name "Marlsgate," which was the name of the ancestral Dortch home in England.

William P. Dortch died in 1912. His land was divided among the four sons. The property being nominated to the National Register went to the sons, Thomas Steele Dortch and William P. Dortch, Jr. After decades of prosperous farming, Thomas Steele Dortch died in 1950, and William P. Dortch, Jr., died in 1956. Thomas Steele Dortch's land went to his brother, Robert L. Dortch, and, later, to Robert L. Dortch, Jr. Upon the death of William P. Dortch, Jr., his land passed to his son, William P. Dortch, III. Thus, Robert L. Dortch, Jr., and William P. Dortch III are the present owners of the "Dortch Plantation" being nominated to the National Register.

After Mr. and Mrs. William P. Dortch assumed operation of the land given them by Thomas Steele and until Mr. Dortch's death in 1912, the land was a plantation in the full sense of the word. The whole farm, not just the nominated property, was operated as a unit. Another characteristic which is commonly considered as distinguishing a plantation from, simply, a farm is that the workers live on the land which they work. During the time of William P. Dortch, approximately 100 tenant families lived on the Dortch plantation (the larger unit, not just the nominated property).

After the nominated property was divided between William P. Dortch, Jr., and Thomas Steele Dortch in 1912, or soon thereafter, the plantation aspect of the farm operation certainly did not die. The part of the nominated property containing by far the greatest concentration of historic structures still standing was owned by William P. Dortch, Jr. From Marlsgate, which was on his property, William P. Dortch, Jr., directed the operation of his farm. For a while, the two brothers joined their enterprise and farmed both estates as a unit. It is from this period, when William P. Dortch, Jr., and Thomas Steele Dortch owned the nominated property, that a good portion of the extant historic structures date.

As late as the early 1950's the nominated property was again farmed as a unit. By about 1950, William P. Dortch, Jr., had become an invalid. His son, William P. Dortch III, therefore assumed management responsibilities. For a period of three years, William P. Dortch III rented the lands of Thomas Steele Dortch, which lands by this time were owned by Robert L. Dortch. William P. Dortch III thus operated both portions of the nominated property as a unit.

Since the mid-1950's the two sections of the nominated property have been operated separately. William P. Dortch III has continued to operate the southern portion from the historic plantation house, Marlsgate. Robert L. Dortch, Jr., has continued



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operation of the northern half of the nominated property.

Throughout its history the Dortch Plantation has been engaged in agricultural pursuits which have been typical of the region and the era. Up until very recent times, the pre-eminent concentration was upon the raising of cotton. Recently, as is generally the case in the Arkansas lowlands, soybeans have come to rival cotton as the main money crop. Other typical agricultural pursuits in which the Dortch Plantation has been engaged are cattle-raising, the growth of hay and corn for the feeding of the cattle and mules, and dairying. These activities have, from time-to-time, varied in their importance in relation to other plantation concerns, but they have always been a part of Dortch Plantation life.

The historic structures and sites on the Dortch Plantation today have all played a part in the plantation enterprise of the past. They have been a part of family life, religious life, recreation, and the actual farming of the fields.

Marlsgate (23), the house, has been the operational headquarters for farming operations for 75 years. It has been the residence of three generations of Dortches. From this house have come the directions and decisions regarding personnel matters, financial matters, and the tactics of field operations.

The older house (12, 22), which was cut in half and moved, served the same purpose prior to 1904. After that time, the half of the house which was moved further south served as the residence of the mule-hostler. The hostler was an important and respected person on the farm. He had the responsibility of caring for the draft mules and their equipment.

The gear room (11) is located directly across the road from the mule-hostler's house. It was in the gear room that the harnesses, medicines, liniments, curry combs, and other equipment for the use and care of the mules was kept.

Not far from the gear room the mule barn (10) is located. Hay for the mules was stored here, and it was here that the mules were fed. The mules also came to this huge structure to escape the rain and snow. The present mule barn was built in 1940 to replace an earlier one, which was destroyed in 1939 by a tornado. The new barn is on the site of the old one.

The corn crib (9) is located only slightly to the north of the mule barn. Apart from the earlier plantation house, the corn crib is the oldest structure on the plantation; it was built in 1888. Corn for the feeding of the mules was stored here.



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The other historic feature directly related to the care of the mules is the "mule-cooling tree" (27), which stands majestically in the southern portion of the fields included in this nomination. Historically, several such trees stood singly in widely scattered spots in the cotton fields; only one mule-cooling tree remains today. In the past, the plowmen periodically stopped their plowing at the mule-cooling tree and allowed the mules to cool off in the tree's shade and to drink. Underneath the mule-cooling tree was a well and pump and a water trough. Also located underneath the mule-cooling tree was a "johnny-house" (toilet) for use by the plowmen. The mule-cooling tree also served as a rest area for groups of workers as they "chopped" and picked the cotton.

Several other structures which still stand served various purposes associated with the planting, plowing, and harvesting of crops. There is a shop (8) and a storage shed (13) for the maintenance of plows and other equipment and for the storage of supplies and equipment. One historic wagon shed (6) still stands; wagons served a wide variety of transportational needs on the plantation.

Three "cotton pens" (2, 14, 21) still stand on the plantation. Each of these small buildings held about a bale of cotton. Historically, they were located at various spots along the edge of the cotton fields. Cotton pickers would periodically dump the contents of their cotton sacks into the pens, where the cotton would remain until a wagon came by and picked it up.

To the south and east of Marlsgate are a number of structures which reflect the historic dairying operation on the plantation. At least as early as the 1920's, the Dortches produced milk, not only for their own use, but also to sell in Little Rock. Each day the milk wagon traveled the 15 miles from the plantation to the city to make its deliveries. This operation ended in the late 1940's because of the pressures toward pasteurization and because the Dortches did not want to invest the effort and expense required for pasteurizing.

Two barns (25, 26) near Marlsgate were parts of the dairying activities. The larger of them is the cow barn, which was used for the storing of hay and for the sheltering and feeding of the cows. The smaller, enclosed barn was for the milking of the cows.

Much further to the southeast is a peculiar structure which was used to store silage for the cows and beef cattle. The structure is an underground silo (28). A young man who, under the auspices of the Smith-Hughes Act, taught agriculture in the public schools at Scott gave W. P. Dortch, Jr., the concept for the silo. The underground silo provided an inexpensive and efficient way of storing additional feed for the animals -- feed which might be needed when the hay supply ran short during the winter.

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The fields (32) included in the nomination are a portion of the historic crop- and pasture-land which has served the Dortches so well and for so long. The "Dortch Plantation" would not be complete as a nomination without including, at least, a portion of the fields which have been the basis for all else that occurred here. In addition to their own historic merit, the fields have value as a part of the nomination in that they provide the essential and appropriate setting for all the individual and historic structures and sites on the plantation.

The same two kinds of value reside in the portion of Bearskin Lake (31) included in the nomination. It, too, is a part of the historic setting of the plantation structures and activities. Throughout the years of the Dortch Plantation's existence, Bearskin Lake has been a part of the popular conception of the plantation. Even more important is the functional part played by the lake in historic life and activity. The lake provided a part of the water supply for the farm animals. Fishing and swimming in Bearskin Lake were a part of the recreational life of the Dortch family. The lake also played a part in religious life on the plantation. It was here that the Negro workers baptized their converts into Christianity. During the summer, hardly a Sunday passed when the religious community did not gather at the water's edge for an enthusiastic ceremony of hymn-singing, a sermon, and the immersion of the newly "saved" into the clear waters and into the service of "Mr. Jesus." Such assemblies were held, not only by the plantation tenants, but also by the Negro congregations of other churches in the area. The historic value of Bearskin Lake is enhanced by the fact that these traditional services are still conducted each summer.

A closely related significance inheres in the site of Mt. Hope Church (29). The dilapidated remains of the church were removed only about four years ago. The date of the church's construction is unknown, but William P. Dortch III, who was born on the plantation in 1928, says that the church is a part of his earliest childhood memories. Each Sunday morning and almost every night during the summer, the church bell called the plantation Negroes to an assemblage of religious and social experience. It was here that plantation weddings were held. Upon the death of one of the plantation "folk," the bell was "tollled" in a special way to note the loss.

Prior to the time when automobiles made it feasible for the plantation workers to do their shopping elsewhere, the commissary (19) was an essential part of life. The workers were not paid in money, rather they received slips of paper redeemable at the commissary. The workers acquired most of their food through their gardens and the animals which they raised. They made a good portion of their own clothes. Still, there were many items which they had to buy -- salt, shoes, overalls, cooking utensils, coffee, etc. The commissary was the source of these items.

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The farm bell (20) and the sun were chronological regulators of life on the plantation. The bell rang at sunup to signal the beginning of work. It rang at 12:00 noon and at 1:00 p.m. to signal the beginning and end of "dinner." There was no need for the bell to signal the end of the workday; the workers were very much aware of the sun's touching the tree tops -- "quittin' time."

Tenant houses (1, 3, 4, 5, 15, 16, 17, 30) located on the plantation were the residences of the farm-workers. Only in recent years has this changed, as the lure of city life has drawn the workers away from the farm houses. In the past, though, all the workers lived on the plantation. All that the worker needed was there -- church, school (because of its distance from the main concentration of resources, the site of the plantation school is not included in the property being nominated), work, commissary, and food supply. The worker was within walking or wagon distance of all these features of plantation life. The house was a part of the worker's compensation; it was rent-free.

In addition to representing agriculture of the period and the plantation way-of-life, the structures discussed above also represent the architecture and some of the technology of the historic plantation. Marlsgate, the mansion, represents the architectural luxury which the wealthy land-holder could afford. The other historic structures are representative of the simple, functional architecture which characterized barns, corn-cribs, tenant houses and other farm-buildings of the time. When architecture is this functional, it often represents technology as well as style. For example, the mule barn represents the technology of storing animal feed and of the actual feeding of the animals. Likewise, the cotton pens are representative of the methodology in getting cotton from the field to the gin. The single most outstanding representative of historic farm technology is the underground silo.

In summary, the Dortch Plantation is a powerful reflection of at least three aspects of late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century agriculture: (1) typical agricultural pursuits (types of crops, etc.), (2) the plantation social and economic pattern, and (3) agricultural architecture and technology. The representative value of the Dortch Plantation is valid in the contexts of the local area, the state, and the mid-South. There is, perhaps, no other complex of comparable historic value within the state of Arkansas.



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#9 MAJOR BIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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14. Lonoke County Deed Record Book, County Courthouse, Lonoke, Arkansas, Book 72, p. 601.
15. Lonoke County Deed Book, County Courthouse, Lonoke, Arkansas, Book 72, p. 602.
16. Lonoke County Deed Record Book, County Courthouse, Lonoke, Arkansas, Book 78, p. 1.
17. Lonoke County Deed Book, County Courthouse, Lonoke, Arkansas, Book 75, p. 105.
18. Quapaw Quarter Chronicle, May/June, 1975.

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PAGE 1

Verbal boundary description of the Dortch Plantation is as follows:

From southeast corner of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, R10W, T1N to southeast corner of Section 14, R10W, T1N, to southwest corner of Section 14, R10W, T1N, from there north along section line to center of Bearskin Lake, then along center of Bearskin Lake to point where center of lake intersects eastern boundary of NE $\frac{1}{4}$  of SW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, R10W, T1N, from there north to southeast corner of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of NW $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 11, R10W, T1N, from there east to starting point.

SKETCH MAP: (USGS) Scott, Arkansas; Scale 1:24,000: R10W, T1N, Sec. 11, 14

The boundary of the Dortch Plantation nomination is shown as the red line on the accompanying map entitled "Sketch Map of the Dortch Plantation". This map is a USGS Quad (1:24,000).

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PAGE 2

Historic features keyed to sketch map and to features as mentioned in nomination narrative:

1. Tenant house
2. Cotton pen
3. Tenant house
4. Tenant house
5. Tenant house
6. Wagon shed
7. Barn
8. Shop
9. Corn crib
10. Mule barn
11. Gear room
12. One-half of nineteenth-century plantation house
13. Storage shed
14. Cotton pen
15. Tenant house
16. Tenant house
17. Tenant house
18. Outdoor toilet
19. Commissary
20. Farm bell
21. Cotton pen
22. One-half of nineteenth-century plantation house
23. Marlsgate
24. Carriage house
25. Dairy barn
26. Cow barn
27. Mule-cooling tree
28. Underground silo
29. Site of Mt. Hope Church
30. Tenant house
31. Bearskin Lake
32. Fields



SPECIAL  
RESUBMISSION

79003777

Property Dorch Plantation

BOUNDARY REVISION  
INCREASE X  
DECREASE  
MOVE

State Ark

Working Number 3.21.79

TECHNICAL

Photos 25  
Maps 1

CONTROL

OK- 3.21.79

Virtually all the elements that we requested have been sent. Very clear boundary justification - that might be discussed, but is wholly acceptable - with the possible exception of the western edge along the middle of the creek. Also - much of the significance is described in context of late 19th century

HISTORIAN

hefy  
3-21-79  
accept

Significant agricultural complex with fine revival house of 1904 (already listed.)  
Outbuildings are noteworthy in that they document living conditions of farm workers which has disappeared.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

accept  
Brigham  
3.21.79

farm plantation work and appearance, while most of the outbuildings date to the 1920's and 30's. Still - significant as an unusually complete planation complex representing an important Arkansas agricultural way of life.

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

I agree with above  
comments

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept  
Leborich  
3/21/79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS BOUNDARY REVISION IS ACCEPTED

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 3/21/79

ATTEST:

Bill Leborich  
CHIEF, BRANCH OF REGISTRATION

DATE 3/21/79

THIS FORM IS TO BE FILED WITH THE NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION.  
State notified ✓ Federal Register ✓ Control Cards ✓ ADP ✓

INT: 580-78

4-3-79





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #1; Tenant House; viewed from the east
7. photo # 1

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #2; Cotton pen; veiued from the east
7. photo # 2

MAR 21 1979







1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #3; Tenant House; viewed from the south-  
east
7. photo # 3

MAR 21 1979







1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #4; Tenant House; viewed from the south-east
7. photo # 4

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #5; Tenant House; viewed from the south-  
east
7. photo # 5









1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. # 7; Barn; viewed from the southeast
7. photo # 6

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1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. # 8; Shop; viewed from the southeast
7. photo # 7

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1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #9; Corn Crib; viewed from the southeast
7. photo # 8

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1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #9; Corn Crib;
7. photo # 9

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. # 10; mule barn
7. photo #10

MAR 21 1979

OCT 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #11; Gear room; viewed from the southeast
7. photo # 11

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #11; Gear Room; viewed from the southeast
7. photo # 12

MAR 21 1979



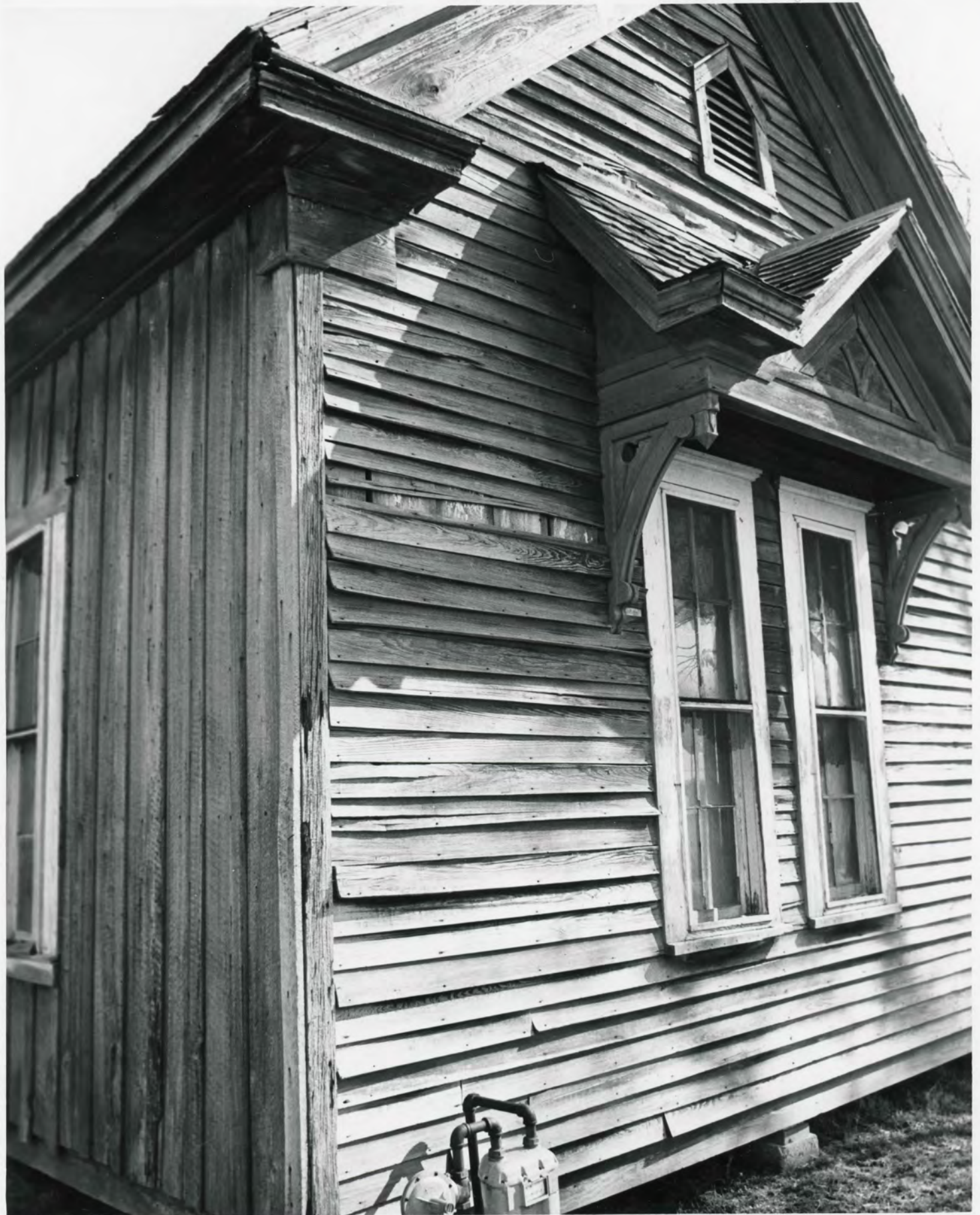


1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #12; ½ of the original house
7. photo # 13

OCT 10 1978

MAR 21 1979







1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #12; detail of  $\frac{1}{2}$  original house
7. photo # 14

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. # 13; Storage Shed; viewed from the west
7. photo # 15

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #15,16,17; Tenant houses; viewed from the  
west-southwest
7. photo # 16

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. # 16; Tenant House
7. photo # 17

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #17; Tenant House; viewed from the south
7. photo # 18

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #19; Commissary
7. photo #19

MAR 21 1979





1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. # 22;  $\frac{1}{2}$  of original house
7. photo # 20

MAR 21 1979







1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #23; Marlsgate
7. photo #21

MAR 21 1979

ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM PHOTOGRAPH







1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #24; Carriage House; viewed from the  
south-southwest
7. photo # 22

MAR 21 1979







1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #26; Cow Barn; viewed from the west
7. photo # 23

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1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. #28; underground silos
7. photo # 24

MAR 21 1979







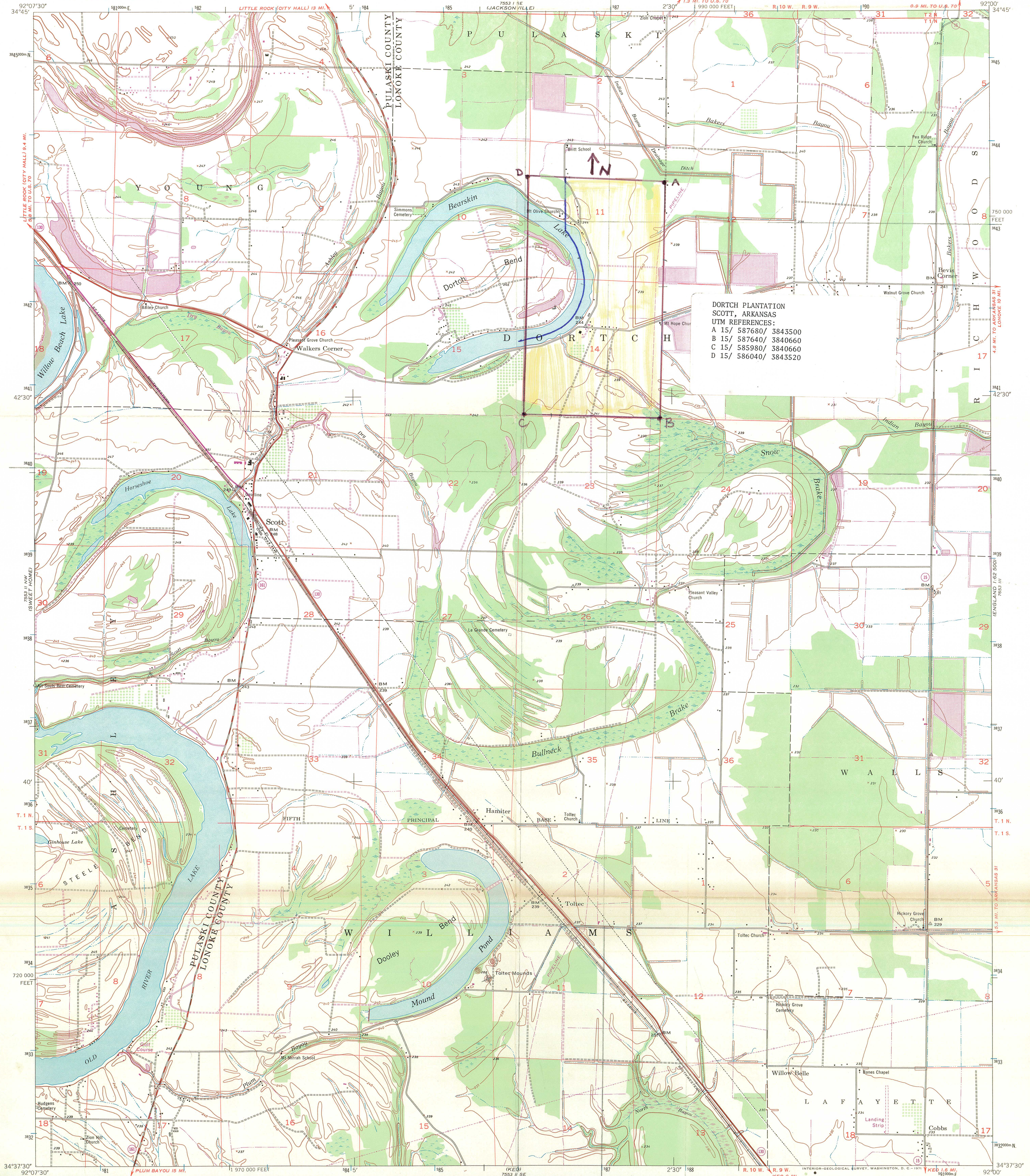
1. Dortch Plantation
2. Scott, Arkansas
3. March, 1979
4. Jack Doss
5. Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
6. Modern Residence; viewed from the east-southeast
7. photo #25

MAR 21 1979



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SCOTT QUADRANGLE  
ARKANSAS  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

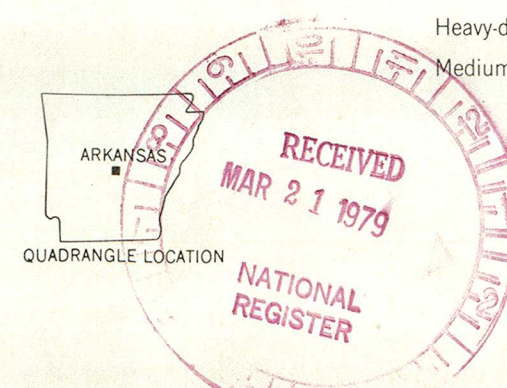


Map by the Geological Survey  
Revised by the Army Map Service  
Published for civil use by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and Arkansas Geological Survey  
Topography by planimeter surveys 1939  
Planimetric detail revised from aerial photographs  
taken 1952. Field check 1954  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Arkansas coordinate system,  
south zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue  
Revisions shown in purple compiled by the Geological Survey from  
aerial photographs taken 1970. This information not field checked

UTM GRID AND 1970 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCALE 1:24,000  
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET  
1 KILOMETER  
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225, OR WASHINGTON, D.C. 20242  
AND BY THE ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72201  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



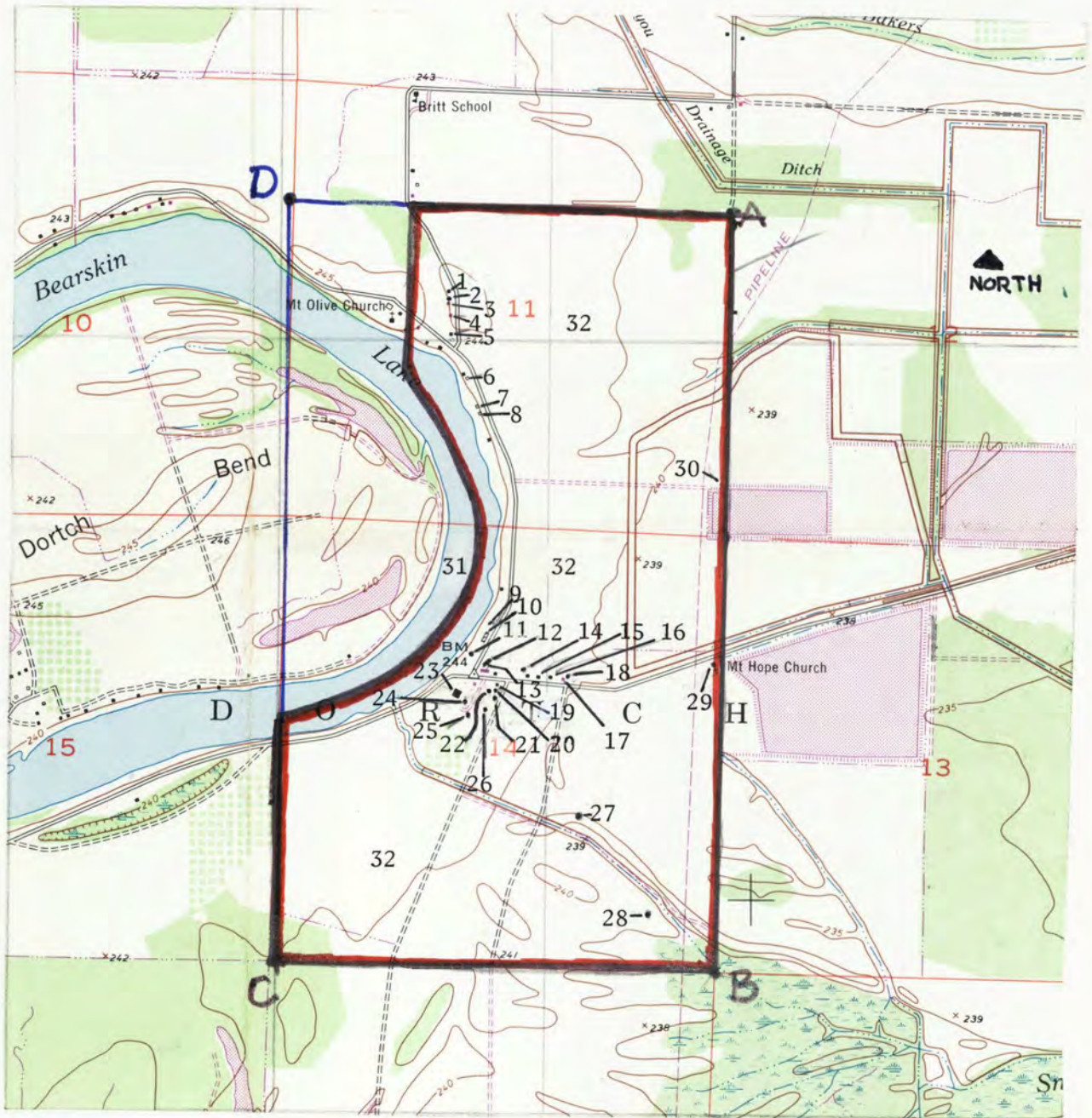
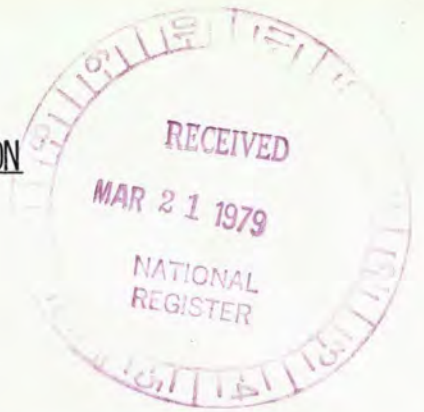
ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty ——— Unimproved dirt ———  
State Route ○

SCOTT, ARK.  
N3437.5-W9200/7.5

1954  
PHOTOREVISED 1970  
AMS 7553 II NE-SERIES V884



SKETCH MAP OF THE DORTCH PLANTATION





ADDITIONAL SKETCH MAP  
DORTCH PLANTATION

↑  
N.R. BOUNDARY

32

6-11-78

6000

2814

6-11-78

31

32

29

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AIRSTrip





Bill L / file .

file please  
Dorch Plantation  
Arkansas  
Lonoke County

# TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Lebanon  
4/5/79

PROJECT: Plantation  
The Dorch

TO/FROM: Jack Davis (Doss?) DATE: 7.25.78

ADDRESS:

PHONE:

STAFF MEMBER:

Sheffy

DIVISION:

REPORT:

Sandra Smith was to have sent a package of material on The Dorch huge plantation - so we could advise on boundaries. I couldn't find any materials. 96 described resource - & I tried to talk about need in rural area to justify large acreage on basis of strong agricult / hist value; that one can use historic boundary if all land retains integrity of appearance as use; that setting for ~~smaller~~ ~~one~~ house architecture would be smaller area.



after learning of fair amount of  
ranch - style development. It sounded  
like we would get not historic land.  
but area of historic land & integrity justified  
for historic / farming associations.

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTERSTATE ARKANSASDate EnteredNameLocation

Dortch Plantation

Scott  
Lonoke County

Boundary increase approved March 21, 1979.

Also Notified

NR Byers/bjr 3/22/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.



# TELEPHONE REPORT

OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

PROJECT: Dortch Plantation

TO/FROM: Mr. James McHane

DATE: 3/28/79

ADDRESS:

PHONE: 501 371-1451

STAFF MEMBER: Lebovich

DIVISION:

REPORT:

- (1) he wanted to know chronology of resubmission. I told him date when submitted. He asked if it followed the review by 5 or 6 people. I said it was reviewed by <sup>professionals</sup> historians + architectural historian. He wanted to know what action taken: I told him <sup>the</sup> keeper approved + what date.
- (2) he wanted to know if we republished after Oct 28 - I told him published in Oct 28. He wanted to know if it had to be republished, what was basis for not republishing, had <sup>original</sup> legal opinion, did we (HPRS) have lawyers? I said SOL was our attorney and that I would not answer the other questions as he would have to discuss legal questions with Lois Henslin.
- (3) He wanted to know of my conversations with Lois. I refused to answer.
- (4) He wanted to know how delivered + what pro comments were in the file. I answered. He asked if there were records of telephone conversations with state. I said we had spoken with state. He wanted to know who

initiated. I told him to discuss it with SOL

(5) He wanted to know if Ann Bartley was involved.

I said I thought she signed original, but I checked + I was wrong and there ~~did~~ not appear to be anything from her

(6) I offered him a copy of the file and told him that what we had (on resubmission) was the material submitted by state

(7) I called Lars, at Mr. McManney request. -  
Lars out for day. Dave Watts out to lunch.

(8) I called Mr. McManney back to tell him that Lars <sup>was</sup> out. He then told me ~~if~~ there was no sense in his speaking to Lars unless I brief Lars on the case, I told Mr. McManney that any conversations I have/had with Lars were my business and he should not make assumptions about them. I told him I would again call SOL and tell SOL of my conversation with him. (His statements were phrased in such a way to suggest that he had made the assumption that I had never discussed the situation with Lars).





## ARKANSAS HISTORIC PRESERVATION PROGRAM

Suite 500, Continental Building · Markham and Main · Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 371-2763

March 17, 1980

Ms. Carol Shull  
Acting Keeper of the  
National Register  
Heritage Conservation and  
Recreation Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Dortch Plantation  
Lonoke County

*Joan Williams  
Baldridge  
3/21/79*

Dear Ms. Shull:

The staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program requests that several changes be made in the National Register nomination of the Dortch Plantation. The plantation was listed in the National Register on March 21, 1979, as a historic district. All of the requested changes involve one structure (#30), a tenant house which we feel was inadvertently listed as an element that contributes to the character of the district. We believe the structure should be listed as non-contributing. Enclosed are three continuation sheets which state the necessary changes.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Joan Williams Baldridge  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JWB/MS/kt

Enclosures

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

MAR 24 1980

DATE REC'D \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
INDIVIDUAL RESPONSE (ATTACHED)

\_\_\_\_\_  
INFORMATIVE MATERIAL SENT

\_\_\_\_\_  
TELEPHONE CALL (ATTACHED)

DATE ACTION TAKEN \_\_\_\_\_

INITIALS \_\_\_\_\_



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

Dortch  
CONTINUATION SHEET Plantation      ITEM NUMBER 7      PAGE 2

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The reference to Tenant House #30 ( paragraph 2, line 2 )  
as a structure built in the 1920's or 1930's should be changed. The  
house was built circa 1960. It does resemble the other worker houses  
on the plantation in that it is "shotgun" style in appearance.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET Dortch  
Plantation ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 5

Tenant House #30 ( paragraph 2, line 1) can not justifiably be considered a structure that contributes to the character of the Dortch Plantation. Its relatively recent construction date of circa 1960 is not in keeping with the construction dates of the other resources located on the plantation.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

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DATE ENTERED

Dortch

CONTINUATION SHEET

Plantation

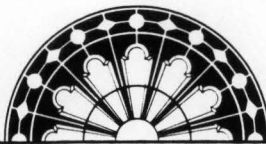
ITEM NUMBER

10

PAGE

2

Tenant House #30 was inadvertently listed as being one of 32 resources that contribute to the historic character of the district. #30 should be deleted from the list of contributing resources and should be considered as the first and only member of a list of non-contributing resources.



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

May 29, 1986

Ms. Carol Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Shull:

During a recent effort to make current and accurate Arkansas' list of National Register properties, we have discovered several discrepancies between our list and the annual list that is published by the National Register of Historic Places. This letter will address and hopefully, correct those discrepancies.

The following properties have been destroyed or demolished and should be de-listed from the National Register:

- Benton County, St. Louis & San Francisco Depot, 1st & Cherry Streets, Rogers, listed 08/15/77, demolished 1979.
- Calhoun County, Ouachita River Lock & Dam #8, Southeast of Calion, listed 12/19/83, demolished 1985.
- Cleveland County, Mt. Carmel United Methodist Church, Southeast off Hwy 79, vicinity of Rison, listed 10/04/84, destroyed April 1986.
- Faulkner County, Main Hall-Central College, 1509 College Avenue, Conway, listed 12/06/75, demolished June 1984.
- Independence County, Uriah Maxfield House, 410 E. Harrison, Batesville, listed 05/02/75, demolished 1985.
- Newton County, Newton County Academy, Gum Springs Road, Parthenon, listed 01/09/79, destroyed
- Pulaski County, Al-Amin Temple, 2100 Main Street, Little Rock, listed 12/22/82, (Charles Thompson Thematic nomination), destroyed by fire November 1985.
- Pulaski County, Forrey-Smith Apartments, 4th & Ringo Streets, Little Rock, listed 12/22/82 (Charles Thompson Thematic nomination), demolished January 1986.
- Union County, Garrett House, 210 Peach Street, El Dorado, listed 11/21/74, destroyed.





These properties were incorrectly listed as Determinations of Eligibility in the annual supplements, rather than entries to the National Register. I have enclosed copies of the notification sheets that we received when they were listed.

Arkansas County, Standard Ice Company Building, 517 Main, Stuttgart,  
listed 07/02/79.

Pulaski County, Little Rock City Hall, 500 W. Markham, Little Rock,  
listed 10/18/79.

Pulaski County, Little Rock Central Fire Station, 520 W. Markham,  
Little Rock, listed 10/18/79.

Pulaski County, Pulaski County Courthouse, 405 W. Markham, Little Rock,  
listed 10/18/79.

Several of the properties that are included on our National Register list were not reflected in the annual reports. I have enclosed copies of the notification sheets for these properties.

Jackson County, Jackson County Jail, 503 Third Street, Newport, listed  
08/10/79.

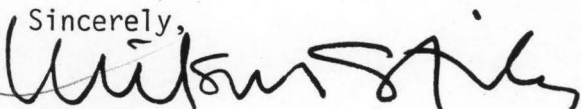
Polk County, Judge Benjamin Shaver House, 501 12th Street, Mena, listed  
12/06/79.

Washington County, John S. Vest House, 21 N. West Street, Fayetteville,  
listed 11/27/79.

One final correction involves a boundary increase for a property previously listed. Marlsgate, the primary structure located on the Dortch Plantation, was listed on the National Register on 12/06/75. Several years later another nomination form was prepared for the entire plantation--including the main house, Marlsgate--that increased the acreage of the nominated property from less than one acre to 975 acres. The new nomination for Dortch Plantation was included in the National Register on 03/21/79. The notification sheet is enclosed. This property is located in Lonoke County.

Thank you for your assistance in dealing with the corrections discussed above. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me or Julie Vosmik.

Sincerely,



Wilson Stiles  
State Historic Preservation Officer

WS/JW/do

Enclosures

JUN 3 1986

signed out to Mowbray  
on 3/28/96

MAR 22 1979

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE ARKANSAS

Date Entered

Name

Location

Dortch Plantation

Scott  
Lonoke County

Boundary increase approved March 21, 1979.

Also Notified

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.