

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic Cherry Grove Plantation

and/or common same as above

2. Location

5 of Natchez off Kingston Rd

South of the Kingston Road about a mile east of its
street & number intersection with U.S. Highway 61 South NA not for publication

city, town Natchez vicinity vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Adams code 1

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NA being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Douglas MacNeil

street & number P. O. Box 284

city, town Natchez NA vicinity of state Mississippi 39120

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk
Adams County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Natchez state Mississippi 39120

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Adams County Landmark Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1973-81 federal state county local

depository for survey records Office of City Planning Director/Municipal Building

city, town Natchez state Mississippi

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>NA</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Situated on a 375-acre plantation, about seven miles south of Natchez, Cherry Grove is a one-and-a-half story frame residence set upon a fully raised brick basement. A five-bay central block with gable roof and inside-end brick chimneys at each gable end is flanked by symmetrical recessed wings. Each of the flanking wings features an octagonal bay whose windows are set over molded panels and a gable-end cantilevered balcony with the entablature of the balcony roof supported by bracketed, chamfered posts linked by a railing composed of diagonal boards forming X's, whose point of intersection is enframed by boards forming rectangles. The northwesterly facade of the five-bay central block is fronted by a gallery recessed under the front slope of the roof, and access from ground level to the gallery is provided by a pair of graceful, elliptical stairways with turned newels and rectangular-sectioned balusters that terminate in a central landing. The gallery roof is supported by tapered, paneled, and molded box columns that are echoed on the front wall of the house by pilasters. The columns are linked by a railing of rectangular-sectioned balusters with molded handrail. The sheltered facade is finished in horizontal matched boards with molded base, and the door and window openings feature a molded architrave surround. All window openings of the house are filled with six-over-six, double-hung sash and are closed by shutter blinds, almost all of which are original. The entrance doorway consists of a single-leaf door with four fielded panels that is set beneath a hinged transom and flanked by hinged sidelights that extend to the floor.

The interior of the house features a single-pile plan with two rooms on each side of a central hallway. A rear gallery, which is supported by chamfered posts linked by a railing of rectangular-sectioned balusters, is located beneath the rear slope of the roof and is enclosed at each end by a "cabinet" room. The interior millwork is identical throughout and consists of symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks, four-paneled doors, and bases that are molded with two fascias. The mantel pieces in the westerly two rooms feature cast-iron mantel pieces with arched openings and cartouches. The mantel pieces in the easterly two rooms are wooden and pilastered. Access to the unfinished upper half story and to the basement is provided in the recessed rear gallery by a stairway that runs along the rear wall of the house. The upper stair runs in a westerly direction in a single straight flight with the stair to the basement running below in an easterly direction. This gallery stairway features rectangular-sectioned balusters and a chamfered newel post. The basement story rooms are more plainly trimmed with batten doors, unmolded door and window surrounds, and simply beaded bases. The wooden mantel pieces vary and are either pilastered or have molded architraves.

In the 1880's, a two-story frame addition was added to the rear of the easterly end of the house. This addition is fronted by a double-tiered gallery on the westerly elevation that forms an L with the rear gallery of the main house. The interior of this rear wing has symmetrically molded door and window surrounds with corner blocks, and the mantel pieces are typical compositions of the 1880's period.

A complete complement of outbuildings surrounds the main plantation house. The kitchen building, which was constructed in the late nineteenth century, is a one-story, single-bay building constructed of rockfaced cement blocks and topped by a pyramidal roof. The hall is a one-story, five-bay, gabled roof residential building with a recessed gallery and board-and-batten siding. The hall was constructed in the 1870's or 1880's. The smoke house is a one-story, single-bay brick building with hipped roof and brick vents. The privy is a diminutive, single-bay, frame structure with gabled roof. The corn crib and stable buildings both exhibit unusual gable on hip roofs. The tenpin alley is a long, narrow, one-story frame building with gable roof to which has been added a tall,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

Cherry Grove, Adams County, Mississippi

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date entered

one-story, single-bay building with gabled roof and board-and-batten siding. This tall addition was added to the tenpin alley in the late nineteenth century and was used by the children of the family as a gymnasium. Two, small, gabled-roof frame structures served originally as a hen house and a rabbit hutch. Two barns, both dating from the nineteenth century, and a gabled-roof sheep barn with pigeon loft complete the outbuildings. A plantation cemetery is located northwesterly and in sight of the main house.

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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input 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 N/A 1865 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Established in 1788 by Frenchman Pierre Surget on land granted him by the Spanish government, Cherry Grove Plantation is today one of the best preserved and most complete plantation complexes in the Natchez area. The original plantation residence constructed by Pierre Surget and his wife Catherine burned in the mid-nineteenth century, and the present picturesque and architecturally significant residence was constructed about 1865 by Pierre Surget's grandson James Surget, Jr. The form of the house, which consists of a residence constructed upon a fully raised basement with a central five-bay block and flanking single-bay wings, has the regionally early single-pile plan with rear "cabinet" rooms enclosing each end of a rear gallery recessed under the rear slope of the roof. Likewise, the facade of the central block features a gallery that is recessed under the front slope of the roof. These features suggest the possibility that the present house may have taken its basic form from the earlier house which burned. The original flanking wings with octagonal bays and gable-end balconies represent the concession of the builder to the popular taste of the 1860's. The collection of plantation outbuildings is exceptional and includes an unusual tenpin frame alley building with attached late-nineteenth century gymnasium, smoke house, detached kitchen building, corn crib, stables, privy, sheep stalls, and barns. Hand-hewn cypress troughs for feeding and watering the stock are rare plantation survivals, and the plantation cemetery containing the graves of Pierre and Catherine Surget and their descendants is located within sight of the main dwelling house. The plantation gains added significance from its long history of family ownership. Pierre Surget, originally a seaman by trade, was the patriarch of the Surget family in Natchez, a family that formed one of the largest planting dynasties in the entire South. Pierre's son Frank was described by one contemporary historian as the most extensive and successful planter in Mississippi (J.F.H. Claiborne, Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State [1880; reprint edition, Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964], p. 141). In addition to their plantations in Mississippi, Pierre Surget's sons owned vast tracts of farm land in Louisiana and Arkansas as well. After the death of Pierre Surget, Cherry Grove was efficiently managed by his wife Catherine and eventually became the property of their son James. From James Surget, Cherry Grove passed to James Surget, Jr., who was responsible for the construction of the present residence and was considered by many to have been the best thoroughbred horse breeder in the state of Mississippi (Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi [Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891], II, p. 868). Cherry Grove is owned today by the granddaughter of James Surget, Jr., Mrs. Douglas MacNeil, philanthropist and former national president of the Girl Scouts of America.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891.

Claiborne, J.F.H. Mississippi as a Province, Territory and State. 1880. Reprint. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1964.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approx. 150 acres

Quadrangle name Kingston, Miss.-La.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

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

B

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

C

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

D

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

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification See continuation sheet with xerox of timber map of Cherry Grove Plantation with the nominated portion of the 375-acre plantation outlined in red. Cherry Grove has been in the continuous ownership of the same family since 1788 and has remained always a working plantation. The approximate 150-acre nominated

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (see continuation sheet)

state	NA	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/Preservation Consultant

organization Historic Natchez Foundation

date November 13, 1982

street & number P. O. Box 1761

telephone (601) 442-2500

city or town Natchez

state Mississippi 39120

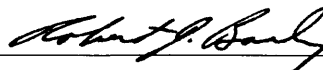
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local


As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date February 22, 1983

For HCRA use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
	date <u>3/31/83</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

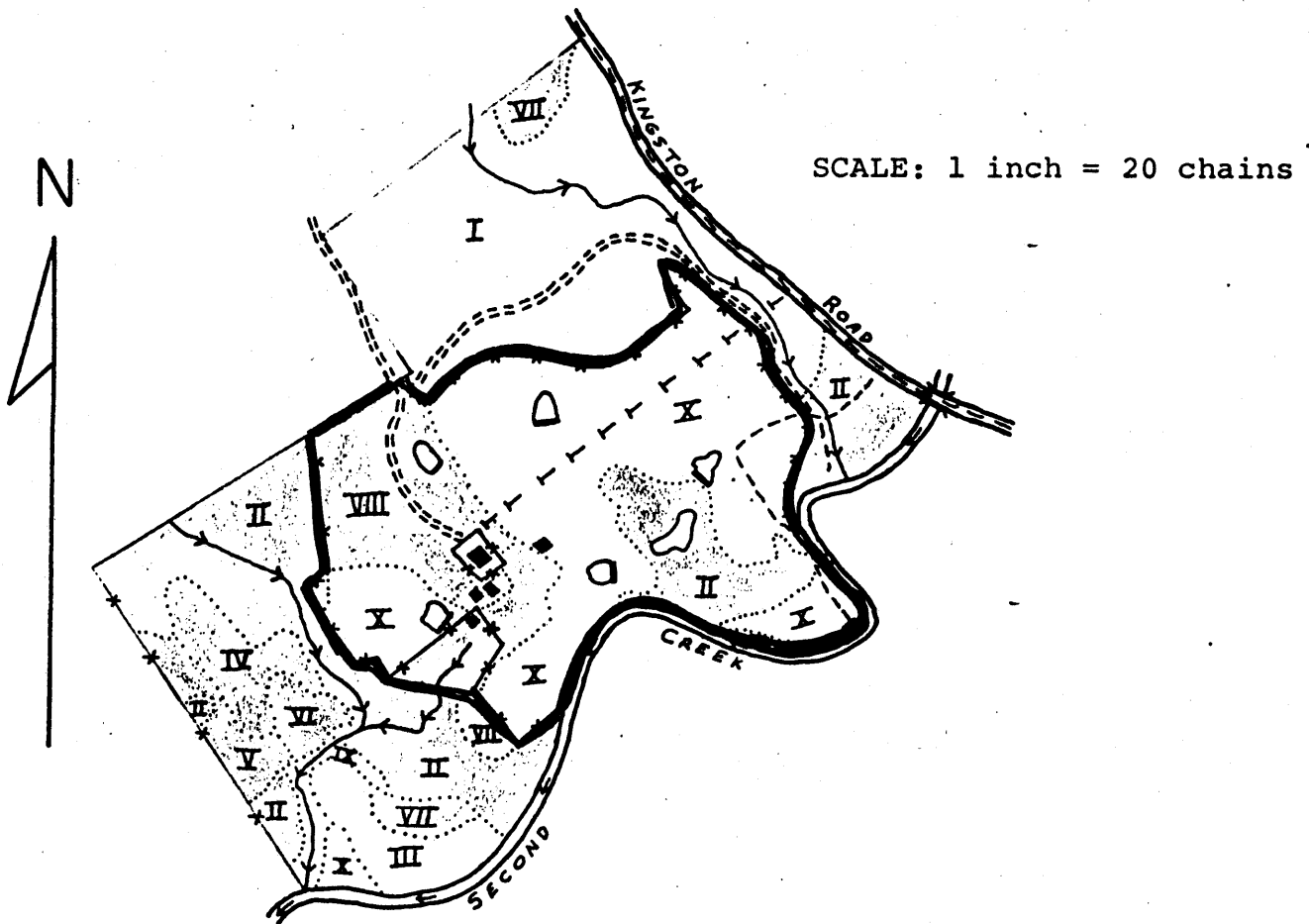
Cherry Grove, Adams County, Mississippi

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tract was determined by the fencing, much of which has a historic basis, the natural boundary formed by Second Creek, and by the property line. This 150-acre tract is considered essential to include all significant outbuildings and to protect the unspoiled plantation setting.



LEGEND

- Property Boundary
- === Paved Road
- Gravel Road
- Pasture or Woods Road
- *-*-* Fence

KINGSTON QUADRANGLE
MISSISSIPPI-LOUISIANA
15 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

210 000 FEET (MISS.)

91°1

Cherry Grove Plantation
Natchez, Adams County, Mississippi

UTM REFERENCES:

- A 15/657250/3482575
- B 15/657250/3481730
- C 15/656100/3481730
- D 15/656100/3482575

