

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received NOV 18 1986

date entered DEC 18 1986

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

1. Name

historic N/A

and/or common THE MISTERFELDT HOME PLACE

2. Location

street & number 1101 Old Highway 49 South N/A not for publication

city, town Richland N/A vicinity of

state Mississippi code 28 county Rankin code 121

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. & Mrs. Lester Spell

street & number 1101 Old Highway 49 South

city, town Richland N/A vicinity of state Mississippi 39218

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Office of the Chancery Clerk

street & number Rankin County Court House 305 Government Street

city, town Brandon state Mississippi 39042

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Survey of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date August 1977  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Mississippi Department of Archives and History

city, town Jackson state Mississippi

# 7. Description

**Condition**

excellent  
 good  
 fair

deteriorated  
 ruins  
 unexposed

**Check one**

unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**

original site (House & Barn)  
 moved date 1979

(Playhouse moved to south side of house)

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

In 1886, when Henry Misterfeldt first moved into the original house, it had only one story with a hallway that separated two simple rooms. The surrounding one hundred acres of agricultural land owned by the Misterfeldt family is not included in the nominated property. The original builders of the house are not known. Today, the Misterfeldt Home Place as herein described consists of 3.67 acres. On the nominated site are located the original house, a children's playhouse, and the large barn.

The two story house, which faces east toward Old Highway 49, sits three feet above the ground on wooden piers, and is supported by foundation sills made of heart of oak logs. A first story open gallery extends across the entire front of the house. Off the center hall, which runs the length of the house, are a parlor, three bedrooms, a bathroom, dining room, and kitchen.

In 1903, Henry Misterfeldt and his son, Edgar, designed and with the farm labor added the upstairs onto the original house. The staircase begins just inside the front entrance and leads up to a wide hall on the second floor. On the second floor, the hall has a large bedroom with a spacious closet on each side. At the west end of the upstairs hall is a bathroom. To accommodate this hall, the roof has a centered front cross-gable. Both the upstairs and downstairs bathrooms were added in 1911. When the second story was added in 1903, decorative turned columns, handrails, and a balustrade were added to the front gallery. These, along with the inside staircase banister and newel, were made from one huge poplar tree.

To the south of the house stands the playhouse, the most distinctive feature of the complex. Similar in design to the house, the playhouse was built in 1910 by Edgar Misterfeldt for his daughter. The miniature replica of the house has a semicircular gallery, complete with columns, around the front. The front door opens into a living room, which is joined into a hall with a room on each side. At the end of the hall is a kitchen and a back door. The rooms have ceilings six feet high, and each room with the exception of the kitchen is covered with wallpaper. Small windows decorate each room, and give a complete view of the surrounding area. The playhouse is fifteen feet high, and has red wood shingles for the roof. It is painted white to match the large house adjacent to it.

The barn, located just north of the house, was built by Edgar Misterfeldt in 1922. While on a trip to Canada, Edgar had seen a barn of similar style. After returning home, Edgar cut the timbers and boards for the barn in his sawmill, and built the barn with farm labor. The barn originally had a crib for feed and saddles and six stalls on the ground level. Next to the crib is a stairway leading to the loft where hay was stored. Its gambrel roof of wooden shingles is indeed rare for a Mississippi barn. In 1977, the stable area on the ground floor was converted to allow two stalls, the crib, and stairs, but the other stalls were enclosed into an insulated and air conditioned area for use as an equine examination and surgery facility by the son of the present owners who is a veterinarian. The barn is painted white and trimmed in red.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1903, 1910, 1911, 1922      **Builder/Architect** House - Henry & Edgar Misterfeldt  
 Barn & Playhouse - Edgar Misterfeldt

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Misterfeldt Home Place is locally significant for two principal reasons. It is notable for its architectural character, especially for the gambrel-roofed barn and the playhouse (a complete miniature house for children to play in) both of which are rare in Mississippi. Additionally, it is locally significant in the historical development of the town of Richland because it is the only surviving agricultural complex in the community, which had its origins as an agricultural village (originally named Plain).

The Misterfeldt house was once the hub of a large and diversified family agricultural operation that included cotton and grain crops, cattle, a cotton gin, and a sawmill, but today it stands in a rapidly growing suburban area as reminder of what the area was like at the turn of the century.

The small, two room house which was acquired by the Misterfeldts and became their home in 1886 was built some years earlier, but the original builders are unknown. In 1903, the house was greatly enlarged and the upstairs was added. In 1911, bathrooms were built into the house. The playhouse, which originally was just north of the house, was built by Edgar Misterfeldt for his daughter. It is similar in style to the larger family house. Today it remains a popular playhouse for Edgar's great grandchildren and their friends. The barn, with its wooden shingles and gambrel roof, is north of the house and faces Old Highway 49. Built in 1922 by Edgar Misterfeldt, it was the result of an idea that he got when he saw a barn in Canada built in this style.

Henry Misterfeldt came to America in 1869 at the age of nineteen and found his way to the Plain community. He worked first as a sharecropper and gradually acquired his own lands. At the time of his death in 1926, he and his son Edgar had, through hard work, built up their holdings to some five hundred acres of farm and timber land. Henry's son, Edgar, carried on the family's farming and timber operations after his father's death and was a respected family man, farmer, fervent Christian leader, and influential political figure who served in the Mississippi Legislature. Edgar increased the family's prosperity, and at the time of his death in 1949 owned over one thousand acres of land in the Plain/Richland community area. The Misterfeldts were German immigrants who came to America seeking a better life for their families, and their contributions to the Plain/Richland area and the state of Mississippi are today recorded in their daily diaries which have been published in book form. Their work as builders has left the Plain/Richland area with an interesting and unique home place consisting of buildings that not only are a tribute to their work, but which are today still display an impressive and unusual architectural character for the area.

This home place, now owned by Edgar's daughter, Alfreda and her husband, Lester

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

**DIARIES:**

Misterfeldt, Henry. The Diary of Henry Misterfeldt. Original copy at the Misterfeldt place in Richland. Microfilm copy available at Miss. Dept. of Archives and History.  
 Misterfeldt, Edgar. The Diary of Edgar Misterfeldt. Original copy at the Misterfeldt place in Richland. Microfilm copy available at Miss. Dept. of Archives and History.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.67 Acres

Quadrangle name Florence, Mississippi

Quadrangle scale 1: 24000

**UTM References**

A 

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

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification**

The location of the Misterfeldt Home Place is a 400 feet square adjacent to Old Highway 49 with the Southeast Corner of the square being on the centerline of a drain on the West right-of-way of Old Highway 49 at a point approximately 650 feet Northwest of the (continued)

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lester Spell, Jr., D.V.M., Mayor

organization City of Richland

date July 29, 1986

street & number 1103 Old Highway 49 South

telephone (601) 932-2820

city or town Richland

state Mississippi 39218

# 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Kenneth H. P. Pool

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 10, 1986

**For NPS use only**

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

*for* Allores Byers  
Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the  
National Register

date 12-18-86

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
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received  
date entered

The Misterfeldt Home Place

Continuation sheet Rankin County, Mississippi Item number 8, 9, 10

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8 - Significance

Spell serves as their home. The house and the playhouse, as well as the barn, are all in very good condition and each is still used today by the family. The family has been careful to preserve the character of the buildings on the homeplace because of the historic significance as well as the sentimental attachments. In 1975, the Plain community was incorporated as the City of Richland, and Edgar's grandson, Lester Spell, Jr., who lives with his family next to the home place, has served as the Mayor of Richland since its incorporation. Lester Spell, Jr. is a veterinarian who has his practice in Richland and uses the barn today as a facility for equine treatment and surgery. Lester and his father, Lester Spell, still raise cattle and horses on the original farm.

9 - Major Bibliographical References

Land Records: Deed dated November 6, 1886, filed for record on July 11, 1889, at 10:00 A.M. and recorded July 13, 1889, in Deed Book 40 at pages 344 & 345 in the office of the Chancery Clerk of Rankin County, Mississippi, Rankin County Courthouse, 305 Government Street, Brandon, Mississippi 39042.

Thesis: Spell, Mary Alfreda. "The Early Life of Edgar L. Misterfeldt, 1912-1920. Master's thesis in history, Mississippi College, Clinton, Mississippi, 1970.

10 - Geographical Date

Verbal boundary description and justification

intersection of Old Highway 49 and Scarbrough Street in the City of Richland, Mississippi. The property is located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter of Section 2, Township 4 North, Range 1 East, Rankin County, Mississippi. The mailing address for the property is: 1101 Old Highway 49 South, Richland, Mississippi 39218.