



440

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Brett, George Washington, House

other names/site number Hearon, J. V., House; Sanders, F. S., House; Weatherly, J. H., House

2. Location

street & number 3021 Attala Road 3220 not for publication

city or town West vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Attala code 07 zip code 39192

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

L. E. Robner *May 24, 2010*
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official Date

Title State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register

 determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register

 other (explain:)

Jay Edison H. Beall *7-8-10*
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

Brett, George Washington, House
 Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
 County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
 (Check as many boxes as apply.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
 (Check only one box.)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
 (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	4	buildings
		district
		site
1		structure
		object
5	4	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

Current Functions
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/vernacular cottage; Log Cabin

Materials
 (Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: Stone, Wood
 walls: Log; Weatherboard

 roof: Metal
 other: Brick, Stone

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The George Washington Brett House is located in rural Attala County at the end of a public road. There are few nearby houses or other structures. Land uses include timber and grazing. The Brett House was constructed in three phases beginning in 1860 when the two-story gable roof frame house was constructed. In c. 1883 the family added a one-story addition currently housing a kitchen and dining room. The third addition is a log cabin constructed c. 1834 and moved to the property by the current owners in 1998.

Narrative Description

The George Washington Brett House is located in north central Attala County at 3021 Attala Road 3220 a mile from Attala Road 3122 (west seven miles to Highway 35 at Carmack and twenty to Interstate 55; east three miles to Highway 43 and twelve miles to the Natchez Trace Parkway). Attala Road 3220, which until c.1950 went through to Highway 43, dead ends at the Brett House property.

Standing on stacked stone piers and underpinned with lattice, the House is composed of three sections. The original section (1860) to the east is a side-gabled, two-story, mid-nineteenth century frame house. The mid-section (c. 1883) is a one-story, medium sloping, side-gabled kitchen and a gently sloping side-gabled hall. The western section is a one-room, side-gabled, two-story-with-loft log cabin (c. 1834) moved and joined to the house in 1998. The irregularity of the main south-facing façade, defined by the steeply sloping original side-gabled quadrangle on the east and the steeply sloping log cabin on the west, is informed by a lattice trellis covering the midsection to provide a hint of symmetry.

Exterior

The 1860 main house dominates the eastern end of the southern façade. The v-crimped metal roof slants solidly down from the ridge line across the four-foot overhang to its eave line where it is supported by four, four-inch posts resting on concrete pavement. The six-foot wide, open-back front steps of heavy rough lumber have two-by-four banisters. Resting on stacked stone piers beneath, posts made of parallel two-by-fours bonded and decorated by small arrow shaped pieces at top, middle, and bottom rest on original pine floor boards laid perpendicularly to the front wall.

The original six-inch tongue-and-groove porch walls are well preserved as are the twelve-inch ceiling boards with four-inch, double-grooved batten and inlaid molding. On the southern end, the front porch overhang, resting on three four-by-four posts, covers the six-foot long, fifteen-inch board box steps that originally served the front entrance. Three doors grace the porch: a solid four-paneled door opens into the bedroom on the west side and wooden doors with six oblong panes over three horizontal panels open into both the sitting room on the left and the parlor on the right. Eight-inch vertical boards, custom sawed from trees on the place and set in board-and-batten fashion, dress the front porch bedroom outer wall. A six-over-six window is centered in the bedroom wall and on the porch a four-over-four window rests to the east of the parlor door.

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

The eastern elevation, clad in its original weatherboard, is dominated by a shouldered brick chimney flanked downstairs by original four-over-four windows and upstairs by single-sash six-pane casement windows. A one-by-one block frieze runs under the gable. On the northern end of the eastern elevation, a set of double-hung nine-over-nine windows replaces the screen of the original back porch. The western wall of the 1860 House, covered by weatherboard and dominated by a shouldered brick chimney, forms the eastern boundary of the well garden. To the lower right of the chimney rests an eyebrow window with six-over-six sashes while above, single-sash four-pane casements flank it on both sides. A simple block frieze runs beneath the gable. Continuing along the southern façade, a lattice trellis extends six feet southward from the southwest corner of the House, then runs westward parallel with the kitchen-hall mid-section, enclosing the Old Dug Well garden.

The garden is highlighted by the contributing Old Dug Well (1860) which is surrounded by a patio of concrete pavers and shaded by a vine-covered lattice adjoining the well house whose front-gabled, asphalt shingled roof rests on six-by-six pole posts. Just inside the lattice trellis hang two marble wall sculptures which once graced the entrance gates of the renowned Billups Plantation (on Highway 82 west). Unlike the main house and lattice trellis boundaries, the western boundary of the garden is less clearly defined because it fuses into the front yard of the log cabin. The final boundary of the well garden is the kitchen-hall mid-section.

The trellis portal of the garden opens to a path of graveled stepping stones, up open-backed banistered steps and across a narrow porch to the front kitchen door of the mid-section. Floored perpendicularly with six-inch treated wood, the porch is roofed with vertically laid corrugated tin over a ceiling of one-by-six v-groove pine boards above open, rough sawn two-by-four rafters supported by a beam of doubled two-by-six treated pine, arched slightly at the kitchen door landing and resting on two six-by-six posts extending to the ground. The corrugated metal roof of the porch, like that of the v-crimped metal roof of the rest of the mid-section, runs vertically. To the west of the kitchen door landing, open steps of treated wood with a one-by-six banister supported by four-by-four posts transition down to the front porch of the kitchen/hall section which joins the eastern edge of the log cabin porch. The walls of the entire mid-section are of rough western pine board-and-batten. The two entry ways include a nine-light-over-two-panel wooden kitchen door to the right, and ten-light French hall doors to the left. To the left a small six-over-six window is tucked into the southwest corner of the kitchen and to the right a large six-over-six window dominates the area between the end of the porch and the chimney.

The last unit of the south façade is the side-gabled, steep-roofed 1834 cabin of horizontal square-notched, square-hewn logs. Open steps with pine pole banisters lead up to the Carolina porch, its deck recessed beneath the extended front roofline, extending the full width of the cabin to the kitchen/hall porch on the east. Floored with perpendicularly laid antique two-by-six boards, the porch is roofed with corrugated tin as is the entire cabin except for the back sleeping porch roofed with v-crimped metal. The tin of the front porch roof rests on two-by-four lathing above rough two-by-four rafters resting on a beam of doubled two-by-six treated pine supported by four cedar tree posts original to the cabin. Framed with open, rough two-by-six ceiling joists, the end gables of the porch are finished with antique two-by-six boards. A heavy solid wooden door centering the front wall of the log cabin is flanked by six-over-six windows. This door as well as the other two inside the cabin came from a south Choctaw County (c. 1890) house bought and torn down for use with the cabin.

Commanding the western elevation of the log cabin is the massive Arkansas field rock chimney flanked above by four-over-four and below by said-to-be original six-over-six

Brett, George Washington, House

Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi

County and State

windows. The chimney rests against a horizontally laid log and mortar wall, supported on stone piers and topped in the gable by vertically laid boards. The fieldstone piers, used all around the cabin, came with it. To the south is the cabin front porch while to the north beyond the back wall of the cabin is the screened sleeping porch framed by four-by-fours and two-by-fours covered with screen wire.

The northern elevation has two main features: the screened sleeping porch and the long open porch, spanning the original and mid-sections of the main house. The screened porch with one-by-six pine floor boards, exposed rafters, one-by-six v-grooved ceiling and roof of v-crimped metal stretches across the entire elevation of the log cabin. Of the four porch doors, the north screen opens into the yard, the east screen opens onto the long open mid-section porch, the French doors open southward into the hall, and the south one opens into the log cabin itself. On the east, the sleeping porch opens onto the long open porch of the mid-section, narrows behind the bathroom and laundry room, then widens with the kitchen wall forming an alcove for the laundry hall entry and again narrows slightly to span the entire back wall of the original farmhouse. The northwestern façade of the mid-section, behind the bathroom and the laundry room area, includes two small four-over-four windows, the west one for the bathroom and the east one for the laundry room hallway. At the east end of the long back porch, a six-panel wooden door opens into the sunroom.

The outer kitchen wall with a large centered six-over-six window reflects exactly the porchless chimney corner and the window opposite on the southern mid-section front wall. Opposite the exposed northwest corner of the original frame house, the northern mid-section entrance (on the east wall of the laundry room) requires a step up, through a six-light-over-two-panel door, into the hall in front of the louvered doors of the laundry closet. The open porch ends at the eastern corner of the original 1860 frame house. V-groove ceiling lathing, laid horizontally on old two-by-six exposed heavy rafters supported by a beam of doubled two-by-six boards resting on four-by-four posts, is used across the entire back, mixed with some two-by-fours to tie in with the rest of the porch. Eight-inch vertical boards, set in a board-and-batten manner as on the front wall, cover the north wall of the old house. The entire outer wall of the mid-section is covered with vertical western pine board-and-batten.

Interior

The interior footprint and the materials of the original main house remain essentially unchanged after one hundred fifty years. The interior is comprised of the front porch bedroom, the downstairs west sitting room, behind which is the main bedroom, and the east parlor behind which are the bathroom and sunroom. The second floor includes a west and an east room mirroring the sitting room and parlor below.

The entire main house, including the porches, employs six-inch floor boards which run horizontally in the three main rooms and vertically elsewhere. Both porches, the sitting room, the parlor, and the bathroom share six-inch, heart pine horizontal wall planks; hand-planed twelve-inch ceiling boards with four-inch, double-grooved batten and single-grooved inlaid molding; and four-inch, single grooved facings. Very unique eight-inch, top-grooved heart pine baseboard defines the three main rooms of the original house.

The bedrooms share twelve-inch board and un-grooved four-inch batten with no inlaid or grooved molding in the ceiling, or on the door facings or window facings. Finished on the east, south, and west sides with eight-inch pine planks, the front porch bedroom northern wall is finished on the interior with one inch thick, twelve-inch boards along the staircase wall. The main bedroom features beaded board walls and a dark ceiling along with the original flue (now used for a solar tube) suggesting that the room was once used

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

as a kitchen. In any case, both of these rooms were framed as part of the 1860 house and finished later without the special rounded-grooved batten.

All the inside doors are the original four-panel doors with original hardware except the rough lumber one leading from the sitting room into the bedroom, the rough, shellacked one leading into the kitchen, and the rustic, three-board one on the stairwell.

The upstairs is accessed by a staircase to the left of the front entrance. The stairs are walled on the north and west sides to form a downstairs closet, using the same twelve-inch double-grooved board and batten as the ceiling, here painted off-white rather than unpainted as in all other ceilings of the original house. The small west portal of the closet under the stairs remains open (the door long since removed and now used for the front balcony of the Tree House). Two steps of twelve-inch pine boards lead to the rustic, squat, vertical six-board-with-cross-braces door of the enclosed stairway which continues up to the open landing, the southwest corner of the west room. The upstairs rooms mirror those downstairs in size and mirror each other with original vaulted unpainted, water-stained ceilings and heavy exposed four-by-eight beams supporting fifteen-inch original pine ceiling boards. There are three small attic doors--one on either end of the unpainted western pine wall above the stairwell and the third on the west end of the north wall, left of the landing. The east, west, and north walls are covered with antique six-inch double-beaded green boards. In the west room, ten- to twelve-inch floor boards (original) run horizontally and bookcases are built half way up on both sides of a four-paneled door which leads into the east room. In the east room, exposed wall studs provide shelving on the entire west wall. Paneling covers the other three walls and the floor is narrow tongue-and-groove boards.

The high degree of integrity of the main house is informed by details such as the original mantles of the parlor and the sitting room and the built-in heart pine corner cabinet in the main bedroom. One remarkable feature of the original house, never air-conditioned, is its year-round ventilation.

The mid-section of the Brett House includes the kitchen-dining area and the hall. The kitchen/dining area is entered from the sitting room through a rough lumber three-vertical-board door in the western wall of the original farmhouse. This section of the house is highlighted by open beams of rough two-by-fours and by a vaulted ceiling covered by one-by-six v-grooved pine. The eastern gable, the exposed 1860 weatherboard (the exterior western wall of the original frame house) is centered with a leaded glass window filling the loft portal. The western gable is covered with horizontal one-by-six pine boards.

The top half of the original screened corner cupboard in the northeast corner remains though the lower half was removed to make way for an electric mantle heater. Walls of ten- to twelve inch rough pine planks, from which wallpaper with 1928 newspaper underneath was removed in 1964, are broken on the south by the front doorway which mirrors the doorway (with slim double French doors) on the north leading to a step down into the laundry room hall and the doorway opening eastward to the right onto the north porch. In the southwest corner of the kitchen, the farmhouse sink is framed above by two six-over-six windows, the right one of which looks through to the hallway. The rustic kitchen cabinets are made from the original kitchen loft boards. Antique heart pine planks cover the floors in the kitchen/dining area.

Entered from the kitchen down a step through a fifteen-light French door, the hall is defined by a skylight centered in the slightly vaulted ceiling. Double French doors, forming the north and south walls, open to the well and a porch on the south, and to the screened sleeping porch on the north. The door leading into the cabin is directly across

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

from the kitchen door and, to the right, a door like the cabin doors leads into the hall bathroom. These doors, the other two cabin doors, walls in the hall, like the floors in the kitchen, hall, and interior of the cabin, came from the south Choctaw County house. Heart pine boards, mainly twelve-inch, cover the east wall horizontally, with heart pine six- to eight-inch boards in the hall floor. The western wall showcases the exposed log and mortar (poolcrete) wall of the log cabin.

The interior of the log cabin features a massive Count Rumford Arkansas fieldstone fireplace topped by a mantle made of wood from the original kitchen front door frame. The cathedral ceiling with its exposed pole rafters, its angled support boards, and its v-grooved one-by-six heart pine boards appears through the balcony opening in the second floor. The southern front door is mirrored on the northern wall by a door leading to the screened sleeping porch, while on the east a door leads to the hallway.

All original log and mortar walls are visible throughout the cabin. Open storage and an ancient pine quilt box (from the south Choctaw County house) occupy the space under the stairway of two-by-ten antique heart pine steps with two-by-four outer handrail, which begin on the north wall, corner upward to the south, and land under the east windows of the second floor. Seven original exposed, slightly curved, rough vertically running beams of the first floor ceiling--ends extending beyond the outer walls a couple of inches--are mortised through front and back walls, spanning the opening of the second story, and supporting the wide, horizontally laid antique pine floor boards.

The upstairs, essentially a half loft to the east with four-foot balcony extensions along the north and south walls, is open to the cathedral ceiling. The same heart pine material as in the downstairs floor was used for both the upstairs floor and the gable walls with the front and back pony walls formed by the logs. The railing of the balcony is made of two-by-fours over two-by-two spindles.

The overall integrity of the Brett House is remarkable considering the one hundred twenty-two to one hundred seventy-six years its three parts have stood. Most notable of the very few significant changes (mainly additions) aside from the addition of the mid-section (c. 1883) and the log cabin (1998) are as follows: partitioning (date unknown) of the original back porch to form what is now a bathroom; removal (c. 1969) of partition dividing kitchen and dining area; replacing both chimneys in the main house (1976); windowing in the old back screen porch to form the sun room (1979); adding board-and-batten siding and weatherboard (1980, 2003); adding floor in east room and finishing walls in both rooms upstairs in the main house (1983, 2003); adding of laundry room, hall, hall bath, mid-section porches (1998); and adding new metal roof, raising of roof and chimneys and addition of back porch on the main house (2002).

Contributing Structures

In front of the Brett House mid-section, the well garden is highlighted by the contributing Old Dug Well (1860) which is surrounded by a patio of concrete pavers. The front-gabled well house roof which rests on six-by-six pole posts and a vine-covered lattice, which extends to the front lattice garden wall, shade the well garden. To allow for the cleaning of the Well (approximately 50 feet deep and said to have been dug before homestead construction began); its original house was torn down (1992) and replaced with the current one enlarged to cover the new floor required by caving around the Well. The fine well water, which old-timers still come to drink, is perhaps the oldest treasure on the hill.

Strongly representative of the period, the very steep-roofed, front-gabled contributing Smokehouse (c. 1860) remains immediately behind the mid-section of the Brett House, its

Brett, George Washington, House

Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi

County and State

front aligned with the northeastern corner of the screened sleeping porch to the west and facing the open back porch whose narrowness was necessitated by its proximity. Tommy Sanders (1923--), who grew up here, remembers his father, uncle, and grandfather repairing the roof c. 1930, during which project his uncle broke a leg. The Smokehouse was leveled and floored in 1969 but the original corrugated tin roof remains with "nary" a leak. A shelf made from a fifteen-inch board which once spanned the length of the original back porch of the farmhouse was added to the front gable line of the Smokehouse. On the back, double chicken nests, covered with original barn shakes--which seem to have always been there--enhance the impeccable integrity of the Smokehouse.

To the northwest corner of the Smokehouse the shed-roofed, two-seated Outhouse sits, facing east (c. 1877). This contributing structure retains its integrity partly because its heart pine siding was covered with roofing for at least 60 years until 2006.

Standing at the end of the driveway, its integrity intact, the contributing Garage, a classic front-gabled "car house" with a loft over rafters, was built in 1923. Virtually all its original twelve-inch wall boards remain intact as does the roof. Added as a horse stall in 1965, the lean-to shed adjoining the Garage on the north suffered storm damage (2001) and required some roof repair. The shed was floored, a wall and a window were added on the east, and double half gates were added on the shed entrance to compliment those on the Garage (c. 2002-2004). A north wall of screen doors (which delineate four periods, beginning with the Victorian period) was added (2009).

Non-contributing Structures

Beyond the Smokehouse in the pasture is the non-contributing Barn (c. 1970). Based on an old Progressive Farmer plan, the pole-barn is constructed with the center bay roof two feet higher than the gently sloping roofs of the side bays. There are three sheep stalls, one of which is gated.

Southwest of the log cabin addition sits the two-storied, side-gabled, gambrel roof Well House built in 2002 to house the well drilled in 1999. Material used to construct the front wall, including log-looking rafters, came mainly from the aforementioned south Choctaw County house, whereas all other exterior walls, as well as the interior ceiling and downstairs walls, came from trees felled by the 2001 storm and cut by a local sawyer.

The one-room-with-loft salt-box Garden House (2003) used materials from a house (c.1920) in south Attala County, from a local vendor of antique lumber, and from a nineteenth-century barn on the place. The heavy French back door with its twelve wire-embedded lights came from the old Kosciusko Post Office.

Beyond two giant magnolias, the non-contributing Tree House (2008) sits astride a huge horizontally-resting oak uprooted in the 2001 storm. The front gambrel two-story structure made of old barn material from the property is roofed with rusty v-crimped tin. A ramp and a ladder lead up to the deck surrounding the entire first level, and an inside ladder accesses the second level. Rough pole banisters line the ramp and both decks. The front façade faces southwest, and the rear southeast corner looks toward John Arnold Mountain. Front and back facades feature double doors downstairs--wooden eight-panel on the front and metal-covered, chicken-wire-embedded nine-light from the old Kosciusko Post Office on the back--and upstairs a single door flanked on the front by small windows. On both sides there are four-over-four single-hung windows downstairs and six-light horizontal garage door windows just below the roofline upstairs.

Other

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

John Arnold Mountain ("Arnold Mountain," elevation 555, on USGS map), is probably named for James Arnel whose 40 acres were adjacent to the mountain (1859 Land Grant). John Arnold, interesting in its own right, served early to channel traffic through the 3220 channel from the earliest days through the first hundred years (1850-1950) until 3220 (old Sanders Road) closed after World War II (1950). The Mountain stands about a half mile to the northeast of the Brett house where at its base Zilpha Creek cuts across the corner of the property, and is visible from the second floor windows of the main house, the cabin, the Well house, the Garage, and the Tree House. Recent clear cutting has rendered John Arnold visible in several places along 3220. The wilderness along the base of the mountain, enhanced by limited access (especially since the 2001 storm), huge standing and fallen trees, an old beaver pond, and beaver dams, provides sanctuary for ducks, wild pigs, deer, and, most recently, a wolf, seen by a reliable reporter. The wildness spreads, the fields long gone which were once drained by Sanders Canal, the east-west flowing stream most proximal to the rear of the House. Huge populations of wild animals and birds abound on and around the entire property.

In front of the House, along the old road to the east, a stand of summer and winter huckleberries and wildflowers and other flora grow in wild profusion. At the top of the hill there is a "divide" on the John Arnold Range, similar to the Continental Divide, from which water on the west flows into Zilpha Creek and on the east to the Yockanookany River. There are ever-flowing, spring-fed brooks on the east and west sides of the House; the former is said to have supplied water uphill to the House through rock pipes. (There is an extant piece of this sandstone pipe.)

Within one mile of the homestead, Little Zilpha, Zilpha, Panther, and Bogasha Creeks, Sanders and Cross (Beall) Branches, and Sanders Canal converge near Bell's Bridge, originally called Bell's Crossing. Bell's Bridge is located half-way between Attala Road 3220 and Attala Road 3122 on Attala Road 3221 (old Kosciusko-Vaiden Route). Approximately one-quarter mile to the north/northwest of Bell's Bridge are two extant Indian mounds.

Descendants of settlers up the creek to the east tell of their ancestors calling to each other from homestead to homestead to relay messages from the Curtis place near the Greensboro Road (now State Highway 43) all the way through to the Sanders place just up the brook on the east from Brett. An attempt was made to align the Tree House with this functional echo with limited success.

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

ARCHITITECTURE

Period of Significance

1834; 1860-1883

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance includes the date of construction of the log cabin section of the house. The dates 1860-1883 reflect the period of time when the Brett family established occupation of the area and the house took its long-term permanent form (before the addition of the log cabin in 1998).

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The George Washington Brett House, located in north central Attala County, Mississippi, is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criterion A in the area of exploration and settlement because of its relationship to the earliest settlement of the area and to the development of the community. The Brett House is also significant under Criterion C as an example of a mid-nineteenth century vernacular frame house (1860) to which was added a kitchen-dining section (c. 1883) and a horizontal Carolina log house (c.1834) in 1998, each of which, along with contributing structures, establishes architectural significance in its own way. The intimate relationship among the areas of exploration/settlement and architecture, and of their significance in warranting nomination for the National Register is reflected in the 1860 activities of George Washington Brett (Britt, Brit, or Brittea): he bought the land, began clearing it for farming and building, produced his first crop, and virtually completed the House. The period of significance begins with the early settlement of the North Center (North Centre)--Bell's Bridge Beall's Crossing)--Newhope area, extending from 1860 with the construction of the house to c. 1883 when the kitchen-dining section was added.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Exploration-Settlement

George Washington Brett (1820-1880) was born in Marietta, Georgia, and in 1841, along with his older brother, John Hobbs (1808-1880), relocated to the Liberty Chapel area during the early settlement of Attala County. Liberty Chapel, known as "Little Georgia" because of the large percentage of settlers from Georgia, is approximately ten miles east of the Brett House. Their arrival in Attala County coincided with the rapid growth following its establishment in 1834: 1840 to 1850 saw the largest population increase in one decade in Attala County history--from 4303 to 10,999. Settlement and growth continued to spiral until the Civil War.

Brett returned to Washington County, Georgia, for his marriage to Mary Elizabeth Byne (1832-winter 1862-1863?) on December 4, 1851. They had four children: Henry Moccasin (1852-1924), Mary Elizabeth (1855-1936), Sarah Ann (1858-1938), and John A. (1861-unknown). On February 4, 1860, George and Mary Elizabeth Brett bought 120 acres of land for one thousand dollars from Mary Elizabeth and Thaddeus D. Beall

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Name of Property

(Bell's Crossing--Bell's Bridge). Beall, along with his family, among the largest land speculators trading land patents in the northwest quadrant of the county, had himself homesteaded a little over a mile north in the early 1830's. Brett began clearing the timber for building and farming in the narrow valleys and slopes of Zilpha Creek ("Zephyr" on old maps) where Choctaw Indians had long since camped, hunted, and farmed, their prosperity reflected in the abundance of artifacts still found in the area.

Brett was one of the very earliest settlers in the North Center--John Arnold Mountain--Bell's Bridge area. Little Zilpha (originating near Liberty Chapel) with several tributaries, runs northwest until John Arnold Mountain forces it westward where it is joined from the south, by the Brook, the Branch, and Sanders Branch before Panther Creek merges from the north a few yards east of Bell's Bridge, beyond which Little Zilpha emerges as Big Zilpha, immediately joined by Bogasha Creek ("Boga Shenia" old Choctaw name) and a little later by Cross's Branch from the north. Building the first house in the area just south of Zilpha, Brett led in the settlement along the roadway now known as Attala Road 3220, the Brett House becoming a sort of hub of community activity as other settlers arrived. The August 1860 Federal Census reflects two Brett trends: the tendency toward hospitality and prosperity, with Seaborn Bines (Bynes), his 26-year-old brother-in-law, and Samuel Cone, a wealthy 76-year-old neighbor from Connecticut (who homesteaded an adjacent forty-acre plot which later became part of the farm) living with the family, and Brett listed as having real estate value of \$1200 and personal estate value of \$400. Brett made at least one crop and laid another by before going to war.

George Washington Brett joined the 1st Partisan Rangers, C.S.A., who were mustered into service on August 1, 1862, at Orizaba (6 miles south of Ripley, Mississippi). George, still a private, was captured near Ripley, on January 30, 1863, and imprisoned in Gratiot St. Prison in St. Louis, Missouri, where two weeks after smallpox broke out, he took the Oath of Renunciation and Allegiance on March 19, 1863, following which he was apparently released, that being the custom according to Civil War records of correspondence. Linda Cockroft, fifth generation Brett and wife of current Kosciusko mayor, in the Brett Genealogy Folder quotes a neighbor: "Elizabeth had a small baby and was scared by herself. She slept on the floor with the baby. She caught pneumonia and died." Mary Elizabeth Brett is buried at Liberty Chapel with no date of death on her tombstone. Her row of three, now very tall, cedars, albeit sorely battered, especially in 2001 storm, still stand one hundred fifty years later to the left of the driveway, to welcome arriving guests.

Brett's prominence and authority in the community are reflected by such activities as his being appointed appraiser and standing surety. His continued prosperity is reflected in the 1870 census where his real estate value is \$1000 and personal estate value is \$1000. An astonishingly vital source of collateral for selling, buying, and trading, almost a cottage industry in its own right, the land added significant value and fluidity to the commerce of the area. His continued hospitality is evidenced in the 1880 census which finds Virginia A. Brett (John Hobb's daughter) living in the House along with George, John A, and Sarah (erroneously reported as Elizabeth). A fine horseman, George seems to have been influential in establishing the popular racetrack on the old Indian campground southeast of Bell's Bridge. Though prosperous and hospitable, George never married again, died December 14, 1880, and is buried at Shady Grove.

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

George's eldest child, Henry Moccasin, added to the Brett land holdings in 1877 when he purchased from the State of Mississippi, for \$39.82, two hundred eighty acres adjoining the family homestead. In 1879, Henry married his cousin, Sara Evelyn Brett (1855-1922), daughter of John Hobbs and Elizabeth Adams (1816-1897), and after their marriage, the couple lived in Brett House. Henry M. Brett continued to acquire parcels of land and was officially granted another adjoining 121 acres of land in The Land Patent of 1892 (the final settlement of the Government with the Choctaw Nation). "Given to original settlers to secure homesteads to actual settlers on the public domain" under authority of an Act of Congress dated May 20, 1862, Land Patent Certificate #7390 from the U. S. of America to Henry M. Brett was signed June 30, 1892, by President Benjamin Harrison. By 1883 Henry and Sara added a kitchen-dining area to accommodate their growing family. They had ten children: thus three generations of Bretts lived in the house, worked the land, and contributed significantly to the community.

In 1909, Henry and Sara Brett deeded forty acres to J. F. Holly who in turn, rented it to Will Sanders (1864-1935). By 1918, Henry and his son, John Homer (1886-1972), had accumulated over 500 acres of land which they sold to J. V. Hearon (1872-1924) and Elizabeth R. Hearon (1870-1952) including the original 120 acres and the homestead. Homer Brett bought a large farm in the Sugar Creek valley on Highway 35 north near Bethel Church. Henry and Sara then purchased adjoining land (which was eventually inherited by Homer (1893-1984)) and by 1920 were living there with three sons, Grady, Earnest, Reginald, their daughter, Clara Bateman, and grandchild, Ethel Bateman. Sara died in 1922, Henry died in 1924, and both are buried at Bethel. Active Methodists, the Brett family figures in the preponderance of Methodism in the county in the nineteenth century. The family's connection to the Adams (Elizabeth, wife of John Hobbs Brett), Almon (husband to Mary Elizabeth, George's daughter), Byne (George's in-laws), and Duncan (Homer's wife, Mary Etta) families broadened their influence in Bethel, Pierce's Chapel, Liberty Chapel, and Shady Grove churches.

J. V. Hearon and his family occupied the House from 1918 to 1925 when his daughter, Bessie (1895-1985), and husband, Frank S. Sanders (1896-1963)--the name still most often associated with the House--took ownership and occupied the House from 1925 until 1964. Hearon, a skilled carpenter, made several pieces of primitive furniture still in the House, most notably the safe now in the log cabin. The Sanders, like the Bretts, sheltered extended family, such as their grandson. Their surviving son, Tommy Sanders, still lives about two and one-half miles from the House on Road 3221. Having already purchased two nearby plots, James Weatherly (1932-2001) bought the House and two hundred sixty acres of land after Frank Sanders died in 1963. By the time of his death in 2001, Weatherly had accumulated about 900 acres immediately adjoining and surrounding the House on all sides. In 2004 Joan Weatherly (1935--) gave some 750 acres of this land to Mississippi College, retaining 80 acres surrounding the house which, when surveyed, turned out to be 92.6 acres.

The history of the Brett House and its "environs," one of the oldest houses still standing in north Attala County, reflects local settlement patterns beginning c. 1850. There were largely small homesteads with communities (or rather often community names) that came and went in the years of significance (1860-1883) and by the end of the first period of significance, the House stood in the midst of a thriving area to include at least a dozen houses, three churches, two schools, two post offices, two cotton gins, several mills--saw, flour, meal. Several of the dozen communities, post offices, schools, or churches were within a mile radius.

Brett, George Washington, House

Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi

County and State

This is the era about which Brett descendants were told stories--the happy years when the farmers would take their harvest, entire families loading into wagons, wagons forming trains, to sell or trade and return with goods from Yazoo City.

Once the hub of a bustling area, a sort of half-way stop for watering of humans, animals, and machines, today the Brett House is the only remaining homestead of a dozen or so that once stood along a one-and-a-quarter-mile stretch of Road 3220 (the USGS map still shows a house on 3221, between 3220 and 3122, about 300 feet south of Bell's Bridge). Today the eastern end of old Sanders Road, Road 2260, runs west one mile from Highway 43 not far (less than one mile) from the end of Road 3220 which dead ends from the west at Brett House. Among others, over the years the following came and usually went: churches--Newhope, Oak Grove, and Friendship; schools--Parkerson (North Center), Newhope, and Friendship; post offices--Chita, Anis (Annis), Mitchells Mills (Mitchell's Mills), Langley; cotton gins--Short gin, Brister gin, Holly gin (to the left of Attala Road 3221 on the south side of Bell's Bridge, half-way between the bridge and the house still showing on the USGS map). Vacant buildings still stand at Friendship and Oak Grove.

There were mills on every creek in every direction, most famous, productive, and long-standing, Mitchells Mills stood about five miles from the House, on Scoobachita near New Salem. To the west of Bell's Bridge, then Beall's Crossing, the Brister family--into which John Etta Brett (1861-1948), John Hobbs' daughter, married--prior to the Civil War operated a mill (converted to steam power in 1878), gins two miles west of Anis, and later a store, gin, and grist mill. Closer to the bridge, east toward Anis, William Briscoe also operated a saw mill, gin, and grist mill. Later, just east of the bridge J. F. Holly had a water mill and, even later, J. V. Hearon had a grist mill and a saw mill farther to the east where he cut and planed lumber for Newhope Church and School. Still farther east, another mill was owned first by the Cooks, then by the Almons (Mary Elizabeth Brett's future family). Brett seems to have chosen Thad Beall's water mill at the Crossing, the oldest, closest to home and most highly recognized for quality work, hence the fine board-and-batten used for the ceiling in the House. Brett probably cut timber from the property to be milled and bartered trees in exchange for the cost of milling. It is thought that Cone worked with Beall, but in any case, he, and probably Seaborn, whether or not they actually worked at the mill, was working on the House.

Architectural Significance

The George Washington Brett House (1860) is eligible for nomination under Criterion C for architecture, as an example of a mid-nineteenth century vernacular rectangular frame house with subsequent additions, mid-section (c. 1883) and the 1834 log cabin (1998), illustrating the changes in building techniques and materials over its one-hundred-fifty-year history. Like many houses in its time of significance, 1860-1883, it is one and one-half story and stands on piers of stacked stones. It derives its architectural significance from the manner of construction, using indigenous materials, to accommodate the occupants over time. Barely antebellum, Brett House reflects the refinement of the wood materials on the cusp between milling styles, between water and steam, just prior to the Civil War.

Over the one hundred fifty years the Brett House has stood on this location, changes have been made which preserved and protected the integrity of the House. As each addition or finishing touch to the House was undertaken, care was taken to obtain historically accurate materials or to use materials original to the House. For

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

instance, the ceiling boards of the kitchen-dining area were used to construct the kitchen cabinets. The green beaded boards used upstairs came from an antebellum house in Holmes County. Other materials came from the aforementioned c. 1890 south Choctaw County house. Throughout the present House, period materials were used to maintain historical integrity. One remarkable feature of the original house, never air conditioned, is its year round ventilation. In the Brett House, with the exception of the main house front porch and master bedroom, each room in the House, Garden House, and Well House has at least one ceiling fan installed since 2002.

The original frame house portion of Brett House (1860) exhibits integrity-enhancing, distinctive details which are at once representative of the moment, but also containing totally unique characteristics: wide hand-planed ceiling boards, four-inch double-grooved, rounded-edged battens, single-grooved inlaid molding, four-inch single-grooved facings, Victorian hardware, four-panel doors, original windows, original heart pine corner shelf in bedroom, and original mantles in parlor and sitting room. It is not exactly clear when the first significant addition to the Brett House was made, but probably it was the partition (now the east wall of the bathroom) built on the back porch and a north wall with a window (like those on the main floor) added to form what is now the bathroom (but using plain, un-grooved facings). The bathroom door leading into the bedroom, the original door onto the back porch, has grooved facings like the original ones of the House. As with the partition, the walling in and the ceiling of the bedrooms, seem to have occurred early, especially in the master bedroom, where the boards are milled, not hand-planed, the batten is plain, untrimmed one-by-four with no grooves, and the facings are plain and un-grooved. Whether Beall's Mill had already gone out of business, Cone, the boarder/carpenter, was no longer available, or other labor was scarce, it is obvious that postwar materials and methods were different when these rooms were completed, probably before 1883, but clearly later than the sitting room, parlor, and porches.

Some one hundred years later in 1964 the Weatherlys found that Brett House, especially the original portion, was in remarkable condition, aside from the need for some leveling and roof repair. The old chimneys were taken down and replaced in 1976, and old bricks were used to rebuild fireplaces. In 1979 the original screened back porch was converted to a sunroom with the addition of windows and a door. The upstairs floor plan remains unchanged, but the area was finished by nailing down the floor in the west room (the "boys room" in the days of Henry & Sara's family), installation of a floor in the east room, and walls finished where original exterior weatherboarding and studs were exposed. A v-crimped metal roof was added following structural damage from the 2001 storm which led to the elevation of the roof (2002), necessitating, in turn, extension of the chimneys, placement of a frieze on each end, addition of a back porch, and filling of the nearly two foot gap between the old and new roofs on the porch. The original weatherboard remains on the east wall, but the north, south, and west exterior walls of the house were finished with board-and-batten (1983) to cover brown brick siding and the west wall was covered with weatherboard (2003).

The 1883 kitchen-dining section was added by Henry Moccasin to accommodate the growing second generation family and reflects changes in building materials in the intervening years. Of architectural significance is the skillful use of fine rough lumber in this postwar addition, even though it appears to have been done in haste with less attention to detail than in the original house, perhaps for lack of available labor. The ceiling was rough, un-planed twelve-inch boards nailed to two-

Brett, George Washington, House

Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi

County and State

by-four rough-cut ceiling joists where saw marks remain. The rough boards of the corner cabinet also retain saw marks. The tin roof had exposed rafters and lathing which were covered with a v-groove pine ceiling in 1987. The board remains over the threshold where the partition was removed in 1969.

The 1834 log cabin section, a prime example of a Carolina cabin, demonstrates earlier building styles, methods, and materials, using square hewn, square notched horizontal logs and a one-room floor plan. Along with the cabin in 1998 came significant additional accretions which further enhance the second period of significance--chimney, laundry room, hall, hall bath, mid-section porches, and sleeping porch.

In north Attala County there are three remaining houses about the age of the original Brett House. The Adams House (c. 1845-1860), 2434 Attala Road 2225, is a high-roofed, weatherboard-covered, two-story, end-gabled frame house with one front entrance, asphalt-shingled roof, and square wooden posts on the front porch which goes all the way across. The house has one large room across the front, two small bedrooms opposite each other off a center hall, stairs leading to second floor bedrooms, and a back extension with bathroom and kitchen. The painted weatherboard ends of this house have five windows on the left, two upstairs and three downstairs, and two upstairs windows on the right end. The chimney which fell about twenty-five years ago was on the right end.

The Smith House (c. 1867), 2633 Attala Road 3021, is a one-story, end-gabled four-room Greek Revival frame house with a single front entrance, asphalt-shingled roof, a front porch all the way across with square columns, and one chimney. The foundation is similar to Brett. A descendant thinks it is possibly a log house but at present it is securely covered with asbestos siding.

The Ellard House (c. 1880), 2114 Attala Road 3116, is a one-story, end-gabled frame house with one center front door, centered front porch with square columns and railing, a hall with a large room on each side, a kitchen on the back and breakfast room addition to the right. An altered dogtrot moved from about 100 yards away, room addition to the right. An altered dogtrot moved from about 100 yards away, half the original house, the Ellard House is covered with vinyl siding, and has high-hipped chimneys on each end.

Beyond being frame houses on stone piers, with Ellard having high-hipped chimneys on each end, the house most comparable to Brett is Adams. Brett and Adams are two-story with high, steep roofs, share a general square structure with later additions, and their east and west facades are similar. Similarities could be attributed to the fact that Elizabeth Adams grew up in this house said to have been built in the 1840's, though Chancery information points to the early 1860's. The chief difference in all three houses is the misleading modern materials on all except Brett, even on Adams. Although these houses don't resemble Brett or even each other that much, nevertheless, it becomes clear that Brett is and was unique even though it uses some of the same materials and styles.

The strong architectural significance of the Brett House is clearly enhanced by the horizontal Carolina log cabin (c. 1834). Originally located on Old Trace Road, adjacent to the Natchez Trace at the Pigeon Roost Exit, south of Mathiston, Mississippi (part of the SE/4, NE/4, Section 19), it was built by John M. Cummings, who was born in South Carolina in 1800 and migrated to Mississippi in the 1830's.

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi

Name of Property

County and State

He and his wife, Adaline, born in Alabama in 1815, completed the one-room-two-story log cabin c. 1834. The 1850 Federal Census records their family of seven children between the ages of fifteen and two, all born in Mississippi.

Additions completely surrounded the original log cabin and kept it in near pristine condition until the mid-1990s when it was uncovered, dismantled and washed log by log. It was then moved a few hundred feet closer to Old Trace Road (onto land Dixie Johnson, a sixth generation Cummings, bought from Will T. Cummings, fifth generation owner of original house site), and reassembled. When Jim Weatherly bought the cabin in 1998 from Dixie Johnson, all the framing had been completed in the reassembly process.

Its integrity was maintained by moving the reassembled cabin of log walls, held together by original mortised second floor beams, as a complete unit and placing it west of the kitchen addition to the original homestead. The architectural integrity is heightened by materials original to the cabin--pole rafters, windows, open beam mortised floor joists, stone piers, and all front porch materials including the four cedar tree posts.

In northern Attala County in the historical orbit of Brett House and its inhabitants, there are two excellent Carolina log cabins very similar to the Brett log cabin. Lodi (c. 1880), at 3056 Attala Road 2255 (one-half mile from Liberty Chapel, about ten miles from the House), is a 20 x 20 cabin with upstairs moved by the Sunny McMillans (brother of J. Weatherly) from Lodi in Webster County (c. 1996) where it had been covered by an old barn and is therefore in very good condition. The Almon-Ellis cabin (c. 1861) at the corner of Ellis Road and Attala Road 3122, (two and one-half miles as the crow flies from Brett House), is a 16 x 16 without loft (there had been another room on the left). It was moved (1980) from about one mile east of Brett House (along the old Sanders Road or what is now 3220) and was the original homestead (1864) of the Nathaniel Almon family, whose son, John, and Mary Elizabeth Brett, George and Elizabeth's daughter, married in 1877 and in 1891 obtained a Land Patent for land cornering Nathaniel's to the southeast. The cabin was moved northeast two and one-half miles, cleaned and restored by Lamar Ellis, a descendent of the Ellis family, early settlers across Zilpha creek to the east of Brett House.

All three horizontal log cabins are in good condition, have square-hewn logs, one chimney (Brett on the left, others on right), Carolina type porches with center front entrances, metal roofs, side entrances (Brett on right, others on left), and are standing on stacked stone piers. Brett and Lodi have square-notched logs, are standing on stacked stone piers. Brett and Lodi have square-notched logs, Almon-Ellis dovetailed. Brett's logs are grayish, slightly wider, slightly more weathered than the others' brownish logs. All three chimneys are beautiful, but Brett's thirty-foot chimney of Arkansas Fieldstone is a grand work, announcing integrity, immediately noticed by visitors. Lodi's is of darker stone and Almon-Ellis is of square-hewn sandstone bottom (brought with cabin) with brick from the square hipped area upward. Almon-Ellis has a kitchen extension covered with board-and-batten. Some of the similarities between Lodi and Brett may be attributed to Stephen Chandler (1959-2006) a well-known dealer in antique woods and buildings. He supervised much of the Lodi project, particularly its reconstruction, and small details in both Lodi and Brett, such as installing the hardware and latches, and larger details such as planing the wood (Chandler sold Weatherly the "south Choctaw

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

County house" and may be seen on a *Mississippi Roads* show sitting on the porch of Lodi).

The excellent condition of the cabin portion of the George Washington Brett House eminently qualifies it for nomination to the Register. Significant contributing structures include the Old Dug Well (c. 1860), the Smokehouse (c. 1860), the two-seat Outhouse (in use c. 1877), and the "Car House" (c. 1923), all in excellent condition.

All three sections of Brett House, particularly the original frame house which celebrates its one hundred fiftieth birthday in 2010, are well made (even the mid-section), well preserved, and reflect a high degree of integrity. The materials remain essentially unchanged, and the basic floor plan is unchanged, except for the addition of the bathroom partition and the removal of the kitchen partition. The exceptional degree of integrity of the interior and exterior of the House, as well as the contributing structures and surrounding grounds, eminently qualifies Brett House for consideration for the National Register.

The story of Brett House and its builders illustrates vividly its development over time, adapting to the needs of its inhabitants, beginning with the original quad homestead achieving a quiet, understated elegance using available techniques, materials, and styles, through the post-war addition and the cabin addition, coming full circle--alone again in the area, yet remaining an impressive structure, architecturally significant in its uniqueness and antiquity, the whole greater than the sum of its parts. The development pattern of the House parallels and dramatizes the settlement patterns, the relationship among an area of small homesteads and the community--changing over time to meet the needs of its residents, beginning with homesteading a wilderness area, progressing to a bustling community and reverting back to a sparsely populated rural area with increasing wildness. The ultimate qualifying rationale for the nomination of Brett House to the Registry is its unique relationship to its environs, an inimitable blend of place, space, and time. What more appropriate celebration of the one-hundred-fiftieth birthday of the frame house than nomination of Brett for the Registry.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Major Bibliographical References

- Ancestry.com. 1860 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com, Operations Inc., 2009.
- Ancestry.com. 1870 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com, Operations Inc., 2009.
- Ancestry.com. Civil War Prisoner of War Records, 1861-1865 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007.
- Ancestry.com. Mississippi State and Territorial Census Collection, 1792-1866 [database on-line], Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2007.
- Ancestry.com and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 1880 United States Federal Census [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2005.
- Attala County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Board of Supervisors Minute Book B, Attala County Chancery Court Building, Kosciusko.
- Attala County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books 4, 44, 76. Attala County Chancery Court Building, Kosciusko.
- Attala County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed Books D, R, T. Attala County Chancery Court Building, Kosciusko.
- Boyd, Gregory A. Family Maps of Attala County, Mississippi Deluxe Edition with Homesteads, Roads, Waterways, Towns, Cemeteries, Railroads, & More. Norman. Arphax, 2005.
- Cockroft, Linda. "Bethel Church: 2004 Brett Family Reunion." Unpublished Brett Genealogy Folder. Mid-Mississippi Regional Library Genealogy Room. Kosciusko, MS.
- eHistory.osu.edu/osu/sources/record. The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Official Records, Series 2, vol. 5, Part 1 (Prisoners of War) p. 280, 311.
- Garrett, Hazel Crenshaw & Tawnton, Louis. Early Record of Choctaw County, Mississippi 1835-1850. Louisville, MS G & T, 1993.
- Historical Data Systems, com., American Civil War Soldiers [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 1999.
- Historical Data Systems, comp. U. S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations Inc., 2009.
- Howell, H. Grady Jr. For Dixie Land I'll Take My Stand A Muster Listing of All Known Mississippi Confederate Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines. Chickasaw Bayou Press, 1998.
- Kosciusko-Attala Historical Society. Kosciusko-Attala History. Walsworth, 1976.

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

National Park Service. U. S. Civil War Soldiers, 1861-1865 [database on-line].
Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com. Operations Inc., 2007.

United States, Bureau of Land Management. Mississippi Land Records [database on-
line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 1997.

United States, Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Census of 1850.
Attala County, Mississippi.

United States, Department of Commerce. Bureau of the Census. Census of 1850.
Choctaw County, Mississippi.

Wiltshire, Betty Couch. Attala County Mississippi Pioneers. Westminster:
Heritage, 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 007-KOS-
5110 _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approx 4

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 260930 3681985
Zone Easting Northing

3 _____
Zone Easting Northing

2 _____
Zone Easting Northing

4 _____
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The property being nominated includes a 4.08 acre, more or less, parcel as shown on the accompanying scaled site plan. The boundaries of the nominated area run from a point of beginning at a certain dogwood tree on the southwest corner along a line to run 387 feet eastward twelve feet behind the Garden House and forty-five feet south of the Garage to an old fence line, thence northward 510 feet along a line twenty-five feet behind the Garage, fifteen feet behind the Tree House, sixty seven feet east of the Brett House eastern wall, to a big rock on the northeast corner of the plot, thence westward 387 feet along a line twenty-one feet behind the Barn, to an old fence line and an old road on the northwest

Brett, George Washington, House
Name of Property

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

corner of the plot, thence southward 510 feet along a line running thirty-five feet west of the Well House back to the point of beginning at the dogwood tree. This parcel is situated in the southern portion of the following parcel.

Description: A certain parcel of land situated in the North ¼ of Section 15, Township 16 North, Range 7 East, Attala County, Mississippi and being more particularly described as follows: COMMENCING at a concrete monument found marking the Northeast corner of said Section 15, thence N89 degrees 53'22"W, along an existing painted line, for a distance of 1314.13 feet to a concrete monument found being the POINT OF BEGINNING of the herein described parcel of land, from said POINT OF BEGINNING, THENCE S00 degrees 08'38"W, along a line parallel to the existing painted line marking the East line of said Section 15, for a distance of 2678.89 feet to a 1" iron pin set; THENCE S88 degrees 38'39"W, along a line parallel to the monumented North Line of said Section 15, for a distance of 1488.54 feet to a 1" iron pin found; THENCE N00 degrees 38'02"W, along an existing painted line and its Northern extension thereof, for a distance of 2678.19 feet to a 1" iron pin set on the aforementioned monumented North line of said Section 15; THENCE N88 degrees 38'39"E, along said monumented North line of said Section 15, for a distance of 1524.91 feet to the POINT OF BEGINNING, containing 92.630 acres, more or less.

Class "C" Survey with reference meridian obtained by Solar Observation.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes a parcel sufficient to contain Brett House and all contributing and non-contributing structures, 4.08 acres more or less. When Joan Weatherly gave approximately 750 acres to Mississippi College in 2004, she retained 80 acres, which when surveyed was actually 92.6 acres, thereby prompting a Quit Claim Deed. Although the house and other buildings are the main interest for the National Trust for Historic Preservation--the currently named beneficiary of the will--the entire acreage including the Brett House will probably be bequeathed to Mississippi College, thereby reuniting all of the land with the homestead. In the current Mississippi College deed, the two extant Indian mounds just northwest of Bell's Bridge are tagged with restrictions which Mississippi College would surely agree to expand. Restrictions have already been released by Weatherly through a Quit Claim on a large pasture (half a mile east of Bell's Bridge and three-quarters mile from the homestead) that once served as a Choctaw Indian campground (and later as a race track).

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary J. Weatherly
organization _____ date February 4, 2010
street & number 3021 Attala Road 3220 telephone 662-289-6627
city or town West state MS zip code 39192
e-mail jwetherly@earthlink.com

Additional Documentation

Brett, George Washington, House

Attala, Mississippi
County and State

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: George Washington Brett House

City or Vicinity: West vicinity

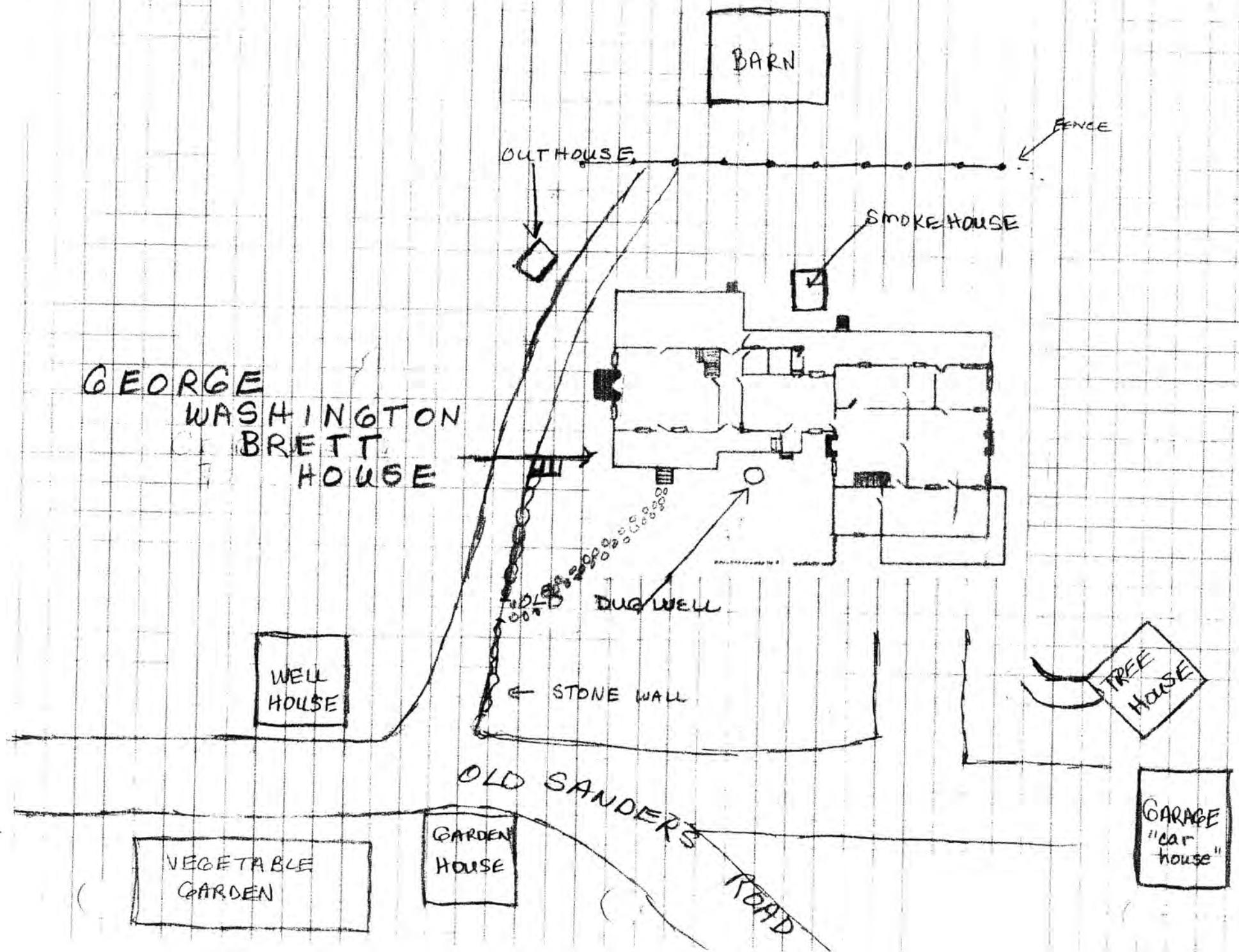
County: Attala **State:** MS

Photographer: Jennifer Baughn

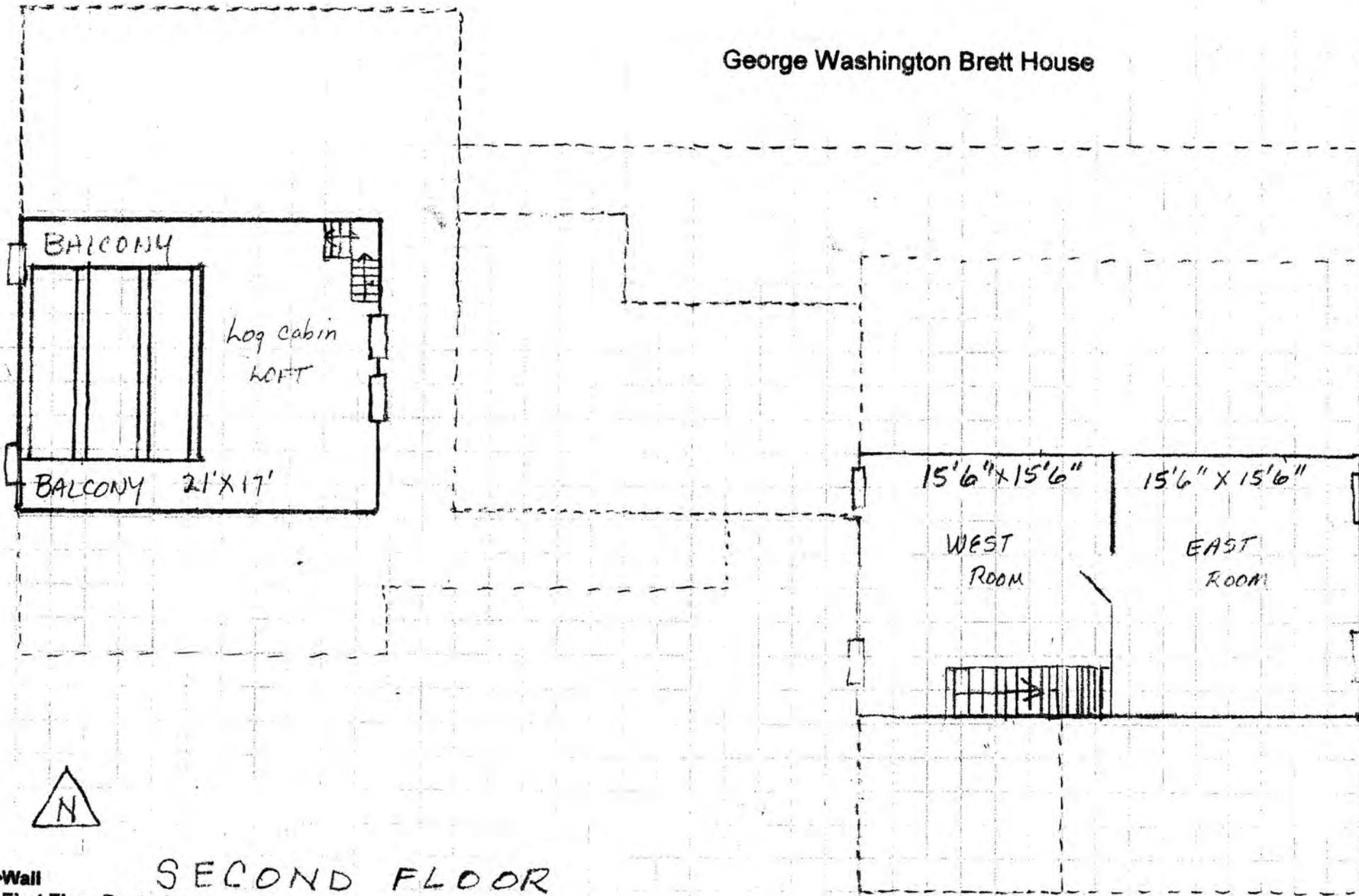
Date Photographed: February 20, 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

0001 of 16	South elevation, 1860 cottage, camera facing north.
0002 of 16	South and east elevations, 1860 cottage, camera facing northwest.
0003 of 16	East elevation of 1860 cottage, camera facing west.
0004 of 16	North elevation of 1860 cottage, smokehouse, camera facing southwest.
0005 of 16	North elevation 1860 cottage, smokehouse, north elevation log cabin, camera facing south.
0006 of 16	South elevation of log cabin, camera facing north.
0007 of 16	South and west elevations of log cabin, camera facing north east.
0008 of 16	Front porch, 1860 cottage, camera facing west.
0009 of 16	Interior, East room, Second floor of 1860 cottage, camera facing east.
0010 of 16	Interior, Parlor of 1860 cottage, camera facing east.
0011 of 16	Interior, Kitchen, camera facing west.
0012 of 16	Interior, Hall, camera facing south.
0013 of 16	Interior, Log cabin, camera facing west.
0014 of 16	Old dug well, camera facing northwest.
0015 of 16	"Car house," camera facing east
0016 of 16	Tree House, Camera facing northeast



George Washington Brett House



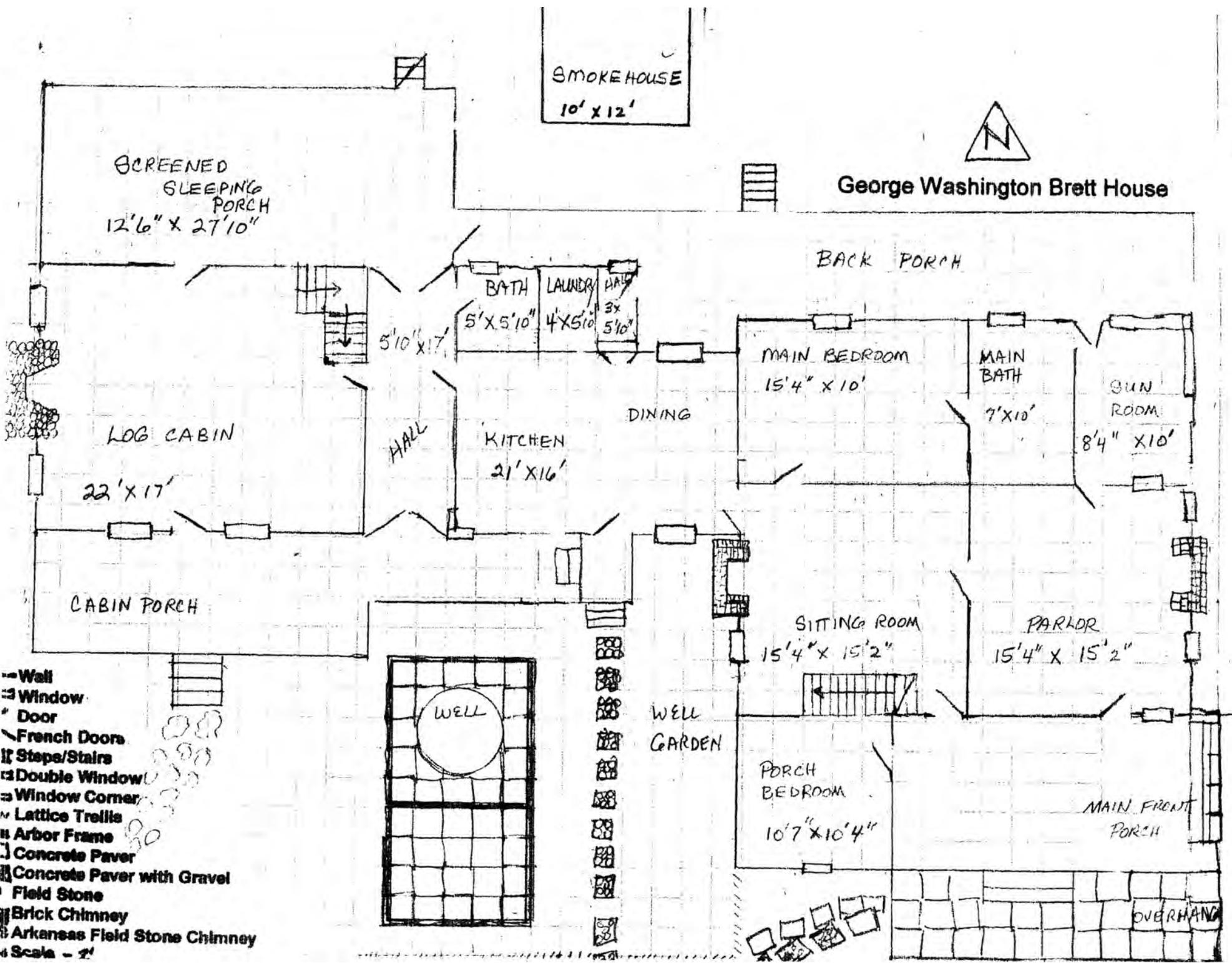
SECOND FLOOR

- Wall
- First Floor Footprint
- Window
- / Door
- ▤ Stairs
- ⇒ Exposed Beam
- └─ Scale = 2'

SMOKEHOUSE
10' x 12'



George Washington Brett House



- Wall
- ≡ Window
- ⌞ Door
- ⌞ French Doors
- ⌞ Steps/Stairs
- ≡ Double Window
- ≡ Window Corner
- ≡ Lattice Trellis
- ≡ Arbor Frame
- ≡ Concrete Paver
- ≡ Concrete Paver with Gravel
- ≡ Field Stone
- ≡ Brick Chimney
- ≡ Arkansas Field Stone Chimney
- ≡ Scale - 1/4" = 1'

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Brett, George Washington, House

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Attala

DATE RECEIVED: 5/25/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 6/23/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 7/08/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 7/09/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000440

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 7.8-10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



MS - Attala - Brett House - 0001



MS- Attala- BrettHouse- 0002



Ms - Atlanta - Brett House - 0003



MS - Attala - Brett House - 0004



MS - Attala - Brett House - 0005



MS - Attala - Bretthouse 0006



MS - Attala - Brett House - 0007



Ms. A. Hala - Brett House - 0008

EPSON

Epson
Professional Paper

EPSON

Epson
Professional Paper

EPSON



MS. Attala - Brett House - 0009

Epson
Professional Paper

EPSON

Epson
Professional Paper



BIS - Attala - Brett House - 0010



MS-Attala-Brotthouse-0011

Epson
Professional Paper

EPSON

Professional Paper

EPSON

Epson
Professional Paper



MS. Attala - BrotHouse - 0012

EPSON

Epson
Professional Paper

Epson
Professional Paper



MS- Atlanta- Brett House- 0013

EPSON

Epson
Professional Paper

Epson
Professional Paper



MS Attala - Brett House - 0014



MS-Attala-Brett House-0015

Epson
Professional Paper

Epson
Professional Paper

EPSON



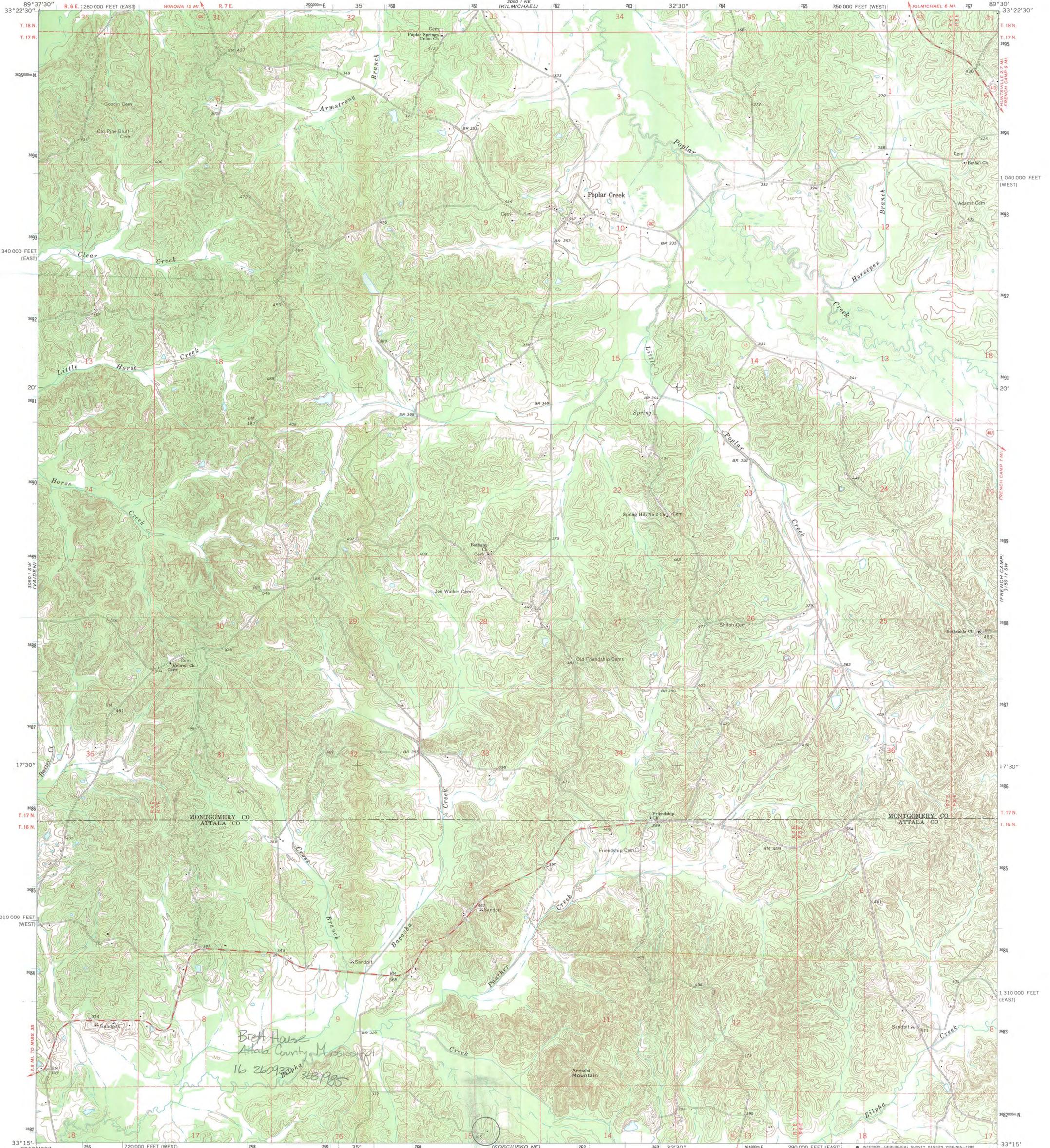
MS - Attala - Brett House - 0016

Epson
Professional Paper

EPSON

EPSON

EPSON



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1964. Field checked 1966

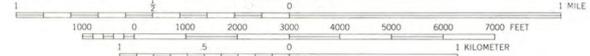
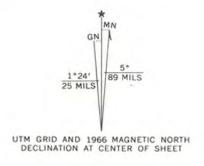
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

10,000-foot grids based on Mississippi coordinate system, east and west zones

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 16, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983, move the projection lines 11 meters south and 6 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



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

POPLAR CREEK, MISS.
33089-C5-TF-024

1966

DMA 3050 1 SE—SERIES V843