

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

**1. Name of Property**

historic name: Liberty Hall  
other names/site number: Mt. Arista

**2. Location**

street & number: 22822 Hwy 27  
city or town: Crystal Springs  
state: Mississippi code: MS county: Hinds code: 49 zip code: 39059  
not for publication \_\_\_  
vicinity x \_\_\_

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide  locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

h c holmes \_\_\_\_\_ 01.29.2008  
Signature of certifying official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register,  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.  
\_\_\_ determined not eligible for the  
National Register  
\_\_\_ removed from the National Register  
\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

for  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson H. Beall 3-19-08

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property:** private

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

**Category of Property:** buildings

Contributing	Noncontributing	
3	3	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
3	3	Total

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed  
in the National Register** None

0

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:** DOMESTIC/single dwelling; DOMESTIC/secondary structure

**Current Functions:** DOMESTIC/single dwelling; DOMESTIC/secondary structure

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification(s):**

Greek Revival

**Materials:**

foundation: BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

walls: WOOD

other:

**Narrative Description:**

See Continuation Sheets

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7

Page: 1

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, MS

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Narrative Description

Located at 22822 Highway 27 eight miles from the 1-55/Highway 27 interchange in southern Hinds County, Liberty Hall or Mt. Arista, as it has been known since the early 1900s, is a story-and-a-half, gable roof, frame Greek Revival raised planter's cottage built in 1859. The L-shaped building has a front gallery recessed under the front roof slope. The gallery is supported by six wooden box columns with molded capitals joined by a railing of square balusters. The base of the balusters is an inverted "v" so that water does not collect on it. There are two "inside" chimneys which have been rebuilt to the original proportions using the original brick for the outer course.

Across the southwesterly front the house is clad with horizontal beveled siding of seven inch boards. The remainder of the house has five and one-half inch yellow pine lap siding. There are four six-over-six windows on the front with moldings. These windows and the remainder of the windows of the house originally had working shutters. Most of the original glass panes remain. The front double, one-panel doors are recessed twenty-one inches with panels at the sides and above the door and centered on the porch. There is a transom above the doors and sidelights. Across the top of the doors is a row of one-half round dentil molding. There is a nine and one-half inch baseboard across the porch wall.

The east façade is dominated by a projecting pavilion which was originally a small porch. This porch was enclosed in 1996 for a bathroom and closet but using the same lap siding and window moldings surrounding a small 4/4 window. The shed-type roof was left unchanged with decorative shingles on the ends. There are two 6/6 windows on both floors. A wall created when the rear gallery was enclosed is separated from the main wall by a pilaster and features a small 4/4 window.

The back, or northeast, façade presents an L-shaped screened porch along the line of the main house and the ell. An additional shed type roof porch extends to the east from the kitchen area. The L-shaped porch has columns identical to those on the front and beveled siding. The east corner of the porch was enclosed in the early 1900s to make a bathroom. In 1970 a laundry room was enclosed on the porch outside this bathroom. Located on the shed porch is a "milk cellar" with troughs for holding ice. It is constructed of six inch thick concrete walls and is about six inches below ground level with steps up to the porch.

On the west side of the house is a small porch eighteen feet wide by six feet deep with a door from each of the two rooms, the parlor and the den on that side. This porch has a shed-type roof with decorative shingles on the ends and three columns identical to those on the front. Under the roofed area is the same beveled siding. This west porch is identical to the original east porch which has been enclosed. Pilasters frame the ell which has three 6/6 windows. There are two 6/6 windows flanking the porch on the first floor and two 6/6 windows on the second floor.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7

Page: 2

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County

---

There is a white picket fence across the front of the house separating the house from a broad lawn. The lawn fronts Hwy 27.

The interior is a classic four-room, center-hall plan. The ell, offset to the west, contains two rooms. The interior walls are made of rough cut one inch by twelve inch heart pine boards on rough cut two inch by four inch heart pine studs. Originally covered with canvas and wall paper, the walls and ceilings are now finished with painted gypsum board. The kitchen retains its tongue and groove one inch by four inch horizontal boards.

Upon entering the front doors is the center hall running through the house. The ceiling at the front of this hall is twelve feet. A door, identical to the front door, opens onto the L shaped rear porch. The interior door surrounds consist of the Greek key with box headings. Near the rear doors is the stairway with an octagon shaped newel post and turned banisters. The middle portion of the newel post, banisters and risers are painted. The base section of the newel post and the hand rail is walnut. There is a fleur de lis or ivy pattern of raised wood on the side of each stair. The banisters continue across the stairwell the entire width of the hall creating a balcony over the front part of the hall. The open section of the hall rises to twenty-two feet.

Two rooms open off the center hall to the east. The south room is a bedroom with two windows looking on the front gallery and one to the east. This room has a fireplace and a door with a transom to what was originally the eastern side porch. This porch was enclosed in 1996 to make a bathroom for this bedroom. There is also a door entering the northeast bedroom.

The north bedroom has one of the few original closets in the house. There is a door from the hall into this bedroom. The bedroom also has a fireplace. There is a small storage area under the stairs in this room. A door with a transom opens into a large closet that was originally the eastern porch. The bedroom opens into a bathroom which was enclosed from part of the back porch in the early 1900s. The bathroom has its original claw foot tub and a window on the north and the east side.

Two rooms open off the center hall to the west. The south room is the parlor or formal living room. It has a fireplace and two windows to the front gallery and one window facing the west. There is also a door with a transom to the west side porch.

The front two rooms, the south bedroom and the west parlor, and the central hall have twelve and three-fourths inch deep baseboards with a curved top. These same rooms also have crown moldings and wide Greek-key with box moldings over the doors and windows. The mantels in these rooms have rounded corners and Greek key molding with square bases.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7

Page: 3

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

---

The other west room is a den or study with a fireplace and opens to the hall and also the dining room directly behind it. The owners have been told that this door into the dining room was not opened until the late 1800s or early 1900s. Before that the only access to the dining room and kitchen was off the L-shaped rear gallery. There are two closets flanking the fireplace, bringing the downstairs original total to three closets. One window looks onto the back gallery and one to the west. A door opens to the west side porch.

The back two rooms, the north bedroom and the den on the west, do not have the box moldings but do have the Greek key moldings around the windows and doors. The mantels in the back two rooms have rounded edges and pilaster bases. All four of the rooms opening from the center hall have double wooden fixed panels under the windows.

The formal dining room has a door to the kitchen and to the back porch. A 6/6 window faces east and two 6/6 windows face west. There is a closet with shelves, serving as a china closet, in this room. The dining room, located in the ell has a different, simpler molding than the previously described rooms. They were plain boards that met in a point over the windows and doors. The present owner added a two inch wide curved piece of molding following the same lines of the pointed pieces. The north bedroom, the den and the dining room have baseboards of eleven and one fourth inches.

The kitchen is on the very back of the ell immediately behind the dining room. It has simple board window and door surrounds and plain eight inch baseboards. The walls are of one inch by four inch tongue and groove boards. There is a door with a transom opening onto the back porch and north and west facing windows. Simple cabinets were hung in the kitchen in 1970. There is a pantry and a wall of old brick where an original fireplace was removed in 1996. The brick from the chimney was used for this wall.

All of the interior doors, which measure three and one-half feet wide by eight feet tall by one and three-fourths inches thick, have two vertical panels with the exception of some closet doors upstairs, which were added around 1970. The kitchen door to the porch was replaced a mahogany half-glazed that came from the Marvin Enochs home on West Capitol St., Jackson, MS , built in 1910.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 7

Page: 4

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

---

The second story consists of two bedrooms separated by a center hall. The ceilings upstairs are nine feet, two inches. Both of these bedrooms have an adjacent smaller room behind them. The west side back room has a casement window looking out over the downstairs hall. The small room on the east side was made into a bathroom in the early 1900s opening into the hall and also into the east bedroom. This room had a casement window which was removed for the opening to be converted into a doorway for access to the bathroom. These rooms all have simple, plain board door and window surrounds and baseboards. The bedroom doors match those of the first story and have transoms. The bedroom on the east has two east facing windows and a dormer. There are closets opening off the dormer. There is also a dormer in the west bedroom and in the center hall. The dormers are believed to have been added to the house around 1920, the work being done by a carpenter named Bennett of Crystal Springs. The double windows in these dormers face south. The flooring in the dormers is one inch by four inch tongue and groove boards while the rest of the upstairs floor is the same as the downstairs floors of six inch wide heart pine. The three dormers are all the same size with two windows each and measuring about five feet, ten inches by ten feet inside.

The west bedroom has one west facing window and a dormer with two closets opening from it. There is a door into a smaller bedroom behind it. This is the room with the casement window overlooking the stairwell. It also has a closet opening and a western window.

The upstairs ceilings are covered with gypsum board painted with a light stipple. The walls are covered with one-fourth inch plywood and painted.

Central heat and air conditioning has been installed along with storm windows which not only insulate the house but also help protect the original wood windows with their old glass panes. Two of the original three chimneys have been rebuilt to the exact same original proportions using the original brick for the outer course. These are inside chimneys with double flues serving the four rooms on each side of the central hall. The kitchen chimney which also opened to the dining room has been removed. The addition of three bathrooms, three dormers, a laundry room, some simple cabinets in the kitchen and closets comprise the major changes made in the house since it was built in 1859. The original footprint of the house has remained unchanged.

There are two contributing outbuildings on the property. A barn is located to the west of the house which was built circa 1916 containing stalls, feed rooms and a second story hay loft. It was built on a concrete foundation utilizing both yellow heart pine and oak sills, rafters and framing. The original roof was of cypress shingles, later replaced with galvanized metal. Directly west of the house facing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 7

Page: 5

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

---

the driveway is an implement/storage shed built circa 1916. It is of similar construction. The wood shingle roofing is still in place but since covered with galvanized metal. It is of yellow pine with vertical pine plank siding as is the barn.

Noncontributing buildings are the garage behind the house, a shop/shed building and a saddle house. The shop and saddle house were built around the same time as the contributing out-buildings but have been completely rebuilt in the last ten years with vertical metal siding and metal roofs. The garage was built in 1970.

Although some modern conveniences have been added, Liberty Hall retains its historic footprint, most of its original floor plan and historic finishes. The house retains integrity of location in its rural setting placed off the modern highway. Liberty Hall retains sufficient integrity for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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**Applicable National Register Criteria**

- 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**  
**ARCHITECTURE**

**Period of Significance**  
c. 1859

**Significant Dates :**

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved sign

**Significant Person(s)**

**Cultural Affiliation(s)**

**Architect/Builder-  
Corson (first name unknown)**

within the past 50 years.

**Narrative Statement of Significance:** See continuation sheets.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** See continuation sheet.

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**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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 6

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

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**SIGNIFICANCE OF PROPERTY**

Liberty Hall, also known as Mt. Arista, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for architecture as an excellent local example of a Greek Revival raised planter's cottage. With somewhat more formal decoration than an ordinary farm house of this era, it has been well cared for and well preserved.

The central hallway and its four surrounding rooms have a fine example of finished woodwork for the period. The double panels beneath the windows in these rooms mimic some of the Natchez houses creating the impression of jib doors. The dining room and kitchen were originally joined to the main part of the house only by the covered back porch. However, in the early 1900s, the owners cut an interior door from the den to the dining room allowing it and the kitchen to be accessed without going outside by way of the porch.

Originally each room on the first story had an outside entrance. When these doors were open along with the hall doors and the large windows the cross ventilation created was probably as cool as possible in the hot Mississippi summers before air conditioning. Only the doors from the east front and back bedrooms have been changed to open into a bath and closet.

The original foundation piers of the house were of brick. On top of these piers rested large twelve by twelve sills and full two inch by twelve inch joists. The sills were joined with mortise and tenon joints with wood pegs. Most of these timbers are still in use with only some restoration on those under the porches. These large pegs are still easily visible under the eaves of the upstairs rooms. The entire foundation has been enclosed with brick in the last 10 years.

The symmetry of the facade of the house is surely one of its most appealing features. The simple lines and integrity of the architecture and setting are outstanding.

"Liberty Hall" was named by its first owner, Thomas G. Ervin and his wife, the former Martha Sumrall. The Sumrall home is still standing on Sumrall Rd. and is similar in floor plan to the subject house. Mr. Ervin was the son of Colonel John Ervin and Asenath Ford, who was the daughter of Rev. John & Catherine Ford of Marion County, MS and niece of Judge Ebenezer Ford. We believe this to be the Rev. John Ford who built the Ford Home close to Columbia in 1809, said to be the oldest house in the Pearl River Valley. Ervin was born in Hinds County in 1825, married in 1850 and died in 1900. In the Raymond Courthouse in Deed Book 19, page 20, is a deed conveying eighty acres of land to Thomas Ervin from his father, John Ervin, in 1847. It is the same Section, Township and Range where the subject property is located.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 8

Page: 7

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

---

After the birth of several children, Mr. Ervin employed a man named Corson as head carpenter to build a new home of ten rooms. His daughter Clara writes that the home was finished in six months. Ervin served as quartermaster sergeant in the Confederate Army and came home without leave while stationed in Canton to see his family. The story goes that he was incarcerated for a while for his absence. The Ervins were the parents of twelve children, three dying in childhood. Three of his daughters were married at "Liberty Hall". Their daughter, Annie Rose Ervin, was the last member of the family to live in the house.

"Mt. Arista" was named for Arista Newton Andre who was the wife of owner A. Ferdinand Andre. There is a somewhat high hill located off New Zion Road which can be seen from the second story of the house that was known in the area as Mt. Arista. The next owners were W. E. Ross of Missouri and his brother-in-law, A. F. Ault. Mr. W. D. Ross, their nephew, married Betty Biggs of Crystal Springs and lived in the house and ran the farm. The present owners knew the Rosses and talked often with them about the house. Mr. Ross said the small rooms upstairs were used as "trunk rooms" for storage. It was during this ownership that a movie was filmed at the house and surrounding land. The Stockett family acquired the property in 1941.

Located few miles west on Hwy 27 the Bear Creek Methodist Protestant Church sits at the corner of Bear Creek Rd. and Hwy 27. It is thought to have been built around the same time as the subject house and possibly by the same builder. The large windows in the sanctuary have the same Greek key woodwork. A very old cemetery lies across Bear Creek Rd. from the church where Thomas G. Ervin, the first owner, and his wife, Martha, are buried. Other Ervin family members are also buried there.

East on Hwy 27 towards Crystal Springs, Tank Rd intersects 27. A few miles up Tank Rd is the "Hollingsworth House" now the home of Mr. & Mrs. David Kelly. Its floor plan is very similar to the subject house except it does not have the dormers or the 'L' on the rear. It was built around the same time also.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section: 9

Page: 8

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

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### Bibliography

#### Manuscript

The Ervin Family in Miss. Lines E-56 & E-57 and Related Data by Clara Estelle Ervin, 1959

First Families and Town Histories of Hinds County by Sallye Pleasant Williams, Volume III, April, 1982

#### Interviews

W. D. Ross and Betty B. Ross who lived at Mt. Arista in the early 1900s. Interviewed by Richard and Betty Stockett, Crystal Springs, MS, 1970s.

Thelma Baldwin Garrett, visited house many times in early 1900s, Interviewed by Richard & Betty Stockett, Crystal Springs MS, 1990s.

#### Letters

Jim Johnson, Albuquerque, NM, March 20, 2000, great grandson of A. F. Andre.

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**10. Geographical Data**

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Acreage of Property: 8.5 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
A	15	736340	3550140	C	15	736520	3549620
B	15	736520	3550140	D	15	736340	3549620

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description** See continuation sheet.

**Boundary Justification:** See continuation sheet.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Richard & Betty Stockett, owners

organization:

date:

street & number: 22822 Hwy 27

telephone: home: 601-885-6907, office: 601-892-5500

city or town: Crystal Springs

state: MS zip code: 39059

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner(s)**

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name: Richard & Betty Stockett

street & number: 22822 Hwy 27

city or town: Crystal Springs

telephone: home: 601-885-6907, office: 601-892-5500

state: MS

zip code: 39059

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: 10

Page: 9

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

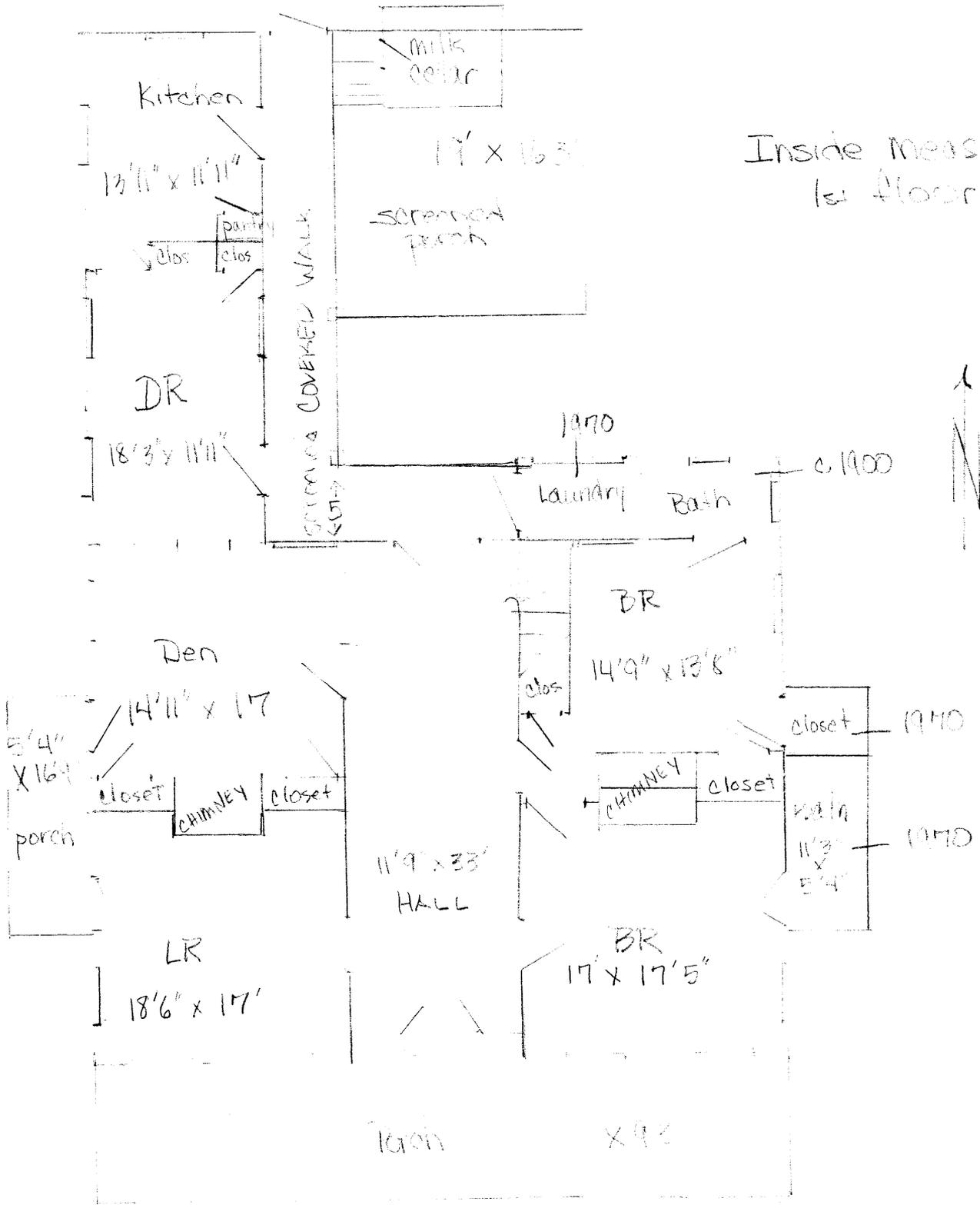
Eight and one-half acres of land situated in the E 1/2 of NE 1/4 of Section 34, Township 3 North, Range 3 West, Hinds County, Mississippi, eight and one-half miles west of Interstate 55 on the north side of Mississippi Highway 27, measuring five hundred fifty feet width by six hundred seventy five feet depth.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The rural setting of Liberty Hall or Mt. Arista, is its most characteristic defining element. Sitting back from State Highway 27 some three hundred feet in a pastoral setting, the property includes the house, shed and barn as contributing buildings and a garage, shop and saddle house as noncontributing buildings. The immediate yard of the house is fronted by a white picket fence made of cypress which dates from circa 1947 having been first used at the owner's childhood home on Poplar Boulevard, Jackson, Mississippi. Large trees native to Mississippi shade the house. The red barn west of the house has a pasture in the front and on the east side. The red implement shed fronts the driveway where it was easily accessible. Its back faces the pasture in front of the barn. This is a portion of the acreage belonging to the owner that is historically part of a much larger working farm with crops and livestock.

MA Arista  
26820 Hwy 67  
P.O. Box 1000  
19110

Richard Street



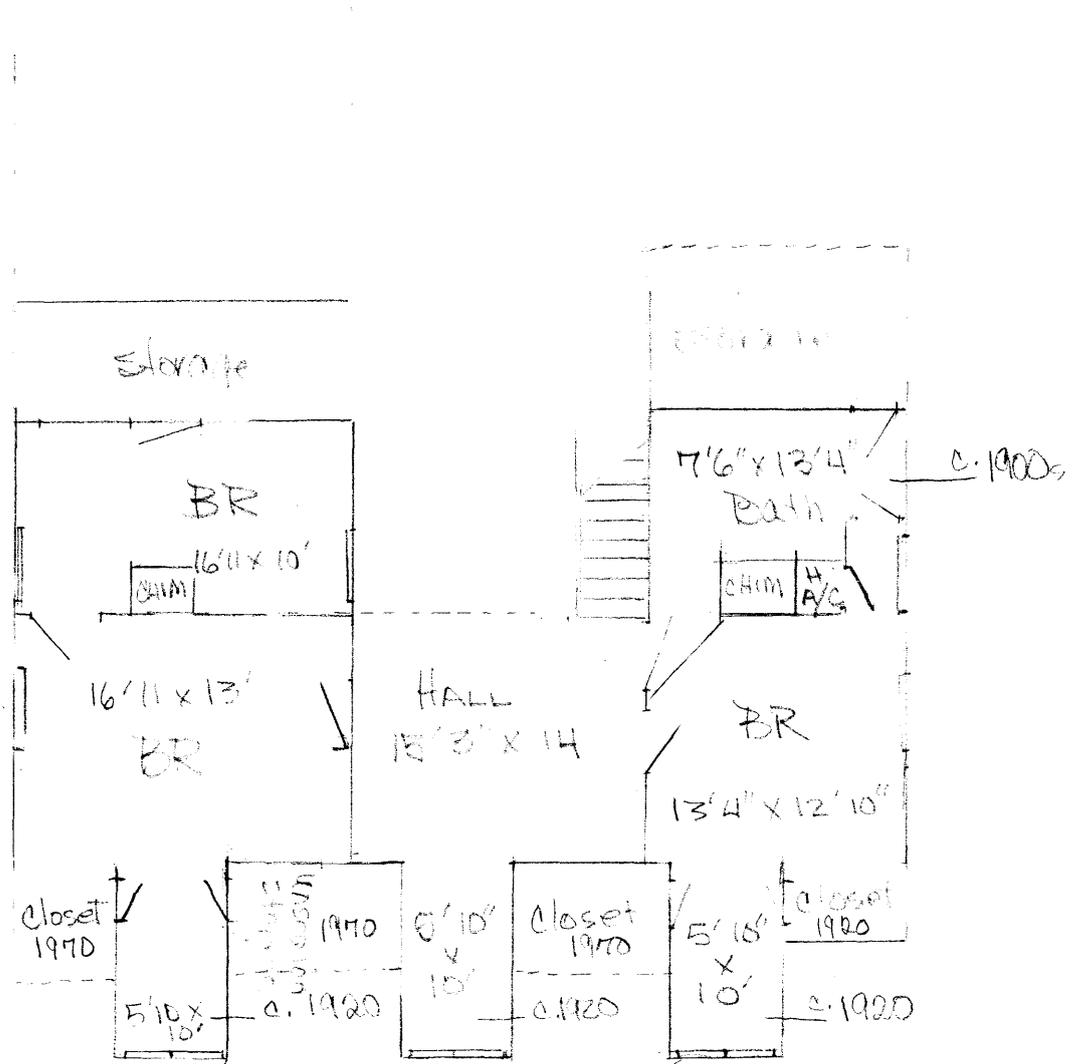
Inside measurements  
1st floor



FRONT

MH Arista  
 20824 Hwy 17  
 Crystal Springs MS  
 (Airtel 32)  
 Richard Stockert

In-home measurements  
 2nd Floor



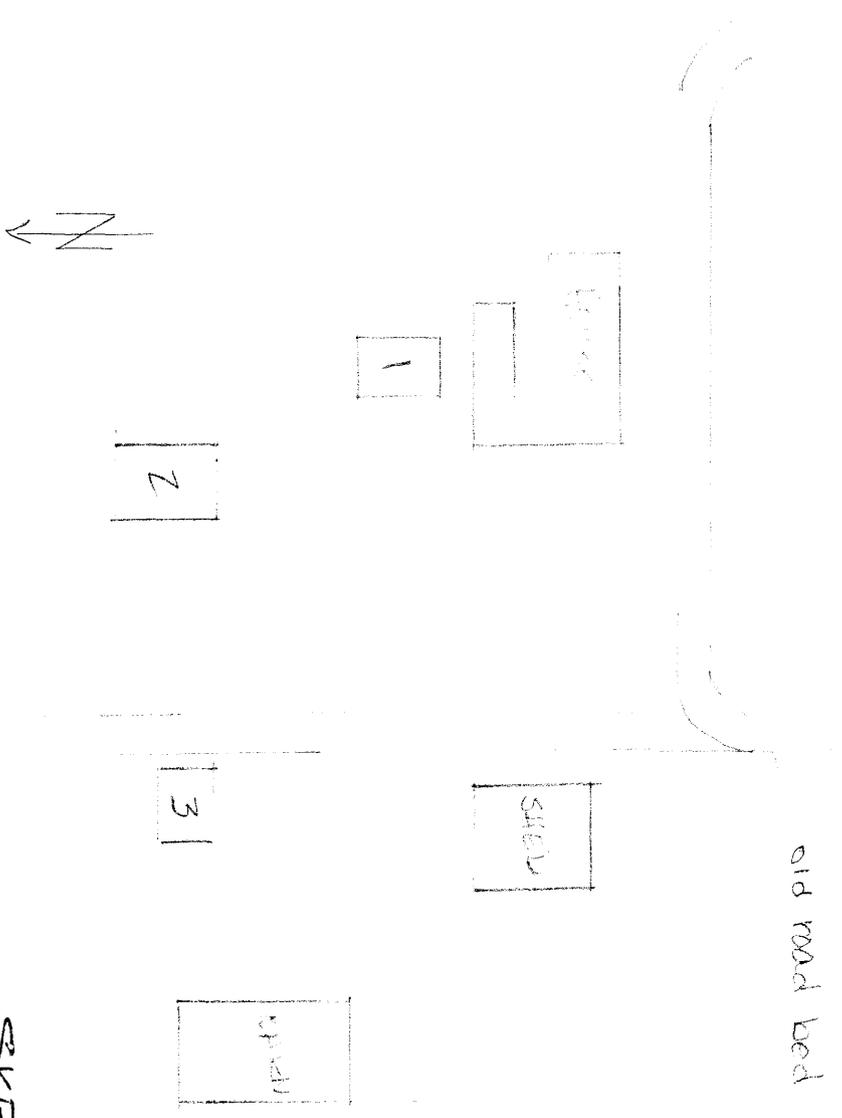
FRONT

to Crystal Springs ←

Hwy 27

→ to Home

not to scale



Contributing bldgs.

- House
- SHED
- Barn

NON-contributing

- 1 - garage
- 2 - shed/spr
- 3 - saddle house

SKETCH MAP  
 Mt Ansta  
 22822 Hwy 27  
 Crystal Springs MS  
 (Hinds Co)  
 Dinkman Standant

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section: Photography log

Page: 10

Liberty Hall  
Hinds County, Mississippi

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For all photographs:

1. Liberty Hall
2. Hinds County, MS
3. Betty Stockett
4. 10-2-07
5. Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, MS

Photographs:

1. Center hall stairway from front of hall; facing north
2. Center hall front door to the front porch; facing south
3. Living room mantle; facing north
4. Living room window showing molding and panels; facing south
5. Center hall showing back door to the back porch; facing north
6. East side and back porch; facing southwest
7. East side and front; facing northwest
8. Front of house; facing north
9. West side of house from the front; facing northeast
10. West side of house from the back (the L); facing southeast
11. Implement shed which faces east, west of house facing driveway; facing west
12. Barn west of the house; facing northwest
13. Front of property from Highway 27 showing house, shed and part of barn in the background; facing northwest