

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received NOV 10 1982
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Strickland Place

and/or common The Well, Angel's Retreat

2. Location

street & number Sardis-Union Road
(approx. five miles east of Sardis) N/A not for publication

city, town Sardis vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~

state Mississippi code 28 county Panola code 107

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Dr. Robert Edward Wilson, Jr.

street & number P. O. Box 365

city, town Sardis N/A vicinity of state Mississippi

5. Location of Legal Description

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

street & number Panola County Courthouse

city, town Sardis state Mississippi

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Well, a remarkable log house, is located in a fruit orchard, approximately five miles east of Sardis, Mississippi. The original ca. 1840 construction as it appears today is as follows: Two log pens with half square notched cornering, separated by an open passageway. The gable roof has boldly projected eaves, front and back, and extend at each end beyond the exterior chimneys. The gables enclosed by clapboard are ventilated at each end by a pair of nearly square small windows. Each pen was entered from a passage by a central door and was lighted by two windows on the front wall and one on the end wall to the rear of the chimney and one window in center of the back wall. The loft was reached from the east pen.

According to family tradition, the rear pen with loft was built shortly after the present occupants were married in the early 1890s. Other major additions were the enclosure of the rear porch and windows on the north (rear elevation) a porch (7 x 9), with shed roof was added across the front of the house, the open passageway was enclosed, and it is thought that the present steps to the loft that run along the east wall of the hallway were built. The eight foot wide porch along the north side of the west pen intersects with another porch at the junction where the two porches meet. The chinking was originally made of clay and grass but was replaced at a later date by a sand and lime mixture. The tin roof which is in poor condition covers the original shingle roof. The hardwood floors were added in 1920.

The present occupant in the 1930s added the frame lean-to kitchen and storage rooms along the rear of the east side. These intrusions could be dismantled without injury to the house. Portions of the house that have become weakened or damaged by neglect, dry rot or insects can be easily replaced or repaired. The chimney on the east side collapsed several years ago. In keeping with the 1840s theme, there are no bathrooms.

Despite the changes that have occurred over the past 120 years, The Well has retained a great deal of its original features, i.e., three board batten doors with some original hardware, and three dark stained mantels.

The original outbuildings have since disappeared including the log school house which was immediately south of the pecan grove. The slave cemetery, which is unmarked, is approximately 300 yards to the west of the house, and is included within the boundaries of the nominated area.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates Ca. 1840 **Builder/Architect** Matthew Strickland, Jr.

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Well, also known as the "Strickland Place," was built ca. 1840 by Matthew Strickland, Jr. (1790-1858), a native of North Carolina who became a prominent landowner in Panola County. It is one of the few homes constructed in the early 1800s in the area that is still maintained by descendants of the original builder. Reflecting mid-nineteenth century building technology and the functional philosophy of its people, The Well, the oldest extant structure in the county, is an important representation of rural folkways in north central Mississippi. The classic dogtrot house is architecturally significant as a type which proliferated in Mississippi during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries and has been called the characteristic farm dwelling of the Deep South.

In December of 1839 Rufus Childress sold Strickland the land for his future home (Deed Book C, p. 18). Strickland began construction of the existing dwelling in 1840. According to the tax rolls for Panola County, 1840 and 1844, Strickland owned extensive tracts of cleared land and over twenty-five slaves. Although he had prospered, he continued to live in his two-room log house. In 1860 his estate was appraised at \$34,500. The house was willed to his son, Jacob L. Strickland. Later Jacob's daughter, Ida Bowen, inherited the house. Mrs. Bowen's youngest daughter, Mrs. Mary Sowell, is the present occupant of the house.

According to Mrs. Sowell, the Strickland Place sits on top of a hill which divides the drainage area for the Coldwater and Tallahatchie rivers and that the dividing line was placed along her walkway. The house is near what was the public road that ran between Holly Springs and Belmont, Mississippi. At one time the house was known as Angel's Retreat. However, the origin for the name has been lost. Later it was called The Well because travelers along the road would stop for water. The well has since dried-up.

The Strickland Place was awarded a centennial certificate by the United States Department of Agriculture for being owned or operated for one hundred years by the same family. In 1979 Mrs. Sowell sold the house to Dr. Edward R. Wilson, Jr. (Deed Book A23, p. 180). In order to continue to preserve the building, Mrs. Sowell was given "life time estate privileges." Once this agreement has been terminated, restoration plans for the house as well as the grounds will begin. The Wilson family is well-known for its efforts in supporting preservation projects in north Mississippi.

The Well is a valuable example of Mississippi vernacular architecture of the early nineteenth century. Its simplicity--in terms of the materials, elevation and plan--is the source of its value in the context of the rural life style in Mississippi. The dogtrot cabin followed traditional English patterns of house building. Like the double pen house, the dogtrot consists of two rooms, but the rooms are separated, not by a wall, but by an open hallway, or dogtrot. The rooms and hallway share a common floor and are covered by a common roof. As in the case with The Well, a fireplace is at the gable end of each pen, and a door opening on the dogtrot. An

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bealer, Alex W. The Log Cabin. Barrer, M.A. Barrer Publishers, 1977.

Latham, James III. Mississippi Folk Houses. Youthgrants in the Humanities Program, National Endowment for the Humanities, 1977.

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property 8.26 acres

Quadrangle name Sardis, Miss.

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UMT References

A

1	6	2	3	7	8	10	10	3	8	1	7	4	7	15
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property forms a four-sided figure with right angle corners and equal sides of 600 feet each with the center being the center point of the roof ridge of the house. The sides of figure are parallel to the walls of the house.

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

state N/A code county code

state N/A code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Clinton I. Bagley, Consultant

organization N/A

date May 9, 1980

street & number P. O. Box 1332

telephone (601) 334-4715

city or town Greenville

state Mississippi 38701

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

Robert J. Bagley

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

date November 3, 1982

For NPS use only

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

John Krum
Keeper of the National Register

date 12/17/82

Attest: *Patrick Andrews*
Chief of Registration

date 12/9/82

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Strickland Place, Panola County,
Continuation sheet Mississippi

Item number 8 and 9

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8 - SIGNIFICANCE

ell is also typically attached to the rear of the house. This house is representative of the later generation of dogtrot houses, which incorporated more sophisticated framing systems, hardware, and interior fixtures such as nails, metal hinges, glass windows and paneled doors.

The Well, occupied continuously by the same family, is one of the few log dogtrot houses in north central Mississippi sheathed in its original fabric. Although it has been slightly altered, the basic integrity of the building has not been impaired.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Newton, Milton B. Jr. Melanges, Louisiana House Types. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1971.

Mississippi. Auditor. Real and Personal Tax Rolls, Panola County, 1840-44.

Panola County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Probate Court Records, 1860.

Panola County, Miss. Chancery Clerk. Deed books, C, A-23.

Personal Inspection of Strickland Place by Clinton I. Bagley, January 26, 1980.

Personal Interview. Clinton I. Bagley, consultant, with Mary Bowen Sowell, January 26, 1980.

Tate County Democate, Senatobia, Miss., November 3, 1977.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Population Schedules, Panola County, Miss., 1850.

Wilson, Eugene M. Alabama Folk Houses. Montgomery: Alabama Historical Commission, 1975.