

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90000437
Beam, Charles Walton, House
Property Name

Date Listed: 3/21/90
Franklin MS
County State

N/A
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amy Ederman
Signature of the Keeper

3/21/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

The county code for Franklin County should read "37."

Discussed and concurred in by the Mississippi SHPO on March 20, 1990.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

437

RECEIVED

FEB 12 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Beam, Charles Walton, House
other names/site number Cowert House

2. Location

street & number Rt. 2, Box 147 (Bogue Chitto-Meadville county road) not for publication
city, town McCall Creek vicinity
state Mississippi code 28 ~~MS~~ county Franklin code 77 zip code 39647

3. Classification

| | | | |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | Number of Resources within Property | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) | Contributing | Noncontributing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>3</u> | <u> </u> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <u> </u> | <u> </u> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <u> </u> | <u>1</u> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <u> </u> | <u> </u> objects |
| | | <u>3</u> | <u>1</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. 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. See continuation sheet.

Kenneth H. P. Pool FEB. 7, 1990
Signature of certifying official Date
Deputy 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.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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:) _____

Dany Federman 3/2/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

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)

Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
walls weatherboard

roof asphalt
other n/a

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Charles Beam House is located about seven miles south of McCall Creek and fronts northerly onto the Bogue Chitto and Meadville Road near its intersection with the Upper Meadville and Summit Road. The vernacular, one-and-a-half story, Greek Revival frame house is sheltered by a gabled roof and is flanked at each gable end by a single, exterior brick chimney, one of which has been rebuilt. The original chimney is buttressed at the base and topped with a molded cap with white frieze, a common chimney treatment in neighboring Amite County and the Carolinas. The three-bay facade is fronted by a full-width gallery, which is supported by wooden posts that were originally linked by a balustrade, now missing. The gallery is shaded by a later shed-roof extension that wraps around the gallery ends. The facade is finished in horizontal matched boards (seventeen inches wide) with an unusual, molded-panel wainscoting and wide baseboard. The windows of the facade have molded frames with unusual wave crest lentils and are filled with nine-over-six, double-hung sash. The center-bay doorway is filled with double-leaf, molded, two-panel doors set beneath a molded wood panel and flanked by sidelights over an arrangement of two molded panels.

The interior of the house has a double-pile plan with central hallway that widens between the two, smaller rear rooms, a floor plan common to the Lower Mississippi Valley. The interior walls are finished in horizontal matched boards with a wide molded baseboard. Some of the board walls have been covered by modern wall paneling, a wall treatment easily reversed. The windows and doors have molded frames and the doors have four panels that are molded on only one side. The original, interior decorative scheme of bluish green walls with oak-grained doors is clearly evident where later paint poorly adhered. Only the front, two downstairs rooms had fireplaces, and the large, wooden mantel pieces each have a molded panel frieze.

A stairway located at the rear of the hallway provides access to the upper half story. Although the stairway itself is original, it has been relocated from the southern wall at the front of the hallway. The steep, single-flight stair now opens into a second-story room rather than the central hallway of the upper story. The upper story, which is otherwise unaltered, is plainly trimmed and finished in horizontal matched boards that have never been painted.

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Extending from the rear of the house is a one-story, two-room wing added about 1921. The wing is flanked by porches on both sides and contains a dining room and kitchen, both with beaded-board walls and original cabinets typical of the 1920's. Two historic outbuildings are located within the nominated seventeen acres. A small, log smoke house is located in the yard at the rear of the main house, and a large frame barn with gabled roof and side sheds is located southeasterly from the house outside the yard. The plantation cemetery, where C. W. Beam and his family are buried, is located across the road from the house but is outside the nominated acreage.

Alterations are limited principally to the addition of paneling over the horizontal board walls, the relocation of the original stairway, and the replacement of a gable-end window with a door and small porch on the western elevation. The present owner, who is descended from the Cowerts who acquired the house in 1909, is planning to restore the house.

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Beam, Charles Walton, House, McCall Creek, Franklin County, Mississippi

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Beam, Charles Walton, House
- (2) McCall Creek, Franklin County, Mississippi
- (3) Mary Warren Miller
- (4) March 1989
- (5) Historic Natchez Foundation

Photo 1--(6) Northerly facade, view to south

Photo 2--(6) Westerly side elevation and southerly rear elevation, view to northeast

Photo 3--(6) Entrance hallway, showing entry doors, sidelights, horizontal board walls, and molded door surround, view to the northwest

Photo 4--(6) Mantel piece of easterly front room, view to the east

Photo 5--(6) Eastern second-story bedroom, showing unpainted board walls, batten door, original hardware, and molded base, view to the west

Photo 6--(6) Western front and northern side elevation of the smoke house, view to the southeast

Photo 7--(6) Western front of the barn, view to the east

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

late 1850's

Significant Dates

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Significant Person

n/a

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Beam House is one of Mississippi's unique expressions of the vernacular Greek Revival style. Although typical of the dwellings built by middle class planters in rural areas of Mississippi in the mid-nineteenth century, the house is distinguished by unusual architectural details. The facade of the house is adorned with a molded panel wainscoting, whose panels are echoed in a single panel above the entrance doorway and in double panels beneath the sidelights. The use of molded panels as a decorative motif is also repeated on the friezes, brackets, and pilasters of the mantel pieces. Also unusual are the wave crest lintels of the front windows of the house. The overall integrity of the house is good, and its significance as a plantation dwelling is heightened by its integrity of setting and the survival of its original barn and smoke house.

The Beam House stylistically dates to the late 1850's and was built as the residence for Charles Walton Beam, who was born in 1819 and died in 1896 (Tombstone, Beam Cemetery, Franklin County, Mississippi). Beam, who was born in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, moved to Franklin County, Mississippi, about 1838, and, in 1868, served as a delegate from Franklin County to the Mississippi Constitutional Convention (W. W. Lam-bright, HISTORY OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI, FROM 1809 TO 1899 [McComb, Mississippi: McComb Special Job Office Print, 1899], p. 90). The Beam family owned the house until the early 1900's, when it was purchased by Sam Allred, who subsequently sold the house in 1909 to Walter Cowart. The house is today owned by the grandson of Walter Cowart, who plans to restore the house as a vacation home. The Beam House will be the first residence in Franklin County to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allred, O. R., grandson of Walter Cowart. Interviewed by Mary Warren Miller at McCall Creek, Miss., March 1989.

Lambricht, W. W. History of Franklin County, Mississippi, From 1809 to 1899. McComb, Miss.: McComb Special Job Office Print, 1899.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 17 acres more or less

UTM References

A

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| 7 | 2 | 0 | 5 | 8 | 0 |
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 Zone Easting Northing

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 Zone Easting Northing

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| 3 | 4 | 7 | 8 | 3 | 2 | 0 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All that part of the northwest quarter of the northwest quarter of Section 11, Township 5 North, Range 5 East, lying south of the Bogue Chitto and Meadville Public Road and West of the Upper Meadville and Summit Road, together with all improvements thereon and containing 17 acres, more or less.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The 17 nominated acres represents all the land now associated by deed with the house. Since the house was a plantation house, the nominated acreage is important in maintaining the plantation setting of the house and in protecting the two historic dependency buildings. All the nominated acreage was historically associated with the house.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Warren Miller/preservation consultant
 organization Miller Preservation Services
 street & number 506 High Street
 city or town Natchez

date April 22, 1989
 telephone (601) 442-9786
 state Mississippi zip code 28120