

PH0662003

DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED FEB 1 1978  
DATE ENTERED AUG 3 1978

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC  
Bethany Institute ~~Female Dormitory and Site~~ R.M. Miss.  
AND/OR COMMON  
Bethany Institute, The Estate

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Southeast side of old Liberty-Centreville Road,  
just to the south of the present Liberty-Centreville Road NOT FOR PUBLICATION  
CITY, TOWN Ariel Community Centreville VICINITY OF Fourth  
STATE Mississippi CODE 28 COUNTY Amite CODE 005

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME  
Mr. and Mrs. William D. Aldridge  
STREET & NUMBER  
Route 2, Box 406  
CITY, TOWN Centreville VICINITY OF STATE Mississippi 39631

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Chancery Clerk  
Amite County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
Courthouse Square  
CITY, TOWN Liberty STATE Mississippi 39645

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE  
Statewide Survey of Historic Sites  
DATE  
1972  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
CITY, TOWN Jackson STATE Mississippi 39205

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT

DETERIORATED

GOOD

RUINS

FAIR

UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED

ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE

MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Set among shade trees on several acres of flat lawn, the Female Dormitory of Bethany Institute faces north to the graveled road that once was the primary route between Centreville and Liberty, Mississippi. The setting, an area of forest and fields, retains its rural quality.

The dormitory is an unpainted frame building, five bays across and two bays deep (55' x 33'). It is set on low brick piers and is covered by a hip roof. The roof, sheathed with galvanized sheet metal, is pierced by two off-center brick chimneys with sawtooth brick caps. Each clapboarded elevation is edged with a box cornice and plain corner boards. The regularly arranged window openings are filled with six-over-six sash and are trimmed with plain board surrounds. Plain boards also trim the front (north) entrance, where a double-leaf paneled door is flanked by rectangular lights and panels, the whole surmounted by a large rectangular transom. Broad concrete steps lead from a running-bond brick walk up to the door.

The front door opens onto a wide center hall, on each side of which are two rooms, the smaller to the rear. From the back of the hall, an open straight flight of stairs with turned balusters, turned base, and corner newels rises against the east wall to the identically arranged second floor. On one side of the back-to-back fireplaces, in each room, is a closet fitted with three tiers of boards with pegs for hanging clothes. The simple interior trim consists of plain board casings and bases, unmolded doors with four sunk or sunk and fielded panels, and eight identical pilaster mantelpieces with molding beneath the shelves. The walls and ceilings are covered with sand-finish plaster in the hall and with smooth plaster in the upper rooms. The northeast upper room retains its original white oil paint on the plaster, the doors, and the windows and the original gray oil paint on the bases and the mantelpiece.

Changes to the original fabric of the building have not seriously affected its integrity, especially on the second floor, where the rooms remain almost in their original state. At some time before 1972, the plaster in the lower back rooms was replaced with matched boards. Since 1972, the plaster in the lower front rooms has been replaced with wallboard panels with wainscoting and chair rails; a kitchen has been installed in the southeast lower room; and a bath has been placed in the closet of the southwest lower room. In 1974, a porch terminated by a utility room was attached at right angles to the center of the back wall of the house, on the site of and following the basic dimensions of the original one-story frame kitchen and dining wing, which stood into the twentieth century. This original wing was connected to the main block by a covered breezeway. Cuts and changes in the siding on this wall, along with three sets of stucco-over-brick steps original to the wing, define the height, width, and roof pitch of the wing.

The present barn was constructed to the southwest of the dormitory during the twentieth century. It is constructed of previously used materials, including beaded board and batten doors hung with iron hinges with pins cast in place, which may have come from the nonextant school buildings (the male dormitory destroyed by tornado in 1934 or the frame school house).

# 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" 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		

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SPECIFIC DATES	1859 construction	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
	1859 - 1900 operation	

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## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Female Dormitory is the only surviving building of Bethany Institute, a locally important church-affiliated boarding school dating from the second half of the nineteenth century, and it is one of only a few pre-Civil-War buildings remaining in a once thickly populated community which developed around Bethany Presbyterian Church in the "thickwoods country" of Amite County, Mississippi.

On June 11, 1859, the elders of Bethany Presbyterian Church formed a new school, in ecclesiastical connection with the Louisiana Presbytery, to be known as Bethany Institute, and constituted themselves and their successors in the office of elder as the trustees of the new organization. Despite the fact that the school received its charter from the state of Mississippi on April 7, 1860, under the name of the "Bethany Male and Female Institute," the trustees reverted to the name "Bethany Institute" in their revised constitution adopted on July 17, 1860.

On June 22, 1859, the trustees examined a lot of land proposed to be donated by J. M. Gallent, a member of the Board of Trustees, and selected a site for the "Buildings." The lot examined is probably the same twenty-five-acre lot on which the Female Dormitory is located and which was donated to the trustees on April 21, 1867, by James M. Gallent and his wife. At least two of the school buildings had been constructed by December 24, 1861, at which time the trustees considered "the propriety of leasing the Institute Buildings to the Principal." Certainly the style and construction elements of the Female Dormitory are consistent with a construction date of between 1859 and 1861. The traditional construction date of 1859 receives support from the fact that the school was accepting students by January 7, 1860, and was evidently open for business at that time. The builder is reputed to be the same as the unknown builder of the ca. 1855 Bethany Presbyterian Church. The school records contain only a passing mention on March 31, 1860, of the need to settle the account between the Rev. T. D. Lea, who had just resigned as principal, and a Mr. Wall, who might have been the contractor for construction.

The trustees' record book indicates that the school was open for classes during 1860 and 1861. A handbill advertising the second session to commence on October 6, 1862, belies the supposition, based on the fact that the record book contains no entries for trustees' meetings between December, 1861, and September, 1869, that the school was closed between those dates. The handbill lists classes in several English branches, Latin, Greek, French, and music, taught under the principalship of the Rev. S. B. Hall. For at least one scholastic year, ending August 31, 1874, Bethany Institute was certified as a public school of Amite County. Newspaper advertisements from the 1880s in-

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Mississippi Department of Archives and History. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites. Amite County. Bethany Institute Female Dormitory and Site. "Bethany Institute," by Mr. and Mrs. William D. Aldridge.

Liberty (Miss.) Southern Herald. July 9, August 6, November 5, 1881; October 23, December 18, 1886; April 2, 1887.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 26 acres

UTM REFERENCES

C	1,5	6,9,1	3,9,5	3,4,4,1	7,9,0	A	8,1,5	6,9,1	9,1,0	3,4,4,2	4,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING			ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING	
B	1,5	6,9,2	2,5,0	3,4,4,1	7,2,5	D					

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The entire property lying in Township 2 North, Range 2 East, and comprising three parcels as follows: #1 - twenty-five acres in Section 42, bounded on the north by Liberty and Centreville Road, west by Calloway and Dixon lands, south by McKnight land and east by land of L. M. Gallent, known as the Bethany Institute property; #2 - 84/100 acre adjoining but in Section 41, beginning on the south of the Centreville and Liberty Road where the west line of Section 42 crosses the said

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Ronald W. Miller, Site Administrator

ORGANIZATION

Grand Village of the Natchez Indians

DATE

December 29, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

400 Jefferson Davis Boulevard

TELEPHONE

(601) 446-6502

CITY OR TOWN

Natchez

STATE

Mississippi 39120

# 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

*Elmer B. Hilliard*

TITLE

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

January 30, 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

*W. Smith*  
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
 ATTEST: *Chas. Adams*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE *1/31/78*  
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
 DATE *2/1/78*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7 - 10 PAGE 1

7 - DESCRIPTION

A one-story frame commercial building, probably dating from the first half of the twentieth century, occupies the southwest corner of the driveway and the public road. Its gable end, protected by an attached shed roof porch, faces the gravel road. The frame is covered by sheets of corrugated metal.

8 - SIGNIFICANCE

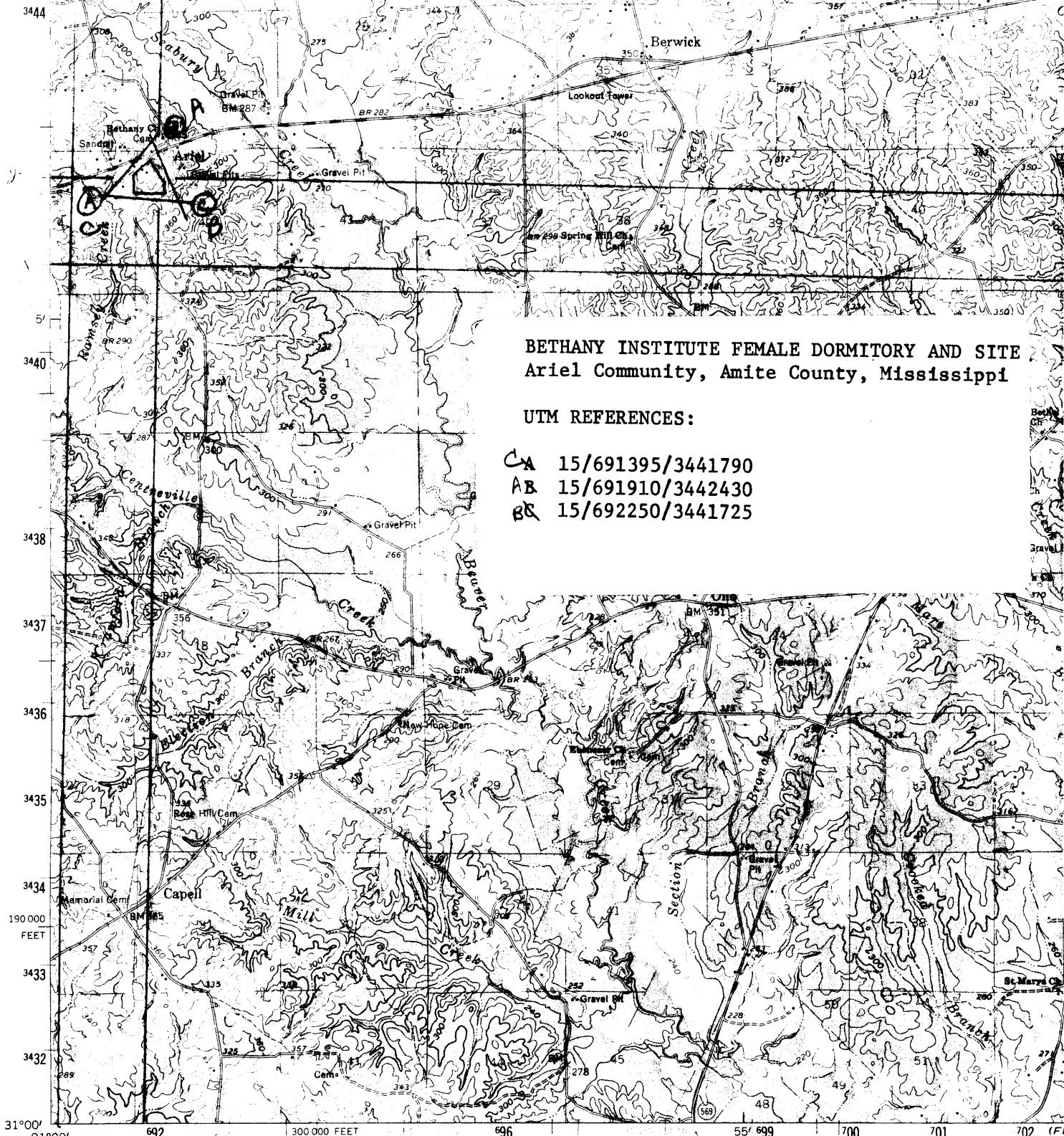
dicade that the school was once again a private institution and that there were between 35 and 100 pupils at that time enrolled in the grammar course, the music course, and the higher English and language courses. The school must have continued to operate after 1890, for several area residents who attended classes there are still living. In 1918 the school land and buildings were sold for use as a private residence, and is so occupied by the owners today.

9 - MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Records of Bethany Institute, Collection of Bethany Presbyterian Church, in private keeping, available from Mr. and Mrs. William D. Aldridge.

10 - GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

road, thence south 46 degrees to the center of Clinton Road, thence south 9-1/2 degrees to a stake, thence east to the section line, thence north 30 degrees east to the place of beginning on the south bank of the old Liberty Road; #3 - a strip of land in Section 42 containing a fraction of an acre, more or less, lying south of the presently located gravel road (Old Highway 48) now running across the northwest corner of the northwest quarter of Section 42, and lying north of the center of the old gravel road now abandoned and lying east of a parcel of land conveyed M. S. Hassell. It being understood that said strip of land was caused by the relocation of the gravel road which left a strip lying between the E. A. Y. Dixon place and the new location of the gravel road which belonged to the L. M. Gallent estate.



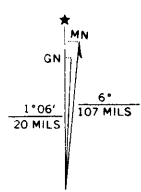
**BETHANY INSTITUTE FEMALE DORMITORY AND SITE  
Ariel Community, Amite County, Mississippi**

**UTM REFERENCES:**

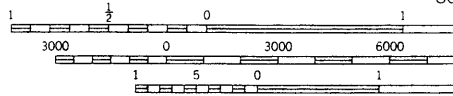
- CA 15/691395/3441790
- AB 15/691910/3442430
- BC 15/692250/3441725

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1957-58. Field checked 1961  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Mississippi coordinate system, west zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 15, shown in blue

(CLINTON)  
77457



UTM GRID AND 1961 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR  
DOTTED LINES R  
DATUM

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH  
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC