

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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## 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 Meador Homestead

other names/site number Arnold Meador Homestead

### 2. Location

street & number 6775 US Hwy 49

☐ not for publication

city or town Hattiesburg

☐ vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Forrest code 35 zip code 39402-9684

### 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

Signature of certifying official/Title

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)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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Name of Property

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County and State

## 5. Classification

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	2	buildings
		district
1		site
1		structure
		object
3	2	<b>Total</b>

**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**

## 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/hotel

## 7. Description

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/log cabin

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: WOOD, CONCRETE

walls: WOOD/log

roof: WOOD/shake

other: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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 Meador Homestead, located at 6775 US Hwy 49 in Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi is a rectangular double-pen dogtrot house with a simple, well-proportioned façade, axial entrances, and geometrical proportions. It is a plain, log frame structure. The house has a sloping double-pitched gabled roof covered in hand split cedar shanks. The broad roof gives it a predominately horizontal appearance. The undercut porches further emphasize its horizontal appearance. To the left of the front porch is a carriage house that was added in 2009 to house the bathroom, kitchen, and a sleeping loft. Materials from the 1885 barn on the property were used in construction of the carriage house. Proper site selection placed the home in a location best suited for travel and managing the farm. The Meador Homestead is placed on top of a sloping hill beside the original old wagon trail. To the right of the house is the line of cedar trees that mark the original wagon trail from Gordonsville (now Hattiesburg) to the north towards the Rawls Springs community. Surrounding the house and located all over the property are the camellias and azaleas that were planted circa 1945 to commemorate the death of C. G. Meador's wife, Annie Dean. In the back yard of the house are the camellias and azaleas and the original water well that was patented in 1914 and believed to have been put into use on the land circa 1915.

### Narrative Description

#### Exterior

Constructed about 1885, the cabin is a double pen dog-trot with two end massive fireplaces. The rectangular house measures forty feet in length and thirty three feet in width. From the eastern elevation, the front porch measures 8'6" in depth and 40' long and is the original porch made of heart of pine planks. The front porch has 82 boards that are laid perpendicular to the walls and measure 8'6" long and vary from 5 ½ to 6 inches in width. The roof is a sloping, double pitched gabled roof. The roof is covered with hand split cedar shank shingles. The wide, overhanging eaves project 2'6" out past the lower edges of the roof. The roof displays sixteen exposed rafters and five heart of pine log beams that measure the width of the cabin. The five log beams measure 33' long and 6" wide. A sixth beam was cut in 1915 to raise the interior ceiling of the north room. The roof of the front porch is supported by six plain wood posts squared at a top width of 4 inches and widening to 6 inches for the bottom. A unit of two cypress wood steps measuring 4' x 1' each is at the center of the primary façade. There is a single cedar hand-rail for the step unit.

The house was constructed using massive hand hewn heart of pine logs. The logs were hand-peeled, which is the process of removing the bark and outer layer of a log to get to its heart. The square hand-hewn log style timbers, typically 8" to 8 ½ "in diameter are stacked horizontally from just above the ground to the roof. Both rooms of the house measure 16' x 16' on the exterior. Therefore, the outside logs of each wall of the rooms measure 16' long and are joined at the corners with dove-tailed corners. The end of each log is cut to produce a fan-shaped wedge and these dove-tailed notches were measured to keep courses level. The notches measure 3 ½ "at their bottom and ½ "at their top. We know that the rooms were built simultaneously because of the shared logs in the structure. The style of the log work is pleasing to the eye, as the natural curves and variations remain in the logs. No nails were needed. Support beams at the top of the walls for the roof run the length of both porches measuring approximately 6" wide by 46' long.

Once filled with mud daub (twigs and clay) to seal gaps, only a few original pieces of the chinking remained from 1885. In 2009, the log spaces were chinked with Perma-Chink, a trade name for a flexible, textured, pure acrylic chinking and sealant similar to caulk but with greater density, durability, and appearance. It adheres to the surface and stretches to maintain an impenetrable seal. Heavy wire mesh was used and recessed from the face of the logs. Nails were pounded in halfway and then bent down to pull mesh tight. The gaps were filled with Perma-Chink loose cellulose insulation and wire mesh nailed into place. Both sides were sealed with the Perma-Chink mixture. The chinking was mixed to the consistency and color of the original chinking of 1885. The chinking gaps between the logs vary from 2 to 3 inches wide.

Before rehabilitation, the windows were broken and in disrepair. Windows were replaced to look like the original 1885 windows based on a 1915 picture of the log house. These windows are double-hung energy-efficient sash windows. Each



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window has two sashes, one above the other, and arranged to slide vertically past each other. Each sash has one window pane; therefore the windows are 1/1 windows. The window and door surrounds throughout the house are plain and measure 5 ¼" wide. The doors are 32" wide and 80" high. The reveal measures 4 ½" in width of both the doors and the windows. The south pen has a door with no window. The north pen has a window looking out on the front porch and a door.

The dog trot measures approximately 8' in width and 16' in length. Each board is 11" wide and there are sixteen boards that cover the floor of the dog trot. The height of the dog trot from the floor to the top angle of the gabled roof measures approximately 10' tall. There are nineteen boards stacked high, measuring 7 to 8 inches in width. The inside gabled part of the dog trot is laid in clapboard style.

The northern elevation of the home is important architecturally because "juggling" markings can especially be seen on the walls. The timbers were cut by a process called "juggling". With an ax, the logs were cut approximately 4' apart with deep cuts. Then, usually with a Swiss ax, the sides were cut out from the juggling points. The rough sides were smoothed out by this careful "whittling away" of the wood by the ax. These logs are like fingerprints; no two are the same as you can see by the controlled adz strokes or ax marks that avoided tearing out a knot, twist, or change in the grain. These hand-hewn logs are chinked. The gable end walls at the top are constructed with heart of pine wood planks taken from the 1932 addition that are approximately 1' wide. They are laid in a clapboard or weatherboard style with each board one edge thicker than the other and overlapping each other to cover the outer walls of the frame structure.

In 2009, both north and south elevations showed the ghost of exterior end mud brick chimneys that had been removed in the 1940s. The mud brick fireplace on the exterior of the north wall was replaced with large blocks of local sandstone that extend 3 feet above the roof. A large sandstone covers the top of the wood burning chimney. Windows flank the chimney on the north elevation.

The log construction of the house is best viewed in the structure under the house from the north and south elevations. The floor joists are heart of pine square hewn logs. There are twenty heart pine beams that run the length of the rooms every 2' apart for floor support. This represents a significant investment of labor to harvest the logs, strip the bark, and square off the logs. The sills rest on blocks. The original wooden block piers were removed in 1986 to prevent termites and replaced with cement blocks.

The western elevation reveals the back porch which is 8'4" wide and 40' long and made of cypress planks from the property. The fifty-two boards laid perpendicularly measure in various widths from 5" to 9". Supporting the back porch roof, the back rough-surface six timber posts were taken from the heart of pine joists of the 1885 barn on the property and hand cut to resemble the front porch posts. The walls are made of hand-hewn heart of pine logs and chinked. There are no windows on the west side of the house. There is one door in the south room exiting out onto the back porch. A unit of 2 steps each measuring 4' x 1' is at the center of the back porch and at the south elevation of the porch.

The southern elevation has the hand-hewn log walls that are chinked with a fenestration of two windows on each side of a restored end fire chimney. The chimney is constructed of period sandstone and extends 7' high to accommodate a gas fireplace. The gable end walls at the top are also constructed with heart of pine wood planks taken from a 1932 addition that are approximately 1' wide. They are laid in a clapboard or weatherboard style.

All exterior elevations are forthright, direct, and functional.

The water well that stands in the back yard of the house was patented in 1914. The bottom half is from the F. E. Myers and Bro. Co. from Ashland, Ohio. It is a working head, 6 in. stroke that was designed and built for the first double acting pump which pumped water on both the up and down strokes. The power head was for a deep well pump. When wells were deep, a rod with a piston extended down to the bottom of the well. It moved up and down, and brought the water to the surface. A power head sat at the top of the well to operate the piston/rod assembly. It is a scaled down version of an oil well rig. The top of the pump is a cast iron repulsion start induction single phase motor from Century Electric Co. from St. Louis, Mo. The cycles are 60 R.R. M. 1750 and the serial no. is 2013. It is a cast iron electric metal machine with a wheel at the top and rubber cords that move the wheel. It was believed to have been put into use in the 1930's when the 1932 addition was put on the original log house. At the bottom of the well in concrete is inscribed the owner's father's initials, P. M. (1941), so we know at that time, the well was in service.

**Interior**

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The interior of both rooms of the double pen house measure 15 x 15 feet. The floor joists are heart of pine logs and are covered by twelve-inch wide heart of pine planks. The floors were installed with  $\frac{3}{4}$ " pine boards in lengths varying from 4' to 15' and installed north-south. Replaced flooring in front of the fireplaces indicates that sparks periodically jumped the containment and burned the floors. The floors in front of both fireplaces were replaced with heart of pine boards and square nails fastened them. The date of the work is not known. The plain base board installed around the interior perimeter of each room was constructed of heart pine boards and is 3  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in width.

The interior walls of both rooms are laid vertically with heart pine boards with a molding applied to the base and corners to cover up cracks. The interior boards were fastened to the frame of the house with square nails. The corner molding boards are 3" wide extending the height of the rooms. There are sixteen to seventeen boards on each wall of the square rooms with varying widths from 7 to 13 inches.

Window and door surrounds throughout the house are plain and measure 5  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide. The doors are 32" wide and 80" high and all the windows measure approximately 31" x 63". The reveal measures 4  $\frac{1}{2}$ " in width of both the doors and the windows. The doors throughout the house are framed with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 6" wide pine boards. Two horizontal boards overlap the five panels of the doors. The ironwork locks and bolts are handmade to represent period ironwork.

The ceilings are constructed of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " heart of pine boards similar to the walls and floors and installed north-south. The boards have varying widths of 12" to 13". There are approximately eleven to thirteen boards for each ceiling.

The stone fireplaces of both rooms extend are 5' tall. The width of the fireplaces is 4'. There is a decorative inlaid molding at the center of each fireplace with the stones measuring seven to eight inches. The hearths measure 20 x 40 inches. Fireplace openings had been covered with paneling when the mud brick fireplaces had been removed in the 40's to prevent fires. Space heaters had been put in front of the openings and remained there until they were removed in the 70's. In 2009, during rehabilitation, new firebricks were put in with gas logs in south room and a gas lighter for a burning wood fireplace in the north room. The interior fireplace mantle of both north and south rooms was constructed of a  $\frac{1}{2}$ " heart pine board salvaged from the 1932 addition that is 1' by 5'. One foot wide wooden brackets hold the mantels in place.

**South Room.** As you enter the door from the dog trot on the north wall of the south room, you see a 15' x 15' room all made with heart of pine boards. The north wall has one door in the center of the wall. The west wall has one door at the left of the wall. The south wall has two windows on either side of the rehabilitated stone fireplace with gas logs. The east wall has one door to its right that opens to the front porch. The ceiling height of the south room is approximately 8' high. The ceiling has fifteen boards that are arranged north to south and measure approximately 8-12 inches in width. There is a 12" x 12  $\frac{1}{2}$ " hole cut in the northeast corner of the ceiling to go to the loft. It has been sealed. The original 1885 crystal light fixture hangs in the center of the ceiling and was used first for candles, then oil, and now electricity.

**North Room.** As you enter the door from the dog trot on the south wall of the north room, there is a 5' x 4'-rectangle section of the floor that was replaced with cypress wood in the 1970s. The walls in the north room were covered at some undetermined time with wall paper and sheet rock, which were removed in 2009 to expose the original boards of 1885. Square nails attach the boards to the frame. The east wall has one door to its left and one window at the right of wall looking out to the front porch. The north wall has two windows, one on each side of the sandstone wood burning fireplace. The handmade ironwork of the fireplace holds the original cast iron tea kettle and cookware from the 1885 cabin. The west and south walls are windowless. The ceiling in the north room is app. 10 feet high. The ceiling in the north room was raised circa 1915 by the owner's great-grandfather to help in cooling. The ceiling was covered with newspaper and tiles to help with insulation until removal in 2009 to reveal the original wood ceiling. Beautiful batten boards of 3" width cover the seams where the boards join north-south to create a convex molding look on the ceiling in both rooms. There are fourteen boards on the north ceiling measuring approximately 9-12 inches in width. Above 7  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet of the walls are three boards that are 8" in width, laid horizontally, and present a clapboard style molding at the top of the walls. The wrought iron candelabra hanging in the center of the north room came from Oak Grove United Methodist church in Hattiesburg, Mississippi, in the 1960s.

There are many pieces of original furniture from the 1885 cabin located within the rooms including the spinning wheel, washstand, rockers, oil lamps, and pictures. The oldest piece of furniture is the 1856 rope bed in the south room made by the owner's great, great, grandfather as a wedding present to his bride.

## Outbuildings

There are two non-contributing buildings on the property. The 10' x 12' gift shop building is a one-story frame building with a double-pitched gable roof and undercut porch. The carriage house was constructed with lumber from an 1885 barn that

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was located on adjoining property. The carriage house was built in 2009 to house a bathroom, kitchen and sleeping loft. The joists and exterior cladding from the 1885 barn harmonize the appearance of the noncontributing buildings with the historic cabin.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### 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

ARCHITECTURE

### Period of Significance

1885-1945

### Significant Dates

### Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

### Cultural Affiliation

### Architect/Builder

Jones, F.M. "Pompey"

### 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)

F. M. ("Pompey") Jones built the house in its current location in 1885. In 1913, the Meador family renovated the home by raising the ceiling in the north room and adding wallpaper. In 1932, additions were made to the home when C. G. Meador and his wife, Annie Dean, moved out to the house with their family to modernize it with a kitchen, dining room, bedroom, and a bathroom. They added electricity and an electric well pump. Camellias and azaleas were added to the property when Annie Dean died in 1945 as a memorial to her, so that by 1945 the setting of the cabin and surrounding grounds were largely established.



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**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

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

The Meador Homestead located in Forrest County, Mississippi, at 6775 US Hwy 49 is eligible for listing on the National Register under Criteria A for association Exploration/Settlement and Criteria C for architectural significance as a local example of a well preserved double pen dog-trot log house built circa 1885.

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

The Piney Woods, which is the southeastern quarter of Mississippi, originally inhabited by the Choctaw Indians, was ceded to the United States by a series of treaties beginning with the Treaty of Mount Dexter in 1805. In the great migration after the War of 1812, settlers began coming into the area by horseback, on foot, and by wagon teams. In the closing decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the railroads opened the country to the lumber industry. Northern lumber companies bought vast areas, sawmills were established, lumber towns sprang up. The history of the house coincides with the history of the city of Hattiesburg, being incorporated in 1884. According to Forrest County courthouse records, the property now known as the Meador Homestead was originally deeded through a patent in 1884 by the United States government to F.M. Jones, known as "Pompey" Jones. F. M. Jones and William J. Mixon each bought 40 acres of land from the U.S. Government in 1884. Pompey built the "Cadillac" of cabins-a dogtrot with a wood, rather than dirt, floor. Unfortunately, it was constructed in the wrong place and was on Mixon's land. To correct the error, the cabin was dismantled and moved to the land in 1885 where it still stands today. The forests of Mississippi provided the necessary raw materials for the rough log construction. The double-pen dog trot house is constructed of square hewn logs with the dovetail notches. The land was historically occupied by the Choctaw, who were credited with planting the cedar trees in a line to show their original foot path which later became the old wagon trail connecting Gordonsville (now Hattiesburg) with the northern community of Hattiesburg.

Jones sold the property to J.T. and "Jennie" Arnold in 1887. In 1883, John Thomas and Cynthia Jane (Jennie) Davis Arnold and their eight children came to Hattiesburg area from Alabama with loggers. John Thomas Arnold first came to



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Hattiesburg as a bridge contractor who was hired to build the Northeastern Railroad and supervised the construction of the N. O. & N. E. R. R. bridge across Leaf River. He owned and operated a lumber mill in Atmore, Alabama, at that time. He dismantled his lumber mill and came with his workers and his family, bringing all of his equipment across country by wagon and oxen and established a lumber mill in Old Augusta in Perry County. Their wagon train, consisting of the entire logging company including equipment and families, was such a spectacle that the New Augusta schools were dismissed to watch them parade past the town. In later years he was in charge of bridge construction for the Mississippi Central Railroad. When J.J. Newman Lumber Co. first located in Hattiesburg, he was employed as logging contractor and supervised the cutting and hauling of logs to the lumber mill.

When the Arnolds purchased the Meador Homestead property, the house was already there. The family of 6 immediately moved into the two room log house and began working the farm. Four more children were added and over the years, the children married and moved on except for Jennie Arnold and her daughter, Celina Arnold. In the meantime, the Meador family arrived in Hattiesburg. In 1895, Walton Price(W.P.) and Mary Eugenia Traylor Meador and their three children, including four year old C. G. (Gowers), established a home and dairy on Hardy Street about two miles west of downtown. By 1902 W.P. and Mary Eugenia were the parents of five. W.P.'s parents, Levi Parks (L. P.) and Salina E. Sigrest Meador, homesteaded south of Hattiesburg near the Dixie community. Reverend Meador was an early circuit rider for the Mississippi Methodist Conference, and W.P. followed in his footsteps preaching throughout south Mississippi and southeast Louisiana. The Rev. L. P. Meador and his son, Brother W.P. Meador, were kept busy preaching and farming. In 1904 they were instrumental in the founding of Broad Street (now Heritage) Methodist Church. The Meador family was also instrumental in clearing the land to make Kamper Park. The land for the park was donated by the Kamper family who lived on Hardy St. beside the Meador Family.

Mary Eugenia died the year before Gowers graduated from Hattiesburg High School in 1912. In 1913 Gowers enrolled at Mississippi Normal College and played on the first football team for the school destined to become the University of Southern Mississippi. Gowers, who had done well in his high school studies of Latin, shorthand, typing, and the classics, served as secretary for the first president Cook. He became the first of many family members, including three others named C. G. Meador, to attend classes there. In 1913, the owner's great-grandfather, W.P. Meador married Lena Arnold and moved to the Arnold cabin. He raised the ceilings of the north room to help with "air conditioning", but the kitchen and the privy remained separate from the house. Still a circuit rider, W. P. often married couples on the cabin steps. The family farm included chickens, cows, and a sugar cane mill. Dairy products, chickens, eggs, and sugar cane were sold in town. The two mothers-in-law (Lena's mother, Jennie, and W.P.'s mother, Levi Ma) lived in the cabin with them along with Rab, the youngest of W.P.'s children.

During WWI, Gowers served as secretary for Senator John Sharp Williams at the Navy Department in Washington, D.C. In 1917, he married Annie Dean Thatcher. After the war they moved to Mississippi. Their sons, C. G. Jr. and Dean Price lived with them in Jackson, Mississippi, before moving to Hattiesburg. The property has remained in the Meador family since 1913. In 1927, the owner's grandfather, C.G. Meador bought the property from his father and moved in with his wife, Annie Dean Thatcher Meador, and their two children, Pete and Price, the owner's father. The two young boys used the two huge crepe myrtles in the front yard as their play houses. During the Depression, people were looking for jobs and the Meador family opened up their home and the property for people to work and live until they could get back on their feet.

In 1932, major additions were made. In the 1930s Annie Dean borrowed \$30 and partnered with Ed Davis to start Crescent Laundry and Meador Linen Supply in the growing town of Hattiesburg. With the increased activity of WWII at Camp Shelby, Dean vied for and won the Shelby business for all the linen services. In 1945, Annie Dean died. His sons soon married. Pete married Frances Augusta Turner and continued to run the laundry. Their sons are C. G. (Joe) III and John Charles. Price married Elizabeth Claire Steadman and became an insurance agent. Their daughters are Nancy Anne and Elizabeth Dean. Price and his family first lived in a house where Highway 49 is now. By 1958 Gowers had sold part of the land to the highway department to make Highway 49 two lanes, causing Price Meador and his family and W.P. and Lena Meador to build two new homes beside the log cabin where Gowers lived. The two homes were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

Since the completion of the 1932 addition, no significant alterations were made until 1953 when C.G. Meador married Jessie Green Meador, and at that time new renovations occurred. The only significant alteration was to add a blue colored sheet rock to the walls of the north room with ceiling tiles added to cover the wood ceiling. After Jessie's death, C.G. never re-married and lived continuously in the house until about 1984, when he vacated the house due to declining health. C.G. Meador died in 1986. The house remained unoccupied for approximately 25 years until the 2009 rehabilitation project.

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During the 25 year time, much deterioration had occurred, including the destruction of the roof in 2005 when Hurricane Katrina struck Mississippi.

The city of Hattiesburg was founded by Capt. William H. Hardy in 1882. Hardy was a pioneer in the timber and railroad industries, and Hardy had the foresight to recognize the potential economic benefits the two industries would create. After a slow beginning, Hattiesburg, named for Hardy's wife, became a boom town. The completion of the Gulf and Ship Island Railroad in 1897 connected the near virgin yellow pine forests of southwest Mississippi with a deep water port and sparked unprecedented growth that saw a small village grow into the state's fourth largest city. Although the Meador Homestead was built in a rural area north of the new town, over time Hattiesburg has grown and now the Meador Homestead is inside the city limits. Intensive architectural surveys of Hattiesburg have identified very few surviving buildings built before 1900 and even fewer residences. The Meador Homestead is one of Hattiesburg's oldest houses. However, rather than illustrating development in town, it represents the settlement of the Piney Woods by settlers who came to operate small farms and work in the growing timber industry.

### Architecture

Because of the availability of trees, log houses were the most common type of house built in the Piney Woods during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The most typical style was the "double-pen" construction, also called "dogtrot". The covered passage formed an area for household activities, children's play, and a cool sitting spot for summer evenings in Mississippi. The house was originally built circa 1885 and is a double pen dog-trot cabin using massive rectangular hand hewn heart of pine beams laid horizontally and joined at the corners with dove-tail notching. The building is supported by joists of heart of pine logs that measure 33', which is the width of the house. The roof is covered with hand split cedar shank shingles. Prominent "juggling" marks, a component of historical and architectural building with log homes, can be seen in the logs on the exterior walls. The house was enlarged in 1932 when the owner's grandfather and family moved in. The additions included an indoor bathroom and kitchen with a living and dining room. In 1932, the exterior of the house was covered with weatherboard siding and painted white. Part of the back porch was removed or covered over, the front porch was screened in, and the dog-trot was covered with siding and a door to create an interior hallway. All of her life, the owner only knew her grandfather's house as a 1932 farmhouse but was told that underneath it all, the original 1885 house stood. In 2009, the 1932 additions were removed to expose the original log cabin underneath. Original furniture in the home attribute also to the historical importance of the property showing the family's daily life from 1885-1932.

Log cabins were made by the horizontal stacking of tree trunks one on top of another and overlapping the logs at the corners. Beams were exposed and rounded or cut at angles which best expressed both function and beauty. Men developed interlocking corners by notching the logs at the ends, resulting in strong structures that were easier to make weather-tight by inserting soft material such as chinking or daubing to fill in the gaps. The insulating properties of the solid wood were a great advantage over a timber frame construction with animal skins. The length of one log was generally the length of one wall. The logs were cut so they couldn't be pulled or pushed outwards. They could only be removed by dismantling the walls from the top down. This made them virtually indestructible. There were no nails used in this type construction. The houses were built on raised foundations to keep logs above the damp soil. The foundation of a log house was also constructed of tree trunks. The roofs were often covered with hand-split cedar shingles. A major element of the log homes were the tall, massive end stone chimney constructions. The chimneys and interior fireplaces were usually made of mud bricks or natural stone of the period. The ceilings are beamed, and all wooden surfaces are finished in a natural stain. The hearth is the center of the home in winter giving way to the dog-trot breezeway and porches in the summer.

The log houses in Mississippi Piney Woods were built of heart of pine. The trees were felled, cut into the correct length, and peeled. There were hauled to the building site with ox or mule teams. The foundations held the sills of the house a foot or two off the ground so that the light and air under the house protected it from dampness and "wood lice" or termites. The resin, however, in heart pine acts as a natural preservative, making the wood almost indestructible. The logs were notched at the corners to fit securely and steadily. The spaces between the logs were chinked with clay and sticks. The log houses left standing today in the Piney Woods are generally battened inside with pine boards. The floor joists rested on the sills and were fitted to make an even base for the floor of wide hand-planed pine boards. No house was found still retaining the dirt floor. The ceiling, made of wide rough-hewn board, was attached to ceiling joists, providing a loft space in many of the houses. Small ladder-like stairs led through a hole in the ceiling to the loft, which was sometimes used for sleeping quarters or for storage of seeds, herbs, nuts, and gourds. The roofs were shingled or tin. In the Piney Woods, such shingle



Meador Homestead

Name of Property

Forrest County, Mississippi

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roofs were called "board" roofs. Each pen usually had a window on both sides of the fireplace, cut into the wall after the log pen was built. Each pen had a fireplace. The early chimneys were made of mud bricks and built on a foundation of native sand rocks. Fireplaces were fitted with a bar and hooks to hold vessels for heating water and cooking. As a house grew, usually a kitchen was built behind and away from the house as a protection against fire. It was connected to the house by a board walkway either covered or uncovered. Outdoor toilets gave way to modern plumbing in shed rooms. Before "running water" was available, there was usually a water well in the yard.

The owner researched other log cabin homes in the surrounding area. The Carter Cabin in Petal, MS was built in 1846. It was originally a one room structure with a mud brick end chimney and no porches. The 8" by 12" hand-hewn logs were notched at the corners and chinked with mud. The corners are square notched. All floors in the cabin are 14"-16" heart pine boards and all nails are square and handmade. The Fuson Cabin in Petal was built by a Mr. Lee with logs hewn with a broad ax in the early 1900s. The logs were chinked and daubed with lime and sand. The cabin's roof framing was made of pine poles and there was no sawed lumber used in the construction of the dwelling. The cabin's chimney is made from bricks purchased from the old Riverside Brick Company. The corners were also square notched. The Freeman cabin lies between Laurel and Collins. The cabin features a dog trot and the corners are V-notched. The Ainsworth house in Simpson County is a well-preserved log dogtrot. The Purvis house was put together with V-notching.

The Meador Homestead house exemplifies all of these architectural components of a log house. It was built with square-hewn logs and notched at the corners. It is the only home in the area that features, however, the half-dovetail corner notches which are the most difficult to produce. The houses built by the pioneers themselves represent an important and basic element of Mississippi culture. They reveal the ingenuity and courage and affirmation of men and women who built their homes with little money, limited materials, and no formal training as architects and builders. This house is in its simplest form. It harmonizes with its surroundings. Its low broad proportions and absolute lack of ornamentation give it a character so natural and unaffected that it seems to sing into and blend with its landscape. Its real character is of a primitive dwelling. It is beautiful because it was planned and built to meet simple needs in the simplest and most direct way. The Meador Homestead house is believed to be one of the oldest log homes in Forrest County still intact and standing. It may be the oldest house in the city of Hattiesburg.

**Site and Structure:** Another important aspect of log home building is the site upon which the house was built. Site selection was aimed at providing the inhabitants with both sunlight and drainage to make them better able to cope with the rigors of rural life. The Meador Homestead house is not just about a log cabin but the importance of its landscape and structures in its surroundings. The house is placed on top of a sloping hill. The landscape features the cedar tree line that the Choctaw Indians planted to mark their foot path. Later, as the white man came to the area, the path was enlarged to become a wagon trail for settlers. The trail was the only road to connect Gordonsville (later called Hattiesburg) to the northern community of Rawls Springs. The road ran in front of the Meador Homestead house, and for years, the iron ring to hitch horses remained in a huge pine tree that was in front of house. The ring is displayed in the cabin. The landscape also features crepe myrtles in which generations of Meador children have played in. The camellias and azaleas were planted on the land after the death of C.G.'s wife in the late 1940's and are in abundance throughout the property. Flower books he used are displayed in the cabin. The floral plantings are characteristic defining elements of the resource. The land was watered with natural springs and wells with the electric water well, patented in 1914, that was put into use. It served to water the gardens, the plants, and the land through the 1970s. The bottom half of the well was from the F. E. Myers and Bro. Co. that was a working head, 6 in. stroke, patented in 1914. The top part of the well is a cast iron, repulsion start induction, single phase motor from Century Electric Co. in St. Louis, Mo. The cycles are 60 with R. P. M. at 1750 and Serial No. 2013. The motor was patented Oct. 19, 1915. In 1941, the initials of D. P. Meador (the owner's father) were carved in the bottom of the water well. Either the well was put in 1914 or reworked at that time in 1941.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)**

**Summary:** The house derives its architectural and historical significance because of the way it was constructed using indigenous materials in the late 1800s and represents rural living of a family at the inception of Hattiesburg, which was incorporated in 1884. The Meador Homestead house exemplifies the architectural components of a log house construction in the late 1800s. The families who inhabited the house, along with the landscape, also exemplify the importance of exploration and settlement that took place in the Hattiesburg area in the late 1880s through early 1900s.

Meador Homestead  
Name of Property

Forrest County, Mississippi  
County and State

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**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Patti Carr Black's Mississippi Piney Woods (Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1976)

John Poppeliers and S. Allen Chambers's What Style is It? (Preservation Press, Washington, DC, 1983)

Hattiesburg Area Historical Society Volunteers' The History of Forrest County Mississippi (Hattiesburg Area Historical Society, 2000)

Forrest County Courthouse Records of Land Deeds, Forrest County, Mississippi

Cameron, Elma Arnold McWilliams, granddaughter of J.T. and "Jennie" Arnold. Interviewed by Dean Meador Smith, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, October 12, 2009.

Carter, Eileen, granddaughter of W.P. McKenzie and descendant of William Isaac Carter of Carter Cabin. Interviewed by Dean Meador Smith, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, April 21, 2010.

Meador, Claiborne Gowers "C.G.", grandfather of the owner, Dean Meador Smith. Interviewed by Dean Meador Smith, Hattiesburg, Mississippi, March 15, 1979.



Meador Homestead

Name of Property

Forrest County, Mississippi

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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 # \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ 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): 035-HAT-2501

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 3.56

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 276190 3471820  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

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

The property is located on a parcel of land situated on the western boundary of U.S. Highway 49 North. This is just to the north of the intersection of U.S. Highway 49 and Interstate Highway 59. This is in the northern part of the city of Hattiesburg. There is a total of 3.56 acres with 257.7 feet fronting US Highway 49. According to the legal description there is a depth of 600 feet. It is a rectangular shaped parcel of land with adequate drainage and mostly level terrain. According to the warranty deed it is described as:

A part of the South  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 25 and a part of the NW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the NE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of Section 36, in T-5-N, R-14-W, Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi, and being more particularly described as commencing at the SE corner of the SW  $\frac{1}{4}$  of the SE  $\frac{1}{4}$  of said Section 25 and run thence North 407 feet to the Southwesterly right-of-way of U.S. Highway 49 to and for the point of beginning, run thence S 53 degrees 45 minutes W 600 feet, run thence S 36 degrees 40 minutes E 259.7 feet, run thence N 53 degrees 45 minutes E 600 feet, to the southwesterly right-of-way of Highway 49, run thence along said Highway 49 right-of-way N 36 degrees 40 minutes W 257.7 feet to the point of beginning.

Meador Homestead

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**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the log house, the water well, the cedar tree line marking the old wagon trail, and floral landscape historically associated with the Meador Homestead.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dean Meador Smith

organization Owner of Meador Homestead LLC

date \_\_\_\_\_

street & number 3304 Southaven Drive

telephone 601-268-3236

city or town Hattiesburg

state MS

zip code 39402

e-mail Dean1953@hotmail.com

**Additional Documentation**

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:** Meador Homestead

**City or Vicinity:** Hattiesburg

**County:** Forrest

**State:** Mississippi

**Photographer:** Clarence Edward Smith

**Date Photographed:** March 2010

**Description of Photograph(s) and number:**

Meador Homestead

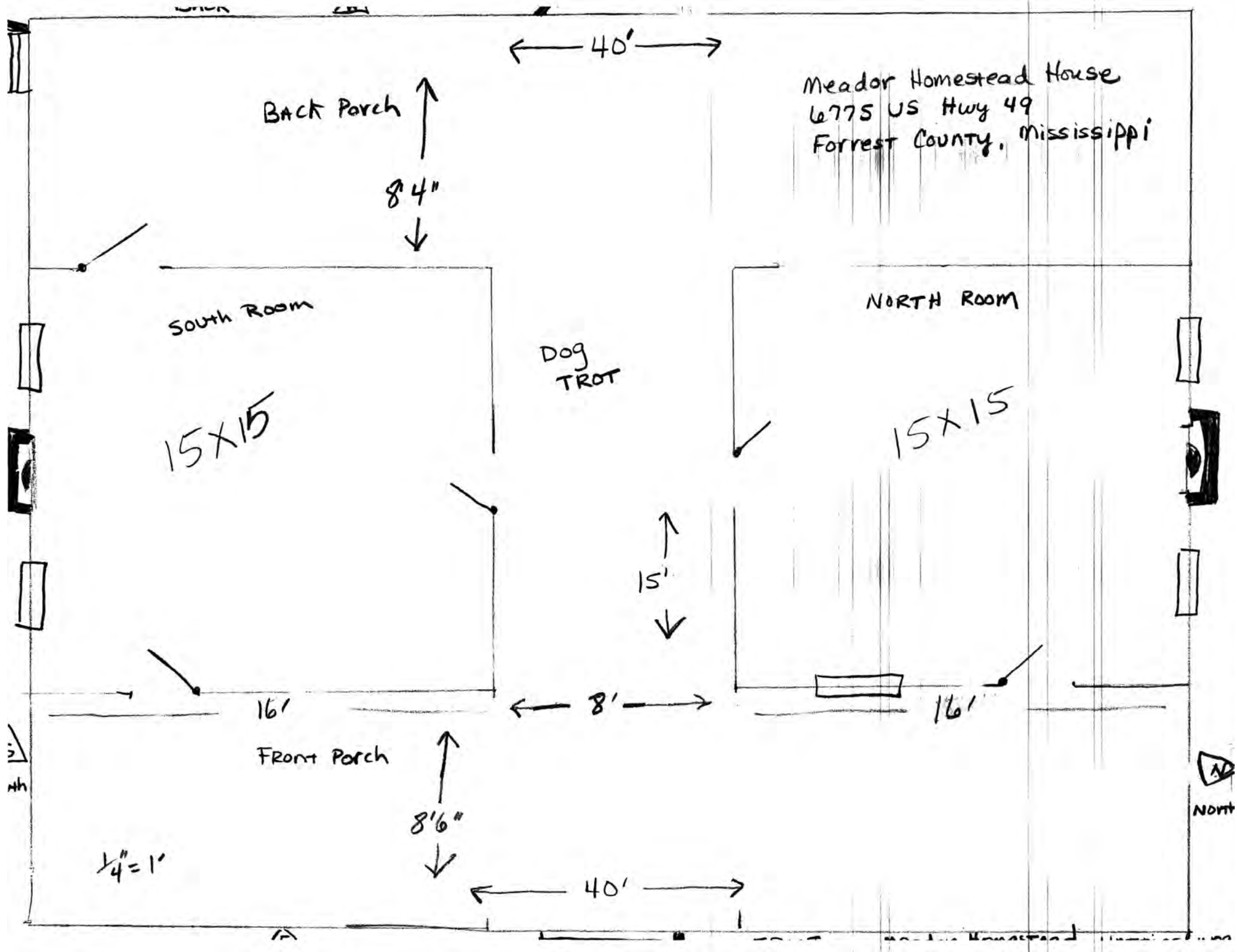
Name of Property

Forrest County, Mississippi

County and State

2 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0002.tif	House Exterior-Southeast view of front porch Joists, posts, eaves, step unit
3 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0003.tif	House Exterior- Roof cedar shank shingles
4 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0004.tif	House Exterior- East Front Porch Roof and Walls Beams, rafters, chinking, dovetail corners, hand-hewn logs
5 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0005.tif	House Exterior- Dovetail Corners
6 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0006.tif	House Exterior- Dog-Trot Floor
7 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0007.tif	House Exterior- Dog-Trot Ceiling
8 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0008.tif	House Exterior- North elevation Windows, chimney, porches, gable ends
9 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0009.tif	House Exterior- North elevation "juggling" marks, joists under house, front porch, windows
10 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0010.tif	House Exterior- West elevation back porch
11 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0011.tif	House Exterior- West elevation looking north Back porch beams, rafters, posts
12 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0012.tif	House Exterior- West elevation walls, posts, door, step units Looking north
13 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0013.tif	House Interior- North Room floor
14 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0014.tif	House Interior- North Room wall, ceiling, square nails
15 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0015.tif	House Interior- North Room fireplace with inlaid 5 stone decoration, ironwork for cookware, mantle
16 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0016.tif	House Interior- South Room east wall door and ironwork
17 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0017.tif	House Interior-South Room south wall Fireplace, windows, original furniture
18 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0018.tif	House Interior- South Room west wall, 1856 bed
19 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0019.tif	House Interior-South Room ceiling crystal light
20 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0020.tif	Exterior- <del>Water</del> Well in yard, looking at west elevation
21 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0021.tif	Exterior- Camellia bushes on property
22 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0022.tif	Exterior- Cedar Trees on old wagon trail looking northward from house
23 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0023.tif	Exterior- US Hwy 49 in background, facing eastward From house
24 of 24	MS_ForrestCounty_Meador_0024.tif	Exterior Picture of Log Cabin House in 1915

Meador Homestead House  
6775 US Hwy 49  
Forrest County, Mississippi



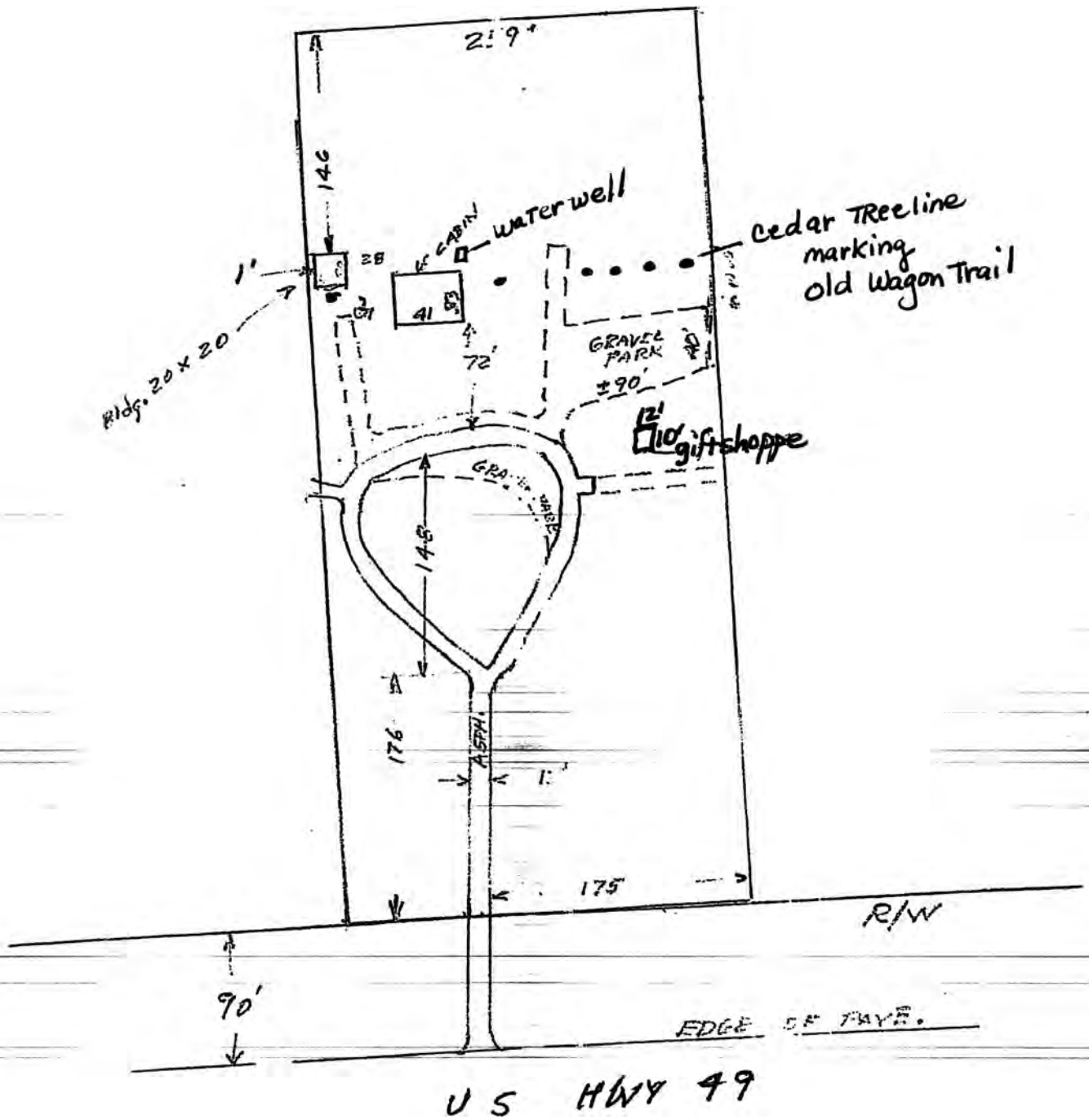
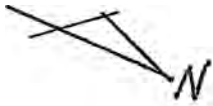


# SITE PLAN

6775 H/W 49

JAN. 2010

SCALE 1" = 100



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY Meador Homestead  
NAME:

MULTIPLE  
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: MISSISSIPPI, Forrest

DATE RECEIVED: 9/22/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/18/10  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/02/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/06/10  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000885

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT 11/19/2010 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Represents early settlement of Piney Woods Area around Hattiesburg  
Good Representative of Dog Trot - very good construction technique  
has been rehabbed - Roof replaced after Katrina, new chimney.*

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A+C

REVIEWER J. (suber) DISCIPLINE Historic

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/☒ see attached SLR Y/☒

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

Ms- Forrest County — Meador — 0001.tif  
Exterior East Front Elevation



MS\_\_Forrest County\_\_Meador\_\_0002.tif

Exterior south east view of front porch  
Joists, posts, eaves, step unit





MS- Forrest County — Meador — 0003.tif  
Exterior Roof cedar shank shingles



MS\_ Forrest County - Meador\_0004.tif  
Exterior East Front Porch, Roof, Walls  
Beams, rafters, chinking, dovetail corners, logs





MS\_Forest County\_Meador\_0005.tif  
Exterior Dovetail Corners



MS\_\_Forrest County\_\_Meador\_\_0006.tif  
Exterior Dog-Trot Floor





MS — Forrest County — Meador\_0007.tif  
Exterior Dog-TROT Ceiling





MS-ForrestCounty-Meador-  
0008.tif

NORTH Elevation

MS-Forrest County\_Meador-0008.tif 46 N N N-4  
LENOVO-3072967400007391078----



MS\_Forrest County - Meador-0009.tif  
Exterior North Elevation "juggling" marks  
Joists under house, Front porch, window





MS\_F Forrest County - meador-0010.tif  
Exterior West elevation back porch



MS — Forrest County — Meador — 0011.tif  
Exterior West Elevation  
Back Porch beams, rafters, posts  
Looking North





MS - Forrest County - Meador - 0012.tif  
Exterior West elevation looking north  
walls, porch, posts, door, step units



MS\_ Forrest County - meador - 0013.tif  
Interior north room floor





MS\_F Forrest\_meador\_0014.tif

Interior north room wall, ceiling, square  
nails



MS\_ Forrest County \_ Meador\_0015.tif  
Interior north room fireplace with s  
stone decoration, ironwork for cookware  
mantle



MS- Forrest County- meador- 0016.tif  
Interior South Room east wall door, ironwork





MS- Forrest County - Meador - 0017.tif  
Interior South Room South wall  
Fireplace, windows, original furniture





MS - Forrest County - Meador-0018.tif  
Interior - South Room west wall, 1856 bed



MS - Forrest + County - meador - 0019.tif  
Interior South Room Ceiling crystal light





MS\_Forrest County\_Meador\_0020.tif  
Exterior water well in yard, looking at west  
elevation





MS\_\_ForrestCounty\_\_meador\_\_0021.tif  
Camellia Bushes on property



MS\_ Forrest County\_ meador\_0022.tif  
Exterior - Cedar Trees on old wagon trail  
looking northward from house







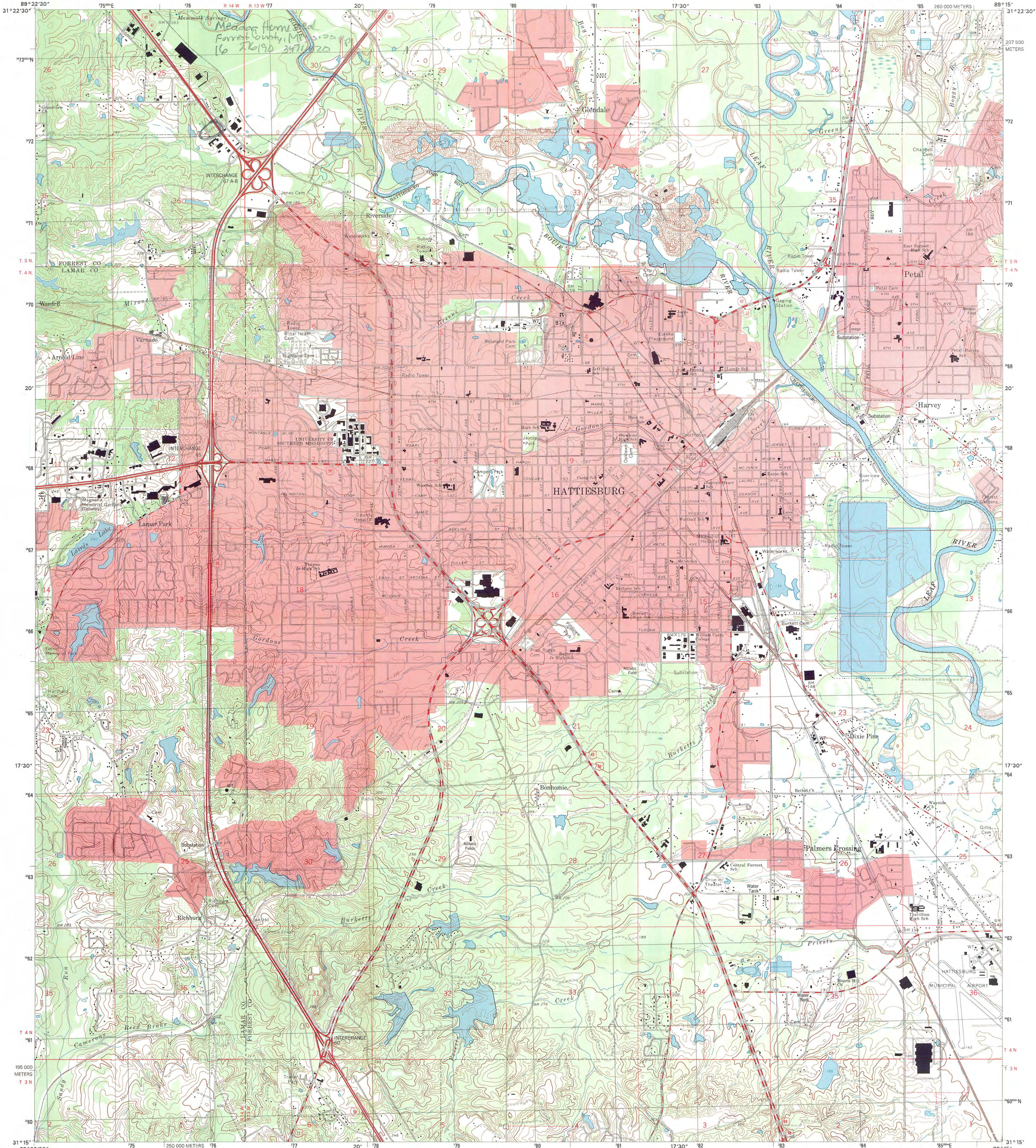
MS - Forrest County - Meadow - 0023.tif  
Exterior- US Hwy 49 in Background, facing  
eastward from house



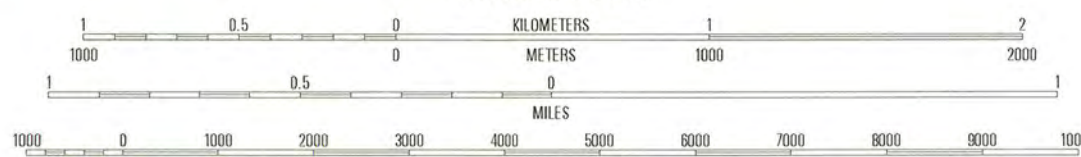
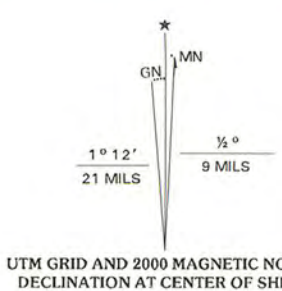
MS - Forrest County - meador-0024.tif  
Exterior Picture of Log Cabin House in 1915







Produced by the United States Geological Survey  
Topography compiled 1960. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1996 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 1964.  
North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83). Projection and 1,000-meter grid: Universal Transverse Mercator, zone 16. 2,500-meter ticks; Mississippi Coordinate System of 1983 (east zone).  
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27) is shown by dashed corner ticks. The values of the shift between NAD 83 and NAD 27 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software.  
Landmark buildings verified 1964.



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET  
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929  
TO CONVERT FROM FEET TO METERS, MULTIPLY BY 0.3048

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, P.O. BOX 25286, DENVER, COLORADO 80225  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1	2	3	1 Sanford
			2 Eastabuchie
			3 Barrontown
4		5	4 Hattiesburg SW
			5 Cartersville
			6 Parris
			7 Dixie
6	7	8	8 Mc Laurin

ADJOINING 7.5 QUADRANGLE NAMES

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
Primary highway  
hard surface .....  
Secondary highway  
hard surface .....  
Light-duty road, hard or  
improved surface .....  
Unimproved road .....  
Interstate Route  
U.S. Route  
State Route

HATTIESBURG, MS  
1996

NIMA 3146 IV SE-SERIES V843







PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571

601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975

mdah.state.ms.us

H. T. Holmes, Director



September 21, 2010

Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews

Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Associate Director for Cultural Resources

National Park Service

1201 Eye Street, NW (2280)

Washington, D.C. 2005

Dear Dr. Matthews:

We are pleased to enclose the nomination form and supporting documents to nominate the following property to the National Register of Historic Places:

Meador Homestead, Hattiesburg, Forrest County, Mississippi

The properties were approved for nomination by the Mississippi Historic Preservation Professional Review Board at its meeting on September 16, 2010.

We trust you will find the enclosed materials in order and will let us hear from you at your convenience.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William M. Gatlin".

Kenneth H. P'Pool

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

By: William M. Gatlin

National Register Coordinator