

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

good

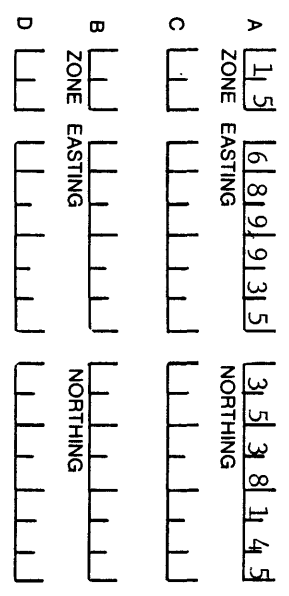
THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundaries of the nominated property are the dimensions of the mill building: 50 feet by 100 feet, and the brick ell, which measures 40 feet square.

CREAGE: Less than one

JTM REF:



ORM PREPARED BY:

Jack A. Gold

DATE

January, 1979

Historic Sites Survey

9A



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Two-story seven-bay brick industrial building with segmental-arch windows and parapet banded by a sawtooth cornice. Two-story ell on the west side of the rear (northwest) facade. The interior of the mill contains a variety of electric-motor-driven cottonseed refining equipment.

ALTERATIONS: Wood-fired Corliss steam engine for cottonseed cleaning, delinting, and hulling was replaced in 1930 by electric motors and one gas-fired steam engine. A hydraulic press used to extract cottonseed oil was replaced in 1955 by a chemical extraction method. The Corliss engine and press were sold for scrap to a company in South America.

OUTBUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Port Gibson Oil Works is one of the earliest cottonseed crushing mills in the U.S., operating continuously from 1882. While the products of the milling operation remain the same, the process has undergone major changes. Formerly, cottonseed arrived at the mill by train. It was unloaded into seed houses, and fed into the cleaning room of the mill for removal of bolls and sand. Delinting and hulling of the cottonseed produced two by-products: lint (textile product) and hulls (cattle feed). Seed meats were steam-cooked and placed under a hydraulic press with 5000 p.s.i. Cottonseed oil was extracted, and the remaining "cake" was ground into meal for cattle feed.

Cottonseed now arrives at the mill by truck. A chemical solvent, hexane, is used to extract oil from the seeds. The hexane is recovered in a steam still and a desolventizer located in another building.

NAME: Port Gibson (cottonseed crushing) Oil Works
Mill Building

STREET NO: Anthony Street

TOWN/VIC: Port Gibson

COUNTY: Claiborne

BLOCK/LOT:

PRESENT OWNER: Port Gibson Oil Works
ADDRESS same

PRESENT USE: industrial

FORMER USE:

DATE: 1882

STYLE: 19th Century commercial

ARCH/BUILDER:

SOURCE OF DATE: owner

ENVIRONMENT: industrial

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE X

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

NEG. #