

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi	
COUNTY: Adams	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	SEP 17 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
( Site of Fort Dearborn )

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Fort Dearborn

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N of Washington, off U.S. 61  
North of St. Catherine Creek, west of U. S. Highway 61 north.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington vicinity

STATE Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Adams	CODE 001
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Comments not in use
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Brown Powelette

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
Mississippi

CODE:  
28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Adams County Courthouse, Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Natchez

STATE:  
Mississippi

CODE:  
28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Natchez Trace Parkway Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1940     Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
National Park Service

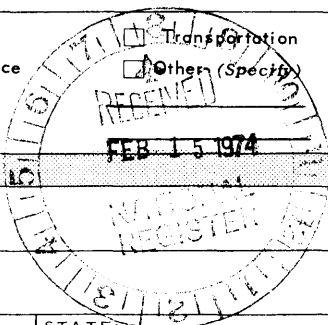
STREET AND NUMBER:  
801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Mississippi

COUNTY: Adams

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

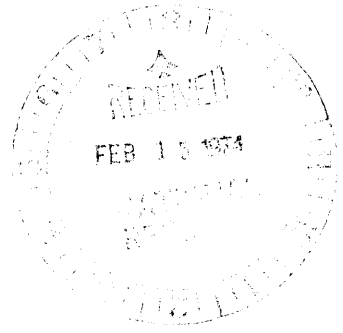
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

In 1802, Territorial Governor William C. C. Claiborne described the site of Fort Dearborn as "situated on high commanding ground; in a healthy part of the District, possessing the advantage of excellent spring water, near the center of our population; and not more than six miles from the Mississippi River." Claiborne also noted in another letter to Secretary of War Henry Dearborn that the site selected had "an ample supply of timber for the contemplated buildings and of firewood for the use of the garrison for several years."

According to the Secretary of War, the fort was to be one hundred and forty feet square. The forty-three acres purchased for its erection was considered adequate enough to prevent the citizens from establishing tippling houses immediately in the vicinity of the fort.

The site of Fort Dearborn is near the end of a plateau which is surrounded by ravines on three sides. The ravines were used by the garrison as dumps during the fort's occupation. The fort was constructed of wood with the exception of the fireplaces which were brick.

The site of Fort Dearborn has changed little since 1858, when Benjamin L. C. Wailes described it in his diary: "The outline of the barracks can be seen by scraps of nails, pieces of brick, fragments of glass, pottery and crockery and military buttons, etc. Here the British prisoners captured near New Orleans by General Jackson in 1815, were brought. It was then under command of Major Hayes G. White, and was soon after abandoned and dismantled."



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**B. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1802-1803

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

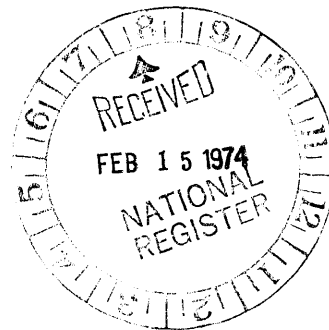
- |   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input type="checkbox"/> Political           | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |  |  |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Fort Dearborn was established as a fortification for United States troops in 1802-1803, near the territorial capital of Washington, Mississippi. Events have associated the fort with the history of Mississippi's territorial period and the War of 1812. It was originally established as a guard for the territorial interior, but when the Louisiana Purchase extended America's frontier to the Gulf, the fort lost its military significance.

In 1802 the territorial governor, William C. C. Claiborne, petitioned Henry Dearborn, Secretary of War, and the individual for whom the fort was named, to erect a fortification near Washington and garrison it with troops from Fort Adams, located on the Mississippi River below Natchez. Claiborne purchased the site, consisting of forty-three acres near the Natchez Trace along St. Catherine Creek at fifteen dollars per acre. The fort, constructed from indigenous timber, was situated atop a commanding hill.

The Louisiana Purchase eliminated the need for the fort as a defensive post, and by 1813, ten years after its completion, the fort had fallen to such a state of deterioration that Andrew Jackson refused to quarter his Tennessee Volunteers there. Fort Dearborn, which had outlasted its usefulness, was dismantled after the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

W.C.C. Claiborne Papers, Mississippi Department of Archives and History (Territorial Archives).  
 Mississippi Department of Archives and History. "Report of an Investigation to Establish the Site of Fort Dearborn, Washington, Adams County, Mississippi." Unpublished research report, 1973.  
 Rowland, Dunbar, comp. and ed. The Mississippi Territorial Archives, 1798-1803. Nashville: Press of Brandon Printing Company, 1905.  
 \_\_\_\_\_, ed. Official Letter Books of W.C.C. Claiborne. 6 vols. Jackson: Mississippi Department of Archives and History, 1917.

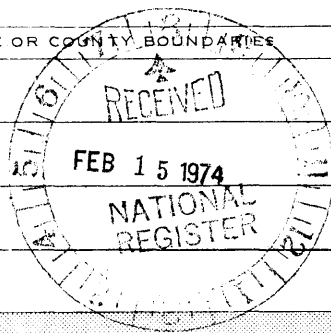
**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	O R		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	LATITUDE		
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	LONGITUDE		
NW	31 ° 35 ' 28 "	91 ° 17 ' 50 "	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NE	31 ° 35 ' 24 "	91 ° 17 ' 35 "	0	'	"
SE	31 ° 35 ' 00 "	91 ° 17 ' 30 "			
SW	31 ° 35 ' 04 "	91 ° 17 ' 45 "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **43**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: William C. Wright, Historian

ORGANIZATION: Mississippi Department of Archives and History DATE: January 31, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: P. O. Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson, STATE: Mississippi CODE: 28

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name Clayton B. Williard

Title State Liaison Officer

Date February 8, 1974

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

U. B. [Signature]  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 9/7/74

ATTEST:  
Wm. [Signature]  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 9-16-74

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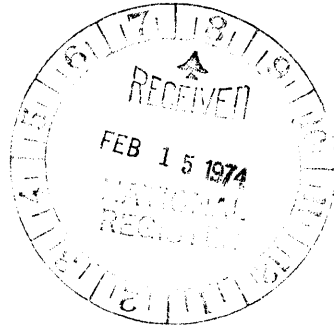
*(Continuation Sheet)*

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COUNTY Adams	
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	SEP 17 1974

*(Number all entries)*

9.

B. L. C. Wailes Diary, Duke University (microfilm copy at Mississippi Department of Archives and History).



658 20'

31° 37' 30"

659

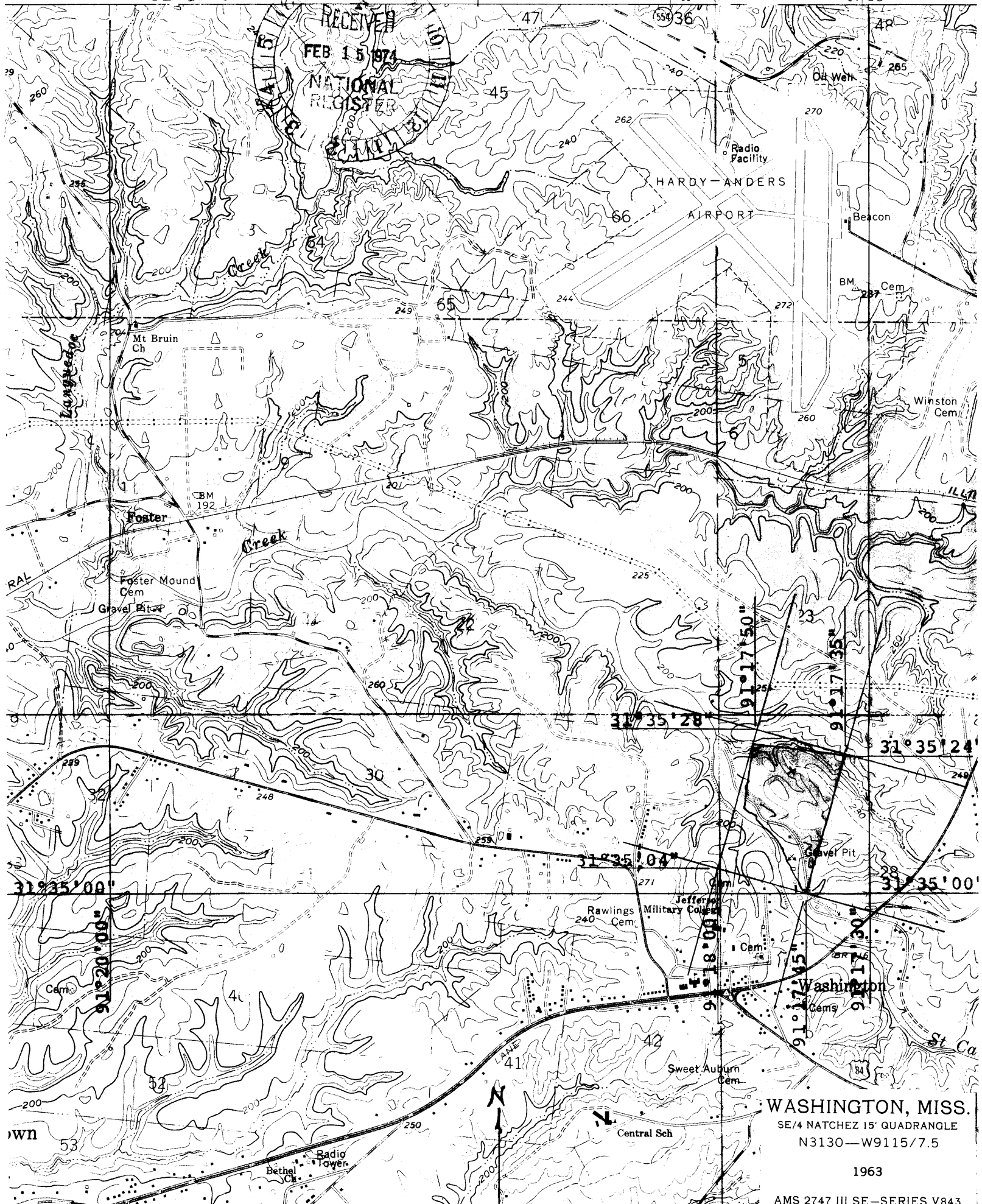
2747 III NE  
(PINE RIDGE)

661

31° 37' 30"

17' 30"

RECEIVED  
 FEB 15 1974  
 NATIONAL  
 REGISTER



WASHINGTON, MISS.

SE/4 NATCHEZ 15' QUADRANGLE

N3130—W9115/7.5

1963

AMS 2747 III SE—SERIES V843