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Historic Sites Survey

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State of Mississippi Department of Archives & History P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 3920!

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:	NAME: Gunnell House		
1-story log dogtrot constructed of split logs with $\frac{1}{2}$ -dovetail corner joinings foundation of pine blocks. Side facades (north and south) have been weather-	STREET NO:		
boarded, north end of front porch enclosed and weatherboarded. Original door	TOWN/VIC: Topeka		
with handmade latches and mantels in two original pens.	COUNTY: Lawrence		
	BLOCK/LOT:		
	PRESENT OWNER: Mrs. Melvin Brister, Sr. ADDRESS Rt. 1, Ruth MS 39662		
	PRESENT USE: Barn		
	FORMER USE: residence		
	DATE: ca.1868		
	STYLE: dogtrot		
ALTERATIONS: Stick-and-mud chimneys replaced with brick, shed roof porch added to north east corner of rear facade.	ARCH/BUILDER: Nicholas Gunnell		
case corner of fear facade.	SOURCE OF DATE: land records		
ØUTBUILDINGS:	ENVIRONMENT: rural		
LANDSCAPE FEATURES: Set in large clearing surrounded by forest.	LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE NEIGHBORHOOD LOCAL X STATE NATIONAL		
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:	PHOTOS		
The Gunnell House is architecturally significant as one of three houses in the county originally constructed as a dogtrot, and is the only post-Civil War example. Its split log walls joined with $\frac{1}{2}$ -dovetailed corners are characteristic of folk houses of this period. The house maintains a high level of integrity because it has not been modernized in any way. (Open center hall is presently filled with hay).	i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i i		
Historically the house has been associated with the Gunnell family and is sti owned by their descendants. It was constructed by Nicholas R. Gunnell following the Civil War although the adjoining 80 acres were purchased by Nicholas Gunnell (Sr.) in 1825. The Gunnells were early Lawrence Co. settler in the southwestern section of the county and eventually owned 480 acres in			

SITE OR AREA PLAN WITH NORTH ARROW AND SHAPE OF STRUCTURE:

this section (1867). Several Gunnell men served in the Confederate Army; Corp. Benjamin H. Gunnell, CoC 33 Miss. Infantry CSA, Corp. William Gunnell, CoC 7 Miss. Infantry CSA, are buried in the family cemetery on the property.

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CONTINUATION:

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PHYSI	CAL	COND	TION:	

Good

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

S6-T5N-R10E

A lot 500' square with house at center.

ACREAGE: 1e	ss than 5 acres		
UTM REF:			
	15 7 6 2 3 2 0 DNE EASTING	314 719 91810 NORTHING	
cL			
вЦ			
σL			
FORM PREPARE	D BY:		DATE
	Jody Cook		Apri1 [°] 1980