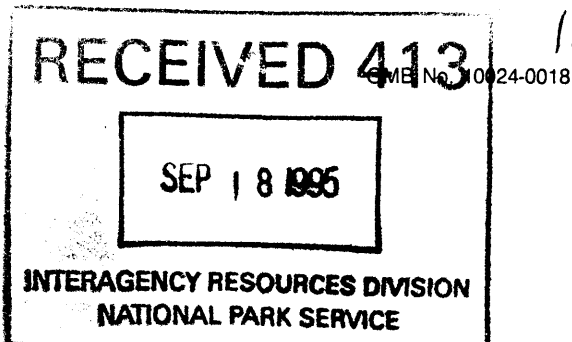


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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 *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Lea, Wilford Zachariah House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Mississippi Hwy 569 North, 2 miles north of Liberty N/A not for publication

city or town Liberty vicinity

state Mississippi code MS county Amite code 5 zip code 39645-5212

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kenneth H. P. Pool SEPT. 14, 1995
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Edson B. Beall
Signature of the Keeper
Entered in the National Register

10/25/95
Date of Action

Lea, Wilford Zachariah House

Amite Co., MS

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	1	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	1	Total

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

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/Single Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick Piers

walls Weatherboard

roof Metal

other _____

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Lea, Wilford Zachariah House
Name of Property

Amite Co., MS
County and State

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.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

N/A

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

c.1852

Significant Dates

c.1852

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Lea, Wilford Zachariah House
Name of Property

Amite Co., MS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.3 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	5	7	1	1	5	8	0	3	4	5	1	5	0	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

2

Zone	Easting				Northing									

3

Zone	Easting				Northing									

4

Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title E. Pauline Barrow, Architectural Historian
organization N/A date June 1995
street & number 1313 Pickett Avenue telephone 504/344-6410
city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70808

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

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.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Mary Lea Reid & Michael Cupit
street & number 4248 Miss. Hwy 569 North telephone 601/657-4606
city or town Liberty state MS zip code 39645

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

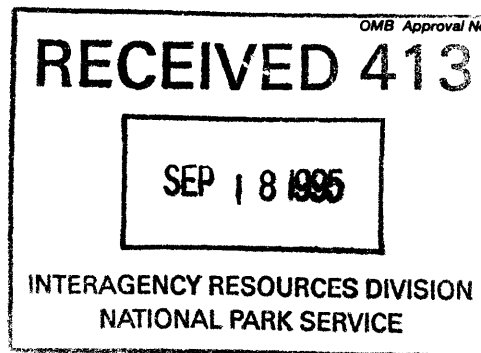
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Lea, Wilford Zachariah House, Amite County, MS

Section number 7 Page 1



Wilford Zachariah Lea, when building his plantation house circa 1852, followed the popular trend of utilizing the Greek Revival architectural style which prevailed across the country in the mid-19th century. Some examples were created by architects or by master carpenters using the architectural handbooks of the period but most were a vernacular interpretation with varying degrees of sophistication. The Wilford Zachariah Lea House is outstanding in Amite County as a combination of the vernacular Greek form with a central hall, double-pile plan embellished with elegant interior details. The house was obviously built for a prosperous and style-conscious planter.

Located approximately two miles north of Liberty, Mississippi (county seat), the Wilford Zachariah Lea House conveys a sense of dignity and permanence in a rural setting about 100' from Highway 569. The one notable feature of the front facade is the railing of two diagonal boards that form two elongated X's between each of the six rectangular columns across the full width double-tier porch. This decorative accent with a paneled foot rail is a frequent local expression of the period. The remainder of the facade displays a typical five-bay arrangement of 6/6 double-hung sash windows with a trabeated entrance composed of an eleven light transom with six light sidelights above molded panels which flank double-leaf doors. Horizontal matched boards with a molded base are found beneath the front and rear porches, while the remainder of the rectangular house is clapboard. Two interior plastered chimneys with denticulated caps rise from the side slopes of a hip roof with eaves that flare out slightly over the front porch. All is set on brick foundation piers.

Refinement dominates simplicity as one enters the paneled doors with the original stenciled 1/2 glazing. The hall is flooded with natural light from the entrance, the 1/2 glazed parlor pocket doors, a single 1/2 glazed study door and a 6/6 window above the landing of the open two-run stairway. The outstanding features in the hall that set the Wilford Zachariah Lea House apart from its competition include a paneled wainscoting below an 11' ceiling bordered with an impressive plaster cornice ornamented with classic designs of the acanthus leaf, the bead-and-reel and the egg-and-dart motifs. Also in the hall and in the two front rooms, handsome ceiling medallions display the stylized acanthus leaf design again. The stairway is placed on

continued

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Lea, Wilford Zachariah House, Amite County, MS

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the northerly wall at the rear of the hall, repeating the same railing design as the porch, with a delicate rounded handrail and an unusual "seahorse" or an "S" shaped newel post. Possibly for added strength on the second floor railing, a square is formed with 2 x 2's at the intersecting point of the X suggesting a Chinese Chippendale design.

Shouldered architraves surround the windows and the doorway of the south parlor only, reflecting the intended social importance of the room. In addition, a deeply molded plain-run cornice crowns the walls here and in the study across the hall. All other openings on the first floor and second floor have well executed but modest architrave trim. Six rooms have identical Greek post and lintel mantels with molded shelves. The two front rooms of the second floor were built without a fireplace but all rooms with the exception of the parlor have closets in the chimney wall. The Gothic Revival Style is introduced on the closet doors by applied tudor arch appliques on two wide vertical planks. Only the north front bedroom closet door is an exception, using a paneled door as all the other doors of the house.

Located a few feet from the northwest rear corner of the house, is a small frame outbuilding which is of recent origin and is listed as a non-contributing element (see Photo 2).

The well preserved Lea House stands today almost as originally constructed with minor alterations consisting of:

- (1) The removal of the original full width one story back porch, and the covered passage to a separate outdoor kitchen. These historic features were replaced in the early 1950's with an attached modern kitchen, bathroom, laundry room and a smaller back porch.
- (2) The cracking plaster walls were recently replaced with sheetrock, with the exception of the first and second level center halls which are in sound condition.
- (3) The open fireplaces have been closed and gas heaters installed.

The Wilford Zachariah Lea House has always been recognized as one of the outstanding residences in the county and deserves the honor of being listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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Lea, Wilford Zachariah House, Amite County, MS

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The Wilford Zachariah Lea House (c.1852) is architecturally significant in Amite County based on the outstanding interior Greek Revival details and as a rare surviving example of the two story vernacular Greek Revival form. The average Greek Revival plantation house in the county is considerably smaller, with only one or one-and-a-half stories. Although these cottages are distinctive, none have the grand scale and articulation found in the Wilford Zachariah Lea House.

An uncompleted architectural survey of Amite County indicates the Carolina I-House form dominates the 19th century housing stock. Wilford Zachariah Lea, as a descendent of one of the early settlers, deviated from the norm by employing the nationally acclaimed Greek Revival style of architecture and incorporated high-style interior details such as: outstanding plasterwork in the central hall cornice which is ornamented with acanthus leaf, bead-and-reel, and egg-and-dart motifs; a deeply molded cornice in the parlor and front bedroom; and three ceiling medallions with the acanthus leaf design. Other significant features include the original stencilled glass on the main entrance doors, parallel wainscotting in the hall, six original mantelpieces and the recognition of the Gothic Revival Style on the closet doors.

The significance of the Lea House is also evident due to its high degree of integrity, fine workmanship, continuous Lea family ownership, and the surrounding historic rural setting of over 200 acres of farm land.

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**National Register of Historic Places
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Lea, Wilford Zachariah House, Amite County, MS

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Liberty & Amite County Sesqui-Centennial 1809-1959.

Mississippi Department of Archives & History, Jackson. Statewide Survey of Historic Sites, Amite County.

Reid, Mary Lea, granddaughter of Wilford Zachariah Lea. Interviewed by E. Pauline Barrow, Architectural Historian, at the W.Z. Lea House, April 1995.

Tax & Land Records, Amite County Courthouse.

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Section number 10 Page 1

Lea, Wilford Zachariah, House
Liberty vic., Amite County, MS

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the nominated property consists of a square, the center of which is at the center of the roof ridge of the main roof of the house. Measuring 120 feet in each direction from the center of the roof ridge, the resulting square of land has sides that are 240 feet long and are parallel or perpendicular to the ridge of the roof. This property is located in the NE 1/4 SW 1/4 Section 35, T3N, R4E.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the significant resource and its immediate setting. They do not follow property lines because to have done so would have meant including unnecessarily extensive acreage.

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Continuation Sheet**

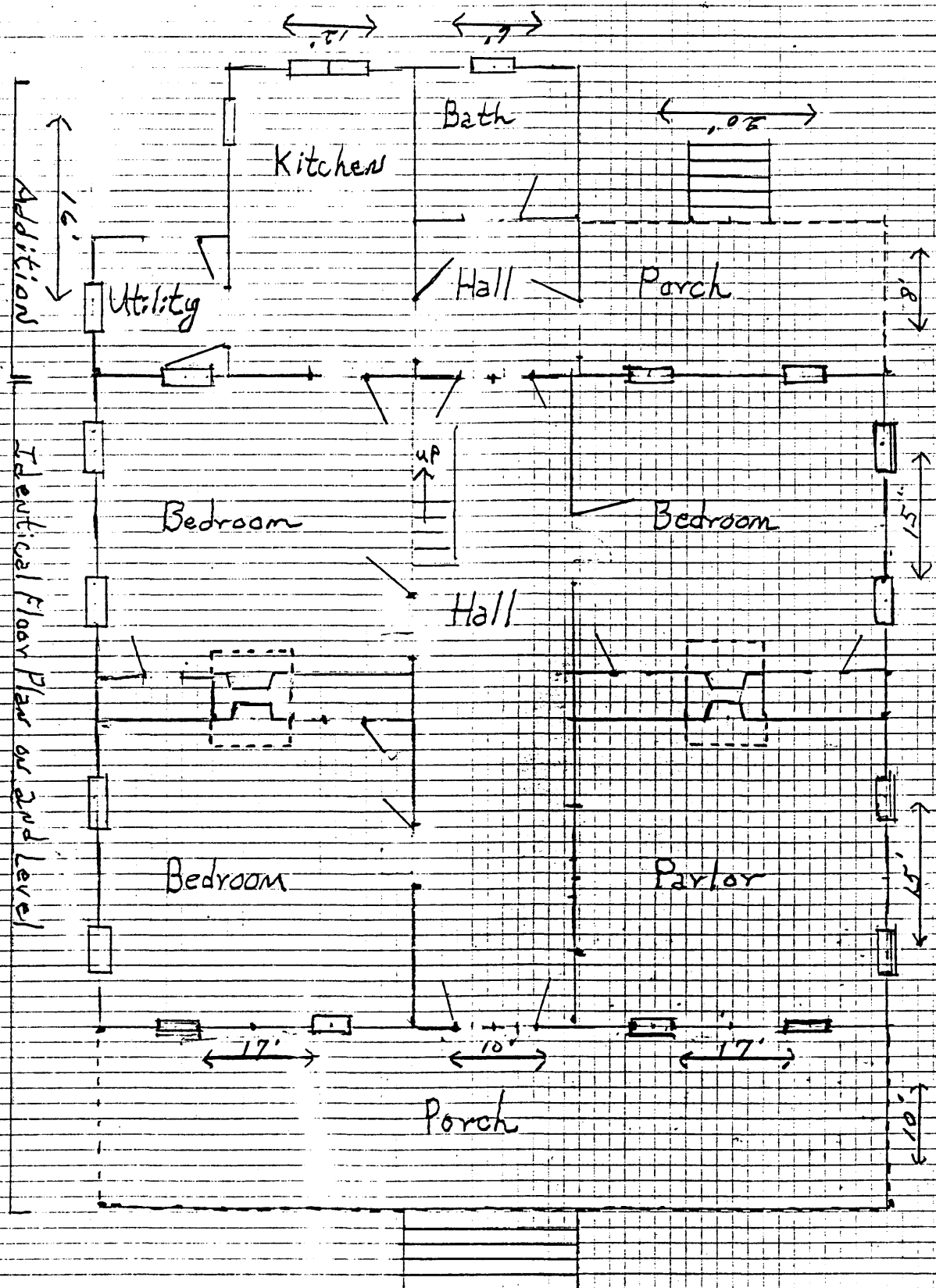
Lea, Wilford Zachariah, House, Amite County, MS
Section number Photos Page 1

PHOTOGRAPHS

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) Wilford Zachariah Lea House
- (2) Liberty Vicinity, Amite County, MS
- (3) E. Pauline Barrow
- (4) May 1995
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives & History

- Photo 1 -- (8) Facade (west elevation), view to northeast
Photo 2 -- (8) East (rear elevation), view to west
Photo 3 -- (8) Chimney (south), view to north west
Photo 4 -- (8) Front entrance interior (west elevation), view to west
Photo 5 -- (8) Medallion in north bedroom of front section
Photo 6 -- (8) Plaster cornice in central hall, view to north
Photo 7 -- (8) Mantelpiece in south parlor of front section, view to east
Photo 8 -- (8) Stairwell in central hall, view to northeast



1" = 8'
 Not Drawn to Scale

Wilford Zachariah Lea
 House
 Amite County, MS