

Mississippi

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

Lafayette

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY DATE

(Type all entries complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:

Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

616 North 14th Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Oxford

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Lafayette

CODE

071

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Houston

STREET AND NUMBER:

616 North 14th Street

CITY OR TOWN:

Oxford

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Chancery Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:

Lafayette County Courthouse

CITY OR TOWN:

Oxford

STATE

Mississippi

CODE

28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

None

DATE OF SURVEY:

Federal

State

County

Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE

CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE

COUNTY

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian
- 15th Century
- 16th Century
- 17th Century
- 18th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **circa 1868-1888**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Unlike most antebellum Southern leaders, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar participated actively in national affairs both before and after the Civil War, and he is prominently identified with the politics of each era. Committed to the southern system of slave labor, Lamar resigned from the U.S. Congress in January, 1861, and authored the Mississippi Secession Ordinance that same month. Later he served as an officer in a Confederate volunteer regiment. Following the war and a period of retirement, Lamar concluded that reconciliation offered the only corrective for the defeated South. Therefore he reentered public life, won a seat in Congress in 1872, gained election to the U.S. Senate in 1876, and served subsequently as Secretary of the Interior and Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. In each position he considered himself a patriotic benefactor of a contrite and anxious region. An opponent of civil rights legislation for blacks and an exponent of industrial progress, Lamar represented the restoration of white rule in the "New South" and, according to historian James B. Murphy, became a spokesman for a "conservative political philosophy" that commanded "a large following throughout the nation."¹ Perhaps more important, he symbolized the South's regained political respectability.

From about 1868 to 1888, Lamar made his Oxford home in a white, frame, single-storied cottage. Hip-roofed and graced on the exterior with green louvered shutters, the structure remains in excellent condition and has undergone few significant alterations. It is the only known extant Lamar dwelling.

(continued)

¹ James B. Murphy, L. Q. C. Lamar: Pragmatic Patriot (Baton Rouge, 1973), 112.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar House is a single-storied, white, frame cottage three bays wide at the front and four bays wide at the sides. Two interior chimneys pierce the hipped roof, and green louvered shutters flank the front and side sash windows. Leading from the street to the front of the house is a portion of the brick walk that once connected the structure with the nearby, well-preserved home of Augustus Baldwin Longstreet.

Although one biographer contends that Lamar built the cottage in 1869, Lafayette County property records suggest that Alfred Barger erected it sometime between 1857 and 1862. Virginia Longstreet Lamar bought the property from John Cullen in 1868, and L. Q. C. Lamar lived in the house during his career as a Congressman and Cabinet member. In 1888 he transferred the dwelling to his daughter, Fannie L. Mayes, and it passed subsequently through several owners.

The house has undergone few significant changes since Lamar occupied it. The hip-roofed front porch has been extended several feet on each side of the entrance, but the four initial square supporting posts have been retained. Exposed portions of support posts in the original rear wall indicate that at one time the house had a matching back porch. Subsequent owners replaced it with an enclosed shed that stretches across the entire length of the house and protrudes several feet on each side. A temporary automobile shed has been affixed to the southeast corner of this addition. Formerly the house stood on brick piers, but these have been replaced by a concrete foundation. Wooden pegs still hold the supporting timbers of the house together, however.

Except for the furnishings, the interior appears much the same as it did in Lamar's time. A single door with side and transom lights leads into a central hallway 10 feet wide and 40 feet long. The corridor divides four 20-foot-square rooms into two wings. On the left are a parlor and a dining room, and on the right are two bedrooms. The rear addition houses a modern kitchen and bath. The hall and four main rooms have 12-foot ceilings, three rooms retain their original plain mantels, and stenciled designs remain intact on the plastered hall walls. Restoration efforts are underway.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cate, Wirt Armistead, Lucius Q. C. Lamar: Secession and Reunion (New York, 1935).
 Murphy, James B., L. Q. C. Lamar: Pragmatic Patriot (Baton Rouge, 1973).
 Nevins, Allan, Grover Cleveland: A Study in Courage (New York, 1933).
 Wade, John Donald, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet: A Study of the Development of Culture in the South (New York, 1924).

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			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	0	'	"	0	'	"
NE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SE	0	'	"	0	'	"
SW	0	'	"	0	'	"

O
R

LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
34	22	20	89	30	55

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **circa 2 acres**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
George R. Adams, Managing Editor

ORGANIZATION: **American Association for State and Local History** DATE: **June 1, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
1315 Eighth Avenue South

CITY OR TOWN: **Nashville** STATE: **Tennessee** CODE: **47**

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 _____

Title _____

Date _____

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

 ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Lafayette	
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L. Q. C. Lamar House (Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

Biography

Of French Huguenot ancestry, Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar was born into a politically active Georgia family in 1825. L. Q. C. Lamar, Sr., served as a circuit judge, and Lucius' brother, Mirabeau, became the second president of the Republic of Texas. Following graduation from Emory College in 1845, Lucius studied law in the Macon office of an uncle and was admitted to the bar in 1847. That same year Lamar married Virginia Longstreet, daughter of former Emory president, Augustus Baldwin Longstreet.

Elected a delegate to the Georgia Democratic convention in 1847 and again in 1849, Lamar mingled with such State political stalwarts as Howell Cobb and Joseph E. Brown. The young lawyer's political career had scarcely begun, however, when Longstreet accepted the presidency of the University of Mississippi. Unwilling to separate Virginia from her family, Lamar moved to Mississippi too. He opened a law practice in Oxford, became an adjunct professor of mathematics at the university, and resumed his interest in politics. Through his opposition to the Compromise of 1850, his participation in the local organization of the Southern Rights Party, and his support for Jefferson Davis in the latter's unsuccessful 1851 gubernatorial campaign, Lamar gained invaluable political experience.

Homesick for his native State and old friends, Lamar left his family temporarily in 1852 and returned to Georgia, where he entered into a successful law partnership and won a hard-fought race for a position in the State legislature. Despite rendering little outstanding service during the 1853-54 session, he emerged as a strong contender for a Democratic congressional nomination in 1855. Delegates to the district convention chose another candidate to represent them, though, and Lamar returned disappointedly to Mississippi.

Upon land purchased from his father-in-law, Lamar established Solitude Plantation about 12 miles north of Oxford. He directed agricultural operations but a short time, yet the experience enhanced his previously brief association with the plantation tradition. In 1857 Lamar secured his district's Democratic nomination for Congress, and campaigning forcefully in support of the Kansas-Nebraska

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L. O. C. Lamar House (Continuation Sheet)
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8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

Act, he defeated his Whig opponent, James Lusk Alcorn, handily. During the 35th and 36th Congresses Lamar assumed the role of Southern advocate. He defended slavery, argued for expansion of the institution into new territories, and called for the preservation of sectional balance in Congress.

Prior to Lincoln's election to the White House in 1860, Lamar did not recommend secession, but that alternative never left his mind. On December 7, 1859, he warned Congress that should the Constitution be "persistently violated," he would "raise the banner of secession" and "fight under it as long as the blood flows and ebbs in my veins."² In the following Presidential election, he helped carry Mississippi for John C. Breckenridge then called for formation of a southern confederacy. In January 1861, Lamar wrote Mississippi's Secession Ordinance and resigned his congressional seat. A few months later, he and his law partner organized the 19th Mississippi Regiment of Volunteers, and in 1862 Jefferson Davis appointed Lamar commissioner to the Russian Imperial Government.

After the war Lamar returned to the practice of law, took a teaching position at the University of Mississippi, and for a time limited his political activities to oratorical blasts at the State and national Republican administrations. When Mississippi attained readmission to the Union, however, Lamar determined to wrest the State from Republican control. With wide support he won election to the 43rd Congress in 1872 and secured a congressional pardon, which the 14th amendment required for all ex-Confederate leaders who aspired to hold State or Federal office.

Hoping to end northern intervention in southern affairs and bring about a reconciliation between the two sections, Lamar delivered an eloquent eulogy of Charles Sumner in the House on March 28, 1874. Without admitting southern wrongdoing in regard to slavery, the Mississippi Congressman praised Sumner's dedication to individual liberty, noted his sympathy to southern people after the war, and called on the North to recognize that the South had accepted the verdict of its defeat and could be entrusted with its own affairs. The speech received an enthusiastic response both in Congress and in the northern press. This reaction confirmed Lamar's belief in a temperate approach to postbellum statesmanship.

² Quoted in *ibid.*, 49.

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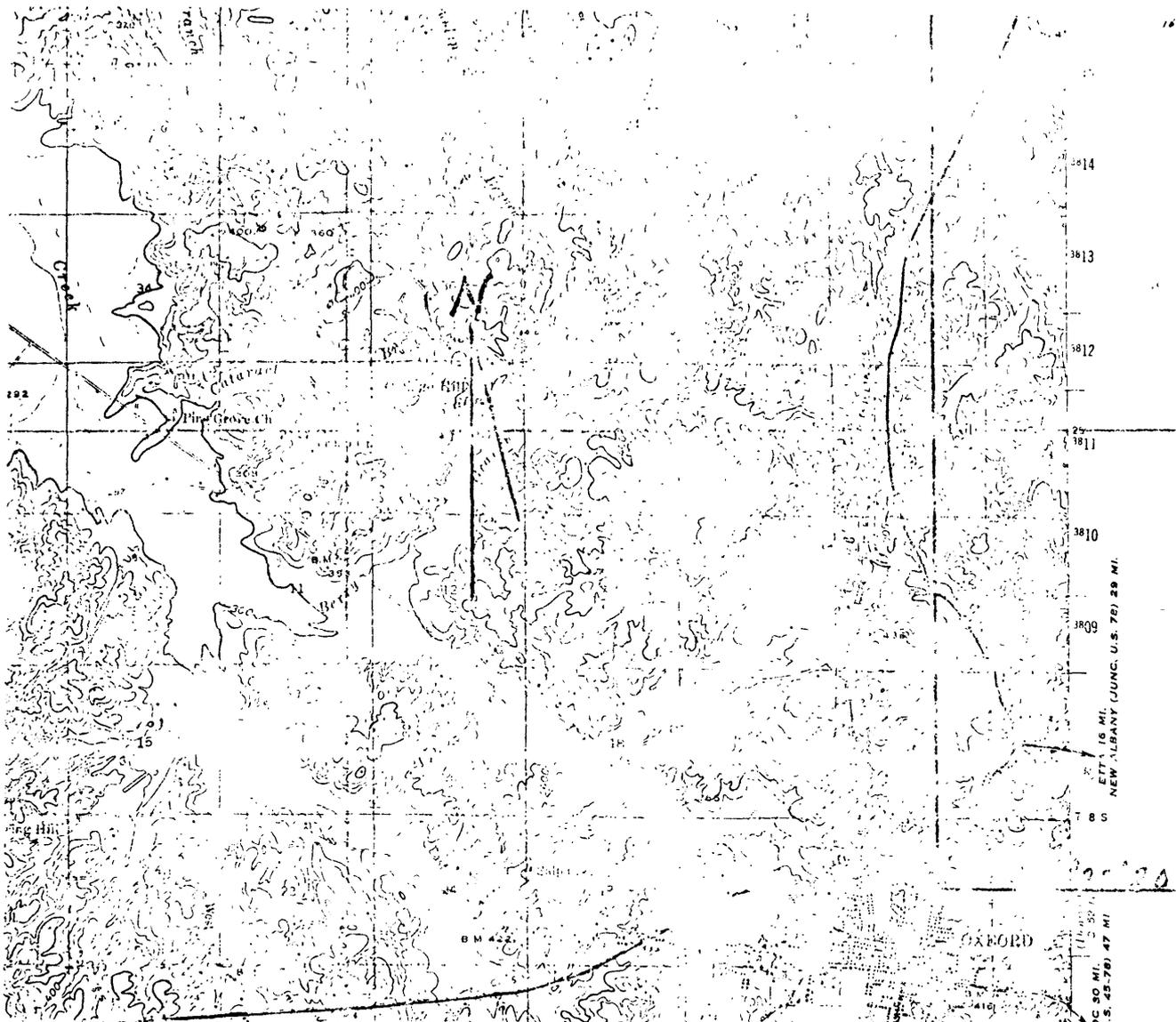
8. SIGNIFICANCE (cont'd.)

Recognized throughout the Nation as a man uniquely qualified to speak for the white southern ruling class, Lamar remained an intersectional moderate for the balance of his career, devoting his energy to national and party needs as well as to the problems of Mississippi and the South. In recognition of his efforts and in testimony to the growing strength of the Democratic Party in the South, he was made chairman of the Democratic Caucus in the 54th Congress. From that vantage point he fought against the enactment of civil rights legislation and encouraged Federal expenditures for railroad construction and improvement of Mississippi River navigation.

In the summer of 1875 Lamar returned to Mississippi and exerted a decisive influence on elections that restored that State fully to white Democratic control. The following year he won election to the U.S. Senate, and in an effort to preserve conservative home rule in the South, he argued effectively behind the scenes for congressional acceptance of an intersectional compromise in the disputed Hayes-Tilden Presidential election. Although recurring illness hampered Lamar during his 7 years in the Senate, he maintained the same political posture that had characterized his service in the lower chamber of Congress.

In 1884 the Democrats regained the White House, and to achieve geographical balance in the Cabinet, President Grover Cleveland appointed Lamar Secretary of the Interior. Selected over other southerners because of his record of moderation on sectional issues, Lamar showed a special concern for land and civil service reform, and in 1888 Cleveland appointed him to the Supreme Court. As the first southerner named to the Court since the Civil War, Lamar stood as a symbol of the South's recovered political respectability and as proof that Confederate antecedents were not a significant disqualification for important service to the Nation. His tenure as Associate Justice reflected the same social conservatism and economic nationalism that he had espoused in Congress. Lamar continued on the bench until severe kidney and lung disorders caused his death in January 1893.

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Lucius Quintus Cincinnatus Lamar House
616 North 14th Street
Oxford, Mississippi
U.S.G.S. 15' Series

Miss., Oxford Quad.
Lat. 34° 22' 20"
Long. 89° 30' 55"

NEW ALBANY (JUNC. U.S. 78) 29 MI.
EFT 1.18 MI.
TUPELO (JUNC. U.S. 45-78) 47 MI.
TUPELO (JUNC. U.S. 45-78) 47 MI.

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