

MAY 30 1979



ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Two-and-a-half-story gable-roof L-plan brick residence.

NAME: Van Dorn House

STREET NO: Van Dorn Drive (Marginal St. Extension)

TOWN/VIC: Port Gibson

COUNTY: Claiborne

BLOCK/LOT:

State of Mississippi

PRESENT OWNER: Board of Trustees

ADDRESS Mississippi Department of Archives

and History

FORMER USE: P.O. Box 571, Jackson 39205

DATE: ca. 1830

STYLE: Federal

ARCH/BUILDER: Peter Van Dorn

SOURCE OF DATE: style

ENVIRONMENT: residential

LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE

NEIGHBORHOOD

LOCAL

STATE X

NATIONAL

PHOTOS

ALTERATIONS:

OUTBUILDINGS:

Two-story flanking-gable brick kitchen dependency with double frame gallery (no longer extant) located approximately thirty feet southwest of house.

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

Formerly landscaped grounds.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION:

deteriorated

THREATS:

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

per National Register listing
Lot measures approximately 200 feet square.

ACREAGE: Less than ten

UTM REF:

A	[1]	[5]	[6]	[9]	[0]	[5]	[9]	[9]	[0]	[3]	[5]	[3]	[6]	[2]	[8]	[5]
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C	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
	ZONE EASTING								ZONE NORTHING							
B	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
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D	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]	[]
	ZONE EASTING								ZONE NORTHING							

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jack A. Gold

January 1979

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
COUNTY	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries) REVISION TO VAN DORN HOUSE NOMINATION FORM ORIGINALLY SUBMITTED IN JANUARY, 1971, AND APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL REGISTER OFFICE IN JUNE, 1971.

Since the Van Dorn House's listing on the National Register of Historic Places in June, 1971, certain developments have necessitated a revision of the Van Dorn House nomination. The structure and 2.5 acres of land were reflected in the original nomination. However, in December, 1972, the Van Dorn House and 5.2 acres of land were donated to the State of Mississippi, Department of Archives and History. Further, a residential subdivision in the area has grown full bloom and is potentially threatening to the integrity of the historic property.

The Department of Archives and History therefore wishes to revise the original nomination by expanding the amount of nominated property from 2.5 acres to approximately twenty acres. The additional acreage is reflected on the attached U.S.G.S. quadrangle. The primary reason for this revision lies in the fact that 3.1 acres of property to the northeast of the Van Dorn House has been put up for sale by its owners, who have given the Department of Archives and History first option to purchase the property. The property in question would serve as a visual buffer against the residential subdivision. Because the Van Dorn House is scheduled for restoration and development utilizing National Register grant funds, it is the opinion of this Department that the historic integrity of the property should be preserved as far as is feasible. This view also appears consistent with the philosophy expressed repeatedly by the National Register office. The protection offered to a National Register property is also desired for the additional area reflected on the enclosed map.

The Department of Archives and History also wishes to expand the nominated acreage because additional historical research reveals clearly that this property originally made up a portion of the estate of Peter A. Vandorn, the original owner of the house.*

* Claiborne County, Chancery Court Records, Deedbook I, p. 86; *ibid.*, p. 89; Deedbook G, p.275; Mississippi, State Land Office Records, original land patent survey plat, 1805.



H13 no 4Tm

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Mississippi	
COUNTY: Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.6.28.0005	DATE 6/21/71

1. NAME

COMMON:
The Van Dorn House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
"The Hill"

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Van Dorn Drive (originally Marginal Street Extension South)

CITY OR TOWN:
Port Gibson

STATE Mississippi	CODE 39150	COUNTY: Claiborne	CODE 021
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Unoccupied
Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Martha Brady Lum (Mrs. William Douglas Lum)

STREET AND NUMBER:
603 Church Street

CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson	STATE: Mississippi	CODE: 39150
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Claiborne County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
Main or Market Street

CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson	STATE: Mississippi	CODE: 28
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY: **11/12/73** Federal State County Local

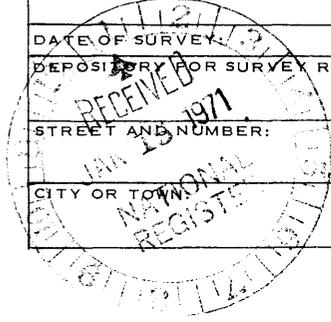
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Mississippi
COUNTY: Claiborne
ENTRY NUMBER: 71.6.28.0005
DATE: 6/21/71
FOR NPS USE ONLY



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input 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

The Van Dorn House, which was probably built around 1830, is located on a hill at the outskirts of Port Gibson, Mississippi. Due to its location, it was commonly called "The Hill." This two-story house was built in the L-shaped plan of double brick of which the front and east sides were in the Flemish bond, while the back and west sides were bricked in the running bond. Originally, this house consisted of six rooms, not including the stair-hall, and more than thirty windows. At the top of these windows were venetian slats without glass, which helped control the air in the house. Also, the dimension of these windows remains constant both upstairs and downstairs, with 24 light windows per window.

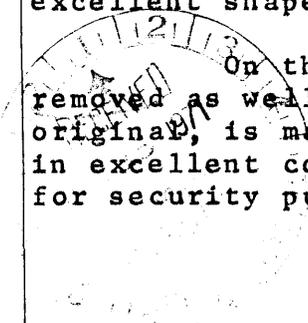
At the front of the house was a large covered porch with colonial pillars and stationary seats. The doors of the front and back entrances were fanlighted with side lights. Both these entrances led into a stair-hall. The stair-hall is the only room in the house that has a ceiling of slightly ornate plaster. On the east side of the house were two small covered porticoes which led into separate rooms.

The style of the house is Georgian transitional with southern colonial. Along the outside of the house were paved walks, lined with jonquils, which led from the carriage-way to the front entrance and side porches. Also, to the north-east of the front porch is a large live oak, which was supposedly planted by Peter Vandorn and said to be one of the oldest live oaks in the area.

During the late 1880s, a one story brick utility porch and kitchen were added onto the south end of the house, thus giving the house an almost square look. Since the house has been unoccupied for almost fifteen years, the mantels, windows, floor, and stair-case have been mutilated by vandals. However, these mantels are still in fair condition in the house, except they are not in their original location. The original stair balustrade rail has been stored in a safe place by the present owner. Some of the plaster has fallen in, and is in need of repair. Although the glass in the windows has been broken, their frames, made of cypress wood, are in excellent shape.

On the exterior of the house, the porches have been removed as well as their pillars. The roof, although not the original, is made of tin and is in good shape. The brick is in excellent condition. All the windows have been boarded up for security purposes.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



6. 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) **ca. 1830**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy
<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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation		

RECEIVED
JAN 15 1971
NATIONAL ARCHIVES

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Van Dorn House, located within 200 yards of the original Natchez Trace, was probably constructed around 1830 by Peter A. Vandorn. The Van Dorns were descendants of Baron Van Doorn who served as Lord Chancellor to the King of Holland in the sixteenth century.

Peter A. Vandorn was born in New Jersey in 1773. He studied for the ministry at Princeton; although, he never entered the clergy. After graduation from college, he moved to the Natchez-Port Gibson area; and, by the late 1810s had established himself in the Port Gibson community as a lawyer and merchant. In 1826, he purchased the land for his future home near Port Gibson from the estate of Samuel Gibson, for whom the town was named.

In 1810, the territorial governor appointed him as clerk of the Superior Court of Law and Equity for Claiborne County. In 1816, Peter was elected clerk of the House of Representatives of the Territory by the General Assembly. During the next year, he was elected by the first State Legislature to become the clerk of the House. In 1821, the State Legislature created an Orphan's Court, and appointed Vandorn as the first judge of probate for this court in Claiborne County. Also, in 1821 he was selected as one of the commissioners to help lay out the plans for the new capital city of Jackson, which resulted in his drafting the first map of Jackson. The map, dated April 22, 1822, is in the collections of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History and is on exhibit in the State Historical Museum, Old Capitol Restoration, Jackson. Peter married Sophie Donelson Caffery, who was the niece of Rachel Caffery Jackson, the wife of Andrew Jackson.

Earl Van Dorn, the son of Peter A. Vandorn, was born near Port Gibson in 1820 and spent his early boyhood years at this family residence. At the age of eighteen he was appointed a cadet at the United States Military Academy, where he graduated in 1842. He participated in the Mexican War and Civil War, as well as seeing action in the Seminole War (1849-50), and Comanche battle, 1856.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

_____, A Soldier's Honor with Reminiscences of Major-General Earl Van Dorn. (New York: The Abbey Press, 1902), 9-17.
 Carter, Clarence (ed.), The Territorial Papers of the United States. (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1938), VI, 47, 732.
 Conversation with Mr. William D. Lum, Chairman, Grand Gulf Military Monument Commission, Port Gibson, Mississippi, December 28, 1970.

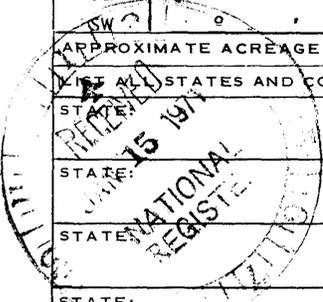
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		31° 57' 00"	90° 59' 00"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **2.5 acres**

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



11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Clinton I. Bagley, Junior Historian
 ORGANIZATION: Miss. Department of Archives and History DATE: _____
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571
 CITY OR TOWN: Jackson STATE: Mississippi CODE: 39205
 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 R. A. McLemore
R. A. McLemore
 Title Director, Miss. Department of Archives and History
 Date _____

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

Emmet A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

JUN 21 1971

Date _____

ATTEST:

William M. Puntigam
 Keeper of The National Register

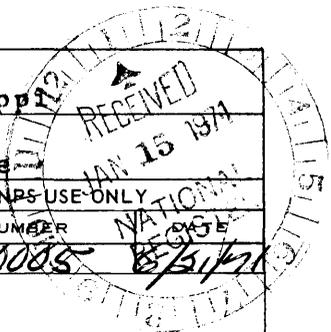
Date **APR 30 1971**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Mississippi
COUNTY	Claiborne
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	71.6.28.0085



(Number all entries)

8.

During the Mexican War, Van Dorn was wounded at Mexico City, but he won the brevets of captain and major for gallantry at Cerro Gordo and Churubusco. In recognition of his service in Mexico, Van Dorn was presented with a costly jewel-studded sword by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, in 1860. This sword is now on exhibit at the Mississippi State Historical Museum, Old Capitol Restoration, Jackson, Mississippi.

In the Civil War, Major General Earl Van Dorn served for a time as commander of the Trans-Mississippi District and saw action in the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas. He was then transferred east of the Mississippi River, where he participated in the early defense of Vicksburg against Federal attacks in mid 1862. He was defeated by General William Rosecrans, at Corinth in October, 1862, for which he was severely criticized. In December, 1862, Van Dorn won acclaim for his brilliant cavalry attack on Grant's forces and supply lines at Holly Springs, Mississippi. His raid at Holly Springs gave the Union army one of its most severe defeats in Mississippi, as well as proving that cavalry raids behind enemy lines could be effective in combatting larger, better-equipped commands. Van Dorn's military career was cut short when he was killed by a private citizen in Tennessee in May, 1863. General Van Dorn has been elected to the Hall of Fame of the State of Mississippi, and his portrait currently hangs in the State Historical Museum, Old Capitol Restoration, Jackson.

Since the death of Peter A. Vandorn in 1837, the Van Dorn residence has had many owners. From 1860-1870, it served as the Presbyterian Manse. After 1870, some additions were made on the house, and from about 1930 until the mid 1950s the house served as an apartment dwelling. At present, the house is unoccupied and is slowly deteriorating.

9.

Conversation with Mr. John Montgomery, Historic Preservation Chairman, Mississippi Chapter, AIA, Jackson, Mississippi, January 5, 1971.

Deed Book I, 89-90. Chancery Clerk's office, Claiborne County Court House, Port Gibson, Mississippi.

Hartje, Robert G., Van Dorn, The Life and Times of a Confederate General. (Nashville: Vanderbilt University Press, 1967), 7-8, 267-268.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
716,38,0005-	6/21/71

(Number all entries)

9.

"List of the Laws of Mississippi Territory." (typescript), 88. Collections, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.

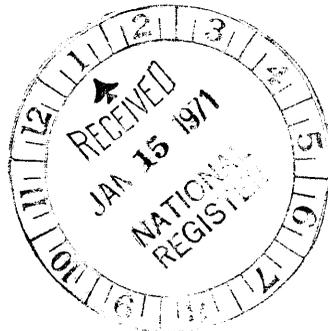
Malone, Dumas (ed.), Dictionary of American Biography. (New York: Charles Scribners' Sons, 1936), XIX, 185.

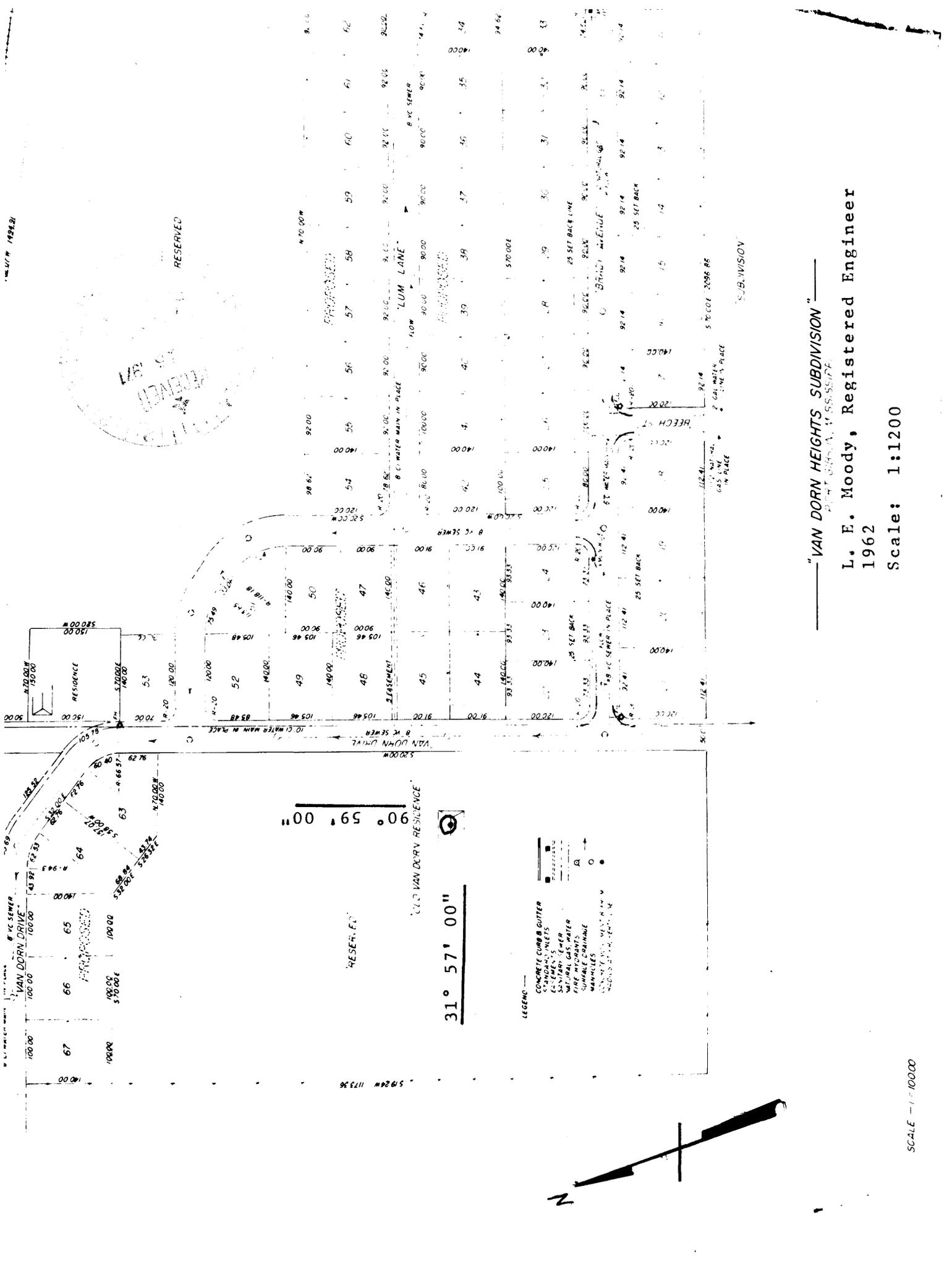
Olcott, Deana J., Historical Jottings of Port Gibson, Mississippi. (n.p., 1954), 79.

Rowland, Dunbar, The Official and Statistical Register 1917. (Madison: Democrat Printing Co., 1917), 338, 362.

Rowland, Dunbar, The Official and Statistical Register of the State of Mississippi. (Nashville: Brandon Printing Co., 1908), 177.

Subject file, "General Earl Van Dorn." Collections, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, Mississippi.



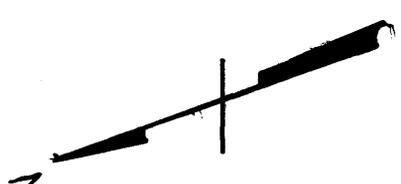


"VAN DORN HEIGHTS SUBDIVISION"
 L. E. Moody, Registered Engineer
 1962
 Scale: 1:1200

- LEGEND
- CONCRETE CURB & GUTTER
 - 6" SANITARY SEWER
 - 4" SANITARY SEWER
 - 8" WATER MAIN
 - NATURAL GAS WATER
 - 12" WATER MAIN
 - 12" POWER
 - MANHOLES
 - 24" WATER MAIN
 - 24" POWER

31° 57' 00"

90° 59' 00"



SCALE - 1" = 10000'

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

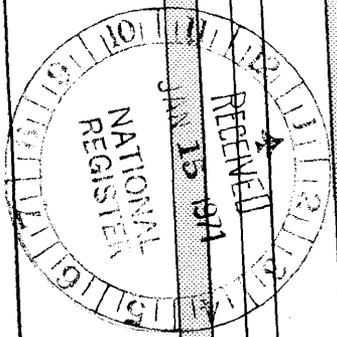
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

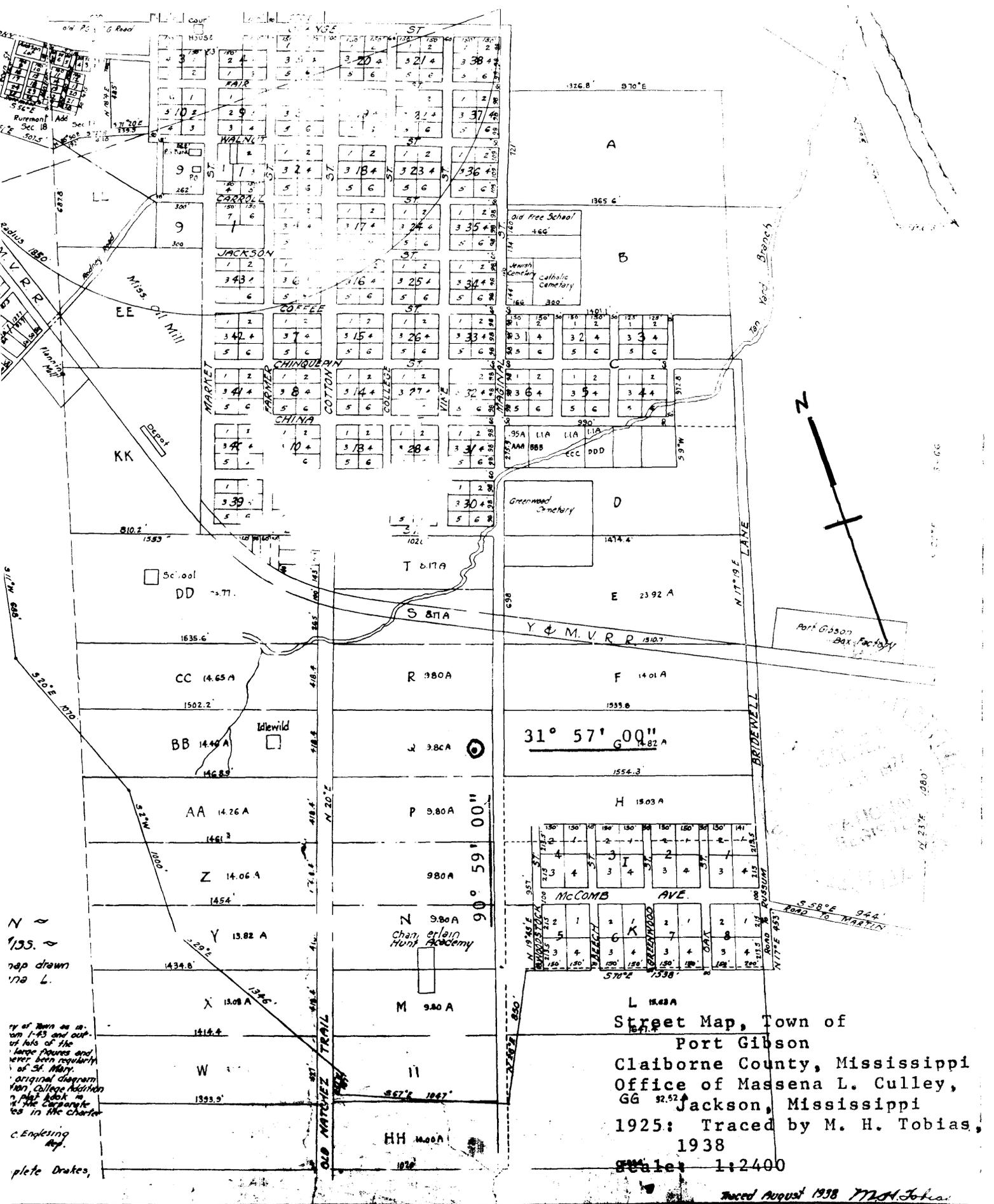
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	Mississippi
COUNTY	Claborne
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	716.28.0005
DATE	6/21/71

1. NAME			
COMMON: Van Dorn House			
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Van Dorn Drive (originally Marginal Street Extension South)			
CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson			
STATE: Mississippi	CODE: 28	COUNTY: Claborne	CODE: 021
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: L. E. Moody: Registered Engineer			
SCALE: 1:1200			
DATE: 1962			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



SEE INSTRUCTIONS



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135.
map drawn
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plate Drakes,

Street Map, Town of
Port Gibson
Claiborne County, Mississippi
Office of Massena L. Culley,
GG 92.52
Jackson, Mississippi
1925: Traced by M. H. Tobias,
1938
Scale: 1:2400

Traced August 1938 M.H. Tobias

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Form 10-301
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Claiborne	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 71.6.28.0005	DATE 6/21/71

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Van Dorn House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: "The Hill"			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: Van Dorn Drive (originally Marginal Street Extension South)			
CITY OR TOWN: Port Gibson			
STATE: Mississippi	CODE 28	COUNTY: Claiborne	CODE 021
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: Street Map of Port Gibson, Claiborne County, Mississippi Office of Massena L. Culley, Jackson, Mississippi			
SCALE: 1:2400			
DATE: 1925; and traced by M. H. Tobias, 1938			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			



31°57'30"

3538

3537

3536

3534

3533

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2747 1
(ST. JOSEPH 1:62,500)

RAYOU

Port Gibson

PIERRE

Scott Cem

High Sch

Wintergreen

Chamberlain-Hunt
Academy

TRACE

PARKWAY

WITCHER

Waters
Creek

31°57'02"

31°57'02"

31°56'51"

31°56'51"

31°55'00"

91°00'00"

31°55'00"

90°57'30"

JUL 19 1974

PORT GIBSON, MISS.
N3152.5—W9052.5/7.5

1963

