

Historic Sites Survey

2B



State of Mississippi  
Department of Archives & History  
P. O. Box 571, Jackson, MS. 39205

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The Catholic Cemetery is situated in an open field in the south-eastern corner of Port Gibson. The cemetery measures approximately one acre square. The focal point is a cast-metal crucifix mounted on a concrete pedestal, now surrounded by overgrown bushes and vines. Grave-sites are widely dispersed south of the crucifix. The rear third of the cemetery north of the crucifix is vacant.

ALTERATIONS:

Site is overgrown; tombstones have been vandalized.

OUTBUILDINGS:

LANDSCAPE FEATURES:

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Catholic Cemetery was established before the construction of St. Joseph Catholic Church in 1850. Resin Bowie (1793-1841), inventor of the Bowie Knife made famous by his brother David, was buried here along with Thomas Cantwell Healy (d. 1889). The crucifix comes from St. Paul's Catholic Church in Vicksburg (constructed in 1849). The church was damaged by a tornado in 1953 and subsequently demolished ( Julia Arnold, resident of Port Gibson, interviewed by Jack A. Gold, architectural historian, Mississippi Department of Archives and History, Jackson, at Port Gibson, Mississippi, February 10, 1979).

NAME:	Catholic Cemetery
STREET NO:	700 Block, Coffee Street
TOWN/VIC:	Port Gibson
COUNTY:	Claborne
BLOCK/LOT:	
PRESENT OWNER:	Diocese of Jackson
ADDRESS	P.O. Box 2248, Jackson, Mississippi 39205
PRESENT USE:	Cemetery
FORMER USE:	
DATE:	1840 - present
STYLE:	
ARCH/BUILDER:	
SOURCE OF DATE:	
ENVIRONMENT:	residential, agricultural
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE	
NEIGHBORHOOD	
LOCAL	X
STATE	
NATIONAL	

PHOTOS

NEG. #

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

CONTINUATION:

PHYSICAL CONDITION: Overgrown

THREATS: Vandalism

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Refer to cemetery boundaries as outlined on U.S.G.S. map.

ACREAGE: one acre

JTM REF:

A	1	5	6	9	1	10	4	0	3	5	3	7	1	3	0
	ZONE EASTING									NORTHING					
C															
B															
	ZONE EASTING									NORTHING					
D															

FORM PREPARED BY:

DATE

Jack A. Gold

February, 1979