

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

HB NO UTM

STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Washington
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	AUG 14 1973

1. NAME

COMMON:

Mount Holly

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

Between Mississippi State Highway 1 and Lake Washington

CITY OR TOWN:

Foote

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:

First

STATE

Mississippi 38701

CODE

28

COUNTY:

Washington

CODE

151

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
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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:

Mrs. John Cox (née Bonnie Griffin)

STREET AND NUMBER:

210 Woodlawn Drive

CITY OR TOWN:

Greenville

STATE:

Mississippi 38701

CODE

28

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:

Washington County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

Washington Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:

Greenville

STATE:

Mississippi 38701

CODE

28

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:

Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY:

1938

☒ Federal☐ State☐ County☐ Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

Division of Prints and Photographs

STREET AND NUMBER:

Library of Congress

CITY OR TOWN:

Washington

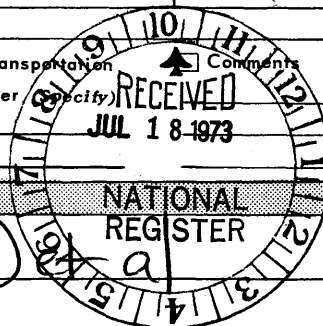
STATE:

D. C. 20003

CODE

08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE:	Mississippi
COUNTY:	Washington
ENTRY NUMBER:	AUG 14 1973
DATE:	

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)

☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Deteriorated ☐ Ruins ☐ Unexposed

(Check One)

☐ Altered ☒ Unaltered

(Check One)

☐ Moved ☒ Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mount Holly is a two-story, common-bond brick structure consisting of approximately 30 rooms, including a second-floor ballroom with a ceiling of stamped metal which replaced the original plaster. Other interior features are a library with ceiling-height, round-arch bookcases; statuary niches in the reception hall; ornate mantelpieces; painted wood graining; a rosewood staircase with lotus-blossom appliques on the tread ends and trumpet balusters; and 14-foot ceilings bordered by decorative friezes and cornices and centered with plaster medallions and brass chandeliers. The house is reputed to have had bathrooms equipped with plumbing installed at the time of construction.

The main entrance to Mount Holly is through a palladian-type archway in the center pavilion projecting from the facade. The rounded headings of the arch are repeated in the second-story windows and in the trim of the loggia on the facade and porches on the north and rear elevations. The exterior is also characterized by semi-hexagonal windows with carved lintels; wooden balustrades and a balcony railing of iron grillwork; regularly spaced pairs of brackets visually supporting overhanging eaves; and prominent chimneys further emphasized by paneled stucco and brick dentils.

A kitchen wing projects eastward from the house on its southeast corner, and other brick service structures, now demolished, included washhouse, dairy, storehouse, barn, and servants' quarters. In the late nineteenth century several large trees on the front lawn were removed and the house was painted white. The brick walls have since been returned to their natural color, with white wooden trim. There are apparently no original furnishings remaining at Mount Holly, although descendants of the builders at the nearby Erwin home, which predates Mount Holly, retain a pair of ballroom chairs, china and glassware, and a portrait of Lillie Erwin Morgan, daughter of James Erwin and Margaret Johnson Erwin Dudley, painted at Mount Holly.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Pre-Columbian☐ 16th Century☐ 18th Century☐ 20th Century☐ 15th Century☐ 17th Century☒ 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) ca. 1855

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

☐ Aboriginal☐ Education☒ Political☐ Urban Planning☐ Prehistoric☐ Engineering☐ Religion/Philosophy☐ Other (Specify)☐ Historic☐ Industry☐ Science☐ Agriculture☐ Invention☐ Sculpture☒ Architecture☐ Landscape☐ Social/Humanitarian☐ Art☐ Architecture☐ Theater☐ Commerce☒ Literature☐ Transportation☐ Communications☐ Military☐ Conservation☐ Music

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which Mount Holly is located was patented from the United States by John C. Miller in 1831 and two years later sold by Miller to Henry and Elizabeth J. Johnson. According to the 1838 Washington County personal tax rolls, Johnson was one of the largest landowners in the area, possessing 2,180 acres of land and 103 slaves. His holdings eventually totaled approximately 4,000 acres, about 1,500 of which were cleared and comprised his plantation Chatham. Mrs. Henry Johnson was the former Elizabeth Flournoy, sister of Victor Flournoy, whose home Aldemar, on the Mississippi River two miles south of Leota Landing, is said to have been identical to its neighbor, Mount Holly, with the exception of having had two wings instead of one. The Johnsons were also related to the Haller Nutt family of Natchez, who built Longwood (1860-62), a National Historic Landmark.

In 1855, for a consideration of \$100,000 (\$20,000 cash and four notes for \$20,000 each; no date of maturity given), Henry Johnson deeded to his daughter Margaret Johnson Erwin the land which included what would be the site of Mount Holly. In 1843 Margaret Johnson had been married to James Erwin, whose first wife had been Anne, daughter of Henry Clay. In 1854 Erwin died and the next year his widow was married to Dr. Charles Wilkins Dudley, a native of Kentucky, and began construction of Mount Holly. For a few years it was the home of Margaret Johnson Erwin Dudley's children by both her husbands as well as those born to James Erwin and Anne Clay Erwin. Margaret Johnson Erwin Dudley died in 1863 and her will directed that Mount Holly be sold, with the proceeds divided equally among her children. By 1880 the property was in the possession of her only child by Dr. Dudley, C. W. Dudley, Jr.

In the 1880s Mount Holly became the property of William Hezekiah Foote of Macon, Mississippi, a former Confederate officer who owned three other Delta plantations: Mounds, Egremont, and Hardscrabble. A prominent attorney, Foote served as

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Abstract of Title to a tract of land in Section 1, Township 14 Range 8 West and in Sections 27, 32, 33 & 34, Township 15, Range 8 West." Compiled by Washington County Abstract Company and in the possession of Mrs. John H. Cox.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Mississippi. Chicago: The Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1891. Vol. I, Part 1, p. 667; Vol. I, Part II, pp. 750-751, 1028.

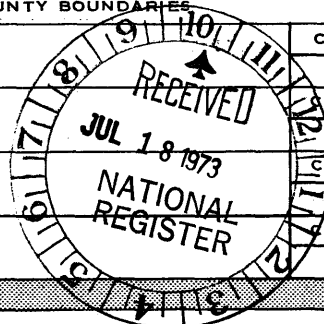
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	33°	05'	42"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	91°	02'	10"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 7 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, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Miss. Department of Archives and History

DATE: 7/12/73

STREET AND NUMBER:
Post Office Box 571

CITY OR TOWN: Jackson

STATE: Mississippi 39205

CODE: 28

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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: Elbert Hilliard

Title: Director, Miss. Dept. of Archives & History

Date: July 12, 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Robert H. Utley
Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 8/14/73

ATTEST:
Wm. Montz
Keeper of The National Register

Date: 7 31 73

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Mississippi	
COUNTY	
Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

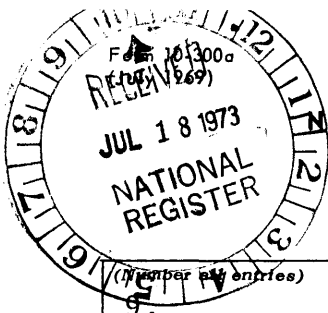
8.
chancery clerk of Noxubee County, a district judge, and a member of both houses of the Mississippi legislature. In the late 1880s Mount Holly passed to his son, Huger Lee Foote, merchant, planter, and state senator. The younger Foote also served as Sheriff of Sharkey County and represented that county as a member of the Mississippi Levee Board, of which he was elected secretary and treasurer. Huger Lee Foote was the inspiration for the protagonist Hugh Bart in the novel Tournament (Dial Press, 1949), written by his grandson Shelby Foote. Bart's Delta estate, Solitaire, was based on Mount Holly as it appeared during Huger Lee Foote's occupancy. A critically acclaimed novelist, short-story writer, and Civil War historian, Shelby Foote has been the recipient of three Guggenheim Fellowships and was named writer in residence at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, during 1963-64.

During the Mississippi River flood of 1927, one of the most disastrous in recorded history, Mount Holly was used as headquarters for relief committees. In 1946 the property was purchased by James Walter Griffin and is now owned by his descendants.

The identity of the architect of Mount Holly has not been confirmed, but Erwin family tradition, as related by John Seymour Erwin of New York City, great-grandson of James Erwin and Margaret Johnson Erwin Dudley, attributes the house to Samuel Sloan, who designed Longwood in Natchez. It should be noted that Mount Holly is very similar to a design by Calvert Vaux which appeared as Plate XXI, "Irregular Country House, Without Wings," in Harper's New Monthly Magazine, November, 1855, and also as Design 32 in Vaux's book, Villas and Cottages (1857). Though Mount Holly is the reverse of the Vaux model and differs from it in details, the resemblance between the two is striking. Another possible explanation for the source of Mount Holly may be contained in the local tradition, as related by Shelby Foote, which maintains that the house was erected by a transient architect in 1855, working from plans carried with him and with the assistance of one man who accompanied him and a construction crew of slaves from the Mount Holly plantation. In the latter version, it would have been possible, of course, for the design used to have been appropriated from sources published by Vaux.

The significance of Mount Holly is in its architecture and in the families who built and successively occupied it. It is one of the few remaining antebellum houses of mansion scale in the Mississippi Delta and one of the state's two finest examples of the Italian villa style, the other being Ammadelle (1859) in Oxford, by Vaux.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Mississippi	
COUNTY Washington	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	AUG 14 1973

Cox, Mrs. John H., 210 Woodlawn Drive, Greenville, Mississippi:
Interview by Clinton I. Bagley, August 1972.

Erwin, John Seymour, Penthouse B, 420 East 80th Street, New York,
New York: Correspondence with Clinton I. Bagley, July 1971 -
April 1973.

Foote, Shelby, 542 E. Parkway South, Memphis, Tennessee:
Letter to Clinton I. Bagley, August 28, 1972.
Telephone conversation with Dawn Maddox, July 2, 1973.
Tournament. New York: Dial Press, 1949.

Mississippi Department of Archives and History:
Foote, Shelby, Subject File.
Mount Holly Subject File.
Works Progress Administration (History of Washington County,
Homes): Mount Holly.
Washington County Personal Tax Rolls, 1838 (microfilm).

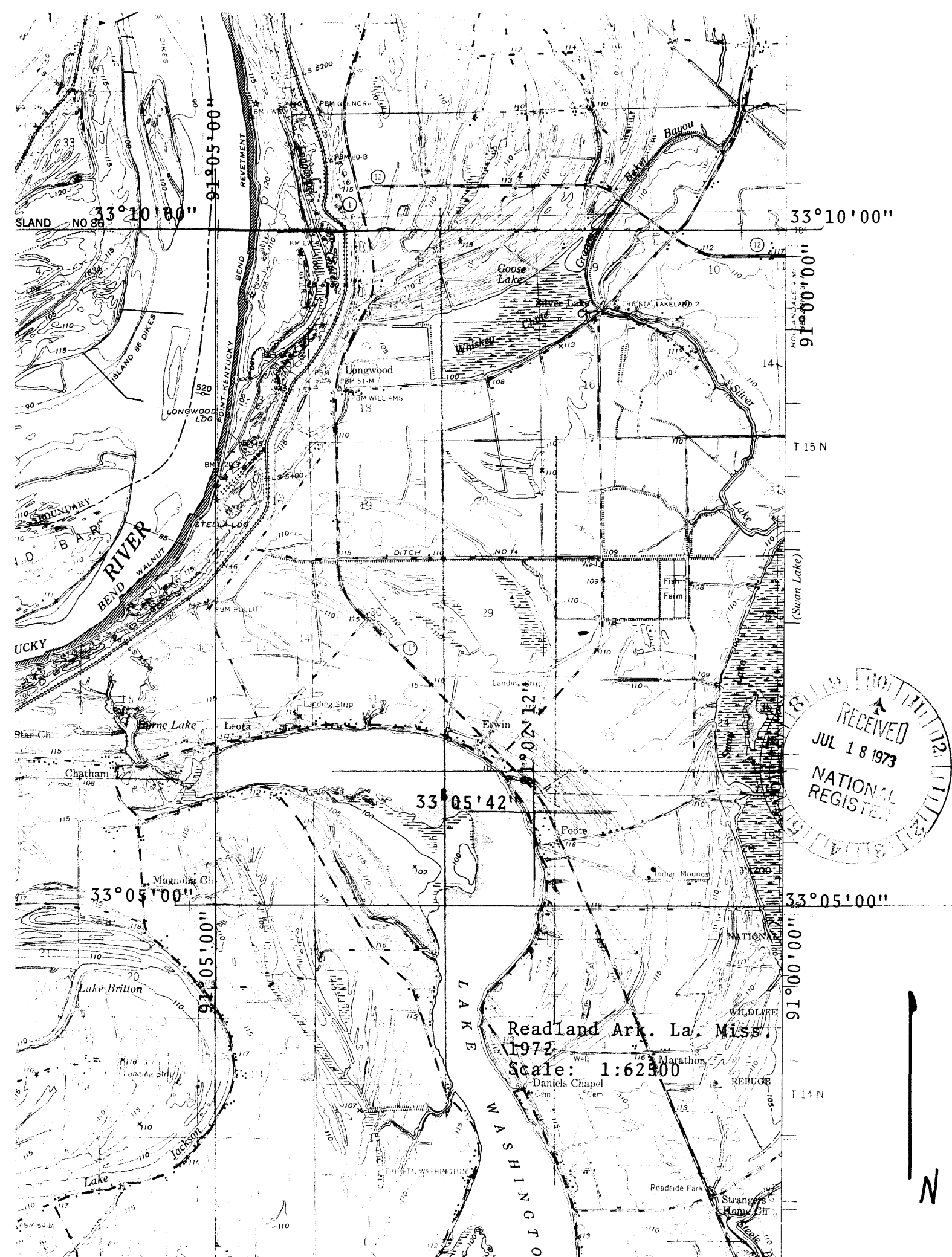
Personal Inspection by Clinton I. Bagley, July 3, 1971, and July
7, 1973.

The Clarion Ledger-Jackson Daily News. January 14, 1973, and
February 18, 1973.

The 39th Anniversary Edition, Greenville Times, Greenville,
Mississippi. Reprinted by the Office Supply Company, Green-
ville, Mississippi, 1969.

Vaux, Calvert. "Hints for Country House Builders." Harper's
New Monthly Magazine (November, 1855): 763-778.

Vaux, Calvert. Villas and Cottages. 2nd ed. Harper & Brothers,
1864. Reprinted by Dover Publications, Inc., 1970.



Form 10-301
(July 1968)

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)

1. NAME

COMMON

Mount Holly

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE *(Assigned by NPS)*

AUG 14 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Mississippi 38701

COUNTY

Washington

TOWN

Foote

STREET AND NUMBER

Between Miss. State Highway 1 and Lake Washington

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S. 15'

Readland Quadrangle

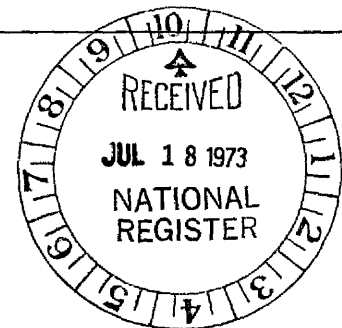
DATE

1972

SCALE

1:62500

REQUIREMENTS: PROPERTY BOUNDARIES, WHERE REQUIRED, AND NORTH ARROW.





UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

1. NAME

COMMON

Mount Holly

AND/OR HISTORIC

NUMERIC CODE (Assigned by NPS)

AUG 14 1973

2. LOCATION

STATE

Mississippi 38701

COUNTY

Washington

TOWN

Foote

STREET AND NUMBER

Between Miss. State Highway 1 and Lake Washington

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT

Dr. D. C. Montgomery

Box 1335

Greenville, Miss. 38701

DATE

February, 1971

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Miss. Dept. of Archives
and History

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

West (facade) and south elevations, looking northeast.

